

# AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

## 28<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Del Mar, California (USA)  
18 October 2013

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

#### AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of meeting	
2. Election of Chairman	
3. Adoption of agenda	
4. Approval of the minutes of the 27 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties	
5. Secretariat's report on the IDCP	MOP-28-05
6. AIDCP budget	MOP-28-06
7. Report of the International Review Panel	
8. Report of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System	
9. Other business	
10. Place and date of next meeting	
11. Adjournment	

#### APPENDICES

1. List of attendees
2. Proposal MOP-27 A-1 by Mexico for a resolution on an "ecosystem-friendly" certification system

All the changes marked in this document were proposed by the European Union

The 28th Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP was held in Del Mar, California, (USA) on 18 October 2013. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

#### 1. Opening of meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. Alvin Delgado, of Venezuela, who chaired the previous meeting.

#### 2. Election of Chairman

Mr. Delgado was elected chair of the meeting.

#### 3. Adoption of agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

#### **4. Approval of the minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties**

The minutes of the 27th Meeting of the Parties were approved without changes, with the clarification that the money from the extraordinary assessment for 2014 of US\$ 2 per cubic meter of well volume would be allocated exclusively to the IATTC observer program.

#### **5. Secretariat's report on the IDCP**

Mr. Ernesto Altamirano, of the Secretariat, presented Document MOP-28-05, the Secretariat's report on the functioning of the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) during the previous year. He indicated that in 2012 the On-Board Observer Program covered 100% of trips by large purse-seine vessels, in accordance with the requirements of the AIDCP, and the IATTC program covered 58% of those trips. Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) were granted to the 86 vessels that requested them, and no vessel exceeded its DML. The estimate of the incidental mortality of dolphins in the fishery in 2012 was 870 animals, a reduction of 11.6% from the mortality of 986 animals recorded in 2011.

In response to a question by the European Union, it was made clear that the assessment of the dolphin populations had not been updated because of the high costs of this kind of assessment, which can amount to millions of dollars. The European Union indicated that it was willing to consider the possibility of a contribution to update the dolphin population assessment if another AIDCP Party could evaluate bearing the costs of the vessel operations related to the assessment. The United States noted its readiness to explore such option. Other participants made remarks about the management of the assessment if it was to take place.

#### **6. AIDCP budget**

Mr. Brad Wiley, of the Secretariat, explained the problem with the recruitment and retention observers resulting from the low salaries they are paid. Current salaries range from US\$ 28 to 32 per day at sea, while in the central and western Pacific the WCPFC<sup>1</sup> pays US\$ 65, and the observer program for carrier vessels US\$ 185. With a view to resolving the problem, the Secretariat proposes that salaries be increased to US\$ 48.00/day for new observers, and 55.00/day for more experienced observers, and intends to implement the increase regardless of whether the Parties decided to increase vessel assessments.

Ms. Teresa Musano, of the Secretariat, presented Document MOP-28-06, "Supplement to Document MOP-27-06, AIDCP budget", noting the deficit of the AIDCP, which as of 31 December 2012 stood at US\$ 456,647. If all vessel assessments were paid, with the extraordinary assessment of US\$ 2 the deficit would be reduced to US\$ 28,399. The planned increase in the observers salaries would increase the total costs of the program by about US\$ 100,000 per year, so, in order to offset this additional cost, the Secretariat recommended that the current vessel assessments be increased by US\$ 3.05, to US\$ 18.00/m<sup>3</sup>.

The European Union indicated that there was no readiness in the room to accept the increase in the assessments, due to the fact that the last increase agreed at the June meeting was understood to cover the remainder of 2013, that more information was necessary on a number of items, and that it was necessary to find a long-term solution to this recurrent problem instead of taking *ad-hoc* decisions each time.

In this regard, the European Union proposed that the Secretariat prepare a comprehensive document that assesses each of the budget related questions (*e.g.*, causes of the permanent deficit, observers salaries, national programs, delayed payment of assessments, *etc*) and put forward possible responses to find a permanent solution to solve the issue (*e.g.*, increase in assessments with or without annual indexation, penalties for late payments of assessments, a proposal for a revision of the IATTC contribution to the AIDCP to be agreed by both organizations, *etc*), indicating their possible advantages and disadvantages, in order for a decision to be taken at the next meeting. The proposal was agreed. The European Union

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<sup>1</sup> Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

also looked forward to the AIDCP Secretariat's institutional assessment agreed at the June meeting as a relevant input to provide a general overview of the AIDCP's financial situation.

#### **7. Report of the International Review Panel**

Mr. William Jacobson, of the United States, presider of the 49th meeting of the Panel, presented his report, indicating that the Panel agreed on the following recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties:

1. Interested Parties should investigate the reason why certain Tuna Tracking Forms have not been submitted to the Secretariat.
2. The Parties should carry out audits of their tuna tracking systems, and a progress report on such audits should be added to the Secretariat's report on the IDCP.
3. Draw attention to the fact that over 90% of all Tuna Tracking Forms have been submitted by the Parties, indicating a high level of compliance for the Program.
4. The Secretariat should include on future IRP documents, which summarize pending special cases monitored by the IRP, more detailed information related to each case, such as the flag of the vessel in question.
5. All cases of observer harassment, besides those involving threats or bribery, be followed by the Panel to the end of the investigation.

#### **8. Report of the Working Group to promote and publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System**

Mr. Bernal Chavarría, of Costa Rica, Chair of the Working Group, reported that the meeting of the Group had not adjourned because the discussions were not concluded. A video on the AIDCP and its dolphin safe label was reviewed, as was a promotional pamphlet for the AIDCP. Regarding the latter, a first review was carried out, and various delegations reserved in the right to send comments in writing. The Group decided to continue the work of finishing the video, the pamphlet, and an educational module.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed to establish 30 November as the deadline for receiving comments on these materials. The Secretariat was asked to make the video, its script, and the pamphlet available to the Parties, and prepare a second version of them by the middle of February 2014, taking into account the comments made at the meeting.

#### **9. Other business**

Mexico reminded the meeting of the draft resolution on "ecosystem friendly" tuna, which was presented various meetings ago and discussed at the meeting in Veracruz in June of this year. Comments had been received from the United States, and comments from other Parties would be appreciated, in order to consider them in the text and submit the proposal again at the meeting of the Parties in July 2014.

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

The next meeting of the Parties will be held in the second half of July 2014 in Lima, Peru.

#### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. on 18 October 2013.

## Appendix 1.

### ASISTENTES – ATENDEES

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**Appendix 2.**

**PROPOSAL MOP-24 A-1**

**SUBMITTED BY MEXICO**

**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, by means of its effective implementation;

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

*Taking into account* that the FAO indicates that the ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in a fair manner.

*Interested* in making the public and consumers aware of, and informing them about, these elements of ecosystem protection;

*Considering* that it is necessary that other elements of tuna conservation be taken into account for a certification system as in the case of the correct implementation of the tuna closures in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

*Agree:*

1. To develop a certification system called "ecosystem friendly" in a first stage, in which only those tuna fisheries in which vessels with Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) operate shall be eligible to receive certification. This does not prevent vessels that operate without DML is from using other types of certification.
2. The certification system would be developed in the framework of 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 documented by the current AIDCP tracking and verification system would be eligible for the certification.
  - c) Only tuna caught by vessels with an observer on board would be eligible for the certification.
  - d) Tuna would be certified only if it complied with the criterion that it was not caught in contravention of an IATTC resolution on the conservation of yellowfin and bigeye tunas.
  - e) The fishing captain aboard the vessel must be included in the AIDCP list of qualified captains.
5. The certification and tracking system would be applied and administered in a manner similar to the current AIDCP systems for dolphin-safe certification and tracking and verification; but would be operated independently of those systems.

6. The IATTC Secretariat would be responsible for verifying the validity of the certificates.
7. The Parties shall ask the Secretariat to develop a logo that identifies this certification system and shall review it at the next meeting of the Parties.
8. The Secretariat shall develop a certificate format and once approved by the Parties, shall have it printed with numbered formats and shall distribute them to the Parties that so request.
9. The Parties shall designate the national authorities that may sign that certification.
10. The system would enter into force after the XX?? Meeting of the parties, once issues of a practical nature related to this system have been decided.
11. In the future a second stage of this certification system could be developed, which would involve more complicated considerations associated with IATTC conservation and management measures. The second stage will be subject to the results of this first stage regarding the operativity of the system.