

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

25TH MEETING

Panama
16 June 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

| | Documents |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Opening of the meeting | |
| 2. Adoption of the agenda | |
| 3. Approval of minutes of the 24 th meeting | |
| 4. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system | TT-25-04 |
| 5. Other business | |
| 6. Recommendations for the IRP | |
| 7. Place and date of next meeting | |
| 8. Adjournment | |

The 25th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in Panama on 16 June 2008. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Ms. Sonia Salaverría of El Salvador, Chair of the Working Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without modification.

3. Approval of minutes of the 24th meeting

The minutes of the 24th meeting, previously circulated by the Secretariat, were approved as presented.

4. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system

Mr. Ernesto Altamirano, of the Secretariat, presented Document TT-25-04, *Matters related to the Tuna Tracking and Dolphin-Safe Certification programs*. He observed that, between January 2007 and April 2008, only 13 certificates had been issued, corresponding to 42 fishing trips, and that only in one case had the amount of tuna on the certificate exceeded the amount of *dolphin safe* tuna recorded on the corresponding TTF by the observer, by a margin well in excess of the permissible 10%.

This case had been reported recently to the relevant Party, which had explained that it resulted from an error, in which a TTF had been duplicated.

The Secretariat also reported that the percentage of original TTFs received during this period was the highest in recent years, 98%. Several delegations noted this high level of compliance as an indication that the program was working well.

The issue of processed weight and round weight was considered once again, and some delegations stated that the subject should be left alone for the present, since no substantive progress had been made, and obtaining the information from the industry was very complicated. Costa Rica noted that it was important to keep the subject open, and suggested consultations in a group that would exchange information and each member of which would be responsible for consulting with its industry, and that the results be subsequently brought to the Working Group. The Chair suggested that this could be a virtual group, and that Costa Rica initiate its work.

5. Other business

The Chair made the suggestion that the continuation of the Working Group in its current form be evaluated, given that, during her two years as Chair, compliance had been good, and fewer issues were addressed at each meeting.

Several delegations stated that this group was important, and that it should continue. It was suggested that it be merged with the working group for promoting the AIDCP dolphin-safe certification system, and some delegations supported this approach. The United States suggested incorporating the issue into the IRP agenda, noting that it had serious objections to merging the two groups, because of their different nature. It was also suggested that the meetings of both these groups be shortened, and be finished in one morning.

Eventually, it was agreed that this issue should be considered at a future meeting, taking into account the following options:

- Merge this group with the group for promoting the AIDCP dolphin-safe certification system.
- Review the issues dealt with by this group as an item on the IRP agenda.
- Reduce the number of meetings, and meet only once a year, either in June or in October.
- Keep the two groups separate, but complete their two meetings in one morning.

6. Recommendations for the IRP

There were no recommendations for the International Review Panel.

7. Place and date of next meeting

This item was not discussed.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11.30 a.m. on 16 June 2008.

Appendix 1.

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