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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 30 July 2026

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 06359/ 2026

SUBJECT: COMMON OCEANS TUNA PROJECT WORKSHOP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT
(in-person, FAO Headquarters, Rome, 18–22 January 2027)

Dear colleague,

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am pleased to inform you that, with support from the Common Oceans Tuna Project, ICCAT will convene a joint tRFMO technical workshop on stock assessment. This in-person event will take place at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy, from 18 to 22 January 2027.

This workshop is the third in a three-part series of technical exchanges among tRFMOs aimed at strengthening collaboration and harmonization on key topics of mutual interest. The first workshop, held in January 2025, focused on bycatch, and the second, held in January 2026, focused on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). A **tentative programme** has been developed for the 2027 workshop around the question of how tuna stock assessments should address uncertainty after established good practices have been applied. Proposed themes include distinguishing uncertainties that can realistically be reduced from those that are likely to remain unresolved, and evaluating which uncertainties materially affect management decisions.

The tentative programme would also explore the links between stock assessment and MSE, including how new data and analytical methods can reduce key uncertainties, with absolute abundance and natural mortality proposed as principal case studies, and how persistent, decision-critical uncertainty might be represented in structured and appropriately weighted operating-model sets. Potential workshop outputs include a prioritized data-and-methods roadmap, guidance for representing persistent assessment uncertainty in MSE, a decision-relevance matrix, and a practical assessment–MSE handoff protocol. **These themes and outputs are provisional, and we would very much welcome suggestions from the tRFMOs regarding the proposed agenda, additional priority topics, relevant case studies, or other issues that should be considered in developing the final workshop programme.**

To facilitate broad and balanced participation, ICCAT invites each tRFMO to nominate up to two experts to receive financial support to attend the workshop. Support will cover international travel, accommodation, and per diem expenses in accordance with FAO regulations.
When submitting nominations, tRFMOs are also invited to provide any comments or suggestions on the tentative workshop programme. We kindly request that nominations include:

- The name, title, and affiliation of the nominated experts
- A brief description of their experience with tuna stock assessment and/or related work on assessment uncertainty, identifiability, absolute abundance, natural mortality, or MSE
- Confirmation of their availability to attend the full duration of the workshop (18–22 January 2027)
- Contact details (email and phone)

Please submit nominations to Dr. Nathan Taylor (nathan.taylor@iccat.int) and to the ICCAT Secretariat at info@iccat.int, no later than 30 September 2026.

Additional participants from your organization are welcome to attend at their own expense. Experts wishing to make a presentation are encouraged to submit an abstract (maximum 250 words) by the same date. Participants may also be asked in advance to prepare a short case study describing an important assessment

uncertainty, its principal confounders, the information needed to reduce it, whether it affects management performance, and how it is or could be represented in an operating-model set.

We thank you for your collaboration and look forward to your continued engagement in this important initiative.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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