

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

26TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
4 June 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of minutes of the 25 th meeting	
4. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system	TT-26-04
5. Other business	
6. Recommendations for the IRP	
7. Place and date of next meeting	
8. Adjournment	

The 26th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in La Jolla, California (USA) on 4 June 2009. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the IATTC, who requested candidatures for chairing the meeting in the absence of Lic. Sonia Salaverría, Chair of the Working Group. Ing. Luís Torres, of Ecuador, was elected to chair the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without modification.

3. Approval of minutes of the 25th meeting

The minutes of the 25th meeting, previously circulated by the Secretariat, were approved as presented.

4. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system

Mr. Ernesto Altamirano, of the Secretariat, presented Document TT-26-04, *Matters related to the Tuna Tracking and Dolphin-Safe Certification programs*. He observed that the Secretariat has received six valid dolphin-safe certificates issued between 1 January 2008 and 5 May 2009, and that in no case had the weight recorded on the certificate exceeded the amount of *dolphin safe* tuna recorded on the corresponding Tuna Tracking Form (TTFs) by the observer, by a margin in excess of the permissible 10%. He also reported that in 2009 to date, the Secretariat had received 92% of the original TTFs, less than the 95% recorded in 2008.

Mexico expressed its concern about the low number of certificates issued, and questioned whether the cost-benefit of the program is worthwhile, suggesting that the situation be reviewed in order to identify

actions that will allow a greater benefit from the certification program.

5. Other business

Costa Rica again raised the issue of pursuing conversion factors associated with processed weight and round weight of tuna, as a means of ensuring the integrity of the dolphin safe certificates. Some delegations stated that this matter should be abandoned, since no progress had been made previously when this issue was addressed by the working group, in large measure because obtaining information of yields from the industry was not successful. Costa Rica indicated that it was important not to abandon the matter, and asked that the Secretariat consider ways to address the question, using whatever information was available.

Dr. Compeán noted that the Secretariat could not succeed in this unless the governments facilitated the support of their industries for access to relevant information, and thus allow a proposal to be presented. Also, there could be budgetary implications for the Secretariat in pursuing this matter. The United States expressed its preference that this work not be an intensive exercise with such implications.

It was noted that the discussion of the future of the working group had been left pending, and that four alternatives had been proposed:

1. Merge this group with the group for promoting the AIDCP dolphin-safe certification system.
2. Review the issues dealt with by this group as an item on the IRP.
3. Reduce the number of meetings, and meet only once a year, either in June or in October.
4. Keep the two groups separate, but complete their two meetings in one morning.

The Chair observed that, with the decision of the 20th meeting of the Parties in November 2008 regarding the AIDCP meeting schedule, this matter could be considered resolved for the time being.

6. Recommendations for the IRP

There were no recommendations for the International Review Panel.

7. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held at the time of the next meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10.25 a.m. on 4 June 2009.

Appendix 1.

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