

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
5TH MEETING
Mexico City, Mexico
19 July 2017

DOCUMENT CAF-05-05b

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1. INTRODUCTION

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

In July 2014, the 87th Meeting of the Commission adopted Resolution [C-14-03](#), which amends and replaces Resolution C-11-11, and therefore now governs the Fund.

Paragraph 2 of Resolution [C-14-03](#) establishes that “*The resources of the Fund shall proceed from the **fixed annual contribution of 2% of the Commission’s budget intended for building and strengthening of the capacity of coastal developing countries and territories**”. At its 89th meeting in June 2015, the Commission defined the specific manner in which this 2% contribution would be distributed among the Members.*

“This 2% is not to be extracted from the operational budget. Rather, once the amount of the operational budget is settled, an additional amount equal to 2% of the operational subtotal shall be added to the regular budget as a separate line item, and the final budget amount will be the sum of these two components, and each Member’s contribution to the 2% shall follow therefore the same distribution key as the regular budget.”

2. CURRENT SITUATION

The contributions payable to the Fund total US\$ 131,085 (2016) and US\$ 132,108 (2017), **Table 1** summarizes the current situation the contributions by Members to the Fund.

TABLE 1. Contributions by Members to the Fund in 2016, and in 2017 to 31 May, in US\$						
	2016		2017		Total	
	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending
Belize	881	-	694	-	1,575	-
Canada	2,364	-	2,294	-	4,658	-
China	2,486	-	-	2,922	2,486	2,922
Colombia	-	5,991	-	5,481	-	11,472
Costa Rica	1,527	-	1,389	-	2,916	-
Ecuador	22,439	-	22,979	-	45,418	-
El Salvador	1,207	-	-	1,225	1,207	1,225
European Union	6,981	-	5,792	-	12,773	-
France	1,963	-	-	1,960	1,963	1,960
Guatemala	849	-	804	-	1,653	-
Japan	6,773	-	6,887	-	13,660	-
Kiribati	-	642	-	655	-	1,297
Korea	3,578	-	3,640	-	7,218	-

Mexico	18,422	-	17,837	-	36,259	-
Nicaragua	1,209	-	-	1,151	1,209	1,151
Panama	-	6,948	-	9,354	-	16,302
Peru	1,018	-	1,215	-	2,233	-
Chinese Taipei	3,300	-	3,286	-	6,586	-
United States of America	33,797	-	34,246	-	68,043	-
Vanuatu	917	-	954	-	1,871	-
Venezuela	7,793	-	-	7,343	7,793	7,343
Total contributions	117,504		102,017		219,521	
Approved budget	131,085		132,108		263,193	
Contributions pending		13,581		30,091		43,672

To date the resources the Fund have been used by Belize, Costa Rica (2014 y 2016), Guatemala, Kiribati (2014), Mexico, Nicaragua (2017), Peru (2014 y 2016), El Salvador, and Venezuela.

	2012-2015	2016	2017	Total
Income	26,451	117,504	102,017	245,972
Expenditures	26,451	33,829	26,365	86,645
Balance	-	83,675	75,652	159,327

Of the US\$ 117,504 received corresponding to 2016, US\$ 83,675 are still available for the objectives set out in Document CAF-04-05b, or the activities that the Commission may approve.

Of the funds received corresponding to 2017, approximately US\$ 26,000 were used to support the participation of Members at the extraordinary meeting of the Commission in February 2017 and the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in May 2017. As the Fund continues to grow, it will become necessary to develop criteria and procedures for providing assistance to eligible Members. It is important to note that, at a minimum, beneficiary Member criteria should be established, as well as deadlines for requests for support, as travel costs rise significantly the closer they are received to the meeting in question. If the Fund is exhausted, any support for activities financed by the Fund would cease.

3. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

In accordance with the activities approved by the Commission for 2017, the balance should be used to support the following:

- 1) Creation of a standardized system for collecting, processing, and analyzing data, with regard to stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish caught by vessels that fish for tunas and tuna-like species in the Antigua Convention Area.
- 2) Capacity-building and training, mainly regarding the implementation and development of databases, analyses of fishing statistics and data, and stock assessment.

In such a case, the specific activities to be carried out are the following:

Activity	Amount
Training of port samplers for a pilot IATTC/OSPESCA sampling program for collecting shark fisheries data in Central America and entering them into the OSPESCA/IATTC base (October 2017-December 2018). The samplers will be hired under the FAO-GEF Common Oceans project; this cost covers two trips to Central America by IATTC staff for the training activities (June-August and November-December 2017).	US\$ 6,500
Continue supporting the processing and archiving of historical data for the shark fishery obtained through the FAO-GEF Common Oceans project. Once included in the	US\$ 5,000

OSPESCA/IATTC databases, they can be used in stock assessments.	
Workshop on methods for evaluating data for shark species (La Jolla, September 2017). This is part of the FAO-GEF Common Oceans project, but requires additional financing for 2017.	US\$ 20,000

The resolution also states (paragraph 6) that “*Members, national and international bodies and entities are encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the Fund*”. Accordingly, since 2012 there has been a separate account (“Capacity Building Fund”), to which contributions may be made, and all Members, as well as international organizations that may be interested in contributing resources, were informed of this. One Member made a contribution to this account in 2014, but no further contributions have been received.

Finally, the resolution 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 carried out a series of activities during 2016, funded by support from countries and other contributions, but not by the Fund (Table 4).

Member or organization receiving support	Activity	Support given
Panama	Observer training course (Panama)	Training AIDCP observers for the Panamanian program
Various IATTC Members	Observer training course (Vanuatu)	Training of WCPFC observers under the cross-endorsement agreement
National observer programs	Operation of a standardized database	Assistance and coordination in managing new database software
Costa Rica	Experimental program for collecting data on unloadings of large pelagic fish.	Support for developing the program
Central America	Reducing the ecosystem impact of tuna fisheries, specifically on sharks, as part of the FAO-GEF <i>Common Oceans</i> project	Direct collaboration in the development of the project

Moreover, Resolution [C-14-03](#) states in paragraph 3 that “*the 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 territories and the analyses carried out by the Commission staff*”. The activities proposed for 2018 with the contributions received in that year from the 2% fixed contribution, plus funds remaining from previous years, are shown in Table 5.

	Activity	Amount
1	Establishment of an annual IATTC scholarship for developing scientific capacity in developing CPCs (see Annex 2 for details)	US\$ 30,000
2	Development of an annual training course for creating capacity for developing CPCs, on matters such as sampling methods, stock assessment, and fisheries policy, among others	US\$ 20,000
3	Development of a workshop in Central America for guidance on the various reports to be sent to the Secretariat under the various existing resolutions	US\$ 40,000
4	Participation of representatives of developing Members in the annual meeting of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies	US\$ 45,000

Annex 1 contains a list of potential activities to be carried out with the 2% contribution, subject to the availability of funds, and in the order of priority that the Commission decides. The list was compiled by the staff, taking into account activities identified in IATTC resolutions, the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee, and others. The activities would be distributed among the four main capacity-building categories defined in Table 5.

Annex 1.

RESEARCH ON BIOLOGICAL ISSUES AND TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE BYCATCH OF SMALL TUNAS

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:

i. 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.

ii. 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. One training course per year is planned, dedicated to the development of standardized national observer programs.

iii. 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.

iv. 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).

3. CONTINUATION OF WORKSHOPS ON SHARKS

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

4. CONTINUATION OF WORKSHOPS ON DORADO

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

Annex 2.

ANNUAL IATTC RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP FOR SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING CPCs

Background and motivation: There is great need for increased fishery science capacity among IATTC developing CPCs. Although there is quite a significant number of good universities and institutes conducting research on marine science in the EPO region, there is a scarcity of researchers with quantitative training in fisheries science (*e.g.* quantitative methods in fisheries biology/ecology, stock assessment, data analysis, sampling design, management strategy evaluation).

As stated in the IATTC performance review, “*The IATTC program provides significant value to fisheries management, yet it could provide even more value*”, and “*member country scientists do not feel adequately connected or involved in IATTC scientific activities.*” Exploring mechanisms to strengthen the synergies between IATTC scientific staff and academic and fishery institutes in the region could improve fisheries science capacity in the EPO. This in turn would also strengthen the IATTC research program, as the staff is currently unable to cover some important research topics due to lack of funds/staff time and/or laboratory equipment. Examples of such research are genetic studies and stable isotope analysis for stock identification, age and growth and reproductive studies for sharks and other bycatch species, and others. In contrast, several universities and fishery institutes in the region have the capacity to conduct these types of research. Increased collaboration with, and guidance from, IATTC staff, as well as access to biological samples collected by IATTC observers (with increased spatio-temporal coverage) could improve the quality of this research in addition to the capacity-building aspect.

Purpose of the Research Scholarship: The IATTC Research Scholarship for Scientific Capacity Development in Developing CPCs will be made available on a yearly basis from the Special Capacity-Building Fund. The Scholarship will be awarded to a student or researcher affiliated with a regional university or fishery institute to work on a research project aligned with the IATTC Strategic Science Program.

Duration: The Scholarship Fund will be made available on a yearly basis immediately after the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The funds will be mainly used to cover the travel and accommodation costs of the student/scientist for a 2-month visiting period to IATTC Headquarters in La Jolla to work with IATTC staff on the research project. Some funds may also be available to support any laboratory work required to conduct the research project at the university/institute that the candidate is affiliated with (*e.g.*, analysis of genetic samples, ageing readings of otoliths/vertebrae, others).

Conditions of eligibility: Applicants to the Scholarship Fund are required to be citizens of a developing CPC of the IATTC. They are also required to be either a student currently enrolled in a university or a researcher affiliated with a university or fisheries institute in the region that will provide them with logistical support to conduct the research project under the Scholarship.

Research topics: The research projects to be developed under the Scholarship will be aligned with the IATTC’s scientific program of the and prioritized each year after consultation by the staff with the SAC.

Expected outcomes: The applicant will have to produce one research paper under the guidance of the IATTC staff and regional collaborators (professors at universities and/or supervisors at fisheries institutes in the region).

Application process: The application process will open after the SAC meeting, which allows research priorities to be defined by the IATTC staff and the SAC members at the meeting. Selection will be based on the ability of the candidate to successfully complete the project, contribution to IATTC research priorities, and potential for capacity building.

Amount: The IATTC Scholarship will cover a maximum amount of US\$ 30,000 per year.