

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, 13 May 2021

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 3175 / 2021

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR REGARDING THE 2021 SCRS AND COMMISSION INTERSESSIONAL AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

Please find attached correspondence from the Commission Chairman on the way forward regarding the 2021 ICCAT intersessional and annual meetings.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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Chairs Panels 1-4			
SCRS Chair:	G. Melvin	SCRS Vice Chair	R. Coelho

- Head Delegates/Head Scientists

- Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities

Attachment: Correspondence from Commission Chair.



12 May 2021

SUBJECT: 2ND LETTER ON THE 2021 SCRS AND COMMISSION INTERSESSIONAL AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

Dear colleagues,

Following my previous letter circulated on 20/04/2021 (ICCAT circular #2511/21) comments were received from three Contracting Parties (United States of America, United Kingdom and Canada) on my proposals on how to proceed with the SCRS and Commission decision making process in 2021, which were circulated by the Secretariat as ICCAT circulars #2850/21 (USA) and #2913/21 (Canada and UK), respectively.

The comments received concurred that it is prudent to decide now to conduct all **2021 ICCAT-related meetings virtually using the ZOOM platform**, as due to logistics associated with the annual meeting it is too late now to secure a venue.

There is also agreement that this should be a **mixed process, utilizing both correspondence and virtual meetings with simultaneous interpretation**, and that it is important to identify and prioritize those matters that must be addressed during the 2021 decision making process.

However, the three Contracting Parties believe that ICCAT needs to take a more ambitious approach. It is felt that extending or rolling over existing measures from 2020 has already resulted in important business being delayed or deferred by one year, and to take a similar approach for another year would run counter to the Commission's responsibility to sustainably manage the fisheries and species under its mandate. I echo this view in order to avoid, to the extent possible, important business being delayed or deferred by another year. For this reason several Chairs of the Commission Subsidiary Bodies have put forward ambitious workplans for the intersessional period to deal with essential business, namely during the online meetings to be held between June and mid-September, specifically for PWG, Panels 1, 2 and 4.

Accordingly, as discussions on key issues have already begun through intersessional correspondence and virtual meetings, in case the **outputs from these meetings strongly indicate significant progress** and suggest that consensus can be reached, **these will be included on the list of key issues to be forwarded to the Commission for final decision-making by the Commission in November**. In contrast, as mentioned in my previous letter, if the **progress during the intersessional period is inexistent or very limited**, I propose **carrying forward and extending the measures to the end of 2022**, otherwise we risk having limited time for discussion of those measures where consensus can be reached. Therefore, I have requested the Chairs to promote all the necessary multi-lateral contacts as may consider appropriate, and I **strongly urge all CPCs to do their best to solve all major issues during the intersessional period** in a spirit of cooperation and with a view to building consensus and to provide comments/contributions to the discussions **within the established deadlines**.

As I trust significant progress can be achieved on several key issues, I have requested the SCRS Chair to keep the current workplan. Moreover, I have also requested him **to provide CPC scientists with adequate timelines for the early adoption by correspondence** of some sections of the 2021 SCRS report in advance to the Plenary meeting. Furthermore, I have **requested the Secretariat to coordinate with the SCRS Chair to provide the sections of the report as these become available** and to avoid having the deadlines for comments fall during SCRS meetings.



Based on the above, it is my intention to request the Secretariat to **circulate in mid-September the final agendas** for the 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission, **for adoption by correspondence in early October**. As such, CPCs will know in advance the essential business to be discussed during our annual November meeting. This will hopefully allow a more efficient use of the limited time available for the discussions, which will be especially important in the case where the meeting is held online. Accordingly, I will revert to you regarding the most convenient dates and times for the various sessions of the virtual annual meeting.

Finally, on the nomination and election of Commission Officers, I would like to inform you that I have requested the members of the Virtual Working Group on the Review of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission (VWG-RRP) to provide me with their initial thoughts, on the basis of which I will subsequently submit a proposal to you.

Yours sincerely,

Commission Chairman

Raul Delgado