

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
ON-BOARD OBSERVER PROGRAM
***AD-HOC* MEETING OF THE IATTC AND NATIONAL**
OBSERVER PROGRAMS

La Jolla, California (U.S.A.)
23 October 2006

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Review of the requirements for training seminars for crew stated in AIDCP Article V.1.b, Annex IV.3.b, Annex VII.1.e, and the *Procedures for Maintaining the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains*
4. Rules of procedure for attendees at training seminars:
 - a) Attendance
 - b) Registration and documentation
5. Standards for updates of seminar materials
6. Details of seminar materials
7. Draft standards for seminar instructors
8. Vessel assessments
9. Other business:
 - a. National program reports
 - b. Allegations of corruption
10. Adjournment

1. Opening of the meeting

Martín Hall, head of the Tuna-Dolphin Program of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), opened the meeting.

The attendees were: Armando Hernández (Colombia); Luis Torres (Ecuador); Javier Ariz (European Union); Arnulfo Franco, Julio Guevara and Aldo Santamaría (Panama); Jessica Kondel (United States); Alvin Delgado (Venezuela); Robin Allen, Ernesto Altamirano, David Bratten, Erick Largacha and Enrique Ureña (Secretariat).

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was approved with the addition of the following two points under a new item for *Other business*:

- a. A proposal to standardize reports from the national programs.
- b. Anonymous allegations of corruption sent to the Secretariat, representatives of Parties, and the media.

3. Review of the Requirements for training seminars for crew stated in AIDCP Article V.1.b,

Annex IV.3.b, Annex VII.1.e and the Procedures for Maintaining the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains

The Secretariat presented the references in AIDCP documents regarding seminars for fishing captains and crews. Alvin Delgado indicated that the Venezuelan program seminars provide valuable information to crewmembers, and not necessarily just fishing captains, to improve their participation in issues related to the conservation of different species, including marine turtles. He provided copies of material relating to the AIDCP, rescue of sea turtles, and other documents that is made available to crewmen at seminars.

4. Rules of procedure for attendees

a. Attendance

The meeting agreed that there should be strict guidelines regarding attendance at seminars, and that they should be explained to the attendees at the beginning of each seminar. Only those attendees who were present during the entire seminar would be considered to have attended; anyone arriving late or departing early would not be considered to have completed the seminar.

b. Registration and documentation

The meeting agreed on a registration form that all attendees should complete (Annex 1). It also agreed that it was very important that each attendee provide a copy of a passport or national identity document, thus avoiding confusion with names and ensuring the identity of each attendee.

It was agreed that, although every effort should be made to accommodate all requests for seminars, captains and crews should be informed that all seminars were open to attendees of all nationalities, regardless of where it was held or which program conducted it, and that seminars should be announced on the IATTC's website at least seven days in advance.

It was also agreed that the program conducting the seminar could also provide certificates of attendance, and that the certificate should be standardized among national programs and the IATTC. It was agreed that the Secretariat would provide the model certificate in electronic format and samples of the paper used for this purpose.

The idea of evaluating the attendees and/or the instructors was discussed, but it was decided that this could bring unnecessary complexity to the system.

The meeting agreed that it was necessary that crews and captains should attend at least one seminar every three years, and recommended that each Party keep track of attendance by the captains and crews of its flag vessels.

5. Standards for updates of the information presented

It was agreed that the information presented during the seminars should be updated after the AIDCP meetings in June and October. This would ensure that any new resolutions affecting the fishery, including those adopted by the IATTC at its annual meeting in June, would be included, as well as the annual statistics of the fishery.

6. Details of the seminar material

Martin Hall presented the major points of the information included in the presentations at the seminars. The presentation (92 MB) will soon be available on the IATTC website.

7. Draft standards for instructors

After a brief discussion, the meeting agreed that seminar instructors should have on-board experience in the tuna purse-seine fishery, be familiar with all AIDCP and IATTC resolutions, regulations, and guidelines, and should have participated in at least two seminars conducted by an experienced instructor.

8. Vessel assessments

Alvin Delgado noted that the Venezuelan fleet had recently agreed to pay an additional US\$1.55 per ton of carrying capacity to support its national observer program in 2007, and suggested that other programs also solicit support from the AIDCP Parties for an additional assessment in the future.

It was also noted that the national programs should find more creative ways to resolve their budget problems, and it was suggested that a fee of US\$200 per person be charged for training seminars.

Mr. Delgado also requested that the IATTC consult with the national programs before increasing pay rates for its observers, in order to avoid competition between programs when recruiting potential observers.

9. Other business

a. National program reports

Javier Ariz indicated that some government officials had shown interest in a summary report of the data compiled by the national programs, which could also serve as a reference point for compliance reports to the IATTC. He volunteered to present a draft of this report for discussion by the national and IATTC programs.

b. Allegations of corruption

Robin Allen discussed the content of an anonymous e-mail message alleging corruption among members of the Secretariat. He noted that replies to the sender went unanswered, and that the Secretariat had investigated those particular allegations about which it had information, and solicited ideas from the group as to the source and motive of the message. The general opinion was that, as the allegations were anonymous, they had no credibility. The group expressed its support for the work that the Secretariat has done in the past.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on 23 October 2006.