

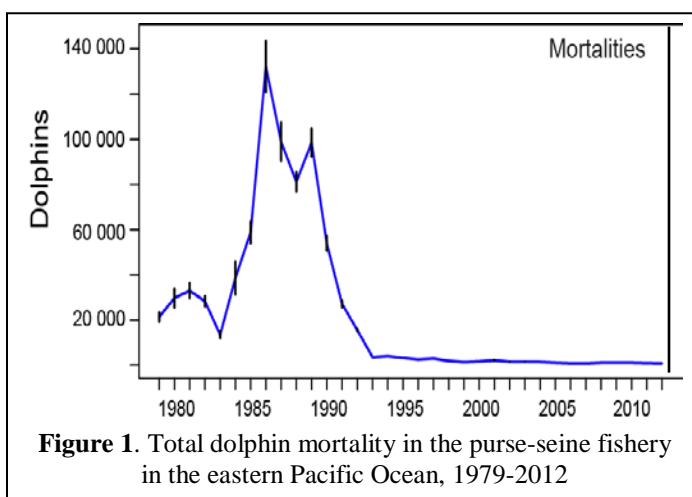
# AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

## EXECUTIVE REPORT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE AIDCP IN 2012

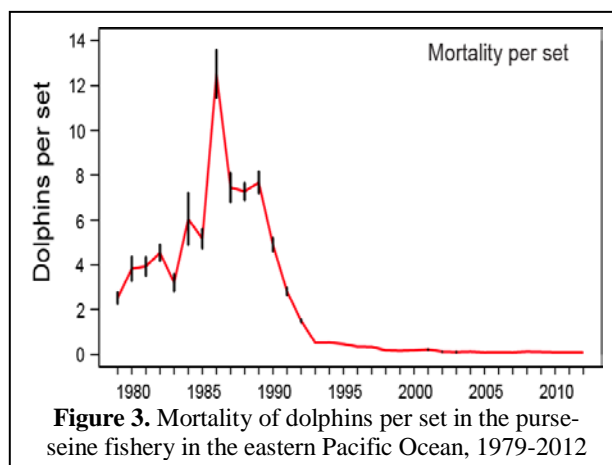
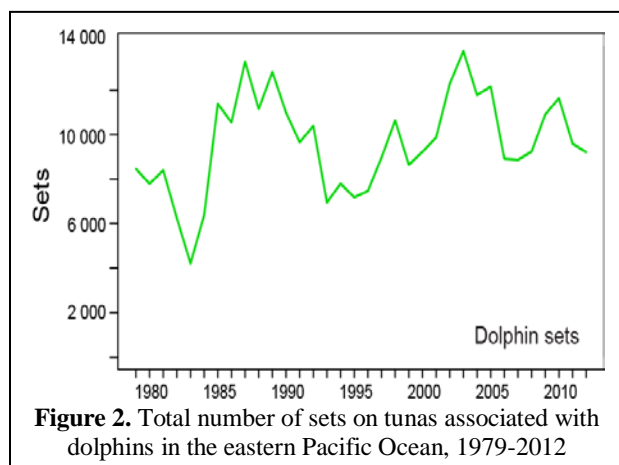
This Executive Report provides a brief summary of the operation of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) during 2012. Further information can be found in minutes of meetings, reports and other documents at [www.iattc.org](http://www.iattc.org).

### 1. THE FISHERY IN 2012

During 2012, the trend of low incidental dolphin mortalities in the tuna purse-seine fishery in the Agreement Area to levels approaching zero, one of the principal objectives of the AIDCP, continued. In 9,220 intentional sets on tunas associated with dolphins, 137,987 thousand metric tons (t) of yellowfin tuna were caught, and 870 dolphins died, an average of 0.09 dolphins per set. Approximately 94.5% of these sets caused no mortality or serious injury of dolphins. Figures 1-3<sup>1</sup> show the trends in total mortality, number of sets on tunas associated with dolphins and mortality per set.



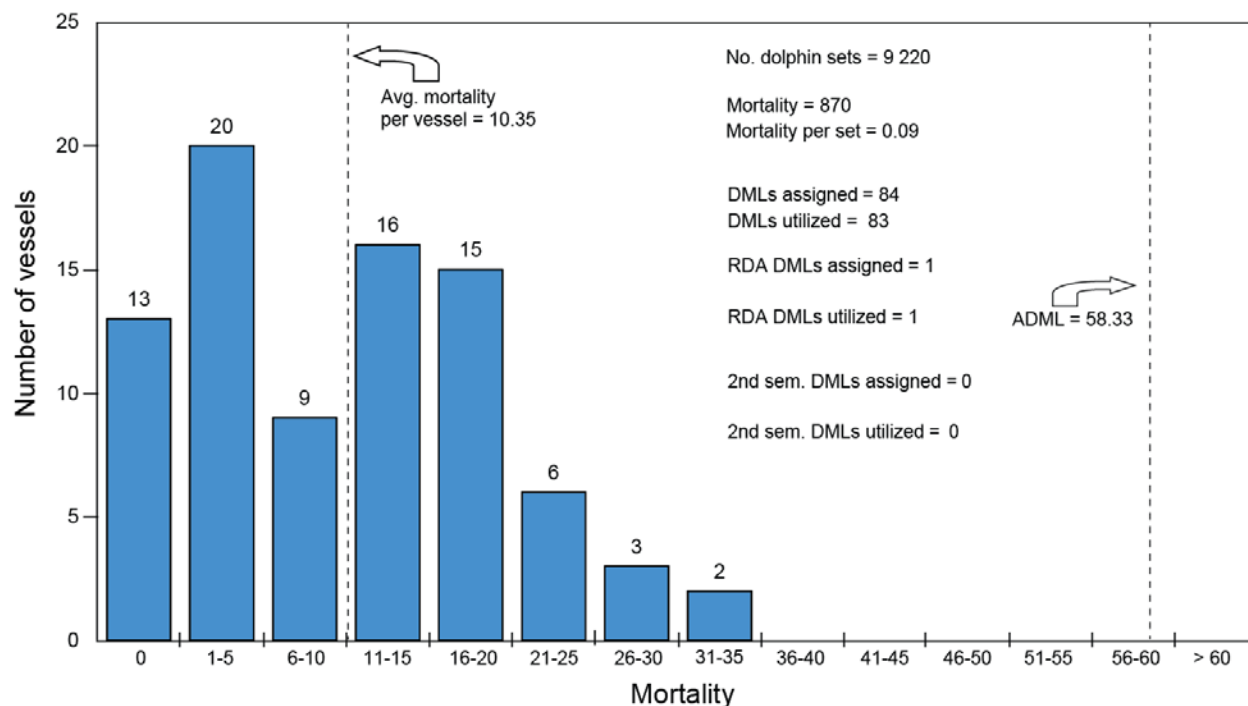
Eighty-four vessels were allocated full-year Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) and the average individual-vessel DML (ADML) was 58.33 animals. Eighty-three of these DMLs were utilized; none was exceeded, and the average mortality per vessel was 10.35 dolphins. None vessel was allocated a second-semester DML, and one vessel was allocated a DML from the Reserve DML Allocation, and it was used. The distribution of the mortality caused in 2012 by these vessels is shown in Figure 4.



<sup>1</sup> In Figures 1 and 3, the vertical bars indicate the 95% confidence intervals in years when only a sample of the fleet carried observers.

## MORTALITY CAUSED BY DML VESSELS - 2012

DML utilization = 1 or more intentional sets on dolphins



**Figure 4.** Distribution of dolphin mortality caused by vessels with DMLs, 2012.

## 2. ADMINISTRATION OF OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT

The 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the International Review Panel (IRP) reviewed observer information from 750 fishing trips, in which 9,362 sets were made on tuna associated with dolphins. At these meetings, the IRP identified a total of 16 possible infractions of the types shown in the table below, and these cases were forwarded to the Parties for investigation. By comparison, the IRP also identified 16 possible infractions in 2011, and an average of 27.4 possible infractions per year from 2008-2010.

POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS	2012	2011	Average 2008-2010
Fishing without an observer	2	0	0
Fishing on dolphins without a DML	0	0	0
Failing to avoid injuring or killing dolphins captured in the course of fishing operations	0	0	0
Fishing on dolphins after reaching the DML	0	0	0
Depart to fish with a DML without a dolphin safety panel in the net	1	0	1.6
Fishing captain assigned to a DML vessel not on AIDCP List of Qualified Captains	0	2	1
Use of explosives when fishing on dolphins	0	0	2
Not conducting backdown after dolphins are captured	0	0	0.3
Sacking up or brailing live dolphins	0	0	0.3
Harassing an observer, or interfering with his duties	4	2	3
Night set (not completing backdown within 30 minutes after sundown)	0	2	1.6
Not deploying rescuers during backdown	0	0	0.3
Item of rescue equipment missing	7	10	16.3
Not continuing rescue efforts after backdown with live dolphins in the net	0	0	0
Fishing on dolphins prior to notification of allocation of DMLs	2	0	1

As of December 3, 2013, the Secretariat had received the following responses from governments for possible infractions reported during 2012 and 2011:

<b>Response</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Confirmed as infraction, sanction imposed	0	0
Confirmed as infraction, no sanction	0	0
Warning issued	0	0
Determined not to be infraction	8	6
Under investigation	3	8
No response	5	2

### **3. DOLPHIN SAFE CERTIFICATION**

In 2001 the Parties to the AIDCP established the [AIDCP Dolphin Safe Certification System](#), which provides assurance of the dolphin safe status of tuna by means of a certificate issued by a government for tuna that meets all the requirements of the [System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna](#).

During 2012, 43 valid dolphin safe tuna certificates were issued by the Parties.