



Madrid, 13 February 2025

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 01177/ 2025

**SUBJECT: BLUEFIN TUNA SPECIES GROUP INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**  
(Hybrid/Sète, France, 8-11 April 2025)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2025, I should like to inform you that the 2025 Bluefin tuna Species Group Intersessional Meeting is scheduled from 8 to 11 April 2025, in a hybrid format. The in-person meeting will be held at the Palais Consulaire in Sète, France. I am pleased to provide you the tentative agenda of the meeting (attached herewith) 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 also be published shortly on the [ICCAT 2025 meetings webpage](#).

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 **28 March 2025**. 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 March 2025** 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 2023 Commission meeting, requests should be sent to [ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int](mailto:ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int) at least **45 days (21 February 2025)** 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	<b>SCRS Vice-Chair:</b>	L.G. Cardoso

– **Head Delegates and Head Scientists**

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

– **Observers**

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



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA  
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

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**Bluefin Tuna Species Group Intersessional Meeting**

*(Hybrid/ Sète, France, 8-11 April 2025)*

**Objectives**

To review the western bluefin tuna (BFT-W) Close-Kin Mark Recapture (CKMR) study, to discuss further steps to complete the eastern (BFT-E) CKMR feasibility study, to evaluate new information that may be consequential for the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), and to refine the plans for the 2026-2027 stock health check and MSE review.

**Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
  2. Presentation of CKMR estimate of the BFT-W spawning stock biomass (SSB)
  3. Evaluation of the influence on the existing BR Management Procedure (MP) of the following:
    - a. CKMR estimate of the BFT-W SSB
    - b. A 2-year cycle for the Atlantic Wide Research Programme for Bluefin tuna (GBYP) aerial survey
    - c. Removal of GBYP aerial survey for BR MP
  4. Evaluation of updated or revised indices in the Operating Models (OMs)
    - a. Presentation of the indexes
    - b. Evaluation of updated indices
    - c. Evaluation of revised indices
  5. Evaluation of stock mixing information (Bluefin tuna Technical Sub-group on Stock Mixing)
  6. Consider a de minimis reconditioning to possibly include:
    - a. BFT-W CKMR
    - b. Existing indices up to 2023
    - c. Revised indices up to 2023
    - d. Re-tune BR MP on reconditioned models
    - e. Obtain 2026-2028 total allowable catch (TAC) on retuned MP
    - f. Develop new projections related to existing EC provisions, consistent with the lite-reconditioning.
  7. BFT-W CKMR next steps
  8. Eastern bluefin tuna (BFT-E) CKMR
    - a. Update of developed activities
    - b. Additional activities needed to complete the BFT-E CKMR feasibility study
    - c. Future planning and funding
  9. BFT Technical Sub-group on Farm Operations & BFT Technical Sub-group on Early Life History: activities and planning
    - a. Related responses to the Commission
  10. Nature of 2026 'health check' and plan for MSE review
  11. GBYP activities and planning
    - a. Decision about the possible cancellation of aerial surveys in the Central Mediterranean
    - b. Model-based approaches for aerial survey
  12. Recommendations
  13. Other matters
  14. Adoption of the report and closure
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### Additional information for participants

#### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be in a hybrid format between 8 and 11 April 2025. The in-person meeting will be at the Palais Consulaire in Sète, France. The meeting hours will be from **9:00 to 18:00 CET (GMT+1)**.

#### 2. Contact information

Co-Chairs of Bluefin Tuna Species Group:

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Local organizers:

[Dr. Tristan Rouyer](#)

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Tel: +33 782 995 237

#### 3. Language

The working language for the meeting will be English, following the decision and recommendations from the Commission and SCRS in 2023. 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. Following the latest SCRS deadlines for the submission of SCRS documents and presentations, for this meeting, they should be provided to [info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int) and/or [ai.kimoto@iccat.int](mailto:ai.kimoto@iccat.int) by **31 March 2025**. 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 **28 March 2025** 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 **28 March 2025**.

## 6. Online settings

The ICCAT 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**.