

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING**

**18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

LA JOLLA, CA. USA  
15 FEBRUARY 2005

**DOCUMENT TT-18-04**

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

This report updates the information presented in Document TT-17-04, presents comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) for trips that ended on or after January 1, 2004, 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.

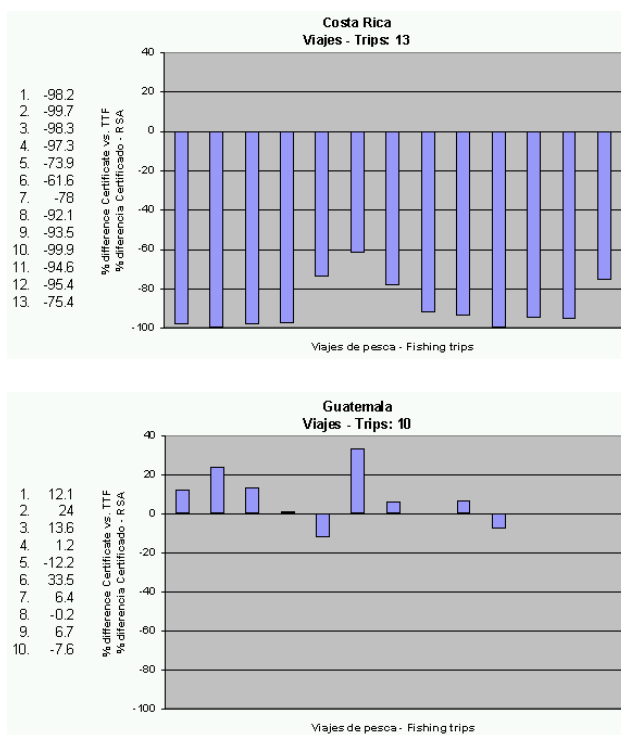
No inquiries have been received to date regarding the validity of a dolphin safe certificate.

As of February 2, 2005, the Secretariat has received 26 dolphin safe certificates for trips that ended on or after January 1, 2004. Of these, four were voided by the issuing authority. The 22 valid certificates represent tuna from 23 trips and 24 TTFs, and the Secretariat has received the originals of all 24 TTFs.

| 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  |

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 4 of the 23 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 10% or more (see table). 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 four certificates which exceeded the TTF dolphin safe tuna by more than 10% has been advised of the discrepancy, but the Secretariat has received no reply on this matter .

The graphs below show, for every trip that ended on or after January 1, 2004, 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 most 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.



## 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 certificates 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.)

As of February 2, 2005, the Secretariat has received 27 new-type dolphin-safe certificates from two Parties. One issuing authority voided four certificates due to clerical errors. The 23 valid certificates refer to 24 different TTFs.

Five of these 23 valid certificates, referencing 11 TTFs from ten 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 18 certificates, referencing 13 TTFs, indicated that the tuna was processed into loins. The percentage differences between the whole weight recorded on the TTFs and the referenced weight in part A of the certificates recorded by the national authority are shown in Figure 2.1.

As shown in Figure 2.2, the relationship between the frozen weight indicated in section A of the certificates and the processed weight is in all cases 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.

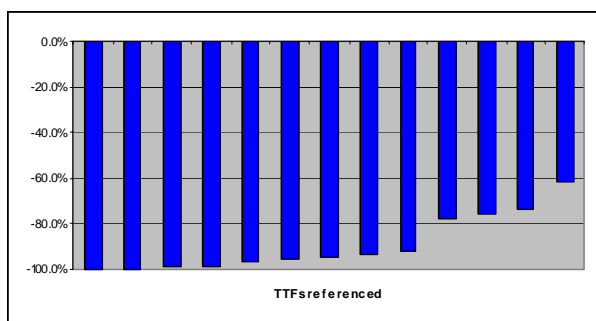


Figura 2.1

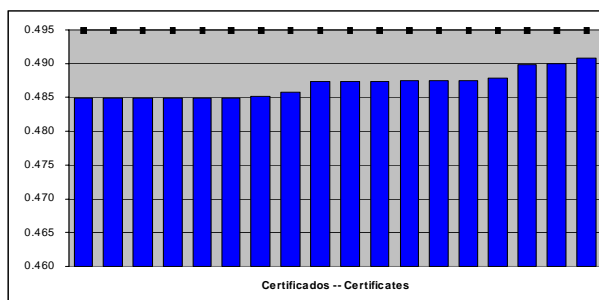


Figura 2.2

### 3. TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

The information in this section covers trips that started during 2003 and 2004 and ended during 2004.

3.1. 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 | 76         | 72         | 95        |
| Costa Rica         | CRI | 31         | 31         | 100       |
| Ecuador            | ECU | 353        | 349        | 99        |
| European Union     | EUR | 1          | 0          | 0         |
| Guatemala          | GTM | 9          | 8          | 89        |
| México             | MEX | 226        | 223        | 99        |
| Panamá             | PAN | 10         | 6          | 60        |
| Perú               | PER | 3          | 1          | 33        |
| El Salvador        | SLV | 22         | 16         | 73        |
| United States      | USA | 4          | 4          | 100       |
| Venezuela          | VEN | 42         | 31         | 74        |
| <b>Total</b>       |     | <b>777</b> | <b>741</b> | <b>95</b> |

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

| <b>National authority</b> |     | <b>Trips</b> | <b>No.</b> | <b>%</b> |
|---------------------------|-----|--------------|------------|----------|
| Colombia                  | COL | 76           | 52         | 68       |
| Costa Rica                | CRI | 31           | 8          | 26       |
| Ecuador                   | ECU | 353          | 37         | 10       |
| European Union            | EUR | 1            | 1          | 100      |
| Guatemala                 | GTM | 9            | 0          | 0        |
| México                    | MEX | 226          | 42         | 19       |
| Panamá                    | PAN | 10           | 4          | 40       |
| Perú                      | PER | 3            | 1          | 33       |
| El Salvador               | SLV | 22           | 2          | 9        |
| United States             | USA | 4            | 1          | 25       |
| Venezuela                 | VEN | 42           | 5          | 12       |
| <b>Total</b>              |     | 777          | 153        | 20       |