

2016 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT¹

1. Introduction

In accordance with Article VII of the Convention, this report is presented by the Secretariat to the Commission to outline its activities during financial year 2016.

2. Contracting Parties to the Convention

In 2016, the Office of Legal Affairs of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) notified the Secretariat that on 13 May 2016, the Government of the Republic of Guinea Bissau deposited the instrument of adhesion to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. In accordance with Article XIV, para. 3 of this Convention, the Republic of Guinea Bissau is now a member of the Commission with full rights.

At 21 October 2016, following the adhesion, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna has the following 51 Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

3. ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions

Adoption and entry into force of the Recommendations and Resolutions

On 4 December 2015, the Secretariat officially transmitted the text of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the 24th Regular Meeting of the Commission (St. Julians, Malta, from 10 to 17 November 2015) to the Contracting Parties and the non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that have Atlantic coastlines or that fish tunas in the Convention area, and to the intergovernmental fishery-related organizations, requesting their cooperation in this regard.

The text of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission in 2015 was published in the *Report for Biennial Period 2014-2015, Part II (2015), Vol. 1*.

Following the six-month grace period after the transmission of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission, the Recommendations entered into force on 4 June 2016, in compliance with Article VIII of the ICCAT Convention.

4. ICCAT inter-sessional meetings and Working Groups

In accordance with Commission decisions on this subject, the following meetings were held in 2016:

- Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (*Madrid, Spain, from 25 to 27 January 2016*)
- Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (*Madrid, Spain, from 15 to 19 February 2016*)
- Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 (*Madrid, Spain, from 2 and 3 March 2016*)
- Meeting of the Compliance Committee (*Madrid, Spain, 4 and 5 March 2016*)
- Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment (*Madrid, Spain, 7 and 8 March 2016*)

¹ Information at 21 October 2016.

- Yellowfin Data Preparatory meeting (*Pasajes, Spain, from 7 to 11 March 2016*)
- Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs (*Bilbao, Spain, from 14 to 16 March 2016*)
- Small Tunas Species Group Intersessional meeting (*Madrid, Spain, from 4 to 8 April 2016*)
- Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (*Madrid, Spain, 15 and 16 April 2016*)
- Sharks Species Group Intersessional meeting (*Madeira, Portugal, from 25 to 29 April 2016*)
- Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment Session (*Madeira, Portugal, from 28 April to 6 May 2016*)
- Sailfish Stock Assessment Session (*Miami, United States from 27 June to 1 July 2016*)
- Mediterranean Swordfish Stock Assessment Session (*Casablanca, Morocco, from 11 to 16 July 2016*)
- Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (*Sapporo, Japan 18 July 2016*)
- Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Methods (IMM) (*Sapporo, Japan, 18 and 19 July 2016*)
- Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 (*Sapporo, Japan, from 20 and 21 July 2016*)
- Bluefin Tuna Species Group Meeting (*Madrid, Spain, from 25 to 29 July 2016*)
- Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems (*Madrid, Spain, from 5 to 9 September 2016*)
- Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (*Madrid, Spain, 7 and 8 September 2016*)
- SCRS Species Groups Meeting (*Madrid, Spain, from 26 to 30 September 2016*)
- Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (*Madrid, Spain, from 3 to 7 October 2016*)

5. Meetings at which ICCAT was represented

Within the framework of ICCAT's mandate to inform other international organizations of the measures adopted by the Commission, the Secretariat participated in several meetings and technical consultation processes, which included several regional fisheries organizations (see **Annex 1** to this Report (**STF-201/2016-Anexo 1**), which summarizes the main issues discussed at these meetings).

- Bluefin Futures Symposium Meeting (*Monterrey, California, United States, from 18 to 20 January 2016*)
- ICES Workshop to Compile and Refine Catch and Landings of Elasmobranchs (*Lisbon, Portugal, from 19 to 22 January 2016*)
- 9th International Forum on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (*London, United Kingdom, 15 and 16 February 2016*)
- NEAFC Seminar on Allocation Criteria and Associated Issues (*London, United Kingdom, 22 February 2016*)
- Working Group on IUU Fishing (CoC/GFCM) (*Madrid, Spain, from 19 to 21 April 2016*)
- The Resumed Review Conference on the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (*New York, United States, from 23 to 27 May 2016*)
- Sailfish CPUE Standardization 2016 (*Miami, United States, 25 to 28 May 2016*)
- Second workshop on “The Partnership Agreement for Sustainable Fishing and good governance of fisheries in the COMHAFAT area” (*El Jadida, Morocco, 2 and 3 June 2016*)
- Sixth Meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN-6) (*Rome, Italy, from 9 to 15 July 2016*)
- 32nd Session of Committee on fisheries (COFI)/ (*Rome, Italy, 11 to 15 July 2016*)
- EU Purse seine CPUE Standardization – IEO Fuengirola (*Fuengirola, Spain, from 18 to 22 July 2016*)
- Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (*New York, United States, 29 August to 2 September 2016*)
- Third Conference on “Our Ocean, One Future” (*Washington United States, 15 and 16 September 2016*)
- Work Shop on Pelagics (GT2) – CICTA MEDAC Mediterranean Advisory Council (*Ajaccio, France, 13 October 2016*)

6. Tagging lottery

National laboratories give awards or prizes to people who recover tags to encourage the return of tags. To support these programmes, ICCAT organizes a lottery each year with a \$500 award.

In the last ICCAT lottery, which was held on 3 October 2016, prizes were awarded for three tags, corresponding to the following categories small tunas, billfish and sharks.

The winning tags were as follows:

- *Small tunas*: The winning tag carried the number ATP006300 and was recovered from an Atlantic little tunny (*Euthynnus alletteratus/LTA*) by a crew member of a Senegalese vessel, 30 days after it had been attached. The tagging was carried out during the EU-Spain campaigns.
- *Billfish*: The winning tag carried the number CR008829 and was recovered from a swordfish (*Xiphias gladius/SWO*) by a Spanish national, 3,609 days after it had been attached. The tagging was carried out during the EU-Spain campaigns.
- *Sharks*: The winning tag carried the number 352442 and was recovered from a blue shark (*Prionace glauca/BSH*) by a Spanish national 921 days after it had been attached. The tagging was carried out during the United States campaigns.

This year, there were only recoveries of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus/BFT*) tags in the category of temperate tunas. Given that this species has been included only since 2012 in the draw associated with the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP); therefore, the category had no winner.

This year, the tropical/small tuna category is now exclusively for small tunas as the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) sponsored an additional draw with a prize (€500) for each major species included in the tropical category (*Thunnus albacares/YFT*, *Thunnus obesus/BET* and *Katsuwonus pelamis/SKJ*). For the first draw for the small tunas category alone, all tags were provided by the AOTTP.

ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)

The additional draw supported by this Programme includes three prizes (two for €500 and one for €1,000 exclusively for recoveries of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus/BFT*). The winning tags and the awards were as follows:

- *€1,000*: The winning tag carried the number BYP072069 and was recovered by a Croatian national.
- *€500*: The winning tag carried the number CR012327 and was recovered by a Maltese national.
- *€500*: The winning tag carried the number BYP074997 and was recovered by a Canadian national, 20 after it had been attached. The tagging was carried out during the Canadian campaigns.

Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)

This year, an additional draw supported by this Programme has been carried out for the first time including one prize (€500) for each major species in the tropical tunas category. The winning tags and the awards were as follows:

- Bigeye (*Thunnus obesus/BET*): The winning tag carried the number ATP010175 and was recovered by a crew member of a Spanish vessel, 27 days after it had been attached. The tagging was carried out during the EU-Spain campaigns.
- Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis/SKJ*): The winning tag carried the number ATP008596 and was recovered by a crew member of a Spanish vessel, 33 days after it had been attached. The tagging was carried out during the EU-Spain campaigns.

- Rabil (*Thunnus albacares*/YFT): The winning tag carried the number ATP010669 and was recovered by a crew member of a Spanish vessel, 30 days after it had been attached. The tagging was carried out during the EU-Spain campaigns.

7. Letters concerning fulfilment of budgetary obligations

In early 2016, the Executive Secretary notified all the Contracting Parties of the amount of their contributions to the 2016 budget. In June 2016, a reminder was sent to the Contracting Parties that had not made the corresponding payments. Later, a second reminder was sent in September to those Contracting Parties that had not acted. The following table summarizes the correspondence sent to the Contracting Parties who have outstanding contributions.

	<i>First reminder Letter of 30 June 2016</i>	<i>Second reminder Letter of 22 September 2016</i>
Albania	X	
Angola	X	X
Brazil	X	X
Cabo Verde	X	X
Côte d'Ivoire	X	X
Curaçao	X	X
Egypt	X	X
Ghana	X	X
Guatemala	X	
Equatorial Guinea	X	X
Guinea, (Rep. of)	X	X
Honduras	X	X
Liberia	X	X
Libya	X	X
Mauritania	X	X
Mexico	X	
Namibia	X	X
Nigeria	X	X
Panama	X	X
San Vicente & the Grenadines	X	X
Santo Tomé and Príncipe	X	X
Senegal	X	X
Sierra Leone	X	
Syria, (Arab Rep.)	X	X
Trinidad & Tobago	X	X
Uruguay	X	X
Venezuela	X	X

8. Publications of the Secretariat - 2016

In 2016, the following publications were issued:

- Report for Biennial Period 2014-15, Part II (2015), Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 4: English (Vols. 3 and 4 in electronic format only).
- Report for Biennial Period 2014-15, Part II (2015), Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 4: French (Vols. 3 and 4 in electronic format only).
- Report for Biennial Period 2014-15, Part II (2015), Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 4: Spanish (Vols. 3 and 4 in electronic format only).

- Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 43 (1), which includes the catch series by species and country from 1950 to 2014. Starting in 2013, the paper copy will be issued biennially, with annual updates which will be available in electronic format, on the ICCAT web site and on CD.
- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. 72, comprised eight volumes. This publication is issued in paper copy and on CD and is also available on the ICCAT web site.
- ICCAT Newsletter (February and September 2016).

9. Organisation and management of the Secretariat staff

9.1 Organisation

The Secretariat is organised as follows:

Executive Secretary

Mr. Driss Meski

Scientific Coordinator

Dr. Miguel Neves dos Santos, reporting directly to the Executive Secretary, performs the tasks related to the coordination of research programmes, collection of fisheries statistics, preparation of reports and coordination with other RFMOs. He is in charge of the Department of Translation and Publications and coordination between the Department of Research and Statistics and the Compliance Department. He is also responsible for coordination between the Secretariat and the SCRS and preparation of SCRS meetings. Moreover, he undertakes other tasks delegated by the Executive Secretary, which includes representing the ICCAT Secretariat in meetings of a technical and/or administrative nature.

Department of Research and Statistics

Because of its mandate to manage and conserve tuna fishery resources, ICCAT members carry out a wide spectrum of scientific research and monitoring activities. The Secretariat is directly involved in the coordination of some of these activities, although a large part of the practical work is carried out by the Contracting Parties. The Secretariat maintains a large number of databases that contain information on fishery statistics which are useful for stock assessments and for compliance-related records. The main tasks that are carried out are requests for data, rules for data transmission, development of databases, user interfaces of the databases, quality control of data, data mining and publication of data, management of the web site, tagging inventory, preparation of reports and coordination with the SCRS and management of information technology.

The research and statistics activities, under the supervision of the Scientific Coordinator, are carried out by the Head of the Department, a Population Dynamics Expert, a Fishery Data Analyst, a Biostatistician, a Database Programmer, a Programming Technician, a VMS Programme Manager and a specialist in information technology. Dr Paul de Bruyn is the Head of the Department of Research and Statistics as well as the By-catch Coordinator. Dr Laurence Kell is in charge of the activities related to coordination with the SCRS regarding stock assessments and other scientific matters. Dr Mauricio Ortiz is in charge of the activities relating to the analysis of tuna and tuna-like species data contained in the ICCAT databases. Mr. Carlos Palma is in charge of activities related to the creation and maintenance of databases, Mr. Juan Carlos Muñoz is the Database Programmer, Mr. Juan Luis Gallego is a Programming Technician, Mr. Alberto Parrilla is the VMS Programme Manager and Mr. Jesús Fiz is the Information Technology expert.

Compliance Department

In recent years, the Commission has adopted an increasing number of Recommendations and Resolutions that require the CPCs to communicate various types of information such as vessels lists, compliance reports, etc. The Compliance Department compiles and distributes a large volume of information. The Department's main tasks are: preparation of the compliance tables; implementation of the Regional Observer Programme for transshipment and for bluefin tuna; maintenance of the vessels lists; the inventory of vessel chartering agreements; bluefin tuna farming reports; data and validation of the ICCAT Statistical Document Programs and the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programs; compendia of the management regulations; requests for cooperating status; requests for observer status; Annual Reports, and queries regarding compliance. The department is supervised by the Executive Secretary and is comprised of Ms. Jenny Cheatle, Head of Department, Ms. Carmen Ochoa, and Dr M'Hamed Idrissi, as Compliance Coordinators, and Ms. Aldana Vieito, as the Data Entry Clerk.

Department of Translation and Publications

The Department of Translation and Publications carries out tasks related to the compilation, adoption, translation and publication of circulars, reports and scientific documents, ASFA and FIRMS entries, in the three official languages of the Commission, the coordination of peer reviews of scientific documents, and publications in electronic format, communications and design of the web site. The department is coordinated by Dr Neves and is comprised of six translators: Ms. Rebecca Campoy, Ms. Karen Donovan, Ms. Christine Peyre, Ms. Dorothée Pinet, Ms. María Isabel de Andrés and Ms. María José García-Orad.

Department of Finance and Administration

This Department carries out all the administrative and financial tasks of the Secretariat. Its main tasks are: preparation and control of the budget, accounting, preparation of the administrative and financial reports, organisation of ICCAT meetings, management of special funds, human resources within the Secretariat, purchases, travel, reception, archives, management of contact information, inventory of the library and publications, photocopying, scanning and mail. The department is comprised of eight members: Mr. Juan Antonio Moreno, Head of Department, who coordinates all the tasks related to the department, Mr. Cristóbal García (photocopying and library), Mr. Pablo Herranz (Administrative Assistant), Ms. Africa Martín (Accounting Assistant), Ms. Ana Martínez (Accounting Assistant), Mr. Juan Angel Moreno (photocopying and mail), Ms. Esther Peña (Administrative Secretary) and Ms. Gisela Porto (Administrative Assistant to the Executive Secretary).

ICCAT/Japan Capacity Building Assistance Project (JCAP)

Following the ICCAT/Japan Data and Management Improvement Project (JDMIP), carried out from 2009 to 2014, a new five-year capacity building project was initiated, financed by the Government of Japan. The main objective of this project is to assist developing ICCAT CPCs to comply with their obligations regarding data collection and reporting, as well as efficiently implementing ICCAT measures. A Coordinator, Ms. Mari Mishima, was responsible of implementing the project activities until August 2016, supervised by the Steering Committee comprised of the ICCAT Executive Secretary, the SCRS Chairman, the Coordinator of the Sub-Committee on Statistics and a representative of Japan. Since then, the management of the project will be coordinated by the Government of Japan and the Secretariat.

ICCAT Atlantic Wide Research Programme for Bluefin tuna (GBYP)

The overall objective of the programme that started in January 2010 is to improve the scientific basis to make management decisions for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. The Programme includes a list of actions to be carried out throughout various years. Among these actions are the recovery of basic data collections, the improvement of knowledge on key biological and ecological processes or the improvement of assessment models and the provision of scientific advice. The programme is carried out by Dr. Antonio Di Natale (Coordinator), Ms. Stasa Tensek (Assistant Coordinator) and Mr. Alfonso Pagá (Database specialist).

ICCAT Atlantic Ocean Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)

The objectives of the programme, which started in 2015, is to contribute to data collection and improve information for tropical tuna stock assessments, aimed at providing sound scientific advice on the management of these species. The Programme will collect, compile and analyse tagging and tag recovery data for the most important tropical tuna species in the Atlantic, such as skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin. The objective is to tag 120,000 fish with conventional and electronic tags during a period of five years. Amongst the activities carried out is the chartering of professional fishing vessels, the deployment of a release and recovery team, collection of data, scientific interpretation, developing and conducting training courses and encouraging awareness campaigns to promote tag recoveries. The following people have been hired to implement these activities: Mr. Doug Beare (Coordinator), Mr. Pedro Güemes (Tag Recovery and Publicity Officer), Ms. Seynabou Kebe (Administrative and Financial Officer) and Mr. Ricardo Pastor (Accountant).

9.2 New recruits

Following the approval of the position in the 2015 meeting, Mr. Pablo Herranz was hired in May 2016 as Administrative Assistant to the Department of Administration and Finance.

ICCAT/Atlantic Ocean Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)

In February 2016, Mr. Pedro Güemes was hired as Coordinator of Tag Recovery and Publicity of the Programme.

9.3 Separation of Service

ICCAT/Japan Capacity Building Assistance Project (JCAP)

In August 2016, Ms. Mari Mishima finished her appointment as Coordinator of the Project and person responsible for its management.

10. Other issues

10.1 Management of other programs

It should be noted that the Financial Report (STF-202/2016) contains detailed information on the financing of these programmes.

Since 2005, the United States has contributed to the Special Data Fund established in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT on Improvements in Data Collection and Quality Assurance* [Rec. 03-21], to assist scientists from developing countries to participate in the meetings of the Scientific Committee. The two contributions received in 2016 amounted to €44,800.00 and €44,539.46.

In 2006, the United States made a contribution to help establish the Fund to Prohibit Driftnets so as to encourage compliance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Relating to Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 03-04]. Taking into account that all CPCs have implemented the recommendation, United States decided to destine the remaining balance to support the assessment of the impact of ICCAT fisheries on sea turtles in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-09 on the By-catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries* [Rec. 13-11]. The balance currently amounts to €2,400.63.

In April 2016, the contract was extended with the Consortium MRAG/CapFish for the ICCAT Regional Observer Program, in compliance with *ICCAT Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transshipment* [Rec. 12-06]. This program was financed in 2016 by voluntary contributions from Belize, China (People's Rep. of), Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Korea, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Chinese Taipei; the Program continues to be managed by the Secretariat.

To implement the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 08-05], in 2009 the Regional Observer Program for bluefin tuna was established. For this purpose, in April 2016, the contract with the Consortium MRAG/COFREPECHE was extended for the hiring and deployment of observers. During this period, vessels, farms and traps have participated, and their operators have financed the programme.

Since 2008, the United States delegation has made numerous contributions to the United States Fund for Capacity Building for developing countries.

At its 16th Special Meeting (Marrakech, Morocco, 17 to 24 November 2008), the Commission endorsed a five-year coordinated Atlantic-wide bluefin tuna research program (known as GBYP-ICCAT). Currently, the Program is in its sixth phase. The European Union is financing 80.00% of this amount and the remainder is funded through voluntary contributions from Albania, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Norway, Tunisia, Turkey, United States and Chinese Taipei.

Following the ICCAT-Japan Data and Management Improvement Project, which took place from 2009 to 2014, in December 2014, a special new project for capacity-building with a five-year duration began financed by the Government of Japan, the ICCAT-Japan Capacity-Building Assistance Project (*JCAP*). Its overriding objective is to assist ICCAT developing CPCs in complying with their obligations related to data compilation and reporting, as well as in implementing efficiently ICCAT measures.

In June 2016, the Secretariat received a contribution of €17,732.90 from China (People's Rep. of) for the continuation of the activities of the Special Data Fund – People's Republic of China.

Following approval in 2014 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* [Rec. 14-14], the Secretariat, in addition to the 2016 allocation of €250,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund, received two voluntary contributions from United States (€4,480.00 and €17,815.79) and two from the European Union (€43,680.00 and €8,284.67) through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building.

In 2013, the Morocco Fund to Support National Capacity for Participation at Commission Meetings was created. For this purpose, in May 2016, Morocco made a voluntary contribution in the amount of €80,000.00.

In 2013, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Scientific Capacity Building Fund for Developing States which are ICCAT Contracting Parties* [Rec. 13-19] for the purpose of supporting scientists from ICCAT Contracting Parties that are developing States in their need to acquire knowledge and develop skills on issues related to ICCAT. The special Scientific Capacity Building Fund (SCBF) was allocated €80,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund.

In May 2015, a contract was signed with the CITES Secretariat (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) for the purpose of cooperating on data collection for management of pelagic sharks, including CITES Appendix II species. To carry out the activities of this project, the CITES Secretariat sent €70,760.79.

On 30 June 2015, the Secretariat signed the contract with the European Union for implementation of the Atlantic Ocean-wide Tropical Tunas Tagging Programme (AOTTP). The contract has a five-year term, with the possibility of an 18-month extension for data analysis, and a budget of €15,000,000.00, of which the European Union will finance a maximum of €13,480,000.00 (90%). The remaining 10% must be financed by ICCAT or ICCAT CPCs. In 2016, voluntary contributions have been received for the European Union Programme, €4,267,255.04), United States (€31,360.00), Chinese Taipei (€5,000.00) and the ICCAT Working Capital Fund (€194,397.00).

In March 2016, a contract was signed with the European Union to finance the Second Performance Review of ICCAT. The voluntary contribution received amounted to €112,000.00.

In May and September 2016, two contributions have been received from Norway (€10,401.61 and €15,672.83) to contribute to the activities of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Support Effective Implementation of Recommendation 12-07 by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* [Rec. 14-08].

In July 2016, a contract was signed with the European Union for a one-year term, to continue improvement of the capacity of developing countries, and which includes the activities of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Support Effective Implementation of Recommendation 12-07 by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* [Rec. 14-08], *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 11-26 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* [Rec. 14-14] and *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Scientific Capacity Building Fund for Developing States which are ICCAT Contracting Parties* [Rec. 13-19], and for which a voluntary contribution of €49,000.00 has been received.

Another contract was also signed in August with the European Union to cover the costs of the 2016 Commission meeting which is to be held in Vilamoura, Portugal from 14 to 21 November. To date, the Secretariat has received under these headings a voluntary contribution of €403,070.32. It should be recalled that in financial year 2016, the Secretariat received the remaining amount from the contribution by the European Union to the organisation of the 2015 meeting (see financial report).