

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

28TH MEETING

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA
23 SEPTEMBER 2010

DOCUMENT TT-28-04

**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 2009, and that ended on or before 25 July 2010, 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.

In addition, paragraph 2.2.e of the [*Procedures for AIDCP dolphin safe tuna certification*](#) establish that: *The competent national authority shall be responsible for submitting to the Secretariat, within the first fifteen (15) days of the month, all copies of the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certificate, issued within the previous month.*

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.

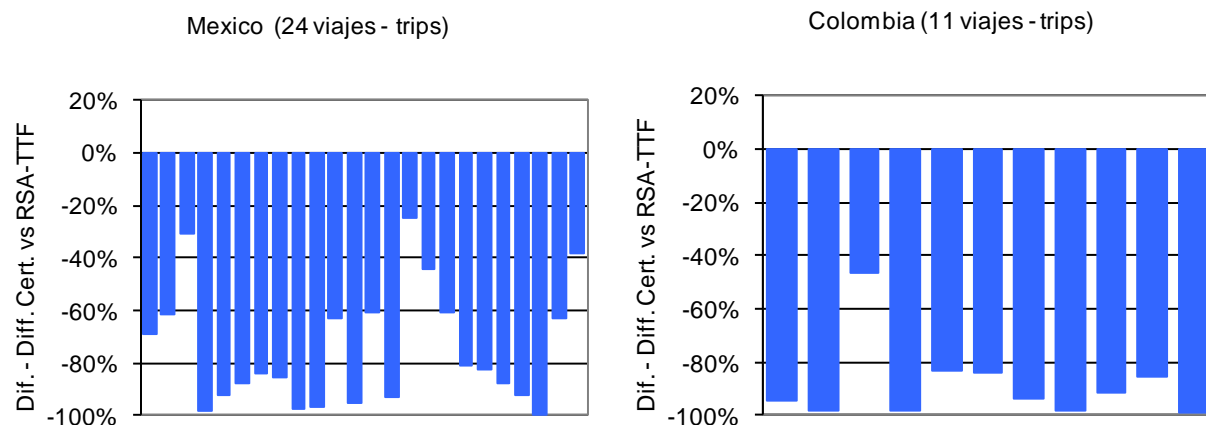
No inquiries have been received to date regarding the validity of a dolphin safe certificate.

As of 20 August 2010, the Secretariat has received 29 valid dolphin safe certificates issued on or after 1 January 2009. These certificates represent tuna from 35 trips and 35 TTFs. 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 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 29 dolphin safe certificates mentioned above.



2. TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT AS OF 10 AUGUST 2010

Original TTFs received by the Secretariat, in accordance with the requirement of paragraph 3.6 of the [System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna](#) that “*within ten days of receipt of a TTF, the competent national authority shall transmit the TTF to the Secretariat*”:

		Trips ¹		% of originals received			
National authority		Trips	TTFs recd	Sep 2010	Oct 2009	Jun 2009	Jun 2008
Colombia	COL	67	60	90	87	82	97
Costa Rica	CRI	20	1	5	0	91	100
Ecuador	ECU	501	497	99	96	99	100
European Union	EUR	9	7	78	67	100	100
Guatemala	GTM	28	6	21	38	45	93
México	MEX	290	287	99	95	98	100
Nicaragua	NIC	2	1	50	0	0	0
Panamá	PAN	4	3	75	33	100	71
Perú	PER	11	7	64	50	0	75
El Salvador	SLV	53	44	83	43	87	82
United States	USA	2	2	100	100	100	100
Venezuela	VEN	45	22	49	96	52	100
Total		1,032	937	91	89	93	95

3. SPECIAL CASES

During the regular procedures of interchange of information on TTFs among observer programs, national authorities and the Secretariat, the staff learned that a TTF that provided to the relevant national authority by a vessel had been falsified to show that all the catch was dolphin safe. The national authority notified the Secretariat that it was investigating the case, and that administrative measures would be taken. To date, the Secretariat has not received any further information on the case.

The Parties may want to consider creating guidelines for the Secretariat to follow in cases like this.

¹ Trips starting during 2009 and ending on or before 25 July, 2010