

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP TO PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE THE AIDCP DOLPHIN-SAFE TUNA CERTIFICATION SYSTEM
29TH MEETING
23 October 2018
La Jolla, California, USA

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

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3. Approval of the minutes of the 28 th meeting	
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The 29th meeting of the Working Group to Promote and Publicize the AIDCP Dolphin-Safe Tuna Certification System was held in La Jolla, California (USA), on 23 October 2018. The list of attendees can be found in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. Carlos Marín, of Guatemala, in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group. He started the meeting by greeting the Parties.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 28th meeting

The minutes of the 28th meeting of the Working Group were approved without changes.

4. Actions to promote AIDCP dolphin-safe tuna

During this item of the agenda, an interesting discussion arose on the need of improving the use of the certification by the Parties to the AIDCP, even though that, for 2018, its use has increased from 4% to 9.6%.

Mexico asked the Parties to share comments on the reason why the AIDCP Dolphin Safe certificate is not sufficiently used. Colombia expressed that it is because clients no longer request it. Nicaragua mentioned that it is due to a purely administrative matter and to the costs of issuing the certification, in addition to not having incentives in the markets that encourage its use. Venezuela mentioned that its use is crucial; unfortunately, it is not required in Venezuela due to low landing and because the country does not currently export the product.

The Chair of the Working Group urged the Parties to use the certificate in order to take advantage of its possible competitiveness. Mr. Arnulfo Franco, representative of the Panamanian tuna industry, mentioned

that the AIDCP and its label are sometimes attacked or questioned by pseudo-environmentalist groups, so tuna companies prefer not to use the certification. In that case, it is essential to take actions in defense of its lawfulness, merits and benefits in order to neutralize the negative criticism. It is a fact that not all information generated in the agreement is used and that proving its value before consumers would be beneficial.

Mexico expressed that, since dolphin mortality has decreased considerably in the tuna fishery, this matter is no longer attracting the attention of environmentalist organizations, which is why companies are not requiring it. Colombia noted that determined actions should be taken to counteract the negative information that has arisen with regard to the agreement and its certification.

The United States expressed that it is necessary to have specific cases of the aforementioned questionings in order to take actions, which could essentially be through documenting and disseminating the outcomes of the dolphin conservation program so that consumers are duly informed.

Several delegations pointed out the importance of promoting the certification using tools such as Facebook and other social media platforms, in addition to the importance of keeping the IATTC website updated in terms of AIDCP developments and achievements.

5. Recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties

The Group issued the following recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties:

- Prepare, for the next meeting of the Parties, a plan of action to prevent, and react to, the calling into question of the AIDCP and its Parties.
- Temporarily, until the adoption of a plan of action, the Secretariat, after consulting with the Parties, shall pronounce itself against the calling into question of the AIDCP and its Parties. These pronouncements will include relevant AIDCP information such as statistics and achievements.
- Invite the Parties to encourage the industry to use the AIDCP Dolphin-Safe label.
- Propose concrete actions for the promotion of the Dolphin-Safe certification through new platforms such as social networks to have a greater impact on the consumers.

6. Other business

No other business was presented.

7. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on the dates that are agreed for the meetings of the AIDCP in July 2019.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. on 23 October 2018.