

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING
35TH MEETING
GUAYAQUIL (ECUADOR)
22 JUNE 2015

DOCUMENT TT-35-04

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

This report presents details of the submission of Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) to the Secretariat and comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding TTFs for trips that ended from 2 May 2014 through 1 May 2015. It also includes a summary of the TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2005, and details of special cases.

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 (or TTFs) 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 applies 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.

2. ORIGINAL TTFs RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

As indicated in the ‘Trips’ column in Table 1, the Secretariat has received from the competent national authorities 581 original TTFs from the 686 trips that ended from 2 May 2014 through 1 May 2015. The table also shows the percentages of original TTFs received vs. trips completed reported at this meeting and, for reference, the corresponding percentages presented at the working group’s previous three meetings (32 through 34).

Table 2 shows the percentages of original TTFs received by the Secretariat during 2005-2014.

3. COPIES OF DOLPHIN-SAFE CERTIFICATES RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

Between 2 May 2014 and 15 May 2015, the Secretariat received 481 copies of dolphin-safe certificates. Of these, 479, corresponding to 137 TTFs prepared during 137 fishing trips, were considered valid; two were voided by the respective competent national authority due to clerical errors. The certified tonnage (25,054 t) represents 5.7% of the total of 438,852 t recorded as dolphin-safe on the TTFs of the 686 completed trips.

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. Figure 1 shows the comparison of estimated weights, as recorded by observers on the TTF-A, and the recorded scale weight for each TTF included in the 479 valid dolphin-safe certificates mentioned above.

4. MONITORING OF SPECIAL CASES

During its 31st meeting in October 2012, the working group discussed three cases of apparent forgery of TTFs. One of these cases was presented at the 30th meeting in June 2012, and the other two at the 31st meeting.

The current situation regarding these cases is as follows:

a) CASE TTF-30, fishing trip terminated in December 2011

Information presented at the 30th meeting of the working group

In April and May 2012, letters were sent to both national authorities involved, the vessel's flag State and the port State where the relevant catches were unloaded, indicating that the TTFs received differed in that one included *non-dolphin safe* fish and the other did not. During the meeting, Venezuela identified itself as the flag State, and indicated that it had received the original TTF and sent it to the Secretariat; there were no discrepancies with the document completed by the observer. The discrepancy was with the copy obtained by the national authority of the Party where the first partial unloading took place, and Venezuela therefore had no elements to continue an investigation because the guidelines for managing TTFs had been complied with in its territory.

The national authority of the Party where the catch was initially unloaded has not answered formally, but in late March 2013, it indicated unofficially that an investigation has started (Document TT-32-04). At the time this report was posted (15 May 2015), the Secretariat had not received any further information.

b) CASES TTF-31a, fishing trip terminated in December 2011; and TTF-31b, fishing trip terminated in November 2011

Information presented at the 31st meeting of the working group.

As in the previous case, the flag of the vessels is different from the unloading flag. Trip TTF-31a unloaded completely, while TTF-31b landed only part of the catch. In July 2012, a letter was sent to both corresponding national authorities, indicating that the TTFs received differed because one included *non-dolphin safe* fish and the other does not.

The national authority of the Party where the catch was unloaded has not answered formally, but in late March 2013, it indicated unofficially that an investigation has started. At the time this report was posted (15 May 2015), the Secretariat had not received any further information.

The national authority of the flag State also indicated informally that the records it sent to the Secretariat did not differ as regards the information recorded by the observer, and therefore there was nothing for it to investigate.

In none of these three cases was a dolphin-safe certificate issued of which the Secretariat has a copy. These cases were included in Documents TT-32-04, TT-33-04, and TT-34-04, and as of the date of posting this document, the Secretariat has not received any further information from the national authority of the Party

where the catch was unloaded and that sent the presumably altered copy.

5. TABLES AND FIGURES

TABLE 1. Original TTFs received by the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 3.6 of the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna, by national authority:

			% of originals received, reported by meeting				
		Trips¹					
National authority	Trips	TTFs received	TT-35 Jul-15	TT-34 Jul-14	TT-33 Oct-13	TT-32 Jun-13	
Colombia	COL	31	20	65	81	94	98
Costa Rica	CRI	15	13	87	97	88	90
Ecuador	ECU	390	324	83	94	93	95
El Salvador	SLV	20	15	75	88	93	68
European Union	EUR	16	9	56	86	100	35
Guatemala	GTM	13	13	100	68	71	60
Mexico	MEX	171	170	99	99	98	99
Panama	PAN	2	1	50	-	-	50
Peru	PER	23	12	52	75	50	90
United States	USA	1	1	100	100	100	75
Venezuela	VEN	4	3	75	66	62	72
Total		686	581	85	93	93	93

¹ Trips that ended from 2 May 2014 through 1 May 2015.

TABLE 2. Number of original TTFs received by the Secretariat since 2005, and the percentage (in parenthesis) of the total that it represents, by year in which the trip began.

		Originals received from competent national authority in previous years (%)									
National authority		2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Bolivia	BOL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colombia	COL	33 (83)	45 (96)	43 (100)	54 (100)	44 (100)	46 (90)	59 (87)	66 (99)	45 (92)	64 (97)
Costa Rica	CRI	20 (95)	16 (94)	18 (95)	18 (100)	7 (41)	2 (17)	20 (87)	30 (103)	27 (100)	33 (100)
Ecuador	ECU	417 (98)	409 (99)	385 (99)	360 (99)	307 (100)	352 (100)	399 (100)	338 (103)	391 (100)	366 (92)
El Salvador	SLV	17 (81)	21 (91)	24 (92)	28 (97)	16 (70)	35 (92)	37 (97)	41 (98)	35 (97)	26 (100)
European Union	EUR	9 (64)	5 (71)	17 (100)	5 (50)	3 (60)	4 (100)	5 (100)	1 (100)	-	1 (100)
Guatemala	GTM	14 (82)	18 (95)	16 (94)	14 (100)	25 (100)	16 (94)	7 (70)	14 (100)	12 (80)	14 (93)
Mexico	MEX	187 (99)	187 (100)	207 (99)	205 (100)	180 (100)	189 (100)	192 (97)	201 (100)	168 (99)	203 (100)
Nicaragua	NIC	-	-	-	-	-	1 (50)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Panama	PAN	1 (50)	-	-	1 (100)	2 (100)	3 (75)	3 (100)	4 (67)	4 (67)	8 (89)
Peru	PER	8 (67)	10 (100)	2 (100)	9 (90)	9 (82)	4 (67)	0 (0)	3 (100)	2 (100)	4 (100)
United States	USA	1 (100)	-	2 (100)	3 (100)	-	2 (100)	1 (100)	2 (100)	-	-
Venezuela	VEN	5 (83)	11 (92)	20 (100)	28 (82)	31 (100)	35 (92)	21 (62)	26 (100)	38 (84)	34 (89)
Total		712 (95)	722 (98)	734 (99)	725 (98)	624 (97)	689 (96)	744 (95)	726 (100)	722 (97)	753 (94)

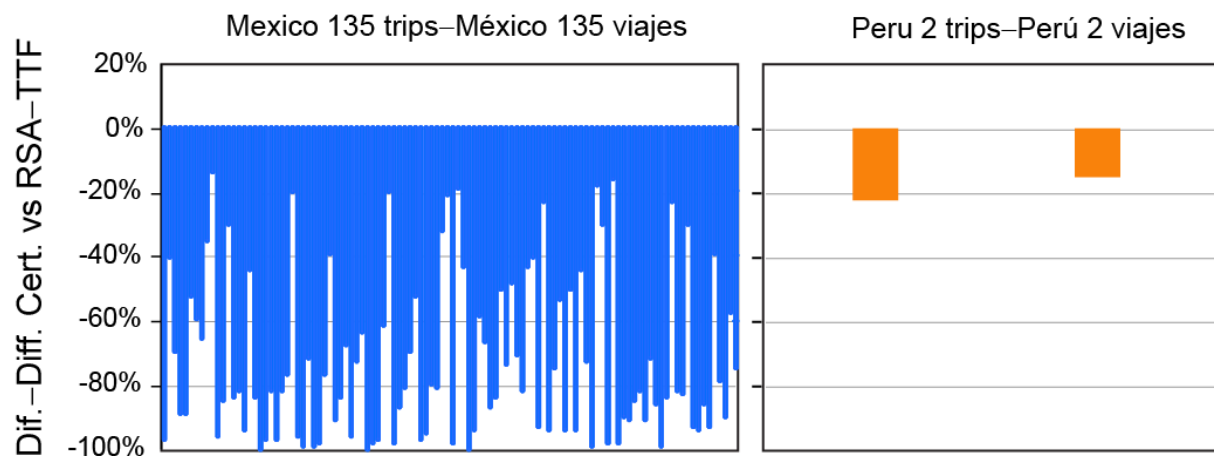


FIGURE 1. Comparison of the estimated weights recorded by observers on the TTF-A and the scale weight recorded for each TTF included in the dolphin-safe certificates.