
**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Consultative Committee
September 21-23, 2006**

Thursday, September 21st

1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Chairman of the Consultative Committee, Dr. Alberto Abreu, offered a few welcoming remarks to the participants and the representative of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CONAPESCA) of Mexico, Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, carried out the opening ceremony of the meeting. Mr. Belmontes expressed his gratitude in holding the 2nd Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts in Mazatlan, expressing Mexico's continued support in Convention matters since its beginning. He also described Mexico's advances in sea turtle protection, providing the example that 100% of Mexican shrimp fleets currently use TEDs. Mr. Belmontes concluded by offering the support of Mexican authorities in having a successful 2nd Meeting of the Consultative Committee and COP3CIT.

2. Approval of agenda

2. The Chairman of the Consultative Committee submitted the draft Agenda to the Committee members, which was approved with some changes (Annex I).

3. Approval of the minutes of the First Meeting

3. According to Rule 10, the minutes of the First Meeting were approved, excluding the point on exceptions. For the final approval of the minutes, the Chair presented a text for discussion that showed what was agreed upon by each of the Consultative Committee's sub-groups created for this purpose, and reflected what happened during the 1st Meeting. He proposed making a simplified text, to be written by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, and include the summary of both groups as an annex.

4. Advances of the work of the Scientific Committee

4. The Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Dr. Jack Frazier, presented a report on the tasks given to the Scientific Committee since the COP2CIT.

- 1- Review the annual report's format and instructions
- 2- Follow-up on Resolution COP2CIT-001
- 3- Sea turtle interactions with fisheries
- 4- Scientific Committee's Work Plan
- 5- Social and economic aspects related to sea turtle conservation

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

5. Dr. Frazier reiterated the need to improve the flow of information reaching the Scientific Committee from the Parties via the Secretariat. Also, he explained the need to strengthen intercessional work of the Committee members. However, the difficulty in complying with all intercessional tasks assigned was recognized, unless the Convention and Secretariat were given the necessary resources.

6. The Committee recommended encouraging the creation of national intercessional working groups. The Government of Venezuela requested a definition of how the National Committees would be made up, thus complying with the Convention. Venezuela committed to write, together with the Secretariat, the text of a draft resolution for this proposal (Annex 2).

7. Netherlands Antilles proposed that the reports of the subsidiary bodies should be presented as a single document, including annexes. They also expressed that the Scientific Committee be provided with the necessary conditions to continue their work. Mexico supported this notion regarding the work of the Committee, noting that the Committee's structure is sufficient.

8. In support of the analysis of a socio-economic nature that should be carried out by the Scientific Committee, it was agreed to request that the Parties assess the possibility of incorporating experts with a professional background that will allow them to provide feedback on these issues. It was agreed upon that this topic be included when discussing the preceding point.

5. Report on the advances of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat

9. Mr. Julio Montes de Oca, presented on behalf of the Secretariat, the report on efforts carried out by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat regarding disseminating information on the Convention and sea turtles (including the Web site). The need to strengthen this matter was recognized, exploring the option of securing funds for this purpose and searching for any information that can help assist the Parties. In this way, the idea of looking for support within existing regional networks emerged, mentioning in particular the work being done by WIDECAS.

10. Mr. Marco Solano, *Pro Tempore* Secretary of the Convention, described the financial limitations under which the Secretariat was operating. The Convention's financial problems will continue to exist as long as a membership fee is not set up for the Parties that would allow sufficient funding for scheduled activities. Also, improving the efficiency in which information is transmitted from focal points to the Secretariat was requested, especially in regards to the Annual Reports.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

11. Following up on the request from the COP2CIT, the Secretariat explored the option of signing agreements with diverse international and regional organizations. An agreement with the IOSEA was not defined; however, one was drafted for the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and the Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (OSPESCA), both of which will be presented as draft Resolutions at the COP3CIT. The Costa Rican representative expressed their support of the Consultative Committee being in favor of signing this Memorandum.

12. In addition, the desire to follow up on the contacts already initiated by the Secretariat with the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) was mentioned. The delegate from Ecuador will supply information on that matter.

13. While analyzing the subject of the Consultative Committee's structure, the carry-over of its current members was discussed, since it was not possible to hold nominations of the sectorial members of the Committee within the timeframe established by the rules of procedure. Therefore, it was decided to recommend to the Parties that those current members of the Committee wishing to continue be carried-over (Annex 3).

14. The proposed change to numeral 8 of the Terms of Reference of this Committee was analyzed, requesting that the nomination period for the members of the Consultative Committee of Experts go from 2 to 4 years. It was also recommended that rules be prepared to attend situations not previously foreseen, such as in the case of a resignation or death of a nominated member. A mini work group was made up by Luis Fueyo, Luis Torres and Antonio Porras to draft a text on this matter.

6. Advances and recommendations on the application of Resolution COP2CIT-001 (*Dermochelys coriacea* turtle)

a. Information on the application of the Resolution (in Annual Reports)

15. The Secretariat indicated that no country has provided information specifically on *Dermochelys*. However, certain general information on the species can be extracted from the Reports, which has been used by the Scientific Committee's working group.

b. Recommendations of the Scientific Committee

16. The draft implementation plan presented by the Scientific Committee's working group has an adequate technical and scientific content, however, the possibility of complying with it given its complexity, should be considered.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

17. In particular, the possibility of declaring a state of emergency for the *Dermochelys coriacea* was discussed; however, existing information does not show any indications that populations are declining, subsequent to the Resolution. Nevertheless it is considered important to promote conservation actions and therefore, they call the attention to the Parties to increase their efforts and give priority to supporting measures that strive for the recovery of the *Dermochelys* population. In addition to the conservation efforts being carried out on nesting beaches, special attention should be paid to incidental capture throughout the distribution of *Dermochelys coriacea* in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (Annex 4).

18. It was recommended that the working group analyzing this topic should make sure that the text is very clear and not have any scientific inconsistencies, pointing out those positive efforts that have already been carried out.

7. Analysis of the content and format of the 2006 Annual Reports

a. Information management and content of annual reports (Secretariat)

b. Problem of lack of Reports from some countries (Secretariat)

19. Representing the Secretariat *Pro Tempore*, Ms. Belinda Dick, presented an analysis of the content and format of the annual reports. The Secretariat provided recommendations on some sections where countries could improve the content of their Annual Reports.

20. The interactive web based map currently being developed by the Secretariat was presented, utilizing the information presented in the Annual Reports. The map will be online in approximately one and a half months. The problem of quality control was pointed out, as well as the information gaps in the Annual Reports and lack of information from non-Party countries. Once again WIDECAS was mentioned as a possible partner in providing information from non-Party countries.

21. The idea of considering the IAC format within the annual reports of the SPAW Protocol (through the Secretariat), as well as in those of the CPPS, was planted. Lastly, it was called upon that the countries improve the information reported in future Annual Reports and consider the need for fisheries information.

22. A reminder was given that the Consultative Committee would request the Scientific Committee to create the parameters needed to ensure the quality of information to be used.

23. The Consultative Committee reached an agreement to request that the Conference of the Parties ask the countries to hand in their Annual Reports on time, with high quality information.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

c. Recommendations from the Scientific Committee on the format and instructions (Standardization)

24. Making a list of protocols previously made by other international instruments was recommended, to be considered as examples that can be modified and adopted within the IAC.

8. Advances on the topic of *Eretmochelys* in the Gulf of Mexico

a. Update on the current situation of the Gulf populations

25. The Chairman of the Consultative Committee provided a summary on the state of the *Eretmochelys* populations in the Caribbean, giving the context for the recommendation of action requested by Mexico during the COP2CIT. Since a recovery (or stabilization) of the populations can still not be spoken of, significant advances in field methodologies, compiling information and carrying out projects and other preliminary studies must be done.

b. Report by the hawksbill Working Group of the 3rd Meeting of the Scientific Committee

26. A series of recommendations emerged during the deliberations of the Scientific Committee, including the suggestion to carry out a series of studies (incidental capture and mortality, satellite tracking) and uphold the idea of having a regional meeting on this subject. Also, the need to pay attention to other aspects such as relocating nests and oceanographic effects was mentioned.

c. Presentation of the draft Resolution prepared by the Scientific Committee

27. The text of the draft Resolution on *Eretmochelys* will be revised by the working group, which will be conformed during the agenda of this Meeting (Annex 5).

d. Presentations

28. Technical lectures were presented by CONAPESCA personnel.

-Incidental capture of sea turtles in shark drift longlines in the Mexican Pacific (2003-2006)

29. The exposition on this topic was presented; the presenter indicated that the research being carried out infers positive results on reducing sea turtle mortality by incidental fishing without experiencing a significant loss in shark capture. When using

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

experimental circular hooks, no turtles were hooked in the throat; therefore, this fishing technique offers an alternative for reducing incidental capture of sea turtles and has demonstrated excellent results.

- Control mechanisms and follow-up on shrimp fisheries

30. A talk on the program for modernization of trawlers was heard.

31. Other research on reducing fishing efforts was also presented as well as a talk about onboard observer programs, which allow for sea turtle protection in fishing activities. Similarly, information was presented on the voluntary retirement of Mexican shrimp fleets which acts to reduce fishing effort in shrimp capture by paying the owners to retire their ship from activity. The results of the program are not yet evident due to the recentness of the program.

32. The Chairman thanked CONAPESCA on behalf of the IAC for the talks provided.

Friday, September 22nd

33. The Chairman invited the participants of the Meeting to pick up the informative compact disk prepared by Scott Eckert that includes TRAFFIC's preliminary study.

9. Advances on the topic of interactions of sea turtles in fisheries

a. Presentation of the “Guidelines to evaluate and mitigate the impact of interactions between fisheries and sea turtles”

34. Dr. Jack Frazier presented a summary on the work done by the Scientific Committee's fisheries working group.

b. Presentation on the draft Resolution “Reducing adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles”

35. Dr. Frazier showed the draft Resolution CIT-028-06 “Reducing adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles“ to be presented at the COP3, pointing out the technical quality of the document, but warning that its contents are ambitious which can present difficulties for its implementation on behalf of the countries. Likewise, he reminded us that the spirit of the Draft Resolution is to take into consideration the numerous measures already initiated by other organizations (Annex 6).

c. Report on the proposed list of TEDs

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

36. The Consultative Committee wanted to point out the need to request that the Parties provide the required information, as specified on various occasions in the text of the Convention. This is due to the fact that in order to proceed to make recommendations on their application they must have a complete list of TEDs in use.

37. WIDECAST requested clarification on how the Consultative Committee will carry out the evaluation of the TEDs effectiveness and that they define quantitatively what is “recommendable”. Dr. Abreu clarified that the function of the Committee is not to evaluate, but encourage the Parties to continue their internal evaluations and provide the necessary information to the Convention. Based on the information provided by the Parties and any evaluation, selectivity and efficiency studies that are carried out by competent authorities of each country, the IAC Scientific Committee must then provide the pertinent recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, after being revised and analyzed by the Consultative Committee of Experts according to the attributes designated to them by the text of the Convention and their agreed terms of reference.

38. Defenders of Wildlife mentioned that those Devises that have been accepted by law in the United States should also be considered.

39. Mexico proposed preparing a draft Resolution for the COP3 to formalize the mandate in Annex III.7, paragraph b. of the Convention on the “Use of Turtle Excluder Devices”. During the discussion, it was pointed out that the Parties are complying with the mandate to use TEDs and, the only pending issue is to adequately report on studies evaluating the effectiveness of the devises used (Annex 7).

40. The representative of Brazil expressed their consideration that the use of TEDs is not mandatory for the Parties, since according to the interpretation in Annex III of the Convention, the use of devises other than TEDs that also support a reduction in incidental capture, are allowed.

41. The Consultative Committee considered that interpretation allows the countries to establish the measures that they determine to be adequate for sea turtle protection and conservation and they should also compile information, carry out research and inform the IAC on their results.

42. Brazil prepared an addition to the Proposed Resolution CIT-028-06 that included their inquietudes on the possibility of using devises other than TEDs that support a reduction of incidental capture.

43. The need to identify all fisheries interactions with sea turtles, not just shrimp fleets, was recognized. The fisheries working group will analyze the previous points and will consist of Brazil, Mexico, Defenders of Wildlife and WIDECAST.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

10. IAC Strategic Plan

44. The IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat presented the 2007-2012 Strategic Plan's mission, vision, objectives and programs.

45. In particular, the Program "Activities of the Consultative Committee" was described. The Chairman of the Consultative Committee encouraged the members of the Work Plan Working Group to take into consideration the activities of NGOs and other entities.

46. Netherlands Antilles and Dr. Frazier considered that the presented Plan was very ambitious and suggested prioritizing the activities to be developed in the Strategic Plan. For this purpose, Dr. Abreu proposed adding a column where a priority level could be linked to the specific activity and another one that would consider possible organizations or opportunities that support the corresponding activity.

47. Mexico requested that the working group analyze that relevant to the Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committee, as well as establishing a Secretariat and Permanent location, and information relating to its financing (institutional strengthening of the Convention).

48. The Chair of the Consultative Committee asked the Working Group that will analyze this topic to prioritize the activities contemplated.

11. Exceptions (Article IV.3 of the Convention)

a. Proposal for review by the Delegate of the Honduran Government

49. Honduras gave the presentation "Traditional use by local and indigenous populations" referring to the history and challenges of the use of sea turtles in Honduras. They are asking for the support of the IAC to deal with the current situation in the Pacific and on behalf of the Miskita indigenous communities, which requires developing a socio-economic study that allows them to have adequate information for decision making. They also pointed out that they have decreed a 25 day closure period for taking sea turtles in the Pacific.

50. At this time, they extend an offer to hold the COP4CIT in Honduras.

51. The Chairman of the Committee acknowledged the representative of Honduras for his presentation, mentioning the importance of discussing real cases which look to the Convention for guidance. Netherlands Antilles expressed a similar opinion.

52. Mexico recommended that after the results of the exceptions working group, the Consultative Committee provide recommendations for the help requested by Honduras.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

b. Report on the discussion of the First meeting of the Consultative Committee and defining goals of working group

53. Dr. Abreu provided a summary on that discussed by the working sub-groups (English speaking and Spanish speaking). He pointed out the importance of the emerging point from the English speaking group, of maintaining certain flexibility within the definitions of that described in the Text of the Convention, or at least not to make too many limitations.

54. The working group should embark on the protocol for exceptions, defining if their presentation, and the Management Plan that should accompany them, are mandatory.

14. Working groups:

55. The instructions and methodology for working in groups were given, indicating the importance of prioritizing as part of the analysis to be carried out.

56. The following groups were created:

1-Committee Work Plan (2007-08 Operative Plan) and 2007-2011 Strategic Plan, including Annual Reports

2-Dermochelys and Eretmochelys

3-Exceptions

4-Fisheries

Saturday, September 23rd

15. Reports from working groups

Exceptions group

57. This group presented their report, which reached consensus after making a few changes. This report contained those aspects the Group felt should be included in the exceptions section of the Parties Annual Report.

58. The point that reporting exceptions is required was clarified, as well as the procedures for carrying them out and orientation towards creating management programs.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

59. WIDECAST considered that the presentation of exceptions should be based on the best scientific and socio-economic information available and be evaluated by the Scientific Committee.

60. Venezuela offered additional information on the recommendations of the Management Program, providing the delegations with a copy of the document called “Management Plan for crocodile use” that has had a very warm reception because of its appropriate structure.

61. The guidelines presented by the working group are considered to be general, leaving the task of making them more specific for the Management Program to the Scientific Committee.

62. The proposal of the exceptions working group was approved by consensus, defining that the topics contained in the guidelines should be considered as preliminary and only as an example (Annex 8).

Fisheries Group

63. The fisheries working group presented the results of their analysis of the draft resolution “Reducing adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles”, and gave recommendations on the document created by the Scientific Committee “Guidelines to evaluate and mitigate the impact of interactions between fisheries and sea turtles” as well as on the proposed agreement regarding the list of TEDs.

64. Netherlands Antilles requested that the documents and agreements from the 26th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium held April 3rd – 8th, 2006 be handed out to the members of the Consultative Committee of Experts.

65. After various revisions and discussion, the proposals of the working group were received as a document of recommendations, and the draft Resolution “Reducing adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles” is an annex. Similarly, a consensus was reached on the proposed TEDs agreement.

***Eretmochelys* and *Dermochelys* working group**

66. The working group presented its report based on discussion and review of the draft Resolution CIT-030-06 “*Conservation of the hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata)*”, that after a few changes reached a consensus.

67. The working group’s recommendation to the COP3 regarding the review of the Parties compliance with Resolution COP2CIT-001 was analyzed. After a few changes, the recommendation reached consensus (Annex 5).

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Work Plan Group

68. Because the group required more time, their presentation and discussion was moved to Other Items.

16. Other Items

69. a. Venezuela presented a draft proposal of agreement on establishing National Committees. Because consensus was not reached on this proposal, it was entrusted to the Consultative Committee Chairman to transmit the concern regarding problems with information flow afflicting the Convention, to the Parties.

70. b. The report from the Work Plan and Annual Report working group was discussed.

71. Costa Rica and Netherlands Antilles pointed out the need to consider the implementation costs and the fact that information is disperse in the different Strategic Programs.

72. México declared their support of the Plan, under the condition that the COP defines that relative to the Permanent Secretariat, its location and the structure of the subsidiary bodies.

73. Antilles emphasized the need to prioritize the actions to be developed in the work plan, in such a way that guarantees financing of the basic activities needed to carry out the Convention.

74. The United States considered that given the budgetary restrictions faced, it is probable that financing will only be available for the Conferences of the Parties, Meetings of its subsidiary bodies and operation of the Secretariat.

75. The Chair of the Committee requested that a base strategic program be included within the Work Plan that includes the fundamental actions needed to maintain the operation of the Convention, under the considerations previously mentioned. A consensus was reached to present the Plan to the Parties, with the changes previously discussed.

76. c. Annual Reports

77. Information on the annual reports was presented, which will be taken to the Parties for its analysis.

78. d. Proposal on the continuation of the sectorial members of the Consultative Committee.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

79. México presented a proposal on this subject. The Consultative Committee will take what was discussed to the Heads of Delegation Meeting for corresponding measures.

80. e. Proposal for one-day observers in the Conferences of the Parties.

81. After a lengthy discussion on the subject, it was decided that it is not the jurisdiction of the Consultative Committee to decide, given that this would imply a change in the Rules of Procedures. For this reason, they encouraged the solicitor to present this proposal before the Conference of the Parties according to the procedures established.

82. f. Proposal from the Scientific Committee to include members with a socio-economic background.

83. It was considered that this proposal should be considered at the same time the Scientific Committee's structure is discussed.

84. g. Netherlands Antilles Proposals

85. Netherlands Antilles presented a recommendation for the IAC to strengthen collaboration with the SPAW Protocol, especially regarding the possibility of developing instruments with similar information (Annex 9).

86. A second proposal of Antilles was to invite NGOs and other organizations to establish working relationships with the IAC, facilitating knowledge and other capabilities for the benefit of the region (Annex 10).

87. A consensus was reached on both proposals.

17. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur

88. Ecuador proposed that the Consultative Committee's board of directors be reelected. Consensus was reached on this proposal, maintaining the representative of Mexico as Chairman, the representative of Peru as Vice-Chair and the representative of Costa Rica as the Rapporteur.

18. Closing

89. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

List of Annexes:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Annex 1 | 2 nd Consultative Committee Meeting Agenda |
| Annex 2 | Recommendation of the Consultative Committee for the strengthening and support of the work of the focal points of the IAC |
| Annex 3 | Draft Resolution presented by 2 nd Meeting of the Consultative Committee Resolution for the change in the terms of reference for the Consultative Committee of Experts of the IAC approved by COP1CIT by Resolution COPCIT-005 |
| Annex 4 | Guidelines for follow-up to Resolution COP2CIT-001, “Resolution for the Conservation of Leatherback Turtles (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)” |
| Annex 5 | Draft Resolution for CITCOP3
<i>Conservation of the hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata)</i> |
| Annex 6 | Proposed Resolution for the Third Conference of the Parties, Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles |
| Annex 7 | Proposal of an Agreement presented by the 2 nd Meeting of the Consultative Committee for the Parties to turn in their list of TEDs currently used. |
| Annex 8 | Report of the Working Group on Exceptions of the 2 nd Meeting of the Consultative Committee |
| Annex 9 | Recommendation of the Consultative Committee in the development of collaboration between the IAC and the SPAW Protocol |
| Annex 10 | Recommendation of the Consultative Committee for the establishment of collaboration with other countries and entities |
| Annex 11 | List of participants |

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Annex 1

2nd Consultative Committee Meeting - Agenda

Meeting place: Mazatlán, Sinaloa, México

Hotel El Cid Castilla Resort

Dates: Sept. 21-23, 2006

Thursday, September 21

3. Registration of Participants

8:30-9:00am

4. Opening

9:00-9:30am

5. Presentation of Participants

9:30-9:45am

9:45-10:00am Coffee break

6. Approval of Agenda

10:00-10:10am

5. Approval of the Minutes of the First Meeting

10:10-10:40am

In accordance with Rule 10, the minutes of the meeting were approved with the exception of the point regarding exceptions, where it was recommended that this point be revised by the working group before the II meeting, for its revision and approval by the Committee members.

6. Advancements on the work of the Scientific Committee

10:40-11:15am

a. Tasks given to the Scientific Committee

1 by the Convention and its Terms of Reference

2. by COP2

3. by the Consultative Committee

b. Advancements and products originating from the 3rd meeting of the Scientific Committee

1- Revision of the Annual Reports format and instructions

2- Follow-up on Resolution COP2CIT-001

3- Sea Turtle interactions in Fisheries

4- Scientific Committee's Work Plan

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

5- Social and economic aspects related to sea turtle conservation

Ref: CIT-027-06, CIT-030-06, CIT-031-06, INF-34-06, INF-35-06, INF -36-06, INF-40-06

7. Report on the advances of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat

11:15-11:45am

- IAC information and dissemination program
- Agreements with International Organizations
- Preparations for COP3

Ref: CIT-029-06, CIT-032-06

**8. Advances and recommendations of the application of Resolution COP2CIT-001
(*Dermochelys coriacea* sea turtle)**

11:45am-12:30pm

- a. Information on the application of the Resolution (in the Annual Reports)
- b. Recommendations of the Scientific Committee
- c. Discussion and recommendations to the COP3CIT

Ref: CIT-031-06

9. Analysis of the content and format of the 2006 Annual

12:30-1:30pm

- a. Information management and content of the annual reports (Secretariat)
- b. Recommendations from the Scientific Committee on the format and instructions (Standardization)
- c. Problem of lack of reports from some countries (Secretariat)

Ref: http://www.iacseaturtle.org/iacseaturtle/English/acerca_informes.asp , INF-40-06.

1:30-3:00pm Lunch

10. Advances on the Topic of *Eretmochelys* in the Gulf of México

3:00-4:00pm

- a. Update on the current situation of the Gulf populations (Alberto Abreu)
- b. Report by the Hawksbill Working Group from the 3rd meeting of the Scientific Committee
- c. Presentation of the proposed Resolution Project prepared by the Scientific Committee

Ref: CIT-030-06, INF-037-06

11. Advances on the topic of interactions of sea turtles in fisheries

4:00-5:00pm

- a. Presentation of “guidelines to evaluate and mitigate the impact of interactions between fisheries and sea turtles”

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

- b. Presentation of the proposed Resolution Project on “Reducing adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles”

Ref: CIT-028-06

5:00-6:30pm Illustrative presentations

- Incidental capture of sea turtles in shark drift longlines in the Mexican Pacific (2003-2006)
- Work of CIAT for the protection of sea turtles in longline fisheries
- Retirement program of the shrimp fleet in Mexico

Friday, September 22

12. IAC Strategic Plan

9:00-10:00am

Presentation of the objectives and programs of the Strategic Plan

Ref: CIT-025-06, CIT-027-06.

13. Exceptions (Article IV.3 of the Convention)

10:00am-12:00md

- a. Report on the discussion of the first Meeting of the Consultative Committee
- b. Request from the Government of Honduras
- c. Defining working group goals

11:00-11:15am Coffee break

14. Working groups:

12:00md-1:30pm

1-Committee Work Plan (2007-08 Operative Plan) and 2007-2011 Strategic Plan

Revise and make recommendations on the content of the Strategic Plan and 2007-08 Operative Plan

2-Annual Reports

Revise the content of the annual reports and produce a report for the COP3 on their content regarding their reaching the IAC objectives.

Ref: INF-40-06

3-Exceptions

Touch on the discussions carried out during the first meeting regarding this point and make concrete recommendations to the COP3, it is hoped that the request made by Honduras can serve as an example on this topic.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

4-Fisheries (Resolution on “Reducing adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles and recommendations on the use of Turtle Excluder Devices)
Give recommendations to the COP3 on the content of the proposed resolution and regarding the guidelines.

5-Dermochelys and Eretmochelys

Recommend the steps for the COP3 to take in both cases, with respect to *Dermochelys* a resolution already exists and in the case of *Eretmochelys* it is to make recommendations on the draft of the proposed resolution.

1:30-3:00pm Lunch

Continuation of group work

3:00-6:00pm

Saturday, September 23

19. Report from working groups

9:00-10:30am

20. Prepare working group reports and documents; proposed Resolutions, recommendations and other points to be considered at the COP3

10:30am-1:30pm

11:00-11:15am Coffee break

1:30-3:00pm Lunch

21. Presentation of results from working groups

3:00-5:00pm

22. Other items

5:00-5:30pm

23. Elect President, Vice-President and Rapporteur

5:30-6:00pm

24. Closing

6:00-6:30pm

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Annex 2

**Recommendation of the Consultative Committee for the strengthening and support
of the work of the focal points of the IAC**

CONSIDERING the problem in the flow of information related to the obligations to the Convention both within Parties and between the Focal Points and the Secretariat,

The Consultative Committee recommends Parties establish or, if similar structures with analogous functions already exist, strengthen national work groups to support Focal Points in the discharge of their tasks for the Convention.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Annex 3

**Draft Resolution presented by 2nd Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Resolution for the change in the terms of reference for the Consultative Committee
of Experts of the IAC approved by COP1CIT by Resolution COPCIT-005**

CONSIDERING that the Consultative Committee is a subsidiary body of the Convention, that carries out important functions, such as, the revision and analysis of the reports submitted by the Parties; examination of the reports related to the environmental, socio-economical and cultural impacts in the communities, of the measures foreseen in this Convention or; the evaluation of the effectiveness of the different measures to reduce the incidental capture and mortality of sea turtles;

GIVEN the need of maintaining full representation of the sectorial members of the Consultative Committee;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that some sectorial members of the Consultative Committee have not been able to attend the periodical meetings or have expressed the impossibility of attending these meetings; and

AWARE of the need to consolidate and strengthen the Consultative Committee of the Convention;

THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES TO:

1- Modify numeral 8, of the section of Procedures for the Sectorial Representatives, of the "Terms of Reference for the Consultive Committee of Experts of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles", as follows:

“8. – The sectorial representatives will be designated to the Consultive Committee for a period of four years.

For each sectorial representative designated, the parties, in conformity with the procedures established for their designation, will designate a substitute, who will replace the head representative in case of absence, withdrawal or death”.

2- In conformity with numeral 8 of the Terms of Reference in use, the designation of 8 of the 9 members, for a period of four years, is ratified, as:

Scientific Community

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Scott A. Eckert

Hedely J. Guada

Maria Angela Marcovaldi

Private and Productive Sector

Les Hodgson

José Kowalski

Non-Governmental Organizations

[Juan Carlos Cantú or Defenders of Wildlife

Carlos Drews or WWF

Sebastien Tröeng or CCC]

3- By this decision, if one of the representatives of the productive sector, designated by the parties to the Consultative Committee, the substitutes will be elected by the Conference of the Parties, in an extraordinary meeting, who will take the position for the next four years.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Annex 4

**Guidelines for follow-up the Resolution COP2CIT-001, “Resolution for the
Conservation of Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*)”**

I) Introduction

After reviewing the report by the *Dermochelys* Working Group of the Scientific Committee, the Consultative Committee makes the following declaration and recommendations to COP3.

It is evident that although the Parties have conducted actions towards the protection and conservation of *Dermochelys*, these activities have not been reported explicitly to comply with the Resolution COP2CIT-001. This has made it impossible to evaluate whether the Parties are fulfilling their obligations under the Resolution.

The Consultative Committee strongly urges the Parties to provide the necessary information on actions taken in response to Resolution COP2CIT-001. In such reports, which will be sent to the Secretariat at least 90 days before the meeting of the Scientific Committee, it is recommended to include at minimum, a description of the actions undertaken to achieve the following:

1. Control of consumptive use

1.a. Objective: Reduce the mortality generated by activities of extraction, use and trade of this species.

1.b. Priority Activities

- i. Develop monitoring activities that control anthropogenic impacts.
- ii. Apply the legislation efficiently, and where it is non-existent, establish and apply it.
- iii. Establish a certification program for commercial places that ceased the sale and trade of *Dermochelys* and other sea turtle products.
- iv. Develop training activities on the legal framework of sea turtles, at judicial and court levels.
- v. Involve coastal communities and other sectors of the society in training, control and monitoring activities on the trade of sea turtle products.

1.c. Those responsible:

- i. Ministries of Security and Governance (police and coast guards)
- ii. Ministries of the Environment, Fisheries and similar
- iii. Local governments and local organized groups.
- iv. Educational entities
- v. Judicial entities

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

2. Protection of nesting beaches

2.a. Objective: Preserve habitats critical to the reproduction of the leatherback turtle.

2.b. Priority Activities:

- i. Establish and apply guidelines on the public use of the coastal zone and marine areas nearby.
- ii. Prioritize nesting beaches and associated habitats in order to establish protection categories to places critical in the life cycle of this species.
- iii. Protect nesting females and nests.
- iv. Develop management activities of nests that will increase the hatching success rate, whenever it is necessary.
- v. Tackle direct impacts to nests and nesting females (e.g. domestic animals, etc).
- vi. Establish and strengthen working groups or national committees on specific issues to manage and address this problematic.

2.c. Those responsible:

- i. Ministries of the Environment and similar entities.
- ii. Organizations related to planning and development of coastal areas.
- iii. NGO's, academic and research centers.
- iv. Other government entities relevant to the topic
- v. Community groups.

3. Incidental capture

3.a. Objective: Evaluate and reduce mortality resulting from the fishing industry.

3.b. Priority Activities:

- i. Compile, systemize and analyze relevant information.
- ii. Promote the establishment of onboard observer programs.
- iii. Promote changes in fishing technology and the use of better practices.
- iv. Implement and/or develop relevant legislation.
- v. Develop case studies with an ecosystem approach on the impact of fisheries.
- vi. Guarantee that fishing vessels of non-party countries that operate in the area under the jurisdiction of the countries of the IAC adopt the measures established by the last.
- vii. Provide assistance and technical information to the non-party countries responsible for fishing fleets operating in areas where leatherbacks are found, through the Secretariat and cooperative agreements.

3.c. Those responsible:

- i. Authorities in charge of regulating fisheries.
- ii. Ministries of the Environment and similar entities.
- iii. Customs and ports of disembarkation.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

- iv. Private fisheries sector.
- v. Fishing communities.
- vi. NGOs.
- vii. Secretariat.

4. Alliances, synergies and agreements

4.a. Objective: Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the actions to be undertaken.

4.b. Priority Activities:

- i. Identify agreements and organizations who work in conformity with the purpose of the convention.
- ii. Develop mutual agreements with such organizations.
- iii. Execute and strengthen communal projects.
- iv. Establish links with private sectors for funding and logistical support.
- v. Develop lobbying actions in order to attract non-party countries to join the IAC.
- vi. Facilitate other agreements between Parties and non-party countries in search of achieving the goals of the IAC.
- vii. Seek that the Parties develop agreements and internal cooperation actions that aim to achieve the goals of this plan.

4.c. Those responsible:

- i. Secretariat.
- ii. Focal Points.
- iii. Foreign Affairs Offices.
- iv. Relevant ministries.
- v. NGOs

II.B Follow up mechanisms:

This group proposes that the Parties establish the following follow-up mechanism to evaluate the fulfillment of this Conservation Plan. The indicators to be used and the assessment matrix should be integrated in the format of the annual report, in such a way that the progress resulting from this resolution can be easily assessed.

1. Compliance: level of compliance with the objectives and activities of each component of this Plan.

- ▶ 100% compliance
- ▶ 75% compliance
- ▶ 50% compliance
- ▶ 25% compliance

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

2. Scope of application: level of the application of these activities, including all nesting beaches and their related issues, achieving the protection of this species in all pertinent national areas.

- ▶ 100% of the necessary level reached
- ▶ 75% of the necessary level reached
- ▶ 50% of the necessary level reached
- ▶ 25% of the necessary level reached

3. Institutional involvement: level of involvement (information to third parties, their participation and communal actions) of the institutions responsible of the specific topic; it measures the level of effort for working in alliance, to involve various levels, instances and to manage the topic from various fronts, if necessary

- ▶ 100% of the institutions involved
- ▶ 75% of the institutions involved
- ▶ 50% of the institutions involved
- ▶ 25% of the institutions involved

4. Involvement of civil society: level of involvement and participation of key stakeholders in society, measures the number of key stakeholders who participate in the conservation actions established by this Plan, as compared to the number who participated in conservation actions before the Plan was initiated.

- ▶ 100% of the key stakeholders are participating.
- ▶ 75% of the key stakeholders are participating
- ▶ 50% of the key stakeholders are participating
- ▶ 25% of the key stakeholders are participating

5. Resource availability: Determine availability of resources assigned by the Party, or its level of effort in the acquisition of these funds; it also determines the efforts towards the administrative needs of the Plan.

- ▶ 100% of the funding available
- ▶ 75% of the funding available
- ▶ 50% of the funding available
- ▶ 25% of the funding available

6. Reduction of mortality: refers to the magnitude or quantity of organisms of all life stages that have been saved due to the execution of the actions proposed in this Plan.

- ▶ 100% reduction of the mortality recorded prior to the Plan
- ▶ 75% reduction of the mortality recorded prior to the Plan
- ▶ 50% reduction of the mortality recorded prior to the Plan
- ▶ 25% reduction of the mortality recorded prior to the Plan

	Compliance	Scope of application	Institutional Involvement	Involvement of civil	Availability of resurces	Reduction of
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**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

				society		mortality
100%						
75%						
50%						
25%						

II. C. Verifiers: these verifiers and others that the Parties consider necessary should be included as part of the national report.

Number of females and nests protected.

Area of critical habitat recovered.

Percentage of beaches protected and kilometers covered.

Percentage of beaches free from light pollution

Percentage of beaches free from other sources of contamination

Percentage of control and monitoring activities executed during the period.

Percentage of J hooks removed

Percentage of fishing vessels with onboard observers

Quantity of printed material produced

Percentage of educational activities produced

Percentage of training activities executed

Percentage of people participating in the activities of the Plan

Percentage of local groups participating in the execution of the Plan

Other verifiers: _____

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Annex 5

Draft Resolution for IAC COP3
*Conservation of the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)*

RECOGNIZING that the hawksbill turtle is or has been an important component of many marine tropical ecosystems and is valued culturally, socio-economically, ecologically, and scientifically;

CONSIDERING that the hawksbill turtle has a broad distribution within the range of action of the Convention;

RECOGNIZING that the hawksbill turtle has a complex life cycle that requires the protection of terrestrial, coastal and marine habitats, in some instances involving the jurisdictional waters of several countries;

CONSIDERING that although the species is classified globally as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), some populations in the Greater Caribbean and Western Atlantic are recovering after several decades of protective measures;

NOTICING that historically the main cause of the hawksbill turtle's decline has been due to over-exploitation to satisfy national and international markets principally for eggs, meat and carapaces in the former, and carapaces in the latter;

RECOGNIZING the persistence of several threats such as incidental capture in fisheries and increasing disturbance of critical feeding and nesting habitats by coastal development, erosion, seismic surveys, pollution, sponge diseases, coral bleaching, and eutrophication, among others;

CONSIDERING that it took many decades of intense conservation and management efforts to achieve a significant level of nesting in the hawksbill in the Yucatan Peninsula;

CONSIDERING that from 2000 to 2004 there was a decrease in hawksbill nesting activity in the main nesting areas of the Yucatan Peninsula, without a clear understanding of the causes of this phenomenon;

CONCERNED that the decline of the Yucatán population may be repeated in other localities in the region unless the causes are discovered and effective mitigation measures are identified;

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

**THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA
TURTLES RESOLVES TO:**

EXHORT the Parties to promote synergies between the IAC and CITES, the SPAW Protocol, CMS, WHMSI, FAO, other pertinent treaties and international organizations, and regional fisheries bodies in order to facilitate regional dialogue on management and conservation of the hawksbill turtle and its habitats;

URGE the Parties to strengthen monitoring of the use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products, to enforce pertinent legislation and to stop illegal trade;

EXHORT the Parties to support and strengthen the research and monitoring activities required to improve the scientific basis of conservation measures for the hawksbill turtle, particularly in genetics, migratory behavior, location and conservation status of foraging habitats and food prey, population dynamics in feeding sites, interactions with fisheries, social and economic impacts of conservation measures, and integrity of its nesting beaches;

URGE the Parties to evaluate and mitigate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in their jurisdictional waters in accordance with recommendations emanating from FAO's Technical Meeting on the conservation of marine turtles held in Bangkok 2004 and adopted by the 26th Session of Fisheries Committee of FAO (COFI) ;

EXHORT the Parties to apply the Precautionary Approach until possible impacts can be evaluated and mitigated on seismic surveys near priority marine habitats of the hawksbill turtle;

URGE the Parties to strengthen protection of important hawksbill nesting and foraging habitats by declaration of protected areas and the regulation of anthropogenic activities adversely impacting these habitats;

SUPPORT a working group within the Scientific Committee to keep the Conference of the Parties informed on the status of the species and its habitats in the Area of the Convention;

PROMOTE the exchange of technical capacity and collaborative research on the hawksbill turtle on their habitats among Parties as well as non Parties and other involved organizations in the Area of the Convention, and;

SUPPORT the organization of a workshop with recognized experts to evaluate the current condition of hawksbill populations in the Greater Caribbean and Western

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Atlantic, and present the best available methods of research and conservation for the species in its marine habitats.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Annex 6

**Proposed Resolution for the Third Conference of the Parties
Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles**

Considering the possible impacts of fishing on sea turtle populations caused by incidental capture and mortality;

Taking into account that some Parties of the IAC Convention are also Parties to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which have adopted measures to regulate the impact of tuna fisheries on sea turtles, such as Resolutions IATTC C-04-05 (Modified) of the year 2005 and C-04-07 of the year 2004, and Resolution ICCAT 03-11 of 2003.

Acknowledging that the Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the IATTC Incidental Capture Working Group reports incidental capture of sea turtles and their mortality in longline fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean basin;

Taking into account that the Fisheries Committee (COFI) of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) approved the Technical Consultation on sea turtle conservation and fisheries during their 26th session held in Bangkok of 2004 and urged their members and the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMO) to immediately apply the recommendations outlined in the document Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality Caused by Fishing;

Taking into account the Resolution of the International Sea Turtle Society, adopted by consensus at the 26th Symposium on April 7th of 2006 in Greece, supporting the adoption and implementation of the guidelines of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to reduce the mortality of sea turtles induced by fisheries operations;

Considering that the Parties have established the mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) for shrimp trawling in their respective legislations and that the use of such devices has been effective in reducing incidental capture of sea turtles in trawl fisheries;

Whereas some of the Parties are carrying out experiments with circular hooks and baits in longline fisheries that have shown to reduce incidental capture and mortality of sea turtles, and;

Considering that these actions are in agreement with the objectives of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles;

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

The Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles resolve to:

- I. Adopt the recommendations proposed in Annex I “Guidelines to evaluating and mitigating the impact the impact of sea turtle interactions with fisheries” according to the abilities and possibilities of the Parties.
- II. Put the Secretariat in charge of the management actions which are relevant and needed to sign agreements and/or Memorandums of Understanding with multilateral regional organisms involved in the management, conservation and protection of fishing resources.
- III. Request that the Party States send copies of any technical documents related to sea turtles that are sent to the multilateral organisms to the Convention’s Secretariat.
- IV. Instruct the Secretariat of the Convention to request interested non-Party states who wish to cooperate, to share available data of incidental captures of sea turtles in fisheries.
- V. To promote the gathering, communication and development of productive and close bonds between governmental, fishing and scientific sectors, non-governmental organizations and the community in general, interested in the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats.

ANNEX I

Recommendations from the Consultative Committee on the document “Guidelines for evaluating and mitigating interactions between fisheries and sea turtles”.

This document presents technical elements that provide support to the Parties for the execution of actions or the adoption of strategies aimed at reducing, eliminating, and/or mitigating to the extent possible, incidental capture of sea turtles by interaction with different fisheries. In this sense, advances made by other organizations and international conventions that promote sustainable fishing practices, such as FAO, CIAT, ICCAT among others, are incorporated in this document, and general guidelines are provided, as tools that may be used by the Parties in the planning of research at a national level. The recommendations include specific actions to characterize fisheries and its impacts on sea turtles, and their priorities; estimates of fishing efforts and the variables that must be taken into account to describe it and guidelines for the development of national programs of on-board observers. Standardizing information generated from fisheries as a tool that leads to an integral focus at a regional level is promoted, as is the collection of information from various sources and countries. Finally, the adoption of a series of

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

actions to mitigate incidental captures, as well as a capacity-building on priority issues identified are proposed, for the implementation of the measures suggested.

I) General Guidelines

1. Promote awareness and determine mechanisms through which the fisheries sector adopts practices towards sustainable fishing.
2. Design standardized forms for the data collection about the interaction between fisheries and sea turtles.
3. Identify and evaluate the impact of fisheries on specific sea turtle populations.
4. Define strategies that allow the reduction of the impact of fisheries on the sea turtle populations.
5. Locate areas and carry out research of critical importance for the development of sea turtles at different life stages.
6. Develop alternative technologies, taking into account the impacts over the species.
7. Standardize and distribute the protocols for the handling, recovery and release of sea turtles.
8. Identify information gaps.
9. Establish and document procedures for the follow-up and evaluation of the efficiency of the measures for reducing incidental captures of sea turtles.

II) Themes and recommendations for future actions

1. Characterization of fisheries and its impacts on the sea turtles

It is considered that each Party must characterize and prioritize its fisheries in relation to the impact that they may cause to the sea turtle populations, in national waters, or any other areas where their fishing fleets may operate.

2. On-board Observers Program

The Convention will support and encourage the development of on-board observers programs that will identify the interactions between sea turtles and fisheries. For this purpose, existing programs as well as those established in the framework of regional fisheries organizations will be supported.

The on-board observer is the person in charge of the collection of biological/fisheries data, including the interaction between sea turtles and fisheries.

An on-board observers program will be directed to the collection of biology-fisheries data, considering the interaction between fisheries and sea turtles, and will be oriented towards:

- a. Estimations of incidental capture and the mortality induced by each type of fisheries and the search of the representativeness of this parameter in the fleets. The information generated will allow the justification of future actions to be

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

adopted by each fishery and will depend on the level of knowledge and information available.

- b. Support projects that contemplate changes from traditional fisheries practices to those that reduce incidental capture of sea turtles.

3. Research

Direct the research towards the following themes:

- a. Modification of fishing techniques for the reduction of incidental capture and mortality of sea turtles;
- b. Studies of the migration, behavior and ecology of target species and incidentally caught species;
- c. Studies of the location of high productivity and areas where sea turtles concentrate and use for migration, and its relation with fisheries;
- d. Studies of the relative abundance in different fisheries;
- e. Search for specific information about cases of incidental capture of sea turtles by artisan fisheries;
- f. Standardization of data in fisheries, established by the Scientific Committee.

4. Mitigation/Application of measures

Research and experiments must be continued in order to develop mitigation measures. Likewise, increase awareness and motivation for the implementation of sustainable and responsible fishing practices and the conservation of sea turtles.

5. Training.

Cross-cutting issues to be included in all activities.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Annex 7

**Proposal of an Agreement presented by the 2nd Meeting of the Consultative
Committee for the Parties to turn in their list of TEDs currently used.**

The Consultative Committee proposes to the Third Conference of the Parties the following agreement:

“To comply with the requirements established in Annex III, paragraphs 3, 7 (a & b), and 8 of the Text of the Convention, the Parties will send to the Secretariat within a month after the end of the Third Conference of the Parties the TEDs in use according to the rules established in their national legislation.

With the information provided, the Secretariat will make an initial list of the TEDs recommended by the Convention, which will be up-dated in the annual reports and evaluated by the Scientific and Consultative Committees.”

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Annex 8

**Report of the Working Group on Exceptions of the 2nd Meeting of the Consultative
Committee**

Participants of the Working Group on Exceptions:

Juan Pablo Suazo (Honduras), Hiram Ordoñez (Guatemala), Julio Maaz (Belice), Gael Almeida (TRAFFIC), Paul Hoetjes (Antillas Holandesas), Aída Peña (México), Julio Montes de Oca (Secretariat)

Objective:

Take the discussions of the 1st Meeting of Consultative Committee and give specific recommendations to COP3, while also taking into consideration the case of Honduras as a “real life” example of situations arising from use of the resource.

Preamble

The working group interprets that according to Annex IV.e, Parties have the obligation to give a detailed description of any exceptions allowed.

An exception cannot be permitted in cases where national regulations allowing extractive use are non-existent. In this instance, the Convention would not accept such case as an exception.

Parties should inform as part of the Annual Report about any extractive use allowed under national regulations, in accordance with Articles IV.a and b, and Annex IV.e.

Therefore, every Annual Report should inform about the existence of all exceptions. The Party must also indicate explicitly in the Report when no exceptions exist.

Procedure for cases where exceptions exist

1. According to Article IV.3(a & b) and Annex IV.e, the Party that allows an exception will present said exception to the Convention in the Annual Report, according to the general guidelines established by the Conference of the Parties so that the subsidiary bodies can emit the relevant recommendations and assess if the scheme of use in question undermines the objectives of the Convention.

2. The Secretariat will review the compliance with the established guidelines. If these are met, it will deliver the information to the subsidiary bodies for their revision and analysis. In cases where the guidelines are not met, the Secretariat will request the Party any additional information that is relevant.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

3. The Scientific Committee will analyze the information on the exception. If necessary, the Committee can request additional information from the Party through the Secretariat, and eventually report to the Consultative Committee and the interested Party.

4. The Consultative Committee will give its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

5. If any of the subsidiary bodies determine that the exception undermines the objectives of the Convention the Consultative Committee, as established in Article VII.2(a-e), can recommend that the COP request the Party in question to carry out immediate remedial measures that resolve the concerns of the Committees.

6. Based on the recommendations of the Consultative Committee, the Conference of the Parties will evaluate if the exception in question upholds the objectives of the Convention, in accordance with Article II.

7. The Party presenting the exception is requested to follow up on any recommendations emerged from the COP.

8. The interested Party must report any changes in the information presented in Annual Reports subsequent to the presentation of the exception.

9. The Secretariat will follow up on the inter-sessional compliance with the recommendations and report to the subsidiary bodies, which in turn will inform the Conference of the Parties

Basic elements to be included for the presentation of exceptions:

Specific elements for the presentation of exceptions will be developed in detail by the Scientific Committee, based on the best available scientific information.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Introduction (summary, 2 pages maximum)
- Background, including:
 - Location
 - Type of use (description)
 - Legal framework in place

II. BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

The information to be presented must sustain that the use does not undermine the objectives of the Convention. This must include, among others:

- Information on populations present
- Geographic distribution
- Research carried out or in progress

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

- Population tendencies
- Description of the ecosystem

III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INFORMATION

The Parties must sustain that the use upholds what is established in Article IV.3(a). This information can include, among others:

- Socio-economic and cultural characterization of the beneficiaries
- Characterization of the traditional/cultural use in place
- Marketing of the product, if carried out (Commercialization chain, income generated for immediate users, and distribution pattern of benefits, among others)

IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN

In compliance with Article IV.3(b)i, Parties presenting an exception must formulate and present a Management Plan specific to the sea turtle resource, which establishes limits on extractive use. It is recommended that the Management Plan include, as a minimum, the following information or specifications:

- Conservation, control and protection measures to be implemented
- Monitoring and evaluation (indicators and verifiers)
- Resource scheme of use and methodology
- Period established for use of the resource
- Impact of use of the target species and other species of sea turtles at local and regional level
- Limitations, obstacles and threats
- Minimum 5-year duration
- Bibliography

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Annex 9

**Recommendation of the Consultative Committee in the development of
collaboration between the IAC and the SPAW Protocol**

ACKNOWLEDGING the migratory habits of sea turtles;

RECOGNIZING the need to gather information on sea turtles from other sources in addition to the parties to the IAC;

ACKNOWLEDGING the fact that insular Caribbean countries in particular are under-represented among the parties to the IAC;

RECOGNIZING that many of those countries are party to the SPAW protocol;

COGNIZANT of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the IAC secretariat and the SPAW secretariat to be discussed during COP3IAC;

AWARE of the need to seek congruence in the reporting format of the various multilateral environmental agreements in order to report efficiently and without duplicating efforts; and,

AWARE that the SPAW protocol is in the process of developing a format for its own reporting needs;

**THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES:**

REQUEST the IAC Secretariat collaborate with the secretariat of the SPAW Protocol in the development of a compatible reporting format between the organizations.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Annex 10

**Recommendation of the Consultative Committee for the establishment of
collaboration with other countries and entities**

RECOGNIZING the limited means available to carry out the actions needed to further the objectives of the IAC;

ACKNOWLEDGING the expertise available in various countries, research institutions, and non-governmental organizations, among others;

**THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES:**

REQUEST the Secretariat to invite such countries, research institutions, non-governmental organizations interested in furthering the work of the IAC, to seek a working relationship with the IAC, providing expertise or basic facilities for a regional activity centre or networks focused on specific areas of work under the IAC.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

Annex 11

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**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

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**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

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**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

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**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee

Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

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**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

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**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

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**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES**

Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee
Mazatlán, México – September 21-23, 2006

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