



Madrid, 7 February 2024

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 01163/ 2024

SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP (INCLUDING MSE)
(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 6-9 May 2023)

Following the Commission's adoption of the SCRS meeting schedule, I would like to inform you that the Intersessional Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group (including MSE) is scheduled to be held from 6-9 May 2024 in hybrid format. The in-person meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid, Spain. The tentative agenda for the meeting and other relevant information can be found below. In addition, this announcement will soon be published on the ICCAT [current meetings webpage](#). I would appreciate if you could distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the meeting.

To organize access to the meeting, I would kindly request that you send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **25 April 2024**. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause a delay in providing access to participants to the meeting and the related documents. All participants (online and in-person) must also register for the meeting by **25 April 2024** using the online registration form which will soon be available on the [current meetings webpage](#) of our website.

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a limited number of national scientists from developing States that are Contracting Parties and that can provide information relevant to the meeting objectives. According to the [Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund](#) adopted at the 2023 Commission meeting, requests should be sent to ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int at least **45 days (22 March 2024)** in advance of the start of the meeting. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date. All the information related to the [ICCAT special funds for participation in ICCAT meetings and capacity building](#) is available on the ICCAT website. It is highly recommended to visit this webpage in advance and to strictly follow the protocols. In particular, it is necessary to fully complete the invitation form including **explanations of the expected contribution to the meeting** and how it relates to the meeting objectives.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION:

– **Commission Officers:**

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Commission Chair: | E. Penas Lado | COC Chair: | D. Campbell |
| First Vice Chair: | Z. Driouich | PWG Chair: | N. Ansell |
| Second Vice Chair: | R. Chong | STACFAD Chair: | D. Warner-Kramer |
| Chairs Panels 1-4 | | | |
| SCRS Chair: | C. Brown | | |

– **Head Delegates and Head Scientists**

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

– **Observers**

Attachment: Tentative Agenda and information for participants.



Intersessional Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group (including MSE)
(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 6-9 May 2024)

Objectives

In 2024, the SCRS is scheduled to provide the Commission with a set of Candidate Management Procedures (CMPs) within the North Atlantic Swordfish Management Strategy Evaluation process. The MSE-related objectives of this meeting are to i) review and finalize CMP results, ii) develop CMP communication materials, iii) review progress on robustness tests, and iv) discuss development of an exceptional circumstances protocol. There will also be a review of new results from the ICCAT Swordfish Year Programme and work from other ongoing projects of the species group.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of fishery statistics/indicators
3. Updates from the Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP)
4. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
 - i) Updates to the combined index of abundance and related robustness testing for data lags
 - ii) CMP results
 - iii) Robustness test development
 - iv) Communication materials
 - v) Exceptional circumstances protocol
5. Closed-loop simulation study for South Atlantic swordfish
6. Responses to the Commission
7. Recommendations and workplan
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and closure



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format from 6 to 9 May 2024. The in-person meeting will be at the Secretariat (Madrid, Spain). The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 CET**.

2. Contact information

Chair of the meeting:

Dr Kyle Gillespie (kyle.gillespie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)
Aquatic Science Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 125 Marine Science Drive,
St Andrews, NB, E5B 0E4
Canada
Tel: +1 506 529 5725

Secretariat contact:

Dr Nathan G. Taylor (nathan.taylor@iccat.int)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
C/ Corazón de María 8
28002 Madrid,
Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 5600

3. Language

Following the recommendations from the SCRS and the decision of the Commission in 2023, language interpretation will be provided during the meeting.

4. Call for scientific papers and presentations

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers. These should be sent to info@iccat.int and nathan.taylor@iccat.int by **29 April 2024**. Documents and presentations provided after this deadline will not be accepted unless authorized by the Chair. Authors are reminded to closely follow the [Guidelines for Authors of Scientific Documents for the ICCAT SCRS and Collective Volume Series](#). The original documents (text, tables, and figures) should be prepared in Microsoft Word or compatible software.

5. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **25 April 2024** at the latest. Early registration is essential for the Secretariat to ensure the setting up of the online platform. **Online registration** must be completed through the [ICCAT meetings webpage](#) or the Registration form. All delegates from CPCs wishing to attend the meeting must notify their Head Delegate or Head Scientist well in advance to ensure that they are included in the official list of delegates that must be sent to the Secretariat by **25 April 2024**.

6. Online settings

The online meeting will be held on [Zoom](#). It is generally advisable that you connect to the meeting using the Zoom client. You can find the hardware requirements to join an online meeting at the following link: [Zoom](#)



Hardware requirements. Participants must be logged into their Zoom client using the email that they used to register for the meeting. We strongly suggest using headphones with a microphone to be able to hear and speak comfortably during the meeting. A brief and clear introduction of the Zoom application can be found at the [Zoom-overview webpage](#), if you have further questions, please contact the Secretariat for support. All participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** from the Zoom platform **with a link to join the meeting**.