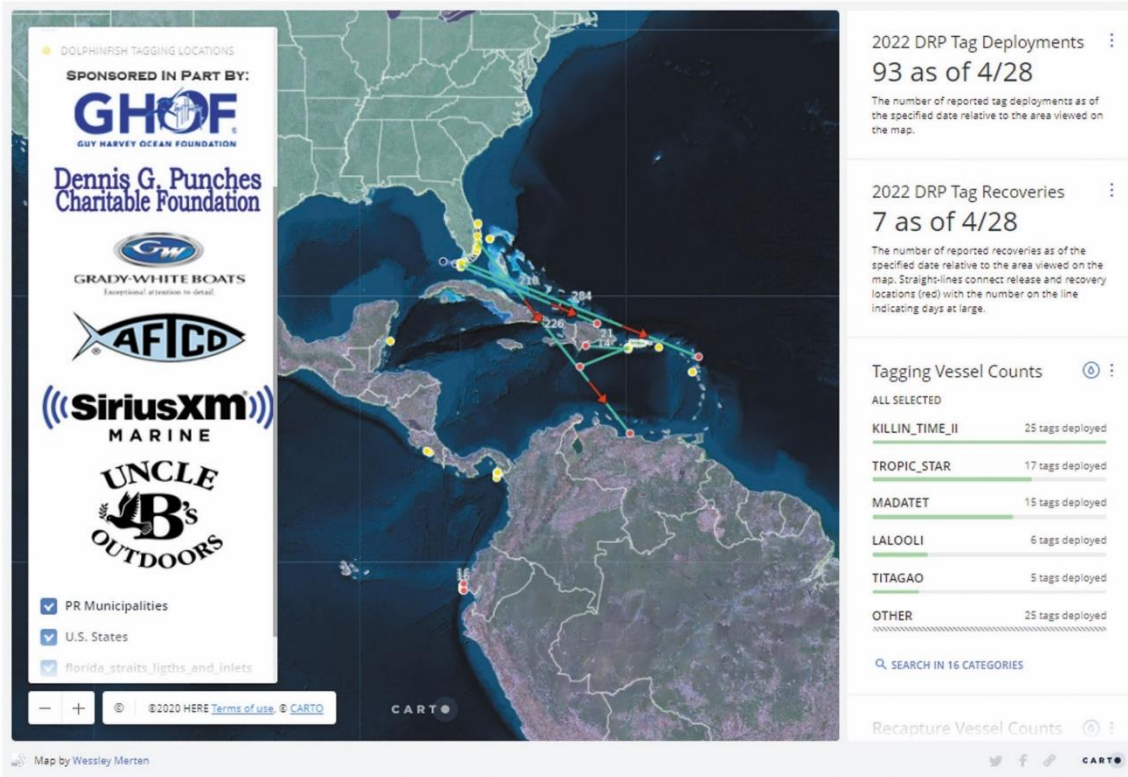


Dolphinfish Research Program™

Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation

April 2022



Reported and Received Tagging Progress from 4/1/2022-4/28/2022:

Captain Julien Brossel (Madatet) 12
Captain Gary Smolarek (Reel Obsessed) 2
Captain Mario Emilio (Catch and Release) 2
Captain Emmanuel Markham (noname) 2

Captain Jeffrey Liederman (Sandman) 4
Captain Jesus Duran (Lalooli) 2
Captain Dennis Sukel (Be Easy II) 4
Captain David Suarez (DSouth) 1

The all-tackle world record dolphinfish catch (87 pounds) was in jeopardy given a recent catch of a massive 86.1 pound (unofficial weight) dolphinfish caught off Guanica, Puerto Rico, this past month. About two weeks before this catch another large dolphinfish (76.4 pounds - official weight by PR DNER) was caught during the Boqueron Fishing Tournament. The ten pound difference in size between these bulls is not much and could mean that these fish were relatively the same age and could have been traveling at the same pace and movement trajectory through the region. Or, is it just a coincidence? A similar case where two very large bulls were caught in the same region at nearly the same time comes from a few years back in Poor Man's Canyon off Maryland. Two large bulls, a 72.8 pound and 74.5 pound (MD DNR weights), were caught in late July 2019 and August 16, 2019, respectively. These fish were captured just three weeks apart and the recent fish off of PR were captured less than two weeks apart. These examples show the value of reporting the capture of large fish due to the fact that their occurrence may not be a coincidence at all but rather a documentable pattern and tendency for large fish to move on similar time and spatial scales. Shifting gears for a second, another event occurred this past month which occurred a few years ago and that is the capture of a large fish (in this case a 44" cow) at a fish aggregating device south of the Dominican Republic. The 44" cow was captured at a FAD southeast of Barahona, DR, while on May 25th, 2019, a 47" bull was captured at a FAD south of Isla Saona, DR. We are in process of receiving the latest tag that was recovered (fingers crossed!) and if successful we will be able to acquire a very detailed record of this females movements. This event once again raises the question of whether or not an uptick of recaptures at DR FADs is a coincidence or a new pattern. This past month we deployed 5 PSATs and one was recaptured. One of five is a considerable percentage. Since the 2019 event, two of nine is even higher. This does

Year to 4/1/2022 for Reported Releases:
93 tagged & released for conservation and science by 16 different vessels

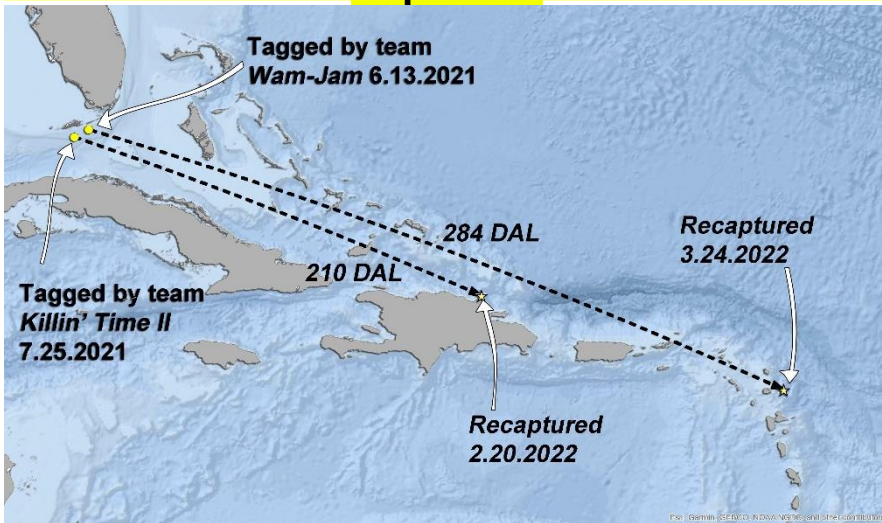
7 Recaptures to date in 2022 7 verified 7 Satellite Tags deployed

beg the question of whether or not the number of DR's FADs are influencing (surpressing) dolphin movements. Our research continues.

Reported Recaptures Since 3/31/2022

Astrith Cedula reported a Lalooli tagged fish by Captain Jesus Duran Xtag 170107 surfaced on scheduled date and was tagged by Captain Jesus Duran

Major Dolphinfish Recoveries East of Antigua and Barbuda and North of the Dominican Republic



David Wamer tags and releases a small dolphinfish aboard Wam-Jam in June 2021.

Every year, our tagging program receives recapture reports from anglers within the Caribbean Sea for fish released off the U.S. East Coast, but seldom do we receive multiple. So far in 2022, we have received three Caribbean Sea recoveries for fish released in the Keys/South Florida region. The most recent recapture report was from north of the Dominican Republic and east of Antigua and Barbuda. In February, we [reported](#) about a recovery off

Venezuela as well as one off DR, but we include the latter here to serve as a reference to the difference in timing of movement from the Keys/South Florida region to the northern Greater Antilles and northern Lesser Antilles. The new recovery reported to us last month by a commercial angler out of Antigua and Barbuda was tagged and released



Don Gates tags and releases a small dolphinfish aboard Killin' Time II.

by the *Wam-Jam* fishing team last June off Marathon, Florida. Total time at liberty for *Wam-Jam's* 14" fish, which grew to 42", was 284 days, versus *Killin' Time II's* 18" fish, which grew to 39", in 210 days. The difference in travel time, based on the timing of previous movements to these locations in the Caribbean Sea, points to a shorter

circuit taken to DR versus a longer circuit taken to Antigua.

DRP Scientific Review Published



Over the past four years, the **Beyond Our Shores Foundation** has been conducting a comprehensive review of the **Dolphinfish Research Program**, and the *Journal of Fisheries Management and Ecology* published the article earlier this month. This review

A citizen science approach to enhance dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) data collection to improve species management

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Abstract

Public integration in scientific research is fundamental to the conservation and enhancement of marine fisheries. A comprehensive review of the world's largest international citizen science capture-mark-recapture program (Dolphinfish Research Program (DRP)) for dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) was completed to catalogue 16 years of conventional tagging data and angler participation from 2002 to 2017. Data showed at least 1313 captains, 1332 vessels and more than 3285 fishing mates from around the world participated in the tag and release of 23,232 dolphinfish. Of those fish, 571 were recaptured and 19 horizontal movement categories were used to reveal detailed descriptions of movements of dolphinfish in the wild. Our review identified science-based outcomes and established future research and outreach direction with the public. The combination of new studies, strategies and initiatives identified through this review will help advance our understanding of dolphinfish and provide the necessary data to ensure the long-term conservation of this critically important offshore fish species.

KEYWORDS

capture-mark-recapture program, citizen science, dolphinfish, recreational fisheries

details specific scientific results generated by angler participation, extensively catalogs angler participation and milestones, and identifies new studies, strategies, and initiatives to implement as we move forward to advance our understanding of dolphinfish and provide the necessary

data to ensure the long-term conservation of this critically important offshore game fish species. [Click here](#) to read the article.

Caribbean Sea Dolphinfish Sat Tag Deployments



Our quest to describe the movements of dolphinfish within the Caribbean Sea continued in April with the *Lalooli* and *Liqueo* fishing teams based out of Boqueron, Puerto Rico. Those crews deployed a total of five popup satellite archival transmitters on adult male and female dolphinfish ranging in size from 38" to 48" fork-length. This work began nearly a decade ago, and so far, we have successfully deployed 16 satellite tags and have received several conventional recoveries. Of the tags recently deployed, one popped up on its



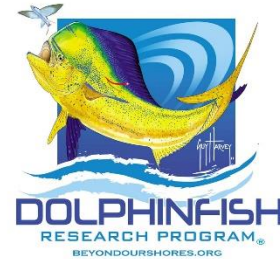
scheduled date and another was recaptured at a fish aggregating device southeast of Barahona, Dominican Republic. Next month, we plan to provide more details on these movement records. [Click here](#) for more.

U.S. Atlantic Coast Dolphinfish Management Updates



Over the past several years, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council has been deliberating over changes to the U.S. Atlantic Coast Dolphinfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Amendment 10, which was the biggest push in new dolphinfish management actions throughout the region in years, was recently approved by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce with management actions taking effect in 2022. [Click here](#) to learn more about those changes. For those who have followed this process, the overwhelming majority of public comments received during the Amendment 10 process supported stronger conservation measures which did not come to fruition. As a result, the SAFMC has begun a new regulatory amendment (Amendment 3), and recently their Advisory Panel met to discuss further modifications to the Dolphinfish FMP. The next Council meeting, which will address potential new conservation and management measures for dolphinfish along the U.S. East Coast, will be held in June in Key West, FL. [Click here](#) to learn more and to stay engaged and informed about management updates regarding dolphinfish along the U.S. East Coast.

Support Our 2022 Fisheries Research



A special thanks to everyone who has contributed to our research program so far this year. With your support, we produced solid results in the first quarter of the year and, to date, we have

already shipped out 221 tagging kits and 3,725 tags! Our goal is to distribute 450 kits and 6,000 tags in 2022 and you can help us achieve this goal. While we have an operational budget, we still need support to help us meet our tagging kit distribution goals, acquire additional satellite tags to deploy on adult dolphinfish and wahoo in 2022, and increase education supplies to meet our growing demand for tagging kits. Our tagging program is at the forefront of educating anglers, advancing discussions and actions surrounding conservation of the species, and gathering additional data to help inform data-driven decision making at state, federal, and international levels. Help the DRP expand in 2022. [Click here to shop](#) or [here to donate](#) to support our program.

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Mail to:

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Beyond Our Shores, Inc.
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