Proposed Commission budget for Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) 2024-2025

(submitted by WG-ORT Chair)

Executive summary

In 2016, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the development of an online reporting system* (Rec. 16-19) in an effort to simplify and streamline reporting by CPCs, including by consolidating and reducing reporting requirements, which reduces duplication in the reporting process. The Recommendation set out terms of reference establishing a Working Group to develop an online reporting system covering ICCAT reporting requirements. In 2022, the Commission adopted Recommendation 22-17, which requires that CPCs (1) register at least one user in IOMS; (2) submit Part I, Annex 1 and Part II, Section 3 of the Annual Report directly in IOMS beginning in 2023; and (3) use IOMS to submit additional reporting information in the future as new modules enter into production. In addition to Rec. 22-17, the *Recommendation by ICCAT to continue the development of an Integrated Online Reporting System* (Rec. 21-20) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System* (Rec. 16-19) remain in place.

Phase I of the IOMS was covered through extra-budgetary contributions. Since 2020 (Phase II of IOMS), the ICCAT budget has included the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) as Chapter 14. This budget item included an allocation of €200,000.00 for 2020 and €206,000.00 for 2021 (see document STF_203A/2019 for further details). For 2022-2023, the budget item was €206,000.00 and €212,180.00, respectively (see document STF_203A/2021 for further details). **Table 1** contains an overview of these funding amounts. The budget for Phase II and III includes the salary of a senior back-end software developer and a senior front-end software developer, in addition to the infrastructure and staff support necessary for incorporation of new models into the system platform. Approximately 85% of the budget is dedicated to salary for staff support, with the remaining 15% dedicated to expenses related to training/capacity building (workshops and other user support), IT elements (software licenses, IOMS cloud servers and services, etc.) and external services (translation of the user's manuals of the IOMS Dynamic Help System – including updates).

Proposed budget for 2024-2025 – Phase IV

In 2023, the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) discussed increasing the IOMS budgetary request to allow for fulfilment of the WG's workplan. The following discussion is an excerpt from the 2023 report of the WG-ORT:

> "Regarding the budget of the IOMS, the ICCAT Secretariat elaborated that currently the team that is devoted to the IOMS comprises 2 developers that are funded by ICCAT's regular budget (agreed biennial; currently at about €200,000/year) plus 1 developer that is currently funded via the voluntary contribution of the EU. Furthermore, there are two additional main roles that the IOMS team carries out besides the development of the IOMS: maintenance and user support. Maintaining these three important roles with the current team is unsustainable in the long run. The ICCAT Secretariat stressed that it is imperative to request an increase in ICCAT's regular budget for the IOMS, with the goal of having a permanent team of highly specialised, dedicated IOMS experts comprising optimally three or four developers."

In response to the Secretariat:

> "The WG-ORT acknowledged that the IOMS is a large, long-term project that requires more than the current available capacity and funding (covering 2 software developers working full-time) to deal with the three major operational tasks (new development, maintenance, user support). [...] Considering the increasing scope and functionality development needed to support the work of the Commission, additional staff support and a more consistent, sustainable budget are required in order to ensure timely development of current and future planned phases. The WG-ORT discussed potential budget increases that it could request from the Commission at the next Annual Meeting."

After further discussion, the WG-ORT agreed to *request a €200,000/year increase in the IOMS budget allocation* to support the hiring of two additional software developers. If agreed, this increased budget would, therefore, cover the salary of a total of two senior back-end and two senior front-end software developers as well as continue to ensure maintenance, development of new modules, and user support. Complementarily, this budget increase will also improve the IOMS sustainability and resilience in the long run, by allowing the training of the two additional software experts on the IOMS adopted technologies. The budget would continue to be allocated as it currently is, with 85% going to staff salary and the remaining 15% covering IOMS operational costs. The funds dedicated to system operations are necessary as IOMS is evolving and requires higher capacity/power cloud servers to support the increasing number of modules (and other IT services), more training workshops on the use of the system, and development of additional training manuals, including translation. The 15% allocation for IOMS operational costs can only be used to provide IT services related to the revision or expansion of current IOMS modules. Use of funds from this earmarked allocation for other purposes would require a recommendation from the WG-ORT and agreement by STACFAD and the Commission.

The workplan of the WG-ORT (**Table 2**) to advance the use of IOMS within ICCAT is a massive undertaking and the proposed budget increase to support Phase IV is necessary to ensure adequate staff for system development, maintenance, and support for CPCs as they transition to use this system. Further, it should be highlighted that development of this automated platform will, in the future, afford significant savings and increased efficiency in the workload of the Secretariat in particular, and the Commission in general. The request for this increase will be sent to the Commission for consideration by STACFAD during the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Table 1. Budgetary review of previous IOMS phases and request for Phase IV.

Timeframe	Budget (€)	Phase
2020	200,000	Phase II
2021	206,000	Phase II
2022	206,000	Phase III
2023	212,180	Phase III
2024	412,180 (requested)	Phase IV
2025	412,180 (requested)	Phase IV

Table 2. This table provides the WG-ORT work plan to develop the IOMS. Copied from the 2023 Report of the WG-ORT. It covers ongoing and future development phases. Shaded cells indicate the major updates made to the 2022 workplan. Details of each phase are shown at the bottom. Phases 4 and 5 are preliminary module references.

Phase start	Priority	Module /Task	Description	Data requirements	Dev. Status	Date start	Date end	Phase end	Budget	Remarks
1	1	Module	IOMS core/database	n/a	COMPLETE	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	2	COM-18	
1	2	Module	IOMS annual report (Part II/Section 3, Part I/Annex 1)	S:GEN01, M:GEN01	COMPLETE	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	2	COM-18	
1	3	Task	IOMS in production		COMPLETE	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	2	COM-18	
1	1	Task	Training/workshop sessions (Phase 1)		COMPLETE	2022-04-28	2022-09-01	2	COM-18	Two sessions (4 hours each)
1	1	Task	Maintenance (including improvements & error fixing)		Ongoing	2019-06-01	n/a	n/a	COM-18	Continuous task (maintenance)
2	1	Module	Dynamic Help system (module)	n/a	COMPLETE	2021-03-31	2022-03-31	2	CPC (EU)	EU voluntary contributions (2021, 2022)
2	1	Task	Adjustments to the new roles definition	n/a	COMPLETE	2022-02-15	2022-03-15	2	COM-19	Adopted by WG-ORT 2022
2	1	Module	ICCAT Vessel Manager	Up to 21 data requirements (Vessel registration, 11 authorisation lists, carriers, chartering arrangements, transhipment authorizations, previous year activity)	Ongoing	2021-03-01	2023-10-31	3	COM-19 & CPC (EU)	Development extended to Phase 3 (10 additional months) jointly with UN/FLUX integration. Partially covered by EU voluntary contributions (2021, 2022, 2023)
2	1	Task	UN/FLUX integration into Vessel Manager	All requirements of Vessel registration and authorizations (11 lists)	Ongoing	2022-04-01	2023-11-30	3	CPC (EU)	EU voluntary contributions (2021, 2022, 2023)
2	2	Module	Enhancements to Dynamic Help system (generalization)	n/a	Ongoing	2022-04-01	2023-03-31	3	CPC (EU)	Near completion (final tests)
2	1	Task	Vessels training/workshop session(s)	n/a	Planned	2023-10-05	2023-10-05	3	COM-19	IOMS users preliminary tests on Vessel module (1 session)
3	1	Module	Form Manager	Module to upload and manage all ICCAT forms (ST, CP, TG)	Planned	2023-07-01	2023-12-31	3	COM-21	Start & end dates: estimates
3	2	Module	Port Manager	M:BFT21, M:SWO10	Planned	2024-01-01	2024-05-31	3	COM-21	Start & end dates: estimates
3	1	Task	Form manager & Port manager training/workshop sessions	n/a	Planned	TBD	TBD	3	COM-21	To decide of 1 session each
3	1	Module	Shark/Billfish Check Sheets Manager	M:SHK05, M:BIL01	Planned	2024-05-01	TBD	4	COM-21	To study the possibilities of re-using AR module code / Start date may change
3	1	Task	Shark/Billfish Check Sheets training/workshop sessions	n/a	Planned	TBD	TBD	3	COM-21	
4	1	Module	T1NC (Task 1 nominal catches) Manager	S:GEN03	Planned	2024-06-30	TBD		COM-23	Start date may change (pending study on time required)
4	2	Module	Compliance tables (COCT) Manager	M:GEN03	Planned	2024-06-30	TBD		COM-23	Start date may change (pending study on time required)
4	1	Task	T1NC/COCT training/workshop sessions	n/a	Planned	TBD	TBD		COM-23	
4	1	Task	Improvements and error fixing	n/a	Planned	TBD	TBD		COM-23	
5	1	Module	SDP programs (SWO, BET)	M:TRO06, M:SWO01	Planned				COM-23	
5	2	Module	Bluefin tuna (BFT) weekly and monthly reports Manager	M:BFT22, M:BFT23, M:TRO14 weekly BET	Planned				COM-23	
5	3	Module	Task 2 - Catch and effort	S:GEN04	Planned				COM-23	
5	1	Task	Improvements and error fixing		Planned				COM-23	

Complementary information on IOMS Phases:

Phase	Start	End	Budget (months)	COM meeting	Budget Year	Budget Type
Phase 1	2019-06-01	2020-05-31	12	annual	2018	Extraordinary
Phase 2	2020-06-01	2022-05-31	24	biennial	2019	Regular
Phase 3	2022-06-01	2024-05-31	24	biennial	2021	Regular
Phase 4	2024-06-01	2026-05-31	25	biennial	2023	Regular