

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE REPORT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE AIDCP IN 2004

This Executive Report provides a brief summary of the operation of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) during 2004. Further information can be found in minutes of meetings, reports and other documents at www.iattc.org. All data for 2004 are preliminary.

1. THE FISHERY IN 2004

During 2004, 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 11,783 intentional sets on tunas associated with dolphins, in which approximately 183 thousand metric tons (t) of yellowfin tuna were caught, 1,461 dolphins died, an average of 0.12 dolphins per set. (An additional 8 dolphin mortalities occurred in accidental sets.) Approximately 94% 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.

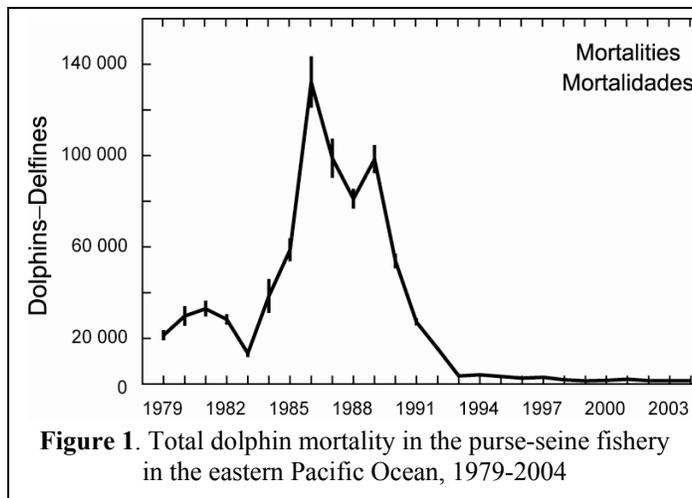


Figure 1. Total dolphin mortality in the purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 1979-2004

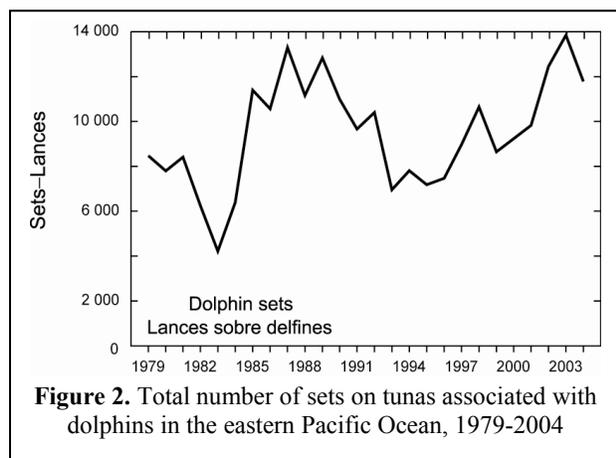


Figure 2. Total number of sets on tunas associated with dolphins in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 1979-2004

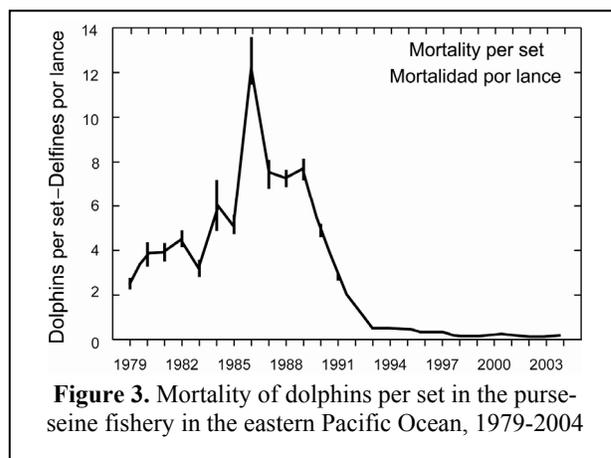


Figure 3. Mortality of dolphins per set in the purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 1979-2004

Ninety-one vessels were allocated full-year Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) and the average individual-vessel DML (ADML) was 54 animals. Eighty-three of these DMLs were utilized; one was exceeded, and the average mortality per vessel was 16.3 dolphins. In addition, three vessels were allocated DMLs from the Reserve DML Allocation, two of which were utilized, and three vessels were allocated second-semester DMLs of 18, two of which were utilized. The distribution of the mortality caused in 2004 by

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.

these vessels is shown in Figure 4.

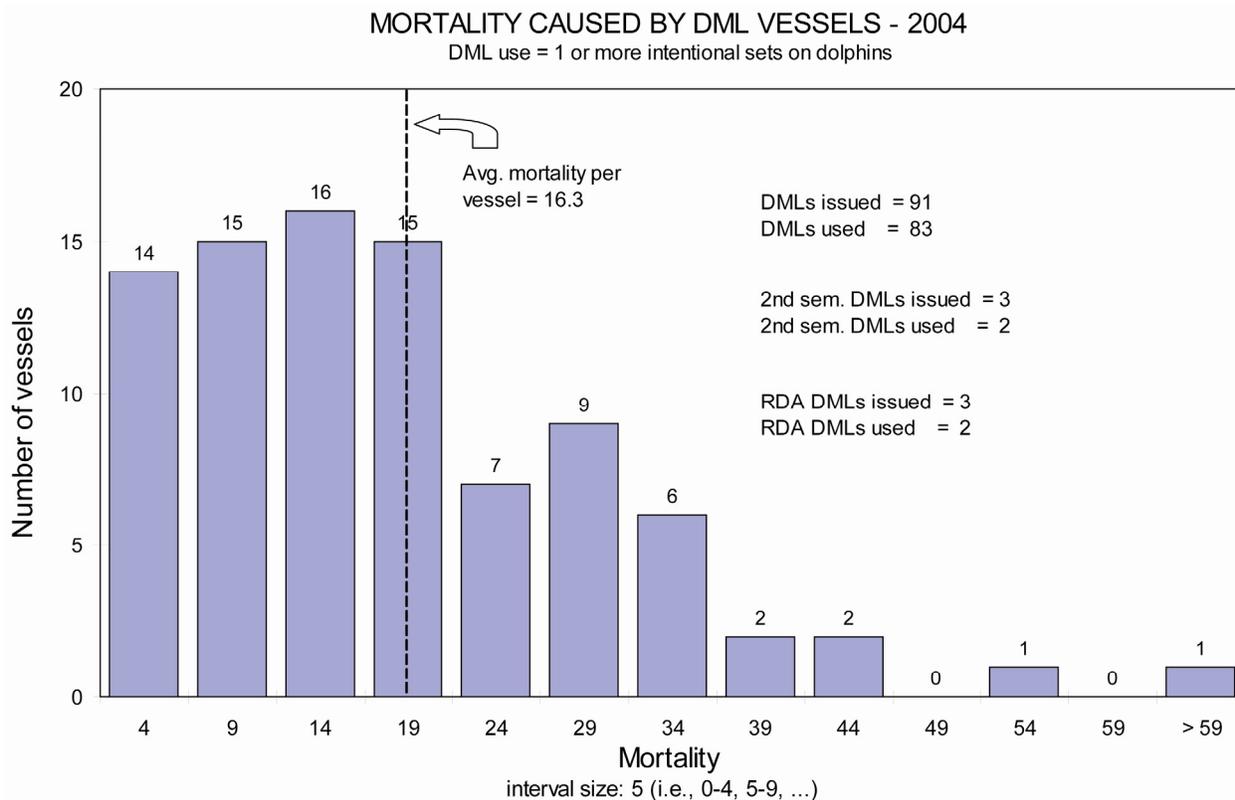


Figure 4. Distribution of dolphin mortality caused by vessels with DMLs, 2004.

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 2004, the following [changes](#) were made to the Annexes of the [Agreement](#) or adopted as [other measures](#) to strengthen the Agreement.

- The [AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System](#) was amended to include procedures for tracking and notifying Parties of invalid dolphin safe certificates. The Secretariat will maintain a record of such certificates and provide this information to the Parties on a regular basis.
- The [Procedures for Maintaining the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains](#) were modified to include the following:
 1. For a new captain to be added to the List he must not have any pending infractions, as detailed in section 4.1 of the *Procedures*, regarding which the relevant Party has not taken action.
 2. For a disqualified captain to be reinstated to the List he must not have any pending infractions, as detailed in section 4.1 of the *Procedures*, regarding which the relevant Party has not taken action.
 3. Any fishing captain on a vessel operating under the AIDCP who has committed two or more night set infractions shall be required to attend an instructional seminar prior to his next trip as a fishing captain
- Each Party shall ensure that each of its vessels that has been assigned a DML is inspected twice a year, to ensure that the dolphin safety gear and equipment requirements in Section 2 of Annex VIII of the AIDCP have been met. The first such inspection shall be carried out before the vessel's request

for a DML is submitted, and the second before the notification of any reallocation of DMLs for vessels with full-year DMLs, and during the last quarter of the year for vessels with second-semester DMLs.

- Annex VIII of the AIDCP was amended to require vessels with a DML to have on board an operable long-range, high-intensity floodlight with a sodium lamp of at least 1000 watts or a multivapour lamp of at least 1,500 watts.
- The Parties agreed to criteria for attaining the status of cooperating non-party or fishing entity in AIDCP.
- The Parties agreed to criteria for establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the AIDCP Agreement Area..

3. ADMINISTRATION OF OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT

The 35th, 36th, and 37th meetings of the International Review Panel (IRP) reviewed observer information from 800 fishing trips, in which 12,735 sets were made on tuna associated with dolphins.

Following these meetings, a total of 115 possible infractions of the types shown in the table below were forwarded to the Parties for investigation, compared to 200 possible infractions in 2003 and to an average of 462 in the three previous years, 2000-2002.

POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS	2004	2003	Average 2000-2002
Fishing without an observer	0	4	2
Fishing on dolphins without a DML	6	5	7
Failing to avoid injuring or killing dolphins captured in the course of fishing operations	1	4	1
Fishing on dolphins after reaching the DML	24	0	38
Depart to fish with a DML without a dolphin safety panel in the net	2	7	9
Fishing captain assigned to a DML vessel not on AIDCP List of Qualified Captains	14	40	44
Use of explosives when fishing on dolphins	13	1	152
Not conducting backdown after dolphins are captured	0	5	5
Sacking up or brailing live dolphins	0	4	3
Harassing an observer, or interfering with his duties	4	7	8
Night set (not completing backdown within 30 minutes after sundown)	24	39	67
Not deploying rescuers during backdown	0	0	3
Item of rescue equipment missing	27	77	123
Not continuing rescue efforts after backdown with live dolphins in the net	0	1	0
Fishing on dolphins prior to notification of allocation of DMLs	0	6	N/A

As of May 6, 2005, the Secretariat had received the following responses from governments for possible infractions reported during 2004 and 2003:

Response	2004	2003
Confirmed as infraction, sanction imposed	9	78
Confirmed as infraction, no sanction	0	1
Warning issued	0	1
Determined not to be infraction	17	18
Under investigation	52	74
No response	37	28

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 2004, 25 valid dolphin safe tuna certificates were issued by the Parties.