

**AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION
PROGRAM**

47TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

**La Jolla, California
10-11 October 2023**

DOCUMENT AIDCP-47 INF-A(b) REV

**PROPOSAL (THIRD REVISION) OF THE CHAIR AND VICE- CHAIR
OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

USE OF THE AIDCP BUDGET SURPLUS

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; 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.

Initially, the main purpose of the proposal was to cover the increase in observer remunerations, research, among others, but after its presentation and discussion it was found that the AIDCP budget for 2022 showed a deficit of US\$ 275,679.00 at the end of the year, and it is estimated that by 2023 there will be a deficit of US\$ 324,316.00. This significantly reduces the above-mentioned surplus to **US\$ 2,245,035.00**, which differs from 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 leave everything related to the US\$ 10 increase in observer remunerations be covered by an increase in the fees paid by the vessels, by adopting a new 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 possible 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;

Considering that in 2022 there was a deficit of US\$ 275,679.00 and it is estimated that by 2023 there will be a deficit of US\$ 289,316.00 and that these would be deducted from the surplus as of 31 December 2021, leaving US\$ 2,245,035.00 available;

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

Agree to use part of the surplus generated up to December 2022 in the amount of **US\$ 2,245,035.00** as follows:

1. That, from 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\$ 825,035.00**, be used as a fund to cover the deficit for the following years, if any.
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\$ 638,851.00, 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.