

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL

56<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

26 October 2014

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Election of the Presider	
3. Adoption of the agenda	
4. Approval of the minutes of the 55 <sup>th</sup> meeting	
5. a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) for 2014	IRP-56-05a
b. Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2015	IRP-56-05b
6. Review of AIDCP <i>List of Qualified Captains</i>	IRP-56-06
7. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP:	
a. Actions taken since the report at the 55th meeting	IRP-56-07a
b. Status review of special cases	IRP-56-07b
8. Review of observer data	
9. Other business	
10. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties	
11. Place and date of next meeting	
12. Adjournment	

**APPENDIX**

1. List of attendees

The 56<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Review Panel was held in La Jolla, California (USA), on 26 October 2014.

**1. Opening of the meeting**

Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), which provides the Secretariat for the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), opened the meeting.

**2. Election of the Presider**

Mr. William Jacobson, of the United States, was elected to chair the meeting.

**3. Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

#### **4. Approval of the minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Panel were approved without changes.

#### **5. a. Review of Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2014**

The Secretariat summarized the situation regarding the allocation, reallocation, and utilization of Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) in 2014, described in Document IRP-56-05a, noting that no vessel had exceeded its allocated DML for the year.

The United States raised the issue that the mechanism of transferring DMLs among a Party's vessels is counter to the spirit of the AIDCP, in particular Annex IV. Parties with DMLs need to have procedures in place before such transfers are effected. The Secretariat noted that such transfers had only occurred twice before, and will draft guidelines for regulating such transfers for the next meeting of the IRP.

#### **b. Dolphin Mortality Limits for 2015**

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-56-05b on DMLs requested for 2015. Ninety-five requests were received, but four were for vessels that are still under construction and could therefore not meet the requirements to qualify for a DML.

After a lengthy discussion, the Panel agreed that, while there is a need to adhere to the Agreement as much as possible, there was also a need for flexibility, and approved the 95 requests. However, the four vessels that cannot yet fully meet the requirements would be granted the requested DMLs as a one-time exception, subject to the following conditions:

1. The assessment for 2015 must be paid by 1 December 2014.
2. The vessels may not fish on dolphins until all the requirements of Annex IV of the AIDCP have been met.
3. All provisions of the AIDCP regarding DMLs apply, including the requirement of making a set on dolphins before 1 April 2015.

#### **6. Review of the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains**

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-56-06, *Changes to the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains*, which updates the changes that occurred between 30 May and 8 October 2014. During that period, four captains were added and none were reinstated or removed.

#### **7. Review of actions by Parties on possible infractions reported by the IRP**

##### **a. Actions taken since the report at the 55<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-56-07a, *Responses to six types of possible infractions identified during the 55<sup>th</sup> meeting*. There were three cases of fishing without an observer, two from Ecuador and the other from Kiribati; the governments reported that the cases are under investigation.

Regarding the one case still under investigation after two or more years, Mexico stated that it should be able to report on the case by early 2015.

##### **b. Status review of special cases**

The Secretariat presented Document IRP-56-07b, *Summary of pending special cases monitored by the IRP*, which presents the following three cases, pending since 2012 and 2014, respectively.

#### **Case 51-03.**

The Party reported that it did not have sufficient elements to justify classifying the case as an infraction of attempting to bribe an observer and observer harassment. The Panel recognized that the Party's determination was final, but that such decisions could undermine observer confidence in the support they receive in carrying out their duties.

**Cases 55-01 and 55-02.**

The Party reported that the cases were under investigation.

**8. Review of observer data**

The Secretariat presented the data reported by observers of the On-Board Observer Program relating to possible infractions received and processed by the Secretariat since the Panel's previous meeting. The Panel discussed those cases that were not automatically referred to the pertinent Parties, and forwarded those that indicated possible infractions of the AIDCP to the responsible government for investigation and possible sanction.

The following cases, identified by the corresponding trip number, were discussed. The Panel decided that neither case constituted an infraction.

**2014-507. Fishing without a qualified captain.** The captain had to be replaced while the vessel was at sea fishing. He was replaced by a crew member who had fulfilled all the requirements for qualification, but the Party did not ask the Secretariat to add him to the List of Qualified Captains until three days later. No sets on dolphins were made during those three days.

**2014-550. Accidental set on dolphins.** A vessel without a DML caught three rough-toothed dolphins (*Steno bredanensis*) accidentally during a set on a floating object. Crew members attempted to release the dolphins by hand from the net, resulting in two of the three dolphins being released alive.

**9. Other business**

There was no other business.

**10. Recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties**

The Panel agreed on the following recommendation for the Meeting of the Parties:

Grant DMLs for 2015 to the four vessels that cannot yet fully meet the requirements for a DML, as a one-time exception subject to the following conditions:

1. The assessment for 2015 must be paid by 1 December 2014.
2. The vessels may not fish on dolphins until all the requirements of Annex IV of the AIDCP have been met.
3. All provisions of the AIDCP regarding DMLs apply, including the requirement of making a set on dolphins before 1 April 2015.

**11. Place and date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Panel will be held in conjunction with next meetings of the AIDCP.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4 PM on 26 October 2014.

**Appendix.**

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