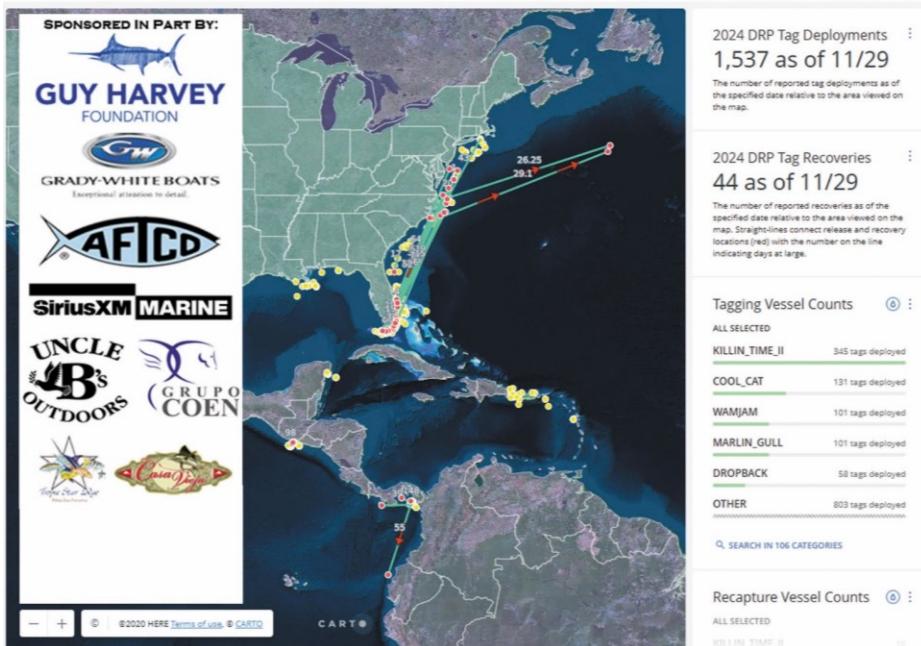


# Dolphinfish Research Program™

*Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Foundation*

November 2024

## Dolphinfish Research Program™



Reported and Received Tagging Progress from 10/30/2024-11/29/2024:  
Miss Texas 9  
Miss Darien 6  
Beatriz 4  
Patriot 4  
Miss America 2  
Efrain Gonzalez (Liqueo) 1

Jeffrey Leiderman (Sandman) 6  
Miss Alaska 5  
Miss Island Star 4  
Hooked Up 2  
Miss Panama 2

Year to 11/29/2024 for Reported Releases:

**1,537 tagged & released for conservation**

and science by

**106 different vessels**

**44 Recaptures to date in 2024 41 verified**

**27 Satellite tags deployed**

**22 on Dolphinfish**

**5 on Wahoo**

**13 Satellite tag movements**

In November, we embarked on our 6th trip to TSL. In terms of frequency of dolphinfish encounters for the fleet, this number was certainly down from previous years. In terms of our work on the water, over 5.5 days most of our action was on a current 12-14 miles offshore. We actually fished this current for several miles to the south, toward Colombia, which was one of the days that we did best (9 fish tagged and 6 with PSATs). Every outing we did investigate waters up to 30 miles offshore but we did not find additional current breaks and also those areas lacked large floating objects. On one outing, we encountered 4 different longline sets, just outside the 20 mile boundary, an area where we did not want to deploy PSATs for obvious reasons.

While we cannot state that the abundance of dolphinfish was down last week compared to previous expeditions we can certainly ascertain that our ability to find and catch fish was lower than previous years. Last year, our boat tagged 70 dolphinfish in 3.5 days and the rest of the fleet tagged 109. In 2022, 169 fish were tagged in conjunction with the TSL tournament.

Reported Recaptures or Movement Data Acquired Since 10/30/2024

**5 PSATs** on wahoo surfaced and began to transmit data  
**1 PSAT** on a dolphinfish began to transmit data in the North Atlantic  
**3 PSATs** on dolphinfish began to transmit data in the Eastern Pacific

## Tropic Star Lodge Dolphinfish Research Update



Last week, the **Beyond Our Shores Foundation** embarked on our sixth research expedition to **Tropic Star Lodge** to continue our work to describe the movements, life history patterns, and population dynamics of dolphinfish in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean. While the frequency of catching dolphinfish was lower than previous years, our team, which included **Bryant Stokes** and **Jessica Harvey**, managed to tag and release 29 dolphinfish in 5.5 days of fishing. Of those 29 fish, 12 were tagged and released with popup satellite tags. In addition, participants in the TSL Annual Billfish

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Tournament worked to tag and release an additional 25 fish which brought our weekly total to 54 dorado tagged and released for science and conservation. With our effort last week, a total of 63 satellite tags and 1,361 conventional tags have been deployed out in the ETP since 2018! A special thanks goes out to **Costa Del Mar** for their support of several tagging awards during last week's tournament. This work is sponsored by the Guy Harvey Foundation in partnership with Tropic Star Lodge. To read more about our research in the ETP visit [dolphintagging.com/etp](http://dolphintagging.com/etp).



Tournament tagging award winners.

## Fall Fundraising Continues; Support our 2025 Effort!

**Year-End Fundraiser for the  
Dolphinfish Research Program**

Raising funds to cover the costs of 5,000 tags (\$1/ea), shipping 500 tagging kits (\$5/ea), and 500 tag applicators (\$5/ea) in 2024.

**Gifts for Giving**

\$25	DRP Sticker
\$50	DRP Shirt or Hat
\$100+	AFTCO/DRP Fishing Shirt

**Ways to Give**

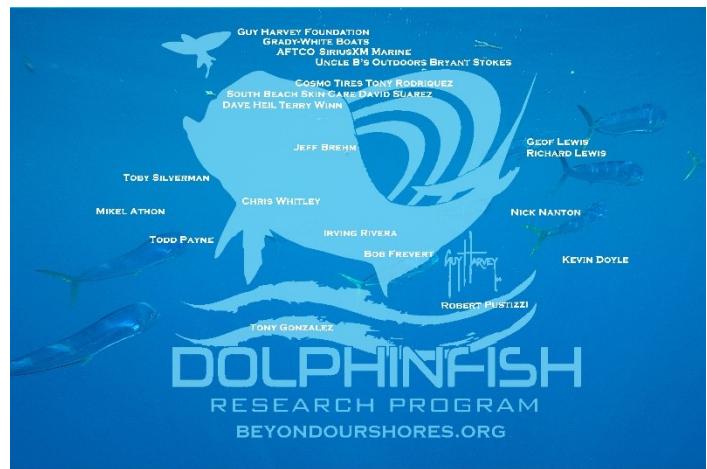
Beyond Our Shores, Inc.,  
Paypal QR Code

Or, via our website at:  
[beyondourshores.org/donate](http://beyondourshores.org/donate)

**Current level**  
21.85%!

The Beyond Our Shores Foundation is a nonprofit Corporation organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

*Value based on our Facebook Fundraiser:*  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/15V3LMfUp7/>



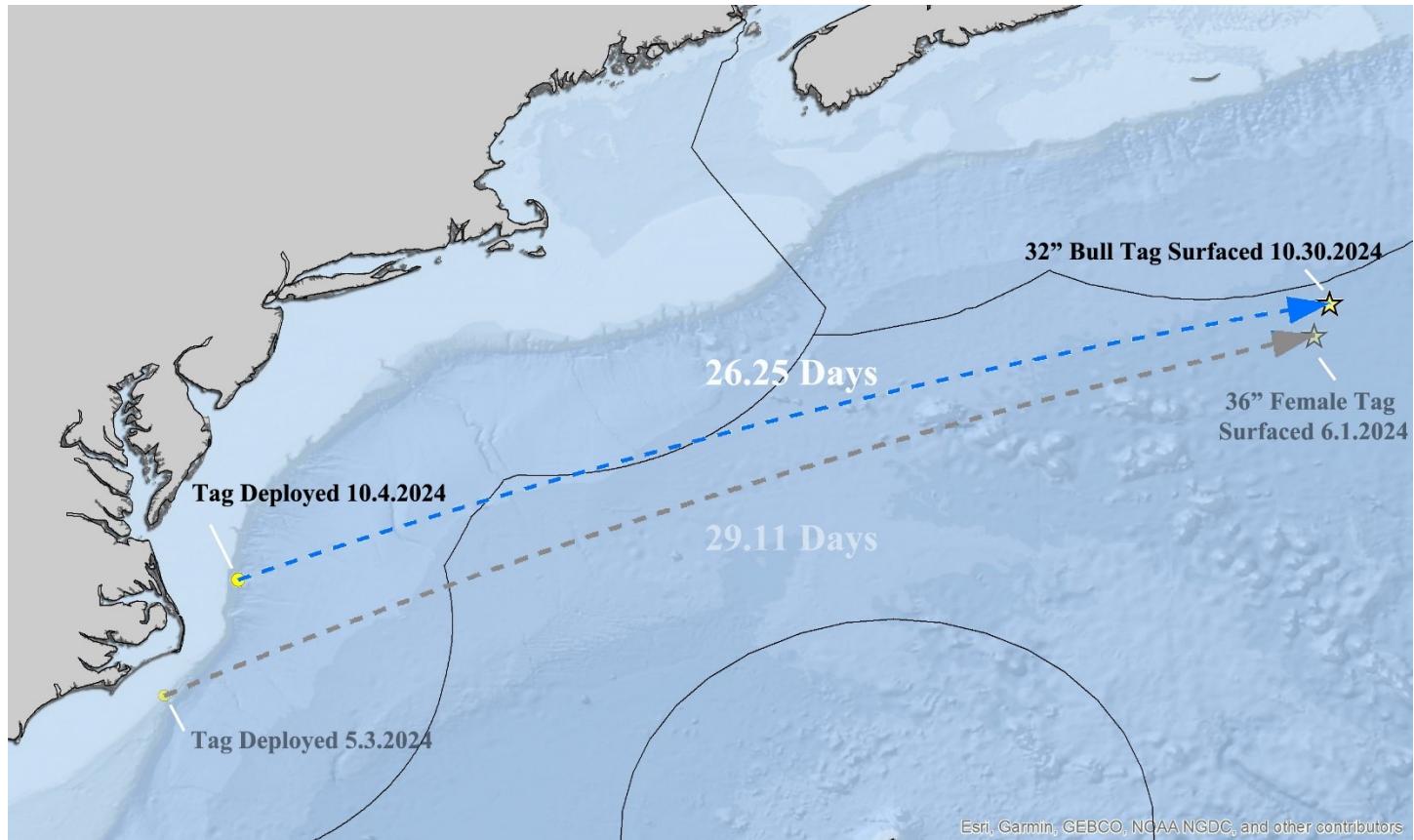
*Corporations and individuals that have step up to support our 2025 effort.*



**Dolphinfish Research Program  
Tagging Kit Request**



## New Mid-Atlantic Bight Movement to North Atlantic



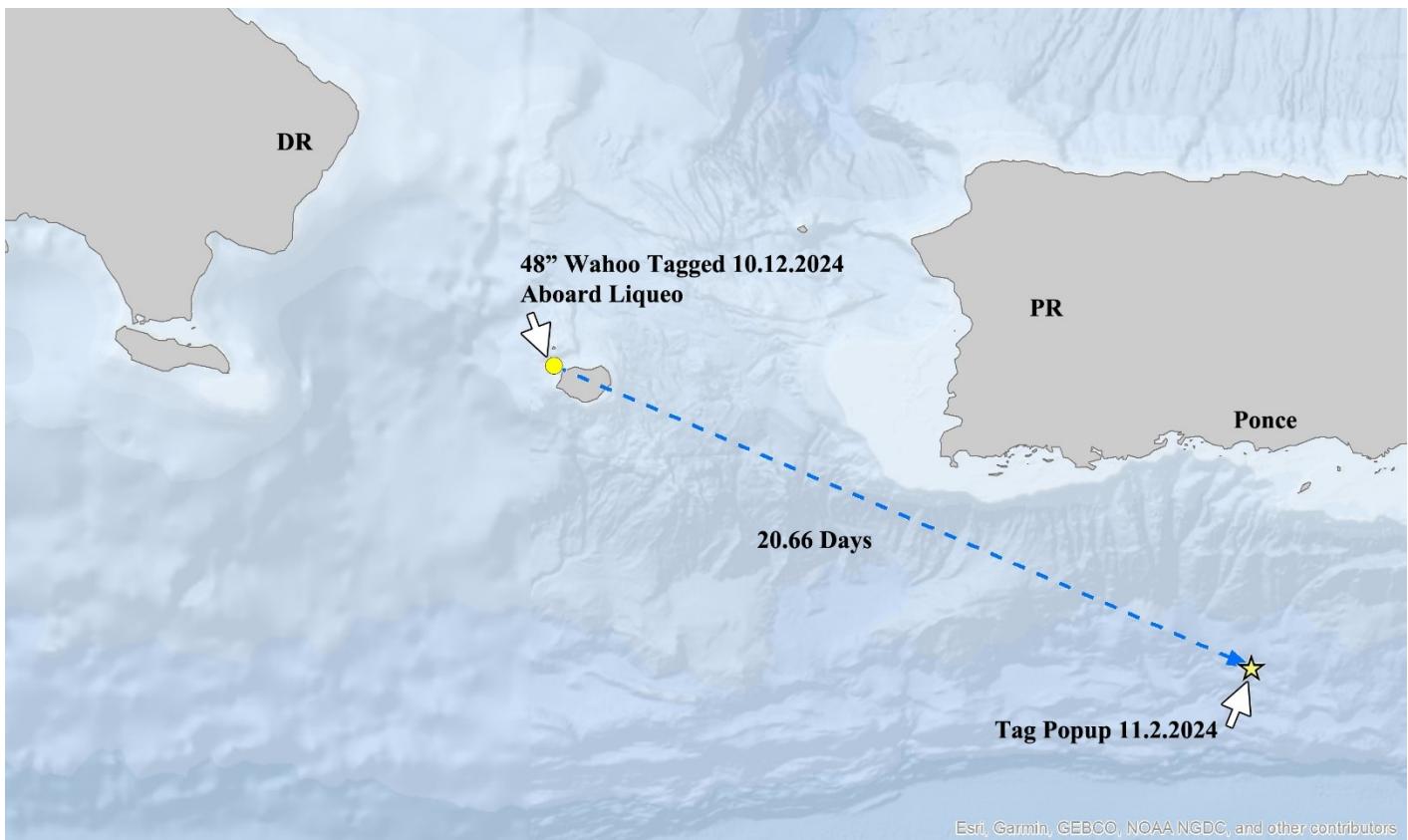
In late October, the satellite tag associated with a 32" bull tagged and released while fishing aboard **Dr. Ike Blakemore's** vessel *Marlin Gull* with **Captain Kenny Midgett** as well as mates **Chris Whitley** and **Brian Leonard** surfaced in the North Atlantic Ocean just outside of the Canadian exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the high seas. The tag remained with the bull for 26.25 days and surfaced only 35 miles from the location that a tag associated with a 36" female surfaced on June 1st last summer.

The 36" female was tagged and released aboard *Marlin Gull* on May 3rd and exhibited a very similar movement as the bull. Upon further investigation of the location where the tag associated with the female surfaced, according to the **Global Fishing Watch** (GFW) map, apparent foreign pelagic longline (PLL) effort was active in the area. For the bull, apparent PLL was not detected but vessels may have been in the area that were not transmitting automatic identification system (AIS) data, information used by GFW to calculate apparent fishing effort. We suspect that these tags surfaced prematurely due to PLL effort.



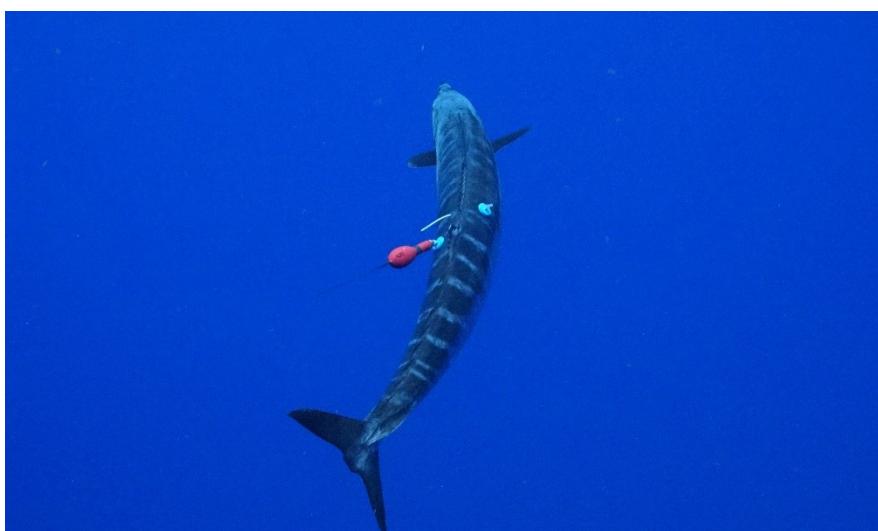
Brian Leonard passing the 32" bull. Image: W. Merten

## New Wahoo Movement - Mona Island to Southern PR



On November 2nd, the tag associated with a 48" wahoo tagged and released in mid-October off Mona Island surfaced 95 miles away from the deployment site and 30 miles off Ponce, Puerto Rico. Currently, the satellite tag is still transmitting in the Caribbean Sea and once complete we will receive a geolocation track, depth, and

temperature use for this fish. In 2024, we have deployed five satellite tags on wahoo that ranged in size from 46" to 49" fork-length off Mona Island. Since 2021, our group has deployed 11 satellite tags on wahoo in the Mona Passage. [Click here](#) to read more about the preliminary movement data we have compiled from those deployments. We remain committed to continue to expand our research on this iconic game fish species. To read more about our research to date visit [beyondourshores.org/wahoo](http://beyondourshores.org/wahoo).

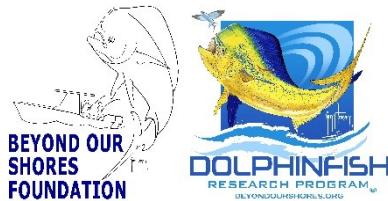


48" wahoo carries tag for 20.66 days.

# Dolphinfish Research Program Newsletter

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## Fall Fundraising 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 37,045 tags in thousands of kits to anglers around the world. This level of tag distribution over seven years matches that of the entire first 16 years of the tagging program, which shows both tremendous growth and demand. 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 1,537 tag deployments and acquired 44 new dolphin recaptures bringing our program total to 37,127 deployments and 850 recaptures. To date in 2024, BOSF has distributed 578 tagging kits or 5,627 tags to anglers throughout the region in order to increase data collection on dolphinfish, wahoo, and additional species. Help our program 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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Beyond Our Shores, Inc.

**Mail to:** Wessley Merten, Ph.D.

Dolphinfish Research Program  
Beyond Our Shores, Inc.  
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