AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

54TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

La Jolla, California (USA)
October 2026

RESOLUTION A-26-02

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUND FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIONS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP):

Reiterating their commitment to promote the achievement of the goals and objectives of the AIDCP through its effective implementation;

Recalling that, in 2001, the Meeting of the Parties agreed on procedures for AIDCP Dolphin Safe tuna certification, which provide, as appropriate and in accordance with applicable domestic legislation, for the dissemination of information on AIDCP Dolphin Safe tuna certification, as well as the promotion of the objectives of the AIDCP and of an accurate public understanding of its dolphin protection measures;

Recalling also that, in those procedures, the Meeting of the Parties agreed to disseminate objective information to, inter alia, importers, fishing organizations and non-governmental organizations, using their own capacities in their domestic and external markets to support an accurate public perception of the AIDCP and its objectives;

Emphasizing that the work carried out under the AIDCP has been successful thanks to the efforts of the governments, vessel owners, fishers and non-governmental organizations involved, which has made it possible to achieve a significant reduction of incidental catch of dolphins in the purse-seine tuna fishery, in fulfilment of the objective set out in Article II of the AIDCP to progressively reduce incidental dolphin mortalities to levels approaching zero;

Recognizing that the AIDCP has received international recognition for its outstanding achievements in reducing the incidental catch of dolphins, including the Margarita Lizárraga Medal for responsible fisheries, awarded by FAO in 2005;

Considering that, in order to duly disseminate the achievements and work carried out under the AIDCP, the Meeting of the Parties decided to establish a Working Group on the Promotion and Dissemination of the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Certification System, which has been operating since 2003;

Noting that the 51st Meeting of the Parties adopted the recommendation of the Working Group "*to entrust the Secretariat to coordinate an intersessional consultation process among the Parties to develop a proposal on the Terms of Reference for the special Fund for the promotion and dissemination of the AIDCP, to be presented at the next meeting of the AIDCP in 2026*";

Having reviewed this proposal,

Agree:

To create a Fund to support the creation and dissemination of materials, as agreed by the Meeting of the Parties, in order to promote awareness of the AIDCP and of the achievements realized under the Agreement, which will be governed and administered consistent with the following Terms of Reference:

1. General objective of the Fund

To provide financial support for activities for the education, promotion, and dissemination of information on the dolphin protection actions implemented in the purse-seine tuna fishery, in accordance with the measures of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP).

2. Specific objectives

- Finance communication and awareness campaigns on the importance and scope of the AIDCP in the protection of dolphins, as well as on the obligations arising from the Agreement.
- Disseminate, in accessible language, the scientific, technical and management results arising from the implementation of the Agreement (bycatch reports, good fishing practices, regulatory improvements, research for stock assessments, etc.) to the public.
- Strengthen the capacities of key stakeholders (fishers, competent authorities, among others) regarding good practices and compliance with the Agreement, through dissemination materials and activities.

3. Scope of the Fund

The Fund may finance:

- Development and production of materials for public dissemination (leaflets, infographics, videos, podcasts, radio spots, websites, content for social media).
- Mass and targeted communication campaigns (in traditional and digital media).
- Workshops, sessions, seminars, educational modules and activities on the work and achievements of the AIDCP.
- Preparation of content for the continuous training of on-board observers, crew and other relevant stakeholders.
- Other actions consistent with the objectives of paragraph 1 of this Resolution that may be approved by the AIDCP Meeting of the Parties.

4. Operating principles

- Conservation focus: All outreach activities that contribute, directly or indirectly, to improving public awareness of the AIDCP, including how its objectives, work, and achievements contribute to dolphin conservation.
- Transparency and accountability: Periodic publication, preferably annually and during the meetings of the AIDCP Promotion Working Group, of financial information and of the results of the projects financed.

- Participation: Definition and design of promotion and dissemination activities through the AIDCP Promotion Working Group, which may incorporate suggestions from donor agencies, industry, environmental organizations, and the AIDCP Meeting of the Parties.
- Financial sustainability: Active search of co-financing and partnerships to allow continuity of actions beyond the initial resources of the Fund.

5. Governance of the Fund

The Fund shall be under the stewardship of the Technical AIDCP Secretariat, which shall act in accordance with the mandate granted by the Meeting of the AIDCP Parties.

The Secretariat will submit to the AIDCP Promotion Working Group an annual work plan, including the proposed projects and their respective budgets. The Working Group may recommend the plan to the Meeting of the Parties, which will take knowledge and, as appropriate, will approve the annual work plan recommended by the AIDCP Promotion Working Group, in accordance with the resources available in the Fund and shall also examine the reports submitted by the AIDCP Secretariat on:

- Resource management (receipt of contributions, fiduciary administration, payments).
- Administrative and financial monitoring of projects.
- Achievements obtained using the Fund.

6. Sources of financing

The financial resources that will constitute the Fund shall consist of:

- Voluntary contributions from national governments.
- Voluntary contributions from the tuna industry (vessel owners, processors, marketers).
- Voluntary contributions from multilateral organizations, environmental organizations and private foundations.
- Contributions generated through other financial mechanisms agreed by the AIDCP Meeting of the Parties.

7. Term of validity and review of the terms of reference (ToR)

- These Terms of Reference shall be valid for three years from their formal adoption by the AIDCP Meeting of the Parties.
- They shall be reviewed and, as appropriate, extended or updated at least every three years, or sooner if the regulatory framework of the AIDCP, the applicable national provisions, or the conditions of the fishery are substantially modified.