

**Explanatory note on a Draft Resolution by ICCAT on next steps on the
Joint Expert Group on Climate Change in 2024**

(Submitted by the United Kingdom, Barbados and Norway)

ICCAT has recently taken the first steps to plan for and respond to Climate Change impacts as described in the [Resolution by ICCAT on Climate Change \(Res. 22-13\)](#). Res. 22-13 provided for the Climate Change on Expert Group on, which was held 11-12 July 2023, and convened managers, scientists, and other experts to have a frank and necessary discussion about Climate Change in the ICCAT context.

[Res. 22-13](#) also called for the development of a workplan. A draft ICCAT Plan of Action on Climate Change was produced during the July 2023 meeting, and following the meeting, was circulated to CPCs for additional comment. A revised version of the Plan of Action was tabled for consideration at the 2023 Annual Meeting. Discussions at the Annual Meeting suggested there is appetite to continue to refine the Plan, and to ensure that there is a thorough understanding of the Climate Change work already happening across the Organisation. This will enable the Commission to identify priority areas for further focus, and the most appropriate group or structure to provide ongoing strategic oversight and guidance of this activity.

This draft Resolution proposes that, in line with [Res. 22-13](#), an additional Joint Expert Group on Climate Change is held in 2024, and outlines a draft agenda and suggested next steps.

Draft Resolution by ICCAT on next steps on the Joint Expert Group on Climate Change in 2024
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RECALLING the Resolution by ICCAT on Climate Change (Res. 22-13);

FURTHER RECALLING the important presentations and discussions held at the ICCAT Climate Change Experts Meeting (11-12 July 2023) that highlighted the climate crisis facing ICCAT;

RECOGNISING that the July 2023 ICCAT Climate Change Experts Meeting was the start of a critical conversation within ICCAT on climate change;

NOTING the draft ICCAT Plan of Action on Climate Change under development as a result of the July 2023 Joint Experts Group on Climate Change Meeting and revised intersessionally leading up to the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission;

ACKNOWLEDGING that understanding, adapting to, and mitigating climate change impacts on ICCAT target stocks, non-target species and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks in the Convention area, as well as understanding any related socioeconomic or other impacts on the fisheries, including on CPCs and their fishing communities, requires ongoing close cooperation and collaboration between the SCRS and the Commission;

CONVINCED of the need for ICCAT to consider in detail these Climate Change impacts as well as adaptation strategies to ensure climate resilient fisheries by leveraging the expertise of relevant scientists and managers, and the need for strategic oversight and coordination of ICCAT's Climate Change work;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. In 2024, the ICCAT Joint Climate Change Experts Meeting will reconvene for at least one additional meeting and will be chaired by the existing Chair.
2. The draft agenda for the next ICCAT Joint Experts Group on Climate Change Meeting should include, but not be limited to, the following agenda items:
 - a) Presentation from the Chair of the Climate Change Experts Meeting held in July 2023, including presentation of the 2023 draft ICCAT Plan of Action on Climate Change;
 - b) Presentation and discussion of a 'stock-take' review on Climate Change work within ICCAT's subsidiary bodies, to be prepared in advance (see paragraph 3), including discussion of how climate-related information can be incorporated into the ICCAT decision-making processes, from both a management and scientific perspective;
 - c) In light of (b), identification of other priority areas of Climate Change work;
 - d) Consider, revise, and aim to agree on the draft ICCAT Plan of Action on Climate Change;
 - e) Consider whether another meeting is needed in 2024, and
 - f) Prepare a report to the Commission setting out proposed next steps, including the potential need for future meetings, the appropriate body or forum for those meetings, and their frequency.
3. To facilitate meaningful dialogue at the next meeting, the Chair, working with the SCRS, its Officers, Commission Officers, and Chairs of Ad hoc Working Groups as necessary, will prepare and circulate in advance, a 'stock-take' review of relevant ongoing ICCAT work which relates to, or is impacted by, Climate Change. This review will evaluate and provide comment on the approaches taken in the Panels and Working Groups.

4. The ICCAT Joint Experts Group on Climate Change Meeting will also consider how to engage with stakeholder groups to strengthen ICCAT's base of knowledge on Climate Change and its impacts and ensure more inclusive and informed decision making on Climate Change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
5. The next ICCAT Joint Experts Group on Climate Change Meeting will take place after the 2024 Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch meeting and will be held in a virtual format, or hybrid format, if held directly in conjunction with the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch.
6. The Commission will consider the report of the 2024 ICCAT Joint Experts Group on Climate Change Meeting and any other outputs therefrom, such as an updated Plan of Action, at its 2024 Annual Meeting and decide on next steps to coordinate ICCAT's Climate Change work.