

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING**  
**34<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

LIMA (PERU)  
7 JULY 2014

**DOCUMENT TT-34-04**

**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 September 2013, and that ended on or before 1 May 2014. It also includes a summary of the TTFs received by the Secretariat over about the last ten years.

**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 (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:

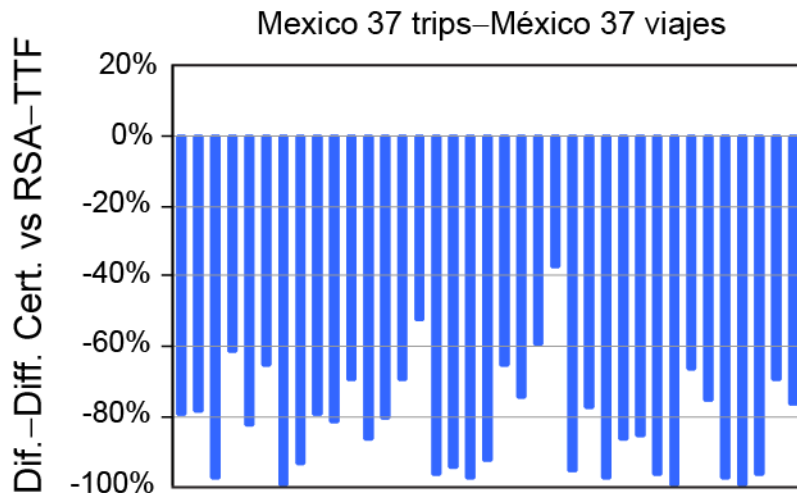
1. The Secretariat responds to questions about specific certificates from potential importing states or companies only.
2. If the certificate meets the four requirements above, the response is that the certificate is valid.
3. If the Secretariat does not have the information it needs to verify 1 or 2 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.

As of 15 May 2014, since the report for the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of this working group (Document TT-33-04), the Secretariat has received copies of 69 dolphin-safe certificates.

Of these, 68 were considered valid, corresponding to 37 TTFs prepared during 37 fishing trips; The respective competent national authority voided one certificate due to clerical errors.

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 68 valid dolphin-safe certificates mentioned above.



## 2. MONITORING OF SPECIAL CASES

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

The current situation regarding these cases is as follows:

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

Information presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> 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 (15 May 2014), the Secretariat had not received updates on this investigation.

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

Information presented at the 31<sup>st</sup> 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 this report was posted (15 May

2014), the Secretariat had not received updates on this investigation had been received.

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 there was nothing for it to investigate.

In none of these three cases was a dolphin-safe certificate issued of which the Secretariat has a copy. This case was included in Documents TT-32-04 and TT-33-04, 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.

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 1 MAY 2014

**TABLE 1.** 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 <sup>1</sup>		Reported % of originals received, by meeting			
		Trips	TTFs rec'd	Jul-14	Oct-13	Jun-13	Oct-12
Bolivia	BOL	0	-	-	-	-	-
Colombia	COL	17	17	100	81	94	98
Costa Rica	CRI	8	4	50	97	88	90
Ecuador	ECU	208	154	74	94	93	95
El Salvador	SLV	8	6	75	88	93	68
European Union	EUR	3	2	67	86	100	35
Guatemala	GTM	11	0	0	68	71	60
Mexico	MEX	83	80	96	99	98	99
Nicaragua	NIC	0	-	-	-	-	-
Panama	PAN	0	-	-	-	-	50
Peru	PER	2	2	100	75	50	90
United States	USA	0	-	-	100	100	75
Venezuela	VEN	8	0	0	66	62	72
<b>Total</b>		<b>348</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>

<sup>1</sup> Trips starting after 1 September 2013 and ending on or before 1 May 2014.

At its 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting in June 2013, the working group asked the Secretariat to present a table illustrating the percentage of original TTFs received since data on this information have been kept. The results for the last ten years are shown in Table 2.

**TABLE 2.** Number of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2004, and the percentage (in parenthesis) of the total that it represents, by year in which the trip began.

National authority		Originals received from national authority in previous years (%)										
		2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	
Bolivia	BOL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colombia	COL	45 (96)	43 (100)	54 (100)	44 (100)	46 (90)	59 (87)	66 (99)	45 (92)	64 (97)	68 (99)	
Costa Rica	CRI	16 (94)	18 (95)	18 (100)	7 (41)	2 (17)	20 (87)	29 (100)	27 (100)	33 (100)	35 (97)	
Ecuador	ECU	404 (98)	385 (99)	360 (99)	307 (100)	352 (100)	399 (100)	329 (100)	391 (100)	366 (92)	345 (100)	
El Salvador	SLV	21 (91)	24 (92)	28 (97)	16 (70)	35 (92)	37 (97)	41 (98)	35 (97)	26 (100)	21 (100)	
European Union	EUR	5 (71)	17 (100)	5 (50)	3 (60)	4 (100)	5 (100)	1 (100)	-	1 (100)	0 (0)	
Guatemala	GTM	9 (47)	16 (94)	14 (100)	25 (100)	14 (82)	7 (70)	14 (100)	12 (80)	14 (93)	9 (90)	
Mexico	MEX	186 (99)	207 (99)	205 (100)	180 (100)	189 (100)	192 (97)	201 (100)	168 (99)	203 (100)	226 (99)	
Nicaragua	NIC	-	-	-	-	1 (50)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	
Panama	PAN	-	-	1 (100)	2 (100)	3 (75)	3 (100)	4 (67)	4 (67)	8 (89)	6 (75)	
Peru	PER	10 (100)	2 (100)	9 (90)	9 (82)	4 (67)	0 (0)	3 (100)	2 (100)	4 (100)	2 (67)	
United States	USA	-	2 (100)	2 (67)	-	2 (100)	1 (100)	2 (100)	-	-	4 (100)	
Venezuela	VEN	8 (67)	20 (100)	28 (82)	31 (100)	35 (92)	21 (62)	26 (100)	38 (84)	34 (89)	31 (91)	
<b>Total</b>		<b>704 (96)</b>	<b>734 (99)</b>	<b>724 (98)</b>	<b>624 (97)</b>	<b>687 (96)</b>	<b>744 (95)</b>	<b>716 (99)</b>	<b>722 (97)</b>	<b>753 (94)</b>	<b>747 (98)</b>	