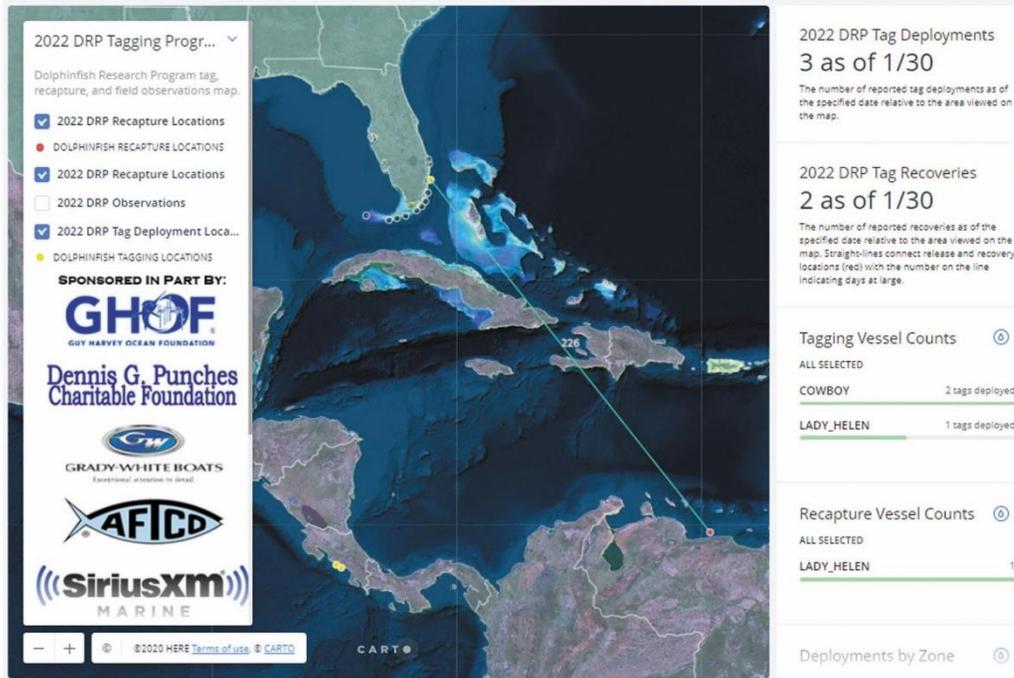


# Dolphinfish Research Program™

Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation

January 2022



Reported and Received Tagging Progress from 1/1/2022-1/31/2022:

**Captain Yery Picado (Cowboy) 2**

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, DRP personnel embarked on the first outing based out of Marina Pez Vela in Quepos, Costa Rica, to begin dolphinfish tagging work in the area. Over the course of three fishing days, DRP personnel actively trolled for 21.25 hours during 23.6 hours on the water. Total approximate distance covered while fishing equated to 221.6 miles. The maximum distance from shore fished was 20 miles. DRP personnel fished three FADs and dove two of them to investigate the species composition observed around the FADs. During three days of fishing, only 1 floating branch was discovered and fished. On the first outing, DRP personnel fished a seamount in the area. During three days of fishing there was only 1 strike from a dolphinfish on day 1 (aboard a 25' center console called *Marlin B*), 5 strikes on day 2, and no strikes from dolphinfish on day three. Of the 6 dolphinfish strikes, only 1 dolphinfish was hooked, cradled, tagged, and released. The 22" female dolphinfish was tagged on 1.15.2022 approximately 12 miles offshore south of Marine Pez Vela aboard *Cowboy* (30' *Bertram*) with Captain Yery Picado. On day three, we had 1 strike from a sailfish but it was not hooked. For the Pelagic Rock Star offshore fishing tournament, a total of 69 dolphinfish were caught among 83 registered vessels. During the three days of fishing, our vessel never encountered a tournament fishing vessel. The maximum distance from Marina Pez Vela that tournament fishing vessels could fish was 50 miles. It is unknown whether or not a boat tagged and released a dolphinfish during the tournament. A total of 18 tagging kits (450 tags) were distributed to 5 different captains, including the Pelagic Rock Star Tournament director during the tournament. While fishing was extremely slow nearshore, the fact that 69 dolphinfish and hundreds of sailfish were landed offshore means that greater than 30 miles from Marina Pez Vela the existence of FADs could have led to high landing numbers. Anecdotal reports

**Year to 1/31/2022 for Reported Releases:**  
**3 tagged & released for conservation and science by**  
**2 different vessels**

**2 Recaptures to date in 2021 1 verified**

from vessel captains suggest that the peak dolphinfish season nearshore is when ample debris inundates the coastal waters from two main rivers north of Marina Pez Vela (October and November).

Reported Recaptures Since 1/1/2022

**Luis Ferrera reported a Lady Helen tagged fish by Jeff Salter**  
**Jose Cordoba Laverne reported an Island Star tagged fish**



We would like to thank **Star Rods**, **Costa Del Mar**, **AFTCO**, and the **Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation** for providing strong incentives for fishermen to tag and release small, healthy dolphinfish for the Dolphinfish Research Program (DRP) in 2021. These premier fishing tackle companies and sponsors of the DRP have shown their commitment to the conservation of this important fishery by donating top-quality equipment and art for incentive awards to encourage fishermen to assist the DRP. This year, we are distributing \$2,900 worth of gear and art to 32 captains and their crews who collectively tagged and released 1563 dolphin in 2021! When the value of our year-end awards is combined with additional tagging and recapture awards distributed in 2021, our program, through the support of our sponsors, distributed \$5,450 worth of fishing gear and products! A complete list of all 2021 award winners is below. Congratulations 2021 top taggers!

<p><b>TOP PRIVATE BOAT</b> KILLIN' TIME II (FL) 428 TAGGED</p>  <p><b>TOP BOAT SAB</b> WAM JAM (FL) 146 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>TOP CHARTER BOAT</b> THOMAS FLYER (FL) 167 TAGGED</p>  <p><b>TOP BOAT MAB</b> No 2021 QUALIFIER NEEDED 20 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>TOP BOAT GOM</b> No 2021 QUALIFIER NEEDED 20 TAGGED</p>  <p><b>TOP BOAT TROPICS</b> WINE DOWN (BARBADOS) 90 TAGGED</p> 
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<p><b>2ND TOP PRIVATE BOAT</b> IRISH WAKE (FL) 72 TAGGED</p>  <p><b>2ND TOP BOAT SAB</b> KNOTTY SEACRETS (FL) 46 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>2ND TOP CHARTER BOAT</b> No 2021 QUALIFIER NEEDED 20 TAGGED</p>  <p><b>2ND TOP BOAT MAB</b> No 2021 QUALIFIER NEEDED 20 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>2ND TOP BOAT GOM</b> No 2021 QUALIFIER NEEDED 20 TAGGED</p>  <p><b>2ND TOP BOAT TROPICS</b> SANDMAN (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) 75 TAGGED</p> 
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<p><b>TOP CAPTAIN WITH THE SCOUTS</b> CHASE BENEDICT DORADO &amp; EXPLORER SCOUT (FL) 101 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>2ND TOP CAPTAIN WITH THE SCOUTS</b> BRYAN GILMORE WAHOO (FL) 82 TAGGED</p> 
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## Dolphinfish Research Program Newsletter January 2022

Top Private Boat: **Don Gates** *Killin' Time II* - 428 Tagged

2nd Private Boat: **Tim Heiser** *Irish Wake* - 72 Tagged

Top Charter Boat: **Jimbo & Rick Thomas** *Thomas Flyer* - 167 Tagged

Top Boat in the SAB: **David Wamer** *WamJam* -146 Tagged

2nd Boat in the SAB: **Dane Dellenbach** *Knotty Seacrets* - 46 Tagged

Top Boat in the Tropics: **Gary Marshall** *Wine Down* - 90 Tagged

2nd Boat in the Tropics: **Jeffrey Liederman** *Sandman* - 82 Tagged

Top Captain with the Scouts - **Chase Benedict** - 101 Tagged

2nd Top Captain with the Scouts - **Bryan Gilmore** - 82 Tagged

### Notable Mentions for Tagging $\geq 10$ Dolphin:

**Jay Blakeley** and **Jay Thompson** *Margaritaville* (45); **Jim Ivey** *Drs Orders* (40); **David Neblett** *Hit That* and *T2* (32); **Mike Prendergast** *Reel Therapy* (23); **Matt Joyce** *Osprey* (15); **Mario Emilio** *Catch and Release* (14); **Robi Birriel** *Nuri* (14); **Robert Malloy** *Reel Thunder* (14); **Jon Reynolds** *Dropback Fishing Charters* (14); **Don Williams** *Knot Covered* (13); *Miss Darien* (13); **Willie Howard** *Captain Willies Charters* (12); **Eric Marest** *Floever* (12); **Charles Brooks** *Perfect Circle* (12); **Julien Brossel** *Madatet* (12); *Miss Tropic Star* (12); **Phillippe Louchez** *Sailfish* (12); **Ed Kattel** *Coolcat* (11); **Steve Karwatt** *Watt Fun* (11); **Frank Betz** *Leviathan* (10); **Rick Persson** *Swamphopper* (10); **Jimmy Crochet** *Rising Sons* (10)

## DOLPHINFISH RESEARCH PROGRAM

### TAGGING AWARDS



In an effort to increase data collection on dolphinfish in 2022, we are excited to announce that each month this year we will be offering a monthly tagging award to the top tagging vessel that tags and releases the most amount of dolphin in that particular calendar month. In addition, our regional Mid-Atlantic Bight (MAB) awards program, which we started in 2020 to increase data collection in the MAB, will continue in 2022 thanks to support from [AFTCO](#). For more details about our awards program [click here](#).

## Expansion to Costa Rica



A special thanks goes out to the [Sustainable Fisheries Partnership](#) (SFP) and [MARTEC](#) in Costa Rica for providing the funds for our tagging program to expand our tagging operations to Quepos, Costa Rica, this past month. We distributed over 400 tags to local charter and recreational anglers based out of **Marina Pez Vela** and we are happy to report that the tags are starting to be put to good use. Check out our video report ([click here](#)) which documents our recent trip down to Quepos, CR, to initiate this work.

The **Dolphinfish Research Program (DRP)** promotes the use of non-offset circle hooks while trolling, sight-casting, or bailing dolphin. The use of non-offset circle hooks has been suggested by our research to increase the survivability of a fish if released or if it shakes off the line while being reeled in. We use these in the field when our intent is to deploy conventional and satellite tags on dolphinfish because these jigs consistently hook fish in the lip or lower jaw, the preferred hooking location to ensure a fish is released in good health. Since 2018, we have partnered with **Bird of Prey Fishing Tackle**, the manufacturer of these jigs, to provide free and purchasable jig packs. [Click here](#) to purchase a pack today to use these non-offset circle hook jigs while you fish for dolphin.

## Bird of Prey Fishing Tackle & DRP Circle Hook Initiative



## Help Fund 2022's Tagging Effort



A special thanks to everyone who has contributed to our tagging program since the beginning of our 2021/2022 fundraising campaign. With your support, we were able to start 2022 strong and, to date, we have already shipped out 112 tagging kits. Our goal is to distribute 450 kits and 6,000 tags in 2022. While we have an operational budget to begin the year, we still need support to help us fund our online tagging map ([click here](#)), acquire additional satellite tags to deploy on adult dolphinfish and wahoo in 2022, as well as increase our tagging kit and 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 the state, federal, and international levels. Help the **DRP** expand in 2022. Click here to [shop](#) or here to [donate](#) to support our program.

To Donate by Check [click here](#), Make Checks out to: Beyond Our Shores, Inc./Dolphinfish Research Program

### Mail to:

Wessley Merten, Ph.D. Dolphinfish Research Program Beyond Our Shores, Inc.  
PO BOX 3506, Newport, RI, 02840, Email: [wess@beyonourshores.org](mailto:wess@beyonourshores.org)



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