



Madrid, 9 February 2024

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 01244 / 2024

SUBJECT: WORKSHOP ON ECOREGIONS (*Online, 24-26 April 2024*)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2024, I would like to inform you that the *Workshop on Ecoregions* has been scheduled online from 24-26 April 2024. I am pleased to provide the tentative agenda of the workshop (attached herein). I would appreciate it very much if you could distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the workshop. This announcement will shortly be published on the meetings page of our [website](#).

The workshop format will be online using the ZOOM platform. Workshop times will be from 12:00 to 16:30 CET, with a 30 minutes break between 14:00 and 14:30.

In order to organize the workshop and issue the online participant links, you are kindly requested to send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the workshop by **15 April 2024**. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause a delay in providing access to participants to the workshop. All participants must also register for the meeting by **15 April 2024**, using the [online registration form](#) which will become available on our [meetings webpage](#) soon.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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Attachment: Tentative Agenda and Workshop information.



Workshop on Ecoregions *(Online, 24-26 April 2024)*

Objectives

There are ongoing discussions in ICCAT concerning the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in line with internationally agreed standards. The regionalization of the ICCAT Convention area into ecologically meaningful areas provides a spatial framework for the development of a wide range of scientific tools and products to better integrate bycatch, climate and ecosystem considerations into fisheries management advice.

The First ICCAT Ecoregion Workshop held in 2022 established a process to guide the delineations of ecoregions within the ICCAT Convention area, resulting in the identification of eight candidate ecoregions. This Second ICCAT Ecoregion Workshop aims to achieve several objectives: (1) refine the ecoregion delineation process considering additional expert inputs and feedback received since the First ICCAT Ecoregion Workshop, (2) prepare a refined proposal of ecoregions within the ICCAT Convention area, and (3) assess the potential role of ecoregions in supporting regional ecosystem planning, incentivizing ecosystem research and facilitating the development of scientific tools and products to provide more integrated advice for informing fisheries management decisions. Integrated advice plays a crucial role in promoting effective and sustainable fisheries management by incorporating a holistic understanding of ecosystems and engaging stakeholders in the decision-making process.

Tentative Agenda

1. Experiences in regional fisheries management organizations using ecoregions for ecosystem research and the development of ecosystem-based advice products
2. Review and refine criteria to guide ecoregion delineation and expected qualities of ecoregions in ICCAT
3. Review and update the key data inputs for informing the delineation of ecoregions in ICCAT
4. Review and refine the methodology for deriving an improved proposal of ecoregions in ICCAT
5. Review validation of ICCAT candidate ecoregions derived from the First Workshop by assessing their degree of similarity and dissimilarity in terms of fleet composition and their catches
6. General discussion for deriving a refined version of ICCAT candidate ecoregions
7. Future steps and potential uses of ecoregions in ICCAT
8. Other matters



Additional information for participants

1. Date and format

The meeting will be held online between 24 and 26 April 2024. Workshop time will be from **12:00 to 16:30 CET**, with a 30-minute break between 14:00 and 14:30.

2. Contact information

Chair:

Alex Hanke (Alex.Hanke@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
125 Marine Science Drive
St. Andrews, New Brunswick E5B 0E4
Canada
Tel: +1 506 529 5912

Secretariat contact:

Dr. Nathan Taylor (nathan.taylor@iccat.int)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
C/ Corazón de María 8, 6th floor
28002 Madrid
Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 5600; Fax: +34 91 415 2612

3. Language

Following the recommendations from the SCRS and the decision of the Commission in 2023, the working language for the meeting will be English. No interpretation will be provided during the meeting, therefore scientific documents and presentations should be preferably provided in English.

4. Call for scientific papers and presentations

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers. Following the latest SCRS deadlines for the submission of SCRS documents and presentations, for this Workshop, they should be provided to info@iccat.int and/or nathan.taylor@iccat.int by **16 April 2024**. Documents and presentations provided after the latter deadline will not be accepted unless previously 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*. Furthermore, the original documents (text, tables, and figures) should be prepared in WORD or compatible software.



5. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the Workshop by **15 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 page](#) or the Registration form. All delegates from CPCs wishing to attend the Workshop must notify in advance their Head Delegate or Head Scientist to ensure that they are included in the official list that must be sent to the Secretariat by **15 April 2024**.

6. Online settings

The Secretariat is using the Zoom application for the online meeting. You can find the hardware requirements to join an online meeting at the following link: [Zoom Hardware requirements](#). 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 application can be found in [Zoom overview](#), if you have further questions, please contact the Secretariat for support. All participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.