

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
40TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

La Jolla, California, USA
22 October 2019

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Election of Chairman	
3. Adoption of the agenda	
4. Approval of the Minutes of the 39 th Meeting of the Parties	AIDCP-39
5. Secretariat's report on the IDCP	AIDCP-40-01
6. AIDCP budget	AIDCP-39-01
a) Utilization of surplus resources as a complement to the study on dolphin abundance in the EPO	
7. Proposal on rules of procedure for the AIDCP	
8. Report of the 31 st meeting of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System	
9. Report of the 66 th meeting of the International Review Panel	
10. Other business	
11. Place and date of next meeting	
12. Adjournment	

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees
2. Report of the 31st meeting of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System
3. Report of the President of the 66th meeting of the International Review Panel

The 40th Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) was held in La Jolla, California, on 22 October 2019.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), which provides the Secretariat for the AIDCP, after confirming that the data for with 9 Parties present at the meeting: Belize, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, United States, and Venezuela.

2. Election of Chairman

Mr. Alvin Delgado, of Venezuela, was elected Chair of the meeting.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was approved with the inclusion at Colombia's request of a new item 6 to consider its proposal for the elaboration and adoption of rules of procedure for the AIDCP. It was also announced that, under item 10 "Other business", the question of the safety equipment for on-board observers would be considered, in relation to the implementation of Resolution A-18-02 paragraph 2.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the 39th Meeting of the Parties

The Minutes of the 39th Meeting of the Parties were approved without changes.

5. Secretariat's report on the IDCP

Mr. Brad Wiley of the Secretariat staff presented Document AIDCP-40-01 Report on the International Dolphin Conservation Program. He reported that the recorded dolphin mortality in the fishery in 2018 was 819 animals, compared to 683 in 2017. The number of sets on dolphins by Class-6 vessels was 9,774 in 2018, compared to 8,863 in 2017, and these sets made up 38% of the total number of sets made by those vessels in 2018. The average mortality per set was 0.084 dolphins in 2018, compared to 0.077 dolphins in 2017.

6. AIDCP budget

Ms. Roa of the Secretariat staff referred to Document MOP-39-01 AIDCP Budget, which had already been presented at the Bilbao meeting in July 2019, highlighting its most relevant parts.

Nicaragua clarified that, with resolution A-19-01, the use of 10% of the surplus for national programs was approved, so that 10% of the surplus should be subtracted, leaving a surplus of US\$1,865,421. It was proposed that a meeting of the national observer programs be held with the IATTC staff in order to define how the 10% of the surplus would be delivered to the national observer programs in accordance with resolution A-19-01.

Venezuela asked that the information showing an outstanding assessment from the vessel *Aleta Azul*, which had already been paid, be corrected and that the vessel *Las Aves* be added to the list if it had an outstanding assessment.

After it was recalled that, at the last meeting of the AIDCP held in Bilbao, it was noted that no increases in the budget or in the individual assessments would be approved and that the Secretariat should generate savings to increase the amount of payment to observers with the same budget as the previous year, the budget for 2020 was approved with the same amount as that for 2019 for US\$ 3,314,674.

6a. Utilization of surplus resources as a complement to the study on dolphin abundance in the EPO

Dr. Cleridy Lennert, of the IATTC scientific staff, made a presentation on progress in the study of dolphin abundance. She reported that a trial trip with the use of drones had been carried out (July 16); the 14-day pilot trip will take place on November 17-30, 2019, aboard the INAPESCA research vessel *Jorge Carranza*, and will be funded by the Government of Mexico and the *Pacific Alliance for Sustainable Tuna*. The results of the 14-day pilot trip will be presented to the Scientific Advisory Committee meeting in 2020.

Mexico stressed the commitment of its government and its tuna industry to carry out the study and to finance it as much as possible and requested the support of the other Parties for the next stages of the study.

Several Parties congratulated Mexico on the initiative and stressed the importance of technical and financial support for the project. Colombia mentioned that the financial contributions made by Mexico overcame the impasse for the pilot study and affirmed its commitment to the study. It mentioned that there is a need to clarify some issues such as those mentioned in the comments of the United States that had been circulated but that this would surely be clarified with the pilot study.

The IATTC Director thanked Mexico and its industry for their efforts in the project, which will be strengthened as more resources are available. The resources do not necessarily have to be monetary but in kind, as

with the vessel *Jorge Carranza*.

7. Proposal for rules of procedure for the AIDCP

Colombia presented a document with a proposal on rules of procedure for the AIDCP (AIDCP-40 PROP A-1 COL AIDCP Rules of Procedure)).

The United States noted that it agreed with the need for rules of procedure for the AIDCP to be defined. While recognizing that the proposal presented by Colombia was a good starting point, it stated that it needed more time to review it and make the necessary internal consultations.

Honduras proposed that an *ad hoc* working group be established that could work virtually on revising the text and developing a consensus proposal. The meeting of the Parties agreed that such a group should be established and that the Secretariat should contribute to the process of developing the rules, for example by reviewing the proposed deadlines for submission of documents. Also, it was agreed that the Chair of the AIDCP, Mr. Alvin Delgado, would coordinate the work of the virtual group and that an additional day would be scheduled at the next Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP so that the document prepared by the virtual working group could be considered and discussed.

8. Report of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Bernal Chavarría (Honduras), presented his report (see Appendix 2), noting that the Group did not present recommendations to the meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP. He added that the analysis of the possible use of social networks to promote the AIDCP and its label was left pending for when a document would be made available, which would address issues such as who will endorse the content of the publicity as may be developed and agreed.

9. Report of the International Review Panel

Mr. Enrique de la Vega of Colombia, Presider of the 66th meeting of the Panel, presented his report (see Appendix 3). The Meeting of the Parties agreed on the following:

- a) To approve 108 DMLs out of the 109 requested for 2020 because one of the requesting vessels has a pattern of infractions
- b) Refer case 2019-448 to the relevant Party for investigation of possible observer harassment, as well as inclusion in the list of special cases for follow-up.
- c) Refer case 2019-614 to the relevant Party for investigation of a fishing trip with a captain not on the list of qualified captains
- d) Request the Secretariat, in the event that Dr. Martin Hall presents a report regarding his comments to the AIDCP, to evaluate its content and present a report to the Parties for consideration by the IRP. This report should be in accordance with the rules of confidentiality of the AIDCP.

10. Other business

a) Equipment for the safety of observers on board.

Colombia requested information on how the acquisition and delivery of the equipment referred to in Resolution A-18-02, paragraph 2, will be carried out.

Mr. Altamirano recalled that the resolution required that the national programs send information on the number of equipment required by 1 June 2019. On this basis, 500 kits were purchased last month (including radio beacons and emergency communication equipment) and are in the process of distribution, considering the best options for doing so.

b) Submission of TTFs.

Colombia mentioned that during the meeting of the Tuna Tracking Working Group it did not have an opportunity to clarify that its country had submitted 16 TTFs out of a total of 17 trips. The Secretariat clarified that the 17 TTF had already been located so they were already 100% complete.

No other business was discussed.

11. Place and date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP would be held in 2020, considering the venue and date of the annual meeting of the IATTC.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 on 22 October 2019.

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Appendix 1

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NOTE: IF YOUR INFORMATION IS INCORRECT, PLEASE LET US KNOW. THANKS.

NOTA: SI SU INFORMACIÓN ES INCORRECTA, POR FAVOR DEJENOS SABER. GRACIAS.

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Appendix 2

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP TO PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE THE AIDCP
DOLPHIN-SAFE TUNA CERTIFICATION SYSTEM
31st MEETING
21 October 2019
La Jolla, California

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of the minutes of the 30 th meeting	
4. Actions to promote AIDCP dolphin-safe tuna	
5. Recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties	
6. Other business	
7. Date and place of next meeting	
8. Adjournment	

The 31st Meeting of the Working Group to Promote and Publicize the AIDCP Dolphin-Safe Tuna Certification System was held in La Jolla, California, on 21 October 2019. The list of attendees can be found in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. Bernal Chavarría, of Honduras, who thanked the participants for their trust in him to chair the meeting of the Working Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 30th meeting

The minutes of the 30th Meeting of the Working Group were approved without changes.

4. Actions to promote AIDCP dolphin-safe tuna

The Chair recalled that, during the 30th meeting, a preliminary proposal was discussed regarding the use of social media, particularly Facebook and Twitter, to facilitate a better interpersonal dialogue without barriers in order to increase the publicity of the Agreement and give visibility to the actions carried out under this Agreement, especially regarding the reduction of incidental dolphin mortality. At that time, it was noted that it was necessary to go deeper into key aspects such as the budget and who would decide on the information to be published, which are essential before adopting a decision on the proposal. It was noted that the subject would be discussed again when the proposer (Guatemala) provides this information. However,

this document was not available, and the group will therefore await the duly submission of this information for its discussion. No new proposals of actions to promote AIDCP dolphin-safe tuna were discussed.

5. Recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties

The Working Group had no recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP.

6. Other business

No other business was raised to be discussed by the Working Group.

7. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on the dates that are agreed for the meetings of the AIDCP in the second half of 2020.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 on 21 October 2019.

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Appendix 3

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL
66TH MEETING
La Jolla, California, USA
21 October 2019

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 65 th meeting	
6. a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2019	IRP-66-01
b. Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2020	IRP-66-02
7. Review of AIDCP List of Qualified Captains	IRP-66-03
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 65 th meeting	IRP-66-04
b. Status review of special cases	
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 66th meeting of the International Review Panel was held in La Jolla, California, USA, on 21 October 2019.

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. Enrique de la Vega, of Colombia, was elected as the Presider of the meeting.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted without changes.

4. Non-governmental members of the Panel

The Secretariat reported that the procedure for electing non-governmental members of the IRP was conducted in accordance with the provisions of Annex VII, paragraph 4, of the AIDCP. Therefore, Rafael Trujillo, Ernesto Escobar and Arnulfo Franco were elected in representation from the tuna industry. Mrs. Rebeca Regnery, from Humane Society International, was elected in representation from environmental organizations.

5. Approval of the minutes of the 65th meeting

The minutes of the 65th meeting of the Panel were approved without any changes.

6. a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2019

Mr. Enrique Ureña, from the Commission staff, presented Document [IRP-66-01, “Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2019”](#), which covers the situation regarding the utilization of DMLs during 2019, as well as some statistics of dolphin-associated tuna fisheries. He reported that the average DML allocated for 2019 is 45 dolphins. No individual DML per vessel has been exceeded during the year and the mortality rate is 0.07 dolphins per set, with 8,116 sets on dolphins and a mortality of 584 as of 1 October 2019.

Mexico highlighted that the mortality rate has been very low for several years and that technology has already reached its peak in terms of excellent performance, which shows that the program is on the right track. It noted that mortality per stock should be reviewed.

Dr. Martin Hall, from the Secretariat, commented that such information should be reviewed since there could be an underestimation of the actual mortality rate based on observer data and due to other factors. The Director and Coordinator of Scientific Research emphasized the nature and soundness of the information management processes developed by the Program and stressed that the opinion expressed by Dr. Hall at this forum, in a personal capacity, does not represent that of the IATTC staff. Several Parties expressed their surprise at the statement by Dr. Hall and emphasized that these types of comments should be duly supported by documented evidence. For this reason, the IRP agreed to recommend that Dr. Hall be asked to prepare a document to support his comments. On the other hand, this will be an opportunity for the Secretariat to prepare a report on what has been done and is scheduled to be done in terms of procedures and controls to guarantee an optimal implementation of the AIDCP, particularly in relation to the observer program.

b. Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2020

Mr. Ureña summarized the situation regarding DML requests for 2020. He noted that DMLs were requested for 109 vessels, but one did not qualify due to having fallen into a pattern of infractions, pursuant to Resolution A-02-0, and that Annex IV, section I, paragraph 9, disqualifies a vessel with a pattern of infractions from receiving a DML. On this basis, the Panel recommended the allocation of 108 DMLs.

7. Review of AIDCP List of Qualified Captains

The Secretariat presented Document [IRP-66-03, “Review of AIDCP List of Qualified Captains”](#), which updates the changes that occurred between 30 May and 2 October 2019; during this time, two captains were added to the list, and none were removed or reinstated.

8. Review of observer data

The Secretariat presented the data reported by observers of the On-Board Observer Program relating to possible infractions received and processed by the Secretariat since the Panel’s 65th meeting. The Panel discussed those cases that are not automatically sent to the relevant Parties to determine which of them should be notified to the responsible Government as possible infractions.

The case of **Trip 2019-448** of a possible observer harassment report was reviewed. Even though this case has already been preliminary investigated by the relevant authority, the IRP recommended sending it as a possible infraction case to the authority for investigation and including it in the list of Special Cases followed up by the Panel. The IRP also recommended that the Secretariat send a communication to the corresponding Party recalling that it is important for captains to be more alert of possible observer harassment.

The case of **Trip 2019-614** of a fishing captain not included in the List of Qualified Captains was reviewed. The IRP recommended sending this case as a possible infraction to the corresponding Party and requested that both fisheries authorities and observer programs verify the List of Qualified Captains before assigning and/or dispatching a vessel with a DML.

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

a. Actions taken since report at the 65th meeting

The Secretariat presented Document [IRP-66-04, “Actions taken since report at the 65th meeting”](#), which included a possible observer harassment and a fishing trip without an observer. Regarding the case of possible harassment, there is no response from the responsible Party. As for the case of the trip without an observer, the responsible Party mentioned that the corresponding investigation had been conducted and the vessel had been sanctioned. Furthermore, there was a case of a vessel that made a night set, which has been pending for more than two years.

The Parties with pending cases were encouraged to report on actions taken at the next meeting.

b. Status review of special cases

The Secretariat presented the Document “*Summary of Pending Special Cases Monitored by the Panel*”. Case 63-01 has been reviewed during several meetings and involves trips 2017-916, 2018-140 and 2018-228, on which the same vessel conducted three consecutive trips without a qualified captain.

It was reported that the corresponding Government had sent a letter to the Secretariat on 16 September 2019 indicating that the infraction was identified and opened the corresponding administrative file, in addition to sending a memorandum to the shipowners requiring compliance with the provisions of the AIDCP. Consequently, the Panel decided to remove it from the list of special cases.

10. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking

Mr. David Hogan, Chair of the Working Group, presented his report. He expressed that there were no specific recommendations for the IRP, the minutes were approved, and no other business was discussed.

11. Other business

No other business was raised.

12. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties

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

- a) Approve 108 DMLs of the 109 requested for 2020 since one of the vessels has a pattern of infractions.
- b) Send case 2019-448 to the relevant Party for investigation of possible observer harassment and include it in the list of special cases for monitoring.
- c) Send case 2019-614 to the relevant Party for investigation of a fishing trip with a captain who is not on the List of Qualified Captains.
- d) Request the Secretariat, in the event that Dr. Martin Hall submits a report on his comments before the AIDCP, to evaluate its contents and submit a report to the Parties for consideration by the IRP. This report must comply with the rules of confidentiality of the AIDCP.

13. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Panel will be held in conjunction with the next meetings of the AIDCP in 2020.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 13:10 on 21 October 2019.

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Appendix 4

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING
44TH MEETING
La Jolla, California, USA
21 October 2019

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
9. Opening of the meeting	
10. Adoption of the agenda	
11. Approval of the report of the 43 rd meeting	
12. Review of the implementation of the Dolphin Safe Certification System	TT-44-01
13. Other business	
14. Recommendations for the International Review Panel	
15. Place and date of next meeting	
16. Adjournment	

APPENDIX

1. List of attendees

The 44th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in La Jolla, California, USA, on 21 October 2019.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr. Guillermo Comepeán, Director of the IATTC, who recalled that Mr. David Hogan (USA) is the Chair of the Working Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Approval of the report of the 43rd meeting

The report of the 43rd meeting, circulated previously by the Secretariat, was approved without changes.

4. Review of the implementation of the [Dolphin Safe Certification System](#)

Mr. Marlon Román, from the Secretariat’s staff, presented Document TT-44-01, “[Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system](#).” It was reported that the Secretariat has received 339 TTFs—both original and digital—from the 347 trips made between 16 May 2019 and 15 September 2019; this represents 98% of compliance.

Additionally, during said period, the Secretariat received 289 copies of dolphin-safe certificates

corresponding to 68 TTFs completed during 68 fishing trips, which were considered valid. The certified tonnage (15,623 t) represents 6.7% of the total of 232,749 t recorded as dolphin safe on the TTFs of the 347 completed trips.

There were no comments on the report.

5. Other business

No other business was discussed.

6. Recommendations for the International Review Panel

There were no recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP.

7. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on the dates agreed for the meetings of the AIDCP in 2020.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 on 21 October 2019.

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