

# AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

## MINUTES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PARTIES

La Jolla, California (USA)  
4 November 2008

### AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Election of the Chairman	
3. Adoption of the agenda	
4. Approval of the minutes of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties	
5. AIDCP budget	MOP-20-05
6. Reduction in the number of meetings	MOP-20-06
7. Report of the International Review Panel	
8. Report of the Joint Working Group on Non Parties	
9. Recommendations from the Scientific Advisory Board	
10. Other business	
11. Place and date of next meeting	
12. Adjournment	

### APPENDIX

1. List of attendees

The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties was held in La Jolla, California (USA) on 4 November 2008. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), opened the meeting.

#### **2. Election of the Chairman**

Mr. Alvin Delgado, of Venezuela, was elected Chair of the meeting.

#### **3. Adoption of the agenda**

At the request of the European Union, the report of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Working Group on Fishing by non Parties in June 2008, which was not presented at the previous Meeting of the Parties, was added as item 8.

#### **4. Approval of the minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties**

The minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parties were approved with one minor change in the list of attendees.

#### **5. AIDCP budget**

Dr. Compeán presented Document MOP-20-05. He noted that the IDCP continued to operate at a deficit,

because revenue for 2009 is expected to be similar to 2008 (US\$ 1,927,746), but budgeted expenses are US\$ 2,110,446. He explained that an increase of US\$ 1.55/m<sup>3</sup> in the vessel assessments continues to be a reasonable solution to balance the budget presented and to begin to reduce the accumulated deficit. If an increase in vessel assessment fees was not agreed upon, then other actions should be considered, for instance, reducing the amount of time the IATTC staff spends on AIDCP matters, which may impact the availability of information currently utilized by the Parties, or suspending the assignment of observers to vessels once the financial resources for that year were exhausted.

Some delegations proposed exploring the reduction of the level of observer coverage, noting that in other oceans it is less than 100%, and considering that this level of coverage is no longer necessary, since the AIDCP has already achieved its objectives related to dolphin conservation. Other delegations insisted that the 100% observer coverage was an integral part of the AIDCP, has been a key element in the reduction in dolphin mortality, and is a crucial tool for effective compliance with both AIDCP and IATTC measures.

The Parties agreed to discuss increasing the vessel assessments and to address the level of observer coverage at their next meeting, and asked the Secretariat to prepare a document comparing the objectives, coverage and results of the AIDCP observer program with observer programs in other oceans.

Several delegations asked that the Parties explore the possibility of increasing the surcharge for late payment of vessel assessments from 10 to 20%, and of paying assessments in two installments.

In response to a comment regarding the U.S. special contribution to the IATTC relative to 100% observer coverage, the United States noted that the 30% contribution by the IATTC to the AIDCP budget comes from its general budget, and not from a special contribution by countries.

The Parties agreed that vessels of less than 364 t carrying capacity that are required to carry an observer would pay an assessment based upon an unconfirmed well volume of 510 m<sup>3</sup> (364 t x 1.4 factor); however, if a vessel's well volume had been confirmed, its assessment would be based on a well volume of 426 m<sup>3</sup> (364 t x 1.17051 factor).

## 6. Reduction in the number of meetings

Mr. Brian Hallman, of the Secretariat, presented the proposal in Document MOP-20-06 to reduce the total number of AIDCP meeting days each year from 5.5 to 3. The Parties approved the proposal, adding half a day in June for the Meeting of the Parties. The schedule for future AIDCP meetings thus would be as follows:

<b>June</b>		
WG on tuna tracking	½ day	1½ days
WG to promote tuna certification		
IRP		
Meeting of the Parties		
<b>October</b>		
WG on tuna tracking	½ day	2 days
WG to promote tuna certification		
IRP		
Scientific Advisory Board		
Meeting of the Parties		

## 7. Report of the International Review Panel

The President of the 45<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Panel presented his report. The Panel had the following recommendations, which were approved by the Parties:

1. That 2009 DMLs for the 97 vessels that requested them be granted, on the condition that those that had not yet paid their assessments do so by 15 December 2008, including the 10% surcharge.

2. That the proposal by the Working Group to Promote and Publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System to establish a joint IATTC-AIDCP working group for developing a ecosystem-friendly certification system be approved.
3. To ask the Secretariat to post the List of Qualified Captains at the IATTC website.

### **8. Report of the Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties**

The report of the meeting of this group was approved by the Parties.

### **9. Recommendations from the Scientific Advisory Board**

Dr. Compeán presented a verbal report of the discussions at this meeting. He explained that the Scientific Advisory Board approved the following three projects, as proposed by the Secretariat in Document SAB-06-03 REV: simultaneous tracking of dolphins and tuna, acoustic detection of mature tuna not associated with dolphins, and updating estimates of  $N_{min}$  and Stock Mortality Limits.

### **10. Other business**

There was no other business.

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

The next meeting of the Panel will be held in June 2009, at a venue to be decided.

### **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. on 4 November 2008.

## **Appendix 1.**

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