



Madrid, 27 March 2024

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 02657/ 2024

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS (WGSAM)
(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 3-6 June 2024)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2024, I should like to inform you that the 2024 Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) is scheduled for 3-6 June 2024, in a hybrid format. The in-person meeting will be held at the Secretariat in Madrid (Spain). Please find attached the Tentative agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about the organization. I would appreciate it very much if you could distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the meeting. This announcement will also be published shortly on the ICCAT [current meetings webpage](#).

In order to organize the hybrid meeting in advance of the session, in particular, regarding the number of in-person participants, you are kindly requested to send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **24 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 **24 May 2024** using the online registration form which will be available shortly 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 at least **45 days (19 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:**

Commission Chair:	E. Penas Lado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
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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.



Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM)
(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 3-6 June 2024)

Objectives

The Working Group will address key issues related to improving the overall Management Strategy Evaluation (EMS) process, stock assessments and stock assessment inputs.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
 - 2.1 Review the progress and direction on current MSE efforts
 - 2.2 ICCAT MSE Review contract (new Terms of Reference, ToRs)
 - 2.3 Standardization of MSE graphics, tables
3. Bycatch Estimation Tool
 - 3.1 Contractor progress report
 - 3.2 2024 and possible 2025 training workshop
4. Catch per unit effort (CPUE) modelling best practices
 - 4.1 Guest speaker on CPUE modelling for stock assessment ([citation](#))
 - 4.2 Review and potential revision of SCRS CPUE paper standards
5. Climate Change
 - 5.1 Comments on the [Climate Change Proposed Plan of Action](#)
 - 5.2 Identification of Climate Change most relevant questions to managing the stocks
 - 5.3 Future climate scenarios to consider
6. Recommendations and Workplan for 2025
 - 6.1 Workplan for 2025
 - 6.2 Recommendations with financial implications for 2025
 - 6.3 Other recommendations
7. Other matters
 - 7.1 Software catalogue
8. Adoption of the report and closure



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be in a hybrid format between 3 and 6 June 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. Michael Schirripa (michael.schirripa@noaa.gov)
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami Florida 33149,
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ICCAT Secretariat contact:

Dr. Ai Kimoto (ai.kimoto@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

The working language for the meeting will be English, following the decision and recommendations from the Commission and SCRS in 2023. 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 meeting, they should be provided to info@iccat.int and/or ai.kimoto@iccat.int by **27 May 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 meeting by **24 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 page](#) or the Registration form. All delegates from CPCs wishing to attend the meeting 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 **24 May 2024**.



6. Online settings

The ICCAT 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 ICCAT Secretariat for support. All participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.