

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

14TH MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
8 OCTOBER 2003

DOCUMENT TT-14-04

SUMMARY OF DOLPHIN-SAFE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

This report updates information presented in Document TT-13-04, and presents information on comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs).

The [*Procedures for AIDCP dolphin safe tuna certification*](#) of June 2001 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 for dolphin safe tuna.
3. Tuna caught by vessels with DMLs will only be eligible for dolphin safe certification if the fishing captain was on the AIDCP List of Qualified Captains.
4. The competent national authority issuing the certificate must have a tuna tracking system consistent with the AIDCP.

The Secretariat uses the following guidelines for queries about the authenticity of any dolphin safe certificate:

1. The Secretariat will only respond to questions about specific certificates from potential importing states or companies.
2. If the certificate meets the four requirements above the response will be that the certificate is valid.
3. If the Secretariat does not have the information it needs to verify 1 or 2 above, it will first ask the competent national authority to provide the information before replying.
4. Otherwise the Secretariat will reply that the certificate is not valid.
5. No other information will be provided about the contents of the TTF.

No inquiries have been received to date regarding the validity of a dolphin safe certificate.

As of September 16, 2003, the Secretariat has received 161 dolphin safe certificates. Of these, 11 were invalid. The 150 valid certificates represent tuna from 74 trips, and the Secretariat has received the original TTFs corresponding to 122 of these certificates and copies for the remaining 28. The reasons for invalidating the other 11 certificates were:

Captain not on List of Qualified Captains	6
Certificate voided by issuing authority	3
Issuing authority without Tuna Tracking System	1
Certificate does not reference a valid TTF	1

Questions may arise about the validity of a certificate if the data on the certificate do not match the data on the corresponding TTFs. For 12 of the 74 trips with valid dolphin safe certificates, the amount of tuna on the certificate exceeded the amount of dolphin safe tuna recorded on the corresponding TTFs by 5% or more, as detailed in the table below. The national authorities that issued the two certificates which

exceeded the TTF dolphin safe tuna by more than 10% have been advised of the discrepancy. At its meeting in June, the working group agreed that 10% should be the provisional trigger level employed by the Secretariat for requesting an investigation.

Trip	Tuna (T)		Difference	
	Certificate	TTFs	T	%
129467	1053	809	244	30.2
130204	323	290	33	11.4
129742	724	662	62	9.4
126036	767	711	56	7.9
129741	1060	990	70	7.1
129355	728	680	48	7.1
128662	908	858	50	5.8
130247	481	455	26	5.7
130150	1168	1105	63	5.7
129148	907	859	48	5.6
129844	625	594	31	5.2
130392	888	846	42	5.0

The graphs below show, for every trip for which a dolphin-safe certificate has been issued since the program began, the percentage difference between the amount of dolphin-safe tuna recorded on the TTFs for the trip and the amount recorded on any certificates corresponding to that same trip. The difference is positive if the amount of dolphin safe tuna on the certificates was greater than on the corresponding TTFs, and negative if it was less. In many cases the difference is negative, usually because not all the dolphin safe tuna from a fishing trip needed a certificate, or the weight reported on the certificate is processed fish, or the certificate reflects only a part of the catch from a trip.

In addition to the 73 trips shown in the graphs, the national authority of El Salvador issued a certificate for one trip, on which the tuna recorded was 0.4% less than on the corresponding TTF.



