

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

**41<sup>ST</sup> MEETING**

**San Diego, California, USA  
August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of the report of the 40 <sup>th</sup> meeting	
4. Review of the implementation of the <a href="#">Dolphin Safe Certification System</a>	TT-41-01
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 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in San Diego, California on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 40<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The report of the 40<sup>th</sup> meeting, circulated previously by the Secretariat, was approved without changes.

**4. Review of the implementation of the [Dolphin Safe Certification System](#)**

The Secretariat presented Document [TT-41](#), “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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018; this represents 94% of compliance.

Additionally, between September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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:

Case	Date of trip	Issue	Countries	Status
TTF-30	Dec. 2011	The TTFs received differed in that one included non-dolphin safe fish and the other did not.	VEN and CRI	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.
TTF-31a	July 2011		VEN and CRI	
TTF-33	2016	Two vessels shared the catch from a set, but this was not documented in either observer's records or on a TTF.	PAN and ECU	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.

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 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018.