

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

27TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Veracruz, Veracruz (Mexico)
4 June 2013

PROPOSAL MOP-24 A-1

SUBMITTED BY MEXICO

RESOLUTION ON THE "ECOSYSTEM FRIENDLY" CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

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

Reiterating their commitment to promoting the goals and objectives of the AIDCP, by means of its effective implementation;

Convinced that there are other elements of ecosystem protection that develop in the purse-seine fishery for tunas beyond the protection of dolphins;

Taking into account that the FAO indicates that the ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in a fair manner.

Interested in making the public and consumers aware of, and informing them about, these elements of ecosystem protection;

Considering that it is necessary that other elements of tuna conservation be taken into account for a certification system as in the case of the correct implementation of the tuna closures in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Agree:

1. To develop a certification system called "ecosystem friendly" in a first stage, in which only those tuna fisheries in which vessels with Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) operate shall be eligible to receive certification. This does not prevent vessels that operate without DML is from using other types of certification.
2. The certification system would be developed in the framework of the IATTC.
3. The following elements shall be requirements for certification:
 - a) Tuna would not be certified unless the IATTC has a resolution in force, based on a scientific recommendation, for the conservation and management of yellowfin and bigeye tunas.
 - b) Only tuna documented by the current AIDCP tracking and verification system would be eligible for the certification.
 - c) Only tuna caught by vessels with an observer on board would be eligible for the certification.
 - d) Tuna would be certified only if it complied with the criterion that it was not caught in contravention of an IATTC resolution on the conservation of yellowfin and bigeye tunas.
 - e) The fishing captain aboard the vessel must be included in the AIDCP list of qualified captains.

5. The certification and tracking system would be applied and administered in a manner similar to the current AIDCP systems for dolphin-safe certification and tracking and verification; but would be operated independently of those systems.
6. The IATTC Secretariat would be responsible for verifying the validity of the certificates.
7. The Parties shall ask the Secretariat to develop a logo that identifies this certification system and shall review it at the next meeting of the Parties.
8. The Secretariat shall develop a certificate format and once approved by the Parties, shall have it printed with numbered formats and shall distribute them to the Parties that so request.
9. The Parties shall designate the national authorities that may sign that certification.
10. The system would enter into force after the XX?? meeting of the Parties, once issues of a practical nature related to this system have been decided.
11. In the future a second stage of this certification system could be developed, which would involve more complicated considerations associated with IATTC conservation and management measures. The second stage will be subject to the results of this first stage regarding the operativity of the system.