

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, 25 June 2026

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 05267 / 2026

**SUBJECT:** ECOTEST WORKSHOP II (*In-person / Madrid, Spain, 11 September 2026*)

Building on a series of EcoTest presentations and discussions at the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch (SC-ECO) from 2022 to 2026, I would like to inform you that an in-person *Workshop on the use of time-series neural networks (EcoTest)* to determine stock status for secondary, unassessed species is scheduled for **11 September 2026**. The Workshop will be held in-person at the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid (Spain).

I am pleased to provide you with the tentative agenda of the Workshop 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 Workshop. This announcement will also be published shortly on the [ICCAT meetings webpage](#).

In order to organize the Workshop, in advance of the session, in particular, regarding the number of participants, you are kindly requested to send to the ICCAT Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the Workshop by **30 July 2026**. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause a delay in providing access to participants to the Workshop and the related documents. Because the organizers and participants need to assemble data in advance of the Workshop, all participants must also register for the Workshop by **30 July 2026** using the online registration form, which will be available shortly on the [current meetings page](#) of our website.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Executive Secretary*



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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– **Observers**

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



## **EcoTest Workshop II**

*(In-person / Madrid, Spain, 11 September 2026)*

### **Objectives**

The objective of EcoTest Workshop II is to apply the EcoTest framework to secondary species for which routine stock assessments are not currently available. The Workshop will demonstrate new time-series neural-network methods, explore stock-status indicators and diagnostics for selected species, and identify content and potential contributions for a peer-reviewed paper arising from the work.

### **Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and Workshop arrangements
2. Workshop objectives and expected outputs
3. Demonstration of new EcoTest methods
  - 3.1 Time-series neural-network approach
  - 3.2 Treatment of catch, mean-length and abundance-index data
  - 3.3 Incorporation of age-based survival, selectivity, growth and maturity information
  - 3.4 Discussion of method behaviour relative to conventional assessment models
4. Pre-workshop data inputs for secondary species
  - 4.1 Life-history information, including M, K, maturity, growth and weight-at-age
  - 4.2 Catch, catch per unit effort (CPUE) or other abundance indices, and length-composition data
  - 4.3 Data-screening and documentation needs
5. Application of EcoTest to selected species
  - 5.1 Status estimates and uncertainty
  - 5.2 Sensitivity analyses
  - 5.3 Retrospective analyses
  - 5.4 Comparison with data-rich assessment examples
6. Participant exploration and discussion of candidate species
7. Plan for peer-reviewed paper
  - 7.1 Proposed scope and content
  - 7.2 Interest in co-authorship and contributor roles
8. Recommendations and next steps
9. Other matters
10. Closure



## Additional information for participants

### 1. Date and venue

The Workshop will be held in-person on Friday, 11 September 2026 at the ICCAT Secretariat, C/ Corazón de María 8, 28002 Madrid (Spain). The Workshop hours will be from 08:30-13:00 and 14:00-16:30 (GMT+2).

### 2. Contact information

Workshop organizers:

Dr. Nathan Taylor  
Dr. Tom Carruthers

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

The working language of the Workshop will be English.

### 4. Pre-workshop data preparation

Each participant must organize information and data for at least one secondary species of interest and send these data to the Workshop (at a site to be determined) by **23 August 2026**. Relevant inputs may include, where available, life-history parameters such as M and K, total catch time series, CPUE or other abundance indices, catch-at-length data, maturity-at-age, weight-at-age, and selectivity-at-age.

### 5. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the Workshop by **30 July 2026** at the latest. Early registration is essential for the ICCAT Secretariat to organize the room for the Workshop and related arrangements and to assemble the data provided by the participants into a form that is useable to the neural network. Online registration must be completed through the [ICCAT meetings webpage](#) or the registration form. All delegates from CPCs wishing to attend the Workshop 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 **30 July 2026**.