

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING
37TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
20 June 2016

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of the minutes of the 36 th meeting	
4. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system	TT-37-04
5. Other business	
6. Recommendations for the International Review Panel	
7. Place and date of next meeting	
8. Adjournment	

APPENDIX

1. List of attendees

The 37th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in La Jolla, California (USA), on 20 June 2016.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr. Guillermo Compeán, IATTC Director. Mr. Luis Torres of Ecuador, was elected as the Chair of the Working Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 36th meeting

The minutes of the 36th meeting, circulated previously by the Secretariat, were approved. United States requested the correction in the name of one of its delegates on the list of attendees.

4. Review of the implementation of the [dolphin safe certification system](#)

The Secretariat presented Document TT-37-04, *Matters related to the Tuna Tracking and Dolphin Safe Certification programs*.

It was reported that between 1 September 2015 and 20 May 2016, the Secretariat received 251 copies of dolphin-safe certificates, for to 101 fishing trips; 249 were considered valid, and 2 were invalidated by the relevant authority, due to typographical errors. The certified tonnage (15,272 t) represents 4.4% of the total of 350,247 t recorded as dolphin-safe in the TTFs.

It was also reported that, as of 1 September 2015 to 20 May 2016, 512 TTFs from 544 trips had been received, which denotes 94% compliance. Venezuela and Guatemala commented that originals of TTFs were delivered by them at this meeting, improving the percentage of TTFs delivered. Several delegations said that the success of the program is evident and special cases reviewed at this meeting represent approximately 0.05% of the total of TTFs.

Three previous cases of altered certificates were noted, which involve two Parties: the vessel's flag State and the port State. Venezuela reported that these cases had been investigated and found no discrepancies with those reported by the observer and the vessel's records and that the possible discrepancy could be found in the landing of the catch, which corresponds to be investigated by the Port State who was not present. They further stated for the record that from their perspective, their investigations can go no further and are considered concluded.

The European Union requested to identify a way to press the governments involved in such cases to conclude the investigations and duly inform the Panel.

The Secretariat reported that there was one additional case of tuna transferred between two vessels which was not reported by any of the observers on the two vessels involved. This is in contravention of paragraph 4.5 of the Tuna Tracking and Verification System. Also, tuna was transferred from a vessel with a DML to another without DML.

The Working Group agreed that this case should be considered by the IATTC Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission as potential instances of unreported and unregulated fishing. Additionally, the IRP should also consider this case with respect to the transfer of tuna from a vessel with DML to a vessel without a DML, as this may be in contravention of the Program. The Working Group also suggested that the IRP consider additional rules and guidelines to address these circumstances, including the possibility of prohibiting transfers under these conditions. Some delegations pointed out that fish transfers are not prohibited in the AIDCP, so only regulation of the activity could be implemented.

The United States considered that tuna transferred under these circumstances, when caught in association with dolphins and transferred to a vessel without a DML, could be fraudulently labeled as dolphin safe in their market and in contravention to their domestic laws, because tuna caught in association with dolphins is not eligible for a *dolphin safe label*.

5. Other business

No other business was discussed.

6. Recommendations for the International Review Panel

- a) To press the governments involved in cases of fraudulent TTFs from 2010-2011 to give final results of their investigations to the IRP, and consider the development of an additional mechanism for promoting the conclusion of long-pending cases.
- b) Look deeper into the possible infraction resulting from the transfer of tuna not reported from a DML vessel to another without a DML, especially as it may affect the integrity and transparency of the tuna tracking system. The IRP should also forward the case to the IATTC Review Committee.

7. Place and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on the dates agreed for the meetings of the AIDCP in October 2016.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 on 20 June 2016.

Appendix. 1

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