

# INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

## PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

### 21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING

BUSAN, KOREA

19 JUNE 2006

#### DOCUMENT TT-21-04

### 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 January 1, 2005, and that ended on or before May 5, 2006, 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.

No inquiries have been received to date regarding the validity of a dolphin safe certificate.

As of May 1, 2006, the Secretariat has received 40 dolphin safe certificates for trips stated above. Of these, the issuing authority voided three. The 37 valid certificates represent tuna from 14 trips and 14 TTFs, and the Secretariat has received the originals of all 14 TTFs.

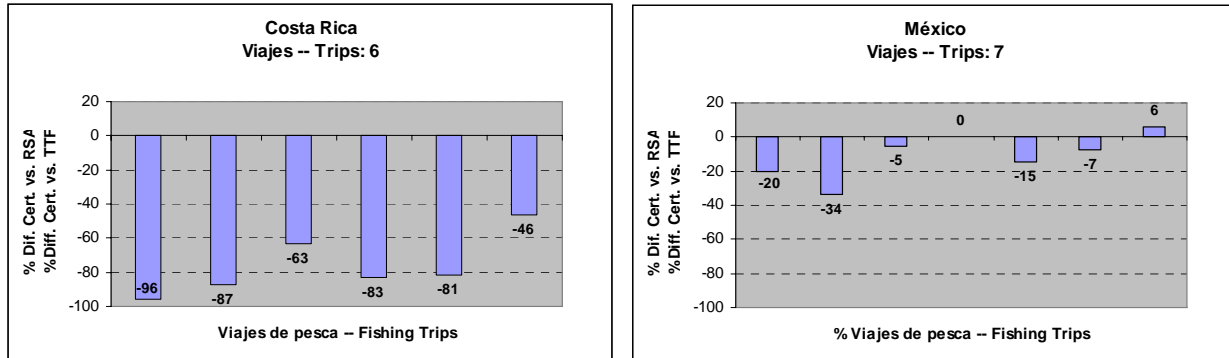
Questions may arise about the validity of a certificate if the data on the certificate do not match the data on the corresponding TTFs. For one of the 14 trips with valid dolphin safe certificates, the amount of tuna on the

Trip	Tuna (t)		Difference	
	Certificate	TTFs	t	%
134366	829	781	48	6.1%

certificate exceeded the amount of dolphin safe tuna recorded on the corresponding TTFs by 5% or more, as detailed in the table above. At its meeting in June 2003, the working group agreed that 10% should be

the trigger level employed by the Secretariat for requesting an investigation, and therefore no national authority has been advised of any discrepancy.

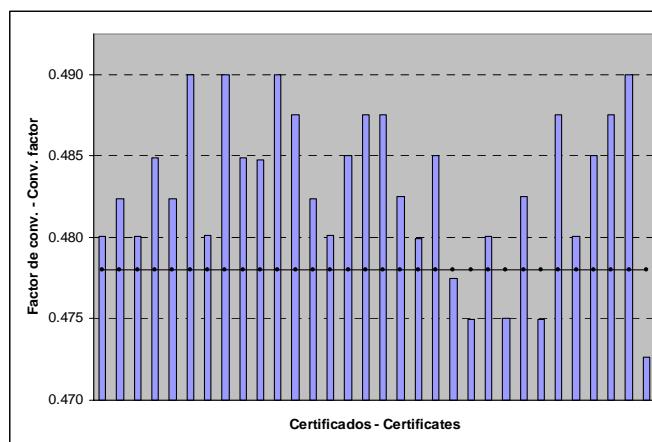
The graphs below show, for every trip that started on or after January 1, 2005, and ended on or before May 5, 2006, for which a valid dolphin-safe certificate has been issued, the percentage difference between the amount of dolphin-safe tuna recorded on the TTFs for the trip and the amount recorded on any certificates corresponding to that same trip. In most cases, the difference is negative, which indicates that the TTF estimate is higher than the certified weight, usually because the certificate reflects only a part of the catch from a trip. A positive percentage is more significant, since it means that the certified weight is higher than the estimate on the TTF. Additionally, Guatemala issued one dolphin-safe certificate, with a percentage difference of -20% from the weight of tuna on the corresponding TTFs.



## 2. COMPARISON OF WHOLE WEIGHT ON TTFs AND PROCESSED WEIGHT ON DOLPHIN-SAFE CERTIFICATES

At its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, in October 2003, the Working Group revisited the issue of processed weight versus whole weight, and asked the Secretariat to compare the weights of processed tuna recorded on dolphin safe certificates with the weights of whole fish on the corresponding TTFs. For this analysis, the Secretariat asked the Parties to provide information about the various conversion factors used by their industries in processing tuna. At its 19<sup>th</sup> meeting on June 2005, the Working Group requested that the Secretariat prepare a questionnaire that the Parties could circulate to their respective processing industries to gather information on the yield of processed products from whole tuna. This information would be used to derive average conversion factors to relate the weight of whole tuna caught, as recorded by the observers on the TTFs, to various frozen and processed products recorded on the dolphin safe certificates. The Secretariat presented such a questionnaire at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group in October 2005. The Working Group asked the Secretariat to provide it to each government, with a request that it survey its processors as to the usefulness of the form, the yields or range of yields for products, their comments on the form, and any other pertinent information they may wish to provide. The questionnaire was distributed to the Parties in January 2006, with the request that it be circulated among their respective industries and returned to the Secretariat by 24 April 2006. As of May 15, 2006, only one Party had returned such information for one of its tuna-processing plants.

The information in the one questionnaire returned confirms that one of the contributing factors to the yield is the size of the fish. It shows a maximum yield for fish over 10 kg of 0.478, and an average of 0.473. This maximum conversion factor, indicated by the continuous horizontal line in the graph, is less than the conversion factor indicated by 27 of the 32 certificates received that reflect tuna processed into loins.



### 3. TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

The information in this section covers trips that started during 2005 and ended by April 15, 2006.

1. TTFs transmitted to the Secretariat, as required by paragraph 3.6 of the [System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna](#), by responsible national authority:

National authority		Trips	No.	%
Colombia	COL	68	64	94
Costa Rica	CRI	38	38	100
Ecuador	ECU	468	437	93
European Union	EUR	1	1	100
Guatemala	GTM	17	16	94
México	MEX	234	234	100
Nicaragua	NIC	8	0	0
Panamá	PAN	10	9	90
Perú	PER	5	5	100
El Salvador	SLV	32	27	84
Venezuela	VEN	48	35	73
<b>Total</b>		<b>929</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>93</b>