

**AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN
CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

39TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

BILBAO, SPAIN

16 JULY 2019

SUBMITTED BY MEXICO

**PROPOSAL ON FUNDING FOR THE SURVEY FOR EASTERN
TROPICAL PACIFIC DOLPHIN STOCKS**

The objectives of the AIDCP include progressively reducing incidental dolphin mortalities in the tuna purse-seine fishery in the Agreement Area to levels approaching zero, through the setting of annual limits, with the goal of eliminating dolphin mortality in this fishery, to seek ecologically sound means of capturing large yellowfin tunas not in association with dolphins; and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the tuna stocks in the Agreement Area.

In addition, the IATTC scientific staff considers that abundance estimates are needed to ensure that dolphin mortalities are sustainable and insignificant.

In October 2016, the IATTC convened an "IATTC Workshop on methods for monitoring the status of eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean dolphin populations" to evaluate options for monitoring the status of dolphin stocks, and the conclusion of the workshop was that the only method that will produce reliable estimates of dolphin abundance is conducting surveys from vessels at sea.

The Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), gathered in Bilbao, Spain, on the occasion of its 39th Meeting:

Recognizing that the objectives of the AIDCP include progressively reducing incidental dolphin mortalities in the tuna purse-seine fishery in the Agreement Area to levels approaching zero, through the setting of annual limits, with the goal of eliminating dolphin mortality in this fishery, to seek ecologically sound means of capturing large yellowfin tunas not in association with dolphins; and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the tuna stocks in the Agreement Area;

Considering that Resolution C-77-01 recommends and calls upon CPCs to take joint action to empower the IATTC staff to undertake activities to evaluate dolphin populations in the eastern Pacific Ocean and implement programs designed to reduce to the maximum extent feasible the incidental mortality of dolphins by vessels involved in the fishery for yellowfin tuna in accordance with the Commission's objectives;

Bearing in mind that at the 33rd meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the member nations agreed that the IATTC should concern itself with problems arising from the tuna-dolphin relationship in the eastern Pacific Ocean, and requested the Director of Investigations to prepare a review of existing information on such problems and to submit proposals for a possible Commission role;

Recalling that the last dolphin stock abundance survey was conducted in 2006;

Recognizing that the AIDCP considers that abundance estimates are needed to ensure that dolphin mortalities are sustainable and insignificant (MOP-37-03);

Considering that this issue was one of the four concerns in the AIDCP performance review conducted in 2016; and

Taking into account the in-kind contributions listed in document MOP-39-01.

Agree:

1. That the AIDCP use the surplus shown in its financial statements (MOP-39-01) to fund the dolphin stock survey, to be used in a trial survey and a main survey for the northeastern offshore spotted dolphin and eastern spinner dolphin, using a research vessel to estimate both absolute and relative abundance (Design 3, main survey option 1, addressing Objectives 1 and 2, for priority stocks B; see MOP-37-02) with the modifications presented in document MOP-39-01.