

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING
49TH MEETING**

**Victoria, Canada
31 July 2023**

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

This report provides information regarding the submission of Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) to the Secretariat as well as comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding TTFs for trips that ended from 26 August 2022 through 25 May 2023. It also includes an overview of the historical rates of compliance of TTF submissions to the Secretariat since 2013.

1. SUMMARY OF THE 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 (or TTFs) 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 AIDCP 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.

2. ORIGINAL TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

[Table 1](#) reflects compliance by national authorities with the deadline for the submission of TTFs to the Secretariat, established in the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna (STVT), as amended in June 2015, which states that “*Within ten days of receipt of a TTF, the competent national authority shall transmit an electronic copy of the TTF to the Secretariat. The original TTFs received during a calendar month shall be transmitted to the Secretariat by the competent national authority at the latest 15 days after the end of that month*”.

As indicated in the ‘Trips’ column in [Table 1](#), the Secretariat has received 584 original TTFs or electronic copies from the 588 trips with a completed TTF and that concluded between 26 August 2022 and 25 May 2023. For reference, [Table 1](#) also shows the corresponding percentages presented at the Working Group’s previous three meetings (46 through 48).

[Table 2](#) shows the total number and historical percentages of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2013. The percentages in this table reflect the deadlines originally established by the System and only include original TTFs received within those timeframes and not late.

3. COPIES OF DOLPHIN-SAFE CERTIFICATES RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

Between 26 August 2022 and 25 June 2023, the Secretariat received 247 copies of dolphin-safe certificates, corresponding to 225 TTFs completed during 225 fishing trips. Of the certificates received, 225 certificates were considered valid, and 22 certificates were voided by the national authority. [Figure 1](#) shows the comparison of estimated weights, as recorded by observers on the TTF-A¹, and the recorded scale weight for each TTF included in the 225 valid certificates. The certified tonnage (146,709 t) represents 33.1% of the total of 442,904 t recorded as *dolphin-safe* on the TTFs of the 588 trips completed during the reporting period.

According to the [Procedures for AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification](#), the national authority is informed of instances where the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in the dolphin safe certificates exceeds the estimated weight documented by the observer in the TTF by 10% or more. Out of the 225 completed TTFs, there were six cases where the certified weight exceeded the estimate in the corresponding TTF by 10%. In response to these cases, the respective national authority has supplied the Secretariat with the investigation results pursued during this inquiry. The Secretariat subsequently confirmed the validity of these certificates.

¹ Dolphin-safe tuna is recorded on the TTF-A, and non dolphin-safe tuna on the TTF-B.

4. TABLES AND FIGURES

TABLE 1. Original and electronic copies TTFs received by the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 3.6 of the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna, by national authority. Updated to 5 July 2023.

Trips ²			% of originals and electronic copies received, reported by meeting				
National authority		Trips	TTFs received	TT-49 Jul 2023	TT-48 Oct 2022	TT-47 Jul 2022	TT-46 Oct 2021
Colombia	COL	24	24	100	100	96	100
Costa Rica	CRI	7	6	86	67	83	80
Ecuador	ECU	365	365	100	100	100	98
El Salvador	SLV	15	13	87	100	100	67
European Union	EUR	3	3	100	-	-	-
Guatemala	GTM	1	0	0	100	45	100
Mexico	MEX	150	150	100	100	100	100
Panama	PAN	3	3	100	-	-	-
Peru	PER	11	11	100	-	100	100
United States	USA	9	9	100	-	100	100
Total		588	584	99	99	98	98

²Trips that ended from 26 August 2022 through 25 May 2023

TABLE 2. Number of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2013, and the percentage (in parenthesis) of the total that it represents, by year in which the trip began.

National authority		Originals received from competent national authority in previous years (%)									
		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Colombia	COL	32 (94)	25 (93)	30 (94)	38 (97)	34 (100)	36 (100)	35 (95)	44 (92)	40 (100)	45 (96)
Costa Rica	CRI	17 (89)	14 (100)	11 (92)	8 (89)	14 (93)	16 (94)	17 (89)	12 (86)	20 (95)	16 (94)
Ecuador	ECU	494 (98)	502 (99)	433 (98)	492 (98)	444 (95)	483 (99)	442 (99)	484 (99)	420 (99)	409 (99)
El Salvador	SLV	18 (95)	11 (100)	15 (88)	19 (95)	17 (100)	23 (96)	22 (100)	13 (100)	19 (90)	21 (91)
European Union	EUR	-	-	-	1 (100)	-	1 (25)	1 (100)	5 (63)	9 (64)	5 (71)
Guatemala	GTM	2 (25)	2 (13)	1 (8)	4 (36)	12 (100)	6 (50)	19 (95)	15 (100)	17 (100)	18 (95)
Mexico	MEX	191 (100)	191 (100)	200 (89)	210 (100)	200(100)	218 (100)	237 (100)	227 (100)	188 (100)	187 (100)
Panama	PAN	3 (100)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (50)	-
Peru	PER	3 (100)	11 (100)	24 (100)	41 (98)	17 (41)	35 (88)	37 (86)	12 (48)	12 (100)	10 (100)
United States	USA	10 (100)	14 (93)	10 (100)	22 (100)	16 (89)	9 (69)	27 (100)	9 (90)	1 (100)	-
Venezuela	VEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 (29)	7 (100)	6 (100)	11 (92)
Total		771 (97)	770 (97)	724 (94)	836 (98)	754 (94)	829 (97)	839 (97)	828 (97)	733 (98)	722 (98)

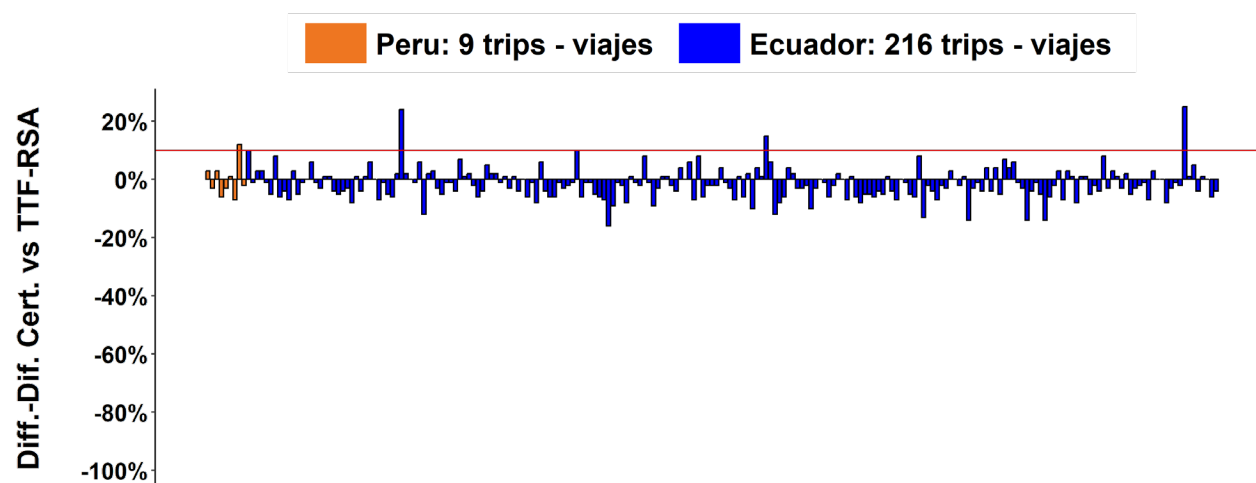


FIGURE 1. Comparison of the estimated weights recorded by observers on the TTF-A and the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in the dolphin-safe certificates. Updated to 23 June 2023.