

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL

MINUTES OF THE 34TH MEETING

Del Mar, California (USA)

8-9 October 2003

Presider: Allison Routt (United States)

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the Presider
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) for 2003
5. Review of vessels qualified to receive DMLs for 2004
6. Review of AIDCP List of Qualified Captains
7. Vessels with DMLs with captains not on the List of Qualified Captains
8. Comparison of observer programs
9. Possible non-compliance by smaller vessels regarding dolphin sets
10. Effectiveness of [guidelines on dolphin herd size](#), and relationship of herd size and mortality levels
11. Promotion of dolphin safe tuna
12. Review of observer data
13. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP:
 - a. Actions taken since report at 33rd IRP meeting
 - b. Status review of special cases
14. Report on implementation of [Resolution on a pattern of infractions](#) (A-02-03)
15. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking
16. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties
17. Other business
18. Place and date of next meeting
19. Adjournment

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees
2. DMLs in 2003
3. Responses received from the Parties to possible infractions identified by the IRP
4. Chair's Report, 14th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking

DOCUMENTS

IRP-34-07	Vessels with DMLs with captains not on the List of Qualified Captains
IRP-34-08	Comparison of observer programs
IRP-34-09	Monitoring the activities of vessels of less than 363 t carrying capacity
IRP-34-10	Effectiveness of technical guidelines to prevent high mortality during sets on large dolphin herds
IRP-34-14	Effect of Resolution A-02-03 – <i>Definition of a pattern of infractions</i>

The 34th Meeting of the International Review Panel (IRP) was held in Del Mar, California (USA) on October 8 and 9, 2003. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

Dr. Robin Allen, Director of the IATTC, which serves as the Secretariat for the AIDCP, declared the meeting open.

2. Election of the President

Ms. Allison Routt, of the United States, was elected President of the meeting.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The United States requested that under Item 17, *Other business*, the Panel discuss the question of supporting the IATTC resolution on the conservation of tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean by prohibiting the issue of dolphin safe certificates for tuna not caught in accordance with the conservation and management measures of the IATTC.

The Panel also adopted the minutes of its 33rd meeting, as drafted by the Secretariat.

4. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) for 2003

The Secretariat reviewed the status of the assignments, reallocations, and utilization of DMLs in 2003 to date (Appendix 2).

In 2003 the average DML (ADML) was 53.8 dolphins. A total of 94 DMLs were assigned: 91 full-year DMLs, one second-semester DML, and two from the Reserve DML Allocation (RDA). Of these, 78 had been utilized, and no vessel has exceeded its DML. The average dolphin mortality per vessel so far in 2003 was 13.6.

5. Review of vessels qualified to receive DMLs for 2004

The Secretariat reported that it had received requests for 2004 DMLs for 97 vessels, of which 93 had paid the corresponding assessments. The Panel decided that those vessels that had not paid their assessments were not eligible for DMLs, that a late request for a DML would not be considered, and that two Bolivian vessels that have repeatedly employed captains not on the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains should not receive DMLs. The Panel determined that 89 vessels were qualified for DMLs for 2004, as follows:

BOL	3	MEX	40	USA	1
COL	5	PAN	8	VEN	23
ECU	5	SLV	2	VUT	1
GTM	1				

The United States requested that the Panel consider not allocating any DMLs to Bolivia, due to the fact that one of its vessels has continued to employ a captain who was permanently removed from the List, and the Panel decided to refer this question to the Meeting of the Parties.

A request by Colombia for a DML for a vessel that was under construction generated considerable

discussion. Several members expressed their concern over allocating a DML to a vessel that was not on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register, and thus could not legally fish in the EPO. Colombia pointed out that there was nothing in the AIDCP which would support denying a DML to a vessel simply because it was not on the Register, and stated that Colombia had the right to decide whether or not this vessel, which would be registered in Colombia, could be placed on the Register. Various members doubted that a vessel under construction could be certified to meet the requirements for a DML, and it was suggested that the correct procedure would be for the vessel to request a second-semester DML once it was ready to fish. In the end, it was decided to forward this matter to the Meeting of the Parties for a decision regarding the DML, as well as whether the AIDCP should be amended to only allow DMLs to be assigned to vessels on the IATTC Register.

6. Review of AIDCP List of Qualified Captains

The Secretariat provided an update on the status of the List of Qualified Captains, noting that, since the last meeting of the Panel, 12 captains had been added to the List, 1 had been removed, and 2 had been reinstated.

7. Vessels with DMLs with captains not on the List of Qualified Captains

At its 33rd meeting, the Panel noted that many infractions correspond to trips by vessels whose captains were not on the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains. Several delegations expressed the view that vessels should not be allowed to depart under this circumstance, and the Secretariat was asked to analyze this issue more closely and examine some possible solutions.

Accordingly, the Secretariat prepared [Document IRP-34-07](#), which addresses this problem. In the document the Secretariat made two proposals for resolving this situation:

1. Allow a vessel to depart to fish without a qualified captain provided it does not set on dolphins.
2. Ensure that vessels with DMLs are assigned an observer only if the captain is on the List of Qualified Captains.

The Panel opted for the second option, which would involve an amendment to Annex II of the AIDCP, and agreed to forward it to the Meeting of the Parties for approval.

The Panel agreed that procedures needed to be developed to implement this new requirement on a practical basis, and requested the Secretariat to do so and advise the Parties accordingly.

8. Comparison of observer programs

The document presented by the Secretariat (IRP-34-08) shows comparisons between the IATTC observer program, by country, and the national programs of Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela for their respective fleets.

The analysis by the Secretariat did not reveal any significant statistical differences among the different observer programs. The Ocean Conservancy requested that in the future the Secretariat try to present a more understandable statistical analysis, in particular with respect to the concept of “percentage chance”, and to present information which would allow a comparison with the analyses of prior years.

9. Possible non-compliance by smaller vessels regarding dolphin sets

The Secretariat presented [Document IRP-34-09](#), which addresses the monitoring of the activities of vessels of less than 363 t carrying capacity. The Secretariat noted that the *Plan of action to enhance the success of the AIDCP* requires the Secretariat to present a detailed report concerning the extent of possible non-compliance with the prohibition against intentional sets on dolphins by such vessels.

The document presents a summary of the information on sets on dolphins by vessels of less than 363 t capacity, as well as options for monitoring such vessels. These options included allowing these vessels to have DMLs and requiring them to carry an observer aboard, have complete or partial observer programs,

monitoring the vessels by means of video cameras or vessel monitoring systems (VMS), and monitoring catches through the sampling of unloadings.

The issue was extensively discussed by the Panel. Some members expressed the view that, since there have been no new cases recently of smaller vessels setting on dolphins, perhaps there was not a problem in this regard. Others observed that since there was no means of monitoring the activities of these vessels, the fact that no cases have been reported recently is meaningless. Several delegations expressed concerns about placing observers on small vessels, for reasons of expense and space aboard such vessels, and also were opposed to video monitoring.

A number of delegations expressed interest in the option of monitoring catches of small vessels. Under this option vessels of 363 t or less would be required to have their unloadings sampled at the end of each trip, and the species and size compositions of these unloadings could be compared with those of other vessels. (The size and species composition of tuna taken in sets on dolphins is normally distinct from that taken with other methods). The Panel asked the Secretariat to present, at a future meeting, a more detailed analysis of how this option could be pursued, include the costs involved and options for what size composition in the landings would trigger the placement of observers on board future trips of the unloading vessel.

10. Effectiveness of Guidelines on dolphin herd size, and relationship of herd size and mortality levels

In accordance with the *Plan of Action to enhance the success of the AIDCP*, the Secretariat presented [Document IRP-34-10](#), in which the effectiveness of the [Technical guidelines to prevent high mortality during sets on large dolphin herds](#), adopted in June 2002 is analyzed and evaluated.

Sets on large dolphin herds are known to be more likely to lead to high mortality of dolphins than sets on smaller herds. The fundamental guideline is that sets on herds of more than 2,000 dolphins should be avoided. In the first 10 months following the introduction of the guidelines, there were relatively fewer sets on herds of more than 2,000 dolphins than in the period before the guidelines, but, in view of the short period since their introduction and the limited data available, the Secretariat's view is that it would be premature to ascribe any differences to the effect of the guidelines.

The Panel decided to keep this matter under review and to include it as a future agenda item.

11. Promotion of dolphin safe tuna

A discussion of recent developments in promoting the dolphin-safe label took place, including developments in Europe and the status of litigation in the United States. There was also discussion on the status of the Working Group to Promote and Publicize the *AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna* Label. It was agreed that it was appropriate to have the discussion of the promotion of the label take place in the IRP, but several delegations noted the importance of maintaining the working group.

12. Review of observer data

The Secretariat presented the data reported by observers of the On-Board Observer Program relating to possible infractions that had occurred since the Panel's previous meeting. Each case was discussed, and the Panel decided to forward those that indicated possible infractions of the AIDCP to the responsible government for investigation and possible sanction.

Additionally, the Panel discussed the issue of a vessel that had to finish a trip without an observer due to his illness and return to port aboard another vessel. Attempts to replace the sick observer with another person were not successful. The Panel considered that this situation should not be referred as a possible infraction; however, the tuna caught after the observer left the vessel could not be considered dolphin safe.

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

a. Actions taken since report at the 33rd meeting

The Secretariat presented tables (Appendix 3) detailing the responses received from the Parties in cases of possible infractions identified by the previous three meetings of the IRP. The Secretariat also presented information on the status of all cases involving possible major infractions identified by the IRP since the beginning of the AIDCP through the 33rd meeting of the IRP.

At the request of The Ocean Conservancy, the Panel discussed the idea that countries include in their responses the nature of the sanction applied in each specific case. The Panel did not reach any agreement on this.

b. Status review of special cases

The Secretariat reviewed the status of several special cases identified as such by previous meetings of the Panel.

The case of the captain permanently banned from the List of Qualified Captains was discussed, and it was noted that he continued working despite the ban. Several delegations commented that if this continues to occur, the Panel may wish to consider recommending that the Parties take action against the flag government of the vessel employing the captain, such as not assigning DMLs to any of its vessels next year.

14. Report on implementation of Resolution on a pattern of infractions (A-02-03)

The Secretariat presented [Document IRP-34-14](#), which analyzes the effectiveness of the [Resolution on the Definition of a Pattern of Infractions](#). The resolution states that the IRP shall review annually its effectiveness in enhancing compliance with the AIDCP. The document examines the frequencies of major infractions before and after the effective date of the resolution, and reports on vessels at risk of developing a pattern of infractions. The Secretariat's conclusion is that too short a period of time had elapsed to allow any conclusions to be drawn.

Dr. Allen noted that there is one vessel which has three major infractions already confirmed since the effective date of the resolution, and should not be eligible to receive a DML according to the resolution. The Panel decided that this vessel should not be included on the list forwarded to the Parties of vessels eligible for DMLs in 2004.

15. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking

The Chair of this working group presented her report of its 14th meeting (Appendix 4), including recommendations to the Panel. The Panel accepted the report and its recommendations.

16. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties

The Panel agreed to make three recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties:

1. Regarding vessels with DMLs with captains not on the *List of Qualified Captains*, amend Annex II of the AIDCP, adding a new paragraph 11 or 13, as follows:

“No observer shall be assigned to a vessel with a DML unless the vessel's fishing captain is on the list of qualified captains maintained in accordance with Annex VII (I) e.”

2. Regarding tuna caught by vessels without an observer aboard, add to the *System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna*:

“6. Tuna caught by a fishing vessel without an observer aboard, and transferred at sea to another fishing vessel, shall be designated as non-dolphin safe on the TTF.”

3. Amend the *AIDCP Dolphin-Safe Certification System* to include a provision that states that tuna positively identified as having been caught in contravention of an IATTC conservation and

management measure is not eligible for an AIDCP Dolphin-Safe Certificate.

17. Other business

The United States circulated a proposal to prevent the use of the dolphin safe certificates for tuna caught in contravention of IATTC measures.

The proposal seeks to amend the *AIDCP Dolphin Safe Certification System* to include a provision establishing that tuna that is positively identified as having been caught in contravention of an IATTC conservation and management measure is not eligible for an *AIDCP Dolphin Safe Certificate*. The Panel agreed to recommend the proposal to the Meeting of the Parties.

The Panel asked the Secretariat to present an analysis at a future IRP meeting of possible guidelines to ensure that all vessels with DMLs have all the required equipment on board before departing to fish.

18. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the IRP will be held in February 2004 in La Jolla, California.

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on October 9.

Appendix 1.

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

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL PANEL INTERNACIONAL DE REVISION

34th MEETING - 34^a REUNION

8-9 Oct 2003

Del Mar, California, USA

ASISTENTES - ATTENDEES

BOLIVIA

**GONZALO SÁNCHEZ
ALFREDO ROJAS**
Ministerio de Defensa

COLOMBIA

**ARTURO VEGA
CARLOS MOSQUERA
IVÁN D. ESCOBAR**
Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural

**ARMANDO HERNÁNDEZ
DIEGO CANELOS**

COSTA RICA

ASDRÚBAL VÁSQUEZ
INCOPECA

ECUADOR

**LUCÍA FERNÁNDEZ
LUIS TORRES NAVARRETE**
Ministerio de Comercio Exterior,
Industrialización, Pesca y Competitividad

EL SALVADOR

SONIA SALAVERRÍA
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

EUROPEAN UNION - UNION EUROPEA

ROBERTO CESARI
European Commission
IGNACIO ESCOBAR
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima

JAVIER ARÍZ TELLERÍA
Instituto Español de Oceanografía
AMOR SOLÁ
Embajada de España en Washington

GUATEMALA

FRATERO DÍAZ MONGE
JOSÉ G. RUIZ
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

MEXICO

RICARDO BELMONTES
MARIO AGUILAR
ANGEL GÓMEZ
CONAPESCA
GUILLERMO COMPEÁN
LUIS FLEISCHER
PEDRO ULLOA
Instituto Nacional de la Pesca

MICHEL DREYFUS
HUMBERTO ROBLES
FIDEMAR
LUIS FUEYO
SEMARNAT/PROFEPA

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAVID HOGAN
JAMES STORY
Department of State
PAT DONLEY
ALLISON ROUTH
JEREMY RUSIN
JAMES LECKY
BRETT SCHNEIDER
CHRISTOPHER FANNING

STEVE REILLY
MEGHAN DONAHUE
JESSICA KONDEL
National Marine Fisheries Service
AMY FRAENKEL
U.S. Senate
MARCELA CAMPA
SUSAN JACKSON

VANUATU

HUGO ALSINA LAGOS
EDWARD WEISSMAN
Office of Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs

ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES--NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

KITTY BLOCK
The Humane Society
NINA YOUNG
The Ocean Conservancy

MOISÉS MUG
World Wildlife Fund

TUNA INDUSTRY – INDUSTRIA ATUNERA

ERNESTO ESCOBAR
RAMÓN MONTAÑO
JULIO MORÓN

SECRETARÍA-SECRETARIAT

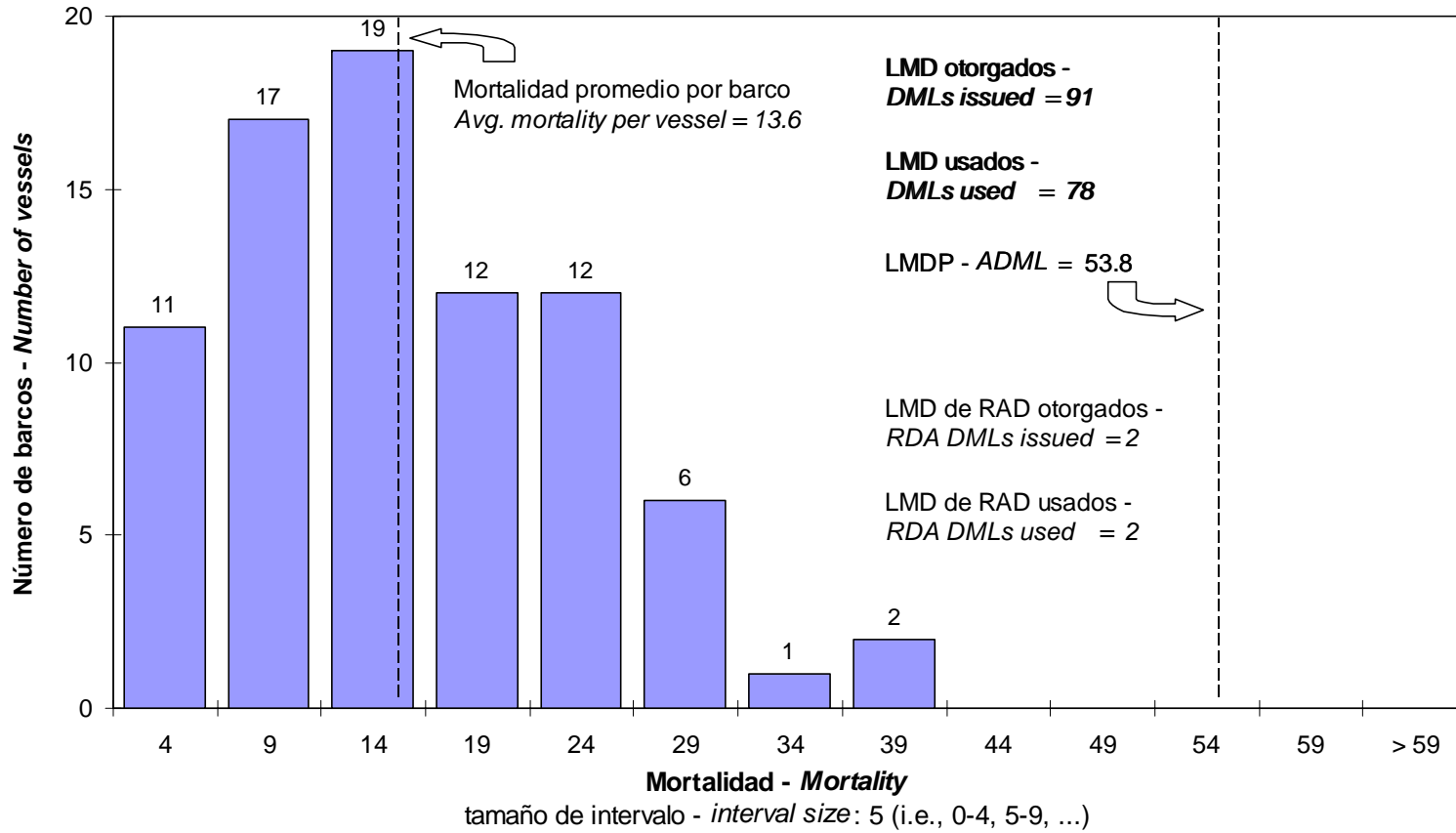
ROBIN ALLEN, Director
ERNESTO ALTAMIRANO
DAVID BRATTEN
ALEJANDRA FERREIRA
MONICA GALVÁN
JOSHUE GROSS

BRIAN HALLMAN
BERTA JUÁREZ
CLERIDY LENNERT
ENRIQUE UREÑA
NICHOLAS WEBB

Appendix 2.

MORTALIDAD CAUSADA POR BARCOS CON LMD - 2003
MORTALITY CAUSED BY DML VESSELS - 2003

(Uso de LMD = 1 o más lances intencionales sobre delfines; mortalidad en lances experimentales excluida
DML use = 1 or more intentional sets on dolphins; experimental set mortality excluded)



Datos Preliminares (3 octubre, 2003) - *Preliminary Data (October 3, 2003)*

Appendix 3.

RESPUESTAS PARA SEIS TIPOS DE POSIBLES INFRACCIONES IDENTIFICADAS DURANTE LAS REUNIONES 31, 32 Y 33.

RESPONSES FOR SIX TYPES OF POSSIBLE INFRINGEMENTS IDENTIFIED AT THE 31ST, 32ND, AND 33RD MEETINGS OF THE IRP.

No. de casos	Sin respuesta	Respuestas											Total	
		Bajo investigación o sujeto a litigio administrativo		No hubo infracción	Infracción: sin sanción	Infracción: aviso	Infracción: sanción ¹							
		Responses												
No. of cases	No response	Under investigation or subject to administrative litigation		No infraction	Infraction: no sanction	Infraction: warning	Infraction: sanction ¹						Total	
HOSTIGAMIENTO AL OBSERVADOR – OBSERVER HARASSMENT														
ECU	2	2 (100%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
MEX	4	0	-	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	4 (100%)
VEN	1	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	1 (100%)	1	(100%)
Total²:	7	2 (29%)	1 (14%)	3 (43%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	1 (14%)	5	(71%)	
USO DE EXPLOSIVOS – USE OF EXPLOSIVES														
ECU	3	0	-	3 (100%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	3	(100%)
MEX	1	0	-	1 (100%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	(100%)
VEN	1	0	-	1 (100%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	(100%)
Total:	5	0	-	5 (100%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	5	(100%)
LANCES NOCTURNOS – NIGHT SETS														
BOL	1	0	-	1 (17%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	(17%)
COL	1	1 (100%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
MEX	6	0	-	6 (100%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	6	(100%)
PER	1	0	-	1 (100%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	(100%)
VEN	37	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	37 (100%)	37	(100%)
Total	46	1 (2%)	8 (17%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	37 (80%)	45	(98%)
PESCAR SIN OBSERVADOR – FISHING WITHOUT AN OBSERVER														
BLZ ³	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
BOL	6	2 (33%)	4 (67%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	4 (67%)
Total⁴	6	2 (33%)	4 (67%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	4 (67%)
PESCAR SOBRE DELFINES SIN LMD – FISHING ON DOLPHINS WITHOUT A DML														
ECU	1	1 (100%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
PAN	3	2 (67%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	1 (33%)	1	(33%)	
Total	4	3 (75%)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	1 (25%)	1	(25%)	

**LANCES SOBRE DELFINES DESPUES DE ALCANZAR EL LMD
SETS ON DOLPHINS AFTER REACHING DML**

*No hubo ningún caso identificado durante el periodo de este informe
There were no identified cases during this report period*

¹ Una sanción fue o será aplicada – Sanction was or will be applied

² Se redondean los porcentajes, y no suman necesariamente 100 - Percentages are rounded and may not sum to 100

³ Se notifica a las No-Partes, pero no se solicita respuesta – Non-Parties are advised, but no response is requested

⁴ Los totales no incluyen casos de no Partes, si procede – Totals do not include cases involving non-Parties, if applicable

Appendix 4.

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

14TH MEETING

DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA (USA)

8 OCT 2003

CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Opening of the Meeting

Members present: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, United States, Vanuatu, and representatives of environmental NGOs and the tuna industry.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with two additions:

- a. Approval of the minutes of the 13th meeting;
- b. The United States requested that a discussion of possible actions the Working Group could take in support of the conservation measures adopted at the recently concluded IATTC meeting be included at Number 8. Other Business.

The minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.

3. National Tuna Tracking Plans

Status of national plans -

- a. The Secretariat reported that the annex to Ecuador's plan has not yet been received. Ecuador reported that the annex, a table, would soon be submitted, and the working group decided that the status of Ecuador's tuna tracking and verification plan should be considered "fully consistent."
- b. The Secretariat reported the receipt of a plan from Venezuela. The plan will be distributed and reviewed at the next meeting of working group.

The representative of El Salvador presented an informative report on the operation of her country's tuna tracking and verification plan. Copies of her presentation will be made available.

Colombia volunteered to present its tuna tracking and verification plan at the next meeting.

4. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system (TT-14-04)

Following the Secretariat presentation, it was announced that the new dolphin safe certification form has not yet been distributed. Costa Rica reported that they have continued to use the old form to list several TTFs, as would be allowed on the new one, and asked if that would be considered a violation of any procedures. It was agreed that so long as the form is clear, no violation of procedures occurred. It was decided that for purposes of control of certification forms, the new forms will be mailed to each participant, and the participants will then return all unused copies of the obsolete forms to the Secretariat. Once the exchange of old and new forms is completed, the Secretariat will report back to the working group concerning any missing forms.

The working group discussed the need for some sort of standard auditing program for the Certification System consisting of procedures, protocols, and possible sanctions to be used to insure that the certification system maintains an impeccable reputation in the world marketplace. The United States agreed to prepare a resolution for consideration of the working group at its next meeting, and all the

Parties were urged to consider submitting resolutions, as well. The Secretariat will look into the legal and procedural aspects of incorporating any such procedures, etc., into the Agreement.

The Ocean Conservancy recalled the previous agreement that the Secretariat should notify a government of any discrepancy between the amount of tuna recorded on a certificate and the corresponding TTF, and suggested that Parties be notified if such discrepancies are not resolved within 60 days.

The Secretariat was asked to provide tables as well as graphs in future reports of the difference between dolphin safe tuna recorded on TTFs and on corresponding Certificates. In addition, it was asked to specify the state of the product in the first table.

The Secretariat presented tables showing, for each Party, the number of original TTFs received by the Secretariat. Several countries have reached the 100 per cent level and most others have improved compliance from the last report. The Secretariat provided copies of the presentation, and will do so prior to their presentation at the next meeting.

It was pointed out that in many cases flag vessels of one country are unloading in ports of other countries; thus, underlining the importance of tuna tracking representatives being able to communicate with each other. Bolivia was urged to notify the Secretariat of the name and contact information for a tuna tracking representative to be added to the list and distributed to all the Parties.

5. Amendments addressing transfer of fish from unobserved vessels (TT-14-05).

The Parties agreed with the recommendation of the Secretariat that the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna should be amended to include our agreement concerning the dolphin safe status of tuna transferred between fishing vessels at sea. It was agreed to amend the suggested new paragraph to add the word, “fishing” in front of each occurrence of the word, “vessel” to avoid any confusion with our prohibition on transshipping at sea. This item will be a recommendation to the IRP.

Following a short discussion of the possibility of issuing dolphin safe certificates to small, unobserved fishing vessels, Ecuador volunteered to bring a proposal on this subject to the next working group meeting.

6. Conversion of whole fish weights to processed tuna weights (TT-14-06)

The Secretariat reported that no responses to its letter have as yet been received. A good discussion of several possible ways to arrive at useable conversions from product to landed weights ensued. Costa Rica pointed out that drained weight of white meat might be a good benchmark. One of the members from the industry discussed some of the variables in terms of species and products. It was pointed out that there are many variables and several ideas we can consider. Parties were asked to put their ideas into writing and submit them to the Secretariat within the next two weeks. The Secretariat will analyze the material they receive and present some possible conversion ranges applied to the comparison of certificate and TTF weights for consideration at the next meeting.

7. Recommendations for the IRP

The following addition to the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna should be forwarded to the Meeting of the Parties for approval:

“6. Tuna caught by a fishing vessel without an observer aboard, and transferred at sea to another fishing vessel, shall be designated as non-dolphin safe on the TTF.”

8. Other Business

The United States introduced the subject of the tuna tracking working group developing some criteria to withhold dolphin safe certification for products identified as originating from fishing activities that contravene established IATTC management measures. Some Parties indicated a preference for seeing this item taken up in the working group on compliance, and some indicated that the IRP should first

consider the issue. Many agreed that the issuance of dolphin safe certificates for product harvested by vessels operating outside the rules and procedures of the IATTC and AIDCP is not acceptable. However, there was no consensus on any possible tuna tracking working group recommendations.

The next meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking will take place in February 2004, in concert with the IRP meeting, at a location to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned.