

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL

36TH MEETING

LIMA, PERU
8 JUNE 2004

DOCUMENT IRP-36-13b

SUMMARY OF PENDING SPECIAL CASES MONITORED BY THE IRP

1. VESSEL 'B'- Carrying capacity less than 363 t; well volume 410 m³

This vessel was sighted chasing dolphins with speedboats by an IDCP observer assigned to a vessel of the same flag. The Party was notified of the incident by the Secretariat in October 2001, and the case was first brought to the attention of the IRP later that month at its 28th meeting. In March 2002 the Secretariat asked the Party if there was any progress on the case; to date, the Party has not responded to that inquiry.

Information collected by the IATTC in July 2001 indicates that at that time the vessel was equipped with 3 speedboats and a dolphin safety panel 120 fathoms long, 2 net strips deep, and constructed of 1-1/4 inch mesh webbing.

At the request of the 35th Meeting of the IRP, the Secretariat sent a letter to the Party on March 24, 2004, stating that the Panel may consider suspending the confidentiality of the vessel's name and flag if additional information is not provided before the 36th Meeting of the IRP. As of June 1, 2004, no response had been received.

2. VESSEL 'C'- Carrying capacity less than 363 t; well volume 170 m³

This vessel was sighted with dolphins inside its net by a national program observer assigned to a vessel of another flag. The observer identified the dolphins as "*delfin negro*", a common name of a species not commonly involved in the fishery. This case was first brought to the attention of the IRP at its 26th meeting in January 2001. The Party of the sighted vessel was notified of the incident in February 2001; in June 2002 it notified the Secretariat that it was forced to close the case because it was not able to interview the observer concerned. At its 30th meeting in June 2002, the Panel instructed the Secretariat to send a letter to the Party of the national observer program exhorting it to cooperate in the investigation, and accordingly a letter was sent on August 23, 2002. To date, the Party of the national observer program has not responded to that inquiry. At the time of the incident, the Secretariat had no information regarding the presence or absence of dolphin safety gear aboard the vessel.

At the request of the 35th Meeting of the IRP, the Secretariat sent letters to both Parties on March 24, 2004. The flag Party was informed that a letter was being sent to the Party of the national observer program seeking their cooperation so that the investigation could be completed, and the Party of the national observer program was informed that the Panel may consider suspending the confidentiality of its vessel's name and flag if additional information is not provided before the 36th Meeting of the IRP. The flag Party replied to the Secretariat on March 29, 2004 stating that it supported the attempt to seek the other Party's cooperation. As of June 1, 2004, the Party of the national observer program had not responded.

3. VESSEL 'D'- Carrying capacity less than 363 t; well volume 180 m³

This vessel was sighted "chasing and setting on dolphins" by an observer on a vessel of the same flag in March 2002. The government of the sighted vessel received a copy of the IRP form documenting the sighting shortly after the trip ended; the Secretariat did not send a letter to the government regarding the case until September 23, 2002 after it was presented to the IRP at its meeting in June. To date, the Party

has not responded to that inquiry.

At the request of the 35th Meeting of the IRP, the Secretariat sent a letter to the Party on March 24, 2004 stating that the Panel may consider suspending the confidentiality of the vessel's name and flag if additional information is not provided before the 36th Meeting of the IRP. As of June 1, 2004, no response had been received.

4. VESSEL 'F' – AIDCP vessel

The 32nd meeting of the IRP in February 2003 reviewed a 2002 trip by this vessel (no. 2002-654) and identified as a possible infraction 35 intentional dolphin sets without a 2002 DML. On February 13, 2003, prior to the Secretariat's notification to the Party of the possible infraction, the Party notified the Secretariat that the infraction had been confirmed, the vessel fishing captain had been fined US\$100,000, and his license had been suspended for five years.

The 33rd meeting of the IRP in June 2003 reviewed the vessel's next two trips, nos. 2002-756 and 2003-101. The fishing captain mentioned above was the fishing captain of trip 2002-756 which ended prior to February 13, 2003. However, during that trip there were 33 intentional dolphin sets made in 2003 without a DML, which was identified by the IRP as a possible infraction. During trip 2003-101, with a different fishing captain, two intentional dolphin sets were made prior to the effective date of the vessel's 2003 DML, assigned from the Reserve DML Allocation. The Panel identified these sets as a possible infraction and expressed its concern that the vessel could be forming a pattern of infractions. All of these findings were forwarded to the Party by the Secretariat in a letter dated August 13, 2003. On February 17, 2004, the Party informed the Secretariat that cases 2002-756 and 2003-101 are under investigation.

5. VESSEL 'G' – AIDCP VESSEL

At the 10th Meeting of the Parties in October 2003, it was decided that this vessel, which had a DML during 2003, was not eligible for a 2004 DML because it had repeatedly employed fishing captains not on the AIDCP *List of Qualified Captains* while it had a DML. However, the flag Party assigned the vessel a 2004 DML from its national DML allocation. In February 2004, the 35th meeting of the IRP reviewed trip no. 2003-789 by the vessel, which included fishing activity in both 2003 and 2004. The Panel identified six possible infractions for this trip: 1) one night set; 2-3) two sets with explosives use; 4) observer interference; 5) unqualified fishing captain (during 2003); and 6) fishing on dolphins without a DML (20 sets during 2004). These findings were forwarded to the Party by the Secretariat in a letter dated March 24, 2004.

On May 12, 2004, the Party notified the Secretariat of its recent communications with vessel management regarding these possible infractions. On April 2, 2004, the Party notified management that a response to these possible infractions, except no. 6, was required by April 15. The Party sent a second notification on April 19, requiring a response to those five possible infractions by April 23. Apparently, no response was provided by that date, and on April 27 the Party notified management that a sanction of US\$41,771 had been applied to all five infractions. The Party required payment of the fine by May 7, 2004, and advised management that non-compliance with that requirement would result in the application of other mechanisms to ensure compliance.

During the review period for this IRP meeting, this vessel completed a trip during which the observer reported 39 intentional sets on tunas associated with dolphins without a DML, 5 of which had explosive use and 1 that was a night set. All of those possible infractions will be forwarded to the flag Party.

6. VESSEL 'H' – AIDCP VESSEL

The 35th meeting of the IRP in February 2004 reviewed trip no. 2003-700 by this DML vessel and identified a possible infraction of an unqualified captain. The person listed as the fishing captain on the vessel's official crew list was recorded as such by the observer on his IRP form, though it was his opinion

that the person recorded on the crew list as the fish spotter (Captain 'A', see Special Case no. 7) was actually in charge of the fishing operations. The Panel forwarded this case to the 11th Meeting of the Parties to determine if this vessel should be eligible to receive a DML in 2005, due to its employing the banned captain.

The case was reported to the Party by the Secretariat in a March 24, 2004, letter that included the Panel's request that the Party take necessary measures to ensure that Captain 'A' is not put in charge of fishing operations aboard a vessel in its fleet with a DML. As of June 1 there has been no response to this case.

7. FISHING CAPTAIN 'A'

This captain was permanently removed from the *List of Qualified Captains* in October 2001. Prior to the 31st IRP meeting in October 2002, the Secretariat notified the Party informally that it had information indicating that this captain had recently made two fishing trips on a DML vessel. The Party replied in a letter dated October 8, 2002, that vessel management had been notified that this was a possible infraction with a monetary sanction, and that the case was under appeal. The IRP identified these two possible infractions at its 31st meeting (trip nos. 2002-373 and 2002-486), and the Party was formally notified. To date there has been no further response to these cases.

The 32nd meeting of the IRP in February 2003 reviewed another trip by this captain on the same vessel (trip no. 2002-735) during which intentional sets on dolphins were made, and it was reported to the Party in March 2003 as a possible infraction. To date there has been no response to this case.

The 33rd meeting of the IRP in June 2003 reviewed two more trips by this captain on the same vessel, both trips with intentional dolphin sets, and they were reported to the Party as possible infractions (trip nos. 2003-028 and 2003-194). The Party replied on October 3, 2003 that those two possible infractions are under investigation, and there has been no subsequent response.

The 34th meeting of the IRP in October 2003 identified as a possible infraction, and forwarded to the Party, another trip by this captain with intentional dolphin sets on the same vessel (trip no.2003-341). To date there has been no response to this case.

The 35th meeting of the IRP in February 2004 reviewed a trip by a vessel of a different Party involving this captain (trip no. 2003-700) described above in Special Case no. 6 (Vessel 'H').

During the reporting period for the 36th meeting of the IRP, this captain made another trip on Vessel 'H', and was reported by the AIDCP observer to be the fishing captain. This trip is to be presented to the IRP for discussion.