

5th Meeting of the Scientific Committee

Shanghai, China, 23 - 28 September 2017

SC5-Doc27

Status of the fund for “Scientific Support”

SPRFMO Secretariat

Following the recommendation by the Scientific Committee in 2015, the Secretariat proposed the Commission decided that unspent appropriations under the budget item for Scientific Support be routinely rolled over to the following financial year until reaching a limit of NZ\$50 000 (see Financial Regulation 2.3).

Financial Regulation 2.3: For the budget categories “Scientific Support (SC) and Developing States (DS)”, unspent appropriations may accrue between financial years, up to a limit of \$50 000 for the SC and \$30 000 for the DS. Beyond these levels such funds shall be treated as surplus and transferred to the accumulated surplus account. The Commission will review these categories once the defined level has reached or after 4 years, whichever occurs first, and at least every four years thereafter.

The Secretariat has created a separate account for Scientific Support Fund. This Fund contains the unspent appropriations from 2015/16 and 2016/17 and has reached its maximum of NZ\$50 000 on 1. July 2017. Since then approximately NZ\$3 500 have been committed for expenses in support of the work of the SC. In addition, the annual fees for the SC subscription for GITHUB of approximately NZ\$450 (varies due to currency exchange fluctuations) are deducted from the Scientific Support Fund.

The table below shows the past and current status of the Scientific Support Fund including the amounts expensed.

Financial Year	Amount in	Amount out		Unspent
2015-16	NZ\$20 000	GITHUB	NZ\$463	NZ\$19 537
2016-17	NZ\$20 000	GITHUB	NZ\$432	NZ\$39 105
2017-18	NZ\$10 895	Status on 1 July 2017		NZ\$50 000
Committed Expenses 2017/18				
		GITHUB	NZ \$480	NZ\$49 520
		FAO ABNJ WS participation (estimate)	NZ\$1 000	NZ\$48 520
		5 th SC meeting Chair support	NZ\$2 500	NZ\$46 020

The Secretariat would like to recommend that the Scientific Committee explores ways of making the best use of the Scientific Support Fund.

From the Report of the 4th Commission Meeting: Budget categories for the Scientific Committee and Developing States: The Executive Secretary introduced FAC-03-07. Following a recommendation by the Scientific Committee in 2015, the Secretariat proposed that unspent appropriations under the budget item for scientific support be routinely rolled over to the following financial year until reaching a limit defined by the Commission. The Secretariat also recommended the FAC consider the same approach for the budget item ‘Developing States’. The FAC agreed to recommend that the Commission adopt the proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations, with a cap of NZ\$50,000 for the Scientific Committee fund, and NZ\$30,000 for the Developing States fund. The FAC noted that anticipated needs of the Scientific Committee should, as a general rule, be identified and quantified and be considered as part of the annual budgeting process.