

IATTC – AIDCP

2nd Informal Consultation between The IATTC Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Financial Strengthening of the AIDCP (WGFSa)

2:00 – 6:00 pm (Pacific time)
(Virtual format)

20 – 21 May 2026

Request from the Joint Working Group CAF-WGFSa

SUMMARY

The staff of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) has prepared this document in response to a request from the Joint Working Group of the IATTC Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Financial Strengthening of the AIDCP (WGFSa).

The purpose of this document is to provide supporting information regarding the assessment of the relationship between the economic activity of vessels participating in the AIDCP and their financial contributions to the budget.

The document presents an indicative economic analysis that quantifies the value of the product landed in port by vessels of AIDCP Parties during 2024 and compares it with the contributions to the AIDCP budget made by participating vessels. The analysis is based on the best information available to the Secretariat, including data from the AIDCP observer program and the IATTC Regional Vessel Register.

The IATTC staff prepared this document in response to inquiries made by the group.

6. *[Request an] economic analysis quantifying the value of the catch landed at port by vessels of the AIDCP Parties ... in 2024, presenting a table comparing the estimated port value of each Party's catch with its contributions to the AIDCP budget through vessel assessments.*

METHODS

Utilized data

Fleet catch.

The AIDCP Secretariat maintains two database sets that enable the calculation of this value. One contains landing weights reported by processors, and the other contains catch estimates by species provided by AIDCP observers.

In this case, the IATTC staff deemed it more appropriate to use the information from the observer program, as it is the most comprehensive, since not all information from the processors is available, particularly when they are located in areas where there are no IATTC staff stationed, or when a vessel supplies product to more than one processor, and even more so when some of these processors are small traders who use the product for purposes other than canning.

Well capacity

The APIDC is funded by contributions from participating vessels based on their well capacity in cubic meters (m³) for all Class-6 vessels participating in the fishery in the EPO, or from smaller vessels under special circumstances. The IATTC Regional Vessel Register (RVR) database contains this information, which is published on the Commission's website.

For this study, the sum of the volumetric capacity of the vessels that carried AIDCP observers in 2024 was used.

Ex-vessel prices (price of the product at the time of unloading).

This is the most difficult data to obtain, particularly because real-time prices are considered proprietary information for competitive reasons, and even historical data is difficult to obtain. Additionally, they depend on size and species, and although the IATTC has information on the catch sizes of the fleet in general, to obtain an adequate estimate of the catch sizes for each individual vessel, it would be necessary to conduct intensive sampling of the wells for each trip of every vessel participating in the AIDCP in order to obtain a reliable estimate.

On the other hand, bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Pacific is not normally destined for canneries, as is the case with the other tropical tunas targeted by vessels participating in the AIDCP. This species is typically kept alive after capture and maintained in an aquaculture process where it is intensively fed for subsequent sale. This process requires significant post-harvest investment. Typically, the selling price of this species depends on the individual quality and size of each fish, which differs from that at the time of capture.

Despite the difficulties noted in obtaining accurate dock prices, a search on various internet portals provided a price range, and, considering the information regarding sizes noted above, this report uses an average of those ranges as an index.

In our view, the aforementioned index is an underestimate, but for the purposes of this exercise, it is indicative.

RESULTS

Price information

The results of the online search are shown in Table 1. However, although the working group requested data for 2024, it was impossible to find historical values that would provide reliable information. For example, the FAO's December 2024 GLOBEFISH quarterly analysis ([Quarterly Tuna analysis - December 2024](#))

Table 1. Price information.

Prices – Precios		
Species - Especie	Price – Precio (t)	Source - Fuente
PBF	\$ 23,575	PBF
YFT	\$ 2,400	YFT
SKJ	\$ 1,450	SKJ
BET	\$ 1,565	BET

indicates that international tuna trade increased in the first nine months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023, and that by the end of the first fishing ban in 2024, high catches and high demand were reported due to reduced landings in September. It is possible that, with high demand, prices have increased.

Thus, Table 1 provides the price values as published on the indicated websites, without specifying the year; and, considering the GLOBEFISH information mentioned earlier, it is plausible to assume that these

values are lower than those in 2024.

Catch by vessels participating in the AIDCP.

During their trips, observers estimate the catch by species, but they do not have instruments to make precise measurements. During training, they are instructed to use a methodology that reduces bias and standardizes the methods used by all observers. That is, while it is impossible to improve accuracy, the consistent and standardized training of observers aims to maximize the precision of their estimates. However, as mentioned above, under these circumstances, it is impossible to make a precise estimate of the catch by size on board, and for this purpose, it is necessary to supplement the observers' data with intensive sampling at the time of unloading. Samples of a few fish from selected holds on each trip, used to obtain information on catch cohorts for the entire fleet, are also insufficient for this particular report.

In light of the above, the catch estimate provided by the observer, without regard to size, is used for the analysis presented here.

Contribution of vessels participating in the AIDCP.

Resolution [A-18-01](#) (in force until 2025) establishes in paragraph 2 that “*Quotas for those vessels required to carry observers under the provisions of the AIDCP shall be calculated at a rate of US\$14.95 per cubic*

meter of hold volume.” These vessels include smaller-class vessels required to carry an observer when reported as setting nets on dolphins and vessels fishing in the EPO for only one trip, in accordance with the resolution [C-02-03](#).

In addition, there are contribution obligations for vessels listed in the RRB’s registry of inactive and sunken purse seine vessels.

However, for the purposes of this analysis, the calculation of contributions for 2024 was performed only for active Class 6 purse seine vessels (with a carrying capacity greater than 363 t) during 2024.

Table 2. Retained catches by AIDCP vessels – 2024

2024 AIDCP Retained catches – APICD Capturas retenidas (t)					
Flag – Pab.	YFT	SKJ	BET	PBF	Total
ECU	47,722	337,627	19,902	0	405,251
MEX	157,160	19,981	825	3,517	181,484
NIC	7,403	14,138	682	0	22,223
PAN	38,108	100,612	3,822	0	142,542
USA	3,443	32,050	2,623	0	38,115
VEN	32,792	3,606	82	0	36,480
OTR ¹	13,990	112,044	11,827	0	137,861
Total	300,619	620,058	39,762	3,517	963,955

¹ Includes Colombia, El Salvador, European Union (ESP) and Peru. This category is used to avoid disclosing information about the activities of individual ships or companies.

Table 2 presents information by flag on the retained catches of commercial tuna (PBF, YFT, SKJ, BET) from the vessels included in this analysis.

On the other hand, Table 3 presents the value derived from the *ex-vessel* prices multiplied by the catches in Table 2, expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars (1,000 = 1 million dollars). It also includes contributions to the AIDCP resulting from the volumetric carrying capacity of their holds, multiplied by US\$14.95, and, finally, a rate calculated as the quotient of gross profits divided by the aforementioned contributions.

In summary, on average, for every five dollars earned from the dock price, each vessel contributes 1 cent to the APICD.

Table 3. *Ex-vessel* value of catches, APICD contribution (1 000 US\$) and rate of both values.

Flag - Pabel-lón	Retained catches value - Valor de las capturas retenidas (1,000US\$)					Contribution – Aporte / Rate - Tasa		
	YFT	SKJ	BET	PBF	Total	Capac. (m ³)	Contr. - Aporte US\$	Rate - Tasa
ECU	\$ 114,533	\$ 489,559	\$ 31,147	\$ -	\$ 635,239	77,743	\$ 1,162	0.0018
MEX	\$ 377,185	\$ 28,973	\$ 1,291	\$ 82,916	\$ 490,365	57,370	\$ 858	0.0017
NIC	\$ 17,767	\$ 20,500	\$ 1,067	\$ -	\$ 39,335	4,901	\$ 73	0.0019
PAN	\$ 91,460	\$ 145,887	\$ 5,981	\$ -	\$ 243,328	31,720	\$ 474	0.0019
USA	\$ 8,262	\$ 46,472	\$ 4,105	\$ -	\$ 58,839	24,032	\$ 359	0.0061
VEN	\$ 78,701	\$ 5,228	\$ 128	\$ -	\$ 84,058	16,344	\$ 244	0.0029
OTR	\$ 33,576	\$ 162,464	\$ 18,509	\$ -	\$ 214,549	33,242	\$ 497	0.0023
Total	\$ 721,484	\$ 899,084	\$ 62,228	\$ 82,916	\$ 1,765,712	245,352	\$ 3,668	0.0021