

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING

20TH MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)

17 OCTOBER 2005

DOCUMENT TT-20-05

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

This report updates the information presented in Document TT-19-04a, presents comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) for trips that departed on or after January 1, 2004, and arrived before September 1, 2005 and a summary of the TTFs received by the Secretariat for trips that started on or after January 1, 2005 and arrived on or before September 13, 2005.

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.

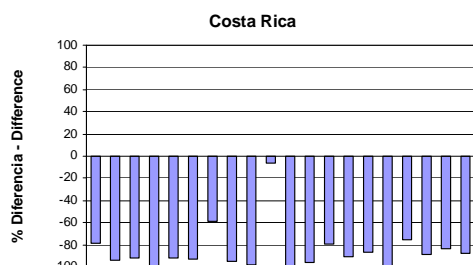
As of September 19, 2005, the Secretariat has received 51 dolphin safe certificates for trips as stated above. Of these, four were voided by the issuing authority. The 47 valid certificates represent tuna from 31 trips and 32 TTFs, and the Secretariat has received the originals of all 32 TTFs.

Trip	Tuna (t)		Difference	
	Certificate	TTFs	t	%
132196	933	699	234	33.5
132915	700	656	44	6.7
132559	628	590	38	6.4

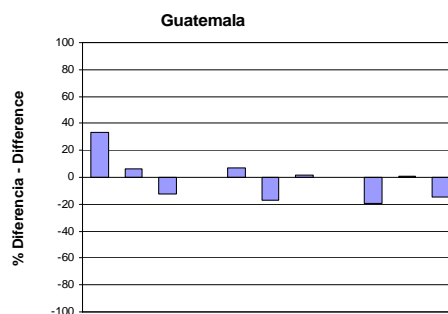
Questions may arise about the validity of a certificate if the data on the certificate do not match the data on the corresponding TTFs. For 3 of the 32 TTFs corresponding to valid dolphin safe certificates, the amount of tuna on the certificate exceeded the amount of dolphin safe tuna recorded on the corresponding TTFs by 5% or more, as detailed in the table above. At its meeting in June 2003, the working group agreed that 10% should be the trigger level employed by the Secretariat for requesting an investigation. The national authority that issued the certificate that exceeded the TTF dolphin safe tuna by more than 10%, has been advised of the discrepancy.

The graphs below show, for every trip stated above, for which a valid dolphin-safe certificate have 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 most cases the difference is negative, which indicates that the TTF estimate is higher than the certified weight, usually because 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 data presented on the graphs, Mexico issued one dolphin-safe certificate referring to two TTFs, for which the ratio of the weight of the certified frozen tuna and the estimated weight on the TTF was -15% and -94%, respectively.

1. -78
2. -93
3. -92
4. -99
5. -92
6. -93
7. -59
8. -95
9. -98
10. -6
11. -99
12. -96
13. -80
14. -91
15. -86
16. -99
17. -75
18. -89
19. -83
20. -88



1. 33
2. 6
3. -12
4. 0
5. 7
6. -17
7. 1
8. 0
9. -20
10. 1



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

At its 9th 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.

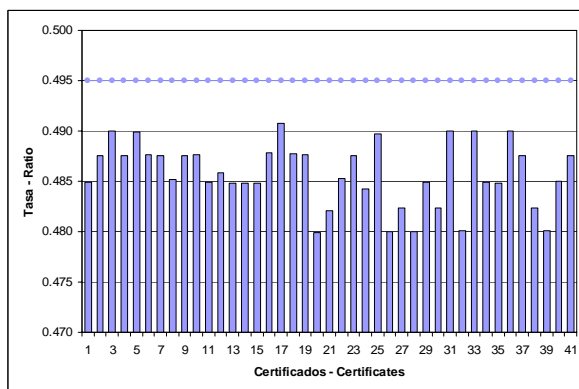
At its 14th meeting, in October 2003, the Working Group revisited the issue of processed weight versus whole weight, and asked the Secretariat to compare the weights of processed tuna recorded on dolphin safe certificates with the weights of whole fish on the corresponding TTFs. For this analysis, the 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.)

Of the 47 valid certificates issued in the period covered by this report, six, referencing 12 TTFs from 11 trips, were for whole frozen tuna. The quantities of frozen tuna on the TTFs and the corresponding certificates should be very similar; any discrepancies are indicated in part 1 of this report.

The remaining 41 valid certificates received, referencing 20 TTFs, indicated that the tuna was processed into loins. In all cases, the ratio between the frozen weight indicated in section A of the certificates and the processed weight is lower than the conversion factor of 0.495 supplied by Costa Rica, indicated by the dotted line in the figure. It should be noted also that the certificates refer to one processed weight that

could be the product of several TTFs.

1.	0.485	22.	0.485
2.	0.488	23.	0.488
3.	0.490	24.	0.484
4.	0.488	25.	0.490
5.	0.490	26.	0.480
6.	0.488	27.	0.482
7.	0.488	28.	0.480
8.	0.485	29.	0.485
9.	0.488	30.	0.482
10.	0.488	31.	0.490
11.	0.485	32.	0.480
12.	0.486	33.	0.490
13.	0.485	34.	0.485
14.	0.485	35.	0.485
15.	0.485	36.	0.490
16.	0.488	37.	0.488
17.	0.491	38.	0.482
18.	0.488	39.	0.480
19.	0.488	40.	0.485
20.	0.480	41.	0.488
21.	0.482		



3. TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

The information in this section covers trips that started during 2005 and ended by September 13, 2005.

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	47	46	98
Costa Rica	CRI	20	20	100
Ecuador	ECU	232	232	100
El Salvador	SLV	17	16	94
European Union	EUR	1	1	100
Guatemala	GTM	13	12	92
México	MEX	139	137	99
Nicaragua	NIC	2	0	0
Panamá	PAN	6	5	83
Perú	PER	4	3	75
Venezuela	VEN	21	18	86
Total		502	490	98