

MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MED-RAC 38/09

8 October 2009

For the attention of Mediterranean RAC members

Subject : Working meeting on the issue of bluefin tuna in advance of the ICCAT 2009 plenary

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to invite you to the preparatory meeting on bluefin tuna in advance of the ICCAT 2009 plenary. **Interpretation** will be provided in English, French, Italian and Spanish. **The meeting will take place on 13/10/2009 from 14.00 to 18.30** at:

**Rue Montoyer 24
1000 Brussels**

For your hotel reservations, do not hesitate to contact RESOTEL. The service is free.

Please find annexed to this letter the provisional working programme for the meeting. We are pleased to be able to confirm that the **transportation and subsistence costs of no more than 20 RAC members** can be reimbursed out of the RAC budget. Observers' expenses are not reimbursed. Otherwise, the Commission's **usual reimbursement rules** apply to this event. We would also ask you to **keep your ORIGINAL boarding cards (both ways)**, together with a photocopy of the complete **economy class** ticket prior to use, and a copy of the invoice (if the price is not shown on the ticket).

Please **send all these items** for reimbursement after the event, **before 10 November 2009**, to the following provisional address: Francisca Martinez – Tramlaan 114 – 1933 Sterrebeek.

The meeting room has limited seating capacity. Please note that as of today there are just six more places available. We would therefore strongly recommend that you ask for confirmation of your registration before reserving tickets.

Looking forward to meeting you in Brussels, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Francisca Martinez
Coordinator

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the President, Mr Mourad Kahoul
2. Participants introduce themselves
3. Adopting of the agenda
4. **Introduction by a representative of the European Commission on the situation of the bluefin tuna issue** and in particular:
 - Debriefing on the meeting of the Committee of national experts on CITES questions which was held in Brussels on 21 September;
 - Presentation of the position that the Commission will be defending at the ICCAT plenary;
 - Capacity management plans (fleet and farms);
 - Opinion of the Scientific Committee;Questions to the speaker; Exchange of views
5. **Position of professionals** on the inclusion of bluefin tuna in CITES annexe I or II. Introduction by Ms Caroline Mangalo, representing CNPMEM (FR). Initial reactions from each delegate (subject to confirmation).
6. **What additional provisions are Community professionals ready to accept?** Introduction by G. Basciano (AGCI Agrital). Initial reactions from each delegate. Exchange of views
7. **Status of joint research work between professionals and scientists.** Introduction by M. Gilberto Ferrari (subject to confirmation).
8. **NGOs' position on bluefin tuna.** Presentation by a WWF representative (subject to confirmation).
9. **Sports and recreational fishing: introduction by M. Jan Kappel (EAA)**
 - Proposals for the ICCAT working group on sports and recreational fishing;
 - ICCAT's definition of sports and recreational fishing;
 - Recreational fishing and bluefin tuna;
 - Quotas in Member States;
 - Rules and derogations in place or to be proposed for sports and recreational fishing in all Member States;
 - System of identical sanctions for all Member States.
10. **Situation of the "swordfish" dossier in the Mediterranean.** Introduction by Ms Caroline Mangalo (CNPMEM, FR) (subject to confirmation).
11. Any other business, in particular **the possibility of adopting an RAC opinion on the bluefin tuna issue.**