

7TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC)

La Havana, Cuba, 7 to 12 October 2019

SC 7 – Doc 16_rev1

Status of the SC (Scientific Support) Fund

Secretariat

1. Background

Financial Regulation 2.4: 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.*”

2. Status of Scientific Support (SC) Fund:

2.1 Year-to-date Status of SC Fund

In accordance with Financial Regulation 2.4, the Secretariat established a separate account for Scientific Support Fund in 2017. This Fund contains the accumulated unspent appropriations from previous Financial Years (since Financial Year 2016) under the budget item for Scientific Support; it shall be reviewed by the Commission at the Annual Meeting in 2020. The table below shows the year- to- date status of the Scientific Support Fund up to 30th September 2019.

Financial Year	Budget NZ\$	SC Expenses NZ\$		Remaining NZ\$
2015-2016	20 000	GITHUB ¹	424	19 576
2016-2017	20 000	GITHUB	432	39 144
2017-2018	12 000	GITHUB	431	
		FAO ABNJ workshop	1 517	
		Invited experts to 5 th SC 2017	3 835	
		Invited experts to workshop 2018	15 899	
		Subtotal expense for FY 2017-2018	21 682	29 462
2018-2019	20 000	Invited experts & participation assistance, 6 th SC 2018	27 464	
		Squid related research	5 000	
		Deep sea research	679	
		GITHUB	460	
		Subtotal Expense for FY 2018-2019	33 603	15 859
2019-2020	20 000			35 859

¹ GitHub is a web-based hosting service that provides a platform to share data and is currently being used to hold the Jack mackerel assessment code and associated inputs.



2.2 Forecast Status of the SC Fund

Taking the committed cost for Financial Year 2019-2020 into account, the table below shows the forecast status of the SC Fund:

Financial Year	Funds Currently Available NZ\$	Committed Cost NZ\$		Forecast Remaining NZ\$
2019-2020	35 859	7 th SC 2019 - Invited experts & participation assistance	22 800	12 589
		GITHUB Annual Cost	470	

3. Other Resources

3.1. Voluntary contribution from the European Union (EU)

The EU Grant € 100,000 (NZ\$ 167,000 approximately) - Support to jack mackerel assessment and data validation in SPRFMO. The SPRFMO Secretariat will coordinate the implementation of those actions linked with the SC multiannual work plan. This grant from the EU is being used for the implementation of this specified SC related project in SPRFMO and although it is not considered as part of the SC Fund it is a relevant contribution to the SC activities.

3.2. Voluntary contribution from China

China has made a voluntary contribution to SPRFMO for an amount of NZ\$ 29,230 to support squid sampling and genetic research in the SPRFMO Convention area. As requested by the Chairperson for the squid working group (Dr. Gang Li), this contribution will be distributed amongst the Members who are participating in the current research. The table below shows the year-to-date funding status for this research activity:

Delegation	Sampling Area	Sampling Year	NZ\$ 29 000	Year-to-date Status
Chile	E3, E4 & E5	2019-2020	7 300	Not confirmed yet
China	O1, O2 & O3	2019-2020	7 300	Confirmed
Korea	O2 & O3	2018-2020	4 800	Korea confirmed self-funding for this research activity ² .
Peru	E1 & E2	2019-2020	4 800	Not confirmed yet
Chinese Taipei	O2 & O3	2019-2020	4 800	Chinese Taipei confirmed self-funding for this research activity ² .

The Secretariat is seeking the confirmations and decisions from Members who haven't confirmed yet.

² The SC should decide how within the squid sampling and genetic research area this NZ\$ 9,600 should be allocated.



3.3. Financial support from Commission's Developing States (DS) Fund:

Since 2015, the Developing States Fund has been used to support developing States Members to participate in the Commission's annual meetings and Scientific Committee's workshops/meetings. The table below shows the year-to-date spent and committed expenses (a separate account was established for this purpose in accordance with Financial Regulation 2.4 in 2017):

Financial Year	Meeting/Workshop	Country Member Supported NZ\$	Spent/Committed NZ\$
2017-2018	The 6 th SC Workshop	Ecuador	3 117
2018-2019	The 6 th SC Meeting	Cook Islands	7 040
		Ecuador	3 540
		Peru	7 510
2019-2020	The 7 th SC Meeting ³ (committed cost)	Cook Islands	8 200
		Ecuador	2 400
Total Support from DS Fund			31 807

The Secretariat has been and will be continuously working together with the Commission and Scientific Committee to optimize the financial resources made available to achieve the objectives set by the Commission and exploring the ways to use these funds efficiently.

³ For the Financial Year 2019-2020, the Commission allocated in the annual budget ([COMM7- Report ANNEX6c: Budget](#)) NZ\$ 30,000 to the Developing States Fund to provide travel support to the Developing States Members to participate in the two SPRFMO meetings (the 7th SC Meeting & 8th Annual Meeting).

A maximum 40% (NZ\$ 12,000) shall be allocated for participation in the meeting or workshops of the Scientific Committee ([Financial Regulation Annex 1 para 5](#)). All applications submitted before the due date for Travel Support SPRFMO 7th SC Meeting were assessed at the Secretariat in accordance with [Financial Regulation Schedule D](#) (Selection and Evaluation Criteria to be used by the Secretariat for Assessing Applications for Travel Support (Article 1 c)).

Due to the number of applications the Secretariat received, the very limited funding available and the evaluation scores favouring when there is one representative of a developing State Member participating in the meeting, only two scientists were granted support to participate in the 7th SC meeting.