



Madrid, 26 February 2019

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1124 / 2019

SUBJECT: 2019 ICCAT SHORTFIN MAKO STOCK ASSESSMENT UPDATE MEETING
(Madrid, Spain - 20-24 May 2019)

I have the honour to inform you that the 2019 ICCAT Shortfin Mako Stock Assessment Update Meeting will be held on 20-24 May 2019, in Madrid, Spain.

Attached please find the objectives, the tentative agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about the organization. I would appreciate 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 **6 May 2019**.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

- **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 ICCAT SHORTFIN MAKO STOCK ASSESSMENT UPDATE MEETING
(Madrid, Spain – 20-24 May 2019)

Objectives

In 2018 the SCRS elaborated a work plan for 2019 to respond in part to the requests made by the Commission related to Rec. 17-08, which included an intersessional meeting of the Shark Species Group to update the projections of future stock status for shortfin mako shark based on the 2017 stock assessment.

Specifically, paragraph 10 of Rec. 17-08 requests that in 2019, the SCRS review the effectiveness of the measures contained in this recommendation and provide the Commission with additional scientific advice on conservation and management measures for North Atlantic shortfin mako, which shall include:

- an evaluation of whether the measures contained in this recommendation have prevented the population from decreasing further, stopped overfishing and begun to rebuild the stock, and whether or not, the probability of ending overfishing and rebuilding that would be associated with annual catch limits at 100 t increments.
- a Kobe II strategy matrix that reflects timeframe(s) for rebuilding at least two mean generation times; and

In conducting such review and providing advice to the Commission, the SCRS shall take into account:

- a spatial/temporal analysis of North Atlantic shortfin mako catches in order to identify areas with high interactions;
- available information on growth and size at maturity by sex as well as any biologically important areas (e.g. pupping grounds); and
- the effectiveness of the use of circle hooks as a mitigation measure to reduce mortality.

In addition, the Shark Species Group work plan also includes the following:

- Initiate the review of data available for a stock assessment of POR in the future, including:
 - Catch data available at the Secretariat
 - National scientists to identify data available (catch, indices of abundance, length compositions, life history)
 - Life history
 - Review of SRDCP activities (e.g., reproductive biology, satellite tagging) that can be of use to provide future advice
 - The ABNJ POR assessment for the Southern Hemisphere
- Review of the SRDCP activities and progress

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of the activities and progress of the SRDCP
3. Review of updated data from the Secretariat and new data received from national scientists, with special emphasis on shortfin mako and porbeagle sharks
 - 3.1. Task I and II catch data
 - 3.2. Task II effort and size data
 - 3.3. Tagging data – particularly sex-specific information
 - 3.4. Indices of relative abundance
 - 3.5. Life history
4. Review of results of the ABNJ POR assessment for the Southern Hemisphere
5. Examine examples of diagnostics for Stock Synthesis model fit
6. Update of the projections conducted in 2017 including new catch data for 2016-2018 using BSP2/JAGS and Stock Synthesis
7. Evaluate, to the extent feasible, the probability of success of the measures contemplated in ICCAT Rec. 17-08 through additional projections
8. Continue update of the spatio-temporal distribution and biology (age and growth, reproduction, maturity) of shortfin mako
9. Continue to review the effectiveness of potential mitigation measures to reduce by-catch and mortality of shortfin mako
10. Other matters
11. Recommendations
12. Adoption of the report and closure

Additional information for participants

1. Venue and location

The meeting will be held from 20 May (Monday) to 24 May (Friday) 2019 (registration starts at 08:30 am, 20 May). 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 of meeting: Enric Cortés (enric.cortes@noaa.gov)

NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Sustainable Fisheries Division
75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami Florida 33149

Secretariat contact: Miguel Santos (miguel.santos@iccat.int)

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
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, French or Spanish.

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 **13 May 2019**. Authors are reminded to closely follow the [Guidelines for Authors of Scientific Papers 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. Provision of data

CPCs are requested to submit Task I or Task II data up until the year 2018, one week before the beginning of the meeting.

6. 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. **5 April 2019**. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date.

All the information related with the [ICCAT special funds for participation in ICCAT meetings and capacity building](#) is available on the ICCAT web site. 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.

7. Hotel information

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