

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING**

**53<sup>RD</sup> MEETING**

**Panama City, Panama  
30 August 2025**

**DOCUMENT TT-53-01**

**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 for trips that ended from 16 June 2024 through 15 June 2025, as well as comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding TTFs. It also includes an overview of the historical rates of compliance of TTF submissions to the Secretariat since 2015.

**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 1061 original TTFs or electronic copies from the 1073 trips with a completed TTF and that concluded between 16 June 2024 and 15 June 2025. For reference, [Table 1](#) also shows the corresponding percentages presented at the Working Group’s previous three meetings (49 through 51).

[Table 2](#) shows the total number and historical percentages of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2015. 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 16 June 2024 and 15 June 2025, the Secretariat received 873 copies of dolphin-safe certificates, corresponding to 594 TTFs completed during 594 fishing trips. Of the certificates received, 861 certificates were considered valid, and 12 certificates were voided by the national authority. [Figure 1](#) shows the comparison of estimated weights, as recorded by observers on the TTF-A<sup>1</sup>, and the recorded scale weight for each TTF included in the 861 valid certificates. The certified tonnage (363,506 t) represents 77.6 % of the total of 468,683 t recorded as dolphin-safe on the TTFs of the 594 trips recorded in the certificates.

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 594 completed TTFs, there were nine 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.

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

#### 4. TABLES AND FIGURES

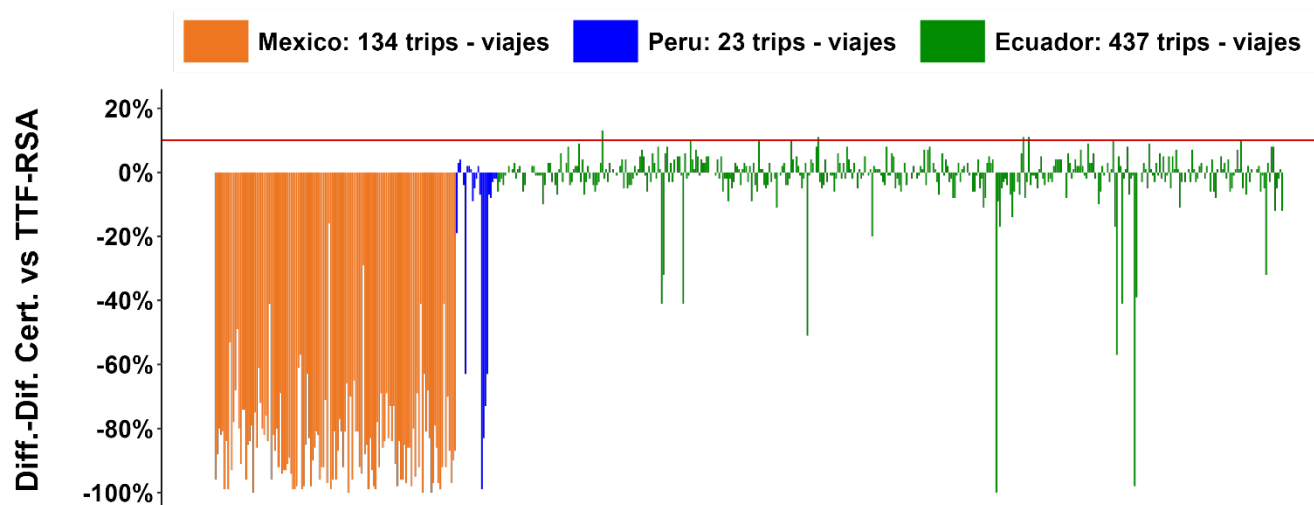
**TABLE 1.** Original and electronic copies TTFs received by the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 3.6 of the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna, by national authority. Updated to 15 August 2025.

Trips <sup>2</sup>				% of originals and electronic copies received, reported by meeting			
National authority		Trips	TTFs received	TT-53 Aug 2025	TT-51 Aug 2024	TT-50 Oct 2023	TT-49 Jul 2023
Colombia	COL	40	40	100	100	100	100
Costa Rica	CRI	18	16	78	100	100	86
Ecuador	ECU	688	685	100	100	100	100
El Salvador	SLV	26	24	92	100	100	87
European Union	EUR	11	11	100	100	100	100
Guatemala	GTM	16	12	75	100	83	0
Mexico	MEX	220	219	100	100	100	100
Peru	PER	20	20	100	100	67	100
United States	USA	34	34	100	100	100	100
<b>Total</b>		<b>1073</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>

<sup>2</sup>Trips that ended from 16 June 2024 through 15 June 2025

**TABLE 2.** Number of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2015, 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 (%)									
		2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Colombia	COL	35 (76)	34 (100)	36 (97)	25 (93)	30 (94)	38 (97)	34 (100)	36 (100)	35 (95)	44 (92)
Costa Rica	CRI	14 (78)	13 (87)	17 (89)	14 (100)	11 (92)	8 (89)	14 (93)	16 (94)	17 (89)	12 (86)
Ecuador	ECU	682 (100)	560 (99)	494 (98)	501 (99)	433 (98)	492 (98)	444 (95)	483 (99)	442 (99)	484 (99)
El Salvador	SLV	15 (63)	13 (100)	18 (95)	11 (100)	15 (88)	19 (95)	17 (100)	23 (96)	22 (100)	13 (100)
European Union	EUR	17 (100)	7 (100)	-	-	-	1 (100)	-	1 (25)	1 (100)	5 (63)
Guatemala	GTM	13 (93)	12 (100)	8 (100)	8 (53)	1 (8)	4 (36)	12 (100)	6 (50)	19 (95)	15 (100)
Mexico	MEX	186 (92)	194 (100)	191 (100)	191 (100)	200 (89)	210 (100)	200(100)	218 (100)	237 (100)	227 (100)
Peru	PER	27 (96)	18 (90)	3 (100)	12 (100)	24 (100)	41 (98)	17 (41)	35 (88)	37 (86)	12 (48)
United States	USA	40 (98)	20 (83)	10 (100)	14 (93)	10 (100)	22 (100)	16 (89)	9 (69)	27 (100)	9 (90)
Venezuela	VEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 (29)	7 (100)
<b>Total</b>		<b>1029 (96)</b>	<b>871 (99)</b>	<b>778 (98)</b>	<b>776 (98)</b>	<b>724 (94)</b>	<b>836 (98)</b>	<b>754 (94)</b>	<b>829 (97)</b>	<b>839 (97)</b>	<b>828 (97)</b>



**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 31 July 2025.