

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

**INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL**

**58<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**La Jolla, California (USA)**

**19 October 2015**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Election of the Presider	
3. Adoption of the agenda	
4. Non-governmental members of the Panel	
5. Approval of the minutes of the 57 <sup>th</sup> meeting	
6. a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2015	IRP-58-06a
b. Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2016	IRP-58-06b
7. Review of AIDCP <i>List of Qualified Captains</i>	IRP-58-07
8. Review of observer data	
9. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP:	
a. Actions taken since report at the 57 <sup>th</sup> meeting	IRP-58-09a
b. Status review of special cases	IRP-58-09b
10. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking	
11. Other business	
12. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties	
13. Place and date of next meeting	
14. Adjournment	

**APPENDIX**

1. List of attendees

The 58th meeting of the International Review Panel was held in La Jolla, California (USA) on 19 October 2015.

**1. Opening of the meeting**

Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), which provides the Secretariat for the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), opened the meeting.

**2. Election of the Presider**

Mr. Julio Guevara, of Nicaragua, was elected to chair the meeting.

**3. Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

**4. Non-governmental members of the Panel**

The Secretariat reported that the following persons had been named non-governmental members of the Panel for the next two years:

Industry	Rafael Trujillo Lillo Maniscalchi Ernesto Escobar	Cámara Nacional de Pesquería del Ecuador Asociación Venezolana de Armadores Atuneros Pesca Azteca, Mexico
Environmental NGOs	Cristobel Block Rebecca Regnery	Humane Society of the United States Humane Society International

## 5. Approval of the minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting

The minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Panel were approved without changes.

### 6. a) Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2015

The Secretariat summarized the situation regarding the allocation, reallocation, and utilization of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) in 2015, described in Document IRP-58-06a, noting that no vessel had exceeded its allocated DML for that year. The total mortality in 2015 has been 633 dolphins in 9,375 sets on dolphins, a mortality per set of 0.07 dolphins.

The meeting highlighted the low level of mortality that had once again been recorded and noted that the great results thus achieved show the success of the exemplary efforts of the Parties and their fleets.

### b) DMLs for 2016

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-58-06b on DMLs requested for 2016. Ninety-eight requests were received, 96 of which were considered qualified for a DML. In the case of the two other requests, which were for vessels that have not yet joined the fishery, and so cannot meet all the corresponding requirements, it was agreed to consider them qualified provisionally, on the understanding that a DML could be allocated to those vessels once they have submitted all the relevant documentation.

## 7. Review of the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-57-06, *Changes to the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains*, which updates the changes that occurred between 29 April and 24 September 2015; during which time seven captains were added, one reinstated and one removed.

## 8. Review of observer data

The Secretariat reported that, for the first time in the history of the AIDCP, no possible infractions were identified in the observer data that required review by the Panel. The only case to be considered was that of a Class-6 purse-seine vessel from Korea, a country that is a member of the IATTC but not a Party to the AIDCP nor a participant in the program, which entered the eastern Pacific with all its fishing gear but without an observer aboard. The vessel unloaded tuna in a port on the coast of the Americas and then made a stop at an additional port before leaving the area. The Panel agreed that a communication would be sent to Korea to for the Korean authorities to investigate the case and inform the Parties about it. The IRP also noted that the case would be considered by the IATTC Review Committee.

## 9. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP

### a. Actions taken since the report at the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-58-08a, *Responses to six types of possible infractions identified during the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting*. In the case of a Venezuelan vessel with an infraction of use of explosives, the fishing captain was sanctioned by being removed from the list of qualified captains.

Eight cases of possible infractions under investigation were presented for which no updates had been received, three cases of use of explosives and five of night sets.

Mexico indicated that one case of use of explosives was still under investigation, and Colombia reported that, in the case of a vessel with two possible infractions of use of explosives, their situation was about to be defined, and stressed the importance of submitting the observers' reports on time so that the cases

could be attended to in a timely manner.

#### **b. Status review of special cases**

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-58-08b, *Summary of pending special cases monitored by the IRP*. There were two related cases (Trips 2014-004 and 2014-145), originally addressed by the Panel at its 55<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2014, and again at each subsequent meeting, involving an observer who apparently was substituted by an unknown person during the two trips.

During its 57<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Panel decided to ask the Party involved to report to the Secretariat the details of the second investigation that it had undertaken, so that the Panel could have an informed discussion of the case.

The Secretariat highlighted the need to take fully into account the responsibility of the owner and captain of the vessel, in particular in relation to the violation of their obligations regarding the crew list endorsed by the competent maritime authorities, without prejudice to the legal and other actions related to the observer's violation of his work obligations.

After various interventions about this case, the Panel agreed that preventive measures should also be adopted in order to avoid a repetition of this kind of situation. The Secretariat was asked to circulate a communication with proposals for such measures, including those already expressed by the participants.

### **10. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking**

Ing. Luis Torres, of Ecuador, chair of the Working Group, presented his report (Appendix 2). The Group held substantial discussions on the status of the Tuna Tracking Program and highlighted the 93% compliance with the requirement to submit Tuna Tracking Forms. The Group did not make recommendations to the MOP.

### **11. Other business**

No other business was discussed.

### **12. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties**

The Panel agreed on the following recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties:

1. Consider as qualified for a DML the 96 requests that were presented and consider as qualified provisionally the requests for DMLs for two vessels: one Mexican (not yet on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register) and the other Venezuelan (which had not completed the submission of the requirements for qualification) that will fish on dolphins in 2016, subject to the condition that the Mexican vessel be duly included in the Regional Register and that complete information for qualifying the two vessels to receive DMLs be submitted, and that the corresponding payments to the IDCP be made .
2. Send a communication to Korea to report the case of a Korean-flag Class-6 purse-seine vessel that entered the eastern Pacific Ocean without an observer but with all its fishing gear, for the Korean authorities to investigate the case and inform the Parties about it.
3. Regarding the case of the substitution of an observer by an unknown person, that the Secretariat circulate among the Parties proposals for preventive measures to avoid a repetition of this kind of situation.

### **13. Place and date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Panel will be held in La Jolla, California (USA) in June 2016 in conjunction with next meetings of the AIDCP.

### **14. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m. on 19 October 2015.

## Appendix 1.

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