

Science, Service, Stewardship



2013 SCRS Research Activities and U.S. Participation

2012 Spring Species Working Groups Meeting
of the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to ICCAT
April 4th–5th, 2013 Silver Spring, MD

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

Craig Brown





SCRS Officers

Chairman, SCRS

Sub-Committee on Ecosystems

Convener, Sub-Committee on Statistics

Convener, Methods Working Group

Ad hoc Tagging Working Group East Coordinator: E. Rodriguez-Marin (EU)

West Coordinator: E. Prince (USA)

Tropical Tunas Coordinator

Bigeye tuna Rapporteur :

Yellowfin tuna Rapporteur :

Skipjack Rapporteur:

Atlantic Albacore Rapporteur :

Mediterranean Albacore Rapporteur :

Bluefin tuna:

East Atlantic Rapporteur:

West Atlantic Rapporteur:

Billfishes Rapporteur :

Swordfish Coordinator:

North Atl Swordfish Rapporteur :

South Atl Swordfish Rapporteur :

Mediterranean Swordfish Rapporteur :

Sharks Rapporteur :

Small tunas Rapporteur :

J. Santiago (EU)

S. Calay (USA)- convener/bycatch

A. Hanke (Canada)-EBFM

G. Scott (USA)

P. de Bruyn (EU)

J. Pereira (EU)

D. Die (USA)

C. Brown (USA)

D. Gaertner (EU)

H. Arrizabalaga (EU)

J. Ortiz de Urbina (EU)

J.M. Fromentin (EU)

C. Porch (USA)

F. Arocha (Venezuela)

J. Neilson (Canada)

J. Neilson (Canada)

Thierry Frédou (Brazil)

G. Tserpes (EU)

A. Domingo (Uruguay)

Nouredine Abid (Morocco)



<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>Last/Next assessment</u>
YFT, Yellowfin Tuna, <i>Thunnus albacares</i>	2011 / 2015?
BET, Bigeye Tuna, <i>Thunnus obesus</i>	2010 / 2014?
SKJ, Skipjack Tuna, <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	2008 / 2014
ALB, Albacore, <i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	2009/ 2013 (N. Atl) 2011/ 2013 (S. Atl) 2011/ 2015? (S. Atl & Med.)
BFT, Atl. Bluefin Tuna, <i>Thunnus thynnus t.</i>	2010/ 2014 (E. Atl) 2015 (E&W Atl.)
SWO, Swordfish Atl. , <i>Xiphias gladius</i>	2009/ 2013
SWO-Med., <i>Xiphias gladius</i>	2010/ 2014?
SAI, Sailfish, <i>Istiophorus albicans</i>	2009/ 2014?
BUM, Blue Marlin, <i>Makaira nigricans</i>	2011 / 2015?
WHM, White Marlin, <i>Tetrapturus albidus</i>	2006 / 2015?
Small Tunas (various)	N/A
Pelagic sharks, <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	2008 / 2016?



SCRS Meetings Scheduled for 2013

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March 18-21	Tropical tuna species group intersessional meeting	Tenerife, Spain
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April 22-26	Albacore Data Preparatory meeting	Madrid, Spain
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June 3-10	Atlantic swordfish data preparatory meeting	Madrid, Spain
June 17-24	Atlantic Albacore stock assessment session	Sukarrieta, Spain
June 26-28	Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in support of the W-BFT stock assessment	Montreal, Canada
July 1-6	Intersessional meeting of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems	Madrid, Spain
July 20-22	Bluefin stock assessment methods	Boston, USA
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WG-Stock Assessment Methods

Madrid, Spain: March 11-15, 2013

The Group developed protocols and/or made recommendations on a variety of topics, including

- *a system of peer review of SCRS assessments, including the identification of experts*
- *Assessment model diagnostics*
- *Management Strategy Evaluations*
- *a process for developing the SCRS Strategic Plan*
- *improvements to the estimation of the spatio-temporal distribution of longline effort and on efforts to develop similar estimates for other gears.*
- *A call for detailed descriptions of fleet compositions and of methodologies used to estimate task I and II.*

WG-Tropical Tunas

Tenerife, Spain: March 18-21, 2013

- **Review of Ghanaian historical data revisions**
 - The Group evaluated the methodologies used to make new estimates of historical Ghanaian catch and species composition, and recommendations on adoption of new series
- **Atlantic-wide Tropical Tuna Tagging Program**
 - In 2012, the US provided \$62.5K to help advance this project
 - Invited experts with extensive experience in the Indian Ocean Tuna Tagging program provided valuable information and contributions to the discussions. Their participation was made possible by the US contribution.
 - The Group discussed the best path forward; a smaller working group was formed. The preferred option is to contract an expert to coordinate a multi-faceted approach, including the development of a more detailed proposal, defining a call for proposals on a feasibility study, and facilitating the political process to obtain EU funding
 - The Group also reviewed a model developed by a US scientist and YFT electronic tag data from the Gulf of Mexico that could be informative in the design of the program.

- **Review of ongoing work to improve Ghanaian statistics**
 - The Group evaluated the methodologies employed and made a number of recommendations
- **Responses to the Commission on:**
 - FAD management plan
 - Evaluation of the port sampling plan aimed at collecting fishery data for BET, YFT and SKJ that are caught in the geographical area of the area/time closure developed by the SCRS in 2012.



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Sharks species group intersessional meeting

April 8-12, 2013 Mindelo, Cape Verde

- Develop a "Special Research Program on Sharks".
 - Focused on the reduction of the main sources of uncertainty in the formulation of scientific advice, including the improvement of data collection and reporting.
 - Objective is to prepare the Program framed within the SCRS Science Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2020.



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**2013 INTER-SESSIONAL
MEETING OF THE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS**

Rec. 10-09

- 5. SCRS shall initiate an assessment of the impact of the incidental catch of sea turtles resulting from ICCAT fisheries as soon as possible and no later than 2013.



2013 Work Plan

- Assessment of sea turtle bycatch in ICCAT fisheries
 - ERA/PSA Analysis (e.g. Cortes et al. 2013)
 - Quantification of incidental catch in ICCAT fisheries and non-ICCAT fisheries

Quantify Fisheries Interactions with Sea Turtles

- Preliminary work described in SCRS/2012/049: A review of fisheries within the ICCAT Convention area that interact with sea turtles.



Green



Loggerhead



Leatherback



Olive
Ridley



Kemp's
Ridley



Hawksbill



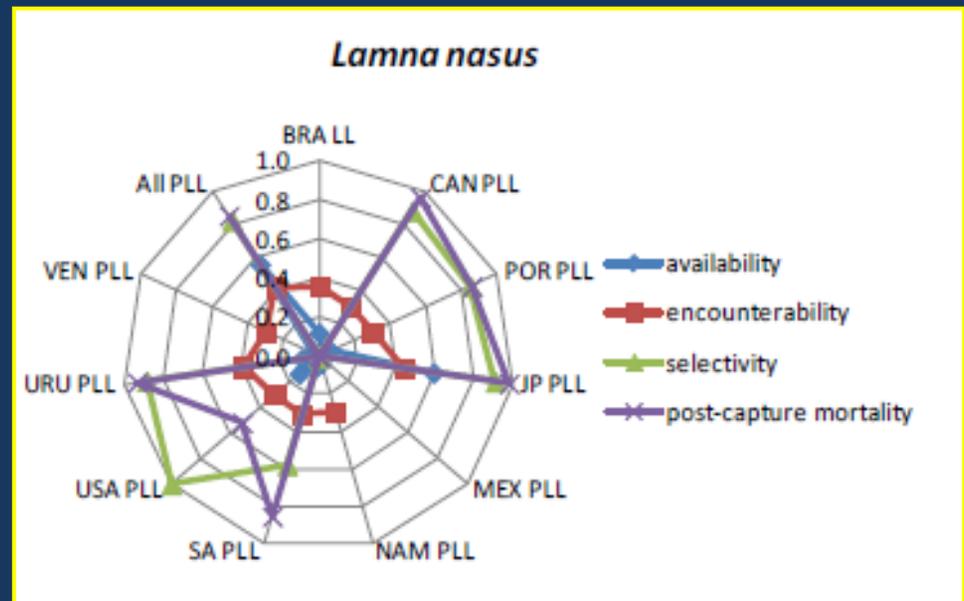
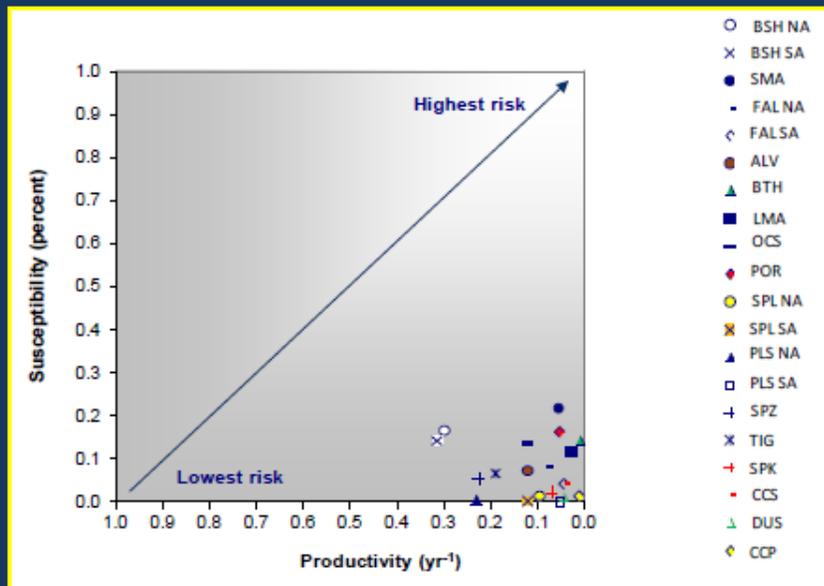
2012 CPC Data Submissions - Sea Turtles

Table 14: Summary and characteristics of the CPC data from Fishery Observer (FO) Programs currently at the ICCAT Secretariat to evaluate interactions and impacts of ICCAT fisheries on sea turtle populations. On the fishing gears LL = longline, PS = purse seine and BT = bottom trawl. CPCs are sorted by alphabetical order.

CPC	Gear	Target Species	Time Series	Format	Information provided					Data characteristics
					Date	Coords	Effort	Fate	Source	
Belize										CPC has no reports with sea turtle interactions
Brazil	LL	Not specified	2011	Excel	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	FO	Catches (N) in positive fishing sets
Canada	LL	Swordfish, yellowfin, bigeye tuna	2002/2011	Excel	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	FO	Individual specimen information
China	LL	Bigeye tuna	2010/2011	Excel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	FO	Individual specimen information
China Taipei	LL	Albacore, bigeye tuna	2009/2011	Word	No	No	No	No	FO	Report describing catches (N) and a map with locations
Colombia										No FO program recording sea turtle interactions
EC-France	PS	Tropical tunas	2005/2011	Excel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	FO	Individual specimen information
EC-France	BT	Demersal fishes	2011/2012	Excel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	FO	Individual specimen information
EC-Portugal	LL	Swordfish	2003/2011	Excel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	FO	Catches (N) in positive sets and individual specimen information
EC-Spain	PS	Tropical tunas	2003/2007	PDF	No	No	No	No	FO	SCRS and ALR docs reporting data from purse seines (EC.ESP and EC.FRA)
Egypt										CPC reports that no significant interactions with ICCAT fisheries occur
Iceland										CPC reports that no significant interactions with ICCAT fisheries occur
Japan	LL	Not specified	2010	Excel	Yes	No	No	Yes	FO	Individual specimen information
Korea	LL	Not specified	2011/2012	Excel	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	FO	Individual specimen information
Lybia	LL	Bluefin tuna	2006	Excel	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	FO	Individual specimen information
Mexico	LL	Yellowfin tuna	1993/2010	Excel	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	FO	Individual specimen information
South Africa	LL	Bigeye, yellowfin tuna	2002/2011	Excel	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	FO	Individual specimen information
Tunisia										List of species recorded
US	LL	Not specified	1999/2011	Excel	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	FO	Bycatch and individual specimen information

Perform Impact Analyses

- Summary of methods described in SCRS/2012/050: A review of methods for assessing the impact of fisheries on Sea Turtles.
 - Ecological Risk Assessment (ICCAT will fund a short-term contract to hire an ERA expert to assist SC-ECO)
 - Productivity and Susceptibility Analysis (PSA)



SCRS/2012/167 Cortes et al.





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2013 SPECIES GROUPS and SCRS PLENARY SESSIONS

September 23rd to October 4th, 2013 (*Madrid, Spain*)

- **All species groups/ other working groups**
- **Sub-Committee on Statistics**
- **Draft and Adopt Executive Summaries**