

THE BILLFISH FOUNDATION'S 2014 International Billfish Conservation Record

BISBEE'S FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND



2013 Tag & Release Program Sponsors Investing in Sportfishing Conservation







BISBEE'S FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND (BFWCF) works to conserve, restore, and manage fish, wildlife, and their habitats through science, education, and technology. BFWCF's mission to have thriving fish populations in natural habitats will ensure today's and future generations fishing success. Their contributions to The Billfish Foundation (TBF) helps further the understanding of the feeding, spawning, and migration patterns of billfish.

CASA VIEJA LODGE, located on Guatemala's Pacific coast provides anglers with an unbelievable resort experience and a modern fleet for fishing some of the world's most productive billfish waters. Its location and resources put Casa Vieja Lodge in a unique position to contribute a large amount of valuable tag & release data to TBF. Casa Vieja Lodge practices responsible conservation techniques so future anglers can have the same special experiences as those of today.

COSTA SUNGLASSES, a long-standing partner of TBF, believes that conservation is all about sustainable fishing. Many fish stocks that should be vibrant and healthy have fallen victim to poor fishing practices, unregulated development, lack of watershed protection or all of the above. Costa works with partners around the world, like TBF, to help increase awareness and influence policy so that both the fish and anglers of tomorrow will have healthy waters and fish populations to enjoy.



KING SAILFISH MOUNTS, TBF's longest-standing program partner, introduced and began promoting the release mount concept for Atlantic sailfish in the 1990's and quickly gained momentum as an alternative to traditional taxidermy. King Sailfish Mounts is now the industry leader and is the most influential producer of release mounts in the taxidermy industry. King Sailfish recognizes the importance of TBF's Tag & Release program and the importance of the data generated for managing and conserving billfish and other pelagic species.



PELAGIC GEAR's partnership with TBF meshes perfectly with the company's Pelagic Ocean Conservancy Project (POCP). The POCP supports scientific research, conservation, and recreational fisheries management, as well as, providing a voice for a large number of ocean enthusiasts. Pelagic and the POCP consists of responsible, conservation-minded sportsmen and active stewards of the sea who want to see the tradition of sportfishing survive for future generations to enjoy.



The Billfish Foundation's 2014 International Billfish Conservation Record Analyzing 2013 Tag & Release Data

This publication is dedicated to the late Dr. Russell Nelson, a nationally acclaimed scientist, who served as The Billfish Foundation's (TBF) Chief Scientist for 12 years. His legacy and passion will live on through the realization of his vision for healthy fish stocks & thrilling fishing opportunities.

This publication is made possible by the generosity of :



2013 The Billfish Foundation Tag & Release Program sponsors:



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President's Message

Dear TBF Members & Friends,

Thank you for your important contributions that made this annual report a reality; for it is your tag, release and recapture data that provides the substance and the detail upon which improved billfish conservation grows. The listing of your name in this publication is a testament of your support for responsible fishing and billfish conservation. The program sponsors distinguish their businesses from others by giving back to the great billfish upon which their business, tournaments and other activities depend.



Each year someone asks whether traditional tagging should continue? The overwhelming answer is a resounding YES. The "scientific tagging gold" comes through the recapture data you report and it is from that information that scientists are able to draw answers to a wide range of queries. Traditional tags remain on fish longer than the current satellite tag's batteries allow those tags to stay on fish and collect data. The cost of traditional tags is a fraction of the cost of one satellite tag and is easily transportable by anglers to destinations around the world, including some of the regions where few tags have been deployed.

Those entering your own data direct into our new database system are doubling your conservation contribution; for self-entry saves staff time, reduces mistakes and speeds up the processing of your release certificate. If you haven't already, please check out the new database online at www.tagbillfish.org and start entering your data!

Without your support, TBF's ability to achieve successes today is greatly limited and that limits our collective sportfishing conservation legacy to future generations. It is an honor to have you on the TBF Team, please sign up a billfishing friend so we can continue advancing responsible sportfishing, sustainable stocks of fish, healthy oceans and strong economic returns to related businesses.

Best fishing,

Ellen Peel President



2013 Rybovich Lifetime Achievement Award

The Billfish Foundation's Rybovich Lifetime Conservation Award—named in honor of the late John Rybovich, a pioneer in billfish conservation and former member of TBF's Board of Directors—is this organization's highest award. This award is presented, at TBF's Annual Gala, to members of the sportfishing community who have excelled in their contributions to billfish and other marine gamefish conservation, as well as, to the associated sportfishing and boating industries. The 2013 award winners, Maumus Claverie, Jr., Captain Ron Hamlin and Eddie Smith, Jr., have all made outstanding contributions.



Maumus Claverie, Jr. of New Orleans, Louisiana has an extensive record of service in domestic and international fishery management, including serving on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service Advisory Committee for Highly Migratory Species and the U.S. Advisory Committee for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. He also served on the Board of Directors of TBF.

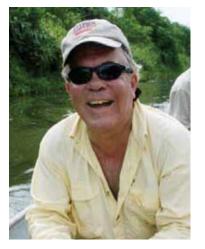


Captain Ron Hamlin of Stuart, Florida is well-known for his expertise at the helm of a sportfishing boat, racking up awards, including multiple TBF Tag and Release honors, and recognition for his superb skill in placing anglers on billfish. He is one of the few who initially recognized the conservation benefits of non-offset circle hooks with natural baits, which he supported vigorously in the United States and in Central America where he fished for years.



Eddie Smith, Jr. of Greenville, North Carolina, owner and CEO of Grady-White Boats, has devoted his life to designing and building outstanding fiberglass boats with an understanding of the importance of the ocean and fish conservation to the future of the industry. If there are no fish, customers would soon turn to other interests. Over the years, Smith has given of both his time and energy by taking active roles with numerous recreational fish conservation organizations.

Dedication: Dr. Russell Nelson



Dr. Russell Nelson, a nationally acclaimed scientist who served as The Billfish Foundation's Chief Scientist for the past 12 years, passed away unexpectedly on October 5, 2013.

Nelson earned his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina, before earning a Ph.D. in zoology, fisheries ecology and statistics from North Carolina State University. While serving as Director of the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) he established a solid record of success for the marine resources off Florida's shores. Former MFC assistant executive director Roy Williams said, "He was well-educated; he was one of those guys, like Einstein, who had pathways through the brain the rest of us didn't have. He was a good scientist but he also had pretty good political insight. Most of the issues we dealt with were tough, because you had to

say 'No' to somebody. He was good because he could balance the science and the politics." TBF board member John Brownlee added, "Russ had the ability, more than any of us, to see those unintended consequences in fisheries management."

He took complex issues and explained them so average people could understand them. As director of the MFC, Nelson was responsible for many controversial size and bag limits on popular species including red snapper, grouper, kingfish and red drum, some of which remain in place today, 26 years later. He guided Florida's contentious transition after passage of the 1994 net ban, which imposed limits on the nets used by commercial fishermen. He served for 14 years as a member of both the U.S. South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils that managed fish beyond state waters with their respective regions.



In 2001 Russell moved to South Florida, began his own consulting firm and joined the TBF team. He served on international negotiating delegations for the United States in both the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean. The President of Peru invited him to draft measures for the nation to manage black marlin as a game fish. In Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama he spearheaded the development of three socio-economic studies that documented the value of sportfishing tourism, thus making clear why conserving billfish and other species made strong economic sense to the participating nations. He was leading a Caribbean campaign for TBF and was asked by the World Bank and the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization to broaden the work to include the whole region and additional issues.

He was also passionate about his family: wife and TBF President Ellen Peel, his mother Ruth Nelson, daughters Rebecca and Kate, brothers Randall and Raymond, and sister and brother-in-law Barbara and Gary Vetter, along with three nephews, their families and his beloved Doberman, Mia. Nelson also liked to stir things up a bit, as there was nothing traditional or boring with him. He lived life with genuine gusto. A great void now exists both in his family and in the fishery science and management world, though he left plenty of fun memories and excellent marine conservation successes from which all can draw for comfort and wisdom.

Captain Bouncer Smith summed it up nicely when he said, "Russell was a visionary. We will never fish without him because Dr. Nelson formed the fishing that we have today as well as the fishing that we'll have in the future." The world is a lesser place without him, and so this 2013 Conservation Report is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Russell Nelson.

Editor's Note: Dr. Russell Nelson's inductions into numerous Halls of Fame this year illustrate how much he will be missed by conservation and sportfishing community.

2013 Officers



Chairman Fin Gaddy



Treasurer Scott Cooper





Vice Chairman Jack Duvall



Secretary Joan Vernon



from the previous generation. It's loaned to us from our children; it's placed in our custody for the next generation." -Winthrop P. Rockefeller

Board of Directors









Bennett Long-MBGFC

Keith English



John Brownlee

Chris Fischer





Bill Gooch



Norm Isaccs

Tim Simpson

Sandra MacMillan















Don Tyson (Deceased)





(Deceased)

TBF Team



Ellen M. Peel, J.D., LL.M. - President

Ellen manages and leads TBF's operations; coordinates development of conservation and management strategies with the Board of Directors, staff and consultants; provides media interaction; serves as the primary interface with the Board and conservation partners and represents TBF before all levels of fisheries management organizations. Contact Ellen at (954) 202-9267 or ellen_peel@billfish.org



| Peter Chaibongsai - Chief Science & Education Officer | Peter oversees TBF's Tag & Release Program; manages TBF's International Tagging Grant program; researches marine policy issues; and assists in cultivating strategy with key conservation partners; oversees TBF's volunteer/intern program and provides educational and outreach assistance at special events. Contact Peter at (954) 938-0150 ext. 107 or peter_chaibongsai@billfish.org



Andrew Cox - Chief Government Affairs Officer

Andrew works closely with TBF President, Ellen Peel, on international and domestic fisheries management issues. He currently focuses the majority of his efforts towards U.S. Highly Migratory Species (HMS) and ICCAT related matters. Andrew also works extensively in TBF's Tag and Release Program, analyzing tag recaptures. Contact Andrew at (954) 938-0150 ext. 115 or andrew_cox@billfish.org



| Michael Kelly - Science & Policy Specialist |

Michael reviews the science and policy pertaining to the impacts of marine protected areas to the sportfishing industry; assists with TBF's Tag & Release Online Database; and provides angler outreach at tournaments and events. Contact Michael at (954) 938-0150 ext. 102 or michael_kelly@billfish.org



| Deborah Cummings - Membership Manager |

Deborah manages member services, recruitment, membership renewals, member outreach, the Chairman's Club and TBF merchandise. Deborah also cultivates membership at tournaments and special events. Contact Deborah at (954) 938-0150 ext. 106 or deborah_cummings@billfish.org





financial reporting, budgets and annual audits; designing and enhancing internal controls and written standard operating procedures. For grant monitoring, Robert works with the President to assure that all grants and contracts meet required

financial processes, systems and procedures; he is the main point of contact for grantee financial matters. Contact Robert at (954) 938-0150 ext. 113 or robert_jones@billfish.org

Robert is responsible for all day-to-day accounting activities, monthly & annual

| Elizabeth Black - Management Assistant |

Robert Jones - Chief Operating Officer

Elizabeth (Beth) Black serves as the primary contact between the President and the public through Board member contact, Foundation and fund raising liaisons as well as staff operations. Beth is also editor of TBF's *Billfish* publication. Duties include assisting President Ellen Peel with whom she cultivates strong development, marketing and constituent networks, but will also assist with the organization's program and operational needs. Contact Beth at (954) 938-0150 ext 104 or Elizabeth_black@billfish.org

| C. Phillip Goodyear , Ph.D. - Scientist |

Dr. Goodyear provides all of TBF's scientific analysis on population dynamics, catch data analysis and other statistical analyses needed for establishing a sound foundation for conservation and management strategies.



| Herbert Nanne - Conservation Director, South America |

Herbert serves as TBF's main representative in the Central American region, helping coordinate conservation and science activities; he also serves as a scientific counselor for Costa Rica before the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

| Jackie Marsolais - Graphic Designer |

Jackie consults as the graphic designer and marketing consultant for TBF's advertising, graphic design and printing including *Billfish*, *Sailfish* and *Spearfish* magazines.



TBF's 2013 Tag & Release Captains

Abreu, David W. Abuchaibe, Alonso Acevedo, Francisco Adams, Zack Adderhold, Kevin Afonso, Artur Aguettaz, Matthieu Aguilera, Pablo Akazawa, Masayuki Akihiro, Shiqeyuki Albernaz Neto, Paulo Manga Beira Albert, Derek B. Albors Velez, Luis Albuquerque, Antonio Alcala, Yoan Alexander, Kevin Alfonso, Jose III Alligood, Matt Alty, Brett Alvarenga, Chico Alvarenga, Francisco Alvarez, Oscar A. Alvik, Karl Amaral, Antonio Anderson, Karl Anderson, Knut Anderson, Marc Angel, Billy Chase Araiza, Tony Araujo, Rafael Arioka, Michio Armada, Nico Asami, Morio Assad, Igor Assolari, Giorgio Austin, Schnieder Authement, Brian Bairez, Edwar Bajjo, Reuben Ball, Jermie J. Baltodano, Elvis Bankston, Keller Bankston, Brent Barnish, Ron

Barragan Ayala, Isidro Barrett, Rich Bartell, Mark Bartlet-Smith, Adam Bate, Harrison Bays, Chris Beal, Jeff Bell, Andrew Benazeth, Christian Bennett, Neil Bennett, John Berrios, Javier Berry, Chris Berthelot, Toby Bertran, Eduardo Bingham, Dermoth Birriel, Robin Black, Nigel Blackley, Mitchell Blaha, Laurent Blaha, Godofredo Blanchant, Chris Bloomer, Chuck Boender, Jack Bogdan, Greg Bohlinger, Reid Bonin, Paul Bonin, Olive Booth, Glen Borer, Billy Borgese, Jordan Bossard, Olivier Botello, Manuel Bouchard, Bertrand B. Bowman, Brady Breaux, Brad Brigham, Rafael Goncalves Brinkmeyer, Robert Cujo Brown, John Brown, Brick Brown, Royall III Brown, Dave Brown, Owen Brvant, Daniel Buck, Jason

Burleson, Bill Bustos Abarca, Junior Cabell, Charles Cabrera, Libardo Campos, Santos A. Candau, Christian Canino, Mike Carrano, Maneco Carrasco Martinez, Andres Carrera. Daniel Carril. Manuel Carter, James "Bubba" III Cartwright, Jason Carvalho, Stanley Carvalho, Candido Cash, Steve Cassidy, Chip Cassidy, Kevin Castro, Julio Castro, Jose Antonio Romero Castro, Juan Jr. Cedeno, Luis A. Cenac, Christopher E. Jr. Center, Bill Cesena, Eduardo Cesena, Pablo Cesena Burgoin, Eduardo Charley, Peter Chellemi, Richard Cheramie. Marc Chov. Sam Jr. Cintas. Dennis Clifford, Garv J. Cochrane, John Cockle, Trevor Coffman. Dannv Coffrin, Jason Coker. Kiki Colley, Myles III Collignacio, Santiago Collins, Alex Colombo, Carlos Combos, Gregg Cooper, Jon Cordoba, Gavilan

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TBF's 2013 Tag & Release Anglers

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Arp, Tyler

Beasley, Nick Bachmann, Stewart Beaver, Britt W. Becileg, Brian Beck, Brian Beck, Timothy Beem, Edward T. Beeson, Curtis Beeuwsaert, Georges Beggs, Christin Beitman, Matthew Belge, Steve Bell, Charles Bell, Jack Bell, Nicole Bell, Ron Bell, Tom Belmare, Rick Belton, Joellen Barbernell, Stephen Belton, Joey Belton, Stephen Benavente, Bruno Benn, Gregory G. Bennett, Karen Barbour Scott, Fabio Bennett, Neil Benson, Brian Bentley, Joe Bentley, John Berringer, Laura Berry, Gareth Bertrand, Hulin Bertuccio, Michael Berzins, John Besemer, Nicole Besnard, Paul Bess, Brian Betancourt, Fernando Bevan, Rex Beyer, Molly Biase, Blaire Bills, Stuart B. Bingham, Dermoth Binnil, Eduardo Rivera Birriel Rivera. Rohentito B. Birriel, Robin Bishop, Eric Blackley, Mitchell Blaha, Laurent Blair, Chris Blair, Heather Blake, Clinton J. Blalock, Jimmie Beal, Penny Blalock, Neil

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Sanchez, Elvin

Sanders, Donald J. Sanders, Luke Sanders, Tim Santana, Candida Santana, Jose E. Santanello, Bob Santos, Fernando Shier, Todd Santos, Gandie Santos, Marcelo Sappington, Chris Shimek, Al Sarfeh, Colin Sato, Masaki Sato, Susumu Saudef, Jeremy Savage, Victoria Scaglione, Agostino Scarlett, Randall Schafer, Bob Schamps, Fransis Scheller, John Schiappo, Dominick Siegal, Jay Schmenk, Joe Sillis, Judy Schneider, Serenity Silva, Bruno Schneider, Teresa Silva, Carlos Schnepf, Brad Schnepf, Ryan Schoenberger, Lance Simko, Mike Schofield, Earl Simon, Cole Schroeder, Darryl Schultz, Buddy Schulwitz, Alan Schumacher, Jason Schuster, Erik Six, Matt Sealock, Karen Six, Tim Seamen, George Jr. Six, Wayne Seamen, George Sr. Skates, Jeff Segura, Karen Sekine, Katsuto Selivonchik, Brett Smith, Brett Selley, Jeremy Semlinger, Kurt Serna, Grant Smith, Jeff Serterio, Mike Smith, Kevin Sethney, Bryan Setze, Kenny Shakelford, Bryan Sharpe, Daniel Smith, Nick Shaw, Paul J. Smith, Sam Sheeden, Lawrence Smith, Skip Sheehan, Lynda Shehady, Randy Shepard, Nathan Sheppard, Furman

Sheridan, Tim Solari, Beniamin Soley, Steve Sherman, Ken Sherman, Kyle Sommer, Paul Sherry, Mark Sondos, Jondie Shields, Jay M. Sonnes, Robert Shields, Kevin Sorensen, Kristopher Sousa, Ary Shifflett, Jan Spatenga, Steve Shifflett, Rodney Speed, Fynn Speed, Kris Shimek, Arthur Spencer, Eric Shirman, Jack Spencer, Paul Shirzad, Michael Spina, Dan Shiver, Christopher A. Sportfishing, Shofield, Alisa Soolyman Shook, Michael Spruill, Kerry Spruill, Stacy Short, Joeseph Shoultz, Kibrooke St. John, Peter Shrader, Jason Staddard, Kasey Siar, Joshua S. Stangier, Gretchen Stanley, Mark Stansberry, Porter Stapelton, Nate Stavely, Derek Silveira, Wagner P. Steers, Chris Siman, Shawn Steinhagen, Harvey Steinmetz, Stephen Simmet, Adam Steinmetz, Terry Stephenson, Peter Simpson, Renee Stepp, Roger I. Sindelar, Joseph Stevens, Dave Stevens, John F. Sing, Chan pak Sinsay, Sinapo Stevens, Paul M. Sisolak, Tiffany Stocker, Randy Stockton, Dan Stokes, Michael Stoupa, Ron Stowe, Kathy Skyers, Elliot Stowe, Spurgen Slocum, Michael Stranming, Jennifer Smallwood, Trevor Stratton, Christina Smiser, Rayburn Stratton, Eric Strong, Mike Smith, Chuck Stroop, Scott Stuart, Allen Stutz, Angela Smith, Jose Jr. Sudbrink, Craig W. Smith, Leighton Sudbrink, Tyler C. Smith, Mark A. Sugimoto, Shinnosuke Smith, Michael Sugino, Kehsuke Sugiyama, Kazuyoshi Smith, Rowan Sullivan, Barry Sullivan, David J. Sullivan, Jerimiah Snead, Jason Swaine, Eric Soares, David M. Swan, Kasey Soileau, Dane Swan, Kasey ray Sola, Ricardo Swan, Kyler

Swan, Stephanie Swartling, Matthew A. Swate, Nick Swerdlin, Scott Taboada, Leonardo Tabory, August Takahashi, Ichiro Takeuchi, Hirosuke Takeuchi, Kousuke Talbert, West Tan, Leng teck Tanimoto, Shiqeshi Tanner, Rick Tasko, Peter Tassos, Pete Tavares, Erica S. Tavares, Monty Taylor, Christian Taylor, Geoff Taylor, Kim Taylor, Pat Taylor, Peter Taylor, Rob Teape, Dmitri Teasdale, Murry Tedesco, Victor E. Teltschick, Goldie Temple, John Teuber, Scott Tharp, Jeff Thaw, Jonathan Thibodeaux, Joel Thielen, Chad Thomas, Dall J. Thomas, Trevor Thompson, Mackenzie Thomson, Willian Thorn-Leeson, Michael Thorpe, Curtis Thrower, John Thune, Tony Ticnor, Marvin Tidwell, Randy Tidwell, Reagan Tingle, Keith Tinney, Ben Tocher, Ross Toda, Masahito Toillion, John Tokuda, Hiromi Tolbert, Mark Tolla, Kyle Tolley, Ben Tomeu, Enrique Tomeu, Lindsey Tominaga, Taro Toomev. Christopher Toomev, Kitt

Torihara, Edson Torihara, Edson J Torre santos, Javier Torzi, Darren Trahan, Kenneth Trahan, Mandy Trapp, Max Trask, Clark Traynom, Scott Treat, John Treu, Bryan Treweek, Steve Troutman, Kevin Truex, Linda Truex, Martin Truselo, Ron Tsunematsu, Yusuke Tuck, Glenn Tucker, Mel Tucker, Olivia Tucker, Thomas Tuffley, John Turner, Chris Turner, Loyce W. III Tutinaro, Gerald Uchida, Yuji Ueberschaer, Tom Unger, Michael S. Uselman, Dean Usui, Hiroyuki Valencia, Carmen E. Van de Rydt, Paul Van de Spuy, Russoux Van de Stacy, Willie Van Dunem, Hugo Van Dunen, Osvaldo Van Tonder, Johan Vanderbeck, Charlie Vasquez, Ernesto Vaughan, Bryan Vaughn, Bryan Vaught, John Vazquez, Alex Vazguez, Ernesto Jr. Veale, Paul Jr. Vejar, Gabriel Velasguez, Roberto Velazquez Lugo, E. Velazquez, Roberto Velger, Natalie Velloso, Willer Verdigets, Brian Vernon, Joan Vesquez Sanbrie, L. Vicente, Jose R. Vicintin, Bruno Vickers, Barri Vilioen, Anton

Vincent, Isaac Vincent, Walker Vinson, Daniel Viodes, Ronald S. White, Wavne Viola, Vincent Visagie, Francois Whitling, Scott Vitale, John Vitaliich, Glen Vookolay, Rebecca Wigout, Kris Waclawik, Mark Wigzell, Zachary Wakasugi, Morio Wild, Brady Wale, Jack Wilkes, Thomas Walker, Tom Wilkinson, Courtney Wallace, Craig Williams, Andrew Wanat, Sean Williams, Derrick Wanick, Eduardo W. Williams, Jamie Ward, Ryan Wargo, William Williams, Todd Willis, Allan Warren, Rob Warren, Robert S. Willis, Jim Washer, Ben Willis, Johnny Wasson, John Wasson, Loan Wilsoe, Yannick Watanabe, Takemasa Wilson, Heidi Waters, Greg Wilson, lan Watkins, Bubba Wilson, Peter Watson, Jarrett Wilson, Robert Wilson, Steve Way, Jack Way, Lillian Way, Stephen Windes, Trey Way, Victoria Windsor, Sam Weatherton, Joe Wingard, Andy Weaver, Greg Winge, Ronald Jr. Weaver, Nicholas Wingo, John N. Weaver, Sarah Webb, Chris Wishney, David Webb, Eric Wishney, Denise Webb, Howard Wishney, Pete Witcombe, Byron Webb, John Weber, Chase Weber, John Webster, Brian Wix, Kerrv Webster, Peter Weir, Shawn Weisler, Richard Welty, Jeremy Wolford, Larry Welty, Scott Wong, Spencer Wertheim, Mike Wood, Leo Wessel, Daniel Woodrum, Laura Wessman, John Wessman, Robert Whitaker, Rom Woods, Timothy White, Craig P. Wooff, David Woolinger, Mark White, Gary White, Kevin Worland, Debra White, Nicholas Worland, Graeme Worley, Harris White, Nicole Worthington, Jake White, Robert Luther

Wozniak, Steve Wright, Vince Wruble, Erin Wulf, Wavne Wynne, Rob Whitehead, Shadd Yagsich, Lachlan Yaksich, Nathan Yamada, Takuii Yamamoto, K Yamamoto, Ken Yamjaguchi, Naomi Yanagihara, Hirokazu Yankie, Chase Yap, Chee Meng Yarbrough, Ken Yarbrough, Ken Jr. Yasuhisa, Tsumura Williams, Kenneth Yates, Jay Yates, Randal Yoo, Fred Youkhana, Henry Young, Max Young, Todd Younge, Andrew Youngs, Jamie Zabel, Paul Zaderer, Helmut Zeller, Gregory Winchester, Hunter Ziajski, Paul Ziegler, Charles Ziealer, Vincent Zierfuss, Karl Ziff, Sanford Zifmer, David Winters, Wesley C. Zinaich, Joe Zissman, Aurelie Ziuhey, Tripp Zizzman, Damien Zoderer, Helmut Zoricic, Rob Wiwaslard, Charles Zukosky, Leon

White, Ross T.

White, Spencer

Wickiewicz, Doc T.

Wightman, Topher

Wills, Dale

Witt, Bob

Wizman, Johnny

Wold, Brady

Woods, Glen

Woods, Mitchell

Wold, Jay

White, Sam

If your name was omitted in error or misspelled, please contact TBF at tag@billfish.org. Our sincere apologies.

Tag & Release Program

Established in 1990, The Billfish Foundation's Tag and Release Program includes the largest private billfish tagging database with over 200,000 tag and release reports. TBF annually receives close to 10,000 - 12,000 tag and release records worldwide that provide vital information for billfish conservation.

The application of traditional tags from recaptured billfish provides valuable scientific data pertaining to growth rates, longevity, migratory patterns, habitat utilization and is used in stock assessments of billfish.

Tagging provides a means for important science contributions to be made by members of the recreational fishing community. The social and economic benefits derived from billfishing have become increasingly important in a world where longline by-catch represents the largest source of marlin mortality. Billfishing is compatible with sustainable use of marine resources and generates strong economic returns to communities.

REPORTING TAGGED AND RELEASED BILLFISH

- Submit the data online at www.tagbillfish.org
- Legibly fill out and mail the Tag Data Report Card to TBF
- Make sure to report the release date, species of fish, and location (latitude/longitude) of the release
- Measure or estimate the length and weight of the fish

In the case of recovering a tagged billfish, clip the monofilament off the original tag and, if possible, retag the fish.

If you have any questions about the Tag and Release Program or would like to purchase tags please go to our website at www.billfish.org, or contact us at tag@billfish.org or call (954) 938-0150.



TBF's Online Database - The Evolution of Conventional Tagging

One of the biggest accomplishments for TBF in 2013 was the complete redesign and overhaul of the Tag and Release Database (www.tagbillfish.org). The system is a very important tool for TBF's conservation and education efforts with the goal of increasing tagging efforts and engaging anglers, captains, and the general public around the world.

The system will serve as your 'digital logbook', allowing you to see and share ALL of your billfish tag and release records submitted to TBF. Once logged in, even as a new user, the system will try to match you with any of your historical catch records. If for some reason you don't see one of your records, this is more than likely due to an old address associated with your name and TBF can easily remedy the situation. Once everything is synced, you can look back and see your catch and release records, as well as share them via Facebook and Twitter.

The Interactive Map section on the database plots your historical catches, allowing you to see all of your catches plotted across the globe. Color-coded by species, you can click on any particular personal



record and see the catch details as well as any photos or video that you may have uploaded.

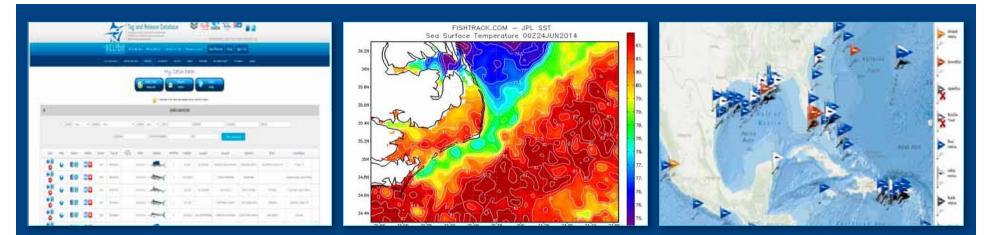
The Explorer section provides anyone complete access to all of TBF's tag and release records.

More than 200,000 tag and release billfish records are now completely transparent and ready to be explored. Sure to satisfy the curiosities of any angler or captain, it can also serve as a unique tool for students from elementary school to graduate school. The database creates basic reports and graphs with information regarding tags, releases and recaptures of billfish. Queries can be built to virtually look up anything one could imagine. Graphs, reports, and even the raw data can be downloaded to further analyze or use for school reports and research projects.



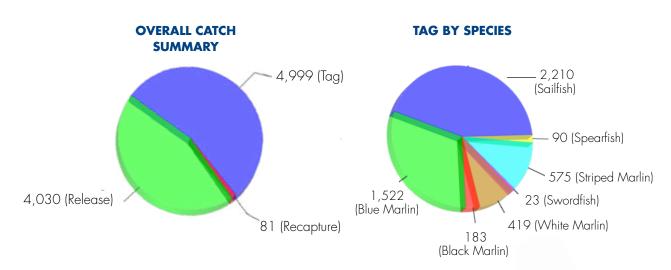
Utilizing a feed from FishTrack, captains and anglers can use the Weather section to find detailed weather forecasts and other important oceanographic features including sea surface temperature (SST), currents, and tides customized for any location.

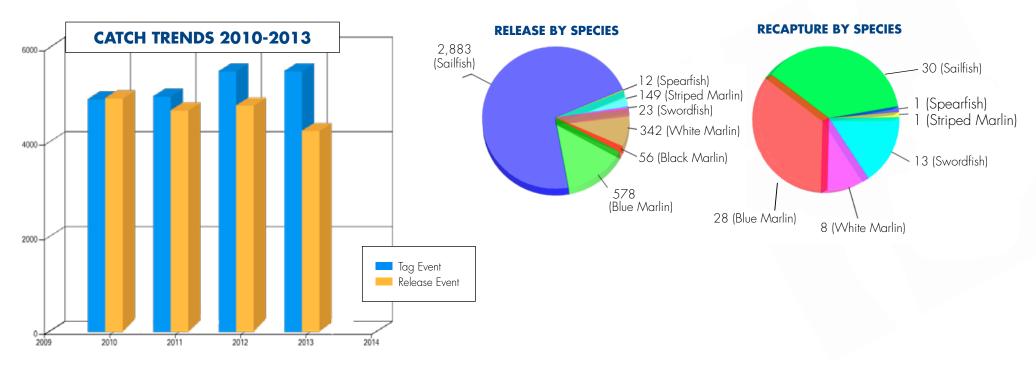
In addition to current uses of tag and release data, the new system provides a tool that expands educational opportunities for captains, anglers, and the next generation of billfish advocates. Instilling the fascination and interest today will make lasting impacts that will inspire them for years to come.



2013 Tag, Release & Recapature Data Summary

The Billfish Foundation received reports for 9,110 billfish released in the calendar year of 2013; 4,999 were tagged fish and 4,030 were released. The following pages summarize the recorded data by species, ocean and event. Overall, more fish were tagged and released in the Pacific than in the Atlantic Ocean. A large increase in reports from Cape Verde, Gabon, Mozambique, Seychelles, Malaysia, Dominican Republic, and Japan were received in part from TBF distributing tags in new and remote regions. The most commonly reported species was sailfish (5,024) and the least reported was swordfish (59). With the ever-increasing conservation ethic amongst billfish anglers, the use of circle hooks increased to 68.5% for fish reported with the type of hook used.



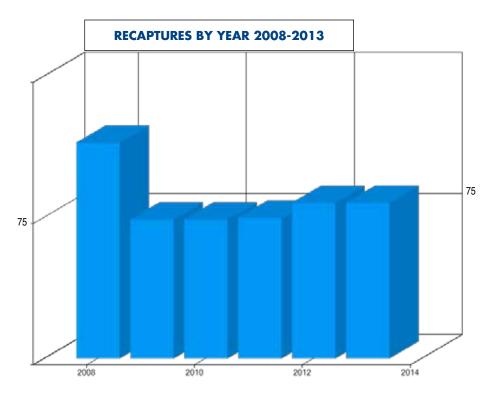


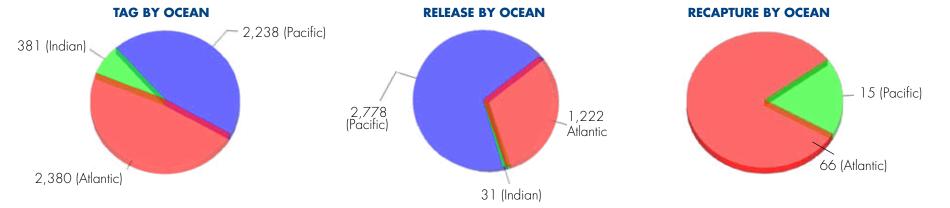
RECAPTURES - THE MOST IMPORANT PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

Over the duration of TBF's tagging program, TBF has the highest reported billfish recapture rate worldwide. In 2013 a total of 81 tagged billfish were recaptured, which raises the number of recaptured billfish to 2,879, over the life of the program. Of these, the species with the all time highest recapture rates are swordfish followed by white marlin and blue marlin.

When a fish is recaptured, the scientific loop of data collection is completed. Of the billfish recaptured in 2013, the longest time at-large was a sailfish that swam for 2,573 days (7 years), recaptured 72 miles (1,280 km) from where it was originally tagged. The longest distance between tagging and recapture locations in 2013 was a blue marlin tagged off of Kona, Hawaii and recaptured off of French Polynesia, 2,540 miles (4,088 km) away and 157 days later. The most commonly recaptured species of billfish in 2013 was sailfish (30), followed by blue marlin (28) and swordfish (13).

One of the greatest challenges when analyzing billfish recapture data is missing original tagging information. Failure to submit original tagging data creates a critical void that diminishes the value of the tagging. Please submit tagging data at the conclusion of each fishing trip to avoid a loss of critical data. Utilize TBF's online database at www.tagbillfish.org to report your billfish data.





TOP TAG & RELEASE LOCATIONS BY SPECIES

Three major oceans and nearly every continent were represented with top billfish reporting locations for 2013 thanks to the information reported by anglers and captains worldwide through TBF's online database. The push pins represent locations from which the most tagging reports were received.



BLACK MARLIN

I. Exmouth, Western Australia, Australia

16

- 2. Cairns, Queensland, Australia
- 3. Townsville, Queensland, Australia
- 4. Dampier, Western Australia,
- 5. Andaman Islands, India

BLUE MARLIN

- 6. Golfito, Costa Rica
- 7. Cape Verde
- 8. Japan
- 9. Casa De Campo, Dominican Republic
- 10. Cap Cana, Dominican Republic

SAILFISH

- 11. Guatemala
- 12. Isla Mujeres, Mexico
- 13. Los Suenos, Costa Rica
- 14. Angola, Africa
- 15. South Florida, USA

SPEARFISH

- 16. Kona, Hawaii
- 17. Cape Verde
- 18. Ibaraki, Japan
- 19. Cap Cana, Dominican Republic
- 20. St. Croix, USVI

STRIPED MARLIN

- 21. Los Cabos, Mexico
- 22. Japan

21

- 23. Kona, Hawaii USA
- 24. Golfito, Costa Rica
- 25. Inhaca, Mozambique

26. Cape Karikari, New Zealand

13

11

24

32

17

15

a dine

20

- 27. Islamorada, FL USA
- 28. Palm Beach, Florida USA
- 29. Fort Lauderdale, Florida USA
- 30. Key Largo, Florida USA

WHITE MARLIN

- 31. Oregon Inlet, North Carolina USA
- 32. Mohammedia, Morocco
- 33. Cap Cana, Dominican Republic
- 34. Ocean City, Maryland USA
- 35. Virginia Beach, Virginia USA



SPECIES DATA

TBF's 2013 tag and release data breakdown per species

BLACK Marlin

MAKAIRA INDICA

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in the tropical waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Black marlin can be found in near-shore waters and around reefs, as well as the open sea in scattered numbers.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Black marlin are identified by their rigid "sickle-shaped" pectoral fins that are not retractable. The dorsal fin is considered to be the shortest of any of the billfish, less than 50 percent of the body size by height.

SIZE:

Female black marlin, as is the case for all billfish, are larger than males weighing on average 700 pounds, while the males weigh in around 300 pounds. Commercial longline boats have reported individuals weighing 2,500 pounds, and many over 1,000 pounds have been caught by anglers in the waters off Australia, Peru, Panama and Mozambique.

DIET:

Opportunistic feeders - squid and other pelagic fish.

LIFESPAN:

Mature at 2-4 years. Estimated to live as long as 27 years for females and 18 years for malest.

STATUS:

A formal assessment of black marlin stocks has never been completed for the whole Pacific; however, given dramatic declines in longline catches over the last thirty years, a Pacific-wide assessment must be a high priority. In the Indian Ocean catches are reported as stable; however, many scientists question the data and fishery pressures are on the rise.

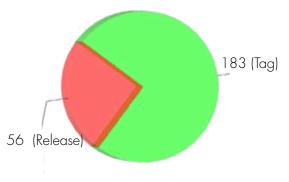
COMMENTS:

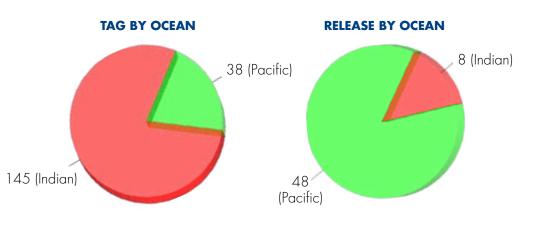
Referred to as the "bull" of the sea, the black marlin has incredible strength and does not tire readily. Scientific analysis of their diets has shown that blacks feed in deep water as well as on the surface. Like many apex predators, they travel incredible distances.

TBF received 239 reports of BLACK MARLIN in 2013. Of those 183 were tagged and 56 were released without a tag. A majority of the effort for black marlin was based on both sides of Australia specifically in Exmouth, Cairns, Townsville and Dampier. Outside of Australia, another top location for black marlin was off the Andaman Islands.



Illustration by Carey Chen





BLUE Marlin

MAKAIRA NIGRICANS / MAKAIRA MAZARA

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in offshore tropical and warm temperate oceans around the world.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Blue marlin are identified by pointed dorsal fins, pectoral and first anal fins. The pectoral fins are not rigid and can be retracted against the body. The lateral line is reticulated and can be difficult to see in larger animals.

SIZE:

Pacific blue marlin have been caught weighing over 2,000 pounds by commercial fisherman and up to 1,805 pounds have been caught on rod and reel. On average, blue marlin heavier than 300 pounds are female. Atlantic blue marlin average between 300 and 400 pounds. Typically, the largest blues are caught in the Pacific Ocean.

DIET:

Opportunistic feeders - squid and other pelagic fish.

LIFESPAN:

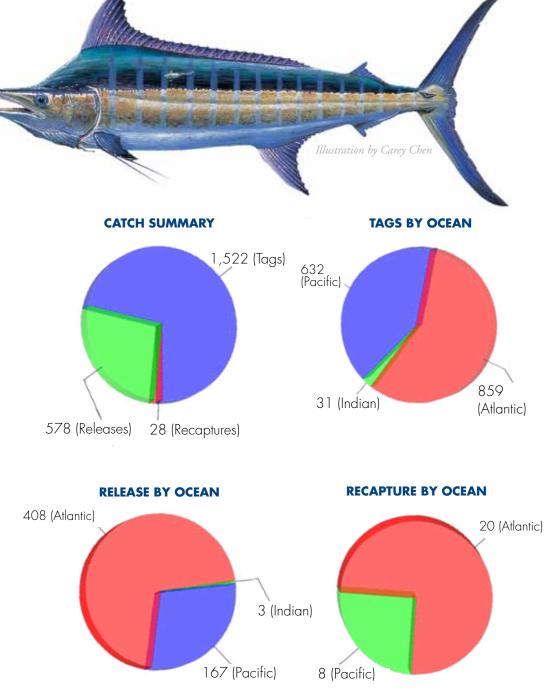
Mature at 2-4 years. Estimated to live as long as 27 years for females and 18 years for males.

STATUS:

Population levels of Atlantic blue marlin have plummeted over the past decades. Their levels are now estimated by scientists to be at 40% of what is considered a healthy population. In the Pacific, preliminary assessments have given conflicting results, but at best, Pacific blues are fully exploited. Catch reductions would greatly benefit stocks throughout the entire range of the species.

COMMENTS:

Blue marlin are renown for their strength, speed and aggressiveness, making them one of the most challenging of the billfish. They have been recorded making incredible journeys throughout the world's oceans. There is debate by scientists whether to recognize two separate but closely related species – *Makaira nigricans* in the Atlantic, and *Makaira mazara* in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.



In 2013, TBF received 2,128 reports of BLUE MARLIN. Of those 1,522 were tagged and 578 were released without a tag. Surprisingly much of the tag & release effort for blue marlin was Pacific-based off Golfito, Costa Rica and Japan. In the Atlantic a great number of blues were tagged in Cape Verde and the Dominican Republic. A total of 28 blue marlin recaptures were reported this year and the longest time at large was 2,109 days or close to 6 years. The longest distance for a recaptured blue marlin was approximately 2,540 miles from Kona, Hawaii to French Polynesia in just 157 days.





TAG #	ORIG. TAG. DATA	ORIG. EST. WEIGHT	RECAP. TAG. DATA	RECAPEST. WEIGHT & LENGTH	TIME AT LARGE	DIST. TRAVELED
BF525465	A: Capt. Luis Cedeno October 23, 2012 Port Antonio, Jamaica TENACIOUS	l 60 lb 73 kg	A: Julian Mair C: Craig Sasso May 2 I , 20 I 3 La Guaira, Venezuela RIO CARONI	77 in 195 cm 117 lb 53 kg	210 days 0.6 years	795 mi 1280 km
BF507827	A: Kazutoshi Matsushita C: Kevin Nakamaru August 9, 2012 Kona, Island Of Hawaii NORTHERN LIGHTS	175 lb 79 kg	C: Taupotini Putio January 13, 2013 French Polynesia MOKAI	88 lb 40 kg	l 57 days 0.4 years	2540 mi 4088 km
BF497499	C: Rogelio Casellas September 17, 2010 San Juan, Puerto Rico SEA TRIAL		A: Capt. Pablo Aguilera June 5, 2013 La Guaira, Venezuela ARIZONA	82 in 208 cm 159 lb 72 kg	992 days 2.7 years	552 mi 888 km
BF467735	A: Ricky Cox C: Adam Utterstrom August 1, 2011 Bermuda OFFSHORE LADY		C: Miguel Villarroel Millan March 2, 2013 La Guaira, Venezuela YORCEL	77 in 195 cm 133 lb 60 kg	579 days 1.6 years	1490 mi 2398 km
BF461466	A: Christian Hampl C: Edgar Montero July 23, 2013 Golfito, Costa Rica KAMILA	175 lb 79 kg	C: Luis Martinez September 22, 2013 Puerto San Jose, Guatemala DOLPHIN III	l 50 lb 68 kg	61 days 0.2 years	599 mi 964 km
BF455725	A: Sam Jennings C: Mike Lemon September 2, 2009 St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. REVENGE	l 25 lb 57 kg	C: Miguel Villarroel Millan March 5, 2013 La Guaira, Venezuela YORCEL	79 in 200 cm 137 lb 62 kg	1280 days 3.5 years	574 mi 924 km
BF428811	September I, 2007 Green Canyon, Louisiana MISS REMY		A: Camilo Kuri C: Antonio Kuri June 10, 2013 Vera Cruz, Mexico MORO	I 56 in 396 cm 746 lb 338 kg	2109 days 5.8 years	673 mi 1083 km
BF398023	A: Ricky Jaen September 13, 2013 Cabo Rojo, La Parguera, PR	80 lb 36 kg	A: Jon Cooper C: Quintan Dieterle August 18, 2013 Cap Cana, DR GET LIT	85 in 216 cm 175 lb 79 kg	1435 days 3.9 years	81 mi 130 km

Sailfish

ISTIOPHORUS ALBICANS / **ISTIOPHORUS PLATYPTERUS**

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in tropical and subtropical waters near land in all oceans of the world. Sailfish will travel alone or in groups along edges of reefs or current eddies. Sailfish seek out warm surface water and their migration patterns are tied to temperature changes of even a few degrees. In the Atlantic Ocean, sailfish can be found in high numbers in the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, around the Florida shoreline and the West Indies. In the Pacific Ocean, sailfish are found in high numbers off the coasts of Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Sailfish are easily identified by the long, high first dorsal fin for which it is so aptly named. The color of the "sail" is slate or cobalt blue with scattered black spots. The sides of the fish have pale, bluish gray vertical bars or rows of spots. The body is slender with a single lateral line.

SIZE:

The Indo-Pacific sailfish are the largest in size, averaging 100 pounds. Atlantic sailfish are much smaller, averaging 51 pounds and 5.5 feet long.

DIET:

Squid and other pelagic fish. Hunts alone or in groups using their sails to force schooling fish into tight "baitballs" on which to feed.

LIFESPAN:

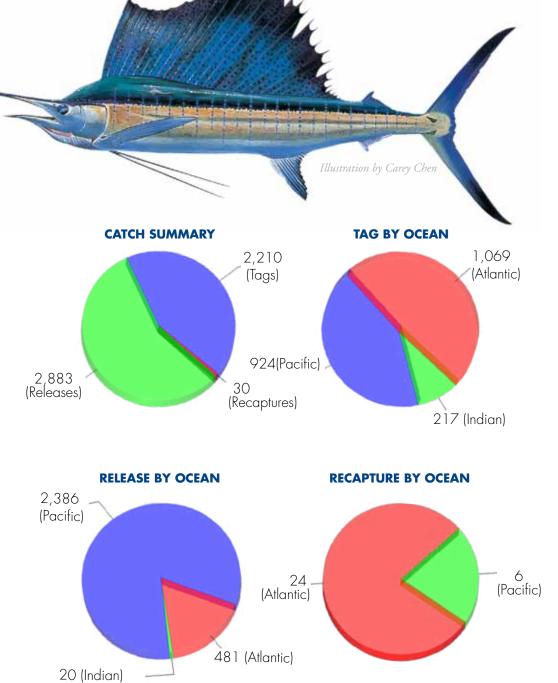
Mature at 2-4 years. Estimated to live as long as 27 years for females and 18 years for males.

STATUS:

While eastern Pacific sailfish stocks appear healthy, extremely large harvests of sailfish off the coast of Africa may be jeopardizing stock abundance across the Atlantic.

COMMENTS:

Sailfish were the first to attract the attention of anglers. Today they are the most encountered and tagged of the billfish species. Like the blue marlin, scientists are debating whether to recognize two species of sailfish – *Istiophorus albicans* in the Atlantic and *Istiophorus platypterus* in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.



In 2013, TBF received 5,123 reports of SAILFISH worldwide. 2,210 were tagged sailfish and 2,883 were released sailfish without a tag. A majority of the tagging and release effort was reported off Guatemala, Mexico, Costa Rica and South Florida. One of the surprising things was the increased amount of sailfish tagged off Angola. A total of 30 sailfish were recaptured; the majority in the south Florida region. However, one of the recaptured sailfish was tagged off West Africa and travelled at least 1,600 miles from Angola to the island of Sao Tome.



TAG #	ORIG. TAG. DATA	ORIG. EST. WEIGHT	RECAP. TAG. DATA	RECAP. EST. WEIGHT & LENGTH	TIME AT LARGE	DIS. TRAVELED
BF035600	C: Thomas Pledger January 6, 2006 Jupiter, Florida		A & C: Johnnie Fuqua January 22, 2013 Miami, Florida MASITA 3	75 in 191 cm 55 lb	2573 days 7 years	72 mi 116 km
BF388530	A: Rob Vanden Langenberg C: Mike Gautreaux March 23, 2012 Pelican Reef, Canaveral, FL SUNRISE	60 in 152 cm 45 lb 20.4 kg	A: Ron Paquette Capt. Dean Panos March 11, 2013 Miami, Florida DOUBLE D	68 in 173 cm 50 lb 23 kg	353 days I year	162 mi 261 km
BF450538	A: Peter Miller C; Quintan Dieterle January 22, 2012 Islamorada, Florida GET LIT	84 in 213 cm 50 lb 23 kg	January 2, 2013 Fort Lauderdale, Florida REEL APPEAL	89 in 226 cm 55 lb 25 kg	346 days 0.9 years	88 mi 142 km
BF456245	A: Christian Mansur C: Eric Mansur Sr November 23, 2012 Aruba ALINA		C: Juan Romero June 14, 2013 La Guaira, Venezuela VIGEN DEL CARMEN I	63 in 161 cm 35 lb 16 kg	203 days 0.6 years	228 mi 367 km
BF482722	A: Mark Taylor C: Bouncer Smith May 17, 2010 Miami, Florida BOUNCER'S DUSKY 33	86 in 218 cm 40 lb 18 kg	A: John Brownlee C: Greg Bogdan April 9, 2013 Palm Beach, Florida PERMITTED	40 lb I 8 kg	1058 days 2.9 years	67 mi 108 km
BF500318	A: Ruben Leal C: Paulo Leal March 24, 2013 Lobito, Angola MARMELADAS		A: Bastien Loloum C: Bastien Loloum July 24, 2013 Sao Tome	47 in 120 cm 44 lb 20 kg	122 days 0.3 years	1605 mi 2583 km
BF503055	C: Michael Fili April 25, 2012 Fowey Rocks, Miami, FL VOO DOO CHILD		A: Robert Aldridge January 26, 2013 Stuart, Florida BONESHAKER		276 days 0.8 years	122 mi 196 km
BF506400	A: Andrew Cox C: Fin Gaddy January 12, 2012 Isla Mujeres, Mexico QUALIFIER		A: Ramiro Meralla Hernandez C: Jose Gomez Pajon July 25, 2013 Havana, Cuba SPARROWHAWK	71 in 180 cm 42 lb 19 kg	560 days 1.5 years	272 mi 428 km
BF523981	A: Ty Hlavaty C: Jimmy Kitchell January 8, 2013 Costa Rica GOTCHA	73 in 186 cm 79 lb 36 v	A: Hugo Gerardo Quesada January 2, 2013 Quepos, Costa Rica	84 in 213 cm 65 lb 29 kg	328 days 0.9 years	IImi I8km
BF527004	A: Jonathan Lonske C: Bouncer Smith March 2, 2013 Miami Beach Florida BOUNCER'S DUSKY 33	35 lb I 6 kg	C: Scott Stanczyk December 28, 2013 Islamorada, Florida CATCH 22	82 in 208 cm 25 lb I I kg	301 days / 0.8 years	68 mi 109 km
BF506548	A: Inchiro Takahashi C: Fong Pong October 1, 2012 Rompin, Malaysia INUCHAN	66 lb 30kg	C: Nathan Cefai September 19, 2013 Kuala Rompin, Malaysia		353 days .97 years	32 mi 51 km



TETRAPTURUS SPP.

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in the tropical and subtropical offshore waters in all of the world's oceans. Spearfish are found feeding near the surface.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Spearfish are identified by their slender and long body type, short bill and high dorsal fin similar to a marlin but lacking the height and length of a sailfish. Spearfish can be confused with white marlin, but are distinguished by looking at their scales which end in several points on tiny prongs.

SIZE:

Spearfish are generally small, measuring four to five feet in length.

DIET:

Squid and pelagic fish.

LIFESPAN:

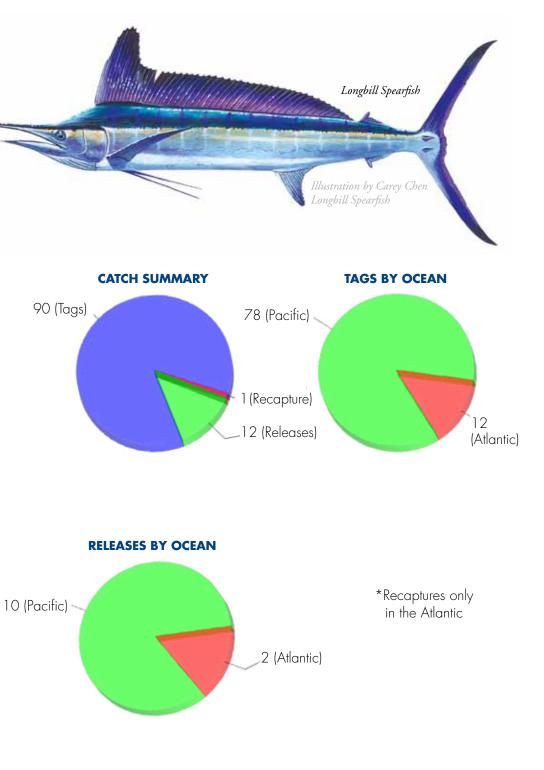
Have the shortest lifespan of the billfishes, maturing at 2 years and living no more than 5.

STATUS: Spearfish are considered to be the rarest and least understood of all the billfishes. Little data exists on their stock status. In the Atlantic, roundscale spearfish are frequently lumped with white marlin in fishery reports and studies.

COMMENTS:

Scientists recognize several separate species of spearfish. Because of the low number of spearfish encountered and the difficulty in quick identification, TBF groups these species together when gathering tagging data. Spearfish represent the least widespread and least studied of billfish.

The most common species caught in the Atlantic is the roundscale spearfish whereas in the Pacific, the most common species is the shortbill spearfish.



In 2013, TBF received 103 interactions with SPEARFISH, with only 90 tagged, 12 releases, and 1 recapture. While the Pacific was the leader in spearfish encounters (specifically Hawaii), TBF did have some reports from locations like Japan and Cape Verde. We had one recapture in 2013 off of Wilmington Canyon and was at large for over 2 years.

ORIG. TAG.

DATA

A: Andy Harris

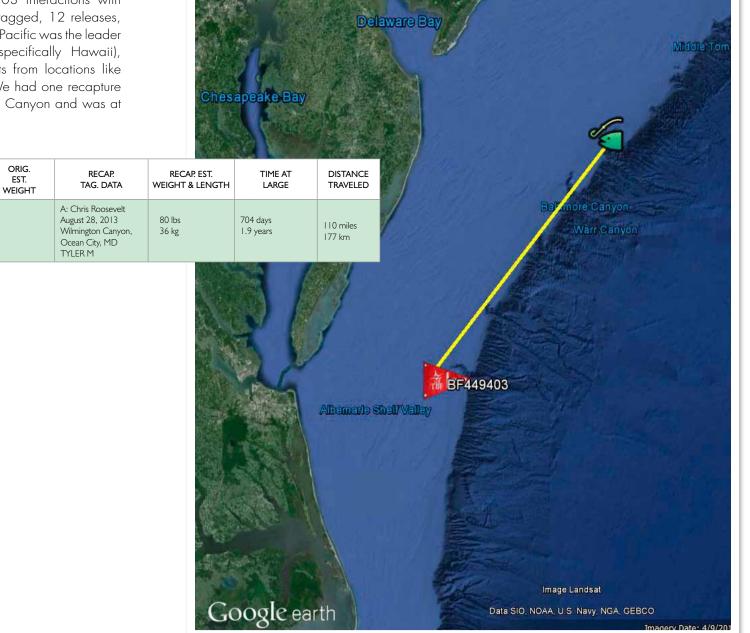
C: Andy Morris

Norfolk Canyon, Virginia Beach, VA

September 24, 2011

TAG #

BF449403



STRIPED Marlin

TETRAPTURUS AUDAX

DISTRIBUTION:

Found widely distributed in the tropical and warm temperate waters of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. High numbers are reported in the eastern and north-central Pacific, as compared with the western Pacific. Also, plentiful in the waters of the Indian Ocean and the western Arabian Sea. Striped marlin feed on the ocean surface or in mid-water depths.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Striped marlin are identified by their high, pointed first dorsal fins, which on average equals or exceeds the body depth. They have the highest dorsal fin of all the marlin species. These stripes can "light up" with greater intensity. Scientist theorize this is used in communication when hunting in groups.

SIZE:

Striped marlin range from 125 pounds to 483 pounds. Although not the biggest of the billfish, most of the largest individuals have been been reported off the coasts of Chile and New Zealand.

DIET:

Opportunistic feeders - squid and other pelagic fish.

LIFESPAN:

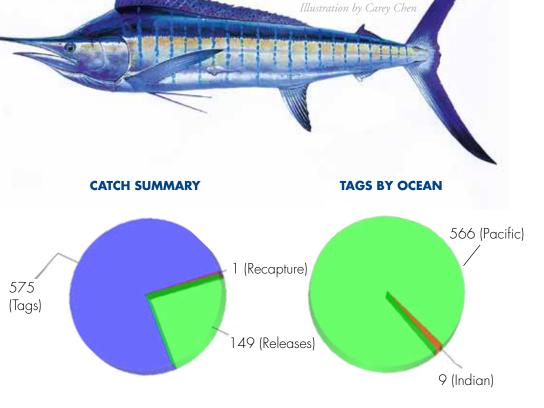
Mature at 2-3 years. Estimated to reach an age of 10 years.

STATUS:

A recent assessment was done on a new stock definition that splits the former North Pacific striped marlin stock into two stocks: the Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) stock and the Eastern North Pacific stock. According the most recent report for the WCPO, the stock is currently depleted and currently experiencing overfishing. If separate northern and southern stocks exist, the northern group may be overfished.

COMMENTS:

Striped marlin are the acrobats of the billfish world leaping and "grey-hounding" across the water when hooked. Tagging data shows striped marlin to be highly migratory, moving back and forth toward the equator in response to the cold and warm seasons. In 2002, a striped marlin was tagged off of Costa Rica and over 3 years later was recaptured off Cabo San Lucas by Timothy Pawlowski and Jesus Perez, traveling almost 2000 miles!



TBF received reports of 575 tagged STRIPED MARLIN and 163 released without a tag. A large portion of the tag and release effort was based off of the Baja California Sur region but other top destinations included Japan and Mozambique. There was one recaptured striped marlin, off Mazatlan, Mexico that was tagged originally off Los Cabos.

ORIG.

EST.

WEIGHT

104 in

264 cm

140 lb

64 kg

RECAP.

TAG. DATA

A: Vince Wright March 12, 2013

Mazatlan, Mexico

ORIG. TAG.

DATA

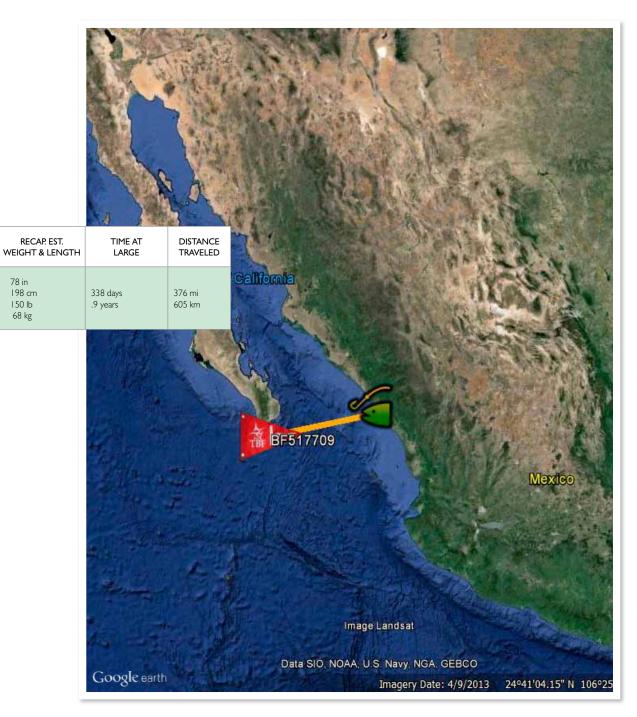
A: Bess Wilson C: Jose Romero Carballo April 8, 2012

Los Cabos, Mexico

PICANTE EXPRESS

TAG #

BF517709



Swordfish

XIPHIAS GLADIUS

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in temperate and tropical waters throughout the world's oceans. Swordfish have a vast range and were once considered common.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Swordfish, also called broadbill, are identified by their very broad, flattened "sword" that is longer and wider than those of the other billfishes. The color of the body varies from metallic purple-blue to a black-blue, or sometimes a bronze tone becoming lighter on the sides, and on the ventral a silvery gray-white.

SIZE:

On average swordfish weight between 251 and 350 pounds with fish over 300 pounds tending to be female. In the western Atlantic they have been caught up to 700 pounds and up to 1,182 in southeastern Pacific.

DIET:

Opportunistic feeders - squid, pelagic fish, and other cephalopods.

LIFESPAN:

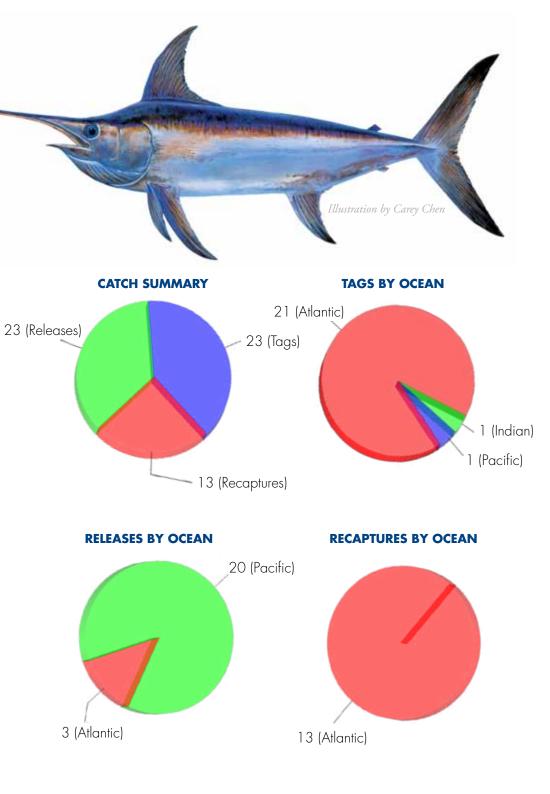
Females estimated to mature at 4-5 years, males at 3-4 years; living up to 9 years on average.

STATUS:

With the advent of longlining, swordfish experienced a steep decline. After 10 years of domestic and international restrictions on commercial fleets, the north Atlantic stock has fully recovered.

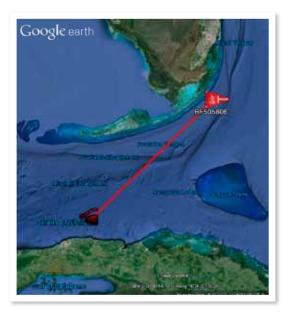
COMMENTS:

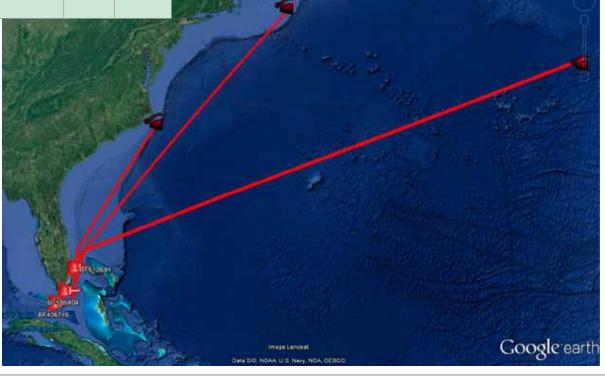
Most group swordfish with the marlins and sailfish under the name billfish, because each has a long, spear-like extension of their upper jaw (a bill). In fact, the swordfish's resemblance to a marlin is superficial, since it lacks pelvic fins and scales and has a flattened rather than a round bill. Although all billfish share a common ancestor, the swordfish split off from the other billfishes millions of years ago, and belong to the family *Xiphiidae*; the other billfish are members of the family *Istiophoridae*. The swordfish is difficult to locate and highly migratory. The species also has the greatest range of temperature exposure of any other billfishes with adults preferring cooler waters except for spawning. Swordfish also have a tremendous depth range, giving them the ability to feed at great depths. Their large blue eyes aid the billfish in its deep sea environment.



TAG #	ORIG. TAG. DATA	ORIG. EST. WEIGHT	RECAP. TAG. DATA	RECAP. EST. WEIGHT & LENGTH	TIME AT LARGE	DISTANCE TRAVELED
BF426749	C: Scott Walker June 10, 2008 Islamorada, Florida TAILWALKER	45 in 114 cm 40 lb 18 kg	C: Tim Sabaka September 20, 2013 Cape Lookout, NC FV BLUEFIN	59 in 149 cm 271 lb 123 kg	1727 days 4.7 years	739 mi 1189 km
BF505804	A: Richard Gudoian C: Sean O'Connor October 11, 2011 Key Largo, Florida DEEP THREAT	51 in 130 cm 50 lb 23 kg	C: Tommie Vickery July 13, 2013 George's Bank, Nova Scotia RARIN TO GO II	l 30 lb 59 kg	641 days 1.8 years	1357 mi 2184 km
BF512694	A: Mat Bierley C: Mark Pagano December 22, 2011 Palm Beach, Florida MOONSHINE	40 in 102 cm 35 lb 16 kg	April 9, 2013 Mid Atlantic Ridge	47 in 118 cm	474 days 1.3 years	2186 mi 3518 km
BF505806	A: Richard Gudoian C: Sean O'Connor October 12, 2011 Key Largo, FL DEEP THREAT	41 in 104 cm 35 lbs 16 kg	January 20, 2013 Santa Cruz Del Norte, Cuba	50 lbs 23 kg	466 days 1.3 years	l 64 mi 264 km
BF452440	A: Dan Erb C: Bouncer Smith August 8, 2008 Miami, FL BOUNCER'S DUSKY 33	44 in 12 cm 35 lbs 6 kg	C: Matt Dill February 20, 2013 Fort Lauderdale, FL	300 lbs I 36 kg	1657 days 4.5 years	68 miles 109 km

In 2013, TBF received 23 tag reports and 23 SWORDFISH releases. Most of the effort was based in the North Atlantic in South Florida and the Gulf of Mexico but the top spot was in New Zealand. There were 13 recaptured swordfish, all originally tagged in south Florida with recapture locations such as Canada and Cuba. The longest distance traveled was about 2,100 miles from Palm Beach, Florida to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the longest time at large was over 4.5 years.





WHITE Marlin

TETRAPTURUS ALBIDUS

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in deep tropical and temperate waters throughout the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the western Mediterranean Sea. White marlin stay near the surface and follow the seasonal warm water patterns.

CHARACTERISTICS:

White marlin are distinguished from all other billfish by their rounded first dorsal fin, pectoral fins and first anal fin. Their color is light, showing more green than other marlins. Light blue or lavender vertical bars may show on the sides when the fish is active. Dark blueblack to purple spots are scattered throughout the first dorsal and anal fins which are light lavender blue.

SIZE:

On average the white marlin is generally 40 to 60 pounds, with weights up to 180 pounds having been recorded. The largest fish are typically reported off the coast of Venezuela.

DIET:

Squid and pelagic fish.

LIFESPAN:

Estimated to live as long as 18 years.

STATUS:

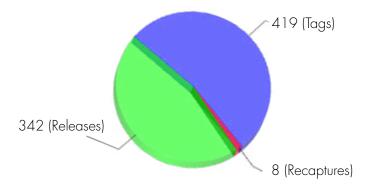
Stocks are reported to be at all time lows; however, anglers have been reporting signs of a slight improvement. The most recent assessment indicates a slight upswing in their abundance.

COMMENTS:

White marlin compete with the striped marlin for the most acrobatic title. Whites can dance and "tail-walk" for long distances giving a strong fight for the smallest of the marlin species. White marlin can reach the age of ten; they spawn in late spring and early summer.



CATCH SUMMARY



* Atlantic Only

A total of 769 WHITE MARLIN were reported to TBF in 2013. Of those 419 were tagged and 342 were released without a tag. A majority of the tag and release effort was located in the Northern Atlantic, specifically in the Mid-Atlantic region. A large number of reports also came from Morocco and the Dominican Republic. TBF received 8 white marlin recapture reports. The majority of the recaptures were in the Mid-Atlantic region, with one reported from Venezuela. One of the recaptured white marlin was originally tagged off Ocean City, MD and recaptured in the middle of the Atlantic ocean 2.5 years later and more than 1,800 miles from where originally tagged.

TAG #	ORIG. TAG. DATA	ORIG. EST. WEIGHT	RECAP. TAG. DATA	RECAP. EST. WEIGHT & LENGTH	TIME AT LARGE	DISTANCE TRAVELED
BF524520	A: J Thomas Mcmurray C: Billy Gerlach August 2, 2012 Oregon Inlet, NC MAKARA		A: Charles Cerino C: Jordan Croswait September 6, 2013 Oregon Inlet, NC LEGACY	66 in 168 cm	400 days 1.1 years	134.3 mi 216 km
BF519104	A: Matthew Wise C: Fin Gaddy June 24,2012 Oregon Inlet, NC QUALIFIER		C: Jordan Croswait September 20, 2013 Oregon Inlet, NC LEGACY	66 in 168 cm	453 days 1.2 years	48 mi 77 km
BF508611	A: Brett Cannon C: Tim Richardson April 21, 2013 Casa de Campo, DR AMBUSH	40 lb I 8 kg	A & C: Santos Campos July 9, 2013 La Guaira, Venezuala LOS MOROCHOS	61 in 154 cm 38 lb 17 kg	79 days 0.2 years	546 mi 879 km
BF506223	A: Griffin Vosbeck C: Fin Gaddy September 22, 2011 Oregon Inlet, NC QUALIFIER		A: Dan Gough August 3, 2013 Washington Canyon, Virginia Beach, VA Oregon Inlet, NC BILLFISHER	65 in 165 cm 65 lb 29 kg	681 days 1.9 years	125 mi 201 km
BF477660	A: Victoria Roberts C: Jimmie Roberts August 24, 2010 Ocean City, MD		April 3, 2013 Hayes Fracture Zone, Mid Atlantic Ridge	71 in 180 cm	953 days 2.6 years	1874 mi 3016 km
BF449403	A: Andy Harris C: Andy Morris September 24, 2011 Virginia Beach, VA		A: Chris Roosevelt August 28, 2013 Wilmington Canyon, Ocean City, MD TYLER M	80 lb 36 kg	704 days 1.9 years	l 10 mi 177 km
BF518113	A: Pat Taylor C: Fin Gaddy September 4, 2013 Oregon Inlet, NC QUALIFIER		A: Leon Davidowitz C: Doug Torn September 8, 2013 Oregon Inlet, NC SEA BUDS	80lb 27kg	4 days 0 years	18 miles 29 km

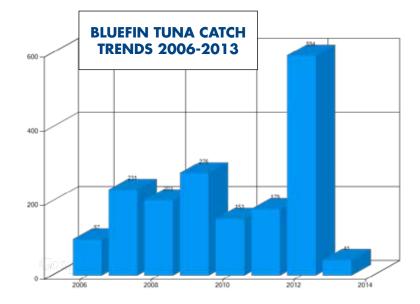




BLUEFIN Tuna

THUNNUS THYNNUS

Since 1990 the valuable data contributions made by the sportfishing community are well documented at TBF and by other scientists. Dr. Molly Lutcavage, Director of the Large Pelagic Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, her work featured in National Geographic and in the New York Times, is one of those scientists. She established a Research Partnership with TBF, for collecting the much needed tagging data on juvenile bluefin tuna by creating the Tag-A-Tiny™ project. The project enlists anglers and charter captains to report the data, which is included in TBF's Tag and Release Data Base. Thus far over 1,400 tagged small bluefin tuna have been from the program to TBF, which has generated important recaptures, including multiple trans-Atlantic records. Several of these fish were at large for 5 years and grew over 300-400 pounds. Tag a Tiny [™] program helped engage the recreational fleet, and established a US reporting network for ICCAT-linked bluefin projects. Since 2005 LPRC scientists also deployed over 247 electronic tags on juvenile bluefin, providing the first fishery-independent understanding of their year-long migrations and habitat use. With the continued growing international scrutiny placed on juvenile Atlantic bluefin tuna, LPRC's research and additional data collection grows in importance for the United States.





TAG #	ORIGINAL TAG. DATA	ORIG. EST. WEIGHT	RECAP. TAG. DATA	RECAP. EST. WEIGHT & LENGTH	TIME AT LARGE	DISTANCE TRAVELLED
BF523547	A: Thomas Ellsworth C: Craig Veld August 3 I, 2012 North Lake, Prince Edward Island LADY DAWN		A: Eric Jacquard C: Anthony Mendillo Oct 18, 2013 Port Moutohn, Nova Scotia, Canada ATLANTIC ANGLER	105 in 750 lb	413 days 1.1 years	225.6 mi
BF424838	A: Mark Particelli C: Eric Stewart August 18, 2007 East of Chatham	75 kilos	A: Juan Navarro C: Begonya Melich July 15, 2013 Tarragona, Spain	l 87 lb 207 in	2158 days 5.9 years	3545.4 mi



GROWING TRENDS in Circle Hook Use

The use of circle hooks began not as a regulation, but as a tool for conservation initiated within the sportfishing community. In 2008, non-offset circle hook usage was mandated during tournament fishing in the U.S.

when a natural, combination or live baits were used to target billfish. However, prior to the regulation, the trends in circle hook usage began to grow and have substantially become the more prominent hook type used within TBF's tag and release records – the trend is catching on!

CIRCLE HOOK BASICS

- Circle hooks, as their name implies, have a circular appearance where the point of the hook is perpendicular to the hook shank. This is in comparison to the traditional "J" hooks

where the point is more or less parallel to the hook shank. These hooks have become a conservation tool for billfish by benefitting the fish and the angler by making successful



hookups easier. Circle hooks also increase the post-release survival rate of billfish.

When circle hooks are used with live or dead bait, particularly in a 'drop back' fishery, the vast majority of fish are hooked somewhere in the corner of the mouth due to the hook shape and the feeding mechanics of billfish. Since the point of the hook is pointed inward, the hook can freely move internally without



snagging vital areas before reaching the hard jaw. This results in minimal bleeding and no damage to internal organs. However, when I hooks are used with this same type of 'drop-back', a very high percentage of the fish are hooked in undesirable locations such as the gills, throat, or stomach because the point of the hook is not facing towards the shank of the hook. This subsequently reduces the post-release survival of the fish.

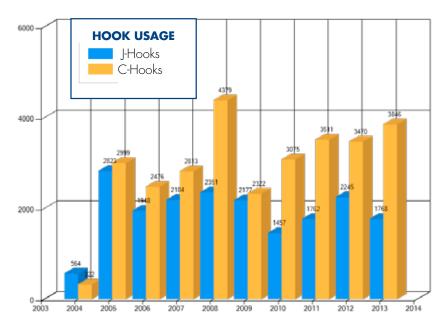
TBF encourages the use of 'in-line' (non-offset) circle

hooks. Many hooks are labeled circle hooks, but are offset and actually cause damage similar to that of J hooks.

TBF is excited to continue to work with conservation partners to expand the use of circle hooks in new locations while also increasing the education of anglers and captains on the importance of using circle hooks as a conservation tool....they might find their hook-up percentages will actually go up!



Top left: Circle hook in corner of fish's mouth. Top right, bottom left and right are examples of J hook use.



TBF Annual Tag & Release Competition

You can participate in TBF's Annual Tag & Release Competition by becoming a member of TBF and promptly turning in your Tagging Data Report cards. The competition runs rom November 1^{SI} through October 31^{SI} of the following year.



CATEGORIES

OVERALL - Awards are presented to the top overall anglers within each division, along with top captains who tag and/or release the most fish during the competition year.

TAGGING - Captain and angler awards are presented to those who tag the most of each billfish species in each ocean with a <u>5 fish minimum required</u>.

RELEASE - Captain and angler awards are presented to those who release, without tagging, the most of each billfish species in each ocean with a <u>5 fish minimum required</u>.

LADY: Awards are presented to the lady anglers who tag and/or release the most billfish.

MATES: TBF recognizes the valuable contribution of mates in both the release and tagging of billfish through our Mate Recognition Program, a cumulative, on-going program that awards mates with a pair of Costa Sunglasses and a plaque for his or her level of achievement. Mate awards are given on a yearly basis for the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

YOUTH ANGLER - Awards are presented to anglers under 18 years old (as of the end of the competition) who tag and/or release a minimum of $\underline{3 \text{ fish}}$ within five age range categories. Anglers birth dates must be included on each card or online submission.

COMPETITION DATES: November 1- October 31 of the following year.

DEADLINE: All Tagging Data Report and Release Notification Cards must be received by TBF no later than November 15.

ELIGIBILITY: Anglers, captains and mates MUST be a current TBF member to receive an award based on their submitted Tagging Data and Release Data Cards. Regardless of membership, all data from each submission is valuable for billfish research. You can check your membership status by registering with TBF's online tag and release database or by calling (954) 938-0150 ext. 106.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Online entry of data at

tagbillfish.org assures timely submission. If you wait until the end of the competition year to send in your cards, you run the risk of not having your cards reach TBF by the deadline.

PLEASE NOTE: Fish that are tagged and released are NOT counted in the Release Category. These fish are only counted in the Tagging Category.

2013 Award Winners

OVERALL TAGGING WINNERS

 Top Overall Tagging Angler – Christian Hampl – San Jose, Costa Rica
Top Overall Tagging Lady Angler – Martha MacNab – Balboa Island, CA USA
Top Overall Tagging Youth Angler – Nick Brackmann – Huntington Beach, CA USA
Top Overall Tagging Captain – Edgar Montero – Golfito, Costa Rica

TOP TAGGING ANGLERS – ATLANTIC

Blue Marlin – Mike Brauser – Lighthouse Point, FL USA Sailfish – Jose Guanipa – Caraballeda, Venezuela Spearfish – Gray Ingram – Jupiter, FL USA Swordfish – Richard Gudoian – Key Largo, FL USA White Marlin – Laurent Sahyoun – Casablanca, Morocco

TOP TAGGING ANGLERS - INDIAN

Black Marlin – Scott MacGowan – Baynton, Australia Blue Marlin * – Daniel James – Wadeye, Australia Blue Marlin * –Oliver Porter – Bull Creek, Australia Blue Marlin * – Joseph Sutherland – Broome, Australia Sailfish – Henry Riggs-Miller – Victoria, Seychelles

TOP TAGGING ANGLERS – PACIFIC

Blue Marlin – Christian Hampl – San Jose, Costa Rica Sailfish – Jack Duvall – Kemah, TX USA Spearfish – Sandra Hiler – South Bend, IN USA Striped Marlin – Martha MacNab – Balboa Island, CA USA

TOP TAGGING CAPTAINS – ATLANTIC

Blue Marlin – Ronnie Fields – Lake Park, FL USA Sailfish – Fin Gaddy – Manteo, NC USA Spearfish – Ronnie Fields – Lake Park, FL USA Swordfish – Sean O'Connor – Key Largo, FL USA White Marlin – Christian Banazeth – Auch, France

TOP TAGGING CAPTAINS - INDIAN

Black Marlin – Bernard Vale – Coral Bay, Australia Blue Marlin – Eddy Lawler – Exmouth, Australia Sailfish – Ross Newton – Broome, Australia Striped Marlin – Eddy Lawler – Exmouth, Australia

TOP TAGGING CAPTAINS – PACIFIC

Black Marlin – Tim Richardson – Bangalow, Australia Blue Marlin – Edgar Montero – Golfito, Costa Rica Sailfish – Skeet Warren – Flamingo, Costa Rica Spearfish – Gene Vander Hoek – Kailua-Kona, HI USA Striped Marlin – Bernabe Ruiz – Cabo San Lucas, MX

OVERALL RELEASE AWARDS

Top Overall Release Angler – Tiffany Sisolak – Kitty Hawk, NC USA Top Overall Release Lady Angler – Tiffany Sisolak – Kitty Hawk, NC USA Top Overall Release Youth Angler – Gregory Benn - Great Falls, VA USA Top Overall Release Captain – Brad Philipps – Guatemala City, Guatemala

TOP RELEASE ANGLERS – ATLANTIC

Blue Marlin – Gray Ingram – Jupiter, FL USA Sailfish – Gray Ingram – Jupiter, FL USA White Marlin – Gregory Benn – Great Falls, VA USA

TOP RELEASE ANGLERS – INDIAN

Black Marlin – Henry Riggs-Miller – Victoria, Seychelles Sailfish – Henry Riggs-Miller – Victoria, Seychelles

TOP RELEASE ANGLERS – PACIFIC

Black Marlin – Barry Alty – Gold Coast, Australia Blue Marlin – Christian Hampl – San Jose, Costa Rica Sailfish – Tiffany Sisolak – Kitty Hawk, NC USA Striped Marlin – Chris Bays – Kailua Kona, HI USA Swordfish – John Gregory – Kerikeri, New Zealand

TOP RELEASE CAPTAINS – ATLANTIC

Blue Marlin – Ronnie Fields – Lake Park, FL USA Sailfish – Scott Leon – Pembroke Pines, FL USA White Marlin – Fin Gaddy – Manteo, NC USA

TOP RELEASE CAPTAINS – INDIAN

Black Marlin – Brad Philipps – Guatamala City, Guatemala Sailfish – Rolly Pierre – Denis Island, Seychelles

TOP RELEASE CAPTAINS – PACIFIC

Black Marlin – Brett Alty – Coombarah, Australia Blue Marlin – Edgar Montero – Golfito, Costa Rica Sailfish – Brad Philipps – Guatemala City, Guatemala Spearfish – Chris Bays – Kailua Kona, HI USA Striped Marlin – Chris Bays – Kailua Kona, HI USA Swordfish – John Gregory – Keri Keri, New Zealand



YOUTH WINNERS TOP TAGGING

AGES 8 & UNDER Charles Gaddy – Manteo, NC USA

AGES 11-12 Jack Way – Houston, TX USA Runner-Up Serenity Schneider - Boca Raton, FL USA

AGES 13-15

Nick Brackmann – Huntington Beach, CA USA Runner-Up Lillian Way – Houston, TX USA

AGES 16-17 Matthew Hancock - San Antonio, TX USA

TOP RELEASE

AGES 8 AND UNDER Brown Gaddy – Manteo, NC USA

AGES 11-12 Bo Ingram – Greensboro, NC USA Katie Davis – Malibu, CA USA

AGES 13-15 Gregory Benn – Great Falls, VA USA Runners-Up* Nick Brackmann – Huntington Beach, CA USA Wesley Davis – Malibu, CA USA

Ridge Murphy – Homestead, FL USA Ages 16-17

* Denotes a tie



GET ON BOARD!



Tag 'Em Today, Catch 'Em Tomorrow!





For information on becoming a tagging partner, call (800) 438-8147 ext. 107 or 115, or email tag@billfish.org



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