

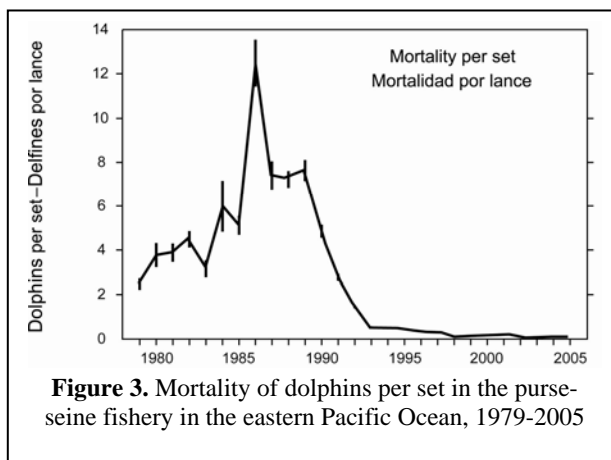
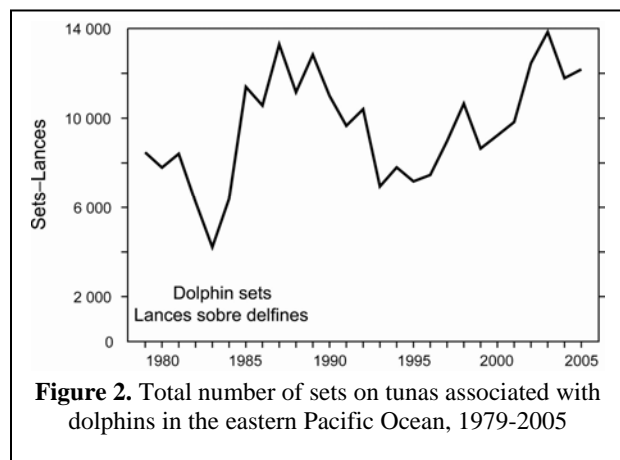
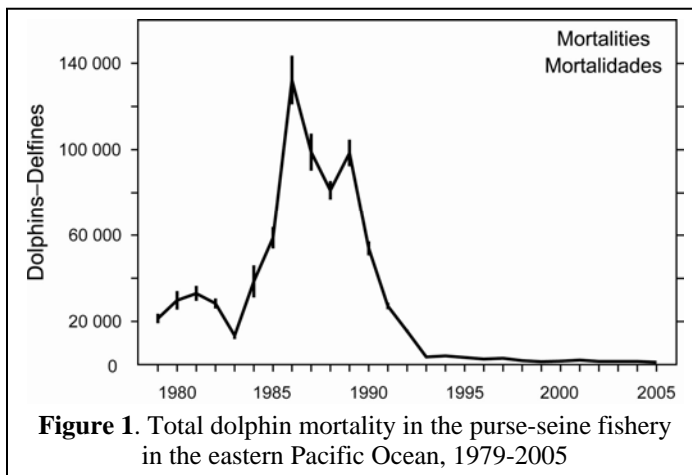
AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE REPORT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE AIDCP IN 2005

This Executive Report provides a brief summary of the operation of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) during 2005. Further information can be found in minutes of meetings, reports and other documents at www.iattc.org. All data for 2005 are preliminary.

1. THE FISHERY IN 2005

During 2005, 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 12,173 intentional sets on tunas associated with dolphins, in which approximately 172 thousand metric tons (t) of yellowfin tuna were caught, 1,151 dolphins died, an average of 0.09 dolphins per set. Approximately 95% of these sets caused no mortality or serious injury of dolphins. Figures 1-3¹ show the trends in total mortality, number of sets on tunas associated with dolphins and mortality per set.



Ninety-five vessels were allocated full-year Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) and the average individual-vessel DML (ADML) was 50 animals. Ninety-three of these DMLs were utilized; none were exceeded, and the average mortality per vessel was 11.7 dolphins. In addition, four vessels were allocated DMLs from the Reserve DML Allocation, all of which were utilized, and three vessels were allocated second-semester DMLs of 16, two of which were utilized. The distribution of the mortality caused in 2005 by these vessels is shown in Figure 4.

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

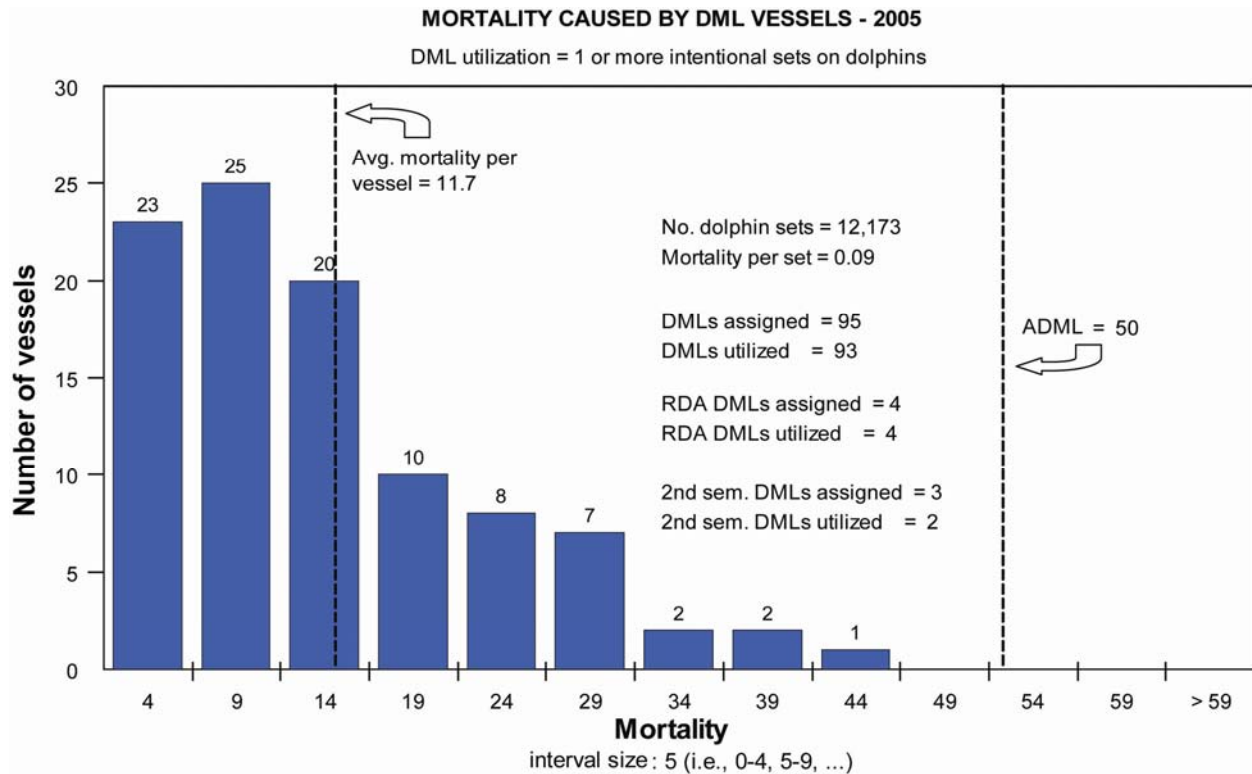


Figure 4. Distribution of dolphin mortality caused by vessels with DMLs, 2005.

2. STRENGTHENING OF THE AIDCP

The AIDCP uses a combination of mortality limits, operational requirements, and incentives to lower incidental dolphin mortality. Much of the operative detail of the Agreement is contained in its annexes and other measures that are evolving to strengthen the Agreement. During 2005, the following [changes](#) were made to the Annexes of the [Agreement](#) or adopted as [other measures](#) to strengthen the Agreement.

1. Procedures were agreed for ensuring the proper measurement of all purse-seine vessels and the verification of vessel well volumes.
2. Guidelines were agreed for waiving the requirement for an observer to be on board the vessel during a transit, designed to ensure that vessels will not fish during any such transit.
3. Annex IV of the AIDCP was amended to:
 - a. establish that no vessel which has been assigned a DML for any given year from the RDA may also receive a full-year or second-semester DML for that same year, and no vessel which has received a full-year or second-semester DML for any given year may also receive a DML from the RDA for that same year.
 - b. establish a deadline for the utilization of DMLs from the Reserve DML Allocation.
 - c. clarify the consequences of a Party renouncing a DML assigned to one of its vessels.
 - d. require that a Party must have a national plan for tracking and verifying tuna in order for any of its vessels to be eligible to receive a DML.
4. The [Procedures for AIDCP dolphin-safe certification](#) were modified to provide for submission of the certificates within 15 days instead of 5.
5. A Protocol was adopted for publicizing the numbers of Tuna Tracking Forms for tuna caught in

contravention of IATTC resolutions.

6. Agreement was reached to initiate a dolphin life history sampling program, contingent upon the availability of funding.
7. The use of a new data screening technique to improve the evaluation of captain and vessel performance in reducing dolphin mortality was agreed.

3. ADMINISTRATION OF OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT

The 38th, 39th, and 40th meetings of the International Review Panel (IRP) reviewed observer information from 808 fishing trips, in which 12,523 sets were made on tuna associated with dolphins.

Following these meetings, a total of 90 possible infractions of the types shown in the table below were forwarded to the Parties for investigation, compared to 115 possible infractions in 2004 and to an average of 307 in the three previous years, 2001-2003.

POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS	2005	2004	Average 2001-2003
Fishing without an observer	0	0	3
Fishing on dolphins without a DML	6	6	6
Failing to avoid injuring or killing dolphins captured in the course of fishing operations	1	1	1
Fishing on dolphins after reaching the DML	0	24	35
Depart to fish with a DML without a dolphin safety panel in the net	0	2	3
Fishing captain assigned to a DML vessel not on AIDCP List of Qualified Captains	3	14	38
Use of explosives when fishing on dolphins	32	13	69
Not conducting backdown after dolphins are captured	4	0	5
Sacking up or brailing live dolphins	2	0	2
Harassing an observer, or interfering with his duties	6	4	7
Night set (not completing backdown within 30 minutes after sundown)	17	24	53
Not deploying rescuers during backdown	0	0	1
Item of rescue equipment missing	12	27	82
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	7	0	2

As of June 12, 2006, the Secretariat had received the following responses from governments for possible infractions reported during 2005 and 2004:

Response	2005	2004
Confirmed as infraction, sanction imposed	5	36
Confirmed as infraction, no sanction	0	0
Warning issued	0	0
Determined not to be infraction	36	35
Under investigation	13	32
No response	36	12

4. 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 2005, 43 valid dolphin safe tuna certificates were issued by the Parties.