

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

18TH MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
15 FEBRUARY 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of minutes of the 17 th meeting	
4. Review of the implementation of the Dolphin safe certification system	TT-18-04
5. Modification of the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Certification system	
6. Conversion of weight of whole tuna for recording on dolphin safe certificates	
7. Publicizing TTF numbers for tuna caught in contravention of IATTC resolutions	
8. Proposed FAO guidelines on ecolabelling	TT-18-07
9. Report on litigation in United States courts	
10. Recommendations for the IRP	
11. Other business	
12. Place and date of next meeting	
13. Adjournment	

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees

The 18th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in La Jolla, California (USA), on 15 February 2005. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. William Jacobson, of the United States, who was nominated to direct the meeting in the absence of the Chair of the Working Group, Ms. Pat Donley.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Mexico requested the inclusion of an item in the agenda regarding information on the litigation regarding the *AIDCP dolphin safe* label in the United States courts; this was added as item 9.

At Costa Rica's request, the Group agreed to invert the order of items 8 , *Publicizing TTF numbers for tuna caught in contravention of IATTC resolutions*, and 7, *Proposed FAO guidelines on ecolabelling*, of the provisional agenda).

The rest of the agenda was adopted as proposed.

3. Approval of minutes of the 17th meeting

The minutes of the 17th Meeting of the Working Group, circulated previously by the Secretariat, were approved without modifications.

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

Dr. Robin Allen, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), presented a report on the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system (Document [TT-18-04](#)) which updated information provided at the last meeting of the Working Group, and presented information on comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs).

Costa Rica indicated that the high level of compliance of transmitting original TTFs to the Secretariat was encouraging.

One item of significance was that, since January 1, 2004, four Dolphin Safe Certificates had been issued in which the quantity of tuna shown was more than 10% in excess of the amount shown on the corresponding TTF. The Secretariat reported there has been no response from the Party that issued the certificate to the inquiry on this discrepancy. The meeting encouraged that Party to take this issue seriously and to respond to the Secretariat.

One delegation raised a concern about the conversion factor used in Figure 2.2 of the document. It was suggested that all the Parties inquire with their industries to obtain a range of values for conversion factors for various product types (loins, canned product, etc.). The intent was not to obtain proprietary information, but figures which could serve as a tool to help identify potential discrepancies.

5. Modification of the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Certification system

The delegation of El Salvador reported that there was no update to its proposal to modify the [Procedures for AIDCP Dolphin Safe Certification](#), discussed at the 17th meeting of the Working Group, but noted that a modification of the proposal might be reintroduced at the June 2005 meeting.

6. Conversion of weight of whole tuna for recording on dolphin safe certificates

Costa Rica indicated that it was still working on the information contained in the document presented at the last meeting regarding conversion factors for whole tuna versus loins and canned fish. Costa Rica encouraged the rest of the Parties to obtain data from their industries and indicated that it could work with the Secretariat to complete this study. The US supported this suggestion, and added that the information did not need to be proprietary.

The European Union had consulted with its industry, and in general agreed that the diversity of the processing involved would make it very difficult to use standard conversion factors.

The Working Group encouraged the participants to consult with their respective industries to help advance work on this difficult but important matter.

7. Publicizing TTF numbers for tuna caught in contravention of IATTC resolutions

Regarding the Secretariat's proposal to publicize the numbers of TTFs identified as associated with tuna caught in contravention of IATTC conservation measures, many delegations noted the benefit of using such a mechanism, which would strengthen the AIDCP. However, concerns over confidentiality and procedure were voiced. The Secretariat was asked to prepare a draft protocol on this subject before the next meeting of the Working Group, to serve as a basis for discussion on the procedures to be followed and the responsibilities of those involved.

8. Proposed FAO guidelines on ecolabelling

The proposed FAO Guidelines on Ecolabelling ([Document TT-18-07](#)) generated the most discussion during the meeting. The Working Group agreed on the importance of the Procedures for AIDCP Dolphin Safe Certification being compatible with the FAO guidelines. It was proposed that the Secretariat should attend the FAO Technical Consultation on the Guidelines scheduled for March 2005, where it could explain the AIDCP program to delegations present at that meeting. Two Parties stressed that budgetary constraints should be a priority when considering such activities. Nevertheless, a consensus was reached that the Secretariat should attend the meeting.

9. Report on litigation in United States courts

The US delegation gave an update regarding the ongoing litigation regarding the US dolphin safe label. The US also agreed to consider holding a briefing in Washington on the details of the case for representatives of the Parties.

10. Recommendations for the IRP

The Working Group did not have any recommendations for the IRP.

11. Other business

There was no other business to discuss.

12. Place and date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group would be held in June 2005, before the meeting of the IRP.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on 15 February 2005.

Appendix 1.

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PROGRAMA INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS DELFINES**

**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING
GRUPO DE TRABAJO PERMANENTE SOBRE EL SEGUIMIENTO DEL ATUN**

18th MEETING - 18^a REUNION

**February 15, 2005 – 15 de febrero de 2005
La Jolla, California**

ATTENDEES - ASISTENTES

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JAVIER ROCA**
Dirección General de Intereses Marítimos

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ARTURO VEGA
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Programa Nacional de Observadores

COSTA RICA

ASDRÚBAL VÁSQUEZ
INCOPECA

ECUADOR

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**BRUNO LEONE
RAFAEL TRUJILLO**

EL SALVADOR

SONIA SALAVERRÍA
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

EUROPEAN UNION - UNION EUROPEA

ALAN GRAY
European Commission
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JAVIER ARÍZ TELLERÍA
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JESSICA KONDEL
JEREMY RUSIN
MICHELLE ZETWO
National Marine Fisheries Service

DAVID BURNEY
ROBERT FLETCHER
SUSAN JACKSON

VENEZUELA

ALVIN DELGADO
Programa Nacional de Observadores de Venezuela

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS - ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES

CRISTOBEL BLOCK
The Humane Society

NINA YOUNG
The Ocean Conservancy

INTERNATION ORGANIZATIONS - ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES

RICARDO MENESES
Corredor Marino de Conservación del Pacífico

TUNA INDUSTRY – INDUSTRIA ATUNERA

PAUL KRAMPE

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