

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL

37TH MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
19 OCTOBER 2004

DOCUMENT IRP-37-10

**AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX VIII OF THE AIDCP: OPERATIONAL
REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS**

At its 36th meeting, held in June 2004, the IRP discussed two of the dolphin safety gear and equipment requirements for vessels with DMLs that are listed in Annex VIII.2 of the Agreement, and asked the Secretariat to draft amendments to both items for review at this meeting. Annex VIII.2.c requires that a vessel shall “have an operable raft suitable for the observation and rescue of dolphins”, and Annex VIII.2.e requires that a vessel “have an operable long-range floodlight with a minimum output of 140,000 lumens”.

1. RAFT REQUIREMENT (Annex VIII.2.c)

At the 36th meeting, the delegation from El Salvador noted that many DML vessels now use motorized personal watercraft instead of the required raft to herd and rescue dolphins during a set, and suggested that Annex VIII.2.c of the Agreement be amended to allow the use of personal watercraft as an alternative to the raft. The Secretariat has in recent years received many comments from fishermen attesting to personal watercraft as a more efficient platform than a raft for facilitating the release of dolphins during and after backdown. However, personal watercraft are liable to breakdown, and more likely to be unusable during a trip than a raft. The Secretariat suggests that Annex VIII.2.c be amended to:

“Have both a raft and a personal watercraft that are suitable for the observation and rescue of dolphins, at least one of which must be operable during sets on dolphins.”

The reason for requiring both a raft and a personal watercraft aboard the vessel is that, if the watercraft was not functioning, the raft could serve as the rescue platform.

2. FLOODLIGHT SPECIFICATION (Annex VIII.2.e)

During the meeting in June it was suggested that the current requirement that a floodlight have a minimum output of 140,000 lumens be amended, mainly because of the difficulty of measuring lumens without special equipment, and the practical consideration that the power of floodlights is generally stated in watts. The meeting considered that a more practical requirement was preferable, and the Secretariat therefore suggests that Annex VIII.2.e be amended to:

“Have an operable long-range, high-intensity floodlight with a sodium lamp of at least 1000 watts or a multivapour lamp of at least 1500 watts.”

The specifications above will provide at least 140,000 lumens. The power of a lamp in watts is generally easier to determine than the output in lumens, and the proposed amendment will provide a clearer requirement.