

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
10TH MEETING

Victoria, Canada
02 August 2023

DOCUMENT CAF-10-01

**FISCAL YEAR 2022 RESULTS AND BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024
AND 2025**

Requested budget, FY 2024	US\$	8,727,629
Projected budget, FY 2025	US\$	9,295,354

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This document presents the Commission’s financial activity for fiscal year¹ (FY) 2022, an update on the status of the contributions to the operating budget for FY 2023, the requested budget for FY 2024, and a budget projection for FY 2025.

1. INTRODUCTION

The IATTC’s annual budget is funded by contributions from the [21 Members](#) of the Commission. The budget is agreed by consensus of all Members, in accordance with Article IX.3 of the [Antigua Convention](#). The amount of each Member’s contribution to an agreed annual budget is derived from the formula established in Resolution [C-15-05](#).

The Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF), established by Resolution [C-12-02](#) in 2012, is responsible for providing advice and recommendations on matters related to the budget, financing, and administration of the Commission.

2. BACKGROUND

The [Antigua Convention](#) provides the Commission with a modern framework for achieving its objective of ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks of the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) covered by the Convention, as well as the conservation of associated species and their ecosystems. The Convention mandates an important number of activities that must be carried out by the Commission and its staff. These include the collection and analysis of a wide range of data, as well as research undertaken by IATTC scientific staff, which in turn forms the basis for advice to the Commission regarding conservation and management. This necessarily requires a budget adequate to support all of this work. The resolutions adopted by the Commission can also add to the duties and responsibilities of the staff. For example, the implementation of a management measure limiting capacity (Resolution [C-02-03](#)) is tracked by means of the

¹ The IATTC’s fiscal year coincides with the calendar year, 1 January to 31 December.

IATTC [Regional Vessel Register](#) (Resolution [C-18-06](#)). Thus, close coordination with the fisheries authorities and tuna industries of each Member is necessary to monitor the movement of vessels within and among fleets, which is in turn reflected in the Regional Vessel Register. The IATTC also manages the observer program to monitor transshipments at sea by carrier vessels in the EPO, which is regulated by Resolution [C-12-07](#). Another most recent example may be found in Resolution [C-21-04](#) that calls for the establishment and implementation of an enhanced monitoring program in the framework for bigeye tuna set up by the Resolution. Programs implementing mandates such as these have budgetary implications because they require both human and technological resources. The Convention requires that the Commission have a staff qualified in administrative, scientific and technical areas, and sufficient for the “efficient and effective application” of the Convention. To meet this requirement, the Commission maintains an [internationally-recruited staff](#), most of whom work at the Commission’s headquarters in La Jolla, California (USA). Other IATTC staff and local employees work at the field offices of the Commission in Manta and Playas (Ecuador), Manzanillo and Mazatlán (Mexico), Panama City (Republic of Panama), and Cumana (Venezuela), and at the IATTC Laboratory at Achotines, Republic of Panama. Beside the work done in two areas of policy and compliance on the one hand, and administration, finance and human resources, on the other, the activities carried out by the IATTC scientific staff pursuant to the Antigua Convention are divided among [four programs](#) (Data collection and database, Biology, Stock assessment, and Ecosystem and bycatch), each of which is in turn conducts a number of specific [research projects](#).

Fundamental to the Commission’s work is the compilation of basic data on the fisheries (*e.g.* activities of fishing vessels, distribution of the fishing effort, and the amount and composition of the catches), which are obtained from onboard observer reports, vessel logbooks, cannery receipts, and information submitted by Members. Equally critical are the numerous research activities funded by the Commission’s budget and carried out by IATTC scientific staff in fields such as biology, behavioral studies, stock assessment, and ecology, that monitor not only the target stocks and bycatch species, but the health and function of the EPO ecosystem. The [research](#) undertaken at the Achotines Laboratory contributes to the understanding of the early life history, growth, and mortality of tropical tunas and the environmental dynamics that play an important role in the recruitment of fish to the fisheries.

Since 1976, the IATTC staff has conducted research on EPO dolphins associated with the tuna fishery, and since 1999 has provided the Secretariat for the [Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program \(AIDCP\)](#) and administered the AIDCP’s On-Board Observer Program. The AIDCP mandates 100% observer coverage of fishing trips by large purse-seine vessels² in the EPO. The Commission’s budget covers 30% of the observer program costs; the remaining 70%, along with certain other costs associated with the IDCP, is covered by the budget of the AIDCP, which is funded primarily by contributions from the Parties to the AIDCP through assessments paid by parties of the AIDCP through fees of the participating vessels (see Document AIDCP-44-01). The funding level of 30%, established by the Commission at the inception of the Tuna-Dolphin Program in 1977, reflects the level of observer coverage of large purse-seine vessels required for the data collected to be statistically reliable, and these costs are also accounted for in the annual IATTC operational budget.

More detailed information on the staff’s [research activities](#) can be found on the IATTC [website](#).

3. THE IATTC BUDGET

For budgetary purposes, the activities of the Commission are divided into the following six categories.

A	Administration, finance, human resources, policy and compliance	D	Stock assessment program
B	Data collection and database program	E	Ecosystem and bycatch Program
C	Biology program	F	30% of the AIDCP observer budget

² Carrying capacity greater than 363 t (IATTC Class 6).

A. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, HUMAN RESOURCES, POLICY AND COMPLIANCE

Category A includes those costs not readily allocable to any specific program and which benefit the Commission in its entirety and are elemental to the support provided as Secretariat to the AIDCP. In addition to general secretarial and clerical support (correspondence, filing, document management, meeting organization, etc.), these are broadly divided into **Administration, Finance and Human Resources**, on the one hand, and **Policy and Compliance** on the other. This category includes an important range of activities such as, on the one hand, financial planning, budgeting, accounting, management of human resources in the main office and in the field offices and the Achotines Laboratory (payroll, benefits, recruiting, policies, procedures), and administrative coordination of scientific research, as well as translation services, and on the other communication and relations, including cooperation and coordination with Members and Cooperating Non-Members, relevant international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, and other stakeholders, assistance and capacity-building activities, meeting and document preparation, participation in meetings related to the Commission's mandate and legal, institutional and procedural matters related to the operation of the Commission, including guidance on the correct implementation of policies, procedures, measures and rules adopted by the Commission and the AIDCP Parties. All other costs are allocated to the program(s) to which they pertain or which they benefit directly.

B. DATA COLLECTION AND DATABASE PROGRAM

Category B includes salaries and benefits for staff assigned to the [Data Collection and Database Program](#), and field office staff whose duties include obtaining statistical records of the tuna fishery directly from the fishing fleet and processing plants, providing the data necessary for assessing the effects of fishing on the abundance of the stocks, coordination of the Observer program under the AIDCP and processing information collected by the observers. This category includes the processing of this data and the preparation of the corresponding reports as well as the provision of data in response to requests from CPCs. It also includes all activities related to the IATTC Regional Register of Vessels and its maintenance, including the lists and categories established in different resolutions.

C. BIOLOGY PROGRAM

Category C includes salaries and benefits for field office and scientific staff assigned to projects of the [Biology Program](#), designed to increase the available knowledge of the life history and behavior of tunas, tuna like-species, and other associated species in the EPO. Data for these types of research are obtained from sampling catches at ports of landing, analyses of information collected from vessel logbooks and by on-board observers, studies conducted at sea on commercial fishing vessels, and laboratory experiments.

The Program encompasses two Groups which conduct several important research activities: **Life History and Behavior Group** and **Early Life History Group**.

The **Life History and Behavior Group** is responsible for the following major areas of activity:

1. Investigations of the biology and behavior of tunas, including deriving population parameter estimates.
2. Tuna tagging experiments to obtain vital information on movements and population structure, along with growth, mortality, and exploitation rates.

The research of the **Early Life-History Group** is mainly conducted at the Achotines Laboratory and includes the following activities (described in detail in Document [SAC-13-13](#)):

1. Field and laboratory experiments to investigate the key environmental and biological factors of the early life history of the tuna that affect the recruitment of young fish to the exploitable population.
2. Develop tools to forecast recruitment of young tuna to the exploitable population.

The scientific knowledge produced by the Biology Program—along with fishery-dependent data sources (e.g. catch, effort and composition data)—is incorporated into population dynamics models for assessing the effects of fishing and natural factors on the abundance and sustainability of stocks (see activities of **Stock Assessment Program, Category D**). It is also used to parameterize the ecosystem models conducted under the research activities of the **Ecosystem and Bycatch Program** (see **Category E**).

D. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Category D includes salaries and benefits for scientific staff assigned to projects of the [Stock Assessment Program](#) related to the Commission’s responsibilities regarding conservation and fisheries management. This program is divided into the following major areas of activity:

1. Based on the best available science, implement stock assessments of tunas, billfishes, dolphins, and stocks of other species (e.g. sharks and dorado) as deemed necessary by the Members, and conduct risk analysis for management of the tropical tuna fishery in the EPO.
2. Maintain active participation and/or collaboration in assessments conducted by other entities (e.g. International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean, Secretariat of the Pacific Community) of stocks whose range includes the EPO (e.g. bluefin, albacore, billfishes, sharks) or for which hypotheses of stock geographic boundaries are being explored (e.g. Pacific-wide assessment of bigeye, billfishes, sharks).
3. Evaluation of the effect on the status of the stocks from current or any other types of proposed management measures (e.g. using risk analysis to evaluate the impact of management measures with respect to the reference points specified in the IATTC’s harvest control rule).
4. Conduct a comprehensive Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the tropical tuna in the EPO and collaborate with other organizations in Pacific-wide MSEs (e.g. with ISC for albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna).
5. Design and evaluation of sampling programs for fishery data collection and scientific experiments in the EPO.
6. Analyze biological and fisheries data for input into the stock assessments.
7. Conduct research on stock assessment, stock assessment methodology, and related topics.
8. Provide analytical support for the other IATTC research programs.
9. Through collaborations with external studies, improve our understanding of the socio-economic aspects of sustainable fisheries for tropical tunas (e.g. POSEIDON with Ocean Conservancy).
10. Participation in scientific meetings, scientific bodies, and peer reviews of stock assessments and research.
11. Organize workshops on stock assessment methodology (e.g. the fall workshop series, in collaboration with CAPAM (the Center for the Advancement of Population Assessment Methodology)) and reviews of IATTC stock assessments.

E. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH PROGRAM

Category E includes salaries and benefits of field office staff and of scientific staff assigned to the [Ecosystem and Bycatch Program](#). This program provides scientific support for implementing the broad goals of the Antigua Convention, in particular for the IATTC to “*adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by the Convention*”. Two main duties are assigned to the program:

1. Assess and mitigate the ecological impacts of the tuna fisheries on species and habitats. This includes the following activities:
 - a. Develop analytical tools to identify and prioritize species at risk for data collection, research and management.
 - b. Conduct Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs) of EPO fisheries to identify and prioritize species at risk.
 - c. Conduct spatiotemporal analyses to identify areas of high bycatch/catch ratios for potential use in spatial management (static or dynamic closures), and investigate alternative tools for bycatch mitigation.
 - d. In collaboration with the fishing industry, conduct scientific experiments to:
 - i. identify gear technology that will reduce bycatches and mortality of prioritized species;

- ii. develop best practices for the release of prioritized bycatch species;
 - iii. develop best practices for mitigating the impacts of fishing on habitats in the EPO.
 - e. Conducting workshops for vessel crews to promote the reduction of impacts of the fishery on non-target species and compliance with IATTC resolutions.
 - f. In coordination with the Stock Assessment Program, improve our understanding of the effects of the operational characteristics of the fishery on fishing mortality, stock assessment, and management advice.
 - g. Support for capacity-building with regard to bycatch mitigation, and development of data collection programs for artisanal fisheries of coastal States (e.g. shark fisheries).
2. Improve our understanding of the EPO ecosystem as well as the interactions among the environment, climate and fisheries:
- a. Conduct trophodynamic studies for defining key assumptions in EPO ecosystem models. This includes sampling and analysis of diets and tissues required to understand food-web dynamics, and analysis of biological, ecological and fisheries data to facilitate ecological risk assessment and ecosystem modeling.
 - b. Ecosystem modeling studies. This includes improving analytical tools to evaluate anthropogenic and climate impacts of the EPO ecosystem.
 - c. Conduct spatiotemporal analyses to better understand the effect of key environmental drivers on the short-term as well as long-term (regime shift) fluctuations of abundance of tunas and prioritized bycatch species.

Category F includes a portion of salaries and benefits of staff performing various tasks in support of the AIDCP that are not included in other programs, as well as costs directly related to the observer program (*i.e.* salaries, benefits, travel costs, training, *etc.*) and those associated with maintaining field offices.

The observer program is divided into the following major areas of activity:

1. Collection of fishery and biological data on catches and discards of tunas and associated species by the purse-seine fishery. The AIDCP budget covers 70% of the cost of these observers; the IATTC budget covers the remaining 30%.
2. Training of the observers who collect data for this program.
3. Organize and perform seminars for vessel operators, that include information on the international agreements and regulations currently in force, as well as other pertinent information, as required by the AIDCP.
4. Editing of the data collected by observers, in support of the **Data collection and database program**.

The information collected and processed through the observer program is also used to support monitoring of compliance with measures established by the IATTC and AIDCP.

In addition to the research activities specified above, the staff working under all programs also participates in scientific meetings, meetings of other scientific bodies, and peer reviews of research as deemed necessary.

4. FISCAL YEAR 2022 OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES

Table 1, Column 1, shows the original approved budget for 2022; Column 2 shows the actual expenditures in FY 2022, and Columns 3a and 3b the variances between the budgeted and actual costs.

TABLE 1. 2022 budget	1	2	3a	3b
	Approved	Actual	US\$	%
HEADQUARTERS SALARIES AND BENEFITS:				
Salaries	4,226,710	3,960,038	(266,672)	(.06)
Employee benefits:				
Group insurance:				
Medical insurance	347,000	301,985	(45,015)	(.13)
Life, disability and personal accident insurance	30,000	24,327	(5,673)	(.19)
International workmen's compensation insurance	10,000	10,699	699	.07
Social security	296,000	258,183	(37,817)	(.13)
Pension fund (IFCPF)	402,000	250,480	(151,520)	(.38)
Retirement plans	430,000	365,503	(64,497)	(.15)
Subtotal, Headquarters salaries and benefits	5,741,710	5,171,215	(570,495)	
ANNUAL MEETING COSTS	100,000	284,981	184,981	1.37
OPERATING COSTS:				
Field office facilities and related supplies	110,000	53,279	(56,721)	(.52)
Field office staff salaries	560,000	536,688	(23,312)	(.04)
Headquarters office expenses	166,000	117,657	(48,343)	(.39)
Research materials and supplies	75,000	46,034	(28,966)	(.39)
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	85,000	69,245	(15,755)	(.19)
General upgrades for Achotines Laboratory	25,000	13,657	(11,343)	(.45)
Vehicle Expenses:				
Operation (fuel, maintenance, etc.)	24,000	27,407	3,407	.14
Parking	10,000	-	(10,000)	(1.00)
Insurance, licenses and permits	10,000	7,725	(2,275)	(.23)
Printing, postage and publication	10,000	4,963	(5,037)	(.50)
Staff travel	100,000	147,869	47,869	.48
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	85,000	32,846	(52,154)	(.61)
Contracts:				
Annual audit and tax reporting	45,000	49,930	4,930	.11
Payroll services	20,000	21,306	1,306	.07
Other professional services	15,000	36,690	21,690	1.45
Bank and other fees	10,000	2,121	(7,879)	(.79)
Subtotal, Operating costs	1,350,000	1,167,418	(182,582)	
Subtotal, Headquarters salaries and benefits + Operating costs + Annual meeting costs	7,191,710	6,623,614	(568,096)	
Observer program **	782,640	799,746	17,106	.02
TOTAL Operating budget	7,974,350	7,423,360	(550,990)	
** Further explanation of budget variance may be found in Document AIDCP-46-01				

Table 2 summarizes the financial results, by budget category and line item, as of 31 December 2022.

TABLE 2. Operational expenses, in US\$, by budget category and line item, 2022 ³	A	B	C	D	E	Subtotal IATTC	F	TOTAL
HEADQUARTERS SALARIES AND BENEFITS:								
Salaries	1,117,580	657,113	678,718	826,690	679,937	3,960,038	123,062	4,083,100
Employee benefits:								
Group insurance:								
Medical insurance	83,787	44,953	65,420	57,308	50,517	301,985	16,958	318,943
Life, disability and personal accident insurance	9,429	2,927	4,192	5,150	2,629	24,327	1,393	25,720
International workmen's compensation insurance	3,258	1,633	2,647	1,523	1,637	10,698	-	10,698
Social security	74,273	42,930	48,902	55,359	36,720	258,184	9,418	267,602
Pension fund (IFCPF)	-	167,371	-	63,486	19,623	250,480	25,971	276,451
Retirement plans	111,030	40,535	42,957	81,411	89,570	365,503	12,638	378,141
Subtotal, headquarters salaries and benefits	1,399,358	957,462	842,835	1,090,927	880,633	5,171,215	189,440	5,360,655
ANNUAL MEETING COSTS	284,981	-	-	-	-	284,981	-	284,981
OPERATING COSTS:								
Field office facilities and related supplies	-	53,280	-	-	-	53,280	102,284	155,564
Field office staff salaries	-	287,779	235,252	-	-	523,031	-	523,031
Headquarter office expenses	39,921	664	83,202	161	7,366	131,314	223	131,537
Research materials and supplies	-	-	45,706	250	79	46,035	-	46,035
General upgrades for Ashotines Laboratory	-	-	13,657	-	-	13,657	-	13,657
Observer costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	506,355	506,355
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	61,622	-	3,174	135	4,314	69,245	884	70,129
Vehicle Expenses:								
Operation (fuel, maintenance, etc.)	9,117	-	18,131	160	-	27,408	-	27,408
Insurance, licenses and permits	6,943	-	782	-	-	7,725	-	7,725
Printing, postage and publication	1,674	-	3,289	-	-	4,963	-	4,963
Staff travel	66,549	4,223	19,477	32,471	25,149	147,869	560	148,429
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	32,846	-	-	-	-	32,846	-	32,846
Contracts:								
Annual audit and tax reporting	49,930	-	-	-	-	49,930	-	49,930
Payroll services	21,306	-	-	-	-	21,306	-	21,306
Other professional services	17,747	-	-	-	18,942	36,689	-	36,689
Bank and other fees	340	-	1,740	-	41	2,121	-	2,121
Subtotal, operating costs	307,995	345,946	424,410	33,177	55,891	1,167,419	610,306	1,777,725
TOTAL operational expenses	1,992,334	1,303,408	1,267,245	1,124,104	936,524	6,623,614	799,746	7,423,360

³ A (Administration, finance, policy and compliance); B (Data collection and database program); C (Biology program); D (Stock assessment program); E (Ecosystem and bycatch program); F (30% of the AIDCP observer program)

The following provides additional detail about the individual line items presented in **Table 2**.

HEADQUARTER SALARIES AND BENEFITS

Salaries: The permanent scientific, administrative, clerical, and technical personnel required to carry out the tasks assigned by the Commission. Headquarters staff salaries are based on US government salary scales.

Group insurance: Includes life, disability, medical, dental and accident insurance. To counteract the growing costs of health insurance in the United States, the IATTC now offers employees a cross-border medical plan which allows the option of using health care providers in Mexico.

Social security: Includes contributions to US social security paid by the Commission.

Pension fund (IFCPF): Includes the IATTC's original pension plan, administered by the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS), which provides level funding over periods of three years based upon actuarial evaluations. As discussed in prior budget documents and documented in the footnotes to the Commission's Annual Financial Statement audit, the IFCPF has experienced large deficits in prior years with the triennial actuarial evaluation performed in January 2023 reflecting continued deficits due to poor market conditions during the past three years.

Retirement plans: Since 2002, the Commission has operated a defined contribution (403(b)) retirement plan, to which both staff members and the Commission contribute.

During 2021 an international retirement plan was established for staff members residing outside of the United States which are included within this line item.

BUDGETED OPERATIONAL COSTS

Field office facilities and related supplies: includes rent, utilities, insurance, telephone and office supplies for the Commission's field offices.

Field office staff salaries: includes costs related to permanent field office staff, as well as related taxes and benefits.

Headquarter office expenses: includes utilities, insurance, telephone, and office supplies for both the La Jolla office and the Achotines Laboratory.

Research materials and supplies: includes sundries and research supplies which also support the Achotines Laboratory.

Observer costs: includes the required IATTC funding of the IDCP, which covers 30% of all direct observer costs such as wages, taxes, insurance, travel, equipment, and training. The amount is based upon the requested AIDCP budget in document AIDCP-46-01, and is subject to change once the Parties to the AIDCP approve the budget for 2024.

Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment: Includes equipment purchases of hardware such as computers and office machines, and software, including licensing agreements.

Purchase and operational costs of vehicles: includes purchase of vehicles, and related maintenance and fuel costs.

Insurance, licenses and permits: includes all vehicle and property insurance, vehicle registrations and regulatory agency fees.

Printing, postage and publication: includes all costs related to postage and printing needs.

Staff travel: includes travel and subsistence costs incurred by IATTC staff members to attend meetings or workshops sponsored by third parties. Does not include IATTC meetings.

IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings): includes cost of venue and incidental costs incurred by IATTC staff members to attend IATTC meetings as well as costs for simultaneous interpretation services.

Contracts: includes legal and professional fees, auditing and payroll services, short-term contracts with specialists, and casual labor.

Bank and other fees: include bank fees and other similar costs.

5. BUDGET VARIANCE

The IATTC strives to maintain costs within budget; however, during 2022 the IATTC was again unable to fully function as it continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, the year closed with significant variances in excess of US\$ 20,000 and 20% between the budgeted and actual costs (**Table 1**).

The budget line items most affected by post pandemic increased costs included *Annual meeting* expenditures, *Staff travel*, *IATTC meetings*, and *Other professional services*, reflecting amounts almost double than previous years.

The approximate US\$ 150,000 in unspent funds during 2022 for the unfunded pension liability will be reflected in the current 2023 fiscal year.

6. 2022 SPECIAL PROJECTS

Table 3 summarizes the special project activity during 2022.

The IATTC staff routinely seeks and receives extra-budgetary funding from outside sources to support its activities (**External**). Consequently, several projects in which the staff is involved are funded separately by individual Members or other interested entities. The information on these projects is included for illustrative purposes only, as their budgets are determined, approved, and accounted for separately, and are not part of the IATTC's regular budget.

Some programs were derived from resolutions (**Resolution**), such as the program for monitoring transshipments at sea established by resolution [C-12-07](#) on establishing a program for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (Document CAF-10-04) and the Capacity Building Fund (CBF), established by Resolution [C-14-03](#) for strengthening the institutional capacity of developing countries (Document CAF-10-03).

The CBF is essential to ensure the substantial and effective participation of those countries in the activities of the Commission, including its meetings as well as providing support to training and capacity-building activities. The fund is financed by a 2% levy added to the operating budget, and thus proportionately to each Member's contribution. In 2022 this amounted to US\$ 167,058, based on the approved operating budget of US\$ 7,974,350 for that year.

The IATTC approved the financing of the Enhanced Monitoring Program to be funded equally by the existing surplus and an added contribution of US\$ 378,556, of which only US\$ 324,720 was received and included within Table 3.

Not included in this document are research activities and projects recommended by the Scientific Advisory Committee ([IATTC-101-03](#)), which would require additional funding, nor proposals by the staff for specific projects that are not currently funded (IATTC-101-02b)

TABLE 3. Special projects, 2022, in US\$				
Project (funding source)		Income	Expenses	+/(-)
External				
C.4.b	Long-term sampling program for sharks in Central America (EU)	-	28,156	(28,156)
Q.1.a	Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative Phase 3 (Yale University)	216,884	180,737	36,147
R.1.b	Development, Communication and Evaluation of MSE Contract for project No. PFID-INF-2020-5 (SENACYT)	181,454	181,454	-
H.8.a	Design survey for EPO dolphin stocks (MEX)	52,997	37,742	15,255
A.4.a	Regional tuna tagging program, Phase I (EU)	127,713	127,713	-
A.4.a	Regional tuna tagging program, Phase II (EU)	148,688	148,688	-
C.2.b	Electronic monitoring of long line activities in EPO (EU)	585,313	585,313	-
D.2.a	Turtle Workshops (ISSF)	5,399	5,399	-
M.5.a	Turtle Workshops (ISSF)	20,474	20,474	-
M.1.c	Testing biodegradable materials for FADS (EU)	-	26,535	(26,535)
M.1.c	Acoustic studies of Yellowfin Tuna (ISSF)	-	26,535	(26,535)
	Other projects ⁴	1,270	2,862	(1,592)
	Subtotal	1,340,192	1,345,073	(4,881)
IATTC				
	Western Pacific out of area	62,479	62,479	-
	Enhanced Monitoring Program (EMP)	324,720	226,599	98,121
	Subtotal	387,199	289,078	98,121
Resolution				
	Transshipment program (C-12-07)	1,235,102	1,235,102	-
	Capacity-building fund (CBF) (C-14-03)	172,572	27,323	145,249
	Subtotal	1,407,674	1,262,425	145,249
	Total	3,135,065	2,896,576	238,489

An administrative fee is charged on all contracts for services provided by the IATTC staff to third parties that are covered neither in the IATTC nor AIDCP budgets. This includes research contracts and grants, as well as the placement of observers on vessels operating outside the IATTC Convention Area and is included under other contract revenue in the audited financial statements. This income is in addition to the regular budget and is used to cover unexpected costs not included in the approved budget.

7. STATUS OF MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2022

As noted in the introduction, the Commission's primary source of income is the contributions of its Members. **Table 4** summarizes the status of the contributions specified in Resolution [C-21-08](#) received during 2022.

⁴ Includes expenditures related to miscellaneous MOU, CAPAM and Mother Calf Dolphin Study expenses funded from various sources.

TABLE 4. Member contributions received during 2022, in US\$				
	Contributions towards payments of arrears	Budget contributions		Total
		2022	Voluntary	
Belize	-	47,153	-	47,153
Canada	-	143,345	-	143,345
China	-	250,520	18,000	268,520
Colombia	-	294,248	-	294,248
Costa Rica	-	142,266	-	142,266
Ecuador	-	1,815,455	-	1,815,455
El Salvador	-	114,184	-	114,184
European Union	-	470,859	-	470,859
France	-	148,991	-	148,991
Guatemala	22,603	50,055	-	72,658
Japan	-	295,131	-	295,131
Korea	-	254,463	-	254,463
Mexico	-	1,147,658	-	1,147,658
Nicaragua	-	94,091	-	94,091
Panama	1,205,685	-	-	1,205,685
Peru	135,499	-	-	135,499
Chinese Taipei	-	261,095	-	261,095
United States of America	-	1,746,553	-	1,746,553
Vanuatu	-	53,715	-	53,715
Total contributions	1,363,787	7,329,782	18,000	8,711,569
Unpaid 2022 contributions at year end		1,190,183		
2022 approved budget		8,519,965		

8. STATUS OF MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2023

The approved operating budget for FY 2023 is US\$ 7,173,710, plus US\$ 800,640 in funding for the AIDCP Observer Program, US\$ 159,487 for the capacity building fund and US\$ 385,274 for the Enhanced Monitoring Program, for a total agreed budget of US\$ 8,519,111.

Despite the requirement that all payments be made by 1 March of the corresponding year, as of 30 June 2023, there is still an unpaid amount of approximately 35% (US\$ 3 million) of the 2023 budget contributions established in Resolution [C-22-08](#), *Financing for fiscal year 2023*, in addition to the existing arrears (**Table 5**). Given that most of the contributions due in any given year are not paid before the established deadline, the Commission may wish to consider whether additional penalties for timely payment are warranted.

Table 5 shows the status of unpaid contributions, totaling US\$ 6,598,378 as of 30 June 2023:

TABLE 5. Contributions outstanding, in US\$, as of 30 June 2023⁵				
	Previous years	FY 2022	FY 2023	Total
Panama	1,279,493	817,736	800,106	2,897,335
Mexico	-	-	1,155,883	1,155,883
Venezuela	1,336,733	204,157	199,042	1,739,932
Colombia	-	-	300,522	300,522
Peru	-	3,418	199,671	203,089
Vanuatu	-	-	52,499	52,499
Korea	-	-	221,402	221,402
Guatemala	-	-	27,716	27,716
Total	2,616,226	1,025,311	2,956,841	6,598,378

⁵ Payments made subsequent to 1 July will be presented at the meeting of Committee on Administration and Finance.

9. RATIONALE FOR RE-ALLOCATIONS FROM THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2023 TO THE REQUESTED BUDGET FOR 2024

Table 6 shows the budget change requests by line item from 2023 to 2024 as well as projected expenses for 2025. All changes were made based upon 2022 expenditure levels and consideration of future needs within specific line items for 2024. The allocation adjustments were made to the Headquarters salaries and benefits and Travel to meet anticipated higher staff salary levels due to cost of living increases and increasing travel costs.

TABLE 6. Comparative figures, in US\$, by budget line item, FYs 2023 - 2025				
	2023	2024		2025
	(approved)	+ / (-)	(requested)	(projected)
HEADQUARTERS SALARIES AND BENEFITS:				
Salaries	4,356,710	344,649	4,701,359	4,936,427
Group insurance:				
Medical insurance	347,000	-	347,000	364,350
Life, disability and personal accident insurance	30,000	2,500	32,500	34,125
Workmen's compensation insurance	10,000	2,000	12,000	12,600
Social security	296,000	20,000	316,000	331,800
Pension fund (IFCPS)	207,000	30,000	237,000	315,000
403 (b) Retirement plan	525,000	28,000	553,000	580,650
Subtotal, Headquarters salaries and benefits	5,771,710	427,149	6,198,859	6,574,952
OPERATING COSTS:				
Field office facilities and related supplies	110,000	(30,000)	80,000	80,000
Field office staff salaries	485,000	125,000	610,000	640,500
Headquarters office expenses	166,000	-	166,000	166,000
Research materials and supplies	50,000	-	50,000	50,000
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	90,000	-	90,000	90,000
General upgrades at Achotines Laboratory	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
Purchase, parking, and operating costs of vehicles	46,000	-	46,000	46,000
Insurance, licenses and permits	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Printing and postage	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Staff travel	110,000	25,000	135,000	195,000
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	100,000	25,000	125,000	185,000
Contracts:				
Annual audit and tax reporting	45,000	-	45,000	45,000
Payroll services	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Other professional services	15,000	-	15,000	15,000
Bank and other fees	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Subtotal, Operating costs	1,282,000	145,000	1,427,000	1,577,500
ANNUAL MEETINGS:				
Meeting venue	120,000	-	120,000	120,000
Subtotal, Salaries and benefits, Annual meetings, and Operating costs	7,173,710	572,149	7,745,859	8,302,452
AIDCP program ⁶	800,640	10,000	810,640	810,640
Total, Operating costs	7,974,350	582,149	8,556,499	9,113,092
Capacity Building Fund ⁷	159,487	11,643	171,130	182,262
Subtotal	8,133,837	593,792	8,727,629	9,295,354
Enhanced Monitoring Program⁸	385,274	385,274	734,000	-
TOTAL BUDGET	8,519,111	979,066	9,461,629	9,295,354

⁶ Amount is based upon the AIDCP budget request and is subject to change (See current AIDCP finance document (AIDCP-46-01)).

⁷ Actual amount reflects a 2% contribution rate which is dependent upon the approved operational budget.

⁸ Prior approval for budget inclusion in the forecasted 2025 budget has not yet been given; therefore, not included in this table.

10. SUMMARY

The Director and the staff of the Commission recognize the need to minimize costs while ensuring that they fulfill fully and faithfully their functions under the Antigua Convention and carry out the tasks assigned by the Members. However, the budget needs, at least, to keep pace with inflation and the continued rising costs, particularly those related to post pandemic shortages and overall price increases, which affect all expenditures related to the activities of the Commission, both at headquarters and abroad.

It is important to recall that, as mentioned above, the scope of the activities of the Commission and its staff continues to expand, not only because of the broader mandate derived from the Antigua Convention, but also in response to the evolving priorities and decisions of the Commission itself that reflect the wishes and proposals of its Members. This means the need to hire more personnel as well as compensating current staff for additional assigned tasks and it is therefore essential that the Commission give due consideration to the levels of funding requested in this document and adopt the requested budget for 2024 in the amount of US\$ 8,727,629, reflecting a .07% increase in the IATTC budget before consideration of the Enhanced Monitoring Program funding.

For the Commission and its staff to fulfill their functions, it is also essential that all Member contributions to the budget be paid in a timely manner, and that the situation related to the pending arrears of some Members be promptly resolved. The Commission could reflect upon ways and means to efficiently reach that goal and therefore ensure compliance of one of the most primary and basic obligations under the Antigua Convention.