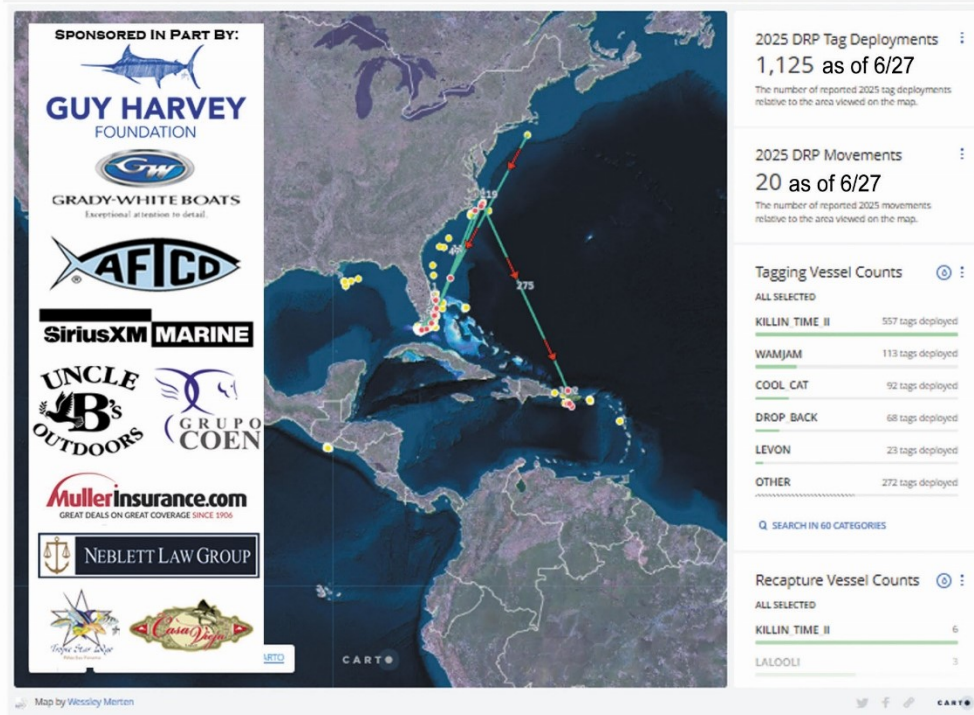


Dolphinfish Research Program™

Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Foundation

June 2025



Reported and Received Tagging Progress from 5/30/2025-6/27/2025:

Don Gates (**Killin' Time II**) 278
Ed Kattel (**Cool Cat**) 50
Jimbo Thomas (**Thomas Flyer**) 9
Ben Carson (**Blackfin Scout**) 3
Eddie Twyford (**Good Call**) 3
Christian Sanchez (**Miami Sailfish**) 2
Eddie Jones (**My Turn**) 1
Jeff Altier (**No Name**) 1
Rick Batchelor (**Brite Bites**) 1

David Wamer (**Wam-Jam**) 113
Gary York (**Mag E III**) 20
Ben Altemus (**Blue Runner**) 5
David Claey's (**Hook N Cook**) 3
Jimmy Crochet (**Rising Sons**) 3
Willie Howard (**Captain Willie's Charters**)
Jay Kavanagh (**Psitene**) 1
Kurt DeBoben (**Camille Ann**) 1

Year to 6/27/2025 for Reported Releases:
1,125 tagged & released for conservation
and science by
60 different vessels
20 Recaptures/Movements to date in 2025
20 verified
12 Satellite tags deployed
(4 (2025) & 2 (2024) at large)

The month of May finished up as the highest May for tag deployments compared to all previous years of our tagging program; June is the seventh highest (as of 6.27 reports). The high number of tag deployments, mainly the Keys, point to a good run of young of the year fish (15-20" schoolies) but lacked a lot of size, especially toward the back half of the month. Earlier on in May, some larger fish (10-15 lbs) were also being caught and landed by participating vessels but by the end of last week, large fish (>24" FL) were scarce. So far this season, we have not heard of or observed any big gaffer dolphin in the Keys again (fish 40 lbs or greater). Even 30 lbs might be pushing it. Yet, we have observed several large 80 lb fish off the Abacos, big gaffers up to 50+ lbs south of DR, and large 40-70 lbs fish off of NC. The largest dolphin weighed in the 2025 Big Rock Tournament was a 47.2 lb bull. So far this year we have logged two FL to NC movements with the most recent reported on 6.1.2025. The fish was tagged and released by Thomas Flyer on 4.15.2025. That fish grew approximately 5" while at large. It went from an 18" schoolie to nice 23-24" fish based on the photograph provided. With the pending new regulation of a 24" minimum size for dolphin in the U.S. Caribbean Sea, this recent NC recapture showcases the benefit of releasing a small 18" fish that put on at least 2-3 more pounds and 5" of length in less than two months. The new regulation in the U.S. Caribbean Sea will begin on July 25th, 2025. After a quick post about this new series of regulations on social media, it is clear that there is broad support for this type of management of the U.S. East Coast dolphin fishery. We hope that the new regulation can push other Councils and nations in the region to consider protecting their mahi fishery by ensuring the protection of juvenile fish.

Grady-White Boats-Sponsored Tagging Expedition



Grady-White Boats of Greenville, North Carolina, was the first fishing industry company to provide financial support for the **Dolphinfish Research Program**. Their support began nearly two decades ago in 2006. Recently, the company supported a satellite tagging expedition out of Beaufort, North Carolina, to help support our program's satellite tracking objectives for dolphinfish off North Carolina. With the support of a team from Grady-White as well as a talented film and photography crew, we were honored to be showcased in a film that highlights the importance of our program's tagging work and continuing quest to engage anglers in this research throughout the region. Over the past two years, satellite tags supported by Grady-White Boats, including the one we just recently deployed, point to the importance of the Gulf Stream in determining movements away and ultimately back to the U.S. East Coast on a seasonal basis. [Click here](#) to watch the film. .



New Bag and Size Limits for Mahi and Wahoo in U.S. Caribbean Sea



Last week, NOAA Fisheries published a bulletin on a new rule to establish management measures for dolphinfish and wahoo in federal waters of the U.S. Caribbean Sea. The final rule will take effect July 25th, 2025, and will establish the following:

- a 24" fork length (FL) minimum size limit for dolphinfish for all fishing (commercial and recreational) in U.S. Caribbean federal waters;
- a 32" FL minimum size limit for wahoo for all fishing (commercial and recreational) in U.S. Caribbean federal waters;
- a recreational bag limit of 5 dolphinfish per person per day (pp/d), not to exceed 15 dolphinfish per vessel per day (pv/d), whichever is less in federal waters around Puerto Rico (PR);
- a recreational bag limit of 5 wahoo pp/d, not to exceed 10 wahoo pv/d, whichever is less in federal waters around PR;
- a recreational bag limit of 10 dolphinfish pp/d, not to exceed 32 dolphinfish pv/d, whichever is less in federal waters around St. Croix and St. Thomas and St. John; and
- a recreational bag limit of 2 wahoo pp/d, not to exceed 10 wahoo pv/d, whichever is less in federal waters around St. Croix and St. Thomas and St. John.

[Click here](#) to read about the final rule.

Tagging Progress to Date

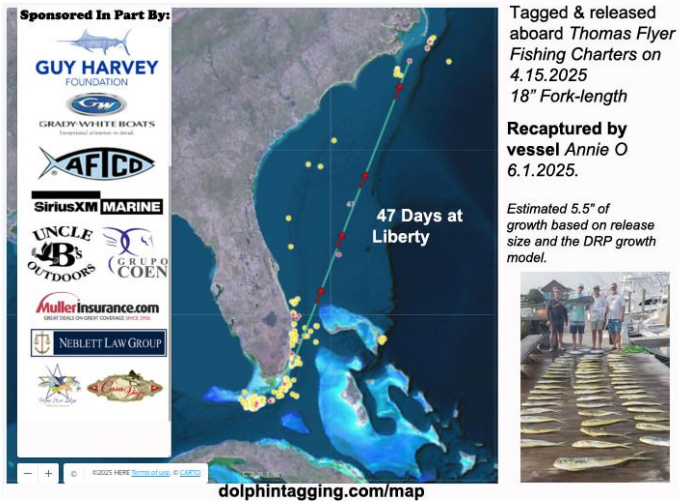


Reported releases from January 1, 2025, to June 27, 2025, have our program headed for a stellar year of data collection throughout the western central Atlantic and eastern tropical Pacific Oceans. Looking back on the past 24 years, 2025 tag deployments through last Friday are the seventh highest ever recorded and best first half of the year since 2019. From these tag deployments, 21 new movements have been generated. Someone even found one of our satellite tags on a beach in the panhandle of Florida, which is significant because it is the first time someone has found one of our satellite tags on a beach in the Western Central Atlantic Ocean. The tag popped off a 41" female south of PR on February 24 and was last observed south of the island on March 1st. The tag was discovered on the shores of the Gulf of America on June 23rd, 114 days after it was last observed south of PR. The estimated drift rate based on the shortest path distance (~1,972 miles) was 17.5 miles per day. Thanks **Alex** and **Holley** for the report!

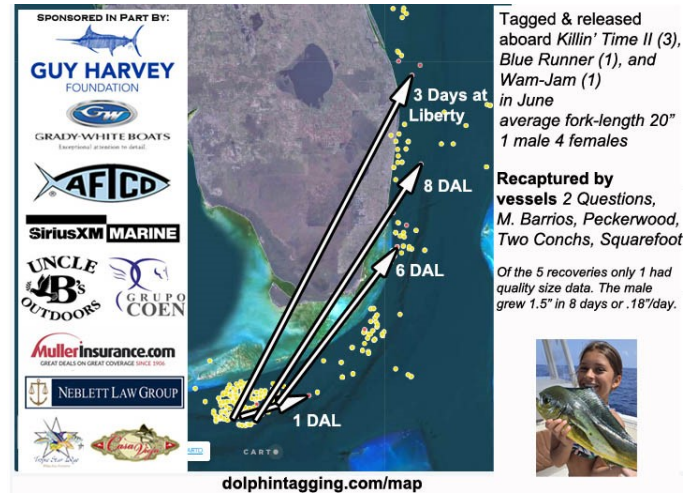
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June FL-NC Recapture



June FL Recaptures



June Bull NC G Geolocation Track



Support Our Research In 2025

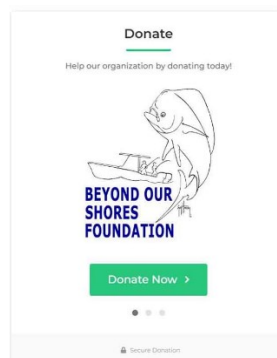


For the past seven years, we have built a 501(c)(3) known as the [Beyond Our Shores Foundation](#) to manage and

expand an international tagging program on dolphinfish and focus on other key fisheries research topics throughout the Western Central Atlantic and Eastern Tropical Pacific Oceans. With the support of hundreds of private donors and several key corporate sponsors, the **Dolphinfish Research**

Program continues to compile new movement records and data on dolphinfish in the Western Central Atlantic and Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean. As of today, 38,765 dolphinfish have been tagged for the DRP and 883 recaptures have been recorded. In addition, 132 satellite tags have been deployed on dolphinfish and 11 on wahoo. Collectively, these data have been used to publish [17 scientific articles](#), and the data is publicly

Support Our Work - Shop or Donate!



Dolphinfish Research Program Newsletter

June 2025

available at dolphintagging.com/map. With three key scientific papers in preparation on dolphinfish growth, detailed regional movement dynamics, and catch and effort as well as our ambitious distribution goals this year (400 kits and 5,000 tags), **we need your support to achieve these key outcomes.**

Help the **DRP** expand in 2025. Click the icons below to [shop](#) or [donate](#) to support our program.

The Beyond Our Shores Foundation is a federal and Puerto Rico registered 501(c)(3). Examine our [federal tax-exempt status](#) and examine our [Puerto Rico registration](#).



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