

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

**Phoenix, Arizona**  
**28 July 2022**

**DOCUMENT CAF-09-01**

**FISCAL YEAR 2021 RESULTS AND BUDGETS FOR FISCAL  
YEARS 2023 AND 2024**

Requested budget, FY 2023	US\$	8,904,385
Projected budget, FY 2024	US\$	9,194,432

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This document presents the Commission’s financial activity for fiscal year<sup>1</sup> (FY) 2021, an update on the status of the contributions to the operating budget for FY 2022, the requested budget for FY 2023, and a budget projection for FY 2024.

**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 an agreed annual budget is derived from the formula established in Resolution [C-15-05](#).

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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](#)) is tracked by means of the 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-12-07](#). 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 of the individual vessel limit scheme 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 administrative, scientific and technical areas, and sufficient 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), and at the IATTC Laboratory at Achotines, Republic of Panama. Beside the work done in two areas of policy and compliance on the one hand, and administration, finance and human resources, 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 receipts, 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 parties of the AIDCP through fees of the participating vessels (see Document AIDCP-44-01). 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 budget

<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 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 Register of Vessels and its maintenance, including the lists and categories established in different resolutions.

## C. BIOLOGY PROGRAM

**Category C** includes salaries and benefits for field office 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-13-13](#)):

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 field office staff and 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 observer program (*i.e.* salaries, benefits, travel costs, training, *etc.*) and those associated with maintaining field offices.

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%.
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 2021 OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES

**Table 1**, Column 1, shows the original approved budget for 2021; Column 2 shows the actual expenditures in FY 2021, and Columns 3a and 3b the variances between the budgeted and actual costs.

TABLE 1. 2021 budget	1	2	3a	3b
	Approved	Actual	US\$	%
<b>HEADQUARTERS SALARIES AND BENEFITS:</b>				
Salaries	4,098,349	3,612,567	(485,782)	(.12)
Employee benefits:				
Group insurance:				
Medical insurance	347,000	310,876	(36,124)	(.10)
Life, disability and personal accident insurance	30,000	24,822	(5,178)	(.17)
International workmen's compensation insurance	10,000	9,202	(798)	(.08)
Social security	286,981	237,663	(49,318)	(.17)
Pension fund (IFCPF)	401,285	301,730	(99,555)	(.25)
403(b) retirement plan	360,000	246,698	(113,302)	(.32)
<b>Subtotal, Headquarters salaries and benefits</b>	<b>5,533,615</b>	<b>4,743,558</b>	<b>(790,057)</b>	
<b>ANNUAL MEETING COSTS</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>5,317</b>	<b>(114,683)</b>	<b>(.96)</b>
<b>OPERATING COSTS:</b>				
Field office facilities and related supplies	100,000	57,463	(42,537)	(.43)
Field office staff salaries	560,000	450,645	(109,355)	(.20)
Headquarters office expenses	165,910	122,194	(43,716)	(.26)
Research materials and supplies	75,000	57,923	(17,077)	(.23)
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	100,000	86,232	(13,768)	(.14)
Vehicles:				
Operation (fuel, maintenance, etc.)	24,305	23,983	(322)	(.01)
Parking	10,000	-	(10,000)	(1.00)
Capital purchase	-	14,415	14,415	1.00
Insurance, licenses and permits	6,000	2,614	(3,386)	(.56)
Printing, postage and publication	10,000	7,612	(2,388)	(.24)
Staff travel	120,000	52,928	(67,072)	(.56)
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	100,000	67,579	(32,421)	(.32)
Contracts:				
Annual audit and tax reporting	45,000	49,470	4,470	.10
Payroll services	20,000	10,160	(9,840)	(.49)
Other professional services	15,000	17,001	2,001	.13
Bank and other fees	10,000	2,579	(7,421)	(.74)
<b>Subtotal, Operating costs</b>	<b>1,361,215</b>	<b>1,022,798</b>	<b>(338,417)</b>	
<b>Subtotal, Headquarters salaries and benefits + Operating costs + Annual meeting costs</b>	<b>7,014,830</b>	<b>5,771,673</b>	<b>(1,243,157)</b>	
Observer program **	959,520	799,373	(160,147)	(.17)
<b>TOTAL Operating budget</b>	<b>7,974,350</b>	<b>6,571,046</b>	<b>(1,403,304)</b>	
** Further explanation of budget variance may be found in Document AIDCP-44-01				

**Table 2** summarizes the financial results, by budget category and line item, as of 31 December 2021.

<b>TABLE 2.</b> Operational expenses, in US\$, by budget category and line item, 2021 <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	1,011,481	508,609	810,310	600,162	682,005	3,612,567	190,623	3,803,190
Employee benefits:								
Group insurance:								
Medical insurance	97,790	49,662	61,171	37,669	64,584	310,876	19,695	330,571
Life, disability and personal accident insurance	9,894	3,622	3,684	2,854	4,768	24,822	1,316	26,138
International workmen's compensation insurance	2,791	1,374	2,384	1,319	1,334	9,202	471	9,673
Social security	64,299	34,942	49,612	40,623	48,187	237,663	13,049	250,712
Pension fund (IFCPF)	-	191,618	-	57,718	52,394	301,730	20,218	321,948
403(b) Retirement plan	44,243	13,593	19,785	69,163	99,914	246,698	22,933	269,631
<b>Subtotal, headquarters salaries and benefits</b>	<b>1,230,498</b>	<b>803,420</b>	<b>946,946</b>	<b>809,508</b>	<b>953,186</b>	<b>4,743,558</b>	<b>268,305</b>	<b>5,011,863</b>
<b>ANNUAL MEETING COSTS</b>	<b>5,317</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,317</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,317</b>
<b>OPERATING COSTS:</b>								
Field office facilities and related supplies	-	57,463	-	-	-	57,463	20,539	78,002
Field office staff salaries	-	247,658	202,987	-	-	450,645	72,866	523,511
Headquarter office expenses	19,391	74	97,543	237	4,949	122,194	-	122,194
Research materials and supplies	-	-	56,180	-	1,743	57,923	-	57,923
Observer costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	437,663	437,663
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	84,045	1,957	152	78	-	86,232	-	86,232
Vehicles:								
Capital Purchase	-	-	14,415	-	-	14,415	-	14,415
Operation (fuel, maintenance, etc.)	5,874	-	18,109	-	-	23,983	-	23,983
Insurance, licenses and permits	1,780	-	834	-	-	2,614	-	2,614
Printing, postage and publication	942	58	3,807	2,761	44	7,612	-	7,612
Staff travel	10,279	-	944	21,230	20,475	52,928	-	52,928
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	57,643	-	-	6,936	3,000	67,579	-	67,579
Contracts:								
Annual audit and tax reporting	49,470	-	-	-	-	49,470	-	49,470
Payroll services	10,160	-	-	-	-	10,160	-	10,160
Other professional services	15,042	-	910	1,049	-	17,001	-	17,001
Bank and other fees	650	-	1,929	-	-	2,579	-	2,579
<b>Subtotal, operating costs</b>	<b>255,276</b>	<b>307,210</b>	<b>390,632</b>	<b>32,291</b>	<b>30,211</b>	<b>1,022,798</b>	<b>531,068</b>	<b>1,553,866</b>
<b>TOTAL operational expenses</b>	<b>1,491,091</b>	<b>1,110,630</b>	<b>1,344,756</b>	<b>841,799</b>	<b>983,397</b>	<b>5,771,673</b>	<b>799,373</b>	<b>6,571,046</b>

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

The following provides additional detail 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. The triennial actuarial evaluation in January 2020 has shown improvement.

**403 (b) Retirement plan:** Since 2002, the Commission has operated a defined contribution (403(b)) retirement plan, to which both staff members and the Commission contribute.

During 2021 an international retirement plan was established for a staff member residing outside of the United States.

## **BUDGETED OPERATIONAL COSTS**

**Field office facilities and related supplies:** includes rent, utilities, insurance, telephone and office supplies for the Commission's field offices.

**Field office staff salaries:** includes costs related to permanent field office staff, as well as related taxes and benefits.

**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 supporting the Achotines Laboratory.

**Observer costs:** includes the required IATTC funding of the IDCPC, 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-44-01, and is subject to change once the Parties to the AIDCP approve the budget for 2021.

**Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment:** Includes equipment purchases of hardware such as computers and office machines, and software, including licensing agreements,.

**Purchase, parking and operating costs of vehicles:** includes purchase of vehicles, and related maintenance and fuel costs as well as staff parking.

**Insurance, licenses and permits:** includes all vehicle and property insurance, vehicle registrations and regulatory agency fees.

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

**Staff travel:** includes travel and subsistence costs incurred by IATTC staff members to attend meetings or workshops sponsored 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 as well as costs for simultaneous interpretation services.

**Contracts:** 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 VARIANCE

The IATTC strives to maintain costs within budget; however, during 2021 the IATTC was again unable to fully function as it continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting day-to-day operations such as travel, meetings and hiring of new staff, among others. For this reason the year closed with most line items showing significant variances in excess of US\$ 20,000 and 20% between the budgeted and actual costs (**Table 1**). Operations are progressively returning to normal in 2022, as expected.

## 6. 2021 SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Table 3** summarizes the special project activity during 2021.

The IATTC staff routinely seeks and receives extra-budgetary funding 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. For instance, since 2007 the IATTC staff has raised an annual average of approximately US\$ 94,000 in supplementary funding for research at the Achotines Laboratory, in addition to the US\$ 324,000 from the IATTC regular budget for utilities, fish food, and other supplies, and salaries for 16 locally-contracted staff, included in the Biology Program.

Some programs were derived from resolutions (**Resolution**), such as the program for monitoring transshipments at sea established by resolution [C-12-07](#) on establishing a program for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (Document CAF-09-04) and the Capacity Building Fund (CBF), established by Resolution [C-14-03](#) for strengthening the institutional capacity of developing countries (Document CAF-09-03).

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 2021 this amounted to US\$ 159,487, based on the approved operating budget of US\$ 7,974,350 for that year.

Not included in this document are research activities and projects recommended by the Scientific Advisory Committee ([IATTC-100-03](#)), which would require additional funding, nor proposals by the staff for specific projects that are not currently funded (IATTC-100-02b)

<b>TABLE 3. Special projects, 2021, in US\$</b>				
<b>Project (funding source)</b>		<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>+/(-)</b>
<b>External</b>				
C.4.b	Long-term sampling program for sharks in Central America (EU)	318,942	318,942	-
Q.1.a	Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative Phase 3 (Yale University)	181,732	151,444	30,288
R.1.b	Development, Communication and Evaluation of MSE Contract for project No. PFID-INF-2020-5 (SENACYT)	177,109	177,109	-
H.8.a	Design survey for EPO dolphin stocks (MEX)	101,000	101,000	-
A.4.a	Regional tuna tagging program, Phase I (EU)	77,024	77,024	-
A.4.a	Regional tuna tagging program, Phase II (EU)	2,365	2,365	-
C.2.b	Electronic monitoring of long line activities in EPO (EU)	47,829	47,829	-
D.2.a	Electronic monitoring of PS vessel activities and catches (EU)	33,457	32,965	492
M.5.a	Testing biodegradable materials for FADS (EU)	14,597	14,597	-
M.1.c	Acoustic studies of Yellowfin Tuna (ISSF)	-	1,687	(1,687)
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,069,137</b>	<b>1,040,044</b>	<b>29,093</b>
<b>IATTC</b>				
	Western Pacific out of area	43,976	43,976	-
	Other projects <sup>4</sup>	59,802	3,440	56,362
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>103,778</b>	<b>47,416</b>	<b>56,362</b>
<b>Resolution</b>				
	Transshipment program (C-12-07)	1,341,248	1,341,248	-
	Capacity-building fund (CBF) (C-14-03)	203,438	23,530	179,908
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,544,686</b>	<b>1,364,778</b>	<b>179,908</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,717,601</b>	<b>2,452,238</b>	<b>265,363</b>

An administrative fee is charged on all contracts for services provided by the IATTC staff to third parties that are covered neither in the IATTC nor AIDCP budgets. This includes research contracts and grants, as well as the placement of observers on vessels operating outside the IATTC Convention Area and is included under other contract revenue in the audited financial statements. 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 2021

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-20-03](#) received during 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Includes expenditures related to spatio-temporal research, sorting grid and fishing mortality funded from various sources.

<b>TABLE 4. Member contributions received during 2021, in US\$</b>				
	<b>Contributions towards payments of arrears</b>	<b>Budget contributions</b>		<b>Total</b>
		<b>2021</b>	<b>Voluntary</b>	
Belize	-	44,134	-	44,134
Canada	-	126,572	-	126,572
China	-	245,638	18,000	263,638
Colombia	-	385,948	-	385,948
Costa Rica	-	129,419	-	129,419
Ecuador	1,639,008	1,617,314	-	3,256,322
El Salvador	-	88,701	-	88,701
European Union	-	435,067	-	435,067
France	151,641	130,086	-	281,727
Guatemala	16,037	38,954	-	54,991
Japan	-	298,100	-	298,100
Korea	247,455	245,141	-	492,596
Mexico	1,048,040	1,079,151	-	2,127,191
Nicaragua	-	84,989	-	84,989
Panama	434,164	-	-	434,164
Peru	2,727	41,792	-	44,519
Chinese Taipei	-	236,925	-	236,925
United States of America	-	1,746,553	-	1,746,553
Vanuatu	-	49,931	-	49,931
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>3,539,072</b>	<b>7,024,416</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>10,581,487</b>
Unpaid 2021 contributions at year end		1,109,420		
<b>2021 approved budget</b>		<b>8,133,836</b>		

## 8. STATUS OF MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2022

The approved operating budget for FY 2022 is US\$ 7,014,830, plus US\$ 959,520 in funding for the AIDCP Observer Program, and US\$ 159,487 for the capacity building fund, for a total of US\$ 8,133,837. During the committee meeting in October 2021 it was decided to add 6 month pilot project funding for the IVL scheme for BET catches in the amount of US\$ 386,128 for a total agreed budget of US\$ 8,519,964.

Despite the requirement that all payments be made by 1 March of the corresponding year, as of 30 June 2022, there is still an unpaid amount of 39% (US\$ 3.2 million) of the 2022 budget contributions established in Resolution [C-21-08](#), *Financing for fiscal year 2022*, in addition to the existing arrears (Table 5). All these unpaid amounts affect all of the aforementioned functions of the AIDCP Observer Program, the IATTC capacity building fund, and the research projects approved by the Members. 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 timely payment are warranted.

**Table 5** shows the status of unpaid contributions, totaling US\$ 7,850,740 as of 30 June 2022:

<b>TABLE 5. Contributions outstanding, in US\$, as of 30 June 2022<sup>5</sup></b>				
	<b>Previous years</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>Total</b>
Panama	2,379,544	725,673	817,736	3,922,953
Ecuador	-	-	1,815,455	1,815,455
Venezuela	1,154,936	181,797	204,157	1,540,890
Kiribati	131,185	43,849	46,928	221,962
Peru	-	58,453	121,362	179,815
Nicaragua	-	-	94,091	94,091
Vanuatu	-	-	53,715	53,715
Guatemala	-	-	21,859	21,859
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,665,665</b>	<b>1,009,772</b>	<b>3,175,303</b>	<b>7,850,740</b>

<sup>5</sup> Payments made subsequent to 1 July will be presented at the meeting of Committee on Administration and Finance.

## 9. RATIONALE FOR RE-ALLOCATIONS FROM THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2022 TO THE REQUESTED BUDGET FOR 2023

**Table 6** shows the budget change requests, by line item. All changes were made based upon prior year expenditure levels and consideration of future needs within specific line items for 2023. In an effort to maintain the same level of operating budget as approved for fiscal year 2022 of US\$ 7,974,350, the majority of the allocation adjustment came from the IFCPF funding for the pension fund to meet anticipated higher staff member salary levels, taking into consideration COLA increases for headquarter salaries and benefits. The requested and projected budgets also include a full year of funding to continue the IVL scheme for BET catches through the end of fiscal year 2024 in an annual amount of US\$ 770,548.

<b>TABLE 6. Comparative figures, in US\$, by budget line item, FYs 2022 - 2024</b>				
	<b>2022</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>(approved)</b>	<b>+/(-)</b>	<b>(requested)</b>	<b>(projected)</b>
<b>HEADQUARTERS SALARIES AND BENEFITS:</b>				
Salaries	4,226,710	130,000	4,356,710	4,486,710
Group insurance:				
Medical insurance	347,000	-	347,000	350,000
Life, disability and personal accident insurance	30,000	-	30,000	30,000
Workmen's compensation insurance	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Social security	296,000	-	296,000	300,000
Pension fund (IFCPS)	402,000	(195,000)	207,000	230,000
403 (b) Retirement plan	430,000	95,000	525,000	540,000
<b>Subtotal, Headquarters salaries and benefits</b>	<b>5,741,710</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>5,771,710</b>	<b>5,946,710</b>
<b>OPERATING COSTS:</b>				
Field office facilities and related supplies	110,000	-	110,000	110,000
Field office staff salaries	560,000	(75,000)	485,000	485,000
Headquarters office expenses	166,000	-	166,000	185,000
Research materials and supplies	75,000	(25,000)	50,000	50,000
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	85,000	5,000	90,000	100,000
General upgrades at Achotines Laboratory	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
Purchase, parking, and operating costs of vehicles	34,000	12,000	46,000	46,000
Insurance, licenses and permits	10,000	(5,000)	5,000	6,000
Printing and postage	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Staff travel	100,000	10,000	110,000	150,000
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	85,000	15,000	100,000	125,000
Contracts:				
Annual audit and tax reporting	45,000	-	45,000	50,000
Payroll services	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Other professional services	15,000	-	15,000	15,000
Bank and other fees	10,000	(5,000)	5,000	5,000
<b>Subtotal, Operating costs</b>	<b>1,350,000</b>	<b>(68,000)</b>	<b>1,282,000</b>	<b>1,382,000</b>
<b>ANNUAL MEETINGS:</b>				
Meeting venue	100,000	-	120,000	120,000
<b>Subtotal, Salaries and benefits, Annual meetings, and Operating costs</b>	<b>7,191,710</b>	<b>(18,000)</b>	<b>7,173,710</b>	<b>7,448,710</b>
AIDCP program <sup>6</sup>	782,640	18,000	800,640	810,000
<b>Total, Operating costs</b>	<b>7,974,350</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,974,350</b>	<b>8,258,710</b>
Capacity Building Fund <sup>7</sup>	159,487	-	159,487	165,174
<b>IVL project funding</b>	<b>386,127</b>	<b>384,421</b>	<b>770,548</b>	<b>770,548</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>8,519,964</b>	<b>384,421</b>	<b>8,904,385</b>	<b>9,194,432</b>

<sup>6</sup> Amount is based upon the AIDCP budget request and is subject to change (See current AIDCP finance document (AIDCP-42-02)).

<sup>7</sup> Actual amount is dependent upon the approved operational budget.

## **10. SUMMARY**

The Director and the staff of the Commission recognize the need to minimize costs while ensuring that they fulfill fully and faithfully their functions under the Antigua Convention and carry out the tasks assigned by the Members. However, the budget needs, at least, to keep pace with inflation and the continued rising costs, particularly those related to post pandemic shortages and overall price increases, which affect all expenditures related to the activities of the Commission projects and programs, both at headquarters and abroad.

It is important to recall that, as mentioned above, the scope of the activities of the Commission and its staff continues to expand, not only because of the broader mandate derived from the Antigua Convention, but also in response to the evolving priorities and decisions of the Commission itself that reflect the wishes and proposals of its Members. This means the need to hire more personnel as well as compensating current staff for additional assigned tasks, and it is therefore essential that the Commission give due consideration to the levels of funding requested in this document and adopt the requested budget for 2023 in the amount of US\$ 8,904,385.

For the Commission and its staff to fulfill their functions, it is also essential that all Member contributions to the budget be paid in a timely manner, and that the situation related to the pending arrears of some Members be promptly resolved. The Commission could reflect upon ways and means to efficiently reach that goal and therefore ensure compliance of one of the most primary and basic obligations under the Antigua Convention.