

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL

31ST MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
8-9 OCTOBER 2002

DOCUMENT IRP-31-11

PROCEDURES TO DETER FRIVOLOUS REQUESTS FOR DMLs

A proposal on procedures to deter frivolous requests was presented by the European Union towards the end of the 30th IRP meeting. This proposal, which would require a modification of Section II (Utilization of DMLs) of Annex IV (Dolphin Mortality Limits) of the AIDCP, was briefly discussed by delegations, some comments and suggestions were made, and the Secretariat was asked to prepare a revised proposal for consideration at the 31st meeting of the IRP. The revised proposal is as follows:

“1. All requests for DMLs shall be subject to the procedures and criteria established in Section I of this Annex. In addition, beginning in 2004, requests by vessels that had a DML in the previous year shall be subject to the following provisions:

In the year prior to the year in which the vessel is applying for a DML, at least 5% of the total number of sets made by the vessel must have been made on dolphins, and the average catch of yellowfin in its sets on dolphins must have been at least three metric tons per set. Otherwise, the vessel cannot receive a DML, unless there are reasons of *force majeure*, as agreed pursuant to Annex IV of the AIDCP, that prevented it from complying with these requirements.

2. The effects of these procedures shall be reviewed annually, and modified if deemed advisable.”

This procedure shall apply from 2004, and the first DMLs that shall be issued pursuant to this proposal shall be those for 2005.