INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

Intersessional Meeting

(*hybrid*)

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PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR 2027 AND 2028

The purpose of this document is to present an overview of the budget for fiscal years (FY) 2027 and 2028, which is proposed to the Commission based on a forward-looking assessment of operational needs during that two-year period.

This annual IATTC budget is funded by contributions from its Members, pursuant to Article IX.3 of the Antigua Convention. The Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF), established by Resolution C-12-02 in 2012, is the body responsible for advising the Commission on budgetary, financial, and administrative matters and for making relevant recommendations.

1. BUDGET STRUCTURE

For budgetary purposes, the Commission's activities have been grouped into six categories:

- Finance and Administration, Human Resources, Policy and Compliance
- Data Collection and Database Program
- Biology Program
- Stock Assessment Program
- Ecosystem and Bycatch Program
- 30% of the AIDCP Observer Program

Additionally, the budget includes the Capacity Building Fund (2% of the operating budget).

Finally, a new line item has been included to address unforeseen circumstances (0.5% of the operating budget)

2. ANALYSIS OF VARIATIONS IN EXPENSES INCURRED IN FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025.

The following table presents a comparative analysis between the approved budget for FY 2025 and the actual expenses incurred during that fiscal year, by budget line item. Column 2 shows the actual expenses for FY 2025, and columns 3a and 3b show the variations between actual and budgeted costs.

For the purposes of analyzing expenditures, variations presented as negative are considered favorable since they indicate an expenditure lower than the approved budget, and positive variations are considered unfavorable since they reflect an expenditure higher than the approved budget.

TABLE 1. Analysis of the 2025 Budget Variance	**1**	**2**	**3a**	**3b**
	Approved	**Actual**	**US$**	**%**
SALARIES AND BENEFITS, HEADQUARTERS STAFF:				
Salaries	4,720,554	4,641,198	(79,356)	(1.7)
Severance pay		176,389	176,389	
Benefits:				
Group insurance:				
Health insurance	350,000	345,551	(4,449)	(1.3)
Life, disability, and accident insurance	25,000	26,685	1,685	6.7
International employment insurance	11,000	11,023	23	0.2
Social Security	323,588	309,471	(14,116)	(4.4)
Pension Fund (IFCPS)	327,000	327,000		
Retirement plans	456,473	506,285	49,812	10.9
Subtotal, Salaries and benefits, headquarters staff	**6,213,614**	**6,343,602**		
ANNUAL MEETING COSTS	**150,000**	**131,125**	**(18,875)**	**(12.6)**
OPERATING COSTS:				
Field office facility expenses	60,000	73,220	13,220	22
IATTC 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 improvements to the Achotines Laboratory	25,000	40,731	15,731	62.9
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	130,000		50,000	38.5
MIP accounting software		14,011		
IT purchasing and maintenance		30,949		
Cloud data storage		135,040		
Vehicle Expenses:				
Vehicle purchase and operating costs	30,000	3,898	(26,102)	(87)
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	88,789	(46,211)	(34.2)
IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)	142,000	92,668	(49,332)	(34.7)
Contracts:				
Annual audit and tax returns	70,000	70,953	953	1.4
Payroll services	27,000	26,628	(472)	(1.7)
Other professional services	15,000	11,158	(3,842)	(25.6)
Bank fees and other	5,000	1,677	(3,323)	(66.5)
Subtotal, operating costs	**1,451,000**	**1,452,787**		
Subtotal, Salaries and benefits, headquarters staff + Annual meeting costs + Operating costs	**7,814,614**	**7,927,514**		
AIDCP Observer Program *	**820,000**	**761,294**		
TOTAL, operating budget	**8,634,614**	**8,688,808**		
Capacity Building Fund	172,692			
Subtotal	**8,807,307**	**8,688,808**		
IATTC Integrated Port-Sampling Program (EMP/IPSP)	200,000			
Operating budget plus EMP/IPSP	**9,007,307**	**8,688,808**		
IATTC Integrated Port-Sampling Program (EMP/IPSP)	200,000			
Tagging Program Fund from surplus	332,120			
Total IATTC Budget	9,539,427			

* The AIDCP document contains the details of this budget item.

Variations

IATTC's objective is to keep its costs within approved budget levels. However, in 2025, one budget line item showed a variation exceeding US$ 20,000 and 20% when comparing actual costs to budgeted costs.

- ***Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment***: In 2025, the Secretariat was the target of a second cyberattack, which resulted in expenses not included in the budget. It should be noted that, following the cyberattack in 2024, the IATTC implemented measures aimed at strengthening information protection, including the contracting of cloud storage services. An update will be presented at this meeting by the Secretariat's IT staff.

Additionally, although this is not a category where actual spending was exceeded, it is important to mention that, due to cost control measures, reductions were achieved in the following categories:

- **IATTC meetings (excluding annual meetings)*:*** The reduction in spending was due to the holding of some meetings in a hybrid format.

- **Staff travel*:*** The reduction in spending was due to a decrease in staff participation in off-site meetings and some hybrid meetings, reducing lodging and airfare expenses.

3. STATUS OF MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS AS OF JUNE 9, 2026.

The approved operating budget for FY 2026 is US$ 8,790,111, including the IATTC's 30% contribution to the AIDCP observer program in the amount of US$ 815,168.

As set forth in Resolution C-25-10, it was agreed that the Members would pay the sum of US$8,519,111 and the remaining balance of US$ 731,000 would be financed by the accumulated fund, which includes US$ 460,000 from IATTC Integrated Port-Sampling Program (IPSP), for a total budget of US$ 9,250,111. Despite the requirement that all payments be made by March 1 of the corresponding year, as of June 9, 2026, there is an outstanding balance of approximately US$4.2 million, equivalent to 49% of the total contributions to the 2026 budget.

Additionally, it is worth noting the existence of arrears accumulated in previous years totaling US$ 4,049,497 (including US$ 1,363,458 for year 2025 alone), as indicated in the following table:

TABLE 2. Outstanding contributions, in US$, as of June 9, 2026

	Previous Years	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
Venezuela	1,930,325	199,077	199,042	2,328,444
Mexico	-	1,117,991	1,155,882	2,273,873
Ecuador		-	1,848,566	1,848,566
Panama	711,262	-	304,068	1,015,330
Colombia	-	-	300,522	300,522
China	-	-	285,562	285,562
Kiribati	44,452	46,390	45,861	136,703
Guatemala	-	-	14,178	14,178
Total	**2,686,039**	**1,363,458**	**4,153,682**	**8,203,179**

4. BASIS FOR CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2027 COMPARED TO THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2026 .

Table 3 presents the proposed budget for 2027, by line item, and highlights the changes compared to the corresponding line items in the 2026 budget.

This table also contains a projection for the 2028 budget, pursuant to paragraph 3.5. of the Commission's Financial Regulations, which stipulates that the Director *"shall submit to the Commission's regular annual meeting the budget estimates for the following two fiscal years, together with the corresponding current expenditures and changes in obligations from the previous year and estimates for the current year*."

All proposed changes were made based on an assessment of actual expenditure levels for 2026, as well as future needs within specific budget lines for 2027, resulting in a proposed 4% increase in most of them.

However, it is worth noting a significant reduction in "Salaries and benefits for headquarters staff", amounting to US$ 618,331, as a result of savings made possible by the continuation in 2026 of the process of progressive rationalization and optimization of the Commission's human resources.

The following increases in operating costs should be highlighted:

1. In recent years, the actual operating costs of the field offices have continued to exceed the approved budgeted resources, as a result of increases in utility costs, rent, fuel, vehicle insurance, etc.
2. Costs related to IATTC local staff in its field offices. An increase is anticipated due to retirement expenses for some local staff members, as a result of the application of the labor laws in force in each respective country.
3. Increase in funds allocated to the "Purchase and Maintenance of IT Equipment" line item, driven by the urgent need to update and replace equipment necessary to optimize service delivery and prevent any recurrence of the situation experienced in recent months as a result of cyberattacks.
4. An increase in the costs of the annual audit and payroll services, by 4%, based on the actual costs incurred in 2025.
5. Increase in the costs of the IATTC annual meeting compared to the approved 2026 budget, taking into account the possibility that no IATTC Member will offer to host the annual meeting to be held in 2027.

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

TABLE 3. Comparative figures, in US$, by budget line, FY 2026–2027 and 2028				
	2026 (approved)	2027 +/(-)	2027 (Proposed)	2028 Projected
SALARIES AND BENEFITS, HEADQUARTERS STAFF:				
Salaries	4,768,860	(490,075)	4,278,785	4,449,936
Group insurance:				
Health insurance	392,000	20,000	412,000	428,480
Life, disability, and accident insurance	30,000	0	30,000	31,200
International employment insurance	12,000	500	12,500	13,000
Social Security	333,820	(6,493)	327,327	340,420
Pension Fund (IFCPS)	200,000	(100,000)	100,000	104,000
Retirement plan	572,263	(42,263)	530,000	551,200
Subtotal, Salaries and benefits, headquarters staff	6,308,943	(618,331)	5,690,612	5,918,236
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
Field office facility costs	55,000	30,400	85,400	88,816
IATTC 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 improvements to the Achotines Laboratory	75,000	3,000	78,000	81,120
Purchase and maintenance of computer equipment	150,000	30,000		
MIP accounting software			14,000	9,880
IT purchases and maintenance			51,000	53,040
Cloud data storage			115,500	119,600
Vehicle operating and purchase costs	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	156,000
Contracts:				
Annual audit and tax returns	55,000	5,000	60,000	62,400
Payroll services	25,000	8,000	33,000	34,320
Other professional services	2,000	19,000	21,000	21,000
Bank fees and other	5,000		5,000	5,000
Subtotal, Operating expenses	1,541,000	157,600	1,698,600	1,754,824
ANNUAL MEETING EXPENSES	125,000	75,000	200,000	200,000
Subtotal, Salaries and Benefits, Annual Meetings, and Operating Expenses	7,974,943	(385,731)	7,589,212	7,873,060
AIDCP Observer Program[1]	815,168	77,110	892,278	927,969
Total, Operating Budget	**8,790,111**	**(308,621)**	**8,481,490**	**8,801,030**
Contingencies[2]		42,407	42,407	44,005
Capacity-building fund[3]		169,630	169,630	176,021
Subtotal	**8,790,111**	**(96,584)**	**8,693,527**	**9,021,385**
IATTC Integrated Port-Sampling Program (EMP/IPSP)	460,000			
TOTAL BUDGET	**9,250,111**			

[1] The amount is based on the requested AIDCP budget and is subject to change

[2] The amount is based on applying 0.5% to the total operating budget.

[3] The actual amount reflects a contribution rate of 2%, which depends on the approved operational budget.

5. SUMMARY

The Director and the staff of the IATTC recognize the need to ensure that the organization operates efficiently and, at the same time, their obligation to fulfill the functions assigned to them by the Antigua Convention in a comprehensive and diligent manner, including the tasks assigned to them by the Commission. Faced with continuously rising costs, it is considered imperative that the budget not only accounts for these costs but also keeps pace with them effectively, lest the implementation of activities approved by the Commission both at headquarters and abroad be compromised.

It is well known that the scope of these activities continues to grow. This expansion is the result not only of the broader mandate derived from the Antigua Convention, but also of the evolution of the priorities established by the Commission, which reflect the wishes and recommendations of its Members. This broader mandate entails retaining highly qualified staff, as well as, consequently, the need to provide them with adequate compensation commensurate with their qualifications and responsibilities, taking into account the rate of inflation at headquarters and in the field offices.

Therefore, following a comprehensive evaluation and a thorough review of all relevant factors, an operational budget of US$ **8,481,490** is proposed for 2027, including the estimated 30% for the AIDCP observer program, and a total budget (including the Capacity Building Fund and the Contingency Fund) of **US$ 8,693,527**.

Finally, it is important to remind you that it is essential for all Members to make their budgetary contributions by the established deadlines and for cases of outstanding arrears to be resolved satisfactorily and as soon as possible.