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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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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 Commission at its 87th Meeting modified the Fund radically, until then financed only by voluntary contributions and now by a fixed share of the Commission's regular budget amounting to 2% of the operational budget.

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 the capacity of coastal developing countries and territories.*” At its 89th meeting in June 2015, the Commission defined specifically how 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.”

While the resolution does not omit to state (paragraph 6) that: “*Members, national and international bodies and entities are encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the Fund*”, this source of funding ceased to be important in practice, as evidenced by the fact that there were no more voluntary contributions since 2014 when only one member made a contribution to the Fund.

2. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE FUND'S FINANCIAL RESOURCES

As described above, the Fund is an integral part of the Commission's regular budget and the contributions to the Fund are included in the annual contribution to be paid by each member in the amount established in a resolution, the most recent being Resolution [C-23-12](#) Financing for fiscal year 2024.

Consequently, without taking into account possible voluntary contributions, only two factors can affect the Fund's financial resources situation: the total amount of the operational budget adopted for a given year and the timeliness with which members comply with their obligation to pay their annual contributions.

In this context, **Table 1** in addition to indicating the amount of the Fund in previous years and more specifically in fiscal year 2024 and payments received through 30 June 2025, also highlights, for illustrative purposes only, the situation of each member of the Commission in terms of the respective amount of its annual contribution that is automatically allocated to the Fund in accordance with the provisions of Resolution [C-14-03](#) on capacity building.

TABLE 1. Contributions by Members to the Fund in previous years, 2024 and as of 30 June 2025, in US\$								
	Previous Years		2024		2025		Total	
	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending
Belize	6,833	-	945	-	958	-	8,736	-
Canada	20,864	-	2,734	-	2,769	-	26,367	-
China	33,435	-	5,859	-	5,935	-	45,229	-
Colombia	47,142	-	5,977	-	6,055	-	59,174	-
Costa Rica	18,024	-	3,120	-	3,161	-	24,305	-
Ecuador	242,614	-	35,565	-	-	36,026	278,179	36,026
El Salvador	13,555	-	2,109	-	2,136	-	17,800	-
European Union	63,001	-	7,356	-	7,452	-	77,809	-
France	20,353	-	3,191	-	3,232	-	26,776	-
Guatemala	8,165	-	1,443	-	1,462	-	11,070	-
Japan	52,805	-	5,500	-	5,572	-	63,877	-
Kiribati	6,486	-	-	941	-	953	6,485	1,894
Korea	36,303	-	5,022	-	-	5,087	41,324	5,087
Mexico	161,382	-	23,671	-	23,978	-	209,031	-
Nicaragua	12,059	-	1,794	-	1,817	-	15,670	-
Panama	101,384	-	15,800	-	16,004	-	133,188	-
Peru	18,259	-	3,567	-	3,614	-	25,440	-
Chinese Taipei	34,292	-	4,838	-	4,901	-	44,043	-
United States of America	270,419	-	36,979	-	36,407	-	343,805	-
Vanuatu	8,113	-	1,077	-	1,091	-	10,281	-
Venezuela	7,793	33,760	-	4,031	-	4,083	7,793	41,854
Total contributions	1,183,279		166,547		126,544		1,476,370	
Approved budget¹	1,217,040		171,520		172,692		1,561,252	
Pending contributions		33,760		4,972		46,149		84,881

¹ Amounts approved by budget year: 2016 US\$ 131,086, 2017 US\$ 132,109, 2018 US\$ 156,412, 2019 - 2023 US\$159,487, 2024 US\$ 171,130

Table 2 summarizes the balance of the Fund as of 31 July 2025. To date, the balance is US\$ 607,488.

TABLE 2. Fund activity, in US\$, in 2023, 2024 and through 31 July, 2025			
	2023	2024	2025
1 January carryover from previous year	425,295	411,661	549,460
Income received	169,123	213,041	117,382
Total income	594,418	624,702	666,842
Expenditures			
Santa Marta Workshop	-	15,143	
Participation in annual meeting	101,520	17,046	
Participation in SAC meeting	81,237	23,010	59,354
Participation in training seminar at Achotines	-	20,042	-
Total expenses	182,757	75,242	59,354
Balance of Fund carried forward	411,661	549,460	607,488

To date, the resources of the Fund have been used for Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kiribati, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, El Salvador, and Venezuela. It should be noted that the fund has been applied to benefit developing IATTC Member countries and not Cooperating non-Members since they do not contribute resources to the fund.

As previously noted, it will become necessary to develop criteria and procedures for providing assistance to eligible Members as the Fund continues to grow. It is important to note that, at a minimum, criteria should be established regarding beneficiary Members, as well as deadlines for requests for support, for example, taking into account that travel costs increase significantly the closer they are to the date of the meeting at which the beneficiary Member will participate with support from the Fund. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of Resolution [C-14-03](#), work is currently underway to develop financial regulations for the administration of the Fund: *“The administration of the Fund shall be the responsibility of the Director and shall be subject to the auditing rules of the Commission and the **financial regulations for the administration of the Fund to be developed by the Commission.**”*

In absence of precise instructions from the Commission, it should be noted that if the Fund is exhausted, any support for activities financed by the Fund would cease.

3. ACTIVITIES THAT WERE PROGRAMMED TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 2024 AND 2025

In accordance with the activities approved by the Commission at its last meeting, the activities described in **Table 3** were to be carried out in 2024 and 2025. It is important to mention that, due to the number of meetings and activities carried out by the Commission in the previous year, it was not possible to carry out the activities mentioned in items 2, 3, 4 and 5, but they will be re-taken up in 2025 or 2026. The activities described in items 1 and 6 were carried out.

TABLE 3. Activities programmed to be carried out in 2024 and 2025 with resources from the Fund.	
1	First training workshop: Introduction to methods used in tropical tuna stock assessments *
2	Training seminar on sea turtle mitigation techniques in accordance with Resolution C-19-04 **
3	Training seminars for port inspections pursuant to Resolution C-21-07
4	Training seminar on various IATTC matters
5	Annual IATTC scholarship for scientific capacity in developing CPCs
6	Participation of representatives of developing Members in meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including working groups and workshops
*This first workshop was held from 9 to 14 September 2024, following the annual meeting of the IATTC in Panama, at the Achotines Laboratory.	
** The seminar did not take place because, among other reasons, another workshop was held within the	

framework of the Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group, where issues related to the mitigation of sea turtle bycatch were discussed and recommendations were approved.

4. ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 2025 AND 2026

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.*” As indicated in the previous section, not all activities in Table 3 could be carried out but have already been approved; therefore, for the remainder of 2025 and 2026, some of them will continue or begin to be carried out, as appropriate.

Therefore, and considering the possibilities of holding meetings by videoconference, the intention is to use this method for at least the training activities of point 4 in the table below, with little or no impact on the Fund's resources. Thus, the activities planned for 2025-2026 are as shown in **Table 4**:

TABLE 4. Activities to be carried out in 2025 and 2026 with resources from the Fund.			
		Amount	Date and place
1	Second training workshop: Introduction to methods used in tropical tuna stock assessments for authorities involved in fisheries management *		2026 in Achotines, PAN
2	Training seminars on measures related to Resolution C-21-07 on port State measures for individuals in port who carry out inspection activities	US\$50,000	At a port to be determined
3	Training seminar on various IATTC matters for administrative, legal, and enforcement authorities related to the application of IATTC regulatory measures	Translation cost (if necessary)	Via Zoom
4	Annual IATTC scholarship for scientific capacity in developing CPCs**	US\$30,000	Headquarters
5	Participation of representatives of developing Members in meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including working groups and workshops ***	US\$40,000	At the venue of the meetings
* Given the positive results achieved in the first workshop in 2024, the second workshop is planned to also take place in Achotines in 2026. The second workshop will target management authorities in fisheries administrations. ** As explained in previous reports, the intention is to carry out an activity through which applications will be received in order to select annual scholarship recipients. This scholarship was named the Jimmy Martínez Scholarship to honor and recognize the contributions of this Ecuadorian scientist and biologist to the work of the Commission and the sustainability of the species covered by the Antigua Convention. The stay at IATTC headquarters would be for approximately 3 months. *** As established in Resolution C-14-03 regarding the items on which the resources of the Special Fund should be used, support will continue to be given for the participation of representatives of developing Members at Commission meetings or its subsidiary bodies.			

It is important to recall that the pending activities to be carried out in 2025 and 2026 will be conducted with the contributions received from the 2% fixed contribution, plus funds remaining from previous years. Furthermore, all the activities fall within the framework of the guidelines established in Resolution [C-14-03](#). Therefore, there is no possibility of a surplus as such, since all funds not used during a given year are added to those of the following year.

On the other hand, the extent of the activities that are expected to be developed and carried out in compliance with these provisions shows the importance for the Committee to discuss the allocation of

additional funding to complement the resources from the Fund, as expressly called for by the resolutions themselves.

5. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2024 AND 2025 WITH EXTRABUDGETARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Resolution [C-14-03](#) 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 carried out some activities in 2024 and 2025, some of which were held by videoconference and others at specific venues with logistical support by the Secretariat. (Tables 5 and 6).

a) Training seminars on AIDCP matters

The seminars were mainly given to fishing captains in 2024 and so far in 2025.

TABLE 5. Training seminars on AIDCP matters			
Seminar code	Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Place	Number of participants
2024001	1/12/2024	Manta	50
2024002	1/12/2024	Mazatlán	60
2024003	9/13/2024	Panama	8
2025001	2/20/2025	Manta	4
2025002	3/10/2025	Manta	2
2025003	3/22/2025	Manta	1
2025004	6/23/2025	Manta	4

b) Training seminars on IATTC matters

The seminars, which were held via videoconference, mainly for fishermen and vessel owners, took place in 2024 and in 2025. It is important to note that these seminars have had record attendance.

TABLE 6. Training seminars on IATTC matters		
Year of seminar	Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Participants
2024	1/10/2024	124
2025	1/15/2025	273

6. POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

As on previous occasions, a list of potential activities—which could be carried out if resources in addition to the 2% contribution to the special Fund were available—is presented below. These activities were identified based on the wishes of several CPCs, activities included in IATTC adopted resolutions, the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee, among others.

General data provisions

Following a recommendation by the staff supported by the SAC (recommendation 3.1 from SAC-12), Resolution C-03-05 is to be revised in consultation with CPCs, taking into consideration the elements presented in document SAC-12-09, through a series of workshops planned and facilitated by the staff. These workshops will be organized by main fishery, with the purpose of:

- a. discussing improvements in data collection, any required additional resources and capacity building activities;
- b. developing standard data reporting templates (draft appendixes in document [SAC-12-09](#));
- c. updating Resolution-C-03-05 to align data reporting requirements with the Antigua Convention, the WCPFC Scientific Service Provider (SSP) and harmonize them with FAO and other tuna RFMOs standards.

In addition, training in fisheries biology and stock assessment research would also be carried out, mainly in:

i. Biological parameters

Training for conducting research on fishery biology (e.g., estimation of growth, survivorship, and reproductive parameters), including training in biological sample collection and analysis methods.

ii. Stock assessment

Introductory course on quantitative methods in fisheries data analysis and stock assessment.