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**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

At its 82<sup>nd</sup> 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 87<sup>th</sup> 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 the capacity of coastal developing countries and territories.” At its 89<sup>th</sup> 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.”*

Likewise, paragraph 6 of the Resolution states that: “Members, national and international bodies and entities are encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the Fund.” Accordingly, in 2012 a separate account («Capacity Building Fund») was opened, to which contributions may be made; all Members, as well as international organizations that may be interested in contributing resources, have been informed about it. One Member contributed to this account in 2014, but no other voluntary contribution to the fund has been received since then.

**2. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE FUND’S FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

To date, the total sum of contributions to the Fund as approved by the Commission amounts to US\$ 898,068, amount corresponding to years 2016 through 2021. From these contributions, US\$ 757,049 have been received (as of 30 June 2021) and US\$ 141,020 are pending. **Table 1** summarizes the current situation of the contributions by Members to the Fund. All payments are reflected in the budget year to which they pertain and may not coincide with the year in which they were received.

<b>TABLE 1. Contributions by Members to the Fund in previous years, 2020 and 2021 as of 30 June, in US\$</b>								
	<b>Previous Years</b>		<b>2020</b>		<b>2021</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending
Belize	3,340	-	882	-	865	-	5,087	-
Canada	10,528	-	2,678	-	2,482	-	15,688	-
China	13,852	-	4,730	-	4,816	-	23,398	-
Colombia	23,124	-	5,316	-	-	7,568	28,440	7,568
Costa Rica	7,393	-	2,583	-	2,538	-	12,514	-
Ecuador	110,171	-	32,137	-	-	31,712	142,308	31,712
El Salvador	5,697	-	1,802	-	1,739	-	9,238	-
European Union	29,795	-	9,073	-	8,531	-	47,399	-
France	9,115	-	2,973	-	2,551	-	14,639	-
Guatemala	3,641	-	1,064	-	1,207	-	5,912	-
Japan	29,238	-	7,064	-	5,845	-	42,147	-
Kiribati	1,297	1,717	-	875	-	860	1,297	3,452
Korea	16,876	-	5,274	-	4,807	-	26,957	-
Mexico	76,550	-	20,550	-	21,160	20,571	118,260	-
Nicaragua	5,264	-	1,629	-	1,666	1,502	8,559	-
Panama	-	42,313	-	14,556	-	14,229	-	71,098
Peru	6,299	-	2,475	-	3,476	-	12,250	-
Chinese Taipei	15,530	-	4,815	-	4,646	-	24,991	-
United States of America	136,535	-	34,246	-	34,246	-	205,027	-
Vanuatu	4,081	-	1,064	-	-	979	5,145	979
Venezuela	7,793	18,943	-	3,703	-	3,565	7,793	26,211
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>516,119</b>		<b>140,355</b>		<b>100,575</b>		<b>757,049</b>	
<b>Approved budget<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>579,094</b>		<b>159,487</b>		<b>159,487</b>		<b>898,068</b>	
<b>Pending contributions</b>		<b>62,973</b>		<b>19,134</b>		<b>58,913</b>		<b>141,020</b>

**Table 2** summarizes the balance of the Fund as of 30 June 2021. To date, the balance to be carried forward is US\$ 200,713.

<b>TABLE 2. Fund activity, in US\$, in 2019, 2020 and 2021 through 30 June</b>			
	2019	2020	2021
1 January carryover from previous year	140,868	77,944	100,138
Income received	190,982	84,693	100,575
Total income	331,850	162,637	200,713
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Data collection on sharks	177,211	54,184	-
2019 Annual meeting	44,034	-	-
2019 SAC/MSE/FADS	32,661	8,315	-
Total expenses	253,906	62,499	-
<b>Balance of Fund carried forward</b>	<b>77,944</b>	<b>100,138</b>	<b>200,713</b>

<sup>1</sup> Amounts approved by budget year: 2016 \$131,086, 2017 \$132,109, 2018 \$156,412, 2019 \$159,487

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.

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.

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 CARRIED OUT IN 2019 and 2020

In accordance with the activities approved by the Commission, the activities described in **Table 3** were carried out in 2019 and 2020. It is important to mention that the COVID 19 pandemic has had a considerable impact on the realization of the activities that had been initially programmed to be carried out with the resources of the Fund. This has been particularly the case of all presential activities or those involving international travel, such as the training seminars or internships in the IATTC headquarters.

<b>TABLE 3.</b> Activities carried out in 2019 and 2020 totally or partially with resources from the Fund, in US\$, and in conjunction with other entities		
	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Beneficiary CPCs</b>
2019	Support for attendance to the 10 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMOs Working Group on FADs, Training workshop on FAD data collection, 9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Bycatch, Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Workshop. San Diego, California.	CRI, ECU, NIC, PAN, PER, SLV
	Support for attendance to the 93 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the IATTC. Bilbao, Spain. July.	BLZ, COL, CRI, GTM, NIC, PAN, VEN, ECU
	Training of port samplers for catch and effort data collection - Pilot Sampling program phase, and recruitment and early training of new port samplers for 2020 activities.	CRI, SLV, PAN, NIC, GTM
2020	AIDCP seminar for captains and fishermen (requirement for inclusion in the list of AIDCP qualified captains)	Ecuador
2020	Workshop - Capacity Building Hosted by S TUNACONS	Ecuador

### 4. ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 2021 AND 2022

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.*” **Table 4** shows pending activities to be carried out in 2021 and 2022 with the contributions received from the 2% fixed contribution, plus funds remaining from previous years. It is intended to conduct activities that have already been approved and that must be continued, as well as other related activities. It

is important to mention that all the activities indicated below fall within the framework of the guidelines established in Resolution [C-14-03](#).

<b>TABLE 4. Pending activities to be carried out in 2021 and 2022 with resources from the Fund.</b>			
		<b>Amount</b>	
1	Development of data collection and scientific infrastructure for fisheries management	US\$ ----- *	At the national and local level
2	Capacity-building seminar/workshop for decision makers responsible for IATTC matters from developing CPCs **	US\$50,000	At the subregional level
3	Capacity-building seminar/workshop for decision makers responsible for IATTC matters from developing CPCs ***	US\$50,000	At the subregional level
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

\* Amount to be determined on the basis of the specific activities to be programmed in consultation with the interested CPCs, within the limits of available funds.

\*\* This seminar/workshop is intended to provide training to decision-makers from developing Members countries in order to facilitate their participation in the various meetings and issues that are addressed within the framework of the IATTC. Topics such as the main concepts in scientific advice, the Commission's strategic work plan, research needs, improving compliance with the different provisions of the IATTC by its Members, etc. will be included.

\*\*\* This seminar/workshop is intended to provide training to officials in national fisheries agencies who are responsible for the daily follow-up of IATTC matters and interaction with the Commission, such as the preparation of reports and the submission of data.

\*\*\*\* 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.

\*\*\*\*\* 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.

## **5. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2019 AND 2020 WITH OTHER 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 carried out a series of activities during 2019 and 2020, funded by support from countries and other contributions, but not by the Fund (**Table 5**).

<b>Member or entity receiving support/date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Support given</b>
Stakeholders, San Diego, 7 May 2019	Training workshop on FAD data collection	Conducted by the IATTC staff. Train attendees on the different aspects of FAD data collection
Captains Ecuador, 28 September 2019	AIDCP training seminar (requirements for inclusion in the AIDCP list of qualified captains)	Conducted by the IATTC
Captains and fishermen Panama, 16 August 2019	Training workshop on bycatch reduction for captains and fishermen organized by the IATTC - ISSF	Staff participated with presentations
Captains and fishermen Manta, 14 August 2019	Training workshop on bycatch reduction for captains and fishermen organized by the IATTC - ISSF	Staff participated with presentations
National observer programs	Operation of a standardized database	Advice on their database editing software, rules and procedures to maintain quality standards
Guatemala June 2020	Video conference talk to review matters regarding their participation in IATTC	Review of issues related to capacity of the fleet in the EPO, and compromises to deliver data and reports to the Commission established in IATTC resolutions.
Costa Rica November 2020	Video conference talk to review matters regarding their participation in IATTC	Review of issues related to compromises to deliver data and reports to the Commission established in IATTC resolutions, IATTC finance contribution, participation in AIDCP, TTF, cooperation program on sharks.

In addition, the holding of two important workshops should be mentioned. First, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Bluefin Tuna Workshop (May 2019), which was organized by the ISC to enhance the understanding of stakeholders on bluefin tuna MSE and promote their involvement, and further develop the discussion of PBF MSE based on the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop and ISC's work thereafter. Second, the 1<sup>st</sup> IATTC Workshop on MSE for tropical tunas (December 2019), which U ided an overview of the MSE process, training on main MSE components and discussions on potential objectives and performance metrics. This meeting was financially supported in part by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

## **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 (initial 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.

## **Shark fisheries**

### **i. Sampling**

- a. Develop standardized data collection forms.
- b. Develop and disseminate in-port sampling designs for collection of shark and ray catch (landings) effort, and composition data.
- c. Develop and disseminate sampling designs for catch (retained and discards) and effort data for observer programs.

### **ii. Continuation of workshops on sharks**

Support participation in shark stock assessment workshops.

## **Training in fisheries biology and stock assessment research**

### **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.