

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

33RD MEETING

DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA (USA)
17 OCTOBER 2013

DOCUMENT TT-33-04

**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 January 2012, and that ended on or before 1 September 2013, and a summary of the original 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 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 September 2013 the Secretariat has received copies of 67 dolphin-safe certificates signed on or after 15 April 2012, including 15 new certificates received since the 32nd meeting of this working group in June 2013.

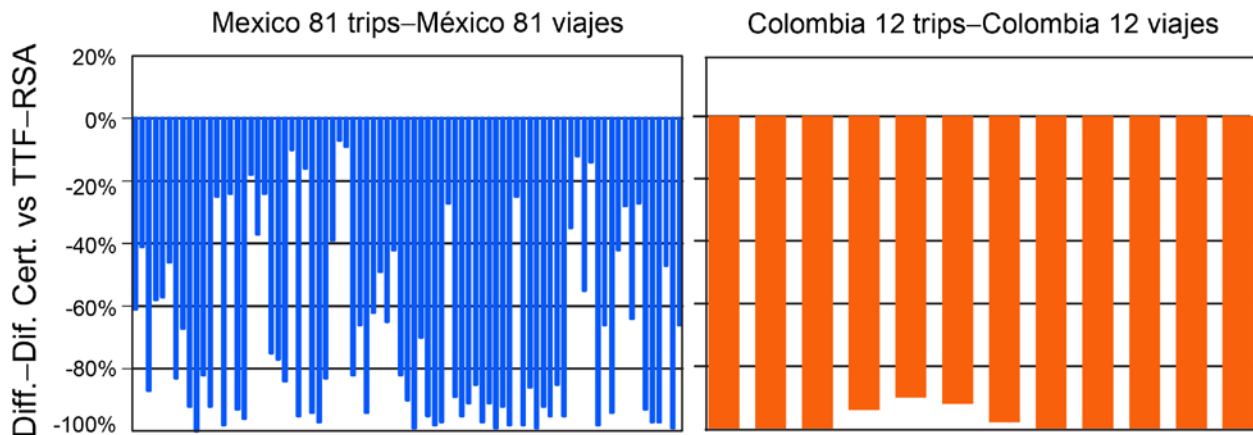
Of the 67 certificates received, 64 were considered valid, corresponding to 93 TTFs prepared during 93 fishing trips; The remaining three were not considered valid because:

- a. The respective competent national authority voided two certificates due to clerical errors.
- b. As noted in Document [TT-29-04](#), the Secretariat voided one certificate because it referred to TTFs

not in the records. The Secretariat contacted the pertinent national authority, which acknowledged the mistake, but did not issue a revised certificate.

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 64 valid dolphin-safe certificates mentioned above.



2. MONITORING OF SPECIAL CASES

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

The current situation regarding these cases is as follows:

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

Information presented at the 30th meeting of the working group

In April and May 2012, letters were sent to both the 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 actions taken by its national authority were consistent with the guidelines for managing TTFs.

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, 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 31st 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 2013 it indicated unofficially that an investigation has started. At the time this report was posted, 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.

This case was included in Document TT-29-04, 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 SEPTEMBER 2013

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	Trips ¹		Reported % of originals received, by meeting			
		Trips	TTFs rec'd	Oct-13	Jun-13	Oct-12	Jun-12
Colombia	COL	72	58	81	92	98	92
Costa Rica	CRI	32	31	97	72	90	89
Ecuador	ECU	651	615	94	89	95	93
El Salvador	SLV	42	37	88	93	68	48
European Union	EUR	21	18	86	100	35	46
Guatemala	GTM	28	19	68	71	60	88
Mexico	MEX	333	331	99	98	99	96
Nicaragua	NIC	0	-	-	-	-	-
Panama	PAN	0	-	-	-	50	100
Peru	PER	8	6	75	50	90	40
United States	USA	2	2	100	100	75	67
Venezuela	VEN	29	19	66	62	72	42
Total		1,218	1,136	93	90	93	88

¹ Trips starting during 2012 and ending on or before 1 September 2013

At its 32nd meeting, 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 are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2. Number of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2003, 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 (%)										
		2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	
Bolivia	BOL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (100)
Colombia	COL	40 (100)	51 (100)	42 (100)	39 (91)	55 (90)	62 (98)	38 (90)	54 (96)	62 (98)	67 (92)	
Costa Rica	CRI	15 (94)	16 (100)	6 (38)	2 (22)	20 (100)	28 (100)	27 (100)	28 (100)	33 (97)	53 (100)	
Ecuador	ECU	358 (99)	338 (99)	282 (100)	326 (100)	351 (99)	301 (100)	358 (100)	308 (91)	312 (100)	351 (100)	
El Salvador	SLV	23 (92)	26 (100)	16 (70)	33 (92)	33 (97)	37 (97)	32 (97)	25 (100)	20 (100)	11 (79)	
European Union	EUR	16 (100)	5 (50)	3 (75)	4 (100)	4 (100)	-	-	1 (100)	0 (0)	6 (100)	
Guatemala	GTM	15 (94)	13 (100)	24 (100)	11 (79)	6 (75)	13 (100)	12 (80)	14 (93)	7 (88)	10 (100)	
Mexico	MEX	207 (99)	205 (100)	180 (100)	188 (100)	191 (97)	200 (100)	168 (99)	192 (100)	218 (99)	202 (91)	
Nicaragua	NIC	-	-	-	1 (50)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-	
Panama	PAN	-	1 (100)	2 (100)	3 (75)	3 (100)	4 (67)	3 (60)	8 (89)	6 (75)	10 (100)	
Peru	PER	2 (100)	9 (90)	8 (80)	3 (75)	0 (0)	2 (100)	2 (100)	4 (100)	1 (50)	6 (86)	
United States	USA	2 (100)	2 (67)	-	2 (100)	1 (100)	2 (100)	-	-	4 (100)	6 (100)	
Venezuela	VEN	16 (80)	28 (82)	31 (100)	33 (92)	20 (61)	26 (100)	35 (83)	29 (88)	31 (91)	41 (91)	
Total		694 (98)	694 (98)	594 (97)	645 (97)	684 (95)	675 (99)	675 (97)	663 (93)	694 (98)	766 (96)	