

Dolphinfish Research Program™

Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Foundation

July 2024

Dolphinfish Research Program™



Reported and Received Tagging Progress from 6/29/2024-7/30/2024:

Don Gates (Killin' Time II) 80
Jon Reynolds (Dropback) 16
Jimbo Thomas (Thomas Flyer) 7
Matt Joyce (Dolphin Scout) 5
Walter Porraspita (The Getaway) 3
Tim Heiser (Irish Wake) 2
Blake Devine (Renegade) 2
Jeremy Jackson (Miss Millie) 1

George Ipock (Dorado Scout) 38
Dane Dellenbach (Knot Workin') 18
Willie Howard (Capt. Willie's Charters) 5
Angelo Masullo (Levon) 3
Chris Frost (Lightning Strike) 3
Frank (Some Fin Wicked) 2
Harlan Kendrick (Pure Destruction) 1

Reported Recaptures or Movement Data Acquired Since 6/29/2024

Carson Dunn reported a dolphinfish tagged and released by **Wam-Jam**
Ryan Foster reported a dolphinfish tagged and released by **Killin' Time II**
Floyd Leach reported a dolphinfish tagged and released by **Killin' Time II**
Luigi Villalobos reported a dolphinfish tagged and released by **Killin' Time II**
Mike Everage reported a dolphinfish tagged and released by **Killin' Time II**
Amber Wallace reported a dolphinfish tagged and released by **Killin' Time II**
David Swaine reported a dolphinfish tagged and released by **Killin' Time II**

Year to 7/30/2024 for Reported Releases:

1,054 tagged & released for conservation and science by
77 different vessels
29 Recaptures to date in 2024 28 verified
7 Satellite tags deployed
7 on Dolphinfish
0 on Wahoo
8 Satellite tag movements

We had our first 2024 Mid-Atlantic Bight (MAB) recapture this past month and several other reports came in that indicated mahi are once again present in the offshore canyons and nearshore MAB areas. In past years, the peak of the MAB season for mahi has been mid-September but we have had several tag reports come in through to the end of October. By month, September historically has the highest tagging activity (n=193), followed by August (162), October (112), July (107), and then June (20). Last year, we had 98 fish tagged in the MAB which was the highest annual amount across our 23-year history. In five days, the White Marlin Open begins which really ushers in the offshore season in the MAB and in previous years large mahi have been caught in conjunction with this tournament, but the last year any mahi greater than 70+ pounds was caught was 2020. In 2019, two other 70+ lb fish were caught in the MAB in August but we have not detected any others of this size class since. Hopefully, this changes in 2024.

158-Day Mahi Movement Documented off Panama

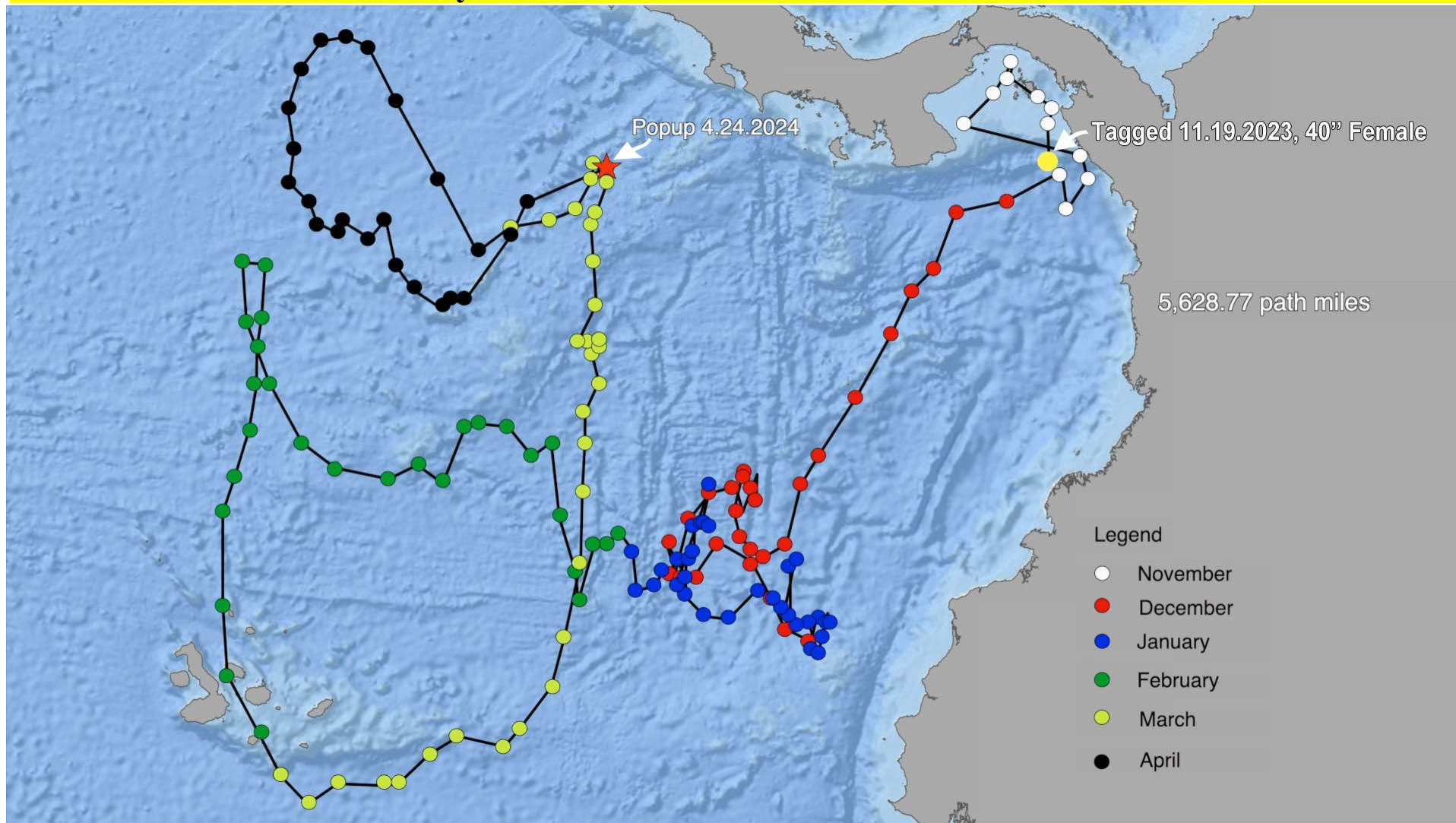


Figure 1 The most probable track for a 40" female tagged and released aboard Miss Costa Rica on November 19th, 2023. Daily positions are labeled by month. The tag surfaced on April 24th, 2024, in the Costa Rican EEZ. The total path is 5,268.77 miles.



Tagged and released on 11.19.2024 aboard Miss Costa Rica the tag surfaced on April 25, 2024.

In May, we first announced that a satellite tag deployed on a 40" female dolphinfish had surfaced and started to transmit after remaining with the fish for 158-days, the second longest satellite tag monitoring period for our tagging program. This month, we showcase the most probable track for this 40" cow, an estimated movement of 5,628 miles among four countries (Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, and Costa Rica) as well as two high seas areas in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP). The fish was released off Tropic Star Lodge on November 19th, 2023; it first moved north, and then south to enter the Colombian EEZ after 15 days. From there, the fish moved between the southwestern portion of the Colombian EEZ, the northern portion of the Ecuadorian EEZ, and a high seas area for 67 days. The cow then moved west and then south through the Galapagos Islands, and then swam back north into the Costa Rican EEZ, the jurisdiction where the fish resided the longest (46 days or 29% of the track). While this is our first 100+ day geolocation movement in the ETP, the first 50 days of the track is consistent with eight other geolocation tracks that shown the overall pattern for fish

tagged and released in the fall off Panama trends south first, with fish moving further west with progressively longer time at liberty. [Click here](#) to visit our Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean research page to learn more.

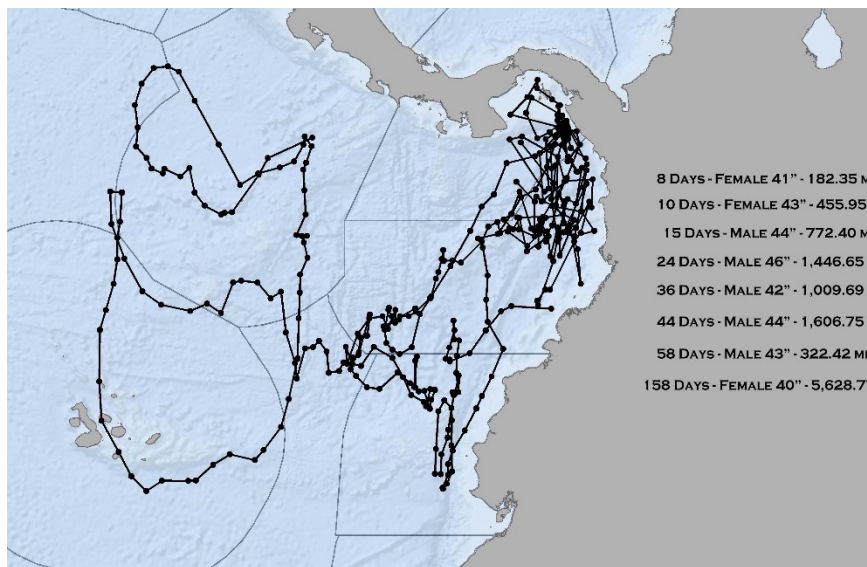


Figure 2 Eight most probable tracks for adult male and female dolphinfish tracked off TSL from our 2022 and 2023 tag deployments.

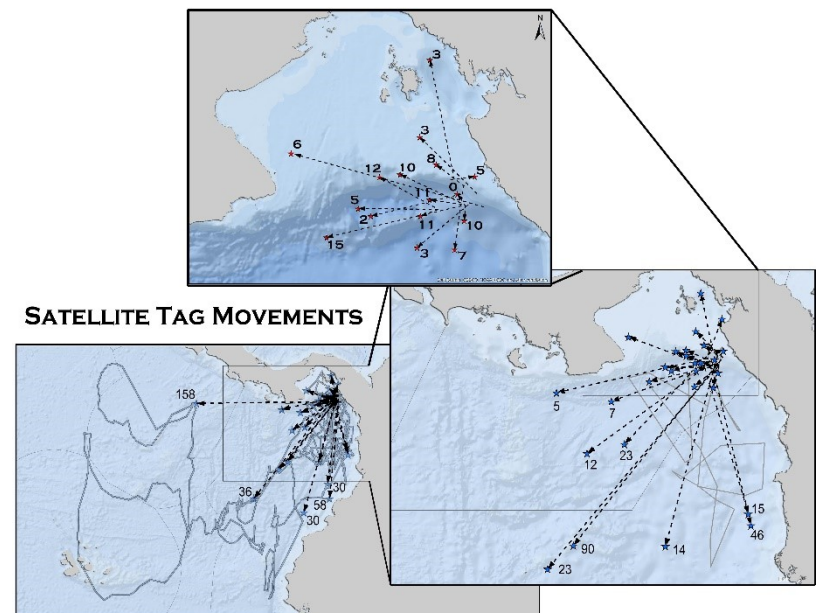
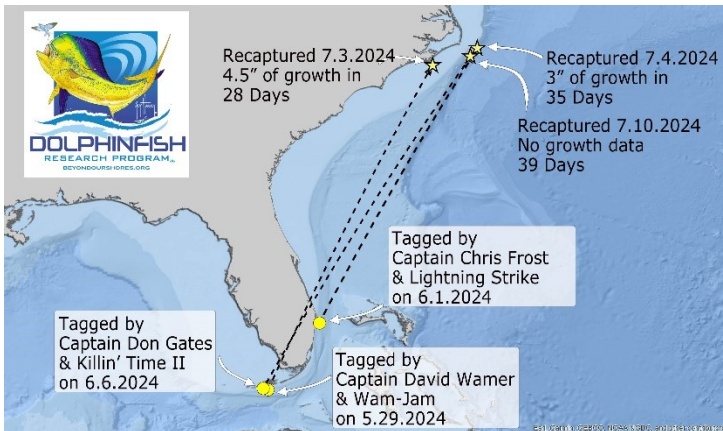


Figure 3 30 satellite tag point-to-point movements acquired in the fall off Panama. The three panes provide different spatial scales to allow for the extent of the short- and longer-term movements to be viewed. In the bottom panes, all geolocation tracks are included as grey lines. The numbers indicate days at liberty.

July Recaptures off North Carolina



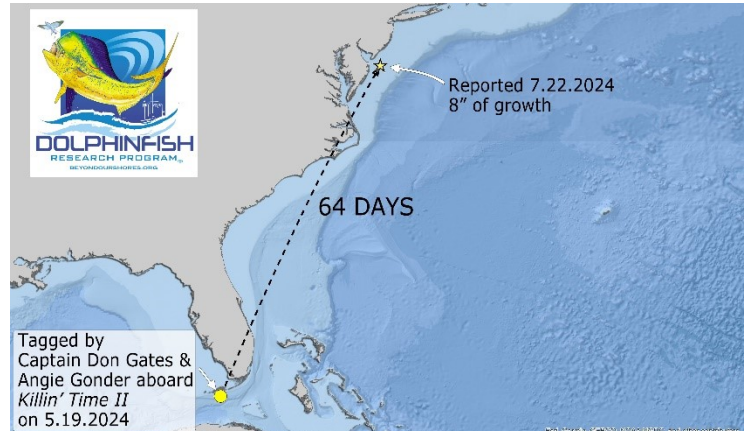
Tagging Details: Tagged and released by **David Wamer** aboard *Wam-Jam* with anglers **Charlie Jamison** and **Mikell Reid** on May 29th off Marathon, FL; tagged and released by **Don Gates** aboard *Killin' Time II* with anglers **Allen Lewis** and **Darryl Williams** on June 6th off Cudjoe Key, FL; tagged and released by Chris Frost aboard *Lightning Strike* on June 1st off Lake Worth Beach

Recapture Details: Reporters: **Carson Dunn**, **Amber Wallace**, and **Damon Lee Harkey**. The distance between the tag and recovery sites for *Wam-Jam's* and *Killin' Time II's* fish was 762.44, and 817.31 miles, respectively; the movement rates, based on 28, and 35 days at liberty, was 27.23, and 23.35 miles per day. The distance between tag and recovery site for *Lightning Strike's* fish was 648.66 miles and the movement rate, based on 39 days at liberty, was 16.63 miles per day.

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July Recapture off New Jersey



Tagging Details: Tagged and released by **Don Gates** aboard *Killin' Time II* with angler **Angie Gonder** on May 19th off Cudjoe Key, FL.

Recapture Details: Reporter: **Ryan Foster** while fishing aboard *Blues at Sunrise* with his father and friend. The distance between the tag and recovery site was 1,064.10 miles, and the movement rate, based on 64 days at liberty, was 16.62 miles per day.



**Dolphinfish Research Program
Tagging Kit Request**



To sign up to register to receive a tagging kit from the Dolphinfish Research Program (DRP) click the image. Thanks!

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is a 501(c)3 founded in 2017 to expand the Dolphinfish Research Program and research on data-deficient pelagic fish and fisheries. To date in 2024, BOSF

has distributed 322 tagging kits or 2,890 tags to anglers throughout the region. Help our program to continue to expand tag distribution. Tax-deductible donations can be made via the links below. [Contact us](#) for corporate sponsorship information if you would like your company to support our work.

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