

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING
43RD MEETING
Bilbao, Spain
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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 1 September 2018 through 15 May 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 557 original TTFs from the 599 trips completed during the period of 1 September 2018 through 15 May 2019. For reference, Table 1 also shows the corresponding percentages presented at the Working Group’s previous three meetings (40 through 42).

Table 2 shows the historical percentages of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2009, and reflects the total number of TTFs received. The percentage in this table does not reflect the timing required in the section of the STVT cited above, and only includes original TTFs received at any time.

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

Between 1 September 2018 and 15 May 2019, the Secretariat received 524 copies of dolphin-safe certificates. 523 certificates, corresponding to 93 TTFs completed during 93 fishing trips, were considered valid. A certificate was voided because it recorded a TTF that had not been issued. 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 523 dolphin-safe certificates. The certified tonnage (21,788 t) represents 6% of the total of 365,595 t recorded as dolphin-safe on the TTFs of the 599 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 93 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-43 Jul 2019	TT-42 Oct 2018	TT-41 Aug 2018	TT-40 Oct 2017
Colombia	COL	20	20	100	100	100	100
Costa Rica	CRI	7	6	86	80	100	60
Ecuador	ECU	375	341	91	99	94	96
El Salvador	SLV	12	11	92	100	100	100
European Union	EUR	0	-	-	-	100	100
Guatemala	GTM	6	6	100	100	88	50
Mexico	MEX	131	130	99	100	100	100
Nicaragua	NIC	0	-	-	-	-	100
Panama	PAN	1	1	100	-	-	100
Peru	PER	33	30	91	100	60	88
United States	USA	14	12	86	100	91	75
Venezuela	VEN	0	-	-	-	-	-
Total		599	557	93	99	94	96

² Trips that ended from 1 September 2018 through 15 May 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.

		Originals received from competent national authority in previous years (%)									
National authority		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	12 (80)	16 (94)	16 (89)	12 (86)	20 (95)	16 (94)	18 (95)	18 (100)	7 (41)	2 (17)
Ecuador	ECU	485 (93)	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)
Unión Europea	EUR	0 (0)	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)
México	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)
Panamá	PAN	-	-	-	-	1 (50)	-	-	1 (100)	2 (100)	3 (75)
Perú	PER	20 (45)	37 (88)	40 (87)	12 (48)	12 (100)	10 (100)	2 (100)	9 (90)	9 (82)	4 (67)
Estados Unidos	USA	14 (74)	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		792 (92)	898 (97)	863 (98)	818 (96)	733 (98)	722 (98)	734 (99)	725 (98)	624 (97)	689 (96)

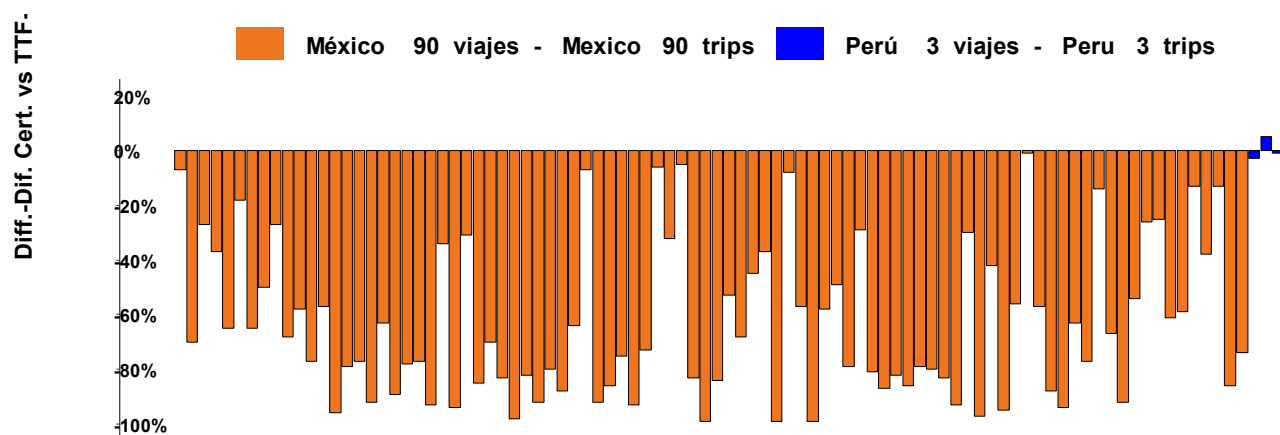


FIGURE 1. Comparison of the estimated weights recorded by observers on the TTF-A and the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in the dolphin-safe certificates received. Updated to 15 June 2019.