

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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

42ND MEETING

Lisbon, Portugal

August 24, 2026.

MEETING REPORT

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Follow up of the last meeting recommendations
4. Actions to promote AIDCP dolphin safe tuna
5. Recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP
6. Date and place of next meeting
7. Adjournment

ANNEXES

- 1) List of participants
- 2) Proposed resolution to create a support fund for the dissemination of AIDCP's activities and achievements.

The 42nd meeting of the Working Group to Promote and Publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System was held in a hybrid format in Lisbon, Portugal, starting at 9:20 a.m. on August 24, 2026.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of this Working Group, Mr. Raúl Cortez, from El Salvador, who thanked the IATTC Secretariat for coordinating the event, the European Union for its hospitality, especially Portugal, and thanked the participants for their attendance to the Working Group meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was approved without amendments.

3. Follow up of the last meeting recommendations

The Secretariat presented and explained document DSP-42-01, which contains the draft resolution for the creation and operation of the “*Draft terms of reference for the establishment and operation of a fund for disseminating the AIDCP and its achievements*“. This document was prepared by the Secretariat in

accordance with the mandate of the 41st meeting and incorporated the comments and observations sent by the United States delegation during the intersessional consultation process.

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, from the Secretariat, explained the content of the document, highlighting that the Fund will aim to finance and provide strategic support to activities promoting, disseminating, educating, and training on the measures applied in the tuna purse seine fishery for the protection of dolphins and marine conservation within the framework of the AIDCP. Activities may include awareness campaigns, educational and communication materials, accessible dissemination of scientific results, and good fishing practices, as well as workshops aimed at crews, observers, and authorities. Its operation will be based on the principles of conservation, transparency, accountability, participation, and financial sustainability.

The AIDCP Secretariat will manage the Fund in a trust, while the Working Group will prepare an Annual Work Plan and budget for approval by the Meeting of the Parties. The resources may come from voluntary contributions from member governments of the AIDCP and the IATTC, the tuna industry, multilateral organizations, NGOs, and private foundations. The Secretariat will report periodically on the sources and use of resources, as well as on the results obtained. The Terms of Reference will have an initial validity of three years, subject to periodic review.

Guatemala requested to modify the provisions relating to the participation of environmental organizations. They proposed removing the reference to these organizations as beneficiaries of the capacity-building objective, so that it is limited to fishermen and competent authorities directly linked to management actions. Likewise, regarding the scope of the Fund, they asked to review and clarify the wording on the activities that could be financed, such as workshops, conferences, seminars, educational modules, and educational actions in schools and in tuna marketing centers.

Regarding the operating principles, Guatemala proposed to eliminate or revise the wording that provides for incorporating suggestions from donor agents, industry, Parties, and environmental organizations in the definition and design of dissemination and promotion activities, noting that these functions should be channeled mainly through the AIDCP Working Group on Promotion. The delegation indicated that it would submit their specific proposals in writing for consideration, an initiative that was welcomed and appreciated by the Chair.

The United States proposed that the document with Guatemala's comments be analyzed when the Promotion Group's report is released at the AIDCP Meeting of the Parties for its eventual approval. This proposal, along with the comments received during the meeting, is presented as Annex 2.

4. Actions to promote AIDCP dolphin safe tuna

At this point, there were no new suggestions for actions to promote AIDCP dolphin-safe tuna.

5. Recommendations to the AIDCP Meeting of the Parties.

That the meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP be informed of, and eventually approve, the resolution to create a support fund for the dissemination of AIDCP's activities and achievements.

6. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on the dates agreed upon for AIDCP meetings in 2026.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on August 24, 2026, at 09:47 am.

Annex 1

42nd MEETING OF THE WG TO PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE THE AIDCP DOLPHIN SAFE TUNA CERTIFICATION (DSP-42) / 42ª REUNIÓN DEL GT PARA PROMOVER Y DIFUNDIR LA CERTIFICACIÓN DE ATÚN LIBRE DE DELFÍN DEL AIDCP

Lisbon, Portugal — 24 August 2026 / Lisboa, Portugal — 24 de agosto de 2026

ASISTENTES - ATTENDEES	
MIEMBROS - MEMBERS	
BELICE - BELIZE	
DELICE PINKARD* Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit	
BOLIVIA	
LIMBERT CORTEZ* Ministerio de Defensa HUGO ALSINA Ministerio de Defensa	OSCAR MIRANDA Ministerio de Defensa WILLIAN OLIVES Ministerio de Defensa
COLOMBIA	
JOSÉ LUÍS COTES ANGEL* Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores JAVIER GARCÍA Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo CARMEN LÓPEZ Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible	WILBERTO ANGULO VIVEROS Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca CARLOS RODRÍGUEZ Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca GERMÁN FONSECA Programa Nacional de Observadores
COSTA RICA	
JOSÉ MIGUEL CARVAJAL RODRÍGUEZ Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura MEDRANO GONZÁLEZ Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura	ANA VICTORIA PANIAGUA PRADO Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura MAURICIO GONZÁLEZ Cámara Nacional de Pesquería
ECUADOR	
HENRY MERO* Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros LUIS TORRES Fundación Programa de Observadores Pesqueros del Ecuador RAFAEL TRUJILLO Cámara Nacional de Pesquería	LUIGI BENINCASA AZUA Asociación de Atuneros del Ecuador MONICA MALDONADO PEDRO SANTISTEVAN
EL SALVADOR	
JASMIN CARDENAS Autoridad Salvadoreña de Economía Azul (ASEA)	RAÚL EDGARDO CORTEZ COTA Autoridad Salvadoreña de Economía Azul (ASEA)
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
COLIN BRINKMAN* U.S. Department of State AMANDA MUNRO NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region KARIN KIZER	PALLAVI JAVOR NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region TYLER LAWSON NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region AMY LUBRANO

U.S. Department of State LUCY BULKELEY NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region DEREK CAMPBELL NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region	NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region WILLIAM STAHNKE NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region DANIEL STUDDT NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region
GUATEMALA	
BERNAL CHAVARRÍA* Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería	
MÉXICO - MEXICO	
BERNARDINO JESÚS MUÑOZ RÉSENDEZ* Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca (CONAPESCA) GUSTAVO LOPEZ Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca (CONAPESCA) ISABEL CRISTINA REYES ROBLES Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca (CONAPESCA) BERTHA ALICIA SOLER BENITEZ Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca (CONAPESCA)	MICHEL DREYFUS Programa Nacional de Observadores MARTHA ELENA BETANCOURT AGUIRRE FIDEMAR GUILLERMO COMPEÁN Alianza del Pacífico por el Atún Sustentable ALFONSO ROSIÑOL
NICARAGUA	
ROBERTO CHACON RIVAS* Instituto Nicaragüense de la Pesca y Acuicultura	JULIO GUEVARA Instituto Nicaragüense de la Pesca y Acuicultura
PANAMÁ - PANAMA	
YARKELIA VERGARA* Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá ELIZABETH BETHANCOURT Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá MARIA SIERRA Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá	ENRIQUE ESPINOSA Programa Nacional de Observadores MARÍA PATRICIA DÍAZ DE SANTAMARÍA Fundación Internacional de Pesca
PERÚ - PERU	
RICARDO HERBOZO COLQUE* Ministerio de la Producción ANA ALEGRE Ministerio de la Producción	ANTONINO MACEDO Ministerio de la Producción
UNIÓN EUROPEA - EUROPEAN UNION	
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PEDRO GUERRA* Fundación para la Pesca Sostenida y Responsable de Túnidos ALVIN DELGADO Fundación para la Pesca Sostenida y Responsable de Túnidos JEIRIS GALICIA Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura	ELENA QUINTERO Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura MANUEL CORREIA Fundación para la Pesca Sostenida y Responsable de Túnidos ABELARDO RIERA Fundación para la Pesca Sostenida y Responsable de Túnidos

SECRETARÍA - SECRETARIAT	
ARNULFO FRANCO, Director MARISOL AGUILAR ALEX AIRES DA SILVA RICARDO BELMONTES DAN CREAM BARBARA CULLINGFORD ROLANDO DENIS MONICA GALVAN CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ JON LOPEZ MARK MAUNDER DIEGO MOJICA TERESA MUSANO	TERESA MUSANO JIMMY OLAYA REYES SANTIAGO OLIVARES BRIANNA PADILLA JORGE PARRAGA JEAN-FRANCOIS PULVENIS DE SÉLIGNY GABY RETANA MARLON ROMAN ARIADNA SOSA ENRIQUE UREÑA BRAD WILEY

***Head of Delegation-Jefe de Delegación**
 NOTE: IF YOUR INFORMATION IS INCORRECT, PLEASE LET US KNOW. THANKS.
 NOTA: SI SU INFORMACIÓN ES INCORRECTA, POR FAVOR DEJENOS SABER. GRACIAS.

Annex 2.

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AIDCP**

Lisboa, Portugal August 2026

PROPOSED RESOLUTION A-26-02

**CREATION OF A FUND FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS
AND ACTIONS DEVELOPED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AGREEMENT
ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

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

Reiterating their commitment to promoting the achievement of AIDCP's goals and objectives through their effective implementation;

Remembering 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 national legislation, the disclosure of information on the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification, as well as the promotion of AIDCP's objectives and an accurate public understanding of its dolphin protection measures;

Recalling also that, in these proceedings, the Meeting of the Parties agreed to disseminate objective information, among others, to importers, fishing organizations, and non-governmental organizations, using their own capacities in their internal and external markets to support an accurate public perception of the AIDCP and its objectives;

Highlighting that the work carried out within the framework of the AIDCP has been successful thanks to the efforts of governments, vessel owners, fishermen, and non-governmental organizations involved, which has made it possible to achieve a reduction in dolphin bycatch in the tuna purse seine fishery in compliance with the objective of Article II of the AIDCP to progressively reduce dolphin bycatch mortality to levels close to zero;

Recognizing that the AIDCP has been deserving of international recognition for its outstanding achievements in reducing dolphin bycatch, including the Margarita Lizárraga Medal for responsible fishing, awarded by the FAO in 2005;

Whereas, to give due publicity to the achievements and work carried out within the framework of the AIDCP, the Parties decided to create a Working Group to promote and publicize the Dolphin Safe AIDCP certification system, which has been operating since 2003;

Taking note that the 51st Meeting of the Parties adopted the recommendation to instruct the Working Group “to entrust the Secretariat to coordinate a consultation process among the Parties during the intersessional period to formulate a proposal on the Terms of Reference for the Special Fund to promote and publicize the AIDCP, to be presented at the next AIDCP meeting in 2026.

Having reviewed this proposal,

They agree:

To create a Fund to support the development and dissemination of materials agreed upon by the Meeting of the Parties, to promote awareness of the AIDCP and the achievements attained within the framework of the Agreement, which will be governed and administered in accordance with the following Terms of Reference:

1. General objective of the Fund.

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

2. Specific objectives.

- To 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.
- To disseminate to the public, in accessible language, the scientific, technical, and management results derived from the implementation of the Agreement (bycatch reports, good fishing practices, regulatory improvements, research for stock assessment, etc.).
- To strengthen the capacities of key actors (fishers, competent authorities, among others) in terms of good practices and compliance with the Agreement, through dissemination materials and activities.

3. Scope of the Fund

The Fund will be able to finance:

- Development and production of outreach materials (brochures, infographics, videos, podcasts, radio segments, websites, social media content).
- Mass and segmented communication campaigns (in traditional and digital media).
- Workshops, conferences, seminars, educational modules and activities: the activities and achievements of the AIDCP.
- Development of content for the ongoing training of onboard observers, crews, and other relevant actors.
- Other actions consistent with the objectives of paragraph 1 of this Resolution that may be approved by the Parties to the AIDCP.

4. Operating principles

- Conservation approach: All activities must contribute, directly or indirectly, to improving the dissemination of the AIDCP and its knowledge by the public, as well as to the fulfillment of the AIDCP's objectives. 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 Working Group on Promotion, on financial information and results of the funded projects.

- Participation Definition and design of dissemination and promotion activities through the AIDCP Promotion Working Group, suggestions from donor agencies, the industry, environmental organizations, and the Parties to the AIDCP.
- Financial sustainability: Actively seeking co-financing and partnerships that allow for the continuity of actions beyond the initial resources of the Fund.

5. Fund Governance

The Fund will be under the leadership of the AIDCP Secretariat, which will act in accordance with the mandate given to it by the AIDCP Meeting of the Parties.

The AIDCP Working Group on Promotion shall submit to the Parties an annual work plan, including the proposed projects and their respective budgets, for approval by the AIDCP. The Meeting of the Parties shall review and, if necessary, approve the AIDCP promotion work plan in accordance with the resources available in the Fund and shall also examine the reports submitted by the AIDCP Secretariat on:

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

6. Sources of financing

The financial resources that will make up the Fund will 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 Parties to the AIDCP.

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

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