

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

23RD MEETING

Cancun (Mexico)
18 June 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of minutes of the 22 nd meeting	
4. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system	TT-23-04
5. Denial of dolphin-safe certificates for contravention of IATTC conservation and management measures	TT-23-05
6. Other business	
7. Recommendations for the IRP	
8. Place and date of next meeting	
9. Adjournment	

The 23rd meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in Cancun, Mexico, on 18 June 2007. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Ms. Sonia Salaverría of El Salvador, Chair of the Working Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without modification.

3. Approval of minutes of the 22nd meeting

The minutes of the 22nd meeting, previously circulated by the Secretariat, were approved, with Costa Rica noting that it may wish to offer an amendment relating to the range of yields. The Chair stated that the minutes could be amended if Costa Rica presented its proposal in writing.

4. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system

Dr. Allen presented Document TT-23-04, entitled *Matters related to the Tuna Tracking and Dolphin-Safe Certification programs*. Dr. Allen observed that, since January 2006, only six dolphin safe certificates had been issued. It was observed that it was disappointing that so few certificates were being issued by the Parties, especially considering the efforts that had been made in developing the system. Dr. Allen noted that the document reviewed concludes that the yield conversion factors are not useful for detecting whether non-dolphin safe tuna might be incorporated in the certificates.

Mexico noted that even the tuna caught in accordance with the AIDCP that does not achieve *dolphin safe* status is caught under a fully sustainable management program.

Mexico also noted that the use of the AIDCP dolphin safe certificate and label is voluntary, but that all the Parties have the commitment to endorse it as signatories of the Agreement, for the complete fulfillment of the procedures set out in the Agreement.

Mexico emphasized the achievements in the protection of dolphins by the AIDCP, which is one of the most successful marine resource management programs, whose only weakness is still the lack of compliance with some of its provisions, especially Annex 1 of the Declaration of Panama, which relates to the effective access to markets. Therefore, Mexico thought that consideration should be given to how to achieve due fulfillment of the Panama Declaration.

Venezuela expressed its concern about the decision of the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the definition of the *dolphin safe* label and certification recognized in the United States. Venezuela noted that, as a Party to the Agreement, the United States was discrediting the AIDCP program, and that this action had implications of a commercial nature, not only in the US market but also in other world markets.

El Salvador expressed its concern over the legal developments that had occurred in the United States, and its dismay that groups hostile to the AIDCP could, in effect, invalidate the Agreement and detract from its universally-recognized successes.

Several other delegations agreed with these statements, and expressed their determination to continue making efforts to ensure that all the objectives of the AIDCP, and especially the Declaration of Panama, were fulfilled.

5. Denial of dolphin-safe certificates for contravention of IATTC conservation and management measures

The Parties agreed to postpone the discussion of this issue until the next meeting of the working group.

6. Recommendations for the IRP

There were no recommendations for the International Review Panel.

7. Other business

There was no other business.

8. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held in October 2007, in La Jolla, California.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11.50 a.m. on 18 June 2007.

Appendix 1.

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