

MEETING PARTICIPATION FUND¹

In 2014 the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 11-26 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* (Rec. 14-14) which substitutes and repeals Rec. 11-26 in its entirety.

Recommendation 14-14 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 participation of two members per delegation (a manager and a scientist) will be financed for SWGSM meetings only, and for the remainder of meetings one member per delegation will be financed.

This fund was financed in 2020 with an allocation of €200,000.00 charged to Chapter 13b) of the ICCAT budget, as approved by the Commission in 2019. In addition, the Secretariat has received voluntary contributions from the United States (€16,980.00), and two from the European Union, through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building, in the amounts of €48,000.00 and €140,000.00.

To these funds, the carryover of financial year 2019 must be added, which amounted to €35,602.12. Therefore, the available amount in 2020 has been €440,582.12.

The implementation of this fund has significantly driven participation by representatives of developing Contracting Parties. Over the past year and given that ICCAT meetings have been held online or have been cancelled since mid-March as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, only 18 trips have been organised and 14 CPCs have benefited.

In 2017, the Commission approved the inclusion in the budget of an item to finance the expenses of this fund. The contribution from the 2020 budget has been €200,000.00 and will be regularised, and therefore, from 2021 all annual costs can be covered.

Taking into account the number of requests expected for participation in meetings, it is estimated that for 2021 it will be necessary to allocate some €350,000.00. This amount will be allocated from the 2020 carryover (€414,987.11) and charged to Chapter 13.a) of the ICCAT budget (€290,000.00), leaving a carryover that will be used for the following financial years.

Finally, the ICCAT Virtual Working Group on a Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF) has prepared a "*Draft recommendation by ICCAT amending Rec. 14-14 on the establishment of a meeting Participation fund for developing ICCAT Contracting Parties*" that will be submitted to the Commission for approval and will establish minimum criteria for applicants to qualify to receive financial assistance through the MPF, as well as the modification of the rules of procedure for the administration of MPF.

¹Data at 15 October 2020.

Special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)

Opening balance for financial year 2020	€ 35,602.12
REVENUE	€ 404,980.00
Financed by ICCAT	€ 200,000.00
Voluntary contribution from the United States	€ 16,980.00
Voluntary contribution from the European Union through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building for 2019	€ 48,000.00
Voluntary contribution from the European Union through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building for 2020	€ 140,000.00
Available balance for the first semester	€ 220,291.06
Expenses first semester	€ 25,595.01
Scientific meetings	€ 1,542.75
<i>Intersessional Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group (Madrid, Spain, from 16 to 19 March 2020) - Trips cancelled as meeting held online</i>	€ 1,542.75
SCRS meeting on Process and Protocol <i>(Madrid, Spain, from 20 to 22 February 2020)</i>	€ 12,250.35
Meeting of the Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures and Intersessional meeting of Panel 2 <i>(Madrid, Spain, from 2 to 6 March 2020)</i>	€ 8,146.43
Intersessional meeting of Panel 1 <i>(Madrid, Spain, from 20 to 23 April 2020)</i> <i>Trips cancelled due to meeting cancellation</i>	€ 3,655.48
Balance of first semester	€ 194,696.05
Transfer of balance from first semester	€ 194,696.05
Available balance for the second semester	€ 220,291.06
Expenses second semester	€ 0.00
Balance at 15 October 2020	€ 414,987.11

Summary of expenses	Scientific meetings		SCRS meeting on Process and Protocol		Meeting of the Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures and Intersessional meeting of Panel 2		Intersessional meeting of Panel 1 (Cancelled)	
CPC								
Albania					X	€ 2,144.14		
Algeria	a)	€ 177.48	X	€ 1,253.20	X	€ 1,819.36		
Brazil	a)	€ 363.43						
Cabo Verde			X	€ 2,205.79				
Côte d'Ivoire							X	€ 858.61
Egypt					X	€ 2,193.72		
Gabon							X	€ 1,879.87
Honduras			X	€ 2,593.11				
Mauritania	a)	€ 234.00						
Mexico			X	€ 2,240.89				
Namibia	a)	€ 514.69						
Senegal							X	€ 917.00
Tunisia	a)	€ 253.15	X	€ 1,179.08	X	€ 1,989.21		
Uruguay			X	€ 2,778.28				
Total		€ 1,542.75		€ 12,250.35		€ 8,146.43		€ 3,655.48

a) Intersessional Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group - in-person meeting cancelled and meeting held online