

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL (IRP)
76TH MEETING

La Jolla, California, USA
October 22, 2025

MEETING REPORT
AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting 2. Adoption of the agenda 3. 3a Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) for 2025 3b Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2026 4. Review of AIDCP <i>List of Qualified Captains</i> 5. Review of cases with possible infractions (observer data) 6. Review of actions by the Parties regarding possible violations reported by the IRP: a) Actions taken since the report of the 75th meeting b) Status review of special cases 7. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking 8. Other business 9. Recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties 10. Election of the Coordinator 11. Date and place of next meeting 12. Adjournment	

ANNEX

1. List of attendees

The 76th meeting of the International Review Panel (IRP) was held on August 26, 2024, in Panama City, Panama. It started at 09:46 local time.

1. Opening of the meeting

M.Sc. Yarkelia Vergara, Chair of the AIDCP, gave the floor to Mr. Enrique Espinosa as Coordinator of this meeting.

This meeting was attended in person by delegations from Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela; and virtually, by delegations from the United States, Costa Rica, and Ecuador. Also participating as part of the Panel were industry representatives María Patricia Díaz from FIPESCA, and Rafael Trujillo from the Ecuadorian Chamber of Fisheries, as well as a representative of the environmental field, Dr. Joanna Castro.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted without any amendment. The Venezuelan delegation requested an update to the list of vessels flying their flag, as outlined in point 3, section b.

3a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2025

During the presentation of document IRP 76-01 by the Secretariat, carried out by Enrique Ureña, the details of DML use and dolphin mortality were reported with the information from 2025, available until October 15, 2025.

- 107 full-year limits were allocated: 89 used in the first quarter, 2 waived, 13 approved exemptions, 3 lost for not being used before April 1, 4 limits allocated by the Director's reserve for the second half (15 dolphins each), where 1 was used before October 1.
- Up to the date mentioned, the fleet carried out 9,449 sets on tuna associated with dolphins, with 750 dolphins caught incidentally, with a mortality per set of 0.08 and an average mortality of 7.9 dolphins per vessel.
- Distribution of cumulative mortality: 28 vessels with no mortality, 19 vessels with 1-5 dolphins, 16 vessels with 6-10 dolphins, 16 vessels with 11-15 dolphins, 11 vessels with 16-20 dolphins, and 5 vessels with 21-40 dolphins.

3b. Dolphin mortality limits for 2026

The DMLs requested for 2026 by flag were: Colombia 12, Ecuador 9, Mexico 47, Nicaragua 2, Panama 13, and Venezuela 20. In total, there were 103 DML applications.

The Panel decided to send the 103 applications for approval by Parties to the AIDCP.

4. Review of the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains

The secretariat presented document IRP 76-03, which indicates that during the period from August 14, 2025, to October 15, 2025, no applications were received to add captains, no captains were removed for violations, and there were no reinstatements to the list.

5. Review of data on cases of possible non-compliance (observer data).

The Secretariat presented document IRP 76-04 with the possible cases that require analysis by the Panel. This report states that during the period since the 75th Meeting of the Parties in August 2025, the Secretariat received information of possible non-compliance on 177 fishing trips.

The Secretariat presented a report on a case of high mortality that was not properly reported on a trip corresponding to 2024. Following its analysis and discussion, the panel recommended referring this information to the relevant Party for investigation.

6. Review of actions by the Parties regarding possible violations reported by the IRP:

a. Actions taken since the report of the 75th meeting of the Panel

Document IRP 76-05 was presented, which records a case of possible harassment to the observer. No response was received from the ship's flag state. The Secretariat also reported that on this occasion,

there were no cases that lasted two years or more and that needed to be updated. The last response for 2 existing cases was on October 16, 2025, and they remain under investigation.

b. Status review of special cases

The Secretariat reported that with respect to case 74-01, the relevant Party provided an update on the process following the statements requested from the observer for the study of this case and its subsequent investigation.

7. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking

The Chair of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking, Ms. Jeiris Galicia, presented her report to the Panel. She stated that the agenda was adopted without any objection; the information from document TT 54-01 was presented with the update on the delivery of copies and originals of TTF documents, and it is worth mentioning that there is 99% compliance in the delivery of such documents to the Secretariat.

8. Other business

No other matters were presented at this meeting.

9. Recommendations to the AIDCP Meeting of the Parties.

The Panel agreed on the following recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties:

- To send the extraordinary case of high mortality that was not properly reported by the observer to the appropriate party for its respective investigation.
- To approve the allocation of the 103 applications of DMLs by 2026.

10. Election of the coordinator.

It was proposed and unanimously accepted to continue with Mr. Enrique Espinosa to take charge of the coordination of this Panel. Mr. Espinosa accepted and thanked the group for entrusting him to continue coordinating the IRP.

11. Date and place of next meeting.

The Panel's next meeting will take place together with the next AIDCP meeting, on a date to be confirmed, in the European Union in 2026.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. local time in La Jolla, California.

Annex.

ASISTENTES - ATTENDEES	
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