INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL (IRP)

77TH MEETING

Lisbon, Portugal

24 August 2026

DOCUMENT IRP-77-03

CASES OF POSSIBLE NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE *OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS* DESCRIBED IN ANNEX VIII OF THE AIDCP AND OCCURRED SINCE THE 76TH MEETING (AND PREVIOUS CASES NOT REVIEWED YET)

During the period since the 76th Meeting of the IRP, the Secretariat reviewed the data from 762 fishing trips. No possible non-compliance cases that the IRP identifies at predetermined form were submitted to the Secretariat. During the course of its own review, however, the Secretariat identified four possible non-compliance cases. These require analysis by the IRP, which must then provide guidance to the Secretariat at its meeting.

The cases set out in the table below are those requiring the Panel's analysis and subsequent guidance to the Secretariat.

	Pescar sin PPD Fishing w/out DSP	Lance sin retroceso Set w/out backdown	Embolsamiento de delfines Dolphins sack-up
Número de casos Number of cases	2	1	1

Overview of the cases to be reviewed by the panel:

20260185: **Set without the required backdown:**

During set No. 34 on tuna associated with dolphins, the backdown required under the *Operational Requirements for Vessels* was not performed. The captain told the observer that he would release the *ortza* of the net to free the dolphins, as no tuna had been caught.

20260460: **Fishing without DSP:**

During the 10th set of the trip, the net tore in the section of the Dolphin Safety Panel (DSP), and the vessel returned to port. There, the crew decided to remove the DSP and continue fishing without it, targeting schools of tuna not associated with dolphins.

20260538: **Fishing without PPD:**

This trip was carried out without the *Dolphin Safety Panel* (DSP) requirement under the *Operational Requirements for Vessels*, as that section of the net was under repair. The crew decided to fish without a DSP installed, targeting schools of tuna not associated with dolphins.

20251039: **Set with dolphins' sack-up:**

This trip involved a vessel with no Dolphin Mortality Limit (DML) assigned that accidentally captured two dolphins. Thus, this vessel is exempt from the *Dolphin Safety Gear and Equipment Requirements* set out in the *Operational Requirements for Vessels*, it remains bound, however, by the obligation to release any accidental capture using all means at its disposal.

The set was made on a floating object with an exceptionally large tuna catch. The observer stated in his report that the crew did not observe the dolphins during the set, and that he saw them only briefly during the sacking-up of the tuna and that, later, when he saw them again in the sack, they were already dead.