

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

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Stephen Mathias
Assistant Secretary General
In charge of the Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Dear Sir:

This is in response to your letter dated 12 December 2012, requesting input from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) on the issue of “capacity-building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea”, to assist in the preparation of a report for the consideration of the General Assembly.

Please find attached the relevant information, in response to your request.

Yours sincerely,



Guillermo Compeán
Director

**Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
(IATTC)¹
Capacity Building in Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
2013**

A new convention for the strengthening of the IATTC entered into force in 27 August 2010. This new Convention, called the *Antigua Convention*, does include provisions for including capacity building among the responsibilities of the Commission. These provisions are contained in PART VI of the Convention, Article XXIII on *Cooperation and Assistance*:

1. *The Commission shall seek to adopt measures relating to technical assistance, technology transfer, training and other forms of cooperation, to assist developing countries that are members of the Commission to fulfill their obligations under this Convention, as well as to enhance their ability to develop fisheries under their respective national jurisdictions and to participate in high seas fisheries on a sustainable basis.*

The Commission adopted in 2011 resolution [C-11-11](#) on capacity building which creates a *Special fund for strengthening the institutional capacity of developing countries for the sustainable development of fisheries for highly migratory species*. The resources of the Fund shall proceed from contributions obtained from the Members or from national and international bodies or entities interested in strengthening the capacities of developing countries. It is estimated that the Fund will become operational in 2014 thanks to contributions from Japan and the European Union.

The purpose of the utilization of the Fund is the development of technical and scientific capacity, that will allow the developing countries to duly follow and comply with their obligations established under the Antigua Convention, particularly:

- a) The creation of a standardized system for collecting, processing and analyzing data, as regards the stocks of tunas and tuna-like species.
- b) Education and training, mainly in relation to the implementation and development of databases, analysis of fisheries statistics and data, and stock assessments.
- c) The participation of representatives of developing countries in the annual meetings of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

¹The current member countries of the Commission are Belize, Canada , Colombia, Costa Rica,China, Chinese Taipei, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union ,France, Guatemala, Japan, Kiribati , Mexico Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, United States of America, Vanuatu, and Venezuela. Bolivia, Cook Islands, Honduras and Indonesia are Cooperating Non Members.

- d) Facilitate the support of the IATTC scientific staff necessary for fulfilling the aims of this resolution in support of developing countries.
- e) The creation of a standardized program for collecting, processing, and analyzing data, in order to match the processes with the Commission's systems.
- f) Others that the Commission may decide, strictly for the creation of capacity development.