AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

49th MEETING OF THE PARTIES

La Jolla, California, USA
30 – 31 October 2024

RESOLUTION A-24-01 (amended)

AIDCP BUDGET 2025

The AIDCP Parties,

Acknowledging the success of the Agreement for the International Dolphin Conservation Programme (AIDCP), in particular in the sustained reduction of mortality of dolphin stocks in the tropical tuna fishery,

Encouraged by the conviction that the AIDCP should continue to function and be strengthened,

Inspired by the provisions of the AIDCP, in particular its Articles V and XIII and Annex II, consistent with Article XIV, paragraph 3 of the Antigua Convention.

Desirous of ensuring the proper financial and accounting management of contributions to the AIDCP budget,

Aware of the natural and inherent synergy that exists between the AIDCP and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), given that they share the commitment to strengthen the management of the tuna fishery on dolphins, which is the competence of the IATTC,

Appreciating that the Secretariat services that the IATTC provides to the AIDCP, strengthens collaboration and maximizes joint efforts towards sustainable and responsible fisheries,

Concerned about the technical deficiency, over the years, in the presentation of the Budgets in that they lack a precise adjustment between expenditure and income, so that sometimes they are presented with a deficit and sometimes with a surplus, which makes it difficult to control budget execution, it being essential to ensure budgetary balance based on knowledge of their contents,

Aware of their responsibility in the adequate definition of the economic contributions necessary to ensure the functioning of the AIDCP,

Taking into account that the On-Board Observer Program established and implemented by the AIDCP provides data collection services for purposes defined by IATTC resolutions,

Bearing in mind that Annex A of Document AIDCP-48-01, which deals with the percentage distribution of the dedication of the IATTC staff to the AIDCP, assumes that all the products emanating from the AIDCP are considered part of the Agreement and that they correspond to it exclusively,

Seeking to ensure an appropriate distribution of the costs associated with the activities derived from the capture of data generated by the On-Board Observer Program, so that the AIDCP is allocated its specific share as agreed by the Parties,

Recognizing the desirability of maintaining an efficient coordination between the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP and the Commission to ensure the efficient use of common resources,

Recalling that, in accordance with Resolution A-18-01, "*All assessments for vessels required to carry observers under the provisions of the AIDCP shall be calculated at a rate of US$ 14.95 per cubic meter of well volume*",

Stressing that this sum is to be used for the payment of the services that the IATTC provides to the AIDCP in carrying out the activities agreed by the Parties and their corresponding costs, including all the costs of the On-Board Observer Program referred to in Article XIII of the AIDCP,

Agree,

1. Noting that the total budgeted cost for 2025 IADCP Program according to the adjusted income and expenses breakdown is US$ 3.636,526 (three million six hundred thirty-six thousand five hundred twenty-six dollars), out of which the On-Board Observer Program cost is US$2,598,775 (two million five hundred ninety-eight thousand four hundred and seventy-five dollars) in application of the equal portion of the cost for the IATTC and the IADCP,
    a) To approve the AIDCP 2025 expenses (non observer) up to the amount of US$ 981.121 (nine hundred eighty-one thousand one hundred twenty-one dollars) and the AIDCP share for Observer Program up to US$ 1,299,387 (one million two hundred ninety-nine thousand three hundred eighty-seven dollars) against a projected income of US$2,443,258 (two million four hundred forty-three thousand two hundred fifty-eight dollars), along with the US$820,000 budgeted contribution provided by the IATTC.
    b) Considering the possibility that the sum of the amount the AIDCP has allocated for the observer program (US$1,299,388) together with the amount that IATTC has allocated for the same (US$ 820,000) does not cover the full cost in 2025, exceptionally and for one-time only, to authorize the following:
        i. the use of any extraordinary income from interests derived from the investment of AIDCP funds, new vessels and/or past-due assessment.
        ii. The utilization of the portion of surplus that had been approved and not committed for consumption in fiscal year 2024.
    c) In the event that after the utilization of these funds a deficit remains, the corresponding portion shall be covered with additional funds from the surplus, in the event that the IATTC does not provide those funds and on the understanding that it is considered as an advance payment for the services and costs corresponding to the tasks that the IATTC develops as Secretariat within the framework of the AIDCP in the year 2026 [1]
2. Regarding financial income occurring in 2025, derived from contributions from vessels of class below 6, the amount of which is unpredictable at the date of this approval, shall be notified to the Parties upon receipt and its use shall be detailed in the budget implementation report to be reviewed in 2026.
3. Income received in 2025 from the payment of contributions due in previous years in respect of Class 6 vessels, as well as other income occurring in that year, not foreseen in the 2025 income breakdown contained in Table 5 of document AIDCP-48-01, shall be reported to the Parties for their consideration.

[1] The text of paragraph 1 has been replaced with the text quoted in paragraph 4 of Resolution A-25-01.

4. To request the Secretariat to supplement the analysis contained in Annex A of Document AIDCP-48-01, so that, in each column attributable to the AIDCP, it includes and represents, in detail, the dedication that each of the IATTC staff members indicated in that annex perform specifically in relation to the services that the IATTC, as Secretariat, provides to the AIDCP for the execution of the tasks mandated by the Parties to the AIDCP, differentiating from those that derive from IATTC mandates or resolutions.

5. To request the Secretariat to expand Document AIDCP-48-01 to include details of the work and tasks that AIDCP on-board observers carry out to comply with the instructions of the Parties to the AIDCP, differentiating it from the work and tasks they carry out to comply with the instructions of the IATTC, including to the extent possible the estimated proportion of time dedicated to each work and task, in order to facilitate the distribution of costs between the IATTC and the AIDCP.

6. To request the Secretariat to prepare an adjusted budget proposal for the AIDCP and present it for consideration at the Special Meeting of the Parties to be convened in the first quarter of 2025. The adjusted budget should consider the aspects contemplated in Article XIV paragraph 3 of the Antigua Convention and the results of the analysis outlined in paragraphs 4 and 5 of this resolution. To this end, the adjusted budget shall:

a) Identify the actions and steps that the AIDCP carries out, in particular, but not limited to its On-Board Observer Programme, to comply with the resolutions agreed within the framework of the Meeting of the Parties and differentiating these from those actions that the AIDCP and the programme itself carry out in compliance with the resolutions adopted by the IATTC.

b) Provide a detailed breakdown of the specific relationship of costs and expenses derived from the services that the IATTC provides to the AIDCP. In the event that the same cost or expense is based on compliance with both the IATTC and the AIDCP, a breakdown of the proportional distribution shall be presented in the most equitable manner, taking into account the benefits of those common costs or expenses for each one.

c) Be adjusted to the costs and expenses associated exclusively with the activities mandated by the Parties to the AIDCP, including those carried out in that context by its On-Board Observer program.

d) Implement the relevant corrections in the format of the AIDCP financial statements to reflect exclusively the costs and expenses related to the services that the IATTC provides to the AIDCP, in accordance with the provisions of the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP.

7. The Parties will hold an extraordinary intersessional meeting in the first quarter of 2025 to review the results of the analysis described in paragraphs 4-6. In the event that the adjusted budget prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 6 reveals a shortfall in income, due to costs and expenses related to the services provided by the Secretariat to the AIDCP, in consideration of paragraphs 5 and 6, being greater than $3,168,977.00, the Meeting of the Parties shall consider ways to fund the remainder of the budget described in paragraph 3.

8. In the event that the adjusted budget reveals that the costs and expenses related to the services provided by the Secretariat to the AIDCP, in consideration of paragraphs 5 and 6, are less than the budget approved in paragraph 2 and other authorized revenue, the Parties shall consider authorizing the use of that remainder to cover in 2025, the proportion of the costs and expenses resulting from the actions undertaken by the AIDCP in compliance with the IATTC resolution. The Meeting of the Parties shall determine how to address this remainder pursuant to the budget provisions.

9. The Secretariat is instructed to inform IATTC Members through the appropriate channels of the provisions of this Resolution and the outcome of the analyses required in paragraphs 4 and 5.

10. The proposal to increase the daily allowance by ten dollars United States currency ($10.00) for each day at sea for on-board observers shall be reviewed by the Meeting of the Parties after it has determined the proportion of the work that such observers devote to each of the activities carried out, i.e. differentiating the tasks mandated by the AIDCP and those instructed by the IATTC as indicated in paragraph 7 above.

11. A proposal (i.e. Proposal from USA for MOP49) to automatically adjust vessel assessment fees based on the Secretariat's recommended budget shall be reviewed by the Meeting of the Parties after reviewing the results of the analysis indicated in paragraphs 4-6 above.