

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

14TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
20 OCTOBER 2005

DOCUMENT MOP-14-07

PUBLICIZING TTF NUMBERS FOR TUNA CAUGHT IN CONTRAVENTION OF IATTC RESOLUTIONS

This document was originally prepared for the 19th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking in June 2005. After discussing the issue, the Working Group referred the protocol to the Meeting of the Parties for resolution

The aim of this proposal is to enhance compliance with IATTC conservation measures, and in particular the closures of the purse-seine fishery established by the 2004 IATTC resolution on tuna conservation ([C-04-09](#)). The Resolution prohibits commercial transactions in tuna that is taken in contravention of the Resolution, and also calls upon the Director to provide relevant information to the Parties to assist them in this regard.

In support of the Resolution, the Secretariat circulates a weekly report identifying vessels fishing during a closure in contravention of the Resolution. However, in order to implement the prohibition of commercial transactions effectively, it is necessary to be able to identify tuna that was caught by such vessels during a closure. This could be done by identifying those Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) that include tuna caught in contravention of the Resolution.

All catches of tuna taken by vessels covered by the AIDCP are identified by the numbers of the TTFs corresponding to each trip. The Secretariat proposes to identify, on the IATTC website, the numbers of the TTFs from fishing trips during which tuna was caught in contravention of the Resolution, in order to allow easy and timely identification of tuna that should be subject to the prohibition of commercialization.

This matter was discussed in February 2005 during the 18th meeting of the Working Group. Many delegations supported the proposal, noting that such a mechanism would strengthen the AIDCP. However, concerns over confidentiality and procedure were voiced. The Secretariat was asked to prepare a draft protocol on this subject before the next meeting of the Working Group, to serve as a basis for discussion on the procedures to be followed and the responsibilities of those involved.

The Secretariat proposes the following protocol for the implementation of this proposal:

1. TTF numbers shall be made available only for specific purposes as agreed by the Parties.
2. Beginning in 2005 and until decided otherwise, TTF numbers shall be made available for the purpose of assisting in the implementation of the IATTC tuna conservation program.
3. The name of the flag state of the vessel and the numbers of the TTFs for fishing trips conducted in contravention of an IATTC conservation and management resolution shall be made publicly available.
4. Only the numbers of the relevant TTFs shall be made available; all other information on the TTFs shall remain confidential.
5. The TTFs themselves shall remain confidential.
6. The effectiveness of these procedures shall be reviewed annually, and the Parties shall report on any measures taken utilizing the TTF numbers.