

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
MEETING PARTICIPATION FUND FOR DEVELOPING ICCAT CONTRACTING PARTIES**

RECOGNISING that the ICCAT Commission has noted with concern the lack of participants from developing States at its meetings and those of its subsidiary bodies;

RECALLING that these concerns have been echoed by the ICCAT Performance Review Panel in 2008;

NOTING that Article 25 paragraph 3 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) identifies, *inter alia*, forms of cooperation with developing states and the need for assistance relating to collection, reporting, verification, exchange and analysis of fisheries data and related information; and stock assessment and scientific research;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. A special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) be established for the purposes of supporting representatives from those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States to attend and/or contribute to the work of the Commission and other subsidiary bodies.
2. The MPF shall be financed from an initial allocation of €60,000 from ICCAT's accumulated Working Capital Fund, and subsequently by voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and such other sources as the Commission may identify. The Commission will identify, at its 2012 Meeting, a procedure for supplying funds to the MPF in the future.
3. The Fund will be administered by the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the same financial controls as regular budget appropriations.
4. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish a process for notifying Contracting Parties annually of the level of available funds in the MPF, and provide a timeline and describe the format for the submission of applications for assistance, and the details of the assistance to be made available.
5. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Commission on the status of the Fund, including a financial statement of contributions to and disbursements from the Fund;
6. For participation in ICCAT scientific meetings, including Species Group and other inter-sessional meetings, those eligible scientists may submit an application for assistance from the existing funds from voluntary contribution. Applicants will be selected in accordance with the protocol established by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (Addendum 2 to Appendix 7 to the 2011 SCRS Report).
7. For participation in non-scientific meetings, funds will be allocated in order of application. Only one participant per Contracting Party will be funded for any one meeting. All applications shall be subject to the approval of the Chair of the Commission, the Chair of STACFAD and the Executive Secretary and, in the case of subsidiary bodies, the Chair of the meeting for which funding is being sought.
8. The funds in the MPF shall be disbursed in a manner that ensures a balanced distribution between non-scientific and scientific meetings.
9. All potential eligible applicants are encouraged to explore the alternative avenues of funding available to developing State Contracting Parties prior to applying to the ICCAT Fund.