

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL (CIAT)
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

MEMORANDUM

22 July 2024
Ref.: 0391-410

To: Members of the Scientific Advisory Board

From: Arnulfo Franco, Director

Re: Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP)

First, I wish to thank you and congratulate each one of you for your acceptance to serve as members of the AIDCP SAB.

I wish to recall briefly that I had informed the Parties to the Agreement, through my memorandum 0370-420, dated July 10, 2023, of my intention to reactivate the Board and the 46th meeting of the AIDCP Parties held in Victoria, B.C., Canada, approved that reactivation as well as your designation as I had proposed.

For your convenience, the present composition of the SAB is indicated in the table in Annex 1 and, as a reminder, the text of in Annex V of the AIDCP which describes the functions and operation of the Board is also attached as Annex 2.

I propose that the SAB hold a meeting during the evening of 26 August 2024, prior to the 48th Meeting of the Parties of the AIDCP which will be held the following day, starting at 5 PM or immediately after the closure of the 73rd Meeting of the International Review Panel (IRP).

This meeting will be held in a hybrid format via teleconference and in person, but I do hope that most of you if not all will be able to be present so I would have the pleasure to greet you personally.

The proposed agenda for the meeting is included as Annex 3. It refers more specifically to two topics for which your assistance and advice would be greatly appreciated.

Annexes: as indicated. -

Annex 1

Member of the Board	Expertise
Compeán Guillermo	Scientific
De la Vega Enrique	Expert in fishing gears
Delgado Alvin	Scientific
Dreyfus Michel	Scientific
Espinosa Enrique	Expert in fishing gears
Guerrero Pablo	Environmentalist
Guevara Julio	Expert in fishing gears
Matt Leslie	Profesor en ciencias
Morán Guillermo	Expert in fishing gears
Weller Dave	Scientific

Annex 2

Annex V

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

1. The Parties shall maintain the Scientific Advisory Board of technical specialists established pursuant to the La Jolla Agreement to assist the Director in matters regarding research to
 - a. modify current purse-seine technology to make it less likely to cause dolphin mortality and
 - b. seek alternative means of capturing large yellowfin tuna.

The functions and responsibilities of the Board shall be to:

- a. Meet at least once each year;
- b. Review plans, proposals, and research programs of the IATTC to seek to meet the objectives set forth in paragraph 1 above;
- c. Provide advice to the Director concerning the design, facilitation, and guidance of research to achieve the objectives set forth in paragraph 1 above; and
- d. Assist the Director in locating sources of funding to conduct such research.

The Board will consist of no more than 10 members, no more than two of whom shall be from any one country, selected from the international community of scientists, fishing gear experts, the fishing industry, and environmentalists. The members will be proposed by the Director on the basis of their technical expertise, and each one will be subject to approval by the Parties.

Annex 3

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

9th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Panama, Panama

26 August 2024

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Approval of the agenda.
3. Introduction to the functions of the SAB.
4. Report of the *Second Workshop on Methods for Monitoring the Condition of Dolphin Populations in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean* held in Mexico City on May 9-10, 2024 (Dr. Alexandre Aires-da-Silva, Coordinator of scientific research of the CIAT).
5. Presentation of the *study on dolphin mother-calf separation in purse seine fishing* (Dra. Heidi Pearson, University of Alaska Southeast – AIMM).
6. Recommendations of the IATTC Scientific Staff.
7. Conclusions and recommendations of the SAB to the Director.
8. Other matters.
9. Date and place of the next meeting.
10. Closure