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COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1. Introduction	1
2. Current situation of the Fund’s financial resources	1
3. Activities carried out in 2017	3
4. Activities to be carried out in 2018 and 2019.	5
5. Activities carried out in 2017 with other financial resources	6
6. Potential activities to be carried out with additional resources	6

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 87th 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 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.”

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 contribution has been received.

2. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE FUND’S FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The contributions payable to the Fund total US\$ 419,605, amount corresponding to years 2016 through 2018. From these contributions, US\$ 297,343 have been received and US\$ 122,264 are pending. Table 1 summarizes the current situation of the contributions by Members to the Fund.

TABLE 1. Contributions by Members to the Fund in 2016, 2017, and in 2018 to May 31st, in US\$								
	2016		2017		2018		Total	
	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending
Belize	881	-	694	-	866	-	2,441	-
Canada	2,364	-	2,294	-	2,924	-	7,582	-
China	2,486	-	2,922	-	-	3,933	5,408	3,933
Colombia	-	5,991	-	5,481	-	6,894	-	18,366
Costa Rica	1,527	-	1,389	-	1,981	-	4,897	-
Ecuador	22,439	-	22,979	-	-	32,172	45,418	32,172
El Salvador	1,207	-	1,225	-	1,505	-	3,937	-
European Union	6,981	-	5,792	-	7,733	-	20,506	-
France	1,963	-	1,960	-	2,526	-	6,449	-
Guatemala	849	-	804	-	984	-	2,637	-
Japan	6,773	-	6,887	-	7,641	-	21,301	-
Kiribati	642	-	655	-	-	832	1,297	832
Korea	3,578	-	3,640	-	4,650	-	11,868	-
Mexico	18,422	-	17,837	-	-	19,720	36,259	19,720
Nicaragua	1,209	-	1,151	-	-	1,402	2,360	1,402
Panama	-	6,948	-	9,354	-	11,892	-	28,194
Peru	1,018	-	1,215	-	-	1,658	2,233	1,658
Chinese Taipei	3,300	-	3,286	-	4,211	-	10,797	-
United States of America	33,797	-	34,246	-	34,246	-	102,289	-
Vanuatu	917	-	954	-	-	1,084	1,871	1,084
Venezuela	7,793	-	-	7,343	-	7,560	7,793	14,903
Total contributions	118,146		109,930		69,267		297,343	
Approved budget	131,085		132,108		156,412		419,605	
Pending contributions		12,939		22,178		87,147		122,264

Table 2 summarizes the balance of the fund as of 31 May 2018. As can be seen, of the US\$ 323,794 received from 2014 to 31 May 2018, US\$ 199,794 has been spent. The remaining balance is US\$ 124,000, plus US\$ 122,264 from pending contributions.

TABLE 2. Balance of the Fund, in US\$, as of May 31st, 2018					
	2014-2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Income	26,451	118,146	109,930	69,267	323,794
Expenditures	26,451	115,202	45,803	12,338	199,794
Balance	-	2,944	64,127	56,929	124,000

To date, the resources of the Fund have been used by Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kiribati, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, El Salvador and Venezuela. Activities carried out in 2017 and 2018 with resources from the Fund include:

TABLE 3. Activities carried out in 2017 and 2018 with resources from the Fund, in US\$, as of May 31st, 2018, and beneficiaries		
	Activity	Beneficiary CPCs
2017	Attendance to the 91 st extraordinary meeting of the IATTC. La Jolla, California, February.	BLZ, GTM, SLV
	Attendance to the 8 th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee. La Jolla, California. May.	CRI, SLV, GTM, MEX, NIC, VEN
	92 nd meeting of the IATTC and meeting of the AIDCP. Mexico City. July.	BLZ, CRI, SLV, GTM, GTM, NIC, PAN, VEN
	6 th technical meeting on sharks. La Jolla, California. From September 28 th to 29 th .	BLZ, CRI, SLV, GTM, NIC, PAN, ECU, COL, MEX PER, VEN
	Capacity-building seminar/workshop on duties and responsibilities of Members-Parties to the IATTC and AIDCP. Panama. December.	BLZ, COL, CRI, SLV, GTM, NIC, ECU, COL, MEX PER, VEN.
2018	Attendance to the 9 th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee. La Jolla, California. May.	ECU, CRI, SLV, PAN, PER, NIC.

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, taking into account among others that travel costs rise significantly the closer they are received to the meeting in question.

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 2017

In accordance with the activities approved by the Commission, the activities described in Table 3 were carried out in 2017. The remaining balance should be used to support the activities in Table 5, which were included in the document submitted to the Committee on Finance and approved at the 2017 IATTC annual meeting, as reflected in paragraph 5(b) of the corresponding minutes ([92nd Meeting of the IATTC](#)). As can be noted below, activities 2, 3 and 4 have already been conducted, but some of them will continue, like the particular case of activity 4.

TABLE 4. Main capacity-building activities scheduled with the 2% contribution indicated in Resolution C-14-03

	Activity
1	Establishment of an annual IATTC scholarship for developing scientific capacity in developing CPCs. [See 2017 document CAF-05-05b Special fund for promoting institutional capacity building , (Resolution C-14-03)].
2	Development of an annual training course for creating capacity for developing CPCs, on matters such as sampling methods, stock assessment, fisheries policy, among others.
3	Development of a workshop in Central America for guidance on the various reports to be sent to the Secretariat under the various existing resolutions.

4	Participation of representatives of developing Members in the annual meeting of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
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1. **Annual scholarship:** The application process will be opened soon in order to choose a recipient for 2019. It is suggested that this scholarship be named the *Jimmy Martínez Scholarship* to honor and recognize the contributions of this Ecuadorian biologist and scientist to the work of the Commission and the sustainability of the species included in the Antigua Convention.
2. **Development of an annual training course for creating capacity for developing CPCs, on matters such as sampling methods and stock assessment.** As part of this action, the 6th technical meeting on sharks: Evaluation methods was held in La Jolla, California, USA, in September 2017. Sixteen participants (14 of which had received financial support from the FAO-GEF project to participate in a back-to-back activity) attended the meeting on behalf of ten IATTC members. The costs of the activities were completed with resources from the special Fund.
3. **Capacity-building seminar/workshop on duties and responsibilities of Members-Parties to the IATTC and AIDCP.** This capacity-building seminar/workshop was held in Panama City, representatives from 13 developing CPCs attended the workshop and 11 received financial support from the Fund, as well as speakers, staff from the Secretariat specialized in the subject, and the Chair of the Working Group on FADs. The costs were covered entirely by the special Fund.
4. **Participation of representatives of developing Members in the annual meeting of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.** As agreed by the Commission, and as described above, the Fund has continued supporting developing CPCs to enable their participation in meetings of the IATTC, its Scientific Advisory Committee and other subsidiary bodies. Around 40% of the Fund's resources in 2017 has been used for this purpose, taking into account the desire expressed by several members of the IATTC, for a balanced distribution of the amounts allocated to promote participation in meetings and capacity-building.

4. ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 2018 AND 2019.

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 5 shows pending activities to be carried out in 2018 and 2019 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.

TABLE 5. Pending activities to be carried out in 2018 (second semester) and 2019 with resources from the Fund.		
Activity	Amount	
Training of port samplers for a pilot IATTC/OSPESCA sampling program for collecting shark fisheries data in Central America and entering them into the OSPESCA/IATTC base. The samplers will be hired under the FAO-FMAM <i>Common Oceans</i> project; this cost covers two trips to Central America by IATTC staff for the training activities in June-August and November-December 2017.	US\$6,500	It will continue in 2019
Continue supporting the processing and archiving of historical data for the shark fishery in Central America obtained through the FAO-FMAM <i>Common Oceans</i> project. Once included in the OSPESCA/IATTC databases, they can be used in stock assessments.	US\$5,000	It will continue in 2019.
Management Strategies Evaluation (MSE) workshop.		August 27 th - 30 th ,

		2018, San Diego, CA
Two Capacity-building seminar/workshop for decision makers from developing CPCs, which would include subjects like main concepts of scientific advice, the Commission’s strategic work plan, research needs, etc.	US\$60,000	October – November 2018 – Place to be determined
Annual IATTC scholarship for developing scientific capacity in developing CPCs.	US\$30,000	Headquarters

5. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2017 WITH FINANCIAL RESOURCES BESIDES THE SPACIAL FUND

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 2017, funded by support from countries and other contributions, but not by the Fund (**Table 6**).

TABLE 6. Actions by the Secretariat in support of capacity building for developing CPCs, 2017.

Member receiving support	Activity	Support given
Ecuador, August 4 th	AIDCP training Seminar (requirement for inclusion in the AIDCP list of qualified captains) and Training workshop on bycatch reduction for captains and fishermen organized by the IATTC - ISSF	Staff participated with presentations
Ecuador, August 10 th and 11 th	AIDCP training Seminar (requirement for inclusion in the list of qualified captains) and Training workshop on bycatch reduction for captains and fishermen organized by ATUNEC.	Staff participated with presentations
National observer programs	Operation of a standardized database	Assistance and coordination in managing new database software
Costa Rica	Experimental program for collecting data on unloadings of large pelagic fish.	Support for developing the program
Central America	Reducing the ecosystem impact of tuna fisheries, specifically on sharks, as part of the FAO-FMAM <i>Common Oceans</i> project	Direct collaboration in the development of the project

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.

Bycatches

- a. Training courses on bycatch estimation and mitigation;
- b. Design of research strategies to address bycatch issues;
- c. Management and economic incentives to address bycatch issues.

Shark fisheries

i. Sampling

- a. Develop standardized data collection forms.
- b. Develop and disseminate sampling designs for landings of sharks and rays, and for observer programs.
- c. In-port collection of shark catch, size distribution, and effort data, as well as the development of standardized methods to identify shark species.

ii. Data reporting

Improving their capabilities to report data on catches and effort by gear type, landings and shark trade, including available historical data. Prepare one training course per year, dedicated to the development of standardized national observer programs. Design standard formats for CPCs to deliver their data.

iii. Biological parameters

Training for conducting research on stock structure and biological parameters, including training in biological sample collection and analysis methods.

iv. Fisheries data studies

Training for conducting research on the spatial-temporal characteristics of the catch, including identification of shark nursery grounds and of specific areas and seasons that contribute to the majority of catches, as well as a general training course on quantitative methods in fisheries data analysis and methods for estimating fisheries quantities, such as fishing mortality, and inputs for stock assessment. A pilot study of the use of electronic observers in longliners.

v. Continuation of workshops on sharks

Support participation in shark stock assessment workshops.