



COMMISSION
Twentieth Regular Session
4-8 December 2023
Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Hybrid)

**SUMMARY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE FINANCE
AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC17)**

WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-xx-DRAFT
7 December 2023

INTRODUCTION

1. The Seventeenth Finance and Administration Committee (FAC17) was convened by the FAC Co-Chairs Mr Michael Brakke (USA) and Mr David Power (AU) on Sunday, 3rd December 2023. Subsequent sessions of FAC were held on 6th and 8th December 2023. Representatives of American Samoa, Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, French Polynesia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, United States of America, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, FFA, PEW, PNA, Conservation International, MSC, The Ocean Foundation, SPC, and WWF were in attendance. Meeting support was provided by the Secretariat. The list of participants is attached as Annex 4. The Committee agreed by consensus to present to the Commission the decisions and recommendations set out below.

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING

2. FAC Co-Chair Mr David Power (AU) called the 17th Session of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC17) to order at 9:00 AM on 3rd December 2023 with Co-Chair Mr Michael Brakke (US) attending virtually.
3. Neomai Ravitu (Fiji) led the opening prayer.
4. FAC Co-Chair Mr David Power (AU) welcomed all participants and thanked Cook Islands for hosting and the excellent support provided. WCPFC Executive Director Rhea Moss-Christian gave a brief opening message and welcomed all FAC17 delegates.
5. The Secretariat ICT Manager Tim Jones made a few comments on hybrid meeting arrangements noting AI assistant option in Zoom is not available to support online meeting participants.

6. The Secretariat Finance and Administration Manager (FAM) Aaron Nighswander gave an overview of the meeting arrangements.

7. FAC Co-Chair Mr David Power (AU) noted that FAC Co-Chair Michael Brakke (USA) will be joining online and further informed that the committee is expected to reconvene twice to finalize the discussions. The Co-Chair explained that the meeting report will follow a similar format as recent years. Rapporteurs will record interventions from Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs) and Observers, but the report will not seek to summarize every intervention. CCMs or Observers should specify when taking the floor if they want a particular statement attributed to them to be reflected in the meeting report.

1.1 Adoption of agenda

8. The FAC17 agenda set out in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-01 was adopted without revision.

9. FAC Co-Chair Mr Michael Brakke (USA) thanked the host and expressed his regret he could not join the meeting in person. He confirmed that he would participate virtually to the extent possible and engage on individual agenda items, but that FAC Co-Chair Mr. David Power will lead in working through the agenda at FAC17.

1.2 Meeting arrangements

10. The Secretariat's FAM had no further comments regarding the meeting arrangements beyond those already provided.

11. The FAC Co-Chair Mr David Power (AU) noted that he will lead in chairing the FAC17 meeting consistent with the introductory comments and reiterated that the report format will be consistent with the previous approach wherein it summarizes the outcomes of the meeting discussions and minimizes attribution of interventions unless specifically requested.

AGENDA ITEM 2. AUDITORS REPORT FOR 2022 AND GENERAL ACCOUNT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2022

12. The FAM summarized the information in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-05, noting the 2022 audit report was circulated to the Commission members on 2nd November 2023, with delays in the audit report due to the inability of the auditor to start on time. Transitioning to a new auditor (Ernst and Young) has created challenges, further noting that the primary auditor is located in CNMI, which added to the delays in the Commission's audit report. The FAM noted that based on the auditor's report, it stated that *"In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as of December 31, 2022....."* and that *".. there was compliance with the Commission's Financial Regulation 12.4 (c)."*

13. The FAM gave further information on the auditor's qualified opinion section of the auditor's report but was confident that this reflected a need to reconcile records in 2010 and earlier. He noted that 2010 was the year the Commission's financial management shifted from Excel to QuickBooks. A reconciliation of financial records will be done early next year (2024).

14. The FAM reported that for the General Account Fund, the financial statements show that there was an excess of income over expenditure of USD734,230. In addition, prior years' contributions of USD1,282,585 were paid by some Members in 2022. In accordance with Financial Regulation 4.4, the balance was transferred to the Working Capital Fund.

15. FAC17 recommended that the Commission accept the audited financial statements for 2022 as set out in paper WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-05 and that the outstanding issue on the auditor's report be addressed and reported to FAC18.

AGENDA ITEM 3. STATUS OF THE COMMISSION'S FUNDS

3.1 Report on General Account Fund for 2023 – Contributions and Other Incomes

16. The FAM introduced paper WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-04 issued on 26th October 2023. The assessed contributions for 2023 were USD7,602,727 and as of 20th October 2023, fourteen members had outstanding 2023 contributions. The total outstanding balance from those members was USD1,751,415 with three of those outstanding amounts under USD100. As of 28th November 2023, the total outstanding balance from members is USD1,453,267 with partial payment from FSM and Vanuatu. Members who have not paid their annual contributions to date were reminded to pay contributions so that the Commission's operations are not negatively impacted.

17. Some CCMs raised concern about the continued increase in the budget which may not be sustainable, particularly for SIDS and the Commission should look for ways to address this concern.

18. Some CCMs raised concern about the outstanding contributions from other members. The Secretariat has communicated with concerned CCMs regarding their outstanding contributions, and informed the meeting that outstanding contributions are being processed by some CCMs. One CCM asked about the cause of some outstanding contributions balances of under USD100. The FAM clarified that these are typically from the bank fees and/or currency exchange rate differences.

19. Concerns about the continued increase in CCM's contributions as a result of increases in the required budget will be further considered under Agenda 5.

20. FAC17 noted the status of the report in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-04 on the status of General Account Fund for 2023.

3.2 Report on the Status of Other Funds for 2023

21. The FAM introduced paper WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-07, noting the balances in i) the Special Requirements Fund (SRF); ii) the Japan Trust Fund; iii) the Chinese Taipei Trust Fund (CTTF); iv) the CNM Contributions Fund; v) the Voluntary Contributions Fund; vi) the West Pacific East Asia Project Fund; and vii) the Working Capital Fund. The breakdown of the use of the funds is detailed in the paper.

22. The EU requested that ongoing projects in the Voluntary Contributions Fund are also listed in the report in future years to give the Commission better information on how these funds were utilized.

23. New Zealand informed FAC17 that they will provide additional funding of around NZD300,000 (USD185,500) for the ongoing phase of the West Pacific East Asia Improved Tuna Monitoring (WPEA-ITM) Project and they are undergoing an internal process for the next phase of the project.

24. Some CCMs noted and thanked Japan and Chinese Taipei for the very useful trust funds. For the CNM contributions, some countries have requested more information on how these funds were utilized.

25. Some CCMs indicated that they intend to make a recommendation at the plenary to request the Secretariat to conduct a review of observer attendance to the WCPFC meetings including cost and benefit to the Commission and the possibility for observers to pay an annual fee and report these outcomes to FAC18.

26. The FAM clarified that CNM contribution funds are being used for i) around USD100,000 to offset small SIDS contributions based on financial regulations and ii) USD50,000 to offset all members' contributions.

27. Marshall Islands, on behalf of FFA members, raised concern on the status of the SRF noting financial regulation 7.2. FFA have submitted three proposals on how to sustain the SRF which includes i) continuing voluntary contribution to SRF; ii) transferring unused funds from CNM funds (around USD100,000); and iii) USD300,000 added to the operating budget to sustain the SRF, assessed on developed countries only. They expressed hope that these will be adopted as an outcome of this meeting this year.

28. Korea appreciates the funding support of New Zealand for the WPEA-ITM Project and confirmed that they will continue their funding support for the tuna tagging project. They noted that there is a new consultative group which is the South Pacific Group (SPG) and may need additional funding for their activities. They also noted that funding for SPG activities was split between SRF and CTF. The FAM clarified that the split in the funding for the SPG activities in 2023 was to save funds in the SRF, but the project could not fully be funded out of the CTF due to the rules of the fund.

29. FAC17 noted the report in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-07.

AGENDA ITEM 4. HEADQUARTERS ISSUES

4.1 Headquarters Matters

30. The FAM presented paper WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-08, highlighting the issues at headquarters arising in 2023. The FAM provided updates on the following: i) medical care, ii) telecommunication and internet, iii) travel, iv) security, v) headquarters building and vi) housing in Pohnpei.

31. The FAM gave additional updates on the Headquarters Building Assessment Project and suggested holding off on the issue as the Secretariat is currently discussing needed repairs with the FSM government. Updates on this topic will be reported back next year. The FAM further noted that UN and World Bank have established offices in FSM, and this increases market housing pressure. The cost of travel has continued to increase, but Nauru Airlines has added a new flight from Pohnpei (PNI) to Palau (PW) and vice versa, a new route. The FAM also noted the limited medical care in PNI, and utilities are unstable. As for the penetration test of the WCPFC IT system, the FAM clarified that no additional cost is required as a result the outcomes of that activity.

32. FAC17 noted the report in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-08.

4.2. Report from the Informal IWG Tri-Annual Salary Market Review and Professional Staff Remuneration

33. FAC Co-Chair Michael Brakke (USA) presented WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-09 (*Report from the Informal Intersessional Working Group (IWG)-Tri-Annual Salary Market Review and Professional Staff Remuneration*). The informal IWG convened under the direction given by the Commission in Paragraph 438 of the WCPFC19 Summary Report. The IWG considered issues related to simplified salary scales, conversion to USD exchange rates, inflationary salary increases, the content and frequency of salary reviews, and potential changes to staff and financial regulations. The FAC Co-Chairs chaired the IWG in collaboration with the FAM. The IWG included representatives from Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, Indonesia, and the United States and conducted its work via email correspondence.

34. The FAM informed the FAC17 that the report was reviewed by Secretariat staff.

35. FFA members said they were comfortable with this report and this is a good step forward. They also noted the budget implications, moving from SDR to USD. The FAM clarified that this will be a simpler way of budgeting and noted some savings of around USD 43,000 in 2024, USD 23,000 in 2025, and flat in 2026.

36. RMI suggested considering an increase for local staff, and requested the Secretariat to give some options for the FAC to consider.

37. Several other CCMs also expressed support for the recommended outcomes.

38. The FAC Co-Chair noted in response to the suggestion from RMI that support staff salary increases are already contemplated and included in the budget under Financial Regulation 19, but that the magnitude of increases could be further considered in the agenda item focused on the budget. The FAC Co-Chairs concluded this agenda item by thanking everyone for their support on this work.

39. FAC17 recommends to the Commission to support recommendations as proposed in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-09 and set out below:

- FAC17 recommends the Commission approve placing all professional staff on one simplified salary scale (Table 4 of attachment 1 of WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-09).
- FAC17 recommends the Commission approve converting the professional staff salary scale from Special Drawing Rights (SDR) to USD, with a proposed initial conversion exchange rate from current salaries of 1 SDR=1.45 USD.
- FAC17 recommends the Commission use the annual inflationary changes provided in the UN D1 salary scale to automatically include equivalent percentage increases (up to 5%) for all professional staff salaries in the proposed budget.
- FAC17 recommends the Commission change the regular salary review to every 8 years or as needed/requested by the Commission or Secretariat, while recognizing the importance of ensuring those salary reviews are more comprehensive and provide benchmarks to the most relevant organizations and, where appropriate, information to support job-sizing exercises.
- FAC17 recommends the Commission adopt the proposed changes in to the staff regulations set out in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-09 to give effect to these recommendations and make other technical or conforming edits.

4.3. Restructure of Secretariat Resources

40. The ED, FAM, and Compliance Manager (Lara Manarangi-Trott) presented WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-10. The planned restructuring of Secretariat resources was based on the outcomes of a 2023 review of the Commission's emerging priorities against the Secretariat's current structure. The review was undertaken by the Secretariat with the intent of aligning workloads to best respond and adapt to current and anticipated requirements of the Commission, including an increasing need for data analytical work. As described in TCC19 working paper 18 prepared by the Secretariat, an initial phase of enhanced data analytics capability in 2022-2023 demonstrated the potential opportunities for Commission members to derive considerable value from WCPFC data holdings.

41. The review focused primarily on the Secretariat's Compliance section, with changes to this section expected to benefit the overall functioning of the Secretariat in support of the Commission's needs. The required budget to support the intended staff changes results in minimal adjustments to the proposed 2024 budget, and the indicative 2025 and 2026 budgets. A phased approach is considered to be the most practical as well as conducive to delivering enhanced Secretariat services to the Commission throughout the restructuring period and into the future.

42. Several CCMs stated that they see the merits of the restructuring of Secretariat resources, including the approach recommended in the paper. Some CCMs sought clarification on the budget implications, including the necessity of hiring support staff and the services that will be delivered particularly on ensuring stability in services that will be delivered to members.

43. Regarding the budget implications, the Secretariat clarified that currently there are no additions to the budget and the restructure includes reallocating the budget for the new positions, including the consultancy and the travel cost needed to deliver the necessary services. There may be an increase in the budget in the long term but these increases would be necessary even with the current structure taking into account inflation, increases in travel costs, and other necessary considerations.

44. **FAC17 noted the report in WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-10**

**AGENDA ITEM 5. WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2024 AND INDICATIVE
WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2025 AND 2026**

45. The FAM presented paper WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-06_Rev1, detailing the proposed 2024 budget based on recommendations from SC, TCC, Intersessional Working Groups, and the operations of the WCPFC Secretariat. The FAM highlighted items that have not yet been included in the draft budget pending FAC deliberations and Commission decisions.

46. One CCM their reservations on the budget, noting the large increase would be unacceptable. They suggested prioritizing to come up with an acceptable budget. They highlighted the following: i) additional stock assessment scientists, ii) an increase in the budget on silky shark assessment, iii) ecosystem and climate indicators, and iv) manta, mobulid, and shark assessments, with an intention to delete or defer some of these activities.

47. SPC clarified that additional scientists were requested to have greater input to the stock assessment process that the SC requires and more details on this can be referred to Annex 14 of WCPFC20-2023-06. How long these two additional scientists will be hired would depend on the workload, noting the increasing work requirements requested by WCPFC and SC.

48. Some CCMs expressed their support for an additional stock assessment scientist in 2024 and suggested re-evaluating the need thereafter. Some CCMs expressed appreciation of the work of the Scientific Services Provider (SSP) but concerns about the magnitude of the increase in budget.

49. Some CCMs made the following suggestions on the budget to consider: i) prioritize the work on mobulid, silky and whale shark assessment, ii) to allow more time for SPC scientists to do the analysis, iii) prioritize projects considering the SC ranking, iv) have a cap on the new proposals, and v) noting USA voluntary contribution USD20,000 for a workshop (P19X6) and USD29,000 for BioFads (P19X4) for 2024, these items should be taken out of the total budget. Further, there were suggestions to defer or remove low-ranking projects including the urgent need for these projects such as P19X9 (manta, mobulid, and whale shark assessments), P19X10 (Oceanic whitetip shark assessment) and P19X11 (shark biological data collection).

50. The SSP clarified that Project 113B (development of a template for stock status and management advice including the definition of risk and uncertainty) would be a consultancy to be delivered to SC, which needs consultation across membership, and the proposal cost includes travel.

51. WWF noted the importance of adequately funding scientific activities, considering that some estimates of the value of WCPO tuna stocks is around 6 billion dollars, against which this budget should be considered a minimal investment to a very valuable fishery.

52. Noting the above suggestions to reduce the budget, the FAC noted that this would reduce the overall budget by around USD 411,000 from the proposed budget.

53. RMI on behalf of FFA members raised concerns about the sustainability of the Special Requirements Fund (SRF) and its budget implications, and reiterated its proposals to ensure additional funding. RMI further noted that the SRF was created for the implementation of Article 30 and additional information on these funds including their management can be found on the WCPFC website.

54. When FAC17 reconvened on 6 December 2023, FAC17 Co-Chair reminded CCMs of five outstanding items related to the work plan and budget under Agenda Item 5 that would need their consideration: (1) the revised budget provided by the Secretariat; (2) consideration of the budget for scientific research under sub-item 2.2 of Annex 3, ensuring focus and concurrence with recommendations of the SC; (3) the proposal for additional voluntary contributions to support two priorities identified by the Secretariat; (4) the proposal from RMI for additional increase to the local staff salary; and (5) the FFA proposal on the SRF.

55. The FAM presented the revised Proposed Budget for the Commission's Work Programme For 2024 and Indicative Budgets for 2025 and 2026 (WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-06 Rev2) with around USD410,000 reduction in the budget.

56. The Executive Director made a brief presentation of two Secretariat Projects that need voluntary contributions: i) Enhancing the WCPFC website and ii) Capacity building opportunities for staff. These projects are essential to communicate WCPFC work in ways that are clear, more focused and to complement the work coming up in 2023.

57. The FFA proposed the following to sustainably finance the SRF:

- i. Continue voluntary contributions to the SRF and encourage CCMs who are able to do so.
- ii. Transfer the unused funds from the CNM contributions fund to SRF, ensuring that the amount transferred would not affect the offset for SIDS contribution in the future which is around USD100,000.
- iii. An additional amount (USD300,000) be annually added to the budget, sourced from developed States for the SRF.

58. A majority of the developed CCMs supported i and ii of the FFA proposal. Regarding part iii of the FFA proposal, some CCMs said they were unable to accept it at this time, noting that it's a new proposal requiring further consultations with finance and legal departments in their respective governments. An FFA member and the Secretariat put forth some alternative formulations of the third option, including that the SRF budget increase would not be applied until 2025 or would be included in the draft budget. Although members could not agree to the alternative text, members expressed their willingness to work intersessionally to look for mechanisms to sustain the SRF including the review and necessary amendments to the financial regulations.

59. The FAM also noted advice from the WCPFC legal advisor that the current Financial Regulations do not allow for financial contributions to be collected from a subset of CCMs for funding the SRF.

60. FAC17 also discussed the proposal of RMI to increase support staff salaries and there was support from CCMs to grant 5% increase inclusive of current annual inflation as per staff regulation 19.

61. China raised their concern on Annex 7 of WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-06 Rev2 on the computation of members contribution, particularly on the National wealth component, which represents 20% of the overall contributions. The FAM provided additional information and will work with China on this concern.

62. **FAC17 recommends to the Commission to support the increase of support staff salaries at 5% inclusive of current annual inflation as per staff regulation 19.**

63. **FAC 17 noted with concern that the SRF was fully depleted ahead of WCPFC20 and that insufficient funds were available to meet the requests made by Small Island Developing States to support their participation in WCPFC20.**

64. **Noting that the SRF is currently depleted, FAC17 recommended the Commission transfer USD100,000 from CNM Fund to the SRF and encouraged CCMs to make voluntary contributions to the SRF for 2024.**

65. **FAC17 recommended that the Commission adopt a sustainable funding mechanism for the SRF as matter of urgency. FAC17 noted the proposal from FFA members that \$300,000 per year be added annually to the budget, for the SRF, to be sourced equally from developed CCMs.**

66. **FAC17 noted the advice from the secretariat that the current Financial Regulations do not allow for ongoing financial contributions to be collected from a subset of CCMs for funding the SRF, and would need to be amended to assess contributions only on developed CCMs.**

67. **FAC17 recommended that the FAC Co-Chairs, along with interested CCMs, convene an intersessional working group to consider revisions to the Financial Regulations and conduct further work to support the proposed implementation of a sustainable funding mechanism for the SRF to be considered at FAC18 and WCPFC21.**

68. **[FAC17 recommends to the Commission a 2024 budget of USD9,308,383 (Annexes 1-3) pending any subsequent decision reached by WCPFC20 that will have an impact on the budget.]**

AGENDA ITEM 6. ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRS

69. Tuvalu nominated Mr David Power (AU) to continue his role as Co-Chair for FAC for another term.

70. FAC17 acknowledged the contributions of Mr Michael Brakke as FAC Co-Chair for 4 years. FAC Co-Chair Michael Brakke (USA) noted that he is not able to continue serving after 2 terms of service, and encouraged other delegations to identify and nominate the next Co-Chair. He thanked everyone for the opportunity and their support.

71. **FAC17 recommended the Commission appoint Mr David Power (AU) for another term as Co-Chair for FAC.**

AGENDA ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

72. The FAM suggested that updates to the Staff Regulation are needed as some sections of the regulations have become outdated.

73. FAC17 recommends the Commission task the Secretariat to review the Staff Regulations and report back to FAC18 with draft recommended changes to those regulations.

AGENDA ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF REPORT

74. FAC17 adopted this summary report which was tabled as WCPFC20-2023-FAC17-xx.

75. FAC17 invites WCPFC20 to consider this report and to endorse its recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM 9. CLOSE OF MEETING

76. FAC Co-Chairs Mr Michael Brakke (USA) and Mr David Power (AU) closed the final session of FAC17 at xx on xx December 2023.

ANNEX 1

**Summary of estimated General Fund budgetary requirements for 2024
and indicative figures for 2025 and 2026 (USD)**

	<i>Approved budget 2023</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2023</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2024</i>	<i>Proposed budget 2024</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2025</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2026</i>
Part 1 - Administrative Expenses of the Secretariat						
Sub-Item 1.1	<i>Staff Costs</i>					
Professional Staff Salary	1,021,558	979,859	1,027,522	983,173	989,884	1,009,292
Professional Staff Benefits and Allowances	1,010,690	874,529	1,014,209	990,655	973,966	985,416
Professional Staff Insurance	182,106	190,442	185,173	181,521	200,817	203,255
Recruitment/Repatriation	45,130	24,618	25,565	25,565	0	25,565
Support Staff	527,023	495,145	532,611	563,422	621,161	622,599
Total, sub-item 1.1	2,786,507	2,564,593	2,785,080	2,744,337	2,785,827	2,846,127
Sub-Item 1.2	<i>Other Personnel Costs</i>					
Temporary Assistance/Overtime	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Chairs Expenses	20,000	60,836	20,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Consultants <i>(Note 1)</i>	153,000	155,824	153,000	153,000	153,000	153,000
Total, sub-item 1.2	189,500	233,160	189,500	229,500	229,500	229,500
Sub-item 1.3	<i>Official Travel</i>					
	210,000	155,995	210,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Sub-item 1.4	<i>General Operating Expenses</i>					
Electricity, Water, Sanitation	42,000	39,631	42,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
Communications/Courier	84,000	81,924	82,000	84,000	82,000	82,000
Office Supplies & Fuel	41,000	39,964	41,000	41,000	41,000	41,000
Audit	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Bank Charges	10,000	12,818	10,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Official Hospitality	10,000	9,955	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community Outreach	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	6,000	3,478	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Security	105,525	100,031	105,525	110,867	110,867	110,867
Training	12,000	10,550	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Total, sub-item 1.4	325,525	313,351	323,525	333,867	331,867	331,867
Sub-item 1.5	<i>Capital Expenditure</i>					
Vehicles	22,000	9,706	0	22,000	0	0
Information Technology	48,400	42,579	48,400	48,400	48,400	48,400
Furniture and Equipment	32,000	32,936	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Total, sub-item 1.5	102,400	85,221	80,400	102,400	80,400	80,400
Sub-item 1.6	<i>Maintenance</i>					
Vehicles	6,000	6,929	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Information and Communication Technology	167,863	165,079	167,863	169,039	169,039	169,039
Website Hosting	20,130	20,740	20,130	20,130	20,130	20,130
Buildings & Grounds	60,000	62,449	60,000	63,000	63,000	63,000
Gardeners and Cleaners	88,110	82,242	88,110	92,568	92,568	92,568
Insurance	28,500	28,506	28,500	28,500	28,500	28,500
Total, sub-item 1.6	370,603	365,945	370,603	379,237	379,237	379,237
Sub-item 1.7	<i>Meeting Services</i>					
Annual Session	260,000	260,000	195,000	205,000	205,000	205,000
Scientific Committee	232,000	213,137	192,000	220,000	220,000	220,000
Northern Committee <i>(Note 2)</i>	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Technical and Compliance Committee	174,800	174,800	174,800	174,800	174,800	174,800
Total, sub-item 1.7	684,800	665,937	579,800	617,800	617,800	617,800
Sub-item 1.8	<i>Future Work - Commission (Note 3)</i>					
	0	0	220,000	0	220,000	220,000
TOTAL, Section 1/Item 1	4,669,335	4,384,202	4,758,908	4,607,141	4,844,631	4,904,931

ANNEX 1 (continued)	Approved budget 2023	Estimated expenditure 2023	Indicative budget 2024	Proposed budget 2024	Indicative budget 2025	Indicative budget 2026
Part 2 - Science & Technical & Compliance Programme						
Section 2 (Item 2)						
Sub-item 2.1	Scientific Services (SPC) (Note 4) 981,112 981,112 1,000,734 1,000,734 1,020,749 1,041,164					
Sub-item 2.2	Scientific Research					
Additional Resourcing SPC (Note 4)	176,670	176,670	180,204	180,204	183,808	187,484
SPC 1st additional stock assessment scientist (Note 4)	0	0	0	165,000	168,300	171,666
SPC 2nd additional stock assessment scientist (Note 4)	0	0	0	0	0	0
P35b Pacific Marine Specimen Bank	105,268	105,268	107,373	107,373	109,520	111,711
P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	730,000	730,000	730,000	800,000	875,000	950,000
P68 Estimation of Seabird Mortality	0	0	25,000	0	0	30,000
P90 Fish Lengths/Weights Conversion Analyses	0	0	0	20,000	20,000	0
P97b (P18X8) Shark Research Plan midterm review	30,000	30,000	0	0	0	0
P108 WCPO silky shark assessment	50,000	50,000	50,000	100,000	0	0
P112 (P18X1) Billfish Research Plan 2023 - 2027	55,000	55,000	0	0	0	0
P113 (P18X2) Ensemble model SA uncertainty	30,000	30,000	0	0	0	0
P113b Template for stock status/manag. advice	0	0	0	40,000	0	0
P114 Improved cannery receipt data	35,000	35,000	60,000	60,000	35,000	0
P115 (P18X4) Evidence for increasing SKJ recruits	20,000	20,000	0	0	0	0
P18X6 Pacific silky shark assessment	0	0	30,000	0	0	0
P18X7 Pacific whale shark assessment	0	0	85,000	0	0	0
P19X4 Additional work on developing BioFADs (Note 4)	0	0	0	0	0	0
P19X5 Updated reproductive biol. of trop. tunas (Note 4)	0	0	0	44,000	0	0
P19X6 Ecosystem and Climate Indicators	0	0	0	0	20,000	15,000
P19X7 Scoping study on longline effort creep	0	0	0	30,000	0	0
P19X8 Scoping next generation of assess. software	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	50,000
P19X9 Manta/mobulid/whale shark assessment	0	0	0	0	56,000	0
P19X10 Oceanic whitetip assessment	0	0	0	60,000	60,000	0
P19X11 Sampling strategy for shark bio data	0	0	0	0	40,000	45,000
Total, sub-item 2.2	1,231,938	1,231,938	1,267,577	1,656,577	1,617,628	1,560,861
Sub-item 2.3	Technical & Compliance Programme					
ROP - Audit/Remediation	15,000	12,646	15,000	0	0	0
ROP - Training, Assistance & Development	10,000	4,721	10,000	0	0	0
ROP Travel for Audits and Training	0	0	0	35,000	35,000	35,000
ROP - Consultancy	0	0	0	85,000	85,000	85,000
ROP Data Management	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904
Vessel Monitoring System - Capital Costs	20,000	0	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Vessel Monitoring System	200,000	179,900	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Vessel Monitoring System - Airtime	206,810	210,321	210,946	214,527	218,818	223,194
IT Security Audit	11,900	10,454	11,900	10,500	10,500	10,500
Information Management System (Note 5)	120,000	118,092	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
AR Part 2/CMS Online Host. and Pub.	20,000	25,500	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
CMS Future Work (Note 6)	80,000	79,071	50,000	50,000	30,000	20,000
Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity (Note 7)	80,000	77,677	40,000	80,000	80,000	0
Compliance and Monitoring Analyst Consultant (Note 8)	80,000	78,509	0	30,000	0	0
E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Activities	30,000	0	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
CCM/Staff VMS Training	25,000	25,367	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Targeted Capacity Building	40,000	32,211	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Workshops/IATTC Cross Endor. Train.	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Regional Capacity Building Workshops (Note 9)	130,000	129,640	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
Total, item 2.3	2,002,614	1,918,013	1,876,750	2,043,931	1,998,222	1,912,598
TOTAL, Section 2/Item 2	4,215,664	4,131,063	4,145,061	4,701,242	4,636,599	4,514,623
Total, Parts 1 & 2	8,884,999	8,515,265	8,903,970	9,308,383	9,481,230	9,419,554

Note 1: Consultancies proposed are:

Legal support services (including travel)	\$65,000
Meetings' rapporteur (including travel)	\$63,000
Miscellaneous Consultancies	\$25,000
	<hr/>
	\$153,000

Note 2: Northern Committee

As per WCPFC9, an additional \$25,000 will be assessed from non-developing state members of the NC to fund attendance at the NC meeting by developing states and territories if needed.

Note 3: Sub-item 1.8 Future Work - Commission

Budget line added in 2020 to account for unidentified future work that may be required by the Commission. Amount reduced to \$0 for the proposed 2023 budget with the additional projects under Scientific Research.

Note 4: Section 2 Science programme

- Refer to Para 3 of Annex 13 for use of both SPC services fee and additional resourcing
- Refer to Para 4 of Annex 13 for job description of additional SPC scientists
- P19X4, P19X5 - Matching fund (20%) required to EU project

Note 5: Information Management System

2024/25 - Includes continual improvements to IT-related tools to improve ease of use for CCMs to manage their own reporting (refer to TCC19-2023-22)

Note 6: CMS Future Work

2024/25 - Necessary IT-related system consolidation for Annual Report Part 2 / CMR online systems (refer to TCC19-2023-22)

Note 7: Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity

2024/25 - TCC19 supported supplementary dedicated analytical capacity for the Secretariat in 2024 and 2025 (TCC19 Outcomes para 61). Focus includes improving Secretariat's analysis and reporting of data to support key Secretariat functions, through improvements that simplify and streamline the delivery of analysis and reports (refer TCC19-2023-18).

Note 8: Compliance and Monitoring Analyst Consultant

2024/25 - TCC19 supported supplementary dedicated analytical capacity for the Secretariat in 2024 and 2025 (TCC19 Outcomes para 61). Focus includes exploring what might be needed to assist the Secretariat in understanding the potential uses of data from the Commissions monitoring programmes, with an initial focus on Secretariat support to VMS monitoring, high seas transshipment monitoring and high seas pocket management, and optimize with the support of routine reports the Secretariats and CCMs joint work to address data quality issues and gaps affecting monitoring (refer TCC19-2023-18).

Note 9: Regional Capacity Building Workshops

ANNEX 2

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2024

Proposed budget expenditure total	9,308,383
less	
Estimated interest	(3,400)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(800,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>8,454,983</u></u>

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2025

Proposed budget expenditure total	9,481,230
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(3,500)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(400,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,027,730</u></u>

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2026

Proposed budget expenditure total	9,419,554
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(3,500)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(300,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,066,054</u></u>

Annex 3

Schedule of contributions based on the Commission's contribution formula

2024 Contribution Table								
<i>Member</i>	<i>Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget</i>	<i>National wealth component: 20% of budget</i>	<i>Catch component: 70% of budget</i>	<i>Addition for Northern Committee</i>	<i>Total Contributions by Members</i>	<i>Percent of Budget by member</i>	<i>Offset for Small Island Developing States*</i>	<i>Total of components: 100% of budget**</i>
Australia	32,519	105,813	14,307	0	152,640	1.83%	0	152,640
Canada	32,519	96,644	38	375	129,575	1.55%	0	129,575
China	32,519	210,915	147,081	1,132	391,647	4.70%	0	391,647
Cook Islands	32,519	1,010	15,356	0	48,885	0.59%	32,185	81,071
European Union	32,519	253,316	57,871	0	343,706	4.12%	0	343,706
Federated States of Micronesia	32,519	6,248	496,041	0	534,808	6.41%	0	534,808
Fiji	32,519	7,764	23,010	0	63,293	0.76%	0	63,293
France	32,519	103,048	12,179	0	147,746	1.77%	0	147,746
Indonesia	32,519	19,925	126,729	0	179,173	2.15%	0	179,173
Japan	32,519	127,289	1,050,700	520	1,211,028	14.52%	0	1,211,028
Kiribati	32,519	4,782	454,518	0	491,820	5.90%	0	491,820
Korea	32,519	74,674	959,088	3,092	1,069,373	12.82%	0	1,069,373
Marshall Islands	32,519	2,079	288,635	0	323,232	3.88%	7,263	330,495
Nauru	32,519	634	328,297	0	361,449	4.33%	27,397	388,847
New Zealand	32,519	73,520	27,331	0	133,370	1.60%	0	133,370
Niue	32,519	97	2	0	32,618	0.39%	25,690	58,308
Palau	32,519	903	33	0	33,454	0.40%	21,785	55,239
Papua New Guinea	32,519	4,545	152,121	0	189,185	2.27%	0	189,185
Philippines	32,519	10,505	152,314	0	195,338	2.34%	0	195,338
Samoa	32,519	6,013	4,937	0	43,469	0.52%	0	43,469
Solomon Islands	32,519	3,560	61,289	0	97,369	1.17%	0	97,369
Chinese Taipei	32,519	57,494	888,657	2,838	981,508	11.77%	0	981,508
Tonga	32,519	5,343	478	0	38,340	0.46%	2,515	40,855
Tuvalu	32,519	566	90,031	0	123,116	1.48%	9,713	132,829
United States of America	32,519	382,828	343,056	2,199	760,602	9.12%	0	760,602
Vanuatu	32,519	4,935	224,389	0	261,843	3.14%	0	261,843
Totals	845,498	1,564,448	5,918,488	10,155	8,338,589	100%	126,549	8,465,138

* To be offset by the CNM Contributions Fund.

** The total of components includes the addition for Northern Committee funding to offset the 2023 budget.

Annex 3 Cont.

Offset for Small Island Developing States as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)

<i>Member</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Maximum Payable for wealth component</i>	<i>National wealth component</i>	<i>Offset for Small Island Developing States</i>
Cook Islands	20,200	1,010	33,195	32,185
Federated States of Micronesia	114,160	5,708	6,248	0
Fiji	929,770	46,489	7,764	0
Kiribati	131,230	6,562	4,782	0
Marshall Islands	41,570	2,079	9,341	7,263
Nauru	12,670	634	28,031	27,397
Niue	1,935	97	25,787	25,690
Palau	18,050	903	22,687	21,785
Papua New Guinea	10,142,620	507,131	4,545	0
Samoa	222,380	11,119	6,013	0
Solomon Islands	724,270	36,214	3,560	0
Tonga	106,860	5,343	7,858	2,515
Tuvalu	11,310	566	10,278	9,713
Vanuatu	326,740	16,337	4,935	0
Total				126,549

Additional Funding for Northern Committee as agreed in WCPFC9-2012-22 FAC 6 Summary Report 5.4 (25)

<i>Non-developing States Members of NC</i>	<i>Percent of total budget</i>	<i>Percent of NC fund</i>	<i>Additional cost</i>
Canada	1.53%	3.7%	375
China	4.62%	11.2%	1,132
Japan	2.12%	5.1%	520
Korea	12.61%	30.4%	3,092
Chinese Taipei	11.58%	27.9%	2,838
United States of America	8.97%	21.7%	2,199
Total	41.42%	100.00%	10,155

Annex 3 Cont.

Schedule of contributions based on proposed 2024 budgets without the Offset for Small Island Developing States and Additional funds Assessed on Non-Developing States Members of NC

Member	2024					2025 Indicative		2026 Indicative	
	Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget	National wealth component: 20% of budget	Catch component: 70% of budget	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member
Australia	32,519	105,813	14,307	152,640	1.81%	162,980	1.81%	163,671	1.81%
Canada	32,519	96,644	38	129,201	1.53%	137,953	1.53%	138,539	1.53%
China	32,519	210,915	147,081	390,515	4.62%	416,969	4.62%	418,739	4.62%
Cook Islands	32,519	33,195	15,356	81,071	0.96%	86,563	0.96%	86,930	0.96%
European Union	32,519	253,316	57,871	343,706	4.07%	366,989	4.07%	368,547	4.07%
Federated States of Micronesia	32,519	6,248	496,041	534,808	6.33%	571,036	6.33%	573,460	6.33%
Fiji	32,519	7,764	23,010	63,293	0.75%	67,581	0.75%	67,868	0.75%
France	32,519	103,048	12,179	147,746	1.75%	157,755	1.75%	158,425	1.75%
Indonesia	32,519	19,925	126,729	179,173	2.12%	191,310	2.12%	192,122	2.12%
Japan	32,519	127,289	1,050,700	1,210,509	14.32%	1,292,510	14.32%	1,297,996	14.32%
Kiribati	32,519	4,782	454,518	491,820	5.82%	525,136	5.82%	527,365	5.82%
Korea	32,519	74,674	959,088	1,066,281	12.61%	1,138,512	12.61%	1,143,345	12.61%
Marshall Islands	32,519	9,341	288,635	330,495	3.91%	352,883	3.91%	354,381	3.91%
Nauru	32,519	28,031	328,297	388,847	4.60%	415,187	4.60%	416,950	4.60%
New Zealand	32,519	73,520	27,331	133,370	1.58%	142,405	1.58%	143,009	1.58%
Niue	32,519	25,787	2	58,308	0.69%	62,258	0.69%	62,523	0.69%
Palau	32,519	22,687	33	55,239	0.65%	58,981	0.65%	59,232	0.65%
Papua New Guinea	32,519	4,545	152,121	189,185	2.24%	202,001	2.24%	202,858	2.24%
Philippines	32,519	10,505	152,314	195,338	2.31%	208,571	2.31%	209,456	2.31%
Samoa	32,519	6,013	4,937	43,469	0.51%	46,413	0.51%	46,610	0.51%
Solomon Islands	32,519	3,560	61,289	97,369	1.15%	103,965	1.15%	104,406	1.15%
Chinese Taipei	32,519	57,494	888,657	978,670	11.58%	1,044,966	11.58%	1,049,402	11.58%
Tonga	32,519	7,858	478	40,855	0.48%	43,623	0.48%	43,808	0.48%
Tuvalu	32,519	10,278	90,031	132,829	1.57%	141,827	1.57%	142,429	1.57%
United States of America	32,519	382,828	343,056	758,403	8.97%	809,778	8.97%	813,215	8.97%
Vanuatu	32,519	4,935	224,389	261,843	3.10%	279,580	3.10%	280,767	3.10%
Totals	845,498	1,690,997	5,918,488	8,454,983	100.00%	9,027,730	100.00%	9,066,054	100.00%