

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP TO PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE THE
AIDCP DOLPHIN SAFE TUNA CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

MINUTES OF THE 7TH MEETING (REVISED)

Busan, Korea
19 June 2006

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the 6th meeting
4. Actions to promote the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System
5. Other business
 - a. FAO guidelines of ecolabelling of fisheries products
 - b. Update on the situation of litigation regarding the *dolphin safe* label in the United States
 - c. Information from the EU on recent developments related to the Convention on Migratory Species
6. Date and place of next meeting
7. Adjournment

1. Opening of the meeting

Dr. Robin Allen, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, opened the meeting on the afternoon of 19 June. In the absence of Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Chair of the working group, Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, of the Mexican delegation, chaired the meeting. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was approved with the addition of three points under *Other business*:

- a. The FAO guidelines for the ecolabelling of fisheries products.
- b. A report from the US delegation on the situation of the court case on the dolphin safe label in the United States.
- c. Information from the European Union on recent developments related to the Convention on Migratory Species.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 6th meeting

The minutes of the 6th meeting of the Working Group were approved as presented.

4. Actions to promote the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System

Under this agenda item, the actions for promoting and publicizing the AIDCP dolphin safe certification system undertaken since the last meeting of the group were reviewed. The European Union reported on a

publicity event made by the Spanish Government in the month of May during the EUROSEAFOOD fisheries fair. It was reported that this event was organized by the Spanish Government, and that it included a presentation made by Dr. Martín Hall, of the AIDCP Secretariat, on the progress of the AIDCP and the advantages of its label.

Regarding future actions for promoting the AIDCP label certification system, the possibility was raised of seeking a future date for holding an event on the occasion of the conclusion of the free trade negotiations between the Central American countries and the United States.

The request was once again made that the United States organize a promotional event in its country. The US delegation responded that it would consider this possibility, but could not commit at this time to organizing an event. However, it noted that other countries could organize such an event, and the United States would consider cooperating and participating in some way.

The delegations emphasized the importance that the event be carried out under the leadership of the United States.

The European Union reiterated its view that any publicity events focus on the work of conserving dolphins without addressing related issues such as bycatch, and also reiterated its long-standing request that the EU review the information to be presented before any events are held.

5. Other business

The subject of the FAO guidelines on ecolabelling of fisheries products was discussed. It was noted that these guidelines were approved during the 2005 meeting of the FAO Fisheries Committee, with the aim of establishing minimum parameters with which ecolabels and certifications worldwide should comply.

The meeting was reminded that the member countries of the AIDCP requested the Secretariat of the AIDCP to ask the FAO to carry out a study of the various ecolabels for tuna, with a view to determine whether these labelling schemes are consistent with the FAO guidelines on ecolabelling. It was reported that the matter was raised during the 10th Session of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, and that there was considerable support at that meeting for recommending that FAO undertake the proposed study.

On the issue of the court case in the United States on the dolphin safe label, the US delegation reported on the status of the case. It was noted that only some procedural developments had occurred since the last working group meeting. It was expected that the court would schedule hearings on the case, hopefully before the end of the year.

On another matter, the EU delegation noted that representatives of the European Union had met with the Executive Director of the Convention on Migratory Species, who told the EU of the work that they are doing on recommendations on fisheries management, and advised them that next year there would be activities carried out relative to the declaration of the year of the dolphin that had been decreed in the framework of that organization.

The EU delegation suggested that the AIDCP Secretariat make contact with the secretariat of this convention to compare notes and ensure that there is no duplication of work relative to the two agreements.

Finally, the EU proposed that the work of the working group could be fused with the work of the Working Group on Tuna Tracking. However, several delegations recalled that this matter had previously been explored, and reiterated their interest in maintaining this work in a separate working group.

6. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on 24 October 2006 in Del Mar, California, in association with other AIDCP meetings.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on 19 June at 4:00 p.m.

Appendix 1.

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