

Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
III Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts
Belize City, Belize
March 24-26, 2010

CIT-CCE3-2010-Doc-003

Report on the III Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts

1. The III Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) was held from March 24-26, 2010 at the Hotel Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza in Belize City, Belize.
2. Prior to this meeting, the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat sent out invitations to all Party delegates and nominated sectorial representatives of the IAC Consultative Committee. The objectives of this meeting were to review pending issues from the second meeting held in 2006, analyze new topics of interest to the Consultative Committee, analyze documents prepared by the Scientific Committee in their previous meetings, and to carry out the tasks of the IAC Consultative Committee as assigned in the terms of reference.
3. The Consultative Committee meeting began with participant registration at 8:30 a.m. The meeting reached quorum with the following 9 Signatory Countries present (Belize, Brazil, Netherlands Antilles, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, Peru, United States and Mexico), as well as 3 sectorial members and an observer from OSPESCA.
4. The government of Belize, represented by Ms. Beverly Wade, the Head of the Fisheries Department, gave the opening words to the governmental and sectorial representatives of the IAC Consultative Committee, recognizing the importance of sea turtle protection in the Americas, the efforts carried out in Belize to protect sea turtles and their habitats and wishing us a successful III meeting of the Consultative Committee.
5. Immediately afterwards, each participant presented themselves.
6. The *Pro Tempore* Secretary, Veronica Caceres, proceeded by asking the participants for nominations to the officers of the Consultative Committee of Experts. After nominations were made and the members agreed, the officers were decided:
Chair Luis Fueyo Mac Donald, from Mexico
Vice-chair Isaías Majil, from Belize
Rapporteur *Pro Tempore* Secretariat
7. The new Chair thanked the members for his designation and proceeded to submit the draft agenda of the meeting for its approval. The United States delegation proposed including an item on the procedures for selecting the sectorial members of the Consultative Committee. The delegate of Mexico proposed including the topic of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs). Both items were included on the agenda for the

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25th, under the headings relating to the revision of the work plan and working on recommendations on how to improve implementation, respectively. The agenda was approved with the proposed agenda items included. Annex I

8. The *Pro tempore* Secretary took the floor and proceeded with the first items on the approved agenda:

Consultative Committee Tasks

9. The *Pro tempore* Secretary reviewed the responsibilities of the CCE, highlighting updating the work plan, presenting recommendations to the COP, guide the Convention in establishing cooperative relationships with other organizations and supporting the Secretary in updating a directory of experts.

Summary of the 2nd Consultative Committee Meeting

10. The *Pro tempore* Secretary also noted that last meeting of the CCE was held prior to COP3 and indicated that there were 11 Annexes from the from the 2nd CCE meeting that would be referenced during this meeting. The Annexes include draft resolutions, some of which were adopted, while other still have not been reviewed or discussed by the COP.

Updates since COP4

11. The *Pro tempore* Secretary outlined progress the IAC has made since the COP4, which was convened in San Jose, Costa Rica during April 2009, including an increase in the number of member States to 14 with Chile ratifying the Convention in February 2010. Meetings held since COP4 included, a workshop on hawksbill conservation was convened in Mexico on September 2009 and a Data Standardization workshop held in Guayaquil, Ecuador in December 2009. The working group to discuss the legal status of the Convention met via conference call three times and Costa Rica hosted the 6th Scientific Committee Meeting in October 2009.

Updates on the 6th Scientific Committee Meeting

12. The objectives of the 6th Scientific Committee meeting (SC6) included reviewing bycatch issues, identify fishing gears that should be of priority to the IAC and identify regional knowledge gaps.

SC6 Agreements:

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13. SC6 established two working groups, one on gillnets and sea turtle interactions and another one on annual reports and recommended increase communication among members and with the focal points, strengthening of national mechanisms, increased knowledge of and involvement in international meetings and exploration of mechanisms to improve fishing activities.

Annual Report Working Group:

14. This working group was established to propose changes to the format of the annual report as well as they type of information requested in the report. Participants in the working group include Belize, Brazil, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and the PT Secretariat.
15. A sectorial representative asked if efforts will be made to standardize the IAC Annual Report with others, such as the SPAW report. The U.S. delegate responded that the reports that the Parties present to the different multilateral organizations do not necessarily fulfill the same requirements of the IAC and, therefore, it would be difficult to standardize them. The IAC report has its own format, which is used by the Parties to provide necessary information on the activities they are carrying out to fulfill the object of the Convention.

Standardization Workshop:

16. The objective of this workshop was to discuss the type of information to be included in annual reports, how the information would be collected and what would be done with the information. Their recommendations will help the Annual Report Working Group and participants also discussed the resources needed to support that Working Group.

Gillnet Working Group:

17. The objective of the working group is to create a useful, standard form that will help characterize coastal gillnet net fisheries and that can be used by the as a tool for obtaining information on sea turtle bycatch in gillnets in the IAC region. Participants in the working group include Brazil, the United States, and a delegate from OSPESCA

CCE Recommendations:

18. The CCE members expressed the need to hold a meeting prior to the next meeting of the Parties in order to be able to fulfill their task of reviewing the reports of the

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Scientific Committee and provide recommendations to the meeting of the Parties. The U.S. delegation observed that according to the approved budget, financial resources were not allocated to hold a CCE meeting prior to the next COP in 2011. The Secretariat proposed working inter-sessionally with the Committee chairs in preparation for meetings. The delegate of Brazil stated their view on the hierarchy of the two committees according to the text of the Convention, explaining that the CCE makes recommendations to the Parties on socio-economic and political aspects, which complement the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee on the technical and scientific aspects of the IAC.

19. After a long discussion, the members of the CCE agreed by consensus to recommend that the Secretariat consult with the Focal Points on the possibility of holding a CCE meeting prior to the meeting of the Parties in order to review the documents that the Scientific Committee will approve in their seventh meeting and, further recommending that the funds not spent on the III CCE meeting be used for that purpose.
20. The members of the CCE identified the need for the Parties to discuss the terms of reference for the two IAC committees, the scientific and consultative, at their next meeting, in order to clarify the tasks designated to each one and how their functions and recommendations can complement each other in order to fulfill the objective of the Convention. The assumption that the Chair of the Scientific Committee will participate in the next Consultative Committee meeting was made.
21. To conclude this discussion, 2 agreements were made:
 - a. Recommend to the Parties that a 4th Consultative Committee meeting be held after the VII meeting of the Scientific Committee and prior to the COP 5. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will consult with the Focal Points on this proposal and possible options for financing it.
 - b. It was recommended that the topic of the functions of the IAC subsidiary bodies and their approved terms of reference be included as an agenda item of the COP5, with the purpose of clarifying the relationship between the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee of Experts, in accordance with the text of the Convention and their respective approved terms of reference.

Updates from the Hawksbill Sea Turtle Workshop

22. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat presented a summary of the workshop held in Mexico in 2009 and the activities carried out since the workshop, mentioning that a draft decision was presented at the CITES COP 15 to encourage collaboration between the IAC, CITES and SPAW Secretariats, as well as the approval of a project profile

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that was presented to the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Services. The delegate of Netherlands Antilles extended their congratulations to the Secretariat for their hard work and collaboration with CITES and applying for funds from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund in the United States.

IAC in Review

23. Delegations were invited to make a presentation on their country's compliance with the following resolutions adopted by the Parties: Leatherback turtles; Hawksbill turtles; Sea turtle interactions with fisheries, and the impact of climate change on sea turtles and their habitats. Each delegate summarized the activities being carried out in their respective countries to comply with each of the resolutions adopted by the Parties. A summary is included in Annex II.

Exceptions

24. The Secretariat informed the plenary that both Guatemala and Costa Rica reported exceptions in their Annual Reports and initiated a review of the text adopted by the 2nd Meeting of the CCE on the procedures on how to evaluate Exceptions reported by the Parties. It was clarified that the COP has not yet had the opportunity to discuss and approve this text and, therefore, has not approved the procedures for dealing with this topic.
25. Guatemala confirmed that they have established a policy for harvesting sea turtle eggs for consumption and have reported it in their Annual Report. Costa Rica has reported authorized harvesting of sea turtle eggs in Ostional Beach. The Mexican delegate took this opportunity to clarify recent events of a document being circulated on the internet with photos of Ostional, Costa Rica and accusations indicating that they are Mexican nesting beaches that permit harvesting of sea turtle eggs. This information is false because to date, Mexico does not allow any exceptions and all of Mexico's nesting beaches are protected; the use of sea turtles, their eggs, products and sub-products is prohibited. Panama reported allowing an exception on harvesting sea turtle eggs for subsistence purposes that was recently terminated due to a change in policy, which prohibits the use of sea turtles. No exception has yet to be discussed and analyzed by the Scientific Committee.
26. The U.S. delegation noted that the information being provided to us on the use of exceptions by some Parties necessitates a discussion regarding the role of the CCE in reviewing exceptions as established in the text of the Convention. It was made clear that the CCE prepared a set of guidelines for that purpose, but they were not discussed or approved by the meeting of the Parties. It was suggested that they

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review and edit the existing draft procedures and request the meeting of the Parties to include it as a topic on the COP 5 agenda and adopt some kind of policy on the matter.

27. It was further recommended that each Party include exceptions in their Annual Report and to request the Scientific Committee, at its next meeting in September 2010, to review the exceptions currently included in annual reports and give their opinion, using the document prepared by the CCE in their second meeting in Mazatlan as a reference. The CCE should then review all cases of reported exceptions and, taking into consideration the analysis of the SC, prepare their recommendations for COP5 if possible.

Turtle Excluder Devices

28. Mexico highlighted that the text of the Convention includes the mandatory use of turtle excluders in shrimp trawling fleets, and noted that Mexico is committed to the appropriate use of these devices. A list of approved TEDs has not yet been developed, nor has a mechanism been established to evaluate their appropriate use. Mexico asked the IAC increase their involvement in this issue and develop procedures that would measure the effectiveness of TEDs and evaluate their use by adopting the following procedure: 1) Prepare a list of authorized TEDs; 2) Create a verification protocol and compliance guidelines; 3) Parties report on the appropriate use of these devices; 4) The subsidiary bodies, the Scientific and Consultative Committees, evaluate the reports and make recommendations to the meeting of the Parties; 5) Promote a mechanism that is independent, transparent and reliable to verify use, and 6) Establish incentives and a program that recognizes best practice: by country, fleet and boat captains.
29. The representative of the private sector commented on his personal experience with training fishermen on the use of TEDs. He believes it is very important to include the recommendations of the fisherman when creating related regulations.
30. The delegate of Netherlands Antilles commented that it would be difficult for the Secretariat to take on the task of verifying the use of TEDs due to the lack of funds and staff to assume such a responsibility.
31. Another sectorial representative suggested that a working group be formed in order to do a complete evaluation of the topic of TEDs according to the mandates established in the text of the Convention.

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32. The Chair of the CCE proposed that the IAC prepare a document on TEDs that can be used by each country as a guide to verify their use. Verification procedures could also be carried out by an accredited independent third party.
33. The U.S. delegate stated that U.S laws regarding TEDs will not change and it would be counterproductive to have two different sets of procedures, which would cause unnecessary frustration among fishermen and regulatory agencies.
34. The Chair clarified that on the other hand, having required the use of the TEDs within the Convention provides the IAC with the opportunity to standardize processes, agree on best methods and ways to evaluate their use, which would be the same for all countries and thus avoid any unnecessary conflicts as a result of the use of different criteria when evaluating compliance.
35. The private sector representative believes that their main concern should be to train people, establish monitoring and control programs and involve fishermen in the process so that they are the ones promoting the use of TEDs.
36. An incentive that motivates fishermen to use TEDs appropriately, such as a certification offered by the IAC that recognizes countries that report high levels of compliance, was suggested.
37. It was also suggested that they create a score card that graphically illustrates the level of compliance with TED use.
38. Guatemala asked the U.S. delegate to explain their joint efforts with NOAA and OSPESCA to promote training activities and the appropriate use of TEDs. The representative of OSPESCA made additional comments on this project.
39. After concluding the discussion, the following agreements were made:
 - Urge the Parties to submit their lists of TEDs currently in use as soon as possible so that an accurate and updated list could be developed and
 - Establish a Working Group, made up of representatives from Mexico, U.S., Guatemala and the OSPESCA fisheries working group, to be coordinated by the Secretariat and with the objective of preparing draft guidelines that would ensure that the way TEDs are being used is done so in a transparent and efficient way and applies best practice methods.

IAC Ten-Year Anniversary

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40. Members of the CCE agreed that it is necessary to promote within each Party as well as between Parties an extensive review of the progress and challenges the IAC has faced since the Convention entered into force. Brazil recommended that this discussion be geared towards both Party and Non-Party countries to the Convention. The U.S. delegate recommended that the CCE assist the Secretariat by refining and adding to the presentation that should be made at the COP5 to facilitate the analysis and discussion of the past 10 years of the IAC. The need to increase funding to strengthen the Secretariat should also be included in the discussion. The delegate of Netherlands Antilles suggested that the IAC consider developing a GEF proposal to fund activities to strengthen the Secretariat and promote its public image.
41. The CCE agreed that time must be set aside during the IAC COP5 to reflect on the activities carried out in the IAC over the past 10 years, recognizing achievements and progress as well as obstacles and challenges faced for its consolidation. A complete analysis of the level of compliance with the adopted resolutions and those responsibilities that they have not been able to fulfill, is required.
42. The U.S. delegation proposed including “the location of the Secretariat” on the agenda of COP5, because the current approved location in the United States ends in 2011.
43. The delegation of Brazil believes that the best way of commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the IAC is to achieve 100% compliance by all Parties in submitting their Annual Reports.
44. For this item the following agreements were adopted:
 - To include the topic of the IAC 10 year review as a COP5 agenda item.
 - Urge the Focal Points to consider Annual Reports to be of high priority and submit them on time to the Secretariat, specifically requesting a 100% compliance with these reports for 2010.

Outreach to Non-member Nations

45. One of the Sectorial representatives suggested that for the Wider Caribbean region, it is important to incorporate the Dominican Republic as a member of the IAC. Given the limited resources available to promote increasing IAC membership, the Consultative Committee members commented on the idea of establishing criteria and promotional strategies for such a purpose. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles believes that three criteria should be considered: political (representative of the different regions of the Americas in the IAC), abundance of the six species of sea turtles included in the text of the Convention and biological criteria (related to

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the population status of sea turtles in each one of the countries and their conservation or threatened status).

46. The U.S. delegate commented that it is important to include Canada as a member of the IAC. Other delegates affirmed and emphasized the importance of incorporating other countries from the different regions, in the Americas, Wider Caribbean, Central and South America.
47. After a lengthy discussion, the following was recommended:
 - a. To continue and strengthen outreach efforts in Canada in order to balance the participation in the North American region of the IAC. The United States and Mexico will assist in contacting Canada.
 - b. In the Wider Caribbean region, Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic were identified as priority countries to be invited to participate in the IAC. It was also considered that one outreach strategy for the lower Caribbean islands would be to contact their respective embassies, the United Kingdom and France.
 - c. In the Central and South American region, El Salvador and Nicaragua were identified as priorities to be invited to the IAC; Argentina was also identified as a strategic country to participate in the IAC.
48. The CCE agreed it was appropriate to use the funds authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to encourage the participation of Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Nicaragua in the IAC. Brazil will continue to assist the government of Argentina regarding their adhesion to the IAC.

Cooperation with other Organizations

49. The IATTC and ICCAT were identified as organizations of special interest to the IAC. Mexico and U.S. will contact the IATTC to explore options for creating a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Conventions; Brazil will communicate with the ICCAT. Furthermore, OSPESCA suggested that the IAC create a strategy for contacting CARICOM and CRFM, both international organizations with a great deal of influence in the Caribbean; Belize will assist in contacting these organizations.
50. In regards to cooperative efforts between the IAC and NGOs, it was recommended that they maintain the current open door policy with all organizations of the civil society working on issues related to sea turtle conservation. In the case that an NGO expresses interest in financially supporting sea turtle protection through the IAC,

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they recommend formally recognizing this support through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

51. The representative of OSPESCA mentioned some regional projects that exist in areas of interest to the IAC and, therefore, it would be convenient to create synergies with these projects. He mentioned, for example, the MAREA Project in Central America that includes a component dedicated exclusively to ratifying international conventions or the CMLN that incorporates the protection of sea turtles within its mandate.
52. In conclusion, the following recommendations were made regarding the topic of cooperative efforts between the IAC and other international organizations:
 - To encourage the signing of memorandums of understanding with the following organizations: IATTC, ICCAT, CARICOM and CRFM.
 - Maintain an open door policy with NGOs whose objectives include sea turtle conservation and contact Conservation International to assist in inviting Suriname to become a member of the IAC.

Consultative Committee Work Plan

53. The CCE Work Plan was updated so that it can be used as a guide for 2011-2012. A working group made up of the U.S. delegation and a Sectorial representative prepared a draft with some changes.
54. It was suggested that the common theme of the plan be to follow up on the recommendations adopted by the Parties in order to make recommendations on their complete fulfillment. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat requested that the topic of climate change be included in the Annual Report submitted by the Parties.
55. The CCE suggested that the Scientific Committee be the one to prepare guidelines on what should be included in the report form in order to be able to provide follow-up on the climate change resolution. The U.S. delegate suggested that it be included in the form of an annex to the Annual Report so that countries can report on the progress made in fulfilling the climate change resolution.

Procedures for Nominating Sectorial Representatives

56. The U.S. delegation presented their proposal to modify the procedures for nominating sectorial members to the CCE. To avoid having vacancies in the sectorial representation due to resignation or death, since at the present time they cannot be substituted, consensus was reached that during the nomination procedure,

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the Parties would elect 3 alternates for each one of the sectors that make up the CCE. In the case that there is a vacancy in the representation of one of the sectors of the CCE, the alternate member that received the most votes would occupy that seat. If there is an additional vacancy, the same procedure would be used, inviting the alternate with the most votes to occupy that vacancy and so forth. Vacancies will be filled by selecting among the elected alternates for each sector. This proposal will be taken to the COP 5 for its analysis and approval.

Agreed Recommendations

57. With regard to the extraordinary meeting of the CCE, it was suggested that it be held at the end of January, 2011 and Mexico or Brazil were suggested as possible meeting sites. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will work with both of the CCE members and the COP Chair on preparing budgets for each of the proposals and later define the meeting site accordingly.
58. Because of the IAC 10 year anniversary, Brazil proposed preparing a brief diagnostic on the current status of sea turtle populations in the Americas. It was suggested that they search for funds to contract an expert for this purpose. The delegate of Netherlands Antilles suggested that a diagnostic similar to that done for the hawksbill turtle be done for each of the different species listed in the text of the Convention; exploring the possibility that WWF would be interested in supporting this. The U.S. delegate proposed that they prepare a budget for the 10 year celebration and submit it to the Parties for their consideration. Creating printed material and information that can be available on the website was also suggested. It was further suggested that each Party establishes a link to the IAC website on their official websites.
59. Brazil proposed discussing incidental capture of sea turtles in fisheries other than shrimp trawl fisheries that also use TEDs, in order to review the different alternatives that Parties have developed to reduce and/or eliminate incidental capture of sea turtles and exchange experiences.
60. In order to evaluate the progress made by the IAC, the CCE proposed creating score cards that can be taken to the COP 5. The U.S. delegate reminded the group that a similar mechanism already exists in the Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will work together with the CCE on this idea and later present a proposal that can be revised and discussed at their next meeting.

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61. The 2011-2012 Work Plan was approved with the changes suggested by the CCE members.

After all agenda items of the III meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts had been discussed, the Pro Tempore Secretary concluded the meeting by expressing her gratitude toward the participants.

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ANNEX I
Final Agenda
III Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts

Objectives:

- 1.) To review IAC Activities over the last 10 years
- 2.) To evaluate successes and to learn from past lessons
- 3.) To develop the way forward for the next 10 years
- 4.) To prepare for the next COP

Day 1

| Time | Topic | Speaker |
|-------|---|---|
| 8:30 | Registration | |
| 9:00 | Welcome Remarks | Belize Government Authority |
| 9:15 | Introduction of Participants | |
| 9:30 | Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Rapporteur | PT Secretariat |
| 9:40 | Adoption of agenda | Chair |
| 9:45 | Consultative Committee tasks | Chair |
| 10:00 | Coffee Break | |
| 10:15 | Summary of the Second Consultative Committee meeting | PT Secretariat |
| 10:30 | Updates COP4 | PT Secretariat |
| 11:00 | Update VI Scientific Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements • Annual Report working group • Standardization workshop • Gillnet Working Group | Isaias Majil Belize delegate and PT Secretariat |
| 11:30 | Update from the Hawksbill workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAC-CITES-SPAW resolution for CITES COP15 • MTCA Grant | PT Secretariat |
| 12:15 | Lunch | |
| 1:30 | 10 Year IAC anniversary: IAC in Review What have we accomplished in 10 years? | PT Secretariat |
| 2:00 | Focused Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach to non-member nations • Cooperation with other organizations • Resolutions to date • Exceptions | Chair |
| 3:00 | Coffee Break | |
| 3:15 | Focused Discussions continue | |
| 3:40 | IAC In review: Review of Existing Resolutions by Country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leatherbacks • Hawksbills • Fisheries • Climate change | Country delegates |

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| | What have we done? What are the challenges for implementation? How to improve implementation | |
| 5:10 | Work on Recommendations on how to improve implementation | Chair, plenary |
| 6:30 | End session | |
| 7:00 | Welcome Cocktail | |

Day 2

| Time | Topic | Speaker |
|-------------|---|----------------|
| 8:30 | Work on Recommendations on how to improve implementation cont. | Chair, plenary |
| 10:00-10:15 | Coffee break | |
| 11:00 | 10-YEAR REVIEW Summary of Recommendations to COP on how to improve the implementation of the resolutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up required • The role of the consultative committee | Chair/plenary |
| 12:00 | Lunch | |
| 1:30 | Review of CCE Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of specific activities to achieve goals • Review the procedures to nominate sectoral members • Populate table for 2011 and 2012 • Can the work plan be consolidated? | Chair/plenary |
| 3:30 | Coffee break | |
| 3:45 | Review Work Plan of Consultative Committee CONT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptions • Turtle Excluder Devices • Identify responsibilities of the Consultative Committee • Develop plan of work/action items for Consultative Committee • Draft recommendations for COP | Chair |
| 6:00 | End of session | |

Day 3

| Time | Topic | Speaker |
|-------|---|---------------------|
| 8:30 | Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Discussions • Review and approve action items for Consultative Committee • Review and approve recommendations for COP5 | Chair, plenary |
| 10:00 | Coffee break | |
| 11:30 | Closing remarks | Chair, PT Secretary |
| 12:00 | Lunch | |
| 1:00 | Field trip Hol Chan Marine Reserve | |

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Annex II

Summary of IAC Country Delegates Presentations

| Country | Progress made on Implementing IAC Resolutions | Gaps/Challenges | Recommendations |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| Belize | <p><i>Leatherback Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Adopted and promoted the use of circle hooks in fisheries fleet. -Live release of all sea turtles caught and their subsequent reporting. -Adherence to regional agreements. <p><i>Hawksbill Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In 2007, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in partnership with the Belize Fisheries Department initiated a long term in-water sea turtle monitoring program at Glover’s Reef Atoll, the first of its kind in Belize. -Assessment of Sea Turtle Foraging Aggregations at Glover’s Reef Marine Reserve -ECOMAR launched an in water monitoring in the Robinson Point area -WCS launched in water monitoring at the Lighthouse Reef Atoll -WCS Nicaragua provided monitoring and data management training to marine reserve biologist and community members of Gales Point. -In 2008 Belize ratified the SPAW Protocol. - Personnel at all 8 marine reserves plus 13 Conservation Compliance officers monitoring use and illegal trade. <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government required all vessel operators to release captured turtles alive and promoted the use of circle hooks on all of its fishing vessels. -Government recently complied with EU Resolution 1005/2008 to eliminate illegal fishing. -In 2010 Belize contracted a total of 21 port landing inspectors in more than 9 countries with the task of verifying catches and log books. - Vessel owners must report all incidental catches of sea turtles according to the log books designed for the area where they are authorized to fish. Failure to produce log reports can result in fines and penalties. - Belize Fisheries Department continues to strengthen its Port Inspection Program and will initiate the first step of the Onboard Observer Program in late | <p>IN GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy and Conventions Unit recently formed under the Natural Resources Ministry. Before all work was fragmented to different Ministries. - Political priorities may not include sea turtles at the level it deserves. | <p>GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue to work with the National Sea Turtle Conservation Network which was formed in 1998 but became dormant. Its recent revitalization and new energy since 2004 have made the group achieve many goals. -Encourage cross sectoral membership in the conservation and management of sea turtles. -Work under accepted Terms of Reference allows many new areas of involvement. -Get high lobbying organisations involved -IAC continues to be a part of the recommendation making. |

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| | <p>2010 for vessels fishing in the ICCAT convention area as a pilot program for the fishing fleet. - Belize Flagged vessels in the region only fish in the High Seas and mostly use target specific baits.</p> | | |
| | <p><i>Climate Change Resolution:</i> -National Coral Reef Monitoring Network has actively monitored all bleaching events since 2007 -Coral Bleaching Response Plan prepared in 2009. -6 Resilience sites identified and possible inclusion in the National Protected Areas System. -Compilation of knowledge and techniques necessary for designing adaptation measures at sea turtle nesting and feeding sites. -Field testing of adaptation measures at key sea turtle conservation sites and adaptation to climate change incorporated into management plans and local development policies at sites. -Adaptation to climate change is included in coastal land management policy to a degree that threats to sea turtle habitats are mitigated. -Adaptation of sea turtle habitats to climate change is incorporated into national and regional climate change policies. -A toolkit for the implementation of adaptation measures for sea turtle habitats is available to national stakeholders and implemented at conservation sites and is currently being included in national plans through various partners.</p> | | |
| Brazil | <p><i>Leatherback & Hawksbill Resolutions:</i> -Nests increasing -Genetic studies being performed -Studies on migration patterns -Circle hooks experiments and training -Banning of drift nets 2009 -Part of ASO and SASTN</p> | <p>-Circle hooks are not mandatory. -Lack of enforcement driftnet ban.-</p> | <p>GENERAL RECOMENDATIONS What actions can be taken by the IAC and the Consultative Committee in order to urge the Contracting Parties to comply with the Resolutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting intensive communication with focal points • Promoting exchange programs • Support technical expertise to develop management plans and proposals |
| | <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i> -Training of ship masters and fishermen about use of mitigation measures and post capture handling. -Educational campaign along the main feeding and nesting areas “ Nem tudo que cai na rede é peixe”.</p> | <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divulge circle hook among fishermen and implement it in longline fleet; | |

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| | -Monitoring longline fishery and calculates CPUE for sea turtles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase longline monitoring (specially for Itaipava longline fishery – 300 boats); • Expand the monitoring for other fisheries such as gillnets and trawls • Establish new alliances with pertinent organizations that help in the monitoring fisheries | How should the Consultative Committee evaluate the level of compliance to these resolutions? What are the indicators? How: Receiving by the Scientific committee the annual report and reviewing the analysis of the resolution implementation Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number the nests year • CPUE on fisheries • Data base implemented |
| | <i>Climate Change Resolution:</i> -Monitoring nesting beach temperatures | <i>Climate Change Resolution:</i> -Continuous monitoring of nesting beaches and data collection. -Identify climate change indicators at feeding grounds. -Design climate change adaptation plans. | |
| Guatemala | <i>Leatherback & Hawksbill Resolutions:</i> - A moratorium prohibiting commercialization of eggs for this species has been implemented. - Working group between the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and CONAP has been reactivated. -“Day of the Sea Turtle” has been created and celebrated in the middle of October. -The hatchery registrar was created to comply with operational regulations. | <i>Leatherback & Hawksbill Resolutions:</i> -Patrols and monitoring: CONAP, DIPRONA, CONAPAC, UNIPESCA, DISETUR?, PNC ? -Poaching of nests -Artificial light: Houses and Chalets, Hotels and Restaurants | |
| | <i>Fisheries Resolution:</i> - Working group between the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and CONAP has been reactivated. | <i>Fisheries Resolution:</i> -Boats and Vessels: Incidental fishing (TED’S), turtle sighting tourism, navigation: fishing and tourism | |
| Mexico | <i>Leatherback Resolution:</i> - Permanent conservation program at 4 priority beaches, protecting 90% of the nests - Leatherback Conservation Action Program – National Conservation Strategy -2 priority beaches are declared as Sanctuaries, 1 en progress; the 4 are Ramsar Sites | <i>Leatherback Resolution:</i> - Critical hotspots where interactions with fishing gear occur and the survival rate in these events are unknown. -The geographic distribution of juveniles is unknown | <i>Leatherback Resolution:</i> -Recommend that the Parties agree on effective ways to exchange bycatch information especially for this species -Regional meetings to discuss leatherback turtle conservation priorities in the region |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Integration of local communities in conservation activities -NOM-029-PESC-2006: regulates shark and ray fishery, includes mitigation measures for incidental capture. -Characterization of artisanal fisheries close to index beaches -Awareness workshops with coastal fishermen - Placement of 2 Argos GPS transmitters placed as a pilot Project to learn the use of interesting habitat. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Protection of a greater marine and terrestrial component for priority beaches is required -To establish agreements that minimize bycatch with countries fishing in international waters is needed. -It is necessary to encourage development of fishing gear technologies that minimize incidental capture | <p>and agreements on joint actions among the Parties, including regional fisheries management organizations</p> |
| <p><i>Hawksbill Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Permanent conservation programs at priority beaches -9 nesting beaches just within the NPAs or Ramsar Sites -Research Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Telemetry of nesting females to identify their movements after nesting -Study of juveniles in the feeding areas in Campeche State -Organization of Regional Hawksbill Conservation Workshop in the Wider Caribbean and Western Atlantic – September 2009 - 58 representatives of 20 countries and 10 non-governmental organizations. | <p><i>Hawksbill Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The hawksbill population in the Yucatan peninsula continues to decline and the causes are unclear -There are enormous pressures to develop nesting beaches along the coast -There is little information on the population structure and migratory routes of this species in the Pacific. | <p><i>Hawksbill Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address the recommendations made during the Regional Hawksbill Workshop of the Wider Caribbean -Maintain long term monitoring of nesting trends of this species in the region. -Agree to effective ways of exchanging information on bycatch particularly for this species |
| <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cruses for experimental fishing on board medium sized longline fishing vessels to evaluate interactions with turtles -Substitution of J hooks for circle hooks in 78% of the longlines in Mexican waters -Training workshops on the use of dehookers -Implementation of onboard observer programs in net tuna fisheries in the Pacific, longline tuna fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico, shark fisheries on both coasts, and shrimp fisheries in the Pacific. -Research project: “Reduction of the environmental impacts of tropical shrimp trawl fishing, through introducing techniques to reduce incidental capture and changes in management” financed by GEF | <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standardized mechanisms to systematize information on incidental capture in the region do not exist -The information on turtle bycatch is difficult to access or is not available -Challenges for an adequate implementation of inspection programs and patrols at sea | <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Recommend that the Parties agree on effective ways to exchange bycatch information -Workshops to increase capacity of Parties to develop technology and systematize the information -Urge the Parties to apply FAO’s Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries |
| <p><i>Climate Change Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring incubation temperatures at priority beaches operated by the PNCTM | <p><i>Climate Change Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The goal is to find appropriate schemes for a quick response to the | <p><i>Climate Change Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement long term programs to monitor incubation temperatures on |

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| | <p>-Climate Change Strategy for Protected Areas. -Although it is not specific for turtles, it has mitigation and adaptation for conservation of coastal and marine ecosystem component, as well as capacity development and technical assistance.</p> | <p>effects of climate change. -If global mitigation strategies don't exist, what is done on the nesting beaches will have little effect. -For the IAC is a challenge to achieve a presence and effective management of mitigation measures in large international forums on climate change</p> | <p>priority beaches in the region -Recommend that the Parties develop National Strategies to address the affects of Climate Change -For the IAC Secretariat: explore the possible participation in international forums discussing climate change.</p> |
| Netherlands Antilles | <p><i>Leatherback Resolution:</i> - Protection in place -No known interaction with local fisheries. -Monitoring of nesting (5-10 nesting females) by NGOs.</p> | <p>-Monitoring of nesting females needs to be institutionalized.</p> | <p>GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS - Reminder to Parties of the need for continuing implementation. -Analyze and coordinate ongoing efforts in other regional agreements such as SPAW protocol, WHMSI, identifying gaps and creating synergy. -Add specific questions to annual report format on implementation of each of the resolutions.</p> |
| | <p><i>Hawksbill Resolution:</i> -Nesting and foraging monitoring on Bonaire. -Genetics research on Bonaire – high genetic diversity. -Working on implementation of mgt. plan Saba Bank, including research on hawksbill foraging.</p> | <p><i>Hawksbill Resolution:</i> - Improved enforcement and public outreach necessary in Curaçao -More research needed on Curaçao</p> | <p>EVALUATION MECANISM -Number of projects specifically addressing the resolutions (e.g. research/outreach/mitigation projects) from each Party.</p> |
| | <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i> -Only artisanal fisheries, traps and hand lines no bycatch. -Beach seines: occasional bycatch, turtles usually released.</p> | <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i> -Some bycatch from gillnets in Curaçao; regulation prohibiting gill nets is expected to be passed soon. -Need for better enforcement in Curaçao where low level poaching still occurs.</p> | |

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| | | <p><i>Climate Change Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No climate change adaptation planning yet, let alone taking into account sea turtle habitat. -Need research on effects on local sea turtle populations, but lack of capacity. | <p><i>Climate Change Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -IAC could seek funding for cooperative projects to promote such research. -COP should remind Parties of the need to comply with resolutions |
| Panama | <p><i>Leatherback Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monitoring efforts to determine species distribution and abundance is only done in the Caribbean of Panamá (Bocas del Toro). -Research on reproductive biology and genetic analysis. | <p><i>Leatherback Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Coordinate activities and more efforts to work on awareness campaigns for populations, developers and authorities. -Extend initiatives to cover the Eastern Pacific. | <p><i>Leatherback Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Receive support to implement the established Action Plans or those that are being created. |
| | <p><i>Hawksbill Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Activities are carried out in Bocas del Toro- Chiriquí Beach and Isla Escudo de Veraguas (2003) and in Comarca Kuna Yala (2006), with support from national authorities and international organizations. | <p><i>Hawksbill Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strengthening the monitoring of the use and illegal trade of hawksbill turtles and their products. - Carry out research and monitoring to improve scientific bases of hawksbill conservation measures. | <p><i>Hawksbill Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Work on monitoring, evaluating and decreasing the capture of this species in national waters. |
| | <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establishment and regulation of the use of TEDs. -Progress made on establishing a National Action Plan. | <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To make official and regulate the Inter-institutional Committee. -Regulate and legalize the number of points of embarkation and disembarkation. -Obtain funds and support for training activities. -Have best available data on sea turtle bycatch. | <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Carry out joint activities to improve monitoring thorough the onboard observer Program. |

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| | <p><i>Climate Change Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Coordinate meetings between authorities and national institutions related to the topic. - Progress made on establishing a National Action Plan. | <p><i>Climate Change Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Specific legislation for protecting sea turtles and their nesting beaches. -Design, identify and implement corrective and adaptation measures for climate change. -Awareness and education of coastal communities on the effects of climate change and measures for mitigating it. | <p><i>Climate Change Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish scientifically sound protocols to adopt more flexible and dynamic adaptation measures for climate change. -Implement a Regulatory or Coastal Development Plan with precautionary measures |
| USA | <p><i>Leatherback Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ETP Leatherbacks do not nest in the United States -U.S. research on larger openings in TEDs and modified gillnets has been shown to be beneficial to other Leatherback populations | <p><i>Leatherback Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimal action from IAC Parties has occurred since the passage of this resolution. | <p><i>Leatherback Resolution*:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Move forward on the gillnet characterization, so that a Resolution can be adopted at the next COP -Develop an IAC and IATTC MOU |
| | <p><i>Hawksbill Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Promoted synergies by facilitating dialog between IAC, SPAW and CITES -Supported the convening of the Workshop on Hawksbill populations in the Greater Caribbean and Western Atlantic -Require several modified gear types to reduce sea turtle interaction in fisheries. -Designated critical habitat for Hawksbill sea turtles in coastal waters in Puerto Rico | <p><i>Hawksbill Resolution:</i></p> <p>Gaps – Lag in implementation of the resolution; We need to find better ways of moving resolutions from adoption to implementation.</p> | <p><i>Hawksbill Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Carryout the recommendations from the Hawksbill workshop. |
| | <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -U.S. supports the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations -The U.S. requires large circle hooks (16/0 and 18/0) in the Atlantic and Hawaii longline fisheries -The U.S. has several restrictions on the mesh-size of gillnets in the Mid-Atlantic U.S. -The U.S. requires TEDs in shrimp trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic -Modified Pound Net Leaders in the Chesapeake Bay -New U.S. requirements on observers in state fisheries | <p><i>Fisheries Resolution:</i></p> <p>Gaps in U.S. Fisheries–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of mitigation for finfish trawls, many gillnet fisheries and traps and pots. -Limited resources requires prioritizing fisheries, many times based on available bycatch information. -Gear fixes not always accepted by the fishermen and not always possible. | <p><i>Fisheries Resolution*:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Secretariat should reach out to non-Parties and work to develop MOUs with regional fishery management organizations (IATTC, ICCAT, and SEAFO) fishing in the IAC Convention Area by the next COP, with the assistance of key Focal Points. -Greater data collection by Parties. -Prioritization of fisheries. |

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| <p><i>Climate Change Resolution:</i> -Climate change is analyzed as a threat in all recent sea turtle recovery plans. An improved understanding of the impact of climate change is an objective of one of the recovery actions in the latest NW Atlantic Loggerhead Recovery Plan.</p> | <p><i>Climate Change Resolution:</i> Gaps – lack of reporting; lack of overall implementation.</p> | <p><i>Climate Change Resolution*:</i> -Discuss within the Consultative Committee what is realistic to achieve with this resolution by the next COP and in subsequent years.</p> |
| | | <p>*GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS -Revise the annual report form by the end of the year, so that it can be tool to measure compliance. -Request the Secretariat to provide a one-page status report prior to each COP. -Develop MOUs with all relevant organizations (RFMOs, etc.) -Use the Consultative Committee to prepare for the COP. -Clarify and strengthen the language of future resolutions. -With a revised annual report form, the Consultative Committee can assess what is being done. -Improved communication within the IAC (Secretariat, Focal Points, Consultative Committee, and Scientific Committee).</p> |