



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Nineteenth Session

Manila, Philippines (Hybrid)

30 November to 5 December 2025

Summary report of The Nineteenth Session of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC19)

WCPFC22-2025-FAC19

5 December 2025

Introduction

1. The Nineteenth Session of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC19) was convened by the FAC Co-Chairs, David Power (AU) and Putuh Suadela (ID), on Sunday, 30 November 2025. Subsequent sessions of FAC19 were held on 04 December 2025, and 5 December 2025.
2. Representatives from American Samoa, Australia, Canada, China, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Indonesia, Japan, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, Tokelau, United States of America, Vanuatu, El Salvador, Panama, Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW), and Sharks Pacific were in attendance. Meeting support was provided by the Secretariat.
3. FAC19 agreed by consensus to present to the Commission the recommendations set out below.

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING

4. FAC Co-Chair, David Power (AU), called the Nineteenth Finance and Administration Committee to order at 10:05 AM on 30 November 2025.
5. FAC Co-Chair welcomed all participants and thanked the governments of the Philippines and the Canada for co-hosting and the excellent support provided. The FAC 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 attribute interventions to a particular CCM unless requested.

1.1 Adoption of agenda

6. After a request to include Korea's Proposed Amendments to the Financial Regulations to Support Chairs of the Commission and Subsidiary Bodies (WCPFC22-2025-DP07) under Other Matter in

the agenda was accepted. With that exception, the agenda for FAC19, as outlined in FAC19-2025-02, was adopted.

1.2 Meeting Arrangements

7. The Secretariat Finance and Administration Manager, Aaron Nighswander, gave an overview of the meeting arrangements and housekeeping.

AGENDA ITEM 2. Auditor Report for 2024 and General Account Financial Statements for 2024

8. The Secretariat presented an overview of FAC19-2025-05. In accordance with Financial Regulation 13.1, FAC19 reviewed the audited annual financial statements for 2024 and the related audit reports.
9. The audit report and compliance report provided that:
 - a. "In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year..." and
 - b. a statement that there was compliance with the Commission's Financial Regulation 12.4 (c) which requires an opinion on compliance in relation to income, expenditure, the investment of money and the acquisition and disposal of assets.
10. The Secretariat advised that for the General Account Fund there was an excess of income over expenditure for 2024 of about USD 590,080. In addition, prior years' contributions of about USD 720,932 had been received. In accordance with the Financial Regulations, these amounts would be transferred to the Working Capital Fund. The Secretariat noted that the excess of income reflected a combination of careful expenditure control and higher incidental income, including interest earnings. FAC19 noted that the Secretariat had managed expenditure within approved appropriation levels and within virement limits between budget sub items.
11. FAC19 expressed appreciation to the Executive Director and Secretariat for the transparent management of the Commission's finances and the positive audit result. Questions were raised on the need for regular and accurate reconciliation of staff leave balances, and the long-standing issue of a bank account in Brisbane that remained inaccessible.
12. The Secretariat discussed the status of a legacy bank account in Brisbane that remains inaccessible. The Secretariat summarised the history of this account, including its origin in the early period of the Commission and subsequent changes in banking requirements. The Secretariat described contacts with the bank and relevant authorities and explained that progress had been slow due to documentary requirements and changes in personnel over time. FAC19 expressed concern that the account remains unresolved and requested the Secretariat to continue efforts to clarify the status of any remaining funds and report back when further information is available.
13. The Secretariat explained that a project to modernise the leave system had moved leave recording from paper to electronic forms, piloted in late 2025, with full roll-out planned for January 2026. Regarding the Brisbane account, the Secretariat reported a long history of efforts with the bank and relevant authorities, linked to legacy administrative arrangements, and undertook to continue efforts to resolve the issue.

14. FAC19 recommended that the Commission accept the audited financial statements for 2024 as set out in FAC19-2025-05.

AGENDA ITEM 3. STATUS OF THE COMMISSION'S FUNDS

3.1 Report on General Account Fund for 2025 - Contributions and Other Incomes

15. The Secretariat presented an overview of FAC19-2025-04. The Secretariat, as required by Financial Regulation 5.7, provided details of the 2025 activities including the collection of annual assessed contributions, voluntary contributions received, any investment income, other miscellaneous incomes received, and any advances from the Working Capital Fund.
16. The Secretariat presented the report on the status of the General Account Fund for 2025. Total assessed contributions for 2025 were approximately USD 9.1 million. As at 15 October 2025, 12 CCMs had outstanding contributions, totaling around USD 3.3 million. The Secretariat advised that, by the time FAC19 met, subsequent payments had reduced the total outstanding balance to around USD 2 million.
17. The Secretariat further advised that additional transfers of roughly USD 400,000 had been received and was in the process of being reconciled against specific CCM accounts. Once reconciliation was complete, a revised version of the paper would be circulated to reflect the updated status of contributions.
18. The Secretariat provided an update on incidental income, with particular reference to interest earnings from bank deposits. Interest income from the five recent months of 2025 was about USD 38,000. On that basis, the Secretariat projected interest earnings for the full year to be in the order of USD 100,000, compared with around USD 4,000 in previous years.
19. Several CCMs with outstanding contributions described their domestic budget processes and indicated that they were in the process of clearing arrears or finalizing current-year payments. These CCMs reaffirmed their commitment to meeting their obligations and avoiding arrears.
20. FAC19 requested that the Secretariat continue to provide updated information on contributions during the week, including through a revised version of the paper when further receipts clear the banking system.
21. The secretariat has confirmed that at the time of adopting this report the total outstanding balance had reduced for members contributions has been reduced to a little over USD 1.6 million.

22. FAC19 noted the status of the report in FAC19-2025-04 on the status of General Account Fund for 2024.

3.2 Report on the Status of Other Funds for 2025

23. 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 Secretariat presented an overview of FAC19-2025-03, providing information on the incomes and expenditures of Funds other than the General Account Fund.

24. The Secretariat reported on the fund balances in the various funds. FAC19 was advised that the Special Requirements Fund (SRF) now held a balance of about USD 79,000.
25. The Secretariat reported that the Chinese Taipei Trust Fund had not issued calls for proposals in the present or previous year and currently holds a balance of about USD 192,000.
26. The Secretariat reported the balances of around USD 2.2 million in the Working Capital Fund and about USD 920,000 in the Working Capital Fund. The Secretariat recalled the indicative floor of USD 1 million for the Working Capital Fund and stated that, while the current balance sits slightly below this level, it is considered manageable in view of the 2025 income surplus and projected interest earnings that will take place in 2026.
27. A number of CCMs expressed appreciation for contributions to the SRF and stressed the importance of this fund for supporting participation of small island developing States. CCMs noted that SRF depends on voluntary contributions and encouraged regular support. Some CCMs highlighted the need for more information during the year on SRF balances to assist CCMs in planning and timing of applications.
28. A CCM asked how CCMs receive information on SRF balances in addition to the notifications that issue when balances fall below 50 per cent and 25 per cent.
29. The Secretariat advised that, in the current year, SRF balances did not fall below those thresholds, and no notification had issued. The Secretariat offered to post regular updates on SRF balances on the Commission website and to respond to requests from CCMs for information on the fund at any time.
30. In relation to the Chinese Taipei Trust Fund, the contributor informed FAC19 that agreement on procedures was close to completion and that a call for proposals is expected early next year.
31. The Secretariat recalled the amendment to Financial Regulation 3.5 agreed at the previous annual session. Under current arrangements, the General Account funds up to two funded participants per developing CCM for relevant meetings, and SRF supports a third participant as requested through a SRF proposal.
32. Several CCMs expressed their appreciation to Japan for the Japanese Trust Fund, China and the USA for contributions to the SRF, and to Canada, Korea and the USA for the voluntary contributions they made in 2025.

33. FAC19 noted the report in FAC19-2025-03.

AGENDA ITEM 4. HEADQUARTERS ISSUES

4.1 Headquarters Matters

34. The Secretariat presented an overview of FAC19-2025-07, outlining updates on the current operations at the Commission Headquarters (Secretariat) in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. The updates included information on Secretariat property, staff housing, security, telecommunications, travel, environmental sustainability, medical care, and utility services.
35. Several CCMs expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's efforts to maintain headquarters operations under these conditions. Some CCMs noted the importance of investments that

strengthen resilience, including renewable energy infrastructure and contingency arrangements for power and communications.

36. FAC19 noted the report in FAC19-2025-07.

4.2 Proposed Upgrades to Solar System at WCPFC Headquarters Building

37. The Secretariat presented the paper Proposed Upgrades to Solar System at WCPFC Headquarters Building (FAC19-2025-08). The Secretariat reported that the Commission's solar power system had been installed in phases since 2012, including an expansion supported by a voluntary contribution from the USA. The system had yielded cumulative savings of approximately USD 700,000 in electricity costs and had repaid its upfront investment within three years.
38. The Secretariat advised that the existing solar panels were now aging and that replacement was recommended. The estimated cost for replacing the panels was USD 61,000, and the old panels would be auctioned. If replacement did not proceed, the Commission's electricity costs would increase.
39. CCMs acknowledged the strong financial performance of the solar investment and supported the proposal to maintain and upgrade the system in order to strengthen resilience and environmental benefits. Some CCMs asked whether battery storage or hybrid inverter systems could be used to increase the share of solar in total electricity consumption.
40. The Secretariat explained that battery storage systems had been examined, but there were few reliable vendors and other systems similar systems installed in Pohnpei had experienced problems. The Commission's system was grid-connected, and excess power was fed back to the grid.
41. CCMs expressed strong support for the proposal due to both its savings and positive environmental impact.

42. FAC19 recommends allocating unspent 2025 budget funds to finance the replacement of the solar panels at headquarters.

AGENDA ITEM 5. WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2026 AND INDICATIVE WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2027 AND 2028

43. The Secretariat presented FAC19-2025-06 on the proposed budget for the Commission's work programme for 2026 and indicative Budgets for 2027 and 2028, in accordance with Article 18 of the WCPF Convention and Financial Regulation 3.
44. The budget proposal takes into account Commission decisions on the recommendations of the Scientific Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee, the Northern Committee and the Finance and Administration Committee as well as any other matters FAC19 considered to have budgetary and resource implications.
45. The Secretariat presented the overall budget framework, including staff costs, consultant lines, operating costs, meeting-related risks, and projected increases in the science and compliance programmes.

46. Several CCMs expressed concern about the high cost of the Pacific tuna tagging programme. One CCM noted that tagging was essential but very expensive and encouraged exploration of cost-saving opportunities in future years. The same CCM noted that tagging is a major driver of the science budget and suggested that lower-cost designs or changes in frequency be examined.
47. The Scientific Services Provider provided an update on the tagging programme and Project 100D. The Committee was reminded that the tuna tagging budget is essential research to support the skipjack assessment and covers chartering of vessels for tagging cruises, tag recovery, tag seeding and related analytical work, all of which have been affected by general cost increases in the Pacific. The Scientific Services Provider acknowledged a generous voluntary contribution from Korea to support the programme in recent years.
48. An observer organisation raised concerns about a structural imbalance in the science programme, highlighting chronic underinvestment in bycatch species, particularly sharks and rays, relative to tuna. The full intervention is attached as Attachment A.
49. CCMs highlighted the budgetary implications of holding multiple standalone intersessional meetings with in-person participation funded in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.5 and Article 11, paragraph 6, of the Convention. It was noted that under the legal interpretation provided, meetings of working groups and technical bodies established by the Commission fall within the scope of “meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies” for the purpose of funding two participants from small island developing States and participating territories. Concerns were raised that applying full funding to all intersessional meetings would create recurrent costs of roughly USD 200,000 per standalone meeting, which some CCMs considered unsustainable.
50. CCMs suggested that, for some of these projects, alternative funding from external partners, including NGOs or other institutions, might be available and encouraged CCMs and the Secretariat to explore such opportunities.
51. In the context of priority setting for scientific projects, CCMs encouraged greater transparency on the extent to which research draws on external or in-kind funding. A suggestion was made for future SC project tables and budget papers to show the distribution of research expenditure across broad categories (for example tunas, billfish, sharks and other species) and to clearly flag projects that leverage significant co-funding or in-kind contributions. The Secretariat undertook to work with the Scientific Services Provider and the SC to reflect this in future documentation.
52. CCMs expressed the view that, in future years, FAC should have more time scheduled earlier in the Commission meeting to address complex budget issues, especially in years with significant cost pressures and new initiatives.
53. A budget line, “Professional services” budget line under 1.1, will be added with no budget allocation. The line will be used to engage short and medium term consultants to address tasks during vacancy periods or for defined bodies of work, on the understanding that recruitment to established posts proceeds in a timely manner.

54. FAC recommends that WCPFC22 requests the Scientific Services Provider examine options to improve cost efficiency in the tagging programme and to report these options and their scientific implications to SC22, FAC20 and WCPFC23.

55. FAC recommends WCPFC22 request the Scientific Committee assess project tables and budget papers to show the distribution of research expenditure across broad categories (for

example tunas, billfish, sharks and other species) and to clearly flag projects that leverage significant co-funding or in-kind contributions.

56. FAC recommends that USD220,000 will be allocated from the Working Capital Fund to host an annual meeting if no host is identified.

57. FAC19 recommends to the Commission a 2026 budget of USD 10,305,543 (Annexes 1-3) pending any subsequent decision reached by WCPFC22 that will have an impact on the budget.

AGENDA ITEM 6. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

6.1 Updated Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with SPC

58. The Secretariat provided an overview of the paper Updated Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with SPC (FAC19-2025).

59. There was no agreement to amend the existing MOA between WCPFC and SPC.

60. FAC agreed that a new memorandum of agreement with SPC for science services be established for specific SPC projects, as agreed and funded by the Commission that are not covered under the existing MOA.

61. FAC19 did not accept the proposal to amend the existing MOA with SPC but recommends the Secretariat establish a new memorandum of agreement with SPC for Scientific services provided by SPC in support of Commission oversight of specific SPC projects, as agreed and funded by the Commission that are not covered under the existing MOA.

6.2 Election of FAC Co-Chairs

62. FAC considered nominations for the positions of FAC Co-Chairs. CCMs expressed appreciation for the work of the current Co-Chairs and supported continuity in the role held by the Putuh Suadela (ID). CCMs also recalled the practice of limiting service in the Co-Chair position to two terms and noted that David Power (AU) had completed two terms. CCMs proposed that Limanman Helgenberger (FSM) assume the Co-Chair role. CCMs voiced support for these nominations and expressed gratitude to the outgoing Co-Chair for contributions to the work of the Committee.

63. FAC19 recommends that Limanman Helgenberger (FSM) and Putuh Suadela (ID) be selected as Co-Chairs of FAC.

AGENDA ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

64. Under Other Matters, one CCM introduced the paper Proposed Amendments to the Financial Regulations to Support Chairs of the Commission and Subsidiary Bodies (WCPFC22-2025-DP07).

65. The Secretariat explained current practice. For chairs from developing CCMs, support to attend the meetings they chair had typically been included in the meeting budget. If the Commission Chair is from a developing CCM, a dedicated budget line had been established for travel, separate from the general meeting lines.

66. FAC19 noted the explanations and agreed that further discussion of the proposal would take place in the Commission plenary, after which the matter could be revisited at a subsequent FAC session in the week.

67. In subsequent meetings, the FAC considered a revised proposal relating to funding support for the travel and daily subsistence allowance of Chairs of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. A CCM introduced draft decision language intended to replace WCPFC22-2025-DP07.

68. FAC19 recommends that, upon receipt of a request from a Chair of the Commission or of any subsidiary body who is a representative of a developed Member, the Secretariat shall utilize the CNM Fund (Fees and Trust Fund) to finance the travel and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) of that Chair for the purpose of discharging their duties at the meeting they are responsible for chairing. This decision will be in effect from 2026 – 2029 and will be reviewed by the Commission’s regular session in 2029.

69. FAC19 recommends that for 2026 - 2029 the proportional offsetting arrangement by non-SIDS for second meeting participants that was agreed at WCPFC21 and will be reviewed by the Commission’s regular session in 2029.

AGENDA ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF REPORT

70. FAC19 adopted this summary report which was tabled as WCPFC22-2025-FAC19.

AGENDA ITEM 9. CLOSE OF MEETING

71. FAC Co-Chairs David Power (AU) and Putuh Suadela (ID) closed the final session of FAC19 at 4:33pm on 5 December 2025.

ANNEX 1

**Summary of estimated General Fund budgetary requirements for 2026
and indicative figures for 2027 and 2028 (USD)**

	<i>Approved budget 2025</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2025</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2026</i>	<i>Proposed budget 2026</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2027</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2028</i>
Part 1 - Administrative Expenses of the Secretariat						
Sub-Item 1.1	Staff Costs					
Professional Staff Salary	967,152	911,214	987,716	1,029,305	1,050,921	1,069,378
Professional Staff Benefits and Allowances	984,735	825,022	996,868	1,024,943	1,037,696	1,048,586
Professional Staff Insurance	174,229	158,942	176,682	166,554	167,243	170,026
Recruitment/Repatriation	25,565	49,144	25,565	63,913	51,130	0
Support Staff	669,825	613,726	693,588	716,851	727,808	758,102
Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, sub-item 1.1	2,821,507	2,558,048	2,880,420	3,001,565	3,034,798	3,046,092
Sub-Item 1.2	Other Personnel Costs					
Temporary Assistance/Overtime	16,500	16,725	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Chairs Expenses	50,000	39,228	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Consultants (Note 1)	153,000	178,018	153,000	243,000	183,000	153,000
Total, sub-item 1.2	219,500	233,971	219,500	309,500	249,500	219,500
Sub-item 1.3	Official Travel					
	200,000	189,769	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Sub-item 1.4	General Operating Expenses					
Electricity, Water, Sanitation	48,000	40,630	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000
Communications/Courier	84,000	76,742	84,000	84,000	84,000	84,000
Office Supplies & Fuel	41,000	36,839	41,000	37,000	37,000	37,000
Audit	17,510	18,052	18,540	18,540	18,540	18,540
Bank Charges	13,000	11,216	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Official Hospitality	10,000	9,330	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community Outreach	8,000	7,789	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	6,000	4,788	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Security	117,065	121,273	117,065	124,911	124,911	124,911
Training	15,000	10,718	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total, sub-item 1.4	359,575	337,377	360,605	364,451	364,451	364,451
Sub-item 1.5	Capital Expenditure					
Vehicles	0	0	22,000	22,000	0	22,000
Information Technology	48,400	36,112	48,400	48,400	48,400	48,400
Furniture and Equipment	32,000	28,776	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Total, sub-item 1.5	80,400	64,888	102,400	102,400	80,400	102,400
Sub-item 1.6	Maintenance					
Vehicles	6,000	5,249	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Information and Communication Technology	191,012	206,293	179,912	180,563	180,563	180,563
Website Hosting	26,877	26,877	26,877	39,782	39,782	39,782
Buildings & Grounds	63,000	60,921	63,000	63,000	63,000	63,000
Gardeners and Cleaners	97,743	92,474	97,743	100,675	100,675	100,675
Insurance	29,250	28,119	29,250	29,250	29,250	29,250
Total, sub-item 1.6	413,882	419,933	402,782	419,270	419,270	419,270
Sub-item 1.7	Meeting Services					
Annual Session	225,000	225,000	205,000	225,000	205,000	205,000
Scientific Committee	235,000	220,489	220,000	235,000	220,000	220,000
Northern Committee (Note 2)	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Technical and Compliance Committee	174,800	164,908	174,800	174,800	174,800	174,800
Funding for Working Groups (Note 12)	25,000	19,550	0	175,000	0	0
Total, sub-item 1.7	677,800	647,947	617,800	827,800	617,800	617,800
Sub-item 1.8 Future Work - Commission (Note 3)	0	0	220,000	0	220,000	220,000
Sub-item 1.9 Funding for Developing CCM to Meetings	300,000	300,004	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
TOTAL, Section 1/Item 1	5,072,663	4,751,936	5,303,506	5,524,986	5,486,219	5,489,513

	Approved budget 2025	Estimated expenditure 2025	Indicative budget 2026	Proposed budget 2026	Indicative budget 2027	Indicative budget 2028
ANNEX 1 (continued)						
Part 2 - Science & Technical & Compliance Programme						
Section 2 (Item 2)						
Sub-item 2.1 Scientific Services (SPC) (Note 4)	1,020,749	1,020,749	1,041,164	1,041,164	1,061,987	1,083,227
Sub-item 2.2 <i>Scientific Research</i>						
Additional Resourcing SPC (Note 4)	183,808	183,808	187,484	187,484	191,234	195,058
SPC additional stock assessment scientist (Note 4)	168,300	168,300	171,666	171,666	175,099	178,601
P35b Pacific Marine Specimen Bank	109,520	109,520	111,711	111,711	113,945	116,224
P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	875,000	875,000	950,000	950,000	950,000	988,630
P68 Estimation of Seabird Mortality	0	0	30,000	0	0	0
P90 Fish Lengths/Weights Conversion Analyses	20,000	20,000	0	0	0	0
P100d Application of CKMR to SPA and WCPFC stocks	0	0	0	75,000	115,000	0
P19X6 (P121) Ecosystem and Climate Indicators	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0
P122a Workshop on longline effort creep and CPUE	0	0	0	20,000	0	0
P19X8 (P123) Scoping next generation of software	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0
P19X10 (P124) Oceanic whitetip assessment	80,000	80,000	0	0	0	0
P20X04 (P125) Biology from billfish samples in LL	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	40,000	0
P20X05 Developing a sampling strategy for sharks	40,000	40,000	0	0	0	0
P20X07 (p127a) Recon. size composition data collection	50,000	50,000	0	50,000	0	0
P20X08 (P128a) Connectivity of YFT/SKJ WPEA&WCPFC	60,000	60,000	0	0	125,000	0
P21X01 Gear interactions and stock trends: cetaceans	0	0	0	0	60,000	0
P21X04 Assess. of the SWP blue shark stock-Phase 1	0	0	0	0	50,000	25,000
P21X05 Age-length data stream for tuna assessments	0	0	0	80,000	60,000	60,000
P21X07 Bycatch assessment WS: billfish & sharks	0	0	0	60,000	0	0
P21X09 Character. of low info: sharks & mobulids	0	0	0	0	60,000	0
Total, sub-item 2.2	1,696,628	1,696,628	1,555,861	1,770,861	1,955,278	1,563,513
Sub-item 2.3 Technical & Compliance Programme						
ROP Travel for Audits and Training	35,000	17,039	35,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
ROP - Consultancy	85,000	85,000	85,000	89,250	89,250	89,250
ROP Data Management	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904
Vessel Monitoring System	200,000	148,826	200,000	185,000	185,000	185,000
Vessel Monitoring System - Airtime	214,527	191,548	218,818	195,379	199,287	203,272
Information Management System (Note 5)	120,000	134,760	120,000	145,000	120,000	120,000
Monthly Reports and CCM Dashboards (Note 6)	40,000	52,000	40,000	50,000	40,000	30,000
CMS Future Work (Note 7)	30,000	23,887	30,000	30,000	30,000	20,000
Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity (Note 8)	80,000	65,000	40,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
Repeatable reports - next generation approach (Note 9)	30,000	30,300	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Activities	30,000	0	30,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
CCM/Staff Training (Note 10)	25,000	12,258	25,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Targeted Capacity Building	40,000	13,698	40,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Workshops/IATTC Cross Endor. Train.	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Regional Capacity Building Workshops (Note 11)	130,000	130,000	130,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Total, item 2.3	1,993,431	1,828,220	1,957,722	1,968,533	1,937,441	1,921,426
TOTAL, Section 2/Item 2	4,710,808	4,545,597	4,554,746	4,780,558	4,954,706	4,568,166
Total, Parts 1 & 2	9,783,471	9,297,532	9,858,252	10,305,543	10,440,925	10,057,679

Note 1: Consultancies proposed are:

Legal support services (including travel)	\$65,000
Meetings' rapporteur (including travel)	\$63,000
Article 30 review (\$90,000 in 2026 and \$30,000 in 2027)	\$90,000
Miscellaneous Consultancies	\$25,000
	<hr/>
	\$243,000

Note 2: Northern Committee

As per WCPFC9, additional funds 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 2026 budget with the additional projects under Scientific Research.

Note 4: Section 2 Science programme

- Refer to Annex 12 and Para 2 of Annex 13 for SPC scientific services, additional resourcing, and additional scientists
- Refer to paragraph 3 of Annex 13 for the scope of work of the proposed projects seeking 2026 funding support

Note 5: Information Management System

2025/26 - Includes continual improvements to IT-related tools to improve data management and ease of use for CCMs to manage their own reporting (refer to TCC19-2023-22)

Note 6: Monthly Reports and CCM Dashboards

Renamed AR Part 2/CMS Online Host. and Pub. - because AR Part 2 and CMR system upgrades to be completed in 2025 - reflects a shift to consider additional opportunities to support CCMs with their own reporting and processes for their review of reported data

Note 7: CMS Future Work

2025 - for CCFS subsampling approach improvements, planned CMR system report enhancements and links to CMM site including obligation compliance rating trends

Note 8: Enhance Secretariat Analytical Capacity

2025/26 - continuing exploration of work that delivers strategic solutions, to better support the current and future information management needs of the Commission (refer TCC20-2024-04).

Note 9: Repeatable reports - next generation approach

2024/26 - To deliver efficiencies in the Secretariat's generation of required annual reporting, supports continuous improvement in the editorial work and leverages recent work to improve data management in the compliance area (refer TCC20-2024-04)

Note 10: CCM/Staff Training Guidance and Learning Aids

Renamed CCM/Staff VMS Training to broaden the scope of the intended activities, including support for training guidance and learning aids for targeted capacity development

Note 11: Regional Capacity Building Workshops

FFA/SPC to advise on the use of these funds

Note 12: Funding for Working Groups

\$150,000 for in-person (or physical) South Pacific Albacore Tuna IWG and \$25,000 for a one day physical meeting to progress the Bigeye Tuna Management Procedure and Key Decision Points

ANNEX 2

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2026

<hr/>	
Proposed budget expenditure total	10,305,543
less	
Estimated interest	(100,000)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	0
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,855,543</u></u>

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2027

<hr/>	
Proposed budget expenditure total	10,440,925
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(100,000)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	0
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,990,925</u></u>

Proposed General Fund financing table for 2028

<hr/>	
Proposed budget expenditure total	10,057,679
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(100,000)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	0
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>9,607,679</u></u>

ANNEX 3

3(a) Schedule of contributions based on the Commission's contribution formula

2026 Contribution Table														
CCM	Base fee component: 10% of budget	National wealth component: 20% of budget	Catch component: 70% of budget	Total Contributions before full offsets	Addition for Northern Committee ¹	Addition by Non-SIDS for SIDS offset ²	Offset for Small SIDS ³	SIDS Offset for Second Meeting Participant ⁴	Total Assessed on CCMs	Percent of Budget by member	Offset for Small SIDS from Fees and Trust Fund ⁵	SIDS Offset by Fees and Trust Fund ⁵	NC Adjustment ⁵	Total of components: 100% of budget
Australia	37,906	126,166	17,233	181,305	0	1,528	0	0	182,833	1.89%	0	0	0	182,833
Canada	37,906	117,458	0	155,364	754	1,309	0	0	157,426	1.63%	0	0	-754	156,673
China	37,906	252,938	226,076	516,920	2,508	4,355	0	0	523,783	5.41%	0	0	-2,508	521,275
Cook Islands	37,906	34,283	20,471	92,660	0	0	-32,988	-2,821	56,851	0.59%	32,988	1,353	0	91,193
European Union	37,906	290,957	108,843	437,705	0	3,688	0	0	441,393	4.56%	0	0	0	441,393
Federated States of Micronesia	37,906	7,136	585,032	630,074	0	0	0	-19,179	610,895	6.31%	0	9,203	0	620,098
Fiji	37,906	9,469	26,160	73,536	0	0	0	-2,238	71,297	0.74%	0	1,074	0	72,371
France	37,906	115,414	16,471	169,792	0	1,431	0	0	171,222	1.77%	0	0	0	171,222
Indonesia	37,906	24,556	149,407	211,868	0	1,785	0	0	213,653	2.21%	0	0	0	213,653
Japan	37,906	126,717	1,059,104	1,223,726	5,937	10,311	0	0	1,239,974	12.80%	0	0	-5,937	1,234,037
Kiribati	37,906	6,055	665,258	709,219	0	0	0	-21,588	687,631	7.10%	0	10,359	0	697,990
Korea	37,906	83,480	1,136,689	1,258,074	6,104	10,600	0	0	1,274,779	13.16%	0	0	-6,104	1,268,674
Marshall Islands	37,906	13,587	317,878	369,371	0	0	-11,710	-11,244	346,418	3.58%	11,710	5,395	0	363,523
Nauru	37,906	34,840	366,836	439,582	0	0	-34,242	-13,381	391,959	4.05%	34,242	6,421	0	432,622
New Zealand	37,906	84,636	8,915	131,458	0	1,108	0	0	132,565	1.37%	0	0	0	132,565
Niue	37,906	28,255	12	66,173	0	0	-28,164	-2,014	35,994	0.37%	28,164	967	0	65,125
Palau	37,906	23,396	19	61,322	0	0	-22,511	-1,867	36,944	0.38%	22,511	896	0	60,351
Papua New Guinea	37,906	5,203	201,676	244,784	0	0	0	-7,451	237,333	2.45%	0	3,575	0	240,909
Philippines	37,906	13,215	132,248	183,369	0	1,545	0	0	184,914	1.91%	0	0	0	184,914
Samoa	37,906	7,010	5,209	50,125	0	0	0	-1,526	48,599	0.50%	0	732	0	49,332
Solomon Islands	37,906	3,759	87,949	129,613	0	0	0	-3,945	125,668	1.30%	0	1,893	0	127,561
Chinese Taipei	37,906	66,845	1,033,127	1,137,878	5,521	9,587	0	0	1,152,987	11.91%	0	0	-5,521	1,147,466
Tonga	37,906	8,798	603	47,308	0	0	-3,590	-1,440	42,278	0.44%	3,590	691	0	46,559
Tuvalu	37,906	13,391	178,545	229,842	0	0	-12,908	-6,996	209,938	2.17%	12,908	3,357	0	226,203
United States of America	37,906	467,179	319,914	824,999	4,003	6,951	0	0	835,953	8.63%	0	0	-4,003	831,950
Vanuatu	37,906	6,366	235,204	279,476	0	0	0	-8,507	270,969	2.80%	0	4,082	0	275,051
Totals	985,554	1,971,109	6,898,880	9,855,543	24,827	54,198	-146,113	-104,198	9,684,257	100%	146,113	50,000	-24,827	9,855,543

Footnote 1 - Funding for NC as Agreed in WCPFC9-2012-22 FAC 6 Summary Report 5.4 (25)

Footnote 2 - Offset by Non-SIDS per WCPFC21 for Second Meeting Participant - Proportionally

Footnote 3 - Includes Offset for Small SIDS as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)

Footnote 4 - SIDS Offset per WCPFC21 for Second Meeting Participant

Footnote 5 - Adjustments to/from other accounts to total the final assessed budget with all components

ANNEX 3 Cont.

3(b) Offsets for Small Island Developing States

Offset for Small Island Developing States as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)					SIDS Offset per WCPFC21 for Second Meeting Participant after Adjustments		
CCM	Population	Maximum Payable for wealth component	National wealth component	Offset for Small Island Developing States	Percent of total budget	Percent of General Offset	General Offset for SIDS
Cook Islands	25,900	1,295	34,283	32,988	0.9%	2.7%	2,821
Federated States of Micronesia	113,160	5,658	7,136	0	6.4%	18.4%	19,179
Fiji	928,780	46,439	9,469	0	0.7%	2.1%	2,238
Kiribati	134,520	6,726	6,055	0	7.2%	20.7%	21,588
Marshall Islands	37,550	1,878	13,587	11,710	3.7%	10.8%	11,244
Nauru	11,950	598	34,840	34,242	4.5%	12.8%	13,381
Niue	1,820	91	28,255	28,164	0.7%	1.9%	2,014
Palau	17,700	885	23,396	22,511	0.6%	1.8%	1,867
Papua New Guinea	10,576,500	528,825	5,203	0	2.5%	7.2%	7,451
Samoa	218,020	10,901	7,010	0	0.5%	1.5%	1,526
Solomon Islands	819,200	40,960	3,759	0	1.3%	3.8%	3,945
Tonga	104,170	5,209	8,798	3,590	0.5%	1.4%	1,440
Tuvalu	9,650	483	13,391	12,908	2.3%	6.7%	6,996
Vanuatu	327,780	16,389	6,366	0	2.8%	8.2%	8,507
Total				146,113	35%	100%	104,198

3(c) Funding for NC as Agreed in WCPFC9-2012-22 FAC 6 Summary Report 5.4 (25)

Non-developing States Members of NC	Percent of total budget	Percent of NC fund	Additional cost
Canada	1.58%	3.0%	754
China	5.24%	10.1%	2,508
Japan	12.42%	23.9%	5,937
Korea	12.77%	24.6%	6,104
Chinese Taipei	11.55%	22.2%	5,521
United States of America	8.37%	16.1%	4,003
Total	51.92%	100.00%	24,827

3(d) Offset by Non-SIDS for Second Meeting Participant - Proportionally

CCM	Contribution percent	Extrapolated percentage	Total
Australia	1.84%	2.82%	\$ 1,528
Canada	1.58%	2.42%	\$ 1,309
China	5.24%	8.04%	\$ 4,355
European Union	4.44%	6.80%	\$ 3,688
France	1.72%	2.64%	\$ 1,431
Indonesia	2.15%	3.29%	\$ 1,785
Japan	12.42%	19.02%	\$ 10,311
Korea	12.77%	19.56%	\$ 10,600
New Zealand	1.33%	2.04%	\$ 1,108
Philippines	1.86%	2.85%	\$ 1,545
Chinese Taipei	11.55%	17.69%	\$ 9,587
United States of America	8.37%	12.83%	\$ 6,951
Total	65.27%	100.00%	\$ 54,198

3(e) SIDS Offset per WCPFC21 for Second Meeting Participant

CCM	Total of components: 100% of budget	Percent of budget by CCM	Budget without \$300,000 for Second participant travel	Difference per Non-SID	Difference for SIDS	Percent of General Offset per SIDS	With 50K offset from Fees and Trust Fund	Remaining to be offset by non-SIDS	Total
Australia	181,305	1.8%	175,786	5,519	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Canada	155,364	1.6%	150,634	4,729	0	0.0%	0	0	0
China	516,920	5.2%	501,185	15,735	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Cook Islands	92,660	0.9%	89,839	0	2,821	2.7%	1,353	1,467	2,821
European Union	437,705	4.4%	424,382	13,324	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Federated States of Micronesia	630,074	6.4%	610,895	0	19,179	18.4%	9,203	9,976	19,179
Fiji	73,536	0.7%	71,297	0	2,238	2.1%	1,074	1,164	2,238
France	169,792	1.7%	164,623	5,168	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Indonesia	211,868	2.1%	205,419	6,449	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Japan	1,223,726	12.4%	1,186,476	37,250	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Kiribati	709,219	7.2%	687,631	0	21,588	20.7%	10,359	11,229	21,588
Korea	1,258,074	12.8%	1,219,779	38,295	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Marshall Islands	369,371	3.7%	358,128	0	11,244	10.8%	5,395	5,848	11,244
Nauru	439,582	4.5%	426,201	0	13,381	12.8%	6,421	6,960	13,381
New Zealand	131,458	1.3%	127,456	4,002	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Niue	66,173	0.7%	64,158	0	2,014	1.9%	967	1,048	2,014
Palau	61,322	0.6%	59,455	0	1,867	1.8%	896	971	1,867
Papua New Guinea	244,784	2.5%	237,333	0	7,451	7.2%	3,575	3,876	7,451
Philippines	183,369	1.9%	177,788	5,582	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Samoa	50,125	0.5%	48,599	0	1,526	1.5%	732	794	1,526
Solomon Islands	129,613	1.3%	125,668	0	3,945	3.8%	1,893	2,052	3,945
Chinese Taipei	1,137,878	11.5%	1,103,242	34,637	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Tonga	47,308	0.5%	45,868	0	1,440	1.4%	691	749	1,440
Tuvalu	229,842	2.3%	222,846	0	6,996	6.7%	3,357	3,639	6,996
United States of America	824,999	8.4%	799,886	25,113	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Vanuatu	279,476	2.8%	270,969	0	8,507	8.2%	4,082	4,425	8,507
Totals	9,855,543	100.00%	9,555,543	195,802	104,198	1	50,000	54,198	104,198

ANNEX 3 Cont.

3(f) Schedule of contributions based on proposed 2026 budgets without Offset for Small Island Developing States, adjustments for the funding for a second participant to meetings of the Commission, and Non-Developing States Members of NC

CCM	2026					2027		2028	
	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	37,906	126,166	17,233	181,305	1.8%	183,795	1.8%	176,745	1.8%
Canada	37,906	117,458	0	155,364	1.6%	157,498	1.6%	151,456	1.6%
China	37,906	252,938	226,076	516,920	5.2%	524,020	5.2%	503,919	5.2%
Cook Islands	37,906	34,283	20,471	92,660	0.9%	93,933	0.9%	90,329	0.9%
European Union	37,906	290,957	108,843	437,705	4.4%	443,718	4.4%	426,697	4.4%
Federated States of Micronesia	37,906	7,136	585,032	630,074	6.4%	638,729	6.4%	614,228	6.4%
Fiji	37,906	9,469	26,160	73,536	0.7%	74,546	0.7%	71,686	0.7%
France	37,906	115,414	16,471	169,792	1.7%	172,124	1.7%	165,521	1.7%
Indonesia	37,906	24,556	149,407	211,868	2.1%	214,779	2.1%	206,540	2.1%
Japan	37,906	126,717	1,059,104	1,223,726	12.4%	1,240,536	12.4%	1,192,950	12.4%
Kiribati	37,906	6,055	665,258	709,219	7.2%	718,961	7.2%	691,382	7.2%
Korea	37,906	83,480	1,136,689	1,258,074	12.8%	1,275,356	12.8%	1,226,434	12.8%
Marshall Islands	37,906	13,587	317,878	369,371	3.7%	374,445	3.7%	360,082	3.7%
Nauru	37,906	34,840	366,836	439,582	4.5%	445,621	4.5%	428,527	4.5%
New Zealand	37,906	84,636	8,915	131,458	1.3%	133,263	1.3%	128,151	1.3%
Niue	37,906	28,255	12	66,173	0.7%	67,082	0.7%	64,508	0.7%
Palau	37,906	23,396	19	61,322	0.6%	62,164	0.6%	59,780	0.6%
Papua New Guinea	37,906	5,203	201,676	244,784	2.5%	248,147	2.5%	238,628	2.5%
Philippines	37,906	13,215	132,248	183,369	1.9%	185,888	1.9%	178,758	1.9%
Samoa	37,906	7,010	5,209	50,125	0.5%	50,814	0.5%	48,865	0.5%
Solomon Islands	37,906	3,759	87,949	129,613	1.3%	131,394	1.3%	126,354	1.3%
Chinese Taipei	37,906	66,845	1,033,127	1,137,878	11.5%	1,153,509	11.5%	1,109,261	11.5%
Tonga	37,906	8,798	603	47,308	0.5%	47,958	0.5%	46,118	0.5%
Tuvalu	37,906	13,391	178,545	229,842	2.3%	232,999	2.3%	224,062	2.3%
United States of America	37,906	467,179	319,914	824,999	8.4%	836,332	8.4%	804,251	8.4%
Vanuatu	37,906	6,366	235,204	279,476	2.8%	283,315	2.8%	272,447	2.8%
Totals	985,554	1,971,109	6,898,880	9,855,543	100%	9,990,925	100%	9,607,679	100%

Attachment A – Sharks Pacific Intervention

Thank you, Chair. We'd like to first thank the Philippines and Canada for their generous support of the meeting and the warm hospitality we've received so far. We'd especially like to acknowledge that Philippines has always been a very generous and gracious host.

Sharks Pacific appreciates the opportunity to address the FAC on funding issues it believes are important as a matter of general budgeting under Part 2. We wish to highlight a persistent structural weakness in the Commission's scientific programme, which is the chronic under-investment in bycatch species, particularly sharks and rays, despite their demonstrably higher vulnerability and poorer stock status than the species receiving the vast majority of our research budget.

The 2026 science budget makes this disparity clear. Out of a total Science Programme allocation of roughly **\$2.44 million**, only **\$285,000 - about 12% - is dedicated to elasmobranch research**, while tuna-focused projects receive **approximately \$1.6 million, or over 65%**. The single Pacific Tuna Tagging Project alone commands **\$950,000**, more than three times the entire elasmobranch portfolio. Moreover, the funding allocated to elasmobranchs is insufficient to complete the priority research. For instance, \$60,000 in 2026 (and less than half of that in 2027) to assess post-release mortality on oceanic whitetips would only secure about 10 satellite tags and satellite time. While we understand the importance of *any* data, Chair, it would be difficult to conclude post-release mortality on an entire stock based on 10 tags. And, I don't think the Commission will accept conclusions and any meaningful planned CMM changes on the analyses of 10 tags, either. This mismatch has become a systemic barrier to meeting our obligations under the Convention, CITES listings, and global commitments on biodiversity and threatened species.

Chair, this is not about diminishing the importance of tuna science. Far from it. But we are now at a point where *species that are demonstrably endangered, vulnerable, or severely data-poor, receive a fraction of the support granted to stocks that are, at least comparatively, in better condition*. Notably, the lack of data is used against better management for elasmobranchs, yet, the Commission continues to deprioritize data collection for these vulnerable species. Multiple shark species in the WCPO - oceanic whitetip, silky sharks, whale sharks, hammerheads, threshers, mobulids - are CITES-listed, highly vulnerable to fishing mortality, and subject to substantial and persistent data gaps that impede stock assessments, impact analyses, and thwart effective implementation of CMMs. Yet these same species are supported by intermittent, short-term, modestly funded projects, while long-running tuna programmes receive multi-year, high-value commitments and expanded staffing. The lack of funding for research results in the persistent lack of time given to these species in the Commission discussions, (and, frankly, this has to change.)

The Commission cannot continue to treat the approach to bycatch (and, if we're honest, targeted) species as an afterthought while simultaneously acknowledging that poor data is the single largest obstacle to responsible management. The Scientific Committee has repeatedly stressed that reductions in uncertainty require better baseline data, and that includes shark bycatch information, post-release mortality estimates, and improved stock structure and age-determination science.

It is therefore critical that the Commission prioritize with *sufficient* support the existing elasmobranch initiatives, including:

- **P21X04**, the Southwest Pacific blue shark assessment, foundational for one of the region's most commonly caught shark species;
- **P21X09**, characterising data-poor sharks and mobulids, including multiple CITES-listed species;
- **P21X10**, oceanic whitetip post-release survival, which is essential for evaluating the efficacy of current CMM requirements;
- **P21X08**, improving age estimation and structure for mako sharks; and
- Continued development of a **shark sampling strategy** through P126.

These projects are high-value, high-urgency, and collectively represent less than one-fifth of what we invest annually in a single tuna tagging programme.

But supporting these projects is not enough. Going forward, Sharks Pacific urges the Commission to:

1. Increase the proportion of the science budget dedicated to elasmobranchs, commensurate with their conservation status, vulnerability, and the Commission's legal obligations, as well as their own research priorities.
2. Commit to routine bycatch estimate updates, not once a decade, but on a cycle better aligned with scientific need, particularly for the longline fishery.
3. Create a dedicated shark and bycatch scientist position within the Science Services Provider, mirroring recent expansion of tuna science capacity.
4. Strengthen observer and electronic monitoring resources, recognising that nearly every shark assessment relies on observer-derived bycatch data.

Chair, we cannot claim to manage ecosystems while allocating less than 12% of our research budget to the species most at risk. The Commission must take seriously the *responsibility* to correct this imbalance. Even a slightly more modest allocation of resources *today* will generate significant improvements in scientific certainty, management credibility, and conservation outcomes *tomorrow*.

Thank you, Chair.