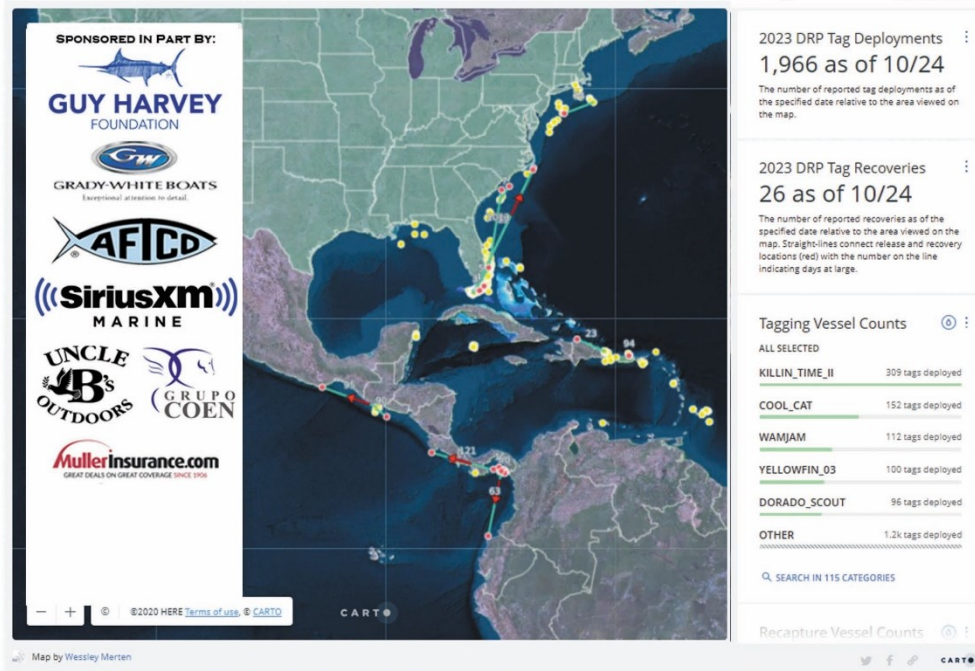


Dolphinfish Research Program™

Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Foundation

October 2023



Reported and Received Tagging Progress from 9/27/2023-10/24/2023:

Jeff Liederman (**Sandman**) 26
Chris Frost (**Lightning Strike**) 6
Efrain Gonzalez (**Liqueo**) 3
Thomas McMaster (**Salty Rod Fishing**) 2

Daniel Kubiak (**Southern Run**) 7
Julien Brossel (**Madatet**) 3
German Davis (**Nemenchas**) 2

Year to 10/24/2023 for Reported Releases:
1,966 tagged & released for conservation and science by

116+ different vessels

26 Recaptures to date in 2023 24 verified

11 Satellite tags deployed

7 Satellite tag movements (2 at large)

1 Acoustic Tag

This past month, we embarked on 5 fishing outings around Puerto Rico. Two were off San Juan, one was off Fajardo, and two were off the west coast, including one day off Mona Island. For dolphin, the season has improved since September but fish are still not as abundant as past October's have been. For boats we monitor off SJ, a total of 69 dolphin were caught in October, more than September but not as high as August. This could indicate that the season is slowly beginning along the north coast. We put in a lot of effort over three outings and we did not find any mahi to tag. Our work off the west coast was to target wahoo and we were able to tag and release 3 with

PSATs off of Mona Island. Those deployments bring us to 6 deployed on wahoo and the first deployed off of Mona. Those fish were tagged and released aboard Liqueo with Captain Efrain Gonzalez. Back to dolphin, our reports from southern DR indicate fishing for dolphin was worse in October than in September. In October only 834 lbs were caught between 8 coastal and offshore trips versus than 3,347 lbs in 10 trips.

Reported Recaptures Since 9/27/2023

Rodolfo Seden reported a fish tagged by **Miss Panama**
Dan Brady reported a yellowfin tuna tagged by **Richard Lewis**

Data Collection in the Dominican Republic

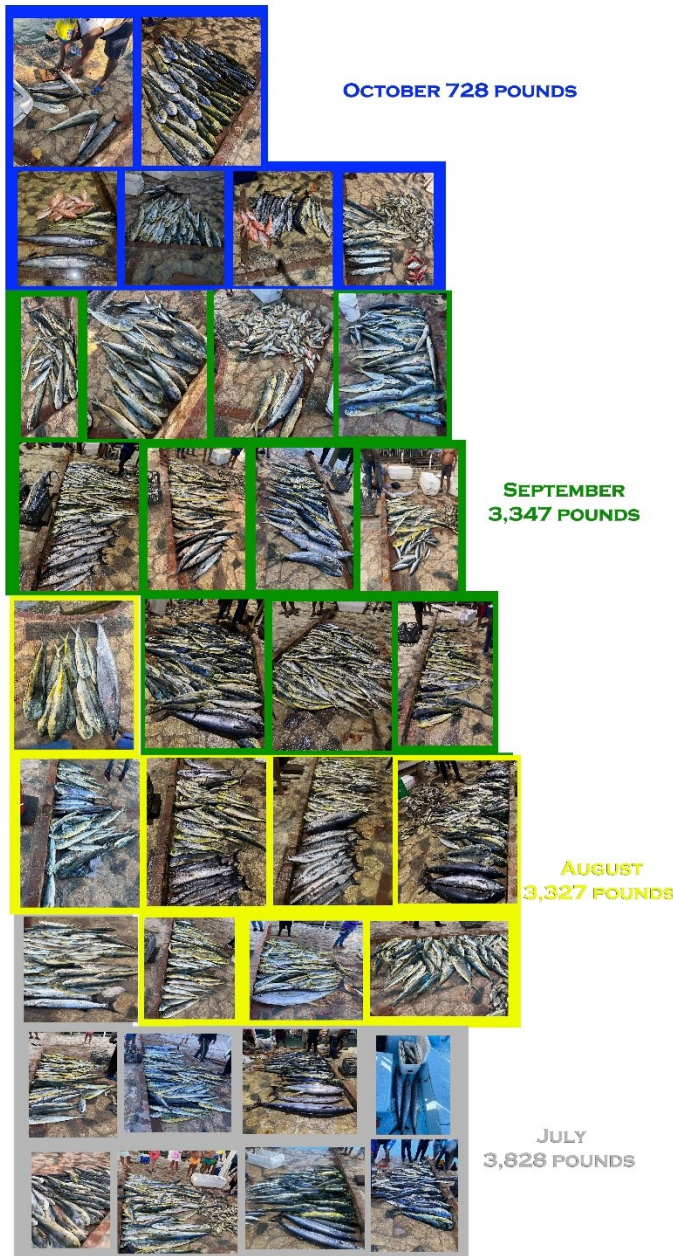


Figure 1 Pictures of daily catch over 35 outings between July and October, 2023, off southern DR. (click to enlarge)

Recently, the Dominican Republic submitted data to the **Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)** that estimates their 2021 commercial dolphinfish landings to be 880.7 metric tons or 1,940,000 lbs. We were told that the estimate of commercial dolphinfish anglers in the Dominican Republic is 2,369 based on communication with the DR Government. If the 2021 landings data are

divided by the number of anglers, the result is annual landings estimate of 818 lbs per angler, a value that we believe is extremely low relative to data that our program is collecting. Beginning this past July, our program

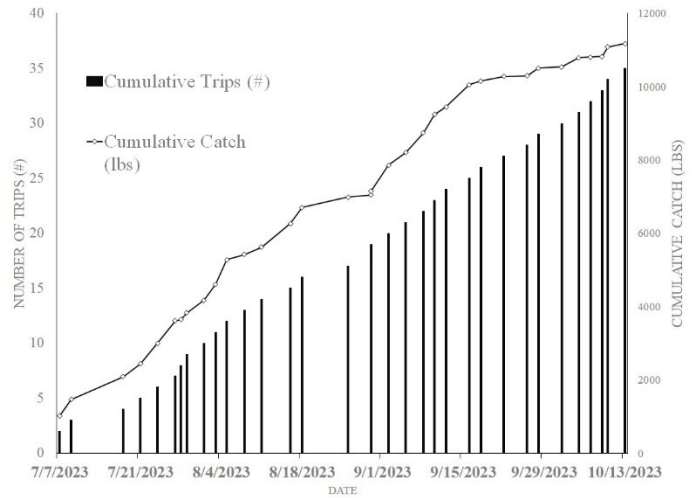


Figure 2 Angler 1 cumulative catch (pounds) and trips from July to mid-October 2023. (Click to enlarge)

began monitoring the catch of two commercial anglers in the Dominican Republic. One was surveyed once several years ago, and the other has never been surveyed by the government. Data presented here for angler 1, an individual who fishes offshore for dolphinfish, amounts to landings of 11,173 lbs across 35 outings. On average, angler 1 landed 311 lbs per outing (min: 40 lbs; max: 700 lbs), and anecdotally, this angler said the fishing has been slow. For angler 2, an angler who fishes no more than 6 miles offshore, across 5 coastal outings in early October, this angler has already landed 445 lbs of dolphinfish and averages 89 lbs per outing. Based on these statistics, our confidence in the 2021 DR FAO landings estimate is still low, but they do provide further evidence that the decrease in Florida recreational landings in recent years could be related to a dramatic rise in landings up current in the Western Caribbean Sea. Currently, only the DR, Mexico, and Cuba report dolphinfish specific landings in the Western Caribbean Sea, and the latter two submitted 13,200 lbs and 19,800 lbs, respectively, as their 2021 FAO estimate. Mexico and Cuba's values are only slightly higher than the amount of landings from the offshore angler we are monitoring in the Dominican Republic that we surveyed across 35 outings. Are commercial landings for dolphinfish in Mexico and Cuba really that low now? Two decades ago, both Cuba and Mexico were recording annual commercial landings of dolphinfish greater than 660,000 lbs, which means

DOLPHINFISH LANDINGS AND POPULATION GROWTH IN THE WESTERN CARIBBEAN SEA SINCE 2000

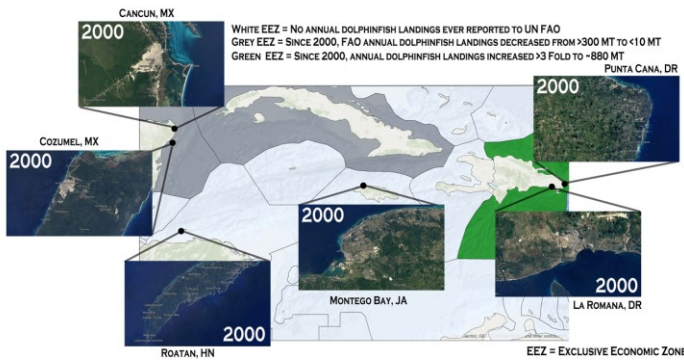


Figure 3 Satellite observed urban expansion in six resort locations in the Western Caribbean Sea with notes on jurisdictional dolphinfish landings. White jurisdictions = no estimate of dolphinfish landings. (Click to enlarge and for animation)

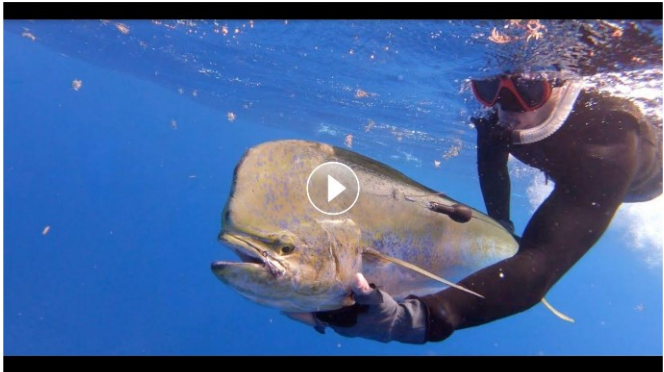
commercial landings have dropped at least 98% in these nations. Unfortunately, over this same time period, it is unknown how much dolphinfish were landed by recreational fleets, including for-hire charters, yet participants in our tagging program in Mexico have shared with us that charter boats are landing more than 2 dolphinfish per trip, Mexico's daily bag limit, and we have had a few dolphinfish recaptured in Cuban waters by commercial anglers. These observations, along with the increase in urban sprawl and population size in major resort communities in Mexico and other resort locations around the Western Caribbean Sea, further stress the need to enhance our society's ability to properly document exploitation patterns for dolphinfish in the region if we want to bring back dolphinfish abundance and conserve the resource for generations to come. To learn more about a host of unanswered questions with regard to exploitation patterns for dolphinfish in the Western Caribbean Sea, [click here](#).

**New Financial Supporters
Since Sept 27 2023**

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 Chad Carter, FL
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Fall Fundraising Continues

A Message from the DRP's Director



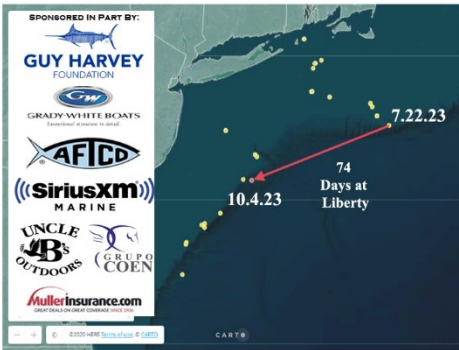
35,000 Tagged and Counting!



October Recaptures
(click to enlarge)



Late September Panama Recapture
 Eastern Tropical Pacific Recapture Update! We are pleased to report our 40th recapture in the ETP was reported to us at the end of September by a commercial angler. This is the second time this angler has recaptured a fish off Panama tagged by anglers participating in our tagging program. This particular adult bull was tagged and released by angler Jake Noe aboard Darien fishing out of @tropicstarlodge on September 10th, 2023. The fish was at liberty for 15 days before being recaptured by Angler Guzman on September 25th, 2023. This short-term northwesterly movement into the Gulf of Panama is another important data point for our investigation of the seasonal movements of dorado off Panama and throughout the ETP. Angler Guzman received a cash award for his recapture report. In other ETP news, with a handful of tag deployments from Baja to Panama in September, a total of 1,031 dorado have been tagged, released, and recorded by our tagging program in the ETP. Steady progress!



Yellowfin Tuna Recapture in MAB
 Yellowfin tuna recapture! What?! Yes, you read that correctly. While our focus has been to grow and expand an international tagging program for mahi since 2002, in recent years due to requests from anglers participating in our tagging program, we have begun the early stages of running a multi-species tagging effort by issuing tags to anglers to be used on small wahoo, small yellowfin, blackfin, or skipjack tuna, or any other small pelagic fish that you would like to tag to record scientific data. We are happy to report that @deep_ocean_fishing generated our first yellowfin tuna recovery for a small yellowfin tuna he released on July 22nd, 2023, in Veatch Canyon. Captain Jake Campi with angler Dan Brady recaptured the yellowfin last week fishing near Hendrickson Canyon. The yellowfin was at liberty for 74 days. A special thanks goes out to both the tagging team and reporters for documenting this seasonal movement of a YFT in the MAB.



Advance Citizen Science For Our Oceans, Support the Beyond Our Shores Foundation



Figure 4 The DRP's director releasing a big dorado in the Caribbean Sea Photo: @jp.zegarra

Six years ago, we formed the **Beyond Our Shores Foundation** to build the **Dolphinfish Research Program**. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, the **DRP** is expanding and making a big impact. As of last weekend, we have shipped out 412

tagging kits with 4,763 tags this year. Over the history of our program, we have distributed nearly 70,000 tags to anglers around the world. Our effort remains the longest running and most impactful angler driven effort to describe the movements of dolphinfish in the world. We have a solid [publication record](#), dedicated history working with state and federal fishery management [agencies](#), and commitment to continue to provide anglers and their families with the opportunity to participate in rich, educational, and meaningful marine science experiences and scientific research. For more information on our IRS registered 501(c)(3), the **Beyond Our Shores Foundation**, visit our profile on [Guidestar.org](#). Help support our work by purchasing a tagging kit, shirt, or making a tax-deductible donation via the links below. Thank you for your support and consideration!

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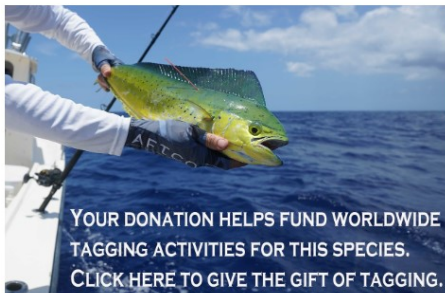


Support Through Shopping



With the holiday season just around the corner, give the gift of tagging and purchase a Dolphinfish Research Program tagging kit as a stocking stuffer, or a DRP t-shirt, hat, performance fishing shirt, hoodie, in our online shop as a gift. Your purchase helps our program fund kit distribution and drives data collection on dolphinfish in the Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans. [Click to shop.](#)

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