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Note On U.S. Embargo Against Venezuelan Tuna

by Barbara Khol

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On March 26, the US government implemented an embargo against Venezuelan tuna, on the ground that the nation's tuna fishing fleet does not meet international requirements on the protection and rescue of dolphins. In a recent statement, the local environmental organization Fundatropicos claimed that Venezuelan tuna fleets killed 22,000 dolphins last year in the eastern Pacific. Venezuelan tuna imports to the US average about 40,000 metric tons per year. In May, the government in Caracas submitted a request to GATT that the US pay compensation for financial losses caused by the embargo. (Basic data from AFP, 08/15/91)

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