

October 14, 2015 (12:26 PM)

Original: English

SUBJECT: Priorities and logistical matters for the forthcoming Commission meeting

Dear colleagues,

As usual, with a view to ensuring the most efficient working procedures and best use of time during the forthcoming Commission meeting, I should like to inform all delegations about the priorities and logistical procedures. As you will all be aware, we will dedicate half of the first day of the meeting (Tuesday 10 November) to completing the business of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, and it is therefore especially important that we make good use of our remaining time.

1. Priorities

I would like to make sure that there is plenty of time this year for discussion of two very important issues for ICCAT; the organisation of the second Performance Review and the Convention Amendment. It is essential that we conclude discussions in these areas.

Species for which new assessments have been carried out should also be assigned priority. This concerns bigeye tuna and blue shark. SCRS has also to advise the Commission on whether the 2016 TAC for bluefin tuna adopted last year under Recommendation 14-04 is still a viable option in the light of the most recent data. In addition, discussions will need to take place on the landing limits for blue and white marlins, as the current limits laid down in Recommendation 12-04 will expire this year. Notwithstanding, discussions relating to other species, including on other shark species, may also be required.

We also need to follow-up on the dialogue between scientists and managers and the findings of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures, and discuss actions which should be considered in the context of the Kobe process.

I do also intend to arrange for sufficient time to allow for thorough assessment of compliance by Contracting Parties.

While naturally all CPCs may raise issues and present proposals which they consider of importance, I should like to focus on the aforementioned issues as much as possible.

2. Draft proposals and other documents

All draft proposals for Recommendations and Resolutions, as well as other meeting documents, should be sent to the Secretariat as far in advance of the meeting as possible to allow early translation and circulation to give time for all CPCs to study them in advance. As last year, open access to the documents will be made available in advance. CPCs wishing to submit documents for restricted circulation should indicate this at the time of their submission, and such documents will be made available through a regular ICCAT circular.

The deadline for submitting draft measures that are not dependent on SCRS advice, as well as reports and documents to be submitted in accordance with the Commission requirements, is **10 October 2015**. Proposals and documents received within this deadline will be translated and circulated in advance of the meeting, and will be given priority in discussions. Proposals which are submitted after the deadline will not be considered at the 2015 meeting.

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Draft proposals dependent on SCRS advice should be submitted to the Secretariat by **3 November 2015**, where possible. The final deadline for receipt of proposals is 11:00 am on **12 November 2015**. Proposals received after that date will not be considered.

Proposals which were deferred from the 2014 meeting or intersessional meetings will not be re-tabled unless resubmitted by the sponsors before the **10 October** deadline, or referred from an intersessional meeting for consideration by the Commission by the Chair of the subsidiary body.

In developing proposals, delegates are requested to follow the guidelines for submission of proposals which were adopted by the Commission in 2012, and avoid duplication with existing measures as much as possible. In addition, if a proposed measure rescinds previous measures, this should be stated in the draft proposal where possible.

All proposals and other meeting documents must be submitted through the ICCAT Secretariat. Documents submitted during the meeting, and changes to previously distributed documents should be given to the ICCAT Reception Desk for registration. All meeting participants are requested to refrain from distributing documents in the pigeon holes. As usual, space will be made available for unregistered documents, leaflets, etc., for informal distribution.

3. Budgetary issues

As you will be aware, the biennial budget for the 2016/17 period has already been circulated. Any proposed changes will be circulated as early as possible for consideration and discussion in STACFAD. Any proposals which may have budgetary implications such as scientific research, significant increases in Secretariat workload or the establishment of projects/programmes which would require financing should be submitted early to STACFAD for possible inclusion in any revised draft budget. I should like to request all CPCs to take into consideration any additional resources which may be required when submitting draft proposals, and in addition to consider alternative ways of financing the various capacity building funds which are currently financed from the Working Capital Fund.

4. Compliance tables

The final deadline for changes to Compliance Tables is 18:00 hours on Tuesday 10 November 2015. No further changes can be accepted to the tables without an explicit ruling from the Compliance Committee Chair. All changes to compliance tables must be given in writing to the ICCAT Reception desk. Changes to previously submitted figures should be accompanied by an explanation and a carry-over form if applicable. Differences between compliance table figures and Task I submissions should be explained in writing.

5. Implementation of Rec. 11 -15

In order to carry out the review as efficiently as possible, those CPCs which have submitted Task I data should inform the Secretariat in advance if the submission is complete and confirm that any species for which data has not been submitted indicated zero catch. This information, together with the findings of the SCRS species groups, will be used to determine the list of cases which may need to be considered. This will help to ensure that the process can be completed during the meeting.

6. Meetings of Officers and Head Delegates

I will be calling an ICCAT Officers meeting at 16:30 on Monday, 9 November at the meeting venue and a meeting of Head Delegates at 08:30 on Wednesday, 11 November.

I count on the cooperation of all CPCs to contribute to the efficient and effective use of our meeting time and trust the outcome will be fruitful.

Yours sincerely



Stefaan Depypere
ICCAT Chairman