

**AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN
CONSERVATION PROGRAM
38th MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

La Jolla, California, USA
October 23, 2018

PROPOSAL MOP-38 A-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING OBSERVER SAFETY AT SEA: SAFETY EQUIPMENT

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

Taking into account that observers play a critical role in supporting effective management outcomes and; therefore, it is critical that measures are in place to ensure their safety while undertaking their duties;

Concerned that observers participating in the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program, which includes IATTC observers and the Parties' respective national observer programs, are not provided critical life-saving equipment;

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

Considering the Secretariat has conducted a cost analysis of providing an independent two-way satellite communication device (~~such as an inReach device~~), and (2) a personal life-saving beacon (~~such as a ResQLink~~) to observers in the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program (see examples in MOP-36 INF-A).

Resolve as follows:

~~1. Observer safety equipment~~

1. ~~[Pending confirmation of available funds] The Director Secretariat with respect the IATTC observer program and the flag State with respect to their respective national observer program The AIDCP On-Board Observer Program, which includes IATTC observers and the Parties' respective national observer programs,~~ shall ensure that, when observers embark on a vessel for a trip, they are provided with, and allowed to maintain possession while onboard (1) an independent two-way satellite communication device, and (2) a waterproof personal life-saving beacon. The devices shall be included on a list of approved devices maintained by the AIDCP observer program to ensure the reliability of the devices.
2. Parties with national observer programs that would like the AIDCP to cover the cost of equipment and the associated operating costs under this paragraph shall submit to the ~~Secretariat Director~~ an estimate of the number of devices required for their observers [by 1 January 2019].
3. ~~The Director Secretariat with respect the IATTC observer program and the flag State with respect to their respective national observer program The AIDCP On-Board Observer Program~~ shall have a designated person or persons ~~that whom~~ observers can contact in cases of emergency.

~~2. The equipment requirements of paragraph 1(a) are approved in principle, pending the confirmation of available funds.~~