

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

36TH MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)

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DOCUMENT TT-36-05

**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 2 May 2015 through 31 August 2015. It also includes an overview of the historic rates of compliance rates of TTF submissions to the Secretariat since 2005, and provides updates regarding special cases monitored by the Working Group.

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 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

Compliance by national authorities with respect to the timely submission of TTFs to the Secretariat for trips that ended between 2 May 2015 and 31 August 2015 is reflected in Table 1. As indicated in the ‘Trips’ column in Table 1, the Secretariat has received 278 original TTFs from the 300 trips completed during that period. Table 1 also shows the percentages of original TTFs received vs. trips completed reported at this meeting and, for reference, the corresponding percentages presented at the working group’s previous three

meetings (33 through 35). The Parties should recall that Resolution A-15-01, adopted the 31st Meeting of the Parties in June 2015, modified the rule governing the timing of the submission of TTFs. Paragraph 3.6 of the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna reads as follows:

3.6. *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.*

Table 2 shows the historic percentages of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2005 and reflects the total number of TTFs received, regardless of whether they were submitted consistent with the timing requirements or at a later date.

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

Between 2 May 2015 and 15 September 2015, the Secretariat received 196 copies of dolphin-safe certificates, corresponding to 74 TTFs prepared during 74 fishing trips; all were considered valid. 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 196 valid dolphin-safe certificates from this time range. The certified tonnage (10,094 t) represents 5.5% of the total of 182,459 t recorded as dolphin-safe on the TTFs of the 300 completed trips.

Pursuant to the [Procedures for AIDCP dolphin safe tuna certification](#), the national authority is notified of cases in which the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in a *dolphin safe* certificate is 10% or more greater than the weight recorded on the TTF by the observer. In one case, the scale weight was greater than the estimate on the TTF, but only by 2%, and thus the responsible authority was not notified.

4. MONITORING OF SPECIAL CASES

During its 31st meeting in October 2012, the working group discussed three cases of apparent forgery of TTFs. One of these cases was presented at the 30th meeting in June 2012, and the other two at the 31st meeting.

The current situation regarding these cases is as follows:

a) CASE TTF-30, fishing trip terminated in December 2011

Information presented at the 30th meeting of the working group

In April and May 2012, letters were sent to both national authorities involved, the vessel's flag State and the port State where the relevant catches were unloaded, indicating that the TTFs received differed in that one included non-*dolphin safe* fish and the other did not. During the meeting, Venezuela identified itself as the flag State, and indicated that it had received the original TTF and sent it to the Secretariat; there were no discrepancies with the document completed by the observer. The discrepancy was with the copy obtained by the national authority of the Party where the first partial unloading took place, and Venezuela therefore had no elements to continue an investigation because the guidelines for managing TTFs had been complied with in its territory.

The national authority of the Party where the catch was initially unloaded has not answered formally, but in late March 2013, it indicated unofficially that an investigation has started (Document TT-32-04). At the time this report was posted (9 October 2015), the Secretariat had not received any further information.

b) CASES TTF-31a, fishing trip terminated in December 2011; and TTF-31b, fishing trip terminated in November 2011

Information presented at the 31st meeting of the working group

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

As in the previous case, the flag of the vessels is different from the unloading flag. Trip TTF-31a unloaded completely, while TTF-31b landed only part of the catch. In July 2012, a letter was sent to both corresponding national authorities, indicating that the TTFs received differed because one included non-dolphin safe fish and the other does not.

The national authority of the Party where the catch was unloaded has not answered formally, but in late March 2013 it indicated unofficially that an investigation has started. At the time this report was posted (9 October 2015), the Secretariat had not received any further information.

The national authority of the flag State also indicated informally that the records it sent to the Secretariat did not differ as regards the information recorded by the observer, and therefore an investigation was not required.

In none of these three cases was a dolphin-safe certificate issued of which the Secretariat has a copy. These cases were included in Documents TT-32-04, TT-33-04, and TT-34-04, and as of the date of posting this document, the Secretariat has not received any further information from the national authority of the Party where the catch was unloaded and that sent the presumably altered copy.

5. TABLES AND FIGURES

TABLE 1. Original TTFs received by the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 3.6 of the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna, by national authority:

Trips ²			% of originals received, reported by meeting				
National authority	Trips	TTFs received	TT-35 Jul-15	TT-34 Jul-14	TT-33 Oct-13	TT-32 Jun-13	
Colombia	COL	19	18	95	65	81	94
Costa Rica	CRI	7	7	100	87	97	88
Ecuador	ECU	161	149	93	83	94	93
El Salvador	SLV	2	2	100	75	88	93
European Union	EUR	5	5	100	56	86	100
Guatemala	GTM	6	3	50	100	68	71
Mexico	MEX	92	92	100	99	99	98
Panama	PAN	0	-	-	50	-	-
Peru	PER	7	2	29	52	75	50
United States	USA	0	-	-	100	100	100
Venezuela	VEN	1	0	0	75	66	62
Total		300	278	93	85	93	93

²Trips that ended from 2 May 2015 through 31 August 2015.

TABLE 2. Number of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2005, and the percentage (in parenthesis) of the total that it represents, by year in which the trip began.

		Originals received from competent national authority in previous years (%)									
National authority		2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Bolivia	BOL		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colombia	COL	40 (100)	45 (96)	43 (100)	54 (100)	44 (100)	46 (90)	59 (87)	66 (99)	45 (92)	64 (97)
Costa Rica	CRI	20 (95)	16 (94)	18 (95)	18 (100)	7 (41)	2 (17)	20 (87)	30 (103)	27 (100)	33 (100)
Ecuador	ECU	420 (99)	409 (99)	385 (99)	360 (99)	307 (100)	352 (100)	399 (100)	338 (103)	391 (100)	366 (92)
El Salvador	SLV	19 (90)	21 (91)	24 (92)	28 (97)	16 (70)	35 (92)	37 (97)	41 (98)	35 (97)	26 (100)
European Union	EUR	9 (64)	5 (71)	17 (100)	5 (50)	3 (60)	4 (100)	5 (100)	1 (100)	-	1 (100)
Guatemala	GTM	17 (100)	18 (95)	16 (94)	14 (100)	25 (100)	16 (94)	7 (70)	14 (100)	12 (80)	14 (93)
Mexico	MEX	188 (100)	187 (100)	207 (99)	205 (100)	180 (100)	189 (100)	192 (97)	201 (100)	168 (99)	203 (100)
Nicaragua	NIC	-	-	-	-	-	1 (50)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Panama	PAN	1 (50)	-	-	1 (100)	2 (100)	3 (75)	3 (100)	4 (67)	4 (67)	8 (89)
Peru	PER	12 (100)	10 (100)	2 (100)	9 (90)	9 (82)	4 (67)	0 (0)	3 (100)	2 (100)	4 (100)
United States	USA	1 (100)	-	2 (100)	3 (100)	-	2 (100)	1 (100)	2 (100)	-	-
Venezuela	VEN	6 (100)	11 (92)	20 (100)	28 (82)	31 (100)	35 (92)	21 (62)	26 (100)	38 (84)	34 (89)
Total		733 (98)	722 (98)	734 (99)	725 (98)	624 (97)	689 (96)	744 (95)	726 (100)	722 (97)	753 (94)

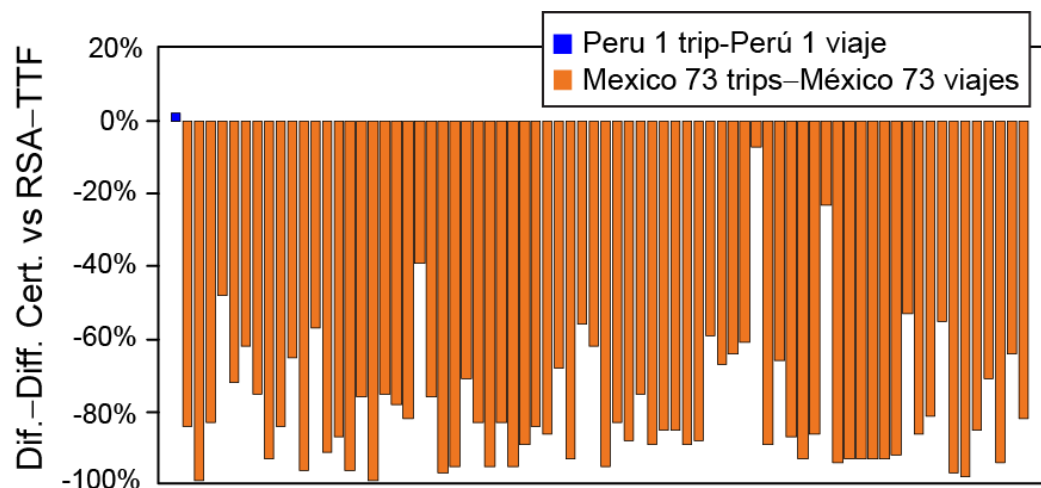


FIGURE 1. Comparison of the estimated weights recorded by observers on the TTF-A and the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in the dolphin-safe certificates.