

Original: English

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR ON PRIORITIES AND  
OTHER MATTERS REGARDING THE UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING**

*(ICCAT Circular #7317 dated 9 October 2019)*

9 October 2019

**SUBJECT: PRIORITIES AND OTHER MATTERS REGARDING THE UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING**

Dear Colleagues,

The 26th Regular Meeting of the Commission is scheduled to be held from 18-25 November 2019, in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. To ensure efficient use of our time, and to assist delegations with preparations, and for the purpose of supporting a process to achieve a successful outcome, I would like to highlight the following points which require special attention from CPCs. I will ensure that sufficient time is allocated to discussion of these matters.

**Management of stocks/species**

The adoption of an amendment to the recovery plan for the tropical tuna populations is obviously of great importance and must be carried out as a priority task during the Commission meeting, so as to have an efficient and effective management measure.

This year, we have a two-day Panel 1 meeting before the regular meeting of the Commission, and I hope that this time will be sufficient to fully review the issues to be addressed. I would like to inform, however, that, if necessary, I will set aside sufficient time during the regular meeting so that this Panel can conclude its work satisfactorily. I am confident that major results will be achieved on these issues.

**Amendments to the ICCAT Convention**

Over the past few years, significant work has been successfully carried out through the Working Group on Convention Amendment. The time has now come for the Commission to approve the Amendment Protocol.

It cannot be overemphasized the need for all CPCs to complete their internal procedures to issue the mandates and authorities necessary for adoption of this Protocol, and that these documents should be submitted to the Executive Secretary no less than one week before the opening of the Annual meeting i.e. by **11 November 2019**.

**Integrated Online Management System**

The work carried out by Online Reporting Technical Group led to commencement in 2019 of the first phase of the IOMS Project through voluntary contributions received from some CPCs and the ABNJ Tuna Project. I call on the Commission to support the continuity of this important project by guaranteeing its financing, which has already been included in the biennial budget proposal that was circulated by the Secretariat.

**STACFAD Virtual Working Group**

It is important to review the results of the STACFAD Virtual Working Group, led by the STACFAD Chair, and to provide the Secretariat with adequate means to ensure that working standards are maintained, so that the Secretariat can respond adequately to the increasing number of requests.

**Draft proposals and handling of documents**

All draft proposals for recommendations and resolutions, as well as other meeting documents, must be submitted to the Secretariat as far in advance of the meeting as possible, as decided by the Commission. Consequently, these documents can be translated and circulated early on, giving all CPCs time to prepare in advance. The Executive Secretary has already provided information and details on submission of documents and the corresponding deadlines for receipt.

**Commission Officers' meeting**

As usual, I will call an ICCAT officers' meeting on Sunday 17 November 2019 to be held at the meeting venue.

In addition to the above issues that I have identified as "priority", CPCs can raise any issue and present any proposals that they consider important for the upcoming meeting. I seek the support and understanding of all CPCs to facilitate discussions and the holding of a successful meeting.

Finally, I would like to express that I am confident that, I will be able to count on the cooperation of all CPCs in contributing to the efficient and effective use of our time during the meeting, and that the outcome of the meeting will be successful.

Yours sincerely,



Raúl Delgado  
*Commission Chairman*