



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Seventeenth Session
Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Hybrid)
December 3-8, 2023

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF OTHER FUNDS FOR 2023

WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-07

27 October 2023

Prepared by the Secretariat

Introduction and Purpose

1. This paper provides information on the incomes and expenditures of Funds other than the General Account Fund.
2. The Commission's Financial Regulations 6.2 and 7.7 require a report to each Regular Session of WCPFC on the Special Requirements Fund (SRF) as well as any funds established by the Executive Director. The Commission currently has the following eight funds other than the General Account Fund:
 - i. Special Requirements Fund
 - ii. Japan Trust Fund
 - iii. Chinese Taipei Trust Fund
 - iv. CNM Contributions Fund
 - v. Voluntary Contributions Fund
 - vi. West Pacific East Asia Project Fund
 - vii. Working Capital Fund

Funds

Special Requirements Fund

3. The SRF was established in accordance with the Commission's Financial Regulation 7 for the purposes identified in Article 30 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. As of 26 October 2023, the balance of the fund was:

Income	Amount
Balance brought forward from 2022	USD286,701
Interest	USD53
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>USD286,754</i>
Less Expenditures	
Funded activities	USD283,046
Total Remaining	USD3,708

4. The activities funded out of the SRF for 2023 were:
 - i. USD23,145 for Tuvalu for Electronic Debriefing Training and Electronic Reporting Refresher Training
 - ii. USD72,570 for the South Pacific Group for training to strengthen negotiation and cooperation of the South Pacific Group and territories with an interest in Southern longline fisheries
 - iii. Two participants to attend the Tuna Data Workshop in Noumea, New Caledonia
 - iv. One participant to attend the FFC meetings in Majuro, Marshall Islands
 - v. Seven participants to attend SC19 in Koror, Palau
 - vi. Nine participants to attend TCC19 and 4th Tropical Tuna Measure Workshop in Pohnpei, FSM
 - vii. Six members to attend WCPFC20 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Japan Trust Fund

5. The Japan Trust Fund (JTF) was established in 2007 to facilitate management of funds provided by Japan to support “WCPFC Project on Capacity Building in Fisheries Statistics, Regulation and Enforcement for Small Island Developing States”. As of 15 October 2023, the balance of the fund was:

Income	Amount
Balance brought forward from 2022	USD39,890
Contribution from Japan	USD217,787
Interest	USD19
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>USD257,696</i>
Less Expenditures	
Funded activities and fees	USD223,297
Total Remaining	USD34,399

6. The 2023 funded activities supported by the JTF include:
 - USD45,500 for Palau for Development of Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring (ER/EM) Program for the Division of Oceanic Fisheries of the Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment
 - USD34,965 for Solomon Islands for Training of Solomon Islands Fisheries Compliance Officers in Honiara and Noro on the use of Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) Compliance Module
 - USD24,675 for Solomon Islands for Training of Longline Fishing Companies Technical people on the basic Electronic Monitoring (EM) Systems troubleshooting processes
 - USD55,326 for Tonga for Support and maintain high level data collection and to improve management of tuna fisheries in Tonga, as well as providing timely feedback through monitoring programs on conservation of tuna Species (Port Sampling)
 - USD37,800 for Tonga for Capacity building and strengthening of Tonga National Observer Program (Observer Program)
 - USD8,697 for Tonga for Capacity building and strengthening of Tonga’s Fisheries Legal Section

Chinese Taipei Trust Fund

7. The Chinese Taipei Trust Fund was established in 2017 to facilitate management of funds provided by Chinese Taipei to support projects for capacity building in Small Island Developing States. As of 15 October 2023, the balance of the fund was:

Income	Amount
Balance brought forward from 2022	USD328,865
Interest	USD158
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>USD329,023</i>
Less Expenditures	
Funded activities and fees	USD92,676
Total Remaining	USD236,347

8. The 2023 activities supported by the CTTF include:
- i. USD42,000 for Tuvalu for observer programme observer basis training; and
 - ii. USD34,860 for the South Pacific Group for training to strengthen negotiation and cooperation of the South Pacific Group and territories with an interest in Southern longline fisheries.

Cooperating Non-Members (CNM) Contributions Fund

9. The purpose of the CNM Contributions Fund is to hold funds from CNM Contributions and Observer Fees. As of 15 October 2023, the balance of the fund was:

Income	Amount
Balance brought forward from 2022	USD242,596
Assessed Contribution from CNMs	USD135,687
Interest	USD59
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>USD378,342</i>
Less Expenditures	
Funded activities	USD163,872
Total Remaining	USD214,470

10. The assessed and paid contribution for each CNM as of 15 October 2023 is as follows:

CNM	2023 assessed contribution	2023 payments
Curacao	27,715	0
Ecuador	48,362	48,317
El Salvador	23,477	23,477
Liberia	14,731	0
Nicaragua	15,775	0

Panama	24,403	24,403
Thailand	21,440	21,440
Viet Nam	18,050	18,050

Voluntary Contributions Fund

11. The Voluntary Contributions Fund was established to manage contributions earmarked for purposes not catered for by any of the other funds or the General Account Fund. As of 15 October 2023, the balance was:

Income	Amount
Balance brought forward from 2022	USD1,225,804
Contribution from Korea for the Tuna Tagging Project	USD148,969
Contribution from the USA ¹	USD180,000
Contribution from ISSF for scoping the next generation of tuna stock assessment software.	USD10,000
Interest	USD234
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>USD1,564,773</i>
Less Expenditures	
Funded activities	USD363,660
Total Remaining	USD1,201,113

12. A grant is currently under discussion between the Secretariat with the EU for research on tuna reproductive biology and Biodegradable FADs. The grant is expected to be finalized in late November 2023.

Western Pacific East Asia (WPEA) Fund

13. This Fund facilitates management of funds provided by New Zealand to finance the Western Pacific East Asia– Improved Tuna Monitoring Project. As of 15 October 2023, the balance of the fund was:

Income	Amount
Balance brought forward from 2022	USD1,050,057
Interest	USD170
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>USD1,050,227</i>
Less Expenditures	
Funded activities	USD605,256
Total Remaining	USD444,971

¹ USD55,000 to support a climate data and resource assessment; USD50,000 to support a North Pacific striped marlin stock assessment; USD29,000 to support continued research on non-entangling and biodegradable Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) designs; USD20,000 to support holding climate expert workshops; and USD26,000 to support cross endorsed observer training.

Working Capital Fund

14. The Working Capital Fund was established in accordance with the Commission’s Financial Regulation 4.4 for the purposes of accommodating normal operating expenditures prior to receipt of assessed contributions from members of the Commission, and to accommodate extenuating circumstances as approved by the Commission. As of 15 October 2023, the balance of the fund was:

Income	Amount
Balance brought forward from 2022	USD2,922,837
Interest and other income	USD1,288
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>USD2,924,125</i>
Less Expenditures	
Funded activities	USD1,115,000
Total Remaining	USD1,809,125

15. The Fund balance is above the level of USD1,000,000 which itself represents approximately 6 weeks’ average expenditure. Member contributions are due approximately eight weeks into a new financial year. However, only a small number of the Commission’s members pay their assessed contributions on or before the due date.

Recommendation

16. The Committee is invited to note the status of the Commission’s Funds other than the General Account Fund.