



2024 REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS)
TO THE ICCAT PLENARY

*Limassol, Cyprus
11 November 2024*

COMPLETE 2024 SCRS REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE AS [PLE-104/2024](#)



General Topics:

- SCRS Challenges and Accomplishments
- Secretariat activities in research, statistics, and coordination in support of the SCRS
- Overview of Research Programs.
- Interpretation at SCRS meetings
- Proposal to develop a mechanism to assign and track the status of Commission Requests of the SCRS, and SCRS Responses

Specific Activities:

- Summary of SCRS Workshop and Plan to develop a new SCRS Science Strategic Plan
- Responses and

Recommendations to Commission from the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch, Subcommittee on Statistics, and WG on Stock Assessment Methods

- Details on the Executive Summaries, Status of MSE efforts, research programs, research activities, and other responses and recommendations to the Commission will be presented during sessions of the appropriate Panels.



SCRS CHALLENGES IN 2024:

- **Ongoing high workloads for SCRS scientists and the Secretariat**
- **Increasing demands on SCRS Officers**
- **Ongoing reduction in the time available for presentation and review of scientific papers**
- **Continued or expanded work on the development MSE platforms and operating models, Candidate Management Procedures, Exceptional Circumstances (EC) Protocols, and/or evaluation of EC for BFT, SWO-N, ALB-N, and tropical tunas (SKJ-W and YFT/BET/SKJ-E)**
- **Need to develop long term research plans for strategic planning; improve efficiency in use of research funds**

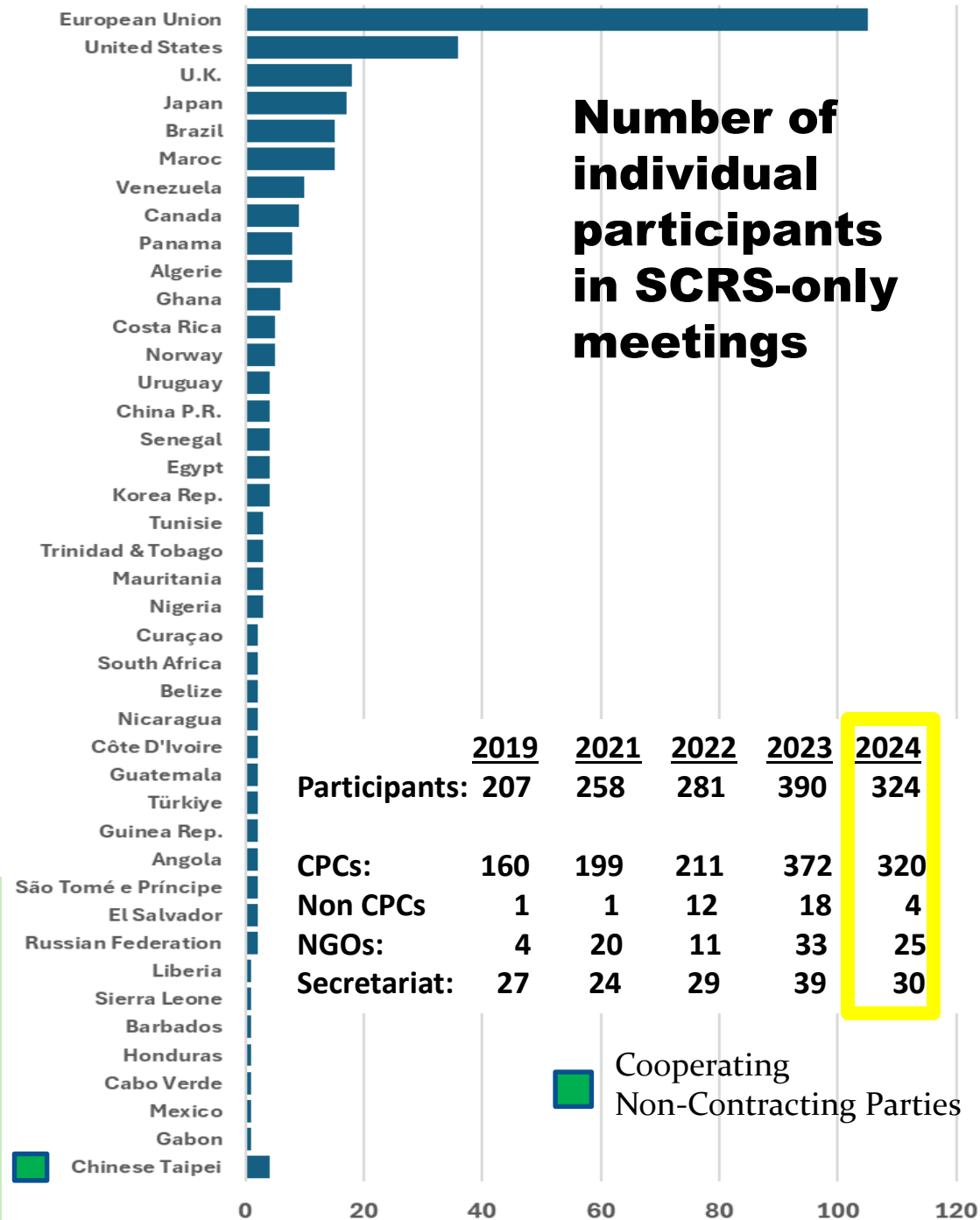
2024 SCRS Accomplishments

Demanding meeting schedule for the SCRS:

- Three (3) stock assessments: YFT, BUM, Mediterranean ALB
- Fifteen (15) intersessional SCRS or COM/SCRS meetings: BUM, YFT, BFT, SWO, ALB, ECO/BYCATCH, WGSAM, Tagging WG, and with Panel 1, Panel 4, and Climate Change
- Nine (9) workshops, and 2 Ambassador meetings on MSE
- Numerous additional ad hoc online meetings (not included on the ICCAT Calendar) to deal with WG specific issues
 - e.g. meetings of the Tropical Tunas WG to develop a 6-year research plan for TROP; various Subgroups to advance MSE-related work associated with ALB, Tropical Tunas and SWO.

In 2024 SCRS Intersessional/Species Working Group/Plenary Meetings:

- 324 participants from 42 CPCs
- 172 SCRS Papers submitted through Sept. 2024
- 117 Presentations
- 39 responses to the Commission



2024 SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE SCRS (reference [PLE-105/2024](#))

The ICCAT Secretariat provides critical scientific, technical and logistical support to the SCRS in all the aspects of the Committee's work. This includes:

- coordination of meetings and support for multiple research programs,
- conducting scientific analyses or collaborating with CPC scientists to carry out scientific work (35 SCRS documents and 18 SCRS presentations include Secretariat staff as authors),
- database management of fishery data reported to ICCAT, and data extraction/processing to meet specific needs of the SCRS
- coordination of the publication of SCRS meeting reports and documents,
- Management of SCRS Contracts (62 contracts in 2024!) – working with the SCRS to develop Terms of Reference/Calls for Tender, participate in the review and selection of proposals, carryout oversight of contracts, support capacity building initiatives and training,
- administration of funds to support travel for participation in meetings

Without this support the work accomplished by the SCRS would not be possible.

2024 SECRETARIAT CONTRIBUTION

In addition to the normal activities on statistics, publications, data, funds management and other duties, the Secretariat has been involved in many other things, including:

- **A lot of work in the preparation of and attendance to 36 official ICCAT meetings, 12 workshops and 2 MSE Ambassador Webinars.**
- **Participated in three stock assessment processes**
- **Continued the development of the ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) and capacity building efforts.**
- **fishing) of the ICCAT Manual.**

Global Environment Fund (GEF) Projects, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Tuna Compliance Network (TCN), Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC), Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC), EU Regional Coordination Group Large Pelagics (RCG LP), and Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)

SCRS SCORECARD

ON TASK 1 AND 2 DATA AVAILABILITY FOR ALL THE MAJOR ICCAT SPECIES BY STOCK/REGION

(Table 6 in the
2024 Secretariat Report on
Research and Statistics)

There is a general
increase of scores over
time.

Overall, the scores are
consistent with how the
SCRS categorizes each
species/stock in terms of
fisheries data availability
(data-poor/data-rich).

Table 6. SCRS scorecard on Task 1/2 data availability for all the major ICCAT species by stock/region (methodology in SCRS/2019/045).
Tableau 6. Fiche de score du SCRS sur la disponibilité des données de tâche 1/2 pour toutes les principales espèces relevant de l'ICCAT, par stock/région (méthodologie détaillée dans SCRS/2019/045).

Tabla 6. Ficha de puntuaciones del SCRS sobre disponibilidad de datos de Tarea 1/2 para todas las especies principales de ICCAT por stock/región (metodología descrita en el SCRS/2019/045).

SCORECARD on Task 1/2 availability for the main ICCAT fisheries (terminal year: 2023)

| FisheryID | Spc. Group | Species | Species/stock | SCORES (by time series) | | | N. flag fisheries ranked | | | Change (%) against't 1993-22 (30 yrs) | |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|------|
| | | | | 30 years (1994-23) | 20 years (2004-23) | 10 years (2014-23) | 30 years (1994-23) | 20 years (2004-23) | 10 years (2014-23) | | |
| 1 | Temperate tunas | ALB | ALB-N stock | 7.21 | 8.19 | 7.96 | 13 | 12 | 9 | -1% | |
| 2 | | | ALB-S stock | 6.37 | 6.30 | 7.11 | 9 | 10 | 7 | -5% | |
| 3 | | | ALB-M stock | 2.64 | 4.56 | 5.87 | 12 | 9 | 7 | -1% | |
| 4 | | | BFT | BFT-E stock (ATE region) | 6.43 | 7.62 | 8.79 | 10 | 9 | 9 | -4% |
| 5 | | | | BFT-E stock (MED region) | 3.96 | 5.09 | 6.01 | 25 | 20 | 16 | -3% |
| 6 | | | | BFT-W stock | 8.62 | 9.36 | 9.49 | 9 | 7 | 6 | -2% |
| 7 | Tropical tunas | BET | BET-A stock (AT + MD) | 6.71 | 7.56 | 7.74 | 30 | 28 | 29 | 0% | |
| 8 | | | YFT | YFT-A stock (AT+MD) | 6.23 | 6.99 | 7.00 | 37 | 34 | 31 | 0% |
| 10 | | | SKJ | SKJ-E stock | 7.26 | 7.77 | 7.76 | 17 | 16 | 14 | -1% |
| 11 | | | | SKJ-W stock | 4.45 | 3.82 | 3.91 | 6 | 5 | 6 | -13% |
| 12 | SWO & billfish | SWO | SWO-N stock | 8.22 | 8.74 | 8.44 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 1% | |
| 13 | | | SWO-S stock | 7.18 | 7.36 | 7.20 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 0% | |
| 14 | | | SWO-M stock | 5.16 | 5.91 | 7.78 | 10 | 10 | 8 | -5% | |
| 15 | | | BUM | BUM-A stock (AT + MD) | 3.87 | 3.83 | 3.55 | 34 | 34 | 36 | -2% |
| 16 | | | | WHM | WHM-A stock (AT + MD) | 5.17 | 5.29 | 4.44 | 18 | 17 | 16 |
| 17 | | | SAI | SAI-E stock | 3.00 | 3.27 | 2.64 | 17 | 15 | 16 | -1% |
| 18 | | | | SAI-W stock | 3.80 | 4.01 | 4.38 | 18 | 15 | 11 | -2% |
| 19 | | | SPF | SPF-E stock | 5.03 | 4.00 | 2.83 | 4 | 3 | 3 | -16% |
| 20 | | | | SPF-W stock | 3.21 | 3.48 | 2.92 | 6 | 6 | 3 | -2% |
| 21 | | | Major shark species | BSH | BSH-N region | 4.79 | 5.87 | 6.65 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 22 | BSH-S region | 5.75 | | | 7.14 | 6.79 | 6 | 6 | 6 | -3% | |
| 23 | POR | POR-ANE stock | | 0.50 | 0.99 | 1.24 | 10 | 14 | 8 | -1% | |
| 24 | | POR-ANW stock | | 3.53 | 3.00 | 4.25 | 4 | 7 | 7 | -6% | |
| 25 | | POR-ASE stock | | 0.70 | 1.38 | 0.67 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0% | |
| 26 | | POR-ASW stock | | 0.48 | 0.88 | 0.50 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0% | |
| 27 | SMA | SMA-N region | | 4.52 | 5.76 | 5.76 | 6 | 7 | 7 | -1% | |
| 28 | | SMA-S region | | 5.52 | 7.34 | 6.69 | 7 | 7 | 6 | -1% | |
| 29 | Small tuna species | BLF | ATL | 2.96 | 3.79 | 4.38 | 15 | 10 | 7 | -3% | |
| 30 | | | BLT | ATL | 1.76 | 1.90 | 1.88 | 7 | 8 | 8 | -8% |
| 31 | | BON | MED | 0.88 | 1.54 | 2.83 | 18 | 15 | 11 | -17% | |
| 32 | | | ATL | 2.43 | 2.80 | 3.28 | 29 | 24 | 14 | -1% | |
| 33 | | BOP | MED | 0.68 | 0.99 | 1.14 | 9 | 9 | 7 | -3% | |
| 34 | | | ATL | 1.23 | 1.68 | 1.67 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 0% | |
| 35 | | BRS | MED | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0% | |
| 36 | | | ATL | 0.92 | 1.67 | 0.33 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0% | |
| 37 | | CER | ATL | 0.00 | 0.67 | 0.80 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 0% | |
| 38 | | | COM | MED | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0% |
| 39 | | FRI | ATL | 4.71 | 5.42 | 5.30 | 27 | 23 | 19 | -2% | |
| 40 | | | KGM | ATL | 0.98 | 1.45 | 1.43 | 8 | 6 | 5 | -3% |
| 41 | | LTA | ATL | 4.12 | 5.12 | 4.88 | 30 | 21 | 16 | -1% | |
| 42 | | | MED | 0.88 | 1.51 | 1.96 | 17 | 13 | 10 | -11% | |
| 43 | | MAW | ATL | 1.20 | 1.23 | 0.94 | 15 | 11 | 8 | -3% | |
| 44 | | | SSM | ATL | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0% |
| 45 | WAH | ATL | 0.98 | 1.28 | 1.33 | 35 | 25 | 18 | -1% | | |



2024 Overview of the Status of ICCAT Stocks

2024 Summary of the Status of ICCAT Stocks

- 24 assessed stocks
- Median Stock Status estimates in the last year of data considered in the most recent assessment of each stock

| No Overfishing ($F > F_{MSY}$) and Not Overfished ($B > B_{MSY}$) | Overfishing ($F > F_{MSY}$) but Not Overfished ($B > B_{MSY}$) | No Overfishing ($F < F_{MSY}$) but Overfished ($B < B_{MSY}$) | Overfishing ($F > F_{MSY}$) and Overfished ($B < B_{MSY}$) | Overfishing and/or Overfished Status not fully determined |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| 10 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 |

Note: additional information for assessed stocks to be presented during the Panel meetings.



2024 Overview of the Status of ICCAT Stocks

No Overfishing and not Overfished

| Stock | Overfishing | Overfished | Data year | Assessment Year | Projections | TAC Advice |
|-------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| SKJ-E | No | No | 2020 | 2022 | Yes | Yes |
| SKJ-W | No | No | 2020 | 2022 | Yes | Yes |
| YFT | No | No | 2022 | 2024 | Yes | Yes |
| ALB-N | No | No | 2021 | 2023 | No* | From MP* |
| ALB-S | No | No | 2018 | 2020 | Yes | Yes |
| SAI-E | No | No | 2021 | 2023 | Yes | Yes |
| SWO-N | No | No | 2020 | 2022 | Yes | Yes |
| BSH-N | No | No | 2021 | 2023 | Yes | Yes |
| BFT-E | No | ** | 2020 | 2022 | No | From MP* |
| BFT-W | No | Unknown** | 2020 | 2021 | Short Term | From MP* |

Stocks assessed in 2024

- TAC derived from current MP, projections not used to develop management advice

** BFT are included in this table despite the absence of a recent overfished status estimate because prior to the MP BFT stocks were managed relative to F0.1



2024 Overview of the Status of ICCAT Stocks

**Overfishing
but not
Overfished**

| Stock | Overfishing | Overfished | Data Year | Assessment Year | Projections | TAC Advice |
|-------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| BSH-S | Yes | No | 2021 | 2023 | Yes | Yes |

**None of these stocks
were assessed in 2024**



2024 Overview of the Status of ICCAT Stocks

**No
Overfishing
but
Overfished**

| | Overfishing | Overfished | Data Year | Assessment Year | Projections | TAC Advice |
|---------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| BET | No | Yes | 2019 | 2021 | Yes | Yes |
| WHM | No | Yes | 2017 | 2019 | Yes | Yes |
| SAI-W | No | Yes | 2021 | 2023 | Yes | Yes |
| SWO-Med | No | Yes | 2018 | 2020 | Yes | Yes |
| POR-NE | No | Yes | 2020 | 2022 | No | No |
| BUM* | No | Yes | 2022 | 2024 | Yes | Yes |

Stocks Assessed in 2024

***BUM was estimated to be in the red quadrant in 2016 during the 2018 stock assessment**



2024 Overview of the Status of ICCAT Stocks

**Overfishing
and
Overfished**

| Stock | Overfishing | Overfished | Data Year | Assessment Year | Projections | TAC |
|-------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-----|
| SWO-S | Yes | Yes | 2020 | 2022 | Yes | Yes |
| SMA-N | Yes | Yes | 2015 | 2017 | Yes | No |

**None of these stocks
were assessed in 2024**



2024 Overview of the Status of ICCAT Stocks

Overfishing and/or Overfished Status not fully determined

| Stock | Overfishing | Overfished | Data Year | Assessment Year | Projections | TAC Advice |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|--|-----------------------|
| SMA-S | Possibly | Possibly | 2015 | 2017 | No | No |
| POR-NW | Not Likely | Yes | 2018 | 2020 | No | Yes |
| POR-SW | Not Likely | Undetermined | 2018 | 2020 | No | No |
| Med ALB* | Yes (Scenario 1) No (Scenario 2) | Yes (Scenario 1) No (Scenario 2) | 2022 | 2024 | Yes, but Kobe strategy matrix not provided | Yes, but very limited |

Stocks Assessed in 2024

*Med ALB was estimated to be in the red quadrant in 2018 during the 2020 stock assessment



2024 Overview of the Status of ICCAT Stocks

There are a number of stocks for which data quantity and/or quality is insufficient to conduct conventional quantitative stock assessments and provide estimates of stock status (e.g. overfishing, overfished), including³

| Stock | Overfishing | Overfished | Data Year | Assessment Year | Projections | TAC Advice |
|---------------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| All SMT | Unknown | Unknown | n/a | n/a | No | No |
| All Other SHK | Unknown | Unknown | n/a | n/a | No | No |

Other approaches have been undertaken to characterize status or vulnerability, such as an Ecological Risk Assessment for sharks, and efforts are ongoing for capacity building with respect to Data-Poor assessment methods. (see previous SCRS Reports)



SUMMARY OF 2024 SCRS WORKSHOP

- During the 2023 SCRS Plenary Meeting, an SCRS Workshop was requested in order to have time for focused discussion on several important topics.
- This hybrid SCRS Workshop was held in Madrid, 18-20 March 2024, where participants engaged in very active discussion of a broad range of SCRS processes, identifying concerns and proposing possible solutions, including:
 - Modifications to the proposed new executive summary template were identified.
 - Participants reviewed the progress that has been made on the general goals and specific objectives of the 2015-2020 SCRS Science Strategic Plan and revised these along with the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis to form an initial draft for further development in a new Strategic Plan.
 - A way forward to develop the 2026-2031 SCRS Science Strategic Plan by the end of 2025 was proposed.



NEW TEMPLATES FOR EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

- The new draft proposal for the Revised Publication Guidelines for Executive Summaries and the new draft template for the Executive Summaries, as revised during the SCRS Workshop, was presented at the SCRS Annual Plenary meeting .
- Examples of Executive Summaries using the new templates were prepared for a species assessed in 2024 (YFT) by the YFT Chair and for a species managed through a management procedure (North Atlantic ALB) by the N-ALB Chair.
- The Committee was supportive of changes to the Executive Summary and agreed that there was a need to reduce the volume of text in the current Executive Summaries. The Committee noted the need to balance making the Executive Summary brief against the risk of oversimplification leading to loss of important information.

NEW TEMPLATES FOR EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES (continued)

- To avoid this risk of loss of important information, the Committee added that any relevant information for the provision of advice should be included in the Additional Information section. The Committee also noted that removing the biological information would require that the ICCAT Manual be kept up-to-date.
- The proposed new Executive Summary template, along with the provided examples, is available for the Commission to provide feedback to the SCRS and/or potentially adopt. If the Commission adopts the new format, the Committee noted that, given the variation in how stocks are assessed and managed (or not, e.g. in cases where data are insufficient) additional adjustments to the proposed format may be required.

DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW 2026-2031 SCRS SCIENCE STRATEGIC PLAN

With the aim of approving the new Strategic Plan at the 2025 SCRS Plenary meeting and adoption at the 2025 ICCAT Commission Annual Meeting, the workplan would follow seven phases:

- *Assess the situation – gaps and needs, identify goals and strategies*
 - At the 2024 SCRS Workshop, participants reviewed the 2015-2020 Science Strategic Plan and, assessing the current situation, proposed specific changes to gaps, needs, goals, and strategies;
 - Intersessionally during 2024, SCRS Officers were asked to further revise these items.



DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW 2026-2031 SCRS SCIENCE STRATEGIC PLAN

- *Elaborate a first draft, including strategies and measurable targets, tentative schedule of meetings, links to data collection and research program documents. Online and through correspondence during first part of 2025, in consultation with Phase 1 participants and Heads of CPC SCRS delegations (to be completed prior to Phase 4 meeting).*
- *Completion of the Plan By the SCRS at a 2025 ad-Hoc intersessional meeting*
- *Dialogue with the Commission, to be determined (related: [PLE-114/2024](#))*
- *Approval of the Plan At the 2025 SCRS Plenary*
- *Adoption of the Plan At the 2025 ICCAT Commission Annual Meeting*



Overview of SCRS 2024 Research Programs and Outputs

Key SCRS Research Programs

(will be discussed as needed in the appropriate Panels)

- Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)
- Small Tunas Year Programme (SMTYP)
- Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP)
- Enhanced Billfish Research Programme (EBRP)
- Albacore Year Programme (ALBYP)
- Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP)
- Tropical Tunas Research and Data Collection Programme (TTRaD)
- Other Research Programs (on tropical tunas)
 - Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) - The program ended in 2021, but there is ongoing support for the associated research activities.



RESPONSES TO THE COMMISSION

19.5 The SCRS should investigate workable examples of how marine biodiversity can be conserved in a way that is compatible with the conduct of responsible and sustainable fisheries, including other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), either as complementary or alternative measures to other area-based approaches.

CPCs, the SCRS, and the Secretariat should report regularly to the Commission on progress on the above, Res. 23-23

Background: *The SCRS should investigate workable examples of how marine biodiversity can be conserved in a way that is compatible with the conduct of responsible and sustainable fisheries, including other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), either as complementary or alternative measures to other area-based approaches;*

CPCs, the SCRS, and the Secretariat should report regularly to the Commission on progress on the above.



RESPONSES TO THE COMMISSION (continued)

19.5 The SCRS should investigate workable examples of how marine biodiversity can be conserved . . .

The Committee noted that the Resolution would require a considerable amount of the SCRS's (particularly of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch) time and capacity to address the request and that this would further impede progress on the development of the EcoCard. It was suggested that, given the Sargasso Sea Case Study's current objectives align with the Commission request, they could provide some limited responses.

The Committee noted that the bycatch component of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch is making progress in the analysis of the impact of ICCAT fisheries on non-target species in all areas of the Convention and has plans to expand this work in the future, aiming to generate inputs to provide a response to the Commission.

RESPONSES TO THE COMMISSION

19.6 The SCRS will advise the Commission on the suitability of the alternative approach proposed by CPCs, Rec. 16-14 para 4b

Background: *4 b) Notwithstanding paragraph a), for vessels less than 15 meters, where an extraordinary safety concern may exist that precludes deployment of an onboard observer, a CPC may employ an alternative scientific monitoring approach that will collect data equivalent to that specified in this Recommendation in a manner that ensures comparable coverage. In any such cases, the CPC wishing to avail itself of an alternative approach must present the details of the approach to the SCRS for evaluation. The SCRS will advise the Commission on the suitability of the alternative approach for carrying out the data collection obligations set forth in this Recommendation. Alternative approaches implemented pursuant to this provision shall be subject to the approval of the Commission at the annual meeting prior to implementation.*



RESPONSES TO THE COMMISSION (continued)

19.6 The SCRS will advise the Commission on the suitability of the alternative approach proposed by CPCs, Rec. 16-14 para 4b

Morocco presented document SCRS/2024/169 with an updated methodology using fisherman self-reporting, complemented by a mobile phone application for data collection to report by-catch and discards.

During 2024, Morocco has made a significant effort in terms of data collection on artisanal fisheries and holding meetings and consultation with fishermen to ensure the success of this approach implementation.

This alternative approach aimed at estimating discards covers artisanal fisheries taking place in small boats, less than 7 meters in length where onboard observers cannot be deployed.

The Committee recognized that the new proposed methodology is at present the best possible alternative to an onboard observer program in the multi-species artisanal fisheries where observer coverage is not possible. Even though this approach is a clear enhancement on the portside enquiries the Committee pointed out that this is not a true replacement for an observer program since the bycatch and discards estimates are still self-reported.

Stock assessments proposed for 2025

Given the current resources of the ICCAT Secretariat and existing levels of support from CPCs in terms of the participation of scientists, the Committee only has the capacity to carry out three stock assessment processes during a year. The SCRS calendar reflects the priorities identified by the Committee for stock assessments to be carried out in 2025, including:

- 1) Tropical tunas: bigeye tuna (last assessed in 2021);
- 2) Billfish: white marlin (last assessed in 2019); and
- 3) Sharks: North and South Atlantic shortfin mako (both last assessed in 2017)

The Committee notes that, although in 2023 it recommended that a Mediterranean swordfish stock assessment be carried out in 2025, it no longer maintains this recommendation. This 2023 recommendation included a call for substantial improvements to the data. Although some new data has been received (e.g. new catch data for the most recent period 2019-2023), there remain important data gaps that would hamper the assessment. Therefore, the Swordfish Species Group has included in its workplan improvements to the data inputs and in its recommendations data reporting and analyses.

SCRS draft calendar for 2025 / Projet de calendrier du SCRS pour 2025 / Proyecto de calendario del SCRS para 2025

| | MON LUN | TUE MAR | WED MER | THU JEU | FRI VEN | SAT SAM | SUN DIM | MON LUN | TUE MAR | WED MER | THU JEU | FRI VEN | SAT SAM | SUN DIM | MON LUN | TUE MAR | WED MER | THU JEU | FRI VEN | SAT SAM | SUN DIM | MON LUN | TUE MAR | WED MER | THU JEU | FRI VEN | SAT SAM | SUN DIM | MON LUN | TUE MAR | WED MER | THU JEU | FRI VEN | SAT SAM | SUN DIM | MON LUN | TUE MAR | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| January Janvier Enero | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| February Février Febrero | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | | |
| March Mars Marzo | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| April Avril Abril | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | |
| May Mai Mayo | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| June Juin Junio | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| July Juillet Julio | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | |
| August Août Agosto | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| September Septembre Septiembre | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | |
| October Octobre Octubre | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| November Novembre Noviembre | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| December Décembre Diciembre | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | |

Free day in ICGAT
Jour libre à l'ICCAT
Día libre en ICCAT

Meeting of technical nature
Réunion à caractère technique
Reunión de carácter técnico

Secretariat meeting preparation/holidays
Préparation des réunions du Secrétariat/vacances
Preparación de las reuniones de la Secretaría/vacaciones

Workshop
Atelier
Taller

Recommendations with financial implications



Stock assessment methods (WGSAM):

- The Group recommended that besides the 2024 training workshop, an additional Bycatch Estimation Tool (BYET) training workshop be organized in 2025 with the expectation that this will increase the number of CPCs that will report (dead and live discards).
- The Group recommended implementing the recommendations from the BYET workshops in 2023 and 2024, as well as the development of the Shiny App as an interface to run the R code of the BYET and to consider any further suggestions from the 2024 workshop.



General Recommendations:

Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods

The Group recommended that a set of standardized graphics and tables which should be included in each of ICCAT Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) products be established. (e.g., boxplots of selected performance indicators with or without violin overlay, Kobe time-series plots, time series of relative biomass and fishing mortality, tradeoff plots, and a table of results, or “quilt plot”). These standardized graphics are intended to foster more consistent messaging between MSEs. Ideally, a standard set of performance indicators should also be agreed, noting that different plots are better suited to display results for different types of performance indicators. The Group further recommended that the standardized set of graphics be included in a graphical user-friendly App.

The Group recommended that a set of default climate change robustness tests related to impacts on recruitment or natural mortality parameters be included in all ICCAT MSEs. Further consideration should be placed on how those robustness Operating Model (OM) scenarios are developed and conditioned. These robustness tests could be revised to reflect stock-specific changes as relevant information becomes available.



Recommendations with financial implications

Sub-committee on Statistics :

- Considering the need for further developments (following the feedback provided by CPCs and the SCRS), as well as the necessity to deploy the new public data dissemination applications on a dedicated cloud infrastructure (monthly renting of cloud servers with the required software, with potential to scale it up as required), the Subcommittee on Statistics recommends that additional funds are set aside specifically for these purposes.
- The Committee recommends continuing supporting Phase II of the ICCAT regional Caribbean data collection project. The project aims to improve reporting and data analysis of fishery data of fleets capturing blue marlin and yellowfin tuna in the region. The U.S. has already committed to fully fund this activity.



General Recommendations:

Sub-Committee on Statistics

For the Secretariat to work together with the ad-hoc group to modify form ST09 to include the minimum feasible subset of additional information requested by Rec. 22-12, and to determine how to deal with potential discontinuities caused by changing the structure of form ST09. The result of the work of the ad hoc group will be presented at the 2025 meetings of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch and Subcommittee on Statistics.

The Subcommittee on Statistics recommends that scientist of all CPCs interested in participating in the ad-hoc group to modify the ST09 form to address the data requirement Rec. 22-12 to contact the Secretariat before the end of 2024.

The Subcommittee on Statistics recommends that a one-day online workshop to address issues related to data reporting is held in 2025. This workshop will be held online and is aimed at statistical and tagging correspondents and would take place around one month before the data submission deadline.



ELECTION OF SCRS CHAIR

The Executive Secretary called for nominations for the position of SCRS Chair. Sierra Leone nominated Dr Craig Brown for a second mandate as SCRS Chair. A number of Contracting Parties also showed their support to this nomination, and thanked Dr Brown for his hard work during his first mandate.

Several Contracting parties also suggested that Dr Brown consider having a Vice Chair to assist him in the course of his second mandate as SCRS Chair.

The SCRS Chair thanked the Committee for their support of his continued tenure as Chair of the Committee. He expressed his continued commitment to support the SCRS in the development of its scientific advice and the clear communication of that advice to the Commission.

The Chair notified the Committee of his intention to appoint a Vice Chair, as this would be very helpful in addressing the many demands on the SCRS Chair. Such an appointment will be announced at a later date, as there is still a need to identify a candidate willing and able to take on the role of Vice Chair.

SCRS Chair's proposal to develop a mechanism to identify and track the status of Commission requests of the SCRS, and SCRS responses

Background:

When the SCRS provides a Response to the Commission, it is often the case that the Commission does not provide feedback as to whether or not the Commission considers the request to have been fully answered. The SCRS may also provide no response or a partial response, for example when more data needs to be collected before an answer can be provided. Or it may be that data required to provide an answer are not included in reporting requirements (or are otherwise not being reported). It is even possible that the SCRS could lose track of older requests as time passes, or that the Commission no longer requires a response. There is clearly a need to track Commission requests of the SCRS and the responses, as well as their status.

After the 2022 Special Meeting of the Commission, the Secretariat took the initiative to prepare a spreadsheet listing all of the requests from the Commission that might still be active, separated by relevant SCRS Working Group, along with an evaluation of the status of each request. This was presented in early 2023 at the first ever SCRS Officers meeting held at the beginning of the year. This meeting, in what is now an established practice, is held to coordinate planning for the year, including a review of the adopted ICCAT Calendar as well as new Recommendations, Resolutions, and requests emerging from the recent Commission meeting and how those might be accommodated in workplans.



SCRS Chair's proposal (continued)

Status of historical Commission requests and SCRS Responses:

The spreadsheet listing requests, responses (and their status) prepared by the Secretariat, perhaps as a front-end app of a database for storage with a dbase format, could serve as both a historical archive of requests and responses as well as a working tool to assist in fulfilling Commission requests. But how should the status be confirmed, which at this point has been provided based on input from the Secretariat and the SCRS, but not from the Commission?

During the 2023 Regular Meeting of the Commission, the Panel 2 Chair suggested in Plenary that the Commission Officers could review the status assignments and confirm the status for most if not all the historical requests and any responses.

It is proposed that the Commission Officers carry out this review at an opportune time. The conclusions of this exercise could then be made available to the Commission for review.



SCRS Chair's proposal (continued)

Proposal for future Commission requests and SCRS Responses:

For requests from the Commission for responses to be delivered during (or before) the year of the SCRS Annual meeting, the SCRS should list the request in its Annual Report and include a response.

For requests from the Commission for responses to be delivered at some future date, the Commission requests will not be listed in the SCRS Annual Report, unless the SCRS chooses to comment on the requests. Such comments could include, for instance, asking for clarification of the request, problems foreseen regarding data availability, etc.



SCRS Chair's proposal (continued)

Future Commission requests and SCRS Responses:

For requests from the Commission for responses to be delivered during (or before) the year of the SCRS Annual meeting, the SCRS should list the request in its Annual Report and include a reply.

For requests from the Commission for responses to be delivered at some future date, the Commission requests will not be listed in the SCRS Annual Report, unless the SCRS chooses to comment on the requests or can provide an early response. Such comments could include, for instance, asking for clarification of the request, problems foreseen regarding data availability, etc.



SCRS Chair's proposal (continued)

Future Commission requests and SCRS Responses (continued):

Each reply should include one of the following:

- (at the beginning of the reply) “No response provided”. [Include an explanation, and if possible, an estimate of the time and/or data, etc. needed, in order to provide a response.]
- (at the end of the reply) “The SCRS considers this a partial response.” ”. [Include an explanation, and if possible, an estimate of the time and/or data needed in order to provide a full response.]
- (at the end of the reply) “The SCRS considers this a full response, but defers the final determination of this to the Commission.”



SCRS Chair's proposal (continued)

Future Commission requests and SCRS Responses (continued):

If the Commission does not agree with a final status designation assigned by the SCRS, the Commission should communicate this in its meeting report along with clear guidance on what is required in order for the response to be considered a full response.

[ongoing requests that potentially require responses annually (e.g. evaluating requests for exemption from certain ICCAT measures, calculation retention allowances for SMA) are not included in this approach).

Thank you