

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

45TH MEETING

(by videoconference)
16 August 2021

DOCUMENT TT-45-01

**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 September 2019 through 25 May 2021. It also includes an overview of the historical rates of compliance of TTF submissions to the Secretariat since 2011.

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 AIDCP 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 1,261 original TTFs from the 1,305 trips with a completed TTF and that concluded between 16 September 2019 and 25 May 2021. For reference, [Table 1](#) also shows the corresponding percentages presented at the Working Group’s previous three meetings (42 through 44).

[Table 2](#) shows the total number and historical percentages of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2011. 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 September 2019 and 12 July 2021, the Secretariat received 1,028 copies of dolphin-safe certificates, corresponding to 341 TTFs completed during 340 fishing trips. The difference lies in the preparation of two sets of TTFs on one of the trips. 1,004 certificates were considered valid; 19 certificates were voided by the national authority; 4 certificates were voided because they recorded trips that were covered by observers from a program not affiliated with the AIDCP, and one certificate was voided because it referenced a TTF number that was not 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 1,004 certificates. The certified tonnage (138,451 t) represents 14.9% of the total of 928,540 t recorded as dolphin-safe on the TTFs of the 1,305 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 341 completed TTFs 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-45 Aug 2021	TT-44 Oct 2019	TT-43 Jul 2019	TT-42 Oct 2018
Colombia	COL	51	49	96	94	100	100
Costa Rica	CRI	21	11	52	50	100	80
Ecuador	ECU	770	760	99	100	91	99
El Salvador	SLV	28	24	86	88	92	100
European Union	EUR	1	1	100	-	-	-
Guatemala	GTM	25	14	56	0	100	100
Mexico	MEX	348	346	99	100	99	100
Panama	PAN	0	-	-	-	100	-
Peru	PER	45	42	93	100	91	100
United States	USA	16	14	88	92	86	100
Total		1,305	1,261	97	98	93	99

² Trips that ended from 16 September 2019 through 25 May 2021.

TABLE 2. Number of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2011, 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 (%)									
		2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Colombia	COL	30 (94)	38 (97)	34 (100)	36 (100)	35 (95)	44 (92)	40 (100)	45 (96)	43 (100)	54 (100)
Costa Rica	CRI	2 (17)	4 (44)	14 (93)	16 (94)	16 (89)	12 (86)	20 (95)	16 (94)	18 (95)	18 (100)
Ecuador	ECU	424 (95)	492 (98)	486 (95)	550 (99)	463 (99)	474 (97)	420 (99)	409 (99)	385 (99)	360 (99)
El Salvador	SLV	15 (88)	19 (95)	17 (100)	23 (96)	22 (100)	13 (100)	19 (90)	21 (91)	24 (92)	28 (97)
European Union	EUR	-	1 (100)	-	1 (25)	1 (100)	5 (63)	9 (64)	5 (71)	17 (100)	5 (50)
Guatemala	GTM	1 (8)	4 (36)	12 (100)	6 (50)	19 (95)	15 (100)	17 (100)	18 (95)	16 (94)	14 (100)
Mexico	MEX	200 (89)	210 (100)	198 (99)	218 (100)	238 (100)	227 (100)	188 (100)	187 (100)	207 (99)	205 (100)
Panama	PAN	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (50)	-	-	1 (100)
Peru	PER	20 (91)	41 (98)	19 (44)	37 (88)	40 (87)	12 (48)	12 (100)	10 (100)	2 (100)	9 (90)
United States	USA	8 (73)	22 (100)	14 (78)	9 (69)	27 (100)	9 (90)	1 (100)	-	2 (100)	3 (100)
Venezuela	VEN	-	-	-	-	2 (29)	7 (100)	6 (100)	11 (92)	20 (100)	28 (82)
Total		700 (90)	832 (97)	794 (94)	898 (97)	863 (98)	818 (96)	733 (98)	722 (98)	734 (99)	725 (98)

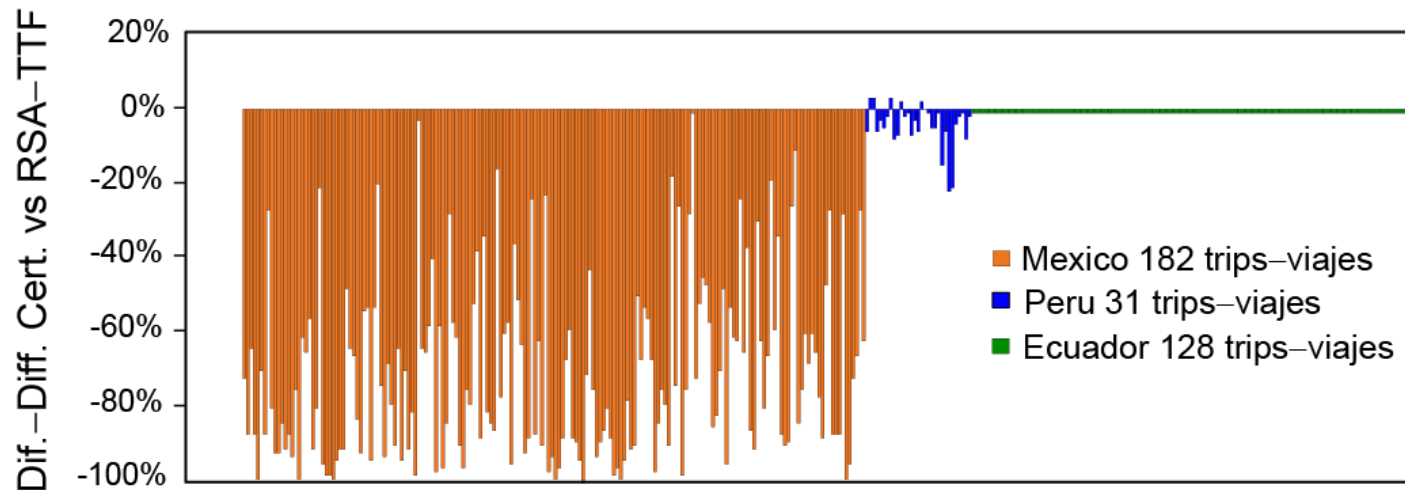


FIGURE 1. Comparison of the estimated weights recorded by observers on the TTF-A and the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in the dolphin-safe certificates. Updated to 12 July 2021.