

# Dolphinfish Research Program™

Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation

We wish all participants and supporters of the DRP Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

December 2023



**Year to 12/20/2023 for Reported Releases:**  
**2,170 tagged & released for conservation and science by**  
**127+ different vessels**  
**27 Recaptures to date in 2023 25 verified plus yellowfin tuna and silky shark**  
**21 Satellite tags deployed**  
**18 on Dolphinfish**  
**3 on Wahoo**  
**12 Satellite tag movements (6 at large)**  
**1 Acoustic Tag**

Reported and Received Tagging Progress from 12/1/2023-12/20/2023:

Daryl Wiley (CFA) 2

Robert Pustizzi (Cutting Edge) 1

Reported Recaptures or Movement Data Acquired Since 12/1/2023

**3 PSATs transmitted. Three on dorado in the ETP.**  
**Espinoza Melissa reported a fish tagged aboard Miss Texas.**

## 2023 Year in Review

We have come to the end of 2023, which marks six years of running the **Beyond Our Shores Foundation**, a 501(c)(3), to continue and expand the **Dolphinfish Research Program (DRP)**.

In 2023, **DRP** personnel embarked on 25 field outings with 11 different fishing teams in 4 tagging zones between 4 nations; conducted two seminars with the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, one with the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Management Commission; deployed 21 satellite tags; published a scientific manuscript; and issued 12 [DRP monthly newsletters](#), two fish aggregating device ([FAD](#)) [newsletters](#), and 10 [short videos](#). Next year marks the 23rd year of conducting research with the public through this tagging program. Your engagement in data collection associated with this tagging program has allowed our team to contribute new scientific information on dolphinfish movements along the U.S. East Coast, in The Bahamas, and the northeast Caribbean Sea as well as on population genetic studies, oceanographic associations, mortality, fishery dynamics, population trends, and growth. If you value our scientific contributions to these topics and enjoy contributing to our research, please give what you can to help our program continue to engage anglers in research on dolphinfish and offshore fisheries.

Donations are fully [tax-deductible](#) and can be made by donating to the Beyond Our Shores Foundation via check ([click here](#)), paypal ([click here](#)), or stripe ([click here](#)). You can also buy a **DRP** tee shirt, hat, or tagging kit by [clicking here](#). A very special thanks to those who have already stepped up to support the program for 2024!

In January, we will announce the winners of our 2022 **DRP** Year-End Awards Program and the regional [Mid-Atlantic Bight](#) awards. To see last year's award winners, [click here](#). Our 2022 awards program was sponsored by [AFTCO](#), [GHF](#), [Star Rods](#), and [Costa Del Mar](#). Please submit any outstanding tag deployment reports by email to [wess@beyondourshores.org](mailto:wess@beyondourshores.org) before the end of the year. Stay tuned!

## 2023 Performance Metrics



### 2023 **DRP** Performance Metrics (through 12/20/23)

- **5,460** tags in **471** kits were distributed to **298** anglers in **13** nations
- Continued youth tagging with the **Scouts of America**; **292** tagged, **0** recoveries
- **2,165** total tags deployed (2,147 dolphinfish, 10 wahoo, 8 tuna), **29 conventional recaptures** generated (27 dolphinfish, 1 silky shark, 1 yellowfin tuna)
- **16** PSATs deployed in Eastern Tropical Pacific, **1** in the South Atlantic Bight, **1** in the Caribbean Sea on Dolphinfish
- **3** PSATs deployed on wahoo in the Mona Passage, Caribbean Sea; **6th** since Fall 21'

### 2023 **DRP** Highlights by Month

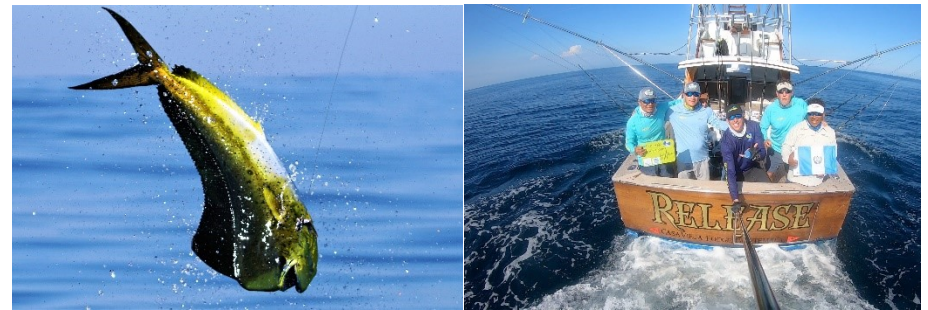
Below are notable highlights generated by anglers participating in the past 12 months of research associated with the Dolphinfish Research Program.

# January/February 2023

<p><b>TOP PRIVATE BOAT</b> KILLIN' TIME II (FL) 328 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>TOP CHARTER BOAT</b> THOMAS FLYER (FL) 48 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>TOP BOAT GOM</b> LATITUDE ADJUSTMENT (TX) 99 TAGGED</p> 
<p><b>TOP BOAT SAB</b> COOL CAT (FL) 90 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>TOP BOAT MAB</b> NO 2022 QUALIFIER NEEDED 20 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>TOP BOAT TROPICS</b> SANDMAN (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) 71 TAGGED</p> 
<p><b>2ND TOP PRIVATE BOAT</b> KNOT WORKIN (FL) 52 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>2ND TOP CHARTER BOAT</b> CAPTAIN WILLIE'S CHARTERS (FL) 32 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>2ND TOP BOAT GOM</b> NO 2022 QUALIFIER NEEDED 20 TAGGED</p> 
<p><b>2ND TOP BOAT SAB</b> IRISH WAKE (FL) 26 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>2ND TOP BOAT MAB</b> NO 2022 QUALIFIER NEEDED 20 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>2ND TOP BOAT TROPICS</b> WINE DOWN (BARBADOS) 50 TAGGED</p> 
<p><b>TOP CAPTAIN WITH THE SCOUTS</b> MATT JOYCE OSPREY SCOUT (FL) 30 TAGGED</p> 	<p><b>2ND TOP CAPTAIN WITH THE SCOUTS</b> JARED SCHILD BLACKFIN SCOUT (FL) 20 TAGGED</p> 	

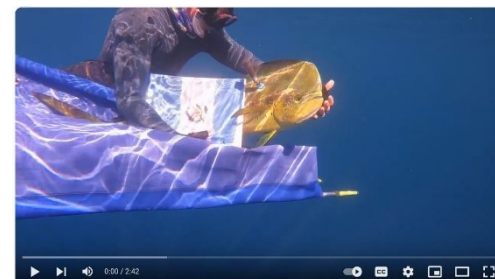
**Milestone:** 2022 year-end awards presented to 11 fishing teams plus the Scouts at Summerland Key, FL. Awards provided by [AFTCO](#), [Star Rods](#), and [GHF](#).

**First Place Anglers:** Captain **Don Gates**; Captains **Jimbo and Rick Thomas**; Captain **Ed Kattel**; Captains **Bob Feliniski**; Captain **Jeff Liederman**. **2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Captain Dane Dellenbach, Captain Willie Howard, Captain Tim Heiser. Scouts: Captains Matt Joyce and Jared Schild. [Click here](#) to read more.

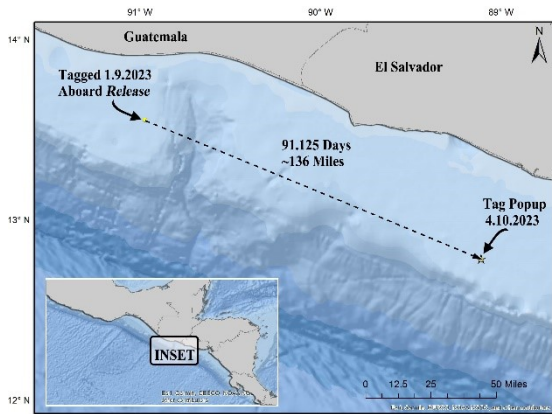
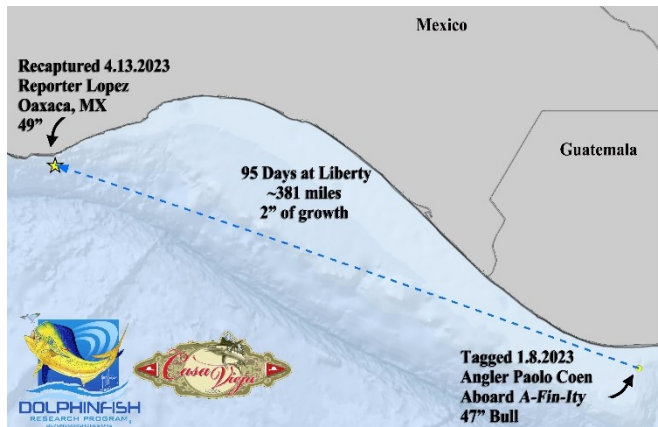


**Expansion:** With funding from the **Guy Harvey Foundation**, additional sponsors of the **Beyond Our Shores Foundation**, and in partnership with Casa Vieja Lodge in Guatemala, our tagging program expanding to Guatemala in January 2023. Click [here](#) to see the video update.

## Expansion to Guatemala



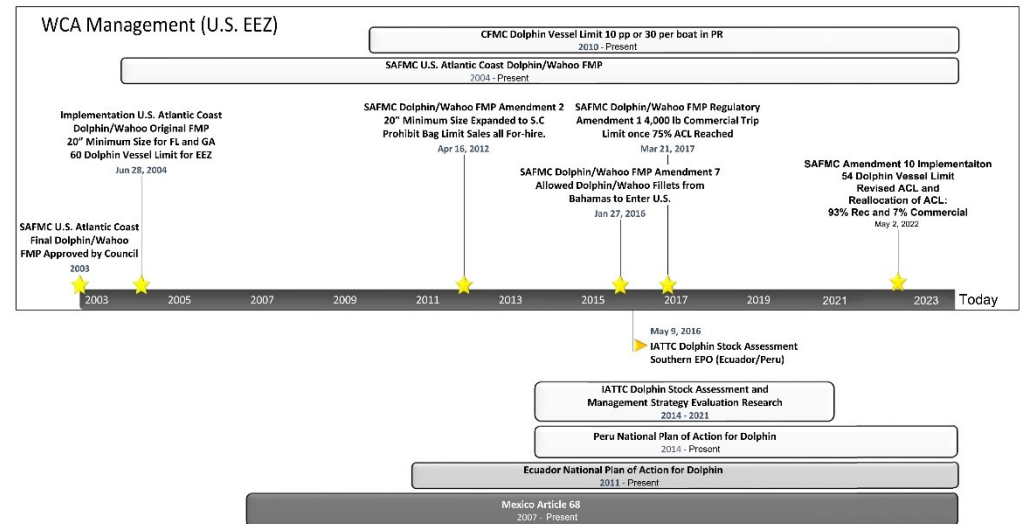
# March/April 2023



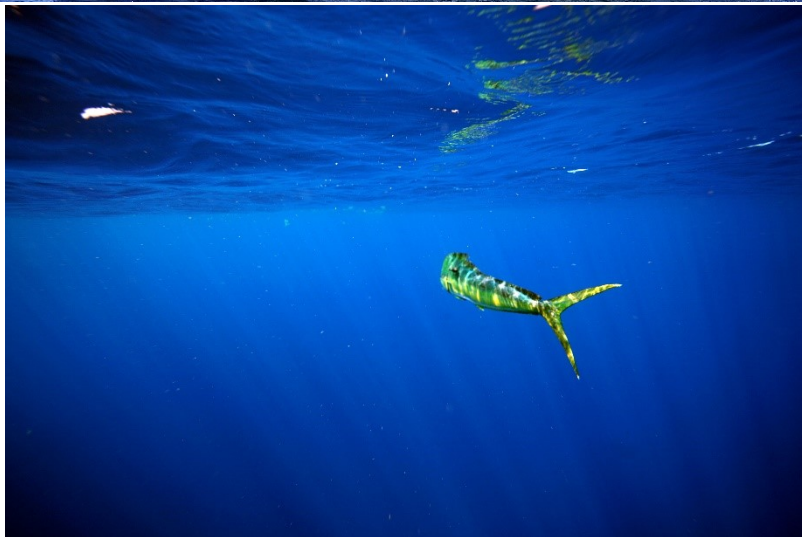
**Significant Recaptures:** **Significant Movements:** In March, a commercial angler in Costa Rica reported the recovery of a fish tagged off **Tropic Star Lodge** aboard *Miss Texas*. The fish was at liberty for 121 days. In April, a satellite tag popped off after hitting the 90-day interval off Guatemala and a fish tagged by Paolo Coen off Guatemala was recovered off Oaxaca, Mx, 95 days post-release. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## Dolphinfish WCA Management Updates:

The **Beyond Our Shores Foundation** published a comprehensive update on the past, present, and current status of the dolphinfish management process associated with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC). In March and April we issued updates and our **fourth** public letter on this topic to the SAFMC. [Click here](#) to learn more.



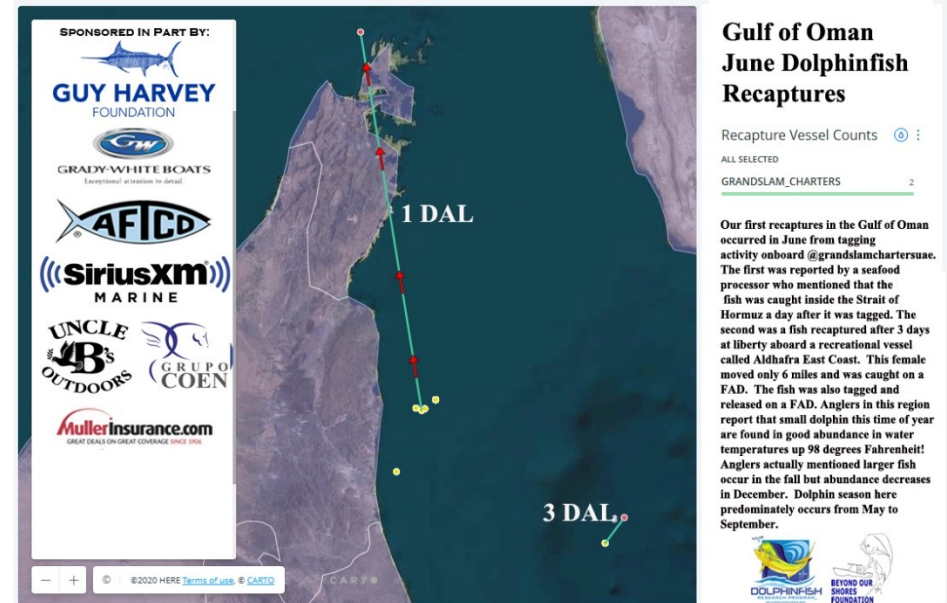
## May/June 2023



**Significant Satellite Tag Deployment:** A high rate popup satellite archival transmitter (PSAT) was deployed with the *Run-A-Wade* Fishing Team based out of Georgetown, SC. This was the 9th

satellite tag deployed in the South Atlantic Bight by our program. This particular tag deployment was sponsored by Mr. Roger Muller of [Muller Insurance](#).

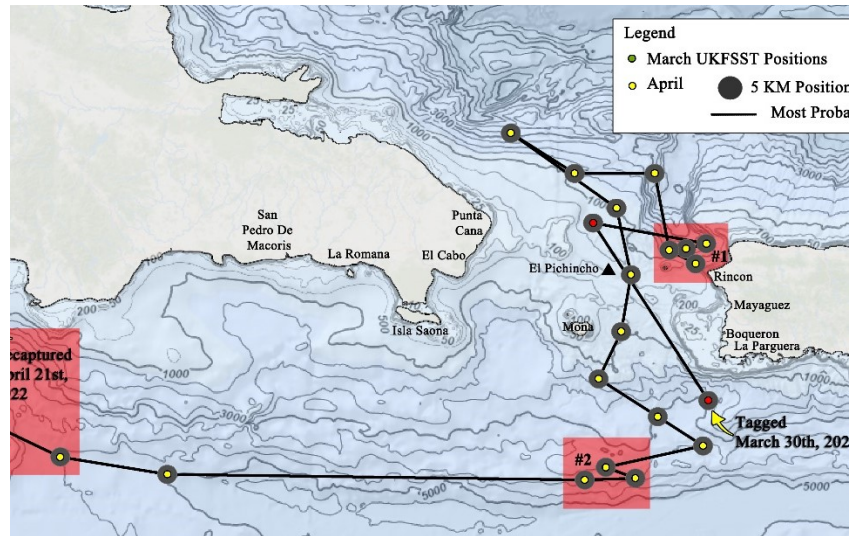
**Fishing Teams Involved:** *Run-A-Wade Fishing Team*. [Click here](#) to read more.



### First Recoveries in the Gulf of Oman

Due to the tagging participation of **Grandslam Fishing Charters** based out of the UAE, our first recaptures were reported during June. While both recaptures were short duration the events show that with dedicated tagging participation in different parts of the world results can be generated with our program. In June, we also issued another management update. Our first letter issued Jan 21' can be read [here](#), the second [here](#), the third [here](#), and the fourth [here](#).

## July/August 2023



**PSAT Recovered:** A 44" female released with a satellite tag was recaptured south of the Dominican Republic. The fish was released south of Cabo Rojo 22 days before it was caught. This is the second satellite tag of 12 deployed off the south coast of PR to be recaptured south of DR.

**Dolphinfish Research Program**

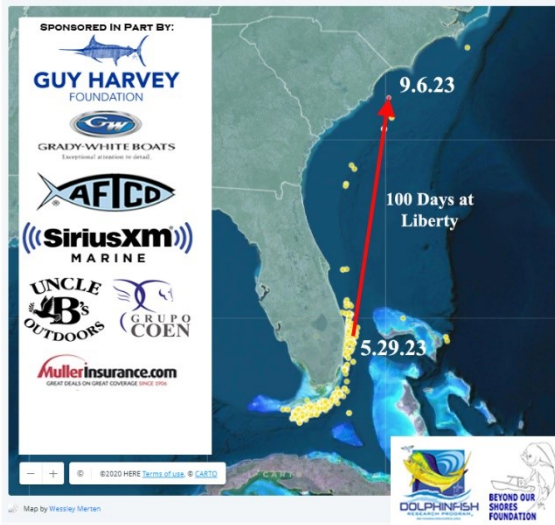
Dr. Wesley Merten  
CFMC 8.16.2023

Beyond Our Shores Foundation  
Dolphinfish Research Program  
Newport, Rhode Island

BEYOND OUR SHORES FOUNDATION  
DOLPHINFISH RESEARCH PROGRAM

**Seminar to Caribbean Fishery Management Council:** On August 14th, upon invitation from the CFMC, our program provided an update on our research in the U.S. Caribbean Sea and broader Caribbean Sea basin. This was the third presentation to the CFMC over eighteen months. During July and August we also issued a call for wahoo samples in support of a genetic [study](#) and published a [DRP overview video](#).

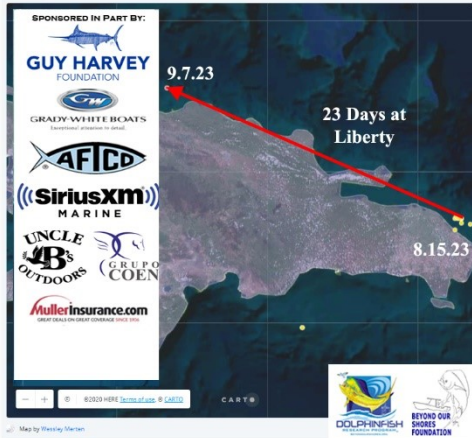
## September/October 2023



### South Carolina September Dolphinfish Recapture

Recapture Vessel Counts  
CONUNDRUM 1

Today, we received a recapture report from Mr. Ronald Stalvey of Murrells Inlet for a 24" bull he recaptured on Wednesday while fishing for kings 30 miles offshore Pawleys Island. He caught the fish on a live pogie. The fish was tagged by Captain Rob Rollins aboard Conundrum on May 29, 2023. The angler that caught the bull on Rob's boat was Steve Imparato. The fish measured 17" FL when released. The fish was released 10 miles off Boca Raton, FL. Given the time at large, there are many movement scenarios but two include a slow near-shore movement off GA/SC confined by the Charleston Gyre or a mini-migration around the Bahamas back up the Stream. Either way, this is another significant recovery and represents another key growth measurement for a small bull in the wild.



### Dominican Republic September Dolphinfish Recapture

Recapture Vessel Counts  
SANDMAN 1

Vessel Sandman has been tagging fish off DR for our program since 2021. This past week, a small 20" fish they tagged along a weedline was recaptured by a small-scale artisanal angler fishing off Punta Rusia, DR. This angler actually recaptured one of Sandman's fish last year, too. This fish traveled from off Punta Cana to Punta Rusia in 23 days. The fish was recaptured at a FAD 15 miles off Punta Rusia. In total, the Sandman fishing team has generated 13 recoveries from 160 tagged fish since 2021 off DR. This is their first for 2023. They have only tagged and released 14 fish so far off DR in 2023. With one of 14 recovered, the 7.1% recapture rate indicates how hard anglers fish for dorado off the north coast of DR.

**Significant Recaptures:** Anglers Involved: Captain Rob Rollins; Captain Ronald Stalvey. In September, our program received several recaptures reports. Off South Carolina, a fish tagged off South Florida by vessel *Conundrum* was recaptured after 100 days at liberty. Off the Dominican Republic, a fish was recaptured after 23 days at liberty after

being release. Off South Florida and the Keys, several fish were recaptured after short time frames.

### Wahoo Satellite Tag Deployments:

In the fall of 2021, our tagging program began an initiative off the west coast of Puerto Rico to begin to describe the movements of wahoo. On October 27th, 2023, 3 more PSATs were deployed on wahoo ranging in size from 34-48" fork-length. This work is being conducted as part of our [fish aggregating device](#) research.



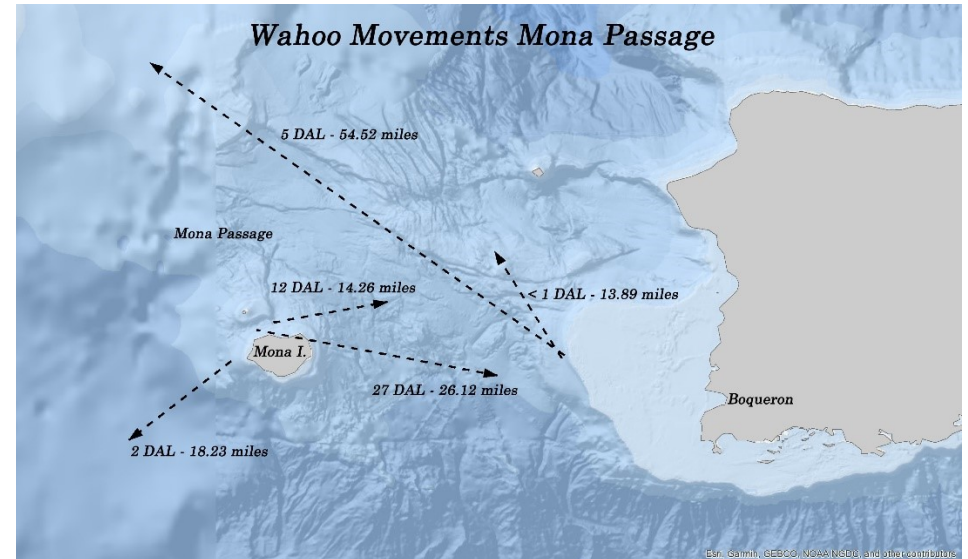
**Fishers:** Captain Yunyi Gonzalez aboard *Liqueo*, Captain Jesus Duran, Carlos Bonet, and Amanda Prieto. [Click here](#) to read more.

## November/December 2023



**Dolphinfish Satellite Tag Deployments:** 10 PSATs deployed on dolphinfish (40" to 56") and 178 total (14" to 58") tagged with conventional tags off TSL. [Click here](#) to read more.

**Made possible by:** Tropic Star Lodge, the Guy Harvey Foundation, and Guy Harvey Research Institute.



**Wahoo Satellite Tagging Update:** Since '21, 5 of 6 PSATs deployed on wahoo (34" to 48" fork-length) off the west coast of Puerto Rico have returned datasets. The preliminary short-term fall movements depict movements away and toward Puerto Rico's western insular platform. [Click here](#) to read more. Fishers: Captain Yunyi Gonzalez, Captain Jesus Duran, Dagobuerto Rodriquez, Emmanuel Markham, Dan Hack, Carlos Bonet, and Amanda Prieto.





# Support the DRP

## in 2024



We ask you to contribute what you can today to support the Dolphinfish Research Program in 2024. This year was a great one for our tagging program thanks to our loyal sponsors, supporters, and participants. As a

leader in public engagement in research and conservation of dolphin, your donation will advance our expanding organization by helping to purchase more tags to distribute to anglers, bolster our education programs and materials, and improve fisheries data collection among recreational, for-hire, and small-scale commercial fishermen. Help the DRP continue documenting movement and population trends in our oceans in 2024 by supporting us today. There are two ways to support our effort. You can make a tax-deductible donation to the Beyond Our Shores Foundation ([click here](#) to donate) or purchase a kit, shirt, or hat in our online shop ([click here](#) to shop). The Beyond Our Shores Foundation, a 501(c)(3), was formed in 2017 to help support the growth of the DRP, and since then, we have distributed 32,851 tags around the world to 1,834 anglers and logged over 11,472 tag deployments and 243 new conventional dolphin movements. .

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