

**LETTER FROM STACFAD CHAIR
(ON WAY FORWARD - ROUND 3 OF CORRESPONDENCE PERIOD)**

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to express my appreciation to the CPCs having provided comments or edits to the four revised draft proposals that were communicated through the circular # 7645 / 2020.

With respect to the essential business of STACFAD for correspondence round two, I have received further suggestions and edits to paragraph 4(a) of Appendix 2A of STF_205 by Senegal, Morocco and Canada as can be traced in the attached worksheets.

Senegal has also suggested specific inputs to the Draft Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund (Appendix 3A of STF_205) to ensure a consistent application of the proposed eligibility threshold for the utilization of the MPF to meetings of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies.

On the other hand, the European Union has reiterated that the minimum criteria established in the draft recommendation and the draft rules of procedure for the administration of the MPF will need to be adhered to for the EU's voluntary contributions to be made available. The EU has also noted that the current draft would lead to a situation that the MPF will have to be managed under two different sets of rules, even if we reach a consensus on the aforementioned proposals.

To this end, I have taken the liberty of putting forward new versions of STF-205_APP_2A / 2020 and STF-205_APP_3A / 2020 by combining the edits proposed by Senegal, Canada and Morocco that I believe are not controversial. I have also suggested to incorporate a slight modification on paragraph 4 of Appendix 2 to avoid application of different sets of rules for administration of the Fund. The revised documents can be found in the 2020 Commission Documents website for consideration by CPCs during the third phase of correspondence for STACFAD related issues.

As to the specific SCRS activities outlined in STF_209A, concerns have been reiterated by Canada to dedicate funds to a tropical tuna MSE. In this context Canada has indicated that the Commission should provide a guidance to Panel 1 on how the management of skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tunas will be made in case TRO MSE were to be provided funding in 2021.

Taking into account the concerns expressed so far, as well as the requests by some delegations to classify the tropical tunas MSE process as priority, since the Commission agreed to fund up to €50,000 for Tropical Tuna MSE in 2019, I would like to suggest to keep the funding for Tropical Tuna MSE by reducing the proposed budget accordingly (i.e., € 50,000). This would allow the SCRS to proceed the work as per the ICCAT MSE roadmap adopted in 2019. However, the Commission should review the progress of works and the feedback from the SCRS on the tropical tunas MSE roadmap at the 2021 Commission meeting and take any further decisions to avoid a disconnect between what the Commission wants and what the SCRS produces.

A revised version of the document can be found in the 2020 Commission Documents website as STF_209B / 2020.

Lastly, as I have received no objections or further comments on the new version of the proposed ICCAT budget for 2021, STF-203A could be considered as adopted by STACFAD. I will submit the document STF-203A to the plenary for endorsement.

Please note, considering all the progress made in the proposals, I propose to shorten the period for the next round for comments, which will be on **30 November 2020** (18:00 Madrid time).

Yours sincerely,

STACFAD Chair
Hasan Alper Elekon