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COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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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 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\$ 579,094, amount corresponding to years 2016 through 2019. From these contributions, US\$ 452,416 have been received (as of 30 April 2019) and US\$ 126,678 are pending. **Table 1** summarizes the current situation of the contributions by Members to the Fund.

	Previous Years		2018		2019		Total	
	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending
Belize	1,575	-	866	-	899	-	3,340	-
Canada	4,658	-	2,924	-	2,946	-	10,528	-
China	5,408	-	3,933	-	-	4,511	9,341	4,511
Colombia	11,472	-	6,894	-	4,758	-	23,124	-
Costa Rica	2,916	-	1,981	-	2,496	-	7,393	-
Ecuador	45,415	-	32,172	-	-	32,584	77,587	32,584
El Salvador	2,432	-	1,505	-	1,760	-	5,697	-
European Union	12,773	-	7,733	-	9,289	-	29,795	-
France	3,923	-	2,526	-	2,666	-	9,115	-
Guatemala	1,653	-	984	-	-	1,004		1,004
Japan	13,660	-	7,641	-	7,937	-	29,238	-
Kiribati	1,297	-	-	832	-	885		1,717
Korea	7,218	-	4,650	-	5,008	-	16,876	-
Mexico	36,259	-	19,720	-	-	20,571	55,979	20,571
Nicaragua	2,360	-	1,402	-	-	1,502	3,762	1,502
Panama		16,302		11,892	-	14,119		42,313
Peru	2,233	-	1,658	-	-	2,407	3,891	2,407
Chinese Taipei	6,586	-	4,211	-	4,733	-	15,530	-
United States of America	68,043	-	34,246	-	34,246	-	136,535	-
Vanuatu	1,871	-	1,084	-	-	1,126	2,955	1,126
Venezuela	7,793	7,343	-	7,560	-	4,040		18,943
Total contributions	239,548		136,130		76,738		452,416	
Approved budget	263,193		156,414		159,487		579,094	
Pending contributions		23,645		20,284		82,749		126,678

Table 2 summarizes the balance of the Fund as of 30 April 2019. As can be seen, the total available income was US\$ 313,471, from which US\$ 65,475 have been spent. The remaining balance is US\$ 247,996.

	2018	2019	Total
31 December 2017 carryover			89,130
Income received	97,064	127,277	224,341
Total income			313,471
Expenditures			
Data collection on sharks	21,538	20,149	41,687
2018 Annual meeting	17,480		17,480
2018 SAC	5,787		5,787
2017 Capacity building seminar-workshop on duties and responsibilities (Panama, December 2017) ¹	521		521
Total expenses	45,326	20,149	65,475
Balance of Fund as of 30 April 2019			247,996

¹ Remaining payments for expenses incurred and paid for the most part in 2017.

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.

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 2018

In accordance with the activities approved by the Commission, the activities described in **Table 3** were carried out in 2018. The Committee has suggested that efforts be made to ensure that the resources of the Fund are not mostly or exclusively used to support attendance to meetings. There is still room for improvement in this context, as shown in the table below.

TABLE 3. Activities carried out in 2018 totally or partially with resources from the Fund, in US\$, and beneficiaries		
	Activity	Beneficiary CPCs
2018	Support for attendance to the 9 th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee. La Jolla, California.	CRI, ECU, NIC, PAN, PER, SLV
	Support for attendance to the 92 nd meeting of the IATTC. San Diego, California. August.	BLZ, COL, CRI, GTM, NIC, PAN, VEN
	Recruitment and early training of port samplers and collection of shark fishery historic information from Central American sources.	CRI, SLV, PAN, NIC, GTM

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 4** shows pending activities to be carried out in 2019 and 2020 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](#).

TABLE 4. Pending activities to be carried out in 2019 (second semester) and 2020 with resources from the Fund.			
		Amount	
1	Recruitment and early training of port samplers and collection of shark fishery historic information from Central American sources	US\$185,000	To be carried out in 2019
2	Capacity-building seminar/workshop for decision makers from developing CPCs	US\$50,000	October-November 2019

3	Annual IATTC scholarship for developing scientific capacity in developing CPCs*	US\$30,000	Headquarters
4	Participation of representatives of developing Members in the annual meeting of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies	US\$40,000	

- 1) As can be seen in **Table 3**, reflecting expenses in the first quarter of the year, this activity started at the beginning of the year and it is expected to spend US\$ 185,000 to follow up this activity until December 2019.
- 2) 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.
- 3) As explained in previous reports, the intention is to carry out an activity through which applications will be received in order to select a scholarship recipient for 2019. 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.
- 4) 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 the annual meeting of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

5. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2018 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 2018, funded by support from countries and other contributions, but not by the Fund (**Table 5**).

Member or entity receiving support/date	Activity	Support given
Captains Ecuador, 28 September	AIDCP training seminar (requirements for inclusion in the AIDCP list of qualified captains)	Conducted by the IATTC
Captains and fishermen Panama, 16 August	Training workshop on bycatch reduction for captains and fishermen organized by the IATTC - ISSF	Staff participated with presentations
Captains and fishermen Manta, 14 August	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

The MSE workshop was scheduled and included in the 2017 report as an activity to be carried out in 2018. Said workshop was conducted as planned, but with resources almost entirely from the FAO/GEF ABNJ (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction) project. Since the workshop was held on dates linked to the annual

meeting of the IATTC, some participants were able to attend the workshop with the support provided for the flight to attend the IATTC meeting.

This workshop yielded very good results and three main topics were addressed: a) support for the implementation of sustainable and efficient fisheries management and fishing practices; b) reduction of IUU fishing through the strengthening and harmonization of monitoring, control and surveillance; c) reduction of the impact of tuna fisheries on the ecosystem, including bycatch and associated species.

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

Improve 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.