



MEETING SUMMARY

Marine educational workshops in Costa Rica
Cetaceans' activities regulation: Dissemination the Decree#32495

Financial support from: Rufford Foundation
KETO Foundation-AGUINADRA
Costa Rica

Date: Saturday, March 4th, 2006

Place: Agujitas Community Center, Drake Bay Costa Rica.

Audiovisual material: Video Beam projector, Copies of the decree, Laminated Whale-watching Field Guide (1st printing done with financial support from Rufford Foundation, VIDA and Cascadia Research, 2nd printing done with financial support from Duke CMC & Oak Foundation)

(See illustrative pictures at the end of this document)

General Objective

Collaborate with Drake Bay community by doing dissemination workshops on environmental topics.

Specific Objectives

Explain in simple words the in force Decree # 32495, its biological and legal implications, by making available a place and time to discuss for the stakeholders (tourism guides, boat drivers, hotel managers, tour operators, tourists, etc.)

Start time: 5:00 pm

Attendants:

-Fundación KETO
Damián Martínez Fernández
Andrea Montero Cordero
Frank Garita

-Asociacion MarViva
David Sequeira

Attendees:

#	NAME	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF WORK
1	Maikol Ocita Cortes	Tourism Guide	Sierpe-Drake
2	Jose A. Huertas Villalobos	Tourism Guide	Marengo Lodge
3	Rodolfo Acuña Hidalgo	MINAE	Isla del Caño Biological Reserve
4	Illa Chaves Aguilar	House wife	Palmar Norte
5	Johny Quesada Mora	Osa, Drake Bay
6	Miguel Morales M.	Pirate Cove
7	Oscar Cano Suarez	Captain/Boat driver	Drake Bay Wilderness Resort
8	Eric Murillo Barrera	Tourism Guide	Pirate Cove
9	Sabine Nydejjer	Dive Master	
10	Yeiner Jimenez R.	Captain/Boat driver	Emily Tours-Drake Bay
11	Jorge A. Segura Nieto	Captain/Boat driver	Jinetes de Osa Lodge
12	Javier Mora Segura	Tourism Guide	La Paloma Lodge
13	Armando Gonzalez S.	Boat driver and guide	Rancho Nuestro Sueño
14	Vincent Campos B.	Dive master	Aguika de Osa Lodge
15	Miguel Segura Zamora	Park ranger	MINAE_Isla del Caño
16	Fabio Contreras O.	Park ranger	MINAE_Isla del Caño
17	Gerald Markus	Tourism Guide	Drake Bay Wilderness Resort
18	Luis Alonso M.T.	Captain/Boat driver	Delfin Amor Lodge
19	Geiner S.V.	Captain/Boat driver	Delfin Amor Lodge
20	Heiron V.B.	Captain/Boat driver
21	Jesus Delgado Maroto	Tourism Guide	Drake Bay Wilderness Resort
22	David Rojas Sanchez	Captain/Boat driver	La Paloma Lodge
23	Manuel Caravaca	Tourism Guide	Drake Bay Wilderness Resort
24	Greivin Cabezas Perez	Captain/Boat driver	Drake Bay Wilderness Resort
25	David Arguello Ugalde	Captain/Boat driver	Las Caletas Lodge
26	Elizabeth Quesada Calvo	Tourism Guide	Las Caletas LODge
27	Arturo Rojas Miranda	Captain/Boat driver	Aguijtas-Drake
28	Ariel Venegas	Captain/Boat driver	Bahia Paraíso Lodge
29	Melvin Diaz Moraga	Captain/Boat driver	La Paloma Lodge
30	Roy Sancho Rojas	Marine biologist, and guide	Delfin Amor Lodge
31	Alexander Rodriguez	Captain/Boat driver
32	Alan Sanabria Luna	Manager	Delfin Amor
33	Evaristo Cerdas S.	Tourism Guide	Bahia Paraíso Lodge
34	Melvin Marchena	Natural Mystic
35	Isabelle Fontolliet	Volunteer	Fundacion Corcovado
36	Sabine Gamelin	Manager	Corcovado Expeditions
37	Beate Heycke	Manager	Jinetes de Osa
38	Sierra Goodman	Manager	Delfin Amor Lodge
39	Mauricio Solis	Marine biologist	Fundacion Vida Marina

5:00 pm **Welcome to the meeting**

Attendant: Damián Martínez Fernández

We welcomed the attendees and introduced ourselves, including the workshop's attendants to each section, as well as the agenda to be followed.

5:10 pm **Decree's regulations: Correct manoeuvre of the boat and responsible behaviour from each person on the boat.**

Attendant: Andrea Montero Cordero

The importance of the Whale-watching activity was discussed, including financial benefits for communities. Review on Articles: 1, 8, 11-14 and 16 from the Decree. Why is it important to follow these? How do these imply humans and cetaceans' safety?

6:30pm **Comments and questions from participants**

1. *Coastguard personnel should be increased, and there are few people from MINAE, so they are not around Caño Island most of the time...how could we denounce people not following the decree immediately?*

Attendees from MINAE explained that they are continuously PATRULLANDO the island. Moreover, they attend denounces from boat driver and guides regarding fishing within Caño Island Biological Reserve marine area. There was a discussion over the importance of collaboration within this context.

2. *Those who practice Sport Fishing continuously harass the dolphins in order to get tuna...but, since they're not practicing the whale-watch activity....are they immune to the decree?*

We clarified that every single vessel which follows dolphins for 5 minutes or more, is automatically practicing the whale-watching activity. For this reason, these people are subject to the legal punishments specified on this Decree. Moreover, the National Fishing and Aquiculture Law would punish them as well.

6:40 pm **Decree's regulations: Requirements and restrictions for Whale-watching activity in Costa Rica**

Attendant: Lic. David Sequeira (Lawyer)

Lecture was focused on requirements and restrictions for people practicing related activities to Whale-watching or whale-watching directly. A review was done on the established regulations to correspondent articles from the Decree and some regulations from the National Fishing and Aquiculture Law.

7:00pm **Comments and questions from participants**

1. Permits and procedures, Who? When?
2. Functionality of authorization to set sail, Way to obtain it?
3. Swimming, diving with dolphins, Which people would be authorized? Under which circumstances?
4. The price established by INCOPECA for the clients' carnet, is very expensive (\$20/each?)

5. Currently, harassment is going on at Drake bay, when the first vessel spots dolphins or whales, it will call by radio all the others

7:30 pm **Brochure presentation:** DOLPHIN AND WHALE WATCHING GUIDE, Some rules according to Costa Rican law
Attendant: Damián Martínez Fernández

A full-color brochure (pamphlet) designed by Keto Foundation in Spanish (side 1) and English for tourists (side 2), was presented to the attendees. The objective of this material is to promote correct execution of the Decree by own will.

7:40 pm **Closing Session**

Attendant: Andrea Montero Cordero and Damian Martinez Fernandez

Final comments and wrap-up.

7:45 pm Snacks and beverages were offered to the attendees, were informal discussion took place and attendants received feedback on the meeting.

Activity Pictures

