

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

79TH MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
6-7 NOVEMBER 2008

DOCUMENT IATTC-79-05
REPORT ON THE BUDGET

At the 78th meeting of the Commission in June 2008, the Parties requested that the staff analyze the feasibility of reducing the recommended budget for 2010 to the same level as the approved budget for 2009, a reduction of about US\$ 285,000, or 5% of the total budget, and estimate how these reductions might impact the operations of the IATTC. The staff was also asked to explore the effect of reconfiguring the adjusted budget for 2010 to include the costs of a proposed regional project for tagging bigeye tuna (Document [IATTC-78-08c](#)).

The requested budget for 2010 was presented in Document [IATTC-78-08](#). Appendix A of this document breaks down the budget for financial year (FY) 2007, the most recent year for which final data are available, by project and by category, giving more detail about how the expenses were grouped in the document, also breaking down the budget by line item and project. The total budget is the sum of the project totals.

As has been noted by various delegations at meetings of the Commission, and in previous documents related to the budget, the IATTC budget is higher than those of other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) with similar responsibilities. However, as has also been frequently noted, the responsibilities of other RFMOs are largely confined to administrative functions, whereas the IATTC has a much larger staff which, in addition to its administrative functions, collects and analyzes fisheries data and carries out extensive research on the populations and fisheries for which the IATTC is responsible under the mandate of the 1949 Convention. It should be noted that the total administrative costs in the IATTC budget are less than those of other RFMOs with similar responsibilities.

Regarding the inclusion in the regular IATTC budget of the proposed regional bigeye tagging project (Document [IATTC-78-08c](#)), whose annual cost is about US \$1.5 million (Appendix B), or about one quarter of the total IATTC budget, the staff cannot see any way in which this can be done within the current IATTC budget, more so since the 2010 budget has been reduced to the 2009 level.

As noted in document [IATTC-78-08 SUP](#), the budget categories are made up of many expenses allocated to various projects. For instance, part of each field office's expenses is allocated to the AIDCP budget, as well as the collection and analysis of catch statistics (Project C), and the Tuna-Dolphin Program (Project H), both part of the IATTC budget. Appendix C shows field office expenses for FY's 2006-2008, separated into those allocated to the IATTC budget and a separate total, which includes allocations to the AIDCP budget. The increases from year to year are mainly due to AIDCP costs.

The staff has considered various ways of carrying out the reductions required by the 2010 budget. One approach is not to fill positions that are currently vacant but are included in Document [IATTC-78-08](#). As noted in Document [IATTC-78-08 SUP](#), a data entry technician for the tuna statistics section has not yet been replaced because of budgetary constraints. This employee's responsibilities include maintenance of the database for at-sea reports by observers, established by AIDCP [Resolution A-03-02](#); so far, other employees have absorbed this task into their work schedule so as to keep this database current but, as a result, these employees are working longer hours and falling behind in other areas. The result is a reduction in efficiency in maintaining the vessel logbook database.

Some other positions not currently filled due to budgetary constraints include a senior scientist to work on capacity management issues, particularly those expressed in the Commission's [plan for the regional](#)

[management of fishing capacity](#), and a full-time computer systems assistant. Regarding the former, it is important to begin implementing the regional capacity plan, and to determine how the capacity of the fleet can be reduced to meet the mandate that the Commission established in that plan.

Also, certain expenses continue to rise, some of which are beyond the staff's control. For example, the cost of medical insurance for the staff has increased by about 12% annually in recent years. The staff does its utmost to keep such increases to a minimum, but they cannot be avoided or eliminated.

Without the funds required to fill needed vacancies or replace staff members who retire or resign, the staff's ability to provide information and analyses to the member governments, the industry, and the scientific community will inevitably suffer. It is difficult to see how such large cuts in the budget could not, in the fairly short term, result in an entire program or programs being terminated. Decisions regarding which programs should be abandoned will obviously be difficult, and the Commission would have to provide guidance on this.

The staff considers that all expenses in the recommended budget for 2010 are necessary for it to carry out its assigned tasks and responsibilities. It cannot see any way of reducing costs further without increasing the workload of individual staff members beyond a reasonable level, or else eliminating entire programs. Either of these options will inevitably affect the quality of the staff's work, and it is therefore not feasible for the Secretariat to suggest any reductions in the budget presented at the June meeting as requested by the member countries. The Secretariat is therefore requesting that the member countries reconsider its decision to reduce the budget. Also we urge the Parties to support the regional tuna tagging program, and to consider ways to fund its budget.

Appendix A

Details of expenditure, FY 2007, by project

Project	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	IATTC							AIDCP				
	A	C	D	E	H	I	TOTAL IATTC	I	J	TOTAL AIDCP	Special projects with external funding	TOTAL Special projects + AIDCP
	Administra tion	Catch & effort statistics	Biology of tunas and billfishes	Tuna and billfish tagging	Tuna- Dolphin Program	Observer costs (30%)		Observer costs (70%)	Other AIDCP			
No. of personnel	6.13	9.04	11.39	1.97	4.18		32.71		10.54	10.54		
EXPENSES												
Wages	420,922	630,029	1,166,613	0	393,514	179,890	2,790,968	419,744	256,163	675,907	67,200	743,107
Employee benefits	121,560	190,087	299,980	0	128,751	51,569	791,947	120,328	73,439	193,767	16,149	209,916
Rent & storage	7,295	9,423	787	0	5,092	4,028	26,624	9,398	0	9,398	2,439	11,837
Utilities & maintenance	5,369	13,212	67,891	0	5,809	5,065	97,346	11,819	0	11,819	3,709	15,527
Materials & supplies	3,802	6,290	56,661	107	5,081	2,283	74,225	5,328	0	5,328	60,029	65,356
Equipment												
Equipment rental	2,173	0	0	0	0	0						
Vehicles & other capital purchases	0	13,985	15,596	0	6,383							
Fuel for generators	0	0	14,073	0	0	0						
Repairs & maintenance	4,194	1,048	15,716	0	448							
Equipment	0	173	3,043	518	378							
Subtotal	6,368	15,206	48,428	518	7,209	5,024	82,752	11,723	0	11,723	7,871	19,594
Hardware & software	13,048	21,536	31,324	5,313	38,649	179	110,048	419	0	419	11,772	12,190
Postage & handling	4,258	1,298	17,708	53	1,037	3,562	27,916	8,311	799	9,110	1,496	10,606
Printing & duplication	10,922	256	448	0	119	222	11,968	519	46	565	4	569
Travel & subsistence												
Travel	82,986	22,432	35,457	1,046	8,073				11,184			
IATTC meetings	45,966	516	16,855	0	2,884				33,233			
Staff training, seminars & workshops	5,261	3,221	7,734	0	132				0			
Trial sets	0	0	0	0	0				4,887			
Vehicles: Fuel, maintenance, etc.	6,000	19,304	8,563	15	9,513				84			
Subtotal	140,212	45,472	68,610	1,061	20,601	11,909	287,866	27,788	49,388	77,176	35,224	112,400
Contractual services												
Consulting & support services	5,182	4,995	0	0	0				0			
Field office labor	0	143,907	132,005	0	64,276				0			
Field office labor taxes	0	19,093	22,526	0	5,568				0			
Legal & professional fees	24,778	9,980	0	0	2,664				8,217			
Subtotal	29,960	177,976	154,530	0	72,508	53,808	488,781	125,551	8,217	133,768	42,997	176,765
Observer costs												
Travel	0	0	0	0	0				0			
Compensation & benefits	0	0	0	0	0				0			
Bonuses	0	0	0	0	0				0			
Equipment, forms & miscellaneous	0	44	0	0	0				0			
Employer taxes	0	0	0	0	0				0			
Training	0	0	0	0	0				0			
Subtotal	0	44	0	0	0	407,884	407,929	951,730	0	951,730	46,907	998,637

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	IATTC							AIDCP				
Project	A	C	D	E	H	I	TOTAL IATTC	I	J	TOTAL AIDCP	Special projects with external funding	TOTAL Special projects + AIDCP
	Administra tion	Catch & effort statistics	Biology of tunas and billfishes	Tuna and billfish tagging	Tuna- Dolphin Program	Observer costs (30%)		Observer costs (70%)	Other AIDCP			
Other taxes, insurance & licenses												
Property insurance	1,012	1,340	0	0	1,162				0			
Vehicle insurance	4,182	4,896	0	0	2,233				0			
Tax, licenses, fees & permits	3,272	656	35	0	444				0			
Subtotal	8,466	6,892	35	0	3,839	2,892	22,124	6,747	0	6,747	179	6,926
Direct project costs												
Vessel monitoring	0	0	0	0	446				0			
AIDCP	0	0	0	0	0				0			
Tag rewards	0	0	5	185	0				0			
Subtotal	0	0	5	185	446	54	690	127	0	127	35,444	35,571
Miscellaneous	982	962	288	0	442	340	3,015	794	601	1,395	221	1,616
TOTAL EXPENSES	773,164	1,118,684	1,913,309	6,719	683,097	728,711	5,224,200	1,700,325	388,652	2,088,976	331,641	2,420,618

Appendix BFrom Document [IATTC-78-08c](#), *Proposal for a regional tuna tagging program*

Annual budget for each of the three years (2010-2012)

Vessels		US\$
Dedicated pole-and-line tagging vessel, captain, crew and all operational expenses	240 days @ \$3,000/day	720,000
Dedicated pole-and-line tagging vessel, captain, crew and all operational expenses	120 days @ \$2,000/day	240,000
Miscellaneous (port fees, etc)		15,000
Personnel		
Assistant scientists	2 @ \$46,100/year	92,200
Sea pay		62,000
Equipment		
Dart tags	35,000 @ \$0.60/ea	21,000
Archival tags	150 @ \$850/ea	127,500
Archival tags	75 @ \$1,000/ea	75,000
Acoustic tags	54 @ \$600/ea	32,400
Satellite buoys for FADs		54,000
Miscellaneous		15,000
Rewards		
Dart tags (bigeye)	40% recovery @ \$5	26,666
Archival tags (bigeye)	40% recovery @ \$250	7,500
Dart tags (skipjack)	20% recovery @ \$5	6,666
Archival tags (skipjack)	20% recovery @ \$250	3,750
Dart tags (yellowfin)	30% recovery @ \$5	20,000
Archival tags (yellowfin)	30% recovery @ \$250	5,625
Lottery	\$5,000/year	5,000
ANNUAL COST		US\$1,529,307
TOTAL COST FOR 3-YEAR PERIOD		US\$4,587,921

Appendix C.

Field office expenditures, FY 2006-2008, IATTC and total (IATTC + AIDCP)

FY	1		2		3		4		5		6	
	IATTC	IATTC + AIDCP	IATTC	IATTC + AIDCP	IATTC	IATTC + AIDCP	IATTC	IATTC + AIDCP	IATTC	IATTC + AIDCP	IATTC	IATTC + AIDCP
	01-OCT-07 – 31-JUL-08	2008 ¹ 01-OCT-07 – 31-JUL-08	01-OCT-06 – 30-SEP-07	2007 01-OCT-06 – 30-SEP-07	01-OCT-05 – 30-SEP-06	2006 01-OCT-05 – 30-SEP-06						
Expenditures												
Rent & storage	14,769	26,538	14,515	23,024	10,673	18,503						
Telephone	8,826	19,415	9,892	18,095	9,343	18,751						
Utilities	7,607	13,151	6,554	10,120	5,429	9,253						
Internet services (ISP)	2,178	3,658	2,502	3,698	2,581	3,652						
Repair & maintenance	1,705	2,937	1,302	1,996	1,113	2,166						
Materials & supplies	8,883	14,613	8,902	13,868	7,024	11,398						
Furniture & equipment	272	406	32	69	1,437	2,133						
Hardware & software	226	337	1,180	1,736	481	677						
Postage	3,127	9,172	2,154	8,533	2,645	11,873						
Printing & reproduction	955	4,409	376	1,060	265	4,074						
Travel	6,544	10,756	14,795	21,408	9,855	16,590						
IATTC/AIDCP meetings	0	0	723	760	0	0						
Meals & entertainment	51	576	138	157	30	201						
Staff training, seminars & workshops	0	0	33	84	0	0						
Observer travel	0	55,621	0	33,696	0	53,018						
Observer compensation & benefits	3,236	1,009,887	6,996	825,844	0	1,214,972						
Observer bonuses	318	73,367	122	60,777	0	0						
Observer employer taxes	6,347	106,876	114	76,301	0	28,801						
Observer equipment, forms & miscellaneous	44	14,227	3,069	10,933	0	8,512						
Trial sets	0	216	0	78	0	91						
Observer training	0	18,071	0	2,236	0	0						
Vessel monitoring	0	0	161	343	0	0						
Labor	226,421	394,724	208,183	317,975	166,197	282,066						
Labor taxes	21,524	32,125	24,660	36,375	9,852	16,642						
Legal & professional fees	2,438	8,088	12,645	23,874	1,858	13,082						
Freight & handling	372	5,161	297	3,153	1,697	4,034						
Vehicles & other capital purchases	26,844	46,458	20,368	35,613	10,419	15,551						
Vehicle fuel, maintenance, etc.	19,693	35,838	28,444	47,138	25,279	37,814						
Property insurance	467	994	2,502	5,182	558	1,023						
Vehicle insurance	6,236	10,416	7,129	10,364	3,193	5,510						
Tax, licenses, fees & permits	446	1,479	674	1,779	59	331						
Bank & finance	1,827	3,355	1,401	2,280	1,758	2,956						
Tag rewards	21	24	1,744	1,744	40	40						
Miscellaneous expenses	12,877	12,877	126	126	0	0						
Total	384,255	1,935,771	381,732	1,600,416	271,786	1,783,712						

¹ Forecast