

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, 11 June 2026

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 04906 / 2026

SUBJECT: CALL FOR TENDERS - ICCAT TRAINING WORKSHOP ON ADVANCED TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MSE

In *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of harvest control rules and of management strategy evaluation (Rec. 15-07)* Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) is defined as “an inclusive, interactive and iterative process for evaluating, inter alia, the performance of proposed harvest control rules (HCRs) and reference points in relation to management objectives, including the risk associated with not achieving those objectives”.

Since 2018, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has developed and implemented MSEs for North Atlantic albacore, Atlantic bluefin tuna, North Atlantic swordfish and West Atlantic skipjack. Meanwhile, several other MSE processes for multi-stock tropical tunas, Atlantic blue shark and southern albacore are under development. The increasing demand of MSE within ICCAT calls for more CPC scientists to participate and contribute to the MSE work. However, due to the technical complexity and difficulties in developing MSE, few CPC scientists are equipped with the necessary knowledge and technical skills to develop MSE.

The objective of the workshop is to build and improve CPCs' technical capacity in developing MSE. Through this workshop, we anticipate that more scientists from Contracting Parties will be able to contribute to the advanced technical development of MSE within ICCAT, thereby enhancing the SCRS's capacity for MSE development.

Accordingly, there is a need to organize and conduct a 4 to 5-days (TBD) in-person capacity-building workshop to train a select group of ICCAT Contracting Parties scientists to gain advanced technical knowledge of MSE.

Scientists and public or private Scientific Institutes or entities interested shall submit detailed offer(s) only to the attention of the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, [Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel](#) and [Cc'ing Ms. Stasa Tensek](#) by **1 July 2026 (18:00 Madrid time) at the latest**.

I would be grateful if you could distribute this announcement to qualified individuals who might be interested.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

P.O. *Executive Secretary*




Miguel Neves dos Santos
Assistant Executive Secretary



DISTRIBUTION:

– **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chair:	Z. Driouich	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	R. Chong	COC Vice Chair:	Y. Vergara
Second Vice Chair:	E. Penas Lado	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
Chairs and Vice Chairs Panels 1-4		PWG Vice Chair:	M.D. King
SCRS Chair:	C. Brown	STACFAD Chair:	L. Marot
SCRS Vice Chair	L.G. Cardoso	STACFAD Vice Chair:	B. Chavarría

– **Head Delegates/Head Scientists**

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

Attachment: Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the ICCAT Training workshop on advanced technical development of MSE (provided only in English).



Terms of Reference

ICCAT Training Workshop on Advanced Technical Development of MSE

1. Background and Objectives

Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) is a collaborative process between scientists and decision makers that involves using computer simulation to compare the relative ability of different Management Strategies (defined as different combinations of data collection schemes, methods of analysis, harvest control rules (HCRs) and subsequent processes leading to management actions) at achieving previously agreed management objectives.

In *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of harvest control rules and of management strategy evaluation (Rec. 15-07)* is defined as “an inclusive, interactive and iterative process for evaluating, inter alia, the performance of proposed harvest control rules (HCRs) and reference points in relation to management objectives, including the risk associated with not achieving those objectives”.

Since 2018, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has developed and implemented MSEs for North Atlantic albacore, Atlantic bluefin tuna, North Atlantic swordfish and West Atlantic skipjack. Meanwhile, several other MSE processes for multi-stock tropical tunas, Atlantic blue shark and southern albacore are under development. The increasing demand of MSE within ICCAT calls for more CPC scientists to participate and contribute to the MSE work. However, due to the technical complexity and difficulties in developing MSE, few CPC scientists are equipped with the necessary knowledge and technical skills to develop MSE.

The objective of the workshop is to build and improve CPCs’ technical capacity in developing MSE. Through this workshop, we anticipate that more scientists from Contracting Parties will be able to contribute to the advanced technical development of MSE within ICCAT, thereby enhancing the SCRS’s capacity for MSE development.

2. Contractor Tasks

1. Conduct a 4/5-day (TBD) in-person capacity-building workshop to train a select group of ICCAT Contracting Parties scientists to gain advanced technical knowledge of MSE. The SCRS Chair, the rapporteur of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) and the ICCAT Secretariat will select this group of scientists based on their expertise and technical background in stock assessment and MSE (**Appendix 1**).
2. Design and deliver a systematic course covering topics on technical aspects of MSE development and implementation.
3. Provide hands-on training to develop a MSE for an ICCAT stock using a MSE software.
4. Teach how to visualize and interpret MSE results using ICCAT MSE examples.

3. Deliverables

1. The successful bidder shall provide a **detailed agenda** for the workshop not later than **1 August 2026**. This agenda will include the time and suggested location of the workshop, otherwise to be held in Madrid (Spain), as well as the stated objectives. The agenda should note that neither translation nor interpretation services will not be available for the workshop.



2. The successful bidder shall provide a **draft final report** formatted as an SCRS document by **30 November 2026**. This document will not contain any confidential data. The successful bidder shall present this document (virtually if necessary) during the WGSAM meeting in 2027 too. Such document shall make clear any strengths and/or weaknesses of the workshop with suggestion on how they might be addressed in future workshops. This document shall also include:
 - a) Executive summary (limited to 180 words);
 - b) Full description of the work carried out;
 - c) Detailed description of final results achieved;
 - d) List of recommendations;
 - e) List of references and literature cited.
3. The **final report** (formatted as an SCRS document) shall be updated taking into account the comments provided by the rapporteur of the WGSAM, the SCRS Chair and the ICCAT Secretariat, and be submitted by **15 December 2026** at the latest.

The Rapporteur of the WGSAM and the SCRS Chair, in consultation with the ICCAT Secretariat, will review all submissions of the contract deliverables and communicate any necessary revisions (if applicable) to the Contractor and/or inform of approval within 5 days of the submission(s). The Contractor shall submit the revised final documents (if changes are request), within 10 days after the aforementioned 5 days period.

4. Contractor Minimum Qualifications

- Documented multi-year experience with MSE study and technical development.
- University degree in one of the following: fisheries science, marine biology, mathematics/statistics, natural sciences or closely related fields (in case of individual scientists).
- Excellent working knowledge of at least one of the three official languages of ICCAT (English, French or Spanish). A high level of knowledge of English is desirable.

5. Submission of proposals

Scientists and public or private Scientific Institutes or entities interested shall submit detailed offer(s) only to the attention of the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, [Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel](#) and [Cc'ing Ms. Stasa Tensek](#) by **1 July 2026 (18:00 Madrid time) at the latest**.

- a) A description of methodology to be used;
- b) The detailed budget proposal, including costs associated with travel to attend the workshop in case to be held in Madrid or anywhere proposed. The budget shall preferably be presented in euros (EUR) and shall specify:
 - personnel costs, including the number of working hours, hourly rates (per person and task, if applicable)
 - travel costs, including the name of each traveller, travel origin and destination (per person, if applicable)



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

- subsistence costs, including the daily rate, the number of days covered by the Daily Subsistence Allowance (per person, trip destination and date on which it takes place, if applicable);
- c) short Curriculum vitae of the tender (in case of individual scientists, i.e. the 5 most relevant papers and involvement in recent catch per unit effort (CPUE) standardization, fishing gear simulation, or stock assessment projects;
- d) The name, address, and telephone number of the tendering body;
- e) The institutional and administrative background of the tendering body (e.g., statutes, type of institution, annual budget, budget control procedures, etc.), if applicable;
- f) Acknowledgement of this Call for Tenders;
- g) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions herein included.

If the tender is submitted by an institute/University, it must indicate the expert(s) who will be dedicated to the design and programming tasks and that he/she be available to attend the 2027 WGSAM meeting (virtually, if necessary). Offers sent after the deadline or that fail to furnish the required documentation or information or reject the terms and conditions of the Call for Tenders will not be considered.

For additional information or clarifications please contact the ICCAT Secretariat (miguel.santos@iccat.int).

6. Selection of proposals

The ICCAT Secretariat will make a revision of the offer. Following the revision process, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will notify the entity selected for the contract as soon as the selection process is completed. Contract will be awarded on the basis of competitive tendering and the evaluation of proposals will be undertaken objectively, consistently and without bias towards particular suppliers. Proposal(s) will be evaluated against a pre-determined set of criteria, which include: i) cost (30%); ii) proven track record (20%); iii) technical merit based on work plan (40%); and iv) flexibility as regards future changes in requirements (10%).

7. Duration of the contract

The work under this contract shall be concluded by **15 December 2026**. If required and strictly necessary, the contract may be is opened for extension, depending on funding availability and on the priorities of the ICCAT WGSAM in 2026.

8. Payment details

Disbursements will be made according to the following schedule:

- 40% of the total amount of the contract upon signing of the contract and after receiving a regular invoice which may be submitted **at the latest 30 days after the signature** of the contract;
- 40% of the total amount of the contract upon submission of the **Draft final report** (Deliverable #2) and after receiving a regular invoice.
- 20% after the approval of the **Final Report** (Deliverable #3), and after receiving a regular invoice and a complete set of the documents concerning the expenses incurred under the contract, no later than **15 December 2026**.



9. Logistics

The text report shall be in MS Word or compatible software. All other documents provided by the Contractor must be in Open Office, Latex or compatible software. All documents submitted must be in English.

10. Copyright

All the material produced by the Contractor will remain the property of ICCAT. All software written by the Contractor will be licensed under GLP or similar open-source license.

For additional information concerning this Call for Tenders, please contact ICCAT Secretariat at the following address: miguel.santos@iccat.int and stasa.tensek@iccat.int.