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COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
4th MEETING

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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*”. At its 89th meeting, the Commission defined the specific manner in which 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.”

Accordingly, the amount budgeted for financial year (FY) 2016 is US\$ 131,085. As of the date of the preparation of this document (May 2016), nine Members have contributed a total of US\$ 60,048.

During 2016 requests for support to participate in the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) were received from six countries (Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Venezuela); all these requests were met, at a cost of US\$ 14,325. However, these requests were approved without preestablished criteria for selecting the participants, because the amount available in the fund was sufficient to cover these costs. The current balance of the fund is US\$ 45,723. If the fund is exhausted, any support or activities financed by the fund would cease.

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 (“Capacity Building 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. One Member made a contribution to the fund in 2014, but no further contributions have been received.

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 present-

ing 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 2016 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, during 2014-2015 the Secretariat has undertaken the activities listed in Table 1, financed with support from countries or other contributions, not by the fund.

TABLE 1. Actions by the Secretariat in support of capacity building for developing Members of the IATTC.

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
2015	OSPESCA	Use of a database for the artisanal fleets and standardization of the use of regional databases developed by the IATTC.	Collaboration in the use of a database and coordination for the standardization of its use at the regional level.
2015	Latin American countries	Second Technical Meeting on dorado, held in Peru in October 2015. A third meeting will be held in Panama in October 2016.	Organization of, and participation in, the workshop on dorado
2015	Costa Rica	Experimental program for collecting data on unloadings and biological data on large pelagic fish	Support to the program development
2015-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](#), Table 2 lists the activities proposed for 2017 with the contributions received in 2016, in accordance with that resolution. Since generally contributions are not received at the beginning of the year, and since afterwards there is still the possibility of missing contributions from some Members, the fund usually has to work with the contributions received in the previous year. It is estimated that at the end of 2016 the fund will have a balance of approximately US\$ 70,000, after subtracting the potential support given in 2016 for participation in the meetings of the SAC and the IATTC. The programmed activities under the fund are described in table 2. It must be highlighted that approximately US\$30,000 from the fund would be set aside annually to cover the third activity (financial support to the participation in meetings) and the rest would be allocated to activities related to the first two items. The staff seeks guidance from the Members in how to prioritize what activities should be given priority with available funding.

	Activity	US\$
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.	20,000
2	Capacity building and training, mainly on implementation and development of databases, analysis of fisheries statistics and data, and stock assessment, among others.	20,000
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	30,000

The following activities related to items 1 and 2 in Table 2 will be carried out with the funds from the 2% contribution and as resources permit on the basis of the order of priority to be indicated by the Commission. Most of these activities have already been identified in previous documents, but have not been implemented for lack of resources:

1. Training activities considered in other IATTC resolutions

1. 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*”.
2. 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:

4. 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.

4.1. Shark fisheries

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

4.1.1. 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.

4.1.2. 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.

4.1.3. 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.

4.1.4. 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).

4.2. Continuation of workshops on sharks

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

4.3. Continuation of workshops on dorado

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