

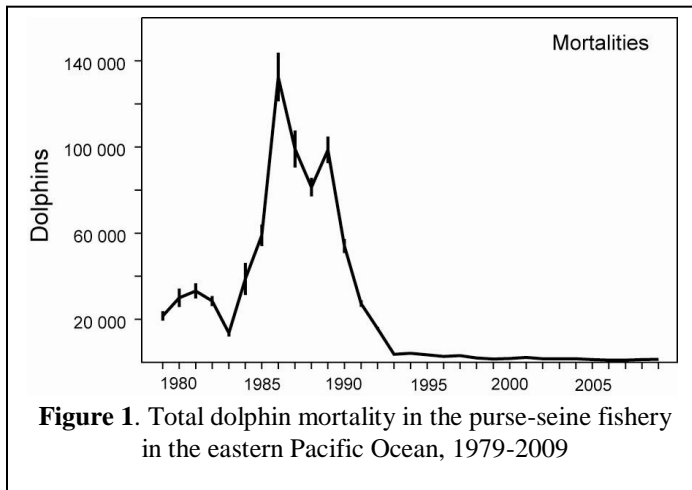
AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE REPORT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE AIDCP IN 2009

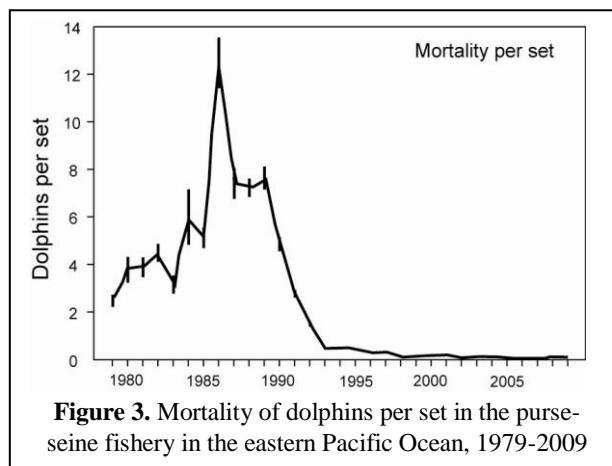
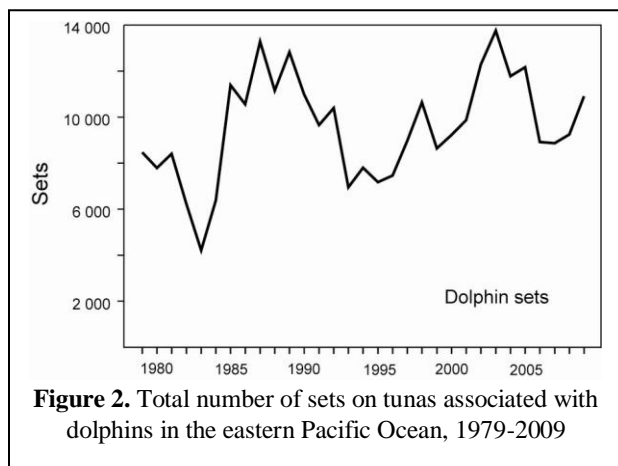
This Executive Report provides a brief summary of the operation of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) during 2009. Further information can be found in minutes of meetings, reports and other documents at www.iattc.org. All data for 2009 are preliminary.

1. THE FISHERY IN 2009

During 2009, the trend of low incidental dolphin mortalities in the tuna purse-seine fishery in the Agreement Area to levels approaching zero, one of the principal objectives of the AIDCP, continued. In 10,910 intentional sets on tunas associated with dolphins, 183,999 thousand metric tons (t) of yellowfin tuna were caught, and 1,239 dolphins died, an average of 0.11 dolphins per set. Approximately 93.6% of these sets caused no mortality or serious injury of dolphins. Figures 1-3¹ show the trends in total mortality, number of sets on tunas associated with dolphins and mortality per set.



Ninety-two vessels were allocated full-year Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) and the average individual-vessel DML (ADML) was 53 animals. Eighty-seven of these DMLs were utilized; none was exceeded, and the average mortality per vessel was 13.9 dolphins. One vessel was allocated a DML from the Reserve DML Allocation, and two vessels were allocated second-semester DMLs. The distribution of the mortality caused in 2009 by these vessels is shown in Figure 4.



¹ In Figures 1 and 3, the vertical bars indicate the 95% confidence intervals in years when only a sample of the fleet carried observers.

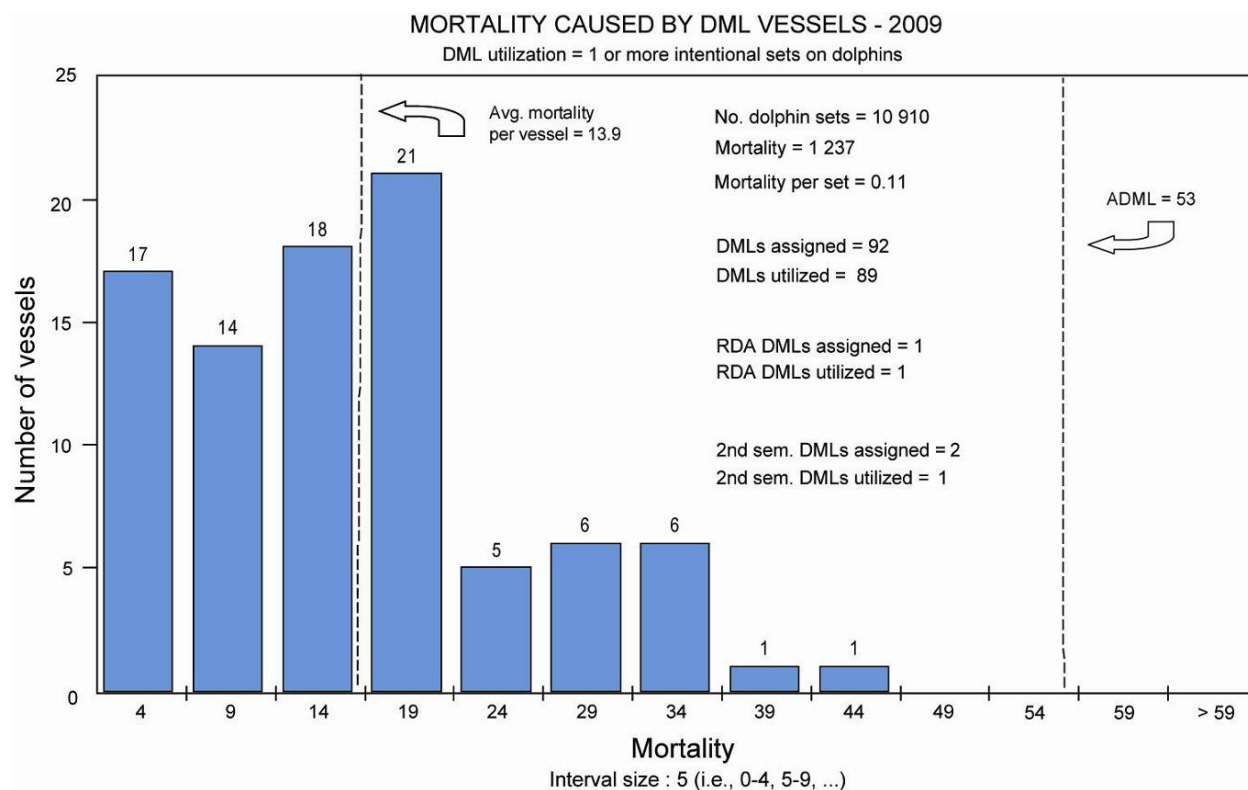


Figure 4. Distribution of dolphin mortality caused by vessels with DMLs, 2009.

2. ADMINISTRATION OF OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT

The 47th and 48th meetings of the International Review Panel (IRP) reviewed observer information from 724 fishing trips, in which 10,780 sets were made on tuna associated with dolphins.

Following these meetings, a total of 35 possible infractions of the types shown in the table below were forwarded to the Parties for investigation, compared to 32 possible infractions in 2008 and to an average of 78.8 in the three previous years, 2005-2007.

POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS	2009	2008	Average 2005-2007
Fishing without an observer	0	0	2.3
Fishing on dolphins without a DML	0	0	2.3
Failing to avoid injuring or killing dolphins captured in the course of fishing operations	0	1	0.3
Fishing on dolphins after reaching the DML	0	0	0
Depart to fish with a DML without a dolphin safety panel in the net	0	5	2.3
Fishing captain assigned to a DML vessel not on AIDCP List of Qualified Captains	2	0	3.6
Use of explosives when fishing on dolphins	2	2	15.3
Not conducting backdown after dolphins are captured	1	0	3.3
Sacking up or brailing live dolphins	1	1	1.3
Harassing an observer, or interfering with his duties	3	5	5.6
Night set (not completing backdown within 30 minutes after sundown)	1	4	12.3
Not deploying rescuers during backdown	0	0	0
Item of rescue equipment missing	25	14	25.3

Not continuing rescue efforts after backdown with live dolphins in the net	0	0	0.3
Fishing on dolphins prior to notification of allocation of DMLs	0	0	4.6

As of July 15, 2010, the Secretariat had received the following responses from governments for possible infractions reported during 2009 and 2008:

Response	2009	2008
Confirmed as infraction, sanction imposed	0	4
Confirmed as infraction, no sanction	0	0
Warning issued	0	0
Determined not to be infraction	7	14
Under investigation	13	9
No response	15	5

3. DOLPHIN SAFE CERTIFICATION

In 2001 the Parties to the AIDCP established the [AIDCP Dolphin Safe Certification System](#), which provides assurance of the dolphin safe status of tuna by means of a certificate issued by a government for tuna that meets all the requirements of the [System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna](#).

During 2009, three valid dolphin safe tuna certificates were issued by the Parties.