

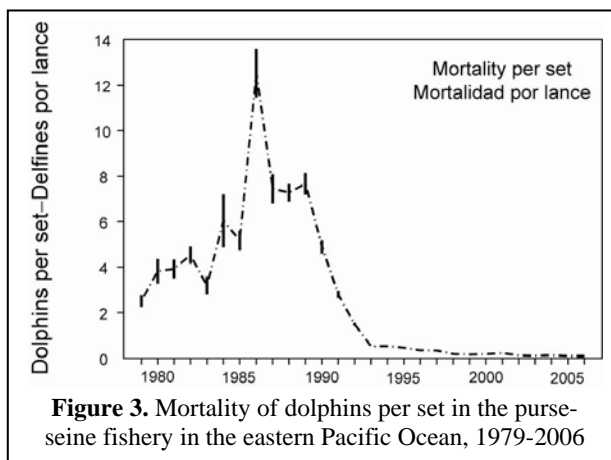
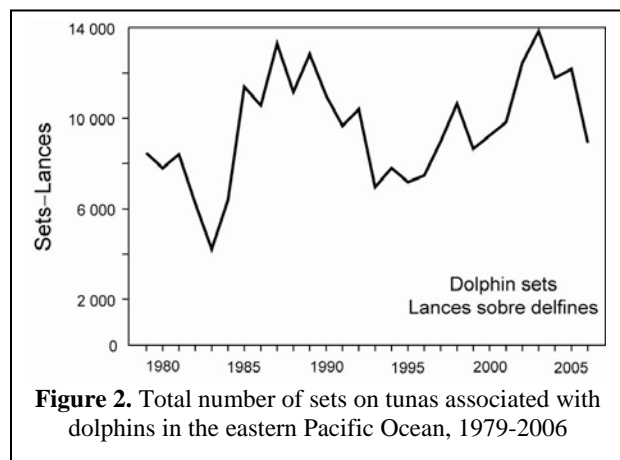
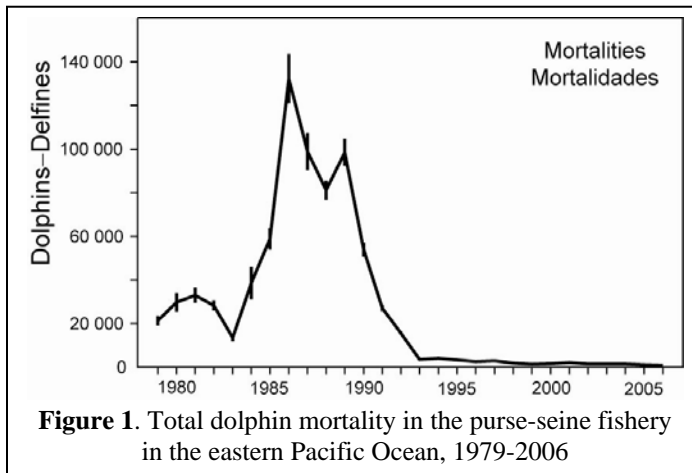
# AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

## EXECUTIVE REPORT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE AIDCP IN 2006

This Executive Report provides a brief summary of the operation of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) during 2006. Further information can be found in minutes of meetings, reports and other documents at [www.iattc.org](http://www.iattc.org). All data for 2006 are preliminary.

### 1. THE FISHERY IN 2006

During 2006, 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 8,923 intentional sets on tunas associated with dolphins, in which approximately 100 thousand metric tons (t) of yellowfin tuna were caught, 886 dolphins died, an average of 0.10 dolphins per set. Approximately 94% of these sets caused no mortality or serious injury of dolphins. Figures 1-3<sup>1</sup> show the trends in total mortality, number of sets on tunas associated with dolphins and mortality per set.

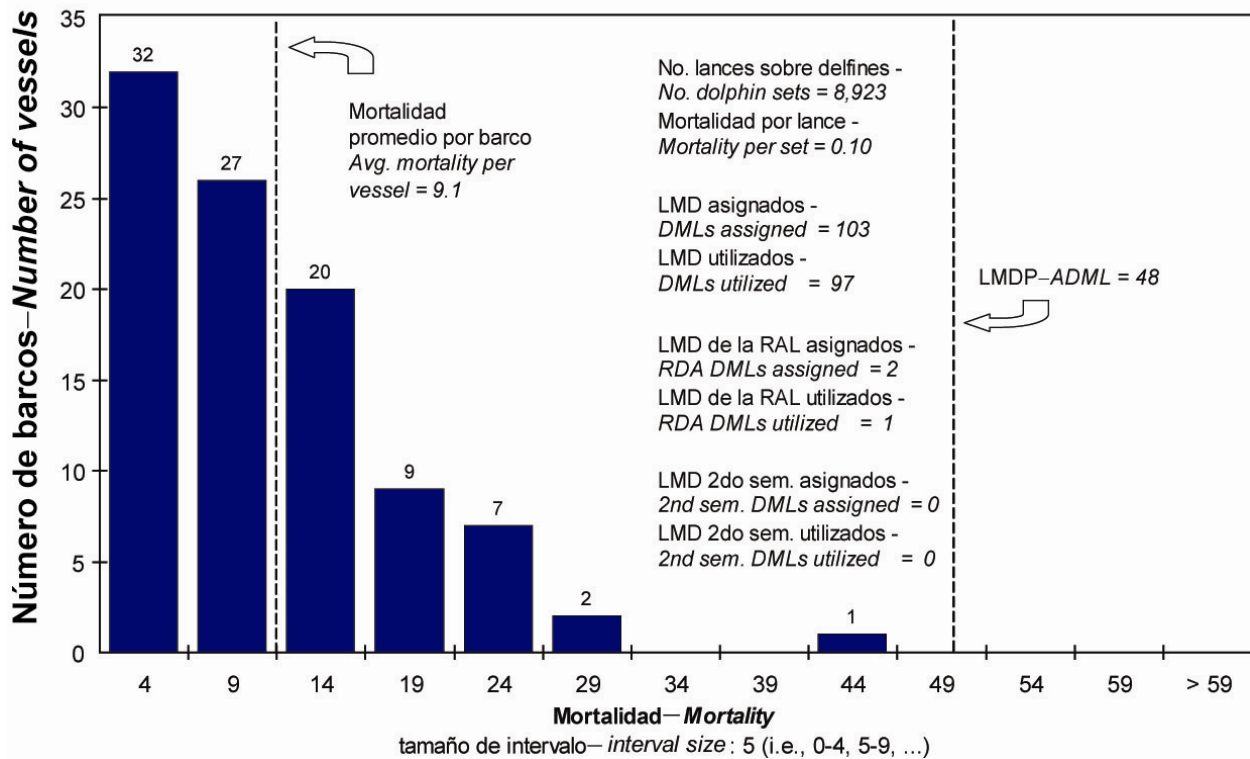


One hundred and three vessels were allocated full-year Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) and the average individual-vessel DML (ADML) was 48 animals. Ninety-seven of these DMLs were utilized; none were exceeded, and the average mortality per vessel was 9.1 dolphins. In addition, two vessels were allocated DMLs from the Reserve DML Allocation, one of which was utilized. No second-semester DMLs were allocated. The distribution of the mortality caused in 2006 by these vessels is shown in Figure 4.

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

**MORTALIDAD CAUSADA POR BARCOS CON LMD - 2006**  
**MORTALITY CAUSED BY DML VESSELS - 2006**

Utilización de LMD = 1 o más lances intencionales sobre delfines  
*DML utilization = 1 or more intentional sets on dolphins*



**Figure 4.** Distribution of dolphin mortality caused by vessels with DMLs, 2006.

**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 2006, the following [changes](#) were made to the Annexes of the [Agreement](#) or adopted as [other measures](#) to strengthen the Agreement.

1. The AIDCP Parties made a number of decisions, including the adoption of Resolution [A-06-01](#) on vessel assessments and financing, to ensure the program is funded adequately..
2. Annex IV.I.8 of the AIDCP was amended to allow the Director to assign DMLs from the Reserve DML Allocation (RDA) to vessels which are not eligible to receive a DML at the time of the deadline for requests for full-year DMLs, but become eligible subsequently and desire to participate in the fishery during the year for which the DML from the RDA is requested.

**3. ADMINISTRATION OF OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT**

The 41<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> meetings of the International Review Panel (IRP) reviewed observer information from 773 fishing trips, in which 9,452 sets were made on tuna associated with dolphins.

Following these meetings, a total of 84 possible infractions of the types shown in the table below were forwarded to the Parties for investigation, compared to 90 possible infractions in 2005 and to an average of 205 in the three previous years, 2002-2004.

<b>POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Average 2002-2004</b>
Fishing without an observer	1	0	2.6
Fishing on dolphins without a DML	1	6	7.3
Failing to avoid injuring or killing dolphins captured in the course of fishing operations	0	1	1.6
Fishing on dolphins after reaching the DML	0	0	24.3
Depart to fish with a DML without a dolphin safety panel in the net	5	0	3.3
Fishing captain assigned to a DML vessel not on AIDCP List of Qualified Captains	5	3	31
Use of explosives when fishing on dolphins	12	32	19.6
Not conducting backdown after dolphins are captured	3	4	2.6
Sacking up or brailing live dolphins	2	2	2
Harassing an observer, or interfering with his duties	6	6	5.6
Night set (not completing backdown within 30 minutes after sundown)	12	17	43.3
Not deploying rescuers during backdown	0	0	0
Item of rescue equipment missing	29	12	59.3
Not continuing rescue efforts after backdown with live dolphins in the net	1	0	0.3
Fishing on dolphins prior to notification of allocation of DMLs	7	7	2

As of July 31, 2007, the Secretariat had received the following responses from governments for possible infractions reported during 2006 and 2005:

<b>Response</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Confirmed as infraction, sanction imposed	5	16
Confirmed as infraction, no sanction	0	0
Warning issued	1	0
Determined not to be infraction	5	41
Under investigation	32	9
No response	2	24

#### **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 2006, 5 valid dolphin safe tuna certificates were issued by the Parties.