

Appendix 4a.

<p>INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE 6TH MEETING San Diego, California, USA 20 August 2018</p>
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Review of the financial audit report	
4. Review of budgets for 2019 and 2020	CAF-06-01
5. Financial contributions of Members:	
a) Regular budget (Resolution C-15-06)	
b) Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building (Resolution C-	CAF-06-02
c) Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution C-12-07)	CAF-06-03
d) Other	
6. Other business	
7. Recommendations to the Commission	
8. Adjournment	

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees

The sixth meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance was held in San Diego, California (USA) on 20 August 2018. The list of attendees can be found as Appendix 1.

Opening of the meeting

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Lillo Maniscalchi, from Venezuela, opened the meeting.

Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

Review of the financial audit report

It was reported that the financial audit report was provided to the Commissioners and heads of delegations 6 weeks before the meeting. No comments were made.

Review of budgets for 2019 and 2020

Mrs. Nora G. Roa, from the IATTC staff, presented [Document CAF-06-01](#). She explained the financial activity in 2017, the status of the contributions for 2018 and the requested and projected budgets for 2019 and 2020, respectively.

During her presentation, she pointed out that the budget needs to keep pace with inflation, which affects all

expenditures related to the activities of the Commission, both at headquarters and abroad. Several increases to the budget are needed to add a scientist and a translator, provide COLA and merit increases for the staff, and cover a possible increase in audit costs as a result of changing the Commission's auditors. It is therefore essential that the Commission adopt the requested budget for 2019 of US\$ 8,133,837 so that the Commission and its staff fulfill their functions in compliance with the Antigua Convention.

Some Members pointed out that Document [CAF-06-01](#) included the necessary elements that had been repeatedly requested in previous meetings; therefore, there were no objections to the approval of the requested budget. However, it remained open so that the Commission could consider a series of matters including the allocation of resources for the purchase and operation of equipment for the safety of observers at sea, the financing of proposed scientific projects, and the organization of an extraordinary meeting of the Commission in October 2018.

Financial contributions of Members:

a. Regular budget (Resolution [C-16-07](#))

The Secretariat presented information on the Members' pending arrears, emphasizing that they currently add up to US\$ 6,316,699—which represents approximately 80% of the approved budget for 2018—and that two Members, Colombia and Panama, are two or more years behind on their contributions. It was reiterated that Members must pay their contributions on time and that the pending payments situation should be resolved without further delay.

Panama explained that it was in the process of making a payment in accordance with the agreement established at a previous IATTC meeting, and that the payment will be received in the Commission's account in the following days.

Colombia mentioned that its pending contributions for 2017 and 2018 are mainly due to changes in the government administration and a monetary reversion. As for Venezuela, it was mentioned that Venezuelan shipowners will help the government to make the necessary payments and that more information would be provided at the IATTC meeting when the representatives of the Venezuelan government were present.

China recalled that its three-year budget has been unfortunately reduced by nearly half, but efforts are under way to make the pending payments soon. China asked that the US\$ 20,000 appearing in Document [CAF-06-01](#) as a voluntary contribution be changed to a partial payment of its contribution to the 2018 regular budget.

Guatemala noted that it would be able to report on the payment of its outstanding contributions during the IATTC meeting.

Belize mentioned that, in the future, its contributions should be significantly different than the current ones since the country does not have a fishing fleet in the EPO anymore; therefore, according to the formula used to calculate contributions, the tuna catch factor would no longer exist.

Ecuador pointed out that it will soon be up to date with its pending contributions and that, during the IATTC meeting, it would provide further details in terms of the date they will be paid.

As of the date of presentation to the plenary, the Commission received payments of US\$ 621,202 from Panama and China's 2018 contribution, reducing the total outstanding contributions to US\$ 5,592,696.

At the request of several delegations, a table detailing the pending contributions for 2019 was prepared, which would allow them to make estimates and/or approve the budget.

b. Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building (Resolution [C-14-03](#))

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, from the Commission staff, presented Document [CAF-06-02](#) on the special fund for promoting institutional capacity-building in developing Members, established by Resolution C-14-03.

The current balance is US\$ 143,720.

In 2017, the activities developed with resources from the fund were focused on supporting the participation of developing Members in meetings of the IATTC and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), as well as the organization of a capacity-building seminar/workshop on duties and responsibilities of Members and Parties to the IATTC and AIDCP and a technical meeting on sharks.

For 2018 and the first months of 2019, the following activities were expected to be carried out with resources from the fund:

1. Training of port samplers for collecting shark fisheries data in Central America and entering them into the OSPESCA/IATTC database.
2. Continue supporting the processing and archiving of historical data for the shark fishery in Central America obtained through the FAO-GEF Common Oceans project.
3. Management Strategies Evaluation (MSE) workshop (August 2018).
4. Capacity-building seminar/workshop for decision makers from developing CPCs on subjects such as scientific advice concepts, the Commission's strategic work plan, research needs, etc. (Possibly in October 2018)
5. Annual IATTC scholarship for developing scientific capacity in developing CPCs (2019).

The Committee approved these activities, emphasizing the need of using the fund mainly for building capacity in developing Members and not only for supporting attendance to meetings of the IATTC and its subsidiary bodies.

Additionally, the need to develop criteria—such as application deadlines and performance reports—for the allocation of resources from the fund was stressed. The Secretariat was asked to draft proposals on this regard to be analyzed and reviewed during the intersessional period.

The annual scholarship for developing scientific capacity attracted great interest. It was pointed out that it is important for scholarship holders to be committed to working in support of their country after the scholarship period, although some Members pointed out that this should be the responsibility of each CPC.

c. Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution [C-12-07](#))

Mr. Belmontes presented Document [CAF-06-03](#), covering both the operational and financial aspects of the program, in order to save time at the plenary meeting since this item is also included in the IATTC agenda.

For 2019, a budget of US\$ 1,300,000 is required. Moreover, the higher costs of the program for the current year require an additional contribution of US\$ 290,000 in September 2018, divided as follows:

Participant	Additional contribution
China	98,600
Japan	31,900
Korea	34,800
Panama	17,400
Chinese Taipei	63,800
Vanuatu	43,500
Total	290,000

The Committee approved these budget items and decided to endorse them to the Commission.

The Committee also approved the proposal to include, in the transshipment declaration, a column to record the species of transshipped sharks for the benefit of scientific research. It was acknowledged that the Committee should not discuss this type of issues in the future and should be limited to financial matters.

Other business

No other business was discussed.

Recommendations to the Commission

The Committee agreed to submit the following recommendations to the Commission:

1. Approve a budget of US\$ 8,133,837 for 2019 but taking into consideration that other elements could be added, such as the purchase and operation of equipment for the safety of observers at sea and the organization of an extraordinary IATTC meeting in October 2018.
2. Approve the activities planned for 2018 and 2019 related to the special fund for supporting developing Members mentioned in section 5b of this report.
3. That the Secretariat draft a proposal on the allocation of financial support through the special fund, to be reviewed during the intersessional period.
4. Approve a budget of US\$ 1,300,000 for the program of transshipments at sea in 2019.
5. Approve an extraordinary contribution of US\$ 290,000 for the program of transshipments at sea in 2018.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 14:10 p.m. on 20 August.