



Madrid, 24 April 2026

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 03003/ 2026

**SUBJECT: SWORDFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING**  
(Hybrid / Madrid, Spain, 13–17 July 2026)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2026, I should like to inform you that the 2026 Swordfish Stock Assessment Meeting is scheduled for **13–17 July 2026**, in a hybrid format. I am pleased to provide you with the tentative agenda of the meeting (attached herewith) and other relevant information about the meeting 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 [current meetings webpage](#).

The meeting format will be in person at the ICCAT Secretariat offices and online (hybrid) using the ZOOM platform. Meeting hours will be from 9:00 to 18:00 (Madrid time, UTC+2). In order to organize the meeting in advance of the session, in particular, regarding the number of participants, you are kindly requested to send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **1 July 2026**. 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 must also register for the meeting by **1 July 2026** using the [online registration form](#) which will be available shortly on the [current meetings webpage](#) 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. 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 (29 May 2026)** 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>	Z. Driouich	<b>COC Chair:</b>	D. Campbell
<b>First Vice Chair:</b>	R. Chong	<b>COC Vice Chair:</b>	Y. Vergara
<b>Second Vice Chair:</b>	E. Penas Lado	<b>PWG Chair:</b>	N. Ansell
<b>Chairs and Vice Chairs Panels 1-4</b>		<b>PWG Vice Chair:</b>	M.D. King
<b>SCRS Chair:</b>	C. Brown	<b>STACFAD Chair:</b>	L. Marot
<b>SCRS Vice Chair</b>	L.G. Cardoso	<b>STACFAD Vice Chair:</b>	B. Chavarría

– **Head Delegates and Head Scientists**

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

– **Observers**

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



**Swordfish Stock Assessment Meeting**  
(Hybrid / Madrid, Spain, 13–17 July 2026)

**Objectives**

The Swordfish Species Group's main objective for 2026 is to conduct stock assessments for swordfish. In addition, the Group will draft recommendations on research, statistics, and management, and review responses to the Commission. There will be a brief update on new North Atlantic swordfish MSE results.

**Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of updates to data inputs (limited to updates since the data preparatory meeting)
3. Mediterranean assessment models
  - 3.1 JABBA
    - 3.1.1 Model settings
    - 3.1.2 Diagnostics
    - 3.1.3 Stock status results
  - 3.2 a4a
    - 3.2.1 Model settings
    - 3.2.2 Diagnostics
    - 3.2.3 Stock status results
  - 3.3 Stock Synthesis
    - 3.3.1 Model settings
    - 3.3.2 Diagnostics
    - 3.3.3 Stock status results
  - 3.4 Synthesis of Mediterranean assessment results
4. South Atlantic assessment models
  - 4.1 JABBA
    - 4.1.1 Model settings
    - 4.1.2 Diagnostics
    - 4.1.3 Stock status results
  - 4.2 Stock Synthesis
    - 4.2.1 Model settings
    - 4.2.2 Diagnostics
    - 4.2.3 Stock status results
  - 4.3 Synthesis of South Atlantic assessment results



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5. Projections
  - 5.1 Mediterranean assessment
    - 5.1.1 JABBA
    - 5.1.2 a4a
  - 5.2 South Atlantic assessment
    - 5.2.1 JABBA
    - 5.2.2 Stock Synthesis
6. North Atlantic MSE updates
7. Recommendations
8. Responses to the Commission
9. Review of the workplan
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and closure



## Additional information for participants

### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held in hybrid format from 13–17 July 2026. The in-person meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat, Calle Corazón de María 8, Madrid, Spain. The meeting hours will be from **9:00–18:00 Madrid time (CET, UTC+2)**.

### 2. Contact information

Coordinator of Swordfish Species Group:

[Dr Kyle Gillespie](#)

Aquatic Science Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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Tel: +1 506 529 5725

ICCAT 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

Following the recommendations from the SCRS and the decision of the Commission in 2025, language interpretation will be provided during the meeting. Participants are encouraged to take advantage of native language opportunities and use video during interventions to facilitate the interpreter's task.

### 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 SCRS reference number from the meeting Chair and the Secretariat contact. After clearance from the meeting Chair, the Secretariat will assign a specific SCRS reference and inform the author(s).

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 [nathan.taylor@iccat.int](mailto:nathan.taylor@iccat.int) by **3 July 2026**. Documents and presentations provided after the latter deadline will not be accepted unless specifically authorized by the Chair. Authors are reminded to closely follow the [New Guidelines for Authors of Scientific Documents for the ICCAT SCRS and Collective Volume Series](#) and the available [template](#). 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 **1 July 2026** 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 **1 July 2026**.



## 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**.