

# AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

## 19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Panama  
18 June 2007

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

#### AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of meeting	
2. Election of Chairman	
3. Adoption of agenda	
4. Approval of the minutes of the 18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties	
5. Secretariat's Report on the IDCP	MOP-19-05
6. AIDCP budget	MOP-19-06
7. Clarification of vessel fees	MOP-19-07
8. Report of the International Review Panel	
9. Report from the Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties	
10. Recommendations from the Scientific Advisory Board	
11. Other business	
12. Place and date of next meeting	
13. Adjournment	

#### APPENDICES

1. List of attendees

The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP was held in Panama City (Panama) on 18 June 2008. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

#### 1. Opening of meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the IATTC.

#### 2. Election of Chairman

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

#### 3. Adoption of agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted as presented, with requests to address the following matters under item 11, Other Business:

1. Venezuela: changing the dates of the annual meeting of the Parties;
2. Mexico: Proposal regarding ecolabelling;
3. European Union: Reducing the number of meetings.

4. United States: Communication from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

#### **4. Approval of the minutes of the 18th Meeting of the Parties**

The minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties were approved as presented.

#### **5. Secretariat's report on the IDCP**

Dr. Compeán presented Document MOP-19-05. El Salvador suggested that this report should include information on compliance with TTF reporting requirements. Mexico stated that it should include the new estimates of dolphin abundance, to compare with the previous ones. Mexico stressed the success of the Agreement in reducing the incidental mortality of dolphins, but noted that an essential aspect of the Agreement, access to markets, had not been achieved. Mexico proposed that such aspects of the AIDCP as reducing the level of observer coverage and the number of meetings should be reviewed. Some delegations supported this, but others expressed concern about reducing the level of observer coverage, since this was one of the great strengths of the Agreement. Although no consensus was reached on these issues, it was concluded that certain aspects of the AIDCP should be reviewed if the question of market access was not resolved.

#### **6. AIDCP budget**

Dr. Compeán presented the proposed budget for 2009 (Document MOP-19-06). This was acceptable to the Parties, but several delegations were opposed to the proposal to increase vessel assessments, and suggested that ways of cutting costs be found, such as reducing meetings or requiring vessel owners to cover some of the costs of the observer program, such as salaries of observers when vessels are fishing outside the EPO and the cost of repatriating observers from vessels whose trips terminated outside the EPO. Panama asked whether observers would no longer be assigned if the money ran out, and Dr. Compeán explained that the Secretariat would do what it could to ensure that the budget deficit did not affect the assignment of observers. Finally, the proposed budget was approved, but not the increase in vessel fees.

#### **7. Clarification of vessel fees**

Mr. Hallman, of the Secretariat, presented Document MOP-19-07, *Clarification of vessel fees*, which contained three points. The first was a Secretariat proposal to update Resolution [A-06-01](#) on vessel assessments and financing for technical reasons; this was agreed, and a new resolution was adopted. The second was to consider reimbursing a vessel fee paid if the vessel does not fish; this was not approved. The third was a Secretariat proposal to charge vessel owners for visas required in repatriating observers from outside the Agreement Area; this was approved by the Parties.

#### **8. Report of the International Review Panel**

Ing. Luís Torres, presider of the 45th Meeting of the IRP, presented his report. The Parties approved the Panel's recommendation that the two vessels, one Mexican and the other Nicaraguan, which submitted their requests for *force majeure* exemptions after the deadline, be granted new DMLs for the remainder of 2008, but that these new DMLs be no greater than the amount of the second-semester DML, and that these new DMLs be taken from the total DMLs already distributed to the respective Parties.

#### **9. Report from the Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties**

This report was not presented.

#### **10. Recommendations from the Scientific Advisory Board:**

There were no recommendations from the Scientific Advisory Board, since its meeting was postponed until the time of the next meetings of the AIDCP later in the year.

## 11. Other business

The following matters were addressed under this agenda item:

1. Venezuela postponed the presentation of its proposal for changing the dates of the annual meeting of the Parties.
2. Mexico asked the Secretariat to follow up on the correspondence on ecolabelling sent by the IATTC to FAO in 2006. Venezuela, El Salvador and Costa Rica supported this, and the meeting agreed that the Secretariat should communicate with FAO on this matter.
3. The European Union suggested reducing the number of AIDCP meetings, and asked the Secretariat to present a proposal with options for accomplishing this for consideration at the next meeting of the Parties. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat should do this.
4. The United States presented a communication from its National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the recovery of certain stocks of dolphins in the EPO. Various delegations expressed their satisfaction with this situation, but noted that the document did not include any reference to the AIDCP, the IATTC, or the countries that contributed to this achievement. The United States took note of these comments, and pointed out that previous communications from NOAA had included such references.
5. Mexico expressed its interest in having the Parties pursue the development of an eco-friendly label or certification, and asked the Secretariat to do an analysis of this concept. The United States expressed some concerns, but did not object to a study. It was agreed that the Secretariat should undertake work on this during the course of the next year.

## 12. Place and date of next meeting

The next Meeting of the Parties will be held in October or November 2008 in La Jolla, California (USA).

## 13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on 26 October 2008.

## Appendix 1.

### ATTENDEES - ASISTENTES

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