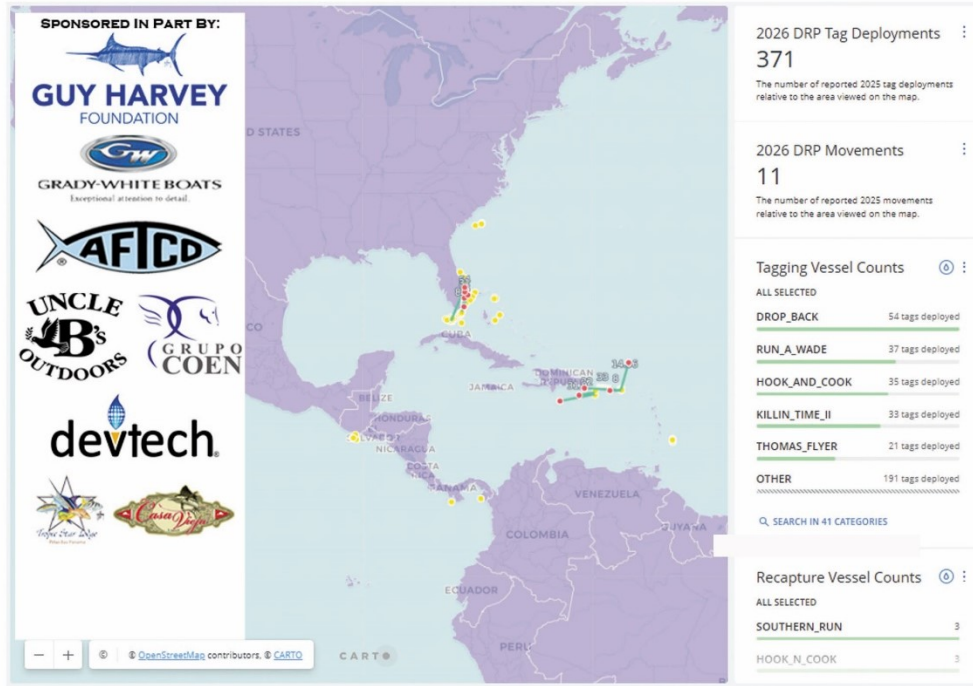


Dolphinfish Research Program™

Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Foundation

May 2026



Reported and Received Tagging Progress from 4/29/2026-5/28/2026:

Jack Harper (**RunaWade**) 37
 Don Gates (**Killin' Time II**) 30
 Dwayne Sapp (**Busy Fishing**) 10
 Charles Devlin (**Under Pressure**) 7
 Christian Sanchez (**Miami Sailfish**) 5
 Jimbo Thomas (**Thomas Flyer**) 4
 Ed Kattel (**Cool Cat**) 4
 Sal Zeitlin (**Tight Lines**) 4
 Joe Fisher (**Fish Magic**) 3
 Eddie Twyford (**Triple T**) 2
 Philip Keller (**No Name**) 2
 Wilmer Sanchez (**The Big Deal**) 1
 Chris Waguespack (**Ken's Proline**) 1
 Diane Bade (**Di-hard II**) 1

Jon Reynolds (**Drop Back Fishing Charters**) 34
 Rob Rollins (**Conundrum**) 14
 Daniel Kubiak (**Southern Run**) 8
 Steve Magassy (**Blue Devil**) 6
 Shaw Dwight (**Weed lines**) 5
 Robert Pustizzi (**Cutting Edge**) 4
 Kyle Kelly (**SS Let it Go**) 4
 Chris Frost (**Lightning Strike**) 3
 Mike Prendergast (**Reel Therapy**) 3
 Willie Howard (**Captain Willies Charters**) 2
 Chris Doggett (**Akoya**) 1
 Scott Alessandro (**Honda**) 1
 Michael Waech (**No Name**) 1

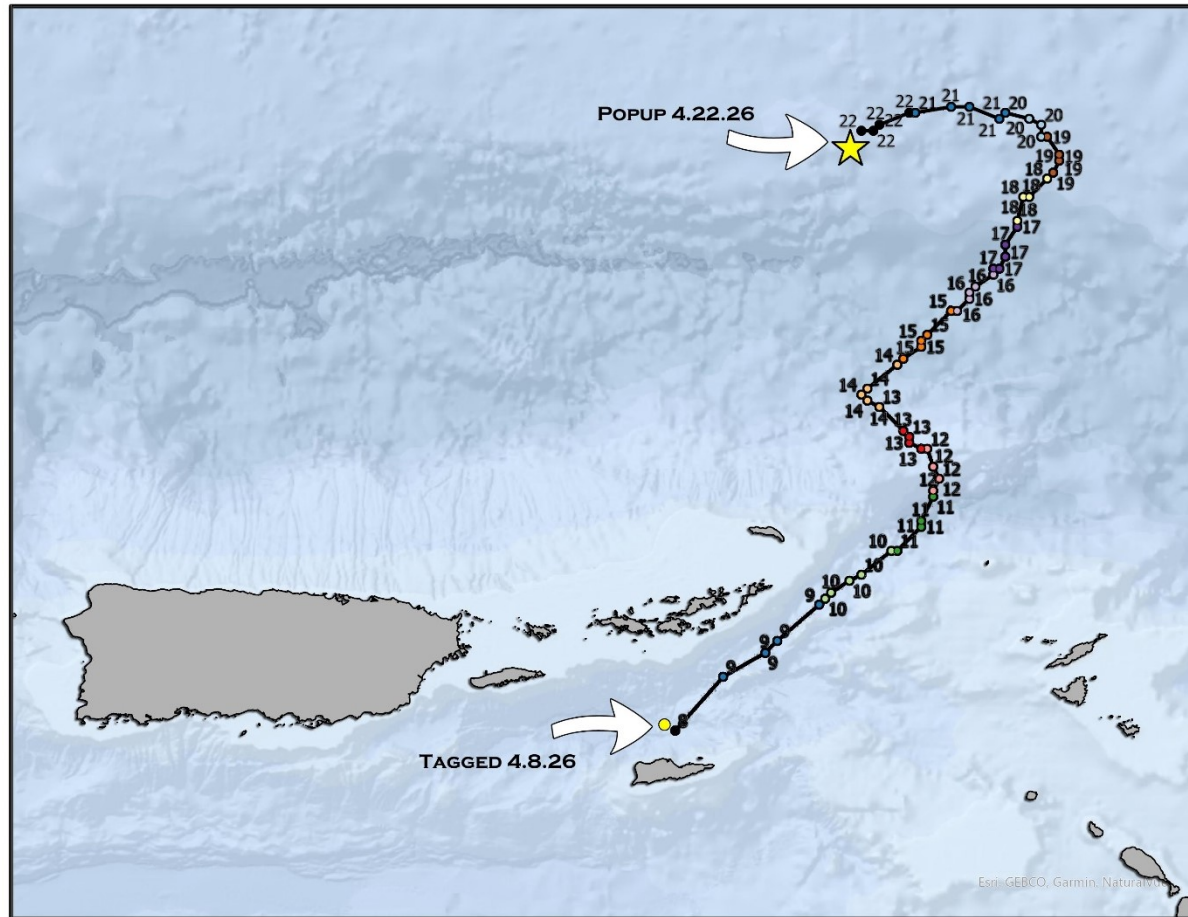
Matthew Albertz reported a fish tagged and released by **Killin' Time II**
 Pedro Ramos reported a fish tagged and released by the **Southern Run**
 Mike Waech reported a fish tagged and released by **Drop Back Fishing Charters**
 A satellite tag was recaptured off DR by an unknown angler

Reported Recaptures or Movement Data Acquired Since 4/29/2026

Year to 5/28/2026 for Reported Releases:
371 tagged & released for conservation
and science by
41 different vessels
11 Recaptures/Movements to date in 2026
11 verified
10 Satellite tags deployed
(1 (2025) and 2 (2026) at large)

In May, tagging participation surged among program participants whereby 27 different vessels recorded tag deployments throughout the Bahamas, Florida tagging zones, and off South Carolina. While far from the record tagging levels from last May, various anglers reported really good dolphin fishing particularly for fishing off South Carolina where anglers said it was the best fishing over the past three years. In the Keys, larger fish were consistently caught but tagging has not been as productive, likely due to windy, poor conditions limiting outings for many vessels. In DR, we recorded the landings of 5,868 pounds of dolphin between 5 vessels that collectively embarked on 22 outings (average of 266 pounds per outing). In addition, we had a 40" bull recaptured off DR that was carrying a miniPAT tag that was deployed off of St. Croix in April. The tag is currently transmitting (as of the time of writing) in central DR. Off North Carolina, reports have shown great fishing for dolphin but our scheduled outings were cancelled due to poor weather.

Female Dolphinfish Tracked in Tropical Atlantic



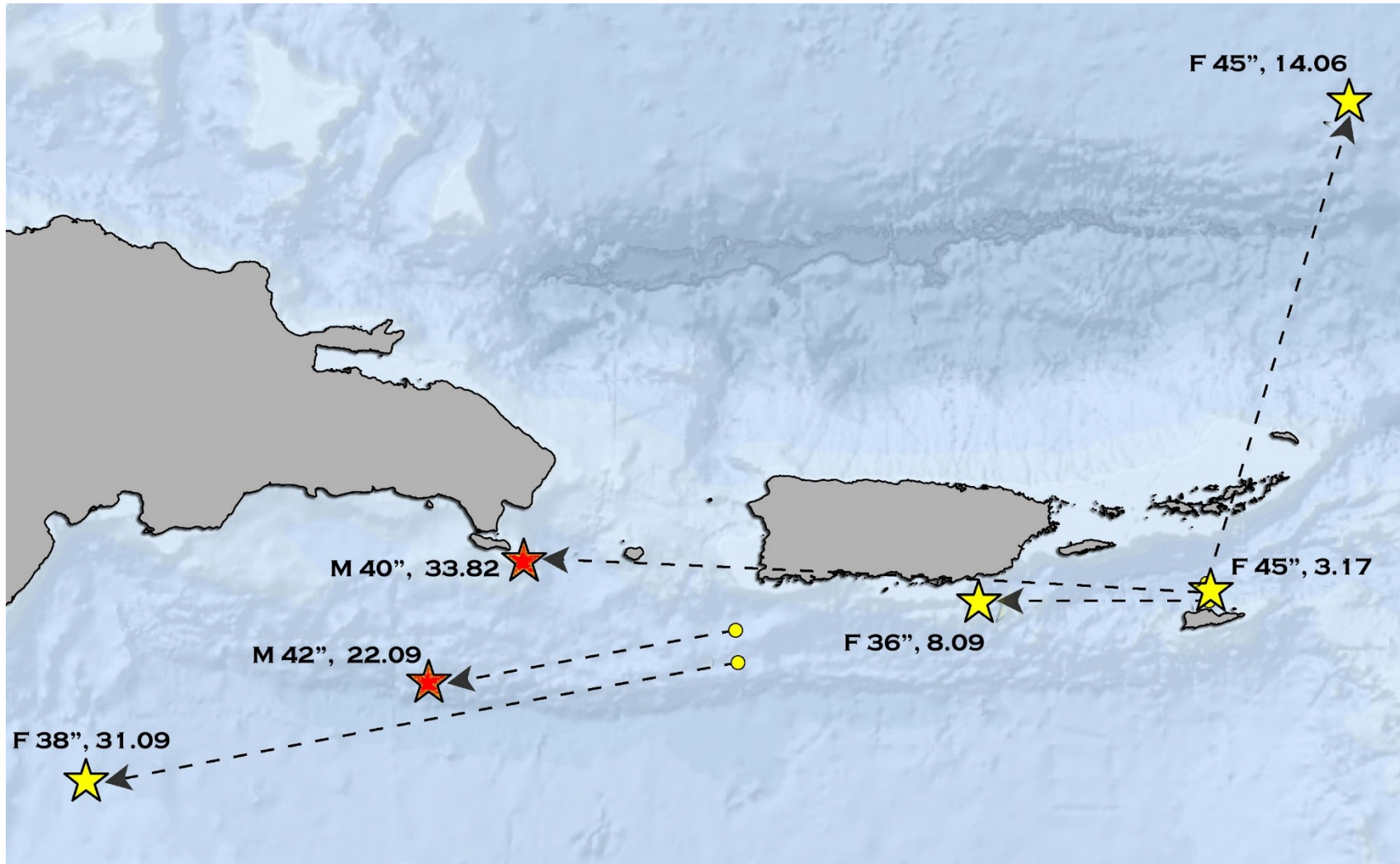
In the past, our tagging work in the U.S. Caribbean Sea revealed that the **Mona Passage**, the channel of water that connects the tropical Atlantic with the Caribbean Sea between **Puerto Rico** and the **Dominican Republic**, is a two-way street for dolphin movements; several dolphin have moved through the Mona Passage from the [north](#), [south](#), or engaged in complex [multidirectional movements](#). For the first time, our tagging work has revealed that the Anegada Passage, the channel that connects the tropical Atlantic with the Caribbean Sea between **St. Croix** and the **British Virgin Islands (BVI)**, is a two-way street for dolphin. On April 8th, 2026, our team tagged and released a pair of 45" females caught in the same school, and one of those females was successfully tracked for two weeks, and the cow moved 298 miles to a location 116 miles north of Anegada, BVI. The cow moved ~20 miles per day and spent seven days in the Anguilla exclusive economic zone (EEZ) before the fish moved west, where the tag surfaced in the BVI EEZ. This movement highlights a route previously unsuspected due to steady tradewinds and overall [westward current trend](#) in the

Anegada Passage. It also provides an example of a dolphin in the northern Leeward Islands that branched off and swam northeast toward the high seas tropical Atlantic and southern portion of the Sargasso Sea, a huge swath of ocean more than a thousand miles away from the U.S. East Coast. This movement is similar to a [34" female we tracked](#) off San Juan, Puerto Rico, last fall. These movements highlight the tropical Atlantic and

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Antilles Current as a major corridor and swath of habitat for the species to utilize as it moves west toward the U.S. East Coast. These tag deployments were conducted with our work with the [Caribbean Fishery Management Council](#). [Click here](#) to learn more.



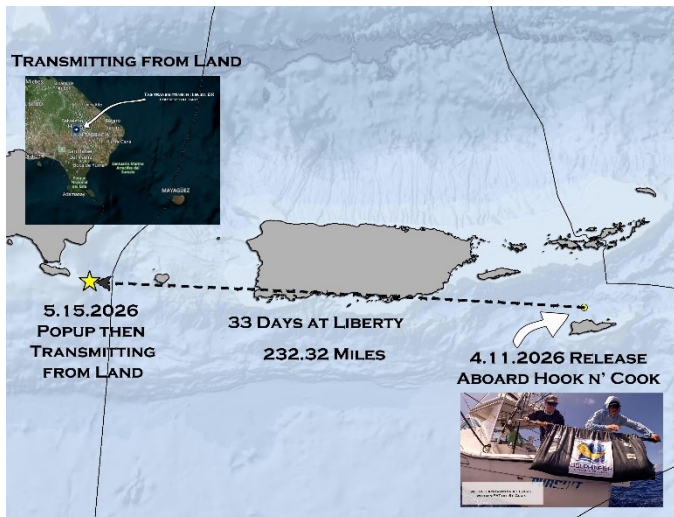
April and May popup locations (stars) for six satellite tags deployed on dolphin fish in the U.S. Caribbean Sea.

Two fish remain at large. Red stars = miniPAT recapture locations.

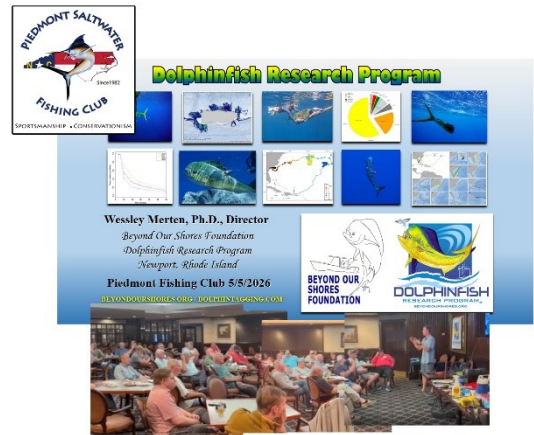
May DR Satellite Tag Recapture



On April 11th, 2026, in the final two hours of our outing off the north coast of St. Croix, angler Sam Evans spotted a frigate bird working a school of dolphin, and we successfully caught, tagged, and released a 40" bull with a miniPAT tag. More than a month later, the bull was recaptured southeast of the Dominican Republic on May 15th. Currently, as of the time of writing (5.29.26), the tag is transmitting from a town in central DR, and our team is working to retrieve the tag. This satellite tag recapture is the third for our project with the CFMC, second of the eight tags deployed in April and May (excluding two tags at large), and sixth of 27 tags deployed off the south coast of PR since 2019. Recapture rates associated with these deployments are the highest recorded for our program in the history of our tagging activity in the Atlantic. [Click here](#) to learn more.



May Seminars with PFC and IGFA

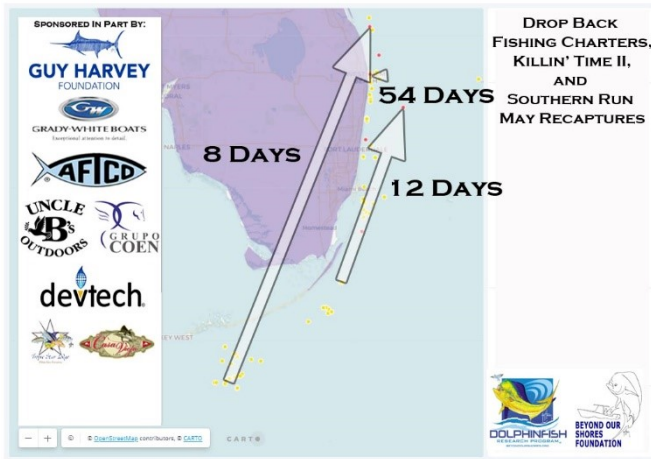


A huge thanks goes out to the Piedmont Fishing Club in North Carolina for hosting a Dolphinfish Research Program (DRP) seminar on May 5th, 2026. The one-hour seminar included a deep dive into the scientific results generated from 25 years of tagging activity, information that helps guide management and conservation for the species. In addition to this seminar, our group also gave a short talk on our project with the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. This talk was organized by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) on May 19th, 2026, and given to the Global FishTag Network. If your club is interested in hosting a DRP seminar, please contact us. [Click here](#) for contact details.

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 Since April 30, 2026**

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- Mike Prendergast, FL
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- Carlos Farchette, USVIs
- David Wamer, SC
- Troy Flis, FL

May South Florida Recaptures



Over the past month, we have received three recapture reports for fish tagged and released by [Drop Back Fishing Charters](#), [Southern Run's](#), and [Killin' Time II](#). Angler Mike Waech and Matthew Albertz reported the recaptures for [Drop Back Fishing Charters](#) and [Killin' Time II](#), with fish moving between the Keys and South Florida region in 12 to 8 days, respectively. Angler Pedro Ramos recaptured [Southern Run's](#) dolphin after the fish was at large for 54 days. The recapture site was only several miles from the release site, which suggests a lingering nearshore movement for this fish in the Florida Straits. All reporters received recapture awards, and tagging vessels are accumulating points in support of awards of gear from our [loyal sponsors](#). [Click here](#) to learn more.

Donate to Support the Dolphinfish Research Program



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 are nearly halfway through the fiscal

year and have already logged 11 new movements in the Western Central Atlantic, compiled additional catch and effort datasets, given three public seminars, and expanded participation. Our goal is to distribute 400 kits and 4,000 tags in 2026. As of today, we have distributed 121 kits and 1,755 tags. Help support the expansion of our tagging program by making a [tax-deductible donation](#) or by purchasing tags or program apparel in our online shop. 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 state, federal, and international levels. Help the DRP expand in 2026. Click the icons below to shop or donate to support our program.

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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

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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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