

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL**

**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING**

**MINUTES OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**Del Mar, California (USA)  
8 October 2003**

**Chair: Ms. Pat Donley (United States)**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. National Tuna Tracking Plans:
  - a) Status of national plans
  - b) Presentation by El Salvador
4. Review of the implementation of the [dolphin safe certification system](#)
5. Amendments addressing transfer of fish from unobserved vessels
6. Conversion of whole fish weights to processed tuna weights
7. Recommendations for the IRP
8. Other business
9. Date and place of next meeting
10. Adjournment

**APPENDICES**

1. List of attendees
2. Original TTFs received by the Secretariat, 2002-2003

**DOCUMENTS**

- [TT-14-03](#) Review of national tuna tracking and verification plans  
[TT-14-04](#) Summary of dolphin-safe certification program  
[TT-14-05](#) Amendment addressing transfers of tuna from unobserved vessels  
[TT-14-06](#) Comparison of whole and processed weights of tuna

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in Del Mar, California (USA), on 8 October 2003. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by Ms. Pat Donley, of the United States, the Chair of the Working Group.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda was adopted as presented. At the request of the United States, the Working Group agreed to discuss under Item 8, *Other business*, possible actions that could be taken in support of measures adopted under IATTC [Resolution C-03-12](#) on the conservation of tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

The Working Group approved the minutes of its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, prepared and circulated by the Secretariat.

### **3. National Tuna Tracking Plans**

#### **a. Status of national plans**

The Secretariat presented its updated review of national tuna tracking and verification plans ([Document TT-14-03](#)). Dr. Robin Allen, Director of the IATTC, explained the results of the reviews carried out since the previous meeting of the Working Group.

The Working Group agreed that the plan submitted by Ecuador is consistent with the latest version of the [AIDCP Tuna Tracking and Verification System](#).

The Secretariat reported that it had very recently received a plan from Venezuela, but that there was insufficient time before this meeting to translate and analyze it. It was suggested that the consistency of the plan could be considered at the next meeting of the Working Group, or perhaps through correspondence.

#### **b. Presentation by El Salvador**

El Salvador made a brief presentation about its national tuna tracking plan, and answered the questions asked by various members. It was agreed that Colombia would present its plan at the next meeting of the Working Group.

### **4. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system**

Dr. Allen presented [Document TT-14-04](#), which updates the information presented during the last meeting of the Working Group and presents information on the comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs).

The document presents the criteria to be followed for issuing AIDCP dolphin safe certificates and the guidelines followed by the Secretariat in case of an inquiry regarding the authenticity of dolphin safe certificates, which has not occurred to date.

The document indicates that, as of 16 September, the Secretariat had received 161 *AIDCP dolphin safe* certificates, 11 of which were considered invalid for various reasons.

Following the Secretariat's presentation, it was announced that when the new dolphin safe certification forms, agreed at the last meeting of the working group, are ready for distribution, they will be mailed to each participant, and the participants will then return all unused copies of the obsolete forms to the Secretariat.

The Working Group discussed the need for some sort of standard auditing program for the Certification System, consisting of procedures, protocols, and possible sanctions to be used to enhance confidence in the integrity of the system. The United States agreed to prepare a resolution on this matter for consideration of the Working Group at its next meeting.

The Ocean Conservancy recalled the previous agreement that the Secretariat should notify a government of any discrepancy between the amount of tuna recorded on a certificate and the corresponding TTF, and suggested that Parties be notified if such discrepancies are not resolved within 60 days. This proposal was agreed by the meeting.

The Secretariat was asked to provide tables as well as graphs in future reports of the difference between dolphin safe tuna recorded on TTFs and on corresponding certificates.

The Secretariat presented tables showing, for each Party, the number of original TTFs received by the Secretariat (Appendix 2). Several countries have reached the 100 per cent level, and most others have improved compliance from the last report. The Secretariat provided copies of the presentation, and will do so prior to its presentation at the next meeting.

It was pointed out that in many cases flag vessels of one country unload in ports of other countries, thus underlining the importance of the representatives of the various national tracking systems being able to communicate with each other. Bolivia was urged to notify the Secretariat of the name and contact information for its designated representative to be added to the list of contacts and distributed to all the Parties.

#### **5. Amendments addressing transfer of fish from unobserved vessels**

In accordance with the instructions of the previous meeting of the Working Group, the Secretariat presented [Document TT-14-05](#), on the necessary amendments regarding the transfer of tuna from vessels without an observer. The Secretariat proposed amending the Tuna Tracking and Verification System, inserting a new paragraph after the current paragraph 4.5, and after some discussion the following amendment was agreed by the Working Group:

“6. Tuna caught by a fishing vessel without an observer aboard, and transferred at sea to another fishing vessel, shall be designated as non-dolphin safe on the TTF.”

The Working Group agreed to forward this proposal to the IRP for approval.

#### **6. Conversion of whole fish weights to processed tuna weights**

[Document TT-14-06](#), presented by the Secretariat, refers to the discussion that took place during the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group regarding the importance of being able to compare the weights of processed tuna recorded on dolphin safe certificates with the weights of whole fish on the corresponding Tuna Tracking Forms. In this regard, as a first step the Secretariat had written to the participating governments, asking them to obtain the relevant information from their respective industries and send the responses to the Secretariat. Once received, the information will be analyzed, summarized and organized in a manner which will allow some conclusions to be reached on the conversion factors. The Secretariat informed the Working Group that it had not received any responses to its memorandum to the governments on this matter.

A discussion of several possible ways to arrive at useable conversions from product to landed weights ensued. The participants were asked to put their ideas into writing and submit them to the Secretariat within the next two weeks. Any information received could be considered at the next appropriate meeting.

#### **7. Recommendations for the IRP**

The Working Group recommended that the IRP approve the amendment of the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna (see item 5).

It was also agreed to recommend that the IRP approve, pursuant to the discussion under agenda item 4, that the Parties be notified when a discrepancy regarding the amount of tuna on a dolphin safe certificate and the corresponding TTF has not been resolved within 60 days,.

**8. Other business**

In accordance with the request of the United States, the Working Group discussed whether the AIDCP could support the conservation measures adopted by the IATTC by prohibiting the issue of dolphin safe certificates for tuna caught in contravention of such measures. The European Union supported this proposal; several other delegations, while not opposing it, expressed the view that this idea needed more analysis. The United States undertook to work with the Secretariat on a proposal for consideration at the meeting of the IRP or the Parties to the AIDCP.

**9. Date and place of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group would be held immediately prior to the next meeting of the IRP, scheduled to take place in La Jolla in February 2004.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned on 8 October 2003.

**Appendix 1.**

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
PROGRAMA INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS DELFINES**

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

**14<sup>th</sup> MEETING - 14<sup>a</sup> REUNION**

**October 8, 2003 – 8 de octubre de 2003  
Del Mar, California, USA**

**ASISTENTES - ATTENDEES**

**BOLIVIA**

**GONZALO SÁNCHEZ  
ALFREDO ROJAS**  
Ministerio de Defensa

**COLOMBIA**

**CARLOS MOSQUERA  
IVÁN D. ESCOBAR**  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural

**COSTA RICA**

**ASDRÚBAL VÁSQUEZ  
INCOPECA**

**ECUADOR**

**LUCÍA FERNÁNDEZ  
LUIS TORRES NAVARRETE**  
Ministerio de Comercio Exterior,  
Industrialización, Pesca y Competitividad

**EL SALVADOR**

**SONIA SALAVERRÍA**  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

**EUROPEAN UNION - UNION EUROPEA**

**ROBERTO CESARI**  
European Commission  
**IGNACIO ESCOBAR**  
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima

**JAVIER ARÍZ TELLERÍA**  
Instituto Español de Oceanografía  
**AMOR SOLÁ**  
Embajada de España en Washington

**GUATEMALA**

**FRATERO DÍAZ MONGE  
JOSÉ G. RUIZ**  
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

**MEXICO**

**RICARDO BELMONTES  
MARIO AGUILAR**  
CONAPESCA  
**GUILLERMO COMPEÁN  
LUIS FLEISCHER  
PEDRO ULLOA**  
Instituto Nacional de la Pesca

**MICHEL DREYFUS  
HUMBERTO ROBLES**  
FIDEMAR  
**LUIS FUEYO**  
SEMARNAT/PROFEPA  
**MARK ROBERTSON**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA**

DAVID HOGAN  
JAMES STORY  
Department of State  
PAT DONLEY  
BRETT SCHNEIDER  
ALLISON ROUTT  
CHRISTOPHER FANNING

JEREMY RUSIN  
MEGHAN DONAHUE  
JESSICA KONDEL  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
SUSAN JACKSON  
MARCELA CAMPA

**VANUATU**

HUGO ALSINA  
Office of Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs

**ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES--NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

KITTY BLOCK  
The Humane Society

NINA YOUNG  
The Ocean Conservancy

**TUNA INDUSTRY – INDUSTRIA ATUNERA**

ERNESTO ESCOBAR  
RAMÓN MONTAÑO  
JULIO MORÓN

**SECRETARÍA - SECRETARIAT**

ROBIN ALLEN, Director  
ERNESTO ALTAMIRANO  
DAVID BRATTEN  
ALEJANDRA FERREIRA  
MONICA GALVÁN

JOSHUE GROSS  
BRIAN HALLMAN  
BERTA JUÁREZ  
NICHOLAS WEBB



Originales del RSA recibidos<sup>3</sup> por la Secretaría para viajes en 2003 – TTFs originals received by the Secretariat<sup>1</sup> for 2003 trips

<b>Autoridad nacional</b>	<b>Viajes<sup>4</sup></b>	
<b>National authority</b>	<b>Trips<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Orig. Rec.</b>
BOL	1	1 <sup>3</sup> (100%)
COL	50	36 (72%)
CRI	36	35 (97%)
ECU	228	228 (100%)
EUR	6	6 (100%)
GTM	6	6 (100%)

<b>Autoridad nacional</b>	<b>Viajes</b>	
<b>National authority</b>	<b>Trips</b>	<b>Orig. Rec.</b>
MEX	154	131 (85%)
PAN	8	6 (75%)
PER	6	5 (83%)
SLV	10	8 (80%)
USA	4	4 (100%)
VEN	31	26 (84%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>492 (91%)</b>

<sup>3</sup> Al 8 de octubre de 2003 – As of October 8, 2003

<sup>4</sup> Zarpando a partir del 1 de enero y con arribo al 15 de septiembre – Departing from January 1 and arriving on or before September 15

<sup>3</sup> Original recibido de oficina regional de la CIAT – Original received from IATTC field office