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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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1. INTRODUCTION

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

In July 2014, the 87th Meeting of the Commission adopted Resolution [C-14-03](#), which amends and replaces Resolution C-11-11, and therefore now governs the 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 the capacity of coastal developing countries and territories.” At its 89th meeting in June 2015, the Commission defined specifically how this 2% contribution would be distributed among the Members:

“This 2% is not to be extracted from the operational budget. Rather, once the amount of the operational budget is settled, an additional amount equal to 2% of the operational subtotal shall be added to the regular budget as a separate line item, and the final budget amount will be the sum of these two components, and each Member’s contribution to the 2% shall follow therefore the same distribution key as the regular budget.”

Likewise, paragraph 6 of the Resolution states that: “Members, national and international bodies and entities are encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the Fund.” Accordingly, in 2012 a separate account («Capacity Building Fund») was opened, to which contributions may be made; all Members, as well as international organizations that may be interested in contributing resources, have been informed about it. One Member contributed to this account in 2014, but no other voluntary contribution to the fund has been received since then.

2. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE FUND’S FINANCIAL RESOURCES

To date, the total sum of contributions to the Fund as approved by the Commission amounts to US\$1,057,553, amount corresponding to years 2016 through 2022. From these contributions, US\$ 904,711 have been received (as of 30 June 2022) and US\$ 152,842 are pending. **Table 1** summarizes the current situation of the contributions by Members to the Fund. All payments are reflected in the budget year to which they pertain and may not coincide with the year in which they were received.

	Previous Years		2021		2022		Total	
	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending	Paid	Pending
Belize	4,222	-	865	-	883	-	5,969	-
Canada	13,205	-	2,482	-	2,683	-	18,371	-
China	18,582	-	4,816	-	4,690	-	28,088	-
Colombia	28,439	-	7,568	-	5,508	-	41,515	-
Costa Rica	9,976	-	2,538	-	2,663	-	15,177	-
Ecuador	142,311	-	31,712	-	-	33,984	174,023	33,984
El Salvador	7,500	-	1,739	-	2,137	-	11,377	-
European Union	38,867	-	8,531	-	8,814	-	56,212	-
France	12,089	-	2,551	-	2,789	-	17,429	-
Guatemala	4,704	-	1,207	-	937	-	6,848	-
Japan	36,300	-	5,845	-	5,525	-	47,670	-
Kiribati	1,298	2,591	-	860	-	878	1,298	4,330
Korea	22,149	-	4,807	-	4,763	-	31,720	-
Mexico	97,099	-	21,160	-	21,483	-	139,742	-
Nicaragua	6,892	-	1,666	-	-	1,761	8,558	1,761
Panama	6,948	49,921	-	14,229	-	15,307	6,948	79,457
Peru	8,774	-	3,476	-	-	2,272	12,250	2,272
Chinese Taipei	20,346	-	4,646	-	4,887	-	29,879	-
United States of America	170,781	-	34,246	-	32,694	-	237,721	-
Vanuatu	5,144	-	979	-	-	1,006	6,123	1,006
Venezuela	7,793	22,646	-	3,565	-	3,822	7,793	30,033
Total contributions	663,420		140,834		95,767		904,711	
Approved budget¹	738,578		159,487		159,487		1,057,553	
Pending contributions		75,158		18,653		63,720		152,842

Table 2 summarizes the balance of the Fund as of 30 June 2022. To date, the balance to be carried forward is US\$ 389,856.

	2020	2021	2022
1 January carryover from previous year	77,944	100,138	280,046
Income received	84,693	203,438	109,810
Total income	162,637	303,576	389,856
Expenditures			
Data collection on sharks	54,184	23,530	-
2020 SAC/MSE/FADS	8,315		-
Total expenses	62,499	23,530	-
Balance of Fund carried forward	100,138	280,046	389,856

To date, the resources of the Fund have been used for Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kiribati, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, El Salvador, and Venezuela.

¹ Amounts approved by budget year: 2016 \$131,086, 2017 \$132,109, 2018 \$156,412, 2019 - 2022 \$159,487

As previously noted, it will become necessary to develop criteria and procedures for providing assistance to eligible Members as the Fund continues to grow. It is important to note that, at a minimum, criteria should be established regarding beneficiary Members, as well as deadlines for requests for support, for example, taking into account that travel costs increase significantly the closer they are to the date of the meeting at which the beneficiary Member will participate with support from the Fund.

In absence of precise instructions from the Commission, it should be noted that if the Fund is exhausted, any support for activities financed by the Fund would cease.

3. ACTIVITIES THAT WERE PROGRAMMED TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 2021 AND 2022

In accordance with the activities approved by the Commission, the activities described in **Table 3** were to be carried out in 2021 and 2022. It is important to mention that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a considerable impact on the realization of the activities that had been initially programmed to be carried out with the resources of the Fund. This has been particularly the case of all presentational activities or those involving international travel, such as the training seminars or internships in the IATTC headquarters, as well as support for presentational meetings: with the exception of the annual meetings in 2022, these activities were carried out only by videoconference, without the need to spend the corresponding funds..

TABLE 3. Activities programmed to be carried out in 2021 and 2022 with resources from the Fund.			
		Amount	
1	Development of data collection and scientific infrastructure for fisheries management	US\$ ----- *	At the national and local level
2	Capacity-building seminar/workshop for decision makers responsible for IATTC matters from developing CPCs **	US\$50,000	At the subregional level
3	Capacity-building seminar/workshop for decision makers responsible for IATTC matters from developing CPCs ***	US\$50,000	At the subregional level
4	Annual IATTC scholarship for scientific capacity in developing CPCs****	US\$30,000	Headquarters
5	Participation of representatives of developing Members in meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including working groups and workshops *****	US\$40,000	At the venue of the meetings

- * Amount to be determined on the basis of the specific activities to be programmed in consultation with the interested CPCs, within the limits of available funds.
- ** This seminar/workshop is intended to provide training to decision-makers from developing Members countries in order to facilitate their participation in the various meetings and issues that are addressed within the framework of the IATTC. Topics such as the main concepts in scientific advice, the Commission's strategic work plan, research needs, improving compliance with the different provisions of the IATTC by its Members, etc. will be included.
- *** This seminar/workshop is intended to provide training to officials in national fisheries agencies who are responsible for the daily follow-up of IATTC matters and interaction with the Commission, such as the preparation of reports and the submission of data.
- **** As explained in previous reports, the intention is to carry out an activity through which applications will be received in order to select annual scholarship recipients. This scholarship was named the Jimmy Martínez Scholarship to honor and recognize the contributions of this Ecuadorian scientist and biologist to the work of the Commission and the sustainability of the species covered by the Antigua Convention.
- ***** As established in Resolution [C-14-03](#) regarding the items on which the resources of the Special Fund should be used, support will continue to be given for the participation of representatives of developing Members at Commission meetings or its subsidiary bodies.

4. ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 2022 AND 2023

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.*” As indicated in the previous section, the activities in Table 3 could not be carried out, but have already been approved; therefore, for the remainder of 2022 and for 2023 they will continue or begin to be carried out as appropriate. It is important to recall that the pending activities to be carried out in 2022 and 2023 will be conducted with the contributions received from the 2% fixed contribution, plus funds remaining from previous years. Furthermore, all the activities fall within the framework of the guidelines established in Resolution [C-14-03](#).

Among the activities that are programmed to continue to be carried out in 2022 and beyond, there is one that deserves to be mentioned more particularly, the work to be done in relation with the shark fisheries, with the addition of supplementary funds from the GEF-ABNJ 2 programme, for an approximate amount of amount of US\$ 800,000 for 3 years. In summary, the programme of work would be as follows:

a) Sampling

- Develop standardized data collection forms.
- Develop and disseminate in-port sampling designs for collection of shark and ray catch (landings), effort and composition data.
- Develop and disseminate sampling designs for catch (retained and discards) and effort data for observer programs.

b) Continuation of workshops on sharks

- Support participation in shark stock assessment workshops.

Regarding other areas in which technical assistance or capacity-building activities should be programmed and carried out with resources from the Fund, those related to sea turtles and to inspections in port should also be mentioned, recalling the following decisions of the Commission as embodied in its relevant

resolutions quoted below:

1) Resolution [C-19-04 on sea turtles](#) establishes in paragraph 5 that:

“Considering the particular situation of coastal developing countries, the special fund established in Resolution C-14-03 should be strengthened through the allocation of funds, from voluntary contributions of CPCs and inclusion of specific budget lines, to facilitate the implementation of this Resolution, including for training fishermen on safe handling and release, providing related equipment, or supporting trials for new mitigation techniques.”

2) Resolution [C-21-07](#) on minimum standards for **inspections in port** establishes in paragraph 34 that:

“On the basis of the outcome of the assessment (...), developing CPCs requiring assistance shall submit a plan of action for the implementation of this Resolution. CPCs shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing CPCs in relation to a port inspection scheme consistent with this Resolution. As of 1 January 2024, and following the result of the assessment of needs, the Special Sustainable Development Fund established by Resolution C14-03, either directly or through supplementary voluntary contributions from CPCs, shall provide assistance to developing CPCs in order to, inter alia:

a) Develop their capacity including by providing technical assistance and establishing an appropriate funding mechanism to support and strengthen the development and implementation of an effective system of port inspection at national, regional or international levels and to ensure that a disproportionate burden resulting from the implementation of this Resolution is not unnecessarily transferred to them; and

b) Facilitate their participation in meetings and/or training programs of relevant regional and international organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of a system of port inspection, including monitoring, control and surveillance, enforcement and legal proceedings for infractions and dispute settlements pursuant to this Resolution.”

The extent of the activities that are expected to be developed and carried out in compliance with these provisions shows the importance for the Committee to discuss the allocation of additional funding to complement the resources from the Fund, as expressly called for by the resolutions themselves.

5. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2021 AND 2022 WITH OTHER FINANCIAL RESOURCES

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 carried out one activity in 2022, which was held by videoconference and the costs were covered by the Secretariat's budget.

Member or entity receiving support/date	Activity	Support given
AIDCP Parties 7 February 2022	Training seminar	Training seminar conducted by videoconference in accordance with AIDCP guidelines (Annex IV.I.3.b) for 10 crewmembers.

6. POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

As on previous occasions, a list of potential activities — which could be carried out if resources in addition

to the 2% contribution to the special Fund were available — is presented below. These activities were identified based on the wishes of several CPCs, activities included in IATTC adopted resolutions, the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee, among others.

General data provisions

Following a recommendation by the staff supported by the SAC (recommendation 3.1 from SAC-12), Resolution-C-03-05 is to be revised in consultation with CPCs, taking into consideration the elements presented in document SAC-12-09, through a series of workshops planned and facilitated by the staff. These workshops will be organized by main fishery, with the purpose of:

- a. discussing improvements in data collection, any required additional resources and capacity building activities;
- b. developing standard data reporting templates (draft appendixes in document [SAC-12-09](#));
- c. updating Resolution-C-03-05 to align data reporting requirements with the Antigua Convention, the WCPFC Scientific Service Provider (SSP) and harmonize them with FAO and other tuna RFMOs standards.

In addition, training in fisheries biology and stock assessment research would also be carried out, mainly in:

i. Biological parameters

Training for conducting research on fishery biology (e.g., estimation of growth, survivorship, and reproductive parameters), including training in biological sample collection and analysis methods.

ii. Stock assessment

Introductory course on quantitative methods in fisheries data analysis and stock assessment.