CCSBT–EC/2610/06

DRAFT REVISED 2026 BUDGET

Purpose

To support the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) to adopt a revised budget for 2026.

Discussion

A draft revised budget for 2026 is provided at **Attachment A**. This latest revised budget includes updated forecast expenditure and income from those presented in the mid-year statement provided as part of Circular #2026/46.

Expenditure

The largest variations in forecasted expenditure versus those initially budgeted include the following:

Meeting Costs

- Significant savings were made in meeting costs expenditure, and these are primarily attributable to the lower costs of venue hire and equipment rental when compared against the Canberra baseline against which budgets are set.
- The slightly higher costs for the Extended Scientific Committee Meeting can be attributed to the higher travel costs for Brussels but these were almost entirely offset by lower venue costs.
- The Secretariat also wishes to recognise the significant voluntary contribution made by the European Union towards the meeting costs, which further reduces the net meeting costs. Similarly, meeting costs for the ERSWG were under budget and again supported by a generous voluntary contribution from Australia.

Science Program

- Science program expenditure is largely tracking as planned with final forecasted expenditure predicted to be slightly below the initially budgeted amount.

Special Projects

- Special Projects are well under budget based primarily on underspending for the Meeting Participation Fund, the FAO funded Seabird Project, and the Capacity Building Initiatives. The FAO underspend was expected with the project concluding in the first quarter of 2026 and the cancellation of activities related to the risk assessment. The underspend for Capacity Building Initiatives was equally foreseeable given that no activities were put forward during last year's Extended Commission meeting (or proposed through subsidiary bodies).

Secretariat Costs

- Overall Secretariat Costs are tracking well and should end the year below the initial forecasted amount. Outside of lower staffing costs, additional savings were made in relation to travel costs with trips being either combined or dropped to remain under budget.

The total expenditure for 2026 is forecast to be approximately $4,126,000. This is 7% lower than the approved budget.

Income

In relation to income, there are two significant variances to note. The first is the voluntary contributions from two Members. The European Union has made a contribution of nearly $160,000 AUD towards the costs of holding the Extended Scientific Committee, Compliance Committee, and Extended Commission meetings in Brussels, Belgium. In addition, Australia also provided a $50,000 AUD voluntary contribution towards the meeting costs of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group meeting that was held in Canberra, Australia.

Income from the FAO Funded Seabird Project was less than initially budgeted, which is a direct reflection of the lower associated spending throughout the life of the project.

All Member contributions have now been received since the publication of the mid-year statement.

The Secretariat also anticipates higher returns on investments based on recent increases to Australian interest rates.

The Secretariat estimates that the CCSBT will hold $3.3 million in cash at the end of the year, primarily in the form of term deposits.

The CCSBT will also hold the following liabilities at year end estimated at $674,700 in total:

- Staff Liability $660,000;
- Project underspend carried forward to 2027;
    - Member Participation Fund $7,700; and
    - Home Leave Allowance $7,000.

This puts the Commission at a net position of having reserves of approximately $2,625,300 at the end of 2026. Although the 2027 budget has not yet been approved, expenses are currently forecasted at $4.1 million which means that cash reserves are very likely to be sufficient to cover operating costs for six months (or 50% of the approved 2027 budget).

The Extended Commission is invited to consider the forecast final income and expenditure in **Attachment A** for the revised budget for 2026.

Prepared by the Secretariat

Attachment A

Income	Approved 2026 Budget	Income to date	Forecast Final Income	Variation (Approved 2026 to Forecast 2026)
Contributions from Members*	$3,273,278	$3,273,279	$3,273,278	0%
Japan	$937,631	$937,631	$937,631	0%
Australia	$937,631	$937,631	$937,631	0%
New Zealand	$266,593	$266,593	$266,593	0%
Korea	$286,732	$286,732	$286,732	0%
Fishing Entity of Taiwan	$286,732	$286,732	$286,732	0%
Indonesia	$255,150	$255,150	$255,150	0%
European Union	$124,186	$124,186	$124,186	0%
South Africa	$178,624	$178,624	$178,624	0%
Contribution in Arrears	$286,732	$286,732	$286,732	0%
Staff Assessment Levy	$184,500	$115,000	$176,000	-5%
Carryover from previous year	$3,300	$3,300	$3,300	0%
Voluntary contributions from Members	$70,000	$208,581	$208,581	198%
Contribution Stabilisation Fund	$0	$0	$0	N/A
FAO Funded Project	$426,000	$262,773	$262,773	-38%
Interest on investments	$100,000	$87,400	$120,000	20%
Withdrawal from Cash Reserves	$0	$0	$0	N/A
TOTAL GROSS INCOME	$4,343,810	$4,237,065	$4,330,664	0%

Expenditure	Approved 2026 Budget	Expenditure to date	Forecast Final Expenditure	Variation (Approved 2026 to Forecast 2026)
Annual Meeting - (CC/EC/CCSBT)*	$541,000	$278,000	$394,700	-27%
ESC/SC Meeting*	$286,000	$199,400	$330,100	15%
SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS	$177,800	$103,700	$105,700	-41%
ERSWG Meeting*	$70,000	$38,500	$38,500	-45%
ERS Tech Meeting	$0	$0	$0	N/A
SFMWG Meeting	$0	$0	$0	N/A
OMMP Technical Meeting	$102,800	$63,500	$65,500	-36%
TCWG Meeting	$5,000	$1,700	$1,700	-66%

Science Program	$1,358,000	$878,000	$1,340,500	-1%
Operating Model Software upgrade	$15,000	$16,500	$16,500	10%
Development of the CPUE series	$0	$0	$0	N/A
Tagging program coordination	$1,000	$0	$1,000	0%
Long-Term Gene Tagging Project	$965,000	$665,000	$965,000	0%
Close-kin sampling/DNA sequencing	$290,000	$138,500	$277,000	-4%
Sampling and aging of Indonesian Otoliths	$52,000	$23,000	$46,000	-12%
UAM estimation	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	0%
Capacity Building for Spawning Ground	$0	$0	$0	N/A
Evaluation of gene tagging alternatives	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	0%
SPECIAL PROJECTS	$205,000	$119,900	$161,400	-21%
Meeting Participation Fund	$25,000	$17,300	$17,300	-31%
CDS Tag and Market Survey in JP	$32,000	$6,900	$32,000	0%
On-line data system maintenance	$5,000	$0	$5,000	0%
Trial eCDS development	$40,000	$28,600	$40,000	0%
FAO Funded Seabird Project	$83,000	$67,100	$67,100	-19%
Capacity Building Initiatives	$20,000	$0	$0	-100%
Open-access CDS Tag Number Search	$0	$0	$0	N/A
SECRETARIAT COSTS	$1,695,500	$1,065,200	$1,624,400	-4%
Secretariat staff costs	$1,074,000	$640,800	$1,030,000	-4%
Staff assessment levy	$184,500	$115,000	$176,000	-5%
Employer social security	$253,000	$155,000	$239,000	-6%
Insurance -worker's compensation	$20,000	$19,000	$19,000	-5%
Travel/transport*	$35,000	$33,400	$33,400	-5%
Translation of meeting reports	$17,000	$0	$17,000	0%
Training	$2,000	$200	$2,000	0%
Home leave allowance	$7,000	$0	$5,000	-29%
Other employment expense	$3,000	$1,800	$3,000	0%
Staff liability fund (accumulating)	$100,000	$100,000	$100,000	0%
OFFICE MANAGEMENT COSTS	$170,400	$109,300	$169,100	-1%
Lease & Storage	$69,500	$47,300	$69,500	0%
Property Insurance	$2,400	$0	$2,600	8%
Office Management	$18,500	$11,300	$17,000	-8%
Financial Services	$42,000	$32,100	$42,000	0%
New/replacement assets	$8,000	$300	$8,000	0%
IT & Communications	$30,000	$18,300	$30,000	0%
Total Expenditure	$4,433,700	$2,753,500	$4,125,900	-7%