

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

32ND MEETING

VERACRUZ, VERACRUZ (MEXICO)
3 JUNE 2013

DOCUMENT TT-32-04

**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 2012, and that ended on or before 15 April 2013, and a summary of the original 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:

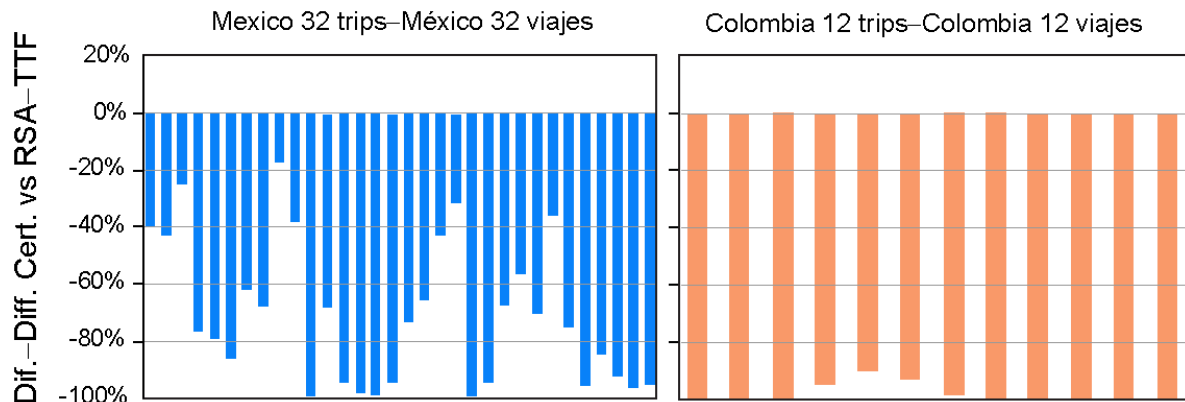
1. The Secretariat responds to questions about specific certificates from potential importing states or companies only.
2. If the certificate meets the four requirements above, the response is that the certificate is valid.
3. If the Secretariat does not have the information it needs to verify 1 or 2 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 15 April 2013, the Secretariat has received 30 dolphin-safe certificates signed on or after 15 April 2012, but only 27 of those certificates were considered valid. Those 27 certificates correspond to 44 TTFs prepared during 44 fishing trips. The reasons the remaining 3 certificates were not considered valid are:

- a. The competent National Authority (CNA), due to clerical errors, voided two certificates.
- b. As noted in Document [TT-29-04](#), the Secretariat voided one certificate because it referred to TTFs not in the records. The Secretariat contacted the pertinent CNA, which acknowledged the mistake, but did not issue a revised certificate.

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 these 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 shows the comparison of estimated weights, as recorded by the observer on the TTF, and the recorded scale weight for each TTF referenced for the 27 dolphin-safe certificates mentioned above.



The *Tuna Tracking System* states that if tuna is unloaded from a fishing vessel in port and subsequently loaded aboard a carrier vessel for transport to a processing location, the Party under whose jurisdiction the fishing vessel operates shall be responsible for obtaining the TTF and transmitting all relevant documentation to the Secretariat. In accordance with this procedure, the authority with jurisdiction at the point of processing, has requested from the Secretariat copies of the TTFs, with the intention of issuing *dolphin safe* certificates for the transshipped tuna. The Secretariat, with the permission of the flag State, sent the copies requested, however, as of the publication of this report, no copies of any corresponding *dolphin safe* certificates have been received. The [Procedures for AIDCP dolphin safe tuna certification](#) provide that the Secretariat, within fifteen days of the month, shall receive copies of all such certificates issued during the previous month.

2. 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 the two corresponding national authorities, both of the vessel's flag and of the place where it unloaded the catches, 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 country, 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 it therefore had no elements to continue an investigation because in its territory the guidelines for managing TTFs had been complied with.

The national authority of the Party where the catch was initially unloaded has not answered formally, but in late March it indicated unofficially that an investigation has started. At the time of writing this

report, no updates on this investigation had been received..

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.

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 it indicated unofficially that an investigation has started. At the time of writing this report, no updates on this investigation had been received.

The national authority of the vessels' flag indicated, also informally, that the records sent to the Secretariat did not differ as regards the information recorded by the observer, and therefore there was nothing for it to investigate.

In none of these three cases was a *dolphin-safe* certificate issued of which the Secretariat has obtained a copy.

3. ORIGINAL TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR TRIPS ENDING ON OR BEFORE 15 APRIL 2013

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			
	Trips	TTFs recd		Jun-13	Oct-12	Jun-12	Oct-11
Colombia	COL	49	45	92	98	92	99
Costa Rica	CRI	25	18	72	90	89	65
Ecuador	ECU	481	426	89	95	93	99
El Salvador	SLV	30	28	93	68	48	54
European Union	EUR	17	17	100	35	46	55
Guatemala	GTM	17	12	71	60	88	94
Mexico	MEX	258	254	98	99	96	96
Nicaragua	NIC	0	-	-	-	-	-
Panama	PAN	0	-	-	50	100	67
Peru	PER	6	3	50	90	40	50
United States	USA	2	2	100	75	67	NA
Venezuela	VEN	21	13	62	72	42	85
Total		906	818	90	93	88	93

¹ Trips starting during 2012 and ending on or before 15 April, 2013