

**AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM**  
**46<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

Victoria, B.C., Canada  
01 August 2023

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Report of the <i>ad hoc</i> plenary meeting on the utilization of the AIDCP surplus	
4. AIDCP Budget	<a href="#">AIDCP-46-01</a>
5. Report of the 36 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System	
6. Report of the 71 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the International Review Panel (IRP)	
7. Other business	
8. Place and date of next meeting	
9. Adjournment	

**APPENDICES**

1. List of attendees
2. Report of the *ad hoc* plenary meeting on the utilization of the AIDCP surplus
3. Proposal of the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties on the use of the surplus (August 2023)

The 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) was held in Victoria, B.C., Canada, on 01 August 2023.

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP, Mr. Alvin Delgado, of Venezuela.

The quorum required to hold the meeting was confirmed by the participation of 13 of the 16 AIDCP Parties and Participants. Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, United States, Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, United States and Venezuela participated in person, and Bolivia and Vanuatu participated virtually.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was approved with a change in the order of the items so that the AIDCP budget would be considered after the report of the *ad hoc* plenary meeting on the utilization of the AIDCP surplus.

It was also noted that under agenda item 7, "Other business", consideration would be given to the composition of the AIDCP Scientific Advisory Board and the appointment of its members.

**3. Report of the *ad hoc* plenary meeting on the utilization of the AIDCP surplus**

At the opening of the meeting, the Chair reported that the Secretariat had recently informed him of the

existence of a deficit in the implementation of the AIDCP budget for 2022, a deficit that was also expected for 2023. Thus, the parameters under which the Parties had met in February 2023 to discuss the use of unspent funds up to 2021 had changed significantly. Perhaps it was now necessary to decide whether these funds should be used to cover the deficit for 2022 and 2023.

Several delegations expressed disappointment that this information had not been shared in advance, especially when the circumstances of the discussion of an item announced in the adopted provisional agenda had changed so radically; and even more so when the Parties were prepared to continue the discussion initiated in February on the use of an alleged surplus and they now had to deal with a deficit.

Despite this unforeseen situation, the Chair, together with the Vice-Chair, Mr. Julio Guevara, presented the report of the *ad hoc* plenary meeting under this agenda item, which is available on the IATTC website ([INF-A\(a\). Chairs and Vice-Chairs report re. Ad hoc meeting of the whole on the surplus](#)) and reproduced as Appendix 2 of these minutes.

Both emphasized the proposal they had presented to use the unspent funds up to 2021 in the following items and percentages:

1. To cover the increase in observer remuneration for 3 years, from 2024 to 2026, for both IATTC and national program observers (42%).
2. Conduct dolphin-related research (44%).
3. To finance the promotion of the achievements of the AIDCP, as recommended by the Promotion Working Group and approved by the Parties (5%).
4. To work on the issue of safety of observers at sea (4% of the surplus for 3 years, from 2024 to 2026).
5. To have a reasonable and necessary contingency fund to ensure the continuation of the program and its execution (5%).

They reported that, as there had been difficulties in reaching agreement on item 1 on the use of the unspent funds including the national programs, they had submitted a revised proposal, which is available on the IATTC website ([INF-A\(b\). Use of the AIDCP surplus Chairs and Vice-Chairs proposal \(revised\)](#)) and reproduced as Appendix 3 of these minutes.

The Parties requested more time to review the new proposal and that neither proposal be withdrawn for the time being, although it was clear that the priority for the time being should be the AIDCP budget, and particularly how to address the budget deficit situation for the years 2022 and 2023.

During the discussion, in addition to the criticisms and questions raised by the participants regarding the administrative work of the Secretariat in the implementation and monitoring of the budget that had led to this situation, several comments were made, including the following:

- The Mexican delegation recalled the agreement reached at the 2019 annual meetings in Bilbao, Spain, regarding the impossibility of using any surplus without an explicit decision by the Parties; consequently, the surplus could not automatically be used to cover the deficit for the years 2022 and 2023 unless the Parties explicitly agreed to do so. This position was contested by the United States delegation, which pointed out that any surplus should be used to cover a deficit and that there was no impediment to doing so in the current IATTC financial regulations.
- Some Parties noted that it is inefficient to keep unused financial resources idle because they depreciate (Colombia) and should at least be deposited in interest-bearing accounts (United States).
- Despite the new situation, an increase in observer remuneration cannot be postponed; regardless of the need to resolve the deficit situation, it is imperative to use part of the surplus to ensure this increase (Colombia, Nicaragua, United States).

- Some Parties emphasized the need to work on the AIDCP financial regulations in addition to reviewing and updating the IATTC financial regulations, as these govern the administrative and financial practices of the Secretariat. The Director, Dr. Arnulfo Franco, and other staff present noted that this work had already begun and that it was expected that a document would be presented soon for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties and by the Commission at its annual meeting next year.

#### 4. AIDCP Budget

Ms. Nora Roa, of the Secretariat, presented document [AIDCP-46-01](#) on the AIDCP budget, which provides information on the results of the financial activity for 2022, the projected budget for 2023 and the recommended budget for 2024. She mentioned that there was a deficit of US\$ 275,679 for 2022 and an expected deficit of US\$ 21,360 for 2023; while the recommended budget for 2024 is US\$ 3,302,091.

She emphasized that the Secretariat continues to recommend that the daily pay rate for IATTC observers be increased by US\$ 10 in 2024, which would result in a total increase of US\$ 231,000, or US\$ 260,000 if advance compensation for tax payments and other benefits and allowances are included in this remuneration. An additional increase of US\$ 10 is also proposed for 2025.

She explained that Table 2 of document AIDCP-46-01 described how US\$ 275,679 were taken from the unspent funds up to 2021 to cover the deficit recorded in 2022 (US\$ 275,679). As a result, the amount of unspent resources up to 2021 was reduced from US\$ 2,430,492 to US\$ 2,154,813. Finally, she reported that, as shown in Table 4 of the document, as of 30 June 2023, thirteen vessels had outstanding payments from 2012 to 2023 totaling US\$ 638,851, of which US\$ 382,200 pertains to the IATTC observer program, and the remainder, US\$ 256,652, to two national programs.

One delegation asked why the cost of the program in Table 1, Section B, related to the cost of administrative staff at the IATTC headquarters had changed by approximately 53%, since it was US\$ 383,293 in 2021 and US\$ 727,742 in 2022, and specifically asked whether this was due to a salary increase. The Secretariat reported that there had been a correction in the accounting system, as funds had previously been taken from IATTC resources to cover staff salaries for activities related to the AIDCP and should have been taken from that line item. This was corrected in 2022, resulting in such a difference. The new IATTC staff organization chart approved at the Bilbao meeting in 2021 resulted in this redefinition of tasks and staff time between the IATTC and the AIDCP, with the corresponding percentage reallocation of budget.

The Meeting of the Parties was unable to reach agreement on the budget. It expressed the need for more complete and precise information in order to make a decision, so the issue was left open for consideration at the next meeting in October 2023.

As with the previous item, several comments were made during the discussion, including the following:

- It is imperative that the documentation be provided well in advance so that it can be properly analyzed by the Parties prior to the meeting. For this reason, the Secretariat was requested to provide the documentation by mid-September 2023 at the latest. A repetition of the current situation, where the existence of a deficit was reported at the start of the meeting, is not acceptable. To avoid this, the Secretariat should provide quarterly reports on the current budget execution.
- Similarly, the financial regulations should be reviewed, updated and completed to ensure consistency with best accounting practices and to adequately cover all possible situations (e.g., transfer of items), as well as to define the movements that should not be made without the prior knowledge of the Parties; this definition is particularly necessary when such movements may have a lasting impact and affect both the AIDCP and the IATTC. There should be the utmost budgetary discipline to avoid, among other things, spending more than the approved budget or income.
- Unspent funds up to 2021 cannot be used automatically or discretionarily without a decision by the Meeting of the Parties. For the time being, this surplus should be considered frozen.

- An informal group should be established to work virtually with the Secretariat on these issues to ensure better preparation of the Meetings of the Parties.

The Secretariat echoed the statements made under the previous agenda item regarding the imperative and urgent need to increase the remuneration of observers, especially since this had not been done for many years, with a considerable decrease in the corresponding purchasing power, making it increasingly difficult to recruit new observers.

The Chair noted that, for the time being, this could only be done by increasing vessel assessments; for illustrative purposes, the Secretariat reported that a 5% increase in the remuneration would result in an increase of US\$ 1.56 per cubic meter (for a total of US\$ 16.51 instead of US\$ 14.95).

#### **5. Report of the 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System**

The report of the Working Group was presented by its Chair, Mr. Bernal Chavarría (Guatemala). He noted that the recommendations of the Group were as follows:

- a. Instruct the Secretariat to continue to coordinate with the Museum of Natural History of New York City for the purpose of possibly updating the content exhibited in that museum regarding the tuna-dolphin relationship and determining the corresponding costs. The Secretariat will submit this information to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration prior to implementation.
- b. Encourage the Parties to identify other museums or exhibits that would be useful for the purpose of publicizing the objectives and results of the AIDCP and thereby improving the positioning of knowledge about the AIDCP among the general public, especially tuna consumers.
- c. That the Secretariat maintain an open space for consultation with the Parties to identify areas for updating the information contained in the audiovisual materials maintained in the AIDCP dissemination media.
- d. That the Secretariat include in AIDCP audiovisual materials the objectives and scientific advances related to, or derived from, the cow-calf separation study.
- e. That the Secretariat prepare a base document on the strategy for the use of social media within the framework of the AIDCP, based on the following elements:
  - Whether or not to individualize the AIDCP and IATTC social media channels without losing the link between the two management frameworks.
  - The usefulness and necessity of creating a specialized area in the Secretariat for social media management.
  - The establishment of a group composed of the Parties that will be able to know and recommend the content to be published prior to its approval by the Parties.
  - Any other element needed to develop a robust and timely social media strategy.
- f. Instruct the Secretariat to participate in the BBNJ implementation process to report and record the progress and advances of the conservation and sustainability work of the AIDCP and the IATTC as part of the coordination process between the various frameworks, instruments and specialized bodies, so that the conservation and sustainability objective is achieved in a coordinated manner and without duplicating or interfering with the competencies of constituted bodies with relevant track records, such as the AIDCP and the IATTC.

The Meeting of the Parties took note of these recommendations and approved them.

## 6. Report of the 71<sup>st</sup> meeting of the International Review Panel (IRP)

Mr. Enrique de la Vega, in his capacity as the Presider of the IRP, reported that the Panel issued the following recommendation:

- Request the Secretariat to prepare an updated proposal to amend the procedures for maintaining the List of Qualified Captains to include, *inter alia*, the validity of the AIDCP training seminars, primarily by establishing a period of validity for captain training courses to be considered valid by the Secretariat in requests to add captains to the List of Qualified Captains. In addition, prepare a proposal for training on AIDCP regulations for crew members other than captains. Submit these proposals to the Parties for inter-sessional discussion and consideration for possible adoption at the next meeting of the IRP.

This recommendation was approved by the Meeting of the Parties.

## 7. Other business

### a) AIDCP Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)

The Director reported that, in accordance with the provisions of Annex V, paragraph 3, of the AIDCP regarding the SAB, a list of 10 individuals proposed by the Secretariat to constitute the SAB had been circulated to all Parties to the AIDCP. As there were no objections to the nomination of these individuals, the AIDCP SAB would be comprised of the following individuals:

Name	Area of expertise	Academic or employment background
Compeán Guillermo	Scientist	Former Director of Mexico's Dolphin-Tuna Program and former Director of the IATTC. Currently serves as an advisor to the Pacific Tuna Alliance.
De la Vega Enrique	Fishing gear expert	Head of the Colombian observer program.
Delgado Alvin	Scientist	Head of the Venezuelan observer program and current Chair of the AIDCP.
Dreyfus Michel	Scientist	Currently works in the Mexican observer program.
Espinosa Enrique	Fishing gear expert	Head of Panama's observer program.
Guerrero Pablo	Environmentalist	Former observer in the purse-seine fleet and currently works for WWF.
Guevara Julio	Fishing gear expert	Former observer in the purse-seine fleet and currently Nicaragua's representative in IATTC and AIDCP meetings.
Matt Leslie	Science Professor	International Climate Policy and Biodiversity Fellow at the U.S. Geological Survey's National Climate Adaptation Science Center.
Morán Guillermo	Fishing gear expert	Former Chair of the IATTC and currently head of the TUNACONS observer program in Ecuador.
Weller Dave	Scientist	Head of the Turtle and Marine Mammal Division of the NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

### b) Research on possible cow-calf separation during fishing operations on dolphins

Dr. Alexandre Aires-da-Silva, IATTC Scientific Research Coordinator, reported on the progress in the implementation of the research project on possible cow-calf separation during fishing operations on dolphins, with extra-budgetary funding and logistical support from the Pacific Alliance for Sustainable Tuna, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding of 24 May 2002, which is available on the Commission's website. After a first pilot phase in Portugal in June, the second phase will be carried out starting on 10

August, with a 15-day cruise aboard a Mexican tuna vessel departing from the port of Mazatlán. The final phase is scheduled for October-November. He recalled that, among other things, the behavior of the dolphins will be recorded using drones.

**8. Place and date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in October 2023 in La Jolla, California at a date to be determined.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was not formally adjourned, and it was expected that a new session would be held in the margins of the IATTC meetings in the following days, but in the end this did not happen.

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## APPENDIX 1. List of attendees

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**APPENDIX 2.** Report of the ad hoc plenary meeting on the utilization of the AIDCP surplus

**AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

**46<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

Victoria, B.C., Canada.

1 August 2023

**DOCUMENT AIDCP-46 INF-A(a) REV.  
REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

***AD HOC MEETING OF THE WHOLE ON THE AIDCP SURPLUS UTILIZATION (La Jolla, California, EE.UU., 6-7 February 2023)***

**AGENDA**

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1. Opening of the meeting
  2. Discussion of the proposal for the utilization of the AIDCP surplus submitted by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Meeting of the Parties
  3. Other matters
  4. Closure
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**ANNEXES**

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1. List of participants
  2. Chair's and Vice-Chair's revised proposal
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On February 6 and 7, the Ad Hoc Meeting of the Whole on the utilization of the AIDCP surplus was held in La Jolla, California, United States, both in person and by video conference. The United States, Nicaragua, Mexico and Venezuela participated in person, and Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador and Guatemala participated by video conference.

**Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP, Mr. Alvin Delgado of Venezuela.

**Discussion of the proposal for the utilization of the AIDCP surplus submitted by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Meeting of the Parties**

The joint proposal of the Chair and Vice Chair, Messrs. Alvin Delgado and Julio Guevara of Venezuela and Nicaragua, respectively, was presented. The proposal consists of the way in which the accumulated surplus of the AIDCP, which as of December 31, 2021, reached an amount of \$US 2,430,492, could be utilized.

This proposal stipulates a percentage distribution for the following five items: (a) increase in the daily remuneration of observers during the days at sea; (b) investigation of issues related to the AIDCP; (c)

publicizing the achievements of the AIDCP; (d) safety of observers at sea; (e) a contingency fund to cover possible eventualities not contemplated in the AIDCP budget.

In general terms, the proposal was received positively by the participants, who recognized in particular its comprehensive nature in that it took into account the different components that could benefit from the surplus resources. However, in view of the need to clarify several points, the meeting proceeded to review the proposal item by item.

It should be noted that the Parties that had initially been in favor of using the surplus only for scientific research were willing to consider using it for the various purposes outlined in the proposal.

**a) Percentage to cover the daily remuneration of observers .**

It was emphasized that since 2014 there has been no increase in the daily remuneration of observers for days at sea observers. The proposal proposes that the AIDCP surplus cover the increase for all AIDCP observers, both national and IATTC.

One participant expressed that this increase should only be for IATTC observers since the National Programs, whose establishment and operation are the prerogative of the governments, should cover these costs.

The Chair and Vice Chair expressed the view that the AIDCP contemplated in its Annex II, paragraph 1, that there is only one program and, therefore, both the IATTC and national observer programs should be treated in the same way. Not all Parties agreed with this view, and discussion on the allocation of surplus funds to both the IATTC Observer Program and national programs did not reach consensus.

Additionally, it was contemplated that for 2027 and subsequent years the contributions per vessel should be increased. It was established that in order to calculate the rate for this percentage, the average number of days at sea for the 2017-2019 triennium, which were normal operating years, would be used, i.e. considering that the 2020-2021 period would not be included because they were years affected by the COVID pandemic. The approximate amount would be 42% of the surplus, i.e. US\$ 1,020,807.

**b) Percentage for dolphin-related research.**

As an introduction to this topic, the Secretariat made a presentation on two research projects that are currently being implemented or are about to be implemented: the first, on the separation of mother-calf dolphins in the purse-seine fishery, and the second, on the assessment of dolphin populations (see on the IATTC website: Proposals for scientific research on dolphins).

The first of the projects will be carried out entirely with contributions from the Mexican industry; while for the second, a pilot trial on new drone-based stock assessment methods has already been carried out. This pilot phase was also financed by the Mexican industry and was carried out on the Mexican government's research vessel Jorge Carranza.

It has been determined that it is important to carry out a second pilot study to refine the evaluation methods, which could be financed mostly with part of the surplus. At the end of the discussion of this item, one delegation expressed concern as to why research was not being carried out in other areas and/or species under the purview of the IATTC. It was explained that this project was on dolphins and that other research should be framed within the IATTC and the regulatory framework of the Antigua Convention. Another delegation requested that Parties be provided with an updated proposal for the dolphin abundance survey, including current figures on the budgetary requirements, so that an informed decision could be made on how much surplus funds should be allocated for this purpose.

US\$ 1,069,416 (44% of the surplus) could be allocated to this item; or US\$ 947,891 (39%) if approved. In the end, this item was left pending.

**c) Percentage for publicizing the achievements of the AIDCP.**

The proposal aims at allocating 5% of the surplus, i.e. 121,524, to this concept. One delegation reiterated its position that any funds allocated towards this purpose must be focussed on education of the public on the AIDCP and its achievements, and avoid any promotion of the AIDCP Dolphin-Safe label, which is not used by all Parties. After a brief discussion, some Parties suggested that it was important that this allocation be included; therefore, for the next Meeting of the Parties of the AIDCP a program should be presented on how this publicizing could best be carried out.

**d) Percentage to support the safety of observers at sea.**

The proposal considers that 4% of the surplus, or US\$97,220, be used for effective compliance with Resolution A-18-02 on observer safety at sea, for the next three years (2024-2026). There were no objections to this item and percentage.

**e) Percentage of coverage for eventualities not contemplated in the budget.**

The proposal indicates that part of the surplus should be used to maintain a reasonable and necessary fund to cover unforeseen events or contingencies that may arise and thus ensure the continued operation of the Program. The amount should be between 5% and 10%. This is still pending to be reviewed.

On the other hand, there was a discussion on income from outstanding contributions from vessels, which as of June 30, 2022, amounted to US\$ 671,548. In this case, it was concluded that the share corresponding to the IDCP and any possible surplus generated as of 2023, will be incorporated as income to the budget for the following year..

It was recalled that the Parties are responsible for the payments of the contributions of the vessels under their flag, including arrears, so that the capacity in terms of well volume of these vessels cannot be used as a transfer, concession, loan or charter with temporary transfer of capacity to another vessel or to another Party unless the corresponding arrears are previously paid. Also, the de-flagging or reflagging to other CPCs of any vessel that has outstanding contribution payments to the IDCP cannot be authorized or included in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register. Some participants considered, and it was so concluded, that this item should not be incorporated in the proposal on the utilization of the AIDCP surplus but rather in the proposal corresponding to the financing of the observer program of the Agreement.

In conclusion, although consensus was not reached to adopt this proposal on the utilization of the surplus, considerable progress was made, which points to the possibility of its approval at the next meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP.

The participating Parties agreed that it is very important to utilize the surplus due to the fact that it is devaluing as a result of inflation, and additionally there should be a mechanism for managing possible future surpluses. Finally, it was also recognized that work should be done to establish financial rules for the AIDCP, as is the case with the IATTC. The Chair undertook, together with the Vice-Chair, to present a proposal in this respect at the next meeting.

**Other matters**

None.

## Closure

The meeting was closed at 3 PM on 7 February 2023.

### Annex 1

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**USE OF THE BUDGET SURPLUS  
PROPOSAL (REVISED) OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE  
MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

**BACKGROUND AND EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

This proposed Resolution arises from the concern of how to use the surplus generated in the IDCP. Since 2015 a surplus has been generated year after year, which as of December 31, 2021 reached the amount of US\$ **2,430,492**. This surplus is generated from the annual vessel contribution of US\$ 14.95 per cubic meter of well volume in accordance with resolution A-18-01 paragraph 2, and which is largely destined to the Observer Program, which is the driving force and fundamental basis of the AIDCP. This surplus is depreciating year after year as it is not being utilized.

It should be noted that since 2014 there have been no increases in observer remunerations, despite the fact that inflation has increased since then. Since 2019 an increase of ten dollars (US\$ 10.00) per day at sea for observers has been requested and the only way to achieve this is to increase the contribution per cubic meter of well volume of the vessels. Each time this issue has been discussed, some Parties have stated that they were unable to support it due to the financial situation of their industries. At the 45th Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP (MOP) held in October 2022 in La Jolla, a proposal emerged, which was supported by the majority of the Parties attending that meeting, to finance this increase in observer remunerations with part of the surplus for three years and subsequently increase the contribution per vessel to maintain the costs of this increase.

For the above reasons, this proposal was conceived with the aim of using the surplus in 5 portions, as follows:

1. To cover the **increase in observers' remuneration** for 3 years from 2024 to 2026, both from the IATTC and from the national programs, 42% of the surplus would be used, which is equivalent to US\$ **1,020,807**;
2. For **dolphin-related research**, 44 % of the surplus would be used, which is equivalent to US\$ **1,069,416**;
3. To finance the **promotion of the achievements of the AIDCP**, as recommended by the Promotion Working Group and approved by the Parties, 5 % of the surplus would be used, which is equivalent to US\$ **121,525**;
4. To work on the issue of **safety of observers at sea**, 4% of the surplus would be used for 3 years from 2024 to 2026, which is equivalent to an amount of US\$ 97,220;
5. In order to ensure the continuation of the program and its execution, 5% of the surplus, equivalent to US\$ **121,525**, would be set aside to provide a reasonable and necessary **contingency fund**.
6. Without prejudice to the portion corresponding to the national programs according to their percentage of observer coverage, the income from pending vessel contributions, which as of June 30, 2022, represents a total of US\$ 671,548, as well as the contributions corresponding to the IDCP, will be added to the above distribution, and any surplus generated as of 2023 will be incorporated as income to the budget for the following year.

It is important to emphasize that as has already been pointed out, the work of observers is fundamental for the achievements of the AIDCP, so the contributions are intended for the correct functioning of the AIDCP. In this case, using part of the surplus to cover a necessary increase in remunerations is justified and well-deserved.

In order for the percentages of surplus use and the overall amount to be in line with the amount of surplus reached by the end of 2021, in accordance with the proposals presented at the February 2023 meeting, the following should apply:

Concept	Surplus percentage	Surplus amount US \$
Increase in observers' remuneration 2024-2026	42	1,020,807
Dolphin -related research	44	1,069,416
Promotion of the AIDCP achievements	5	121,525
Safety of observers at sea	4	97,220
Contingency fund	5	121,525

## DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF THE AIDCP BUDGET SURPLUS

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

*Bearing in mind* the commitment expressed in Article XV of the AIDCP that the Parties shall contribute to the expenses necessary to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, through the establishment and collection of vessel fees;

*Considering* that the work of the observers has been an important factor in the achievement of the Agreement's achievements;

*Considering* that the payment of fees based on the volume of wells recorded on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register as stipulated in Resolution A-18-01 has the purpose of ensuring the correct functioning of the AIDCP and considering that the Observer Program is the main basis for this functioning;

*Considering* that observers have not received an increase in their daily remuneration since 2014, even as inflation has significantly increased the cost of living;

*Taking into account* that since 2015 the AIDCP has been recording a surplus, which reached US\$ 2,430,492 as of December 2021;

*Noting* that this surplus continues to depreciate as it is not used;

*Agree* to use the surplus generated up to December 2021 in the amount of US\$ 2,430,492 as follows:

1. Increase by US\$ 10.00 the daily rate of pay at sea for all AIDCP observers as of January 1, 2024.
2. That 42 % of the surplus, i.e. US\$ 1,020,807, be used to increase the daily remuneration of all AIDCP observers by US\$ 10.00 over the next three (3) years, from 2024 to 2026.
3. That in 2026 an increase in vessel fees per cubic meter of well volume shall be agreed upon in order to cover on a continuous basis for 2027 and subsequent years the increase in observer remuneration, without detracting from the need for future increases to compensate for the effects of inflation.
4. That 44% of the surplus, i.e., US\$ 1,069,416, be used for research on dolphins, as approved by the Parties after analysis and recommendation by the scientific staff of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). The above in accordance with the objective 2 of the AIDCP to eliminate dolphin mortality in the fisher.



5. That 5 % of the surplus, i.e. US\$ 121,525, be used for programs to publicize the achievements of the AIDCP, upon presentation of a program by the Secretariat for the next three (3) years from 20243 to 2026, as approved by the 45th meeting of the AIDCP held in October 2022, based on the recommendations of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System, as well as giving due consideration to the positions that suggest not addressing the issue of labeling.
6. That 4% of the surplus, i.e., US\$ 97,220, be used to work on the issue of safety of observers at sea for the next three (3) years from 2023 to 2025;
7. That 5 % of the surplus, i.e., US\$ 121,525, be used to maintain a reasonable and necessary fund to face any contingencies that may arise and thus ensure the continued operation of the Program.
8. Without prejudice to the portion corresponding to the national programs according to their percentage of observer coverage, the income from outstanding vessel contributions which, as of June 30, 2022, represents a total of US\$671,548, as well as the contributions corresponding to the IDCP and any possible surplus generated as of 2023, will be incorporated as income to the budget for the following year.
9. Work should be done immediately on AIDCP financial rules to regulate such situations as surpluses, their use in future years, and in general the way in which the AIDCP budget is managed.

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

## **46<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

Victoria, B.C., Canada.  
1 August 2023

### **DOCUMENT AIDCP-46 INF-A(b) REV**

## **PROPOSAL (REVISED) OF THE CHAIR AND VICE- CHAIR OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

### **USE OF THE AIDCP BUDGET SURPLUS**

#### **BACKGROUND AND EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

Initially the main purpose of the proposal was to cover the increase in observer remunerations, but after its presentation and discussion it was found that the AIDCP pre-budget for 2022 showed a deficit of \$US 370,194 at the close of the year, and that by 2023 the deficit corresponding to that year's budget was estimated to reach \$US 134,113. This significantly reduces the above-mentioned surplus of \$US 2,430,492, which was the basis for the original proposal. For these reasons, we considered it necessary to prepare a new proposal that only takes some parts of the original proposal and let everything related to the US\$ 10 increase in observer remunerations be covered by an increase in the fees paid by the vessels, as would be established in a resolution or in an amendment to resolution A-18-01.

In view of the above, it is proposed that part of the surplus be used for the following 3 items and that the remainder be maintained as a fund to cover deficits. These 3 items would be the following:

1. To carry out research related to dolphins, the surplus would be used, which is equivalent to an amount of US\$ 1,200,000;
2. To fund the promotion of the achievements of the AIDCP as recommended by the Working Group on Promotion and approved by the Parties, an amount of US\$ 120,000 would be used;
3. To work on the issue of the safety of observers at sea, create a fund for 3 years from 2024 to 2026, of US\$ 100,000.

### **DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF THE AIDCP BUDGET SURPLUS**

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

*Bearing in mind* the commitment expressed in Article XV of the AIDCP that the Parties shall contribute to the expenses necessary to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, through the establishment and collection of vessel fees;

*Considering* that the work of the observers has been an important factor in the achievement of the Agreement's achievements;

*Considering* that the payment of fees based on the volume of wells recorded on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register as stipulated in Resolution A-18-01 has the purpose of ensuring the correct functioning of the AIDCP and considering that the Observer Program is the main basis for this functioning;

*Considering* that observers have not received an increase in their daily remuneration since 2014, even as inflation has significantly increased the cost of living;

*Taking into account* that since 2015 the AIDCP has been recording a surplus, which reached US\$ 2,430,492 as of December 2021;

*Noting* that this surplus continues to depreciate as it is not used;

*Agree* to use the surplus generated up to December 2021 in the amount of **US\$ 2,430,492** as follows:

1. That, of the surplus, **US\$1,200,000** be used for **dolphin research** purposes, as approved by the Parties after analysis and recommendation by the scientific staff of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). This is in accordance with objective 2 of the AIDCP to eliminate dolphin mortality in the fishery.
2. That, from the surplus, **US\$ 120,000** be allocated to programs for **publicizing the achievements of the AIDCP**, upon presentation of a program by the Secretariat for the next three (3) years from 2024 to 2026, as approved by the 45th meeting of the AIDCP held in October 2022 based on the recommendations of the Working Group to Promote and Publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System, as well as giving due consideration to the positions that suggest not addressing the issue of labeling..
3. That, from the surplus, US\$ 100,000 be used to work on the issue of observer safety at sea for the next three (3) years from 2024 to 2026.
4. That the remainder of the surplus, that is \$US 1,030,492 be used as a fund to cover the 2022 deficit and possible deficits for the following years.
5. Without prejudice to the portion corresponding to the national programs according to their percentage of observer coverage, the income from outstanding vessel contributions which, as of June 30, 2022, represents a total of US\$671,548, as well as the contributions corresponding to the IDCP and any possible surplus generated as of 2023, will be incorporated as income to the budget for the following year.
6. Work should be done immediately on AIDCP financial rules to regulate such situations as surpluses, their use in future years, and in general the way in which the AIDCP budget is managed.