

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 5 June 2023

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 5285 / 2023

SUBJECT: ICCAT WORKSHOP ON THE SHARK RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION PROGRAMME - SRDCP (*hybrid/Secretariat, Madrid (Spain), 13-15 July 2023*)

I should like to transmit herewith information on the upcoming ICCAT Workshop on the Shark Research and Data Collection Programme, which has been scheduled between 13-15 July 2023 at the ICCAT Secretariat (in Madrid, Spain) and will have a hybrid format.

In order to organize the workshop in advance of the sessions, in particular, regarding the number of participants, participants are kindly requested to register for the workshop by **4 July 2023**, using the [online registration form](#) which will soon be available on our [meetings webpage](#). Any late submission of the official delegation may cause delay in providing access to participants to the workshop and to the related documents.

The SCRS would like to encourage all those interested in the ICCAT shark research to participate in the workshop. However, please note that our mailing distribution list is limited. Therefore, I should like to ask that you circulate this announcement to potential delegates.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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Attachment: Background, objectives and tentative agenda.

**ICCAT Workshop on Shark Research and Data Collection Programme - SRDCP
(hybrid/Secretariat, Madrid, Spain, 13-15 July 2023)**

Background

In 2012 the Shark Species Group (SSG) recommended the development of a Shark Research Programme. The main objectives of the programme were discussed and established during the 2013 Intersessional Meeting of the Shark Species Group. During the 2014 Commission meeting, it was decided to assign funds to the Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP). In 2015, during the Blue Shark Data Preparatory Meeting, the SSG reviewed the proposal for implementation of the SRDCP that had been prepared in 2014 and identified national scientists who would be in charge of preparing proposals for receiving funds to carry out each of the research topics listed in the original proposal. During the 2015 Blue Shark Stock Assessment Meeting and shortly thereafter, four draft proposals covering different aspects of the life history, population structure, and fisheries of shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) were presented: a pan-Atlantic age and growth study; a population genetics study to investigate the population structure and phylogeography; a post-release mortality study focusing on pelagic longline fisheries; and a satellite tagging study for determining movements and habitat use. For the first three years the programme focused on these proposals and contemplated extensive collaborative work among national scientists with the aim of contributing information to the 2017 Shortfin Mako Stock Assessment. Activities under the SRDCP have continued since inception and have been extended to include other shark species such as porbeagle, silky shark, oceanic whitetip shark, longfin mako and hammerheads. In 2022, during the Intersessional Meeting of the Shark Species Group, it was discussed that it would be important to do a thorough assessment of the achieved results of SRDCP, to review its ongoing activities, to define future steps, and to establish the objectives for the next phases. For this purpose, the Group recommended that a workshop should be held in 2023.

Objective

To review the SRDCP status, results achieved, ongoing activities, and to establish the objectives for the next phases.

Target participants

The target participants are scientists who have direct involvement with the SRDCP activities. However, the workshop is open to any interested SCRS scientists.

Tentative agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
2. History and overview of the SRDCP
3. Results obtained and ongoing activities
 - 3.1 Age and growth
 - 3.2 Genetics
 - 3.3 Movements and habitat use
 - 3.4 Post-release mortality
 - 3.5 Reproduction studies
 - 3.6 Improvement of information available for stock assessment
 - 3.7 Other activities
4. Difficulties faced and possible ways to overcome these
5. Future steps
 - 5.1 Amendment of the ICCAT agreement and the shark species
 - 5.2 Advances in available information on pelagic sharks outside of the SRDCP
 - 5.3 Activities to be continued
 - 5.4 New activities to be included
6. Draft proposal of the new SRDCP