

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

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

During the 82nd Meeting of the IATTC in July 2011, Resolution [C-11-11](#) on the creation of a “*special sustainable development fund for fisheries for highly migratory species to strengthen the institutional capacity of developing countries*” was approved.

The resolution states that “the resources of the Fund shall proceed from contributions obtained from the Members or from national and international bodies or entities interested in strengthening the capacities of developing countries.

Accordingly, a separate account was opened (“*Building Capacity Fund*”), to which contributions to the Fund may be made, and in April 2012 all Members, as well as international organizations that may be interested in contributing resources were informed of this.

During the Commission’s annual meeting in June 2013, the European Union offered a contribution of €100,000 (approximately US\$ 131,000) to the Fund, subject to the condition that other contributions be made to the Fund for at least 20% of the total amount. This condition was met in January 2014, when Japan made a contribution of US\$ 26,451 (approximately €20,000) to this Fund. To date, the European Union’s contribution is still pending.

A portion of the Japanese contribution has been used to enable scientists from seven countries to attend the 5th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, held in La Jolla in May 2014. No further contribution to the Fund from other Members has been received or offered, and the Fund’s balance is currently US\$ 15,628

Resolution C-11-11 states in paragraph 4 that...” *Director shall present to the Commission for its approval every year the strategic investment plan chargeable to the Fund, which shall be constructed on the basis of the requirements of the developing countries and the analyses carried out by the Commission staff*. In April 2012, the Director reminded Members that the proposed plan for that year would incorporate the elements and almost all the activities described in Document IATTC-81-07, presented to the 81st meeting of the Commission in September 2010. The plan would be fully implemented if the necessary funds were available. The plan for 2014 contains the same elements, since no funding was received for its implementation in 2012 and 2013 (Annex 1).

Finally, Resolution C-11-11 states in paragraph 8 that ...”*The Director be asked, within his program of work, to explore and identify other options to strengthen the capacity of Members. This shall include opportunities for partnership with other organizations that work in this field, and providing guidance to these organizations on the needs and priorities of the countries*”.

In this regard, the Secretariat has undertaken the following activities:

Date	Member or organization receiving support	Activity	Support given
Permanent	National observer programs	Training in procedures for the alignment of the dolphin safety panel in purse-seine nets	IATTC technicians assist and train technicians from the national programs
2013-2014	OSPESCA	Collaboration with OSPESCA to develop a database for the artisanal fleets.	Creation of database and development of sampling forms. Still to do is creating tolos for analyzing the data.
2013-2014	Ecuador	Collaboration with Ecuador on analyses of its artisanal fisheries for large pelagic fish.	Assistance with methodologies for characterizing the community structure and spatiotemporal dynamics of the fisheries
Oct- Nov. 2013	Colombia	Strengthening of capacity in the region so that researchers and managers of fisheries resources may apply the skills learned in projects that will provide insights into Risk Assessment for cartilaginous fish.	Participation of an IATTC expert as facilitator of a workshop held as part of the actions for strengthening capacity.

Annex 1.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN CHARGEABLE TO THE FUND ON CAPACITY BUILDING

Areas in which the Commission could support capacity-building include:

1. **Improvements in data collection and quality assurance.** Resolution [C-05-03](#) on sharks states that the Commission “shall consider appropriate assistance to developing members for the collection of data on shark catches”.
2. **Training.** IATTC resolutions include a commitment to carry out training or seminars in some areas of the Commission’s work. Resolution [C-04-07](#) on mitigating bycatches of sea turtles states that members and the IATTC “should continue and expand organization of seminars for fishermen to enable them to treat incidentally-caught sea turtles properly to improve their survivability”. Also, Resolution [C-04-05](#) on bycatch requires governments to “educate fishermen through information dissemination activities, including distributing informational materials and organizing seminars on, *inter alia*, reducing bycatches of sea turtles and safe handling of incidentally caught sea turtles to improve their survivability.”
3. **Research on biological issues and technology to reduce bycatch of small tunas.** IATTC resolutions include the commitment to carry out research in some areas of the Commission’s work. Resolution [C-05-03](#) states that members “shall ... undertake research to make fishing gears more selective.” Resolution [C-04-05](#) calls on governments to support, and seek funds for, studies and research on developing technology for releasing juvenile tunas, particularly sorting grids, apply technology for the identification of species and size composition in schools prior to setting; and develop techniques and/or equipment to facilitate the release of billfish, sharks and rays from the deck or from the net. Resolution [C-04-07](#) states that the Commission should establish a voluntary fund to assist coastal developing members in improving conservation of sea turtles.

Specific activities for supporting capacity-building are described in Document [SAC-01-18](#), *Plan for future activities*, prepared for the first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in August-September 2010:

1. Bycatches

- a. Training courses on bycatch estimation and mitigation;
- b. Design of research strategies to address bycatch issues;
- c. Management and economic incentives to address bycatch issues.

2. Shark fisheries

The Commission staff will provide appropriate assistance to developing CPCs in:

2.1. Sampling

- a. Develop standardized data collection forms (catch, effort, biological data) for shark and rays.
- b. Develop and disseminate sampling designs for landings of sharks and rays, and for observer programs where available, and support the creation and maintenance of databases.
- c. In-port collection of shark catch, size distribution, and effort data, as well as the development of standardized methods to identify shark species. This assistance should be extended to the proper identification of shark species based upon body parts (e.g. fins or trunks), or on incomplete specimens.

2.2. Data reporting

Improving their capabilities to report data on catches and effort by gear type, landings and shark trade, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures, including available historical data. This assistance shall likely include the development of observer programs covering different fisheries. We plan to have one training course per year, dedicated to the development of standardized national observer programs.

2.3. Biological parameters

Conducting research on stock structure and biological parameters such as age, growth, natural mortality, diet, and reproduction. This assistance will likely include training in biological sample collection and analysis methods which will be part of the general training course on data collection.

2.4. Fisheries data studies

Conducting research on the spatial-temporal characteristics of the catch, including identification of shark nursery grounds and of specific areas and seasons that contribute to the majority of catches. This assistance shall likely include a general training course on quantitative methods in fisheries data analysis, which will also cover methods for estimating fisheries quantities, such as fishing mortality, and inputs for stock assessment (*e.g.*, total catch, standardized trends of CPUE).

2.5. Workshops on stock assessment of sharks

Participation in shark stock assessment workshops, which would include among its research topics stock assessment and management of sharks.

2.6. Workshops on stock assessment of dorado

Participation in dorado stock assessment workshops, which would include among its research topics stock assessment and management of dorado.