

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

**INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL (IRP)**

**71<sup>ST</sup> MEETING**

**Victoria, B.C., Canada**

**31 July 2023**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2022 and 2023	<a href="#">IRP-71-01</a>
4. Review of AIDCP <i>List of Qualified Captains</i>	<a href="#">IRP-71-02</a>
5. Review of cases of possible no-compliance (observer data)	<a href="#">IRP-71-03</a>
6. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP:	
a) Actions taken since report at the 70 <sup>th</sup> meeting	<a href="#">IRP-71-04</a>
b) Status review of special cases	
7. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking	
8. Other business	
9. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties	
10. Place and date of next meeting	
11. Adjournment	

**APPENDIX**

1. List of attendees

The 71<sup>st</sup> meeting of the International Review Panel (IRP) was held in person on 31 July 2023 in Victoria, B.C., Canada.

**1. Opening of the meeting**

Dr. Arnulfo Franco, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), which provides the Secretariat for the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), opened the meeting and gave the floor to Mr. Enrique de la Vega, of Colombia, as President of the meeting.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

The proposed agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2022 and 2023**

The Secretariat summarized the situation regarding the allocation and utilization of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) in 2022 and cumulatively as of 13 July 2023, as described in Document [IRP-71-01](#).

It was reported that 110 vessels were granted full-year DMLs in 2022. Of these, 98 were utilized by 1 April 2022; eleven vessels were exempted from losing their DMLs (for not having made sets on dolphins before 1 April 2023) due to *force majeure* and one vessel forfeited its DML due to non-utilization. On the other hand, two vessels were granted second-semester DMLs and two DMLs from the Director's reserve (RDA).

For 2023, 113 vessels were granted full-year DMLs, 98 of which utilized them by 1 April 2023; thirteen vessels were exempted from losing their DMLs due to *force majeure*, two were renounced and one was forfeited due to non-utilization. No second-semester DMLs have been allocated, and none had been allocated as of the date of drafting this report; however, the Secretariat verbally informed that one was allocated from the Director's reserve prior to the date of this meeting.

The average cumulative mortality per vessel for 2022 was 9.1 dolphins based on 10,614 dolphin sets and a total mortality of 965 dolphins, resulting in a mortality per set of 0.09. The average DML allocated per vessel for 2022 was 44.54 and no vessel met or exceeded that limit.

As of the 2023 cut-off date, 6,688 sets on dolphins and 509 mortalities have been reported, for an average mortality of 5.04 and a mortality per set of 0.08. The average DML for 2023 is 43.36, and no vessel has met or exceeded this limit.

#### **4. Review of AIDCP List of Qualified Captains**

The Secretariat presented Document [IRP-71-02](#) showing the changes to the list of captains between 28 September 2022 and 13 July 2023, which include the addition of 16 captains. During this period, no captain was reinstated or removed from the list.

Under this agenda item, there were several interventions on the advisability of conducting training on the AIDCP not only for captains but also for other crew members. Some Members also expressed the importance of taking the initiative to establish a new procedure not only for adding captains to the List of Qualified Captains, but also for keeping them on the list over time. The Secretariat was asked to prepare a proposal to be circulated to Members during the intersessional period for review and adjustment before the next meeting of the Panel.

#### **5. Review of observer data**

The Secretariat presented Document [IRP-71-03](#), which includes a summary of the data reported by observers of the On-Board Observer Program concerning possible infractions, received and processed by the Secretariat since the 70<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Panel. During this period, the Secretariat reviewed a total of 655 fishing trips and identified three cases of possible non-compliance with dolphin protection equipment requirements for vessels with DMLs, which will be automatically forwarded to the Parties as previously instructed by the IRP. These three cases include one case of possible non-compliance for not having a high-intensity floodlight that meets the requirements of the Agreement, one case for not having a dolphin-safety panel and one case for not having a raft. During this period, no cases of possible non-compliance were identified that required review by the IRP to provide guidance to the Secretariat.

The IRP emphasized the significance of having held two consecutive meetings without identifying any cases of possible non-compliance requiring the Panel's review, and that this was a clear indicator of the good performance of the EPO's purse-seine fleet in recent years.

## **6. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP:**

### **a) Actions taken since report at the 70<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The Secretariat presented Document [IRP-71-04](#), which tracks the responses to certain possible infractions identified during the 70<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IRP. It was reported that, as at the previous meeting, no cases of possible non-compliance were identified so there was nothing to present under this agenda item.

### **b) Status review of special cases**

The Secretariat reported that there were no special cases to present at the 71<sup>st</sup> meeting of the International Review Panel.

## **7. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking**

Mr. Julio Guevara, Chair of the Working Group on Tuna Tracking, presented his report and stated that this Group had not made any recommendations for the International Review Panel.

## **8. Other business**

No other business was discussed.

## **9. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties**

The Panel agreed on the following recommendation for the Meeting of the Parties:

- Request the Secretariat to prepare an updated proposal to amend the procedures for maintaining the List of Qualified Captains to include, *inter alia*, the validity of the AIDCP training seminars, primarily by establishing a period of validity for captain training courses to be considered valid by the Secretariat in requests to add captains to the List of Qualified Captains. In addition, prepare a proposal for training on AIDCP regulations for crew members other than captains. Submit these proposals to the Parties for inter-sessional discussion and consideration for possible adoption at the next meeting of the IRP.

## **10. Place and date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Panel will be held in conjunction with the next meetings of the AIDCP in the last quarter of 2023.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 15:00 local Victoria, B.C., Canada time on 31 July 2023.

**Appendix 1.** List of assistance

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