

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, 23 January 2025

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 00523 / 2025

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC BIGEYE TUNA DATA PREPARATORY MEETING
(*hybrid/Pasaia, Spain, from 21 to 25 April 2025*)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2025, I would like to inform you that the Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Data Preparatory Meeting has been scheduled from 21 to 25 April 2025. The in-person meeting will have a hybrid format and will be held at the AZTI laboratory in Pasaia, Spain. 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 Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **11 April 2025**, at the latest. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause a delay in providing access to participants in the meeting and the related documents. All participants (online and in-person) must also register for the meeting by **11 April 2025** using the online registration form which will shortly be available 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 who 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 (**7 March 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 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 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
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Chairs Panels 1-4			
SCRS Chair:	C. Brown		
- **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Tentative Agenda and other relevant information for participants.



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Bigeye Tuna Data Preparatory Meeting
(Hybrid/ Pasaia, Spain, from 21 to 25 April 2025)

Objectives

The main objective this year is to assess the Atlantic bigeye tuna stock using data through 2023. 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
 - a. Updates from the SCRS and the Commission
2. Review of historical and new information on biology
 - a. AOTTP programme update
 - b. Natural mortality
 - c. Age and growth
 - d. Reproduction
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
 - e. Plan for intersessional work related to data improvements
4. Review of available indices of relative abundance
5. Review of potential assessment models, specifications of data inputs, and modeling options
 - a. Production models
 - b. Age structured models
 - c. Other methods
 - d. Plan for intersessional work related to the stock assessment
6. Review progress toward tropical tuna Management Strategy Evaluations
 - a. Progress of SKJ-W MSE
 - b. Progress of multi-stock MSE
 - c. Plan for intersessional work related to the MSE
7. Development and updates of the Tropical Tuna Research and Data Collection Programme (TTRaD)
8. Recommendations
 - a. Research and statistics
 - b. Management Strategy Evaluation
 - c. Management
9. Responses to the Commission
10. Other matters
11. 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 held in a hybrid format from 21 to 25 April 2025. The in-person meeting will be at the AZTI laboratory in Pasaia, Spain. The meeting hours will be **9:00 to 18:00 CET (GMT+1)**.

2. Contact information

Chair:

[Dr David Die](#)

Highly Migratory Species, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Southeast Fisheries Science Center
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, 75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149
Tel: +1 786 978 4240, Fax: +1 305 361 4562.

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

Following the decision and recommendations of the Commission and the SCRS in 2024, language interpretation will be provided during the meeting.

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 info@iccat.int and/or mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int by **11 April 2025**. Documents and presentations provided after this 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 (**4 April 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 **11 April 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 **11 April 2025**.

7. 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 to the application can be found in [Zoom overview](#), if you have further questions, please contact the Secretariat for support. All duly registered participants **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.