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3RD MEETING OF THE IAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

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 Countries participated in the meeting (Belize, Brazil, Netherlands Antilles, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, Peru, United States and Mexico), as well as 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 at www.iacseaturtle.org.

IN BRIEF:

The 30th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium "the World of Turtles" will be held from April 27-29, 2010 in Goa, India. Each year over 700 participants from over 50 countries of the world come to participate in the symposium. For updates on the meeting go to <http://india.seaturtle.org/symposium2010/>

The Kobe Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organization Bycatch workshop will take place in Brisbane, Australia, from June 23-25, 2010. One of its objectives is to review information on incidental capture of non-target species, such as sea turtles, providing advice to tuna RMFOs on best practices, methods and techniques to assess and reduce incidental mortality as well as develop and coordinate relevant research and observer programs. http://www.ioseaturtles.org/messageboard_detail.php?id=138

The Eastern Pacific Hawksbill Initiative (ICAPO) will hold a regional workshop in Nicaragua July 13 -14, 2010. The goal of the initiative is to save Eastern Pacific hawksbills (website in Spanish only). <http://www.hawksbill.org/spanish/index.html>

The IV Regional Symposium on Sea Turtles in the South Eastern Pacific will be held from November 25-26, 2010, in Medellin, Columbia. For more information please visit their website (in Spanish only): www.iicongresocolombianozoologia.org



Members of the CCE during its 3rd Meeting in Belize.



UPDATES SINCE THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE HAWKSBILL TURTLE IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN AND WESTERN ATLANTIC (PUERTO MORELOS, 2009)

CITES COP 15 PRESENTS DECISION FOR FURTHER COLLABORATION BETWEEN CITES, SPAW AND IAC SECRETARIATS: COP15. Doc 50 was presented at the CITES COP 15 in Qatar in March, 2010, encouraging further collaboration between the CITES Secretariat and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean region (Cartagena Convention) and its Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) through the development of a joint proposal that takes into consideration the outcome of the regional workshop on hawksbills. <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/15/doc/E15-50.pdf>

USFWS MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION FUND AWARDS GRANT TO IAC: The IAC submitted a proposal based on 3 of the 4 profiles created during the hawksbill workshop (Direct take, Genetics and Strengthening Regional Cooperation) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Turtle Conservation Fund. We are pleased to announce that one proposal, strengthening regional cooperation through increased relations between the IAC and countries of the WCR, was accepted. If you would like a copy of the proposal, please contact the PT Secretariat at: contact@iacseaturtle.org.

IAC PT SECRETARY GOES TO TED UNIVERSITY

"TED University" was sponsored by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center of NOAA Fisheries and held in April, 2010 in Pascagoula, Mississippi. This activity was organized as a part of a regional project with OSPESCA. It is a 2 week training course on the various aspects regarding the use of TEDs such as:

- History of TEDs and how they have evolved over time, including their design, certification process and understanding legal requirements.
- How TEDs work and their different parts.
- Hands on exercise: making and installing TEDs.
- Training on how to carry out onboard TED inspections on shrimp vessels.
- How to create a successful TED program in Central America through regional cooperation and existing intergovernmental organizations that protect sea turtles, such as the IAC.

The objective was to train a team of experts in TED technology in Central America that will work with the government and the industry to improve their national TED programs. The "students" came from the different fisheries offices of Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras. Among the invited guests was El Salvador's Fisheries director and the IAC PT Secretary.



WIDECAST ANNUAL MEETING: The Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST) invited the IAC PT Secretariat to participate in their Annual Meeting which was held in Martinique in March, 2010. WIDECAST is a network of biologists, managers, community leaders and educators in more than 40 nations and territories, committed to an integrated, regional capacity that ensures the recovery and sustainable management of depleted sea turtle populations. Presentations were made on national programs, regional issues, and updates on sea turtle research, conservation, and management initiatives throughout the Wider Caribbean Region, as well as in-depth session on Climate Change. We would like to thank WIDECAST for this opportunity to share valuable experiences. www.widecast.org

UPCOMING IAC MEETING: The VII IAC Scientific Committee meeting is scheduled to be held from September 1-3, 2010 in Panama City, Panama. For more details on this meeting please contact the PT Secretariat at contact@iacseaturtle.org.

For details on how to become and approved IAC observer please go to our website http://www.iacseaturtle.org/English/acerca_obs.asp



Learning to assemble TEDS



Simulated TED inspection

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