

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM**39TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

Bilbao (Spain)

16 July 2019

PROPOSAL MOP-39 A-1**SUBMITTED BY VENEZUELA****ON FUNDING THE NATIONAL PROGRAMS****EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

Since the entry into force of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), various on-board observer programs were formed in the framework of the AIDCP, for tuna vessels with coverage of up to 50%, which allowed the creation of the observer programs of Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, the European Union and Venezuela, since that of Mexico was already functioning. All the programs maintain a coverage of up to 50%, except that of Ecuador which contemplates only up to 30%, they have shown since the beginning a high grade of efficacy at the same level as the observer program of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), which carries the rest of the coverage of the observer program. Since their beginnings they have managed to reduce the time that the IATTC would dedicate to reviewing data, since they are reviewed, analyzed, processed and transferred to the IATTC to be used by the Commission staff for the scientific and compliance parts of the Agreement and also for compliance with the various Resolutions of the IATTC.

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

Taking into account that the observer programs have proved to be an important support in the implementation of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program;

Taking into account that they have resulted in time savings for the staff of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, since half of the data collected are reviewed, analyzed and processed by the staff of the various observer programs and at the end the data are transferred to the IATTC;

Taking into account that observers take data to measure compliance with the various resolutions both of the AIDCP and of the IATTC;

Taking into account that some programs have financial problems to improve their efficient work even more, primarily in updating of equipment purchases;

Recognizing that the national observer programs are an important part within the AIDCP;

Aware that currently thanks to the good management by the Commission of the contributions of the various vessel owners make to the AIDCP for payment by their vessels that operate in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, they have achieved that the Agreement, currently has a surplus as of 31 December 2018 of approximately one million eight hundred and fifty-seven thousand two hundred and twenty-eight dollars (US\$ 1,857,228.00).

Aware that contributions are pending payment as of 31 May 2018, in the amount of three hundred and fifty-two thousand three hundred and twenty-eight dollars (US\$ 352,328.00), which will increase the surplus even more.

Resolve as follows:

1. That the AIDCP allocate to the various observer programs 10% of the surplus of these funds to be used to re-equip the programs, with a view to improving their functioning even more, which could not be updated due to financial deficiencies.
2. This contribution will be for this time only, to help replace equipment both for observers and for data processing, such as new-generation computer equipment which could not be updated due to financial deficiencies.
3. This 10% contribution shall be distributed equitably among all the national programs: Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, European Union and Venezuela.