

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP TO PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE THE
AIDCP DOLPHIN SAFE TUNA CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

17TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
22 October 2012

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

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1. Opening of the meeting
 2. Adoption of the agenda
 3. Approval of the minutes of the 16th meeting
 4. Actions to promote *AIDCP dolphin safe tuna*
 5. Other business
 6. Date and place of next meeting
 7. Adjournment
-

APPENDICES

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1. List of attendees
 2. Pamphlet on the AIDCP dolphin-safe label
 3. Draft resolution: "Ecosystem friendly" label
-

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the IATTC, who requested nominations for a Chair for the meeting. Mr. Bernal Chavarría, of Costa Rica, was elected.

The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without modifications.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 16th meeting

The minutes of the 16th meeting of the Working Group were approved without changes.

4. Actions to promote AIDCP dolphin safe tuna

The Chairman read a letter sent to him by the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission of Mexico, announcing the contribution of 315.000 pesos (approximately US\$ 24,000) to support AIDCP dolphin-safe promotion activities.

Mexico stated that the aim of this contribution is to provide seed capital to facilitate the promotion and dissemination of the dolphin-safe certification system. He suggested that contributions be made by other

countries, the industry, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). They would await specific proposals by the Secretariat regarding its utilization.

He also distributed an updated brochure entitled "AIDCP dolphin safe label" (Appendix 2), which would be used in December at a promotional event in Mexico. He requested comments on the brochure, with a view to improving it.

Colombia expressed thanks for Mexico's contribution, and asked that the Secretariat inform the FAO of the progress of the AIDCP so that that organization might create a link for publicizing the achievements of the Agreement on its website, and that the Secretariat prepare a report on the progress of the AIDCP to be reviewed by the Parties and sent to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

Costa Rica noted that it would also be interesting to publicize the AIDCP at international fish fairs, which was supported by Venezuela, who requested that the contents of the brochure be also available in Spanish. The United States indicated its intention to review the brochure and give feedback to improve it.

Based on its discussions, the working group made the following recommendations to the International Review Panel:

- a) Ask FAO include a link on its website to include information of the AIDCP and that the Secretariat prepare a report on the AIDCP and its label for review by the Parties and dissemination at the FAO COFI.
- b) Develop a strategy for disseminating the AIDCP at major international fisheries fairs.
- c) Call upon the Parties, the industry and environmental NGOs to make contributions to facilitate the dissemination of the AIDCP.

5. Other business

Mexico submitted for informational purposes a proposal called "Ecosystem-friendly" (Appendix 3), which would be presented to the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP. He noted that this would be managed by the IATTC and the AIDCP, and in a first stage vessels requesting Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) would be certified, and also it would take into account the IATTC tuna conservation resolution.

The European Union noted that the proposal should have been circulated prior to this meeting, so that it could be studied in capitals, and that should be discussed at the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP and not this group. He asked whether this was the first time this amended report had been presented, and was told that it had been presented twice as a working document.

The United States recalled that it had submitted comments in October 2009 on this issue, which are included in the minutes of that meeting and were applicable to this proposal. Ecuador said that the proposal left out skipjack, and that vessels without DMLs and vessels of carrying capacity classes 1-5 should also be considered.

Venezuela recognized that the issue proposed by Mexico has been known for several years, and it was important to advance opportunely in the discussion at the Meeting of the Parties. Mexico, for its part, mentioned its willingness to work on integrating contributions and concerns together with other Parties to achieve a consensus for a new certification system.

6. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the working group will be held in June 2013 on the occasion of the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 on 22 October 2012.

Appendix 1.

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Appendix 2.

AIDCP protects



For further information

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**AIDCP
Dolphin
safe
Label**

The AIDCP dolphin safe label means:

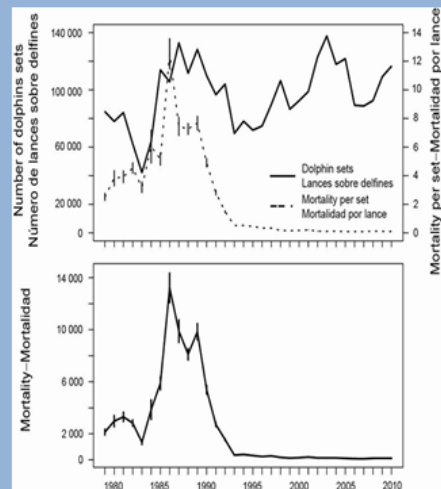
- ☞ A multinational Agreement awarded the Margarita Lizarraga medal by the UN FAO in 2005 for its contribution to responsible fisheries.
- ☞ A guarantee for the consumer that the tuna was caught under the standards for conservation and management established by the IATTC.
- ☞ A conservation and management program supported by the best scientific information available.
- ☞ A standard supported by an international program that incorporates strict operational fishing measures, close supervision, and sanctions for violations – all under a transparent, participative, and verifiable scheme.
- ☞ An independent observer on board each vessel verified that no dolphins were harmed in the capture of tuna and that the vessel performed in accordance with the dolphin protection measures established under the AIDCP.
- ☞ A system for tracking and verification, from the sea to the consumer, for tuna caught under the program.
- ☞ Tuna caught in fishing operations in which not a single dolphin was harmed.
- ☞ Fishing for yellowfin tuna associated with dolphins in accordance with AIDCP protects dolphins and other marine species, including some that are threatened.

The AIDCP dolphin safe label



was created under the multilateral Agreement for the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) and is administered by the IATTC.

Under this program the incidental capture of dolphins in the tuna fisheries has been reduced to near zero.



The AIDCP is an International, legally binding Agreement among Bolivia, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, United States, Vanuatu, and Venezuela. The AIDCP builds on the success of the voluntary 1992 La Jolla Agreement.

Among its achievements are reducing the incidental mortality of dolphins in the tuna fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean to levels approaching zero, and ensuring that fishing in accordance with the AIDCP is sustainable and poses no threats to other living marine resources in the ecosystem.

The AIDCP includes unique aspects such as training and qualification of fishing captains, strict operating requirements for vessels, 100% coverage by independent on-board observers, full transparency, and enforcement.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) is the oldest, and one of the most successful, regional fisheries management organizations. Established in 1950, IATTC carries out research on the tuna stocks utilized by the fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean, and makes management rules to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of those stocks. Since August 2010, IATTC has implemented a new legal regulatory framework under the Antigua Convention.

Appendix 3.

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
26TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
22 OCTOBER 2012

DRAFT RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION ON THE “ECOSYSTEM-FRIENDLY” CERTIFICATION
SYSTEM**

The Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program:

Reiterating their commitment to promoting the goals and objectives of the AIDCP, through the effective application of the Agreement;

Convinced that there are other elements for protecting the ecosystem that develop in the purse-seine tuna fishery beyond the protection of dolphins;

Interested in publicizing and informing the public and consumers about those elements for protecting the ecosystem;

Considering that it is necessary that other elements for conserving tunas be taken into account for a certification system, such as the proper application of the tuna closures in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Agree:

1. To develop a certification system denominated "ecosystem friendly" in a first stage, in which only those tuna fisheries in which vessels with Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) shall be eligible to receive certification.
2. The certification system would be developed working jointly with the IATTC.
3. The following elements shall be requirements for certification:
 - a) Tuna would not be certified unless the IATTC has a resolution in force, based on a scientific recommendation, for the conservation and management of yellowfin and bigeye tunas.
 - b) Only tuna tracked by the current AIDCP tracking and verification certification system would be eligible for certification.
 - c) Only tuna caught by vessels with an observer on board would be eligible for certification.
 - d) Tuna would be certified only if it complied with the criterion that it was not captured in contravention of an IATTC resolution on the conservation of yellowfin and bigeye tunas.
 - e) The fishing captain aboard the vessel is included in the AIDCP list of qualified captains.
4. The certification and tracking system would be applied and administered in a manner similar to the current AIDCP dolphin safe and tracking and verification systems, but would be operated independently of those systems.
5. The IATTC Secretariat would be responsible for verifying the validity of the certificates.
6. The Parties shall ask the Secretariat to develop a logo that identifies this certification system and will

review it during the 26th Meeting of the Parties.

7. The Secretariat shall develop a certificate format and once approved by the Parties, shall print it with numbered forms and distribute them to the Parties that request them.
8. The Parties shall designate the national authorities that may sign that certification.
9. The system would enter into force after the 24th Meeting of the Parties, once they have decided on matters of a practical nature related to this system.
10. In the future a second stage of this certification system would be developed which would involve more complicated considerations associated with IATTC conservation and management measures. The second stage shall be subject to the results arising from this first stage with regard to the operativity of the system.