

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
2ND MEETING

Lima, Peru
10 July 2014

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Review of the financial audit report	
4. Review of budgets for 2015 and 2016	CAF-02-04
5. Financial contributions by Members:	
a) Regular budget (Resolution C-13-06)	
b) Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity (Resolution C-11-11)	CAF-02-05b
c) Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution C-12-07)	CAF-02-05c
d) Other	
6. Other business	
7. Recommendations to the Commission	
8. Adjournment	

APPENDIX

1. List of attendees

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Lillo Maniscalchi, of Venezuela, Chairman of the Committee, opened the meeting. Mr. Julio Guevara, of Panama, was elected rapporteur. The list of attendees is attached as Appendix 1.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Review of the financial audit report

It was reported that the financial audit report had been sent to the Commissioners and Heads of weeks ago by e-mail and, at the meeting, a copy of the report was submitted.

There were no comments.

4. Review of budgets for 2015 and 2016

Ms. Nora Wade, of the IATTC staff, reported that the budget for the current fiscal year (AF), 2014, was US\$ 6,554,232. For 2015, a budget of US\$ 6,617,846 was requested, and a budget of US\$ 6,778,556 was planned for 2016. Pending contributions total US\$ 3,479,529, which includes 2014 and prior years.

The United States asked whether it was possible to reflect the amounts of Member contributions in arrears

as accounts receivable. The Secretariat indicated that those amounts would be presented in the footnotes of the financial statements of the following year's audit instead of in the statements of assets, liabilities and account balances.

The European Union noted that the report presented was more complete than the previous year and that the efforts to reduce costs were notable. However, it concentrated on the current year and did not go into the 2015 budget in sufficient depth.

She stated that the evaluation of the efficiency in the administration of costs by the Secretariat, to be carried out by an independent entity, was still pending, bearing in mind besides that the IATTC is the only regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) that has not yet carried out in complete evaluation of its performance. The European Union stated that under these circumstances it would not accept the IATTC and AIDCP budgets unless the above-mentioned administrative evaluation were carried out, considering that it had already been accepted the previous year, although afterwards one of the Members opposed it in writing. She reiterated that the EU would contribute €80,000 (about US\$ 105,000) to cover the costs associated with that evaluation. Ecuador expressed its agreement with the position adopted by the European Union.

Mexico expressed its deep concern that the approval of the budget be held hostage in this way to the position adopted by one delegation. He recalled that carrying out an administrative evaluation was approved, but that its terms of reference had not yet been approved. He stressed that the proposed terms of reference that had been circulated contained aspects that were still to be discussed and approved by the Commission.

Canada noted that the proposed budget increase was reasonable considering increases for inflation and agreed with the United States that a more aggressive strategy should be adopted for dealing with the pension fund.

5. Financial contributions by Members:

a) Regular budget (Resolution C-13-06)

An exercise was presented for calculating the amount of the Members' contributions based on the requested budget of US\$ 6,627,000 for 2015.

Panama stated that it could not commit to paying at the moment because it was in the process of changing government, but it would make efforts to pay the outstanding contributions. Peru explained that the delay in its contribution was due to problems related to exchange rates but that this situation would be resolved soon.

The United States noted that the Panama's arrears in its payments and the accumulation of the amount outstanding were a problem for all the Members, given that the Commission needs funds to operate and the amount outstanding represents a good proportion of the annual budget.

b) Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity (Resolution C-11-11)

It was reported that Japan made a contribution of US\$ 26,451 to the Fund. A portion of this contribution was used to allow scientists from seven countries to attend the fifth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, held in La Jolla in May 2014. No other contributions to this fund, whose balance is currently US\$ 15,628, have been offered by, or received from, any other Member.

Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua supported the [proposal](#) by El Salvador that 2% of the annual budget of the Commission be allocated to the Fund. The European Union opined that the place to discuss this was the meeting of the IATTC. It reiterated its offer to contribute US\$ 100,000 to the Fund, but this contribution needed to be confirmed.

c) Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution C-12-07)

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, of the IATTC staff, described the current situation of the program, indicating that

there was a surplus in 2013 and it was expected to increase by the end of 2014. He also reported that the contract with the MRAG consortium had been renewed, with the approval of the Members participating in the program, to operate the program during, since it had offered to reduce the cost of observer days at sea from US\$ 339 to 333 and to not apply any increase due to inflation during that period.

A budget for 2015 of US\$ 800,000 was presented. The total contribution for 2015 by the participating Members was US\$ 700,000; the balance would be covered by the existing surplus and the expected surplus for 2014.

6. Other business

No other business was submitted.

7. Recommendations to the Commission

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission that it approve a budget of US\$ 6,617,846 for 2015, on the understanding that it would be agreed to carry out evaluation of the management of the administration of resources for the IATTC and AIDCP.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 16:50 on 10 July 2014.