

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
 PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING  
 30<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
 La Jolla, California (USA)  
 18 June 2012**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of the minutes of the 29 <sup>th</sup> meeting	
4. Review of the implementation of the <a href="#">dolphin safe certification system</a>	TT-30-04
5. Other business	
6. Recommendations for the International Review Panel	
7. Place and date of next meeting	
8. Adjournment	

**APPENDIX**

1. List of attendees

The 30th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in La Jolla, California (USA) on 18 June 2012. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the IATTC, who requested nominations for chairing the meeting. Dr. Luis Fleischer, of Mexico, was elected.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda was adopted without any changes.

**3. Approval of the minutes of the 29th meeting**

The minutes of the 29th meeting, previously circulated by the Secretariat, were approved without modifications.

**4. Review of the implementation of the *dolphin safe* certification system**

The Secretariat presented Document TT-30-04, “Matters related to the tuna tracking and Dolphin-safe certification programs”. The Secretariat received 88 signed dolphin-safe certificates from 1 January 2011 through 15 April 2012; of these, 68 were considered valid. The reasons for not considering the other 20 certificates valid are: a) the respective competent national authority invalidated eight certificates due to clerical errors; b) the Secretariat considered invalid eight other certificates issued for fish caught during the closure of the high-seas area in September-October of 2010 and 2011; and c) four certificates were

cancelled by the Secretariat because they refer to Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) that are not in the Secretariat's records. The Secretariat contacted the relevant competent national authority, which answered that it had committed an error, but did not issue corrected certificates.

The system requires that the Secretariat receive the TTFs at the latest 10 days after the trip finishes. The Secretariat reported that, during January-June 2012, it had received 795 TTFs from a total of 898 trips (89%).

The case was brought up of a TTF that was presumably falsified, since there were two versions of a TTF with the same number. Venezuela asked that guidelines be drawn up for dealing with such cases. However, Mexico noted that, given the small number of cases of this type (two cases of forgery of a total of 2,588 TTFs during 2009-2012, and in the entire history of the tracking system between 2001 and 2012 the percentage of forged TTFs has been 0.02%).

Venezuela reported that the TTF related with this case had already been voided, and so agreed that the matter of drawing up guidelines need not be pursued at present. The United States indicated that States involved in such cases should report to the IRP on actions taken. Ecuador proposed that the IRP review the information reported by governments on actions taken regarding cases of forged TTFs, and that these be treated as exceptional cases, in view of their low frequency.

The United States reported on the TTF of a vessel of its fleet that was not sent to the Secretariat. The observer on the trip, who was not from the IDCP, did not do his job properly, and the final results of the investigation would be reported to the Secretariat.

## **5. Other business**

No other business was presented.

## **6. Recommendations for the International Review Panel**

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the International Review Panel that it review the information reported by governments on actions taken with regard to falsified TTFs, and that these be addressed as exceptional cases given their low frequency and therefore do not require that guidelines be developed for dealing with them

## **7. Place and date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the working group will be held on the dates agreed for the AIDCP meetings on 22-23 October 2012.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1105 a.m. on 19 June 2012.

## **Appendix 1.**

### **ATTENDEES – ASISTENTES**

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