

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING**

**17<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

LA JOLLA, CA. USA  
18 OCTOBER 2004

**DOCUMENT TT-17-04**

**MATTERS RELATED TO THE TUNA TRACKING AND DOLPHIN-SAFE  
CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**

This report updates the information presented in Document TT-16-04, presents comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) for trips that ended after June 1, 2003, and a summary of the TTFs received by the Secretariat.

**1. SUMMARY OF 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 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 uses 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.

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

As of September 28, 2004, the Secretariat has received 38 dolphin safe certificates for trips that ended on or after June 1, 2003. Of these, one was voided by the issuing authority, and another was invalid because the issuing authority did not have a tuna tracking system. The 36 valid certificates represent tuna from 37 trips and 38 TTFs, and the Secretariat has received the originals of all 38 TTFs.

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 6 of the 37 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. At its meeting in June 2003, the working group agreed that 10% should be the provisional trigger level employed by the Secretariat for requesting an investigation. The national

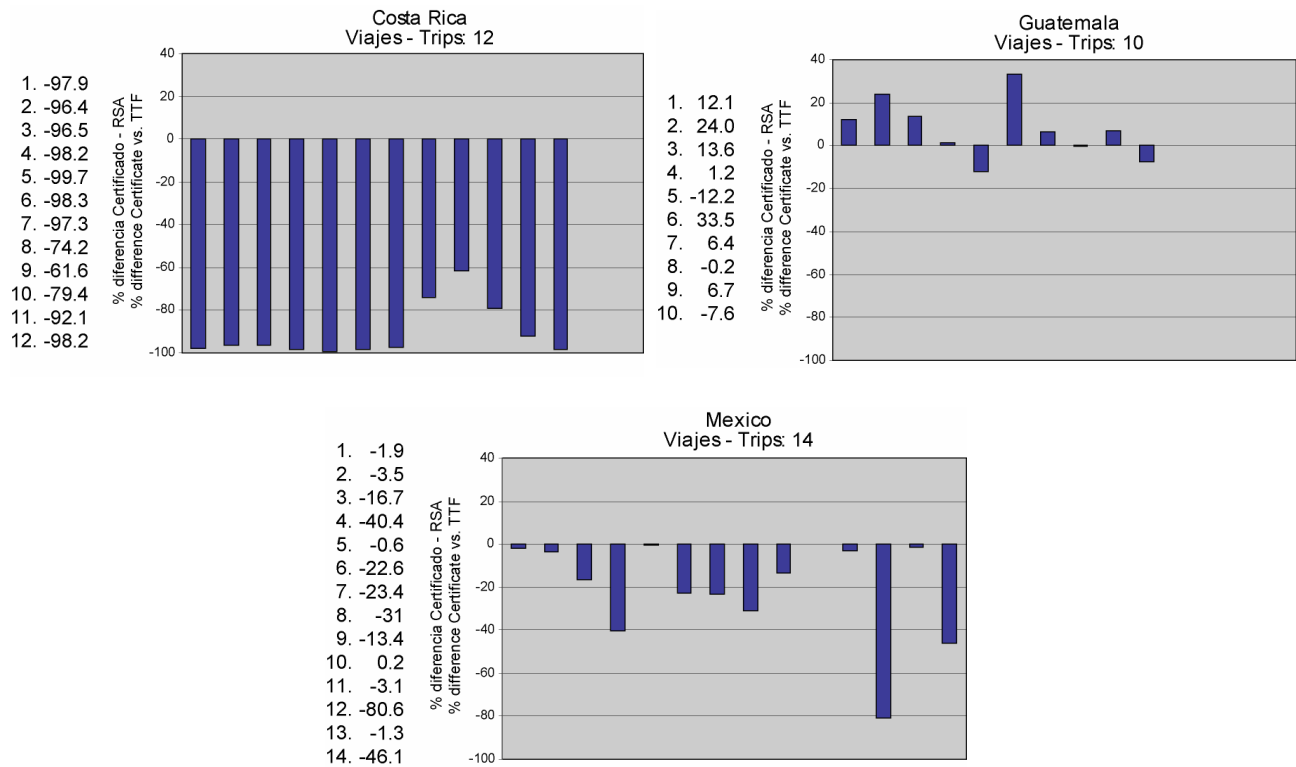
authority that issued the four certificates which exceeded the TTF dolphin safe tuna by more than 10% has been advised of the discrepancy.

The graphs below show, for every trip that ended on or after June 1, 2003, for which a valid dolphin-safe certificate has been issued, 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. In many cases the difference is negative, which indicates that the TTF estimate is higher than the certified weight, usually because the weight reported on the certificate is processed fish, or the certificate reflects only a part of the catch from a trip. A positive percentage is more significant, since it means that the certified weight is higher than the estimate on the TTF.

Trip	Tuna (t)		Difference	
	Certificate	TTFs	t	%
132196	933	699	234	33.5
131739	331	267	64	24.0
131811	1317	1159	158	13.6
131621	1373	1225	148	12.1
132915	700	656	44	6.7
132559	628	590	38	6.4

In many cases the difference is negative, which indicates that the TTF estimate is higher than the certified weight, usually because the weight reported on the certificate is processed fish, or the certificate reflects only a part of the catch from a trip. A positive percentage is more significant, since it means that the certified weight is higher than the estimate on the TTF.

In addition to the 36 trips shown in the graphs, the national authority of El Salvador issued a certificate for one trip in which the tuna recorded was 1.5% more than on the corresponding TTF.



## 2. COMPARISON OF WHOLE WEIGHT ON TTFs AND PROCESSED WEIGHT ON DOLPHIN-SAFE CERTIFICATES

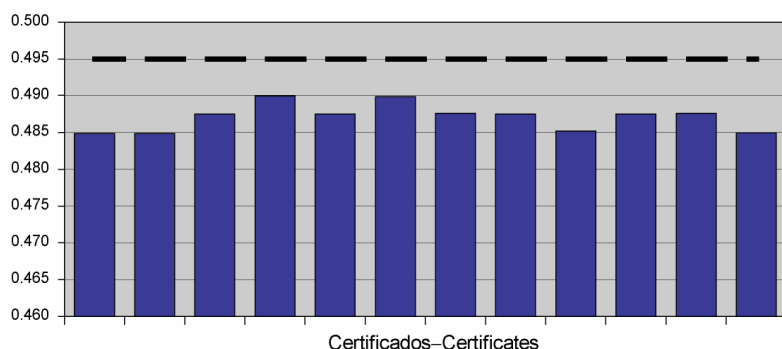
At its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, in June 2003, the Parties to the AIDCP approved revisions to the dolphin-safe certificate to allow, *inter alia*, multiple TTFs to be included on a single certificate, and the identification of whole tuna and processed tuna. The revised blank certificates (Appendix) were distributed to the Parties at the end of December 2003, with a request that all unused certificates of the superseded type be returned. To date, all Parties except Colombia, Peru and Vanuatu have complied with this request.

At its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, in October 2003, the Working Group revisited the issue of processed weight versus whole weight, and asked the Secretariat to compare the weights of processed tuna recorded on dolphin safe certificates with the weights of whole fish on the corresponding TTFs. For this analysis, the Secretariat asked the Parties to provide information about the various conversion factors used by their industries in processing tuna. To date, the only information received is a personal communication from Costa Rica indicating a conversion factor of 0.495 for whole fish to frozen loins. (A conversion factor of 0.5 indicates that a metric ton of whole tuna would produce 500 kg of loins.)

% difference	+	-
0-5	2	1
6-10	2	-
10-15	2	1
16-20	-	1
20-25	1	-
31-35	1	-
61-70	-	1
71-80	-	2
91-100	-	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>

As of September 28, 2004, the Secretariat has received 17 new-type dolphin-safe certificates, issued by two Parties, which refer to 20 different TTFs. The table shows the positive and negative percentage differences between the scale weights recorded on these certificates and the estimated weight of dolphin-safe tuna recorded by the observers on the corresponding TTFs.

Five of the 17 new-type certificates received, referencing 11 TTFs, were for whole frozen tuna; the other



12 indicated that the tuna was processed into loins. The ratio between the whole weight and the processed weight of the frozen loins on these certificates is shown in the figure; all are lower than the conversion factor of 0.495 supplied by Costa Rica, indicated by the dotted line. It should be noted also that the certificates refer to one processed weight that could be the product of several TTFs.

### 3. TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

The information in this section covers trips that started on or after January 1, 2004, and ended on or before September 15, 2004.

1. TTFs transmitted to the Secretariat, as required by paragraph 3.6 of the [System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna](#), by responsible national authority:

National authority		Trips	No.	%
Colombia	COL	43	35	81
Costa Rica	CRI	17	15	88
Ecuador	ECU	211	210	99
European Union	EUR	1	0	0
Guatemala	GTM	7	7	100
México	MEX	155	149	96
Panamá	PAN	7	5	71
El Salvador	SLV	11	10	91
United States	USA	3	3	100
Venezuela	VEN	22	20	91
<b>Total</b>		<b>477</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>95</b>

2. Cases of copies of TTFs left aboard the vessel when the observer disembarked before unloading (IATTC observers only):

National authority		Trips	No.	%
Colombia	COL	43	29	67
Costa Rica	CRI	17	6	35
Ecuador	ECU	211	35	17
European Union	EUR	1	1	100
Guatemala	GTM	7	0	0
México	MEX	155	24	15
Panamá	PAN	7	4	57
El Salvador	SLV	11	2	18
United States	USA	3	0	0
Venezuela	VEN	22	4	18
<b>Total</b>		<b>477</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>22</b>

3. Original TTFs received by the Secretariat, by flag of fishing vessel and by national authority responsible for transmitting the TTF.

Flag	Natl. Auth.	No.	%	Flag	Natl. Auth.	No.	%	
<b>BOL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>PAN</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>93</b>	
	COL	10	9	90	COL	7	6	86
	ECU	5	5	100	CRI	8	7	88
				ECU	30	30	100	
<b>COL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>93</b>	GTM	4	4	100	
	COL	9	8	89	PAN	5	3	60
	ECU	6	6	100	SLV	1	1	100
<b>ECU</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>SLV</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>	
	ECU	135	135	100	ECU	4	4	100
	PAN	1	1	100	SLV	6	6	100
<b>EUR</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>89</b>	
	ECU	10	9	90	CRI	1	0	0
	EUR	1	0	0	ECU	4	4	100
	GTM	1	1	100	MEX	1	1	100
<b>GTM</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	USA	3	3	100	
	GTM	1	1	100	<b>VEN</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>HND</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>	COL	17	12	71	
	ECU	6	6	100	CRI	3	3	100
<b>MEX</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>96</b>	ECU	2	2	100	
	CRI	2	2	100	GTM	1	1	100
	MEX	146	141	97	MEX	6	5	83
	SLV	1	0	0	PAN	1	1	100
<b>NIC</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	SLV	3	3	100	
	CRI	2	2	100	VEN	22	20	91
	MEX	1	1	100	<b>VUT</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>
					CRI	1	1	100
					ECU	9	9	100
					MEX	1	1	100
<b>Total</b>		<b>477</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>95%</b>				



Certificate No.

# AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certificate

This document certifies that the tuna or tuna products associated with it, and with the Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) indicated herein, were harvested by a vessel of a Party to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), meet the *dolphin safe* standards established pursuant to the AIDCP, and may bear the *AIDCP Dolphin Safe* Certification Mark. For verification of this certification, or for information on the AIDCP, contact the AIDCP Secretariat, c/o Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla CA 92037-1508, USA; Tel: 858 546 7100; Fax: 858 546 7133; www.iattc.org; or by e-mail to [dsafemaster@iattc.org](mailto:dsafemaster@iattc.org)

**See instructions on reverse**

A.	Whole frozen weight:			
	TTF number			Weight (all tunas)
1.				MT
2.				MT
3.				MT
4.				MT
5.				MT
6.				MT
7.				MT
8.				MT
9.				MT
10.				MT
<b>Total:</b>				MT

B. Primary processing and total weight of the tuna associated with this certificate:	
Primary processing type	Weight:
	MT
	MT
Lot number:	

C. Certification by AIDCP Competent National Authority:	
The competent national authority authorizes the bearer of this Certificate to utilize the <i>AIDCP Dolphin Safe</i> Certification Mark on the packaging of any product containing tuna specifically associated with this Certificate.	
Signature:	SEAL or STAMP
Name:	
Agency:	
Date (day-month-year):	

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE *AIDCP DOLPHIN SAFE* CERTIFICATE

Certificate No. (shaded areas): **Do not write in these spaces**

<b>IMPORTANT: In Section A cross out with an "X" any boxes in which you do not enter information. Any certificate with blank boxes will be invalid.</b>
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### **A. TTF NUMBER and WHOLE FROZEN WEIGHT of the tuna associated with this certificate**

On lines 1 to 10, for each *Tuna Tracking Form* (TTF) associated with this certificate, enter the number of the TTF, and the total confirmed scale weight (**before processing**), in metric tons.

### **B. PRIMARY PROCESSING AND TOTAL WEIGHT OF THE TUNA ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CERTIFICATE**

If the fish associated with this certificate has been processed, enter the type of primary processing (loins, canned, *etc.*) and the weight, in metric tons, of the finished product.

### **C. CERTIFICATION BY AIDCP COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY**

#### **SIGNATURE, NAME, AGENCY, DATE AND OFFICIAL SEAL**

The certificate is invalid without the official stamp of the competent national authority and the name and signature of a representative of that authority whose name and signature are registered with the Secretariat.