

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
34TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

La Jolla, California (USA)

10 October 2016

PROPOSAL MOP-34 A-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING OBSERVER SAFETY AT SEA

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

Taking into account that observers collect data that is essential to the functions of the AIDCP and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and that the safety of observers is critical to their ability to perform their duties;

Recognizing that purse-seine vessels are required to carry observers under requirements of the AIDCP;

Concerned that there are no established observer safety equipment requirements for the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program and that these requirements may vary among the Parties' respective national observer programs; and

Considering that consistent safety requirements should apply to all observers operating within the legal and institutional framework of the AIDCP;

Resolve as follows:

In accordance with paragraph 3 of Article XXX of the Agreement, Annex II of the Agreement is amended by adding a new paragraph 7 to read as follows, and renumbering current paragraphs 7 through 13 accordingly:

7. Observer Safety

- a. The AIDCP On-Board Observer Program and the Parties' respective national observer programs shall ensure that, when observers embark on a vessel for a trip, they are provided with (1) an independent two-way satellite communication device, and (2) a waterproof personal life-saving beacon. This may consist of a single device, such as a "Satellite Emergency Notification Device", or a combination of an independent two-way satellite-based device, such as a satellite telephone, and a portable lifesaving beacon, such as a Personal Locator Beacon or Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon. These devices must be approved by the AIDCP observer program.
- b. The AIDCP On-Board Observer Program and the Parties' respective national observer programs must have a designated person or persons responsible for monitoring the signal from the observers' satellite communication devices at all times.
- c. The AIDCP On-Board Observer Program and the Parties' respective national observer programs must have an established procedure for a designated person or persons to contact the observer, the vessel, and, if necessary, the competent authority of the Party with jurisdiction over the vessel; this procedure must clearly describe the steps that must be taken in the event of various emergencies, including situations where an observer is assaulted, intimidated, interfered with or harassed while on board a vessel and/or the observer requests to be removed prior to the conclusion of the fishing trip.
- d. The AIDCP On-Board Observer Program and the Parties' respective national observer programs must provide safety training for observers, which must at a minimum meet the International Maritime Organization (IMO) safety training standards.