

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

18TH MEETING

LA JOLLA, CA. USA

15 FEBRUARY 2005

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PROPOSED FAO GUIDELINES ON ECOLABELLING

On 19-22 October 2004, in Rome, FAO held a *Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries*. The Consultation stressed the benefits of internationally-agreed guidelines aimed at avoiding the misuse of ecolabelling schemes through, *inter alia*, preventing them from becoming barriers to trade. The Consultation made good progress in completing the guidelines, but more work is necessary to finalize them, and it has been agreed to hold [a meeting for this purpose](#) immediately before the COFI session in early March 2005. The [report of the Consultation](#), which includes the draft Guidelines, is available on the [IATTC website](#).

The proposed Guidelines are relevant to the Parties to the AIDCP because of the procedures developed, under the Agreement, for dolphin safe tuna certification. Obviously, it is important that nothing in these procedures be inconsistent with any FAO Guidelines. However, it would appear that, for the most part, the Guidelines were intended to address ecolabelling schemes developed by non-governmental entities, rather than governments or regional fisheries management organizations. This point was raised by at least one AIDCP Party during the Consultation, and specific language was proposed for inclusion in the Guidelines to help ensure that there would not be any such inconsistencies. This language was not agreed by the Consultation, and is thus bracketed in paragraphs 5 and 28 of the Guidelines.

As this issue is going to be addressed again in March, it was decided to take advantage of this meeting to discuss the subject and, if possible and appropriate, develop a common position on the matter among the AIDCP Parties.