

Dolphinfish Research Program™

Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Foundation

September 2024

Dolphinfish Research Program™



Reported and Received Tagging Progress from 8/29/2024-9/29/2024:

Richard Lewis (Calm Chaos and Sedative) 11
Roger Muller (No Name) 5
Julien Brossel (Madet) 5
Steven Tinsley (Gut Buster) 2
Mark Hotze (30A Light Tackle) 2
Chris Frost (Lightning Strike) 1
Josiah Wise (Boykin) 1

Don Gates (Killin' Time II) 7
Chris Jobs (Pair of Docs) 5
Ed Kattel (Cool Cat) 3
Angelo Masullo (Levon) 2
Peter Priolo (Blue Claw II) 2
Willie Howard (Captain Willie's Charter) 1

Reported Recaptures or Movement Data Acquired Since 8/29/2024

Barry Daniels reported a dolphinfish tagged and released by **Killin' Time II**
Jim and Leann Brogan reported a dolphinfish tagged and released by **Kevin Connolly**
Eric Strand reported a dolphinfish tagged and released by **Cool Cat**

Year to 9/29/2024 for Reported Releases:

1,306 tagged & released for conservation

and science by

92 different vessels

38 Recaptures to date in 2024 35 verified

8 Satellite tags deployed

8 on Dolphinfish

0 on Wahoo

8 Satellite tag movements

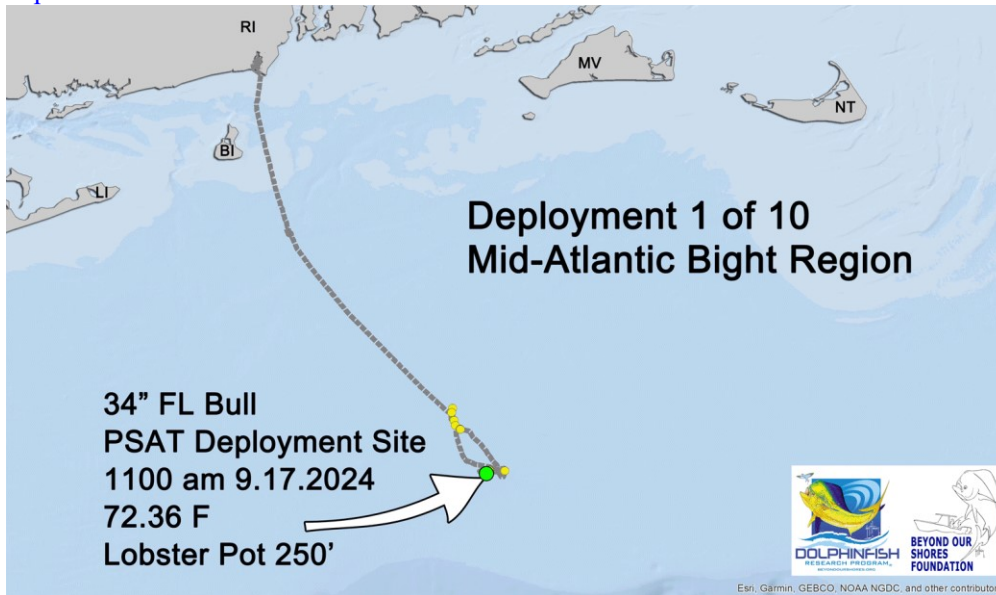
In September, we deployed our first satellite tag on a mahi south of Rhode Island and it is the first on this species in the Mid-Atlantic Bight. The 34" bull was with a group of other 10-15 pound fish at a lobster pot 70 miles south of Point Judith, Rhode Island. We hopped between at least 6 different lobster pots, aka high-flyers in the MAB, and each pot had small mahi (generally 2-4 lb fish). Given the high encounter rates at lobster pots in the region we wonder how the move to ropeless fishing gear for the lobster fishery will affect catchability for mahi in the MAB. Also, will the numerous wind turbines serve as the new aggregators for mahi in the region? Time will tell. Hopping between lobster pots to tag mahi is highly effective but the only problem is most anglers do not want to do that but rather troll the area for tuna. If 5-8 trips per year were made to the lobster pots where tagging mahi was the main priority, hundreds could be tagged. The X factor is finding those good weather windows to conduct the research near the shipping lanes, the Dump, and in RI Sound. Just about time to get a research vessel.

Multi-Year Atlantic Satellite Tracking Project Commences



Photo: JP Zegarra

[NOAA Fisheries](#) is partnering with the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils, including the [Caribbean Fishery Management Council](#) (CFMC), to plan and implement the **U.S. Federal government Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)**, Climate-Ready initiative. The program will tackle several critical areas focused on the impacts of climate to confront climate-change impacts using science-based management and pursuing conservation of the nation's marine resources. One of the priorities for the **CFMC** is to better understand the effects of climate and fishing pressure



on a 34" bull 70 miles south of Rhode Island. With this deployment, and the 29 ensuing deployments, we intend to strengthen the CFMC efforts to better integrate scientific tools to prepare for and respond to climate change and develop management measures or processes to better understand climate change and fishing impacts on dolphinfish in the region. To read more about the CFMC [click here](#) and visit our dedicated project page to learn about the objectives of this study [click here](#).

on dolphinfish in the U.S. Caribbean Sea and Mid-Atlantic Bight (MAB) and we are excited to announce that our project, entitled "Understanding the impacts of climate change and fishing pressure on the dolphinfish (*Corpyhaena hippurus*) in the U.S. Caribbean and beyond", was awarded to our research foundation earlier this month. Over the next 27 months, our program will embark on our most intensive satellite tracking initiative in the Atlantic over the course of our 23-year history; we are setting out to deploy 30 satellite tags on sub-adult and adult dolphinfish between Puerto Rico (10), the United States Virgin Islands (10), and the Mid-Atlantic Bight (10) to better understand how the species moves within and to the U.S. Caribbean Sea. We are also pleased to report that on September 17th, fishing aboard **Captain Geof Lewis's** vessel, *Calm Chaos*, with son and mate **Richard Lewis**, as well as a team from [Phenom Yachts](#), we deployed our first satellite tag associated with this project

Atlantic Mahi Overfishing Status

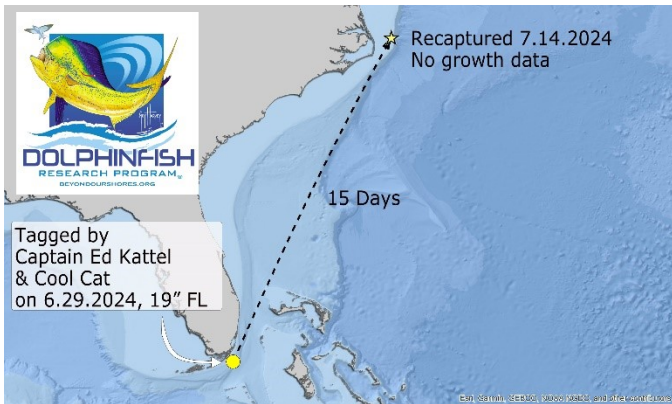
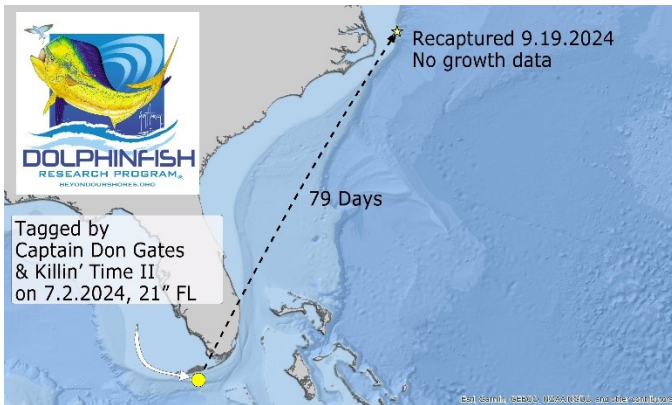


Researchers in Venezuela recently published a paper, entitled "*Estimation of Biological Reference Points Utilizing CMSY and BSM Methods for Dolphinfish in the Western Central Atlantic (WCA) Ocean*" and we took the opportunity to briefly interview the authors about their findings. This paper is the first to share results about the overfishing status of mahi in the WCA. To read the brief interview [click here](#).

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9th and 10th Recaptures off North Carolina for 2024



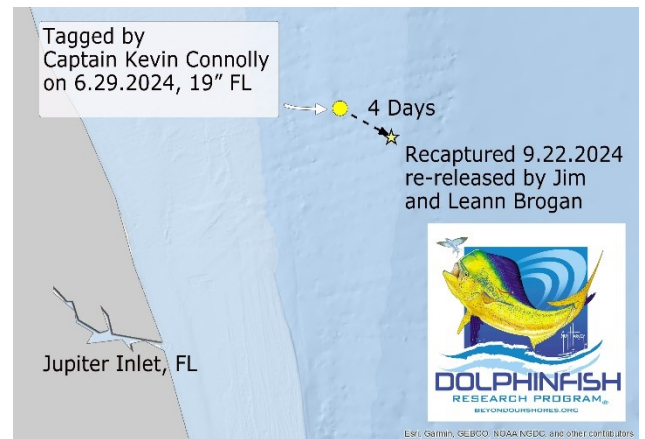
Tagging Details: Tagged and released by **Don Gates** aboard *Killin' Time II* out of Cudjoe Key, Florida, on July 2nd, 2024; Tagged and released by **Ed Kattel** aboard *Cool Cat* fishing out of Key Largo, Florida, on June 29th, 2024.

Recapture Details: Reporters: **Barry Daniels** and **Eric Strand**. The distance between the tag and recovery site for *Killin' Time II's* fish was 901.81 miles; the movement rate, based on 79 days at liberty, was 11.41 miles per day. The distance between the tag and recovery site for *Cool Cat's* fish was 817.81; the movement rate, based on 15 days at liberty, was 54.52 miles per day.

Our program has now logged 10 Florida to North Carolina recaptures in 2024. This result adds to the 81 previous Florida to North Carolina same

calendar year recoveries we have logged since 2002. Currently, 2024 has tied 2006 as the year with the highest number of same calendar year recoveries in NC from Florida. This occurs as researchers recently found that purported changes to the Florida Current, which helps drives the flow of the Gulf Stream and Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, were considered negligible. Their results suggest that the Florida Current has been in a steady state for four decades of measurements, which indicates that for highly migratory species such as dolphinfish moving through the Florida Straits, a change in the Florida Current has not occurred and therefore has not influenced their movements to change.

September Recapture off Central-Florida



Tagging Details: Tagged and released by **Kevin Connolly** on September 17th, 2024.

Recapture Details: Reporters: **Jim and Leann Brogan**. The distance between the tag and recovery sites for Luna's fish was 2.18 miles; the movement rate, based on 4 days at liberty, was .54 miles per day.

This is an important short-term lingering fall recapture off north-central Florida. Not only does

Dolphinfish Research Program Newsletter September 2024

this recovery show that the small 21" female withstood the stress of tagging and was feeding at least within 4 days of being released, the fish was re-released by the reporters and shows the commitment of anglers in Florida to conservation of this species.



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!

[Request Free Kit Here](#)

Support Our Tagging Program and Research

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\$15



Buy Now

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Fall Fundraising Begins to Support 2025 Tagging Effort

The Beyond Our Shores Foundation (BOSF) is a 501(c)3 that was founded in 2017 to expand the Dolphinfish Research Program and research on data-deficient pelagic fish and fisheries. Over the past seven years, BOSF

has distributed 36,437 tags in 1000s of kits to anglers around the world. This level of tag distribution is equivalent to the entire first 16 years of the tagging program when run by the previous administration. With tag distribution over two times higher than the past, the annual average of tag deployments and recaptures has also increased. This year, we have logged 1,304 tag deployments and acquired 38 new dolphin recaptures bringing our program total to 35,790 deployments and 846 recaptures. To date in 2024, BOSF has distributed 548 tagging kits or 5,080 tags to anglers throughout the region to increase data collection on dolphinfish, wahoo, and additional species. Help our program to continue to expand tag distribution and data collection in 2025. 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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