



MESSAGE FROM THE ICCAT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The ICCAT Secretariat has the pleasure to present its readers with **ICCAT Newsletter No. 16**, informing of the latest events and activities of our Organization.

We trust you enjoy Reading this Newsletter and the Secretariat will be pleased to receive any suggestions aimed at improving this publication.

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RECENT MEETINGS


7th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM).


The meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 2-6 April, 2012. The Group reviewed issues related to monitoring, control and surveillance as well as the development in the implementation of




the e-BCD. Based on this review it drafted a series of recommendations for the Commission to consider.

 **Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods** held in Madrid, Spain from April 16-20, 2012. The Group worked on generic methods to combine and standardize multiple CPUE series and to develop the protocols for the presentation of standardized CPUE series and decision taking as regards its usage in assessment models. Likewise, the group drafted a response to the Commission on the provision of scientific advice by the SCRS.

 **Tropical Tuna Species Group Intersessional Meeting** held in Madrid, Spain from April 23-27, 2012. During the meeting the biological parameters that are generally used in the stock assessments of three tropical tuna species were reviewed as well as the methods to obtain trustworthy abundance indices for longline, baitboat and purse seine fisheries.

 **White Marlin Stock Assessment Meeting** held in Madrid, Spain from May 21-25, 2012. The main objective of the meeting is the assessment of the stock of Atlantic white marlin. The work of this meeting focused on a peer revision; the first to take place following the approval by the Commission of the requests of the SCRS and the adoption of *Resolution by ICCAT on Best Available Science* [Res. 11-17].

 **Third Working Group on the Future of ICCAT** held in Madrid, Spain from May 28-31, 2012. The objective of the meeting was to define the steps to follow to deal with the issues identified as a priority by CPCs following the previous Group meeting. Likewise, the Group drafted recommendations to present to the Commission on the necessary procedures for the consultation and adoption of possible amendments to the Convention.

 **Shortfin Mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) Stock Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment Meeting** held in Olhão, Portugal, from June 11-18, 2012. The objective of the meeting is the assessment



of Atlantic shortfin mako and the application of the ecological risk analysis (ERA) to an extensive list of pelagic shark species with distribution areas in the ICCAT Convention.

 **Intersessional meeting of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems** held in Sète, France,



from July 2-6, 2012. One of the objectives of the meeting was to obtain information on basic knowledge on the ecosystem, aimed at assisting to

develop ecosystem models in the Atlantic and continue with the identification of ecosystem indicators. Furthermore, a work plan was developed to assess the impact of tuna fisheries on sea turtle populations in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Ocean to be conducted in 2012.

 **Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session** held in Madrid, Spain, from September, 4-11, 2012. The objective of the meeting was to review the stock status for eastern and western Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

– *Species Group meetings*. September 24-28, Madrid, Spain. These meetings will be held to update the information and the available statistics on all the species under ICCAT mandate. The Sub-Committee on Statistics will organize a meeting that same week to review data submissions as well as the progress made in the development of the Secretariat's databases.

October

- *Standing Committee on Research and Statistics*. October 1 to 5 in Madrid, Spain. The SCRS will meet to review the status of all stocks and prepare

responses to the Commission concerning scientific issues.

November



– *18th Special Meeting of the Commission*. November 12 to 19 in Agadir, Morocco. The Commission will review the results obtained from numerous stock assessments carried out during 2012 to adopt the recommendations and resolutions for the

management of these resources. The Commission will also review the implementation of Recommendations adopted in 2011 and other actions carried out.

Information, agendas, etc. for these meetings are available on our web site at www.iccat.int and for matters concerning hotel reservations see <http://www.fantours.net/>.

SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

The Secretariat has continued to support the activities of the SCRS and the Commission.

Following the 22nd Regular Meeting of the Commission, the Secretariat implemented the following decisions:

- Regional Observer Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ROP-BFT): to carry out the ROP-BFT established by the *Recommendation Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 08-05 and 10-04], with the MRAG-COFREPECHE Consortium, the Secretariat has carried out the observer program on vessels and farms during the 2012 season.

- Regional Observer Programme on Transshipment, and initiation of the process for the future implementation of the Regional Observers Programme for BET/YFT.

- Tasks related to the entry into force of the Recommendations adopted in 2011 have also been undertaken. In order to try to consolidate the various lists of vessels now required in a manner compatible with other tuna RFMOs for the Consolidated List of Vessels required through the KOBE Process, the Secretariat has redesigned the vessel data base. This

has been a major undertaking, but it is expected that its implementation will be completed before the Commission meeting in November.

- Progress has been made on the electronic bluefin catch document scheme, with voluntary testing by CPCs expected to start this autumn.

Atlantic-wide Research Programme (GBYP)

The second Phase of GBYP ended in May 2012, with a pop-up tagging activity carried out in Morocco, which is providing very exciting and interesting results. The reports concerning the activities conducted in GBYP Phase 2 are now available on <http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/en/Products.htm>.

GBYP Phase 3 started in late May 2012, including an extended tagging programme, the biological and genetic sampling activity, modeling approaches and a limited data recovery activity. More than 20 institutions from various ICCAT CPCs are conducting these activities. The tag recovery and awareness campaign (<http://iccat.int/GBYP/en/AwCamp.asp>), initiated in Phase 2, will also continue in 2013.

Since the last edition of the Newsletter, published in February 2012, members of the Secretariat staff have assisted meetings and activities and outside activities related to ICCAT:

- *15th Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) (Sophia, February 20-24, 2012).*
- *A Meeting of Technical Experts from Tuna Purse-seine Fisheries Observer Programs (Sukarrieta, March 5-9, 2012).*
- *36th Meeting of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) (Marrakesh, May 14-19, 2012).*
- *2nd Technical Meeting of CLAV (Rome, June 6-7, 2012).*
- *World Conference on the Assessment of Strategies of Fisheries Management (Edinburgh, May 7-11, 2012).*
- *30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of FAO (Rome, July 9-13, 2012).*

→ *4th Meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN-4) (Rome, July 13, 2012).*

→ *Second Intersessional Meeting of the CWP - Aquaculture Group (Rome, July 14, 2012).*

→ *ISSF Stock Assessment Workshop 2012 "Understanding Purse Seine CPUE" (Rome, July 16-19, 2012).*

ICCAT played an active role in the various meetings with written and/or oral contributions.

Apart from the activities mentioned above, the Secretariat is responsible for the maintenance of the joint web page of tuna RFMOs (<http://www.tuna-org.org>).

ASSISTANCE FUNDS FOR DEVELOPING STATES

ICCAT has established funds to encourage the improvement of statistics of species under ICCAT mandate. Currently, there is a budget for special funds for data improvement established by the *Resolution by ICCAT on Improvements in Data Collection and Quality Assurance* [Res. 03-21].

These funds are supplied by voluntary contributions made by some Contracting Parties.

As well as these funds are the capacity building funds, initiated in 2008 by the European Union and United States aimed at supporting training on collection, data analysis, stock assessment methods and the ICCAT-Japan Data and Management Improvement Project (JDMIP) initiated in 2004.

In 2011 the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* [Rec. 11-26] which establishes a special meeting participation fund (MPF) for representatives of ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States.

Since the last *Newsletter*, these funds have financed the activities for statistical improvement and the participation of many of scientists to different SCRS and Commission meetings.

PUBLICATIONS

The following publications were issued in 2012:



Report for Biennial Period, 2010-2011, Part II (2011) Volumes 1 and 2, corresponding to the 2011 Commission Proceedings and SCRS Report. Since 2008 the Volume 3 is exclusively published in electronic format and only the summaries of the reports are translated into

ICCAT's official languages. The Volume is published on the ICCAT web site. In 2012, a fourth volume including the Secretariat reports on statistics and coordination of research, Administrative and Financial report have been published for the second time, as well as the report to the Secretariat of the Compliance Committee of the Conservation and Management measures of ICCAT (COC) and the Permanent Working Group (PWG) for the improvement of statistics and ICCAT conservation measures. This volume is published only in electronic format like Volume 3.



A special Collective Volume of Scientific Papers (67) including all the documents presented at the Symposium on bluefin tuna trap fisheries.

Five (5) issues of the *Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Volume 68*.



Statistical Bulletin #41 which includes catch series by species and country since 1950 and which is published on CD format for the first time this year.

During this period the Secretariat has continued to collaborate with the *Aquatic Living Resources Journal*. A second joint volume of the journal has been published and work is being carried out on the third volume.

OTHER NEWS



Dr. Paul de Bruyn, joined the Secretariat in May 2012 as By-catch Coordinator. Dr. Bruyn is highly experienced in the assessment of tuna stocks. Likewise, he has a lot of experience in the work of the SCRS in general and in the work of the stock assessment methods group of which he is Chair since 2011.

All recent ICCAT publications can be downloaded from <http://www.iccat.int>

To obtain copies of older publications please contact INFO@ICCAT.INT