

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
RESOLUTION ON DOLPHIN NECROPSY STUDY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COLLABORATION ON THE AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

11 October 1999

The Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program:

Recognizing that the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program urges Parties to promote and support research to improve gear, equipment, and fishing techniques, including those used in the fishery for tunas associated with dolphins;

Acknowledging that the U.S. International Dolphin Conservation Program Act establishes a program of research on the dolphin stocks associated with the purse-seine fishery for tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean to monitor their abundance and study possible stress-related effects that might be related to the chase and capture of dolphins associated with tuna;

Noting that the first year of the study of population abundance has been completed, and the second of the three years of surveys is now in progress;

Noting further that analyses of historical data are now in progress and that the technicians have been trained, but that the rest of the program, involving field activities related to necropsies of dolphins taken in the purse-seine fishery, and a related experiment to study effects of stress in live dolphins during repeated chase and recapture of the same animals, have yet to begin;

Recognizing that to date no field activities have been carried out, and therefore no samples nor information have been collected;

Acknowledging that this information is critical to increase understanding of the possible effects of tuna fishing on the dolphin stocks in the eastern Pacific Ocean,

Commit to:

- Participating fully in the needed necropsy studies;
- Assigning and placing, as soon as possible, technicians on tuna purse-seine vessels fishing in association with dolphins to collect samples from the maximum number of trips possible during 1999; and
- Continuing this necropsy sampling effort in 2000.