

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
WORKING GROUP ON FINANCE
MINUTES OF THE 7TH MEETING

BUSAN (KOREA)
27 JUNE 2006

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chairman
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Review of the results of previous meetings
5. Recommendations to the Commission
6. Other business
7. Adjournment

1. Opening of the meeting

Dr. Robin Allen, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, opened the meeting.

2. Election of Chairman

Mr. Rodney McInnis of the United States was elected chair of the meeting.

3. Adoption of the agenda

It was agreed to discuss, under item 4 of the agenda of the meeting, the point included as item 12 of the agenda for the 74th Meeting of the IATTC, *Amendment of IATTC fiscal year* (Document [IATTC-74-12](#)). With this agreement, the agenda was adopted.

4. Review of the results of previous meetings

Dr. Allen reviewed the results of the fifth and sixth meetings of the Finance Working Group, as well as Document IATTC-74-12.

Regarding the matter of the amendment of the IATTC fiscal year, the meeting agreed to recommend to the Commission a change the IATTC fiscal year to begin on January 1 of each year, as described in Document IATTC-74-12. The meeting also agreed to pursue option (b), as elaborated in that document, which calls for a three-month contribution for the period 1 October-31 December 2007, followed by a regular annual payment for 2008.

With regard to the timing, the meeting agreed to recommend that the Commission consider the adoption of the new fiscal year to begin on January 1, 2008, if this was practical in terms of the internal budgetary processes of the member governments.

The meeting discussed the formula to be used to determine member country contributions. Several delegations urged approval of the provisional formula that was developed by the fifth meeting of the Working Group in 2001 and forwarded to the Commission but that was not approved by the Commission at that time.

However, Spain disagreed with this formula, particularly with the use of weighting factors based on *per capita* national income which do not correspond to the factor reflecting the economic status of each country. Also, Spain expressed its disagreement with the criterion of “utilization”. The European Union expressed its support for the concerns elaborated by Spain.

As an alternative to the formula developed by the fifth meeting of the Working Group, Spain introduced a proposal to the meeting which elaborated a contribution formula without the category of utilization, as well as a proposal with the category of utilization accounting for 5% of the total budget.

The Spanish proposal was considered by the meeting, but most delegations preferred the formula developed by the fifth meeting of the Working Group, at least for the foreseeable future. Consequently, the Working Group was not able to reach agreement on a formula for member country contributions to recommend to the Commission.

The Working Group did agree that the factor in the formula related to national income should be automatically updated in future calculations, based on the most recent information available on the economic status of each country. There was no agreement, however, that the weighting factors used in the formula should be equivalent to the factor reflecting the economic status of each country.

On a different matter, France expressed concern that the catches by French Polynesia in the area of overlap between the IATTC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) were the basis for payments to both Commissions, and stated its view that this was not fair. France’s view is that one-half of French catches in this overlap area should be the basis for France’s contribution to each Commission. France advised that it wished to see this modification reflected in the calculation of its contribution to the Commission’s budget for FY 2008 and thereafter.

The United States presented a proposal for member country contributions to the FY 2007 budget of the Commission, which, in the absence of an agreed formula, would be presented to the Commission. The merits of that proposal were not discussed.

5. Recommendations to the Commission

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the Commission the amendment of the IATTC fiscal year and the modification in the calculation of France’s contribution to the budget, as elaborated in these minutes.

6. Other business

There was no other business discussed.

7. Adjournment

Following agreement that the next meeting of the Working Group would be determined by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned on 27 June.

Appendix 1.

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