



Madrid, 9 February 2023

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1015 / 2023

**SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH**  
*(Hybrid/Madrid Spain, 8-12 May 2023)*

Following the Commission's adoption of the SCRS meeting schedule, I would like to inform you that the Intersessional meeting of the Subcommittee of Ecosystems and Bycatch is scheduled between 8-12 May 2023 in hybrid format. The in-person meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid, Spain. The meeting's tentative agenda and other relevant information follow below. This announcement will also be published shortly on ICCAT's [current meetings page](#). I would appreciate that you distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the meeting.

To organize access to the meeting, I would kindly request that you send the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **28 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 **28 April 2023** using the online registration form which will be available shortly 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 (22 February 2023)** in advance of 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 webpage 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.

*Executive Secretary*



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

**DISTRIBUTION:**

– **Commission Officers:**

<b>Commission Chair:</b>	E. Penas Lado	<b>COC Chair:</b>	D. Campbell
<b>First Vice Chair:</b>	Z. Driouich	<b>PWG Chair:</b>	N. Ansell
<b>Second Vice Chair:</b>	R. Chong	<b>STACFAD Chair:</b>	D. Warner-Kramer
<b>Chairs Panels 1-4</b>			
<b>SCRS Chair:</b>	C. Brown		

– **Head Delegates and Head Scientists**

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

– **Observers**

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



## Intersessional Meeting of the Subcommittee of Ecosystems and Bycatch

*(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 8-12 May 2023)*

### Objectives

The Subcommittee will address key issues related to ecosystems and their management, bycatch and mitigation.

### Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

#### *Pertaining to Ecosystems*

2. Review the progress on developing status indicators, pressure indicators and reference levels for the components of the Ecosystem Report Card (EcoCard)
  - 2.1 Review progress on the development of methods for prioritizing risks and screening and validating indicators;
  - 2.2 Review development of case studies and ecoregions
3. Review the intersessional work of the sub-group working on the applicability and functionality of the Ecosystem Report Card (EcoCard) as a tool for monitoring the impacts of ICCAT fisheries
4. Discuss content of a workshop to advance the identification of draft ecoregions and foster discussions on their potential use to facilitate the implementation and operationalization of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) within ICCAT
5. Review a draft Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between the Secretariats of ICCAT and the Sargasso Sea Commission

#### *Pertaining to Bycatch*

6. Sea Turtles
  - 6.1 Review progress on collaborative work of sea turtle and presentation the next steps;
  - 6.2 Advance the secondary objectives of the collaborative work on sea turtles
7. Effect of the mitigation measures: intra and inter taxa
  - 7.1 Factors effecting bycatch and interactions
8. Present the progress made by the sub-group on technical changes
9. Revise the list of bycatch species that are found in the ICCAT database, in conjunction with the Secretariat and national scientists for the purposes of validating those species for ultimate use in research and reports (e.g., ecosystem components)
10. Explore the use of scientific reference points as a tool for assessing and managing ICCAT fisheries with respect to bycatch species



11. Investigate available information on high bycatch per unit effort (BPUE) to aid in the management of ICCAT fisheries with respect to bycatch species
12. Update about seabirds and their interaction with fisheries

*Pertaining to Ecosystem and Bycatch*

13. Review feedback received from Species Groups regarding their needs and contributions towards integration of ecological considerations into management procedures, including bycatch considerations. Discuss additional mechanisms to effectively coordinate, integrate and communicate ecosystem-relevant research across the ICCAT Species Groups and within the SCRS
14. Discuss the [Resolution by ICCAT on climate change \[Res. 22-13\]](#) on climate change and relevance to the work of the Subcommittee
15. Review Terms of Reference for additional activities to be conducted by the Subcommittee
  - 15.1 Organize a Workshop on Collaborative work to assess marine turtle bycatch in pelagic longline fleets
16. Assess the effects of the [Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries \(combine, streamline, and amend Recommendations 10-09 and 13-11\) \[Rec. 22-12\]](#) on the Sub-committee
17. Other matters
18. Adoption of the Report and closure



## Additional information for participants

### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format between 8 and 12 May 2023. The in-person meeting will be at the Secretariat (Madrid, Spain). The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 CET**.

### 2. Contact information

Chairs of the meeting:

Dr. Alex Hanke ([Alex.Hanke@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Alex.Hanke@dfo-mpo.gc.ca))  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
125 Marine Science Drive  
St. Andrews, New Brunswick E5B 0E4  
Canada

Dr. Andrés Domingo ([adomingo@dinara.gub.uy](mailto:adomingo@dinara.gub.uy); [dimanchester@gmail.com](mailto:dimanchester@gmail.com))  
Director Nacional,  
Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos - DINARA  
Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos, Constituyente 1497  
11200 Montevideo,  
Uruguay

Secretariat contact:

Dr. Nathan G. Taylor ([nathan.taylor@iccat.int](mailto:nathan.taylor@iccat.int))  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)  
C/ Corazón de María 8  
28002 Madrid,  
Spain  
Tel: +34 91 416 5600

### 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. These should be provided to [info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int) and [nathan.taylor@iccat.int](mailto:nathan.taylor@iccat.int) by **28 April 2023**. Documents and presentations provided after this deadline will not be accepted unless 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](#). The original documents (text, tables, and figures) should be prepared in Microsoft Word or compatible software.



## 5. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **28 April 2023** at the latest. Early registration is essential for the Secretariat to ensure setting up 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 their Head Delegate or Head Scientist well in advance to ensure that they are included in the official list of delegates that must be sent to the Secretariat by **28 April 2023**.

## 6. Online settings

The online meeting will be held on [Zoom](#). It is generally advisable that you connect to the meeting using the Zoom client. You can find the hardware requirements to join an online meeting at the following link: [Zoom Hardware requirements](#). Participants must be logged into their Zoom client using the email that they used to register for the meeting. 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 Zoom application can be found at the [Zoom-overview webpage](#), if you have further questions, please contact the Secretariat for support. All participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** from the Zoom platform **with a link to join the meeting**.