

**REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE
CRFM PELAGIC FISHERIES WORKING GROUP
(CRFM-PWG) ON THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)**

**Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the CRFM
Pelagic Fisheries Working Group (CRFM-PWG) on
the International Commission for the Conservation
of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)**

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1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The CRFM Pelagic Fisheries Working Group (CRFM PWG) convened its Eleventh Meeting on ICCAT electronically on 23 May 2022. Sixteen participants representing six CRFM Member States and the CRFM Secretariat attended the Meeting. The list of participants is given in Appendix 1. The Meeting's Chairperson, Maren Headley, Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development at the CRFM Secretariat presented the meeting's agenda, which was adopted without change. The agenda is given in Appendix 2.

2. OVERVIEW OF ICCAT 2022 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS

The Chairperson gave a brief overview of the ICCAT scheduled meetings/activities of interest to CRFM Member States for the second half of 2022. Specific mention was made of the following:

6 -7 June – 2nd Meeting of Electronic Monitoring systems (EMS) Working Group

8-10 June - 15th Meeting of the Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) Working Group

13 June - Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance

20-29 June – Atlantic Swordfish Stock Assessment Meeting

28-30 June - Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1

1 September – Online training workshop sessions on using ICCAT's Integrated Online Management System (IOMS)

19-24 September – SCRS Species Group Meetings

26-30 September – Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

13 November - Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4

14-21 November – 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission

The reports of the various intersessional meetings, as well as the report of the SCRS Meeting and the Proceedings of the Commission Meeting held in 2021 were available for download on the ICCAT website.

3. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON ICCAT ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRIES

3.1 Participation in ICCAT IOMS training sessions

Regarding ICCAT's Integrated Online Management System (IOMS), the Chairperson said that a training workshop was held on 28 April 2022, which introduced participants to the functionalities of the system – user management, data requirements, data requests, etc., with emphasis on completion of annual reports. A second training workshop was scheduled for 1 September 2022, which would review the previous sessions and resolve errors in 2022 annual reports. Belize and Grenada had already registered for the September workshop.

Trinidad and Tobago (L. Martin) participated in the training sessions on 28 April 2022 and provided an update. Twenty-one CPCs and one non-Contracting Cooperating party were represented at the workshop, which had 61 participants. The focus of the workshop was to introduce the new online system for reporting, particularly to officers responsible for submission of statistics and annual reports. The various technical aspects of the system were presented, including the different levels (administrator, etc.) of users. Administrator (could have more than one) privileges include: identify/create other users, examine the progress of preparation of the country's annual report. The system also included a messaging component that would allow communication between CPCs. The intention was to run a test of the system to do the annual report before the September workshop.

Discussion

Whether the annual reports due by 15 September 2022 could still be submitted as in previous years was queried. It was noted that the reports could be submitted as usually done, however, it was explained

that the IOMS was available for the last reporting cycle, but was not generally utilized. The training workshops in 2022 were intended to promote use of the system.

3.2 Status of preparation of statistics in response to ICCAT circular #0669/2022

The Chairperson made reference to ICCAT circular #0669/2022, noted the request for statistical data by 31 July 2022, and indicated that the forms for Task I, II and III data, as well as guidelines for completing the relevant forms were available from the ICCAT website. Member States provided the following updates on the status of preparation of the statistics.

Barbados - Work in this regard was ongoing and the statistical data will be submitted by the stipulated deadline.

Trinidad & Tobago – The Task statistics had been prepared and were almost ready for submission to ICCAT. A database had been set up to capture data in response to the call for statistics on swordfish, which helped significantly in the completion of the Task forms.

3.3 Preparation of Annual reports

The Chairperson reminded the meeting that a template for the annual report as well as revised guidelines for the preparation of the annual report were available from the ICCAT website. The deadline for submission of annual reports was 15 September 2022. Member States provided the following updates on the status of preparation of their annual reports.

Bahamas - Did not have a developed pelagic fishery and as such did not submit statistics or annual reports to ICCAT. Development of the pelagic fishery was being considered and the ICCAT data and reporting requirements will be taken onboard as the fishery develops.

Jamaica – Did not currently submit data or annual reports to ICCAT, as the pelagic fishery was not developed. However, an ongoing World Bank-supported project was assisting with the development of the fishery and when completed and the fishery operational, the requisite statistical data and annual reports will be submitted to ICCAT.

Montserrat – There was no fishery for ICCAT managed species, hence no data and annual reports were submitted.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PLAN TO SUPPORT CRFM MEMBER STATES IN PREPARATION OF STATISTICS AND ANNUAL REPORTS (2022-2023) INCLUDING IDENTIFICATION OF RESOURCE PERSONS

The Chairperson indicated that Secretariat's intention, based on input from Member States regarding the issues/challenges, etc., they encountered in fulfilling their data and reporting obligations to ICCAT, was to develop a work plan so that the required assistance could be provided in a timely and structured manner. Also, Member States' views and recommendations regarding how the Working Group should function, meet, etc., going forward was also solicited. It was recognized that it was not possible to develop the work plan at this meeting, but participants were invited to make suggestions/recommendations about the elements that should be included in the work plan. The following suggestions/recommendations were advanced:

1. Regarding the functioning of the Working Group, the countries (Belize, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago) that interacted regularly with ICCAT should drive the work of the Working Group and share information and lessons learned from their interactions and experiences with ICCAT.
2. To facilitate statistical reporting, Member States should provide information on their data collection systems for ICCAT species and highlight their specific concerns/challenges, so that

these could be addressed as far as possible. The information would also be useful in identifying common issues for which regional-level interventions may be required.

3. A matrix to capture the status of preparation of annual statistics and reports could be developed and circulated to Members States for completion, so that targeted assistance could be provided by the Secretariat.
4. Sensitization of Member States on ICCAT's policies, programs, etc., should be included in the Work Plan.
5. Taking account of the Meeting's discussions and recommendations as well as the information from the country matrix, the Secretariat should draft the Work Plan and circulate for review and feedback.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was suggested that closer to the dates of the various ICCAT meetings, the CRFM-PWG could meet to review the requisite meeting documents and discuss issues that were likely to come up.

Taking on-board the previous suggestion and bearing in mind the date of the training workshop (1 Sep) and the deadline for submission of annual reports (15 Sep), it was agreed that the next meeting of the CRFM-PWG should be convened in August 2022.

There being no further interventions, the Chairperson thanked all for their time and attention and adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Country	Name of Representative	Affiliation	Email Address
Bahamas	Gregory Bethel <i>Acting Director / ACIO</i>	Department of Marine Resources	GREGORYBETHEL@bahamas.gov.bs
	Lester Gittens <i>Fisheries Officer</i>	Department of Marine Resource	LESTERGITTENS@bahamas.gov.bs
Barbados	Joyce Leslie <i>Chief Fisheries Officer (ag.)</i>	Fisheries Division	fishbarbdos.dco@caribsurf.com joyce.leslie27@gmail.com
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	June Masters <i>Statistics & Information Analyst</i>		june.masters@crfm.net
	Pamela Gibson <i>Administrative Secretary / Meeting Rapporteur</i>		cfmsvg@crfm.int

APPENDIX 2: AGENDA

Agenda for 11th PWG Meeting

Monday, May 23, 2022

10-12:00 am AST

Reference documents can be accessed here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18r62o2s46BVYcr1fanSRKINABF0PJymb?usp=sharing>

Agenda Item	Time
1. Opening and welcome	10:00 - 10:05
2. Overview of ICCAT 2022 calendar of activities and reports <ol style="list-style-type: none">Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (Online, 27 Sep to 20 Oct, 2021- Ref Doc 1Proceedings of the 27th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) (Online, 15-23 November 2021) – Ref Doc 2	10:05 - 10:20
3. Update and discussion on ICCAT activities by countries regarding: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Participation in ICCAT IOMS training sessions - ICCAT CIRCULAR # 2075 / 2022- 2022 – Online Training Workshop Sessions on Using ICCAT’s Integrated Online Management Systems (IOMS) - Ref Doc 3Status of preparation of statistics in response to ICCAT Circular #0669/2022 - Request For Statistics On Atlantic Tunas and Associated Species in the ICCAT Convention Area (deadline for submission Jul 31, 2022) - Ref Doc 4Preparation of Annual reports (deadline for submission Sep 15, 2022) - Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports (ICCAT Ref. 12-13) – Ref Doc 5	10:20 – 11:20 (10 mins per country)
4. Development of a work plan to support CRFM Member States in preparation of statistics and annual reports (2022-2023) including identification of resource persons	11:20 - 11:50
5. Any other Business	11:50 - 11:55
6. Date and time of next meeting	11:55 - 12:00

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