

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, 10 April 2025

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 02986/ 2025

**SUBJECT: ATLANTIC WHITE MARLIN STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING**  
(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 23-27 June 2025)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2025, I would like to inform you that the Atlantic White Marlin Stock Assessment meeting has been scheduled from 23 to 27 June 2025. 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 current 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 ICCAT Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **13 June 2025**, 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 **13 June 2025** 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 (**9 May 2025**) 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:**

Commission Chair:	E. Penas Lado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
Second Vice Chair:	R. Chong	STACFAD Chair:	D. Warner-Kramer
Chairs Panels 1-4			
SCRS Chair:	C. Brown	SCRS Vice-Chair:	L.G. Cardoso
- **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

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



**Atlantic White Marlin Stock Assessment Meeting**  
(Hybrid/ Madrid, Spain, 23–27 June 2025)

**Objectives**

The main Billfish Species Group objectives for 2025 are to conduct a stock assessment for the Atlantic white 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 assess the white marlin stock.

**Tentative Agenda\***

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of input data for stock assessment
  - a) Biology
  - b) Catches
  - c) Length compositions
  - d) Indices of abundance
  - e) Fleet structure
  - f) Other relevant data
3. Methods and model settings
  - a) Stock Synthesis
  - b) Surplus Production models
4. Model diagnostics
  - a) Stock Synthesis
  - b) Surplus Production model JABBA
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 ([Rec. 19-05](#))
  - b) Fishing mortality estimates by main fleet/gears ([Rec. 16-11](#))
8. Recommendations
  - a) Research and statistics
  - b) Management Recommendations
  - c) Strategic Plan (proposal)
9. EPBR update on ongoing activities and future planning
  - a) Reproductive biology
  - b) Others
10. Draft billfishes Executive Summaries
11. Other matters
12. 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.



## Additional information for Participants

### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be in a hybrid format between 23 and 27 June 2025. The in-person meeting will be at in Madrid (Spain), at the ICCAT Secretariat. The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 CET (CEST)**.

### 2. Contact information

Chair:

[Ms. Karina Ramirez](#)

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Centro Regional de Investigación Acuícola y Pesquera Veracruz  
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Tel: +52 5538719500 Ext 55756.

Secretariat contact:

[Dr. Mauricio Ortiz](#)

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

The working language for the meeting will be English, following the decision and Recommendations from the Commission and SCRS in 2022. 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. Mauricio Ortiz](#) by **16 June 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 **13 June 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 **13 June 2025**.



## 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**.