

**AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION  
PROGRAM**

**45<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

**La Jolla, California, USA  
18-19 October 2022**

**DOCUMENT AIDCP-45 INF-A**

**CHAIR'S TEXT**

**DRAFT GUIDELINES ON WORKING CONDITIONS AND  
PROCEDURES FOR OBSERVERS ON BOARD PURSE-SEINE  
VESSELS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AIDCP**

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the safety of observers on board tuna purse-seine vessels within the framework of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), as well as to provide vessel owners, fishing and vessel captains with the information necessary to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

Any non-compliance should be reported to the appropriate observer program.

**For observers:**

1. It is strictly prohibited to ride in the helicopters of the purse-seine vessels.
2. During fishing maneuvers, observers must not ride on speed boats for any reason.
3. Under no circumstances should they enter the water to rescue dolphins during fishing maneuvers.
4. It is forbidden to climb to the crow's nest during the fishing trip.
5. They may only be in the fish processing area to take samples once the set is finished.
6. For no reason should they go to the net hauling area during fishing maneuvers.
7. They must not participate in any type of guarding of the vessel.

Note: Failure to comply with these provisions, upon verification, shall be sufficient reason for not being hired again by the Observer Program to which he/she belongs. Accidents that may occur due to non-compliance with these guidelines will exonerate the Observer Program to which he/she belongs from any responsibility and may imply repercussions in the applicability of the life and risk insurance contracted for the trip.

**For fishing captains:**

1. Observers should be prohibited from boarding the helicopter of the purse-seine vessel under any circumstances.
2. Observers should be prohibited from using the speed boats during fishing maneuvers for any reason whatsoever.

3. Observers should be prohibited from entering the water to rescue dolphins during fishing maneuvers.
4. Observers should not be allowed to climb to the crow's nest during the trip.
5. Observers should be allowed in the fish processing area, only to take samples once the set has been completed.
6. Under no circumstances should the observer be allowed to participate or collaborate in the hauling of the net during fishing maneuvers.
7. The observer may not participate in any type of vessel guarding activities.

Note: Failure to comply with these provisions, upon verification, shall be sufficient grounds for the case to be reviewed by the AIDCP International Review Panel.

**For vessel owners/operators:**

1. Issue instructions to the fishing captain, vessel captain and other relevant vessel crew to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

**Final provision:**

The use of speedboats and the *panga* shall only be allowed for embarking or disembarking observers when there is no other possibility, as well as in cases of emergency.