

### Meeting Participation Fund<sup>1</sup>

In 2020 the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 14-14 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* (Rec. 20-09) which substitutes and repeals Rec. 14-14 in its entirety.

Recommendation 20-09 establishes a Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) to support representatives of those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States for the purpose of attending and/or contributing to the work of the Commission and other subsidiary bodies. This fund was initially provisioned with €60,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund.

The new recommendation differs from the previous one in that some minimum criteria must be met in order to control costs and minimize the administrative burdens. These minimum criteria are as follows: when a developing Contracting Party sends more than six official delegates to a Commission meeting or more than four to a subsidiary body meeting using its own resources, it will not be entitled to receive financial support from the MPF; in addition, the delegates must travel in the least expensive economy class or another that is more economical, and the flight itinerary must be defined at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

This fund was financed in 2023 with an allocation of €170,000.00 charged to Chapter 13b) of the ICCAT budget, as approved by the Commission in 2022.

To these funds, the carryover of financial year 2022 must be added, which amounted to €472,165.98. Therefore, the available amount in 2023 has been €642,165.98.

It should be noted that the carryover from financial year 2022 included a voluntary contribution from the European Union through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building. This contribution was made under a contract which terminated in July 2024.

In 2023, 104 trips have been organised and 28 CPCs have benefitted.

For 2024, this fund will have a balance of €558,743.03, comprising the carryover from 2023 and an allocation charged to the Commission budget (€250,000.00). Taking into account the number of requests for participation in meetings, and therefore, the expense incurred and charged to this fund, it is estimated that for 2024 it is necessary to allocate some €360,000.00.

#### Special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)

<b>Opening balance for financial year 2023</b>	<b>€472,165.98</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>€170,000.00</b>
Financed by ICCAT	€170,000.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>€333,422.95</b>
Scientific meetings	€128,330.59
<i>Intersessional Meeting of the Tropical Tunas Species Group (including MSE) (Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 27 February-3 March 2023)</i>	€19,153.68
<i>Blue Shark Data Preparatory Meeting (Hybrid/Olhão, Portugal, 17-21 April 2023)</i>	€5,492.61
<i>Meeting of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 8-12 May 2023)</i>	€1,733.00
<i>Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) (Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 15 18 May 2023)</i>	€4,451.79

<i>Intersessional Meeting of the Small Tunas Species Group (Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 15-18 May 2023)</i>	€8,583.17
<i>Sailfish Data Preparatory and Stock Assessment Meeting (Online, 5-10 June 2023 - initially Hybrid/Dakar, Senegal - cancelled)</i>	€ 4,070.29
<i>Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment Meeting (including MSE) (Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 26-29 June 2023)</i>	€ 2,482.07
<i>Blue Shark Stock Assessment Meeting (Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 17-21 July 2023).</i>	€ 13,673.56
<i>SCRS Species Group meetings and/or SCRS plenary (Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 18-29 September 2023)</i>	€68,690.42
<i>First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 (Hybrid/Lisbon, Portugal, 27-31 March 2023)</i>	€41,145.40
<i>Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 (Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 20-22 June 2023)</i>	€40,499.91
<i>Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 (Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 7-10 March 2023)</i>	€6,547.97
<i>Second Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG) / Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Catch Document Scheme (CDS WG) / 16th Intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) (Hybrid/Osaka, Japan, 5-9 June 2023)</i>	€29,685.52
<i>Seminar on High Seas Boarding Schemes in the ICCAT Context (Vigo, Spain, 13-14 September 2023)</i>	€33,753.76
<i>Intersessional Meeting of the Compliance Committee and 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission (Hybrid/New Cairo, Egypt, 11-20 November 2023).</i>	€53,459.80
<b>Balance at 7 November 2023</b>	<b>€308,743.03</b>

Summary of expenses	Scientific meetings	First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1	Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1	Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2	Second Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG) / Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group on Catch Document Scheme (CDS WG) / 16th Intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM)	Seminar on High Seas Boarding Schemes in the ICCAT Context	Intersessional Meeting of the Compliance Committee and 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission
<b>CPC</b>							
Albania				X	€ 1,817.45		X € 1,468.78
Algeria	g)	€ 2,491.17					
	h)	€ 24.00		X	€ 2,343.66		X € 1,651.27 X € 3,635.62
	i)	€ 5,694.38					
Belize		X € 3,708.14	X € 3,844.11			X € 3,101.75 X € 5,964.04	
Brazil	a)	€ 3,592.98					
	d)	€ 3,189.02					
	f)	€ 1,995.41				X € 3,179.26	
	g)	€ 4,274.48					
	i)	€ 4,421.76					
Côte d'Ivoire	a)	€ 2,663.53					
	c)	€ 2,558.40	X € 2,877.55	X € 2,727.09		X € 1,728.28	X € 2,748.84 X € 5,008.32
	d)	€ 2,303.59					
	i)	€ 4,934.42					
Egypt	g)	€ 3,022.19		X € 2,100.05		X € 2,881.05	X € 1,725.02
	h)	€ 2,458.07					
El Salvador	i)	€ 6,073.74	X € 3,789.15	X € 3,289.67			C € 1,447.24
Gabon	a)	€ 4,053.60	X € 2,915.40	X € 2,704.80		X € 3,599.18	X € 2,395.60 X € 4,861.17
	c)	€ 2,711.77					
The Gambia						X € 3,426.86	X € 5,031.73
Ghana	c)	€ 1,656.50	X € 3,254.61	X € 2,852.73			X € 4,164.65
	i)	€ 3,424.02					
Guatemala	i)	€ 5,947.96		X € 3,540.20		X € 5,025.15	X € 2,417.56 X € 5,581.55

Equatorial Guinea				X	€ 2,548.84								
Guinea (Rep.)	i)	€ 6,442.27									X	€ 4,514.74	
Honduras				C	€ 1,818.46								
Liberia	f)	€ 1,834.25											
Mauritania	a)	€ 2,614.53											
	f)	€ 240.63		X	€ 2,468.81		X	€ 5,153.41	X	€ 2,356.74			
	i)	€ 5,096.95											
Mexico	i)	€ 6,054.34											
Nicaragua			X	€ 3,959.45	X	€ 4,034.63			X	€ 3,079.66	C	€ 1,818.02	
Nigeria			X	€ 3,746.70									
Panama	a)	€ 2,979.05											
	i)	€ 5,753.59	X	€ 4,192.86	X	€ 2,790.24					C	€ 1,321.15	
St Vincent and the Grenadines									X	€ 4,515.30			
São Tomé and Príncipe	i)	€ 5,826.75	X	€ 2,869.79	X	€ 3,336.77		X	€ 3,576.83				
Senegal	a)	€ 3,249.99											
	b)	€ 2,280.55	X	€ 2,349.55	X	€ 2,443.51		X	€ 4,148.38	X	€ 1,687.12		
South Africa			X	€ 3,214.62							X	€ 4,170.82	
Tunisia	b)	€ 2,171.24											
	c)	€ 1,656.50					X	€ 1,866.36	X	€ 3,573.24			
	e)	€ 1,733.00											
	i)	€ 5,110.68											
Türkiye						C	€ 520.50				C	€ 694.53	
Uruguay	g)	€ 3,885.72	X	€ 4,267.58							X	€ 5,246.22	
Venezuela	i)	€ 3,909.56											
<b>Total</b>		<b>€ 128,330.59</b>		<b>€ 41,145.40</b>		<b>€ 40,499.91</b>		<b>€ 6,547.97</b>		<b>€ 29,685.52</b>		<b>€ 33,753.76</b>	<b>€ 53,459.80</b>

- a) *Intersessional Meeting of the Tropical Tunas Species Group (including MSE)*
  - b) *Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM)*
  - c) *Intersessional Meeting of the Small Tunas Species Group*
  - d) *Blue Shark Data Preparatory Meeting*
  - e) *Meeting of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch*
  - f) *Sailfish data preparatory and stock assessment meetings (CANCELLED)*
  - g) *Blue Shark Stock Assessment Meeting*
  - h) *Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment Meeting (including MSE)*
  - i) *SCRS species groups meeting and/or SCRS plenary*
- C: *Trip cancelled*