

PROTOCOLS TO FOLLOW FOR THE USE OF DATA FUNDS & OTHER ICCAT FUNDS

Introduction

Among the existing ICCAT funds, some like those available in the JDIMP or the EU Fund for Capacity Building, have their own user protocol defined by the Steering Committee or by the terms of reference of the corresponding contracts. In other cases, the Secretariat establishes the criteria in collaboration with the SCRS.

Considering that these funds were created to support the active participation in the work of the SCRS of scientists of countries with less resources, this document aims to define the objectives of funding and to establish protocols for more fluid and productive usage. The proposal has been developed based on the most recent recommendations and requirements of the SCRS.

The lines defined in this document and the protocols established will be applied to those funds available that do not have their own protocol.

Use of funds

Three large groups are considered: Improvement of Statistics, Capacity Building, and Supporting Work of the SCRS

1. Improvement of statistics

The improvement of statistics can be considered at various levels:

1.1 Recovery of historical data. The reconstruction of historical data series is fundamental, both for the overall assessment of the resources, and for the analysis of fishery dynamics. This section would include:

- Data searches and incorporations from various sources.
- Computerization of the data (e.g., logbooks) which are available in other formats (in paper copy, etc.).
- Data analysis, including sampling systems, observer programs, etc.

1.2 Development of support material. Sampling and observer programs require additional information such as observer manuals, species identification sheets, etc. The funds could be used for the preparation and publication of this material.

1.3 Development of programs for data entry and processing. The development of data entry and processing programs is essential and the funds should finance this work.

In any of the abovementioned sections, and if so warranted, the funds can be applied to hire experts or to finance the travel expenses of the Secretariat's staff to carry out tasks to support the work teams involved. These tasks can be achieved through data analysis, support *in situ* for the collection of information and sampling, observers, development of support material, development of data processing programs, etc.

These funds would also be used to finance the participation of scientists from countries that do not have their own means to be able to participate in the SCRS meetings.

Protocol for the allocation of funds

To finance the improvement of statistics the following conditions must be met:

1. There should be an explicit recommendation from the SCRS or a formal approval by the SCRS Chair on the need and/or interest of the data to be recovered, development of support material and/or development of the data processing programs, i.e. explicitly referring to the identification of the period to be recovered, the fishery, type of data, type of support material, data processing programs, etc.
2. The SCRS, through the corresponding Species Groups and the Sub-Committee on Statistics (SC-STAT), or the SCRS Chair will develop a work plan.
3. The SCRS or the SCRS Chair will define the procedure to carry out the work plan (e.g., hiring of experts, funding local teams, etc.).
4. The Secretariat will facilitate the process defined in the work plan.
5. The decision on the selection/approval of the projects and contracting experts will be made by the SCRS or the SCRS Chair. The selection of the experts will be made by the Secretariat after consulting the SCRS Chairman and, if contemplated in the defined procedure, with a Selection Committee.

The conditions for financing the participation of scientists at SCRS would be the following:

1. Pertain to developing countries that do not participate by their own means.
2. Present a request, within a deadline defined in the protocol approved by the SCRS in 2010, including a detailed description of the applicant's contribution to the meeting.
3. The Secretariat will process the request and, after obtaining agreement from the rapporteurs of the Species Groups involved and/or from the SCRS Chairman, will carry out the necessary procedures in accordance with the protocol approved by the Committee.
4. The invited scientists are expected to participate actively in the meeting and likely present scientific documents.

2. Capacity building

The Working Group on the Organization of the SCRS noted a decreasing trend in the participation of scientists of CPCs in the work of the SCRS and stressed the need to strengthen their active involvement in this work. One of the causes pointed out by the Group referred to the increasing complexity of the models used and the difficulty to access them. Faced with this, the Group stressed the need to establish capacity building policies which continually develops skills that will result in an overall understanding of the assessment procedures that are carried out within the SCRS.

In this sense, the third meeting of tuna RFMOs insisted on the need to coordinate efforts among the different organizations to develop a more efficient training policy.

In line with these recommendations, the funds could be used to:

2.1 *Develop training programs structured by levels and impart training courses.*

2.2 *Develop supporting learning materials (manuals, applications, web pages, etc.).* This section could include both the development of specific applications such as the payment of fees for the use of the material already developed, as well as potential expenses linked to a tutorial in training modules.

2.3 *Exchange of scientists between research centres.* In 2011, for the first time, a scientist from a developing country spent training time at the IRD-IFREMER centre in Sète.

2.4 *Finance the participation at the SCRS meetings of scientists from countries which do not have their own means to support the participation of this scientist in the meetings.*

The financing of participants at training courses will be limited to scientists from countries which do not have their own resources to support its participation. However, the funds can be applied towards hiring experts to give courses and/or to develop the learning material, independent of the degree of development of their country of origin.

Protocol for the allocation of funds related to Capacity Building

1. A training course may be requested by a developing Country and/ or may be proposed by the SCRS;
2. When requested by a developing country, a work plan for the training Course should be submitted for the approval by the SCRS or by the SCRS Chair. When proposed by the SCRS, the corresponding Species Groups and/or the Sub-Committee on Statistics will develop a work plan.
3. The SCRS or the SCRS Chair with the Secretariat will define the procedures to carry out the work plan (e.g., hiring of experts, funding local teams, etc.), in coordination with the relevant developing State.
4. The Secretariat will facilitate the process defined in the work plan.
5. The decision on the selection/approval of the projects and contracting experts will be made by the SCRS Chairman, in coordination with, if contemplated in the defined procedures, a Selection Committee and in consultation with the Secretariat.

In the case of a request for a stay at research centres, the protocol shall remain the same as above; however it will include some additional conditions:

- The request, which must be presented at least two months before initiating the stay, should include:
 - a) A justification supporting the stay and a work plan describing the activities to be undertaken.
 - b) A letter of consent from the director of the center where the researcher works.
 - c) A letter from the director of the center accepting the scientist's stay.
 - d) In case a visa is required, the applicant should negotiate this directly with the country of the center where he /she will carry out the stay.
 - e) ICCAT will not provide any health and/or accident insurance during the stay.
- Following the stay, a document must be presented to the SCRS including a detailed description of the work carried out during the stay and the results obtained.

3. Support the work of the SCRS

One consequence of the decreasing participation of CPC scientists at SCRS meetings is that the Secretariat has increased its participation during the meetings of the SCRS, which went from supporting the work carried out by the SCRS scientists to, in some cases, carrying out a major part of the assessment work. This situation does not correspond with the philosophy of the work of the SCRS or with the structure and means which the Secretariat has available. This preparatory work would be particularly indicated in the application of integrated or similar statistical models which require a large volume of data. The current ICCAT funds could support the work of the SCRS in different ways:

3.1 Contracting experts to develop models, analysis, data preparatory work, and/or participate in the assessments.

3.2 Financing the participation of external experts at the SCRS meetings. In the case that the expert is associated with a tRFMO, such participation would have a double benefit of a peer review (ICCAT Performance Review recommendation) and encouraging the coordination and exchange among tuna RFMOs (Kobe III recommendation).

As in the section above, financing could be applied to any expert who meets the required conditions.

Protocol for the allocation of funds

1. The SCRS Chair, after consultation with the appropriate subsidiary body of SCRS, should specify the profile of the experts in detail, the work to be carried out and, in some cases (e.g., for peer review) provide the Secretariat with a list of potential reviewers.
2. The SCRS Chair, after consultation with the appropriate subsidiary body of SCRS and in consultation with the Secretariat, will define the procedure to carry out the work plan (e.g., hiring of experts, funding local teams, etc.).
3. The Secretariat will facilitate the process defined by the SCRS or SCRS Chair.
4. The decision on the selection/approval of the projects and/or contracting experts will be made by the SCRS or the SCRS Chair. The contracting of the experts will be made by the Secretariat after consulting the SCRS Chairman and, if contemplated in the defined procedure, with a Selection Committee.