

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**WORKING GROUP ON FINANCE**

**12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**La Jolla, California (USA)**

**22 June 2012**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING (REVISED)**

**AGENDA**

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of the minutes of the 11 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the working group	
4. Review of the formula approved at the 11 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the working group, July 2011	FIN-12-04
5. Consideration of a formula for determining contributions to the IATTC budget for 2013 and subsequent years	
6. Other business	
7. Recommendations to the Commission	
8. Adjournment	

**APPENDIX**

1. List of attendees

**1. Opening of the meeting**

Mr. Bradley Wiley, of the United States, Chair of the Working Group on Finance, opened the meeting at 9:15 AM and 22 June 2012. The list of attendees is attached as Appendix 1.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda was adopted without modifications.

**3. Approval of the minutes of the 11th meeting of the Working Group**

The minutes of the 11th meeting of the Working Group were approved without modifications.

**4. Review of the formula approved at the 11th meeting of the working group, July 2011**

The Chair summarized the elements of the formula and of its percentages with respect to the formula utilized for the contributions for 2012.

He noted that the formula utilized to calculate the contributions for 2012 includes the following: 10% of the total budget, minus any special contribution, divided equally among all the members (base contribution); the remaining 90% is distributed among the members, weighted by their Gross National Income (GNI) category, as follows:

- i. An operational component (10%);

- ii. Catches by its flag vessels (70%);
- iii. Its utilization of tuna from the Convention Area (10%).

GNI category	Range (USD)
0.5	< 1,499
1	1,500 - 3,499
2	3,500 - 6,499
3	6,500 - 10,999
4	11,000 - 15,999
5	16,000 – 20,999
5.5	≥ 21,000

Also, he noted that the main issue to be resolved was whether the component of utilization should be eliminated or reduced and, if so, to which heading it should be allocated (catches or base component).

#### 5. Consideration of a formula for determining contributions to the IATTC budget for 2013 and subsequent years

Various delegations recalled that, in previous exercises, the component of utilization had been reduced, and that many delegations indicated that it should not be reduced any further, much less disappear, so now it was up to the delegations that had asked to keep it to show flexibility.

Some delegations indicated that catches made in the overlap area between the IATTC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) should be considered in the contributions to the IATTC, since payments to the WCPFC for those catches must be taken into account. In this regard the IATTC should be paid for only 50% of the catches in that area.

Numerous delegations agreed that continuing to discuss utilization would be a waste of time, so the formula for the previous year should be used again. It was considered prudent to agree to recommend the use of the current *ad hoc* formula for a period of years, or until such time as any Member felt that they could no longer acquiesce to its continued use as a basis for assigning contributions. A proposal was made that the *ad hoc* formula should be recommended to use for at least the next five years and indefinitely after that, until such time as a Member calls for the formula to be reopened. Some Members felt that it was important to maintain the option of re-opening the formula at any time, with due notice, and that the initial five-year period should be expressed as an objective, but not a requirement. There was consensus on this approach, with the addition that any Member requesting re-opening of the formula should be asked to provide explanation to the Commission of the reasons for their dissatisfaction with the *ad hoc* formula.

#### 6. Other business

- a) **Committee on Administration and Finance.** Mexico indicated that it would be advisable to create a committee of this nature in order that other matters, such as the IATTC budget and the annual financial audit, could be reviewed. Various delegations approved this proposal, and it was agreed to refer it to the meeting of the Commission.
- b) **Proposal for financing national observer programs by the IATTC.** Venezuela reported that it would present a proposal in this regard at the IATTC, and that it wished to inform this working group of this.

#### 7. Recommendations to the Commission

It was decided to recommend to the Commission that the formula used to calculate contributions to the budget for 2012 be used for five years (2013-2017), with the possibility that it be open for discussion by Members are required, justifying the reasons for doing so, and that only 50% of the catches made in the overlap area with the WCPFC be taken into account when calculating contributions.

## 8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. on 22 June 2012.

### Appendix 1.

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