Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna

みなみまぐろ保存委員会

CCSBT–EC/2610/07

DRAFT 2027 AND INDICATIVE 2028-2029 BUDGETS

Purpose

To adopt a general budget for 2027 and consider indicative budgets for 2028 and 2029.

Introduction

An interim draft 2027 budget was Circulated to Members as part of CCSBT Circular #2026/48, however this draft preceded the meeting of the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) and was therefore subject to change.

The ESC met from 24 to 28 August 2026 and updated its three-year workplan for scientific meetings and projects to be funded by the Extended Commission (EC). The ESC's estimates of the resources required for this workplan are provided at **Attachment A** and reflected in this latest draft.

The draft budget for 2027 and indicative budgets for 2028 to 2029 are presented at **Attachments B** and **C** respectively.

Draft Budget for 2027

The draft general budget for 2027 is provided at **Attachment B**. The budget continues to assume that all formal 2027 meetings will proceed as physical meetings.

The budget is presented below in four sections:

1. Proposed changes in expenditure since the interim draft budget for 2027 provided in Circular #2026/48;
2. Proposed variation in expenditure between 2026 and 2027;
3. Areas of possible reduced expenditure in 2027; and
4. Proposed income for 2027.

(1) Changes in expenditure since the interim draft budget for 2027 provided in Circular #2026/48

The draft budget for 2027 contains $11,700 less expenditure than the interim draft budget that was provided in Circular #2026/48. These changes in expenditure are based on the science workplan developed at ESC 31 and updated estimates for other items, including:

- Changing the TCWG meeting to virtual;
- Removing the costs associated with CPUE update;
- Reducing cost estimates for the review of the MP;
- Adding a placeholder estimate for the Independent Performance Review; and
- Revising Secretariat costs based on most recent projections.

The estimate for the performance review is considered as a placeholder since there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the scope and scale of the review, which makes a proper costing impossible.

(2) Forecasted variation in expenditure between 2026 and 2027

As shown in Figure 1 below, the CCSBT's expenses have been steadily increasing since 2013 with the exception of the pandemic years that saw a pronounced drop due to the cancellation of physical meetings. The CCSBT began to shift from a Member-funded science delivery model to one that is Commission funded in 2013 with the first contribution towards the aerial survey.

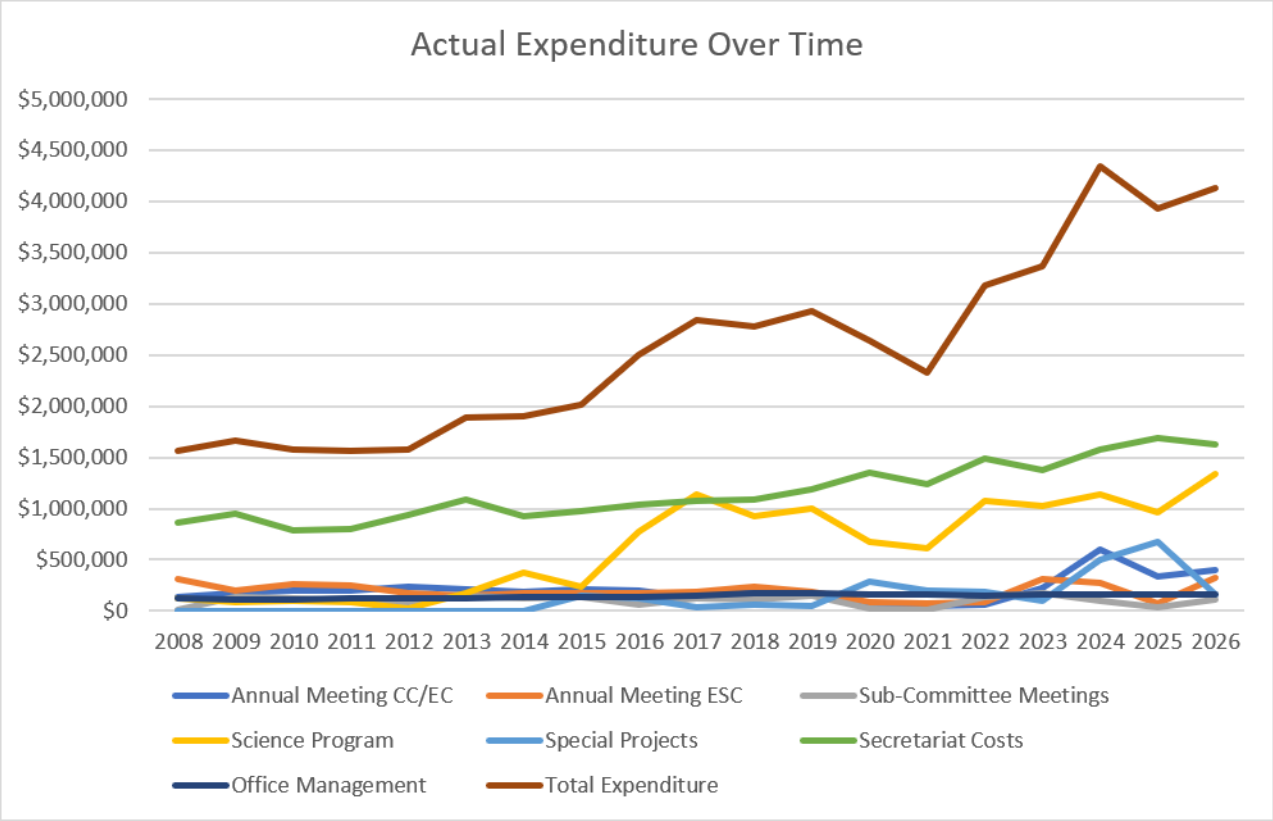


Figure 1: CCSBT Expenditure Trends by Spending Category

The main variations in expenditure between the approved expenditure for 2026 and the expenditure forecasted for 2027 are summarised below.

CCSBT Meetings

The reduction in this category reflects a significant decrease in the estimated costs associated with venue and equipment hire for CC/EC meetings held in Canberra, which Members have previously agreed would serve as the ongoing baseline for budgeting of those meetings. Those changes, however, do not impact the ESC estimates since those are based on a smaller venue whose prices have not changed. The reduction in ESC costs is linked to the smaller number of paid participants with the incoming Chair having been appointed from the Independent Panel.

The decrease in sub-committee meeting costs is related to the reduced number of paid participants for the OMMP meeting. Previous budgets have included costs associated with the participation of the ESC Chair. The appointment of one of the current Panel Members as ESC Chair also eliminates the need for this funding.

Science Program

The current year represents the conclusion of several science projects (e.g. OM software update and UAM estimation), which has resulted in an overall 11% decrease in the funding required in 2027.

Special Projects

The significant decrease in 2027 expenditure for Special Projects is almost entirely linked to the FAO funded Seabird Project terminating in 2026.

The Meeting Participation Fund is down to ~$7,700 and Members are asked to consider topping it up to $25,000 once more in 2027.

The Secretariat has recommended an increase to the eCDS budget as a contingency for potential development needs during the initial year of implementation.

The Secretariat has also added a placeholder estimate for the costs of an Independent Performance Review. The estimate is based on a significant reduction in the costs incurred in the previous review and assumes a much narrower scope and/or resourcing needs.

Secretariat Costs

The overall Secretariat costs for 2027 are unchanged from 2026 (i.e. 0% increase).

There is, however, an increase to Home Leave Allowances based on the home location of the eligible staff for that year (i.e. Japan). This change is cyclical and the budget for 2028 will decrease once more.

Office Management Costs

The Secretariat anticipates a 5% increase in Office Management costs based largely on increased costs surrounding software and IT costs. The percentage increase for Property Insurance is also notable but the sums involved remain marginal. The 4% increase in leasing costs reflect the Secretariat's ongoing leasing agreement (and Australian inflation figures).

(3) Areas of possible reduced expenditure in 2027

In order to support discussions at the FAC, the Secretariat has identified a number of potential areas to reduce costs both in the coming year and in future years.

The following table provides an unranked list of potential cost reductions:

Expenditure Item	Cost estimate	Potential savings	Comment
Meeting Participation Fund	$25,000	$25,000	The MPF Resolution states that the fund shall be financed by voluntary contributions from Members and such other sources as the Commission may identify. The initial fund held $50,000 and currently holds approximately $7,700. The Secretariat has initially suggested a top-up to $25,000 in 2027.
Capacity Building Initiatives	$20,000	$20,000	This amount is being proposed based on the most recent year and the recent request from ESC.
Open-access CDS Tag Number Search	$11,000	$11,000	This work could be further delayed until the full implementation of eCDS is complete.
Independent Performance Review	$60,000	$60,000	This work could be delayed but would have an impact on the update to the Strategy and associated workplan.

(4) Proposed income for 2027

The Secretariat recommends that increases in Member contributions return to a minimum of 5% for the foreseeable future and that Members continue to seek ways to stabilise or reduce costs in the short term.

As stated in previous FAC meetings, current Member contribution levels on their own are not sufficient to cover the current annual running costs of the CCSBT. The Contributions Stabilisation Fund (CSF) was used in its entirety in 2025 and future shortfalls will need to be drawn from cash reserves.

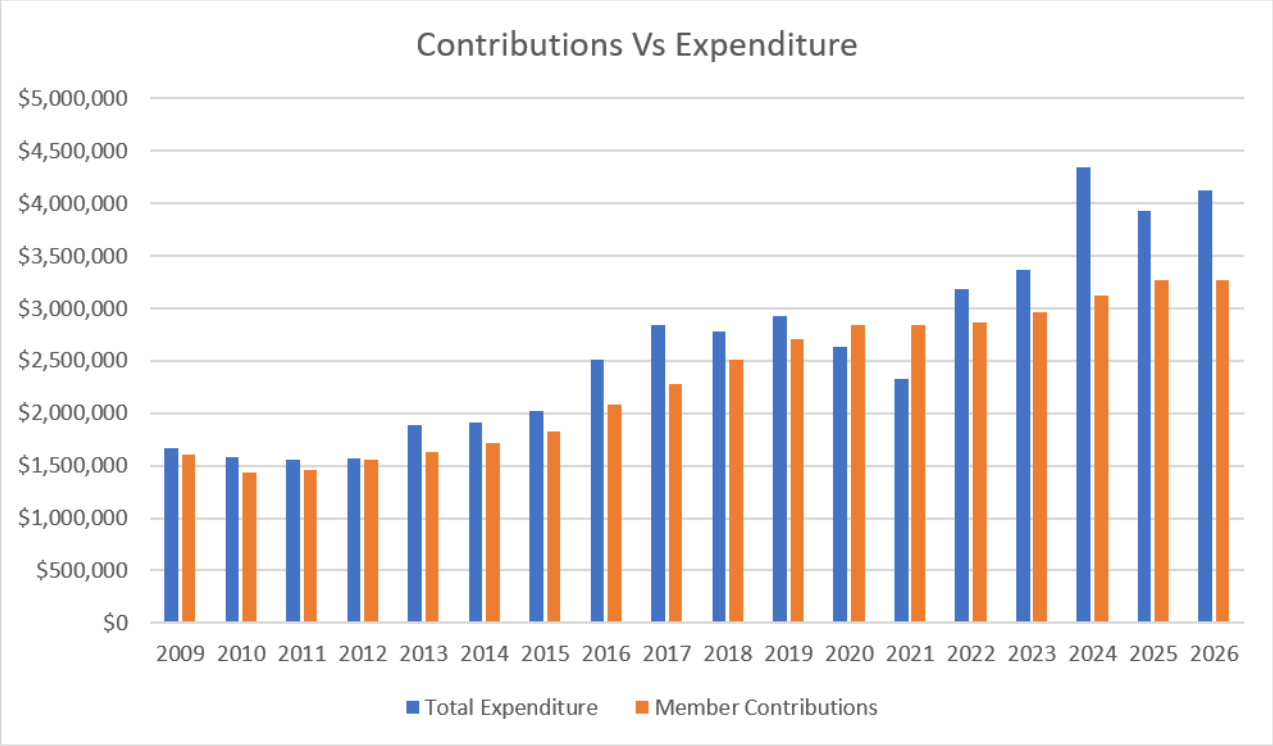


Figure 2: Actual Expenditure vs Member Contributions.

(5) Annual Report on Status of Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)

In accordance with the Resolution on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing States of CCSBT Members, the following details are provided for Member consideration.

Key Fund Indicators:

- The initial contribution to the MPF in 2023 was $50,000 as agreed at CCSBT 29 and most recently topped up to $25,000.
- The fund was utilised once in 2025 to support attendance at ERSWG and OMMP by representatives from Indonesia.
- Approximately $7,700 remains in the MPF.

The Chair of the ERSWG (Dr Martin Cryer) has commented on the valuable contributions made by MPF-sponsored participants at this year's ERSWG:

> ***I appreciate that the fund encourages developing Members to attend and participate in meetings. At this year's hybrid ERSWG meeting we had Mr Widodo and Mr Rahardian from Indonesia actively participating in the room which significantly***

helped with some of the discussions. I believe the fund is working largely as intended.

Dr Ana Parma has also offered the following feedback:

As Chair of the OMMP I appreciate the support offered through the existing Member Participation Fund that provides financial assistance for representatives from developing members (Indonesia and South Africa) to attend technical meetings. Dr Fayakun Satria and Dr Lilis Sadiyah have been active participants at the OMMP workshops, always trying to follow and contribute to technical discussions.

Indicative Budget for 2028 to 2029

An indicative budget for 2028 and 2029 is provided at **Attachment D**.

The indicative costs for 2028 and 2029 assume continuation of standard CCSBT meeting practices, planned projects and staff arrangements, as well as known changes to these arrangements. The following additional assumptions have been made for 2028 and 2029:

2028

- The ESC (5 days) and CC/EC meetings will be held in Japan. The CCSBT will pay for meeting costs up to the costs associated with an equivalent meeting held in Canberra. Costs are based on the most recent Canberra meeting cost benchmark plus an increase of 4% for inflation.
- Two sub-committee meetings will potentially be held in 2028, these being an ERSWG and an OMMP meeting.
- Some ongoing funding to improve and fix bugs to the eCDS will be required.
- The independent performance review will be finalised in 2027.
- Where other information is not available, costs are based on the 2027 estimates plus an allowance for inflation.

2029

- The ESC (5 days) and CC/EC meetings will be held in Australia. The CCSBT will pay for meeting costs up to the costs associated with an equivalent meeting held in Canberra. Costs are based on the 2028 Canberra meeting cost estimate plus an increase of 4% for inflation.
- Three sub-committee meetings will be held during 2029, these being an SFMWG meeting, an OMMP meeting, and a one-day Technical Compliance Working Group (TCWG) meeting held immediately prior to the annual Compliance Committee meeting.
- Some ongoing funding to improve and fix bugs to the eCDS will be required.
- The independent performance review will be finalised in 2027.
- Where other information is not available, costs are based on the 2028 estimates plus an allowance for inflation.

The indicative total expenditure for 2028 and 2029 is approximately $4,142,000 and $4,098,000 respectively.

The indicative income for 2028 and 2029 assumes a 5% increase in Membership contributions each year. **If these increases are confirmed and expenses remain as forecasted, then the Secretariat anticipates that the CCSBT could be operating to a balanced budget by 2029.**

Prepared by the Secretariat

Attachment A

ESC's three-year workplan, including resource requirements

(abbreviations: Sec=Secretariat Staff, Interp=Interpretation, Ch=Independent ESC Chair, P=Independent Advisory Panel, MPCoord=MP Coordinator, CECoord=CPUE Coordinator, C=Consultant, Cat=Catering only, FM=full meeting costs – venue & equipment hire etc., VEH=venue & equipment hire etc., FreeV=Venue & some equipment at no cost, Contracted=CCSBT contract with CSIRO, inf=informal meeting)

	2027	2028 (Indicative only)	2029 (Indicative only)
Regular Meetings			
ESC Meeting	5 days FM: 1Ch, 2P, 1C, 3 Interp, 3 Sec	4 days FM: 1Ch, 2P, 1C, 3 Interp, 3 Sec	4 days FM: 1Ch, 2P, 1C, 3 Interp, 3 Sec
ESC Meeting Chair's report	1Ch	1Ch	1Ch
June/July OMMP Meeting *(no Sec, no Interp)*	5 days Cat: 2P, 1C, 1Ch + 4 Prep Days (3C,1Ch)	5 days Cat: 2P, 1C, 1Ch + 4C Prep Days	5 days Cat: 2P, 1C, 1Ch + 4C Prep Days
Ongoing Essential SRP Projects requiring CCSBT resources			
Gene Tagging	$785,000	$800,000	$815,000
Close-kin sampling, sequencing, and identification	$364,000	$251,000	$231,000
Collection and aging of Indonesian otoliths	$43,000	$45,000	$46,000
Review of MP	Two half-day webinars 3P, 1C	-	-
Capacity Building Initiatives			
South Africa otolith ageing workshop	3-day in-person workshop in South Africa adjacent to ESC 1.5 C 2 prep days	-	-

Draft 2027 Budget

Income	Approved 2026 Budget	Revised 2026 Budget	Draft 2027 Budget	Variation (Approved 2026 to Draft 2027)
Contributions from Members	$3,273,279	$3,273,279	$3,436,943	5%
Japan	$937,631	$937,631	$984,513	5%
Australia	$937,631	$937,631	$984,513	5%
New Zealand	$266,593	$266,593	$279,923	5%
Korea	$286,732	$286,732	$301,069	5%
Fishing Entity of Taiwan	$286,732	$286,732	$301,069	5%
Indonesia	$255,150	$255,150	$267,908	5%
European Union	$124,186	$124,186	$130,395	5%
South Africa	$178,624	$178,624	$187,555	5%
Contributions in Arrears	$286,732	$286,732	$0	N/A
Staff Assessment Levy	$156,000	$176,000	$180,000	15%
Carryover from previous year	$3,300	$3,300	$14,700	345%
Voluntary contributions from Members	$70,000	$208,581	$0	N/A
Contribution Stabilisation Fund	$0	$0	$0	N/A
FAO Funded Project	$426,000	$262,773	$0	-100%
Interest on investments	$100,000	$120,000	$120,000	20%
Withdrawal from Cash Reserves	$0	$0	$0	N/A
TOTAL GROSS INCOME	$4,315,311	$4,330,665	$3,751,643	-13%

Expenditure	Approved 2026 Budget	Revised 2026 Budget	Draft 2027 Budget	Variation (Approved 2026 to Draft 2027)
Annual Meeting - (CC/EC/CCSBT)	$541,000	$394,700	$416,600	-23%
ESC/SC Meeting	$286,000	$330,100	$290,000	1%
SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS	$177,800	$105,700	$101,500	-43%
ERSWG Meeting	$70,000	$38,500	$0	N/A
ERS Tech Meeting	$0	$0	$13,500	N/A
SFMWG Meeting	$0	$0	$0	N/A
OMMP Technical Meeting	$102,800	$65,500	$82,000	-20%
TCWG Meeting	$5,000	$1,700	$6,000	20%

Science Program	$1,358,000	$1,340,500	$1,203,000	-11%
Operating Model Software upgrade	$15,000	$16,500	$0	-100%
Development of the CPUE series	$0	$0	$0	N/A
Tagging program coordination	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	0%
Long-Term Gene Tagging Project	$965,000	$965,000	$785,000	-19%
Close-kin sampling/DNA sequencing	$290,000	$277,000	$364,000	26%
Sampling and aging of Indonesian Otoliths	$52,000	$46,000	$43,000	N/A
UAM Estimation	$25,000	$25,000	$0	N/A
Capacity Building for Spawning Ground	$0	$0	$0	N/A
Evaluation of Gene Tagging Alternatives	$10,000	$10,000	$0	N/A
Review of MP	$0	$0	$10,000	N/A
SPECIAL PROJECTS	$205,000	$161,400	$204,000	0%
Meeting Participation Fund	$25,000	$17,300	$25,000	0%
CDS Tag and Market Survey in JP	$32,000	$32,000	$33,000	3%
On-line data system maintenance	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	0%
eCDS implementation	$40,000	$40,000	$50,000	25%
FAO Funded Seabird Project	$83,000	$67,100	$0	-100%
Capacity Building Initiatives	$20,000	$0	$20,000	0%
Open-access CDS Tag Number Search	$0	$0	$11,000	N/A
Independent Performance Review	$0	$0	$60,000	N/A
SECRETARIAT COSTS	$1,695,500	$1,619,400	$1,692,000	0%
Secretariat staff costs	$1,074,000	$1,030,000	$1,075,000	0%
Staff assessment levy	$184,500	$176,000	$180,000	-2%
Employer social security	$253,000	$239,000	$245,000	-3%
Insurance -worker's compensation	$20,000	$19,000	$21,000	5%
Travel/transport	$35,000	$33,400	$32,000	-9%
Translation of meeting reports	$17,000	$17,000	$17,000	0%
Training	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	0%
Home leave allowance	$7,000	$0	$17,000	143%
Other employment expense	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	0%
Staff liability fund (accumulating)	$100,000	$100,000	$100,000	0%
OFFICE MANAGEMENT COSTS	$170,400	$169,100	$180,500	6%
Lease & Storage	$69,500	$69,500	$72,300	4%
Property Insurance	$2,400	$2,600	$2,700	13%
Office Management	$18,500	$17,000	$17,500	-5%
Financial Services	$42,000	$42,000	$44,000	5%
New/replacement assets	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000	0%
IT & Communications	$30,000	$30,000	$36,000	20%
Total Expenditure	$4,433,700	$4,120,900	$4,087,600	-8%

Attachment C

Indicative 2028 and 2029 budgets

Income	Indicative 2028 Budget	Indicative 2029 Budget
Contributions from Members	$3,608,789	$3,789,229
Japan	$1,033,738	$1,085,425
Australia	$1,033,738	$1,085,425
New Zealand	$293,919	$308,615
Korea	$316,122	$331,928
Fishing Entity of Taiwan	$316,122	$331,928
Indonesia	$281,303	$295,368
European Union	$136,915	$143,760
South Africa	$196,933	$206,779
Staff Assessment Levy	$190,000	$195,000
Carryover from previous year	$0	$0
Voluntary contributions from Members	$0	$0
Contribution Stabilisation Fund	$0	$0
Interest on investments	$120,000	$120,000
Withdrawal from Cash Reserves		
TOTAL GROSS INCOME	$3,918,789	$4,104,229

Expenditure	Indicative 2028 Budget	Indicative 2029 Budget
Annual Meeting - (CC/EC/CCSBT)	$433,264	$450,595
ESC/SC Meeting	$301,600	$313,664
SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS	$294,864	$160,273
ERSWG Meeting	$156,832	0
ERS Tech Meeting	$0	$10,000
SFMWG Meeting	$0	$10,000
OMMP Technical Meeting	$82,000	$82,000
TCWG Meeting	$56,032	$58,273

Science Program	$1,097,000	$1,093,000
Operating Model Software upgrade	$0	$0
Development of the CPUE series	$0	$0
SBT otolith-based aging workshop	$0	$0
Tagging program coordination	$1,000	$1,000
Long-Term Gene Tagging Project	$800,000	$815,000
Close-kin sampling/DNA sequencing	$251,000	$231,000
Sampling and aging of Indonesian Otoliths	$45,000	$46,000
Capacity Building for Spawning Ground	$0	$0
SPECIAL PROJECTS	$103,000	$89,000
Meeting Participation Fund	$25,000	$25,000
CDS Tag and Market Survey in JP	$33,000	$34,000
On-line data system maintenance	$5,000	$5,000
Trial eCDS development	$40,000	$25,000
Seabird Risk Assessment	$0	$0
Performance Review	$0	$0
Open-access CDS Tag Number Search	$0	$0
SECRETARIAT COSTS	$1,735,160	$1,807,246
Secretariat staff costs	$1,102,400	$1,146,496
Staff assessment levy	$190,000	$195,000
Employer social security	$254,800	$264,992
Insurance -worker's compensation	$21,840	$22,714
Travel/transport	$36,000	$37,000
Translation of meeting reports	$17,500	$18,000
Training	$2,000	$2,000
Home leave allowance	$7,500	$7,800
Other employment expense	$3,120	$3,245
Staff liability fund (accumulating)	$100,000	$110,000
OFFICE MANAGEMENT COSTS	$177,216	$184,305
Lease & Storage	$72,280	$75,171
Property Insurance	$2,496	$2,596
Office Management	$19,240	$20,010
Financial Services	$43,680	$45,427
New/replacement assets	$8,320	$8,653
IT & Communications	$31,200	$32,448
Total Expenditure	$4,142,104	$4,098,083