



Madrid, 12 March 2025

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 02041/ 2025

SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SMALL TUNAS SPECIES GROUP (*Hybrid/Olhão, Portugal, 26-28 May 2025*)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2025, I should like to inform you that the Intersessional Meeting of the Small Tunas Species Group is scheduled for 26-28 May 2025, in a hybrid format. The in-person meeting will be held at the *Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA)* in Olhão (Portugal). 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 current ICCAT Meetings page of the [ICCAT 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 **16 May 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 **16 May 2025** using the online registration form which is available on the current ICCAT Meetings page of the [ICCAT 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 at least **45 days (11 April 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 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 accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION:

– **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chair:	E. Penas Lado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
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Chairs Panels 1-4			
SCRS Chair:	C. Brown	SCRS Vice-Chair	L.G. Cardoso

- **Head Delegates and Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities**
- **Observers**

Attachment: Tentative Agenda and information for participants.



Intersessional Meeting of Small Tunas Species Group
(Hybrid/Olhão, Portugal, 26-28 May 2025)

Objectives

The workplan for the Small Tunas Species Group for 2025 included a three-day intersessional meeting. The objectives of the meeting are: organize all the data and information that have been obtained to date; to present new life-history information and advances achieved within the Small Tunas Year Programme (SMTYP); and, to discuss the plan to apply data-limited assessments to small tunas stocks in the near future for the provision of management advice.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of fisheries statistics
 - 2.1 Task 1 (catches) data and spatial distribution of catches
 - 2.2 Task 2 catch/effort and size data
 - 2.3 Tagging data
 - 2.4 Fisheries indicators (including length data analysis)
3. Review of available and new information on biology and other life-history information of small tunas
 - 3.1 Age and growth
 - 3.2 Reproduction and maturity (including a summary of the 2024 workshop)
 - 3.3 Genetics (species and stock differentiations)
 - 3.4 Other
4. Plan to apply Data Poor Methods for future development of management advice
5. Small Tunas Year Programme (SMTYP)
 - 5.1 Update on programmed activities for 2025
 - 5.2 Plan for future SMTYP activities in 2026 and forward
6. Recommendations on research and statistics
7. Other matters
 - 7.1 Draft workplan for 2026
 - 7.2 New rules on funding requests
8. Adoption of the report and closure



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be in a hybrid format between 26 and 28 May 2025. The in-person meeting will be at the *Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA)* in Olhão (Portugal). The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 GMT +0 / Western European Time (WET)**.

2. Contact information

Meeting Chair:

[Dr. Constance Diaha](#)
Centre de recherches océanologiques (CRO)
29, rue des Pêcheurs - B.P. V-18,
Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire

Local contact:

[Dr. Pedro Lino](#)
Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA)
Avenida 5 de Outubro s/n
8700 Olhão, Portugal
Tel: +351 289 700500

Secretariat contact:

[Dr. Nathan Taylor](#)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
C/ Corazón de María 8
28002 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 5600

3. Language

The working language for the meeting will be English, following the decision and Recommendations from the Commission and SCRS in 2024. 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 the [ICCAT Secretariat](#) and/or [Dr. Miguel Neves dos Santos](#) by **19 May 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. Provision of data

CPCs are requested to submit any updates of Task 1, 2 and 3 data already reported (up to the year 2023), two weeks before the beginning of the meeting (**12 May 2025**). To assist CPCs on the revision of submitted data, please check the available catalogues for the small tunas [here](#).



6. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **16 May 2025** at the latest. Early registration is essential for the ICCAT Secretariat to ensure the setting up of the online platform. **Online registration** must be completed through the [ICCAT website meeting 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 ICCAT Secretariat by **16 May 2025**.

7. 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**.