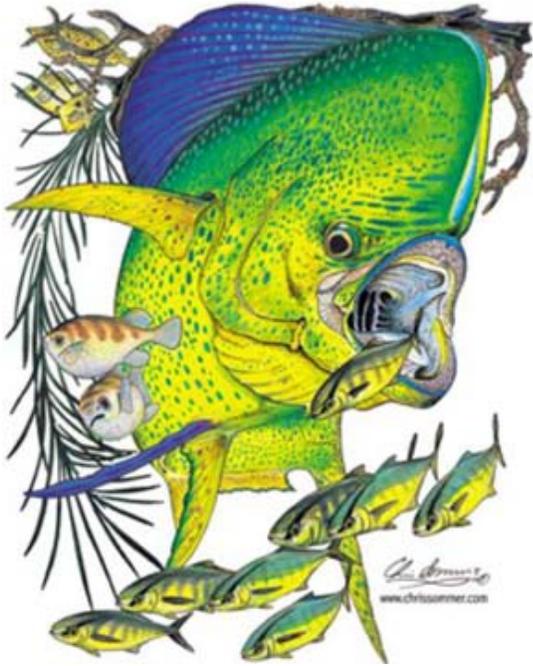


# SC Dolphin Tagging Study

August 2002



## Tag Study goes on Internet

In an effort to foster better communication with offshore fishermen along the US east coast, the SC Dolphin Tagging Study has established a web site on the Internet.

The site provides information on the goals and objectives of the study, the life history of this amazing fish, instructions on how to tag dolphin, and links to recent magazine articles on how to catch dolphin. Merchandise being offered to anglers as rewards and incentives can be viewed along with the conservation-minded sponsors who are making the project possible. Visitors can click on a map to see where anglers are tagging dolphin along the coast and see depictions of the movements for tagged fish that have been recaptured. The site also allows anglers to report tag recoveries and to register to tag dolphin for the project electronically. Eleven anglers have already registered to tag dolphin using the web site.

You are invited to browse the web site at <http://dolphintagging.homestead.com>

## Dolphin Recoveries

Four tagged dolphin were reported recovered since the last newsletter. This brings the number of noted recoveries to nine for the study.

A fish tagged by K. Kahl aboard the *Partner* off Palm Beach, FL clearly showed that the tagging experience did not affect it significantly as it was recovered by G. Mortimer later the same day. M. Able tagged only one fish of many tagged aboard the *Petrel IV* on a day of fishing off Charleston, SC but it was the one recovered 30 days and 206 miles later on the Big Rock off Morehead, NC by T. Hagan.

If individuals in a dolphin schools maintain fidelity to that group, then a school of peanuts found off Edisto Beach, SC in late May was found off Oregon Inlet, NC in June and in the Norfolk Canyon off Virginia in August. B. McCoy aboard the *Mac Attack* tagged several fish in the same school where project biologists were tagging. One of his fish was recovered 18 days and roughly 400 miles later by A. Arch aboard the *Pelican*. A fish tagged in the same school at the same time by fisheries biologists with the project was recovered 78 days and 464 miles to the north off Virginia by M. Zydron.

It may also interest fishermen, that three recoveries have come from fish tagged on May 25<sup>th</sup> of this year off SC. Another recovered dolphin was released on May 26<sup>th</sup> off central FL.

This project is based on the information gained from tag recoveries. Everyone is extremely important to the success of this project. If you encounter an angler with a tagged fish or know someone who recovered a tagged dolphin, encourage them to report the recapture.

## Important!

Send in completed tag cards promptly.  
Mail tag notification cards immediately after use.  
Do not wait to get 5 or 10 before sending them in.

## SC Dolphin Tagging Study

August 2002 Page 2.

### Tagging Activity

So far 118 anglers fishing from 60 different vessels have tagged 283 dolphin for the study. A total of 140 dolphin have been tagged off South Carolina while Florida anglers have marked 127 fish off that coast.

A total of nine captains have qualified to receive a project tee-shirt by their vessel having tagged 10 or more dolphin. However, it is Chester Kalb's unnamed vessel in Key West that leads in the number of fish tagged with 25. Harry Johnson's Petrel IV out of Mt. Pleasant, SC is in close pursuit with 24 fish tagged. Other vessels tagging 10 or more are: Bill Baugh's Ballyhoo of Savannah, GA (15), Grady William's Plumb Crazy of Charleston, SC (14), Richard DeLizza's Rock Boat of Weston, FL (12), Brian McCoy's Mac Attack of Charleston, SC (11), Mark Wilson's Docked Wages of Rockledge, FL (10), Dean Kelley's Double Nickels of Ormond Beach, FL (10), and Jim Moore's Emotional Rescue of Mt. Pleasant, SC (10).

A total of nineteen anglers have qualified to receive a project tee-shirt by tagging five or more dolphin. It is a Savannah, GA angler who leads the individual tagging category having caught and tagged 11 fish. Mark Wilson of Rockledge, FL and Dean Kelley of Ormond Beach, FL each have 10 dolphin to their credit. Bob Delizza of Weston, FL is in fourth place with 9 fish. Glenn Snell of Charleston, SC rounds out the top five anglers with 8 dolphin tagged.

### South Atlantic Council Requests Withdrawal from Joint Dolphin/Wahoo Plan

Frustration led to the request to the Secretary of Commerce. Based on the litigation implications, both the Caribbean and Gulf Councils must revise their sections of the Dolphin/Wahoo Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) to incorporate the required bycatch measures. This effort will take a substantial amount of work, additional public hearings and other actions that could take over a year to complete.

The Council believes that the part of the Dolphin/Wahoo FMP pertaining to the Atlantic coast meets all bycatch and other mandates of the Sustainable Fisheries Act. With minor alterations, an Atlantic coast FMP for dolphin and wahoo could be submitted to the Secretary for review and approval much sooner.

(South Atlantic Update, Summer, 2002)

### Photos Requested

We would like to receive photos of your tagging activities. Pictures of anglers releasing tagged dolphin, recapturing tagged fish (including photos of fish with tags in place), or good action shots of dolphin in the water are wanted for use in the newsletter and on the web page. Digital images are preferred but color slides or prints will be accepted. Be



Mike Able of Mt. Pleasant, SC prepares to release a tagged dolphin.

sure to identify people appearing in the photo and include a statement giving the SC Dolphin Tagging Study authorization to publish the photo.

### Eagle Claw Hooks Provides Support

Eagle Claw hooks has joined in supporting the dolphin tagging study. The project has encouraged the use circle hooks from its inception. Now, thanks to Eagle Claw Hooks, the project will distribute a sample of circle hooks to each angler when they receive their tags. This is being done to introduce fishermen to circle hooks. Ultimately, this should reduce the incidence of gut hooking of school dolphin leading to healthier fish for release.

For more information on the project, visit <http://dolphintagging.homestead.com> or contact

Donald L. Hammond  
Marine Fisheries Biologist  
Office of Fisheries Management  
Marine Resources Division  
SC Department of Natural Resources  
P. O. Box 12559  
Charleston, SC 29422  
Voice (843) 953-9847  
Email [hammondd@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us](mailto:hammondd@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us)