

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

21st MEETING

Busan, Korea
19 June 2006

AGENDA

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| 1. Opening of the meeting | |
| 2. Adoption of the agenda | |
| 3. Approval of minutes of the 20 th meeting | |
| 4. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system | TT-21-04 |
| 5. Results of conversion factor questionnaire | TT-21-05 |
| 6. Implementation of Part 7 of the Tuna Tracking and Verification System : Periodic audits and spot checks: | |
| a. National reports | |
| b. International program | TT-21-06b |
| 7. Recommendations for the IRP | |
| 8. Other business | |
| 9. Place and date of next meeting | |
| 10. Adjournment | |

The 21st meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in Busan, Korea, on 19 June 2006. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The Working Group was informed that Ms. Pat Donley of the United States, hitherto Chair of the Working Group, had retired, and that it was therefore necessary to elect a new chair for the Permanent Working Group. The United States nominated Ms. Sonia Salaverría, of El Salvador, and the nomination was unanimously approved.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda circulated previously by the Secretariat was adopted with certain clarifications regarding the working documents. Document TT-21-04 incorporated items 4 and 5 of the agenda, *Review of the implementation of the [dolphin safe certification system](#)* and *Results of conversion factor questionnaire*. Also, it was noted that Document TT-21-06b on an international program of periodic audits and spot checks, which the European Union had offered to prepare, was not yet available. Costa Rica presented a document on its national report, which was distributed.

3. Approval of minutes of the 20th meeting

The minutes of the 20th meeting of the working group, previously circulated by the Secretariat, were

approved .

4. and 5. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system *and* Results of conversion factor questionnaire

Dr. Allen presented the Secretariat's report on the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system and the results of the questionnaire on conversion factors. He reported that the Secretariat had received 40 dolphin-safe certificates, corresponding to 14 trips, and had received all the corresponding original TTFs. He noted that the amount of tuna on one certificate was 6% greater than the TTF weight, but since this discrepancy is within the agreed 10% trigger level for requesting an investigation, it was not referred to the government.

It was also noted that 93% of the original TTFs covering trips that started during 2005 and ended by April 15, 2006, had been sent to the Secretariat.

Regarding the questionnaire that the Secretariat circulated to the Parties on the conversion factor, with the request that it be distributed in turn to the countries' industries, to provide information on the range of yields of the processed products, it was noted that only one Party had responded.

El Salvador noted that it was difficult to get responses from the industries to this questionnaire, given that companies consider these data confidential. Also, he observed that yields depended on too many parameters, and that arriving at a satisfactory conversion factor, with the aim of determining that dolphin safe tuna has been mixed with non-dolphin safe tuna, is complex. Mexico supported El Salvador's position that strong efforts need to be made to avoid laundering of fish, and that alternatives such as monitoring non-dolphin safe tuna, as mentioned by El Salvador, must be sought if they help to achieve that aim.

Various delegations stated that they had difficulty in obtaining the desired information from their industries to send to the Secretariat. Costa Rica urged the Parties to make their best efforts to return the questionnaires, since monitoring tuna during processing should be strengthened, in order to enhance transparency and facilitate evaluation at a future audit.

The delegate from El Salvador observed that using conversion factors to monitor dolphin safe certificates is impossible, and that a better approach would be to monitor the amount of non-dolphin safe tuna during processing. He stated that a change of only 1% in the yield of all the fish caught in the EPO during a year is enough to encompass the non-dolphin safe tuna caught in that same period. For that reason, the non-dolphin safe fish could be passed off as dolphin safe.

Costa Rica reiterated that the yields of the different species and sizes of tuna do not differ in significant percentages from one industry to another. Therefore, if the Working Group proposed parameters for determining the yields, perhaps the attitude of the companies to collaborating would be more positive.

Concluding the discussion of the subject, the working group agreed that for the next meeting:

1. The Secretariat shall prepare a report on the range of conversion factors to relate the weight of whole tuna caught, as recorded by the observers on the TTFs, to various frozen and processed products recorded on the dolphin safe certificates; also, the Parties should be encouraged to make their best efforts to return the information on the questionnaires, and
2. Parties shall report to the Secretariat on the destination of the tuna recorded by observers on the TTF-B, which is classified as non-dolphin safe tuna.

6. Implementation of Part 7 of the Tuna Tracking and Verification System: Periodic audits and spot checks

- a. Costa Rica presented a report "Review of the Traceability of Tuna, carried out at processing plants in Costa Rica pursuant to the AIDCP of the IATTC." There were no comments.

- b. The European Union will consult to see whether it will continue with the preparation of an international program of audits and spot checks.

7. Recommendations for the IRP

There were no recommendations for the International Review Panel.

8. Other business

An information document on the debate on ecolabelling in the European Union was distributed.

A letter from Ms. Pat Donley was read, in which she announced her retirement, expressed her gratitude for the support accorded her in her role as Chair of the Working Group, and noted the accomplishments of the Working Group.

9. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held in Del Mar, California, on 24 October 2006.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m. on 19 June 2006.

Appendix 1.

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