

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL

33RD MEETING

ANTIGUA (GUATEMALA)

18-19 JUNE 2003

DOCUMENT IRP-33-11

PROPOSED PLAN FOR ENHANCING SUCCESS OF THE AGREEMENT

This proposal was presented by the United States at the 32nd meeting of the IRP in February 2003, but due to lack of time it was discussed only briefly at that meeting. While it appeared that the proposal was generally acceptable to the Parties, due to the lack of time necessary to fully consider the plan at the meeting, it was decided that the Secretariat should seek agreement of the IRP through correspondence.

However, one Party considered that any proposal such as this, which involves issues of process/procedures and new initiatives to modify the AIDCP, needed to be properly considered and discussed by the Parties in the IRP and then in the Meeting of Parties. Therefore no decision could be taken by mail, and the proposal is presented for discussion at this meeting.

Considering the value of continuing to build upon the benefits of the Agreement;

The IRP agrees to pursue the following action Plan:

Science Advisory Board (SAB) – The IATTC Secretariat shall draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for an SAB (per Annex V) and convene a meeting of the Board. In the interim, parties will provide input/suggestions for the TOR, including topics to be addressed (e.g. prevalence and significance of cow-calf separation; stress effects; developments in gear technology and fishing techniques to improve dolphin release and the capture of mature tunas not in association with dolphins; review of currently available estimates of abundance for dolphin stocks; etc). The SAB should build upon IATTC scientific reports and analysis and such other science as may be available to the Secretariat through consultation with the Parties, to address areas of uncertainty, and design research proposals. SAB members should also design sampling programs and options/protocols for long-term research they deem necessary to meet the objectives of the Agreement. The SAB should be creative in exploring low-cost options as well as more traditional, large-scale research projects. Funding options for the various research projects will be explored by the Parties in the context of other budget priorities and cost-benefit analysis. Countries sending participating scientists will pay for travel (as this is an obligation under Annex V).

Class 4 and 5 Vessels –The Secretariat shall prepare a detailed report concerning the extent of possible non-compliance with prohibitions against intentional sets on dolphins by other than class 6 vessels, including a review of common equipment and other factors/indicators in identified cases. The Parties will explore all methods for ensuring and monitoring compliance by these two class sizes, including observers, restrictions on equipment (e.g. limit of one speedboat), VMS, and video-camera technology. The Parties will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the resolution requiring that observers be placed on class 4/5 vessels that have been alleged to set on dolphins.

Observer Programs – The Secretariat shall to review and evaluate statistical significance and cause for differences, currently and historically, between various parameters (number of dolphin sets, dolphin mortality, observer interference/harassment) between IATTC and National observer programs. The Parties will determine appropriate steps for reducing significant differences between observer program reporting rates.

Responses to Alleged Infractions and Real-time reporting – The Parties will continue to review and evaluate the level of responses to alleged infractions as well as compliance with real-time reporting, and

consider voluntary or mandatory measures.

Limits on Herd Size – The Secretariat shall continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the guidelines regarding caps on herd sizes on which sets are made, taking into consideration the demonstrated capabilities of captains to safely perform such sets without undue risk to dolphins. The Secretariat shall evaluate the relationship between herd size and dolphin mortality levels. If the guidelines are not effective, the Parties will explore options for mandatory measures.

Tuna Tracking Forms – No dolphin safe certificates will be issued unless the original Tuna Tracking form has been provided to the Secretariat.