

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP TO PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE THE AIDCP
DOLPHIN-SAFE TUNA CERTIFICATION SYSTEM**

28TH MEETING

**16 August 2018
San Diego, California, USA**

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

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2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of the minutes of the 27 th meeting	
4. Actions to promote AIDCP dolphin-safe tuna	
5. Recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties	
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The 28th Meeting of the Working Group to Promote and Publicize the AIDCP Dolphin-Safe Tuna Certification System was held in San Diego, California (USA), on 16 August 2018. The list of attendees can be found in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the IATTC, who requested nominations for Chair of the meeting. Mr. Julio Guevara, of Nicaragua, was elected, and thanked the participants for their continued trust in him to chair the meeting of the Working Group once more.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted, with the announcement by Mexico that it would make a presentation, under item 6 “Other business”, on the progress in the “tuna-dolphin” case in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

3. Approval of the minutes of the 27th meeting

The minutes of the 27th Meeting of the Working Group were approved without changes.

4. Actions to promote AIDCP dolphin-safe tuna

Mexico pointed out that only 4% of tuna caught is certified with the *AIDCP Dolphin Safe* label, which is unfortunate and shows that there has been no progress on the use of the label and the desired goal of its use and promotion. In practice, only Mexico uses it. The reason why the desired commercial goal is not being achieved should be analyzed; only the aspect of dolphin conservation has been successful. Mexico added that the name of the Group should be changed to Working Group for the Dissemination and Use of the AIDCP Dolphin-Safe Tuna Certification.

Several delegations supported Mexico’s statement, noting that it took a great deal of work to create the

certification. Its use was encouraged because it guarantees that the tuna was caught sustainably, since 100% of trips by Class-6 fishing vessels carry observers aboard whose reports make it possible to certify that the catch did not result in harm to, or mortality of, dolphins. This label has won recognition and awards internationally.

United States stated that, ever since in 2001 when the label was created, its position had been that the certification should be voluntary.

The Group agreed that, while it would not recommend the Parties to change its name to add the “use of the label” term, it would report that there were discussions to dynamize its work, including with a view at increasing the use of the certification.

5. Recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties

The Working Group had no recommendations for the Parties to the AIDCP.

6. Other business

Mexico reported that it had appealed the decision of the WTO panel in favor of the United States, arguing among others that outside the EPO, in other seas and oceans, dolphin mortality in tuna fishing is recorded without being taken into account in the commercialization of the product, which implies a discrimination between the tuna caught in the EPO and the tuna caught in other areas.

He added that the decision of the appellate body is still pending. If Mexico loses this appeal, the case will be closed; if it wins, the United States can appeal again, and the case would not be closed yet.

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 October 2018.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. on 16 August 2018.