

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD**

6th MEETING

**La Jolla, California (USA)
3 November 2008**

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Review of the SAB work plan	SAB-6-03 REV SAB-6-03 ADD REV
4. Discussion of new research topics	
5. Other business	
6. Place and date of next meeting	
7. Adjournment	

1. Opening of the meeting

Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the IATTC, opened the meeting, and welcomed two new members to the SAB, Dr. Luis Fleischer (Mexico) and Mr. Jeremy Rusin (U.S.). The participants are listed in Appendix 1.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Review of the SAB work plan

Dr. Martin Hall, of the IATTC staff, reviewed the SAB work plan. This year's background document (SAB-6-03 REV) included an expanded review of research from 2002-2008.

4. Discussion of new research topics

Dr. Hall also introduced three research projects that the Director and staff wish to pursue.

a. Simultaneous tracking of dolphins and yellowfin tuna. A preliminary study conducted in 1992-1993, during which three pairs of spotted dolphins and yellowfin tuna were tagged and tracked simultaneously (the longest track was 31 hours), found that the association was not permanent, and that the dolphins and tunas swam at different depths. This study, combined with food habits research, indicates that the association is not based on eating similar prey, as spotted dolphins and yellowfin tuna feed at different times, often on different prey, and at different depths. More tracking studies are needed to determine under what circumstances the association forms and breaks up. The SAB agreed that this project should be pursued.

b. Detection of large yellowfin tuna not associated with dolphins. The proposed investigation would survey, on a vessel-by-vessel basis, how sonar is used to detect tunas in the EPO. This would provide the background data needed to determine how active or passive acoustic detection devices can be used to effectively detect tuna. The SAB agreed that this project should be pursued.

c. Updating estimates of dolphin abundance and N_{min} . New abundance estimates, published by the US National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), are summarized in Document SAB-6-03 ADD REV.

Previously, the SAB had agreed that the recommendation of a technical workshop that a logistic model would be the most appropriate model to estimate abundance and N_{min} . After discussion, the SAB recommended that it was now time to adopt this model to calculate N_{min} using all the data available, including the most recent estimates from 2003 and 2006. A new workshop would not be required to create these new estimates, as the methodology is straightforward for the IATTC staff to apply. The SAB recommends to the Meeting of the Parties that new Stock Mortality Limits (SMLs) be based on these recalculated N_{min} estimates. The change is required because the current SMLs are based on older and fewer data, and which underestimate at least one of the major stocks, the eastern spinner dolphin.

The Work Plan was revised to include revision of N_{min} estimates and SMLs (Appendix 2).

5. Other business

There was no other business.

6. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the SAB will be held in October 2009 in conjunction with the meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Appendix 1.

ATTENDEES - ASISTENTES

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Appendix 2. SAB Work Plan for 6th Meeting, November 2008.

Research Topics	Proposed Studies	SAB Recommendations
1. Prevalence and significance of cow-calf separation.	A) Aerial photogrammetry B) At-sea observations C) Spatial distribution of chase time	A-C) Conduct research to discover evidence of cow-calf separation during chase.
2. Life history and fishery-related-stress effects studies.	A) Life history studies 1) Reproductive parameters/ vital rates 2) Food habits 3) Trophic interactions B) Stress effects 1) Necropsy studies	A-B) Resume sampling program to conduct studies on these topics.
3. Review of currently available estimates of abundance for dolphin stocks.	A) Review current abundance estimates	A) Revise N_{min} estimates and Stock Mortality Limits.
4. Stock assessment of coastal spotted dolphins	A) Genetics and taxonomy research B) Historical mortality, abundance, and status of any new stocks	A-B) Maintain on Work Plan.
5. Ecosystem effects.	A) Trends in other EPO cetaceans B) Ecosystem models C) Effect of large-scale changes in 1970s D) Carrying capacity and R_{max} for dolphins	A-D) Maintain on Work Plan.
6. Mortality estimates.	A) Historical mortality estimates. B) Potential unobserved sources of mortality 1) Comparison of observer programs 2) Class-5 vessels 3) Other fisheries	A) Maintain on Work Plan. B) Monitor ongoing comparisons for IRP ¹ .
7. Population modeling	A) Model effects of unobserved mortality B) Other population models	A) Expand NMFS simulation studies to prioritize research. B) Maintain on Work Plan.
8. Development in gear technology and fishing techniques to improve dolphin release.	A) Net panels B) Net profilers	A-B) Maintain on Work Plan.
9. Capture of mature tuna not in association with dolphins.	A) Simultaneous tracking of dolphins and tuna B) Survey fleet's use of passive and active detection devices	A) Produce research proposal to conduct study. B) Add to Work Plan.

¹ Pending consultation with the Parties regarding confidentiality issues.