

Cover sheet to accompany new proposals

(Presented by the Chair of the Joint Experts' Meeting on Climate Change)

Title of the Proposed Draft Recommendation/Resolution: *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on continuing to enhance the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers*

Title of currently in force recommendation(s) or resolution(s) addressing the same or related issues: *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation by ICCAT for enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers (Rec. 14-13)*

1. Does it create new **reporting obligation(s)** for CPCs?

Yes No

Brief description of new reporting obligation(s):

2. Does it require additional input or **work by the SCRS**?

Yes No

Is this work already included in the current SCRS workplan?

Yes No

Brief description of new scientific work required (i.e. stock assessment, analysis, external consultant):

Though the SWGSM is a Working Group that already exists, this proposal amending its Terms of Reference seeks to include a scientist from the SCRS as co-chair.

3. Does it involve the creation of a **new working group or intersessional process**?

Yes No

4. Does it require a new **programme or additional activities to be managed by the Secretariat**?

Yes No

Brief description of new Secretariat work required:

5. What is the proposed timeframe for implementation, and are there different specific timeframes for certain CPCs, fisheries, regions, etc.:

As SWGSM is an established Working Group, the revision to its Terms of Reference do not have specific timeframes for CPCs, fisheries, regions, etc.

6. Is there any other relevant information regarding the resource and workload implications of the proposal:

N/A

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on continuing to enhance the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers

(Presented by the Chair of the Joint Experts' Meeting on Climate Change)

CONSIDERING scientific advice released by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) as the cornerstone for establishing a proper management framework on stocks and fisheries under the purview of ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING that an in depth understanding by the Commission of scientific advice and management recommendations made by the SCRS should ease the adoption by the Commission of relevant and effective conservation measures;

NOTING that the ICCAT Resolution 11-17 on best available science recommends improving the communication between CPCs, the Commission, and the SCRS by enabling a constant dialogue;

RECALLING the work in the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists held in June 2013 in support of the BFT-W stock assessment;

HIGHLIGHTING the need to further enhance the dialogue between fisheries managers and scientists in the coming years in order to achieve the Convention objectives in the most efficient and effective way;

STRESSING that such enhanced dialogue should, in particular, allow the Commission to focus on the establishment of management frameworks that take into account Target and Limit Reference points, associated level of risks and related Harvest Control Rules consistent with Recommendation 11-13;

STRESSING FURTHERMORE that such enhanced dialogue should also allow the Commission to review and provide input to the SCRS on the establishment of research priorities, considering more particularly the development of the Strategic Plan on Science, and to explore further improvements in ICCAT science and management processes;

RECALLING that provisions laid down in Recommendation 11-26 establishing a meeting participation fund should ease the attendance of fisheries scientist and managers from developing Contracting Parties and therefore contribute to an inclusive and participative dialogue;

EMPHASIZING that the Commission management decisions should be based on the best available science independently developed by the SCRS;

RECOGNIZING that the first meeting of the SWGSM was an important step to facilitate the dialogue between scientists and managers;

NOTING that the SCRS and the Commission strongly supports the continuation of this initiative;

FURTHER NOTING that that development of Harvest Control Rules and application of the Management Strategy Evaluation to ICCAT fisheries is dependent upon input and guidance from fishery managers;

RECALLING the review of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan for 2015-2020;

RECOGNIZING the work of the SCRS Working Group held in March 2024 aimed at the preparation of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan for 2026-2031;

RECALLING the Resolution by ICCAT on Climate Change (Res. 22-13), the Resolution by ICCAT on next steps of the Joint Expert Group on Climate Change in 2024 (Res. 23-19), and conversations at the Joint Experts' Meetings in 2023 and 2024 that emphasized the need for close communication and coordination between the Commission and SCRS on matters related to Climate Change;

FURTHER RECALLING the Resolution by ICCAT on the Implementation of Biodiversity Conservation Instruments (Res. 23-23);

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

1. A Standing Working Group dedicated to the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers ("SWGSM") is established under the following objectives and rules.
2. The objective of the SWGSM is to enhance communication and foster mutual understanding between fisheries managers and scientists by establishing a forum to exchange views and to support the development and effective implementation of management measures and scientific work related to cross-cutting issues including, inter alia:
 - prioritization of the work of the SCRS, including efficient use of resources, the development of the SCRS annual work programme and the SCRS Science Strategic Plan,
 - the development of management strategies,
 - the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management,
 - the inclusion of Climate Change related issues in ICCAT's work, and
 - consideration of broader developments related to biodiversity conservation.

The SWGSM will, as necessary, make recommendations to the Commission and provide feedback to the SCRS.

3. The SWGSM shall carry out this work through, inter alia:
 - a. improving managers and scientists' mutual understanding of concepts related to management strategies, including:
 - i. the adoption of Limit and Target Reference Points (LRPs and TRPs);
 - ii. the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs);
 - iii. the application of Management Strategies Evaluation (MSE).
 - b. promoting an efficient use of scientific resources;
 - c. identifying SCRS research priorities, taking into consideration the needs of the Commission, in particular in relation to the SCRS annual work programmes and the SCRS Science Strategic Plan;
 - d. identifying opportunities / approaches that would enhance available data relevant to ICCAT's work.
 - e. identifying possible social and economic research topics.
[...]
 - f. reviewing ICCAT's Plan of Action on Climate Change and the tracking of its implementation.
4. The SWGSM will elect its own co-chairs, which will consist of a fishery manager from the Commission and a scientist from the SCRS.
5. The SWGSM will meet inter-sessionally and its meetings will be open to fisheries managers of Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing entities (CPCs), SCRS scientists and accredited observers. Fishery managers of the CPCs and fishery scientists of the SCRS will be considered on an equal footing during the standing working group meetings. Other experts may be invited to specific meetings of the standing working group depending on the topics to be discussed.
6. The structure of the meetings will include an open forum/dialogue. Recommendations to the Commission shall be developed through formal sessions of the SWGSM, which should ensure a balanced presence and an active participation of scientists and managers.
7. The SWGSM will develop a workplan and periodically update it, as necessary. Taking into account this workplan, the Commission will develop a schedule for future meetings of the SWGSM.
8. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation by ICCAT for enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers* [Rec. 14-13].