

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

During the 82nd Meeting of the IATTC in July 2011, the creation of a “*special sustainable development fund for fisheries for highly migratory species to strengthen the institutional capacity of developing countries*” was approved through Resolution [C-11-11](#).

The 87th Meeting of the Commission, held in July 2014, adopted Resolution [C-14-03](#), which amends and replaces Resolution C-11-11, and therefore now governs the Special Fund.

Paragraph 2 of Resolution [C-14-03](#) establishes that “*The resources of the Fund shall proceed from the **fixed annual contribution of 2%** of the Commission’s budget intended for building and strengthening of the capacity of coastal developing countries and territories*”. The Commission did not determine the specific manner in which this 2% contribution would be distributed among the Members, although in general terms it was agreed that it would be included within their annual contributions.

Given that the purpose of the Fund is to provide support for developing countries and territories, the fixed contribution to the Fund established in the resolution should come from the developed Members of the Commission. The formula established in Resolution [C-12-04](#) for calculating contributions to the Commission’s regular budget classifies the Members by their development category, expressed in terms of their Gross National Income (GNI). The Members in the two highest categories (5 and 5.5) are Canada, Korea, the United States, France, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and the European Union. It would have to be decided whether the amount corresponding to the contribution will be divided equally between the seven Members, or be weighted by the amount of their respective annual contributions.

The resolution also states that “*Additionally, the budget will be strengthened with other voluntary contributions obtained from the Members or from national and international bodies or entities interested in strengthening the capacities of developing countries and territories. Such contributions may be declared by the donor for a specific use, consistent with the nature of the Fund, or may be subject to the ordinary use of investments*”. Accordingly, since 2012 there has been a separate account (“*Building Capacity Fund*”), to which contributions may be made, and all Members, as well as international organizations that may be interested in contributing resources, were informed of this.

A Member made a contribution of US\$ 26,451 to this Fund. Most of this contribution was used to enable representatives from seven countries to attend the 5th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in May 2014, and a representative of a developing Member to attend the meeting of the Commission in June of that year. No further contribution to the Fund from other Members has been received or offered, and the Fund’s balance is currently US\$ 3,400.

On the other hand, Resolution [C-14-03](#) states in paragraph 3 that...” *the Director shall present to the Commission for its approval every year the strategic investment plan chargeable to the Fund, which shall be constructed on the basis of the requirements of the developing countries and territories and the analyses carried out by the Commission staff* “. Consequently, since April 2012 the Director has been presenting a plan that incorporates the ideas described in Document IATTC-81-07, from the 81st meeting of the

Commission in September 2010, and which would be fully implemented if the necessary funds were available. The plan for 2015 contains the same elements set forth in Resolution C-14-03, and recalls the activities proposed previously that it would be desirable to implement (Annex).

Finally, Resolution [C-14-03](#) states in paragraph 8 that ... *”The Director be asked, within his program of work, to explore and identify other options to strengthen the capacity of Members. This shall include opportunities for partnership with other organizations that work in this field, and providing guidance to these organizations on the needs and priorities of the countries”.*

In this regard, the Secretariat has undertaken the following activities during 2014-2015:

Date	Member or organization receiving support	Activity	Support given
Permanent	National observer programs	Training in procedures for the alignment of the dolphin safety panel in purse-seine nets	IATTC technicians assist and train technicians from the national programs
2014	OSPESCA	Collaboration to develop a database for the artisanal fleets.	Creation of database and development of sampling forms. Still to do is creating tolos for analyzing the data.
2014	Ecuador	Collaboration on analyses of its artisanal fisheries for large pelagic fish.	Assistance with methodologies for characterizing the community structure and spatiotemporal dynamics of the fisheries
		First Technical Meeting on dorado	Organization and moderation of the meeting
2014-on	Costa Rica	Experimental program for collecting data on the unloadings and biological data on large pelagic fish	Support with program design
2014-on	Central America	Reducing the ecosystem impacts of tuna fisheries, specifically on sharks, as part of the GEF-FAO “Common Oceans” project	Direct collaboration in the development of the project

Annex

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN CHARGEABLE TO THE FUND ON CAPACITY BUILDING

Taking into account only the resources of the fixed contribution of 2% stipulated in Resolution C-14-03, the proposed activities are those outlined in that resolution, distributed as follows:

	Activity	%
1	Creation of a standardised system for collecting, processing, and analysing data, with regard the stocks of tunas and tuna-like fishes and other species of fish caught by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna like species in the Antigua Convention Area.	20
2	Capacity building and training, mainly on implementation and development of databases, analysis of fisheries statistics and data, and stock assessment, among others.	65
3	Participation of representatives of developing Members in the annual meetings of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies, as well as of scientific experts in the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee	15

In previous documents, a number of actions, described below, have been identified that have not been implemented for lack of resources:

1. Training activities considered in other IATTC resolutions

Resolution [C-04-07](#) on mitigating the impact of tuna fishing on sea turtles states that CPCs and the IATTC “*should continue and expand organization of seminars for fishermen to enable them to treat incidentally-caught sea turtles properly to improve their survivability*”

Resolution [C-04-05](#) on bycatch requires CPCs to “*educate fishermen through information dissemination activities, including distributing informational materials and organizing seminars on, inter alia, reducing bycatches of sea turtles and safe handling of incidentally caught sea turtles to improve their survivability.*”

2. Research on biological issues and technology to reduce bycatch of small tunas.

Several IATTC resolutions include the commitment to carry out research in some areas of the Commission’s work.

3. Activities proposed at the Scientific Advisory Committee

Specific activities for supporting capacity-building are described in Document [SAC-01-18](#), *Plan for future activities*, prepared for the first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in August-September 2010. Some of these activities have been partially carried out with the support of some external programs and/or the Members of the Commission, as indicated in the activities that the Secretariat has conducted during 2014-2015:

1. Bycatches

- a. Training courses on bycatch estimation and mitigation;
- b. Design of research strategies to address bycatch issues;
- c. Management and economic incentives to address bycatch issues.

2. Shark fisheries

The Commission staff will provide appropriate assistance to developing CPCs in:

2.1. Sampling

- a. Develop standardized data collection forms (catch, effort, biological data) for shark and rays.
- b. Develop and disseminate sampling designs for landings of sharks and rays, and for observer programs where available, and support the creation and maintenance of databases.
- c. In-port collection of shark catch, size distribution, and effort data, as well as the development of standardized methods to identify shark species. This assistance should be extended to the proper identification of shark species based upon body parts (e.g. fins or trunks), or on incomplete specimens.

2.2. Data reporting

Improving their capabilities to report data on catches and effort by gear type, landings and shark trade, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures, including available historical data. This assistance shall likely include the development of observer programs covering different fisheries. One training course per year is planned, dedicated to the development of standardized national observer programs.

2.3. Biological parameters

Conducting research on stock structure and biological parameters such as age, growth, natural mortality, diet, and reproduction. This assistance will likely include training in biological sample collection and analysis methods which will be part of the general training course on data collection.

2.3.1. Fisheries data studies

Conducting research on the spatial-temporal characteristics of the catch, including identification of shark nursery grounds and of specific areas and seasons that contribute to the majority of catches. This assistance shall likely include a general training course on quantitative methods in fisheries data analysis, which will also cover methods for estimating fisheries quantities, such as fishing mortality, and inputs for stock assessment (e.g., total catch, standardized trends of CPUE).

2.4. Workshops on stock assessment of sharks

Participation in shark stock assessment workshops, which would include among its research topics stock assessment and management of sharks.

2.5. Workshops on stock assessment of dorado

Participation in dorado stock assessment workshops, which would include among its research topics stock assessment and management of dorado.