

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
30TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES
La Jolla, California (USA)
26 October and 1 November 2014

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

| | Documents |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Opening of the meeting | |
| 2. Election of Chairman | |
| 3. Adoption of the agenda | |
| 4. Approval of the minutes of the 29 th meeting of the Parties | |
| 5. Secretariat's report on the IDCP | MOP-30-05 |
| 6. AIDCP budget | MOP-30-06 |
| 7. Report of the International Review Panel | |
| 8. Report of the Working Group to promote and publicize the APICD Dolphin-Safe Tuna Certification System | |
| 9. Other business | |
| 10. Place and date of next meeting | |
| 11. Adjournment | |

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees
2. Report of the Presider of the 56th Meeting of the IRP
3. Report of the Chair of the Working Group Working Group to promote and publicize the APICD Dolphin-Safe Tuna Certification System

The 30th Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP was held in La Jolla, California (USA) on 26 October and 1 November 2014. The list of attendees is attached as Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. Alvin Delgado, of Venezuela, who had chaired the previous meeting.

2. Election of Chairman

Mr. Delgado was elected Chair of the meeting.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes.

4. Approval of the minutes of the 29th meeting of the Parties

The minutes of the 29th Meeting of the Parties were approved without changes.

5. Secretariat's report on the IDCP

Dr. Martin Hall, of the Secretariat, presented Document MOP-30-05, *Report on the International Dolphin Conservation Program*, indicating that in 2013 100% of trips by large purse-seine vessels were sampled,

pursuant to the requirements of the AIDCP, and the IATTC program sampled 57% of these. DMLs were allocated to 90 vessels that requested them, with an average DML of 54.44 dolphins. No vessels exceeded their DMLs in 2013. The estimated incidental mortality of dolphins in the fishery in 2013 was 801 animals, a reduction of 8.6% from the mortality of 870 animals recorded in 2012, and the lowest ever recorded.

6. AIDCP budget

Ms. Nora Roa-Wade, of the Secretariat, presented Document MOP-30-INF B, which describes the way in which the vessel assessments are calculated and a mechanism for linking them to the amount of the budget approved by the Parties. She recalled that at the previous meeting of the Parties in July 2014, an increase in the vessel assessment from US\$ 14.95 to US\$ 17.81/m³ had been requested, in order to resolve the program's current deficit.

The Parties expressed interest in continuing to work with the scheme for linking vessel assessments to the AIDCP budget, and decided to postpone adjourning the meeting in order to consult in the margins about the amount of the assessments. The European Union reiterated that it would not accept increases if no progress was made on the assessment of the Secretariat's performance, which was pending from the meeting in July.

After an extensive discussion, only Ecuador was not able to join the consensus to increase the assessment rate to US\$ 16.00/m³ as of 2015, so it remained at US\$ 14.95.

7. Report of the International Review Panel

Mr. William Jacobson, Presider of the 56th meeting of the IRP, presented his report (Appendix 2), indicating that the Panel decided to recommend to the Meeting of the Parties that DMLs for 2015 be granted to the four vessels that cannot yet fully meet the requirements for a DML, as a one-time exception subject to the following conditions:

1. The assessment for 2015 must be paid by 1 December 2014.
2. The vessels may not fish on dolphins until all the requirements of Annex IV of the AIDCP have been met.
3. All provisions of the AIDCP regarding DMLs apply, including the requirement of making a set on dolphins before 1 April 2015.

The Parties approved this recommendation.

8. Report of the Working Group to promote and publicize the APICD Dolphin-Safe Tuna Certification System

Mr. Bernal Chavarría, Chair of the Working Group, presented his report (Appendix 3), indicating that three dissemination materials were reviewed: a video, a leaflet, and an educational module about the AIDCP. It was recommended that the Parties approve the three materials, on condition that the modifications described in the working group's report were made.

9. Other business

Dr. Michael Scott, of the Secretariat, presented Document MOP-30 INF-A, prepared in response to a request at the 29th Meeting of the Parties, which presents a preliminary summary of the various options for assessing the status of the dolphin populations, specifically: 1) update the historical time series of NMFS studies using research vessels, 2) establish an international research program using purse-seine vessels as study platforms, and 3) use alternative techniques to linear transect studies, such as mark-and-recapture, genetics, and life histories.

Mexico noted that the idea was to seek commercial fishing vessels that could support carrying out studies of dolphin abundance, specifically vessels that were not fishing to reduce costs. The studies should focus

only on the matter of dolphin abundance, otherwise the resources would not be sufficient.

The European Union stated that it supported the work done, and as a next step the document should be passed to the Scientific Advisory Board.

10. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parties will be held in 2015 where and when the annual meeting of the IATTC is held.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM on 1 November 2014.

DRAFT

Appendix 1.

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Appendix 2.

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| <p>INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL</p> <p><u>56TH MEETING</u></p> <p>La Jolla, California (USA) 26 October 2014</p> |
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REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

| | Documents |
|--|------------|
| 1. Opening of the meeting | |
| 2. Election of the Presider | |
| 3. Adoption of the agenda | |
| 4. Approval of the minutes of the 55 th meeting | |
| 5. a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) for 2014 | IRP-56-05a |
| b. Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2015 | IRP-56-05b |
| 6. Review of AIDCP <i>List of Qualified Captains</i> | IRP-56-06 |
| 7. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP: | |
| a. Actions taken since the report at the 55 th meeting | IRP-56-07a |
| b. Status review of special cases | IRP-56-07b |
| 8. Review of observer data | |
| 9. Other business | |
| 10. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties | |
| 11. Place and date of next meeting | |
| 12. Adjournment | |

The 56th meeting of the International Review Panel was held in La Jolla, California (USA), on 26 October 2014.

1. Opening of the meeting

Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), which provides the Secretariat for the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), opened the meeting.

2. Election of the Presider

Mr. William Jacobson, of the United States, was elected to chair the meeting.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

4. Approval of the minutes of the 55th meeting

The minutes of the 55th meeting of the Panel were approved without changes.

5. a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2014

The Secretariat summarized the situation regarding the allocation, reallocation, and utilization of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) in 2014, described in Document IRP-56-05a, noting that no vessel had exceeded its allocated DML for the year.

The United States raised the issue that the mechanism of transferring DMLs among a Party's vessels is counter to the spirit of the AIDCP, in particular Annex IV. Parties with DMLs need to have procedures in place before such transfers are effected. The Secretariat noted that such transfers had only occurred twice before, and will draft guidelines for regulating such transfers for the next meeting of the IRP.

b. Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2015

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-56-05b on DMLs requested for 2015. Ninety-five requests were received, but four were for vessels that are still under construction and could therefore not meet the requirements to qualify for a DML.

After a lengthy discussion, the Panel agreed that, while there is a need to adhere to the Agreement as much as possible, there was also a need for flexibility, and approved the 95 requests. However, the four vessels that cannot yet fully meet the requirements would be granted the requested DMLs as a one-time exception, subject to the following conditions:

4. The assessment for 2015 must be paid by 1 December 2014.
5. The vessels may not fish on dolphins until all the requirements of Annex IV of the AIDCP have been met.
6. All provisions of the AIDCP regarding DMLs apply, including the requirement of making a set on dolphins before 1 April 2015.

6. Review of the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-56-06, *Changes to the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains*, which updates the changes that occurred between 30 May and 8 October 2014. During that period, four captains were added and none were reinstated or removed.

7. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP

a. Actions taken since the report at the 55th meeting

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-56-07a, *Responses to six types of possible infractions identified during the 55th meeting*. There were three cases of fishing without an observer, two from Ecuador and the other from Kiribati; the governments reported that the cases are under investigation.

Regarding the one case still under investigation after two or more years, Mexico stated that it should be able to report on the case by early 2015.

b. Status review of special cases

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-56-07b, *Summary of pending special cases monitored by the IRP*, which presents the following three cases, pending since 2012 and 2014, respectively.

Case 51-03.

The Party reported that it did not have sufficient elements to justify classifying the case as an infraction of attempting to bribe an observer and observer harassment. The Panel recognized that the Party's determination was final, but that such decisions could undermine observer confidence in the support they receive in carrying out their duties.

Cases 55-01 and 55-02.

The Party reported that the cases were under investigation.

8. Review of observer data

The Secretariat presented the data reported by observers of the On-Board Observer Program relating to possible infractions received and processed by the Secretariat since the Panel's previous meeting. The Panel discussed those cases that were not automatically referred to the pertinent Parties, and forwarded those that indicated possible infractions of the AIDCP to the responsible government for investigation and possible sanction.

The following cases, identified by the corresponding trip number, were discussed. The Panel decided that neither case constituted an infraction.

2014-507. Fishing without a qualified captain. The captain had to be replaced while the vessel was at sea fishing. He was replaced by a crew member who had fulfilled all the requirements for qualification, but the Party did not ask the Secretariat to add him to the List of Qualified Captains until three days later. No sets on dolphins were made during those three days.

2014-550. Accidental set on dolphins. A vessel without a DML caught three rough-toothed dolphins (*Steno bredanensis*) accidentally during a set on a floating object. Crew members attempted to release the dolphins by hand from the net, resulting in two of the three dolphins being released alive.

9. Other business

There was no other business.

10. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties

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

Grant DMLs for 2015 to the four vessels that cannot yet fully meet the requirements for a DML, as a one-time exception subject to the following conditions:

1. The assessment for 2015 must be paid by 1 December 2014.
2. The vessels may not fish on dolphins until all the requirements of Annex IV of the AIDCP have been met.
3. All provisions of the AIDCP regarding DMLs apply, including the requirement of making a set on dolphins before 1 April 2015.

11. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Panel will be held in conjunction with next meetings of the AIDCP.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4 PM on 26 October 2014.

Appendix 3.

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

WORKING GROUP TO PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE THE

AIDCP DOLPHIN SAFE TUNA CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

21ST MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

26 October 2014; 9:00

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening of the meeting 2. Adoption of the agenda 3. Approval of the minutes of the 20th meeting 4. Actions to promote AIDCP dolphin safe tuna 5. Recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties 6. Other business 7. Date and place of next meeting 8. Adjournment | <p>DSP-21-04</p> |
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The 21st Meeting of the Working Group to Promote and Publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System was held in La Jolla, California (USA) on 26 October 2014.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Working Group, Lic. Bernal Chavarría, of Belize.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 20th meeting

The minutes of the 20th meeting of the Working Group were approved without changes.

4. Actions to promote AIDCP dolphin safe tuna

The progress made in the production of the three promotional and publicity materials described in Document [DSP-21-04](#) were reviewed. The promotional video was presented, and comments were made on the changes made to the leaflet and the educational module.

Mexico suggested that the materials could now be made public, but the United States requested changes to the leaflet, and the European Union to the three materials, as follows:

a. Promotional video:

- Delete the comparative allusions to other fishing gears, techniques and practices.
- Specify the amount of reduction in dolphin mortality resulting from the implementation of the La Jolla Agreement and of the AIDCP, taking into account the preexisting downward trend in that mortality, which accelerated under these instruments.

b. Informational leaflet:

- Replace the word “*guarantee*” with “*representation*” when talking of the merits of the AIDCP. Mexico questioned this point, noting that the AIDCP guarantees to consumers that there was no mortality or serious injury of dolphins in fishing for the tuna, unlike other accepted ecolabels that are not based on a system of monitoring by on-board observers.
- Indicate in the graphs of the trend of the incidental mortality of dolphins the points at which the La Jolla Agreement and the AIDCP entered into force.
- Delete the comparative allusions to other fishing gears , techniques and practices..
- Delete in the third column the mention of the IATTC, since this material relates only to the AIDCP.
- Delete the statement in the third column that “*in other regions, it is a rare event when such violations come to light*”.

c. Educational module:

- Make the same adjustments as in the leaflet and video regarding the reduction of dolphin mortality under the La Jolla Agreement and the AIDCP, and avoid comparisons with other fishing gears, techniques, and practices.

5. Recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties

The approval of the three materials was recommended, subject to the above changes being made.

6. Other business

No other business was discussed.

7. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on the dates agreed for the meetings of the AIDCP in 2015.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. on 26 October 2014.