

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
8TH MEETING
(by videoconference)
August 20, 2021

CHAIR'S REPORT
AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting*.	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Review of the financial audit report	
4. Review of proposed budgets for 2022 and 2023	CAF-08-02
5. Financial contributions of Members:	
a) Regular budget (Resolution C-15-05)	
b) Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building (Resolution C-14-03)	CAF-08-03 CAF-08-04
c) Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution C-12-07)	
d) Other	
6. Other business	
7. Recommendations to the Commission	
8. Adjournment	

* Including the adoption of *ad hoc* rules and arrangements for the 8th meeting only.

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees

The eighth meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance was held by videoconference on 20 August 2021.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Director *ad interim* of the IATTC, Amb. Jean-François Pulvenis, who called for nominations to elect the Chair of the Committee. Mr. Dave Hogan, of the United States, was elected to chair this meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes, as well as the *ad hoc* rules and arrangements for holding the meeting by videoconference.

3. Review of the financial audit report

It was reported that the financial audit report was provided to the Commissioners and Heads of Delegation. There were no comments.

4. Review of proposed budgets for 2022 and 2023

Ms. Nora G. Roa, of the IATTC staff, presented Document [CAF-08-02 Review of proposed budgets for](#)

[2022 and 2023](#). She explained the financial activity in 2020, the status of contributions for 2021, and the requested and projected budgets for 2022 and 2023, respectively.

She noted that the budget needs to at least keep pace with inflation, which affects all expenditures related to the activities of the Commission, both at headquarters and abroad, in view of the continuous rise in the cost of materials, goods and services that need to be purchased as a normal part of the Commission's operations, as well as for all activities associated with meetings and the implementation of projects and programs.

She recalled that the scope of the activities of the Commission and its staff continues to grow, derived from both the broader mandate of the Antigua Convention and in response to the wishes and requests from Members, which has involved hiring more staff, as well as remunerating the current staff for increased work. It is therefore essential that the Commission give due consideration to the level of funding requested and adopt the budget for 2022 for US\$ 8,309,063.

In response to a delegation that inquired about the increase of approximately US\$ 175,000 compared to the 2021 budget, the Secretariat informed that this is mainly the result of the cost of living increase (inflation), and that the cost of living increase and the budget increase represent only 2.15%.

Finally, the Committee expressed its agreement with the report contained in the document. However, it was decided to present to the plenary the recommendation to maintain the same 2020 budget of US\$ 8,133,837 for 2022 without any increase, due to the objection of one Member.

5. Financial contributions of Members

a. 2020 budget

The Secretariat presented information on the Members' outstanding arrears, noting that, as of 20 August 2021, they amounted to US\$ 7,487,953—which represents about 92% of the approved budget for 2021 (US\$ 8,133,837)—and that two Members, Venezuela and Panama, have arrears representing more than four years of their individual contributions.

Venezuela commented that they sent a letter to the Secretariat establishing payment commitments for their arrears from 2017 to 2019 and will subsequently make all payments. Panama also stated that it is continuing to make efforts to make pending payments and negotiations are underway with producers to ensure that payments greater than those committed can be made promptly.

b. Resolution C-15-05

The Secretariat presented the components and mechanics of the calculation of each Member's contribution in accordance with Resolution C-15-05 due to various requests from Members to clarify how their contribution was calculated. Annex A of the memo detailing the estimated projected contributions for 2022 and 2023 was presented and discussed. It was further explained how each Member's contribution is affected by another Member's change in GNI ranking noting that in the current year, four Members' rankings decreased (Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru), thus affecting all Member contributions.

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

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, from the Commission staff, presented Document [CAF-08-03 Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building](#) for developing Members, established by Resolution C-14-03. He reported that the balance of the fund is US\$ 200,713 as of 30 June 2021.

In 2019 and 2020, the activities developed with resources from the fund mainly focused on supporting the participation of developing countries in IATTC and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings, as well as training of port samplers for catch and effort data collection for shark data collection in Central American countries.

For 2021 and 2022, the following activities are planned to be carried out with resources from the fund and

considering that the pandemic situation allows it:

1. Development of data collection and scientific infrastructure for fisheries management.
2. Capacity-building seminar/workshop for decision makers responsible for IATTC matters from developing CPCs.
3. Capacity-building seminar/workshop for officials responsible for IATTC and AIDCP matters from developing CPCs.
4. Annual IATTC scholarship for scientific capacity in developing CPCs.
5. Participation of representatives of developing Members in the annual meeting of the IATTC and its subsidiary bodies.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission the approval of 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.

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

Mr. Belmontes presented document [CAF-08-04 Regional observer program for transshipments at sea](#), covering the financial part of the program, since the operational part had already been presented at the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

He reported that, in accordance with the requirements presented by MRAG, a budget of US\$ 1,440,000 is required for 2022, with the understanding that any current or future surplus will be used in the following year(s). This budget is identical to that required for 2021.

6. Other business

No other business was discussed.

7. Recommendations to the Commission

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

1. Consider the approval of a budget of US\$ 8,133,837 for 2022.
2. Approve the activities planned for 2021 and 2022 related to the special fund to support developing countries, as indicated in section 5b of this report.
3. Approve a budget of US\$ 1,440,000 for the transshipment program in 2022.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on 20 August 2021 at 11:30 AM, San Diego, California, USA time.