

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

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Madrid, 12 April 2024

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 03249 / 2024

**SUBJECT: ICCAT WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF THE BYCATCH ESTIMATION TOOL**  
*(hybrid, Madrid, Spain, 15-17 July 2024)*

Over the past few years the ICCAT SCRS Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) has developed a Bycatch Estimation Tool (BYET) that uses model-based and design-based procedures in a semi-automated process of estimating total annual bycatch by expanding the data from an observer programme to the total effort from logbooks or landings records. In addition to bycatch estimation, this toolkit can also be used to estimate an annual index of abundance, calculated only from the observer data. This toolkit has previously been subject to simulation testing and application to actual data to examine its efficacy and its utility for use for bycatch estimation in ICCAT CPC fisheries. The SCRS acknowledges that the general and proper use of the BYET will be greatly increased by providing a user-oriented workshop on the R package.

Accordingly, I am pleased to announce that a Workshop on the Use of the Bycatch Estimation Tool has been scheduled for 15-17 July 2024 in Madrid (Spain). Due to its nature, only a limited number of selected participants may attend this workshop. ICCAT will fund participants' attendance at the workshop, by supporting their travel and subsistence. Interested participants shall submit their applications to the Secretariat ([info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int) and [stasa.tensek@iccat.int](mailto:stasa.tensek@iccat.int)) by **3 May 2024 at the latest**, including a brief description of their motivation and Curriculum vitae, noting the criteria listed below for the selection of candidates.

An Evaluation Panel, composed by the SCRS Chair, the Chair of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods, the instructor(s) and the Secretariat, will evaluate the applications and select the candidates according to the following criteria:

1. The qualifying participant shall be from an ICCAT CPC that has a significant amount of bycatch but has not reported its methodology to report this bycatch according to ICCAT [Rec. 19-05](#).
2. The qualifying participant shall be the scientist responsible for estimation of bycatch and discards from the CPC they represent.
3. The qualifying participant shall have a demonstrated working knowledge of the R programming language and general linear models.
4. The qualifying participant shall have access to and be able to bring with him/her the data necessary to conduct estimates of bycatch (e.g. observer data, logbook data, etc.). Note: these data will not be shared with other workshop participants, the instructors, or otherwise retained upon completion of the workshop.

I would be grateful if you could distribute this announcement to qualified individuals who might be interested.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA  
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

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*Executive Secretary*



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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