



Madrid – 4 February 2019

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0576 / 2019

SUBJECT: 2019 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ICCAT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS (Madrid, Spain, 8-12 April 2019)

I have the honor to inform you that the intersessional meeting of the ICCAT Sub-Committee on Ecosystems will be held on 8 to 12 April 2019, at the ICCAT Secretariat, in Madrid, Spain.

Attached please find the objectives, 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 on the current meetings page of our web site.

In order to have an estimation of the number of participants in advance of the session, I would also appreciate if you could send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **25 March 2019**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean-Pierre Manel



DISTRIBUTION:

- Commission Officers:

Commission Chair:	R. Delgado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	S. Depypere	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
Second Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	STACFAD Chair:	H.A Elekon
SCRS Chair:	G. Melvin	SCRS Vice Chair:	R. Coelho

- Head Delegates / Head Scientists

- Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities

Attachment: Objectives, Tentative Agenda and Information for participants.

2019 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS

(Madrid, Spain – 8-12 April 2019)

Objectives

Pertaining to ecosystems

In conjunction with the proposal to develop an Ecosystem report card for ICCAT, the Sub-committee will review progress on the inter-sessional exercise to update the status of the 11 ecosystem components that were identified. The indicators described in the assessments are to form the basis for a revised prototype report card that will be presented to the Commission in 2019. As in 2018, the Sub-committee aims to continue the work required to assess the feasibility of and provide information towards implementing ecosystems-based fisheries management (EBFM) in agreement with Resolution 15-11. Furthermore, it will report on the trophic ecology of pelagic ecosystems that are important and unique for ICCAT species in the Convention area as per Resolution 16-23.

Pertaining to by-catch

1. Continue the ongoing collaborative work related to seabirds and marine turtles
2. Develop a list of by-catch species that are not retained and select the species to be used as indicators
3. Support the development of indicators for the ecosystem report card

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

Pertaining to Ecosystems

2. Review the progress that has been made in implementing ecosystem-based fisheries management and enhanced stock assessments.
3. Review the progress on developing an Ecosystem Report Card for ICCAT including the development of status and pressure indicators, reference levels.
 - 3.1. Review adequacy of existing indicators against proposed new ones.
 - 3.2. Review ecosystem drivers of abundance and mode of action.
 - 3.3. Review development of ecoregions.
4. Review mechanisms to effectively coordinate, integrate and communicate ecosystem-relevant research across the ICCAT Species Working Groups and within the SCRS.
5. Review information on the trophic ecology and habitat of pelagic ecosystems that are important and unique for ICCAT species in the Convention area.

Pertaining to By-catch

6. Data used for by-catch analyses
 - 6.1. Update of ST09 forms
7. Sea birds
 - 7.1. Feedback on collaborative process of assessing the impact of longline fisheries on by-catch of seabirds
 - 7.2. Review of progress on seabird interaction estimations and mitigation
 - 7.3. Progress on assessing effectiveness of Rec. 11-09
8. Sea turtles
 - 8.1. Discuss progress towards scientific collaboration among researchers of ICCAT CPCs to elaborate on the results obtained to date regarding knowledge of the impact of the fisheries on sea turtles

9. Mitigation measures for by-catch and mortality in fisheries: intra and interspecific effects of the measures
 - 9.1. Initiate a process to review the mitigation measures and their effects in the different fisheries of ICCAT
10. Fish species caught as by-catch but not considered by other species groups
11. Other matters
 - 11.1. Integration of the Sub-committee on Ecosystems with other Species Working Groups
 - 11.2. Elaboration of Terms of Reference for a proposed Call for tenders to develop "An Inventory of Best Available Science on By-catch Mitigation Measures across Taxa"
12. Recommendations
 - 12.1. General recommendations
 - 12.2. Recommendations with financial implications
13. Adoption of the report and closure

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will take place from (Monday) 8 April to (Friday) 12 April 2019 (registration starts at 09:00 am, 8 April). Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 18:00.

The meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat: c/Corazón de María 8, Madrid, Spain.

2. Contact information

Chair, EBFM: Dr. Alex Hanke (alex.hanke@dfp.mpo.gc.ca)

St. Andrews Biological Station/Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
531 Brandy Cove Road
St. Andrews New Brunswick E5B 2L9, Canada
Tel: +1 506 529 5912, Fax: +1 506 529 5862

Chair, By-catch: Mr. Andrés Domingo (adomingo@dinara.gub.uy; dimanchester@gmail.com)

Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos - DINARA
Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos, Constituyente 1497
11200 Montevideo, Uruguay
Tel: +5982 400 46 89, Fax: +5982 401 32 16

Secretariat contact: Dr. Nathan Taylor (nathan.taylor@iccat.int)

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
c/ Corazón de María 8, 6th floor
Madrid 28002, Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 5600; Fax: +34 91 415 2612

3. Language

The working language for the meeting will be English, as no simultaneous translation can be provided. Scientific documents can be written in English, Spanish or French.

4. Call for scientific papers

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers. In order to better organize the meetings, in 2014 the SCRS established deadlines for submitting documents, which were revised in 2015. These deadlines provide the rapporteurs with valuable information to better fit the meeting timetable as well as allow the Secretariat to make the documents available to participants in advance of the meeting. In 2015 the SCRS “proposed that a new deadline for the submission of SCRS documents should be implemented; these documents should be provided in their entirety at least one week before the meeting in which they are to be presented to facilitate their review by participating scientists prior to these meetings”. As such the full documents for this meeting should be provided to info@iccat.int or miguel.santos@iccat.int by **1 April 2019**. 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. Funding

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a scientist from each ICCAT developing Contracting Party who can provide information relevant to the meeting objectives, particularly in reference to provision of data.

According with the Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund adopted at the 2014 Commission meeting, requests should be received **45 days** in advance, i.e. **22 February 2019**. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date.

All the information related with the ICCAT special funds for participation in ICCAT meeting and capacity building is available on the [ICCAT website](#). It is highly recommended to visit this web page 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.

6 Hotel information

A list of recommended hotels is available on the [ICCAT website](#).