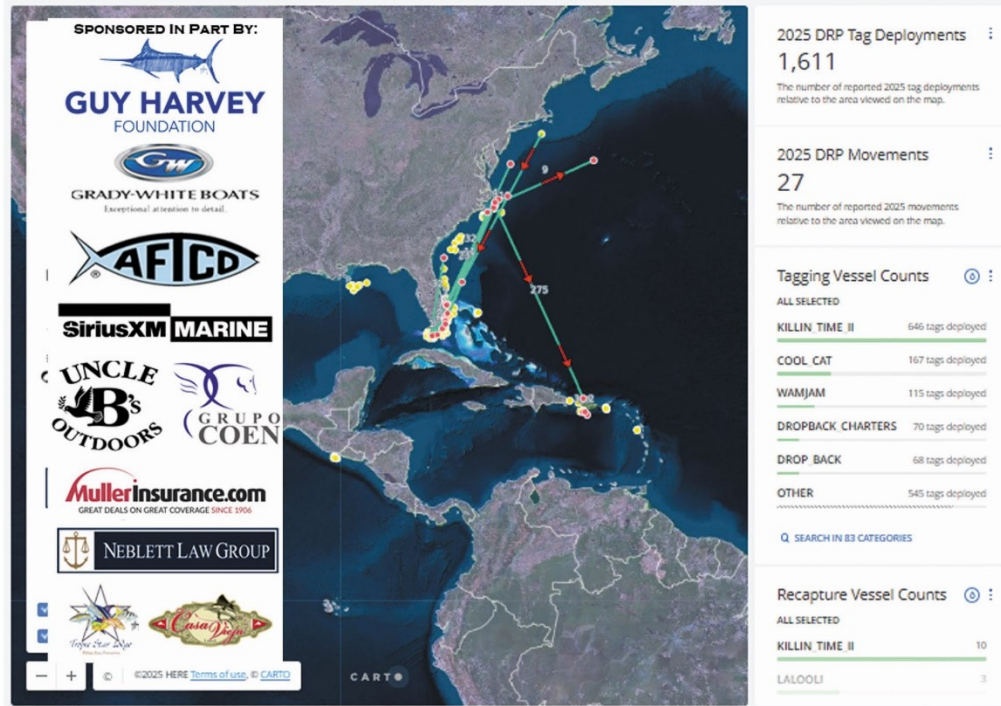


Dolphinfish Research Program™

Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Foundation

July 2025



Reported and Received Tagging Progress from 6/28/2025-7/29/2025:

Don Gates (**Killin' Time II**) 89
Julien Brossel (**Madatet Fishing**) 32
Marshall Ruffo (**Man O War Scout**) 13
Chris Frost (**Lightning Strike**) 10
Carson May (**Black Fin Scout**) 7
No Name (**Kingfish Scout**) 5
Chad Carter (**Miss Carolina**) 4
Dwayne Sapp (**Busy Fishing**) 3
Wilmer Sanchez (**The Big Deal**) 3
Jim Ivey (**Triple H**) 2
Dave Kniskern (**Madaline Jewel**) 1
Mike Prendergast (**Reel Therapy**) 1
Willie Howard (**Capt Willies Charters**) 1

Ed Kattel (**Cool Cat**) 60
Jon Reynolds (**Drop Back Charters**) 20
Frank Betz (**Leviathan Charters**) 11
Dane Dellenbach (**Knot Workin'**) 8
George Garcia (**Blue Devil**) 5
Angelo Masullo (**Levon**) 4
Mike Miller (**Blue Runner**) 4
Paul Bakowski (**Luna**) 3
Jay Kavanagh (**Bite Me**) 2
Rob Rollins (**Conundrum**) 2
Mike Everage (**The Panda Express**) 1
Rich Lavecchia (**Undertaker**) 1

Reported Recaptures or Movement Data Acquired Since 6/28/2025

Danny Perez, Bill Boyee, Jeovany Sanchez, Ellis Sanders, and Amber Ewing reported dolphinfish tagged and released by **Killin' Time II** (4), **Wam-Jam** (1), and a **mrPAT** tag released aboard **Liqueo**

Year to 7/29/2025 for Reported Releases:

1,611 tagged & released for conservation and science by 83 different vessels

27 Recaptures/Movements to date in 2025

27 verified
12 Satellite tags deployed
(4 (2025) & 2 (2024) at large)

In last week's Tri-State Canyon Fishing tournament the largest mahi caught was a 22.6 pound bull and there were other individuals weighed in around 10-18 pounds. Last year's largest mahi in this tournament was 26.4 pounds. In 2023, the largest was 22.2 pounds. These fish are substantially smaller than the 30 pound fish that won in 2022. In 2021, a 28 pound fish won. Next week is the White Marlin Open which takes place a bit further to the south and a few weeks after this tournament. Further south the water is warmer and larger fish might be more abundant as they start to move further into the Mid-Atlantic Bight. During this past month we also had our first movement of the season from Florida to the MAB (Baltimore Canyon). This is consistent with our movement data compiled over the past 24 years. The earliest MAB recovery data for a fish tagged and released off Florida was June 28th but the rest of the movements have been reported for dates in July, August, and September. To date this year we have logged 3 movements from Florida to the OBX and just this past month one from Florida to Georgia. That fish was at large for the same amount of time as the fish recovered in the MAB but the distance is half of what the fish traveled to the canyons. This is another example of where differences in oceanography could influence mahi movements along the U.S. East Coast. Our presumption is the Georgia fish was influenced by the Charleston Gyre which is a semi-permanent gyre. We have observed some fish released off Charleston to linger for up to 70 days presumably due to the influence of this feature. In addition, historical movements from Florida to the SAB, including GA, are slower than to the OBX and in line with the time to get to the MAB. Tagging activity in the Keys decreased in intensity in July and reports indicate a lot of small fish. Off DR, anglers report better dorado fishing than last year.

A Comparison of Dolphinfish Fishing Activity



In 2017, we began monitoring our tagging program's top tagging team, *Killin' Time II*, for every outing they embarked on using [Pelagic Data System](#) vessel tracking devices. Using this dataset, we submitted [this letter](#) to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in 2022, which pointed to an alarming trend in low catch of large dolphinfish despite tremendous offshore effort for the vessel, a trend consistent with other vessels tracked in the area, plus anecdotal reports from Florida Keys recreational anglers. This year, we have continued to document every outing (n=32) for *Killin' Time II*, and the largest fish they have encountered was a 37" or 16-pound bull despite spending 256 hours and covering 2,300 miles offshore. In total, *Killin' Time II* has only landed 37 fish this season with a size range from 20" to 37" fork-length. While the trend for low frequency of keepers and gaffer-sized fish has continued for *Killin' Time II*, artisanal anglers in the Dominican Republic, less than a thousand miles away, continue to land solid amounts of large dolphinfish per .

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5.22.2025
37"/16 lb
Bull



Largest fish in 2025 after 32 outings for KTHI. Pic: Don Gates

outing based on our ongoing data collection. On July 6th, 2023, we began collecting catch statistics from artisanal anglers in the Dominican Republic (DR) for a fee per report. This work is funded by supporters of our group, the Beyond Our Shores Foundation. We have monitored two vessels for every outing for two years, as well as a group of 2-3 vessels that have periodically submitted reports for the past year. For the past two years, Boat 1, the vessel that has exuded the highest effort, has landed 60,470 pounds of dolphinfish, averaging 370 pounds per outing for 192 offshore (n=163) and coastal outings (n=29). On an annual

basis (i.e., July to June), during years 1 and 2, the vessel landed 24,977 pounds and 29,332 pounds, respectively. When Boat 1's July 2023 to June 2024 catch statistics are compared to the most recent dolphinfish catch statistics submitted by the government of DR to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), this vessel's landings would amount to

3.4% of that value (720,000 pounds landed during 2023). Based on the [most recent reports from the DR](#), there are an estimated 2,500 dolphinfish artisanal anglers active which lends the question, are artisanal



Greatest single day catch in 2025 for Boat 1. After 53 offshore outings.

dolphinfish fishery landings in the Greater Antilles affecting catch in the Florida Keys recreational fishery? It is important to note that there are no dolphinfish catch statistics from Haiti, Jamaica, or the Bahamas, yet the species is known to be caught in artisanal fisheries in those nations, and Cuba estimates only 14,000 pounds of dolphinfish were landed for the nation in 2023. This article builds upon our work, published in the journal of Marine Policy in 2022 ([click here](#)), that stresses nations in the region need to adopt a precautionary approach for proper fishery management of dolphinfish, not only to increase spawning biomass but also for overall stock health and its conservation. If interested, we also published a similar paper on wahoo this year ([click here](#) to read more).

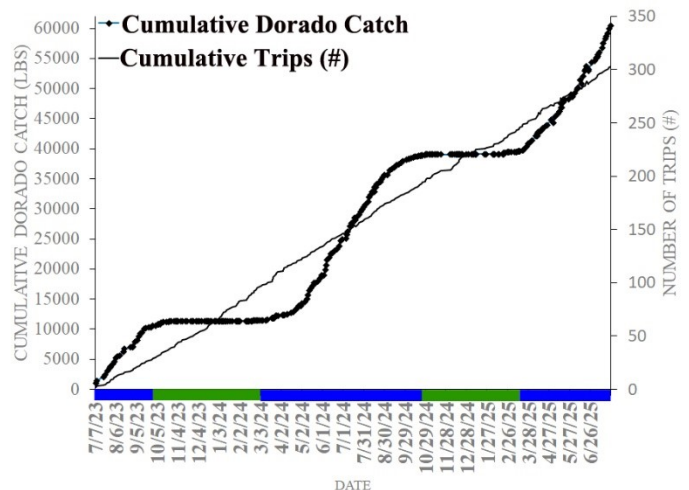
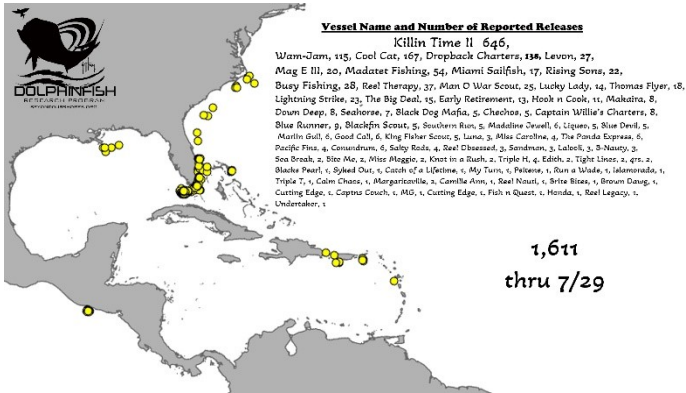


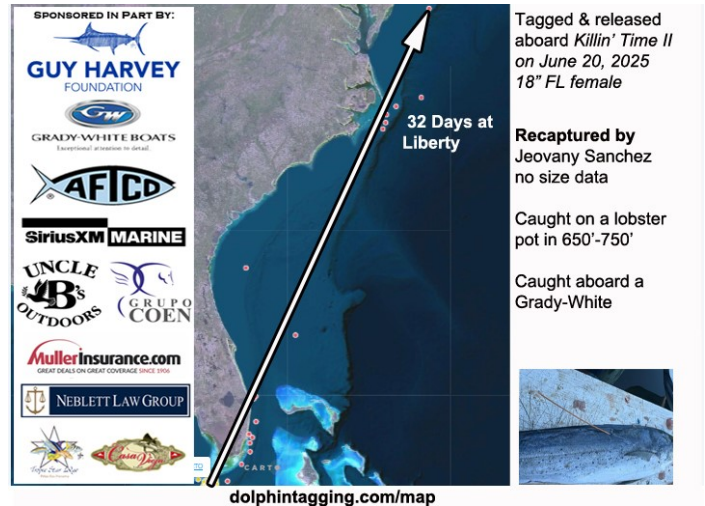
Figure 1 Time-series of total dorado catch and number of trips from July 2023 through July 2025. The blue and green bars on the x-axis approximate when Boat 1 shifts from offshore (blue) to coastal (green) fishing activity.

Tagging Progress to Date

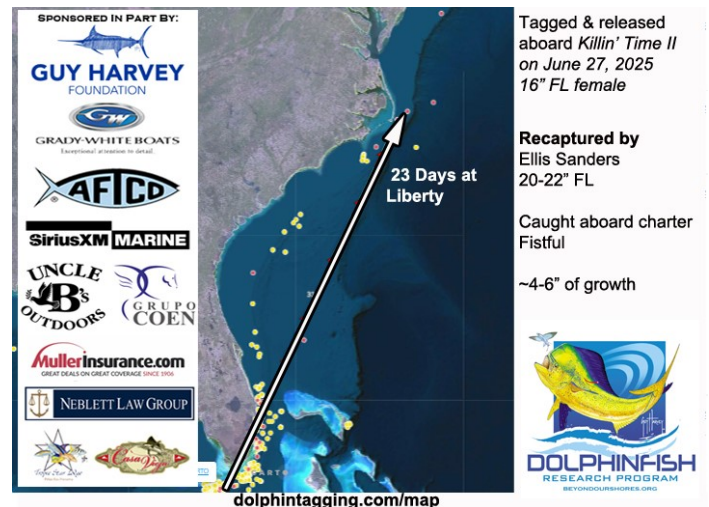


Reported releases from January 1, 2025, to June, 27, 2025, have our program headed for a stellar year of data collection throughout the western central Atlantic and eastern tropical Pacific Oceans. Looking back on the past 24 years, 2025 tag deployments through last Friday are the seventh highest ever 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!

July FL to Baltimore Canyon



July FL to Outer Banks, NC



New Financial Supporters Since June 30 2025

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NEBLETT LAW GROUP

Tagged & released aboard *Wam-Jam* on June 21, 2025
17" FL female

Recaptured by Bill Boyee
no size data
re-released on 7.22.25

Caught on the charter: *Seas the Day*

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BEYOND OUR SHORES.ORG

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July FL to Georgia

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NEBLETT LAW GROUP

Tagged & released aboard *Killin' Time II* on June 16, 2025
23" FL female

Recaptured by Zack Bowman
27" FL

Caught while trolling live bait (goggle eye)

4" total growth or .125"/d

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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, 39,250 dolphinfish have been tagged for the DRP and 889 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

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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**. As of today, we have distributed 201 tagging kits or 2,653 tags.

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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