

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, 19 December 2024

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 12370 / 2024

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC WHITE MARLIN DATA PREPARATORY MEETING
(*hybrid/Madrid, Spain from 24 to 28 March 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 Data Preparatory meeting* has been scheduled from 24 to 28 March 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 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 **14 March 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 using the online registration form which will be available shortly on the meetings page of our [website](#) by **14 March 2025**.

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** in advance of the start of the meeting (**7 February 2025**). 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.

P.O. Executive Secretary

Miguel Neves dos Santos
Assistant Executive Secretary

DISTRIBUTION:

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Attachment: Tentative Agenda and other relevant information for participants.



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Atlantic White Marlin Data Preparatory Meeting
(Hybrid/ Madrid, Spain from 24 to 28 March 2025)

Objectives

The main objective of this year is to conduct an assessment for the Atlantic White marlin stock. The meeting will review new biological information, catch and fisheries statistics (including discards), indices of abundance, and auxiliary information for the assessment models.

Tentative Agenda*

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of historical and new information on biology
3. Review of fishery statistics/indicators
 - a) Task 1 (catches) and discards data and spatial distribution of catches
 - b) Task 2 catch/effort
 - c) Task 2 size data
 - d) Tagging data
4. Review of available indices of relative abundance by fleet
5. Review of Assessment models for evaluation, specifications of data inputs, and modeling options
 - a) Production models
 - b) Catch Statistical integrated model Stock Synthesis (SS)
 - c) Other methods
6. Recommendations
 - a) Research and statistics
 - b) Management
7. Responses to the Commission
8. Enhanced Program of Billfish Research (EPBR)
9. Other matters
 - a) Review of the taxonomy status for sailfish stocks
10. 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 24 and 28 March 2025. The in-person meeting will be at the ICCAT Secretariat. The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 UTC (GMT+1)**.

2. Contact information

Chair:

[Karina Ramírez López](#)

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ICCAT Secretariat contact:

[Dr. Mauricio Ortiz](#)

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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 March 2025**. Documents and presentations provided after the latter deadline will not be accepted unless previously authorized by the Chair(s). 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 updates of Task 1 and Task 2 data already reported (up to the year 2023), at least two weeks before the start of the meeting (**10 March 2025**).

Individual standardized catch per unit effort (CPUE) indices until 2023 should be provided for the Atlantic stock. Since the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM), established standard criteria to evaluate standardized catch rates, it is recommended that authors of documents on standardized CPUEs follow the instructions defined by the WGSAM describing the information required to facilitate the appropriate construction and evaluation of CPUE series.



6. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **14 March 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 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 ICCAT Secretariat by **14 March 2025**.

7. 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 ICCAT Secretariat for support. All participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.