INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

56TH MEETING

La Jolla, California
26 October 2026

DOCUMENT TT-56-01[1]

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 for trips that ended from 16 June 2025 through 15 June 2026, as well as comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding TTFs. It also includes an overview of the historical rates of compliance of TTF submissions to the Secretariat since 2016.

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*

[1] An update of document TT-55-01

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 984 original TTFs or electronic copies from the 985 trips with a completed TTF and that concluded between 16 June 2025 and 15 June 2026. For reference, Table 1 also shows the corresponding percentages presented at the Working Group's previous three meetings (51, 53 and 54).

Table 2 shows the total number and historical percentages of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2016. 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 APICD DOLPHIN SAFE CERTIFICATES RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

Between 16 June 2025 and 15 June 2026, the Secretariat received 492 copies of dolphin safe certificates, corresponding to 424 TTFs completed during 424 fishing trips. Of the certificates received, 479 certificates were considered valid, and 13 certificates were voided by the national authority. Figure 1 shows the comparison of estimated weights, as recorded by observers on the TTF-A[2], and the recorded scale weight for each TTF included in the 479 valid certificates. The certified tonnage (255,856 t) represents 77.5 % of the total of 330,154 t recorded as dolphin safe on the TTFs of the 424 trips recorded in the certificates.

According to the *Procedures for AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification*, the national authority is informed of instances where the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in the dolphin safe certificates exceeds the estimated weight documented by the observer in the TTF by 10% or more. Out of the 424 completed TTFs, there were four cases where the certified weight exceeded the estimate in the corresponding TTF by 10%. In response to these cases, the respective national authority has supplied the Secretariat with the investigation results pursued during this inquiry. The Secretariat subsequently confirmed the validity of these certificates.

[2] 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 and electronic copies TTFs received by the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 3.6 of the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna, by national authority. Updated to 5 October 2026.

		Trips[3]		% of originals and electronic copies received, reported by meeting			
National authority		**Trips**	**TTFs received**	**TT-55 Aug 2026**	**TT-54 Oct 2025**	**TT-53 Aug 2025**	**TT-51 Aug 2024**
Colombia	COL	22	21	95	100	100	100
Costa Rica	CRI	13	13	100	89	78	100
Ecuador	ECU	607	607	100	100	100	100
El Salvador	SLV	29	29	100	100	100	100
European Union	EUR	14	14	100	100	100	100
Guatemala	GTM	13	7	54	100	75	100
Mexico	MEX	234	234	100	100	100	100
Panama	PAN	1	1	100	-	-	-
Peru	PER	32	32	100	100	100	100
United States	USA	19	19	100	100	100	100
Venezuela	VEN	1	1	100	-	-	-
Total		**985**	**978**	**99**	**100**	**99**	**100**

[3]Trips that ended from 16 June 2025 through 15 June 2026

TABLE 2. Number of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2015, 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		**2025**	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**
Colombia	COL	27 (93)	40 (87)	34 (100)	36 (97)	25 (93)	30 (94)	38 (97)	34 (100)	36 (100)	35 (95)
Costa Rica	CRI	14 (100)	16 (89)	13 (87)	17 (89)	14 (100)	11 (92)	8 (89)	14 (93)	16 (94)	17 (89)
Ecuador	ECU	675 (99)	682 (100)	560 (99)	494 (98)	501 (99)	433 (98)	492 (98)	444 (95)	483 (99)	442 (99)
El Salvador	SLV	28 (100)	22 (92)	13 (100)	18 (95)	11 (100)	15 (88)	19 (95)	17 (100)	23 (96)	22 (100)
European Union	EUR	9 (100)	17 (100)	7 (100)	-	-	-	1 (100)	-	1 (25)	1 (100)
Guatemala	GTM	9 (53)	13 (93)	12 (100)	8 (100)	8 (53)	1 (8)	4 (36)	12 (100)	6 (50)	19 (95)
Mexico	MEX	234 (100)	201 (100)	194 (100)	191 (100)	191 (100)	200 (89)	210 (100)	200(100)	218 (100)	237 (100)
Peru	PER	26 (96)	27 (96)	18 (90)	3 (100)	12 (100)	24 (100)	41 (98)	17 (41)	35 (88)	37 (86)
United States	USA	27 (100)	40 (98)	20 (83)	10 (100)	14 (93)	10 (100)	22 (100)	16 (89)	9 (69)	27 (100)
Venezuela	VEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 (29)
Total		**1049 (98)**	**1058 (98)**	**871 (99)**	**778 (98)**	**776 (98)**	**724 (94)**	**836 (98)**	**754 (94)**	**829 (97)**	**839 (97)**

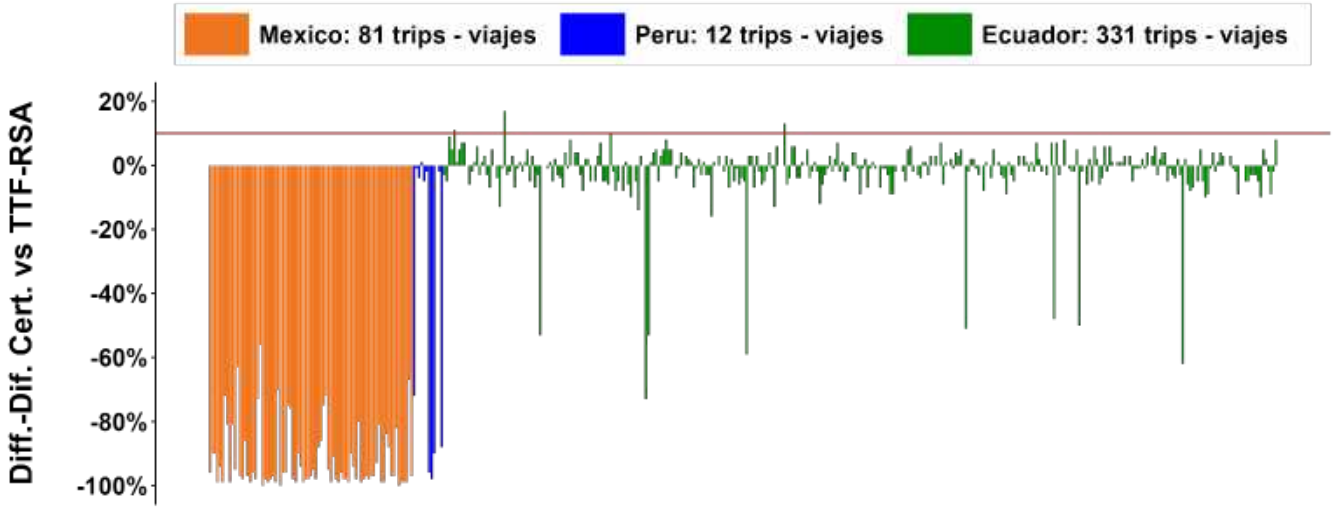


FIGURE 1. Comparison of the estimated weights recorded by observers on the TTF-A and the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in the dolphin safe certificates. Updated to 25 June 2026.