

**LETTER FROM PA4 CHAIR ON WAY FORWARD  
(SECOND ROUND OF CORRESPONDENCE PERIOD)**

Madrid, 16 November 2020

Dear Members of Panel 4,

I hope this message finds all of you healthy and well in these difficult times.

Following up on my previous correspondence, the only outstanding issue we have in PA4 is related to N-SMA, with three proposals for new recommendations (PA4-804, PA4-805, PA4-806) on the table. As I already noted in my previous circular, from the positions expressed by the CPCs who provided comments during the first round of discussions, it was clear that consensus could not be reached. Unfortunately, I also have to inform at this point that informal consultations among CPCs since then have not succeeded in finding a way to converge the 3 recommendations that were proposed (EU, USA and Canada). Considering this situation, therefore, we have no other choice but to postpone any new decision on this stock until 2021, when, hopefully, we will be able to host a physical meeting. A tentative date for a physical meeting of Panel 4 was already scheduled to take place from July 12 to 15, 2021, provided, of course, that sanitary conditions by then will allow.

Meanwhile, please, be aware that Recommendation 19-06 remains in force and should be duly implemented by all ICCAT CPCs.

A second round of comments, however, will now open. As per Circular #7324/20, CPCs who may have comments can submit those as Statements to Panel 4, as the Commission Chair agreed to allow one statement per CPC and subsidiary body in each round of the correspondence period.

From now to the possible physical meeting, I strongly encourage the CPCs most interested in the issue to work together so that we can have some progress achieved before we meet. As Chair of Panel 4, of course, I am available to help and to facilitate this process.

Yours sincerely,



Fábio Hazin

PA4 Chair