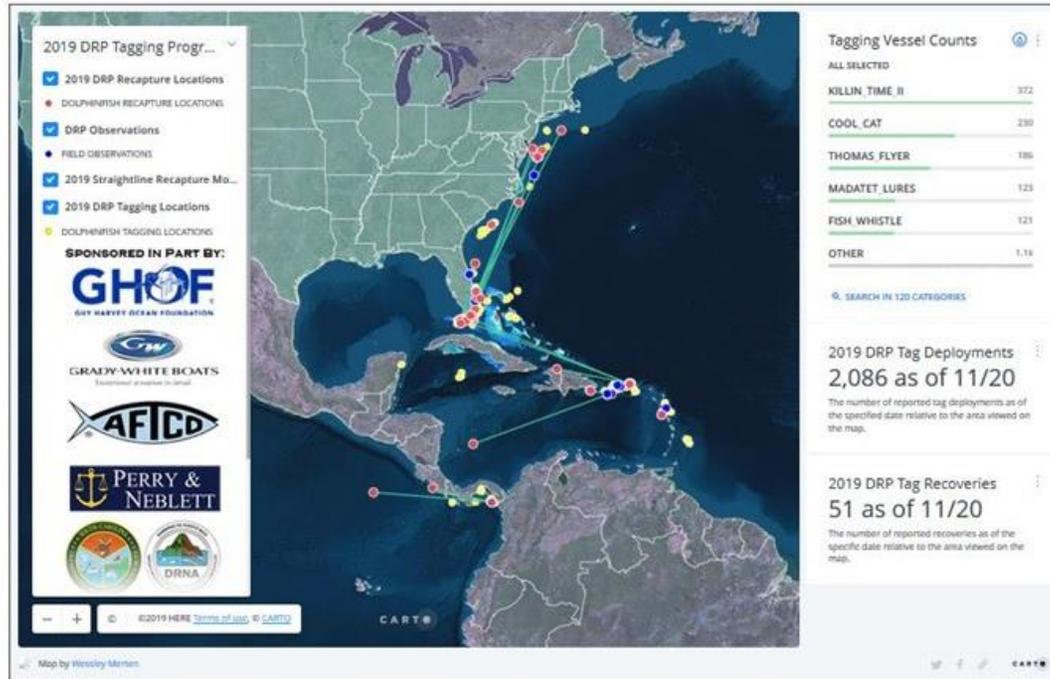


# Dolphinfish Research Program

Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation

November 2019



## Reported Tagging Progress from 10/16/2019 to 11/20/2019

Jeffrey Jones (**Kraken**) 4  
 Julien Brossel (**Madatet**) 4  
 Bouncer Smith (**Bouncer's Dusky**) 3  
 Robi Birriel (**Nuri**) 2  
 Tami Steinlage (**Lig**) 1

## Reported Recaptures Since 10/15/2019

## Year to 11/20/2019 for Reported Releases:

**2,086 tagged & released** for conservation and science  
**51** Recaptures to date in 2019  
**4** PSAT movements  
**4** PSAT Deployments **1** Acoustic Tag

**Marshall Freng** reported a **Pair of Docs** tagged fish

## Recreational Hook and Line Discard Mortality Rates



Photo: Weiss Merten

The **Dolphinfish Research Program (DRP)** began as a state and federally funded project in 2002 and continues today as the world's largest privately funded cooperative mark and recapture program to investigate the movements, life history patterns, and population status of dolphinfish. Through the **DRP**, anglers participate in research to aid in the conservation of their favorite game and food fish species in the face of growing uncertainty regarding population status and increasing levels of fishing pressure where the species occurs. In a collaborative study published in November in the **North American Journal of Fisheries Management** with researchers based at **North Carolina State University (NCSU)**, the **DRP** dataset was used in conjunction with additional data collected by **NCSU** from 2016

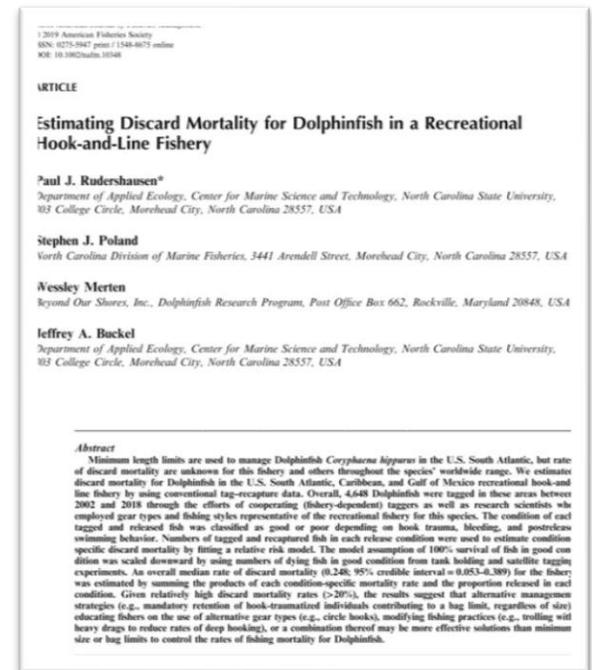
to 2018 off North Carolina to estimate the fate of discarded dolphinfish in the U.S. South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. Caribbean Sea recreational hook and line fishery. The study, led by **Drs. Paul Rudershausen** and **Jeff Buckel** of **NCSU** as well as **Stephen Poland** of **North Carolina's Division of Marine Fisheries**, modeled the fate of released fish and observed high discard mortality rates  $>20\%$ , results that suggest that without effective education on reducing hook trauma while fishing for dolphin, the benefits of minimum sizes (e.g.,  $<20''$  in the South Atlantic Bight) and bag limits established to control fishing mortality are not being fully realized. Read more below about the actions we are taking to impart change to decrease fishing mortality and increase the conservation of dolphin.

### Distributing Circle Hooks in DRP Tag Kits



**BIRD OF PREY FISHING**  
*WEIGHT FOR THE PERFECT CATCH!*

In an effort to decrease fishing mortality associated with this species and to enhance management actions aimed at conserving this species, the **Dolphinfish Research Program (DRP)** is collaborating with **Bird of Prey Fishing Tackle** based out of Pensacola, Florida, to distribute circle hook jigs as well as information on the importance of using circle hooks while trolling and sight casting for dolphin in the first 300 free **DRP** tagging kits set to be distributed in 2020. It is increasingly apparent that without outreach efforts on fishing gear types and fishing styles that promote post-release survival of dolphin, both the benefit of ethical angling practices afforded by the



# Dolphinfish Research Program Newsletter November 2019



DRP and mandatory management actions set to aid the conservation of the species are not being fully realized. To enhance your ethical angling practices in the DRP in 2020 [click here](#) to request a free DRP tagging kit that will include free circle hooks jigs provided by **Bird of Prey Fishing Tackle**. Any kit requests received from now until the end of the year will be put into the queue to be distributed after the first of the year.

## Fall Fundraising Campaign – Support our work

If you value the research and work we do there are a few ways to support our organization in 2020.

**First**, you could support our research by [purchasing a tagging kit](#) to help support tag kit distribution through the end of the year.



**Second**, you could support our work by [purchasing a program tee or hat](#). The logo featured on the



shirts was created by [Guy Harvey](#), the renowned marine artist and fisheries scientist. DRP tees come in light blue, white, grey, and black. Hats come in

black, blue, or pink. [Click here](#) to order some gear where 100% of proceeds go to the DRP.

**Third**, you can make a [tax-deductible donation via paypal](#) to the official 501(c)(3) that supports the DRP, the Beyond Our Shores Foundation.



**Fourth**, you can donate by check [click here](#), make checks out to:

Beyond Our Shores, Inc./Dolphinfish Research Program

**Fifth**, [AmazonSmile](#) You shop. Amazon gives.

Support the DRP by visiting [smile.amazon.com](#) and select Beyond Our Shores, Inc, as your charity of choice.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our organization.

**Lastly**, donate to the program on #GivingTuesday2019 (Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019), to help support the expansion of the DRP in 2020 as well as our other cooperative fisheries research initiatives.

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## Financial Supporters Dolphinfish Research Program 2019

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