INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

31ST MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
22 OCTOBER 2012

DOCUMENT TT-31-04

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 1 January 2011, and that ended on or before 1 September 2012, 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.
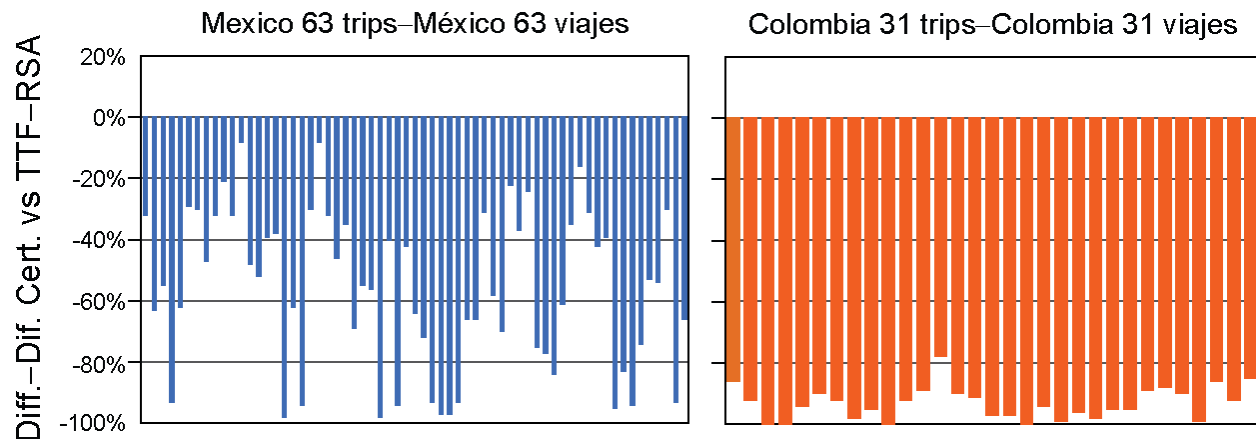
As of 25 September 2012, the Secretariat has received 118 Dolphin-Safe certificates signed on or after 1 January 2011, 30 more than that in Document TT-30-04, which covers the period up to 15 April 2012. Of these, 95 were considered valid; the other 23 (three more than in Document TT-30-04) were not considered valid because:

a. The competent National Authority (CNA), due to clerical errors, voided ten certificates (two more than in Document TT-30-04).

b. The Secretariat considered invalid eight certificates issued for fish caught during the closure of the offshore high-seas area in September-October 2010 and 2011 (see Document TT-30-04).

    c. Four certificates were voided by the Secretariat because they referred to TTFs not in the records. During the period covered by this report, one more certificate was issued with this error. As on previous occasions, the Secretariat contacted the pertinent CNA, which replied, as before, that it had made an error, but did not issue a revised certificate (see Document TT-30-04).

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 all those trips with valid dolphin-safe certificates, the amount of tuna on the certificate did not exceed the amount of dolphin-safe tuna recorded on the corresponding TTFs.

The graph below compares the estimated weights, as recorded by the observer on the TTF, and the recorded scale weight for each TTF included in the above-mentioned 95 certificates (27 more than in Document TT-30-04).

As noted in Document TT-30-04, the Secretariat informed the Parties about a TTF that appeared to have been forged. The Secretariat now wishes to draw the attention of the Parties to two further similar cases. As on the previous occasion, the Secretariat obtained a copy of the documents from the observer, and then received an alleged original from the CNA of the Party in whose port the fish was unloaded that differed from the observer's copy. On 26 July, the Secretariat sent a letter to both CNAs involved about these two cases. At the time this report was prepared, neither Party had responded. The main difference between the confirmed original TTFs and the apparently forged ones is that the former include fish not considered *dolphin-safe*, while the latter do not.

2. TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT AS OF 1 OCTOBER 2012

Original TTFs received by the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 3.6 of the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna, by flag of responsible national authority:

National authority		Trips[1]		% of originals received, reported in:			
		Trips	TTFs received	Sep 2010	Oct 2011	Jun 2012	Oct 2012
Colombia	COL	82	80	93	99	92	98
Costa Rica	CRI	30	27	20	65	89	90
Ecuador	ECU	615	585	100	99	93	95
European Union	EUR	17	6	78	55	46	35
Guatemala	GTM	25	15	21	94	88	60
Mexico	MEX	349	345	100	96	96	99
Nicaragua	NIC	0	-	50	-	-	-
Panama	PAN	2	1	75	67	100	50
Peru	PER	10	9	73	50	40	90
El Salvador	SLV	40	27	83	54	48	68
United States	USA	4	3	100	-	67	75
Venezuela	VEN	50	36	91	85	42	72
Total		**1,224**	**1,134**	**94**	**93**	**88**	**93**

[1] Trips starting on or before 1 January 2011 and terminating on or before 1 September 2012