
11TH MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC)

Manta, Ecuador, 25, 26, 27, & 30 January 2024

FAC 11 – Doc 06.4 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).

2. FAC11 considerations:

The basis for the proposed Scientific Support Fund allocation for 2024-25 of **NZ\$186,000** is the SC11 Multi-Annual Workplan ([SC11-Report, Annex 5, Page66-73](#)), in which new funding requirements have been identified.

The FAC11 is invited to:

- **Note** the information contained in this paper.
- **Recommend** that the Commission approve the proposed budget amount of NZ\$186,000 for Budget Category 9 – Scientific Support for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FAC11-Doc07).

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 30 November 2023, which is in line with the expected expenses identified from the 2024 Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Workplan.



Table 1: The Year-to-Date Status of the Scientific Support Fund (up to 30 November 2023)

Opening Balance as of 01 July 2022			162 658¹
Expenses for the period from 01 July 2022 to 30 November 2023			
July 2022	GITHUB Annual Fee Financial Year 2021-22	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	
March 2023	Squid genetics research on giant squid - Peru	10 000	
June 2023	GITHUB Annual Fee Financial Year 2022-23	500	
November 2023	Symposium on Habitat Monitoring	95 744	
November 2023	SC and other funds to support experts during SC11	11 010	
Subtotal – Expense from 01/07/2022 to 30/11/2023			(149 061)
Income for the period from 01 July 2022 to 30 November 2023			
September 2022	USA’s voluntary contribution – Habitat Monitoring Symposium ²	42 475	
December 2022	China’s voluntary contribution – Squid related research	28 130	
July 2023	COMM11 Budget Appropriation	10 000	
September 2023	China’s voluntary contribution – Squid related research	25 202	
July 2022 - November 2023	Other income - interest	5 015	
July 2022 - November 2023	Other income - foreign exchange gain, tax refund	1 414	
Subtotal – Income from 01/07/2022 to 30/11/2023			112 236
Balance as of 30 November 2023			125 833

¹ This opening balance contains the accumulated unspent appropriations from previous financial years (beginning from Financial Year 2015-16).

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



3.2 Forecast Status of the SC Fund up to 30 June 2024

Table 2 below shows the forecast status of the SC Fund up to 30 June 2024, which is in line with the expected expenses identified from the 2023 Scientific Committee Multi-Annual Workplan.

Table 2: Forecast Status of the SC Fund up to 30 June 2024

Balance available as of 30 November 2023			125 833
Committed/Forecast Expenses			
2024+	Collect and analyse samples for population genomic studies (Convention area and adjacent National Jurisdiction Areas)	90 000 ³	
Jun 2024	GITHUB Annual Fee	550	
Subtotal – Committed Expense			(90 550)
Net Surplus SC Fund as of 30th June 2024			35 283

3.3 The Proposed Budget for the Scientific Support Fund in Financial Year 2024-25

In the Draft Budget for Financial year 2024-25 (FAC11–Doc07), the proposed budget for Scientific Support is NZ\$186,000. This figure is sourced from the SC Multi Annual Workplan (SC11-Report Annex 5). This includes support for the JM assessment, ongoing Connectivity research and a 2024 squid workshop.

Table 3 below shows in accordance with SC Multi Annual Workplan, as there are no other identified funding sources, the requested funds are presumed to come from Member Contributions:

Table 3: New funding requests from the Commission - 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	15 000
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.	2024-27	Chile Peru EU	NZ\$161K/yr
Squid workshop	Squid Workshop including potential assessment techniques and abundance indices; to be held virtually intersessionally	2024	SQWG Chair/ Secretariat	10 000
Total new request for SC Multi Annual Workplan				186 000

³ In addition to its earlier contributions, China made a voluntary contribution of NZ\$25,202 for SC squid related research activities in September 2023. These new funds have been combined with the historic unused balance, a totalling NZ\$97,570 funds are currently available for collecting and analysing genetic samplings (Convention area and adjacent National Jurisdiction Areas).