

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

42ND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP TO PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE THE DOLPHIN SAFE CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

AIDCP

Lisbon, Portugal

August 24, 2026

DOCUMENT DSP-42-01 (REV)

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A FUND FOR DISSEMINATING THE AIDCP AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

At its 41st meeting, the AIDCP Working Group to Promote and Publicize the Dolphin Safe Certification System requested that the Secretariat coordinate an intersessional consultation process among the Parties, with a view to developing a proposal on the terms of reference for a *FUND FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM (AIDCP)*.

In compliance with this mandate, the Secretariat prepared a draft of the terms of reference and circulated it to the Parties on 23 February 2026 for comments. The only comments received were from the United States and were circulated in August 11. To facilitate their identification, those comments are highlighted in the attached document in a different font color.

The attached document contains a draft Resolution establishing a Fund to finance activities for the promotion, dissemination, and public education of dolphin-protection measures under the AIDCP. It includes the Fund's general and specific objectives; the scope of activities it may finance; its operating principles, including a conservation approach, transparency and accountability, participation, and financial sustainability; its governance; possible sources of funding; and the duration and periodic review of the terms of reference.

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

**Lisbon, Portugal
Agosto 2026**

**RESOLUTION A-26-XX
CREATION OF A FUND FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF
ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIONS DEVELOPED UNDER THE
AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION
PROGRAM (AIDCP)**

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 Parties agreed on procedures for the certification of AIDCP Dolphin Safe tuna, which establish that due publicity shall be given to the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Certification and the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Label, through relevant communications to interested governmental and non-governmental entities;

Also recalling that, in those procedures, the Parties agreed to disseminate objective information, among others, to 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 governments, vessel owners, fishers and non-governmental organizations involved, which has made it possible to **achieve** a significant reduction of incidental dolphin mortality in purse-seine tuna fisheries ~~to a level close to statistical~~, **in furtherance of the AIDCP Art. II objective to progressively reduce incidental dolphin mortalities to levels approaching zero**;

Recognizing that the AIDCP has been the recipient of international recognition for its outstanding achievements in reducing incidental dolphin mortality, 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 Parties decided to create a Working Group on the promotion and dissemination of the 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 with the coordination of a process of intersessional consultations 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 AIDCP meeting in 2026*”;

Having reviewed this proposal,

Agree:

To create a Fund to support the creation and dissemination of materials, agreed by the Parties, to promote awareness of the AIDCP and 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, financially and strategically,~~ activities ~~of~~ **for the** promotion, dissemination and education **of information** on the dolphin protection measures implemented in the purse-seine tuna fishery, in accordance with the measures of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), ~~as well as with applicable international best practices and regulations.~~

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 derived from the implementation of the Agreement (reports on incidental mortality, best fishing practices, regulatory improvements, research for population assessment, etc.) **to the public.**
- Strengthen the capacities of key stakeholders (fishers, competent authorities, environmental organizations, among others) in matters of best practices and compliance with the Agreement, through dissemination materials and activities.

3. Scope of the Fund

The Fund may finance, ~~among others:~~

- Development and production of ~~dissemination~~ 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 educational activities in schools and tuna marketing centers on the activities and achievements of the AIDCP.
- Preparation of content for the continuous training of onboard observers, crew members and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Other actions consistent with the objectives in paragraph 1 of this Resolution that may be approved by the AIDCP Parties.**

4. Operating principles

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

- Participation: Definition and design of promotion and dissemination activities through the AIDCP Promotion Working Group, as well as ~~base on~~ **incorporating** suggestions that may come from donor entities and environmental organizations.
- Financial sustainability: Active search for co-financing and partnerships that 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 ~~AIDCP technical~~ **Secretariat**, which shall act in accordance with the mandate granted by the Meeting of the AIDCP Parties.

The AIDCP **Promotion Working Group** shall submit an annual work plan to the Parties, **including proposed projects and their budgets for AIDCP approval. The AIDCP Parties** ~~shall approve the annual work plan recommended by the AIDCP Promotion Working group, in accordance with the resolutions available in the Fund, and~~ shall **also** review the reports that the AIDCP Secretariat shall submit 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 ~~linked to the AIDCP and the IATTC~~.
- **Voluntary** contributions from the tuna industry (vessel owners, processors, marketers) ~~including annual fees calculated based on the vessels well volume in cubic meters or other agree criteria~~.
- Voluntary contributions from multilateral organizations, environmental organizations and private foundations.
- **Contributions** Funds generated through other financial mechanisms agreed by the AIDCP Parties.

7. Term of validity and review of the TOR

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