

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, 19 July 2023

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 7646/ 2023

SUBJECT: 28TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) TENTATIVE AGENDAS AND SCHEDULE

Further to ICCAT Circular No. 6688/2023 of 27 June 2023, on behalf of the Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I should like to provide you with the Agendas for the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission to be held in New Cairo (Egypt) from **13-20 November 2023** and those of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. All Agendas are tentative until the time of their adoption at the meeting, and hence may be subject to change. The Agendas will soon be posted on the 2023 Commission dedicated [webpage](#), which will also be used for posting documents for general distribution before and during the meeting once they become available.

Please note that an Intersessional Meeting of the Compliance Committee (COC) will also be held in New Cairo (Egypt) on **11-12 November 2023**. The agenda for this meeting will be that here attached and there will be one combined report for this intersessional meeting and the regular COC sessions.

We remind you that meetings will have a hybrid format and will be held according to the usual schedule, from 09:00 to 18:00 with a 30-minute coffee break during the morning and afternoon sessions, and a lunch break from 13:00 to 14:30. Please note that the schedule refers to local time in New Cairo (Egypt).

Having consulted with the Chairs of the Commission and of the subsidiary bodies, the tentative schedule is being proposed as contained in document GEN-002 (attached herewith).

I should also like to take this opportunity to remind all Contracting Parties of the decision taken by the Commission that all documents not dependent on SCRS advice should be submitted **one month** before the opening of the meeting (**13 October 2023**) and proposals that require the most recent available scientific advice **at least one week** in advance of the meeting (**5 November 2023**).

For information on travel, health and Visa requirements, please consult this [website](#).

As regards the organization of the meeting, the ICCAT Secretariat has established the following procedure:

Meeting registration

- To facilitate the registration process, an electronic Registration Form is available on the ICCAT [website](#). Please enter your information and click the **send** button to forward it to the Secretariat.

Hotel reservation

- The agency contracted for this meeting is TACC. A [dedicated website](#) has been made available by the agency, where participants will find additional information. Please contact the agency directly regarding information on hotels, booking hotel rooms (there will be a specific registration form), booking of meeting rooms, airport transfers, etc.

Please note that the mail distribution list is limited. We therefore ask that you circulate this announcement to potential members of your delegation. The meeting announcement is also posted on the [ICCAT website](#).



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a limited number of national managers from developing States that are Contracting Parties. 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 at least **75 days** in advance to the start of the meeting (**28 and 30 August 2023**, for the Interessional Meeting of the Compliance Committee and the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission, respectively). **Requests received after the deadline will not be considered.**

As has been the case previously in similar situations when several meetings of the same subsidiary body of the Commission were scheduled back-to-back, and aiming at the best use of the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF), only one delegate per Contracting Party may request financial assistance. Therefore, if attending more than one of the meetings, the same nominee should be nominated for all meetings for which assistance is being sought. 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.

We would appreciate if you could inform the Secretariat as to the tentative list of members of your delegation (names and titles), attending the meeting in-person or online, by **29 September 2023**. In the case of online participants, please inform of their status (panelists or general participants who will not have access to the floor). This information is essential for the Secretariat to coordinate with the host country as regards any possible need to adjust, in due time, the necessary meeting logistics.

Finally, I would like to inform you that the Secretariat will be available to rapporteur the Plenary and STACFAD meetings. The **Chair urges CPCs to provide rapporteurs** for the remaining meetings in order to ensure that these do not go unrecorded.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION:

– Commission Officers:

Commission Chair: E. Penas Lado
First Vice Chair: Z. Driouch
Second Vice Chair: R. Chong
Chairs Panels 1-4
SCRS Chair: C. Brown

COC Chair: D. Campbell
PWG Chair: N. Ansell
STACFAD Chair: D. Warner-Kramer

- Head Delegates
- Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities
- Observers, FAO/DOALOS, RFMOs
- Embassies

Attachments: Tentative Agendas for the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission (PLE_100, STF_200, COC_300, PWG_400, PA1_500, PA2_600, PA3_700, PA4_800) and Tentative Schedule (GEN_002).

Tentative Commission agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations
4. Introduction of Observers
5. Review of the report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) and discussion of a proposal to set a process on the status of the responses to the Commission requests
6. Review of the reports of the 2023 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Final review of follow-up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of the need for future Performance Review
8. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building
9. Cooperation with and updates relating to other organisations
 - 9.1 Cooperation with other IGOs
 - 9.2 Update on progress of ABNJ2
 - 9.3 Updates on BBNJ processes, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the WTO Agreement on fisheries subsidies and any other relevant instruments.
10. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
11. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
12. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
13. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
14. Streamlining of conservation and management measures
15. Intersessional meetings in 2024
16. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs
17. Other matters
18. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
19. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**Tentative agenda of the
Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Reports from the ICCAT Secretariat
 - 4.1 2023 Administrative Report
 - 4.2 2023 Financial Report
 - 4.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights
5. Assistance to developing CPCs
 - 5.1 Review of procedures and funding for the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)
 - 5.2 Funding mechanisms for other capacity building activities
6. Consideration of methods to ensure the availability of rapporteurs
7. Review of progress of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing
8. Consideration of financial implications of SCRS requests
9. Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed
10. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2024/2025
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**Tentative agenda of the
Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC)**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of progress made by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-TOR) and next steps
5. Consideration of ways to use capacity building to improve compliance
6. Consideration of any outstanding matters in Performance Review recommendations as well as recommendations from the Expert Workshops on Best Practices in Compliance in RFMOs
7. Review of ICCAT Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee
8. Priority review of recommendations, taking into account measures identified for review in the 2022 COC meeting, the schedule of expiration of recommendations and, where possible, the schedule of SCRS assessments, as appropriate
 - a) *Recommendation by ICCAT on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (Rec. 18-09)*
 - b) *Recommendation by ICCAT on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding billfish caught in the ICCAT Convention area (Rec. 18-05) (Billfish Check Sheet)*
 - c) *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-13 on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 18-06) (Shark Check Sheet)*
 - d) *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program (Rec. 16-14)*
9. Considerations of updates to the Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities
10. Review of response to Chair's letters arising from the 2022 meeting
11. Review of Compliance Tables
12. Review of other relevant information, including submissions under Rec. 08-09
13. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements, focusing on priority issues and/or cases
14. Review of information relating to Non-CPCs
15. Determination of recommended actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 5 and 6
 - a) Endorsement of the Compliance Annex
 - b) Identifications or other actions under the trade measures recommendation (Rec. 06-13)
 - c) Action under data recommendations (Recs. 05-09 and 11-15)
 - d) Any other actions under Ref. 22-18

16. Consideration of requests for cooperating status
17. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance
18. Election of Chair
19. Other matters
20. Adoption of report and adjournment

**Tentative agenda of the Permanent Working Group for the
improvement of ICCAT statistics and conservation measures (PWG)**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the Report of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and other relevant subsidiary working groups, and consideration of any necessary actions
5. Consideration, taking into account the findings of point 4, of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:
 - 5.1 Catch Document and Statistical Document Programmes
 - 5.2 Observer Programmes and Electronic Monitoring System (EMS)
 - 5.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements
 - 5.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements
 - 5.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programmes
 - 5.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures
 - 5.7 Vessel listing requirements
 - 5.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements
 - 5.9 Flag State responsibilities
 - 5.10 Other issues
6. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list
7. Election of Chair
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Tentative agenda of Panel 1

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the reports of the intersessional meetings of Panel 1 and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables and payback plans
8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Ref. 01-25)
9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above
10. Research
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Tentative agenda of Panel 2

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables
8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Ref. 01-25)
9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above
10. Research
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Tentative agenda of Panel 3

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
 - 5.1 Research
6. Review of compliance tables
7. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Ref. 01-25)
8. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above
9. Election of Chair
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Tentative agenda of Panel 4

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the reports of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables and payback plans
8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Ref. 01-25)
9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above
10. Research
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Original: English

Tentative schedule for the 2023 Commission meeting

<i>Day/Time</i>	<i>8:30-9:00</i>	<i>9:00-10:30</i>		<i>11:00-13:00</i>		<i>14:30-16:00</i>		<i>16:30-18:00</i>	<i>18:00 -19:00</i>
Saturday 11	Registration	COC		COC		COC		COC	
Sunday 12	COC	COC		COC		COC		COC	Officers meeting
Monday 13**	Registration/ HD Meeting	Opening*		PLE		PLE		PLE	
Tuesday 14		PA1		PA2		PA4		PWG	
Wednesday 15		STACFAD		PA3		COC		PA1	
Thursday 16	HD Meeting (TBD)	COC		PA2		PWG		PA3	
Friday 17		PA4		PWG		STACFAD		PA2	
Saturday 18		PA1		COC		PWG		STACFAD	
Sunday 19		TBD		TBD		No meeting		No meeting	
Monday 20		TB		PLE		PLE		PLE	

COC = Compliance Committee

PWG = Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures

STACFAD = Standing Committee on Finance and Administration

PA 1-4 = Panels 1 to 4

PLE = Plenary

HD= Head Delegate

TBD = to be decided

* The meeting will start at 9:30 on Monday 13 November and at 9:00 am for the rest of the week.

** A welcome cocktail party will be held on the evening of Monday, 13 November 2023.