The 41st Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in San Diego, California on August 16th, 2018.

1. Opening of the meeting
   The meeting was opened by Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the IATTC. Mr. David Hogan was elected as the Chair of the Working Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda
   The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Approval of the report of the 40th meeting
   The report of the 40th meeting, circulated previously by the Secretariat, was approved without changes.

4. Review of the implementation of the Dolphin Safe Certification System

   It was reported that the Secretariat has received 603 TTFs—both original and digital—from the 644 trips made between September 1st, 2017 and May 31st, 2018; this represents 94% of compliance.

   Additionally, between September 1st, 2017 and July 3rd, 2018, the Secretariat received 450 copies of dolphin-safe certificates. Four hundred and forty-eight of them, corresponding to 115 TTFs completed during 115 fishing trips, were considered valid. One certificate was canceled by the competent national
authority due to clerical errors, and another one was canceled by the Secretariat because it refers to a TTF that does not appear in its records. The certified tonnage (16,104 t) represents 4.1% of the total of 392,145 t recorded as dolphin safe on the TTFs of the 644 completed trips.

It was recalled that the Working Group has been discussing the following cases of apparent TTF forgery:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Date of trip</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TTF-30</td>
<td>Dec. 2011</td>
<td>The TTFs received differed in that one included non-dolphin safe fish and the other did not.</td>
<td>VEN and CRI</td>
<td>CRI carried out an investigation, but due to staff changes there was no access to the documents. It was requested that these cases be closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTF-31a</td>
<td>July 2011</td>
<td>Two vessels shared the catch from a set, but this was not documented in either observer’s records or on a TTF.</td>
<td>VEN and CRI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTF-33</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>PAN and ECU</td>
<td>ECU reported that that this case is still under investigation. No response has been received from PAN. Both observers are suspended while the investigation by the competent authorities is pending.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Venezuela reiterated that it already conducted the corresponding investigation of the cases in which vessels flying its flag are involved, but they believe that the relevant actions should be taken by Costa Rica, where the product was unloaded. This country expressed that it was nearly impossible to take any action because the authorities of the country have been replaced, so the cases should therefore be closed.

Ecuador stated that these cases happened a long time ago, and it is therefore impossible to make more progress on them and requested that they be closed.

Several delegations mentioned that the aforementioned cases have been discussed at length and that they are concerned about the review time and the little or no progress reported. It is impossible to keep these investigations open indefinitely, so scenarios should be developed in order to decide how to handle them in the future and not keep them open forever.

5. Other business

No other business was discussed.

6. Recommendations for the International Review Panel

To develop a procedure so that special cases that cannot be solved within a certain amount of time be processed and do not remain open indefinitely.

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 2019.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. on August 16th, 2018.