

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PROGRAMA INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACION DE LOS DELFINES

**GRUPO DE TRABAJO PERMANENTE SOBRE EL SEGUIMIENTO DEL ATUN
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING**

10^a REUNION - 10TH MEETING

MANZANILLO (MEXICO)
18 JUN 2002

REPORT TO THE IRP

Section 4, paragraph 6 of the minutes of the 9th meeting of the Working Group were corrected to reflect that action proposals must be submitted to the IRP for approval before being forwarded to the Meeting of the Parties. The minutes were approved as corrected.

The Secretariat distributed a list of those countries who have and have not submitted tuna tracking plans to the Secretariat. Two new plans have been received, from Guatemala and Peru.

After extensive discussion and some re-drafting, a proposal to modify the System for Tuna Tracking and Verification regarding fishing outside the Agreement Area is herewith presented to the IRP for approval and forwarding to the Meeting of the Parties.

A report on the number and percentage by country of original TTFs received by the Secretariat was distributed. This report showed that several countries are having difficulty submitting original TTFs to the Secretariat. A second report showing the total number of TTFs received (both copies and originals) showed that the Secretariat is receiving TTFs for almost all fishing trips.

Dr. Allen reported on the Certification System and outlined some common mistakes that the Secretariat is seeing in comparing dolphin-safe certificates against TTFs. After discussion, it was decided that the Secretariat with the assistance of a representative of Ecuador, will prepare guidelines for Parties to use in preparing certificates.

It was also agreed that when the Secretariat determines that a specific certificate is invalid, the involved Party will be notified as soon as possible. If the problem is not solved the Secretariat shall notify the Parties that an invalid certificate may have been issued and report the matter to the Working Group for consideration at its next meeting.

There was a discussion of the prospects for a public relations trip to Europe in the near future. Some delegations wanted this trip to take place no later than September, while others felt that some careful planning and consideration should occur before any dates are set. A committee composed of Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, the U.S. met following the Working Group meeting to discuss the prospects for such a trip. The Secretariat agreed to prepare a short document outlining the requirements for a trip.

Although the specific date was not set, the next meeting of the Working Group will take place one day before the next meeting of the IRP.