

Dolphinfish Research Program™

Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Foundation

March 2026



Reported and Received Tagging Progress from 2/27/2026-3/30/2026:

Danny Parvachino (**Lucky Penny**) 10
Daniel Kubiak (**Southern Run**) 2
Dave Kniskern (**Madaline Jewel**) 1

Efrain Gonzalez (**Liqueo**) 3
Jesus Duran (**Lalooli**) 2
M. Wiseheart (**Monkeyshines**) 1

Year to 3/30/2026 for Reported Releases:
53 tagged & released for conservation and science by
11 different vessels

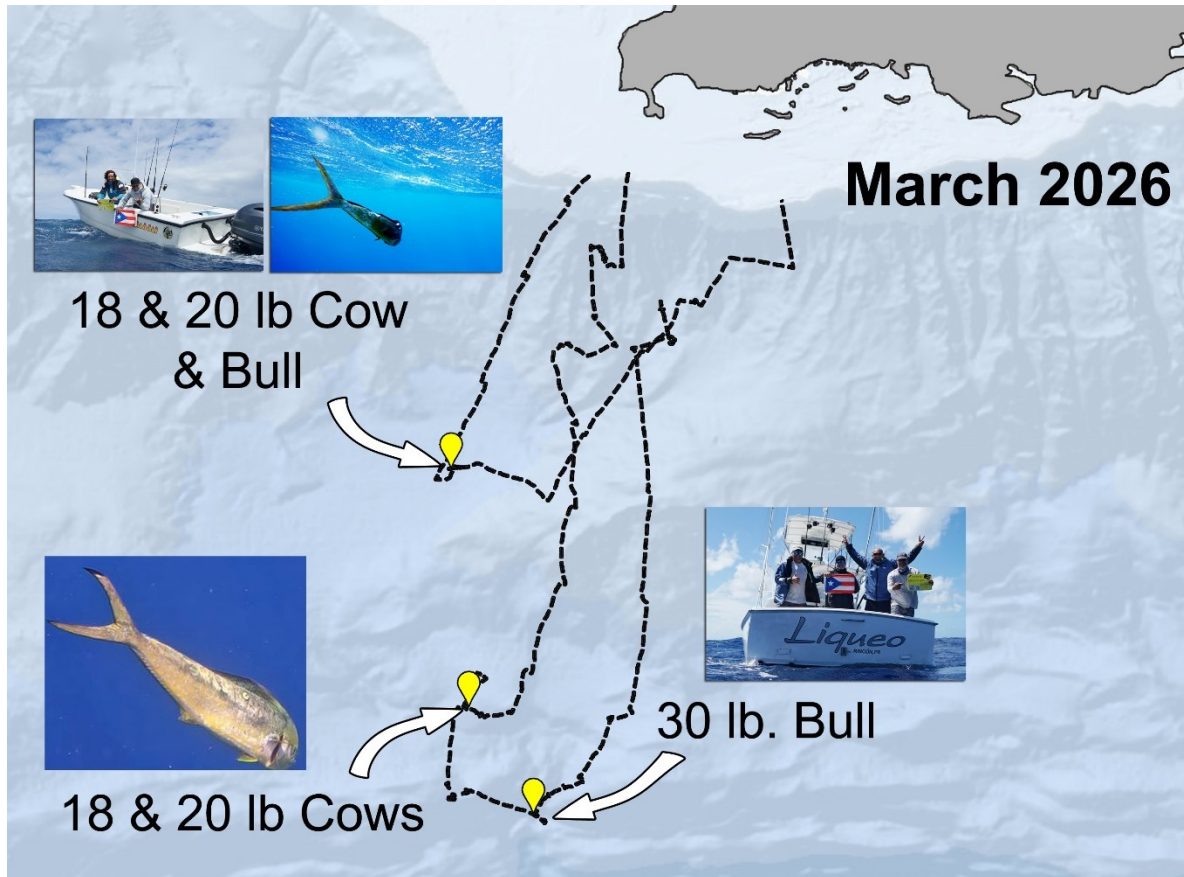
1 Recaptures/Movements to date in 2026
1 verified
5 Satellite tags deployed
(5 (2025) and 3 (2026) at large)

In March, our program embarked on another spring satellite tagging expedition to Puerto Rico. Our effort focused off of La Parguera and during two outings we were able to deploy 5 satellite tags. These recent outings bring us to 131 outings targeting pelagics around Puerto Rico. Over the last 8 outings targeting pelagics around PR our relative catch success (relative to the most fish tagged and kept during an outing = 17 individuals) has jumped higher. In other words, we have had more success lately tagging dolphinfish around Puerto Rico which includes putting out satellite tags on adult fish. Last February, we were able to deploy 3 satellite tags in two days of fishing; this March, 5 in two days. Anglers that we fished with reported that the season has been good with a lot of big fish caught, too (fish > 50 pounds, up to 70+). Last season, there were a lot of fish caught but not a lot of big fish. In 2023 and 2024, the seasons were dismal. Most recently, however, trip success has slowed off southwestern PR as we close off March. To the west, trips off DR have increased and we have logged 1,219 pounds of dorado between 4 boats from 10 outings or 135 lbs per outing. Landings were from FADs. March is typically the month when the southern fishery for dorado begins around DR.

Reported Recaptures or Movement Data Acquired Since 2/27/2026

No recaptures or satellite tags reported over this time period.

March Puerto Rico Satellite Tagging Expedition



With tremendous gratitude to the anglers we worked with this past month as well as excitement for the results we produced, here we share an update from a recent satellite tagging expedition to Puerto Rico. Working with **Lalooli Fishing Charters** and the **Liqueo Fishing Team**, we were able to successfully deploy five satellite tags on dorado in two solid outings. For our program, these five deployments mark the 51st through 55th on pelagic fish in the U.S. Caribbean Sea, and 19th through 23rd on dorado off the south coast of PR (14 have been deployed off San Juan/Fajardo, two off St. Thomas, and two off of St. Croix). From the deployments with **Lalooli** and **Liqueo**, as well as other vessels, including **Missing Angel**, **Tiburón**, **Yadimar**, and **Coral**, we have logged movements of 1000 miles to the west southwest, had three satellite tags recovered, and recorded a host of movements, with an average time at liberty of 16 days (maximum 56 days). These deployments were in association with our ongoing work with the [Caribbean Fishery Management Council](#), and we hope the fish sent back this month showcase this species' amazing capabilities moving

through the Caribbean Sea to aid our program, its participants, and partners to better understand, conserve, and manage this iconic species. [Click here](#) to learn more. To view video action from these outings [click here](#) and [click here](#).

March Article in Sport Fishing



The screenshot shows the top portion of a magazine article. At the top left is the 'SPORT FISHING' logo. Below it, a navigation bar lists categories: BOATS, ELECTRONICS, GEAR, TRAVEL, GAME FISH, HOW TO, and SHALLOW WATER FISHING. The article title is 'Mahi Study Reveals New Info About Dolphin' under the sub-header 'GAME FISH'. The text below the title reads: 'Tagging program reveals mahi-mahi migration patterns, travel speeds and more dolphin facts. By Devin Golden & Wessley Merten | Updated: March 16, 2026'. Below the text is a large photograph of a mahi-mahi leaping from the water. At the bottom of the screenshot, a caption reads: 'More than 39,500 dolphin were tagged and 903 were recaptured and analyzed in the 25-year Dolphinfish Research Program. Chris Woodward / Sport Fishing Magazine'.

The **New England Saltwater Fishing Show** is a prime event to run a table effort about offshore pelagic fisheries for the following reasons: (1) Southern New England and the Mid-Atlantic Bight has a large and seasonally substantial offshore pelagic fishery and mahi is a major component of the catch; (2) wind farms and leases, and the potential move to ropeless trap fishing, inject additional issues that are poised to alter fishing success for pelagics; and (3) environmental effects on pelagic fisheries are likely to lead to range expansion for species such as mahi. In early March, we worked tirelessly over three days to inform anglers about the importance of collecting data on mahi off southern New England and the Mid-Atlantic Bight. Through a successful raffle effort, we were able to raise funds to help support the deployment of a satellite tag off the MAB in 2026. Congratulations goes out to our four raffle winners and a huge thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth to learn more about our research, to participate in our raffle to support our work, and to our sponsors for providing the raffle items.

March New England Fishing Show



Emery and Brandt Merten helped raise awareness about the need to tag and release small mahi throughout their range at the New England Saltwater Fishing Show.

New Financial Supporters Since February 27, 2026

NESWFS Donors ~ 200
John Carter, RI,
Jonathan Epstein, FL
Zac Carrigan, FL
Robert Lonadier, FL
Ryan Monroe, SC



Help Fund Our 2026 Tagging Effort



A special thanks to everyone who has contributed to our tagging program since the beginning

of our 2025/2026 fundraising campaign. With your support, we were able to start 2026 strong. Our goal is to distribute 400 kits and 4,000 tags in 2026. While we have an operational budget to begin the year, we still need support to help us fund our online tagging maps ([click here](#)), acquire additional satellite tags to deploy on adult dolphinfish and wahoo in 2026, support overhead and staff costs, and increase our tagging kit and education supplies to meet our growing demand for tagging kits. Our tagging program is at the forefront of educating anglers, advancing discussions and actions surrounding conservation of the species, and gathering additional data to help inform data-driven decision making at the state, federal, and international levels. Help the **DRP** expand in 2026. Click the icons below to shop or donate to support our program.

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

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Mail to:

Wessley Merten, Ph.D.
Dolphinfish Research Program
Beyond Our Shores, Inc.
PO BOX 3506, Newport, RI, 02840,
Email: wess@beyondourshores.org

Stocks, Bonds & Mutual Funds

Donations of securities are an excellent way to support the Beyond Our Shores Foundation Dolphinfish Research Program. This form of giving can be particularly beneficial for donors if they have stocks that have appreciated in value. The full current market value of the stock is tax deductible, not just the original investment. Thus donors can avoid capital gains taxes. Consult your tax advisor and broker regarding this type of contribution. Contact Wessley Merten for more information on how to contribute to the BOSF charitable investment account wess@beyondourshores.org.

Memorial Contributions

Create a lasting legacy in memory of a friend or family member by making charitable contributions on their behalf to the Beyond Our Shores Foundation Dolphinfish Research Program. Donations can be earmarked to support specific programs.

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