
FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 20 JANUARY 2015

REVIEW AREA: *Financial and administrative issues*

GENERAL CRITERION: *Availability of resources for RFMO activities*

DETAILED CRITERIA:

1. Extent to which financial and other resources are made available to achieve the aims of the IOTC and to implement the Commission's decisions, including analysis on the payment of servicing cost from annual and extraordinary/voluntary contributions and the new Improved Cost Recovery Uplift that should be examined and evaluated in terms of any new support provided from FAO to IOTC.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Actions taken directly by Members

There is little information available as to the level of resources made available for the implementation of the actions agreed upon by the Commission at country level. Nevertheless, the lack of reporting on different areas may be indicating a lack of sufficient support on the part of the Contracting Parties (Members). Although there is an obligation in the Agreement for Members to report on the progress of implementation of the Resolutions, there is no consistency in the format of the report, no measures taken against non-reporting Members and no way of independently verifying the accuracy of the reports.

Areas of particular concern are the implementation of effective data collection and processing systems, flag State responsibilities such as control and reporting of authorised and active vessels, control of foreign vessel activities including port inspection schemes and the status of implementation of the mandatory deployment of VMS in all vessels.

Cooperation between Members and through the IOTC Secretariat

The Agreement includes encouragement in cooperation between the Members, including transfer of technology, and there have been instances of such projects, often with the technical coordination of the IOTC Secretariat. The following are some examples of this collaboration:

Main Current Components:

- 1) Regional Observer Scheme (2014 Budget USD 273,163) – EOD 01/06/2010 – NTE 31/12/2014
- 2) Tuna Tagging Symposium (2014 Budget Euro 375,000 – approx. USD 500,000) EOD 01/09/2011 – NTE 31/10/2015
- 3) Technical assistance to developing countries CPC of the IOTC to improve implementation of IOTC CMMs and implementation of Port State Measures (2013-14 Budget EURO 155,400 – Approx. USD 208,948) EOD 01/11/2013 – 31/12/2014
- 4) Technical Assistance to Developing Countries to improve implementation of at-sea observer scheme and data collection, IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (Budget EURO 155,000) EOD 01/01/2015 – 31/12/2015
- 5) Population Structure of IOTC species in the Indian Ocean: Estimation with Next Generation Sequencing Technologies and Otolith Micro-chemistry (Budget EURO 1,719,000) EOD 01/03/2015 – 28/02/2018
- 6) Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) (2014-2018 Budget approx. USD 2.1 million) GCP/GLO/365/GFF (FI led) EOD 01/04/2014 – NTE 31/03/2019
- 7) Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) IOTC receives continued support of a full time OFCF staff member assigned to IOTC headquarters, ongoing from 2009.

- 8) Japan Tuna Tagging (2010-13 Budget USD 872,028) – EOD 01/01/2006 – NTE 15/11/2013 – Operationally Closed
- 9) Technical assistance to developing countries CPC of the IOTC to improve implementation of IOTC CMMs and implementation of Port State Measures (2012-13 Budget EURO 100,000 – Approx. USD 134,549 – Activities completed) EOD 01/09/2012 – NTE 31/08/13
- 10) EU Capacity Building support (MCS and Science) to development Countries (EURO 120,000/year)
- 11) Australia Capacity Building support in science and management to developing countries (USD 100,000)
- 12) EU Funding through the COI-SmartFish Project – MSE assessment of bigeye and yellowfin tuna (USD 170,000)

In almost all these cases, there was direct involvement of the countries in the region, and the IOTC Secretariat participated directly or indirectly in the coordination of the projects.

Resources available to the IOTC Secretariat

The history of the IOTC budgets is given in [Table 1](#). When the IOTC budget is compared with other tuna RFMOs on the basis of the dollars per ton of tuna caught, the IOTC shows the lowest level of contribution by its Members among comparable RFMOs ([Table 2](#)).

This is also reflected in the low level of staffing compared with other Commissions. Such a comparison is difficult to conduct in some cases, as there are differences in the models of the RFMOs. IATTC, for example, conducts its science in house and has a staff of over 50 scientists and technicians. The WCPFC relies heavily on the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (with a staff of over 25) for scientific support (SPC). The mandate model of ICCAT is the closest to IOTC's. As [Table 2](#) shows, the staffing level of ICCAT is twice the IOTC's and the budget allocated per ton of tuna caught is also almost twice that of the IOTC equivalent figure.

From 1998 to 2000, the IOTC Secretariat's task was essentially restricted to assisting in the scientific process, including the maintenance and preparation of datasets, as there were few compliance-related activities.

After the adoption in 2001 of the Inspection and Control Scheme by IOTC Members and setting of the Compliance Section in 2008, the responsibilities of the IOTC Secretariat were expanded with an ever-increasing role in support of compliance. In 2010, the workload of the IOTC Secretariat increased even more with the implementation of various capacity building programmes.

Fishery Officer (Bycatch) & Administration Officer (Communications)

The Scientific Committee has repeatedly requested that a Fishery Officer (Bycatch) be recruited at the IOTC Secretariat to deal with the ever-increasing bycatch issues being requested by the Commission via IOTC Conservation and Management Measures and other decisions. However, some Members of the Commission continue to indicate that a Fishery Officer working on Bycatch matters is not acceptable. Similar requests have been made for the Commission to consider funding a Administration Office (Communications), without success.

Requests in other areas

There are increasing demands for advice and assistance from countries in the region in various areas, such as support for implementation of Port State Measures, assistance with interpretation of IOTC Resolutions, science to management, Observer scheme, data reporting and collection and legal support in implementing those Resolutions in national legislation. In cases where the expertise required is outside the IOTC Secretariat, sufficient resources will have to be made available to hire temporary assistance.

Current situation

The IOTC Secretariat has, over some years, accumulated funds to sustain some extra-budgetary activities but also to cover budget deficit due to non-paying members. However in 2013, IOTC exhausted the accumulated funds through the financing of the Meeting Participation Fund over a period of three years. The most obvious increases in the IOTC Secretariat budget are related to staff costs ([Table 1](#)). Less pronounced increases are apparent for other budget items. Duty travel has increased steadily due to the IOTC Secretariat increasingly working with Members and the Commission and many of the subsidiary body meetings held outside Seychelles.

Support from FAO

In late 2014, an administrative support staff was sent from the FAO Fisheries Department (FI) in Rome to IOTC headquarters in Seychelles for a period of three months. This cooperation and support was required due to the resignation of one IOTC administrative support staff and another IOTC staff member on maternity leave until January 2015. The total value of the secondment was approximately USD 11,000 and was covered by FAO FI. IOTC covered the travel costs of the seconded staff member.

Table 1. The history of the IOTC budget over time (extracted from IOTC Commission Reports) as it pertains to the work of the IOTC Secretariat is given below. These figures reflect the adopted budgets minus additional contributions from Seychelles – not the actual expenditures.

	1997 part	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
	437,606	735,686	881,772	1,078,767	1,085,525	1,111,907	1,194,821	1,069,724	1,322,544	1,489,160	1,636,843	1,649,612	1,815,937	1,987,563	2,145,679	2,344,778	2,544,007	3,066,995	
Staff	249,973	536,451	620,801	661,313	717,779	838,026	907,968	793,259	1,005,647	1,138,000	1,218,757	1,059,981	1,169,473	1,328,084	1,338,168	1,405,275	1,620,505	2,136,009	
Professional/General Service Staff	2/6	2/6	4/6	4/6	4/6	5/6	6/6	7/6	7/6	7/6	6/6	7/5	7/6	7/6	8/6	8/6	9/6	9/6	
Duty Travel	25,000	50,000	50,000	75,000	75,000	50,000	75,000	70,000	80,000	85,000	93,500	110,000	134,500	193,000	230,000	272,330	237,000	181,471	
Meetings	100,000	100,000	70,000	130,000	50,000	90,000	73,000	73,000	80,000	90,000	132,000	80,000	50,000	50,000	70,000	100,000	120,000	46,235	
Interpretation												75,000	98,000	100,000	120,000	135,000	142,000	101,000	
Equipment	60,000	15,000	25,000	15,000	20,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	20,000	25,000	27,500	40,000	40,000	30,000	25,000	26,250	15,000	15,775	
Operating	20,000	20,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	36,000	40,000	45,000	45,000	50,000	55,000	65,000	65,000	45,000	48,000	45,000	47,000	61,500	
Misc./Printing	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	22,000	25,000	30,000	35,000	38,500	45,000	59,900	52,500	35,250	37,500	21,000	37,385	
Consultants	0	0	30,000	35,000		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	27,500	120,000	75,000	46,500	48,825	54,500	57,000	102,000	
Capacity Building	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	78,000	80,000	111,000
MPF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,000
FAO	28,628	48,129	37,971	46,454	46,745	47,881	51,452	46,065	58,079	65,160	70,486	71,774	78,564	86,179	92,936	101,423	110,003	132,937	

Table 2. Comparison of tuna RFMOs budgets and catches of the species under their mandate based on 2013/2014 budgets.

	IOTC	IATTC	ICCAT	CCSBT (2015)	WCPFC/SPC
Total Budget (US\$)	3,091,553	6,335,009	3,122,635	2,189,800	7,035,116*
Total catch of species (t)	1,736,821	699,434	907,965	14,647	2,627,696
Cost per t (US\$)	1.78	9.05	3.43	149.5	2.79
Total Staff	16	65	28	6	26
Scientific/Technical Staff	9	59	12	4	22**
Administrative Staff	7	6	16	2 (1 on part-time)	4

*US\$5,317,049 (Budget w/o SPC funding/US\$2,003,129 (funding for SPC)

** 9 Professional and 13 locally recruited.