

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING**

**23<sup>RD</sup> MEETING**

CANCUN, (MEXICO)

18 JUNE 2007

**DOCUMENT TT-23-05**

**DENIAL OF DOLPHIN-SAFE CERTIFICATES FOR CONTRAVENTION  
OF IATTC CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

Paragraph 2.2.g. of the [Procedures for AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification](#) states that “tuna positively identified by the IATTC as having been caught in contravention of IATTC tuna conservation and management measures is not eligible for an AIDCP Dolphin-Safe Certificate.”

The two principal IATTC conservation and management measures that affect vessels covered by the AIDCP are Resolutions [C-06-02](#), on the conservation of tuna, and [C-02-03](#), on the capacity of the tuna fleet operating in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The former establishes seasonal closures of the purse-seine fishery, and the latter establishes that only vessels on the Commission’s Regional Vessel Register may fish for species covered by the IATTC Convention. Thus, any fish caught by a purse-seine vessel during a closure, or by a vessel not on the Regional Register, would not be eligible for a Dolphin-Safe Certificate.

In both cases, the Secretariat recommends that information recorded by an observer from the On-Board Observer Program constitute the positive identification specified in the *Procedures*, and that the Working Group make a recommendation that the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP confirm this.

If the Parties approve this recommendation, the [System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna](#) should also be amended to make it clear that that tuna in question would be non-dolphin safe. Specifically, a new point could be added in section 4, as follows:

“6bis. Tuna caught in violation of a fishery closure established by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), or by a vessel which is not on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register, shall be designated as non-dolphin safe.”