

## 2019 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT<sup>1</sup>

### 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 2019.

### 2. Contracting Parties and Cooperators to the Convention

#### 2.1 Contracting Parties

In 2019, the Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) informed the Secretariat that the Government of the Republic of The Gambia had deposited on 11 February 2019 the instrument of accession to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. In accordance with Article XIV, paragraph 3 of the Convention, the Republic of The Gambia is now a full member of the Commission.

The Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also informed that the Republic of Vanuatu had notified on 3 May 2019 its withdrawal from the ICCAT Convention, which, in accordance with Article XII, paragraph 2, will become effective on 31 December 2020.

At 25 October 2019, the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is comprised of the following 53 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, Grenada, 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, The Gambia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

#### 2.2 Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities

In addition to the Contracting Parties, the Commission can also grant the status of cooperator following the procedure described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* (Rec. 03-20). The following States currently hold this status: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guyana, Suriname and Chinese Taipei.

### 3. ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions

#### 3.1 Adoption and entry into force of the Recommendations and Resolutions

On 21 December 2018, the Secretariat officially transmitted the texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the 21st Special Meeting of the Commission (Dubrovnik, Croatia, 12 to 19 November 2018) to the Contracting Parties and to non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that have Atlantic coastlines or that fish tunas in the Convention area, and to intergovernmental fishery organizations, requesting their cooperation in this regard.

The texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission in 2018 were published in the *Report for Biennial Period, 2018-2019, Part I (2018), 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 21 June 2019, in accordance with Article VIII of the ICCAT Convention.

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<sup>1</sup> Data at 25 October 2019.

#### 4. ICCAT intersessional meetings, Working Groups and training courses

In accordance with Commission decisions in this regard, the following nineteen meetings were held in 2019:

- Meeting of the Technical and Legal Editing Group of Contracting Parties (*Madrid, Spain, from 28 to 29 January 2019*).
- Intersessional Meeting of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group (*Madrid, Spain, from 7 to 9 February 2019*).
- Intersessional Meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group (*Madrid, Spain, from 11 to 15 February 2019*).
- Intersessional Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group (*Madrid, Spain, from 25 to 28 February 2019*).
- Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 (*Madrid, Spain, from 4 to 7 March 2019*).
- White Marlin Data Preparatory Meeting (*Madrid, Spain, from 12 to 15 March 2019*).
- 13th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Methods (*Madrid, Spain, from 2 to 4 April 2019*).
- Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems (*Madrid, Spain, from 8 to 12 April 2019*).
- Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (*Madrid, Spain, from 8 to 12 April 2019*).
- Yellowfin Data Preparatory Meeting (*Madrid, Spain, from 22 to 26 April 2019*).
- Joint Tuna RFMO FAD Working Group Meeting (*California, United States, from 8 to 10 May 2019*).
- Shortfin Mako Shark Stock Assessment Update Meeting (*Madrid, Spain, from 20 to 24 May 2019*).
- White Marlin Stock Assessment Meeting (*Miami, United States, from 10 to 14 June 2019*).
- Intersessional Meeting of the Small Tunas Species Group (*Olhao, Portugal, from 24 to 27 June 2019*).
- Yellowfin Tuna Stock Assessment Meeting (*Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, from 8 to 16 July 2019*).
- Meeting of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group (*St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada, from 23 to 27 July 2019*).
- Intersessional Meeting of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group (*Madrid, Spain, from 19 to 21 September 2019*).
- SCRS Species Groups Meeting (*Madrid, Spain, from 23 to 27 September 2019*).
- Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) (*Madrid, Spain, 30 to 4 October 2019*).

In addition to the meetings listed above, seven training courses have been held:

- ICCAT GBYP international workshop on Atlantic bluefin tuna growth (*Santander, Spain, from 4 to 8 February 2019*).
- Training course for the crew members participating in the GBYP aerial survey for bluefin tuna spawning aggregations (*Madrid, Spain, 22 May 2019*).
- GBYP Workshop on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna PSAT Tags deployment methodologies (*Olhão, Portugal, from 2 to 5 July 2019*).
- AOTTP otolith workshop (*Dakar, Senegal, from 18 to 22 March 2019*).
- Training course in Gabon to improve data collection for ICCAT species and verification of good practices onboard tuna purse seine vessels (*Libreville, Gabon, from 17 to 20 June 2019*).
- Swordfish workshop on sampling and processing protocols aimed at growth and reproduction studies (*Olhão, Portugal, from 18 to 21 June 2019*).
- Seabird Workshop (*Cape Town, South Africa, from 24 to 28 June 2019*).

#### 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-201/2019-Annex 1**), which summarizes the main issues discussed at these meetings).

- The Blue Belt Initiative Conference (*Agadir, Morocco, 19 February 2019*).
- Sixth Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop and Third Meeting of the Tuna Compliance Network (*Bangkok, Thailand, from 21 to 24 February 2019*).
- ABNJ - Common Ocean/ABNJ Tuna Project Workshop on Seabird Bycatch (*Kruger National Park, South Africa, from 25 February to 1 March 2019*).

- First preparatory meeting of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) for the transformation into a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (*Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 and 26 March 2019*).
- Second Theory of Change ABNJ Workshop for ABNJ Program (*Rome, Italy, from 23 to 26 April 2019*).
- The 14th round of informal consultations of States Parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (*New York, United States, from 2 to 3 May 2019*).
- FAO/FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting eleventh session (FS11) (*Rome, Italy, from 13 to 14 and 18 May 2019*). FAO/CWP 26th session: Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture (6th session) and Fisheries (27th session) Subject Groups (*Rome, Italy, from 15 to 18 May 2019*).
- NEAFC – OSPAR Collective Arrangement (*Gothenburg, Sweden, from 28 to 29 May 2019*).
- Sixth Steering Committee Meeting for the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project (*Rome, Italy, from 8 to 10 July 2019*).
- Seventeenth session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) (*Miami, United States, from 15 to 18 July 2019*).
- IATTC: 10th Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (*Bilbao, Spain, from 17 to 18 July 2019*).
- IATTC and AIDCP (*Bilbao, Spain, from 21 to 23 July 2019*).
- 18th Conference of the Parties to CITES on the proposal to include shortfin mako shark in CITES Appendix II (*Geneva, Switzerland, 22 August 2019*).
- Third Session Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (*New York, United States, from 19 to 30 August 2019*).
- 16th Liaison Meeting (*Brussels, Belgium, from 3 to 5 September 2019*).
- Mediterranean Advisory Council MEDAC (*Ljubljana, Slovenia, 11 October 2019*).
- Our Ocean 2019 (*Oslo, Norway, 23 October 2019*).

## 6. Tagging lottery

### *General ICCAT tagging programmes*

National laboratories give awards or prizes to people who recover tags to encourage the return of tags. In order to support these programmes, ICCAT organizes an annual lottery with a \$500 prize.

In the last ICCAT lottery, which was held on 30 September 2019, prizes were awarded for four tags in each of the following categories: small tunas, sharks, billfish and temperate tunas, respectively.

The winning tags were as follows:

- *Small tunas*: The tag ATP125360 was recovered from a little tunny (*Euthynnus alletteratus*/LTA) by a citizen from Côte d'Ivoire, 15 days after it was attached. The tagging was carried out during Côte d'Ivoire campaigns.
- *Sharks*: the tag 45513 was recovered from a blue shark (*Prionace glauca*/BSH) by a Portuguese citizen. The tagging was carried out during the Irish campaigns.
- *Billfish*: The tag 321975 was recovered from a swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*/SWO) by a Spanish citizen. The tagging was carried out during the United States campaigns.
- *Temperate tunas*: The tag AAB002286 was recovered from an albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*/ALB) by a Spanish citizen, 33 days after it was attached. The tagging was carried out during the Spanish campaigns.

***Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)***

Again this year, an additional draw was held with the support of the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP). This draw carries three awards (two for €500 and one for €1000) exclusively for recoveries of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*/BFT). The winning tags and the awards were as follows:

- €1,000: the tag BYP014778 was recovered by a Spanish citizen. The tagging was carried out during the Spanish campaigns.
- €500: the tag BYP000403 was recovered by a Spanish citizen.
- €500: the tag BF454843 was recovered by a Maltese citizen.

***ICCAT Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)***

Again this year, an additional draw was held with the support of the ICCAT Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP). This carries a prize of €500 for each of the main species in the tropicals category. The winning tags and the awards were as follows:

- Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*/BET): the tag ATP156450 was recovered by a Spanish citizen, 217 days after it had been attached. The tagging was carried out during the Spanish campaigns.
- Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*/SKJ): the tag ATP160662 was recovered by a Portuguese citizen, 27 days after it had been attached. The tagging was carried out during the Portuguese campaigns (Madeira).
- Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*/YFT): the tag ATP123711 was recovered by a citizen from Côte d'Ivoire, 25 days after it had been attached. The tagging was carried out during the Côte d'Ivoire campaigns.

**7. Letters concerning compliance with budgetary obligations**

In early 2019, the Executive Secretary notified all the Contracting Parties of the amount of their contributions to the 2019 budget. In July 2019, a reminder was sent to the Contracting Parties that had not made the corresponding payments. Later, a second reminder was sent in October to those Contracting Parties that had not acted. The following table summarizes the correspondence sent to the Contracting Parties that have outstanding contributions.

	<b><i>First reminder Letter of 12 July 2019</i></b>	<b><i>Second reminder Letter of 16 October 2019</i></b>
Algeria	X	
Angola	X	X
Brazil	X	X
Cabo Verde	X	X
China (P.R.)	X	
Côte d'Ivoire	X	
Curaçao	X	X
Egypt	X	X
The Gambia	X	X
Ghana	X	X
Grenada	X	X
Guinea Bissau	X	X
Equatorial Guinea	X	X
Guinea (Rep.)	X	X

Honduras	X	X
Liberia	X	X
Libya	X	X
Mauritania	X	X
Namibia	X	X
Nigeria	X	X
Panama	X	X
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	X	X
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	X	X
Senegal	X	X
Sierra Leone	X	X
Syria (Arab Rep.)	X	X
South Africa	X	X
Venezuela	X	X

## 8. Publications of the Secretariat - 2019

In 2019, the following publications were issued:

- Report for Biennial Period 2018-19, Part I (2018), Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 4: English (in electronic format only).
- Report for Biennial Period 2018-19, Part I (2018), Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 4: French (in electronic format only).
- Report for Biennial Period 2018-19, Part I (2019), Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 4: Spanish (in electronic format only).
- Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 45, which includes the catch series by species and country from 1950 to 2017. Starting in 2013, the paper copy has been issued biennially, with annual updates which are available in electronic format, on the ICCAT web site.
- Volume 75 of the Collective Volumes of Scientific Papers, which comprises eight tomes and volume 76 contains 7 tomes. The publications are available on the ICCAT web site.
- ICCAT Newsletter (February and September 2019).

## 9. Organisation and management of the Secretariat staff

### 9.1 Organisation

The Secretariat is organised as follows:

#### *Executive Secretary*

Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel. He is responsible for selection and administration of staff of the Commission and overseeing execution of the main functions of the Commission, such as:

Coordination of research programmes  
Preparation of budget estimates for review by the Commission  
Authorising disbursement of funds according to the Commission's budget  
Accounting of the Commission's funds  
Preparation of coordination with sister organisations  
Collecting the necessary fishing statistics  
Preparation of scientific, administrative and other reports

*Assistant Executive Secretary*

Dr Miguel Neves dos Santos. Reporting directly to the Executive Secretary, he performs all the tasks delegated to him by the Executive Secretary, which include management of the Secretariat and representation of the ICCAT Secretariat at meetings of a technical and/or administrative nature. In addition, he performs the functions of scientific coordinator, carrying out tasks related to the coordination of research programmes, collection of fisheries statistics, preparation of reports and coordination with closely related organisations. He is in charge of the Department of Translation and Publications and coordination of work 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 and management of Commission meeting documents. Finally, he has assumed the role of coordinator of the ICCAT/Japan Capacity Building Assistance Project (JCAP) since the departure of the previous coordinator (Ms. Mari Mishima) in August 2016.

*Department of Research and Statistics*

By reason of its mandate to manage and conserve tuna fishery resources, ICCAT members carry out a broad range 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 Department and Fisheries Data Analyst, a Population Dynamics Expert, a By-catch Coordinator, a Biostatistician, a Database Programmer, a Programming Technician and a Database Programmer and Webmaster and an Information Technology Manager. Dr Mauricio Ortiz is Head of the Department of Research and Statistics and a Fisheries Data Analyst. He 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. Dr Nathan Taylor is the By-catch Coordinator. Dr Ai Kimoto is in charge of the activities related to coordination with the SCRS regarding stock assessments and other scientific matters. Mr. Carlos Mayor performs tasks related to programming and development of databases, Mr. Jesús Fiz is the Information Technology Specialist, Mr. Juan Carlos Muñoz is the Database Programmer and Webmaster and Mr. Juan Luis Gallego is the Programming Technician.

*Compliance Department*

In recent years, the Commission has adopted an increasing number of Recommendations and Resolutions that require CPCs to communicate various types of information such as vessels lists, compliance reports, and other information. 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 comprised of Ms. Jenny Cheatle, Head of Department, Mr. M'Hamed Idrissi and Mr. Alberto Parrilla, as Compliance Officers, Dr Valerie Samedy, as VMS Programme Manager and Compliance Technician, and Ms. Aldana Vieito, Compliance Assistant.

*Department of Translation and Publications*

The Department of Translation and Publications carries out tasks related to the compilation, 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 dos Santos and is comprised of six translators: Ms. Christine Peyre (French), Ms. María Isabel de Andrés (Spanish), Ms. María José García-Orad (Spanish), Ms. Karen Donovan (English), Ms. Rebecca Campoy (English), and Ms. Dorothée Pinet (French).

*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, Ms. Africa Martín (Accountant), Ms. Ana Martínez (Accounting Assistant), Mr. Juan Angel Moreno (photocopying and mail), Mr. Cristóbal García (photocopying and library), Ms. Esther Peña (Administrative Secretary) and Ms. Gisela Porto (Administrative Assistant to the Executive Secretary) and Mr. Pablo Herranz (Administrative Assistant).

*Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)*

The overall aim of the programme, which began in January 2010, is to improve the scientific basis for decision making in relation to management of bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. The programme includes a list of actions, to be carried out over several years, such as recovery of basic data collections, improvement of knowledge on key biological and ecological processes or improvement of assessment models and provision of scientific advice. The programme is implemented by Dr Francisco Alemany (Coordinator), Ms. Stasa Tensek (Assistant Coordinator) and Mr. Alfonso Pagá (Database Specialist).

*Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)*

The aims of the programme, which began in 2015, are to contribute to data compilation and improve information for tropical tuna stock assessments, in order to provide sound scientific advice on management of these tuna species. The programme will collect, compile and analyse tagging data and tag recovery for the most important tropical tuna species in the Atlantic, such as skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna. The objective is to tag at least 120,000 species over five years with conventional and electronic tags. The activities carried out include chartering of professional fishing vessels, deployment of tag placement and recovery teams, data collection, scientific interpretation, development and implementation of training courses and promotion of awareness campaigns to promote tag recoveries. The following personnel have been recruited to carry out these activities: Dr Doug Beare (Coordinator), Dr Lisa Ailloud ((Assistant Coordinator), Mr. Jesús García (Database and Website Specialist), Ms. Seynabou Kebe (Administrative and Financial Officer) and Mr. Ricardo Pastor (Accountant).

## **9.2 New appointments**

In September 2019, the notification of voluntary separation from service of Ms. Carmen Ochoa took effect. Following her departure, Mr. Alberto Parrilla who applied for the position of Compliance Officer, occupied the vacant post.

In October 2019, Dr Valerie Samedy was appointed as ICCAT VMS Programme Manager, which is the post that was previously held by Mr. Alberto Parrilla. This post has been restructured by the Secretariat, and is now part of the Compliance Department.

*Integrated Online Management System (IOMS)*

In May and June 2019, Mr. Manuel Maestre and Mr. José Sanz were appointed to perform the roles of software developers for the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS).

These two appointments were financed outside of the budget in 2019.

## **9.3 Confirmation of appointment of the Executive Secretary**

In May 2019, the Commission Chair circulated a letter informing of the conclusion on 1 July 2019 of the one-year probationary period of Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel. The letter requested that Contracting Parties confirm the appointment. Finally, in June 2019, it was informed that there had been no objections to the confirmation and that all the communications received had expressed support for the appointment, and the first mandate of Mr. Manel was renewed for four years (until 1 July 2023).

## 10. Internal regulations

### 10.1 Amendment to internal regulations

In 2018, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) at its annual meeting, approved the office of SCRS Vice-Chair. On account of this, an amendment to Rule 13 - Committees\*\*\*\* so as to include this new office was referred to the Commission. The new wording of this article is as follows:

2. "There shall be a Standing Committee on Research and Statistics on which each member country of the Commission may be represented. The Committee shall develop and recommend to the Commission such policies and procedures in the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of fishery statistics as may be necessary to ensure that the Commission has available at all times complete, current and equivalent statistics on fishery activities in the Convention area. The Committee shall keep under continuous review the research programmes in progress in the Convention area, and shall develop and recommend to the Commission from time to time such changes in existing programmes, or such new programmes as may be deemed desirable. The Committee shall also advise the Commission on such other scientific matters as may be referred to it. The Committee shall choose its own Chair and Vice-Chair. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Committee."

## 11. Other matters

### 11.1 Management of other programmes

It should be noted that the Financial Report contains detailed information on these programmes and funds.

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* (Res. 03-21), to assist scientists from developing countries in participating in the meetings of the Scientific Committee. The contribution in 2019 was €153,697.53.

In April 2016, the contract was extended with the Consortium MRAG/CapFish for the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme, in compliance with *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transshipment* (Rec. 12-06). This program was financed in 2019 by voluntary contributions from Belize, China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Korea, Senegal, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Chinese Taipei; the programme 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 2019, the contract with the Consortium MRAG/COFREPECHE was extended for 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. This fund currently has a balance of €249,251.57.

At its 16th Special Meeting (Marrakesh, 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 programme is in its ninth phase. The European Union is financing 80.00% of this amount, and the remainder is being financed through voluntary contributions from Algeria, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Turkey, United States and Chinese Taipei.

Following the ICCAT/Japan Data and Management Improvement Project, which was implemented from 2009 to 2014, and the ICCAT/Japan Capacity-building Assistance Project (JCAP), from 2014 to 2019, Japan announced that it would endeavour to develop a new programme, JCAP-2, which will start in December 2019 to continue supporting developing CPCs, taking into account the positive response of CPCs.



In July 2018, the Secretariat received a contribution of €17,600.00 from China (People's Rep.) for 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 2019 allocation of €72,000.00 from the Commission's budget, received a voluntary contribution from Canada in the amount of €75,000.00, another from the United States for €57,135.00, and another from the European Union for €28,000.00. In addition, a new contract with the European Union is being prepared for a further allocation to the fund of €200,000.00.

In 2013, the Morocco Fund to Support National Capacity for Participation at Commission Meetings was established. For this purpose, in March 2019, Morocco made a voluntary contribution in the amount of €90,299.74.

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 light of the limited activity of this fund, in 2017, the Commission decided to transfer the balance of this fund to the new Strategic Research Programme. It also decided that this fund should be maintained for future activities, but with no balance.

On 30 June 2015, the Secretariat signed the contract with the European Union for implementation of the Atlantic Ocean Tuna 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 2019 voluntary contributions were received for the programme from the United States (€64,326.00), Chinese Taipei (€5,000.00), and the ICCAT Working Capital Fund (€73,102.05).

In March 2017, the Tunisia Fund to Support National Capacity for Participation at Commission Meetings was established.

In 2015, the special Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Fund (MCSF) was established to support and strengthen development and implementation of efficient in port inspection systems by developing CPCs for the purpose of achieving or surpassing the minimum standards established in 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 2019 a voluntary contribution was received from the United States in the amount of €35,130.86.

In 2017, the Commission decided to create for 2018, the Strategic Research Programme, with the objective of grouping and including in the regular Commission budget all ICCAT scientific activities. It also decided to gradually incorporate this new budgetary item over 4 years. For this reason, a contract was entered into in December 2018 with the European Union to finance 80% of the Commission's scientific activities in 2019, within the framework of the new Strategic Research Programme, which are not covered by the budget and for a total amount is €850,800.00.

In September 2018, a contract was signed with the European Union for a fifteen-month term, to continue improving the capacity of developing countries, and which includes the activities of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 11-26 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* (Rec. 14-14).