

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

4TH MEETING

BUSAN (KOREA)

22 JUNE 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Recommendation on calculation of standard for N_{min}
4. Review of the SAB work plan
5. Other business
6. Place and date of next meeting
7. Adjournment

Meeting documents: see <http://www.iattc.org/IATTCandAIDCPMeetingsJune06ENG.htm>

The fourth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) was held in Busan, Korea, on 22 June 2006. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

Dr. Robin Allen, Director of the IATTC, welcomed the participants, and noted that several Board members were unable to attend.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Recommendation on calculation for N_{min}

Dr. Allen noted that, at its last meeting, the members deferred making recommendations regarding the [Report](#) from the Technical Workshop, held in August 2005 in La Jolla, on calculating the minimum estimated abundance (N_{min}) of dolphin stocks of the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). The Board considered the recommendation from the Technical Workshop on a calculation for N_{min} using the most recent population estimates for the abundance of dolphin stocks. The SAB agreed that the population model used by the Technical Workshop was appropriate, but that it was premature to recommend the adoption of the calculation proposed by the Technical Workshop as the calculation standard for N_{min} .

4. Review of the SAB work

Dr. Allen introduced Document [SAB-04-04](#), which described the current work plan of the SAB.

1. **Prevalence and significance of cow-calf separation:** Dr. Allen indicated that papers were recently published on the subject and noted in the document. He noted that it would not be practical that the IATTC perform this type of research.
2. **Life history and fishery-related stress effects studies:** Dr. Allen indicated that obtaining sufficient samples was a problem, given the low mortality. As a planning step, Dr. Dreyfus volunteered to report on the number of trips that would be necessary to obtain adequate sample sizes, and offered to work with the Mexican fleet in helping to obtain samples. Dr. Allen noted that, if samples beyond

those provided by the Mexican fleet were needed, the Secretariat would assist in coordinating the work.

3. **Review of currently available estimates of abundance for dolphin stocks:** The SAB discussed the report of the August 2005 Technical Workshop, which incorporated the preliminary results of the 2003 survey. The SAB agreed that fitting the logistic model to the time series of estimates provided by the US NOAA Fisheries surveys, as concluded by the Workshop, provided the best method of combining the individual abundance estimates. A new survey is scheduled for 2006.
4. **Stock assessment of coastal spotted dolphins:** It was noted that the study is pending until 2007, with details to be confirmed between Mexico and the United States. Mr. Rusin described the proposed coastal survey cruise. Dr. Compeán stressed the importance of the US coordinating its cruises with the IATTC.
5. **Ecosystem effects:** Mr. Rusin provided an update on the project to recover the EASTROPAC data from the 1970s, and indicated that a graduate student was analyzing the data.
6. **Mortality estimates:** Dr. Allen noted that no observers have been placed on class-5 vessels, but unloadings have been monitored to detect catch compositions that are typical of sets on yellowfin associated with dolphins. Dr. Compeán suggested that NMFS fund an increase of the sampling of class-5 vessels, and indicated that the SAB should recommend this to encourage port sampling of these vessels.
7. **Population modeling:** Dr. Allen noted that, with the departure of Dr. Simon Hoyle from the IATTC staff, the IATTC would not make much progress on this item until his replacement can focus on it at some point in future.
8. **Gear technology and fishing techniques to improve dolphin release:** Dr. Dreyfus indicated that the Mexican National Program had revisited the use of plastic panels ('*alergones*') in the dolphin safety panel, and that soon they were going to conduct experiments with this gear. He noted that the first results with the device were inconclusive because of the poor fishing. Dr. Dreyfus also indicated that the Mexican National Program contacted the Venezuelan National Program, but no captain had agreed to use this gear. There was no update on the use of current profilers. Dr. Compeán noted that the original problem with these was the prohibitive costs, and that they would have to analyze the costs again. Dr. Compeán expressed interest in pursuing a research experiment using rigid nets as part of the dolphin release process, noting that such nets are currently used in transporting live bluefin tuna to pens.
9. **Capture of mature tuna not in association with dolphins:** Dr. Compeán indicated that observers were recently placed on longliners in Mexico to determine whether this gear could catch large yellowfin tuna. As the data become available, the results would be made accessible to this group. Dr. Ariz noted that in other oceans these aggregations were thought to be related to reproductive conditions.
10. **Passively induced transponders (PIT) for tagging of dolphins:** Dr. Allen gave an update on the proposal, noting that the support from the company that manufactured the transponders had disappeared. The group recommended that since there had not been any progress on this item, it should be dropped from the work plan.

5. Other business

There was no other business to discuss.

6. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the SAB will take place in June 2007 at the time of the meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on June 22, 2006.

Appendix 1.

ATTENDEES – ASISTENTES

BOARD MEMBERS – MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO

JAVIER ARÍZ TELLERÍA

Instituto Español de Oceanografía

GUILLERMO COMPEÁN

Instituto Nacional de la Pesca de México

MICHEL DREYFUS

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ALVIN DELGADO

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OBSERVERS - OBSERVADORES

JEREMY RUSIN

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

LUÍS TORRES

Ministerio de Comercio Exterior, Industrialización,
Pesca y Competitividad

LARA K. MANARANGI-TROTT

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency

MARCIAL LIZÁRRAGA

FEMA

SECRETARIAT – SECRETARÍA

ROBIN ALLEN, Director

ERNESTO ALTAMIRANO

DAVID BRATTEN

ALEJANDRA FERREIRA

MÓNICA GALVÁN

BRIAN HALLMAN

NICHOLAS WEBB