INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

13TH MEETING

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DOCUMENT CAF-13-01

FISCAL YEAR 2025 RESULTS AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND 2028

Requested budget, FY 2027	US$	8,625,420
Projected budget, FY 2028	Us$	8,950,322

This document presents the Commission's financial activity for fiscal year[1] (FY) 2025, as well as an update on the status of the contributions to the operating budget for FY 2026, the requested budget for FY 2027, and projected budget for FY 2028.

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. This year, as in the previous one, it is expected that once again the amount of the contribution corresponding to each Member to the budget will not be determined on the basis of the formula established in Resolution C-15-05, given the pending review of this formula 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 this work.

[1] The IATTC's fiscal year coincides with the calendar year, 1 January to 31 December.

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) as well as the establishment and maintenance of an IATTC Regional Vessel Register (Resolution C-18-06). Thus, close coordination with the fisheries 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-25-01 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 temporarily 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 Data-base, 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 for 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[2] 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-53-01). 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

[2] 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, 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. Research on 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 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 the **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 general 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 regarding 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 of 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 50th Meeting of the Parties, where it was decided to establish a 50% cost-sharing arrangement. This decision by the AIDCP Parties is pending approval by the IATTC and will be presented for its consideration at the 104th meeting of the IATTC.
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**
5. **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 2025 OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES VARIANCE ANALYSIS

Table 1, Column 1, shows the approved budget for 2025; Column 2 shows the actual expenditures in FY 2025; Column 3a shows the variance between the budgeted cost and the actual expenditures (US$), and Column 3b shows the variances between the budgeted cost and actual expenditures as percentage (%).

TABLE 1. 2025 budget variance analysis	1	2	3a	3b
	Approved	**Actual**	**US$**	**%**
HEADQUARTERS SALARIES AND BENEFITS:				
Salaries	4,720,554	4,641,198	(79,356)	(1.7)
Severance		176,389	176,389	
Employee benefits:				
Group insurance:				
Medical insurance	350,000	345,551	(4,449)	(1.3)
Life, disability and personal accident insurance	25,000	26,685	1,685	6.7
International workmen's compensation insurance	11,000	11,023	23	0.2
Social security	323,588	309,471	(14,117)	(4.4)
Pension fund (IFCPF)	327,000	327,000		
Retirement plans	456,473	506,285	49,812	10.9
Subtotal, Headquarters salaries and benefits	**6,213,615**	**6,343,602**		
ANNUAL MEETING COSTS	**150,000**	**131,153**	**(18,847)**	**(12.6)**
OPERATING COSTS:				
Field office facilities expenses	60,000	73,220	13,220	22.0
Foreign contract labor costs	640,000	681,238	41,238	6.4
Headquarters office expenses	107,000	120,473	13,473	12.6
Research materials and supplies	50,000	46,715	(3,285)	(6.6)
General upgrades for Achotines Laboratory	25,000	40,731	15,731	62.9
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	130,000	181,951	51,951	40
Vehicle Expenses:				
Purchase and operating costs of vehicles	30,000	3,898	(26,102)	(87.0)
Property insurance, licenses and permits	5,000	8,423	3,423	68.5
Printing and postage	10,000	6,316	(3,684)	(36.8)
Staff travel	135,000	86,119	(48,881)	(36.2)
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	142,000	92,667	(49,333)	(34.7)
Contracts:				
Annual audit and tax reporting	70,000	70,953	953	1.4
Payroll services	27,000	26,528	(472)	(1.7)
Other professional services	15,000	11,158	(3,842)	(25.6)
Bank and other fees	5,000	1,677	(3,323)	(66.5)
Subtotal, Operating costs	**1,451,000**	**1,452,067**		
Subtotal, Headquarters salaries and benefits + Annual meeting costs + Operating costs	**7,814,615**	**7,926,822**		
AIDCP Observer program *	**820,000**	**761,294**		
TOTAL Operational budget	**8,634,615**	**8,688,116**		
Capacity Building Fund **	172,692			
Subtotal	**8,807,307**			
Enhanced Monitoring Program (EMP) ***	200,000			
Enhanced Monitoring Program (EMP) from surplus ***	200,000			
Tagging program from surplus	332,120			
TOTAL	**9,539,427**			

* Further explanation of budget variance may be found in Document AIDCP-53-01

** Income and expenses recognized in 2025 related to these funds are found in Table 3

*** EMP report will be presented by the project coordinator.

Table 2 summarizes the financial results, by budget category and line item, as of 31 December 2025.

TABLE 2. Operational expenses, in US$, by budget category and line item, 2025[3]	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**Subtotal IATTC**	**F**	**TOTAL**
HEADQUARTERS SALARIES AND BENEFITS:								
Salaries	1,321,230	637,262	649,496	1,013,510	1,019,700	4,641,198	115,417	4,756,615
Severance	123,375	0	0	53,014	0	176,389		176,389
Employee benefits:								
Group insurance:								
Medical insurance	101,388	64,634	60,799	56,334	62,396	345,551	10,639	356,191
Life, disability and personal accident insurance	8,820	2,585	3,690	5,229	6,361	26,685	456	27,141
International workmen's compensation insurance	3,413	1,964	1,596	2,209	1,841	11,023	258	11,280
Social security	91,959	38,824	45,665	58,212	74,811	309,471	8,264	317,735
Pension fund (IFCPF)	327,000	0	0	0	0	327,000	0	327,000
Retirement plans	154,710	55,694	56,596	119,977	119,308	506,285	12,627	518,912
Subtotal, headquarters salaries and benefits	2,131,895	800,964	817,841	1,308,484	1,284,418	6,343,602	147,661	6,491,263
ANNUAL MEETING COSTS	131,153	-	-	-	-	131,153	-	131,153
OPERATING EXPENSES:								
Field office facilities expenses	0	66,052	7,168	0	0	73,220	115,183	188,403
Foreign contract labor costs	0	242,950	438,288	0		681,238	0	681,238
Headquarter office expenses	34,548	0	76,039	9,886	0	120,473	0	120,473
Research materials and supplies	0	0	46,715	0	0	46,715	0	46,715
General upgrades for Achotines Laboratory	0	0	40,731	0	0	40,731	0	40,731
Observer expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	497,856	497,856
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	175,606	4,337	50	1,958	0	181,951	0	181,951
Purchase and operating costs of vehicles	2,181	0	1,717	0	0	3,898	0	3,898
Property insurance, licenses and permits	6,377	0	2,046	0	0	8,423	0	8,423
Printing, and postage	1,644	0	4,672	0	0	6,316	0	6,316
Staff travel	33,902	10,767	21,038	6,094	14,318	86,119	0	86,119
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	6,285	0	1,106	35,352	49,924	92,667	0	92,667
Consulting and support:								
Annual audit and tax reporting	65,883	0	5,070	0	0	70,953	0	70,953
Payroll services	26,528	0	0	0	0	26,528	0	26,528
Other professional services	10,500	0	658	0	0	11,158	0	11,158
Bank and other fees	934	0	743	0	0	1,677	594	2,271
Subtotal, operating expenses	364,388	324,106	646,041	53,290	64,242	1,452,067	613,633	2,065,700
TOTAL operational expenses	**2,627,436**	**1,125,070**	**1,463,882**	**1,361,774**	**1,348,660**	**7,926,822**	**761,294**	**8,688,116**

[3] A (Administration, finance, policy and compliance); B (Data collection and database program); C (Biology program); D (Stock assessment program); E (Ecosystem and bycatch program); F (30% of the AIDCP observer program)

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 staff required to carry out the tasks assigned by the Commission. Headquarters staff to date have been following the model of the federal 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 that have been 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 include rent, utilities, insurance, telephone, repairs and maintenance, furniture and equipment, and office supplies for the Commission's field offices, as well as travel, legal, and professional services.

Foreign contract labor costs include staff related costs in permanent field office and laboratory staff.

Headquarter office expenses include utilities, insurance, telephone, and office supplies for both the La Jolla office and the Achotines Laboratory.

Research materials and supplies include sundries and research supplies purchased for the Achotines Laboratory.

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

Observer expenses include 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-53-01 and is subject to change once the Parties to the AIDCP approve the 2026 budget.

Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment is divided into 3 categories: the MIP accounting program, purchase and maintenance of computer equipment, and cloud data storage.

MIP accounting program includes the accounting program, training, and cloud storage.

Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment: Purchases of hardware, such as computers and machines, and software with their respective licenses

Cloud data storage includes the rental of cloud space for all of the IATTC's data and website.

Operational costs and purchase of vehicles include purchase of vehicles, related maintenance, insurance and fuel costs. For several years no new vehicles have been purchased, pending the development of a new vehicle leasing strategy to capture the savings that would result from the Commission having vehicles in good condition, thereby reducing maintenance expenses.

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

Printing and postage include 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. This does not include IATTC meetings.

IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings) include cost of venue and incidental costs incurred by IATTC staff members to attend IATTC meetings. This includes simultaneous interpretation service costs.

Consulting and support include legal and professional fees, auditing and payroll services, short-term contracts with specialists, and temporary 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 2025, the year closed with budget variances in excess of US$ 20,000 and 20% between the budgeted and actual costs (**Table 1**).

The most affected budget line items are:

- ***Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment****:* In 2025, the Secretariat was the target of a second cyberattack, which resulted in expenditures not contemplated in the budget. It should be noted that following the cyberattack that occurred in 2024, the IATTC implemented measures aimed at strengthening the protection of information, including contracting cloud storage services. An update will be presented at this meeting by Secretariat IT staff.
- ***General upgrades for Achotines Laboratory:*** This line item shows a percentage variance higher that budgeted, but the amount spent does not exceed US$20,000; however, it should be clarified that the approximately US$15,000 in excess of the amount budgeted was covered by revenue generated at the Achotines Laboratory by holding workshops, among other activities.

Additionally, although these are not line items that exceed actual expenditures, it is important to mention that for cost control reasons, a reduction was achieved in the following line items:

- ***IATTC meetings (excludes annual meeting):*** The reduction in expenditures was due to the holding of some meetings in a hybrid and virtual format, which nevertheless still entail interpretation costs.
- ***Staff travel:*** The reduction in expenditure was due to greater control over staff participation in meetings held away from headquarters and greater participation in hybrid and virtual format, thereby reducing the expenses associated with in-person participation.

6. 2025 SPECIAL PROJECTS

Table 3 summarizes the special project activity during 2025.

The IATTC staff routinely seeks and receives extrabudgetary contributions from outside sources to support its activities. 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**,** such as the program for monitoring transshipments at sea established by Resolution C-22-03 to establish a program for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels, fund 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.

The CBF is essential to ensure the substantial and effective participation of those countries in the activities of the Commission, including 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 2025 this amounted to US$ 172,692, based on the approved operating budget of US$ 8,634,615 for that year.

The IATTC approved the financing of the Enhanced Monitoring Program in the amount of $400,000, of which $200,000 were covered by the accumulated fund from 2024.

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.

TABLE 3. Special projects, 2025, in US$				
Project (funding source)		**Income**	**Expenses**	**+/(-)**
External				
C.4.c	Data source on shark species (FAO)	338,177	338,177	-
Q.1.a	Environmental Leadership Training Initiative, Phase 3 (Yale University)	8,890	1,516	7,374
H.3.a	Skipjack tagging analysis (EU)	27,943	27,943	-
H.5.b	Shark mark and recapture (EU)	23,064	23,064	-
R.1.b	Development, Communication, and Evaluation of EEO (EU)	13,805	0	13,805
	Sampling design development	13,924	13,924	-
M.5.d	Evaluation of material performance for FADS (AZTI)	4,542	276	4,266
E.4.a	SPC Tag recovery (SPC)	46,627	46,627	-
-	Study of Genetic and Microchemical Methods for Otoliths	3,683	3,683	-
	Sustainable Tuna PAN Phase 3	178,000	178,000	
	The Pacific Alliance for Sustainable Tuna	33,387	33,387	
	Other projects[5]	11,541	12,531	(990)
	Subtotal of external funding source	**703,583**	**679,128**	
IATTC				
	Western Pacific out of area	36,353	36,353	
	Enhanced Monitoring Program (EMP) [6]	264,384	424,643	(160,259)
	Electronic Sampling Program (ESP)	39,899	39,899	
	Subtotal IATTC funding source	**340,636**	**500,895**	
Resolution				
C-12-07	Transshipment program	1,012,935	1,012,935	
A-19-01	Distribution of allocation of funds for national programs	0	12,169	(12,169)
C-14-03	Capacity-building fund[7]	153,408	116,513	36,895
	Subtotal of funding sources per Resolution	**1,166,343**	**1,141,617**	
	Total Special projects	**2,210,562**	**2,321,641**	

In some cases, 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 administrative, operational, or unexpected costs not included in the approved budget.

7. STATUS OF MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2025

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-24-11 received during 2025.

[5] Includes income and expenditures related to miscellaneous extrabudgetary funding such as post-release shark mortality.

[6] Shows the funds received from Member's contributions corresponding to the 2025 budget and the expenditures for that same year. Excess expenditures were drawn from the accumulated fund.

[7] Further explanations of this budget may be found in Document CAF-13-02

TABLE 4. Member contributions received during 2025, in US$				
	Arrears	**2025**	**Voluntary/ 2026 Prepaid**	**Total**
Belize*	-	-	-	-
Canada*	-	-		
China	-	288,579	9,000	297,579
Colombia	-	300,827	-	300,827
Costa Rica*	-	0	152,049	152,049
Ecuador	-	1,813,102	0	1,813,102
El Salvador	-	114,568	6,429	120,997
European Union	-	367,673	10,228	377,901
France	-	156,870	-	156,870
Guatemala	18,766	71,015	-	89,781
Japan	-	270,074	-	270,074
Korea	-	2,750	-	2,750
Mexico	1,117,990	52,909	-	1,170,899
Nicaragua	-	92,204	-	92,204
Panama	532,589	794,846	-	1,327,435
Peru	-	178,794	-	178,794
Chinese Taipei	-	237,857	-	237,857
United States of America	-	1,746,553	1,746,553	3,493,106
Vanuatu	-	53,086	-	53,086
Total contributions	1,669,345	6,541,707	1,924,259	10,135,311
2025 contributions received in 2024		335,331		
2025 contributions outstanding at the end of the year		1,607,639		
2025 approved budget contributions		**8,484,677**		

8. STATUS OF MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2026

The approved operating budget for FY 2025 is US$ 7,814,615, 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 stated 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 2026, there is still an unpaid amount of approximately 43% (US$ 3.7 million) of the 2026 budget contributions established in Resolution C-25-10, *Financing for fiscal year 2026*, 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$ 6,596,371 as of 30 June 2026:

TABLE 5. Outstanding contributions, in US$, as of 30 June 2026[8]				
	Previous years	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**	**Total**
Venezuela	1,930,325	199,077	199,042	2,328,444
Ecuador	-	-	1,848,566	1,848,566
Mexico	-	-	1,117,991	1,117,991
Panamá	711,262	-	167,843	879,105
China	-	-	285,562	285,562
Kiribati	44,452	46,390	45,861	136,703
Total	**2,686,039**	**245,467**	**3,664,865**	**6,596,371**

[8] Payments made after June 30 will be presented at the meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance.

9. STATUS OF THE ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTION FOR THE REGIONAL TUNA TAGGING PROGRAM (RTTP) FOR 2026.

In accordance with the provision of Resolution C-25-10, extraordinary funding for the Regional Tuna Tagging Program (RTTP) for fiscal year 2026, in the amount of US$ 1.8 million, shall be provided through one-time contribution to be paid by all purse-seine vessels listed as active on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register (RVR) at any time during the calendar year. This contribution is set at US$ 6.16 per cubic meter of well capacity for each vessel. This payment was required to be made in full no later than June 30, 2026 (or prior to inclusion in the register for those vessels entering the RVR after January 15,2026)

Table 6 shows the outstanding balances by country of the IATTC Members, corresponding to the one-time contribution for the RTTP, totaling US$ 829,247 as of June 30, 2026:

TABLE 6. Outstanding balances of the One-Time Contribution to the Regional Tuna Tagging Program (RTTP) In US$, as of June 30, 2026[8]

	Amount Assigned	**Paid**	**Pending**
Ecuador	549,115	454,134	94,981
EU	57,473	32,094	25,379
Mexico	387,575		387,575
Nicaragua	30,190	13,367	16,823
Panama	224,347	182,237	42,110
Peru	47,685		47,685
United States	196,153	151,370	44,783
Venezuela	179,656	9,745	169,911
Total			**829,247**

10. RATIONALE FOR ADJUSTMENTS FROM THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2026 TO THE REQUESTED BUDGET FOR 2027

Table 7 shows the budget change requests by line item from 2026 to 2027, as well as the costs projected for 2028. All changes were made based on 2025 expenditure levels, considering future needs within specific line items for 2027

It should be noted that there is a significant reduction in the: Salaries and benefits of headquarters staff" line item, in the amount of US$618,331, as a result of savings made possible by the continuation in 2026 of the Commission's progressive rationalization and optimization of human resources.

Nevertheless, there is a proposed increase of 4% in that line item, which corresponds to cost-of-living adjustments.

The net increase in operating costs of US$ 222,600 (not including "Salaries and benefits of headquarters staff") considers the following:

1. Increase in **Field office facility expenses,** since in recent years these have exceeded the approved budgeted resources, as a result of increases in the cost of utilities, rent, fuel, vehicle insurance, etc.
2. Adjustments for the **Field office and Achotines Laboratory staff salaries** to provide for retirement expenses for IATTC field office staff, in accordance with the laws in force in the corresponding country and includes a provision for contracting editorial support services.
3. Increase in funds allocated to **Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment**, driven by the needs and urgency to carry out equipment upgrades and replacements necessary to optimize service delivery and prevent any recurrence of the situation experienced in recent months as a result of cyberattacks.
4. Increase **in Headquarters office expenses** of 4%, related to the cost-of-living adjustment.
5. Increase in the cost of **payroll services**, since over the past year that cost has exceeded the approved budgeted resource, due to the cost-of-living adjustment.
6. **Other professional services** increase for contracting of a person at the Cumana office to assist with matters relating to Venezuela.
7. The cost of the **IATTC annual meeting** increased relative to the budget approved for 2026, considering the possibility that no IATTC Member will offer to host the annual meeting to be held in 2027.

However, despite these increases, the budget for 2027 is slightly lower than the budget for 2026, without compromising the operations of the Commission and its Secretariat.

TABLE 7. Comparative figures, in US$, by budget line item, FY 2027 - 2028	

	2026 (approved)	2027 +/(-)	2027 (Requested)	2028 (Projected)
HEADQUARTERS SALARIES AND BENEFITS:				
Salaries	4,768,860	(490,075)	4,278,785	4,449,936
Group insurance:				
Medical insurance	392,000	20,000	412,000	428,480
Life, disability and personal accident insurance	30,000	0	30,000	31,200
International workmen's compensation insurance	12,000	500	12,500	13,000
Social security	333,820	(6,493)	327,327	340,420
Pension fund (IFCPF)	200,000	(100,000)	100,000	104,000
Retirement plan	572,263	(42,263)	530,000	551,200
Subtotal, Headquarters salaries and benefits	6,308,943	(618,331)	5,690,612	5,918,236
OPERATING COSTS:				
Field office facilities cost	55,000	30,400	85,400	88,816
Foreign contract labor costs	680,000	34,000	714,000	742,560
Headquarters office expenses	130,000	25,300	155,300	161,512
Research materials and supplies	60,000	900	60,900	63,336
General upgrades at Achotines Laboratory	75,000	3,000	78,000	81,120
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	150,000	30,000	180,000	182,520
Operational costs and purchase of vehicles	25,000	-	25,000	26,000
Property insurance, licenses and permits	4,000	500	4,500	4,680
Printing and postage	15,000	1,500	16,500	17,160
Staff travel	110,000	-	110,000	114,400
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	150,000	-	150,000	150,000
Contracts:				
Annual audit and tax reporting	55,000	(5,000)	50,000	52,000
Payroll services	25,000	8,000	33,000	34,320
Other professional services	2,000	19,000	21,000	21,000
Bank and other fees	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Subtotal, Operating costs	1,541,000	147,600	1,688,600	1,744,424
ANNUAL MEETING COSTS	125,000	75,000	200,000	200,000
Subtotal, Salaries and benefits, Annual meetings, and Operating costs	**7,974,943**	**(395,731)**	**7,579,212**	**7,862,660**
AIDCP Observer program[9]	815,168		877,082	912,166
Total Operational budget	**8,790,111**		**8,456,294**	**8,774,826**
Capacity Building Fund[10]			169,126	175,497
Subtotal	**8,790,111**		**8,625,420**	**8,950,322**
IATTC Integrated Port-Sampling Program (IPSP) from surplus	460,000			
TOTAL BUDGET	**9,250,111**		**8,625,420**	**8,950,322**

[9] This amount is based on the AIDCP budget request and is subject to change (See current AIDCP finance document (AIDCP-53-01)).

[10] Actual amount reflects a 2% contribution rate which is dependent upon the approved operational budget.

11. SUMMARY

The Director and the staff of the Commission recognize the need to ensure that the organization functions efficiently, fulfilling their functions under the Antigua Convention comprehensively and diligently while carrying out the tasks assigned by its Members. With the continuing rise in costs, particularly those related to information technology and travel, it is imperative that our budget not only takes these into account but keeps pace with them, considering the costs associated with the activities of the Commission, both at Headquarters and abroad.

The scope of the Commission's activities and that of its staff continues to expand. 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 requires 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 2027, we project a budget requirement of US$ 8,625,420 (does not include the IPSP project), reflecting a 2% decrease from the 2026 approved budget.

It is being proposed that a contingency fund for unforeseen expenses be created in the amount of US$ 500,000, a proposal that will be presented for consideration by the CAF. If approved by the Commission, this amount would be added to the regular operational budget requested for 2027, even though the allocated resources would not come from Member's annual contributions for that year.

Finally, it is important to underscore that it is of crucial importance that all Members make their budgetary contributions on time so that the Commission and its staff can fulfill their mandates and achieve all objectives.

Pending arrears from some Members requires immediate resolution.