

3rd Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts

March
2010

We would like to thank the Government of Belize and our Focal Point, Mr. Isaias Majil, for hosting a successful 3rd Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) in Belize City, Belize in March of 2010. The objectives of this meeting were to review pending issues from the 2nd meeting which was held in 2006, review IAC Activities over the past 10 years in honor of its 10th Anniversary in 2011 and determine the next steps for the Convention. Nine Signatory



Members of the Consultative Committee in Belize

Countries participated in the meeting (Belize, Brazil, Netherlands Antilles, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, Peru, United States and Mexico), and one representative from each of the 3 sectors (NGOs, Private Sector and Scientific Community) and an observer from OSPESCA. Ms. Beverly Wade, Administrator of the Belizean Fisheries Department, inaugurated the three day meeting. A new Chair of the CCE, Mr. Luis Fueyo (Mexico), and Vice-Chair, Mr. Isaias Majil (Belize) were nominated.

Below is a summary of the agreements and recommendations of the 3rd CCE meeting:

1. To hold an extraordinary meeting of the CCE before the COP5 in order to review documents prepared by the IAC Scientific Committee.
2. Request that the Parties incorporate the following items on the COP5 agenda: a) review the role of the IAC subsidiary bodies according to the text of the convention and their ToR agreed to by the parties in order to clarify the coordination mechanisms between them and facilitate the adoption of resolutions by the COP; b) 10th Anniversary of the IAC – review progress, goals and challenges; c) review the draft procedures for exceptions prepared by the CCE during its 2nd meeting.
3. IAC Annual Reports - request that to honor the IAC's 10th Anniversary all Parties collaborate by submitting their 2010 Annual Reports.
4. IAC cooperation with other organizations - the CCE identified 4 Regional Fisheries Management Organizations of interest to the IAC (IATTC, ICCAT, CARICOM, and CRFM), to encourage cooperative efforts through the establishment of MOUs.
5. IAC Membership & Scope - to expand IAC membership by incorporating those countries whose participation would be beneficial to the recovery and conservation of marine turtles, such as in the Greater Caribbean Region. The CCE identified the following priorities for the PT Secretariat to promote their accession to the Convention: Dominican Republic, Trinidad & Tobago, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Canada, Argentina, Colombia and Suriname.

6. To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the IAC, the PT Secretariat will distribute information to the general public and within each of the Parties.
7. Exceptions – urge Parties to use the procedures for exceptions prepared by the CCE as a guideline for documenting any exceptions reported.
8. Turtle Excluder Devices - A working group (Mexico, United States, Guatemala and a member of the OSPESCA fisheries working group) was created to report on the use of TED technology by the Party countries and describe measures to be taken to ensure compliance with the mandates of the Convention.
9. Fisheries Interactions- a working group comprised of Brazil, United States, Mexico, Peru and member of the OSPESCA fisheries working group will review fisheries interactions in accordance with article IV of the text of the Convention, and the implementation of the fisheries resolution and recommendations of the Scientific Committee.
10. Score Cards - design and produce score cards for the Parties to be presented at COP5 in order to graphically describe each of the Parties compliance with the approved resolutions of the Convention.

The Final Report of the 3rd CCE Meeting will be available soon.