



# ICCAT Newsletter No.12

New ISSUE

September 2010

## MESSAGE FROM THE ICCAT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The ICCAT Secretariat has the pleasure to present its readers with **ICCAT Newsletter No. 12**, informing of the latest events and activities of our organization.

We hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and the Secretariat will be pleased to receive any comments aimed at improving this publication.

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following matters: the total allowable catch for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna for 2010, the 2010 fishing vessel capacity management plans for each Contracting Party, Entity and non- Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities including an allocation of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, and to determine a limit on the number of Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) to be authorized by each CPC for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in 2010.


 **ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from April 21 to 23, 2010. The main objective of the meeting responds to the request for advice by the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT to the SCRS as regards the best way to reflect the precautionary approach in the Convention. Moreover, the Group reviewed other methodological matters related to quality control procedures in stock assessments.

 **ICCAT Data Preparatory Meeting on Bigeye.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from April 26 to 30, 2010. The objective of the meeting was to review the data required to apply the different models that will be used in the bigeye stock assessment meeting. Likewise, important reviews of the historical data series of catch at size were presented and analyzed.

 **ICCAT Data Preparatory Meeting on Blue Marlin.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from May 17 to 21, 2010. The main objective of the meeting was to obtain catch estimates for blue marlin, from artisanal fleets in particular. These fleets land marlins but do not report them to ICCAT, as occurs with many of the FAD fisheries in the Caribbean; develop methods and data analysis to assist in the interpretation of historical CPUE indices for longline and examine methods that take into consideration the low report of catches by fleets which have been requested to release marlins. Likewise, for the following blue marlin stock assessment meeting


## RECENT MEETINGS


 **6<sup>th</sup> Working Group Meeting on Integrated Monitoring Measures.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from February 22 to 23, 2010. The Working Group reviewed matters regarding the Observer Programs aimed at compliance and discussed the Port State Measures.

 **Compliance Committee Inter-sessional Meeting.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from February 24 to 26, 2010. In accordance with Recommendation 09-06, the Committee reviewed the


possible methods, as well as their requirements regarding data should be reviewed.


 **Inter-sessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from May 31 to June 4, 2010. The Sub-Committee met with the objective of: providing advice, based on observer data and/or simulations on the optimum coverage required for reliable and exact by-catch estimates for different taxa; review the development and application of ecosystem indicators to assess the ecosystem impacts of fisheries and review the work carried out within the framework of the short-term period contract to develop a by-catch database.

 **ICCAT Data Preparatory Meeting on Bluefin Tuna.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from June 14 to 19, 2010. This objective of the meeting was to summarize the large amount of new data, prepare statistics on catches and revise the new biological information before the quantitative stock assessments that will be held in September.

 **ICCAT Mediterranean Albacore Data Preparatory meeting.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from June 28 to July 1, 2010 following the Recommendation of the Performance Revision Panel to collect more information on Mediterranean albacore to conduct a stock assessment as soon as possible. Thus, the objective of the meeting was to review the Task I and Task II data and discover the parameters of the life cycle of Mediterranean Albacore.

 **ICCAT Mediterranean Swordfish Stock Assessments Session.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from June 28 to July 2, 2010. The main objective of this meeting was the stock assessment of Mediterranean swordfish as well as the effects of the temporary closure and other possible technical measures aimed at reducing by-catch of juvenile swordfish in pelagic longline fisheries.

 **ICCAT Atlantic Bigeye Stock Assessment Session.** The Meeting was held in Pasaia, Spain from July 5 to 9, 2010. The objective of the meeting was to assess the stock of Atlantic bigeye.

 **2010 ICCAT Stock Assessments Session for Western and Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from September 6 to 12, 2010. The main objective of the meeting was to assess the

bluefin tuna stocks in the Eastern and Western Atlantic and Mediterranean. For the Eastern stock, a more in-depth study on the effects occurred on the status of the stock from the management measures adopted in the 2008 Commission meeting held in Marrakesh were carried out.

### **Joint Tuna RFMO Workshops**

The Second Joint Tuna RFMO meeting (San Sebastian, Spain, June 29 to July 3, 2009) decided that in 2010 four Workshops were to be held before holding the Third Joint Meeting in 2011.

The following RFMO Joint Workshops were held between May and July:

- Meeting of experts to share best practices on the provision of scientific advice. Barcelona, Spain from May 31 to June 2. The European Union hosted this meeting.
- International Workshops on the improvement, harmonization and compatibility of monitoring, control and surveillance measures, which includes the monitoring of catches from the catching vessels to the markets. Barcelona, Spain from June 3-5. Japan hosted this meeting.
- International Workshops on issues regarding the management of tuna RFMOs relating to by-catch, and to call on RFMOs to avoid duplication of work on this issue. Brisbane, Australia from June 23-25. The United States hosted this meeting.
- Workshops on RFMO management of tuna fisheries. Brisbane, Australia from June 29 to July 1. FFA hosted this meeting.

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## **CALENDER OF EVENTS**

### **September**

– *Species Group Meetings.* September 27 to October 1, Madrid, Spain. Meetings will be held to update the available biological and statistical information on all species managed by ICCAT. The Sub-Committee on Statistics will also meet this week to review data submissions as well as progress made in the development of databases at the Secretariat.

## October

– *Standing Committee on Research and Statistics*. October 4 to 8 in Madrid, Spain. The SCRS will meet to review the status of all stocks and prepare responses to the Commission concerning scientific issues.

Scientists wishing to submit papers to the SCRS meeting should contact the Secretariat.

## November

– *Compliance Committee*. November 17 to 18 in Paris, France.

– *17<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Commission*. November 19 to 27 in Paris, France. The Commission will review the results obtained from numerous stock assessments carried out during 2010 to adopt the recommendations and resolutions for the management of these resources.

The Working Group meeting on the Future of ICCAT, which was foreseen for the end of July in Brasilia and suspended due to operative reasons could possibly hold a meeting during the Commission meeting.

For more information, agendas and hotel reservation forms for these meetings please see our web site at [www.iccat.int](http://www.iccat.int).

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## SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

The Secretariat has continued to support the activities of the SCRS and the Commission.

Following the 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission, the Secretariat implemented the following decisions:

- Regional Observer Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ROP-BFT): to carry out the ROP-BFT established by the *Recommendation amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 08-05], with the MRAG-COFREPECHE Consortium, the Secretariat has carried out the observer program on vessels and farms during the 2010 season.

During the first half of 2010, staff members of the Secretariat attended the following external meetings related to ICCAT activities:

→ *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora. Fifteenth meeting of the conference of the parties (Doha, Qatar, March 18-26, 2010).*

→ *Joint ICCAT/ICES Training Course: Management Strategy Evaluation (including FLR) (TCMSE10) (Vigo, Spain, April 5 to 9, 2010).*

→ *34<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) (Athens, Greece, April 12-17, 2010).*

→ *Review Conference of the 1995 UN Stocks Agreement (New York, USA, May 24-28, 2010).*

→ *Joint meeting of the Committees on Fisheries and Development of the European Parliament (Brussels, Belgium, June 22 2010).*

ICCAT played an active role in the various meetings with written and/or oral contributions.

Apart from the activities mentioned above, the Secretariat is responsible for the maintenance of the joint web page of tuna RFMOs (<http://www.tuna-org.org>).

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## ASSISTANCE FUNDS

The objective of these funds is to encourage the improvement of statistics of species under ICCAT mandate. Currently, there is a budget for special funds for data improvement established by the *Resolution by ICCAT on Improvements in Data Collection and Quality Assurance* [Res. 03-21].

These funds are supplied by voluntary contributions made by some Contracting Parties.

Since the last *Newsletter*, these funds have financed the participation of many of scientists to different SCRS meetings.

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

The following publications were issued in 2010:

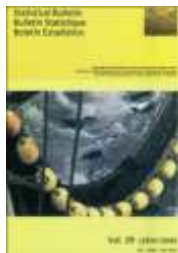


*Report for Biennial Period, 2008-2009, Part II (2009) Volumes 1 and 2*, corresponding to the 2009 Commission Proceedings and SCRS Report. This Report is being published in colour for the first time which allows a clear reading and understanding of the figures. Since

2008 the Volume 3 is exclusively published in electronic format and only the summaries of the reports are translated into ICCAT's official languages. The Volume is published on the ICCAT web site.



Six (6) issues of the *Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Volume 65*.



*Statistical Bulletin #39* which includes catch series by species and country since 1950.

During this period the Secretariat has continued to collaborate with the Aquatic Living Resources Journal. A second joint volume of the journal has been published and work is being carried out on the third volume.



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## **OTHER NEWS**

Dr. Mauricio Ortiz, expert in Data Analysis joined the Secretariat in July.

Dr. Ortiz is highly experienced in the work of the SCRS and is greatly recognized as an expert in the

field tuna fisheries, both in data analysis and stock assessment acquired throughout years of work at the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) of the United States. Dr. Ortiz has chaired the Sub-Committee of the SCRS during the last five years.

Mr. Takaaki Suzuki, Coordinator of the Japan Data and Management Improvement Project (JDMIP), finished his stay at the Secretariat in August and Mr. Takahiro Ara took on his position.

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All recent ICCAT publications can be downloaded from <http://www.iccat.int>

To obtain copies of older publications please contact [INFO@ICCAT.INT](mailto:INFO@ICCAT.INT)