



Madrid, 29 March 2006

Mr. Vladimir Golitsyn  
Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea  
Office of Legal Affairs  
United Nations  
New York, New York 10017  
USA

**RE: Status of Stocks Assessed by ICCAT**

Dear Mr. Golitsyn:

I have the honor to refer to the discussions held during the Fifth Round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations 1995 Fish Stocks Agreement, 20-24 March 2006, during which several parties expressed their wish to have more information on stock status made available.

As stated in all interventions made by ICCAT, stocks are assessed periodically by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). Detailed reports are produced for each assessment meeting, documenting the information used, the models applied and the results obtained. These are published in the *ICCAT Collective Volume of Scientific Papers* which can be obtained from [http://www.iccat.int/pubs\\_CVSP.htm](http://www.iccat.int/pubs_CVSP.htm).

Every year, the SCRS also produces Executive Summaries, synthesizing the available fishery and stock status information available for each stock. These are published in the ICCAT Biennial Reports which can be obtained from [http://www.iccat.int/pubs\\_biennial.htm](http://www.iccat.int/pubs_biennial.htm).

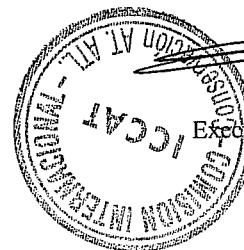
For the purpose of providing more succinct information as background material for the Review Conference to be held on 22-26 May 2006, the ICCAT Secretariat has prepared the attached document, which is attached in two parts:

- **Part 1** contains background information on how the mandate and functioning of ICCAT as an RFMO is consistent with the United Nations 1995 Fish Stocks Agreement, and in particular with Article 10.
- **Part 2** provides extracts, prepared by the Secretariat, of the SCRS' stock status summaries. I should like to note that these extracts will also form part of the *Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS)*, in which ICCAT is a Partner, and which will be presented during the Review Conference.

I should be grateful if the information contained in Parts 1 and 2 could be considered as a conference document for the forthcoming Review Conference.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely



Driss Meski  
Executive Secretary

cc: Jorge Csirke, FAO-FIRM  
William Hogarth, ICCAT Chairman