

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

49^a MEETING OF THE PARTIES

La Jolla, California, USA

30-31 October 2024

(hybrid format)

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

| | Documents |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Opening of the meeting | |
| 2. Adoption of the agenda | |
| 3. AIDCP budget | |
| 4. Secretariat's report on the IDCP | AIDCP-49-02 |
| 5. Report of the 39 th meeting of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System | |
| 6. Report of the 74 th meeting of the International Review Panel (IRP) | |
| 7. Other business | |
| 8. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair | |
| 9. Place and date of next meeting | |
| 10. Adjournment | |

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees
2. Report of the 39th meeting of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System
3. Report of the 74th meeting of the International Review Panel (IRP)
4. Resolution A-24-01
5. Working document submitted by the USA on the AIDCP budget
6. Extract from document MOP-21-07

The 49th Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) was held in La Jolla, California, on 30-31 October 2024 in a hybrid format (in person and remotely).

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr. Alvin Delgado, in his capacity as Chair of the Meeting of the Parties.

Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Venezuela attended the meeting in person. Bolivia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama and Ecuador participated remotely. There was therefore a quorum for the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was approved, with item 3 on the IDCP budget being moved to item 6.

3. Secretariat's report on the IDCP

Mr. Brad Wiley, of the Secretariat, presented document [AIDCP-49-02 - Report on the International Dolphin Conservation Program](#). He emphasized that the document presented the progress and evolution of the Program in 2023, and that the Secretariat was interested in receiving suggestions or comments on issues that the Parties would like to see in the report, such as a different structure, additional information, etc., since the format of the report has been the same for several years.

Colombia requested that the dolphin bycatch table reflect not only the year of the report, but also historical data to provide an idea of the reduction in dolphin bycatch.

The Secretariat indicated that this information would be provided in future reports and, additionally, presented a historical table showing that dolphin bycatch is close to statistical zero and how it has declined over the years.

Venezuela commented that the average incidental dolphin mortality has been below 20% of the IDCP global limit for years, which could confirm that this is a program with excellent results.

4. Report of the 39th meeting of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System

The report of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System (**Appendix 2**) was presented by its Chair, Mr. Bernal Chavarría. He noted that the Group had reviewed the progress made on the promotional activities already agreed, recognizing that little time had elapsed since the Group's last 38th meeting to date. In that regard, the Group would continue the work of reviewing the promotional materials recently circulated by the Secretariat, following up on the update of the material exhibited at the Museum of Natural History in New York and the Terms of Reference for the dissemination work on social media.

5. Report of the 74th meeting of the International Review Panel (IRP)

Mr. Enrique Espinosa, in his capacity as Presider of the IRP, reported that the Panel issued the following recommendations:

- That the dolphin bycatch statistics include information from previous years in such a way that the reduction achieved can be clearly seen.
- That the 109 requests for Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) be approved. Of these, five requests submitted the corresponding qualification certificates during the meeting and two others are awaiting the necessary documentation to be considered qualified for DMLs, for which an extraordinary deadline of 31 December 2024 is being provided, or the DMLs will not be granted.
- That the possibility of interested Parties working with the Secretariat on an amendment to the AIDCP, which shall be brought to the attention of the Meeting of the Parties, be explored to address the above type of case where a DML is requested for vessels that are added to the regional register after 1 October, or that have not yet submitted documentation that the vessels are qualified to receive the DML.
- Forward case 2024-0798 to the relevant Party for investigation.
- Create a working group to develop Terms of Reference to strengthen the observer program with respect to compliance with identified potential infractions, similar to the one that has been implemented in the IATTC Review Committee.
- That current training for captains and observers focus on compliance issues.

The Meeting of the Parties adopted the recommendations of the IRP. In addition, Mr. Enrique Espinosa, of Panama, was reelected as President of the IRP.

6. IDCP budget

One Party reported that several Parties had held discussions prior to the meeting and had developed an approach, outlined in a document, that could allow progress in the approval of the AIDCP budget, as well as a series of actions needed to improve accounting within the IDCP and to resolve some current issues. On the other hand, the United States submitted another document (**Appendix 5**), which seeks to amend and replace Resolution A-18-01 on the payment of vessel assessments, with the aim of updating the costs and establishing a dynamic calculation formula.

Following the presentations by the proponents, it was considered that attention should be focused on the approval of the budget and that the discussion of the amendment to Resolution A-18-01 should be postponed, which could be considered or revised for implementation at a later stage after the implementation of the actions outlined in the AIDCP budget document.

It was therefore proposed and accepted by the Meeting of the Parties to carefully review this document. As a result of the intensive review, Resolution A-24-01 was adopted, which is presented as **Appendix 4** and contains the following main elements:

- Approval of a budget for 2025 for US\$ 3,766,609.00, but an expenditure of up to US\$ 3,168,977.00, pending the results of the actions entrusted to the Secretariat, which will be known in the first quarter of 2025, at which time it will be decided how to finance the difference between the approved expenditure and the adjusted budget presented.
- Promptly notify the Parties of any income received from payments of vessels in arrears from previous years, both Class 6 and smaller than Class 6.
- Hold an extraordinary meeting in the first half of 2025 to review an adjusted budget proposal that takes into account the tasks of IATTC staff and observers with respect to work performed for both the IATTC and the AIDCP, according to the guidelines described in the resolution.
- The increase of US\$ 10.00 per day at sea for on-board observers has not yet been approved, as this matter will be reviewed after the proportion of work performed by such observers for the IATTC and the AIDCP has been determined. The possibility of developing an automatic salary increase mechanism for observers will be reviewed after the above elements have been analyzed.

7. Other business

The following topics were reviewed under this agenda item:

a) Volume capacity in cubic meters and carrying capacity in metric tons of vessels fishing in the EPO

Venezuela read a text requesting the Secretariat to prepare a document on the differences between well volume and capacity of vessels operating in the EPO. Venezuela mentioned that at the meeting in Panama, general information was presented, and it was noted that there were significant differences between the fish landed by some vessels and the well volumes reported in the Regional Vessel Register (RVR), so this issue should be treated with due importance and priority. If differences are found for some vessels, their well volume should be reviewed, which could likely result in increased resource flows to the IDCP.

The Director clarified that the cubic meters of the vessels in the RVR have already been confirmed since January 2017 with [Resolution C-15-02 Interpretation paragraph 6 of Resolution C-02-03](#), so the measurement could not be changed unless the resolution is amended. Either way, the requested information could be provided.

Guatemala agreed with Venezuela's proposal, but noted that the issue should also be discussed in the IATTC. Nicaragua mentioned that Resolution C-15-02 could be reviewed and amended if necessary and that the review of the matter should be encouraged.

The Chair of the AIDCP confirmed that the Secretariat would prepare this document and present it to the IATTC and the Capacity Working Group.

b) Document that recognizes equivalences between cubic meters and carrying capacity

For information, the Director recalled the existence of document [MOP-21-07](#) (**Appendix 6**), which establishes the equivalences between metric tons of carrying capacity and cubic meters of well volume, organized according to the different vessel classes of (1 to 6). He noted the value of this document in determining the carrying capacity or well volume of vessels depending on their class. The Meeting of the Parties appreciated and took note of this information.

c) Draft resolutions

The Chair of the AIDCP recalled that the review of two draft resolutions was pending: one on an amendment to Annex VIII of the AIDCP regarding the use of a high-intensity floodlight, and the second, also an amendment to Annex VIII of the AIDCP, regarding the establishment of procedures for exemptions from the use of an observer on transit trips.

The Meeting of the Parties noted the need for further work on these proposals and proposed that they be reviewed at a future meeting.

d) Hiring of a consultant to propose improvements to the accounting of the IDCP

The Secretariat reported that the announcement had been made and that only one group had submitted a proposal. When the group was announced, it was noted that a former IATTC delegate was in the group, which could create a conflict-of-interest issue; however, the group later confirmed that this person was no longer part of the consulting group.

Guatemala recalled that this matter had been classified as urgent and that it was satisfied with the selection of the group that had presented its nomination. In this case, the Meeting of the Parties agreed that this group should carry out the above-mentioned consultancy work based on the Terms of Reference already agreed.

e) Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between PAST and IATTC

At the end of the 49th meeting of the AIDCP, the Pacific Alliance for Sustainable Tuna (PAST) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) signed an important Memorandum of Understanding, the purpose of which is to establish in general terms the scope of work and responsibilities of the two parties associated with a collaborative plan to carry out the “*Close-kin mark-recapture research project to assess dolphin population abundance in the EPO: sampling feasibility (Phase 1)*”.

This project is of great importance because it will lay the groundwork for initiating work to assess dolphin populations in the EPO, which is undoubtedly of great importance since the last assessment was more than a decade ago. This will provide a clearer picture of the status of dolphin stocks and the impact of purse-seine fishing on them. The AIDCP Parties welcomed the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding and, in particular, the initiation of the dolphin stock assessment work, which will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the AIDCP.

8. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Meeting of the Parties elected Ms. Yarkelia Vergara, of Panama, as the new Chair of the AIDCP, and Ms. Amanda Munro, of the United States, was appointed *ad referendum* as Vice-Chair.¹

¹ As of the date of this resolution, Ms. Amanda Munro has confirmed her acceptance of the position of Vice-Chair of the AIDCP.

9. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held around March 2025, both in person and virtually.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on 30 October at 5:00 p.m. in San Diego, California.

APPENDIX 1

List of attendees

| ASISTENTES - ATTENDEES | |
|--|--|
| MIEMBROS - MEMBERS | |
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APPENDIX 2

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP TO PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE THE AIDCP DOLPHIN SAFE TUNA CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

39TH MEETING

La Jolla, California, USA
30 October 2024

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Follow-up of the last meeting recommendations
4. Actions to promote AIDCP dolphin safe tuna
5. Other business
6. Recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties
7. Election of the Chair of the Working Group
8. Place and date of next meeting
9. Adjournment

The 39th meeting of the Working Group to Promote and Publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System was held in La Jolla, California, on 30 October 2024 in a hybrid format (in person and remotely). The list of attendees can be found in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

After verifying that a quorum was present, Mr. Bernal Chavarría, Chair of the Working Group, opened the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Follow-up of the last meeting recommendations

The Chair of the meeting noted that little time had elapsed between the 38th meeting of the Group and this meeting, so there was not much to report in terms of progress on agreed actions to promote the AIDCP.

The Director reported that coordination efforts have continued with the Museum of Natural History in New York City to update the content of the museum's exhibits on the tuna-dolphin relationship, based on the fact that \$5,000 has been approved by the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP to work on this initiative. This funding will come from the AIDCP surplus.

Regarding the continuation of the promotional activities both on the IATTC website and in social media, using the human and technological resources currently available, the Director of the IATTC informed that the work has continued and that some Parties have been helping.

The IATTC Director also reported that updated AIDCP promotional materials had recently been circulated, incorporating comments received from two Parties and the most recent data. The materials circulated are a brochure, a document called an educational module, and four posters.

The Chair asked for initial comments on this material, with the understanding that due to its recent circulation time would be allowed for review and comments would be expected in the following weeks. Colombia, noting that documents should be circulated well in advance so that they could be properly analyzed and discussed during the meeting, commented that it would be important for the data contained in the materials to have a reference date, for example 2023, and not different dates as in this material.

The United States emphasized that funds to cover possible expenses for the editing of promotional materials should come from the Parties interested in their dissemination and not from the regular program budget, as has been pointed out several times in the past.

4. Actions to promote AIDCP dolphin safe tuna

Venezuela indicated that it was preparing the promotional materials to be exhibited first at the Nueva Esparta Museum in Isla Margarita and later to be replicated in other locations, such as the port of Cumana. Venezuela offered to bring a video of the exhibition to the Working Group and to share its experiences and strategies so that other AIDCP Parties could replicate this initiative.

The Meeting of the Parties welcomed this initiative and expressed the interest that other Parties, in addition to Venezuela, carry out similar actions in the future.

5. Recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties

The Working Group did not make any recommendations, but agreed to continue to work within the framework of the actions agreed at the 38th meeting held in Panama, and to keep the Parties informed of the progress made. Noting that it was agreed at that meeting to establish a special fund to promote and publicize the AIDCP and that the Working Group should submit to the AIDCP the Terms of Reference for the activation, management and use of this special fund.

6. Other business

No other business was discussed.

7. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on the dates that are agreed for the meetings of the AIDCP in 2025.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. on 30 October 2024.

APPENDIX 3

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL

74th MEETING

La Jolla, California, USA

30 October 2024

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

| | Documents |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Opening of the meeting | |
| 2. Adoption of the agenda | |
| 3. Non-governmental members of the Panel | |
| 4 a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2024 | IRP-74-01 |
| b. Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2025 | IRP-74-02 |
| 5. Review of AIDCP List of Qualified Captains | IRP-74-03 |
| 6. Review of cases of possible no-compliance (observer data) | IRP-74-04 |
| 7. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP: | |
| a. Actions taken since report at the 73 rd meeting | IRP-74-05 |
| 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 of the Panel | |
| 12. Place and date of next meeting | |
| 13. Adjournment | |

APPENDICES

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

The 74th meeting of the International Review Panel (IRP) was held in La Jolla, California, on 30 October 2024 in a hybrid format (in person and remotely). The list of attendees can be found in Appendix 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 Espinosa, Presider of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Non-governmental members of the Panel

Dr. Franco reported that the elections of the non-governmental members of the IRP were conducted in accordance with the provisions of the AIDCP. Mr. Ernesto Escobar, Mr. Rafael Trujillo and Ms. María Patricia Díaz were elected to represent industry. Regarding the environmental organizations, he said that, at the request of one delegation, the election period had been extended because there was only one candidate, and no elections could be held for that group. The Parties would be informed of the results of this process.

4a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2024

Mr. Enrique Ureña, of the Secretariat staff, summarized the situation regarding the allocation and utilization of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) in 2024 as of 17 October 2024, as described in document IRP-74-01.

He reported that the situation in 2024 was as follows: 119 vessels were granted full-year DMLs. Of these, 94 were utilized by 1 April 2024; sixteen were exempted due to *force majeure*, six were forfeited due to non-utilization, and three were renounced. On the other hand, NO second-semester DMLs were granted, and four DMLs have been granted from the reserve administered by the Director.

The Secretariat presented a chart showing DML utilization in 2024. The average cumulative mortality per vessel for 2024 was 7.73 dolphins, based on 9,544 sets on dolphins and a total mortality of 766 dolphins, resulting in a mortality per set of 0.08. The average DML allocated per vessel for 2024 was 41, and no vessel met or exceeded this limit.

Colombia requested that the graph of incidental dolphin mortality show trends over several years to provide more clarity on how it has been reduced over the years. Nicaragua requested that the vessels with the highest mortality rates be identified in order to make recommendations or take action to improve their performance.

4b. Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2025

The Secretariat presented document IRP-74-02 containing the list of DMLs requested for 2025. A total of 109 DMLs were requested, of which 103 qualification certificates were received. For five DMLs requested by Ecuador, the qualification certificate had not been received as the vessels were at sea; however, they were received during the course of the meeting. For one vessel from Colombia that was not registered in the Regional Vessel Register (RVR), the Panel decided to give it until 31 December 2024 to complete all its registration and qualification procedures in order to receive the DML; otherwise, it would not receive the DML and the DML would be redistributed to the rest of the fleet in the EPO, as established by the AIDCP. A similar situation occurred with a Venezuelan vessel that received the same treatment.

The Panel agreed to recommend to the Parties that the 109 requested DMLs be granted, subject to the above conditions. This situation of conditional allocation of DMLs to vessels that have not been included in the RVR prior to the allocation of DMLs, or where the government has not reported the submission of the appropriate certifications that the vessel is qualified, gave rise to an intense discussion that culminated in the initiative that the treatment of these cases be evaluated and that the countries concerned submit a possible amendment to the relevant Annex of the AIDCP to address this issue. This would be discussed at future meetings.

5. Review of AIDCP List of Qualified Captains

The Secretariat presented document IRP-74-03 showing the changes in the List of Qualified Captains between 9 August and 18 September 2024, which include the addition of 2 captains. No captains were removed or reinstated from the list during this period.

6. Review of cases of possible no-compliance (observer data)

The Secretariat presented document IRP-74-04, which provides 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 73rd meeting of the IRP. During this period, the Secretariat reviewed a total of 189 fishing trips and identified one case of possible non-compliance for a case of possible interference with the work of the observer during trip 2024798.

The Secretariat staff reported that this case involved an alleged attempt to bribe the observer not to report possible infractions involving sharks and sea turtles. This case gave rise to a lengthy and interesting discussion by the Panel, in which the following aspects were highlighted.

- Support should be provided to the observer to enable him to carry out his duties properly, as the observer reports that the vessel's company has been implicated in several alleged infractions.
- The case should also be reviewed by the Review Committee (COR) as it also involves possible infractions related to IATTC resolutions. Greater coordination between the two bodies, IRP and COR, should be sought in this regard.
- A control or audit mechanism should be in place to review the issue of potential bribery and identify mechanisms to prevent it.
- These types of cases had not occurred for a long time, so it was recalled that they are automatically treated as special cases (attempted bribery of observers) and presented at each meeting until they are closed by the vessel's flag fisheries authority.

The discussion of the above elements led to the proposal that an *ad hoc* group, or a group similar to that of the Compliance Committee, should be established to identify mechanisms to improve the system applied in the IDCP, particularly with respect to compliance with the agreed rules.

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

a. Actions taken since report at the 73rd meeting

The Secretariat presented document IRP-74-05, which followed up on the responses to certain possible infractions identified at the 73rd meeting of the IRP. It was reported that one case of possible interference with the work of the observer had been identified at the previous meeting and was awaiting a response from the flag government of the vessel. It was noted that the lack of response was understandable given the short time between the report of the possible infraction to the government and this meeting.

b. Status review of special cases

The Secretariat reported that there were no special cases to present at the 74th meeting of the IRP.

8. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking

Dr Alvin Delgado, who chaired the Working Group in the absence of a Chair, presented his report (Appendix 2). He noted that no recommendations had been issued at this meeting, nor had there been a working document, as there had been no cases in the short period between the last meeting and this one. He recalled the need to elect a Chair for the Working Group.

9. Other business

No other business was discussed.

10. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties

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

- That the dolphin bycatch statistics include information from previous years in such a way that the reduction achieved can be clearly seen.

- That the 109 requests for Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) be approved. Of these, five requests submitted the corresponding qualification certificates during the meeting and two others are awaiting the necessary documentation to be considered qualified for DMLs, for which an extraordinary deadline of 31 December is being provided, or the DMLs will not be granted.
- That the possibility of interested Parties working with the Secretariat on an amendment to the AIDCP be explored to address the above type of case where a DML is requested for vessels that are added to the regional register after 1 October, or that have not yet submitted documentation that the vessels are qualified to receive the DML.
- Forward case 2024798 regarding interference with the work of the observer to the relevant Parties for investigation by the relevant government.
- Establish a working group to develop Terms of Reference to strengthen the observer program with respect to compliance with identified potential infractions, similar to the one that has been implemented in the IATTC Review Committee.
- That current training for captains and observers focus on compliance issues.

In addition, Mr. Enrique Espinosa, of Panama, was reelected as Presider of the IRP.

11. Election of the Presider of the Panel

Mr. Enrique Espinosa was reelected as Presider for the 75th 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 AIDCP meetings in mid-2025.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. on 30 October 2024.

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING
52nd MEETING
La Jolla, California, USA
30 October 2024

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

| | Documents |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Opening of the meeting | |
| 2. Adoption of the agenda | |
| 3. Review of the implementation of the Dolphin Safe Certification System | |
| 4. Other business | |
| 5. Recommendations for the International Review Panel | |
| 6. Election of the President of the Working Group | |
| 7. Place and date of next meeting | |
| 8. Adjournment | |

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees

The 52nd meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in La Jolla, California, on 30 October 2024, in a hybrid format (in person and remotely).

1. Opening of the meeting

The Director of the IATTC, Dr. Arnulfo Franco, gave the floor to the Chair of the AIDCP, Dr. Alvin Delgado, to chair the meeting of the working group in the absence of a designated Chair.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Review of the implementation of the Dolphin Safe Certification System

Dr. Delgado pointed out that there was no working document for this meeting because there were no cases in the short period between the 51st and the 52nd meetings, which were held two months apart.

4. Other business

No other business was discussed.

5. Recommendations for the International Review Panel

The Working Group did not issue recommendations for the IRP.

6. Election of the President of the Working Group

Dr. Delgado asked for nominations for Chair of the group. As there were no nominations, it was decided to ask the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP to elect a Chair.

7. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on the dates agreed for the meetings of the AIDCP in 2025.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. on 30 October 2024.

APPENDIX 4

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM 49th MEETING OF THE PARTIES

La Jolla, California, USA
30 – 31 October 2024

RESOLUTION A-24-01 AIDCP BUDGET 2025

The AIDCP Parties,

Acknowledging the success of the Agreement for the International Dolphin Conservation Programme (AIDCP), in particular in the sustained reduction of mortality of dolphin stocks in the tropical tuna fishery,

Encouraged by the conviction that the AIDCP should continue to function and be strengthened,

Inspired by the provisions of the AIDCP, in particular its Articles V and XIII and Annex II, consistent with Article XIV, paragraph 3 of the Antigua Convention.

Desirous of ensuring the proper financial and accounting management of contributions to the AIDCP budget,

Aware of the natural and inherent synergy that exists between the AIDCP and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), given that they share the commitment to strengthen the management of the tuna fishery on dolphins, which is the competence of the IATTC,

Appreciating that the Secretariat services that the IATTC provides to the AIDCP, strengthens collaboration and maximizes joint efforts towards sustainable and responsible fisheries,

Concerned about the technical deficiency, over the years, in the presentation of the Budgets in that they lack a precise adjustment between expenditure and income, so that sometimes they are presented with a deficit and sometimes with a surplus, which makes it difficult to control budget execution, it being essential to ensure budgetary balance based on knowledge of their contents,

Aware of their responsibility in the adequate definition of the economic contributions necessary to ensure the functioning of the AIDCP,

Taking into account that the On-Board Observer Program established and implemented by the AIDCP provides data collection services for purposes defined by IATTC resolutions,

Bearing in mind that Annex A of Document AIDCP-48-01, which deals with the percentage distribution of the dedication of the IATTC staff to the AIDCP, assumes that all the products emanating from the AIDCP are considered part of the Agreement and that they correspond to it exclusively,

Seeking to ensure an appropriate distribution of the costs associated with the activities derived from the capture of data generated by the On-Board Observer Program, so that the AIDCP is allocated its specific share as agreed by the Parties,

Recognizing the desirability of maintaining an efficient coordination between the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP and the Commission to ensure the efficient use of common resources,

Recalling that, in accordance with Resolution A-18-01, “*All assessments for vessels required to carry observers under the provisions of the AIDCP shall be calculated at a rate of US\$ 14.95 per cubic meter of well volume*”,

Stressing that this sum is to be used for the payment of the services that the IATTC provides to the AIDCP in carrying out the activities agreed by the Parties and their corresponding costs, including all the costs of the On-Board Observer Program referred to in Article XIII of the AIDCP,

Agree,

1. Without prejudice to the process referred to in paragraphs 5-7,
 - a) To approve for the year 2025 the AIDCP budget for expenditures corresponding to activities for that period up to the amount of \$3,766,609.00 which includes the contribution agreed by the IATTC of up to eight hundred and twenty thousand dollars (\$820,000.00), as well as the assessments for inactive and sunk vessels indicated in Table 5 of document AIDCP-48-01.
 - b) To Authorize the spending of no more than \$3,168,977.00 until the results of the analysis described in paragraphs 4-6 of this Resolution are completed in early 2025 and an extraordinary meeting of the AIDCP is held to discuss the results.
2. Regarding financial income occurring in 2025, derived from contributions from vessels of class below 6, the amount of which is unpredictable at the date of this approval, shall be notified to the Parties upon receipt and its use shall be detailed in the budget implementation report to be reviewed in 2026.
3. Income received in 2025 from the payment of contributions due in previous years in respect of Class 6 vessels, as well as other income occurring in that year, not foreseen in the 2025 income breakdown contained in Table 5 of document AIDCP-48-01, shall be reported to the Parties for their consideration.
4. To request the Secretariat to supplement the analysis contained in Annex A of Document AIDCP-48-01, so that, in each column attributable to the AIDCP, it includes and represents, in detail, the dedication that each of the IATTC staff members indicated in that annex perform specifically in relation to the services that the IATTC, as Secretariat, provides to the AIDCP for the execution of the tasks mandated by the Parties to the AIDCP, differentiating from those that derive from IATTC mandates or resolutions.
5. To request the Secretariat to expand Document AIDCP-48-01 to include details of the work and tasks that AIDCP on-board observers carry out to comply with the instructions of the Parties to the AIDCP, differentiating it from the work and tasks they carry out to comply with the instructions of the IATTC, including to the extent possible the estimated proportion of time dedicated to each work and task, in order to facilitate the distribution of costs between the IATTC and the AIDCP.
6. To request the Secretariat to prepare an adjusted budget proposal for the AIDCP and present it for consideration at the Special Meeting of the Parties to be convened in the first quarter of 2025. The adjusted budget should consider the aspects contemplated in Article XIV paragraph 3 of the Antigua Convention and the results of the analysis outlined in paragraphs 4 and 5 of this resolution. To this end, the adjusted budget shall:

- a) Identify the actions and steps that the AIDCP carries out, in particular, but not limited to its On-Board Observer Programme, to comply with the resolutions agreed within the framework of the Meeting of the Parties and differentiating these from those actions that the AIDCP and the programme itself carry out in compliance with the resolutions adopted by the IATTC.
 - b) Provide a detailed breakdown of the specific relationship of costs and expenses derived from the services that the IATTC provides to the AIDCP. In the event that the same cost or expense is based on compliance with both the IATTC and the AIDCP, a breakdown of the proportional distribution shall be presented in the most equitable manner, taking into account the benefits of those common costs or expenses for each one.
 - c) Be adjusted to the costs and expenses associated exclusively with the activities mandated by the Parties to the AIDCP, including those carried out in that context by its On-Board Observer program.
 - d) Implement the relevant corrections in the format of the AIDCP financial statements to reflect exclusively the costs and expenses related to the services that the IATTC provides to the AIDCP, in accordance with the provisions of the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP.
7. The Parties will hold an extraordinary intersessional meeting in the first quarter of 2025 to review the results of the analysis described in paragraphs 4-6. In the event that the adjusted budget prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 6 reveals a shortfall in income, due to costs and expenses related to the services provided by the Secretariat to the AIDCP, in consideration of paragraphs 5 and 6, being greater than \$3,168,977.00, the Meeting of the Parties shall consider ways to fund the remainder of the budget described in paragraph 3.
 8. In the event that the adjusted budget reveals that the costs and expenses related to the services provided by the Secretariat to the AIDCP, in consideration of paragraphs 5 and 6, are less than the budget approved in paragraph 2 and other authorized revenue, the Parties shall consider authorizing the use of that remainder to cover in 2025, the proportion of the costs and expenses resulting from the actions undertaken by the AIDCP in compliance with the IATTC resolution. The Meeting of the Parties shall determine how to address this remainder pursuant to the budget provisions.
 9. The Secretariat is instructed to inform IATTC Members through the appropriate channels of the provisions of this Resolution and the outcome of the analyses required in paragraphs 4 and 5.
 10. The proposal to increase the daily allowance by ten dollars United States currency (\$10.00) for each day at sea for on-board observers shall be reviewed by the Meeting of the Parties after it has determined the proportion of the work that such observers devote to each of the activities carried out, i.e. differentiating the tasks mandated by the AIDCP and those instructed by the IATTC as indicated in paragraph 7 above.
 11. A proposal (i.e. Proposal from USA for MOP49) to automatically adjust vessel assessment fees based on the Secretariat's recommended budget shall be reviewed by the Meeting of the Parties after reviewing the results of the analysis indicated in paragraphs 4-6 above.

APPENDIX 5

**MOP 49 – WORKING DOCUMENT
PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY USA TO THE AIDCP**

**AIDCP BUDGET 2025
RESOLUTION ON VESSEL ASSESSMENTS AND FINANCING**

The Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP):

Understanding the importance of maintaining a sustainable AIDCP budget;

Recognizing the alarming continued trend of increasing year-to-year deficits;

Noting that a permanent increase in the vessel assessment rate has been proposed on several occasions since 2006, but not approved;

Recalling previous IATTC staff recommendations on addressing this systemic problem through tying income to expenditures;

Agree to implement Annex II.12 of the AIDCP as follows:

1. The assessments shall be based on the vessel's well volume as recorded on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register and posted on the website of the Commission, taking into account that, in accordance with Resolution C-15-02 "as of 1 January 2017 the well volume reflected on the Regional Vessel Register will be considered confirmed for vessels currently included in the Register. In the case of new vessels, the well volume notified at the time the vessel is added to the Register will be considered confirmed."
2. All assessments for vessels required to carry observers under the provisions of the AIDCP shall be calculated at a rate of ~~US\$ 14.95~~ per cubic meter of well volume to be determined and adopted as a part of the annual AIDCP budget. The Secretariat, as a part of its recommended budget, shall present the vessel assessment required to balance the budget for the budget to be balanced for the upcoming year. If an increase of the assessment is required to cover expenses projected in a current year, the Secretariat shall inform the parties of the projected deficit without an assessment increase and make note of any financial resources available should the Parties decide to use accumulated savings to fund said deficit rather than an assessment increase. The assessment rate shall be based on the following formula:

$$\text{Assessment rate (US\$/m}^3\text{)} = \frac{\text{total annual expenses (US\$)} - \text{other annual income sources (US\$)}}{\text{total Class 6 PS capacity (m}^3\text{)}}$$

Unless the Parties decide otherwise by consensus, the assessment rate that produces a balanced budget shall become effective upon the adoption of that budget.

3. Assessments for IATTC Capacity Class 6 vessels that have sealed wells under Resolution C-12-08 shall be calculated on the basis of their total well volume, i.e. including sealed and non-sealed wells.
4. Assessments for vessels smaller than Class 6 that are required to carry an observer on board, either because they have sealed wells (Resolution C-12-08) or because they have been identified by the IRP to have committed a possible infraction by intentionally setting on dolphins (Resolution A-02-01), shall be the equivalent of the quota of a Class 6 vessel with the minimum capacity corresponding to its class (508 m³).
5. Assessments for Class 6 vessels on the Inactive and Sunk Purse-Seine Capacity List of the Regional Register shall be calculated at a rate of US\$ 1.00 per cubic meter of well volume.
6. Assessments for any vessel fishing in the Agreement Area pursuant to paragraph 12 of IATTC Resolution C-02-03 on the capacity of the tuna fleet operating in the eastern Pacific Ocean shall be calculated on the basis of the rate established in paragraph 2 of this resolution.
7. Assessments shall be paid by December 1 of the preceding year, pursuant to paragraph 12(b) of Annex II of the AIDCP and regardless of whether the vessel has requested a DML for the following year, except in the case of vessels to which Resolution A-02-01 or Resolution C-02-03, paragraph 12, applies, for which assessments shall be paid before undertaking fishing activities in the EPO.
8. Any vessel assessment that has not been paid by the date specified in the previous paragraph shall be increased by an annual surcharge of 10% of the assessment, in addition to any sanction contemplated in Annex IV of the AIDCP.
9. This resolution replaces A-18-01.

APPENDIX 6

Extract from document MOP-21-07

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

21ST MEETING OF THE PARTIES

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
5 JUNE 2009

DOCUMENT MOP-21-07

VESSEL CAPACITY CLASS DEFINITIONS RELATED TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR CARRYING AN ON-BOARD OBSERVER

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) groups purse-seine vessels into six classes, by carrying capacity in tons, as follows:

| CLASS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------------|-----|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Metric tons | <46 | 46 – 91 | 92 – 181 | 182 – 272 | 273 – 363 | >363 |
| Short tons | <51 | 51 – 100 | 101 – 200 | 201 -300 | 301 – 400 | >400 |

This classification, devised originally for categorizing catch statistics, was used by the AIDCP to determine which vessels are required to carry observers on board. In this regard, paragraph 2 of Annex II of the AIDCP states:

“Each Party shall require its vessels with a carrying capacity greater than 363 metric tons (400 short tons) and that operate in the Agreement Area, to carry an observer during each fishing trip in the Agreement Area”.

Subsequently, the Parties to the AIDCP changed to vessel well volume, in cubic meters, as the basis for establishing the assessments paid by vessels. Thus, assessments are now based on well volume, in cubic meters (m³), but the requirement to carry an observer is still based on carrying capacity in metric tons (t).

Under the AIDCP, DMLs are assigned only to vessels with a carrying capacity of more than 363 t; smaller vessels are prohibited from fishing on dolphins and are not required to carry an observer. The cutoff point of 363 t was intended to separate vessels which were large enough to fish on dolphins from those which are not.

Well volume is an objective, unvarying and easily determined value, and thus is a fairer criterion for requiring a vessel to carry an observer and be eligible for a DML than the somewhat more subjective criterion of tonnage. Using well volumes for these matters would also have the merit of using the same measure for all AIDCP requirements, including vessel assessments.

Accordingly, the Secretariat believes it would be appropriate to harmonize AIDCP requirements for vessels relative to observers, DMLs, and vessel assessments, in all relevant AIDCP documents, using well volume instead of metric tons.

Purse-seine vessels would be grouped into six classes, based on well volume in cubic meters, and using a factor of 1.17051 to convert metric tons to cubic meters, as follows:

| CLASS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--------------|-----|--------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| Cubic meters | <54 | 54-107 | 108-212 | 213-318 | 319-425 | >425 |

Vessels of well volume greater than 425 m³ would be eligible for DMLs, and would be required to carry an observer on board.