

11TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

LIMA (PERU)
9 JUNE 2004

DOCUMENT MOP-11-07

PER-STOCK MORTALITY LIMITS FOR 2004

This proposal was prepared for the 10th Meeting of the Parties in October 2003 (Proposal MOP-10-13 A1), but was not discussed due to lack of time. If it is agreed, it would replace the current [Procedures for implementing Stock Mortality Limits](#), approved in June 2002 (Appendix A).

PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES

A mortality limit will be calculated for each stock incidentally taken in the purse-seine fishery for yellowfin tuna (Table 1).

All stocks associated with the dolphin fishery shall receive a stock mortality limit (SML). Those stocks are highlighted in Table 1. The remaining stocks listed in Table 1 shall be monitored, although not on a real-time basis.

For the year 2004 the SML will be set at 0.1% of N_{min} , as established by the Parties.

The IATTC will continue to document the mortality of all species listed in the table and count that mortality against the 5,000 limit and the dolphin mortality limit (DML) for a vessel.

DISTRIBUTION AND MONITORING OF STOCK MORTALITY LIMITS

The IATTC will implement the system for 2004 as follows:

1. The IATTC places 2% of each SML into reserve to ensure that the individual SMLs are not exceeded.
2. IATTC and national program observers radio mortality reports for these stocks to the IATTC on a weekly basis.
3. The IATTC provides weekly dolphin mortality estimates by stock to the nations fishing in the EPO.
4. If the mortality for any stock for which an SML has been established reaches 70% and 90% of the SML, the Director will notify Parties immediately and request that they take such action as is necessary to avoid exceeding the limit.
5. If the SML for any stock is reached, the Director will notify the Parties immediately, and sets on that stock, in pure or mixed herds, shall cease for the remainder of the year. Each Party shall ensure that vessels under its jurisdiction cease making sets on that stock and on herds containing members of that stock.
6. If the SML for any given stock is exceeded, the amount of the excess will be subtracted from the SML established for the next year.
7. Preceding the Meeting of the Parties in 2005, the Working Group on per-stock, per-year dolphin mortality caps shall meet to review data from the first half of the year as well as any other relevant data and analyze, *inter alia*, the performance of the individual national fleets and their vessels in their interaction with the various stocks being monitored, including their expertise in effectively dealing with the behavior of the particular stocks. Such performance should be further measured in terms of other factors, including, *inter alia*, the number of sets on a particular stock *versus* observed

mortalities in those sets, the number and proportion of failed sets on such stocks, and tons of tuna landed per observed mortality per stock. The Working Group shall examine the estimates of mortality for the coastal spotted and Central American spinner stocks and consider whether more frequent monitoring is required.

8. The Working Group shall, on the basis of this review, present for the consideration of the Meeting of the Parties a proposal or proposals to revise the SMLs for the year 2005 and, if appropriate, for succeeding years. Such proposals may include modifications to the present system and for the allocation of national SMLs for all stocks or for those stocks where such an approach is warranted, and shall take into account the need not to prejudice the right and opportunity of vessels of Parties not previously allocated DMLs to participate in the fishery in accordance with the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program.
9. At the Meeting of the Parties in 2005, the Parties shall review the implementation of the global SML system and evaluate the proposals of the Working Group.

TABLE 1. Per-stock estimates of abundance (N) and minimum abundance (N_{min}), 0.1% N_{min} stock mortality limits (SMLs), and 2002 dolphin mortality. (N and N_{min} values for illustrative purposes only.)

Stock	N (x 1000)	N_{min} (x 1000)	0.1% N_{min}		2002 Mortality
			Current	Revised	
Spotted dolphin (<i>Stenella attenuata</i>)					
Northeastern stock	641.1	556.9	649	557	442
Western/Southern stock	836.1	650.9	1,145	651	203
Coastal stock	143.7	107.2	22	107	
Spinner dolphin (<i>Stenella longirostris</i>)					
Eastern stock	448.6	370.8	518	371	405
Whitebelly stock	608.4	448.1	872	448	186
Central American stock	(16.4)	-	-		
Common dolphins (<i>Delphinus delphis</i> & <i>D. capensis</i>)					
Northern stock	713.7	562.7	563		69
Central stock	239.4	207.3	207		155
Southern stock	2,210.9	1,845.6	1,846		4
Striped dolphins (<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>)	1,918.0	1,745.9	1,746		
Fraser's dolphin (<i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i>)	289.3	219.8	220		
Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)	243.5	192.3	192		
Risso's dolphin (<i>Grampus griseus</i>)	175.8	128.9	129		
Rough-toothed dolphin (<i>Steno bredanensis</i>)	145.9	112.2	112		
Pilot whale (<i>Globicephala spp.</i>)	160.2	142.7	143		
Melon-headed whale (<i>Peponocephala electra</i>)	45.4	31.2	31		
Pacific white-sided dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>)	11.2	8.4	8		
Pygmy killer whale (<i>Feresa attenuata</i>)	38.9	30.3	30		
False killer whale (<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>)	39.8	24.4	24		
Killer whale (<i>Orcinus orca</i>)	8.5	6.3	6		

Abundance estimates (N) from Wade and Gerrodette (1993), and unpublished data for northern and central common dolphins. Estimates of minimum abundance (N_{min}) calculated from PBR guidelines in Wade and Angliss (1997).

Appendix A.

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM ACUERDO SOBRE EL PROGRAMA INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACION DE LOS DELFINES

7^a REUNION DE LAS PARTES – 7TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

MANZANILLO (MEXICO)
24 JUN 2002

PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING STOCK MORTALITY LIMITS (SMLs)

1. The Secretariat shall monitor the mortalities of the following seven stocks of dolphins for the purpose of ensuring that the respective SMLs are not exceeded:

	Stock		
Offshore spotted dolphin:	northeastern	western-southern	
Spinner dolphin:	eastern	whitebelly	
Common dolphin:	northern	central	southern

2. The basis for monitoring shall be weekly reports of dolphin mortalities by stock, transmitted by all observers from the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program directly to the Secretariat by fax, e-mail, or radio from vessels at sea.
3. The Secretariat shall, on the basis of these reports, estimate the projected total annual mortality of each stock. These estimates shall be provided weekly to the participating governments, which shall provide them to vessel owners and operators. Such information shall also be provided to the NGO members of the IRP by the Secretariat.
4. If the estimated total mortality for any of the seven stocks reaches 75% of the SML for that stock, the Secretariat shall so advise the participating governments, and observers will be notified that the at-sea reports must be transmitted twice weekly.
5. If the estimated total mortality for any of the seven stocks reaches a level at which the Secretariat estimates that the SML for that stock will be reached in 30 days, the Secretariat shall advise the participating governments that restrictions on the fishery are imminent, and recommend that the governments so notify the owners and operators of vessels under their jurisdiction.
6. If the estimated total mortality for any of the seven stocks reaches a level at which the Secretariat estimates that the SML for that stock will be reached in 15 days or less, the Secretariat shall advise the participating governments that, pursuant to the AIDCP, all sets on that stock and on any mixed herds containing members of that stock should cease effective from the day on which that SML is expected to be reached.
7. All participating governments shall take the necessary measures, in accordance with their national laws, to ensure that the restrictions in paragraph 6 are implemented and enforced, and shall provide the Secretariat with appropriate information regarding such implementation and enforcement.