



Madrid, 16 January 2023

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0261/ 2023

**SUBJECT: BLUE SHARK DATA PREPARATORY MEETING (Olhão (Portugal)/Hybrid, 17-21 April 2023)**

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2023, I should like to inform you that the blue shark data preparatory meeting is scheduled for 17-21 April 2023, in a hybrid format. The in-person meeting will be held at the IPMA laboratory in Olhão (Portugal). I am pleased to provide you the Tentative agenda of the meeting (attached herein) 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 shortly be published also 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 **6 April 2023**. 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 **6 April 2023** using the online registration form which is available 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 2020 Commission meeting, requests should be sent to [ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int](mailto:ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int) at least **75 days (1 February 2023)** in advance to 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 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.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

P.O. Executive Secretary

Miguel Neves dos Santos  
Assistant Executive Secretary

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– Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities

**Attachment:** Tentative Agenda and information for participants.



**BLUE SHARK DATA PREPARATORY MEETING**  
**(*Olhão, Portugal/Hybrid – April 17-21, 2023*)**

**Objectives**

The main sharks related objectives for 2023 are to conduct a stock assessment for the North and South stocks of blue shark, continue the research activities as defined in the Shark Research and Data Collection Program (SRDCP) and assess the achieved results.

The main objective of this meeting is to prepare the data for the stock assessment meeting. In addition, an update of the most recent activities within SRDCP will be made, as well as an overview of the responses to be provided to the Commission in 2023.

**Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of historical and new information on biology
3. Review of fishery statistics/indicators
  - 3.1 Task 1 (catches) data and spatial distribution of catches
  - 3.2 Task 2 catch/effort
  - 3.3 Task 2 size data
  - 3.4 Tagging data
4. Indices of abundance
5. Discussion on assessment models to be developed, their assumptions and input data
  - 5.1 Biological parameters
  - 5.2 Size data by sex and region
  - 5.3 Fleet structure
  - 5.4 Other relevant data
6. Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP)
7. Other Matters
  - 7.1 Overview of the Responses to the Commission (including those related to para 25 of [Recs. 21-09](#) and [22-11](#) on shortfin mako shark)
8. Recommendations
9. Adoption of the report and closure



## Additional information for participants

### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be in a hybrid format between 17 and 21 April 2023. The in-person meeting will be at the IPMA Laboratory in Olhão, Portugal. The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 CET (Portugal mainland time)**.

### 2. Contact information

Meeting Chair:

Dr. Rodrigo Forselledo [rforselledo@gmail.com](mailto:rforselledo@gmail.com)

Secretariat contact:

Dr. Nathan G. Taylor ([nathan.taylor@iccat.int](mailto:nathan.taylor@iccat.int))

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### 3. Language

The working language for the meeting will be English, following the decision and recommendations from the Commission and SCRS in 2022. 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](mailto:info@iccat.int) and/or [nathan.taylor@iccat.int](mailto:nathan.taylor@iccat.int) by **10 April 2023**. 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. Provision of data

CPCs are requested to submit updates of Task 1 and Task 2 data already reported (up to the year 2021), two weeks before the beginning of the meeting (**3 April 2023**).

Individual standardized CPUE indices until 2021 should be provided for the North and South stocks. Since the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM), established standard criteria to evaluate standardized catch rates, it is recommended that authors of documents on standardized CPUEs follow the instructions defined by the WGSAM describing the information required to facilitate the appropriate construction and evaluation of CPUE series.



## 6. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **6 April 2023** 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 **6 April 2023**.

## 7. Online settings

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