

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING**

44TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
21 October 2019

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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 16 May 2019 through 15 September 2019. It also includes an overview of the historical rates of compliance of TTF submissions to the Secretariat since 2009.

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 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 339 original TTFs from the 347 trips completed during the period of 16 May 2019 through 15 September 2019. For reference, Table 1 also shows the corresponding percentages presented at the Working Group’s previous three meetings (41 through 43).

Table 2 shows the total number and historical percentages of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2009. 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 16 May 2019 and 15 September 2019, the Secretariat received 289 copies of dolphin-safe certificates, corresponding to 68 TTFs completed during 68 fishing trips. All the certificates were considered valid. 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 289 dolphin-safe certificates. The certified tonnage (15,623 t) represents 6.7% of the total of 232,749 t recorded as dolphin-safe on the TTFs of the 347 trips completed during the reporting period.

According to the [Procedures for AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification](#), the national authority is notified of cases where the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in the dolphin safe certificates exceeds the estimated weight recorded by the observer in the TTF by 10% or more. In none of the 68 trips, the certified weight exceeded the estimate in the corresponding TTF.

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 TTFs received by the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 3.6 of the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna, by national authority:

National authority		Trips ²		% of originals received, reported by meeting			
		Trips	TTFs received	TT-44 Oct 2019	TT-43 Jul 2019	TT-42 Oct 2018	TT-41 Aug 2018
Colombia	COL	17	16	94	100	100	100
Costa Rica	CRI	4	2	50	100	80	100
Ecuador	ECU	205	205	100	91	99	94
El Salvador	SLV	8	7	88	92	100	100
European Union	EUR	0	-	-	-	-	100
Guatemala	GTM	3	0	0	100	100	88
Mexico	MEX	89	89	100	99	100	100
Nicaragua	NIC	0	-	-	-	-	-
Panama	PAN	0	-	-	100	-	-
Peru	PER	8	8	100	91	100	60
United States	USA	13	12	92	86	100	91
Venezuela	VEN	0	-	-	-	-	-
Total		347	339	98	93	99	94

² Trips that ended from 16 May 2019 through 15 September 2019.

TABLE 2. Number of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2009, 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 (%)										
		2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	
Bolivia	BOL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colombia	COL	34 (100)	36 (100)	35 (95)	44 (92)	40 (100)	45 (96)	43 (100)	54 (100)	44 (100)	46 (90)	
Costa Rica	CRI	14 (93)	16 (94)	16 (89)	12 (86)	20 (95)	16 (94)	18 (95)	18 (100)	7 (41)	2 (17)	
Ecuador	ECU	486 (95)	550 (99)	463 (99)	474 (97)	420 (99)	409 (99)	385 (99)	360 (99)	307 (100)	352 (100)	
El Salvador	SLV	17 (100)	23 (96)	22 (100)	13 (100)	19 (90)	21 (91)	24 (92)	28 (97)	16 (70)	35 (92)	
European Union	EUR	-	1 (25)	1 (100)	5 (63)	9 (64)	5 (71)	17 (100)	5 (50)	3 (60)	4 (100)	
Guatemala	GTM	12 (100)	6 (50)	19 (95)	15 (100)	17 (100)	18 (95)	16 (94)	14 (100)	25 (100)	16 (94)	
Mexico	MEX	198 (99)	218 (100)	238 (100)	227 (100)	188 (100)	187 (100)	207 (99)	205 (100)	180 (100)	189 (100)	
Nicaragua	NIC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (50)	
Panama	PAN	-	-	-	-	1 (50)	-	-	1 (100)	2 (100)	3 (75)	
Peru	PER	19 (44)	37 (88)	40 (87)	12 (48)	12 (100)	10 (100)	2 (100)	9 (90)	9 (82)	4 (67)	
United States	USA	14 (78)	9 (69)	27 (100)	9 (90)	1 (100)	-	2 (100)	3 (100)	-	2 (100)	
Venezuela	VEN	-	-	2 (29)	7 (100)	6 (100)	11 (92)	20 (100)	28 (82)	31 (100)	35 (92)	
Total		794 (94)	898 (97)	863 (98)	818 (96)	733 (98)	722 (98)	734 (99)	725 (98)	624 (97)	689 (96)	

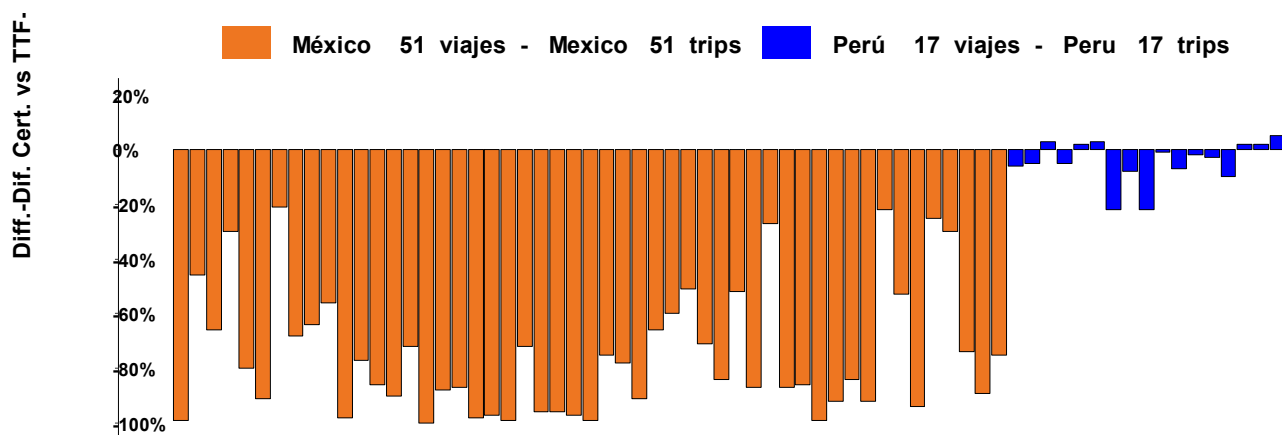


FIGURE 1. Comparison of the estimated weights recorded by observers on the TTF-A and the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in the dolphin-safe certificates received. Updated to 25 September 2019.