



Short communication

## Regional fisheries management: COVID-19 calendars and decision making

Bianca Haas<sup>a,\*</sup>, Ruth Davis<sup>b</sup>, Brooke Campbell<sup>b</sup>, Quentin Hanich<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, Tasmania, Australia

<sup>b</sup> Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), University of Wollongong, Australia



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### ABSTRACT

In 2020 the management of transboundary fisheries was severely impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Most annual meetings of regional fisheries and marine management organizations were held virtually, postponed, or cancelled. Even though most organizations managed to meet virtually in 2020, many important decisions were postponed to 2021. Consequently, regional secretariats and delegations face a difficult calendar with substantial agendas and complex decision-making challenges. This commentary provides a brief overview of the virtual meeting processes that have been implemented by regional organisations in response to COVID-19 and provides a calendar of their plans for 2021.

### 1. Introduction

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the operation of regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and regional marine organisations and continues to affect their operation and decision-making. These organisations typically operate through a regular schedule of scientific and compliance committee meetings, inter-sessional and ad-hoc meetings, culminating in annual Commission meetings at which decisions are formally negotiated and adopted. Prior to COVID-19, these meetings largely took place in-person, hosted by a member State. COVID-19 related travel disruptions and restrictions on public gatherings have forced all of these meetings to be either cancelled, postponed, or rescheduled in a modified and virtual format, supported by audio and videoconferencing technologies. Meeting modifications included, among other things, shorter agendas and the referral of important decisions to 2021.

As COVID-19 disruptions continue to carry over into 2021, RFMOs and marine regional organisations are now struggling to schedule delayed matters, on top of their already busy normal schedule. This is further complicated by the limitations of virtual meetings that tend to be less effective than physical meetings at achieving progressive outcomes, and often carry limited agendas. This is creating a scheduling crunch as international organisations try to schedule important meetings within an already crowded calendar, that now operates 24 h per day, and often includes member States who are party to multiple organisations.

This paper provides a brief overview of the virtual meeting processes that have been implemented by twelve RFMOs and regional marine

organisations (Fig. 1) in response to COVID-19 and provides a calendar of their plans for 2021. The aim of this summary is to assist these organisations, and their members and stakeholders, by providing an overview of current practices and meeting arrangements.

Most of the information presented in this paper was gathered from organisational websites and meeting reports, guided by generous advice from secretariats. The authors have done their best to accurately report current processes and plans in a constantly changing context. We take responsibility for any errors and welcome any feedback to correct or update the information provided in this Short Commentary. Depending on further developments, we may provide a further update as meeting processes and schedules continue to evolve in the context of vaccine roll-outs.

### 2. Background

All of the RFMOs surveyed by Haas et al. [1] held virtual meetings in substitution for face-to-face meetings. This trend is continuing into 2021 in response to ongoing public health measures around the world. While there is some evidence to suggest that virtual meetings have been positive in terms of cost efficiency and accessibility for observers and smaller and/or less well-resourced delegations [3], in most circumstances the net impact on decision-making appears detrimental. For example, virtual meetings appear to exacerbate existing consensus-based decision-making challenges due to the lack of time to thoroughly discuss and negotiate items in a shortened agenda [3]. Compared to face-to-face meetings, virtual meetings were much shorter,

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [Bianca.Haas@utas.edu.au](mailto:Bianca.Haas@utas.edu.au) (B. Haas).

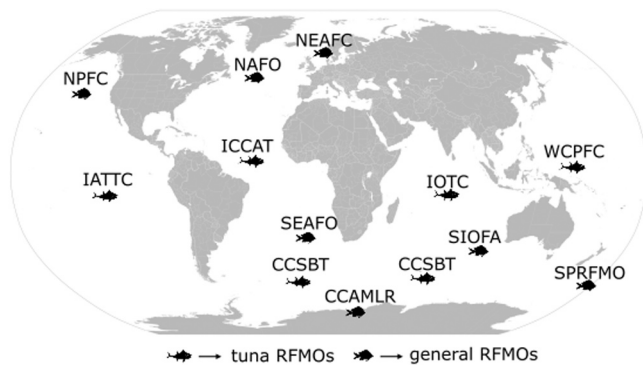


Fig. 1. Map of RFMOs and marine regional organisations [1].

mostly half the time of usual physical meetings (i.e. 2–4 h per day, compared to 8 h in a face-to-face meeting). Thus, most virtual meetings have run on compressed agendas with shorter discussions and have postponed decision-making on matters deemed important but less urgent. Holding such meetings virtually also raises significant questions of transparency and equity in decision-making. For example, concerns have been raised about how decisions regarding shortened agendas are made [3], and how observer organisations are included in virtual decision-making [4]. Effective participation in virtual meeting decision-making processes also depends in part on the availability and accessibility of necessary information and communication technologies and supporting telecommunication infrastructures like videoconferencing systems and a reliable internet connection. The impact of the loss of face-to-face meetings on the success of marine resource negotiations, including on levels of interpersonal trust and cooperation that are necessary to reach an agreement on difficult issues has yet to be quantified, but research is emerging in this new topical space (e.g., [5]). Existing research in broader online negotiation environments finds that effects on interpersonal trust can be negative [6]. While many RFMOs succeeded in negotiating important conservation and management measures (CMMs) and amendments in 2020, some RFMOs were only able to negotiate a roll-over of existing CMMs (e.g. CMM 2018–01 “Conservation and Management Measure for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Tuna” in the WCPFC). In the most extreme case, an important CMM was at risk for a brief period, with potentially significant stock sustainability implications (see IATTC below).

Following a year of COVID-19, a number of short to long-term recommendations have emerged on how to improve RFMO decision-making processes in virtual fora for going forward. For example, OECD [3] notes that increased utilisation of intersessional decision-making processes and the development of voting and objection procedures as an alternative to consensus-based decisions could facilitate more effective decision-making. PEW [4] made a number of recommendations designed to assist RFMOs to reach consensus regardless of meeting format. These recommendations related to clarifying meeting expectations prior to beginning the meeting, progressing as much work as possible inter-sessionally, creating meeting formats that are more conducive to reaching consensus and empowering Chairs to facilitate negotiations more efficiently.

### 2.1. Living marine resource management decision making during COVID-19 pandemic in 2020

While COVID-19 impacted all the organizations, each of them had to deal with specific circumstances related to their organizational settings. This section provides a brief overview of some of the issues each of these organizations faced, and which arrangements have been put in place for their meetings in 2020.

### 2.2. CCAMLR

The four target species in the CCAMLR convention area are Patagonian toothfish, Antarctic toothfish, mackerel icefish and Antarctic krill. CCAMLR has a comprehensive suite of Conservation Measures for managing these fisheries and associated activities in the Antarctic, such as catch limits for target and by catch species, environmental measures, and requirements on licensing and fisheries management.

The Commission held its formal meeting by videoconference in 2020. Due to the specific circumstances, the Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance and the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance had informal videoconference meetings and did not adopt a report. The Chairs of these committees instead presented a summary of the e-group discussions to the Commission for consideration [7]. The Scientific Committee working groups held informal virtual meetings during the course of the year and did not adopt formal reports. The Scientific Committee met informally and then formally, but for a shorter time than usual. Scientific Committee working groups held informal videoconference meetings and did not adopt a report. The Commission was able to adopt revisions of existing measures for the management of toothfish and icefish and had discussions of other issues, such as Marine Protected Areas and climate change [7].

### 2.3. CCSBT

Unlike most RFMOs, the CCSBT is not restricted to a Convention Area and only manages Southern bluefin tuna. In the year 2020, all meetings were conducted online with full agendas. During the Extended Commission meeting, the respective Committees presented their reports and the Extended Commission then provided recommendations.

### 2.4. IATTC

The main target species of the IATTC are tropical tunas (i.e. yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye tuna), which are managed by Resolution C-17–02 Resolution on Conservation and Management Measures for Tropical Tunas. The IATTC convened all meetings by videoconference, following the procedures laid down in Resolution C-20–01 to establish ad hoc procedures for the 95th annual meeting of the Commission by videoconference [8]. This resolution, inter alia, stated that the agenda for the Commission meeting shall only contain priority issues that require immediate decision [8]. During the 95th Commission meeting, members were not able to agree on a roll-over of Res C-17–02 on tropical tuna measures. Due to the importance of this measure to the sustainable management of these stocks, members agreed to urgently meet again in December 2020, where they subsequently reached an agreement and adopted Resolution C-20–05 on the Conservation and Management Measures for Tropical Tunas in 2021 [9] and Resolution C-20–06 on the Conservation Measures for Tropical Tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean during 2021 pursuant to resolution C-20–05 [10].

### 2.5. ICCAT

While ICCAT manages all tuna and tuna-like species, bluefin tuna is one of the key species in this organization. In 2020 the scientific working groups met by videoconference, while the standing committee on research and statistics (SCRS) and the annual commission were cancelled, with essential business instead discussed via email correspondence. It is important to note, however, that the ICCAT convention allows for the cancellation of an annual meeting, as it states that the members only have to meet every second year [11]. Stated reasons for this decision included difficulties with stable access to the internet, security, and time schedule of meetings [12]. ICCAT decided instead to roll-over existing CMMs unless advice from the scientific committee recommended action. The scientific committee only provided advice on species that have undergone a stock assessment in 2020 (i.e. Atlantic

albacore, porbeagle, Mediterranean swordfish and bluefin tuna) [13]. The decisions in the panels, which worked on new proposals, were made by consensus according to the following guidelines: “if, after three iterations of this process, the relevant Chair determines that consensus will not be possible on a proposal, the Panel Chair will close debate on the specific proposal and, where the proposal relates to a management measure that is expiring, initiate a discussion on possible next steps” ([12], pp. 2).

## 2.6. IOTC

The main target species in the IOTC are skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin tuna, albacore and swordfish. Due to the status of the stock, the management of yellowfin tuna is currently of most concern. Yellowfin tuna is managed under Resolution 19/01 - an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence. Another key concern in the IOTC is the management of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) (Resolution 19/02 – Procedures on a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Management Plan). During COVID, in 2020, IOTC conducted all meetings by videoconference. In a Heads of Delegation meeting, members decided to ‘avoid matters which are typically complex and time-consuming’ and thus did not discuss new CMMs. Any CMMs with provisions that ended in 2020 were extended [14]. During the Commission meeting, which was held via videoconference, one member disagreed with extending some of the dates in Resolution 19/01 (i.e. measure on yellowfin tuna) and it was decided to host a Special Session in March 2021 to discuss this issue [15]. During the Commission meeting, the chairs of the respective committees presented their reports and recommendations to the Commission, which then discussed these [15].

## 2.7. NAFO

NAFO mainly manages groundfish, but also shrimp and pelagic redfish. All the existing CMMs are in place to sustainably manage these fisheries. Currently, there is a moratorium in place on some groundfish and shrimp stocks and on the pelagic redfish fishery [16]. The annual meeting was held by videoconference and no extraordinary measures concerning the format of the meeting had been noted [17,18].

## 2.8. NEAFC

NEAFC manages very diverse fishing areas and has management measures in place for most of these species, such as redfish, herring, blue ling, or basking sharks. Due to COVID-19, all the meetings were held by videoconference.

## 2.9. NPFC

The NPFC manages deep-sea fisheries on the north Pacific, with key species such as Chub Mackerel, Pacific Saury, Sablefish, Japanese Sardine and Japanese Flying Squid. For each of these mentioned species, a CMM is in place. Except for the Scientific Committee Meetings and its respective working groups, no meetings took place in 2020 but were postponed to January and February 2021. These meetings were held by videoconference. During the Commission meeting members were able to adopt three new CMMs (i.e. CMM 2021–01 On Information Requirements for Vessel Registration; CMM 2021–09 For High seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures for the NPFC; and CMM 2021–12 On the Vessel Monitoring System). Due to time constraints, topics, such as the selection of the Finance and Administration Committee Chair and the Vice Chair, were not discussed during the Commission meeting, but will be discussed intersessionally.

## 2.10. SEAFO

The main species targeted by members of this organization are deep-sea red crab, alfonsino, Patagonian toothfish and pelagic amour head/southern boarfish. The annual commission meeting took place through videoconference. The scientific committee advised to extend all TACs and management measures for 2021 and this recommendation was approved at the Commission meeting [19].

## 2.11. SIOFA

SIOFA manages a variety of demersal stocks, with Patagonian Toothfish as one of the key target species. This species is managed under CMM 2019/15 for the Management of Demersal Stocks in the Agreement Area. The annual meeting was held via a mix of correspondence and videoconference, however, decisions such as the one relating to observer coverage (which had been suspended until 31 January 2021) were made intersessionally [20]. One member of SIOFA remarked that taking intersessional decisions is less transparent and requested that the secretariat publishes all the related documents on a secure website [20].

## 2.12. SPRFMO

The three key fisheries currently managed under the SPRFMO Convention are jack mackerel, jumbo flying squid and bottom fishing for various deepwater species. SPRFMO conducted its Commission meeting by videoconference in January/February 2021. Pre-meeting discussions resulted in the meeting period being extended, sessions were held at different times to ‘share the burden’ and the meeting avoided working on weekends. The meetings were originally planned for 3 h per day (although some of the later meetings extended to 6 h). The agenda was similar to a normal meeting, however, the videoconference format did limit the opportunity for consensus-building discussions to occur out of session. The move to a videoconference meeting significantly increased attendance, but also impacted the ability of certain members to participate equally in discussions. Nevertheless, the meeting managed to amend nine CMMs and adopt two new CMMs as well as conducting all of its standing business. A new process for adopting this year’s meeting report was developed and agreed to which meant that prior to the close of the meeting a Record of Decisions taken was adopted and an agreed process will be used to adopt the final report intersessionally.

## 2.13. WCPFC

The key target species in the WCPFC are tropical tunas (i.e. yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, skipjack), albacore and pacific bluefin tuna. The respective measures are CMM 2018–01 Conservation and Management Measure for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Tuna; CMM 2015 – 02 for South Pacific Albacore and CMM 2019 – 03 for North Pacific Albacore; and CMM 2019 – 02 for Pacific Bluefin.

The annual commission meeting was conducted by videoconference, where the commission decided to roll over the CMMs for tropical tunas, and for Pacific bluefin [21]. The Commission meeting followed the same procedures as a physical meeting, although with a shorter agenda. Committees and Working Groups presented their work, and the Commission had the opportunity to discuss important issues and adopt decisions. Three decisions were made intersessionally in response to COVID impacts on fisheries operations and travel restrictions. These included the suspension of the 100% observer requirements on purse seine vessels, and changes to the transshipment measures for purse seiners due to difficulties to tranship in port, and the suspension for observer requirements for transshipping [21]. Similar decisions have also been made by other RFMOs, such as the IOTC for example.

### 3. Conclusion

Most of the meetings in 2020 were held by videoconference and the secretariats of these management organizations faced numerous challenges, such as the choice of a mutually acceptable meeting platform and maintaining connectivity for all participants. One positive aspect was the increased attendance of normally small national delegations and observer organizations. However, due to time constraints, most of the agendas focused on time-critical and administrative issues and some important decisions were postponed until 2021. This not only increases the pressure on national delegations to reach consensus on future management and conservation measures but also increases the number of meetings. See [Appendix](#) for a summary of confirmed meeting arrangements in 2021 (as known on the 26th of February 2021). However, it is important to note that due to the nature of the pandemic, meeting arrangements could be subject to change. 2021 is going to be a stressful

year for the secretariats and the members of the regional fisheries organizations, highlighting once more the importance of equitable and effective decision-making in resource management.

### Declaration of interest

None.

### Acknowledgements

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### Appendix

MARCH		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
ICCAT	<p><b>11<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Extraordinary) of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission</b>            29 Mar – 30 Mar; Zoom webinar            Chair: David Hogan (USA)            No intersessional decision-making process            Observer participation allowed            Status of advice: formal</p>	<p><b>Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2</b>            2 Mar – 5 Mar; Zoom            2 Mar – 3 Mar: 09:00 – 13:30 (Madrid time)            4 Mar – 5 Mar: 13:00 – 15:00 (Madrid time)  <b>Intersessional Meeting of the Billfish Species Group</b>            8 Mar – 12 Mar; videoconference  <b>ICCAT Swordfish Biology Workshop</b>            22 Mar – 26 Mar; videoconference</p>
IOTC	<p><b>Special Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (SS4)</b>            8 Mar- 12 Mar; Zoom            11:00 – 15:00 (Seychelles time)            Chair: Ms Susan Imende            Observer participation allowed            Status of advice: formal  <b>Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC07)</b>            22 Mar – 25 Mar; videoconference            Start time: 14:00 pm (Seychelles time)            Chair: Nadia Bouffard            Observer participation allowed            Status of advice: formal</p>	<p><b>Management Strategy Evaluation Task Force of the Working Party on Methods Meeting</b>            1 Mar – 5 Mar; Microsoft Teams            12:00 – 16:00 (Seychelle times)            Chair: Dr. Hilario Murua            Observer participation allowed            Status of advice: formal</p>
NAFO		<p><b>Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment</b>            10 Mar – 11 Mar; WebEx            Co-Chairs: Andrew Kenny and Pierre Pepin            Observer participation allowed            Status of advice: formal; Recommendations presented at Annual Meeting</p>
NEAFC		<p><b>JAGDM (02): Joint Advisory Group for Data Management 2021</b>            17 Mar – 18 Mar; videoconference            Observer participation not allowed</p>
SIOFA	<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee</b>            22 Mar – 26 Mar; videoconference            06:00 – 09:00 (UTC)            Chair: Mr Alistair Dunn            Observer participation allowed</p>	<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group</b>            1 Mar – 5Mar; videoconference            06:00 – 09:00 (UTC)            Chair: Dr Patrice Pruvost            Virtual platform: TBC            Observer participation allowed  <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group</b>            8 Mar – 12 Mar; videoconference            06:00 – 09:00 (UTC)            Co-Chairs:            Dr Tom Nishida            Mr Lee Georgeson            Virtual platform: TBC            Observer participation allowed</p>
APRIL		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
IATTC		<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Workshop on Implementation of an Electronic Monitoring System</b>            29 Apr – 30 Apr; Zoom webinar</p>

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APRIL		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
		Coordinator: TBD No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: Informal
ICCAT		<b>Intersessional Meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group</b> 5 Apr – 13 Apr; videoconference <b>Bigeye Tuna Data Preparatory Meeting</b> 22 Apr – 30 Apr; videoconference
IOTC		<b>Working Party on Ecosystem &amp; Bycatch – data preparation</b> 12 Apr – 14 Apr; Microsoft Teams Chair: Dr Sylvain Bonhommeau Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal
NAFO		<b>Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group Meeting</b> April, WebEx Co-Chairs: Katherine Sosebee and Temur Tairov Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal; Recommendations presented at Annual Meeting for consideration/ adoption
NEAFC	<b>PECMAC: Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance</b> 20 Apr – 21 Apr; videoconference Chair: Thord Monson (NO) Observer participation allowed	<b>TBC-AHWG ERS Implementation (02)</b> 13 April; videoconference Chair: Thord Monson (NO) Observer participation not allowed <b>Working Group on the Future of NEAFC</b> 27 Apr – 28 Apr; videoconference Chair: Colin Faulkner (UK) Observer participation not allowed
SPRFMO		<b>Scientific Committee MSE workshop</b> TBC; videoconference Chair: TBC No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: informal
SEAFO		<b>Scientific Committee Otolith exchange</b> TBC; videoconference No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: informal
WCPFC		<b>1<sup>st</sup> Workshop for the Development of a New WCPFC Tropical Tuna Measure</b> 26 Apr – 30 Apr; Zoom 10 AM – 2:00 PM (Pohnpei time) Except day 3 and 5: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Pohnpei time) Chair: Ms Jung-Re Riley Kim Observer participation allowed
MAY		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
CCAMLR		<b>Working Group on Acoustics, Survey and Analysis Methods</b> Conveners: Sophie Fielding (UK) and Xinlang Wang (China) Intersessional decision-making process in place Observer participation not allowed Status of advice: formal
IATTC	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee</b> 10 May – 14 May; Zoom webinar Chair: Jean-François Pulvenis (IATTC Director ad interim) No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for topical tunas</b> 3 May – 4 May; Zoom webinar Chair: TBD No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: informal <b>10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Bycatch</b> 5 May; Zoom webinar Co-Chairs: Yonat Swimmer (USA); Manuel Correia (Venezuela) No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs</b> 6 May – 7 May; Zoom webinar Chair: Josu Santiago (EU-Spain) No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal
ICCAT	<b>Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems</b> 5 May – 10 May; videoconference	<b>Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods</b> 5 May – 10 May; videoconference

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MAY		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
IOTC	<b>Compliance Committee</b> 30 May – 1 June; online Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	<b>Intersessional Meeting of the Small Tuna Species Group</b> 17 May – 21 May; videoconference <b>Intersessional Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group</b> 31 May – 7 June; videoconference <b>Working Party on Tropical Tunas – data preparation</b> 10 May – 14 May; videoconference Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal
NAFO	<b>Scientific Council Meeting</b> 28 May – 10 June, To be held in Halifax, if face-to-face meeting is decided. Chair: Carmen Fernandez Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Intersessional Meeting</b> 11 May – 13 May, To be held in Halifax, if face-to-face meeting is decided. Chair: Kaire Märtin Observer participation not allowed Status of advice: Recommendations presented at Annual Meeting for consideration/adoption	<b>Ad hoc Working Group on STACTIC Participation</b> 10 May; To be held in Halifax, if face-to-face meeting is decided. Chair: TBD Observer participation not allowed Status of advice: Recommendations presented at Annual Meeting for consideration/adoption
NPFC		<b>Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment</b> May – June; TBC

JUNE		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
CCAMLR		<b>Working Group on Statistics, Assessments, and Modelling</b> 28 Jun - 2 Jul (TBC) Conveners: Clara Peron (France) and Takehiro Okuda (Japan) Intersessional decision-making process in place Observer participation not allowed Status of advice: formal
IATTC	<b>97<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Extraordinary) of the IATTC</b> 7 Jun – 10 Jun; Zoom webinar Chair: Alfonso Miranda (Peru) Intersessional decision-making process in place Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	
ICCAT		<b>15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IMM working group</b> 14 Jun – 17 Jun; TBC <b>Intersessional Meeting of the Albacore Species Group</b> 21 Jun – 30 Jun; videoconference
IOTC	<b>Standing Committee on Administration and Finance</b> 2 June; videoconference Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>Technical Committee on Management Procedures</b> 4 Jun – 5 Jun; videoconference Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>25<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting</b> 7 Jun – 11 Jun; videoconference Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting</b> 21 Jun – 24 Jun; videoconference Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	
SPRFMO		<b>Scientific Committee Jack mackerel benchmark</b> TBC; videoconference Chair: Martin Pastoors (EU) No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: informal <b>Scientific Committee planning for SC9</b> TBC; videoconference Chair: James Ianelli (USA) No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: informal

JULY		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
CCAMLR		<b>Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management</b>

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JULY		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
ICCAT		5 Jul - 16 Jul (TBC) Conveners: Dr César Cárdenas (Chile) Intersessional decision-making process in place Observer participation not allowed Status of advice: formal <b>Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1</b> 1 Jul – 2 Jul; videoconference <b>Intersessional Meeting of Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group</b> 5 Jul – 10 Jul; videoconference <b>Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4</b> 6 Jul – 8 Jul; TBC <b>Bigeye Tuna Stock Assessment Meeting</b> 19 Jul – 29 Jul; videoconference
NAFO		<b>Joint Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management Meeting</b> 12 Jul – 23 Jul, TBC Co-Chairs: Andrew Kenny and Elizabethann Mencher Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal; Recommendations presented at Annual Meeting for consideration/adoption <b>Joint Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies Meeting</b> 12 Jul – 23 Jul, TBC Co-Chairs: Fernando González -Costas and Ray Walsh Observer participation allowed Status of advice formal; Recommendations to be presented at the Annual Meeting for consideration and adoption
SIOFA	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Compliance Committee</b> 1 Jul – 3 Jul; TBC <b>8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties</b> 5 Jul – 9 Jul; TBC	

AUGUST		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
CCSBT	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Extended Scientific Committee</b> 30 Aug – 4 Sep; Brisbane, Australia Chair: Dr Kevin Stokes Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	
IATTC	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission</b> 19 Aug; Managua, Nicaragua Chair: David Hogan (USA) No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance</b>  20 Aug; Managua, Nicaragua Chair: TBD No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>98<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IATTC</b> 23 Aug – 27 Aug; Managua, Nicaragua Chair: Alfonso Miranda (Peru) No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity</b> 18 Aug; Managua, Nicaragua Chair: Luis Molledo (EU-Spain) No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs [continued]</b> 18 Aug; Managua, Nicaragua Chair: Josu Santiago (EU-Spain) No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal
ICCAT		<b>West Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Meeting</b> 30 Aug – 1 Sep; videoconference <b>Intersessional meeting of the Panel 1</b> 1 Sep – 3 Sep; TBC
WCPFC	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Scientific Committee</b> 11 Aug-19 Aug; Palau Observer participation allowed	

SEPTEMBER		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
ICCAT	<b>Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics</b> 27 Sep – 2 Oct; videoconference	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Intersessional Meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species group</b> 2 Sep – 9 Sep; videoconference <b>SCRS Species Group Meeting</b> 20 Sep – 25 Sep; online
IOTC		<b>Working Party on Ecosystem and Bycatch</b> 6 Sep – 10 Sep; videoconference Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal

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SEPTEMBER		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
		<b>Working Party on Billfish</b> 13 Sep – 16 Sep, online Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal
NAFO	<b>43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting</b> 20 Sep – 24 Sep; To be held in Halifax, if face-to-face meeting is decided. Chair: Stéphane Artano Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	<b>NAFO/ICSE Pandalus Assessment Meeting</b> 8 Sep – 14 Sep, To be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, if face-to-face meeting is decided.  Status of advice: Recommendations presented at Annual Meeting for consideration/ adoption
NEAFC	<b>Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance (02)</b> 14 Sep – 7 Oct; TBC Chair: Thord Monson (NO) Observer participation not allowed	<b>Working Group on Fisheries Statistics</b> 17 Sep; videoconference Chair: Thorsteinn Hilmarrson (IS)
NPFC		<b>Working Group on Pacific Saury</b> Sep; TBC
SPRFMO	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee meeting</b> 27 Sept to 2 Oct; Panama Chair: James Ianelli (USA) Intersessional decision-making process in place Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	<b>Scientific Committee Squid workshop</b> 22 to 24 Sept, Panama Chair: Gang Li (CHN) No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: informal
WCPCF	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee</b> 22 Sep-28 Sep, Pohnpei, FSM Chair: Mr Mat Kertesz Observer participation allowed	
OCTOBER		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
CCAMLR	<b>Annual meeting</b> 18 Oct -29 Oct, Hobart (to be confirmed) Chair: Jakob Granit (Sweden) Intersessional decision-making process in place Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>Annual meeting of the Scientific Committee</b> 18 Oct – 22 Oct, Hobart (to be confirmed) Chair: Dirk Welsford (Australia) Intersessional decision-making process in place Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	<b>Working Group on Fish Stock Assessments</b> 4 Oct – 15 Oct (TBC) Conveners: Sobahle Somhlaba (South Africa) Intersessional decision-making process in place Observer participation not allowed Status of advice: formal
CCSBT	<b>16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Compliance Committee</b> 7 Oct – 9 Oct; Fremantle, Australia Chair: Mr Frank Meere Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the CCSBT</b> 11 Oct – 14 Oct; Fremantle, Australia Chair: To be advised Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal (but takes decisions, rather than provides advice)	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Compliance Working Group Meeting</b> 6 Oct; Fremantle, Australia Chair: Mr Frank Meere Observer participation allowed Status of advice: informal
IOTC		<b>Ad hoc Working Group on FADs</b> 4 Oct – 6 Oct; videoconference Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>Working Party on Methods</b> 18 Oct – 20 Oct; videoconference Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>Working Party on Tropical Tunas</b> 21 Oct – 26 Oct; videoconference Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal
NEAFC	<b>Permanent Committee on Management &amp; Science</b> 6 Oct – 7 Oct; videoconference Chair: Karin Linderholm Observer participation allowed	
NOVEMBER		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
ICCAT	<b>Meeting of the Compliance Committee</b> 13 Nov – 14 Nov; TBC <b>27<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting of the Commission</b>	<b>BFT MSE</b> 12 Nov; TBC

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NOVEMBER		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
IOTC	15 Nov – 22 Nov; TBC Observer participation allowed <b>Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting</b> 1 Nov – 5 Nov; TBC Chair: Nadia Bouffard Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	<b>Working Party on Temperate Tunas – data preparation</b> 8 Nov – 10 Nov; videoconference Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal
NAFO		<b>Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment Meeting</b> 16 Nov – 25 Nov; TBC Co-Chairs: Andrew Kenny and Pierre Pepin Observer participation: allowed Status of advice: Recommendations presented to Scientific Council for consideration/adoption
NEAFC	<b>40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NEAFC</b> 9 Nov – 12 Nov; TBC Chair: Janet Norregard (DFG) Observer participation allowed	
SEAFO	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Committee Meeting</b> 15 Nov – 19 Nov, TBC Chair: Mr. Á Hoeines Intersessional decision-making process is the usual procedure, as for any other year, if any intersessional decisions required. Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>13<sup>th</sup> Annual Standing Committee on Admin and Finance</b> 22 Nov; videoconference Chair: Ms. G D'almeida Intersessional decision-making process is the usual procedure, as for any other year, if any intersessional decisions required. Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>18<sup>th</sup> Annual Commission Meeting</b> 22 Nov – 25 Nov, TBC Chair: Mr S Depypere Intersessional decision-making process is the usual procedure, as for any other year, if any intersessional decisions required. Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>14<sup>th</sup> Annual Compliance Committee Meeting</b> 23 Nov; videoconference Chair: Mr H Moronuki Intersessional decision-making process is the usual procedure, as for any other year, if any intersessional decisions required. Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	
SPRFMO		<b>Scientific Committee MSE Workshop</b> TBC; TBC Chair: TBC No Intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed Status of advice: informal
DECEMBER		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
IOTC	<b>Scientific Committee</b> 6 Dec – 10 Dec; videoconference Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	<b>Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics</b> 1 Dec – 3 Dec; videoconference Observer participation allowed
NPFC		<b>Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment/ SCI/ SSC</b> Dec; TBC
WCPFC	<b>18<sup>th</sup> annual Commission meeting</b> Vancouver Chair: Ms Jung-Re Riley Kim Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	
JANUARY 2022		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
SPRFMO	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Compliance and Technical Committee meeting</b> 18 Jan - 20 Jan; St Petersburg, Russia Chair: Andrew Wright (NZ) Intersessional decision-making process is in place Observer participation allowed	<b>Symposium on the State of Art Habitat Monitoring</b> TBC; TBC Chair: Mariano Gutierrez/Aquiles Sepulveda No intersessional decision-making process Observer participation allowed

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JANUARY 2022		
Organization	Commission and Committee meetings	Working Groups
	Status of advice: formal <b>9<sup>th</sup> Finance and Administration Committee</b> 22 Jan - 27 January; St Petersburg, Russia Chair: Jimmy Villavicencio (ECU) Intersessional decision-making process is in place Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal <b>10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SPRFMO Commission</b> 22 Jan - 27 Jan; St Petersburg, Russia Chair: Luis Molledo (EU) Intersessional decision-making process is in place Observer participation allowed Status of advice: formal	Status of advice: informal

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