

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
40TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

La Jolla, California, USA
22 October 2019

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

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5. Secretariat's report on the IDCP	AIDCP-40-01
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APPENDICES

1. List of attendees
2. Report of the 31st meeting of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System
3. Report of the President of the 66th meeting of the International Review Panel

The 40th Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) was held in La Jolla, California, on 22 October 2019.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), which provides the Secretariat for the AIDCP, after confirming that the data for with 9 Parties present at the meeting: Belize, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, United States, and Venezuela.

2. Election of Chairman

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

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was approved with the inclusion at Colombia's request of a new item 6 to consider its proposal for the elaboration and adoption of rules of procedure for the AIDCP. It was also announced that, under item 10 "Other business", the question of the safety equipment for on-board observers would be considered, in relation to the implementation of Resolution A-18-02 paragraph 2.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the 39th Meeting of the Parties

The Minutes of the 39th Meeting of the Parties were approved without changes.

5. Secretariat's report on the IDCP

Mr. Brad Wiley of the Secretariat staff presented Document AIDCP-40-01 Report on the International Dolphin Conservation Program. He reported that the recorded dolphin mortality in the fishery in 2018 was 819 animals, compared to 683 in 2017. The number of sets on dolphins by Class-6 vessels was 9,774 in 2018, compared to 8,863 in 2017, and these sets made up 38% of the total number of sets made by those vessels in 2018. The average mortality per set was 0.084 dolphins in 2018, compared to 0.077 dolphins in 2017.

6. AIDCP budget

Ms. Roa of the Secretariat staff referred to Document MOP-39-01 AIDCP Budget, which had already been presented at the Bilbao meeting in July 2019, highlighting its most relevant parts.

Nicaragua clarified that, with resolution A-19-01, the use of 10% of the surplus for national programs was approved, so that 10% of the surplus should be subtracted, leaving a surplus of US\$1,865,421. It was proposed that a meeting of the national observer programs be held with the IATTC staff in order to define how the 10% of the surplus would be delivered to the national observer programs in accordance with resolution A-19-01.

Venezuela asked that the information showing an outstanding assessment from the vessel *Aleta Azul*, which had already been paid, be corrected and that the vessel *Las Aves* be added to the list if it had an outstanding assessment.

After it was recalled that, at the last meeting of the AIDCP held in Bilbao, it was noted that no increases in the budget or in the individual assessments would be approved and that the Secretariat should generate savings to increase the amount of payment to observers with the same budget as the previous year, the budget for 2020 was approved with the same amount as that for 2019 for US\$ 3,314,674.

6a. Utilization of surplus resources as a complement to the study on dolphin abundance in the EPO

Dr. Cleridy Lennert, of the IATTC scientific staff, made a presentation on progress in the study of dolphin abundance. She reported that a trial trip with the use of drones had been carried out (July 16); the 14-day pilot trip will take place on November 17-30, 2019, aboard the INAPESCA research vessel *Jorge Carranza*, and will be funded by the Government of Mexico and the *Pacific Alliance for Sustainable Tuna*. The results of the 14-day pilot trip will be presented to the Scientific Advisory Committee meeting in 2020.

Mexico stressed the commitment of its government and its tuna industry to carry out the study and to finance it as much as possible and requested the support of the other Parties for the next stages of the study.

Several Parties congratulated Mexico on the initiative and stressed the importance of technical and financial support for the project. Colombia mentioned that the financial contributions made by Mexico overcame the impasse for the pilot study and affirmed its commitment to the study. It mentioned that there is a need to clarify some issues such as those mentioned in the comments of the United States that had been circulated but that this would surely be clarified with the pilot study.

The IATTC Director thanked Mexico and its industry for their efforts in the project, which will be strengthened as more resources are available. The resources do not necessarily have to be monetary but in kind, as

with the vessel *Jorge Carranza*.

7. Proposal for rules of procedure for the AIDCP

Colombia presented a document with a proposal on rules of procedure for the AIDCP (AIDCP-40 PROP A-1 COL AIDCP Rules of Procedure)).

The United States noted that it agreed with the need for rules of procedure for the AIDCP to be defined. While recognizing that the proposal presented by Colombia was a good starting point, it stated that it needed more time to review it and make the necessary internal consultations.

Honduras proposed that an *ad hoc* working group be established that could work virtually on revising the text and developing a consensus proposal. The meeting of the Parties agreed that such a group should be established and that the Secretariat should contribute to the process of developing the rules, for example by reviewing the proposed deadlines for submission of documents. Also, it was agreed that the Chair of the AIDCP, Mr. Alvin Delgado, would coordinate the work of the virtual group and that an additional day would be scheduled at the next Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP so that the document prepared by the virtual working group could be considered and discussed.

8. Report of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Bernal Chavarría (Honduras), presented his report (see Appendix 2), noting that the Group did not present recommendations to the meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP. He added that the analysis of the possible use of social networks to promote the AIDCP and its label was left pending for when a document would be made available, which would address issues such as who will endorse the content of the publicity as may be developed and agreed.

9. Report of the International Review Panel

Mr. Enrique de la Vega of Colombia, Presider of the 66th meeting of the Panel, presented his report (see Appendix 3). The Meeting of the Parties agreed on the following:

- a) To approve 108 DMLs out of the 109 requested for 2020 because one of the requesting vessels has a pattern of infractions
- b) Refer case 2019-448 to the relevant Party for investigation of possible observer harassment, as well as inclusion in the list of special cases for follow-up.
- c) Refer case 2019-614 to the relevant Party for investigation of a fishing trip with a captain not on the list of qualified captains
- d) Request the Secretariat, in the event that Dr. Martin Hall presents a report regarding his comments to the AIDCP, to evaluate its content and present a report to the Parties for consideration by the IRP. This report should be in accordance with the rules of confidentiality of the AIDCP.

10. Other business

a) Equipment for the safety of observers on board.

Colombia requested information on how the acquisition and delivery of the equipment referred to in Resolution A-18-02, paragraph 2, will be carried out.

Mr. Altamirano recalled that the resolution required that the national programs send information on the number of equipment required by 1 June 2019. On this basis, 500 kits were purchased last month (including radio beacons and emergency communication equipment) and are in the process of distribution, considering the best options for doing so.

b) Submission of TTFs.

Colombia mentioned that during the meeting of the Tuna Tracking Working Group it did not have an opportunity to clarify that its country had submitted 16 TTFs out of a total of 17 trips. The Secretariat clarified that the 17 TTF had already been located so they were already 100% complete.

No other business was discussed.

11. Place and date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP would be held in 2020, considering the venue and date of the annual meeting of the IATTC.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 on 22 October 2019.

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