

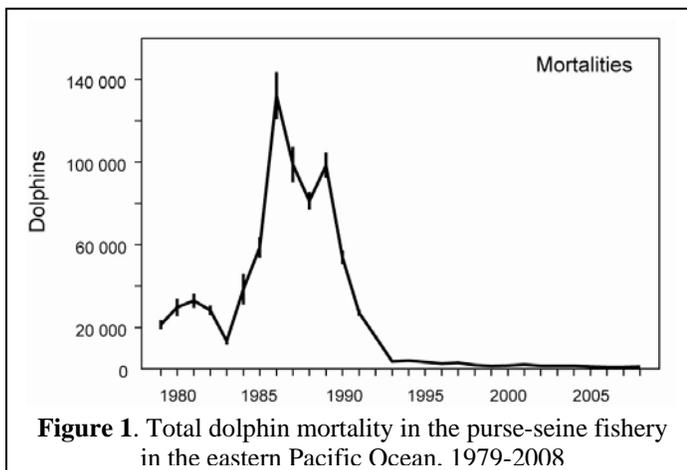
AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE REPORT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE AIDCP IN 2008

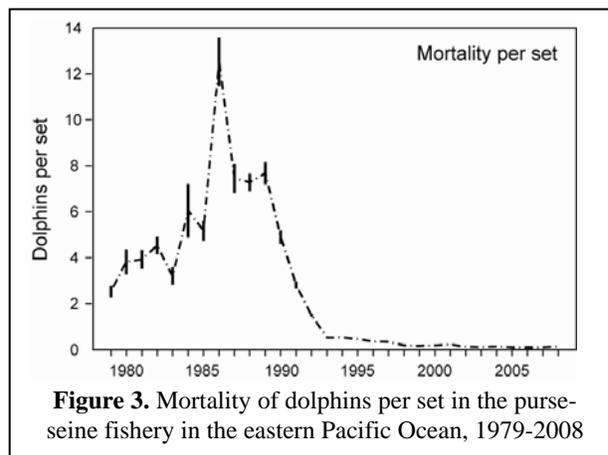
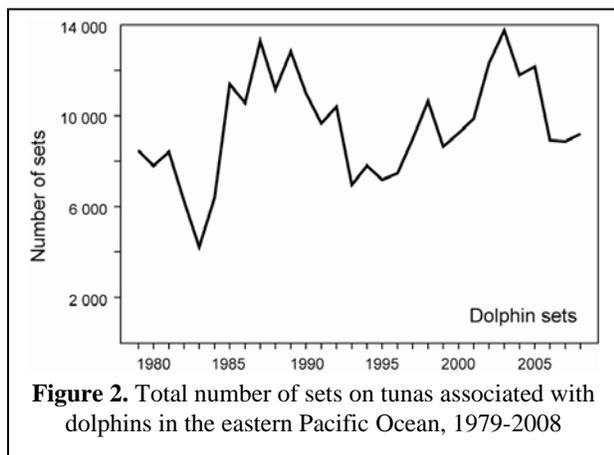
This Executive Report provides a brief summary of the operation of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) during 2008. Further information can be found in minutes of meetings, reports and other documents at www.iattc.org. All data for 2008 are preliminary.

1. THE FISHERY IN 2008

During 2008, 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 9,246 intentional sets on tunas associated with dolphins, 128,429 thousand metric tons (t) of yellowfin tuna were caught, and 1,168 dolphins died, an average of 0.13 dolphins per set. Approximately 92.4% 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.



One hundred vessels were allocated full-year Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) and the average individual-vessel DML (ADML) was 49 animals. Ninety-two of these DMLs were utilized; none were exceeded, and the average mortality per vessel was 12.7 dolphins. No vessels were allocated DMLs from the Reserve DML Allocation, and no vessels were allocated second-semester DMLs. The distribution of the mortality caused in 2008 by these vessels is shown in Figure 4.



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.

MORTALITY CAUSED BY DML VESSELS - 2008

DML utilization = 1 or more intentional sets on dolphins

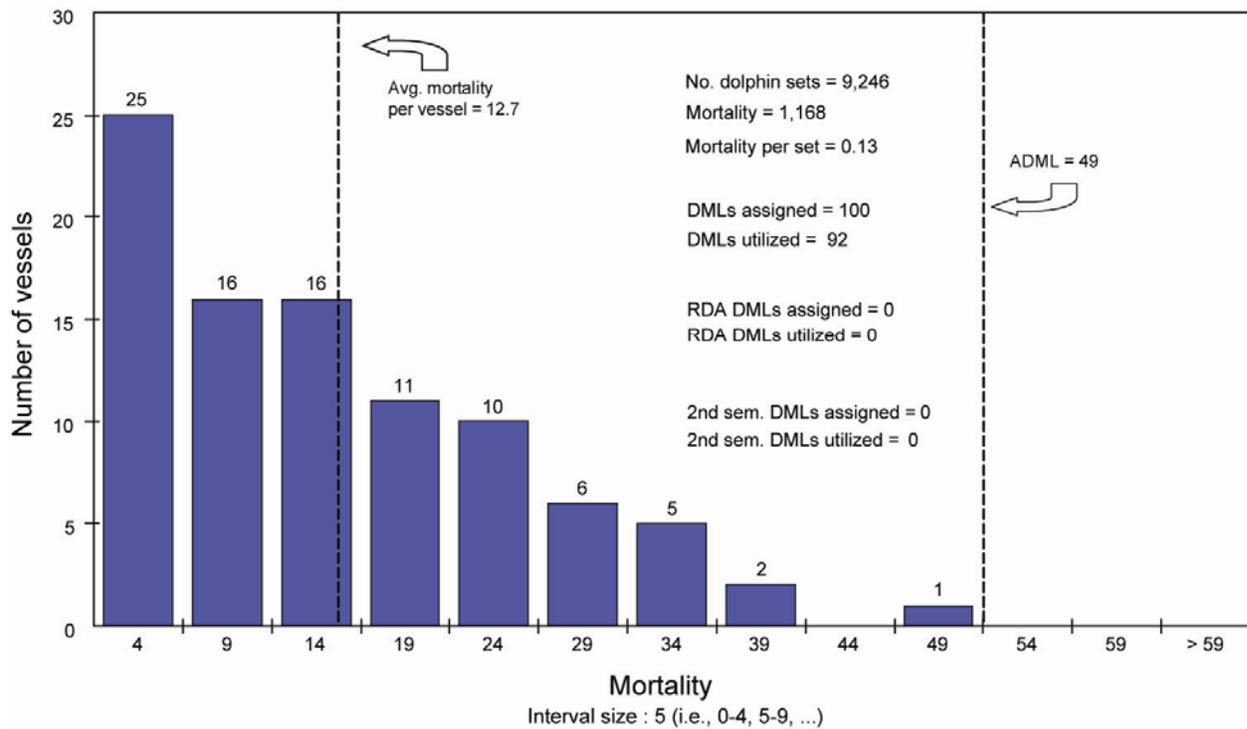


Figure 4. Distribution of dolphin mortality caused by vessels with DMLs, 2008.

2. ADMINISTRATION OF OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT

The 45th and 46th meetings of the International Review Panel (IRP) reviewed observer information from 786 fishing trips, in which 9,366 sets were made on tuna associated with dolphins.

Following these meetings, a total of 32 possible infractions of the types shown in the table below were forwarded to the Parties for investigation, compared to 65 possible infractions in 2007 and to an average of 96.3 in the three previous years, 2004-2006.

POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS	2008	2007	Average 2004-2006
Fishing without an observer	0	6	0.3
Fishing on dolphins without a DML	0	1	4.3
Failing to avoid injuring or killing dolphins captured in the course of fishing operations	1	0	0.6
Fishing on dolphins after reaching the DML	0	0	8
Depart to fish with a DML without a dolphin safety panel in the net	5	2	2.3
Fishing captain assigned to a DML vessel not on AIDCP List of Qualified Captains	0	3	7.3
Use of explosives when fishing on dolphins	2	2	19
Not conducting backdown after dolphins are captured	0	3	2.3
Sacking up or brailing live dolphins	1	0	1.3
Harassing an observer, or interfering with his duties	5	5	5.3
Night set (not completing backdown within 30 minutes after sundown)	4	8	17.6
Not deploying rescuers during backdown	0	0	0
Item of rescue equipment missing	14	35	22.6

Not continuing rescue efforts after backdown with live dolphins in the net	0	0	0.3
Fishing on dolphins prior to notification of allocation of DMLs	0	0	4.6

As of November 16, 2009, the Secretariat had received the following responses from governments for possible infractions reported during 2008 and 2007:

Response	2008	2007
Confirmed as infraction, sanction imposed	4	15
Confirmed as infraction, no sanction	0	0
Warning issued	0	0
Determined not to be infraction	14	29
Under investigation	9	5
No response	5	16

3. 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 2008, six valid dolphin safe tuna certificates were issued by the Parties.