

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 408

AN ACT

To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to support the International Dolphin Conservation Program in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

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To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to support the International Dolphin Conservation Program in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “International Dolphin Conservation Program Act”.

4 (b) REFERENCES TO MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION
5 ACT.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever
6 in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
7 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
8 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
9 section or other provision of the Marine Mammal Protec-
10 tion Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.).

11 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS.**

12 (a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are—

13 (1) to give effect to the Declaration of Panama,
14 signed October 4, 1995, by the Governments of
15 Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France,
16 Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Spain, the United
17 States of America, Vanuatu, and Venezuela, includ-
18 ing the establishment of the International Dolphin
19 Conservation Program, relating to the protection of
20 dolphins and other species, and the conservation and
21 management of tuna in the eastern tropical Pacific
22 Ocean;

23 (2) to recognize that nations fishing for tuna in
24 the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean have achieved sig-
25 nificant reductions in dolphin mortality associated
26 with that fishery; and

1 (3) to eliminate the ban on imports of tuna
2 from those nations that are in compliance with the
3 International Dolphin Conservation Program.

4 (b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The nations that fish for tuna in the east-
6 ern tropical Pacific Ocean have achieved significant
7 reductions in dolphin mortalities associated with the
8 purse seine fishery from hundreds of thousands an-
9 nually to fewer than 5,000 annually.

10 (2) The provisions of the Marine Mammal Pro-
11 tection Act of 1972 that impose a ban on imports
12 from nations that fish for tuna in the eastern tropi-
13 cal Pacific Ocean have served as an incentive to re-
14 duce dolphin mortalities.

15 (3) Tuna canners and processors of the United
16 States have led the canning and processing industry
17 in promoting a dolphin-safe tuna market.

18 (4) 12 signatory nations to the Declaration of
19 Panama, including the United States, agreed under
20 that Declaration to require that the total annual dol-
21 phin mortality in the purse seine fishery for yellow-
22 fin tuna in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean not ex-
23 ceed 5,000, with a commitment and objective to pro-
24 gressively reduce dolphin mortality to a level ap-
25 proaching zero through the setting of annual limits.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 3 (16 U.S.C. 1362) is amended by adding
3 at the end the following new paragraphs:

4 “(28) The term ‘International Dolphin Con-
5 servation Program’ means the international program
6 established by the agreement signed in La Jolla,
7 California, in June 1992, as formalized, modified,
8 and enhanced in accordance with the Declaration of
9 Panama, that requires—

10 “(A) that the total annual dolphin mortal-
11 ity in the purse seine fishery for yellowfin tuna
12 in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean not exceed
13 5,000, with the commitment and objective to
14 progressively reduce dolphin mortality to levels
15 approaching zero through the setting of annual
16 limits;

17 “(B) the establishment of a per-stock per-
18 year mortality limit for dolphins, for each year
19 through the year 2000, of between 0.2 percent
20 and 0.1 percent of the minimum population es-
21 timate;

22 “(C) beginning with the year 2001, that
23 the per-stock per-year mortality of dolphin not
24 exceed 0.1 percent of the minimum population
25 estimate;

1 “(D) that if the mortality limit set forth in
2 subparagraph (A) is exceeded, all sets on dol-
3 phins shall cease for the fishing year concerned;

4 “(E) that if the mortality limit set forth in
5 subparagraph (B) or (C) is exceeded sets on
6 such stock and any mixed schools containing
7 members of such stock shall cease for that fish-
8 ing year;

9 “(F) in the case of subparagraph (B), to
10 conduct a scientific review and assessment in
11 1998 of progress toward the year 2000 objec-
12 tive and consider recommendations as appro-
13 priate; and

14 “(G) in the case of subparagraph (C), to
15 conduct a scientific review and assessment re-
16 garding that stock or those stocks and consider
17 further recommendations;

18 “(H) the establishment of a per-vessel
19 maximum annual dolphin mortality limit con-
20 sistent with the established per-year mortality
21 caps; and

22 “(I) the provision of a system of incentives
23 to vessel captains to continue to reduce dolphin
24 mortality, with the goal of eliminating dolphin
25 mortality.

1 “(29) The term ‘Declaration of Panama’ means
2 the declaration signed in Panama City, Republic of
3 Panama, on October 4, 1995.”.

4 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE I.**

5 (a) **AUTHORIZATION FOR INCIDENTAL TAKING.**—
6 Section 101(a)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1371(a)(2)) is amended as
7 follows:

8 (1) By inserting after the first sentence “Such
9 authorizations may also be granted under title III
10 with respect to the yellowfin tuna fishery of the east-
11 ern tropical Pacific Ocean, subject to regulations
12 prescribed under that title by the Secretary without
13 regard to section 103.”.

14 (2) By striking the semicolon in the second sen-
15 tence and all that follows through “practicable”.

16 (b) **DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.**—Section 101(a) (16
17 U.S.C. 1371(a)) is amended by striking so much of para-
18 graph (2) as follows subparagraph (A) and as precedes
19 subparagraph (C) and inserting:

20 “(B) in the case of yellowfin tuna har-
21 vested with purse seine nets in the eastern trop-
22 ical Pacific Ocean, and products therefrom, to
23 be exported to the United States, shall require
24 that the government of the exporting nation
25 provide documentary evidence that—

1 “(i) the tuna or products therefrom
2 were not banned from importation under
3 this paragraph before the effective date of
4 the International Dolphin Conservation
5 Program Act;

6 “(ii) the tuna or products therefrom
7 were harvested after the effective date of
8 the International Dolphin Conservation
9 Program Act by vessels of a nation which
10 participates in the International Dolphin
11 Conservation Program, such harvesting na-
12 tion is either a member of the Inter-Amer-
13 ican Tropical Tuna Commission or has ini-
14 tiated (and within 6 months thereafter
15 completed) all steps (in accordance with
16 article V, paragraph 3 of the Convention
17 establishing the Inter-American Tropical
18 Tuna Commission) necessary to become a
19 member of that organization;

20 “(iii) such nation is meeting the obli-
21 gations of the International Dolphin Con-
22 servation Program and the obligations of
23 membership in the Inter-American Tropi-
24 cal Tuna Commission, including all finan-
25 cial obligations;

1 “(iv) the total dolphin mortality per-
2 mitted under the International Dolphin
3 Conservation Program will not exceed
4 5,000 in 1997, or in any year thereafter,
5 consistent with the commitment and objec-
6 tive of progressively reducing dolphin mor-
7 tality to levels approaching zero through
8 the setting of annual limits and the goal of
9 eliminating dolphin mortality; and

10 “(v) the tuna or products therefrom
11 were harvested after the effective date of
12 the International Dolphin Conservation
13 Program Act by vessels of a nation which
14 participates in the International Dolphin
15 Conservation Program, and such harvest-
16 ing nation has not vetoed the participation
17 by any other nation in such Program.”.

18 (c) ACCEPTANCE OF EVIDENCE COVERAGE.—Section
19 101 (16 U.S.C. 1371) is amended by adding at the end
20 the following new subsections:

21 “(d) ACCEPTANCE OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.—
22 The Secretary shall not accept documentary evidence re-
23 ferred to in section 101(a)(2)(B) as satisfactory proof for
24 purposes of section 101(a)(2) if—

1 “(1) the government of the harvesting nation
2 does not provide directly or authorize the Inter-
3 American Tropical Tuna Commission to release com-
4 plete and accurate information to the Secretary to
5 allow a determination of compliance with the Inter-
6 national Dolphin Conservation Program;

7 “(2) the government of the harvesting nation
8 does not provide directly or authorize the Inter-
9 American Tropical Tuna Commission to release com-
10 plete and accurate information to the Secretary in a
11 timely manner for the purposes of tracking and veri-
12 fying compliance with the minimum requirements es-
13 tablished by the Secretary in regulations promul-
14 gated under subsection (f) of the Dolphin Protection
15 Consumer Information Act (16 U.S.C. 1385(f)); or

16 “(3) after taking into consideration this infor-
17 mation, findings of the Inter-American Tropical
18 Tuna Commission, and any other relevant informa-
19 tion, including information that a nation is consist-
20 ently failing to take enforcement actions on viola-
21 tions which diminish the effectiveness of the Inter-
22 national Dolphin Conservation Program, the Sec-
23 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of State,
24 finds that the harvesting nation is not in compliance

1 with the International Dolphin Conservation Pro-
2 gram.

3 “(e) EXEMPTION.—The provisions of this Act shall
4 not apply to a citizen of the United States who incidentally
5 takes any marine mammal during fishing operations out-
6 side the United States exclusive economic zone (as defined
7 in section 3(6) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and
8 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802(6))) when employed on
9 a foreign fishing vessel of a harvesting nation which is
10 in compliance with the International Dolphin Conservation
11 Program.”.

12 (d) ANNUAL PERMITS.—Section 104(h) is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 “(h) ANNUAL PERMITS.—(1) Consistent with the
15 regulations prescribed pursuant to section 103 and the re-
16 quirements of section 101, the Secretary may issue an an-
17 nual permit to a United States vessel for the taking of
18 such marine mammals, and shall issue regulations to cover
19 the use of any such annual permits.

20 “(2) Annual permits described in paragraph (1) for
21 the incidental taking of marine mammals in the course
22 of commercial purse seine fishing for yellowfin tuna in the
23 eastern tropical Pacific Ocean shall be governed by section
24 304, subject to the regulations issued pursuant to section
25 302.”.

1 (e) REVISIONS AND FUNDING SOURCES.—Section
2 108(a)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1378(a)(2)) is amended as follows:

3 (1) By striking “and” at the end of subpara-
4 graph (A).

5 (2) By adding at the end the following:

6 “(C) discussions to expeditiously negotiate
7 revisions to the Convention for the Establish-
8 ment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Com-
9 mission (1 UST 230, TIAS 2044) which will in-
10 corporate conservation and management provi-
11 sions agreed to by the nations which have
12 signed the Declaration of Panama;

13 “(D) a revised schedule of annual con-
14 tributions to the expenses of the Inter-American
15 Tropical Tuna Commission that is equitable to
16 participating nations; and

17 “(E) discussions with those countries par-
18 ticipating or likely to participate in the Inter-
19 national Dolphin Conservation Program, to
20 identify alternative sources of funds to ensure
21 that needed research and other measures bene-
22 fitting effective protection of dolphins, other ma-
23 rine species, and the marine ecosystem;”.

24 (f) REPEAL OF NAS REVIEW.—Section 110 (16
25 U.S.C. 1380) is amended as follows:

1 (1) By redesignating subsection (a)(1) as sub-
2 section (a).

3 (2) By striking subsection (a)(2).

4 (g) LABELING OF TUNA PRODUCTS.—Paragraph (1)
5 of section 901(d) of the Dolphin Protection Consumer In-
6 formation Act (16 U.S.C. 1385(d)(1)) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 “(1) It is a violation of section 5 of the Federal Trade
9 Commission Act for any producer, importer, exporter, dis-
10 tributor, or seller of any tuna product that is exported
11 from or offered for sale in the United States to include
12 on the label of that product the term ‘Dolphin Safe’ or
13 any other term or symbol that falsely claims or suggests
14 that the tuna contained in the product was harvested
15 using a method of fishing that is not harmful to dolphins
16 if the product contains any of the following:

17 “(A) Tuna harvested on the high seas by a ves-
18 sel engaged in driftnet fishing.

19 “(B) Tuna harvested in the eastern tropical Pa-
20 cific Ocean by a vessel using purse seine nets unless
21 the tuna is considered dolphin safe under paragraph
22 (2).

23 “(C) Tuna harvested outside the eastern tropi-
24 cal Pacific Ocean by a vessel using purse seine nets

1 unless the tuna is considered dolphin safe under
2 paragraph (3).

3 “(D) Tuna harvested by a vessel engaged in
4 any fishery identified by the Secretary pursuant to
5 paragraph (4) as having a regular and significant in-
6 cidental mortality of marine mammals.”.

7 (h) DOLPHIN SAFE TUNA.—(1) Paragraph (2) of
8 section 901(d) of the Dolphin Protection Consumer Infor-
9 mation Act (16 U.S.C. 1385(d)(2)) is amended to read
10 as follows:

11 “(2)(A) For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), a tuna
12 product that contains tuna harvested in the eastern tropi-
13 cal Pacific Ocean by a vessel using purse seine nets is dol-
14 phin safe if the vessel is of a type and size that the Sec-
15 retary has determined, consistent with the International
16 Dolphin Conservation Program, is not capable of deploy-
17 ing its purse seine nets on or to encircle dolphins, or if
18 the product meets the requirements of subparagraph (B).

19 “(B) For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), a tuna prod-
20 uct that contains tuna harvested in the eastern tropical
21 Pacific Ocean by a vessel using purse seine nets is dolphin
22 safe if the product is accompanied by a written statement
23 executed by the captain of the vessel which harvested the
24 tuna certifying that no dolphins were killed during the sets

1 in which the tuna were caught and the product is accom-
2 panied by a written statement executed by—

3 “(i) the Secretary or the Secretary’s designee;

4 “(ii) a representative of the Inter-American
5 Tropical Tuna Commission; or

6 “(iii) an authorized representative of a partici-
7 pating nation whose national program meets the re-
8 quirements of the International Dolphin Conserva-
9 tion Program,

10 which states that there was an observer approved by the
11 International Dolphin Conservation Program on board the
12 vessel during the entire trip and documents that no dol-
13 phins were killed during the sets in which the tuna con-
14 cerned were caught.

15 “(C) The statements referred to in clauses (i), (ii),
16 and (iii) of subparagraph (B) shall be valid only if they
17 are endorsed in writing by each exporter, importer, and
18 processor of the product, and if such statements and en-
19 dorsements comply with regulations promulgated by the
20 Secretary which would provide for the verification of tuna
21 products as dolphin safe.”.

22 (2) Subsection (d) of section 901 of the Dolphin Pro-
23 tection Consumer Information Act (16 U.S.C. 1385(d)) is
24 amended by adding the following new paragraphs at the
25 end thereof:

1 “(3) For purposes of paragraph (1)(C), tuna or a
2 tuna product that contains tuna harvested outside the
3 eastern tropical Pacific Ocean by a vessel using purse
4 seine nets is dolphin safe if—

5 “(A) it is accompanied by a written statement
6 executed by the captain of the vessel certifying that
7 no purse seine net was intentionally deployed on or
8 to encircle dolphins during the particular voyage on
9 which the tuna was harvested; or

10 “(B) in any fishery in which the Secretary has
11 determined that a regular and significant association
12 occurs between marine mammals and tuna, it is ac-
13 companied by a written statement executed by the
14 captain of the vessel and an observer, certifying that
15 no purse seine net was intentionally deployed on or
16 to encircle marine mammals during the particular
17 voyage on which the tuna was harvested.

18 “(4) For purposes of paragraph (1)(D), tuna or a
19 tuna product that contains tuna harvested in a fishery
20 identified by the Secretary as having a regular and signifi-
21 cant incidental mortality or serious injury of marine mam-
22 mals is dolphin safe if it is accompanied by a written state-
23 ment executed by the captain of the vessel and, where de-
24 termined to be practicable by the Secretary, an observer
25 participating in a national or international program ac-

1 ceptable to the Secretary certifying that no marine mam-
2 mals were killed in the course of the fishing operation or
3 operations in which the tuna were caught.

4 “(5) No tuna product may be labeled with any ref-
5 erence to dolphins, porpoises, or marine mammals, unless
6 such product is labeled as dolphin safe in accordance with
7 this subsection.”.

8 (i) TRACKING AND VERIFICATION.—Subsection (f) of
9 section 901 of the Dolphin Protection Consumer Informa-
10 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 1385(f)) is amended to read as fol-
11 lows:

12 “(f) TRACKING AND VERIFICATION.—The Secretary,
13 in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall
14 issue regulations to implement subsection (d) not later
15 than 3 months after the date of enactment of the Inter-
16 national Dolphin Conservation Program Act. In the devel-
17 opment of these regulations, the Secretary shall establish
18 appropriate procedures for ensuring the confidentiality of
19 proprietary information the submission of which is vol-
20 untary or mandatory. Such regulations shall, consistent
21 with international efforts and in coordination with the
22 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, establish a
23 domestic and international tracking and verification pro-
24 gram that provides for the effective tracking of tuna la-

1 beled under subsection (d), including but not limited to
2 each of the following:

3 “(1) Specific regulations and provisions ad-
4 dressing the use of weight calculation for purposes
5 of tracking tuna caught, landed, processed, and ex-
6 ported.

7 “(2) Additional measures to enhance observer
8 coverage if necessary.

9 “(3) Well location and procedures for monitor-
10 ing, certifying, and sealing holds above and below
11 deck or other equally effective methods of tracking
12 and verifying tuna labeled under subsection (d).

13 “(4) Reporting receipt of and database storage
14 of radio and facsimile transmittals from fishing ves-
15 sels containing information related to the tracking
16 and verification of tuna, and the definition of sets.

17 “(5) Shore-based verification and tracking
18 throughout the transshipment and canning process
19 by means of Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commis-
20 sion trip records or otherwise.

21 “(6) Provisions for annual audits and spot
22 checks for caught, landed, and processed tuna prod-
23 ucts labeled in accordance with subsection (d).

24 “(7) The provision of timely access to data re-
25 quired under this subsection by the Secretary from

1 harvesting nations to undertake the actions required
2 in paragraph (6) of this subsection.”.

3 **SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE III.**

4 (a) **HEADING.**—The heading of title III is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 **“TITLE III—INTERNATIONAL**
7 **DOLPHIN CONSERVATION**
8 **PROGRAM”.**

9 (b) **FINDINGS.**—Section 301 (16 U.S.C. 1411) is
10 amended as follows:

11 (1) In subsection (a), by amending paragraph
12 (4) to read as follows:

13 “(4) Nations harvesting yellowfin tuna in the
14 eastern tropical Pacific Ocean have demonstrated
15 their willingness to participate in appropriate multi-
16 lateral agreements to reduce, with the goal of elimi-
17 nating, dolphin mortality in that fishery. Recognition
18 of the International Dolphin Conservation Program
19 will assure that the existing trend of reduced dolphin
20 mortality continues; that individual stocks of dol-
21 phins are adequately protected; and that the goal of
22 eliminating all dolphin mortality continues to be a
23 priority.”.

24 (2) In subsection (b), by amending paragraphs
25 (2) and (3) to read as follows:

1 “(2) support the International Dolphin Con-
2 servation Program and efforts within the Program
3 to reduce, with the goal of eliminating, the mortality
4 referred to in paragraph (1);

5 “(3) ensure that the market of the United
6 States does not act as an incentive to the harvest of
7 tuna caught with driftnets or caught by purse seine
8 vessels in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean that are
9 not operating in compliance with the International
10 Dolphin Conservation Program;”.

11 (c) INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PRO-
12 GRAM.—Section 302 (16 U.S.C. 1412) is amended to read
13 as follows:

14 **“SEC. 302. AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.**

15 “(a) REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAM REGU-
16 LATIONS.—(1) The Secretary shall issue regulations to
17 implement the International Dolphin Conservation Pro-
18 gram.

19 “(2)(A) Not later than 3 months after the date of
20 enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue regula-
21 tions to authorize and govern the incidental taking of ma-
22 rine mammals in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, in-
23 cluding any species of marine mammal designated as de-
24 pleted under this Act but not listed as endangered or
25 threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16

1 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), by vessels of the United States par-
2 ticipating in the International Dolphin Conservation Pro-
3 gram.

4 “(B) Regulations issued under this section shall in-
5 clude provisions—

6 “(i) requiring observers on each vessel;

7 “(ii) requiring use of the backdown procedure
8 or other procedures equally or more effective in
9 avoiding mortality of marine mammals in fishing op-
10 erations;

11 “(iii) prohibiting intentional deployment of nets
12 on, or encirclement of, dolphins in violation of the
13 International Dolphin Conservation Program;

14 “(iv) requiring the use of special equipment, in-
15 cluding dolphin safety panels in nets, monitoring de-
16 vices as identified by the International Dolphin Con-
17 servation Program, as practicable, to detect unsafe
18 fishing conditions before nets are deployed by a tuna
19 vessel, operable rafts, speedboats with towing bri-
20 dles, floodlights in operable condition, and diving
21 masks and snorkels;

22 “(v) ensuring that the backdown procedure dur-
23 ing the deployment of nets on, or encirclement of,
24 dolphins is completed and rolling of the net to sack

1 up has begun no later than 30 minutes after sun-
2 down;

3 “(vi) banning the use of explosive devices in all
4 purse seine operations;

5 “(vii) establishing per vessel maximum annual
6 dolphin mortality limits, total dolphin mortality lim-
7 its and per-stock per-year mortality limits, in ac-
8 cordance with the International Dolphin Conserva-
9 tion Program;

10 “(viii) preventing the intentional deployment of
11 nets on, or encirclement of, dolphins after reaching
12 either the vessel maximum annual dolphin mortality
13 limits, total dolphin mortality limits, or per-stock
14 per-year mortality limits;

15 “(ix) preventing the fishing on dolphins by a
16 vessel without an assigned vessel dolphin mortality
17 limit;

18 “(x) allowing for the authorization and conduct
19 of experimental fishing operations, under such terms
20 and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, for
21 the purpose of testing proposed improvements in
22 fishing techniques and equipment (including new
23 technology for detecting unsafe fishing conditions
24 before nets are deployed by a tuna vessel) that may
25 reduce or eliminate dolphin mortality or do not re-

1 quire the encirclement of dolphins in the course of
2 commercial yellowfin tuna fishing;

3 “(xi) authorizing fishing within the area cov-
4 ered by the International Dolphin Conservation Pro-
5 gram by vessels of the United States without the use
6 of special equipment or nets if the vessel takes an
7 observer and does not intentionally deploy nets on,
8 or encircle, dolphins, under such terms and condi-
9 tions as the Secretary may prescribe; and

10 “(xii) containing such other restrictions and re-
11 quirements as the Secretary determines are nec-
12 essary to implement the International Dolphin Con-
13 servation Program with respect to vessels of the
14 United States.

15 “(C) The Secretary may make such adjustments as
16 may be appropriate to the requirements of subparagraph
17 (B) that pertain to fishing gear, vessel equipment, and
18 fishing practices to the extent the adjustments are consist-
19 ent with the International Dolphin Conservation Program.

20 “(b) CONSULTATION.—In developing regulations
21 under this section, the Secretary shall consult with the
22 Secretary of State, the Marine Mammal Commission and
23 the United States Commissioners to the Inter-American
24 Tropical Tuna Commission appointed under section 3 of
25 the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 (16 U.S.C. 952).

1 “(c) EMERGENCY REGULATIONS.—(1) If the Sec-
2 retary determines, on the basis of the best scientific infor-
3 mation available (including that obtained under the Inter-
4 national Dolphin Conservation Program) that the inciden-
5 tal mortality and serious injury of marine mammals au-
6 thorized under this title is having, or is likely to have, a
7 significant adverse effect on a marine mammal stock or
8 species, the Secretary shall take actions as follows—

9 “(A) notify the Inter-American Tropical Tuna
10 Commission of the Secretary’s findings, along with
11 recommendations to the Commission as to actions
12 necessary to reduce incidental mortality and serious
13 injury and mitigate such adverse impact; and

14 “(B) prescribe emergency regulations to reduce
15 incidental mortality and serious injury and mitigate
16 such adverse impact.

17 “(2) Prior to taking action under paragraph (1) (A)
18 or (B), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of
19 State, the Marine Mammal Commission, and the United
20 States Commissioners to the Inter-American Tropical
21 Tuna Commission.

22 “(3) Emergency regulations prescribed under this
23 subsection—

24 “(A) shall be published in the Federal Register,
25 together with an explanation thereof; and

1 “(B) shall remain in effect for the duration of
2 the applicable fishing year; and

3 The Secretary may terminate such emergency regulations
4 at a date earlier than that required by subparagraph (B)
5 by publication in the Federal Register of a notice of termi-
6 nation, if the Secretary determines that the reasons for
7 the emergency action no longer exist.

8 “(4) If the Secretary finds that the incidental mortal-
9 ity and serious injury of marine mammals in the yellowfin
10 tuna fishery in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean is con-
11 tinuing to have a significant adverse impact on a stock
12 or species, the Secretary may extend the emergency regu-
13 lations for such additional periods as may be necessary.

14 “(d) RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall, in coopera-
15 tion with the nations participating in the International
16 Dolphin Conservation Program and with the Inter-Amer-
17 ican Tropical Tuna Commission, undertake or support ap-
18 propriate scientific research to further the goals of the
19 International Dolphin Conservation Program. Such re-
20 search may include but shall not be limited to any of the
21 following:

22 “(1) Devising cost-effective fishing methods and
23 gear so as to reduce, with the goal of eliminating,
24 the incidental mortality and serious injury of marine

1 mammals in connection with commercial purse seine
2 fishing in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

3 “(2) Developing cost-effective methods of fish-
4 ing for mature yellowfin tuna without deployment of
5 nets on, or encirclement of, dolphins or other marine
6 mammals.

7 “(3) Carrying out stock assessments for those
8 marine mammal species and marine mammal stocks
9 taken in the purse seine fishery for yellowfin tuna in
10 the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, including species
11 or stocks not within waters under the jurisdiction of
12 the United States.

13 “(4) Studying the effects of chase and encircle-
14 ment on the health and biology of dolphin and indi-
15 vidual dolphin populations incidentally taken in the
16 course of purse seine fishing for yellowfin tuna in
17 the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. There are author-
18 ized to be appropriated to the Department of Com-
19 merce \$1,000,000 to be used by the Secretary, act-
20 ing through the National Marine Fisheries Service,
21 to carry out this paragraph. Upon completion of the
22 study, the Secretary shall submit a report containing
23 the results of the study, together with recommenda-
24 tions, to the Congress and to the Inter-American
25 Tropical Tuna Commission.

1 “(5) Determining the extent to which the inci-
2 dental take of nontarget species, including juvenile
3 tuna, occurs in the course of purse seine fishing for
4 yellowfin tuna in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean,
5 the geographic location of the incidental take, and
6 the impact of that incidental take on tuna stocks,
7 and nontarget species.

8 The Secretary shall include a description of the annual
9 results of research carried out under this subsection in the
10 report required under section 303.”.

11 (d) REPORTS.—Section 303 (16 U.S.C. 1414) is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 **“SEC. 303. REPORTS BY THE SECRETARY.**

14 “Notwithstanding section 103(f), the Secretary shall
15 submit an annual report to the Congress which includes
16 each of the following:

17 “(1) The results of research conducted pursu-
18 ant to section 302.

19 “(2) A description of the status and trends of
20 stocks of tuna.

21 “(3) A description of the efforts to assess,
22 avoid, reduce, and minimize the bycatch of juvenile
23 yellowfin tuna and other nontarget species.

24 “(4) A description of the activities of the Inter-
25 national Dolphin Conservation Program and of the

1 efforts of the United States in support of the Pro-
2 gram's goals and objectives, including the protection
3 of dolphin populations in the eastern tropical Pacific
4 Ocean, and an assessment of the effectiveness of the
5 Program.

6 “(5) Actions taken by the Secretary under sub-
7 sections (a)(2)(B) and (d) of section 101.

8 “(6) Copies of any relevant resolutions and de-
9 cisions of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Com-
10 mission, and any regulations promulgated by the
11 Secretary under this title.

12 “(7) Any other information deemed relevant by
13 the Secretary.”.

14 (e) PERMITS.—Section 304 (16 U.S.C. 1416) is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 **“SEC. 304. PERMITS.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Consistent with section 302,
18 the Secretary is authorized to issue a permit to a vessel
19 of the United States authorizing participation in the Inter-
20 national Dolphin Conservation Program and may require
21 a permit for the person actually in charge of and control-
22 ling the fishing operation of the vessel. The Secretary shall
23 prescribe such procedures as are necessary to carry out
24 this subsection, including, but not limited to, requiring the
25 submission of—

1 “(A) the name and official number or other
2 identification of each fishing vessel for which a per-
3 mit is sought, together with the name and address
4 of the owner thereof; and

5 “(B) the tonnage, hold capacity, speed, process-
6 ing equipment, and type and quantity of gear, in-
7 cluding an inventory of special equipment required
8 under section 302, with respect to each vessel.

9 “(2) The Secretary is authorized to charge a fee for
10 issuing a permit under this section. The level of fees
11 charged under this paragraph may not exceed the adminis-
12 trative cost incurred in granting an authorization and is-
13 suing a permit. Fees collected under this paragraph shall
14 be available, subject to appropriations, to the Under Sec-
15 retary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere for ex-
16 penses incurred in issuing permits under this section.

17 “(3) After the effective date of the International Dol-
18 phin Conservation Program Act, no vessel of the United
19 States shall operate in the yellowfin tuna fishery in the
20 eastern tropical Pacific Ocean without a valid permit is-
21 sued under this section.

22 “(b) PERMIT SANCTIONS.—(1) In any case in
23 which—

1 “(A) a vessel for which a permit has been is-
2 sued under this section has been used in the com-
3 mission of an act prohibited under section 305;

4 “(B) the owner or operator of any such vessel
5 or any other person who has applied for or been is-
6 sued a permit under this section has acted in viola-
7 tion of section 305; or

8 “(C) any civil penalty or criminal fine imposed
9 on a vessel, owner or operator of a vessel, or other
10 person who has applied for or been issued a permit
11 under this section has not been paid or is overdue,
12 the Secretary may—

13 “(i) revoke any permit with respect to such
14 vessel, with or without prejudice to the issuance
15 of subsequent permits;

16 “(ii) suspend such permit for a period of
17 time considered by the Secretary to be appro-
18 priate;

19 “(iii) deny such permit; or

20 “(iv) impose additional conditions or re-
21 strictions on any permit issued to, or applied
22 for by, any such vessel or person under this sec-
23 tion.

24 “(2) In imposing a sanction under this subsection,
25 the Secretary shall take into account—

1 “(A) the nature, circumstances, extent, and
2 gravity of the prohibited acts for which the sanction
3 is imposed; and

4 “(B) with respect to the violator, the degree of
5 culpability, any history of prior offenses, and other
6 such matters as justice requires.

7 “(3) Transfer of ownership of a vessel, by sale or oth-
8 erwise, shall not extinguish any permit sanction that is
9 in effect or is pending at the time of transfer of ownership.
10 Before executing the transfer of ownership of a vessel, by
11 sale or otherwise, the owner shall disclose in writing to
12 the prospective transferee the existence of any permit
13 sanction that will be in effect or pending with respect to
14 the vessel at the time of transfer.

15 “(4) In the case of any permit that is suspended for
16 the failure to pay a civil penalty or criminal fine, the Sec-
17 retary shall reinstate the permit upon payment of the pen-
18 alty or fine and interest thereon at the prevailing rate.

19 “(5) No sanctions shall be imposed under this section
20 unless there has been a prior opportunity for a hearing
21 on the facts underlying the violation for which the sanction
22 is imposed, either in conjunction with a civil penalty pro-
23 ceeding under this title or otherwise.”.

1 (f) PROHIBITIONS.—Section 305 is repealed and sec-
2 tion 307 (16 U.S.C. 1417) is redesignated as section 305,
3 and amended as follows:

4 (1) In subsection (a):

5 (A) By amending paragraph (1) to read as
6 follows:

7 “(1) for any person to sell, purchase, offer for
8 sale, transport, or ship, in the United States, any
9 tuna or tuna product unless the tuna or tuna prod-
10 uct is either dolphin safe or has been harvested in
11 compliance with the International Dolphin Conserva-
12 tion Program by a country that is a member of the
13 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission or has
14 initiated steps, in accordance with Article V, para-
15 graph 3 of the Convention establishing the Inter-
16 American Tropical Tuna Commission, to become a
17 member of that organization;”.

18 (B) By amending paragraph (2) to read as
19 follows:

20 “(2) except in accordance with this title and
21 regulations issued pursuant to this title as provided
22 for in subsection 101(e), for any person or vessel
23 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States in-
24 tentiously to set a purse seine net on or to encircle

1 any marine mammal in the course of tuna fishing
2 operations in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean; or”.

3 (C) By amending paragraph (3) to read as
4 follows:

5 “(3) for any person to import any yellowfin
6 tuna or yellowfin tuna product or any other fish or
7 fish product in violation of a ban on importation im-
8 posed under section 101(a)(2);”.

9 (2) In subsection (b)(2), by inserting “(a)(5)
10 and” before “(a)(6)”.

11 (3) By striking subsection (d).

12 (g) REPEAL.—Section 306 is repealed and section
13 308 (16 U.S.C. 1418) is redesignated as section 306, and
14 amended by striking “303” and inserting in lieu thereof
15 “302(d)”.

16 (h) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents
17 in the first section of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
18 of 1972 is amended by striking the items relating to title
19 III and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“TITLE III—INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

“Sec. 301. Findings and policy.

“Sec. 302. Authority of the Secretary.

“Sec. 303. Reports by the Secretary.

“Sec. 304. Permits.

“Sec. 305. Prohibitions.

“Sec. 306. Authorization of appropriations.”.

1 **SEC. 6. AMENDMENTS TO THE TUNA CONVENTIONS ACT OF**
2 **1950.**

3 (a) MEMBERSHIP.—Section 3(c) of the Tuna Conven-
4 tions Act of 1950 (16 U.S.C. 952(c)) is amended to read
5 as follows:

6 “(c) at least one shall be either the Director, or
7 an appropriate regional director, of the National Ma-
8 rine Fisheries Service; and”.

9 (b) GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND SCI-
10 ENTIFIC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE.—Section 4 of the
11 Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 (16 U.S.C. 953) is amend-
12 ed to read as follows:

13 **“SEC. 4. GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND SCIENTIFIC**
14 **ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE.**

15 “The Secretary, in consultation with the United
16 States Commissioners, shall:

17 “(1) Appoint a General Advisory Committee
18 which shall be composed of not less than 5 nor more
19 than 15 persons with balanced representation from
20 the various groups participating in the fisheries in-
21 cluded under the conventions, and from nongovern-
22 mental conservation organizations. The General Ad-
23 visory Committee shall be invited to have representa-
24 tives attend all nonexecutive meetings of the United
25 States sections and shall be given full opportunity to
26 examine and to be heard on all proposed programs

1 of investigations, reports, recommendations, and reg-
2 ulations of the commission. The General Advisory
3 Committee may attend all meetings of the inter-
4 national commissions to which they are invited by
5 such commissions.

6 “(2) Appoint a Scientific Advisory Subcommit-
7 tee which shall be composed of not less than 5 nor
8 more than 15 qualified scientists with balanced rep-
9 resentation from the public and private sectors, in-
10 cluding nongovernmental conservation organizations.
11 The Scientific Advisory Subcommittee shall advise
12 the General Advisory Committee and the Commis-
13 sioners on matters including the conservation of
14 ecosystems; the sustainable uses of living marine re-
15 sources related to the tuna fishery in the eastern Pa-
16 cific Ocean; and the long-term conservation and
17 management of stocks of living marine resources in
18 the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. In addition, the
19 Scientific Advisory Subcommittee shall, as requested
20 by the General Advisory Committee, the United
21 States Commissioners or the Secretary, perform
22 functions and provide assistance required by formal
23 agreements entered into by the United States for
24 this fishery, including the International Dolphin

1 Conservation Program. These functions may include
2 each of the following:

3 “(A) The review of data from the Pro-
4 gram, including data received from the Inter-
5 American Tropical Tuna Commission.

6 “(B) Recommendations on research needs,
7 including ecosystems, fishing practices, and
8 gear technology research, including the develop-
9 ment and use of selective, environmentally safe
10 and cost-effective fishing gear, and on the co-
11 ordination and facilitation of such research.

12 “(C) Recommendations concerning sci-
13 entific reviews and assessments required under
14 the Program and engaging, as appropriate, in
15 such reviews and assessments.

16 “(D) Consulting with other experts as
17 needed.

18 “(E) Recommending measures to assure
19 the regular and timely full exchange of data
20 among the parties to the Program and each na-
21 tion’s National Scientific Advisory Committee
22 (or equivalent).

23 “(3) Establish procedures to provide for appro-
24 priate public participation and public meetings and
25 to provide for the confidentiality of confidential busi-

1 ness data. The Scientific Advisory Subcommittee
2 shall be invited to have representatives attend all
3 nonexecutive meetings of the United States sections
4 and the General Advisory Subcommittee and shall be
5 given full opportunity to examine and to be heard on
6 all proposed programs of scientific investigation, sci-
7 entific reports, and scientific recommendations of
8 the commission. Representatives of the Scientific
9 Advisory Subcommittee may attend meetings of the
10 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in ac-
11 cordance with the rules of such Commission.

12 “(4) Fix the terms of office of the members of
13 the General Advisory Committee and Scientific Advi-
14 sory Subcommittee, who shall receive no compensa-
15 tion for their services as such members.”.

16 (c) BYCATCH REDUCTION.—The Tuna Conventions
17 Act of 1950 (16 U.S.C. 951 et seq.) is amended by adding
18 at the end the following new section:

19 “REDUCTION OF BYCATCH IN EASTERN TROPICAL
20 PACIFIC OCEAN

21 “SEC. 15. The Secretary of State, acting through the
22 United States Commissioners, should take the necessary
23 steps to establish standards and measures for a bycatch
24 reduction program for vessels fishing for yellowfin tuna
25 in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. The program shall
26 include to the extent practicable—

1 “(1) that sea turtles and other threatened spe-
2 cies and endangered species are released alive, to the
3 maximum extent practicable;

4 “(2) measures to reduce, to the maximum ex-
5 tent practicable, the harvest of nontarget species;

6 “(3) measures to reduce, to the maximum ex-
7 tent practicable, the mortality of nontarget species;
8 and

9 “(4) measures to reduce, to the maximum ex-
10 tent practicable, the mortality of juveniles of the tar-
11 get species.”.

12 **SEC. 7. EQUITABLE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.**

13 It is the sense of the Congress that each nation par-
14 ticipating in the International Dolphin Conservation Pro-
15 gram should contribute an equitable amount to the ex-
16 penses of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.
17 Such contributions shall take into account the number of
18 vessels from that nation fishing for tuna in the eastern
19 tropical Pacific Ocean, the consumption of tuna and tuna
20 products from the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean and other
21 relevant factors as determined by the Secretary.

22 **SEC. 8. POLAR BEAR PERMITS.**

23 Paragraph (5) of section 104(c) of the Marine Mam-
24 mal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1374(c)(5)) is
25 amended as follows:

1 (1) In subparagraph (A), by striking “, includ-
2 ing polar bears taken but not imported prior to the
3 date of enactment of the Marine Mammal Protection
4 Act Amendments of 1994,”.

5 (2) By adding the following new subparagraph
6 at the end thereof:

7 “(D) The Secretary of the Interior shall, expedi-
8 tiously after the expiration of the applicable 30-
9 day period under subsection (d)(2), issue a permit
10 for the importation of polar bear parts (other than
11 internal organs) from polar bears taken in sport
12 hunts in Canada before the date of enactment of the
13 Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of
14 1994, to each applicant who submits, with the per-
15 mit application, proof that the polar bear was legally
16 harvested in Canada by the applicant. The Secretary
17 shall issue such permits without regard to the provi-
18 sions of subparagraphs (A) and (C)(ii) of this para-
19 graph, subsection (d)(3) of this section, and sections
20 101 and 102. This subparagraph shall not apply to
21 polar bear parts that were imported before the effec-
22 tive date of this subparagraph”.

23 **SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
25 (b), this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall

1 take effect upon certification by the Secretary of State to
2 the Congress that a binding resolution of the Inter-Amer-
3 ican Tropical Tuna Commission, or another legally bind-
4 ing instrument, establishing the International Dolphin
5 Conservation Program has been adopted and is in effect.

6 (b) PROVISIONS EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT.—
7 Section 8 and this section shall take effect on the date
8 of enactment of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives May 21, 1997.

Attest:

Clerk.