

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING
29TH MEETING

DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA (USA)
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**MATTERS RELATED TO THE TUNA TRACKING AND DOLPHIN-SAFE
CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**

This report presents comparisons of dolphin-safe certificates and their corresponding Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) for trips that started on or after 1 January 2010, and that ended on or before 5 September 2011, 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.

To date, the Secretariat has not received any inquiries regarding the validity of a dolphin-safe certificate.

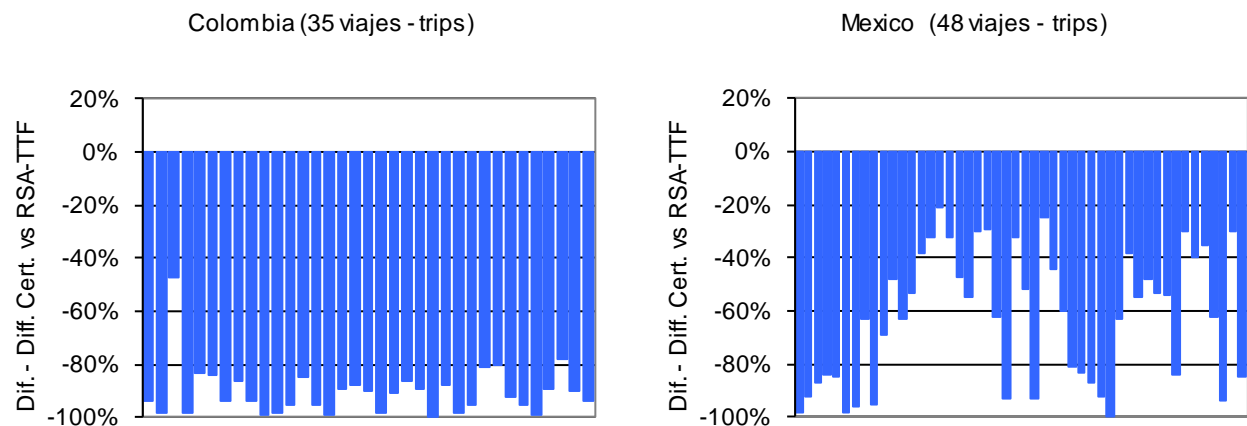
As of 16 September 2011, the Secretariat has received 111 dolphin-safe certificates signed on or after 1 January 2010. Of these, 92, which represent tuna from 83 trips and 83 TTFs, were considered valid, and the Secretariat has received the originals of all the TTFs. Two of the other 19 certificates were voided by national authorities due to clerical errors. The Secretariat also considered 13 certificates to be invalid because they referred to TTFs for trips made during the closure of the fishery, and four because they referred to TTFs not in the Secretariat's records.

At the time this report was written, the Secretariat had not received responses to letters sent to the

pertinent national authorities that issued the voided certificates, requesting instructions or more details.

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 all these trips with valid dolphin-safe certificates, the amount of tuna on the certificate did not exceed the amount of dolphin-safe tuna recorded on the corresponding TTFs.

The graph below shows the comparison of estimated weights, as recorded by the observer on the TTF, and the recorded scale weight for each TTF.



2. TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT AS OF 10 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Secretariat has received the following original TTFs from the corresponding national authorities, pursuant to the requirement of paragraph 3.6 of the [System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna](#):

National authority	Trips	Trips ¹		% of originals received			
		Trips	TTFs recd	Oct 2011	Sep 2010	Oct 2009	Jun 2009
Colombia	COL	76	75	99	93	87	82
Costa Rica	CRI	31	20	65	20	0	91
Ecuador	ECU	520	516	99	100	96	99
European Union	EUR	11	6	55	78	67	100
Guatemala	GTM	35	33	94	21	38	45
México	MEX	295	283	96	100	95	98
Nicaragua	NIC	0	NA	NA	50	0	0
Panamá	PAN	3	2	67	75	67	100
Perú	PER	20	10	50	73	50	0
El Salvador	SLV	39	21	54	83	43	87
United States	USA	0	NA	NA	100	100	100
Venezuela	VEN	54	46	85	91	96	52
Total		1084	1012	93	94	89	93

¹Trips starting during 2010 and ending on or before 5 August 2011