

Memorandum of Understanding between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

RECOGNIZING that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

- a) is responsible for maintaining populations of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas at levels that will permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes;
- b) science underpins the management decisions made by ICCAT;
- c) agree that there should be co-operation between the Commission and other international fisheries commissions and scientific organizations which might contribute to the work of the Commission and that ICCAT may enter into agreements with such commissions and organizations;
- d) cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant international organizations should aim, *inter alia*, to obtain best available scientific information and exchange of scientific knowledge, to further the attainment of the objectives of the Convention;

RECOGNIZING that International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

- a) has the mission to advance and share scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and the services they provide and to use this knowledge to generate state-of-the-art advice for meeting conservation, management, and sustainability goals;
- b) exists to promote and encourage research and investigations for the study of the sea, to advance the scientific understanding of marine ecosystems, including its living resources;
- c) seeks to establish and maintain working arrangements with other international organizations and initiatives having related objectives;
- d) has the vision to be a world-leading marine science organization.

RECOGNIZING the mandatory powers, constraints and obligation under which ICCAT and ICES respectively operate, in particular with respect to rules and procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data adopted by the two Organizations;

DESIRING to put in place a framework for mutual cooperation;

Proposed areas of cooperation

Establish cooperation on relevant science topics, including the establishment of joint activities to increase exchange and cooperation between ICCAT and ICES working groups, including to:

1. maintain reciprocal consultation and regular contacts on matters of common interest in the fields of Atlantic fish species, fisheries scientific research, climate change, ecosystem impacts on fisheries and the impact of fisheries on the ecosystem;
2. whenever necessary exchange information and documents of current and planned activities, including workshops, symposia and projects, in areas of common interest;
3. consult and engage regularly on ways in which cooperation between the Parties can be further improved and extended, including joint activities like workshops, symposia and the development of subsidiary bodies, including joint working groups, in areas of common interest;
4. collaborate on the assessments for fish stocks of mutual interest, including but not limited to elasmobranchs, facilitating consistency between both organizations;
5. cooperate and exchange data and knowledge relating to fisheries, assessment methods, management strategy evaluation (MSE), climate change, data management, quality assurance and advisory processes;
6. invite reciprocal representation, in observer capacity, of ICCAT and ICES representatives at their meetings, as appropriate;
7. collaborate in other areas as decided by both Parties.


AWA
22/1/2025

Financial implications

This Agreement neither binds ICCAT nor ICES to provide funds or other resources, of their own property or that of others, nor does it impede the signing of similar agreements with other organizations. Both ICCAT and ICES may request financial support from third parties, in a joint or individual manner, to proceed with cooperation in projects and activities. Both ICCAT and ICES may bilaterally establish defined contracts for services from one another or jointly develop projects to deepen cooperation.

Modification

The contents of this Memorandum of Understanding may be modified at any time by the mutual written consent of both Parties.

Discontinuation

This Memorandum of Understanding should be reviewed every 5th year. Either Party may discontinue this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months prior written notice to the other Party.

Any notice or other communication to ICCAT under this Agreement shall be in writing to the ICCAT Secretariat (info@iccat.int) and addressed to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, Calle Corazón de Maria 8, planta 6, 28002 Madrid, Spain.

Any notice or other communication to ICES under this Agreement shall be in writing to the ICES Secretariat (info@ices.dk) and addressed to the ICES President, H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46, DK 1553 Copenhagen V, Denmark.

Signed on behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.



22 January 2025

Date:
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

Signed:

Date: *22 January 2025*
General Secretary
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea