INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PROGRAMA INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACION DE LOS DELFINES

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

13TH MEETING

ANTIGUA (GUATEMALA)
17 JUN 2003

DOCUMENT TT-13-03

REVIEW OF NATIONAL TUNA TRACKING AND VERIFICATION PLANS

As instructed by the 31st meeting of the IRP, the Secretariat has examined the national Tuna Tracking and Verification Plans presented by the governments of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the European Union, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the United States, Venezuela and Vanuatu. To date, Bolivia, Honduras, and Nicaragua have not submitted plans. The 12th meeting of the Tuna Tracking Working Group examined the plans of Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States, Vanuatu and Spain. In the case of Colombia and Venezuela, the Working Group considered that the documentation presented was incomplete and did not constitute a valid tuna tracking plan.

During the 12th meeting of the Working Group, it was agreed that the Secretariat would write to those countries that still did not have a national plan, indicating that they should refrain from issuing any *AIDCP dolphin safe* certificates until their plan was approved by the IRP. Accordingly, the Secretariat wrote to Bolivia, Colombia, the European Union, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Since then, updated plans have been received from Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States, as well as new plans from Colombia and the European Union.

Currently, the plans submitted are generally consistent with the provisions of the AIDCP System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna (TTVS), but only those of El Salvador and Vanuatu were considered completely consistent by the IRP. The Secretariat considers that the plans of Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States are also completely consistent with the TTVS.

The Tuna Tracking Working Group is invited to consider whether the plans of Colombia, the European Union, Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States are satisfactory as a basis for issuing dolphin-safe certificates.