

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL**

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

MINUTES OF THE 13TH MEETING

**Antigua (Guatemala)
17 June 2003**

Chair: Ms. Pat Donley (United States)

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. National Tuna Tracking Plans
4. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system
5. Technical modifications to the dolphin safe certificate and guidelines and procedures for using the dolphin safe label
6. Classification of fish received from unobserved vessels
7. Recommendations for the IRP
8. Other business
9. Date and place of next meeting
10. Adjournment

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees
2. Original TTFs received by the Secretariat, 2002-2003
3. Revised dolphin safe certificate

DOCUMENTS

- [TT-13-03](#) Review of national tuna tracking and verification plans
[TT-13-03a](#) Estimated costs of keeping observers aboard vessels until the catch is unloaded
[TT-13-04](#) Summary of dolphin-safe certification program
[TT-13-05](#) Technical modifications to the AIDCP dolphin safe tuna certificate

The 13th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in Antigua (Guatemala), on 17 June 2003. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Ms. Pat Donley, of the United States, the Chair of the Working Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted with the addition of an item on the classification of fish received from unobserved vessels.

3. National Tuna Tracking Plans

The scheduled presentation by El Salvador on its national Tuna Tracking System was postponed until the next meeting of the Working Group.

In accordance with the instructions of the 31st meeting of the International Review Panel, the Secretariat presented its review of national tuna tracking and verification plans ([Document TT-13-03](#)). Dr. Robin Allen, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, explained the results of the reviews carried out since the previous meeting of the Working Group. Several members described the modifications made to their plans or additional information submitted to the Secretariat in order to make their plans consistent with the [AIDCP Tuna Tracking and Verification System](#).

The Working Group agreed that the plans already found to be consistent – El Salvador and Vanuatu - plus those of Colombia, Costa Rica, the European Union, Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States, should be submitted to the IRP.

The Working Group noted that Bolivia, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Venezuela have not submitted tuna tracking plans, and thus could not issue dolphin safe certificates.

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

Dr. Allen presented [Document TT-13-04](#), which includes information on the issue of dolphin safe certificates and on discrepancies between weights reported on certificates and the corresponding Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs). He noted that the 12th meeting of the Working Group had asked the Secretariat to propose the difference between weights reported on dolphin safe certificates and the corresponding TTFs that should trigger an enquiry into the discrepancy. As the weights recorded on the TTFs are estimates made at the time the tuna is loaded aboard the vessel, there is almost always some variation between those weights and the scale weights recorded on the certificates. The Secretariat believes that there is little point in investigating differences of less than 10%, and accordingly proposes 10% as the trigger level.

Dr. Allen noted that questions may arise about the validity of a certificate if the data on the certificate do not match the data on the corresponding TTFs, and that in 2002, and in 2003 to date, there had been only two cases with a discrepancy of 10% or more, and 11 cases with a discrepancy of 5% or more. There followed a discussion on whether 10% was the most appropriate trigger level, with some suggestions for consideration of a lower level. It was eventually agreed that 10% should be the provisional trigger level employed by the Secretariat for requesting an investigation. At the next meeting of the Working Group in October, the Secretariat will present a more detailed comparison of the weights on certificates and TTFs, broken down by national authority.

Dr. Allen also presented information on the number of original TTFs submitted to the Secretariat by the national authorities in 2002 and 2003 (Appendix 2). It was noted that while some have a high level of compliance, others had not improved their 2002 level of compliance in 2003. Dr. Allen noted that the Secretariat had 100% of TTFs, either originals or copies. There was a general discussion of the difficulties of submitting the original TTFs in a timely manner. In response to a question, Dr. Allen

explained that, in cases when the observer leaves the vessel before the fish is unloaded, the observer takes the original TTFs to an IATTC field office, which then sends them to the national authority responsible for sending the originals to the Secretariat.

Dr. Allen also reminded the meeting that at the 12th meeting of the Working Group, following a discussion of possible reasons why original TTFs were not being submitted to the Secretariat in a timely fashion, the Secretariat was asked to report on the costs of keeping observers aboard vessels until the catch is unloaded and investigate the relevant procedures being followed at IATTC field offices. The Secretariat reported that the procedures were being followed properly by IATTC staff in Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela, and that the additional costs of keeping observers on board the vessels on 70 investigated trips in 2002 would have totaled about US\$25,000 ([Document TT-13-03a](#)). After discussion, the Working Group decided not to recommend that observers remain aboard vessels until they reach their final destination, due to the cost involved.

5. Technical modifications to the dolphin safe certificate and guidelines and procedures for using the dolphin safe label

Dr. Allen presented [Document TT-13-05](#), explaining the technical changes in the certificate proposed by the Secretariat. After some discussion the Working Group agreed to forward to the IRP the revised certificate (Appendix 3) with an accompanying change in the instructions.

This agenda item engendered considerable discussion regarding the importance of being able to compare weight of the processed tuna recorded on the certificate with the weights of whole fish on the corresponding TTF. Several delegations commented that it was important to know the conversion factors used by the industry to relate the processed weight to the whole weight of the fish. Dr. Allen emphasized the necessity of knowing the scale weight of the catch in order to make a valid comparison of any kind. In the end, the Secretariat was asked to investigate the factors being used by the tuna industries of member nations to convert whole fish weights to tuna product weights and report the results at the next meeting of the Working Group.

6. Classification of fish received from unobserved vessels

The Chair introduced this agenda item by explaining her concern that the Secretariat's proposed instructions to observers for tuna transferred at sea from a fishing vessel without an observer aboard to a fishing vessel with an observer aboard, described in Dr. Allen's letter of April 4, established a third category of tuna, neither dolphin safe nor non-dolphin safe. Dr. Allen explained the rationale for the proposal, and the Working Group discussed how such tuna should be classified. It was agreed that tuna transferred at sea from a fishing vessel without an observer aboard to a fishing vessel with an observer aboard should be classified as non-dolphin safe. The Working Group agreed to forward this decision to the IRP, and to ask the Secretariat to report at the next meeting regarding whether this would require an amendment of any AIDCP documents or procedures.

7. Recommendations for the IRP

The Working Group had 3 recommendations for the IRP:

1. That the tuna tracking plans of Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, the European Union, Guatemala, Mexico, the United States and Vanuatu be submitted to the IRP as consistent with the Tuna Tracking and Verification System.
2. That the IRP review and recommend that the Meeting of the Parties approve the use of the revised Dolphin Safe Certificate and instructions, as presented in Document TT-13-05, minus the second sentence of the instructions for Section B. (Appendix 3).
3. That tuna transferred at sea from a fishing vessel without an observer aboard to a fishing vessel with an observer aboard be classified as non-dolphin safe.

8. Other business

No other business was discussed.

9. Date and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group would be held immediately prior to the next meeting of the IRP, scheduled to take place in La Jolla in October 2003.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on 17 June 2003.

Appendix 1.

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PROGRAMA INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS DELFINES**

**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING
GRUPO DE TRABAJO PERMANENTE SOBRE EL SEGUIMIENTO DEL ATUN**

13rd MEETING - 13^a REUNION

**June 17, 2003 – 17 de junio de 2003
Antigua, Guatemala**

ASISTENTES - ATTENDEES

COLOMBIA

**JAIME E. RIVAS
ARMANDO HERNÁNDEZ**
Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural

COSTA RICA

ASDRÚBAL VÁSQUEZ
INCOPECA

ECUADOR

LUIS TORRES NAVARRETE
Ministerio de Comercio Exterior,
Industrialización, Pesca y Competitividad

EL SALVADOR

SONIA SALAVERRIA
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

EUROPEAN UNION - UNION EUROPEA

**JOHN SPENCER
ALAN GRAY**
Directorate General of Fisheries

JUAN IGNACIO ARRIBAS
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima
JAVIER ARÍZ TELLERIA
Instituto Español de Oceanografía

GUATEMALA

**PABLO GIRÓN
XIOMARA GOMEZ
RODOLFO FUENTES
FRATERO DIAZ MONGE
SERGIO RUANO
SERGIO GUZMÁN
ALEJANDRO ARRIVILLAGA
JUAN H. SEGURA
RUBEN LOPEZ BRAN**

**CARLOS R. LIUTI
SANTIAGO YEE
SAMUEL COLOMA
LUIS A. LOPEZ
FAUSTINO AREVALO
ROSALINA VILLEDA
ERICK MORATAYA
VICTOR LOPEZ**
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

MEXICO

RICARDO BELMONTES
CONAPESCA
LUIS FLEISCHER
Instituto Nacional de la Pesca

MICHEL DREYFUS
HUMBERTO ROBLES
FIDEMAR
MÁXIMO CARVAJAL
LUIS FUEYO
SEMARNAT/PROFEPA

PANAMA

ARNULFO FRANCO
Autoridad Marítima de Panamá

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAVID HOGAN
Department of State
PAT DONLEY
BRETT SCHNEIDER

PAUL ORTIZ
MICHELLE ZETWO
National Marine Fisheries Service

ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES--NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

NINA YOUNG
The Ocean Conservancy

MOISÉS MUG
World Wildlife Fund

TUNA INDUSTRY – INDUSTRIA ATUNERA

ERNESTO ESCOBAR
RAMÓN MONTAÑO

JULIO MORÓN

SECRETARIA - SECRETARIAT

ROBIN ALLEN, Director
ERNESTO ALTAMIRANO
DAVID BRATTEN
ALEJANDRA FERREIRA

BRIAN HALLMAN
BERTA JUÁREZ
NICHOLAS WEBB

Appendix 2.

**ORIGINALES DE RSA RECIBIDOS POR LA SECRETARÍA
ORIGINAL TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT**

15 JUN 2003

Viajes iniciados en						
2002			2003 ¹			
Viajes	Originales recibidos		Viajes	Originales recibidos		
	No.	%		No.	%	
Trips departing in						
2002			2003 ¹			
Trips	Originals received		Trips	Originals received		
	No.	%		No.	%	
COL	73	18	25	30	9	30
CRI	54	45	83	19	3	16
ECU	303	291	96	120	117	98
EUR	10	7	70	4	3	75
GTM	12	7	58	2	2	100
MEX	174	138	79	87	65	75
PAN	19	9	47	5	3	60
PER	8	4	50	6	4	67
SLV	8	1	13	4	0	0
USA	14	14	100	3	3	100
VEN	69	46	67	20	1	5
Total	744	580	78	300	210	70

¹ Arribado al—Arrived by 31 MAY 2003



Certificate No. **Test 1234567890**

AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certificate

This document certifies that the tuna or tuna products associated with it, and with the Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) indicated herein, were harvested by a vessel of a Party to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), meet the *dolphin safe* standards established pursuant to the AIDCP, and may bear the *AIDCP Dolphin Safe* Certification Mark. For verification of this certification, or for information on the AIDCP, contact the AIDCP Secretariat, c/o Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla CA 92037-1508, USA; Tel: 858 546 7100; Fax: 858 546 7133; www.iattc.org; or by e-mail to dsafemaster@iattc.org

See instructions on reverse

A.	Whole frozen weight:									
	TTF number					Weight (all tunas)				
1.										MT
2.										MT
3.										MT
4.										MT
5.										MT
6.										MT
7.										MT
8.										MT
9.										MT
10.										MT
	Total:									MT

B. Primary processing and total weight of the tuna associated with this certificate:	
Primary processing type	Weight:
	MT
	MT
Lot number:	

C. Certification by AIDCP Competent National Authority:	
The competent national authority authorizes the bearer of this Certificate to utilize the <i>AIDCP Dolphin Safe</i> Certification Mark on the packaging of any product containing tuna specifically associated with this Certificate.	
Signature:	SEAL or STAMP
Name:	
Agency:	
Date (day-month-year):	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE AIDCP *DOLPHIN SAFE* CERTIFICATE

Certificate No. (shaded areas): **Do not write in these spaces**

IMPORTANT: In Section A cross out with an “X” any boxes in which you do not enter information. Any certificate with blank boxes will be invalid.

A. TTF NUMBER and WHOLE FROZEN WEIGHT of the tuna associated with this certificate

On lines 1 to 10, for each *Tuna Tracking Form* (TTF) associated with this certificate, enter the number of the TTF, and the total confirmed scale weight (**before processing**), in metric tons.

B. PRIMARY PROCESSING AND TOTAL WEIGHT OF THE TUNA ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CERTIFICATE

If the fish associated with this certificate has been processed, enter the type of primary processing (loins, canned, *etc.*) and the weight, in metric tons, of the finished product.

C. CERTIFICATION BY AIDCP COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

SIGNATURE, NAME, AGENCY, DATE AND OFFICIAL SEAL

The certificate is invalid without the official stamp of the competent national authority and the name and signature of a representative of that authority whose name and signature are registered with the Secretariat.