

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

19TH MEETING

LANZAROTE (SPAIN)

13 JUNE 2005

DOCUMENT TT-19-04a

MATTERS RELATED TO THE TUNA TRACKING AND DOLPHIN-SAFE CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

This report updates the information presented in Document TT-17-04, presents comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) for trips that ended on or after January 1, 2004, and a summary of the 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.
6. No inquiries have been received to date regarding the validity of a dolphin safe certificate.

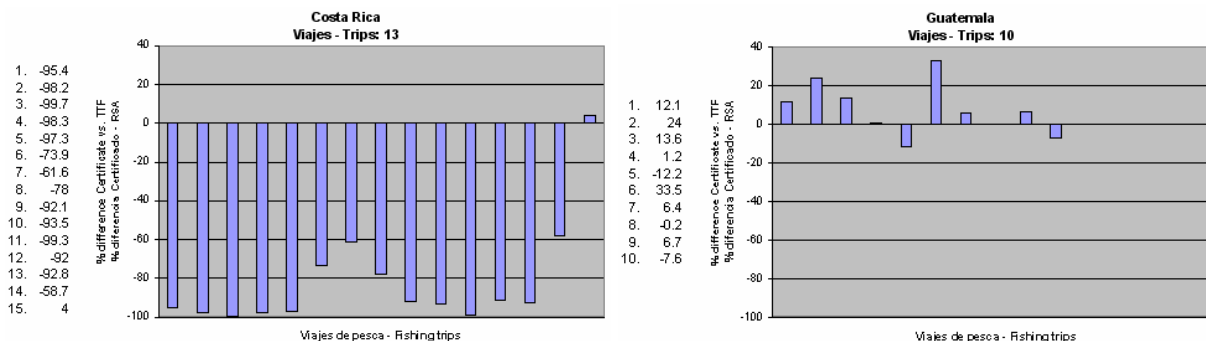
As of May 19, 2005, the Secretariat has received 34 dolphin safe certificates for trips that ended on or after January 1, 2004. Of these, four were voided by the issuing authority. The 30 valid certificates represent tuna from 25 trips and 26 TTFs, and the Secretariat has received the originals of all 26 TTFs.

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 6 of the 25 trips with valid dolphin safe

Trip	Tuna (t)		Difference	
	Certificate	TTFs	t	%
132196	933	699	234	33.5
131739	331	267	64	24.0
131811	1317	1159	158	13.6
131621	1373	1225	148	12.1
132915	700	656	44	6.7
132559	628	590	38	6.4

certificates, the amount of tuna on the certificate exceeded the amount of dolphin safe tuna recorded on the corresponding TTFs by 5% or more, as detailed in the table above. At its meeting in June 2003, the working group agreed that 10% should be the trigger level employed by the Secretariat for requesting an investigation. The national authority that issued the four certificates which exceeded the TTF dolphin safe tuna by more than 10% has been advised of the discrepancy.

The graphs below show, for every trip that ended on or after January 1, 2004, for which a valid dolphin-safe certificate has been issued, the percentage difference between the amount of dolphin-safe tuna recorded on the TTFs for the trip and the amount recorded on any certificates corresponding to that same trip. In most cases the difference is negative, which indicates that the TTF estimate is higher than the certified weight, usually because the weight reported on the certificate is processed fish, or the certificate reflects only a part of the catch from a trip. A positive percentage is more significant, since it means that the certified weight is higher than the estimate on the TTF.



2. COMPARISON OF WHOLE WEIGHT ON TTFs AND PROCESSED WEIGHT ON DOLPHIN-SAFE CERTIFICATES

At its 9th meeting, in June 2003, the Parties to the AIDCP approved revisions to the dolphin-safe certificate to allow, *inter alia*, multiple TTFs to be included on a single certificate, and the identification of whole tuna and processed tuna.

At its 14th meeting, in October 2003, the Working Group revisited the issue of processed weight versus whole weight, and asked the Secretariat to compare the weights of processed tuna recorded on dolphin safe certificates with the weights of whole fish on the corresponding TTFs. For this analysis, the Secretariat asked the Parties to provide information about the various conversion factors used by their industries in processing tuna. To date, the only information received is a personal communication from Costa Rica indicating a conversion factor of 0.495 for whole fish to frozen loins. (A conversion factor of 0.5 indicates that a metric ton of whole tuna would produce 500 kg of loins.)

As of May 19 2005, the Secretariat has received 35 dolphin-safe certificates, issued by two Parties. One issuing authority voided four certificates due to clerical errors. The 31 valid certificates refer to 26 different TTFs.

Five of the 31 valid certificates received, referencing 11 TTFs of ten trips, were for whole frozen tuna. The quantities of frozen tuna on the TTFs and the corresponding certificates should be very similar; any discrepancies are indicated in part 1 of this report.

Twenty-six of the 31 valid certificates received referencing 15 TTFs indicated that the tuna was processed into loins. The ratio between the whole weight in the TTFs completed by the observers and the referenced weight in part A of the certificates is shown in Figure 2.1.

As shown in Figure 2.2, the ratio between the frozen weight indicated in section A of the certificates and the processed weight is in all cases lower than the conversion factor of 0.495 supplied by Costa Rica, indicated by the dotted line. It should be noted also that the certificates refer to one processed weight that

could be the product of several TTFs.

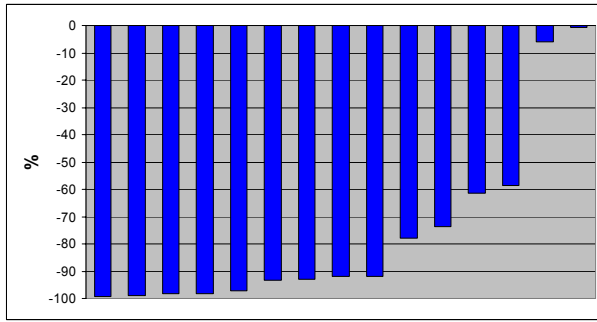


Figure 2.1

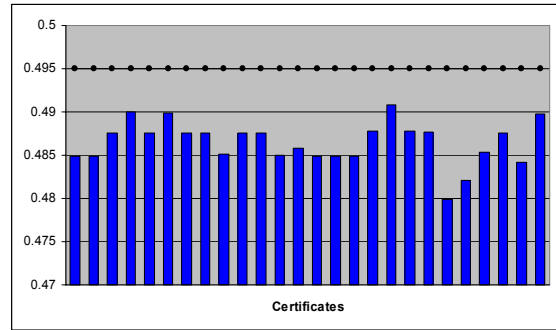


Figure 2.2

3. TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

The information in this section covers trips that started during 2004 and ended by April 20, 2005.

1. Original TTFs transmitted to the Secretariat, as required by paragraph 3.6 of the [System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna](#), by responsible national authority:

National authority		Trips	No.	%
Colombia	COL	102	95	93
Costa Rica	CRI	46	46	100
Ecuador	ECU	469	468	100
European Union	EUR	1	-	0
Guatemala	GTM	15	13	87
México	MEX	282	222	79
Panamá	PAN	11	8	73
Perú	PER	6	1	17
El Salvador	SLV	29	27	93
Venezuela	VEN	47	42	89
Total		1,008	922	91