

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING**

**26<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)  
4 JUNE 2009

**DOCUMENT TT-26-04**

**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 2008, and that ended on or before 15 April 2009, 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:

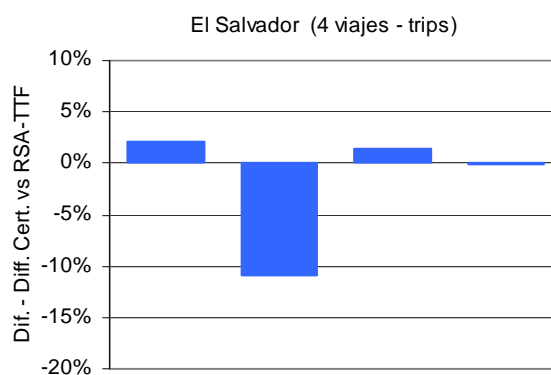
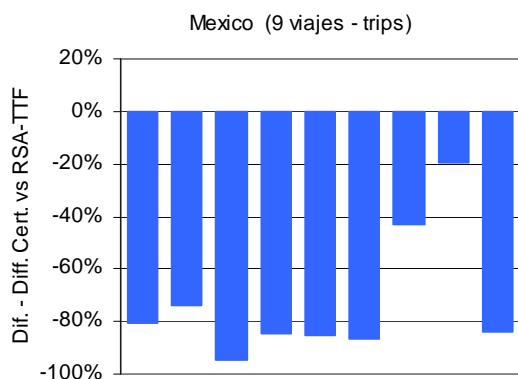
1. The Secretariat responds to questions about specific certificates from potential importing states or companies only.
2. If the certificate meets the four requirements above, the response is that the certificate is valid.
3. If the Secretariat does not have the information it needs to verify 1 or 2 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 5 May 2009, the Secretariat has received six valid dolphin safe certificates that were issued on or after 1 January 2008. These certificates represent tuna from 13 trips and 13 TTFs. The Secretariat has received the originals of all 13 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 13 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 for the six dolphin safe certificates mentioned above.



## 2. TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT AS OF MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>

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		Trips <sup>1</sup>		% of originals received			
		Trips	TTFs recd	Jun 2009	Jun 2008	Oct 2007	Jun 2007
Colombia	COL	78	61	78	81	89	89
Costa Rica	CRI	22	20	91	100	100	95
Ecuador	ECU	466	458	98	99	92	96
European Union	EUR	5	5	100	100	-	-
Guatemala	GTM	11	5	45	93	100	76
México	MEX	242	235	97	100	100	99
Nicaragua	NIC	2	0	0	0	0	0
Panamá	PAN	3	3	100	71	50	67
Perú	PER	2	0	0	75	100	75
El Salvador	SLV	46	40	87	82	70	98
United States	USA	1	1	100	100	100	-
Venezuela	VEN	42	22	52	70	89	87
<b>Total</b>		<b>920</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>95</b>

<sup>1</sup>Trips starting during 2008 and ending on or before 15 April 2009