

21 September 2018

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 6702 / 2018

**SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ICCAT CHAIR ON PRIORITIES AND LOGISTICAL MATTERS FOR THE FORTHCOMING COMMISSION MEETING**

I have the honour to attach a letter from the ICCAT Chair regarding priorities and logistical matters for the forthcoming Commission meeting.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Camille Jean Pierre Manel  
*Executive Secretary*

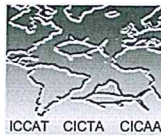


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**Attachment:** Correspondence from the ICCAT Chair.



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21 September 2018

**SUBJECT: PRIORITIES AND LOGISTICAL MATTERS FOR THE FORTHCOMING COMMISSION MEETING**

Dear Colleagues,

The 21st Special Meeting of the Commission scheduled for 12-19 November 2018 in Dubrovnik is expected to be a very busy one. To ensure the most efficient use of our time, and to assist with preparations by delegations and with a view to supporting a process to achieve successful outcomes, I wish to highlight the items below which require special attention by CPCs. I will ensure that sufficient time is allocated to the discussion of these issues.

**1. Amendments to the ICCAT Convention**

Significant progress has been made over the past five years through the Working Group on Convention Amendment, and during the 6th meeting of the Working Group, the debate on the substantive Convention amendment issues was brought to a close. It is now therefore time for the Commission to consider the adoption of the new amended text agreed during our meeting last May in Madeira.

**2. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions**

The Recommendations from the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review, held in June 2017 at the ICCAT Secretariat, have been reviewed by the different subsidiary bodies during intersessional meetings. I plan to devote sufficient time for the Commission to discuss their comments, and allow those that did not have intersessional meetings in 2018 to report on their suggestions, with the aim of considering how best to implement the second Performance Review recommendations.

**3. Approval of Budget**

The budget for the biennial 2018-2019 was adopted during the 2017 Annual Commission meeting in Marrakesh. The adopted increase reflected the increasing requirements associated with supporting the activities of the Commission, though the Working Capital Fund is still showing a decreasing trend. In addition there has been an increasing number of requests for financial assistance for SCRS and Commission meetings through the Meeting Participation Fund, but a very limited budget was approved for that purpose at the 2017 Annual Commission meeting.

I seek the support and understanding of all CPCs to facilitate the discussions on how to reverse this situation. I request all CPCs to carefully consider needs for additional financial resources when submitting draft proposals. Any proposal which may have budgetary implications, such as scientific research or lead to significant increases in the Secretariat workload or require the establishment of projects/programmes should be submitted early to STACFAD. In addition, CPCs need to consider alternative ways of financing the various capacity building activities that are currently financed from the Working Capital Fund.

In addition, STACFAD will need to give consideration to the future financing of the eBCD system as well as making funds available for the Online Reporting System. I note also the good progress made by the ICCAT Port Inspection Expert Group, and encourage all CPCs to consider making voluntary contributions to the capacity building fund for this purpose to finance the activities foreseen for 2019.

#### 4. Management of stocks/species

- i) This year, the Commission will consider the SCRS advice on the stocks that were assessed in 2018: bigeye tuna and blue marlin. Drafting the management plans for tropical tuna stocks in light of the new assessment for bigeye is obviously of major importance, as is the amendment of the multi-annual recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. But, the status of other stocks are also a concern and require consideration. Species for which new assessments have been carried out should be assigned priority. In addition, there are currently four ICCAT Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) processes, namely for: bluefin tuna, northern albacore, northern swordfish and tropical tunas. MSE is relatively new to ICCAT, capacity building is needed to enhance the participation of scientists and managers, but particularly, as these are complex and long processes that require external expertise, appropriate funding is needed.
- ii) The Commission is devoting considerable attention to the development of modern management procedures/strategies. At the 21st Special Meeting, the Commission needs to take stock of the work undertaken intersessionally by the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers and the SCRS, with a view to developing Harvest Strategies for various ICCAT species as expeditiously as possible.
- iii) I also propose that we spend time on the reports of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers and decide on responses to the recommendations of the Working Group. I will also assign priority to the report and recommendations of the Working Groups on Integrated Monitoring Measures and to the ongoing work related to FAD management.

#### 5. Compliance Issues

This year we have a two day intersessional meeting which I hope will result in sufficient time for a thorough assessment of compliance by Contracting Parties. Notwithstanding, I should also like to make enough time available during the 21st Special Meeting for the Committee to satisfactorily conclude its work. As you may recall, the Commission in 2016 adopted a number of new measures to improve its work processes and CPC reporting. I trust the implementation of these this year will help to streamline the compliance process.

Notwithstanding the above issues which I have identified as “priority”, all CPCs may raise any issues and present proposals which they consider of importance for the upcoming meeting.

In preparation for the meeting, I wish to notify CPCs of the following:

##### ***1. Draft proposals and other documents***

All draft proposals for Recommendations and Resolutions, as well as other meeting documents, should be **sent to the Secretariat as far in advance of the meeting as possible**. This will allow early translation and circulation to give time to all CPCs to prepare in advance. As in previous years, and to promote transparency, I will allow open access to the meeting documents. CPCs wishing to submit documents for restricted circulation should indicate this at the time of their submission. Such documents will be made available through a regular ICCAT circular.

The deadline for submitting draft measures that are not dependent on SCRS advice, as well as reports and documents to be submitted in accordance with the Commission requirements, is **12 October 2018**. Proposals and documents received within this deadline will be translated and circulated in advance of the meeting, and will be given priority in discussions. **Proposals which are submitted after the deadline may not be considered at the 2018 meeting.**

Draft proposals dependent on SCRS advice should be submitted to the Secretariat by **5 November 2018**, where possible. The final deadline for receipt of proposals is 11:00 am on **14 November 2018**. Allocation of sufficient time for the discussion of proposals received after that date may not be possible.

Proposals which were deferred from the 2017 meeting or intersessional meetings will not be re-tabled unless resubmitted by the sponsors before the **12 October 2018** deadline, or referred from an intersessional meeting for consideration by the Commission by the Chair of the subsidiary body.

In developing proposals, delegates are requested to follow the guidelines for submission of proposals which were adopted by the Commission in 2011 (Annex 7.1 of the Report for biennial period, 2010-2011 (II) Vol. 1) and in 2017 (Annex 6.1 of the Report for biennial period, 2016-2017 (II) Vol. 1) and to avoid duplication with existing measures as much as possible. In addition, if a proposed measure amends or supersedes previous measures, this should be clearly stated in the draft proposal.

All proposals and other meeting documents must be submitted through the ICCAT Secretariat (info@iccat.int). Documents submitted during the meeting, and changes to previously distributed documents, should be given to the ICCAT reception desk for registration or sent by e-mail to [camille.manel@iccat.int](mailto:camille.manel@iccat.int) and [miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int). Please make sure to use the most recent Word version when submitting changes to previously distributed documents. All meeting participants are requested to refrain from distributing documents in the pigeon holes, which will be reduced to a maximum of 3 per delegation. As usual, space will be made available for unregistered documents, leaflets, etc., for informal distribution.

## **2. Compliance Tables**

Given that the Compliance Committee will be meeting in advance of the Annual Meeting, the final deadline for changes to Compliance Tables is 18:00 hours on the **first day of that intersessional meeting of the Compliance Committee** (i.e. 10 October 2018). Changes to previously submitted figures should be accompanied by an explanation and a carry-over form, if applicable. Differences between compliance table figures and Task I submissions should be explained in writing. The final Compliance Tables may be subject to review following the input of the Panels which should be provided by the relevant Panel Chair to the Compliance Committee as early as possible in order to be able to adopt the Compliance Tables before the close of the Annual Meeting.

## **3. Meetings of Officers**

As is customary, I will be calling an ICCAT Officers meeting at 19:00 on Sunday, 11 November 2018 at the meeting venue.

I count on the cooperation of all CPCs to contribute to the efficient and effective use of our meeting time and trust the meeting outcomes will be fruitful.

Yours sincerely,



Raul Delgado  
Commission Chair