



**Inter-American Convention for the  
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles  
Second Conference of the Parties**  
*November 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2004 – Isla Margarita, Venezuela*

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**Memorandum of Understanding between the Latin American Organization  
for Fisheries Development (OLDEPESCA) and the Inter-American  
Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)**

RECOGNIZING that it is highly desirable for the development of Latin American and Caribbean countries to coordinate the projects and activities of their regional bodies with those of international organizations in a way that the results establish a positive impact in achieving their respective objectives;

CONSIDERING that the Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development, hereinafter referred to as OLDEPESCA, has as its objective to meet Latin American food requirements adequately, making use of Latin American fishery resource potential for the benefit of Latin American peoples, by concerted action in promoting the constant development of the countries and the permanent strengthening of regional cooperation in this sector;

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, hereinafter referred to as IAC, is dedicated to promoting the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and of the habitats on which they depend, based on the best scientific information, while taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the Parties;

BASED ON THAT ESTABLISHED in Article VI and Article XII of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, plus in accordance with the accord on international cooperation undertaken during the Second Part of COP1IAC (Minutes, Annex 1) and with the agreement of the Contracting Parties taken during COP2IAC;

TAKING NOTE that the Conference of Ministers of OLDEPESCA has expressed interest in creating a synergy between both organizations with the purpose of supporting responsible fishery activities within the region;

CONSCIOUS that it is necessary to develop all concurrent efforts to prevent sea turtles species from being in danger of extinction;

RECALLING that the feeding, migration and inter-nesting habitats of the sea turtles coincide with areas where industrial and artisanal fishing activities are carried out;

CONSIDERING that sea turtles fulfil important ecological roles in marine ecosystems and the well being of sea turtle populations is necessary to sustain populations of other species, some of the latter having economic importance to the fisheries sector;



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CONSCIOUS that the formal bond established should be based on the norms established by the Constitutive Conventions of OLDEPESCA and IAC;

OLDEPESCA AND IAC, henceforth referred to as the Parties,

HAVE RESOLVED THAT:

1. BOTH PARTIES agree to establish links in cooperation within the scope of their general objectives and work programs, by way of executing specific actions that will be agreed upon and executed through operative agreements between their administrative bodies, with special attention to the cooperation between the subsidiary and technical bodies of both organization.
2. BOTH PARTIES promise to exchange and disclose information that will aid in identifying opportunities of cooperation aimed at carrying out activities for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats.
3. BOTH PARTIES agree on the importance of participating, within the measure of their possibilities, in meetings organized by the other, on topics of common interest, and on the need for collaboration in order to obtain positive results from such meetings.
4. This Memorandum of Understanding can be modified by common accord if the Parties decide to do so.
5. Both organizations will periodically examine the application of the present Memorandum of Understanding and adopt the necessary measures in order to facilitate or broaden their cooperation.
6. The present Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect upon the date of signature and will have an indefinite duration, unless one of the Parties decides to terminate it, effective six months after the date of notification. The termination or resignation of the present Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the culmination of the work programs and operative agreements unless the Parties agree to the contrary.

SIGNED in the city of Porlamar, Venezuela on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of the month of November of 2004,



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ON BEHALF OF OLDEPESCA

ON BEHALF OF IAC

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Mr. Angel Rivera  
Executive Director

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Mr. Marco Solano Martínez  
*Pro Tempore* Secretary