
10TH MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC)

Manta, Ecuador, 9, 10 & 14 February 2023

FAC10 – Doc05.4 Scientific Support Fund (SC) Fund *Secretariat*

1. Background

Financial Regulation (2022) 2.4 provides that *“Unless otherwise decided by the Commission, for the budget category ‘Scientific Support’ unspent appropriations may accrue between financial years, up to a limit of \$50 000. Beyond this level such funds shall be treated as surplus and transferred to the accumulated surplus account.”*

A separate account was established in 2017 for the Scientific Support Fund. This Fund contains the accumulated unspent appropriations from previous Financial Years (beginning from Financial Year 2015-16).

At the last FAC Meeting in January 2022 (FAC9), the FAC reviewed the Status of the Scientific Support Fund. The FAC noted that there were sufficient funds remained in the fund to support the planned 2022-23 scientific activities, hence annual allocation was removed. The FAC agreed that this would not be a precedent for future budgets and that it was essential to ensure that SPRFMO’s scientific work was adequately resourced.

2. FAC10 considerations:

The basis for the proposed Scientific Support Fund allocation for 2023-24 of **NZ\$366,000** is the SC10 Multi-Annual Workplan (SC10-Report, Annex 6), in which new funding requirements and sources have been identified.

The FAC10 is invited to:

- **Note** the information contained in this paper.
- **Recommend** that the Commission approve the proposed budget amount of NZ\$366,000 for Budget Category 8 – Scientific Support for the Financial Year 2023-24 (as per FAC10-Doc06); and be noted that the majority are funded by voluntary contributions totalling NZ\$356,000, i.e., NZ\$10,000 will be funded by the Members’ Contributions/Budget Appropriations.

3. Status of Scientific Support Fund

3.1 The Year-to-Date Status of the Scientific Support Fund

Table 1 below shows the year-to-date status of the Scientific Support Fund up to 31 December 2022, which is in line with the expected expenses identified from the 2022 Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Workplan ([SC10-Report, Annex 6](#)).



Table 1: The Year-to-Date Status of the Scientific Support Fund (up to 31 December 2022)

Opening Balance as of 01 July 2022			162,258¹
Expenses for the period from 01 July 2022 to 31 December 2022			
July 2022	GITHUB Annual Fee	455	
August 2022	Jack mackerel - SC JJM model workshop June 2022	8 000	
October 2022	Jack mackerel - assessment SC and other funds to support experts	11 500	
December 2022	External support for the planning and execution of SC intersessional web meetings and workshops	11 852	
Subtotal – Expense from 01/07/2022 to 31/12/2022			(31 807)
Income for the period from 01 July 2022 to 31 December 2022			
September 2022	USA’s voluntary contribution ² – Habitat Monitoring Symposium	42 475	
December 2022	China’s voluntary contribution – Squid related research	28 130	
December 2022	Other fees and income (foreign exchange gain/loss, interest, bank fee)	816	
Subtotal – Income from 01/07/2022 to 31/12/2022			71 421
Balance as of 31 December 2022			201 872

3.2 Forecast Status of the SC Fund up to 30 June 2023

Table 2 below shows the forecast status of the SC Fund up to 30 June 2023, which is in line with the expected expenses identified from the 2022 Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Workplan.

¹ This opening balance contains the accumulated unspent appropriations from previous financial years NZ\$107,896 (beginning from Financial Year 2015-16), Members’ voluntary contributions received for SC activities NZ\$54,247, and other income & fee (foreign exchange gain/loss, interest, bank fee) NZ\$115.

² USA’s voluntary contribution to support SPRFMO Habitat Monitoring Symposium, US\$25,000 = NZ\$42,475



Table 2: Forecast Status of the SC Fund up to 30 June 2023

Balance available as of 31 December 2022			201 872
Committed/Forecast Expenses			
Squid workshop	Squid Workshop including potential assessment techniques and appropriate measures of fishing effort (prior to SC11).	10 000	
Jun 2023	GITHUB Annual Fee	455	
Symposium Steering Committee	Symposium on Habitat Monitoring to review the state of the art of habitat research to recommend specific lines of investigation in this topic within the framework of the SPRFMO	105 475 ³	
Jack mackerel assessment	EU Grant - MSE objectives workshop with stakeholders or managers	50 000 ⁴	
Squid related research	Squid related research – funds are committed for collecting and analysing genetic samplings (Convention area and adjacent National Jurisdiction Areas) as per the Squid Connectivity item in the Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Workplan.	82 377 ⁵	
Subtotal – Committed Expense			(248 307)
Forecast Income – Voluntary Contributions from Members			
Jack mackerel assessment	EU Grant - MSE objectives workshop with stakeholders or managers	50 000	
Subtotal – Forecast Income			50 000
Net Surplus SC Fund as of 30th June 2023			3 565

3.3 The Proposed Budget for the Scientific Support Fund in Financial Year 2023-24

In the Draft Budget for Financial year 2023-24 (FAC10 – Doc 06), the proposed budget for Scientific Support is NZ\$366,000. This figure has been sourced from the SC 2023 Multi Annual Workplan, NZ\$356,000 will be funded by voluntary contributions, NZ\$10,000 will be funded by the Commission’s Member Contributions. Table 3 below shows the new funding requests in accordance with SC Multi Annual Workplan, funding sources for the projects are also outlined in the table:

³ SC Fund NZ\$63k, and USA’s voluntary contribution USD25K = NZ\$42,475, totalling NZ\$105,475

⁴ EU Grant SI2.829333 SPRFMO Science and Data Management

⁵ One Member was allocated funds (NZ\$7,300) in 2019-20 and the Secretariat has been unable to pay out those funds as per the previously agreed plan. Hence the historic unused balance of NZ\$54,247 is available for squid related research. In addition to its earlier contributions, China made a voluntary contribution of NZ\$28,130 for SC squid related research activities in December 2022. These new funds have been combined with the historic unused balance, a totaling NZ\$82,377 funds are currently available for collecting and analyzing genetic samplings (Convention area and adjacent National Jurisdiction Areas).



Table 3: New funding requests - SC Multi Annual Workplan

Task	Subtask	Timeline	Coordinator	Funding Required NZ\$
Jack mackerel assessment	SC and other funds to support experts during benchmark and SC assessment	2023+	SC Chair/ Secretariat	10 000 (SC funds)
Jack mackerel assessment	Develop and carry out MSE evaluation to design alternative management procedures (see COMM8-Report Annex 8b). This to include biological reference points, carryover, accumulating quota over 2 years, and stock hypotheses (paragraphs 80, 102,118 COMM8-Report). Initial results should be reported to SC11.	2023	EU	150 000 (EU)
Jack mackerel connectivity research	Task group on CJM connectivity to improve the understanding of origin and admixture of populations or subpopulations of jack mackerel in the Southern Pacific.	2022-26	Chile Peru EU	15 000 (EU)
Jack mackerel ageing techniques	Task group on CJM ageing analysis and otolith exchange to addresses the current practices in ageing of Jack mackerel, the validation techniques to verify ages, an otolith exchange program and a comprehensive documentation of ageing techniques and protocols.	2022-24	Chile Peru EU	15 000 (EU)
Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment	Work to reduce uncertainties in risk assessments for benthic habitats and VMEs	2022+	NZ	74 000 (EU)
Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment	Develop abundance models for VME taxa	2022+	NZ	15 000 (EU)
Squid connectivity	Collect and analyse genetic samplings (Convention area and adjacent National Jurisdiction Areas)	2023	-	47 000 (CHN)
Symposium	Symposium on Habitat Monitoring organised after the 2023 meeting of the Commission to review the state of the art of habitat research to recommend specific lines of investigation in this topic within the framework of the SPRFMO	2023	Symposium Steering Committee	40 000 (USA)
Total new request for SC Multi Annual Workplan				366 000⁶

⁶ Much of this NZ\$366,000 are funded by voluntary contributions totalling NZ\$356,000, i.e., NZ\$10,000 will be funded by the Members' Contributions/Budget Appropriations.