

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
PROGRAMA INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACION DE LOS DELFINES

**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

ANTIGUA (GUATEMALA)  
17 JUNE 2003

**DOCUMENT TT-13-04**

**SUMMARY OF DOLPHIN-SAFE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

The [Procedures for AIDCP dolphin safe tuna certification](#) establish the following criteria for issuing dolphin safe certificates:

1. The certificate is signed by a competent national authority whose signature is recognized by the Secretariat.
2. The certificate references a valid Tuna Tracking Form (TTF) for dolphin safe tuna.
3. Tuna caught by vessels with DMLs will only be eligible for dolphin safe certification if the fishing captain was on the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains.
4. The competent national authority issuing the certificate must have a Tuna Tracking System consistent with the AIDCP.

The Secretariat uses the following guidelines for queries about the authenticity of any dolphin safe certificate:

1. The Secretariat will only respond to questions about specific certificates from potential importing states or companies.
2. If the certificate meets the four requirements above the response will be that the certificate is valid.
3. If the Secretariat does not have the information it needs to verify 1 or 2 above, it will first ask the competent national authority to provide the information before replying.
4. Otherwise the Secretariat will reply that the certificate is not valid.
5. No other information will be provided about the contents of the TTF.

No inquiries have been received to date regarding the validity of a dolphin safe certificate.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Tuna Tracking, the Secretariat was asked to propose the difference between weights reported on dolphin safe certificates and the corresponding TTFs that should trigger an enquiry into the discrepancy. As the weights recorded on the TTFs are estimates made at the time the tuna is loaded aboard the vessel, there is almost always some variation between those weights and the scale weights recorded on the certificates. The Secretariat believes that there is little point in investigating differences of less than 10%, and accordingly proposes 10% as the trigger level.

With the current forms it is likely that such a discrepancy will be detected only when the certificate refers to whole fish. This check could be extended to processed tuna if the dolphin safe certificates specified the original whole weight of the processed product.

Questions may arise about the validity of a certificate if the data on the certificate does not match the data on the corresponding TTFs. For 11 of the 62 trips with valid dolphin safe certificates dated in 2002 or later and available to the Secretariat as of May 22, 2003, the amount of tuna on the certificate exceeded the amount of dolphin safe tuna recorded on the corresponding TTFs by 5% or more, as detailed in the table below. The national authorities that issued the two certificates in which the difference was more than 10% have been advised of the discrepancy.

Trip	Tuna (T)		Difference	
	Certificate	TTFs	T	%
129467	1053	809	244	30.2
130204	323	290	33	11.4
129742	724	662	62	9.4
129741	1060	990	70	7.1
129355	728	680	48	7.1
128662	908	858	50	5.8
130247	481	455	26	5.7
130150	1168	1105	63	5.7
129148	907	859	48	5.6
129844	625	594	31	5.2
130392	888	846	42	5.0

127 valid dolphin safe certificates came from the 62 trips with valid dolphin safe certificates dated in 2002 or later; the Secretariat has received the original TTFs corresponding to 114 of these certificates, and copies for the rest.