

ICCAT SCRS Report

2017



2017 Report of the SCRS

SCRS accomplishments and challenges

Assessments

- Report card for Atlantic stocks
 - Preview of 2017 assessments of BFT, SWO, Med ALB and SMA

Other SCRS activities in 2017

- Reports of Subcommittees (Methods, Ecosystems, Statistics)
- Review of SCRS strategic plan for science
- Progress on MSE
- General Recommendations and workplan for 2018
- Responses to Commission Requests

SCRS report sections discussed elsewhere during the meeting

2017 SCRS accomplishments and challenges

- Completed full assessments of 7 stocks:

BFT West

SWO North

SMA North

ALB Med

BFT East and Med

SWO South

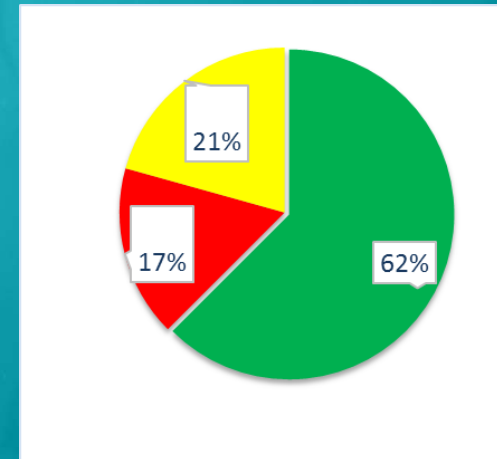
SMA South

- Contributed to Global FAD working group and ICCAT FAD working group
- Consider and developed responses to 22 Commission Requests
- Completed mid-term review of SCRS strategic Science Plan
- Substantial progress on MSE including completing evaluation of HCR and management procedure for ALB North
- Progressed other work on ecosystems, stock assessment methods, statistics, small tunas and bilfish

ICCAT Stock Status Report card 2017

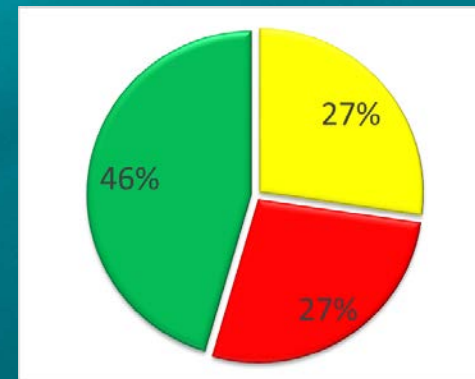
			Probabilities from Kobe plot					
			Last SA	0	25	50	75	100
YFT		2016						
BET		2015						
SKJ	E	2014						
SKJ	W	2014						
ALB	N	2016						
ALB	S	2016						
ALB	M	2017						
BFT	E	2017	Not quantified					
BFT	W	2017	Not quantified					
SWO	N	2017						
SWO	S	2017						
SWO	M	2016						
BUM		2011						
WHM		2012						
SAI	E	2016	Not quantified					
SAI	W	2016						
BSH	N	2015	Not quantified					
BSH	S	2015	Not quantified					
SMA	N	2017						
SMA	S	2017						
POB	NE	2009	Not quantified					
POB	NW	2009	Not quantified					
POB	SW	2009	Not quantified					

CATCHES



17% of the tuna catches in the ICCAT Convention area in 2015 came from stocks in the "red" zone

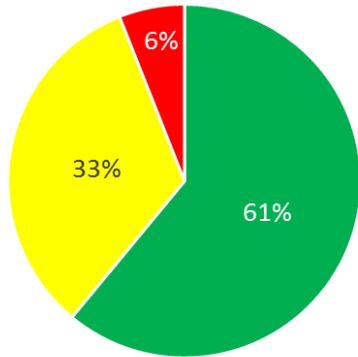
STOCKS



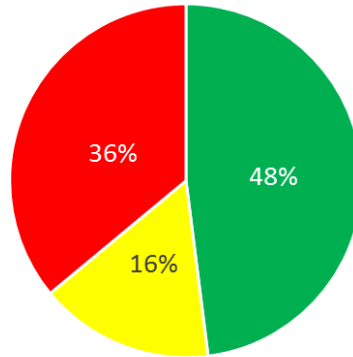
Less than half of the stocks are fished according to the Commission's objective

2017 assessments

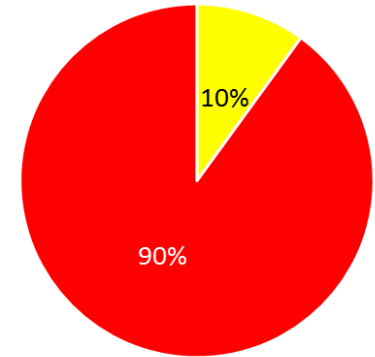
SWO North



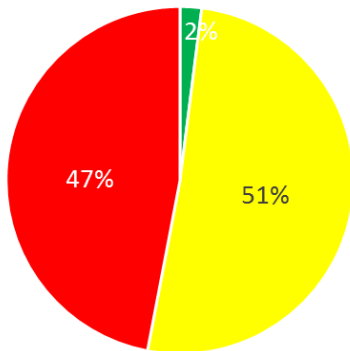
ALB Med



SMA North

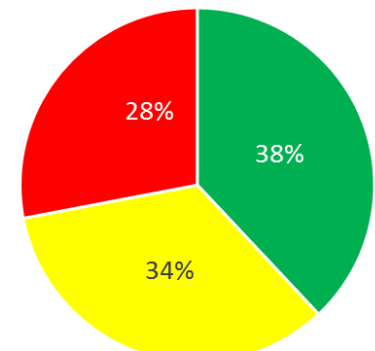


SWO South



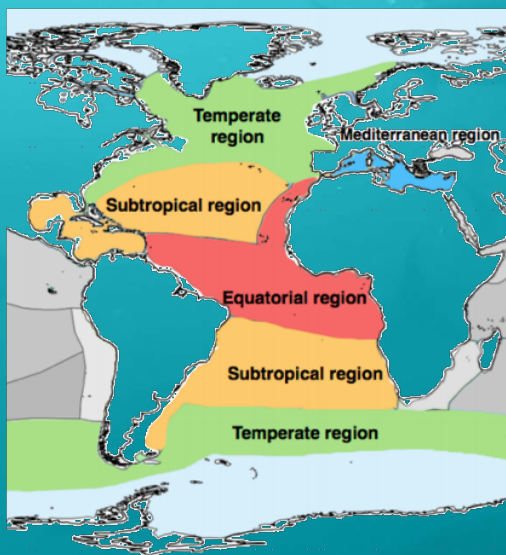
BFT East and BFT West
Not overfishing

SMA South

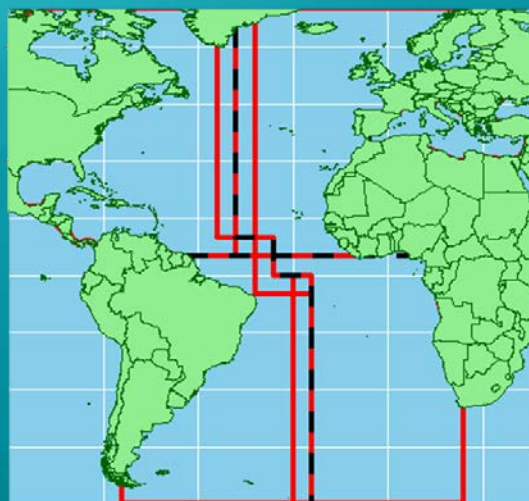


Subcommittee of Ecosystem report card

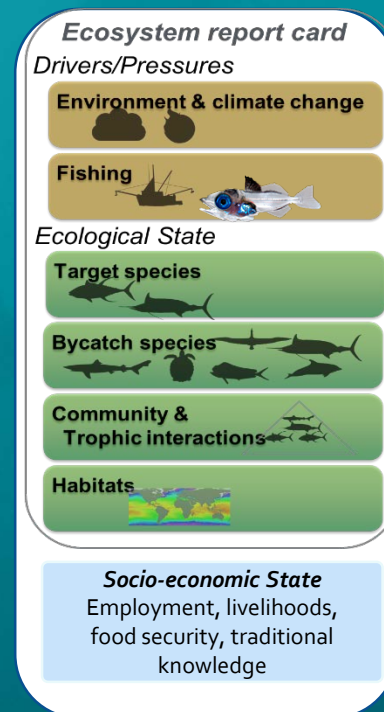
A given ecosystem report card is linked to a single region within the convention area and each report card.



Based on Ecoregions



Based on ICCAT stock areas



To be supported by an in-depth ecosystem assessment and developed and updated through a consultative process. It is a living document.

Subcommittee of Ecosystem Recommendations on bycatch

- CPCs should submit task I information for non-target teleost species not categorized under the main/small tuna or shark categories (e.g. oilfish, escolar, Atlantic pomfret, etc.).
- CPC scientists should evaluate the overall impact of adopting mitigations measures on the management of the large pelagic fish community
- Consider adopting for longline fisheries targeting swordfish and sharks at least one of the following mitigation measures:
 1. the use of large circle hooks
 2. the use of finfish bait
 3. other measures considered effective by the SCRS.
- The online reporting Working Group should be expanded to include members of the SCRS and statistical correspondents.

Subcommittee of statistics evaluating tools to report on the quality of data available to SCRS

ICCAT score-board on data availability (PRELIMINARY study)

Fishery	Global score	Score type
ALB-N stock	7,0	score3
ALB-S stock	5,6	score3
ALB-M stock	2,3	score3
BFT-E stock (ATE region)	6,0	score3
BFT-E stock (MED region)	3,7	score3
BFT-W stock	8,1	score3
BET-A stock (AT + MD)	6,7	score3
YFT-E region	7,0	score3
YFT-W region	4,5	score3
SKJ-E stock	7,4	score3
SKJ-W stock	5,1	score3
SWO-N stock	8,1	score3
SWO-S stock	7,1	score3
SWO-M stock	4,4	score3
BUM-A stock (AT + MD)	4,3	score2
WHM-A stock (AT + MD)	5,0	score2
SAI-E stock	3,2	score2
SAI-W stock	3,8	score2
SPF-E stock	4,5	score2
SPF-W stock	4,3	score2
BSH-N region	4,2	score2
BSH-S region	4,8	score2
BSH-M region	0,8	score2
POR-N region	2,0	score2
POR-S region	1,3	score2
SMA-N region	3,4	score2
SMA-S region	4,7	score2

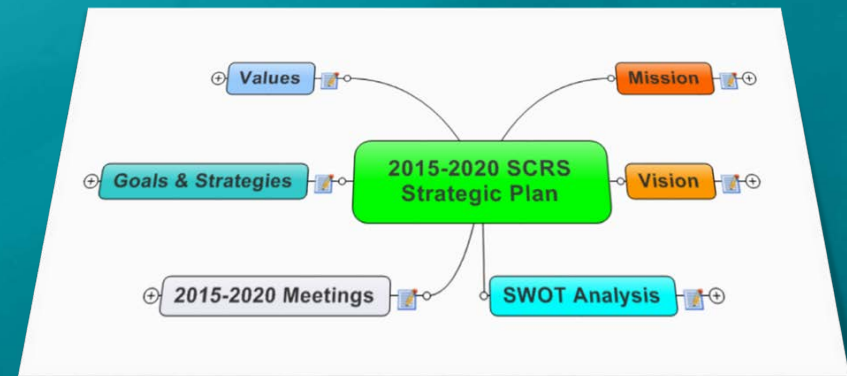
An example provide by the secretariat to summarize the availability of TASK I and TASK II (effort and size) by stock

	Quartile
bad	0
poor	25
average	50
good/excelent	75

2015-2020 SCRS Science Strategic Plan

GOALS

- DATA COLLECTION
- DIALOG AND COMMUNICATION
- PARTICIPATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING
- RESEARCH
- STOCK ASSESSMENT AND ADVICE



2017 – Mid term review of Science Strategic plan

Progress is reasonable for most of the objectives, and a few have already been met (e.g.):

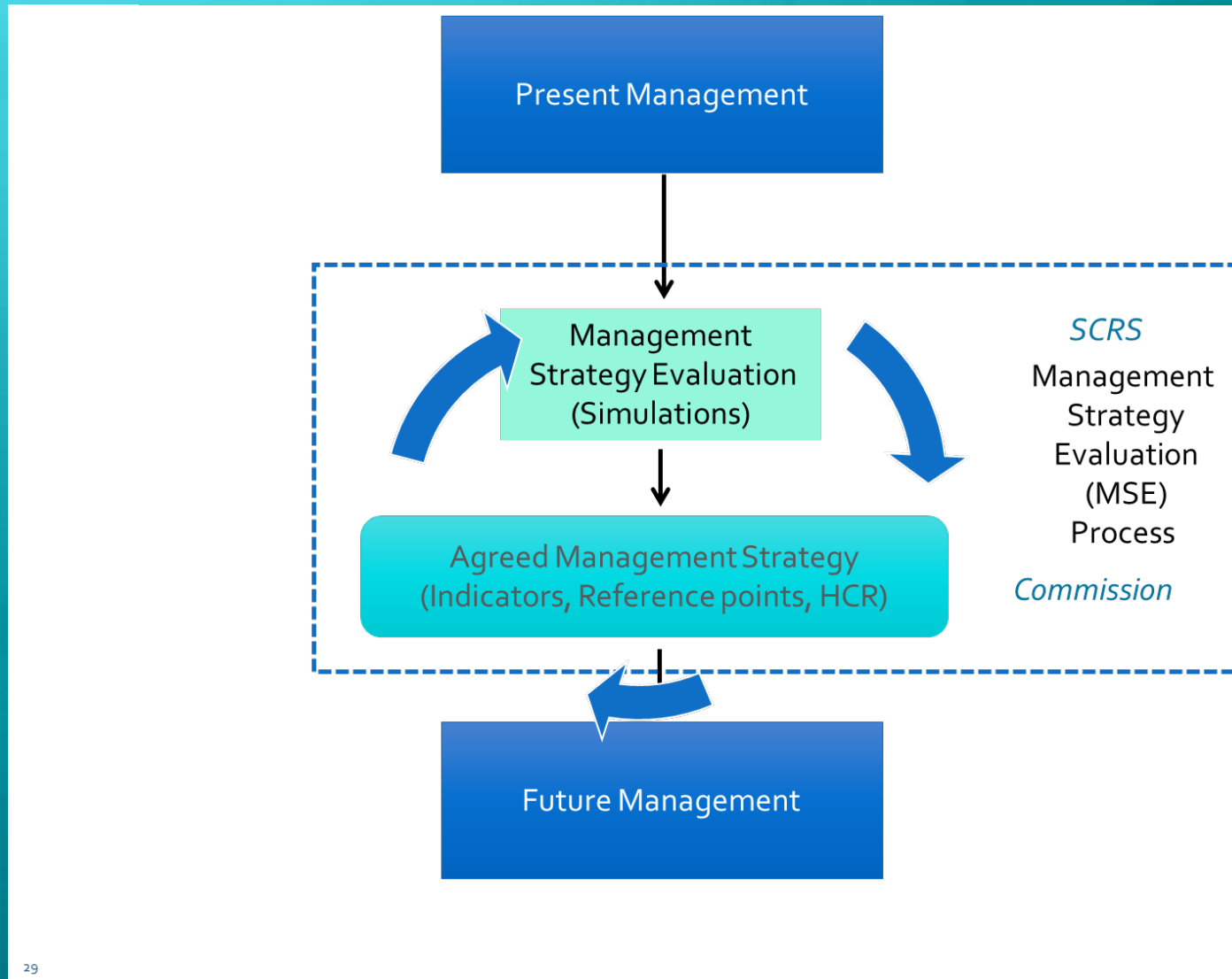
- increase in the dialogue between scientists and managers,
- and broadening technical consultations with other RFMOs
- increase in the participation of G77 scientists
- incorporation of more G77 scientists as SCRS officers

For some objectives, progress has been slow (e.g.):

- taking advantage of MOU with ALR to publish peer review papers
- some of the CPCs which catch a very large part of catch of a stock are absent at meetings where such stock is being assessed
- neither the SCRS nor the Secretariat has developed a specific strategy to better disseminate the results of their work to the general public

Recall SCRS Recommendation to implement and fund a Strategic Research Programme to support the Science Strategic Plan

Provide the Commission with a 5-year schedule for the establishment of species-specific HCRs Rec. [15-07] paragraph 4



Progress towards MSE: Since 2016 Commission meeting

- **Rec 2015-07** *DEVELOPMENT OF HCRs and MSE for priority ICCAT stocks*

- ICCAT led *t-RFMO MSE Working Group*

1. The MSE process and stakeholder dialogue;
2. Conditioning operating models;
3. Albacore case study currently underway across t-RFMOs;
4. Computational aspects;
5. Dissemination of results.

- **ICCAT GBYP**

1. An operating model (OM) framework allowing mixing has been developed
2. A core set of OMs has been agreed to spanning major uncertainties.
3. Management procedures to be tested will be developed and tested during 2018 to be presented to the commission at their next meeting

Progress towards MSE: Since 2016 Commission meeting

- **Rec 2015-04** *ESTABLISH HCRs FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE STOCK*

North Atlantic albacore

Completed a first *full* MSE process in ICCAT:

- structured consultation process with managers about objectives; selection of performance indicators and candidate harvest control rules;(*)
- development of a broad set of operating model hypotheses on plausible states of the system; (**)
- evaluated a set of candidate management procedures (**)
- engaged in extensive consultation between scientists, managers and other stakeholders on results of MSE;(*)

Culminated in SCRS providing possible short term TACs resulting from implementing the harvest control rules tested with the MSE. (**)

(*) more details will be provided on agenda item 9: SGWSM report

(**) Details to be presented to panel 2

Progress towards MSE: Since 2016 Commission meeting

Northern Swordfish

Commission roadmap calls for the MSE process for N SWO to be completed by 2019 for a possible adoption of an HCR by the Commission.

During 2017 only progress related to participation at SWGSM, due to N and S SWO assessments. In 2018 Joint MSE meeting with BFT to advance technical work

Tropical tunas

The Committee proposes revising the initial schedule of MSE activities by taking into account the next assessments of tropical tunas and the complexity of developing a multi-species MSE

Revised MSE Schedule proposed by SCRS

	2018			2019			2020			2021	
	ALB-N	BFT	SWO-N TROP	ALB-N	BFT	SWO-N TROP	ALB-N	SWO-N	TROP	SWO-N	TROP
Development of OM framework			X X								
Conditioning of OM			X						X		X
Development of OM alternatives			X			X					
Finalization of diagnostics and improvements of MP evaluations	X										
Re-evaluation of performance of MPS in light of definition of exceptional circumstances	X										
Development of MPs		X		X X X X							X
Evaluation of MPs		X		X X			X		X		X
Independent review of MSE process	X X						X	X X			
Production of documentation for stakeholders explaining results of MSE for BFT				X			X	X			X

SCRS calendar 2018 and workplans

- Assessments of Bigeye tuna and Blue Marlin
- Special joint meeting on MSE for Swordfish North and Bluefin tuna
- Subcomm. Ecosystems: First draft Ecosystems Report Card, Sea turtle and Seabird impacts and Fish bycatch
- WG Stock Assessment methods: CPUE standardization, MSE, Environmental indices into stock assessment and uncertainty in multi-model assessments

Table 18.2. Proposed calendar of ICCAT scientific meetings in 2018.

	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
January			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
February						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
March				1	2			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
April	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
May			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
June						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
July	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
August				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
September							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
October			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
November						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
December	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						

The MSE (BFT & N-SWO) meeting schedule is tentative, pending on the agreement among the ICCAT GBYP Core Modelling Group members.

SCRS report Number	Commission Requests reported to plenary
20.18	Provide with a summary of the scientific data and information collected and reported pursuant to Rec. 16-14 and any relevant associated findings. Recommend on how to improve the effectiveness of scientific observer programs , including possible revisions to Rec. 16-14 and/or with respect to implementation of these minimum standards and protocols by CPCs. Rec. 16-14, paragraph 12 c and d
20.19	Review Rec. 14-09 and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness. To inform this review, the SCRS is requested to provide advice on the VMS data that would most assist the SCRS in carrying out its work , including frequency of transmission for the different ICCAT fisheries. Rec. 14-09, paragraph 7
20.21	Develop rules of procedure, including a code of conduct for scientists and observers . Rec. 13-12, paragraph 1

20.18 Provide with a summary of the scientific data and information collected and reported pursuant to Rec. 16-14 and any relevant associated findings. Recommend on **how to improve the effectiveness of scientific observer programs**, including possible revisions to Rec. 16-14 and/or with respect to implementation of these minimum standards and protocols by CPCs. Rec. 16-14, paragraph 12 c and d

“...a complete response to this recommendation will require coordination among several SCRS Working Groups. It was also agreed that the SCRS Chair, the Chair of the Sub-committee on Ecosystems, and other SCRS Chairs will draft a response to the Commission to be reviewed during the 2018 SCRS Plenary meeting.”

20.19 Review Rec. 14-09 and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness. To inform this review, the SCRS is requested to provide advice on the VMS data that would most assist the SCRS in carrying out its work, including frequency of transmission for the different ICCAT fisheries.
Rec. 14-09, paragraph 7

“...The Sub-committee noted that scientists should have access to this data to improve their analyses. While acknowledging that the higher the frequency of reporting the more useful the VMS data is, the Committee still has to complete a full analysis of the optimum frequency of VMS transmission for different ICCAT fisheries. Nevertheless, the 4-hour frequency of transmission in Rec. [14-09] is insufficient to detect fishing activity for many gear types..”

20.21 Develop rules of procedure, including a code of conduct for scientists and observers. Rec. 13-12, paragraph 1

Already available

VALUES

“...The Strategic Plan established the values that should be guiding the conduct for scientists and observers that participate in the work of the SCRS:

*INTEGRITY,
COMMITMENT,*

*INDEPENDENCE,
ABILITY,*

*COOPERATION,
TRANSPARENCY*

PARTICIPATION AT SCRS MEETINGS

Practices that define the rules and procedures that facilitate the participation at SCRS meetings:

- guidelines for observer status [Rec 05-12]*
- Protocols to Follow for the Use of Data Funds & Other ICCAT Funds*

ACCESSTO ICCAT-MANAGED DATA

Rules and procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data compiled by ICCAT

20.21 Develop rules of procedure, including a code of conduct for scientists and observers. Rec. 13-12, paragraph 1

New proposal from SCRS

“Whilst having to ensure transparency the SCRS needs to make sure of the integrity of the information that it provides. Therefore, all intersessional meeting reports will contain the following text:

The results, conclusions and recommendations contained in this Report only reflect the view of the Species/Working Group/Sub-Committee. Therefore, these should be considered preliminary until the SCRS adopts them at its annual plenary meeting and the Commission reviews them at its annual meeting. “

SCRS report sections to be discussed elsewhere

During panel meetings:

- Detail reports of assessments of BFT, SWO, SMA, ALB Med
- Stock-specific recommendations
- Detailed workplans for relevant working group
- Responses to stock-specific commission requests

Panel	1	2	4
Number of responses	8	7	4
SCRS Response number	20.1, 20.2, 20.3, 20.4, 20.5, 20.6, 20.7, 20.8	20.9, 20.10, 20.11, 20.12, 20.16, 20.17, 20.22	20.13, 20.14, 20.15, 20.20

Elsewhere during plenary:

- SCRS input and review of FAD working group reports
- SCRS input and review of SWGSM report
- SCRS response to performance review

STACFAD

- SCRS recommendations with financial implications

Acknowledgments

Credit to the more than 200 scientists and the ICCAT secretariat staff which made possible the preparation of the report. Thanks to the Commission and the various CPCs that support directly or indirectly the major ICCAT research programs and SCRS activities with funding and or in-kind contributions.