

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

35th MEETING

Guayaquil, Ecuador
29 June 2015

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of the minutes of the 34 th meeting	
4. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system	TT-35-04
5. Other business	
6. Recommendations for the International Review Panel	
7. Place and date of next meeting	
8. Adjournment	

APPENDIX

1. List of attendees

The 35th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on 22 June 2015. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Mr. Luis Torres, of Ecuador.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 34th meeting

The minutes of the 34th meeting, circulated previously by the Secretariat, were approved without changes.

4. Review of the implementation of the [dolphin safe certification system](#)

The Secretariat presented Document TT-35-04, *Matters related to the Tuna Tracking and Dolphin Safe Certification programs*.

It was reported that between 2 May 2014 and 15 May 2015, the Secretariat had received 481 copies of dolphin-safe certificates. Of these, 479, corresponding to 137 Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) prepared during 137 fishing trips, were considered valid; two were invalidated by the respective competent national authority due to typographical errors. The certified tonnage (25,054 tons, represents 5.7% of the total of 438,852 tons recorded as dolphin-safe.

It was also reported that from 2 May 2014 to 1 May 2015, 581 TTFs from 686 trips had been received, which denotes 85% compliance, and the meeting was reminded that TTFs should be sent to the Secretariat within ten days.

Some delegations proposed that the TTFs could be sent electronically to reduce costs, and that the originals be sent by regular mail once a certain number had accumulated. This type of change would mean amending the Tuna Tracking and Verification System.

Colombia requested that its percentage of TTFs submitted be corrected to 100%, since it had already sent all the original TTFs.

Also, three cases of altered certificates were reminded which involve two Parties: the vessel's flag State and the port State. The flag State has not reported any updates on these cases.

The European Union expressed its concern about the absence of a mechanism for penalizing a lack of action on such cases, and suggested that the group work on follow-up actions. Mexico noted that it is the respective government that must follow up, not the group, and that these isolated cases do not mean that the system is not working well. Guatemala noted that there are legal deadlines in each country that must be considered and respected, and that the respective government must follow up and report to the AIDCP whenever the processes make progress or conclude.

5. Other business

There was no other business.

6. Recommendations for the International Review Panel

The group recommended a change in the Tuna Tracking and Verification System that would extend the deadline for sending Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs), in order to make it more compatible with the AIDCP procedures for dolphin-safe certification and to reduce the cost of sending TTFs individually. The proposal would amend paragraph 3.6 of the System as follows:

“Within ten (10) 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.”

7. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on the dates agreed for the meetings of the AIDCP in October 2015.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. on 22 June 2015.

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