

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

39TH MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico
17 July 2017

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of the report of the 38 th meeting	
4. Review of the implementation of the <u>dolphin safe certification system</u>	TT-39-04
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 39th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in Mexico City, Mexico on 17 July 2017.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr. Guillermo Compeán, IATTC Director. Mr. Rigoberto García Soto, of Mexico, was elected as the Chair of the Working Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Approval of the report of the 38th meeting

The report of the 38th meeting, circulated previously by the Secretariat, was approved. The United States requested that some editorial adjustments be made to the English version, a copy of which was submitted to the Secretariat.

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

The Secretariat presented Document TT-39-04, *Matters related to the Tuna Tracking and Dolphin Safe Certification programs*.

It was reported that the Secretariat has received 571 original TTFs from the 609 trips that ended between 1 September 2016 and 30 April 2017; this represents 94% of compliance.

Likewise, between 1 September 2016 and 5 June 2017, the Secretariat received 377 copies of dolphin-safe certificates. All the certificates, corresponding to 138 TTFs completed during 138 fishing trips, were considered valid. The certified tonnage (19,734 t) represents 44.8% from the total of 411,153 t recorded as dolphin-safe in the TTFs of 609 trips.

At the request of Ecuador, it was reported that there were some differences in the TTFs delivered by this country in 2016 because in some instances the original documents were not received.

It was recalled that, since 2012, the Working Group has discussed cases of apparent TTF forgery. In 2015, another case was discussed where the catch shared between two vessels was not recorded on the TTFs. Finally, in October 2016, the Working Group discussed another case in which the shared catches between vessels were also not registered in the TTFs.

In view of the long time elapsed since the events and their presentation to the Working Group, some participants discussed the possibility of these cases being closed, which was not agreed, as this would be a bad precedent. For this reason, the Working Group agreed to request the Secretariat to prepare and submit to the IRP a detailed and precise report clarifying the situation in each case, which would then allow the Panel to decide which could be considered as closed.

Venezuela clarified that it already carried out the corresponding investigations in the case in which Venezuelan vessels were involved, but in the understanding that, in its opinion, the relevant actions must be taken by the State where the product was unloaded. Panama, referring to the cases in which Panamanian vessels were involved, stated that the administrative process is still in progress and that it will await its conclusion before reporting on its outcome. Ecuador noted that, in one case, the lack of information precluded the administrative process from taking place, and that another case could be considered as dealt with due to the suspension of the involved observer.

5. Other business

No other business was discussed.

6. Recommendations for the International Review Panel

That the Secretariat prepare a concise but detailed report on each case, to be presented and reviewed during the IRP meeting, to allow the Panel to reach a decision on which cases should be closed.

7. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on the dates agreed for the meetings of the AIDCP in October 2017.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 AM on 17 July 2017.