# ICCAT e-Newsletter



No. 25 February 2017 ICCAT CICTA CICAA

# **2016 ICCAT Annual Meeting**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Commission was held in Vilamoura, Portugal, between 14 and 21 November 2016. During the meeting significant progress was made, including the approval of 24 new management and conservation measures regarding tuna and tuna-like species:

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Rec. 2016-01	Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas
Rec. 2016-02	Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)
Rec. 2016-03	Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish
Rec. 2016-04	Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish
Rec. 2016-05	Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and Establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish
Rec. 2016-06	Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for North Atlantic Albacore
Rec. 2016-07	Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017 to 2020
Rec. 2016-08	Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program
Rec. 2016-09	Recommendation by ICCAT to Supplement Recommendation 14-04 by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean
Rec. 2016-10	Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation [15-05] by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks
Rec. 2016-11	Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Sailfish
Rec. 2016-12	Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries
Rec. 2016-13	Recommendation by ICCAT on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures regarding Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries
Rec. 2016-14	Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program
Rec. 2016-15	Recommendation by ICCAT on Transhipment
Rec. 2016-16	Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend ICCAT Reporting Deadlines in Order to Facilitate an Effective and Efficient Compliance Process
Res. 2016-17	Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Schedule of Actions to Improve Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures
Rec. 2016-18	Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify and Supplement the Process for Seeking Capacity Building Assistance Pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 14-08
Rec. 2016-19	Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System
Res. 2016-20	Resolution by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group to Follow up on the Second ICCAT Performance Review
Res. 2016-21	Resolution by ICCAT on the Third Meeting of the Standing Working Group for Enhancing the Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM)
Res. 2016-22	Resolution by ICCAT to Facilitate an Effective and Efficient Compliance Process
Res. 2016-23	Resolution by ICCAT on Ecosystems that are Important and Unique for ICCAT Species
Ref. 2016-24	Guidelines for preparing the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plan

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## Other relevant aspects discussed during the Annual meeting

The Commission was provided with the report of the *Second Performance Review* of ICCAT. The independent panel congratulated ICCAT for making significant progress since the first review, particularly as it had adopted appropriate measures to strengthen and improve management of the species under its competency, and recognized that ICCAT is a leading Regional Fisheries Management Organization. The report is available at:

http://www.iccat.int/documents/Other/0-2nd\_PERFORMANCE\_REVIEW\_TRI.PDF

The Commission also agreed on the *Terms of Reference for staffing the new Executive Secretary of ICCAT*. The vacancy announcement has been circulated and the deadline for applications is 5 April 2017 (http://www.iccat.int/documents/CFT/8195-16\_ENG.PDF).

### 2016 Meeting of the Standing Committee of Research and Statistics (SCRS)

The SCRS held its meeting from 26 September to 7 October, in Madrid, Spain. In 2016, the SCRS carried out stock assessments on Yellowfin and Atlantic Albacore tuna, Mediterranean Swordfish and Sailfish. Moreover, the Committee carried out data preparatory meetings on bluefin tuna and small tuna species. Report available at:

http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/docs/2016\_SCRS\_ENG.pdf

### **ICCAT Research programmes**

Phase 6 of the *Atlantic-wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT GBYP)* is about to end. During this Phase different activities have continued (e.g. data recovery, awareness campaigns, biological studies, tagging trials and modelling approaches) and some new studies have been initiated (i.e. comprehensive analyses of satellite tagging data for the MSE approach; cross genetic analyses and the first part of Close-kin mark recapture feasibility study). Furthermore, the second external review of the ICCAT GBYP was carried out in Phase 6. Additional information is available at: <a href="http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/en/">http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/en/</a>

Since last September the *Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)* has continued to tag tuna, most recently over the Sierra Leone seamounts, the FAD moratorium area in the Gulf of Guinea, and in the territorial waters of South Africa. Tagging will start off South America in April. To date more than 29,000 tropical tunas have been tagged and more than 4,500 recovered with their valuable associated metadata. Tag-seeding experiments have started in West Africa and data analytical workshops are also scheduled.

**Small Tunas Year Programme (SMTYP)** continued the recovery of historical fisheries statistics and conducted biological studies on key population parameters for selected small tuna species off the North-eastern coast of Africa. Such activities are essential to conduct small tuna stock assessments in the near future, therefore a new call for tenders was recently launched (<a href="http://iccat.int/Documents/CFT/0706-17\_ENG.pdf">http://iccat.int/Documents/CFT/0706-17\_ENG.pdf</a>).

**Enhanced Programme for Billfish Research (EPBR)** continued its activities, namely in terms of the collection of billfish fisheries statistics off the Western coast of Africa. The objectives of EPBR have recently been expanded to evaluate adult billfish habitat use and study spawning patterns and population genetics, as these studies are essential to improve billfish assessments.

**Shark Research and Data Collection Programme** (SRDCP) has gathered most effort in recent months on four major activities which are considered essential for this years' shortfin make shark assessment. These include studies on: pan-Atlantic age and growth; population genetics to investigate stock structure and phylogeography; stock boundaries, migrations and habitat use; and, post-release mortality on pelagic longline fisheries.

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# **Tagging Lottery**

The annual tagging lottery is meant to promote the recovery of tags deployed within ICCAT tagging programmes and any other laboratories of our Contracting Parties. In 2016, prizes of 500€ to 1,500€ were awarded in the six categories, which included Bluefin tuna, tropical tunas (Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack), Albacore tuna, Sharks, Billfishes and Small tunas. The winning tags were recovered by nationals from Canada, European Union (Croatia, Malta and Spain) and Senegal.

## 2017 Calendar of events

In 2017, the following events are scheduled to be held:

#### **February**

 $\bullet \quad \text{Meeting of the Mediterranean Swordfish Working Group, 20-22 February, Madrid, Spain} \\$ 

#### March

- Bluefin tuna data preparatory meeting, 6-11 March, Madrid, Spain
- Shortfin mako shark data preparatory meeting, 28-31 March, Madrid, Spain

#### **April**

- Atlantic swordfish data preparatory meeting, 3-7 April, Madrid, Spain
- 1st Joint tuna-RFMO FAD Working Group meeting, 19-21 April, Madrid, Spain
- Small Tunas species group intersessional meeting, 24-28 April, Miami, USA

#### May

• Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on stock assessment methods, 8-12 May, Madrid, Spain June

- Albacore species group intersessional meeting, 5-9 June, Madrid, Spain
- Shortfin make shark stock assessment session, 12-16 June, Madrid, Spain
- Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, 26 June, Madrid, Spain
- Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Follow up on the Second Performance Review, 27-28 June, Madrid, Spain
- Meeting of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers, 29-30 June, Madrid, Spain

### July

- Atlantic swordfish stock assessment session, 3-7 July, Madrid, Spain
- Sub-Committee on Ecosystems intersessional meeting, 10-14 July, Madrid, Spain
- Bluefin tuna stock assessment session, 20-28 July, Madrid, Spain

#### September

- Tropical tuna species group intersessional meeting, 4-8 September, Madrid, Spain
- 3rd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs, 11-12 September, Madrid, Spain
- Sub-Committee on Statistics, 25-26 September, Madrid, Spain
- SCRS Species Groups meetings, 27-29 September, Madrid, Spain

#### **October**

- Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics, 2-6 October, Madrid, Spain
- Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert group for Capacity and Assistance, 2-6 October, Madrid, Spain

#### **November**

• 25th Regular Meeting of the Commission, 13-21 November, Marrakesh, Morocco

Additional information on these meetings is available on the ICCAT website: <a href="https://www.iccat.int/en/meetingscurrent.htm">www.iccat.int/en/meetingscurrent.htm</a>