

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING
50TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
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**MATTERS RELATED TO THE TUNA TRACKING AND DOLPHIN SAFE
CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**

This report provides information regarding the submission of Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) to the Secretariat as well as comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding TTFs for trips that ended from 26 May 2023 through 25 August 2023. It also includes an overview of the historical rates of compliance of TTF submissions to the Secretariat since 2013.

1. SUMMARY OF THE 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 (or TTFs) 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 AIDCP List of Qualified Captains.
4. The competent national authority issuing the certificate has a tuna tracking system consistent with the AIDCP.

The Secretariat applies 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.

2. ORIGINAL TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

[Table 1](#) reflects compliance by national authorities with the deadline for the submission of TTFs to the Secretariat, established in the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna (STVT), as amended in June 2015, which states that “*Within ten days of receipt of a TTF, the competent national authority shall transmit an electronic copy of the TTF to the Secretariat. The original TTFs received during a calendar month shall be transmitted to the Secretariat by the competent national authority at the latest 15 days after the end of that month*”.

As indicated in the ‘Trips’ column in [Table 1](#), the Secretariat has received 248 original TTFs or electronic copies from the 250 trips with a completed TTF and that concluded between 26 May 2023 and 25 August 2023. For reference, [Table 1](#) also shows the corresponding percentages presented at the Working Group’s previous three meetings (47 through 49).

[Table 2](#) shows the total number and historical percentages of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2013. The percentages in this table reflect the deadlines originally established by the System and only include original TTFs received within those timeframes and not late.

3. COPIES OF DOLPHIN-SAFE CERTIFICATES RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

Between 26 May 2022 and 19 September 2023, the Secretariat received 178 copies of dolphin-safe certificates, corresponding to 170 TTFs completed during 170 fishing trips. Of the certificates received, 169 certificates were considered valid, 8 certificates were voided by the national authority, and 1 certificate was voided as it referenced a non-issued TTF. [Figure 1](#) shows the comparison of estimated weights, as recorded by observers on the TTF-A¹, and the recorded scale weight for each TTF included in the 169 valid certificates. The certified tonnage (107,806 t) represents 56.8 % of the total of 189,790 t recorded as *dolphin-safe* on the TTFs of the 250 trips completed during the reporting period.

According to the [Procedures for AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification](#), the national authority is informed of instances where the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in the dolphin safe certificates exceeds the estimated weight documented by the observer in the TTF by 10% or more. Out of the 170 completed TTFs, there were five cases where the certified weight exceeded the estimate in the corresponding TTF by 10%. In response to these cases, the respective national authority has supplied the Secretariat with the investigation results pursued during this inquiry. The Secretariat subsequently confirmed the validity of these certificates.

¹ Dolphin-safe tuna is recorded on the TTF-A, and non dolphin-safe tuna on the TTF-B.

4. TABLES AND FIGURES

TABLE 1. Original and electronic copies TTFs received by the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 3.6 of the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna, by national authority. Updated to 19 September 2023.

Trips ²			% of originals and electronic copies received, reported by meeting				
National authority		Trips	TTFs received	TT-50 Oct 2023	TT-49 Jul 2023	TT-48 Oct 2022	TT-47 Jul 2022
Colombia	COL	9	9	100	100	100	96
Costa Rica	CRI	5	5	100	86	67	83
Ecuador	ECU	160	160	100	100	100	100
El Salvador	SLV	4	4	100	87	100	100
European Union	EUR	1	1	100	100	-	-
Guatemala	GTM	6	5	83	0	100	45
Mexico	MEX	50	50	100	100	100	100
Panama	PAN	0	-	-	100	-	-
Peru	PER	3	2	67	100	-	100
United States	USA	12	12	100	100	-	100
Total		250	248	99	99	99	98

²Trips that ended from 26 May 2023 through 25 August 2023

TABLE 2. Number of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2013, and the percentage (in parenthesis) of the total that it represents, by year in which the trip began.

National authority		Originals received from competent national authority in previous years (%)									
		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Colombia	COL	33 (97)	25 (93)	30 (94)	38 (97)	34 (100)	36 (100)	35 (95)	44 (92)	40 (100)	45 (96)
Costa Rica	CRI	17 (89)	14 (100)	11 (92)	8 (89)	14 (93)	16 (94)	17 (89)	12 (86)	20 (95)	16 (94)
Ecuador	ECU	494 (98)	501 (99)	433 (98)	492 (98)	444 (95)	483 (99)	442 (99)	484 (99)	420 (99)	409 (99)
El Salvador	SLV	18 (95)	11 (100)	15 (88)	19 (95)	17 (100)	23 (96)	22 (100)	13 (100)	19 (90)	21 (91)
European Union	EUR	-	-	-	1 (100)	-	1 (25)	1 (100)	5 (63)	9 (64)	5 (71)
Guatemala	GTM	8 (100)	8 (53)	1 (8)	4 (36)	12 (100)	6 (50)	19 (95)	15 (100)	17 (100)	18 (95)
Mexico	MEX	191 (100)	191 (100)	200 (89)	210 (100)	200(100)	218 (100)	237 (100)	227 (100)	188 (100)	187 (100)
Panama	PAN	3 (100)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (50)	-
Peru	PER	3 (100)	12 (100)	24 (100)	41 (98)	17 (41)	35 (88)	37 (86)	12 (48)	12 (100)	10 (100)
United States	USA	10 (100)	14 (93)	10 (100)	22 (100)	16 (89)	9 (69)	27 (100)	9 (90)	1 (100)	-
Venezuela	VEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 (29)	7 (100)	6 (100)	11 (92)
Total		778 (98)	776 (98)	724 (94)	836 (98)	754 (94)	829 (97)	839 (97)	828 (97)	733 (98)	722 (98)

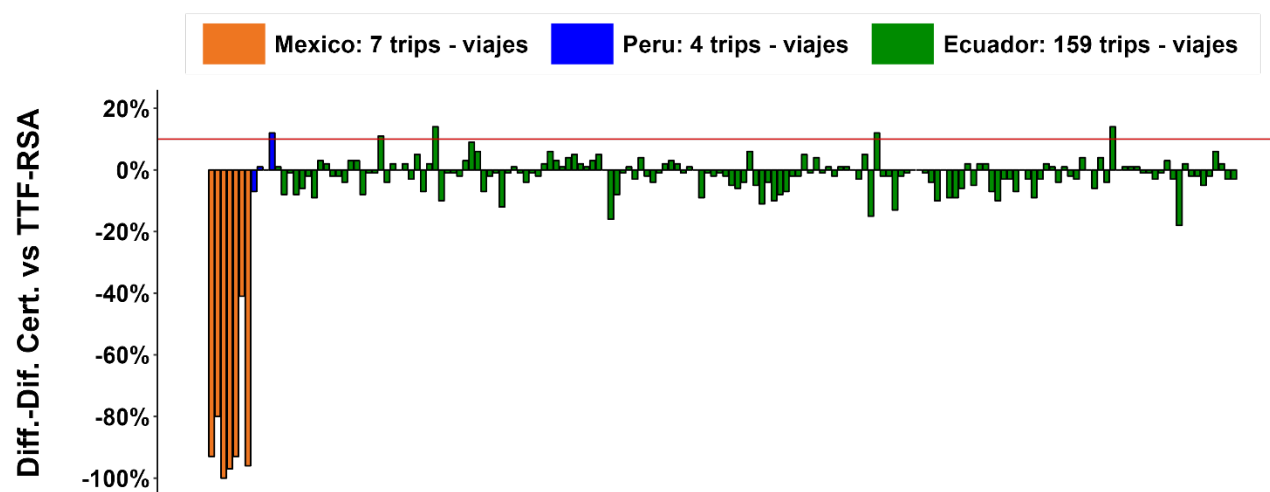


FIGURE 1. Comparison of the estimated weights recorded by observers on the TTF-A and the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in the dolphin-safe certificates. Updated to 19 September 2023.