

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

24TH MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA, (USA)
25 OCTOBER 2007

DOCUMENT TT-24-04

**MATTERS RELATED TO THE TUNA TRACKING AND DOLPHIN SAFE
CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**

This report presents comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) for trips that started on or after 1 January 2007, and that ended on or before 10 September 2007, and a summary of the TTFs received by the Secretariat.

1. 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 TTF for dolphin safe tuna.
3. Tuna caught by vessels with DMLs is eligible for dolphin safe certification only if the fishing captain is on the List of Qualified Captains.
4. The competent national authority issuing the certificate has a tuna tracking system consistent with the AIDCP.

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

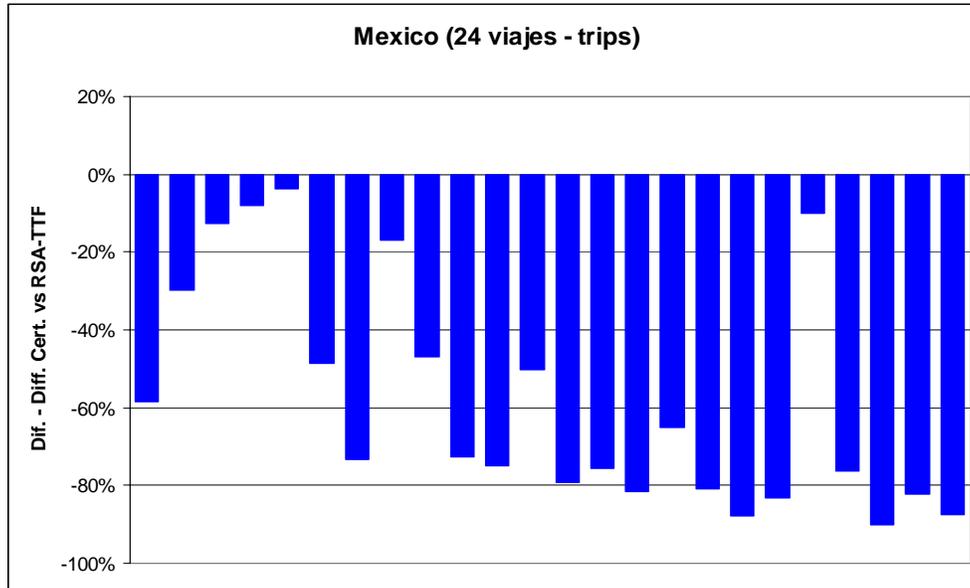
1. The Secretariat responds to questions about specific certificates from potential importing states or companies only.
2. If the certificate meets the four requirements above, the response is that the certificate is valid.
3. If the Secretariat does not have the information it needs to verify 1 or 2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

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

As of 1 October 2007, the Secretariat has received five valid dolphin safe certificates issued on or after 1 January 2007. These certificates represent tuna from 24 trips and 24 TTFs, and the Secretariat has received the originals of all TTFs.

Questions may arise about the validity of a certificate if the data on the certificate do not match the data on the corresponding TTFs. For all these 24 trips with valid dolphin safe certificates, the amount of tuna on the certificate did not exceed the amount of dolphin safe tuna recorded on the corresponding TTFs.

The graph below shows the comparison of estimated weights, as recorded by the observer on the TTF, and the recorded scale weight for each TTF referenced in the five dolphin safe certificates mentioned above.



2. COMPARISON OF WHOLE WEIGHT ON TTFs AND PROCESSED WEIGHT ON DOLPHIN SAFE CERTIFICATES

Since its 14th meeting, in October 2003, the Working Group has discussed the issue of processed weight versus whole weight, and asked the Secretariat to compare the weights of processed tuna recorded on dolphin safe certificates with the weights of whole fish on the corresponding TTFs. For this analysis, the Secretariat asked the Parties in several occasions to provide information about the various conversion factors used by their industries in processing tuna. Different questionnaires have been developed to accommodate the requests of confidentiality of the data, as industries have indicated that some of the information is proprietary. The Secretariat has not received any new information additional to that described in Document TT-23-04, presented at the 23rd meeting of the Working Group in June 2007.

3. DETECTING NON-DOLPHIN SAFE TUNA DECLARED AS DOLPHIN SAFE

At the 21st meeting of the Working Group, it was noted that efforts to analyze tuna yield and the relationship between weights on the TTFs and those reported on dolphin safe certificates were aimed at detecting tuna that was erroneously labeled dolphin-safe.

One of the Parties suggested that focusing attention on the disposition of non-dolphin safe fish may produce better results. Only about 8% of the total catch of all species is non-dolphin safe, and small amounts of this could be added to dolphin safe tuna without greatly increasing the conversion factor calculated based on the weight of dolphin safe tuna recorded on a TTF. The Secretariat, with the assistance of interested Parties, was asked to prepare a preliminary report on this issue with information currently in the IATTC database.

At the time this report was prepared, the Secretariat had not received any information, additional to that described in Document TT-23-04, on the relationship of the weight of whole tuna on the TTF and the weight of processed tuna.

Given that only a small proportion of the dolphin safe tuna available is included in dolphin safe certificates (only 1.3% of the tuna recorded on TTF-As since 2005), there would seem to be very little motivation for attempting to include non-dolphin safe tuna on a certificate. However, if this were in fact happening, it does not appear, from the Secretariat's analysis presented in Document TT-23-04, that the use of conversion factors from whole to processed tuna would be useful for detecting any such misrepresented tuna.

4. TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

Original TTFs received by the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 3.6 of the [System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna](#), by responsible national authority:

National authority	2007 trips ¹		% of originals received				
	Trips	TTFs recd	Oct 2007	Jun 2007	Oct 2006	Jun 2006	
Colombia	COL	37	33	89	89	44	94
Costa Rica	CRI	18	18	100	95	100	100
Ecuador	ECU	210	194	92	96	97	93
Guatemala	GTM	10	10	100	76	91	94
México	MEX	149	149	100	99	98	100
Nicaragua	NIC	2	0	0	0	0	0
Panamá	PAN	2	1	50	67	100	90
Perú	PER	2	2	100	75	100	100
El Salvador	SLV	23	16	70	98	94	84
United States	USA	2	2	100	-	-	100
Venezuela	VEN	19	17	89	87	96	73
Total		474	442	93	95	94	93

¹Trips starting during 2007 and ending on or before 10 September 2007