

Update of activities for the Port Inspection Expert Group (PIEG) for capacity building and assistance in 2024

(ICCAT Secretariat)

Working Group

The Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (PIEG) was held online on 22 February 2024, with the participation of 21 experts in total from Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-contracting parties, entities, fishing entities. The discussions centred around the review of progress since the previous meeting (May 2023), despite an early occurrence of the meeting as opposed the previous years, particularly to report to the Group activities they have done regarding training and capacity building in port inspections under the ICCAT scheme. Please see PWG_408/2024 for more information about the meeting.

ICCAT Port State Measures (PSM) Inspector Training Manual

This point has been added to the agenda as the issue related to the publication of the ICCAT Manual on Port Inspection is recurrent. As the manuals were under limited access, the question to remain restricted or made public had been discussed. The group took the decision to make it public and the training manual is currently available on the ICCAT website.

Training

The working group confirmed the prioritization of the needs for CPCs based on an assessment of the responses to the questionnaire on capacities and training needs that was developed by the Group in 2018. Few years ago, three groups of CPCs have been identified (groups "A", "B" and "C") depending on the degree of priority and needs, but no updates neither new requests were received. The Secretariat has received an update of the auto-assessment from Republic of Guinea and St Vincent and Grenadines has requested for assistance.

Since the last training conducted in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, both classified as Category A, in July 2023, CPCs have not received any further ICCAT Port Inspection training. However, during the last PIEG meeting, the Republic of Guinea and Namibia, both classified as Category B, confirmed their need for a training mission once again. In 2024, the ICCAT Port Inspection Training Courses initially planned in Namibia for October, has been postponed to December. Experts from Canada and the USA have been commissioned for this mission.

For the next PIEG meeting in 2025, it has been proposed to review and update the two questionnaire templates that were elaborated in 2017-2018. This aims both to assist with the needs assessment and to help the Group review the priority of needs for the CPCs.

Funds and Projects

A part of one of the funds from the United Nations Food and Administration Organization (FAO) under the second phase of the project "Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction" (Tuna-ABNJ2) are dedicated to the Port inspection training courses.

The Experts were reminded of the importance of exchanging information about the cooperation or training courses received to improve coordination and to avoid duplication.

Note that the EU's Programme for Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in Western Africa (PESCAO) Project ended in 2023 but a follow-up project West Africa Sustainable Ocean Programme (WASOP) would be launched soon.