

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**  
**12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

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**DOCUMENT CAF-12-01**

**FISCAL YEAR 2024 RESULTS AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026  
AND 2027**

Requested budget, FY 2026	US\$	9,727,096
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This document presents the Commission’s financial activity for fiscal year<sup>1</sup> (FY) 2024, an update on the status of the contributions to the operating budget for FY 2025, and the requested budget for FY 2026.

**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 the budget will not be determined on the basis of the formula established in Resolution C-15-05, as that formula is currently pending discussion by the Members.

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 IATTC [Regional Vessel Register](#) (Resolution [C-18-06](#)). Thus, close coordination with the fisheries

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

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-22-03](#). 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 financial, administrative, scientific and technical areas, 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) which was closed in 2025, and at the [IATTC Laboratory at Achotines](#), Republic of Panama. Beside the work done in two areas of administration, finance and human resources on the one hand, and policy and compliance 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 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 discharge reports, 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 vessels<sup>2</sup> 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 the participating vessels (see Document AIDCP-51-01). 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 program

<sup>2</sup> 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 field office and scientific 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 Vessels Register and its maintenance, including the lists and categories established in different resolutions.

## C. BIOLOGY PROGRAM

**Category C** includes salaries and benefits for the Achotines laboratory 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-16 INF-L](#)):

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 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 AIDCP observer program (*i.e.* salaries, benefits, travel costs, training, *etc.*) and those associated with maintaining field offices supporting the activities of the AIDCP.

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%. This distribution was analyzed during the 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties, where it was decided to establish a 50% cost-sharing arrangement. This decision will be presented at the 103<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the IATTC for approval.
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 2024 OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES VARIANCE ANALYSIS**

**Table 1**, Column 1, shows the approved budget for 2024; Column 2 shows the actual expenditures in FY 2024, and Columns 3a and 3b, the variances between the budgeted and actual costs.

TABLE 1. 2024 budget variance analysis	1	2	3a	3b
	Approved	Actual	US\$	%
<b>HEADQUARTERS SALARIES AND BENEFITS:</b>				
Salaries	4,621,359	4,593,280	(28,079)	(0.6)
Employee benefits:				
Group insurance:				
Medical insurance	317,000	362,992	45,992	14.5
Life, disability and personal accident insurance	30,000	27,550	(2,450)	(8.2)
International workmen's compensation insurance	12,000	11,247	(753)	(6.3)
Social security	316,000	307,068	(8,932)	(2.8)
Pension fund (IFCPF)	237,000	232,782	(4,218)	(1.8)
Retirement plans	553,000	475,697	(77,303)	(14)
<b>Subtotal, Headquarters salaries and benefits</b>	<b>6,086,359</b>	<b>6,010,616</b>		
<b>ANNUAL MEETING COSTS</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>347,666</b>	<b>147,666</b>	<b>73.8</b>
<b>OPERATING COSTS:</b>				
Field office facilities expenses	80,000	46,752	(33,248)	(41.6)
Foreign contract labor costs***	630,000	625,816	(4,184)	(0.7)
Headquarters office expenses	146,000	130,719	(15,281)	(10.5)
Research materials and supplies	50,000	41,870	(8,130)	(16.3)
General upgrades for Achatines Laboratory	25,000	66,702	41,702	166.9
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	90,000	244,177	154,177	171.3
Vehicle Expenses:				
Purchase and operating costs of vehicles	46,000	17,855	(28,145)	(61.2)
Property insurance, licenses and permits	5,000	3,609	(1,391)	(27.8)
Printing and postage	10,000	18,655	8,655	86.6
Staff travel	135,000	107,740	(27,260)	(20.2)
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	165,000	118,311	(46,689)	(28.3)
Contracts:				
Annual audit and tax reporting	55,000	72,306	17,306	31.5
Payroll services	22,000	22,745	745	3.4
Other professional services	15,000	1,722	(13,278)	(88.5)
Bank and other fees	5,000	8,214	3,214	64.3
<b>Subtotal, Operating costs</b>	<b>1,479,000</b>	<b>1,527,193</b>		
<b>Subtotal, Headquarters salaries and benefits + Annual meeting costs + Operating costs</b>	<b>7,765,359</b>	<b>7,885,475</b>		
AIDCP Observer program *	<b>810,640</b>	<b>788,571</b>		
<b>TOTAL Operational budget</b>	<b>8,575,999</b>	<b>8,674,046</b>		
Unexpected expenses	-			
<b>Capacity Building Fund **</b>	<b>171,520</b>			
<b>Enhanced Monitoring Program (EMP) **</b>	<b>734,000</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,481,519</b>	<b>8,674,046</b>		
* Further explanation of budget variance may be found in Document AIDCP-51-01				
** Income and expenses recognized in 2024 related to these funds are found in Table 3				
*** Previously, Field office and Achatines Laboratory staff salaries.				

**Table 2** summarizes the financial results, by budget category and line item, as of 31 December 2024.

<b>TABLE 2.</b> Operational expenses, in US\$, by budget category and line item, 2024 <sup>3</sup>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>Subtotal IATTC</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>HEADQUARTERS SALARIES AND BENEFITS:</b>								
Salaries	1,254,531	714,695	627,347	1,043,555	953,152	4,593,280	115,025	4,708,305
Employee benefits:								
Group insurance:								
Medical insurance	101,145	62,169	70,409	66,017	63,252	362,992	12,572	375,564
Life, disability and personal accident insurance	8,594	5,141	4,177	4,819	4,819	27,550	1,436	28,986
International workmen's compensation insurance	2,946	2,142	1,741	2,008	2,410	11,247	281	11,528
Social security	86,648	46,433	44,535	73,713	55,739	307,068	8,482	315,550
Pension fund (IFCPF)		155,542		58,992	18,248	232,782	17,698	250,480
Retirement plans	143,636	57,278	51,211	115,866	107,706	475,697	10,553	486,250
<b>Subtotal, headquarters salaries and benefits</b>	<b>1,597,500</b>	<b>1,043,400</b>	<b>799,420</b>	<b>1,364,970</b>	<b>1,205,326</b>	<b>6,010,616</b>	<b>166,047</b>	<b>6,176,663</b>
<b>ANNUAL MEETING COSTS</b>	<b>347,666</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>347,666</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>347,666</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>								
Field office facilities expenses	-	46,752	-	-	-	46,752	113,167	159,919
Foreign contract labor costs <sup>4</sup>	-	249,622	376,194	-	-	625,816	-	625,816
Headquarter office expenses	40,972	-	80,776	-	8,971	130,719	-	130,719
Research materials and supplies	-	-	41,270	-	600	41,870	-	41,870
General upgrades for Achotines Laboratory	-	-	66,702	-	-	66,702	-	66,702
Observer expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	505,887	505,887
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	223,321	4,257	-	8,340	8,259	244,177	-	244,177
Purchase and operating costs of vehicles	7,924	-	9,931	-	-	17,855	-	17,855
Property insurance, licenses and permits	3,266	-	343	-	-	3,609	-	3,609
Printing, and postage	1,818	9,096	4,713	2,650	378	18,655	-	18,655
Staff travel	42,154	13,705	18,849	14,199	18,833	107,740	-	107,740
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	2,629	3,782	1,065	64,981	45,854	118,311	-	118,311
Consulting and support:								
Annual audit and tax reporting	67,246	-	5,060	-	-	72,306	2,877	75,183
Payroll services	22,745	-	-	-	-	22,745	-	22,745
Other professional services	812	-	910	-	-	1,722	-	1,722
Bank and other fees	7,313	-	887	-	14	8,214	593	8,807
<b>Subtotal, operating expenses</b>	<b>420,200</b>	<b>327,214</b>	<b>606,700</b>	<b>90,170</b>	<b>82,809</b>	<b>1,527,193</b>	<b>622,524</b>	<b>2,149,717</b>
<b>TOTAL operational expenses</b>	<b>2,365,366</b>	<b>1,370,614</b>	<b>1,406,120</b>	<b>1,455,140</b>	<b>1,288,235</b>	<b>7,885,475</b>	<b>788,571</b>	<b>8,674,046</b>

<sup>3</sup> A (Administration, finance, policy and compliance); B (Data collection and database program); C (Biology program); D (Stock assessment program); E (Eco-system and bycatch program); F (30% of the AIDCP observer program)

<sup>4</sup> Previously, "IATTC F.O. staff" and "Achetines Lab."

The following provides additional details 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.

International retirement plans were established for staff members residing outside of the United States which are included within this line item.

## **BUDGETED OPERATIONAL EXPENSES**

**Field office facilities expenses:** includes rent, utilities, insurance, telephone, repairs and maintenance, furniture and equipment, and office supplies for the Commission's field offices, as well as travel, legal & professional services.

**Foreign contract labor costs:** includes personnel related costs in permanent field office and laboratory staff.

**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 purchased for the Achotines Laboratory.

**General upgrades for Achotines Laboratory:** includes significant repairs and maintenance costs related to the Achotines laboratory facilities as well as large purchase and maintenance of equipment.

**Observer expenses:** 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-50-03 and is subject to change once the Parties to the AIDCP approve the 2026 budget.

**Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment:** Includes equipment purchases of hardware such as computers and office machines, and software, including licensing agreements. It also includes expenses related to the 2024 cyberattack.

**Operational costs and purchase of vehicles:** includes purchase of vehicles, related maintenance, insurance and fuel costs.

**Property insurance licenses and permits:** includes all property insurance and regulatory agency fees.

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

**Staff travel:** includes travel and subsistence costs incurred by IATTC staff members to attend meetings or workshops organized 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 to include simultaneous interpretation service costs.

**Consulting and support:** 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 CONSIDERATIONS

### 1. Variances

- 1.1. The IATTC strives to maintain costs within budget. During 2024 the year closed with three over budget variances in excess of US\$ 20,000 and 20% between the budgeted and actual costs (**Table 1**).

The budget line items most affected include:

- **Annual meeting** – In recent years, the increase in this category has been discussed in meetings, due to the current high costs resulting from the overall rise in the living cost. Measures are being taken to reduce meeting expenses, including asking Members to host the meeting.
- **Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment:** During the 2024 fiscal year, the IATTC suffered a cybersecurity incident. This unforeseen event required the organization to incur unanticipated expenditures aimed at responding to and resolving the attack immediately. The Director immediately informed the Members in Memorandum Ref. 0622-410, dated 19 December 2024, informing them of this situation as well as the steps taken to resolve it.
- **General upgrades for Ashotines Laboratory:** Increased expenditures resulting from the need for continued maintenance in order to preserve the laboratory's operational integrity and functionality. It is important to note that the laboratory's infrastructure has significantly deteriorated due to the fact that no substantial improvements had been carried out for several years.

## 6. 2024 SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Table 3** summarizes the special project activity during 2024.

The IATTC staff routinely seeks and receives extrabudgetary contributions 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 expenditures were derived from resolutions (**Resolution**), such as the program for monitoring transshipments at sea established by Resolution [C-22-03](#) on establishing a program for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (Document [CAF-11-03](#)), funding national programs authorized by Resolution [A-19-01](#), and the Capacity Building Fund (CBF), established by Resolution [C-14-03](#) for strengthening the institutional capacity of developing countries (Document [CAF-11-03](#)).

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 2024 this amounted to US\$ 171,520, based on the approved operating budget of US\$ 8,575,999 for that year.

The IATTC approved the financing of the Enhanced Monitoring Program to be fully funded by the 2023 year-end surplus.

The research activities and projects recommended by the Scientific Advisory Committee ([IATTC-103-02](#)) were not included in this document and would require additional funding, as well as the staff proposals for specific projects that are not currently funded ([IATTC-103-03c](#))

<b>TABLE 3. Special projects, 2024, in US\$</b>				
<b>Project (funding source)</b>		<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>+/(-)</b>
<b>External</b>				
C.4.c	Data source on shark species (FAO)	199,248	199,248	-
H.3.a	Skipjack tagging analysis (EU)	98,897	98,897	-
D.1.a	Remote identification of FADS (EU)	57,598	48,795	8,803
H.5.b	Shark mark and recapture (EU)	64,040	64,040	-
U.1.a	Contract for project No. PFID-INF-2020-5 (SENACYT)	15,373	5,669	9,704
H.8.c	Mother-Calf Dolphin Study (MEX)	23,384	23,384	-
H.8.a	Design survey for EPO dolphin stocks (MEX)	82,365	82,365	-
M.5.d	Evaluation of material performance for FADS (AZTI)	26,773	1,297	25,476
A.4.a	Regional tuna tagging program, Phase II (EU)	-	9,197	(9,197)
C.2.b	Electronic monitoring of longline activities in EPO (EU)	52,705	39,833	12,872
E.4.a	SPC Tag recovery (SPC)	74,078	74,078	-
-	Fleet capacity workshop (USA)	52,778	52,778	-
	Other projects <sup>5</sup>	9,883	9,883	-
<b>Subtotal of External funding source</b>		<b>757,122</b>	<b>709,464</b>	
<b>IATTC</b>				
	Western Pacific out of area	30,009	30,009	-
	Enhanced Monitoring Program (EMP) <sup>6</sup>	9,067	634,189	(625,122)
<b>Subtotal IATTC funding source</b>		<b>39,076</b>	<b>664,198</b>	
<b>Resolution</b>				
C-12-07	Transshipment program	876,433	876,433	-
A-19-01	Distribution of allocation of funds for national programs	-	19,712	(19,712)
C-14-03	Capacity-building fund <sup>7</sup>	213,041	75,242	137,799
<b>Subtotal of funding sources by Resolution</b>		<b>1,089,474</b>	<b>971,387</b>	
<b>Total Special projects</b>		<b>1,885,672</b>	<b>2,345,049</b>	

An administrative fee is charged on all research voluntary extrabudgetary contributions that are not included within the IATTC budget, as well as the placement of observers on vessels operating outside the IATTC Convention Area. 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 2024

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-23-12](#) received during 2024.

<sup>5</sup> Includes income and expenditures related to miscellaneous extrabudgetary funding such as post-release shark mortality and FAD bycatch studies.

<sup>6</sup> Cumulative carryover funds were used to finance project expenses during 2024 as agreed at the 102<sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting.

<sup>7</sup> Further explanation of this budget may be found in Document CAF-12-02

<b>TABLE 4. Member contributions received during 2024, in US\$</b>				
	<b>Arrears</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Voluntary/ 2025 Prepaid</b>	<b>Total</b>
Belize	-	44,655	46,888	91,543
Canada	-	129,124	134,751	263,875
China	-	276,735	17,500	294,235
Colombia	-	282,309	-	282,309
Costa Rica	-	147,371	153,695	301,066
Ecuador	-	1,679,744	-	1,679,744
El Salvador	-	99,606	-	99,606
European Union	-	347,444	-	347,444
France	-	150,692	-	150,692
Guatemala	18,896	49,384	-	68,280
Japan	-	259,783	-	259,783
Korea	221,402	237,194	-	458,596
Mexico	1,155,882	-	-	1,155,882
Nicaragua	-	84,718	-	84,718
Panama	1,093,319	713,590	-	1,806,909
Peru	203,089	168,497	27,690	399,276
Chinese Taipei	-	228,512	-	228,512
United States of America	-	1,746,553	-	1,746,553
Vanuatu	-	50,884	-	50,884
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>2,692,588</b>	<b>6,696,795</b>	<b>380,524</b>	<b>9,769,907</b>
Unpaid 2024 contributions at year end		1,404,238		
<b>2024 approved budget contributions</b>		<b>8,101,033</b>		

## 8. STATUS OF MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2025

The approved operating budget for FY 2025 is US\$ 7,814,614, plus US\$ 820,000 for the AIDCP Observer Program costs, US\$ 172,692 for the capacity-building fund, US\$ 400,000 for the Enhanced Monitoring Program and US\$ 332,120 for the ongoing IATTC tagging program, for a total agreed budget of US\$ 9,539,427. As agreed in Resolution [C-24-11](#), “the members will pay the sum of US\$ 8,484,677 with the remaining balance of US\$ 1,054,750 funded by the cumulative carryover.”

Despite the requirement that all payments be made by 1 March of the corresponding year, as of 30 June 2025, there is still an unpaid amount of approximately 43% (US\$ 3.7 million) of the 2025 budget contributions established in Resolution C-24-11, *Financing for fiscal year 2025*, 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 late payment are warranted.

**Table 5** shows the status of unpaid contributions, totaling US\$ 6,918,853 as of 30 June 2025:

<b>TABLE 5. Outstanding contributions, in US\$, as of 30 June 2025<sup>8</sup></b>				
	<b>Previous years</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>Total</b>
Venezuela	1,739,932	190,393	199,077	2,129,402
Ecuador	-	-	1,813,102	1,813,102
Panama	1,240,890	32,637	196,723	1,470,250
Mexico	-	-	1,117,990	1,117,990
Korea	-	-	244,181	244,181
Kiribati	-	44,452	46,390	90,842
Vanuatu	-	-	53,086	53,086
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,980,822</b>	<b>267,482</b>	<b>3,670,549</b>	<b>6,918,853</b>

<sup>8</sup> Payments made subsequent to 30 June will be presented at the meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance.

## 9. RATIONALE FOR ADJUSTMENTS FROM THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2025 TO THE REQUESTED BUDGET FOR 2026

**Table 6** shows the budget change requests by line item from 2025 to 2026.

The financial regulations, dated June 2008, establish the requirement for budget estimates for the two following financial years, together with corresponding actual expenditures for the current year. However, due to the budget uncertainties discussed during the intersessional meetings earlier this year, the Secretariat did not have sufficient information or appropriate parameters to provide a budget request for 2027.

All changes were made based upon 2024 expenditure levels and consideration of future needs within specific line items for 2026.

The proposed increase of US\$ 154,683 in Headquarters salaries and related benefits includes adjustments for cost-of-living for staff, and reflects the updated assessment of staff time dedicated to the IATTC and the AIDCP, as detailed in document [AIDCP-50-02](#) presented at the 50<sup>th</sup> (Extraordinary) Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP, held in La Jolla on 26-27 March. This document is available on the IATTC website.

The net increase in operating costs of US\$ 86,827 takes into consideration the following:

1. Adjustments for the **Field office and Ashotines Laboratory staff salaries** to provide for retirement expenses for IATTC field office staff, in accordance with the laws in force in the corresponding country.
2. The increase in retirement expenses is due to higher staff participation in the defined contribution plans as well as considering that all new personnel hired are automatically enrolled at the established rate of contribution.
3. An increase in medical and dental insurance costs of 12% is expected for IATTC headquarters staff.
4. The cost of the IATTC annual meeting increased with respect to the 2025 budget, considering the possibility that an IATTC Member may not offer to host the meeting.
5. Additional funds added to the **Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment** to upgrade and replace the equipment necessary for information protection following the data breach that occurred in late 2024.
6. **Annual audit and tax reporting** as well as **Payroll services** are increased based upon actual costs incurred in 2024.

<b>TABLE 6. Comparative figures, in US\$, by budget line item, FYs 2025 - 2026</b>			
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	
	<b>(approved)</b>	<b>+ / (-)</b>	<b>(Requested)</b>
<b>HEADQUARTERS SALARIES AND BENEFITS:</b>			
Salaries	4,720,554	154,683	4,875,237
Group insurance:			
Medical insurance	350,000	42,000	392,000
Life, disability and personal accident insurance	25,000	5,000	30,000
International workmen's compensation insurance	11,000	1,000	12,000
Social security	323,588	9,708	333,295
Pension fund (IFCPS)	327,000	(127,000)	200,000
Retirement plan	456,473	128,556	585,028
<b>Subtotal, Headquarters salaries and benefits</b>	<b>6,213,614</b>	<b>213,947</b>	<b>6,427,561</b>
<b>OPERATING COSTS:</b>			
Field office facilities cost	60,000	-	60,000
Foreign contract labor costs	640,000	40,000	680,000
Headquarters office expenses	107,000		107,000
Research materials and supplies	50,000	-	50,000
General upgrades at Achotines Laboratory	25,000	25,000	50,000
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	130,000	10,000	140,000
Operational costs and purchase of vehicles	30,000	1,827	31,827
Property insurance, licenses and permits	5,000	-	5,000
Printing and postage	10,000	-	10,000
Staff travel	135,000		135,000
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	142,000		142,000
Contracts:			
Annual audit and tax reporting	70,000	10,000	80,000
Payroll services	27,000		27,000
Other professional services	15,000	-	15,000
Bank and other fees	5,000	-	5,000
<b>Subtotal, Operating costs</b>	<b>1,451,000</b>	<b>86,827</b>	<b>1,537,827</b>
<b>ANNUAL MEETING COSTS</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>
<b>Subtotal, Salaries and benefits, Annual meetings, and Operating costs</b>	<b>7,814,614</b>	<b>450,774</b>	<b>8,265,388</b>
AIDCP Observer program <sup>9</sup>	820,000		820,000
<b>Total Operational budget</b>	<b>8,634,614</b>	<b>450,774</b>	<b>9,085,388</b>
Capacity Building Fund <sup>10</sup>	172,692	9,016	181,708
Subtotal	<b>8,807,307</b>	<b>459,789</b>	<b>9,267,096</b>
<b>IATTC Integrated Port-Sampling Program (IPSP)</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>460,000</b>
<b>2025 budget plus IPSP</b>	<b>9,007,307</b>	<b>719,789</b>	<b>9,727,096</b>
<b>IATTC Integrated Port-Sampling Program (IPSP) from surplus</b>	<b>200,000</b>		
<b>Tagging program fund from surplus</b>	332,120		
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>9,539,427</b>		<b>9,727,096</b>

## 10. SUMMARY

The Director and the staff of the Commission recognize the need to ensure that the organization functions efficiently while fulfilling their functions under the Antigua Convention comprehensively and diligently

<sup>9</sup> Amount is based upon the AIDCP budget request and is subject to change (See current AIDCP finance document (AIDCP-52-01)).

<sup>10</sup> Actual amount reflects a 2% contribution rate which is dependent upon the approved operational budget.

while carrying out the tasks assigned by its Members. With the continuing rise in costs, particularly those related to travel, it is imperative that our budget not only takes these into account but keeps pace with them as well while considering the costs associated with the activities of the Commission, both at headquarters and abroad.

The observer program expenses, which are currently covered 30% by the IATTC budget and 70% by the AIDCP budget, was discussed at the 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties, where a 50/50 cost-sharing arrangement between the IATTC and the AIDCP was proposed. Due to the uncertainty of the budget presented on 23 June 2025, this decision will be presented at the 103<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the IATTC.

The scope of the Commission's activities and that of its staff continues to broaden. This expansion is a result of not only the wider mandate emanating from the Antigua Convention, but also the evolving priorities set by the Commission, reflective of the desires and recommendations of its Members. This broader term of work necessitates the retention of highly qualified staff in addition to providing adequate compensation for any extra duties undertaken and keeping pace with inflation. After an extensive evaluation and thoughtful consideration of the requested budget for 2026, we project a budget requirement of US\$ 9,727,096, reflecting a 2% increase from the 2025 approved budget.

It is crucial that every Member make their budget contributions in a timely fashion for the Commission and its staff to fulfill their mandates and to achieve our goals.

The issue of pending arrears from some Members requires immediate resolution.