



Madrid, 29 February 2024

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 01881 / 2024

**SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH**  
(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 27-31 May 2024)

Following the Commission's adoption of the SCRS meeting schedule, I would like to inform you that the Intersessional Meeting of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch is scheduled to be held from 27-31 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. This announcement will also be published shortly on the ICCAT [current meetings page](#). 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 **17 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 **17 May 2024** using the online registration form which will shortly be available on the [current meetings page](#) 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](mailto:ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int) at least **45 days (12 April 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:**

<b>Commission Chair:</b>	E. Penas Lado	<b>COC Chair:</b>	D. Campbell
<b>First Vice Chair:</b>	Z. Driouich	<b>PWG Chair:</b>	N. Ansell
<b>Second Vice Chair:</b>	R. Chong	<b>STACFAD Chair:</b>	D. Warner-Kramer
<b>Chairs Panels 1-4</b>			
<b>SCRS Chair:</b>	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 Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch**  
*(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 27-31 May 2024)*

**Objectives**

The Subcommittee will address issues related to bycatch, bycatch mitigation, and statistics. In addition, it will review progress on evaluating the applicability and functionality of the Ecosystem Report Card (EcoCard) as a tool for monitoring the impacts of ICCAT fisheries, as well as other key issues relating to ecosystems and their management.

**Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements

*Pertaining to Ecosystems*

2. Review the progress on developing status indicators, pressure indicators and reference levels for the components of the Ecosystem Report Card
  - 2.1 Review progress on the development of methods for prioritizing species at risk and validating indicators
  - 2.2 Review progress on case studies and ecoregion
  - 2.3 Discuss content of Evergreen document
3. Review the intersessional work of the subgroup working on the applicability and functionality of the Ecosystem Report Card (EcoCard) as a tool for monitoring the impacts of ICCAT fisheries
4. Review work of work related to incorporating climate change impacts in management decisions
  - 4.1 Discuss potential collaborative work with other RFMOs on climate change
  - 4.2 Discuss reporting of climate change and ecosystem impacts in SCRS annual report
  - 4.3 Review TORs for project to trial providing climate conditioned advice
  - 4.4 Review impacts of Offshore Wind Farms on ICCAT fisheries, stocks and science advice
5. Review requests from the Commission and contents of the SCRS strategic plan

*Pertaining to Bycatch*

6. Sea turtles
  - 6.1 Review progress on collaborative work of sea turtle and presentation the next steps
7. Update about seabirds and their interaction with fisheries
  - 7.1 Review the [Rec. 11-09](#)
8. Effect of the mitigation measures: intra and inter taxa
  - 8.1 Factors affecting bycatch and interactions
9. Present the progress made by the Sub-group on Technical Gear Changes
10. Update on Common Ocean Program (formerly ABNJ) project(s)



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11. Explore the use of scientific reference points as a tool for assessing and managing ICCAT fisheries with respect to bycatch species
12. Investigate available information on hotspots and/or areas with high BPUE to aid in the management of ICCAT fisheries with respect to bycatch species
13. Other matters
14. Adoption of the report and closure



## Additional information for participants

### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format from 27 to 31 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 Alex Hanke ([Alex.Hanke@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Alex.Hanke@dfo-mpo.gc.ca))  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
125 Marine Science Drive  
St Andrews, New Brunswick E5B 0E4  
Canada

Dr Andrés Domingo ([dimanchester@gmail.com](mailto:dimanchester@gmail.com))  
Director Nacional,  
Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos - DINARA  
Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos, Constituyente 1497  
11200 Montevideo,  
Uruguay

Secretariat contact:

Dr Nathan G. Taylor ([nathan.taylor@iccat.int](mailto: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 provided to [info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int) and [nathan.taylor@iccat.int](mailto:nathan.taylor@iccat.int) by **20 May 2024**. Documents and presentations provided after this deadline will not be accepted unless authorized by the Chairs. 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 **17 May 2024** at the latest. Early registration is essential for the Secretariat to ensure setting up 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 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 **17 May 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 email from the Zoom platform with a link to join the meeting.**