

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, 20 February 2024

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 01583 / 2024

SUBJECT: INCORRECT DATE - ICCAT CIRCULAR #01490/2024 ON MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE DATA PREPARATORY AND STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING (Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 13-18 May 2024)

Please note that the date indicated in ICCAT Circular # 01490/24 to request funding 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, should be **29 March 2024** and not 20 March 2024 as indicated in the Circular.

We regret any inconvenience caused.

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/Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities**



Madrid, 16 February 2024

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 01490/ 2024

SUBJECT: ERRATA - MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE DATA PREPARATORY AND ASSESSMENT MEETING (Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 13-18 May 2024)

Following the Commission's adoption of the SCRS meeting schedule, I would like to inform you that the Mediterranean Albacore Data Preparatory and Assessment Meeting is scheduled to be held from 13-18 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 **3 May 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 **3 May 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 \(Ref. 23-25\)](#) adopted at the 2023 Commission meeting, requests should be sent to ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int at least **45 days (20 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

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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.



Mediterranean Albacore Data Preparatory and Assessment Meeting
(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 13-18 May 2024)

Objectives

The primary aim for this year is to update the status of the Mediterranean albacore stock (last assessed in 2021) based on data up to 2022. The session will analyze recent biological findings, catch and fisheries data, abundance indicators, and additional information essential for the assessment model (Bayesian State-Space Surplus Production Model).

During this meeting, some attention will be given to updating the North Atlantic albacore MSE process too.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda, and meeting arrangements
2. Review of fisheries statistics (Task 1 and Task 2)
3. Mediterranean albacore stock assessment
 - 3.1 Review of available and new information on biology and life-history
 - 3.2 Examination of relative abundance indices for incorporation into the stock assessment process, and decision of the final indices to be utilized in the assessment
 - 3.3 Mediterranean albacore stock assessment update
 - 3.3.1 Bayesian State-Space Surplus Production Model (JABBA)
 - 3.3.2 Final Stock Status Advice
 - 3.4 Management recommendations for Mediterranean albacore
4. Advances in Mediterranean albacore research and new research proposals
5. Requests from the Commission regarding the Mediterranean albacore stock, pending response from the Scientific Committee
6. North Atlantic albacore
 - 6.1 Exceptional Circumstances based on catch and CPUE updates
 - 6.2 Update on the new MSE
7. Recommendations on research and statistics
8. Other matters



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format from 13 to 18 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

Chairs of the meeting:

Dr José María Ortiz de Urbina (urbina@ieo.csic.es)
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Fax: +34 94 300 48 01

Secretariat contact:

Dr Mauricio Ortiz (mauricio.ortiz@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, 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. These should be sent to info@iccat.int and mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int by **6 May 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. Provision of data

CPCs are requested to submit updates of Task 1 and Task 2 data already reported (up to the year 2022), at least one month before the start of the meeting (**13 April 2024**).

Individual standardized catch per unit effort (CPUE) indices until 2022 should be provided. Since the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) established standard criteria to evaluate standardized catch rates, it is recommended that authors of documents on standardized CPUEs follow the instructions defined by the WGSAM describing the information required to facilitate the appropriate construction and evaluation of CPUE series.

6. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **3 May 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 **3 May 2024**.

7. 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**.