

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, 15 April 2024

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 03338/ 2024

**SUBJECT: ATLANTIC BLUE MARLIN STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING**  
*(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 17-21 June 2024)*

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2024, I would like to inform you that the *Atlantic Blue Marlin Stock Assessment meeting* has been scheduled from 17 to 21 June 2024. The in-person meeting will have a hybrid format and will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat. I am pleased to provide 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 on the meetings page of our [website](#).

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 **7 June 2024**, at the latest. 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 **7 June 2024** using the online registration form which will be available shortly on the 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 2023 Commission meeting, requests should be sent to [ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int](mailto:ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int) at least **45 days** in advance (**3 May 2024**) of the start of the meeting. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date. All the information related to the [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 receive 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 / Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

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



**Atlantic Blue Marlin Stock Assessment Meeting**  
*(Hybrid/ Madrid, Spain, 17–21 June 2024)*

**Objectives**

The main Billfish Species Group objectives for 2024 are to conduct a stock assessment for the Atlantic blue marlin stock and continue with the research activities for all stocks as defined in the ICCAT Enhanced Programme for Billfish Research (EPBR). The main objective of this meeting is to use the data and decisions taken during the Blue Marlin Data Preparatory meeting to assess the blue marlin stock using several models.

**Tentative Agenda\***

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of input data for stock assessment
  - a. Biology
  - b. Catches
  - c. Size
  - d. Indices of abundance
  - e. Fleet structure
3. Methods and model settings
  - a. Stock Synthesis
  - b. Surplus Production models
4. Model diagnostics
  - a. Stock Synthesis
  - b. Surplus Production models
5. Model results
  - a. Stock Synthesis
  - b. Surplus Production models
6. Stock projections
7. Responses to the Commission:
  - a. Estimation of live and dead discards
  - b. Fishing mortality estimates by main fleet/gears
8. Recommendations
  - a. Research and statistics
  - b. Management (BUM Executive Summary)
9. EPBR update on ongoing activities and future planning.
  - a. Reproductive biology
  - b. Others
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and closure

\* An annotated agenda will be circulated by the Chair during the week before the start of the meeting, which will include the schedule for the different Agenda items.



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**Additional information for participants**

**1. Date and venue**

The meeting will be in a hybrid format between 17 and 21 June 2024. The in-person meeting will be at the ICCAT Secretariat. The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 CET (GMT+2)**.

**2. Contact information**

Chair:

Dr. Fambaye Ngom Sow ([ngomfambaye2015@gmail.com](mailto:ngomfambaye2015@gmail.com))  
Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar Thiaroye,  
CRODT/ISRALNERV  
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Tel: +221 3 0108 1104; +221 77 502 67 79, Fax: +221 33 832 8262

Secretariat contact:

Dr. Mauricio Ortiz ([mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int](mailto:mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int))  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)  
C/ Corazón de María 8, 7th floor,  
28002, Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 416 5600

**3. Language**

Following the recommendations from the SCRS and the decision of the Commission in 2023, language interpretation will be provided during the meeting.

**4. Call for scientific papers and presentations**

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers/presentations. In advance of submitting those, authors shall request the related SCRS reference to the meeting Chair [Fambaye Ngom Sow](#) and the Secretariat focal point [Mauricio Ortiz](#). **Upon clearance from the meeting Chair**, the Secretariat will assign a specific SCRS reference and inform the author(s).

Following the latest SCRS deadline for the submission of SCRS documents and presentations, for this meeting, the scientific papers/presentations should be provided to the meeting Chair [Fambaye Ngom Sow](#), and the Secretariat focal point [Mauricio Ortiz](#) by **10 June 2024**. 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. Registration**

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **7 June 2024** 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 **7 June 2024**.



## 6. 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**.