

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

30TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

18 June 2012

DOCUMENT TT-30-04

**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 2011, and that ended on or before 15 April 2012, 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:

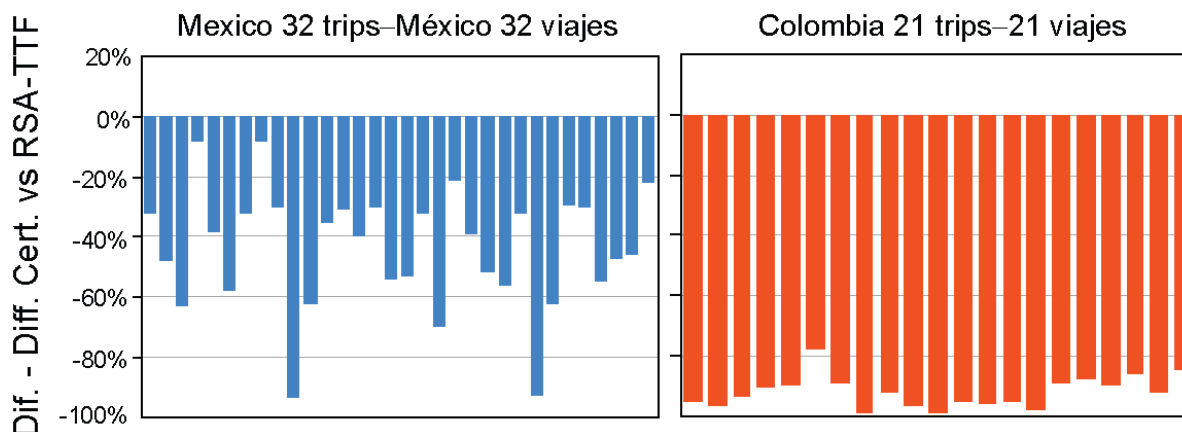
1. The Secretariat responds to questions about specific certificates from potential importing states or companies only.
2. If the certificate meets the four requirements above, the response is that the certificate is valid.
3. If the Secretariat does not have the information it needs to verify 1 or 2 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.

As of 15 April 2012, the Secretariat has received 88 dolphin-safe certificates signed on or after 1 January 2011, but only 68 of those certificates were considered valid. The reasons for not considering the other 20 certificates valid are:

- a. The respective competent national authority (CNA) voided eight certificates due to clerical errors.
- b. The Secretariat considered invalid another eight certificates issued for fish caught during the closure of the offshore area in September-October for both 2010 and 2011.
- c. As noted in Document [TT-29-04](#), four certificates were voided by the Secretariat because they referred to TTFs not in its records. The Secretariat contacted the pertinent CNA, which replied that it had made an error, but did not issue corrected certificates.

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 compares the differences between the estimated weights recorded by the observer on the TTF and the recorded scale weight for each TTF referenced for the 68 dolphin-safe certificates mentioned above.



The Secretariat wishes to draw the attention of the Parties to a case of a TTF that appears to have been forged. The document included information for a vessel that unloaded at two different ports under the jurisdiction of two different Parties. As the CNA of the Party of the first unloading port did not meet the vessel at its arrival, the observer, in accordance with standing instructions, left a copy of the TTF with the vessel's captain, in a sealed envelope, and took the original with him to the IATTC office at his home port. The Party forwarded an apparent original to the Secretariat, but the Secretariat had already received a copy of the original, from the staff of the IATTC field office where the observer was debriefed. The staff had forwarded the observer's original document to the CNA of the second unloading port, which is also the vessel's flag State. The Secretariat wrote a letter to that CNA on 5 April 2012, and another letter to the port State of the first unloading on 25 May 2012. At the time this report was prepared, neither CNA has responded. The main difference between the two TTFs is that the observer's original document includes fish not classified as AIDCP *dolphin-safe*, while the apparently forged document includes only AIDCP *dolphin-safe* fish.

2. TTFS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT AS OF 15 MAY 2012

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

National authority		Trips ¹		% of originals received			
		Trips	TTFs recd	Jun 2012	Oct 2011	Sep 2010	Oct 2009
Colombia	COL	63	58	92	99	93	87
Costa Rica	CRI	28	25	89	65	20	0
Ecuador	ECU	447	415	93	99	100	96
European Union	EUR	13	6	46	55	78	67
Guatemala	GTM	15	14	93	94	21	38
Mexico	MEX	249	239	96	96	100	95
Nicaragua	NIC	0	-	-	-	50	0
Panama	PAN	1	1	100	67	75	67
Peru	PER	10	4	40	50	73	50
El Salvador	SLV	33	16	48	54	83	43
United States	USA	3	2	67	-	100	100
Venezuela	VEN	36	15	42	85	91	96
Total		898	795	89	93	94	89

¹Trips starting during 2011 and ending on or before 15 April 2012