

Explanatory Note on Draft Amendments to the *Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund* (Ref. 20-10)

(proposed by the United States and Algeria)

This proposal aims to address a concern related to the timing of intersessional meetings of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the implementation of the Special Meeting Participation Fund in accordance with [Rec. 20-09](#). As discussed in STACFAD during the 2022 Commission meeting, deadlines related to the application for funds as established in the [Rules of Procedure for the Meeting Participation Fund \(Rec. 20-10\)](#) are having a detrimental effect on the ability of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to carry out its work. In particular, the rule requiring the Secretariat to notify CPCs at least 90 days in advance of a meeting has limited the ability of the SCRS to schedule meetings that occur in the first quarter of the calendar year. This proposal is designed to facilitate a discussion about how to provide sufficient time for the Secretariat to distribute funds from the Meeting Participation Fund while providing maximum flexibility to the SCRS regarding the scheduling of intersessional work.

**Draft Amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the Administration
of the Special Meeting Participation Fund (Ref. 20-10)**

(proposed by the United States and Algeria)

WITH A VIEW TO supporting ICCAT's work by ensuring ICCAT intersessional meetings can be held earlier in the new year, while allowing sufficient lead time for the implementation of the Special Meeting Participation Fund in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 14-14 on the establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* (Rec. 20-09);

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) AGREES THAT:

Document 20-10 shall be amended as follows:

- Paragraph 3.1 shall read: "The Secretariat will publish the travel form by invitation [60] days in advance of commencement of the meeting."
- Paragraph 3.2 shall read: "MPF applicants shall send the duly completed form [45] days in advance, including:..."
- Paragraph 3.4 shall read: "The Secretariat will send an invitation to the selected candidates with travel itinerary based on the dates indicated in the form (no less than 30 days prior to the commencement of the meeting)."
- Paragraph 3.5 shall read: "Applicants must apply for and send a copy of the visa together with the verification and acceptance of the itinerary no less than [15] days prior to the commencement of the meeting. The Secretariat may make exceptions to this deadline on a case-by-case basis."