

**AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION
PROGRAM**

46TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

**Victoria, B.C., Canada.
1 August 2023**

DOCUMENT AIDCP-46 INF-A(b) REV

**PROPOSAL (SECOND REVISION) OF THE CHAIR AND VICE- CHAIR
OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

USE OF THE AIDCP BUDGET SURPLUS

BACKGROUND AND EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Initially the main purpose of the proposal was to cover the increase in observer remunerations, but after its presentation and discussion it was found that the AIDCP pre-budget for 2022 showed a deficit of \$US 370,194 at the close of the year, and that by 2023 the deficit corresponding to that year's budget was estimated to reach \$US 134,113. This significantly reduces the above-mentioned surplus of \$US 2,430,492, which was the basis for the original proposal. For these reasons, we considered it necessary to prepare a new proposal that only takes some parts of the original proposal and let everything related to the US\$ 10 increase in observer remunerations be covered by an increase in the fees paid by the vessels, as would be established in a resolution or in an amendment to resolution A-18-01.

In view of the above, it is proposed that part of the surplus be used for the following 3 items and that the remainder be maintained as a fund to cover deficits. These 3 items would be the following:

1. To carry out research related to dolphins, the surplus would be used, which is equivalent to an amount of US\$ 1,200,000;
2. To fund the promotion of the achievements of the AIDCP as recommended by the Working Group on Promotion and approved by the Parties, an amount of US\$ 120,000 would be used;
3. To work on the issue of the safety of observers at sea, create a fund for 3 years from 2024 to 2026, of US\$ 100,000.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF THE AIDCP BUDGET
SURPLUS**

The Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP):

Bearing in mind the commitment expressed in Article XV of the AIDCP that the Parties shall contribute to the expenses necessary to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, through the establishment and collection of vessel fees;

Considering that the work of the observers has been an important factor in the achievement of the Agreement's achievements;

Considering that the payment of fees based on the volume of wells recorded on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register as stipulated in Resolution A-18-01 has the purpose of ensuring the correct functioning of the AIDCP and considering that the Observer Program is the main basis for this functioning;

Considering that observers have not received an increase in their daily remuneration since 2014, even as inflation has significantly increased the cost of living;

Taking into account that since 2015 the AIDCP has been recording a surplus, which reached US\$ 2,430,492 as of December 2021;

Noting that this surplus continues to depreciate as it is not used;

Agree to use the surplus generated up to December 2021 in the amount of **US\$ 2,430,492** as follows:

1. That, of the surplus, **US\$1,200,000** be used for **dolphin research** purposes, as approved by the Parties after analysis and recommendation by the scientific staff of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). This is in accordance with objective 2 of the AIDCP to eliminate dolphin mortality in the fishery.
2. That, from the surplus, **US\$ 120,000** be allocated to programs for **publicizing the achievements of the AIDCP**, upon presentation of a program by the Secretariat for the next three (3) years from 2024 to 2026, as approved by the 45th meeting of the AIDCP held in October 2022 based on the recommendations of the Working Group to Promote and Publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System, as well as giving due consideration to the positions that suggest not addressing the issue of labeling..
3. That, from the surplus, US\$ 100,000 be used to work on the issue of observer safety at sea for the next three (3) years from 2024 to 2026.
4. That the remainder of the surplus, that is \$US 1,030,492 be used as a fund to cover the 2022 deficit and possible deficits for the following years.
5. Without prejudice to the portion corresponding to the national programs according to their percentage of observer coverage, the income from outstanding vessel contributions which, as of June 30, 2022, represents a total of US\$671,548, as well as the contributions corresponding to the IDCP and any possible surplus generated as of 2023, will be incorporated as income to the budget for the following year.
6. Work should be done immediately on AIDCP financial rules to regulate such situations as surpluses, their use in future years, and in general the way in which the AIDCP budget is managed.