

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE REPORT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE AIDCP IN 2002

This Executive Report provides a brief summary of the operation of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) during 2002. Further information can be found in minutes of meetings, reports and other documents on www.iatc.org.

1. THE FISHERY IN 2002

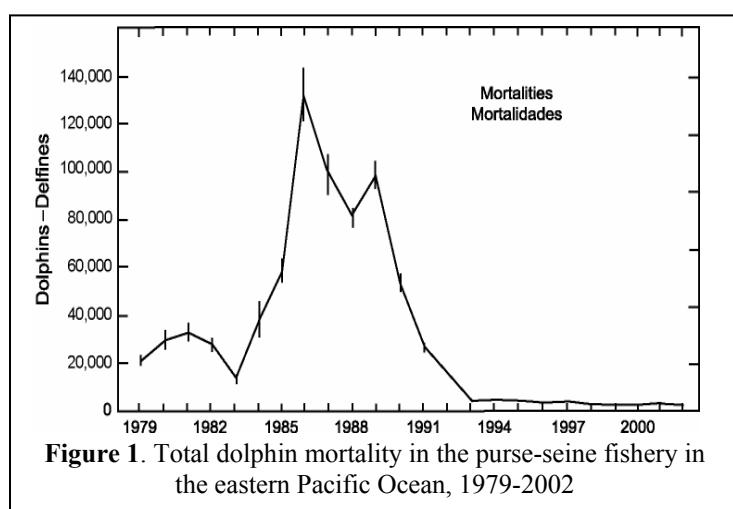


Figure 1. Total dolphin mortality in the purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 1979-2002

During 2002, the trend of low incidental dolphin mortalities in the tuna purse-seine fishery in the Agreement Area to levels approaching zero, one of the principal objectives of the AIDCP, continued. In 12,433 sets on tunas associated with dolphins, in which approximately 297 thousand metric tons (t) of yellowfin tuna were caught, 1,514 dolphins died, an average of 0.12 dolphins per set. Approximately 94% of these sets caused no mortality or serious injury of dolphins. Figures 1-3¹ show the trends in total mortality, number of sets on tunas associated with dolphins and mortality per set.

Ninety vessels were allocated DMLs, and the average individual-vessel DML (ADML) was 54 animals. Seventy-seven vessels utilized their DMLs during the year, and the average mortality per vessel was 19 dolphins. One vessel was allocated, and utilized, a second-semester DML of 17. The distribution of the mortality caused in 2002 by vessels with full-year DMLs is shown in Figure 4. No vessel exceeded its DML in 2002.

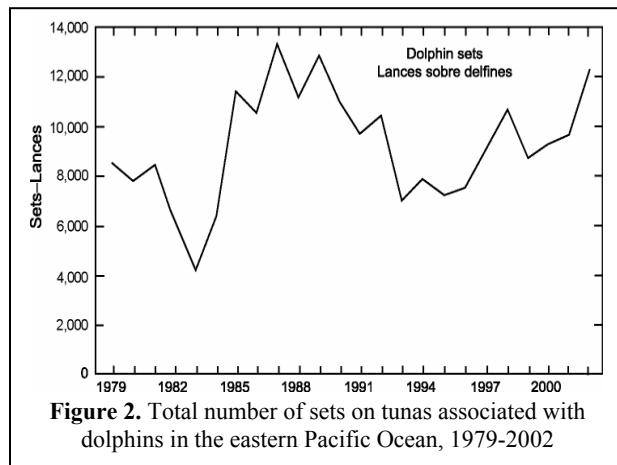


Figure 2. Total number of sets on tunas associated with dolphins in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 1979-2002

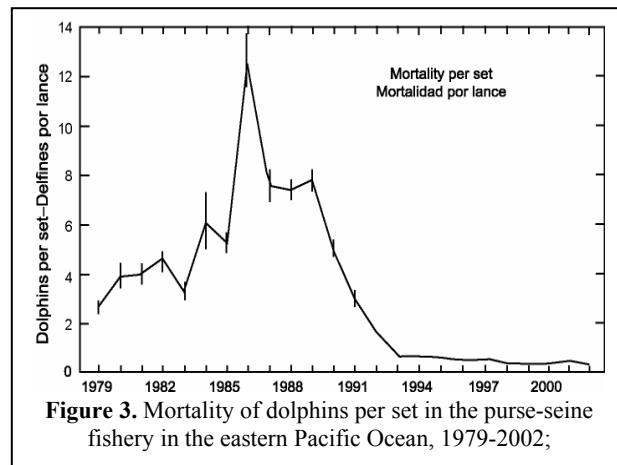


Figure 3. Mortality of dolphins per set in the purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 1979-2002;

¹ In Figures 1 and 3, the vertical bars indicate the 95% confidence intervals in years when only a sample of the fleet carried observers.

MORTALIDAD CAUSADA POR BARCOS CON LMD - 2002
 MORTALITY CAUSED BY DML VESSELS - 2002
 (Uso de LMD = 1 o más lances intencionales sobre delfines; mortalidad en lances experimentales excluida
DML use = 1 or more intentional sets on dolphins; experimental set mortality excluded)

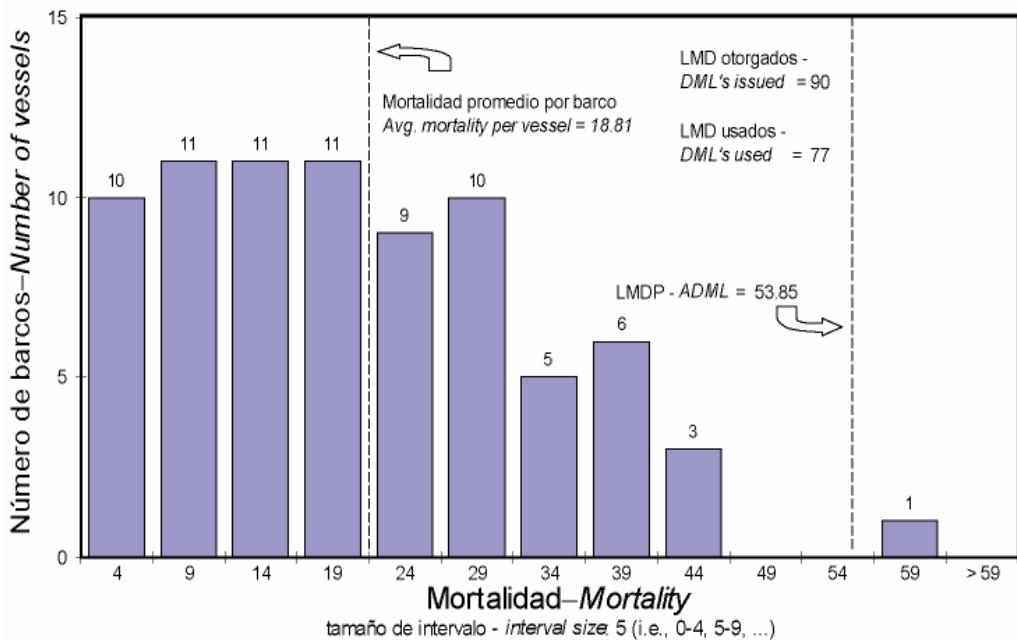


Figure 4. Distribution of dolphin mortality caused vessels with full-year DMLs, 2002.

2. STRENGTHENING OF THE AIDCP

The AIDCP uses a combination of mortality limits, operational requirements, and incentives to lower incidental dolphin mortality. Much of the operative detail of the Agreement is contained in its annexes and other measures that are evolving to strengthen the Agreement. During 2002, the following changes were made to the Annexes of the Agreement or adopted as other measures to strengthen the Agreement.

- The provision of Annex IV (III) 4, deeming a Party to have confirmed certain possible infractions by not responding within prescribed time periods, was clarified.
- The time period during which the commission of certain infractions will prevent assignment of an individual DML greater than the ADML was extended to two years. Before this change the provision had little effect.
- Observer data, rather than national investigations, will be used as the basis for implementing limits on dolphin mortality.
- Annex IV (II) 1 was amended to clarify the procedures for exemptions from forfeiture of DMLs.
- The AIDCP Dolphin Safe Certification System was amended to require that each Party submit its national tuna tracking and verification program to the IRP before being able to issue dolphin-safe certificates.
- The System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna was modified to clarify how to handle Tuna-Tracking Forms (TTFs) and determine the dolphin-safe status of tuna taken by vessels that fish both inside and outside the Agreement Area during a single trip.
- Procedures for implementing Stock Mortality Limits were agreed.
- Procedures for dealing with special problem sets were agreed.

- [Technical Guidelines to prevent high mortality during sets on large dolphin herds](#) were agreed.
- [Procedures for maintaining the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains](#) were agreed.
- The term “[pattern of infractions](#)” was defined.

3. ADMINISTRATION OF OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT

The 30th, 31st, and 32nd meetings of the IRP reviewed observer information from 780 fishing trips, in which 12,300 sets were made on tuna associated with dolphins.

Following these meetings, a total of 209 possible infractions of the types shown in the table below were forwarded to the Parties for investigation, compared to an average of 636 in the three previous years.

| POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS | 2002 | Average 1999-2001 |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|
| Fishing without an observer | 5 | 1 |
| Fishing on dolphins without a DML | 8 | 7 |
| Failing to avoid injuring or killing dolphins captured in the course of fishing operations | 2 | 2 |
| Fishing on dolphins after reaching the DML | - | 56 |
| Depart to fish with a DML without a dolphin safety panel in the net | - | 32 |
| Fishing captain assigned to a DML vessel not on AIDCP List of Qualified Captains | 32 | 56 |
| Use of explosives when fishing on dolphins | 13 | 211 |
| Not conducting backdown after dolphins are captured | 3 | 8 |
| Sacking up or brailing live dolphins | 3 | 4 |
| Harassing an observer, or interfering with his duties | 5 | 11 |
| Night set (not completing backdown within 30 minutes after sundown) | 56 | 71 |
| Not deploying rescuers during backdown | - | 3 |
| Item of rescue equipment missing | 81 | 199 |
| Not continuing rescue efforts after backdown with live dolphins in the net | 1 | 0 |

As of February 3, 2004, the Secretariat had received the following responses from governments:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Confirmed as infraction, sanction imposed | 127 |
| Confirmed as infraction, no sanction | 1 |
| Warning issued | 2 |
| Determined not to be infraction | 12 |
| Under investigation | 58 |
| No response | 9 |

4. DOLPHIN SAFE CERTIFICATION

In 2001 the Parties to the AIDCP established the [AIDCP Dolphin Safe Certification System](#), which provides assurance of the dolphin safe status of tuna by means of a certificate issued by a government for tuna that meets all the requirements of the [System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna](#).

During 2002, 114 dolphin safe tuna certificates were issued.