

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL

70TH MEETING

La Jolla, California, USA

17 and 18 October 2022

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of the report of the 69 th meeting	IRP-69-RPT
4. a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2022	IRP-70-01
b. Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2023	IRP-70-02
5. Review of List of Qualified Captains	IRP-70-03
6. Review of observer data	
7. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP:	IRP-70-04
a. Actions taken since report at the 69 th meeting	IRP-70-05
b. Status review of special cases	
8. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking	
9. Other business	
10. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties	
11. Election of the Presider	
12. Place and date of next meeting	
13. Adjournment	

APPENDIX

1. List of attendees
2. Report of the 48th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking

The 70th meeting of the International Review Panel was held in a hybrid format (presential and virtual) in La Jolla, California, USA, on 17 and 18 October 2022. Attendees are listed in Annex 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

Dr. Arnulfo Franco, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), which provides the Secretariat for the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), opened the meeting and gave the floor to Mr. Enrique de la Vega, of Colombia, as Presider of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Approval of the report of the 69th meeting

The report of the 69th meeting of the Panel was approved without any changes.

4. a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2022

The Secretariat summarized the situation regarding the allocation and utilization of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) in 2022 as of September 28, 2022, as described in document IRP-70-01.

The situation in 2022 as of September 28, 2022, was as follows: 110 vessels had been granted full-year DMLs. Of these, 98 were utilized by April 1, 2022; 11 were exempted due to force majeure and 1 was lost due to non-utilization. On the other hand, second-semester DMLs were granted to two vessels, and two DMLs were granted from the Director's reserve.

The Secretariat presented a list of the requests for DMLs by flag and their respective utilization that the IRP had requested to include at its 69th meeting. The totals on this list as of September 28, 2022, reflected 110 DMLs assigned and 103 utilized.

The average cumulative mortality per vessel for the year 2022 was 7.44 dolphins based on 8,549 sets on dolphins and a total mortality of 781 dolphins, resulting in a mortality per set of 0.09. The average DML assigned per vessel for the year 2022 was 44.54 and no vessel has met or exceeded that limit.

b. Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2020

The Secretariat presented document IRP-70-02 which contains the list of DMLs requested for the year 2023. The document lists 114 DMLs requested, of which 113 received qualifying statements. One DML requested for a vessel from El Salvador did not contain the qualification certificate, since the vessel was in the shipyard and its net was in another port, so it could not be inspected by the authorities. El Salvador reported that the certificate of qualification for this vessel would be sent to the Secretariat in the next few days.

The Panel agreed to recommend to the Parties the approval of the 114 DMLs requested, one of which would be subject to final approval once the certificate of qualification is received from the authorities of El Salvador.

5. Review of AIDCP List of Qualified Captains

The Secretariat presented document IRP 70-03 showing the changes to the list of qualified captains between 05 July 2022 and 28 September 2022 which include the addition of 5 captains. No captains were removed from or reinstated during this period.

Under this agenda item, the Secretariat presented a proposed amendment to the procedure for maintaining the list of qualified captains, as requested by the Panel at its 69th meeting. The document was reviewed, and the Parties requested that it be further developed and adjusted intersessionally for its possible formal approval at the 71st meeting of the IRP in 2023. The Secretariat was requested to update the proposal and send it to the Parties for review by correspondence prior to that meeting.

To conclude this agenda item, Mr. Enrique Ureña of the Secretariat presented the model certificate that the Secretariat has begun to issue to the captains, upon their inclusion in the list of captains.

6. Review of observer data

The Secretariat presented document IRP-70-04 which includes a summary of the data reported by observers of the On-Board Observer Program corresponding to possible infractions, received and processed by the Secretariat since the previous IRP meeting. During this period, the Secretariat reviewed a total of 233 fishing trips and identified 2 cases of possible non-compliance regarding dolphin safety gear requirements

for vessels with DMLs, which will be automatically transmitted to the Parties as previously instructed by the IRP. These 2 cases include a possible non-compliance for not having a high-intensity floodlight that complies with the requirements of the Agreement and one case for not having a dolphin safety panel. During this period, no cases of possible non-compliance were detected that required review by the IRP, in order to provide guidance to the Secretariat.

On the other hand, the Secretariat informed the Panel of a vessel that had a cumulative mortality of 33 dolphins. The Secretariat was consulted on the captain's record to assess whether this particular captain requires special follow-up by the IRP. The information provided by the Secretariat indicates that this captain has a mortality average slightly above the fleet average. However, the Secretariat was left with the task of analyzing this situation in more detail and reporting back to the Panel in the future.

7. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP

a. Actions taken since report at the 69th meeting

The Secretariat presented document IRP-70-05, which follows up on the responses to certain possible infractions identified during the 69th meeting of the IRP. It was reported that during the previous meeting only one case was identified for fishing without an observer from a European Union vessel. In this regard, there were no comments from the European Union since it was not represented at the meeting.

b. Status review of special cases

The Secretariat reported that there were no special cases to present at the 70th meeting of the International Review Panel.

8. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking

Mr. Julio Guevara, who had assumed the chairmanship of the Working Group in the absence of its Chair, Mr. David Hogan, presented his report (see Annex 2) and noted the recommendation adopted by the Group to remind the Parties that the TTFs should be submitted to the Secretariat no later than 10 days after the end of fishing operations.

9. Other business

No other business was raised.

10. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties

The Panel agreed on the following recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties:

- a) Approve allocating 114 DMLs requested for 2023. One of these would be subject to confirmation by El Salvador regarding compliance with operational requirements.
- b) Request the Secretariat to prepare an updated proposal to amend the procedures to maintain the list of qualified captains, including, among others, a definition of the period of validity of training courses captains must take to be included in this list. This proposal should be sent to the Parties for discussion and review between sessions for potential approval at the next IRP meeting.
- c) Refer to the corresponding Party case 2022345 of a vessel with a DML that fished without a dolphin-safety panel. Even though this case was going to be referred to the Party automatically, the IRP decided to expressly identify it, as it was a potential major infraction.
- d) Endorse the recommendation of the Working Group on Tuna Tracking regarding the request to send the Parties a reminder about the importance of submitting TTFs to the Secretariat within the established deadlines.

11. Election of President

Mr. Enrique de la Vega of Colombia was re-elected as President for the 71st meeting of the IRP

12. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Panel will be held in conjunction with the next meetings of the AIDCP in 2023.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 on 18 October 2019.