

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA  
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA  
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 5 February 2024

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 01071 / 2024

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FISHERY STATISTICS ON ATLANTIC TUNAS AND ASSOCIATED SPECIES IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA**

Statistical and biological data are essential for assessment and management of the resources covered by ICCAT. In accordance with Article IX (paragraph 2) and Annex II of the Convention (further reinforced and endorsed by several Recommendations and Resolutions) the ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties and Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter CPCs) are required to provide available fisheries statistical, biological and other scientific information that the Commission may require in order to carry out the objectives of the ICCAT Convention.

### Required data

#### 1. Data on Task 1, Task 2, Task 3, and others (as specified in Appendix 1)

- a) For the 2024 yellowfin (YFT) stock assessment the SCRS is requesting the submission of Task 2 catch-at-size (CAS) of major fleets (PS, BB, LL).

#### 2. Tagging data

- a) Summary of tagging activities (scientific surveys, opportunistic tagging, etc.), both conventional and electronic
- b) Conventional tag release and recapture information related to tuna, pelagic sharks and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area
- c) Electronic tag information, summary and auxiliary information also related to tuna, pelagic sharks and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area

#### 3. Complementary data on

- a) Incidental catches of seabirds (Rec. 11-09, Rec. 11-10, Rec. 16-14)
- b) Incidental catches of sea turtles (Rec. 10-09, Rec. 11-10, Rec. 22-12)
- c) Bluefin tuna size/weight samples from stereoscopic camera systems (Rec. 21-08, Rec. 22-08)

#### 4. Explicit historical revisions requested by the Commission and SCRS

- a) Historical FAD set data in the format required by SCRS (Task 2 catch and effort through form ST03-T2CE) (Rec. 22-01, para 31)
- b) Historical tropical tuna domestic observer data (form ST09-DomObPrg)

A comprehensive list of requirements is provided [online](#) including the associated e-forms for data submission.

### Deadlines

The general deadline for submission of all data is 15 July 2024. The official forms (2024 version) for submitting the data requested are available [online](#).



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Note that for stocks with an intersessional assessment meeting in 2024, the following deadlines were approved by the SCRS and Commission (15 days before the start of each meeting):

<b><i>Intersessional data preparatory/stock assessment meeting</i></b>	<b><i>Deadline</i></b>
Blue Marlin Data Preparatory Meeting	1 March 2024
Yellowfin Data Preparatory Meeting (includes Task 2 catch-at-size estimations)	29 March 2024
Mediterranean Albacore Data Preparatory and Stock Assessment Meeting	13 April 2024

The Secretariat will acknowledge receipt of all the data.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Executive Secretary*

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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– **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**

– **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

– **Tagging and Statistics Correspondents**



## Guidelines and instructions concerning the fisheries statistical and biological information required

### Data coverage

For scientific purposes, all the fisheries statistical/biological data required should always be reported having as reference the “calendar year” (1 January to 31 December).

**Data on tuna, tuna-like species and pelagic sharks** fished in the **ICCAT Convention area** (Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas) as specified below:

- **New data for 2023:** all the new information is required.
- **Historical updates (up to 2022):** can also be reported (formats specified below) taking into account the current SCRS revision rules:
  - Provisional and preliminary data (three most recent years: 2022, 2021, 2020) can be updated
  - Historical data (2019 and previous years) require an SCRS document explaining and supporting the proposed revision

### Formats

All the forms have official **formats/structures adopted by ICCAT**. The electronic forms were updated in 2024 (version: “**2024a**”) following the recommendations adopted by the SCRS and the Commission in 2023. Thus, only data reported using the [latest version of the forms](#) will be accepted.

**NOTE:** Data provided in the **Annual Reports and/or in other documents are not** considered as being submitted in fulfilment of the requirements of this Circular.

### Major structural changes to ICCAT forms (version: “2024”)

No structural changes were made to the 2024 statistical forms. However, some minor adjustments were made by the SCRS to all the statistical forms for consistency (PortZone updated as “Fleet Suffix” to identify standard fleets) and additional fields were added to the following forms:

- a) ST01-T1FC: 2 fields (IMO number and Carrying Capacity); the fields for reporting nominal effort (Atlantic and Mediterranean) became mandatory.
- b) ST02-T1NC: 1 field in sub-form ST02A to identify catches based on “target/bycatch” activities). Sub-form ST02B contains an additional field to simplify reporting of “0” catches per gear (YES/NO for autocompletion of “0” catches on each column).
- c) ST04-T2SZ and ST05-T2CS: added to the field “Catch Type” the element LF (Landings of “faux poisson”) to report those corresponding series.
- d) ST09-DomObPrg: 1 field (header section) to indicate/differentiate Observer and EMS data (to be revised in 2024 by the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch).

All the above updates were included in the embedded instructions of each form.

The SCRS reclassified in 2020 the existing data reported in forms ST07, ST08, ST09 and ST10 under the new **Task 3**. All these forms were therefore prefixed with “Task 3”.



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**List of datasets requested by form**

<i>Dataset</i>	<i>Form (sub-form)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Task 1 Fleet characteristics	ST01-T1FC  (ST01A, ST01B)	Fleet characteristics of the active fleet (by vessel OR by fleet component) in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea by calendar year. Applies only to fishing vessels with positive fishing effort (actively fishing) and fishing for any of the ICCAT species in the Convention area.	If required, the list of registered vessels (ICCAT Record of vessels) can be explicitly requested in advance from the Secretariat.
Task 1 Nominal catches	ST02-T1NC  (ST02A, ST02B)	Yearly (calendar) total catch estimates in live weight (kg) (landings, dead discards, live discards, BFT alive catches transferred to farms) disaggregated by fleet, species, year, gear, sampling areas, and fishing zone.	Should contain all catches (targeted, non-target/bycatch) including the ones from recreational/sport fisheries, research and training vessels.  "ZERO" catches should be explicitly reported in sub-form ST02B.
Task 2 Catch & effort	ST03-T2CE	Monthly catch (all species catch composition) and effort statistics, disaggregated by fleet, gear, month, and geographical squares (longitude: 5x5 or higher resolution, other gears: 1x1 or higher resolution).	Preferably, observed data obtained from various sources (logbooks, auction sales, port sampling, landing ports, transshipments, etc.).  Could also be equivalent estimations, raised to Task 1 nominal catches.
Task 2 Size samples	ST04-T2SZ	Actual size frequencies (size/weight classes) with number of fishes sampled, disaggregated by fleet, gear, sample unit, month, geographic rectangles (1x1, 5x5, 5x10, 10x10) or ICCAT sampling areas (port sampling).	Only observed size/weight frequencies (i.e. without substitution/raising procedures).  Use one form per species (as many years as required).
Task 2 Catch-at-size estimations	ST05-CAS	Catch-at-size: estimations of the size composition of the catch (equivalent in weight to Task 1 catches) disaggregated by fleet, gear, month and 5x5 geographical squares.  Only for: bluefin, albacore, yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack and swordfish.	<i>Optional</i> for all CPCs except when required by the SCRS.  The methodology used on those estimations (statistical inference, substitutions, raising process, etc.) should be made available to the SCRS.
Task 2 Farming size samples	ST06-T2FM	Bluefin tuna size frequencies obtained in farm events (while caging, during fattening, farms harvesting, etc.), including stereoscopic cameras size/weight information.	Individual fish measurements/estimations (length and weight).
Task 3 Support vessel activity	ST07- TropSupVes	Activity of tropical tunas fisheries support vessels authorized to operate in the ICCAT Convention area.	For reporting the location and number of days at sea for support vessels as well as their associated fishing vessels.
Task 3 FAD deployments	ST08-FadsDep  (ST08A, ST08B)	The number of FADs actually deployed on a monthly basis per vessel, 1°x1° statistical rectangles, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon/buoy or an echo-sounder associated to the FAD, and the number and type of beacons/buoys (e.g. radio, sonar only, sonar with echo-sounder). The numbers of beacons/buoys activated and deactivated, lost FADs beacons/buoys, and or transfer FADs in a month that have been followed by each vessel. Also requested, the estimated monthly average number of FADs with active buoys on a 1°x1° statistical rectangles.	For reporting the number of buoys deployed on a quarterly basis as well as the FAD type and associated beacon.
Task 3 Domestic Scientific Observer program data	ST09-NatObProg  (ST09A, ST09B, ST09C)	Data collected under domestic observer programmes. Submission of observed bycatch, including interactions between fleets with sea turtles and incidental seabird bycatch.	The updated e-form to report domestic scientific observer program data included the recommendations from the SCRS to allow CPCs data submission in accordance with their current regulations on data confidentiality policies.
Task 3 Port Sampling data	ST10-PortSamp	Data and information collected from domestic observer programmes (Rec. 16-14, Rec. 19-02, Rec. 19-04)	Data by country of landing and quarter: Species composition, landings by species, length composition, and weights. Biological samples suitable for determining life history should be collected as practicable.



### General information

- All the statistical/biological information (forms with prefixes ST and TG) should be sent to the email account: [STATS\\_info@iccat.int](mailto:STATS_info@iccat.int)
- Each electronic form contains an "Instructions" sheet with explanatory notes for each field. Additionally, all the standard ICCAT codes (in force) are embedded in the forms.
- After fully completing the header section of each form, a standard filename will be generated and proposed. Please, **rename and submit the form with the "proposed filename"**. It will serve as a reference in future correspondence or enquiries regarding the data submission control.

Please contact the ICCAT Secretariat (using: [STATS\\_info@iccat.int](mailto:STATS_info@iccat.int)) if you have any additional questions about this circular request.