

**AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN
CONSERVATION PROGRAM
33rd MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

La Jolla, California (USA)
21 June 2016

PROPOSAL MOP-33 A-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING OBSERVER SAFETY AT SEA

The Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP):

Taking into account that observers collect data that is essential to the functions of the AIDCP and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and that the safety of observers is critical to their ability to perform their duties;

Recognizing that purse seine vessels are required to carry observers under requirements of the AIDCP;

Concerned that there are no established observer safety equipment requirements for the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program and there is variability in these requirements in the Parties' respective national observer programs;

Considering that consistent safety requirements should apply to all observers operating within the legal and institutional framework of the AIDCP;

Resolve as follows:

In accordance with paragraph 3 of Article XXX of the Agreement, Annex II of the Agreement is amended by adding new paragraph 7 to read as follows, renumbering current paragraph 7 and subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

7. Observer Safety

- a. All observers must be provided, before any boarding for a trip, with (1) an approved independent two-way communication satellite device, and (2) a waterproof personal

lifesaving beacon.¹

- b. Observer programs must have a designated officer or officers responsible for monitoring the signal from the approved independent two-way satellite communication device from the observer at all times.
- c. Observer programs must have an established procedure for a designated officer or other authorized persons to initiate contact with the observer, the vessel, and, if necessary, the appropriate enforcement authority of the member or cooperating non-member with jurisdiction over the vessel; this procedure must clearly describe the steps that must be taken in the event of various emergencies.

¹ Noting that these two items may consist of a single device such as “Satellite Emergency Notification Device” or it may be a combination of an independent satellite-based system such as a satellite phone plus a portable lifesaving beacon.