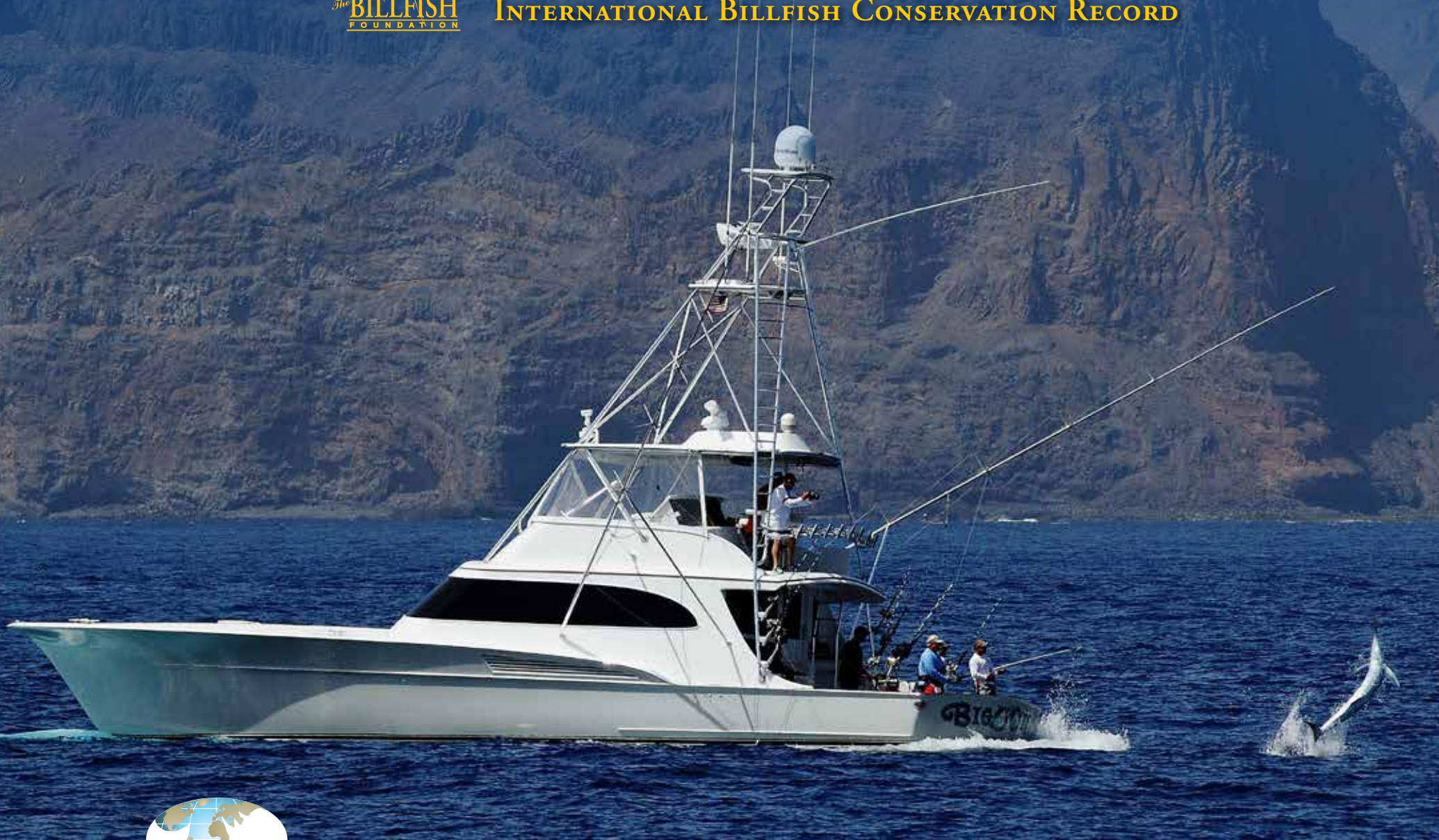




THE BILLFISH FOUNDATION'S INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH CONSERVATION RECORD



BISBEE'S FISH & WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION FUND



Investing in Sportfishing Conservation

2014 TAG & RELEASE PROGRAM SPONSORS



BISBEE'S FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND (BFWCF) works to conserve, restore, and manage fish, wildlife, and their habitats through science, education, and technology. BFWCF's mission, to have thriving fish populations in natural habitats, will ensure today's and future generations fishing success. Their contributions to The Billfish Foundation (TBF) helps further the understanding of the feeding, spawning, and migration patterns of billfish.



CASA VIEJA LODGE, located on Guatemala's Pacific coast provides anglers with an unbelievable resort experience and a modern fleet for fishing some of the world's most productive billfish waters. Its location and resources put Casa Vieja Lodge in a unique position to contribute a large amount of valuable tag & release data to TBF. Casa Vieja Lodge practices responsible conservation techniques so future anglers can have the same special experiences as those of today.



COSTA SUNGLASSES, a long-standing partner of TBF, believes that conservation is all about sustainable fishing. Many fish stocks that should be vibrant and healthy have fallen victim to poor fishing practices, unregulated development, lack of watershed protection or all of the above. Costa works with partners around the world, like TBF, to help increase awareness and influence policy so that both the fish and anglers of tomorrow will have healthy waters and fish populations to enjoy.



KING SAILFISH MOUNTS, TBF's longest-standing program partner, introduced and began promoting the release mount concept for Atlantic sailfish in the 1990's and quickly gained momentum as an alternative to traditional taxidermy. King Sailfish Mounts is now the industry leader and is the most influential producer of release mounts in the taxidermy industry. King Sailfish recognizes the importance of TBF's Tag & Release program and the importance of the data generated for managing and conserving billfish and other pelagic species.



PELAGIC GEAR's partnership with TBF meshes perfectly with the company's Pelagic Ocean Conservancy Project (POCP). The POCP supports scientific research, conservation, and recreational fisheries management, as well as, providing a voice for a large number of ocean enthusiasts. Pelagic and the POCP consists of responsible, conservation-minded sportsmen and active stewards of the sea who want to see the tradition of sportfishing survive for future generations to enjoy.



SIMRAD, a leader in engineering and development of sportfishing technology, committed to be a new tag & release sponsor in 2014. Their pledge illustrated the conservation of fisheries, especially those of billfish and those in the sportfishing community are important. Simrad recognized that the work TBF does and the information TBF provides is vital to ensuring that this important fish stocks are sustainable for the future for sportfishing and boating.



THE BILLFISH FOUNDATION'S INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH CONSERVATION RECORD ANALYZING 2014 TAG & RELEASE DATA

This publication is made possible by the generosity of:



**BISBEE'S FISH & WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION FUND**

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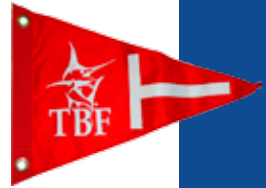
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Capt. Skeet Warren - Bushwacker

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear TBF Friends,

We hope you find this annual International Conservation Record interesting for it provides you a snapshot of the 220,000 plus data records stored in TBF's tagging data base, the world's largest private billfish tagging data resource. Our tagging program rests on the willingness of you - anglers, captains and mates - to purchase, deploy and report tag and recapture data for which we are most grateful. Needless to say, our Tag and Release Program remains the cornerstone of the organization thanks to you.

Before TBF launched our tagging program, we were the first sportfishing conservation organization to advance billfish stock assessments. It was during that data-dependent process when it became clear a lot more billfish data was needed. It was then we called on you for help and when tagging became crucial to TBF and to billfish science. For the next decades most of what was known about billfish came from tagging and recapture data. Today, traditional tagging is augmented by satellite tagging data, each collecting different types of data, both of which are important in learning more about billfish.

Our self-entry option for tagging and release data (www.tagbillfish.org) is awesome for it allows you to enter your own data, share it via social media, and perform some interesting queries with our data. The option has increased our tagging activities and interactions with new taggers. In 2014 we saw a spike in tagging with 14,000 tag records received from all over the world. Check it out and let your friends know how important it is to report billfish data to TBF, it is free and easy! If you don't mind competition, be sure to check out TBF's annual tag and release and catch and release competitions, which have competitive categories for captains and mates, anglers, female anglers and youth anglers, within a range of ages.

Thank you for being part of our tag and release team!

Tight lines,

Ellen M. Peel
President

2014 RYBOVICH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS



C.M. "RIP" CUNNINGHAM – of Boston, Massachusetts began 41 years ago as an associate editor with SaltWater Sportsman magazine where he educated anglers not only on fishing and boating techniques and products, but equally



C.M. "Rip" Cunningham

on the importance of participating in the fishery conservation and management processes. His commitment includes serving nine years on the New England Fishery Management Council where he currently serves as Chairman. Before leaving full time employment at SaltWater Sportsman magazine in 2004, he had risen to the position of Editor-in-Chief. Today he continues to contribute his expertise and commitment by writing the magazine's Conservation Column. "His commitment to sportfishing and conservation is exemplary," says John Brownlee, TBF Board Member and the current Editor-in-Chief of SaltWater Sportsman magazine.

DR JULIAN PEPPERELL – of Queensland, Australia established the nation's gamefish tagging program for the New South Wales Fisheries Ministry 40 years ago. The enormous program transitioned Australia's gamefishing anglers from killing to a predominantly tag-and-release format. Over the years Pepperell has gained distinction as an authority on billfish and other pelagic species, authoring two books and numerous scientific publications. He has had his own research company since 1991 and conducts research in partnership with universities,



Dr. Julian Pepperell

government, and the private sector. Pepperell also serves as an adjunct professor at several Australian universities. His regular & very popular science column and in-depth features printed in BlueWater Boats and Sportsfishing magazine inform readers about the biology of gamefish and the science relating to their management. Friend and Editor-in-Chief of the magazine, Tim Simpson, says "Pepperell provides a rare gift in his ability to bridge the gap between the scientific community and anglers."

HERMAN "DUTCH" PRAGER – of Mandeville, Louisiana returned from submarine duty during World War II and, after seeing a 465.5 pound blue marlin brought to the dock during the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo, began a quest to bring big game fishing to his state. He wanted a big game fishing club established in New Orleans, so with a few other big game fishermen he provided the muscle and drive that in 1961 established the New Orleans Big Game Fishing Club (NOBGFC). The Club's mission distinguished it from others in that it focused solely on furthering scientific knowledge of big-game fish species by acting as a liaison between anglers and scientists. Prager was elected President a month later, a position he occupied until 1990, a tenure during which he earned the titles of Club "father, godfather or ramrod." In 1962 the Club's first tournament attracted 46 members and 44 guest anglers and has grown ever since. Dutch and his rules committee established angling rules that are the foundation of the NOBGFC and he insisted that IGFA rules and protocol be strictly followed. TBF is proud to have the NOBGFC as a conservation partner.



Herman "Dutch" Prager

The Billfish Foundation's most prestigious award, the Rybovich Lifetime Conservation Award, is named in honor of the late John Rybovich, a pioneer in billfish conservation and sportfishing vessel design.

THE BILLFISH FOUNDATION'S TAG & RELEASE PROGRAM

ESTABLISHED

IN 1990, The Billfish Foundation's Tag and Release Program has generated the largest private billfish tagging data resource in the world, which remains the cornerstone of TBF's conservation and advocacy programs. With TBF receiving close to 15,000 tag and release records annually from across the globe, our database contains 220,000 records in total, all contributing to what is known about billfish.

The success of TBF's Tag and Release program comes from dedicated anglers, captains and mates, who voluntarily tag, release, and report their billfish catches, tags, releases and recaptures. It is the recapture data that provides the most valuable scientific data for helping to advance our understanding of billfish growth rates, migratory patterns, habitat use and post-release survival rates. Tag and release data also provides valuable information to include in stock assessments that calculate the abundance of each species remaining in the water to support continued fishing. The data contributes to the foundation upon which smart conservation policy can be built.

Because tagging provides TBF with data benefitting conservation and science, in turn, TBF recognizes the anglers, captains and mates, who tag and release the most billfish by species in the three major oceans. Each year at an awards ceremony held during the Friday of the Miami International Boat Show the awards are presented. TBF award winners no doubt are the "who's who" in the billfishing world, who don't just catch and release for numbers of fish, but share a common conservation ethic. Captains and anglers on the water are the first line in billfish conservation. To recognize the contributions of all TBF members, release certificates are given to recognize their contribution, whether for one fish or one hundred.



Chris Steeder



Questions about the Tag and Release Program or purchase of tagging equipment can be answered at www.billfish.org, or contact us at tag@billfish.org or call (954) 938-0150, ext.'s 115, or 107.

REPORTING TAGGED & RELEASED BILLFISH

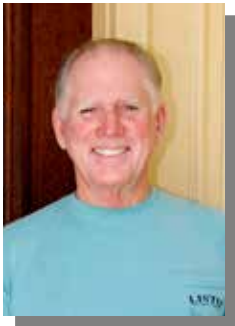
- Submit the data online at www.tagbillfish.org
- Legibly fill out and mail the Tag Data Report Card to TBF
- Make sure to report the release date, species of fish, and location (latitude/longitude) of the release
- Legibly fill out and mail the Tag Data Report Card to TBF
- Measure or estimate the length and weight of the fish

If you catch a tagged billfish, dip the monofilament tag streamer, retaining it, retag the fish if reasonable and send the information on the tag streamer to TBF.



Paul Shields, Crocodile Bay

OFFICERS



| Chairman |
John P. "Jack" Duvall



| Vice Chairman |
Scott Cooper



| Treasurer |
Keith English



| Secretary |
Joan Vernon



| FOUNDING CHAIRMAN |

Winthrop P. Rockefeller

"We don't inherit the world from the previous generation. It's loaned to us from our children; it's placed in our custody for the next generation."

-Winthrop P. Rockefeller

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Luis Bacardi



John Brownlee



Gary J. Chouest



Curtis Colgate



Johnny Dorland -
OBBC Sandra



Fin Gaddy



Bill Gooch



Dr. William
Hixson -MBGFC



Elaine "Laney"
Jones



Sandra MacMillan



Chase Offield



Tim Simpson

Emeritus



Francisco Rangel
Castelazo



Paxson Offield
(Deceased)



Don Tyson
(Deceased)



Ralph "Agie"
Vicente



Jack Willits
(Deceased)

TBF TEAM



| Ellen M. Peel, J.D., LL.M. - President |

Ellen manages and leads TBF's operations; coordinates development of conservation and management strategies with the Board of Directors, staff and consultants; provides media interaction; serves as the primary interface with the Board and conservation partners and represents TBF before all levels of fisheries management organizations. Contact Ellen at (954) 938-0150, ext. 108 or ellen_peel@billfish.org



| Peter Chaibongsai - Director of Conservation Programs |

Peter oversees TBF's Tag & Release Program; manages TBF's International Tagging Grant program; researches marine policy issues; and assists in cultivating strategy with key conservation partners; oversees TBF's volunteer/intern program and provides educational and outreach assistance at special events. Contact Peter at (954) 938-0150 ext. 107 or peter_chaibongsai@billfish.org



| Deborah Cummings - Membership Director |

Deborah manages member services, recruitment, membership renewals, member outreach, the Chairman's Club and TBF merchandise. Deborah also cultivates membership at tournaments and special events. Contact Deborah at (954) 938-0150 ext. 106 or deborah_cummings@billfish.org



| Elizabeth Black - Management Assistant, Editor |

Elizabeth (Beth) Black serves as the primary contact between the President and the public through Board member contact, Foundation and fund raising liaisons as well as staff operations. Beth is also editor of TBF's *Billfish* publication. Contact Beth at (954) 938-0150 ext 104 or elizabeth_black@billfish.org



| Robert Jones - Chief Operating Officer |

Robert is responsible for all day-to-day accounting activities, monthly & annual financial reporting, budgets and annual audits; designing and enhancing internal controls and written standard operating procedures. For grant monitoring, Robert works with the President to assure that all grants and contracts meet required financial processes, systems and procedures; he is the main point of contact for grantee financial matters. Contact Robert at (954) 938-0150 ext. 113 or robert_jones@billfish.org



| Adrienne Katz - Education, Science, & Policy Associate |

Adrienne collaborates on sportfishing conservation research projects that include angler motivation and participation in regions both domestically and internationally. She also strives to maintain consistency within TBF's marketing and outreach materials and the Tag and Release Online Database. Contact Adrienne at (954) 938-0150 ext. 115 or adrienne_katz@billfish.org



| C. Phillip Goodyear, Ph.D. - Scientist |

Dr. Goodyear provides all of TBF's scientific analysis on population dynamics, catch data analysis and other statistical analyses needed for establishing a sound foundation for conservation and management strategies.



| Herbert Nanne - Conservation Director, South America |

Herbert serves as TBF's main representative in the Central American region, helping coordinate conservation and science activities; he also serves as a scientific counselor for Costa Rica before the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

TBF'S 2014 TAG & RELEASE CAPTAINS

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Abarca, Francisco G.
Abaroa, Franky
Abaroa, Oscar
Abohbot, Nuno
Abooman, Khaled
Abuchaibe, Alonso
Adcock, Ken
Afonso, Artur
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 Urdaz, Robin Birriel

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Valdes, Remberto
 Vale, Bernard
 Vallarino, Aquilino
 Van De Spuy, Russoux
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 Van Mols, Chip
 Van Leeuwen, Chris
 Vander Hoek, Gene
 Vargas, Jan
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 Veld, Craig
 Vicens, Freddy
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 Viljoen, Anton
 Viljoen, Gabriella

W

Waddick, Robby
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 Wagner, Gary
 Wanick, Eduardo
 Warren, Skeet
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 Wells, George
 West, Pete
 Wheeler, Nate
 Whelan, Bobby
 Whitaker, Rom
 Wigzell, Chuck
 Wigzell, Jim
 Williams, Destin
 Williams, Douglas
 Williams, Jeremy
 Williams, Justin
 Wise, Brant
 Wolf, J.P.
 Wong, Captain
 Woods, Woody

Y

Yamazaki, Kazuo
 Yeager, Richard

Z

Zuccherro, Greg
 Zwirz, Ken

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Diaz, Cesar
Dicking, Vicki
Dickson, Michael
Didi, Junior Galid Osman
Dieffenbach, Jeff
Dierman, Christopher
Digulian, Anthony
Dillon, Rodney
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Duvall, John "Jack"
Dye, Zac
Dyer, Kerry
Dysart, Kane

E

Eagan, Vincent
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Everitt, Ben
Eysymontt, Geroge

F

Fabrin, Caetano
Fabrin, Fernando
Fadrigue, Brett
Fagg, Larry
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Faircloth, Jim
Falcigno, Vicky
Falls, Dylan
Falzone, Tim
Fama, Louie
Fancy, Dave
Fancy, Jean
Fancy, Steve
Fancy, Tom
Fanguy, Mindy

Fanta, David
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Farrell, Kelly
Farrior, William
Faulkner, Bobby
Favreau, Philippe
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Feder, Brent
Feeley, Danica
Fehring, Hermann
Felecan, Gabriel
Feltman, Scott
Fenstermaker, Charley
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Feroli, Peter
Ferrell, Kevin
Fields, John
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Filhol, Jonathan
Filhol, Michael
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Fink, Jerrod
Finkell, Brian
Finkell, Don
Finkell, Tommy
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Firestein, Martin
Firestein, Mitchell
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Fissioil, Kade
Fitzgerald, Kirsty
Fitzgerald, Nigel
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Fleming, Rob
Fletcher, Alison
Flores, Robert
Foley, Jack
Fonseca, Celeste
Fonseca, Marcelo
Fonseca, Pedro
Forbes, Clare
Ford, Alex
Ford, Mat
Forg, Eric
Formenti, Andrea
Formenti, Filippo
Forslun, Tina
Fort, Andrew
Foster, Brian
Foster, Dana
Foster, Mitchell
Fowler, Steve
Fox, Bill
Fox, Chris
Fox, Roderick
Foxworthy, Matthew
Fraajie, Birgit
Fraajie, Olie
Fragaso, Walter
Frain, Richard
Francis, Kyle

Francis, P. Sean
Franco, Barisio
Franco, Jesus
Franco, Juan Emiliano
Franklin, Bobby
Franklin, Bryan
Franklin, Larry
Franks, Wes
Fraurun, Karen
Frausto, Stephanie
Frazier, Burrell
Frazier, Grace
Frazier, John
Frazier, Linda
Fregoso, Victor
Freming, Ronald
Frering, Mario
Frering, Pedro
Fresn, Ryan
Frezza, Nick
Frick, Ross
Friede, Wolfgang
Figenshaw, Paul
Frommrich, Ernst
Fudickar, Lance
Fukuhara, Sizuo
Fumarola, Giovanni
Furfine, Earl

G

Gaddy, Brown
Gaddy, Charles
Gaddy, Fin
Gage, Kirsta
Gallo, Bill
Gallo, Bryan
Gallo, Madison
Gonzalez, Bernardo
Gamble, Andrew
Gamble, Patrick
Gandini, Christian
Ganz, Peter
Garber, Michael
Garcia, Tania
Gardner, Bill
Gardner, Sarah
Garrett, Ed
Garrett, Gage
Garrocho, Antonio
Gartman, Don
Gaskill, Jonathan
Gast, Jason
Gaston, Blake
Gaston, Liza
Gath, Mark
Gath, Stetson
Gavotto, Joel
Gaylord, Kevin
Gaylord, Linda
Gearman, Ewald
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Gerhardes, Petrus
Gibbs, Shelby
Gibbs, Tracy

Giberti, Caroline
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Gibson, Frank
Giersch, Thomas
Giese, Andrew
Gift, Daniel
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Gill, Wyatt
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Gilliam, Matthew
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Gilliam, Ryan
Ginsburg, Jonathan
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Girardelli, Milzi
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Godfrey, Bo
Goldberg, David
Golden, Josh
Goldsmith, William
Gollas, Joe
Gollas, Lee
Gomes, Bruno Ferreira
Gomes, Fabio
Gomes, Julio
Gomez, Gabriel
Gomez, Jose
Gomselos, Anton
Goncalves, Tiago
Gonzales, Guadalupe
Gonzales, Leeroy
Gonzalez, Alejandro
Gonzalez, Bernardo
Gonzalez, Frank
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Gonzalez, Juan Manuel
Gonzalez, Roby
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Good, Justin
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Goolaup, Keeleshwarsingh Amar
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H

Haas, Paul
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Holleman, Brett
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Holt, Daniel
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Honachefsky, Nick
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Hooguin, Kiaas
Hoppmann, Chad
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Horton, Glenn
Hoshimo, Hideyo
Hoshina, Noriaki
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Hume, Nathan
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Hurt, Myers

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Huxter, Ian

I

Ibbotson, Doug
Ignac, John
Ikeda, Kazuhiro
Ikeya, Sakae
Ilgner, Robert
Imamura, Saizo
Immelman, Trevor
Inchaustegui, Bobby
Infanzon, Tito
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Ingram, Bo
Ingram, Brian
Ingram, Gray
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Inoui, Jo
Irick, Stephen
Jubb, Troy
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Hodgson, Pete
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Hoffpaur, Dustin
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Hoke, Andrea
Holcomb, Michael
Holcomb, Wes
Holden, Sean
Holderman, Luke
Holding, Bob
Holguera, Jesus
Holleman, Brett
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Holt, Daniel
Holt, Robert
Honachefsky, Nick
Hood, Aaron
Hood, John
Hooguin, Kiaas
Hoppmann, Chad
Horsley, Brian
Horton, Glenn
Hoshimo, Hideyo
Hoshina, Noriaki
Hostelley, Henry
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Howell, Jimmy
Howell, Ritchie
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Huerlander, Shane
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Huigens, Chris
Hull, Eric
Hume, Nathan
Humphries, Jimmy
Hurt, Myers

J

Jackson, Chrissie
Jacoby, Jeff
Jacquez, Jose
Jaggers, Joseph
Jahns, Alexander
James, Colton
James, Daniel
James, Joseph
Jarvis, Rick
Jaxtinen, Jamie
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Jessen, Laura
Jessup, Graham
Jesus, Basilio
Jesus, Camilo Duran Rodriguez
Jiang, Liu Ming
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Johnson, Chase
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Johnston, Jamila
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Jones, Ricardo
Jones, Richard
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Jones, Todd
Jongschaap, Kevin
Jongschaap, Roderick
Jonovich, Brian
Jordan, Matt
Jordan, Vicky
Jordan, Wes
Joseph, Joey
Jowett, Aaron
Jowett, Jason
Jowett, Lindsay
Joyce, Steve
Joyer, Charlie
Jubb, Troy
Juju, Juju
Julien, Gourier
Junior, Fernando
Junqueira, Miguel

K

Kagabu, Yasuhiko
Kahlbetzer, Johnny
Kake, Andrea
Kairilla, Dave
Kakazu, Sidnei
Kalan, Darlene
Kammel, Bryan
Kappel, Kyle
Karam, Jeff
Kartsson, Jonas
Kashirajima, Manabu
Kastanek, Jeff
Kastelic, Steve
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Kavanagh, George
Kawaja, Ron
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Kazantsev, Kiriff
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Kaziewicz, Vanessa
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Kennedy, Paul
Kennedy, Sean
Kenny, Kaitlin
Kern, Robert
Kidder, Kieran

Q Qudoian, Rick
 Queiroz, Marco
 Queros, Marco
 Quick, Jeff
 Quinn, Blake
 Quinn, Parker

R Ragen, Tim
 Raheb, Brian
 Raike, Cassandra
 Raikien, Jake
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 Rhodes, Graham
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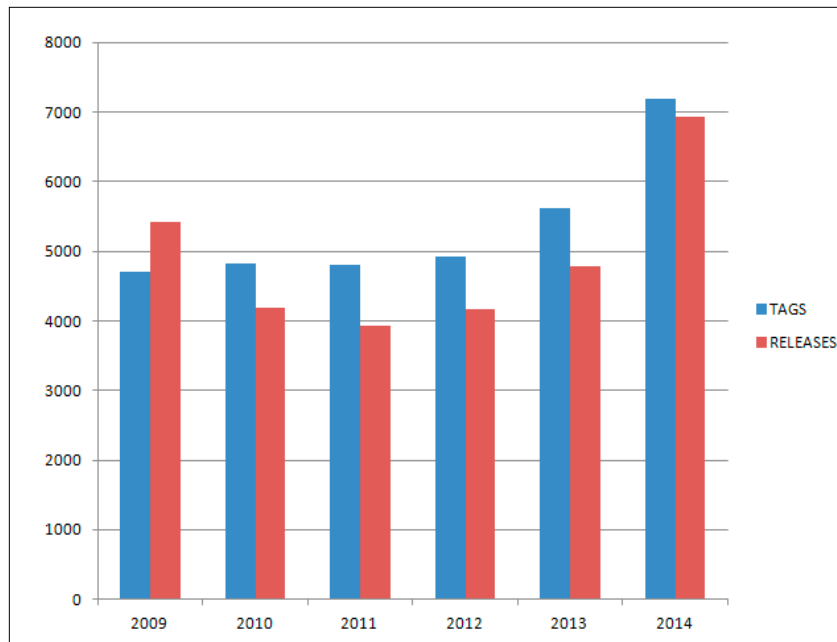
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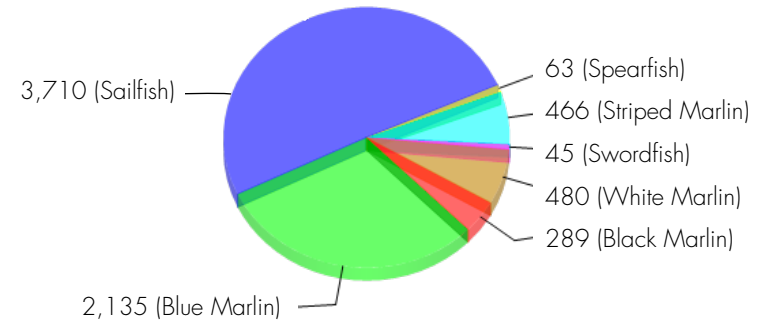
2014 TAG, RELEASE & RECAPTURE DATA SUMMARY

The Billfish Foundation received reports for 14,114 billfish released in the calendar year of 2014; 7,188 were tagged fish and 6,926 were released, an increase from 2013 numbers (4,999 tagged and 4,030 released respectively). If you were to include all species including tunas, the number spikes to 7,500 reported tagged and 7,051 released. The following pages summarize the recorded data by species, ocean and event. Overall, more fish were tagged and released in the Pacific than in the Atlantic Ocean. A large increase in reports from Cape Verde, Gabon, Mozambique, Seychelles, Malaysia, Dominican Republic, and Japan were received in part from TBF distributing tags in new and remote regions. The most commonly reported billfish species was sailfish (8,464) and the least reported was swordfish (65). With the ever-increasing conservation ethic amongst billfish anglers, the use of circle hooks increased to 71% for fish reported with the type of hook used.

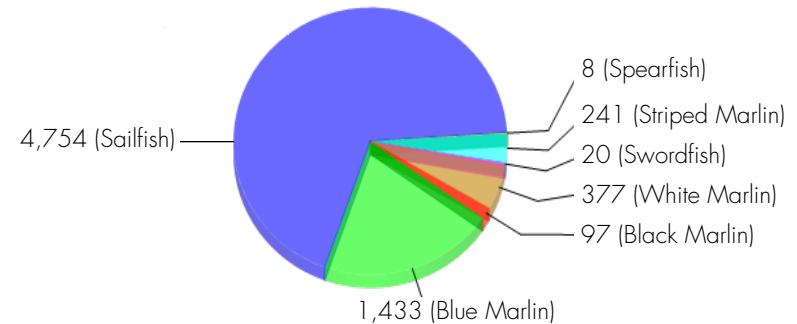
TAGS VS RELEASES 2009-2014



OVERALL TAG SUMMARY



RELEASE BY SPECIES



RECAPTURE BY SPECIES

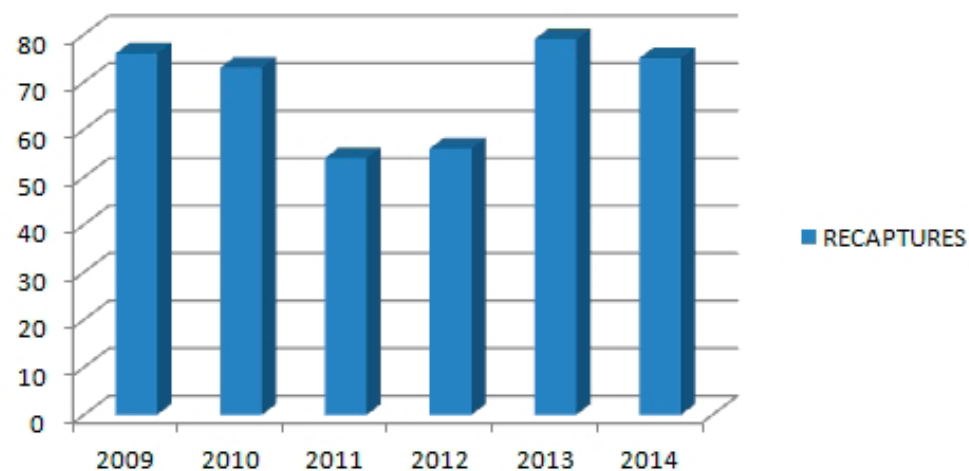


RECAPTURES - THE MOST IMPORANT PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

Over the duration of TBF's tagging program, TBF has the highest reported billfish recapture rate worldwide. In 2014 a total of 74 tagged billfish were recaptured, which raised the number of recaptured billfish to 2,954, over the life of the program. If we include all tagged fish recaptured, including the tunas, TBF received an additional 31 recapture records. The non-billfish species with the most recaptures was yellowfin tuna with 24 reported in 2014.

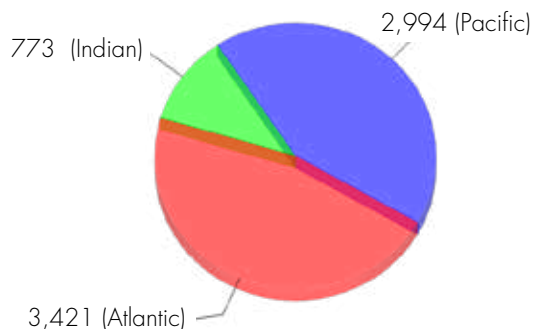
Of these recaptured billfish species, the species with the all-time highest recapture rates are swordfish, followed by white marlin and blue marlin. When a fish is recaptured, the scientific loop of data collection is completed. Of all the fish recaptured in 2014, the longest time at large was a swordfish that swam for 2,885 days (almost 8 years), recaptured 877 miles from where it was originally tagged- from Desoto Canyon in the Gulf of Mexico to North Carolina. The longest distance for a tagged billfish between tagging and recapture locations in 2014 was a white marlin tagged off of St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. and recaptured off of Virginia, 1,382 miles away and 1,297 days later. Although the furthest distance for any tagged species was reported for several bluefin tuna. These three Bluefin Tuna, tagged off Massachusetts, travelled approximately 4,500 miles each and were recovered in the Mediterranean Sea, off Italy. Each had been at large approximately 5 years. The most commonly recaptured species of billfish in 2014 was sailfish (28), followed by blue marlin (27) and white marlin (13).

RECAPTURES BY YEAR 2009-2014

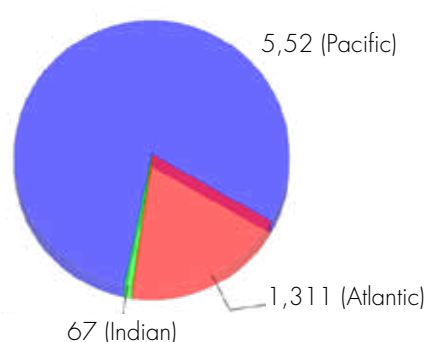


One of the greatest challenges when analyzing billfish recapture data is missing original tagging information. Failure to submit original tagging data creates a critical void that diminishes the value of the tagging. Please submit tagging data at the conclusion of each fishing trip to avoid a loss of critical data. Utilize TBF's online database at www.tagbillfish.org to report your billfish data.

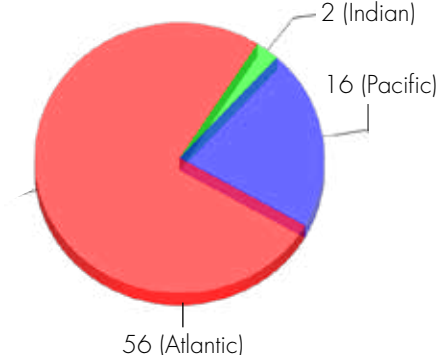
TAG BY OCEAN



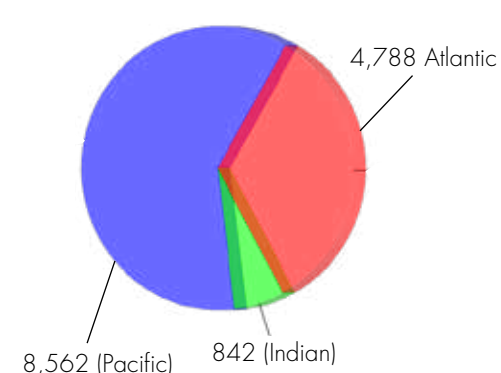
RELEASE BY OCEAN



RECAPTURE BY OCEAN



ALL EVENTS BY OCEAN



TOP TAG & RELEASE LOCATIONS BY SPECIES

Three major oceans and nearly every continent were represented with top billfish reporting locations for 2014 thanks to the information reported by anglers and captains worldwide through TBF's online database. The push pins represent locations from which the most tagging reports were received.

BLACK MARLIN

1. Exmouth, Australia
2. Dampier Archipelago, Australia
3. Ribbon Reef, Australia
4. Broome, Australia

BLUE MARLIN

5. Costa Rica
6. Cape Verde
7. Hawaii, USA
8. Dominican Republic
9. Exmouth, Australia

SAILFISH

10. Guatemala
11. Lobito, Angola
12. Luanda, Angola
13. Isla Mujeres, Mexico
14. Kuala Rompin, Malaysia

SPEARFISH

15. Hawaii, USA
16. Saint Helena

STRIPED MARLIN

17. Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
18. Pemba Channel, Kenya
19. Ibaraki, Japan
20. Costa Rica
21. Hawaii

SWORDFISH

22. Cape Kari Kari, New Zealand
23. South Florida, USA
24. Saint Helena

WHITE MARLIN

25. Morocco
26. Dominican Republic
27. Norfolk/Washington Canyon, USA
28. Oregon Inlet, NC, USA
29. Gulf Of Mexico





12



11



18



14



19



4



9



1



2



3



22



A large marlin is captured in mid-leap from the water. Its dorsal fin is fully extended and dark in color. The fish's body is silver with a blue-green iridescence. Its mouth is wide open, showing a red interior. The water around the fish is splashing and turbulent.

SPECIES DATA

TBF's 2014 tag and release
data breakdown per species

BLACK MARLIN

MAKAIRA INDICA

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in the tropical waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Black marlin can be found in near-shore waters and around reefs, as well as the open sea in scattered numbers.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Black marlin are identified by their rigid "sickle-shaped" pectoral (side) fins that are not retractable. The dorsal (top) fin is considered to be the shortest of any of the billfish, less than 50 percent of the body size by height.

SIZE:

Female black marlin, as is the case for all billfish, are larger than males weighing on average 700 pounds, while the males weigh in around 300 pounds. Commercial longline boats have reported individuals weighing 2,500 pounds, and many over 1,000 pounds have been caught by anglers in the waters off Australia, Peru, Panama and Mozambique.

DIET:

Opportunistic feeders - squid and other pelagic fish.

LIFESPAN:

Mature at 2-4 years. Estimated to live as long as 25 years for females and 18 years for males.

STATUS:

A formal assessment of Pacific-wide black marlin stocks has never been completed; however, given dramatic declines in longline catches over the last thirty years, a Pacific-wide assessment must be a high priority. In the Indian Ocean the latest assessments show that black marlin are not overfished, but overfishing is occurring as catches have steadily increased and reached their highest levels in 2013.

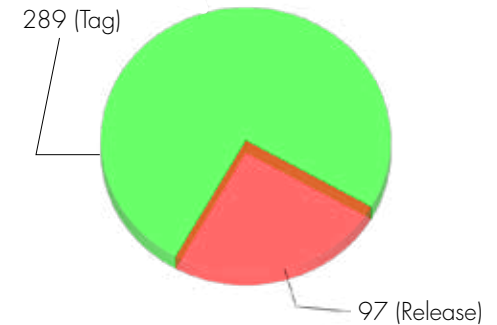
COMMENTS:

Referred to as the "bull" of the sea, the black marlin has incredible strength and does not tire readily. Scientific analysis of their diets has shown that blacks feed in deep water as well as on the surface. Like many apex predators, they travel incredible distances.



TBF received a total of 386 tag and release reports for black marlin in 2014. Of those 289 were tagged and 97 were released without a tag. A majority of the effort for black marlin was based out of Australia specifically in Exmouth, Cairns, Townsville and Dampier. Outside of Australia, another top location for black marlin was off the Andaman Islands, Panama and off Eastern Africa.

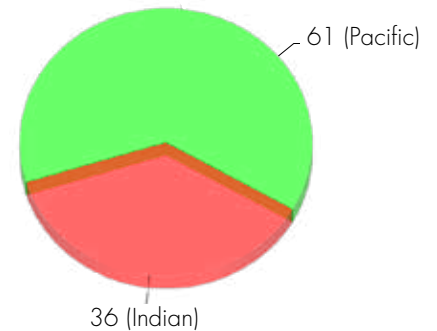
CATCH SUMMARY



TAG BY OCEAN



RELEASE BY OCEAN



BLUE MARLIN

MAKAIRA NIGRICANS / MAKAIRA MAZARA

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in offshore tropical and warm temperate oceans around the world.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Blue marlin are identified by pointed dorsal (top) fins, pectoral (side) and first anal fins (bottom). The pectoral fins are not rigid and can be retracted against the body.

SIZE:

Pacific blue marlin have been caught weighing over 2,000 pounds by commercial fisherman and up to 1,805 pounds have been caught on rod and reel. On average, blue marlin heavier than 300 pounds are female. Atlantic blue marlin average between 300 and 400 pounds. Typically, the largest blues are caught in the Pacific Ocean.

DIET:

Opportunistic feeders - squid and other pelagic fish.

LIFESPAN:

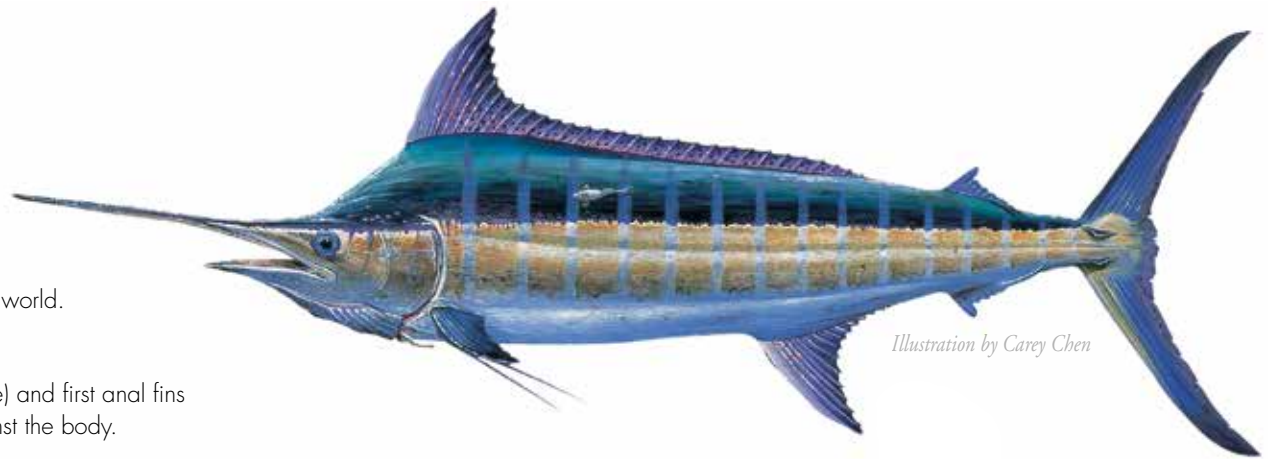
Mature at 2-4 years. Estimated to live as long as 27 years for females and 18 years for males.

STATUS:

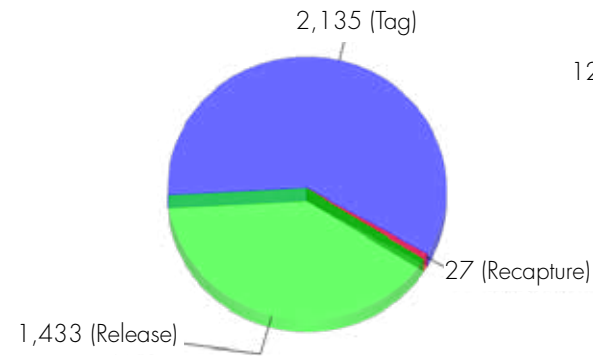
In the Pacific Ocean, blue marlin have shown a long term decline since the 1970's. The latest assessments indicate that the Pacific wide stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, but the stock is nearly fully exploited. The opposite is true for blue marlin stocks in the Indian Ocean, which are overfished, but not subject to overfishing, however catches have increased in recent years. Rebuilding plans for Atlantic blue marlin have been implemented, but currently the stock is estimated to be overfished and subject to overfishing.

COMMENTS:

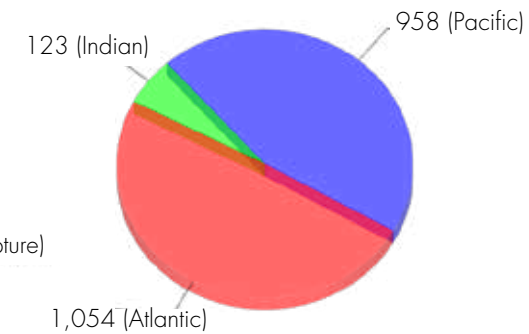
Blue marlin are renown for their strength, speed and aggressiveness, making them one of the most challenging of the billfish. They have been recorded making incredible journeys throughout the world's oceans. There is debate by scientists whether to recognize two separate but closely related species – *Makaira Nigricans* in the Atlantic, and *Makaira Mazara* in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.



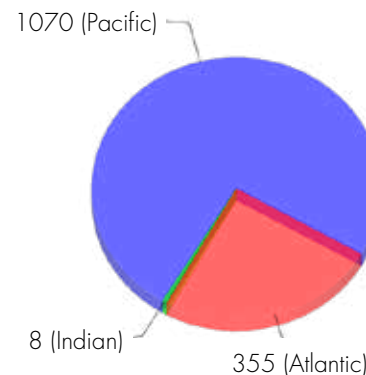
CATCH SUMMARY



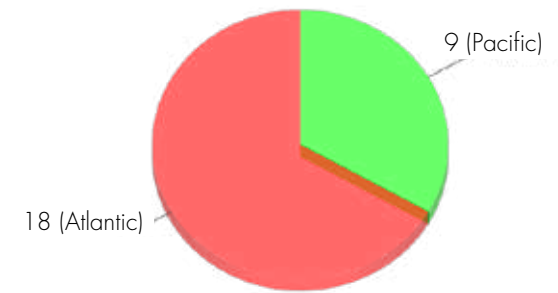
TAGS BY OCEAN

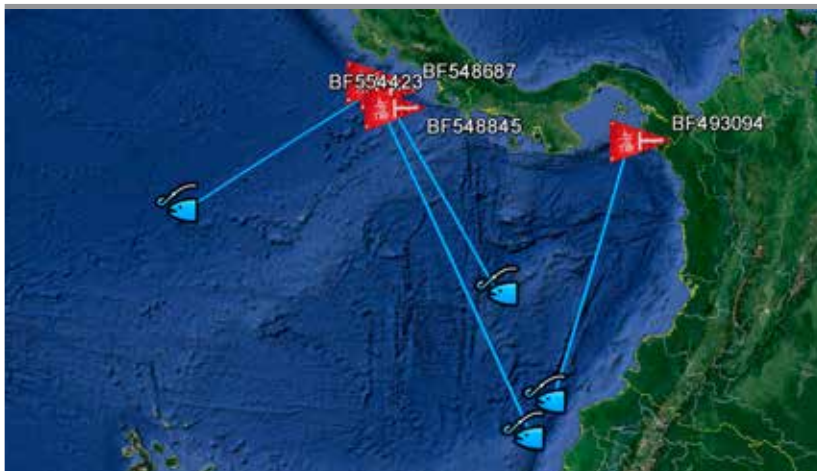


RELEASE BY OCEAN



RECAPTURE BY OCEAN





In 2014, TBF a total of 3,568 blue marlin tag and releases were reported, one of the highest number of blue marlin reported in TBF's history. Of those 2,135 were tagged and 1,433 were released without a tag and 27 recaptures were reported. Much of the tag & release effort for blue marlin was Pacific-based off of Costa Rica where boats broke records for the number of blue marlin tagged and release, which led to multiple recaptures. In the Atlantic a great number of blues were tagged in Cape Verde and the Dominican Republic. Of the 27 blue marlin recaptured in 2014 the longest time at large was 2,885 days or close to 8 years. The longest distance for a recaptured blue marlin was approximately 1,277 miles from Bermuda to St. Lucia in just 133 days.



TAG #	ORIG. TAG. DATA	ORIG. EST. WEIGHT	RECAP. TAG. DATA	RECAP. EST. WEIGHT & LENGTH	TIME AT LARGE	DIST.
BF507620	A: Samantha Schladweiler C: Scott Mantz July 9, 2014 Bermuda BOOMER	200 lb 90 kg	C: Vernon Samuel November 19, 2014 Saint Lucia TRUTH	101 lb 45 kg	133 days .4 years	1,277 mi 2,055 km
BF547347	A: Roy Schewalbach C: Gary Richardson March 15, 2014 Casa de Campo, DR REEL PASSION		A: Manuel Maya C: Esteban Guerrero October 4, 2014 La Aguja Island, VE PACHANGA	95 lb 44 kg 75 in 191 cm	203 days .6 years	581 mi 936 km
BF422574	A: Tom Hughes C: Scott Gaeckle April 9, 2009 Bimini, Bahamas	100 lb 45 kg	C: Fernando Cabrera August 30, 2014 EL LOCO	225 lb 102 kg	1,969 days 5.4 years	258 mi 416 km
BF548687	A: Keith Brandner C: Josh Temple May 27, 2014 Los Suenos, Costa Rica CAROL LIBBY	250 lb 113 kg	C: Juan Matamoros August 2, 2014 Central America LADY LIZ	170 lb 77 kg 72 in 185 cm	67 days .2 years	493 mi 794 km
BF554423	A: Keith Brandner C: Josh Temple July 2, 2014 Los Suenos, Costa Rica CAROL LIBBY	300 lb 135 kg	A: Victor Vera Laz C: Oscar Intriago July 24, 2014 Ecuador POPEYE I	139 lb 63 kg (dressed) 65 in 164 cm	22 days .05 years	470 mi 757 km
BF554400	A: Keith Brandner C: Josh Temple July 4, 2014 Los Suenos, Costa Rica CAROL LIBBY	200 lb 90 kg	A: Jay Stuckey C: Ian MacAllister July 22, 2014 Los Suenos, Costa Rica SCATTERBRAIN	250 lb 113 kg	18 days .05 years	131 mi 211 km
BF504738	A: Gray Ingram C: Ronnie Fields April 22, 2013 Cape Verde BIG OH	200 lb 91 kg	A: Lino Da Luz June 6, 2014 Cape Verde PATRICIA	243 lb 110 kg 85 in 215 cm	408 days 1.1 years	75 mi 120 km
BF400823	A: Enrico de Tongi C: Giorgio Assolari April 14, 2010 Cape Verde	287 lb 130 kg	A: Walter Ramos C: Joao Rodriguez April 19, 2014 Cape Verde HERNANY	434 lb 197 kg 118 in 300 cm	1,466 days 4 years	80 mi 128 k

SAILFISH

ISTIOPHORUS ALBICANS / ISTIOPHORUS PLATYPTERUS

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in tropical and subtropical waters near land in all oceans of the world. Sailfish will travel alone or in groups along edges of reefs or current eddies. Sailfish seek out warm surface water and their migration patterns are tied to temperature changes of even a few degrees. In the Atlantic Ocean, sailfish can be found in high numbers in the Caribbean Sea, around the Florida shoreline and the West Indies. In the Pacific Ocean, sailfish are found in high numbers off the coasts of Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Sailfish are easily identified by the long, high first dorsal fin for which it is so aptly named. The color of the "sail" is slate or cobalt blue with scattered black spots. The sides of the fish have pale, bluish gray vertical bars or rows of spots. The body is slender with a single lateral line.

SIZE:

The Indo-Pacific sailfish are the largest in size, averaging 100 pounds. Atlantic sailfish are much smaller, averaging 51 pounds and 5.5 feet long.

DIET:

Squid and other pelagic fish. Hunts alone or in groups using their sails to force schooling fish into tight "baitballs" on which to feed.

LIFESPAN:

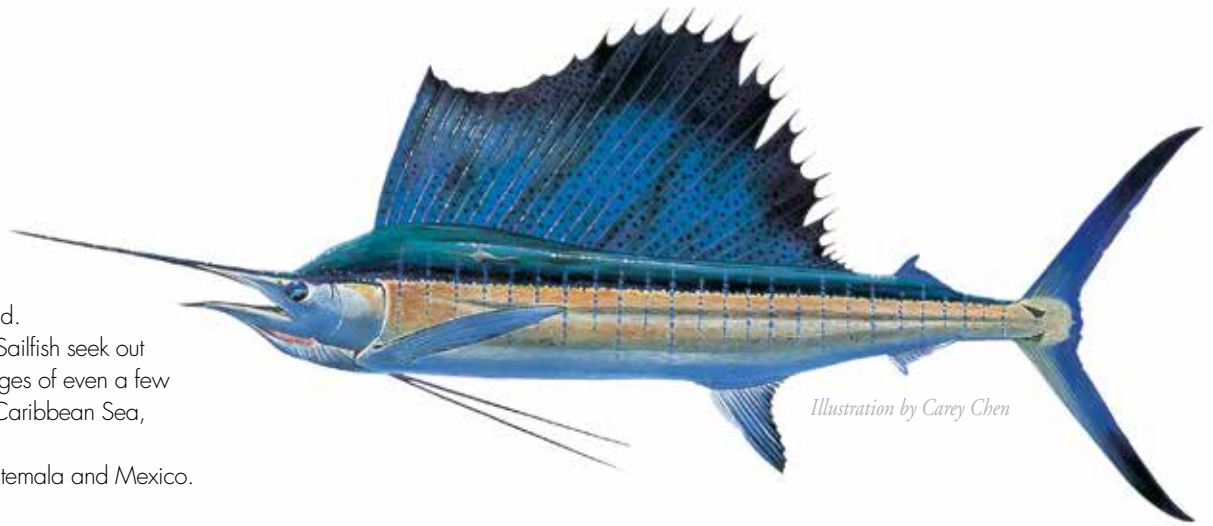
Age of maturity about 3-4 years and lifespan is around 15 years.

STATUS:

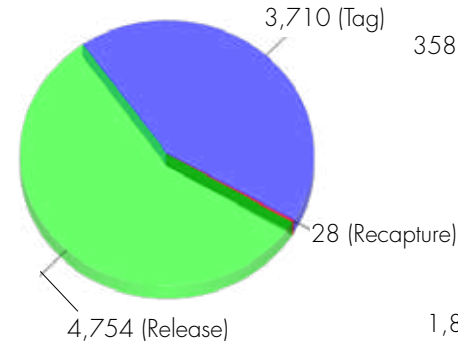
In both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, sailfish have distinct eastern and western stocks. It has not been possible for scientists to conduct traditional stock estimates for sailfish stocks in the Eastern Pacific or Indian Ocean due to a lack of landings data. In the Atlantic Ocean, the eastern stock reached a low in the early 1990s and has shown little signs of recovery with most models indicating the stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring. In the western Atlantic, sailfish stocks are healthier and have been relatively stable since the 1980's, largely credited to the adoption of catch & release practices by the recreational sector.

COMMENTS:

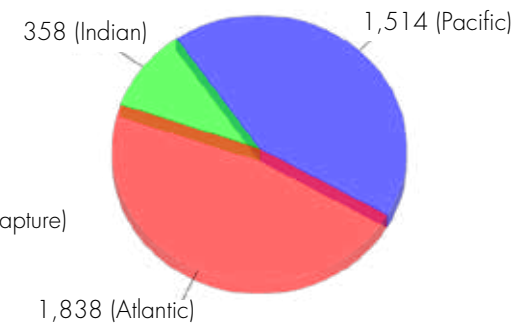
Sailfish were the first to attract the attention of anglers. Today they are the most encountered and tagged of the billfish species. Like the blue marlin, scientists are debating whether to recognize two species of sailfish – *Istiophorus albicans* in the Atlantic and *Istiophorus platypterus* in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.



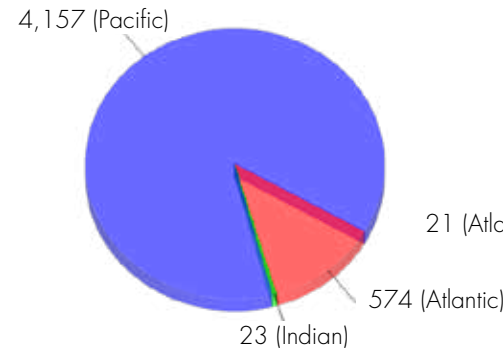
CATCH SUMMARY



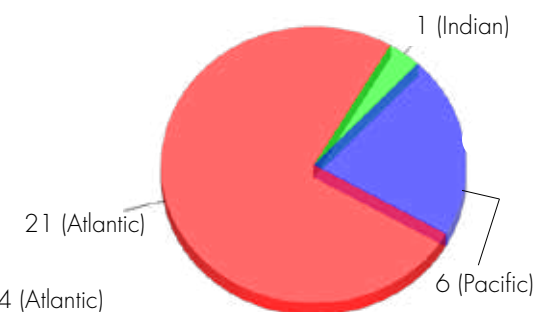
TAG BY OCEAN

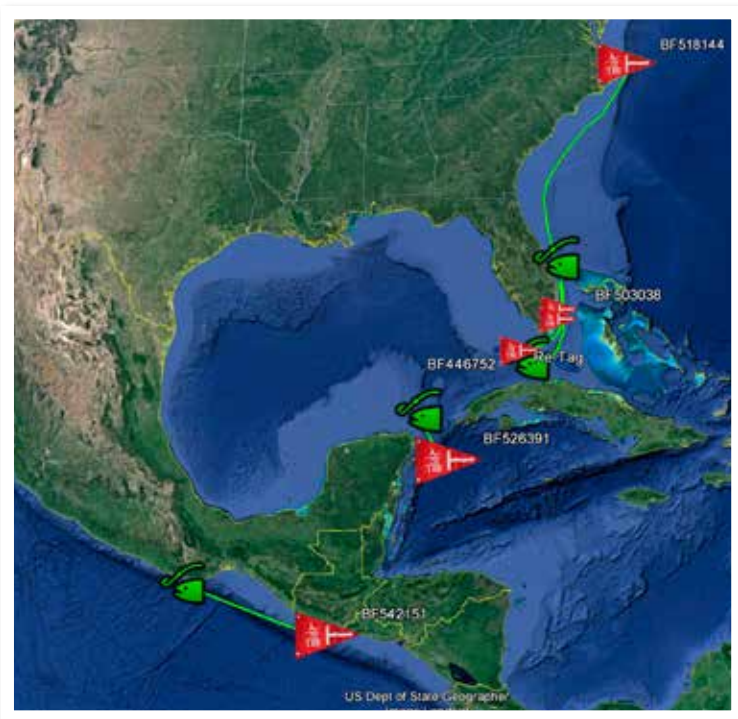


RELEASE BY OCEAN



RECAPTURE BY OCEAN

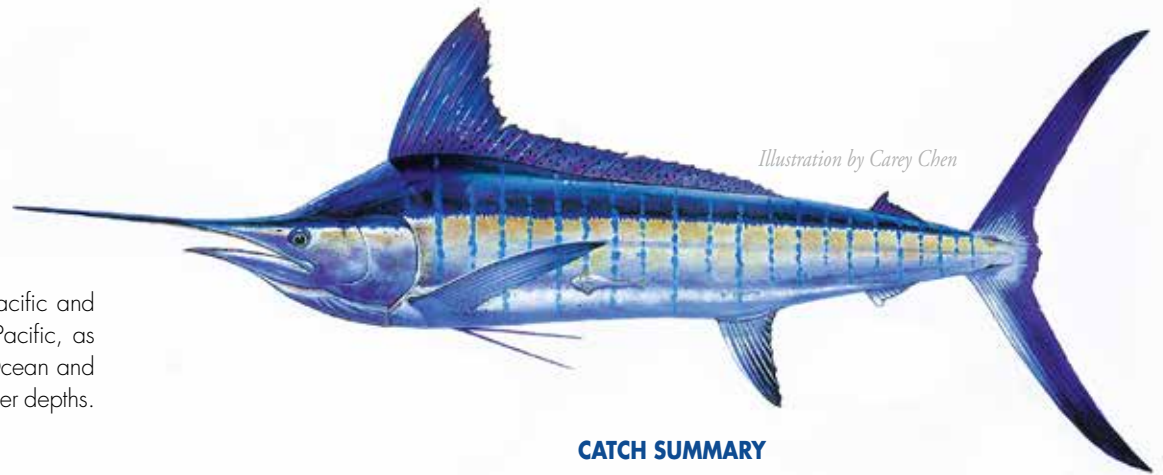




TAG #	ORIG. TAG. DATA	ORIG. EST. WEIGHT	RECAP. TAG. DATA	RECAP. EST. WEIGHT & LENGTH	TIME AT LARGE	DIST.
BF503038	C: Michael Fili March 14, 2014 Miami, FL VOODOO CHILD		C: Mark Quartiano December 27, 2014 Miami, FL	62 in 157 cm	288 days .8 years	45 mi 73 km
BF518144	A: Brett Gossage C: Fin Gaddy September 11, 2013 Oregon Inlet, NC QUALIFIER		A: Frank Gonzalez August 6, 2014 Arcos de Canasi, Cuba	40 lb 18 kg	329 days .9 years	965 mi 1,553 km
BF446752	A: Stuart Billeaud C: Chris Hood March 28, 2011 Key West, FL	50 lb 23 kg 60 in 152 cm	A: Joseph James C: George Labonte July 25, 2014 Jupiter, FL EDGE SPORTFISHING	60 lb 27 kg 84 in 213 cm	1,215 days 3.3 years	199 mi 320 km
BF542151	A: Jake Darling C: Chris Sheeder February 21, 2014 Puerto San Jose, Guatemala RUM LINE	75 lb 34 kg	A: Juan Manuel Gonzalez May 27, 2014 Puerto Angel, Mexico	60 lb 27 kg 79 in 200 cm	95 days .3 years	405 mi 652 km
BF526391	A: Rolf Czabayski C: Anthony Mendillo January 8, 2013 Isla Mujeres, Mexico KEEN M	45 lb 20 kg	A: Kelly Zaytoun C: Ted Kramer January 15, 2014 Isla Mujeres, Mexico ANN WARD	75 in 191 cm	372 days 1 year	47 mi 76 km

In 2014, TBF received 8,454 reports of sailfish worldwide. 3,710 were tagged, 4,754 were released without a tag and 28 sailfish were recaptured off primarily off South Florida. A majority of the tagging and release effort was reported off Guatemala, Mexico, Costa Rica and South Florida. The increased number of sailfish tagged off Angola and western Africa is encouraging. One tagged sailfish was at large for more than six years and was recaptured 83 miles from original tagging location. The longest distance for a sailfish recapture in 2014 was 965 miles (1,553 km) traveled in just 329 days.

STRIPED MARLIN



TETRAPTURUS AUDAX

DISTRIBUTION:

Found widely distributed in the tropical and warm temperate waters of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. High numbers are reported in the eastern and north-central Pacific, as compared with the western Pacific. Also, plentiful in the waters of the Indian Ocean and the western Arabian Sea. Striped marlin feed on the ocean surface or in mid-water depths.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Striped marlin are identified by their high, pointed first dorsal (top) fin, which on average equals or exceeds the body depth. They have the highest dorsal fin of all the marlin species. Their stripes can "light up" with great intensity, thought to be a form of communication when hunting in groups.

SIZE:

Striped marlin range from 125 pounds to close to 500 pounds. Although not the biggest of the billfish, most of the largest individuals have been reported off the coasts of Chile and New Zealand.

DIET:

Opportunistic feeders - squid and other pelagic fish.

LIFESPAN:

Mature at 2-3 years. Estimated to reach an age of 10 years.

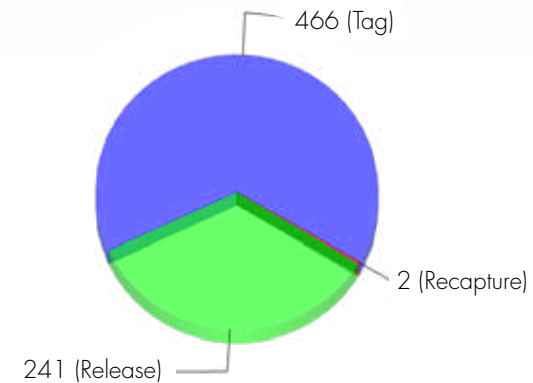
STATUS:

A recent assessment was completed using a new stock definition that split the former North Pacific striped marlin stock into two stocks: the Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) stock and the Eastern North Pacific stock. According to the most recent report for the WCPO, the stock is currently depleted and currently experiencing overfishing. If separate northern and southern stocks exist, the northern group may be overfished.

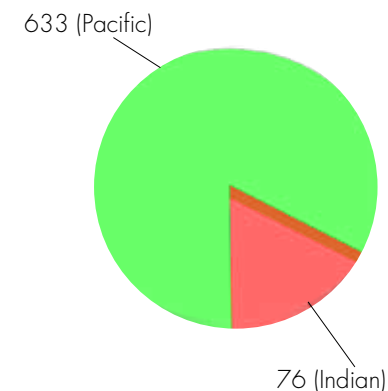
COMMENTS:

Striped marlin are the acrobats of the billfish world leaping and "grey-hounding" across the water when hooked. Tagging data shows striped marlin to be highly migratory, moving back and forth toward the equator in response to the cold and warm seasons. In 2002, a striped marlin was tagged off of Costa Rica and over 3 years later was recaptured off Cabo San Lucas, traveling almost 2000 miles!

CATCH SUMMARY



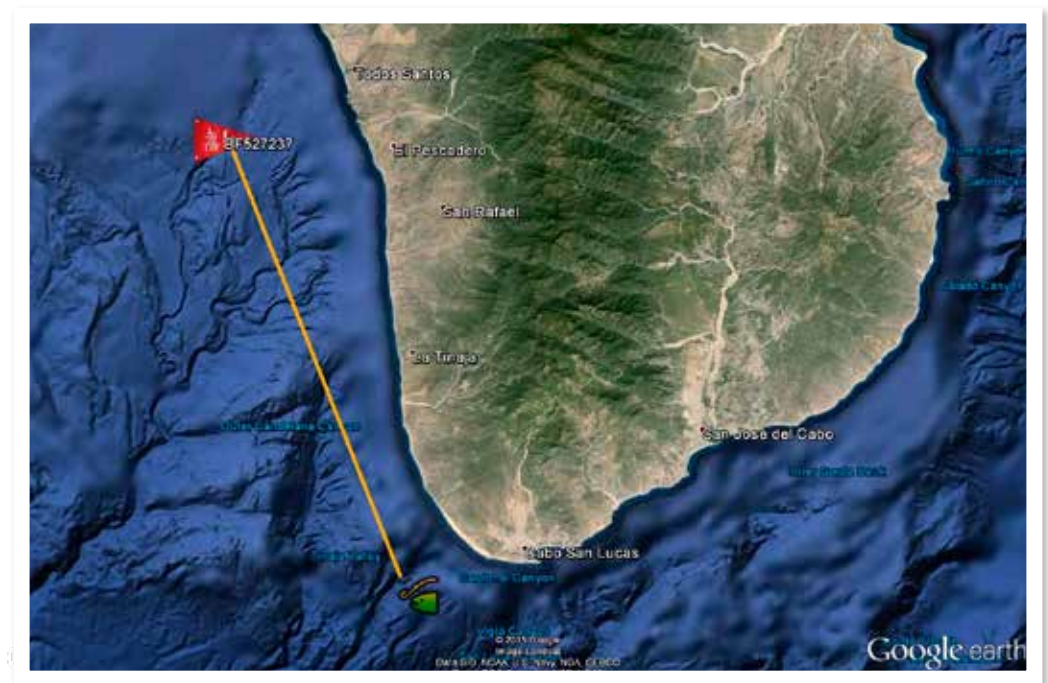
TAGS BY OCEAN



TAG #	ORIG. TAG. DATA	ORIG. EST. WEIGHT	RECAP. TAG. DATA	RECAP. EST. WEIGHT & LENGTH	TIME AT LARGE	DIST.
BF471924	A: Bob Adams C: Ndalú Makame January 10, 2014 Pemba Channel, Kenya WHITE OTTER	150 lbs 60 kg	November 13, 2014 Kilifi, Kenya		307 days 0.8 years	78 mi 125 km
BF527237	A: Calen Offield C: Carl Schloderer December 1, 2013 Todos Santos, BCS Mexico KELSEY LEE	150 lbs 60 kg	A: Austin Davis March 12, 2014 Cabo San Lucas, Mexico BLUE SKY	190 lbs.	101 days 0.3 years	37 mi 59 km



In 2014, TBF received 466 tagged and 241 released striped marlin reports. A large portion of the tag and release effort was based off of the Baja California Sur region with other top destinations including Japan and Kenya. There were two recaptured striped marlin reported. One in the Indian Ocean, which was tagged and recaptured out of Kenya. The other recapture was in the Pacific Ocean, which was tagged off Todos Santos and recaptured off Cabo San Lucas in the Baja Sur region of Mexico.



SWORDFISH

XIPHIAS GLADIUS

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in temperate and tropical waters throughout the world's oceans. Swordfish have a vast range and were once considered common.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Swordfish, also called broadbill, are identified by their very broad, flattened "sword-like" bill which is longer and wider than those of the other billfishes. The color of the body varies from metallic purple-blue to a black-blue, or sometimes a bronze tone becoming lighter on the sides, and on the ventral (underside) a silvery gray-white.

SIZE:

On average swordfish weigh between 250 and 350 pounds with fish over 300 pounds tending to be female. In the western Atlantic, swordfish have been caught weighing up to 700 pounds and up to 1,182 pounds in the southeastern Pacific.

DIET:

Opportunistic feeders - squid, pelagic fish, and other cephalopods.

LIFESPAN:

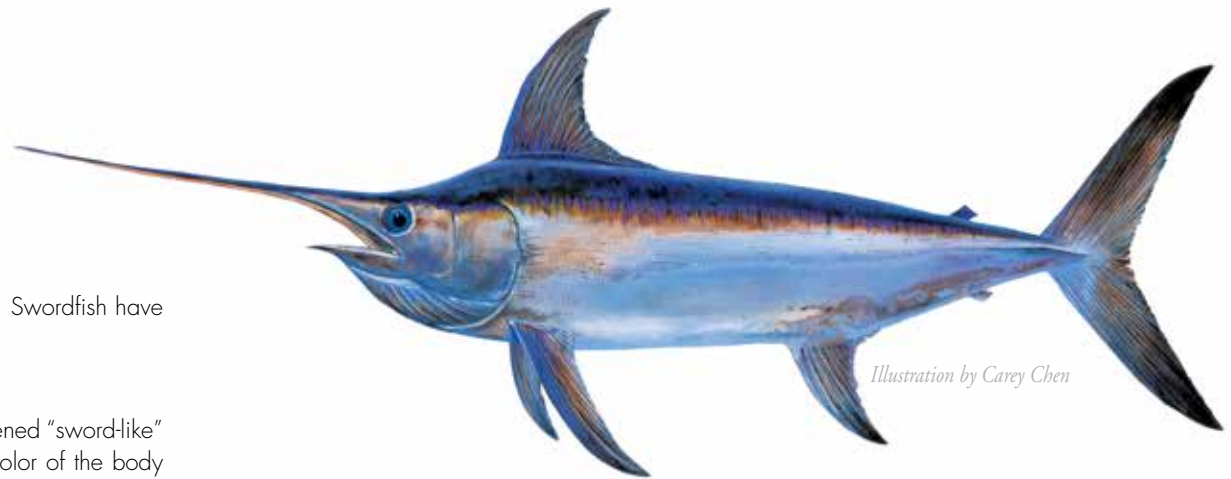
Females estimated to mature at 4-5 years, males at 3-4 years; living up to 9 years on average.

STATUS:

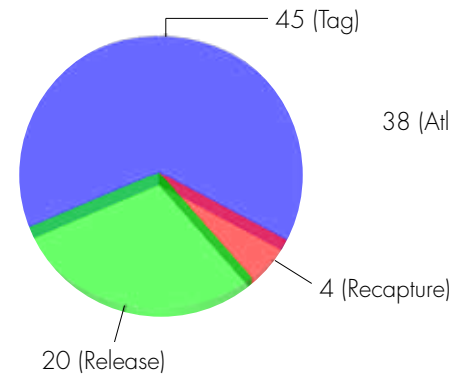
With the advent of longlining, swordfish experienced a steep decline. After 10 years of domestic and international restrictions on commercial fleets and 2 large year classes, the north Atlantic stock has fully recovered.

COMMENTS:

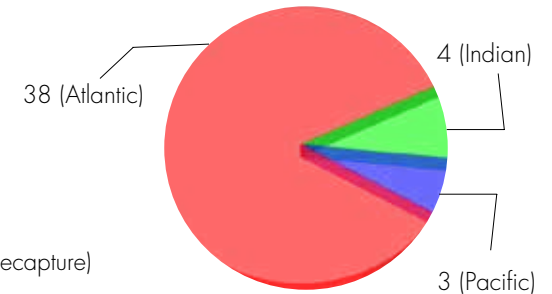
Most group swordfish with marlin and sailfish under the collective name "billfish", because each has a long, spear-like extension of their upper jaw (a bill). In fact, the resemblance to a marlin is superficial, since swordfish lack pelvic fins and have a flattened bill. Although all billfish share a common ancestor, the swordfish split off from the other billfishes millions of years ago, and belong to the family Xiphiidae; the other billfish are members of the family Istiophoridae. The swordfish are difficult to locate in many regions and highly migratory. The species also has the greatest range of temperature exposure of any other billfishes with adults preferring cooler waters except for spawning. Swordfish also have a tremendous depth range, giving them the ability to feed at great depths. Their large blue eyes aid them in their dark, deep sea environment.



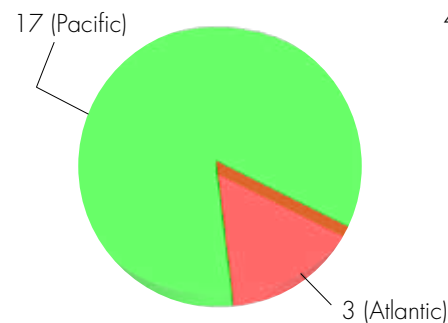
CATCH SUMMARY



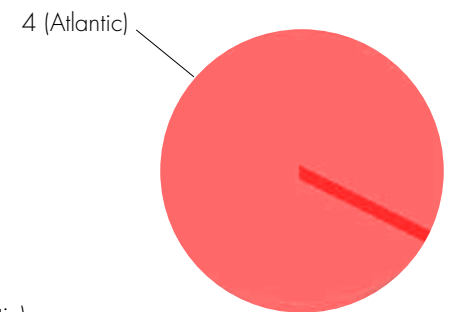
TAGS BY OCEAN



RELEASES BY OCEAN

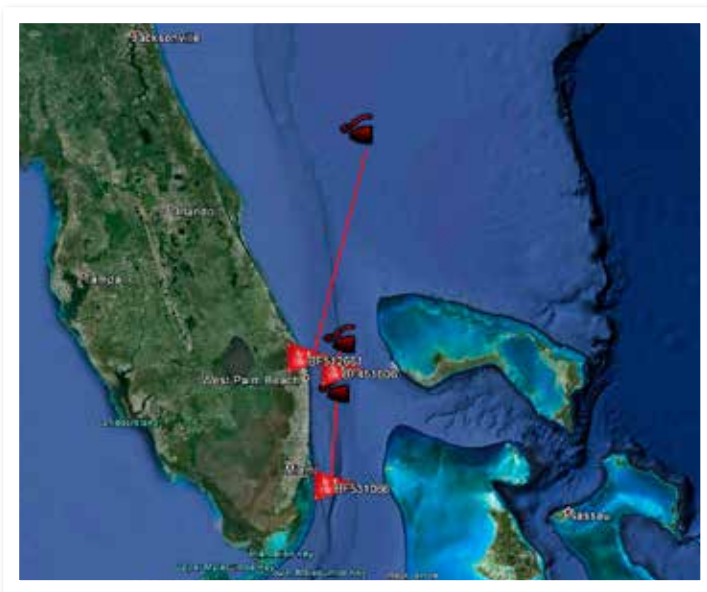
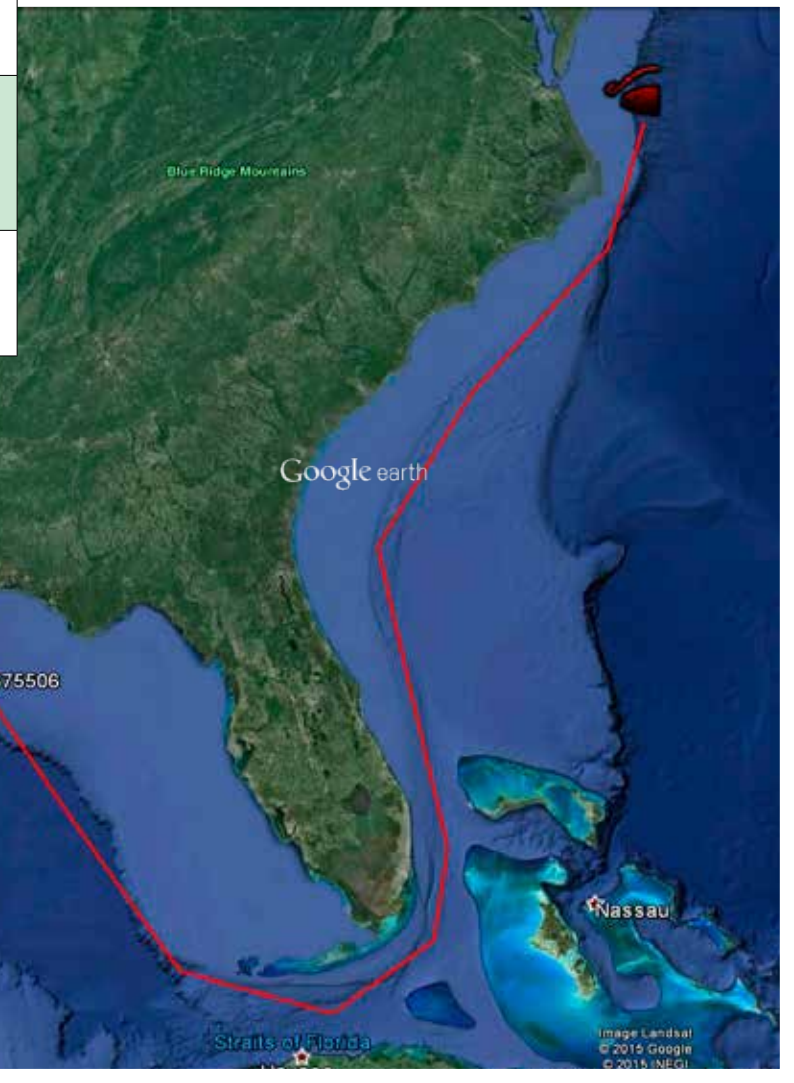


RECAPTURES BY OCEAN



TAG #	ORIG. TAG. DATA	ORIG. EST. WEIGHT	RECAP. TAG. DATA	RECAP. EST. WEIGHT & LENGTH	TIME AT LARGE	DIST.
BF531066	A: Ashley Tapscott C: Bouncer Smith August 29, 2014 Miami Beach, FL BOUNCER'S DUSKY 33	55 lbs 25 kg	C: Robby Waddick September 15, 2014 Lighthouse Point, FL SLAMMER TIME	60 lbs 27 kg	17 days	53 mi 86 km
BF451606	A: Matt Bierley C: Mark Pagano December 10, 2013 Palm Beach, FL MOONSHINE	45 in 114 cm	A: Shane Huerlander C: Matthew Huelander September 9, 2014 Palm Beach, FL IV ACCESS INC.	48 in 123 cm	273 days 0.7 years	6 mi 10 km
BF375506	C: John Holley July 14, 2006 DeSoto Canyon, GOM	55 lbs 25 kg	A: Moulay Dos Santos C: Kyle Goodwin June 7, 2014 North Carolina PERSISTENCE	300 lbs 136 kg	2,885 days 7.9 years	877 mi 1,412 km
BF512661	A: Matt Bierley C: Mark Pagano September 23, 2011 Palm Beach, FL		A: Allen Kundrot April 15, 2014 Cocoa Beach, FL		935 days 2.6 years	163 mi 262 km

In 2014, TBF received 45 swordfish tag reports and 20 releases. Most of the effort was based in the North Atlantic out of south Florida, with a strong representation also from New Zealand. Reports came from across the globe including; St. Helena, Australia, Japan, Kenya, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. There were four recaptured swordfish, three of which were all originally tagged and recaptured in south Florida. The fourth was tagged in the Gulf of Mexico, travelled 877 miles before it was recaptured off the North Carolina Coast, nearly eight years later.



WHITE MARLIN

TETRAPTURUS ALBIDUS

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in tropical and temperate waters throughout the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the western Mediterranean Sea. White marlin stay near the surface and follow the seasonal warm water patterns.

CHARACTERISTICS:

White marlin are distinguished from all other billfish by their rounded first dorsal (top) fin, pectoral (side) fins and first anal (bottom) fin. Their color is light, showing more green than other marlins. Light blue or lavender vertical bars may show on the sides when the fish is active. Dark blueblack to purple spots are scattered throughout the first dorsal and anal fins, which are light lavender blue.

SIZE:

On average the white marlin is generally 40 to 60 pounds, with weights up to 180 pounds having been recorded. Smallest of the marlin at lengths of 8 feet.

DIET:

Squid and pelagic fish.

LIFESPAN:

Estimated to live as long as 18 years.

STATUS:

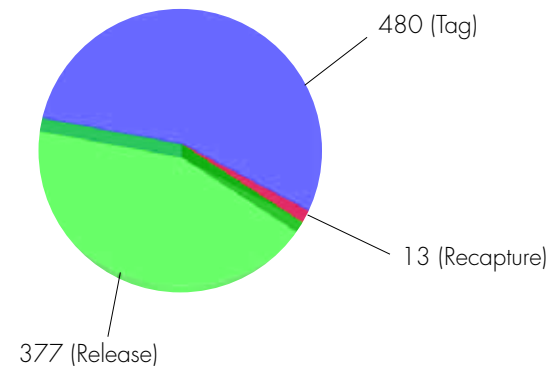
Stocks are reported to be at all time lows; however, anglers have been reporting signs of a slight improvement. The most recent assessment indicates a slight upswing in their abundance.

COMMENTS:

White marlin compete with the striped marlin for the title of most acrobatic billfish. Whites can dance and "tail-walk" for long distances giving a strong fight for the smallest of the marlin species. White marlin can reach the age of ten; they spawn in late spring and early summer.



CATCH SUMMARY





A total of 857 white marlin were reported in 2014, 480 tagged and 377 released without a tag, with most of the effort off the Dominican Republic. A large number of reports also came from the North Atlantic, specifically in the Mid-Atlantic region in the west, and off Morocco in the east. TBF received 13 white marlin recapture reports. Most were tagged in the Mid-Atlantic region, with one tagged off Cuba. One of the recaptured white marlin traveled an impressive 1,382 miles from its original tagged location in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I., to the Virginia coast where it was recaptured three and half years later.



TAG #	ORIG. TAG. DATA	ORIG. EST. WEIGHT	RECAP. TAG. DATA	RECAP. EST. WEIGHT & LENGTH	TIME AT LARGE	DIST.
BF320773	A: Peter Cherasia C: Rich Barrett May 6, 2012 Punta Cana, DR SHARK BYTE	70 inches 178 cm 50 lbs 22 kg	C: Arturo DaCosta October 23, 2014 La Guaira, Venezuela EL GRAN SOL	156 in 396 cm	900 days 2.5	541 mi 870 km
BF489154	A: Karl Gerling C: Eddie Morrison March 31, 2011 St. Thomas, USVI		A: Peter Cherasia C: Rich Barrett September 30, 2014 Virginia SHARK BYTE	62 in 45 lbs	1,297 days 3.6 years	1,382 mi 2,225 km
BF533730	A: Matthew Anderson C: Charles Cabell August 19, 2013 Oregon Inlet, NC TAG-N-STICK		A: Brannon Lancaster C: Ken Upton September 13, 2014 Pirates Cove, NC GAMEKEEPER		390 days 1.1 years	14 mi 22 km
BF497680	A: Victoria Roberts C: Jimmy Roberts September 12, 2010 Ocean City, MD		A: Matt Wheeler C: Rob Skillman August 18, 2014 Ocean City, MD MOORE BILLS	66 in 53 lbs	1,436 days 3.9 years	62 mi 100 km
BF518114	A: Karen Sealock C: Fin Gaddy September 4, 2013 Oregon Inlet, NC QUALIFIER		A: Abby Haywood C: Watson Caviness August 11, 2014 Oregon Inlet, NC RIGGED UP		341 days 0.9 years	68 mi 109 km
BF518156	A: Bill Reinhardt C: Fin Gaddy September 13, 2013 Oregon Inlet, NC QUALIFIER		A: Matthew Haynes C: Gary Wagner July 26, 2014 Norfolk Canyon, VA BILLABLE HOURS		310 days 0.8 years	89 mi 143 km
BF533891	A: Jeff Citron C: Jerry Lanzerotti June 10, 2014 Dominican Republic SINGULARIS		C: Luis Rodriguez July 24, 2014 La Guaira, Venezuela MARIA DEL ROSARIO II		44 days 0.1 years	563 mi 906 km
BF523114	A: Jessie Hendrix C: Shey Mahoney September 1, 2013 Mid-Atlantic SEA TRADER	59 in 150 cm 50 lbs 22 kg	A: Bill Haugland C: Chester Sims July 22, 2014 Ocean City, MD LIGHTS OUT	62 inches 60 lbs.	324 days 0.9 years	95 mi 153 km

SPEARFISH

(* All four species)



TETRAPTURUS SPP.

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in tropical and subtropical offshore surface waters in all of the world's oceans.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Spearfish are identified by their slender and long body type, short bill and high dorsal fin similar to a marlin but lacking the height and length of a sailfish. Spearfish can be confused with white marlin.

SIZE:

Spearfish are generally small, measuring four to five feet in length.

DIET:

Squid and pelagic fish.

LIFESPAN:

Have the shortest lifespan of the billfishes, maturing at 2 years and living no more than 5.

STATUS:

Spearfish are considered to be the rarest and least understood of all the billfishes. Little data exists on their stock status.

COMMENTS:

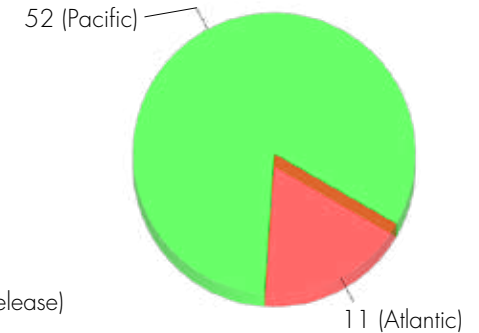
Scientists have identified several separate species of spearfish, but due to the low number of tag & release reports, TBF groups these species together in our database. Spearfish represent the least widespread and least studied of billfish.

The most common species caught in the Atlantic is the roundscale spearfish whereas in the Pacific, the most common species is the shortbill spearfish.

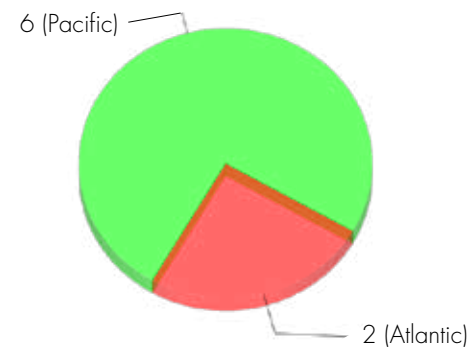
CATCH SUMMARY



TAGS BY OCEAN



RELEASES BY OCEAN



YELLOWFIN TUNA

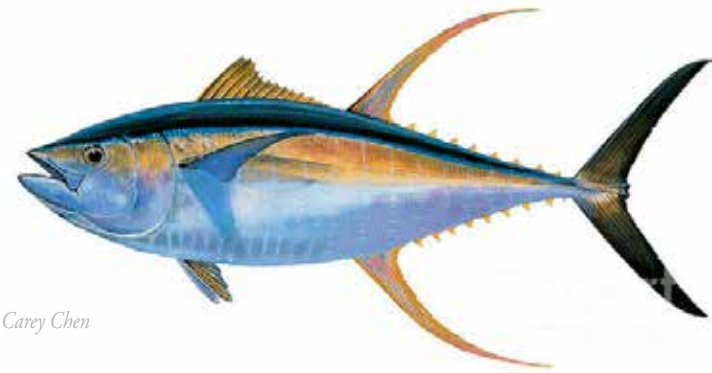


Illustration by Carey Chen

THUNNUS THYNNUS

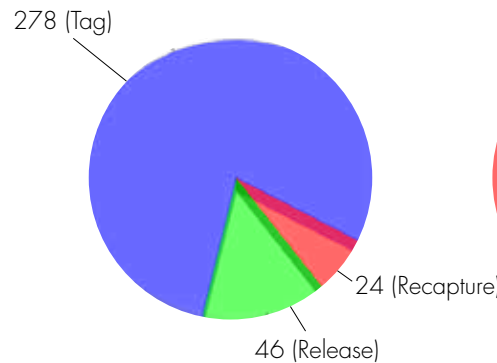
Status:

The last stock assessment conducted by ICCAT in 2011 indicated that Atlantic yellowfin tuna are overfished with stocks at 15% below target abundance levels established by ICCAT. While there has been a recent trend in commercial fishing targeting juvenile fish, it is estimated that overfishing is not occurring. In the Pacific Ocean, 2014 assessments indicated that both eastern and central western yellowfin tuna are not overfished or subject to overfishing.

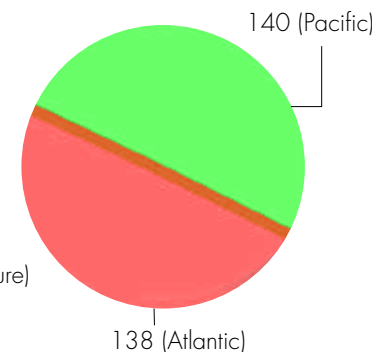
Tag & Release Numbers:

In 2014, TBF received a total of 324 yellowfin tuna reports, 278 tagged, 46 released without a tag and 24 were recaptures. All 24 yellowfin tuna recaptures occurred in the Pacific Ocean. The vast majority of tagging in the Pacific took place off of Panama, while in the Atlantic it was concentrated in the Gulf of Mexico.

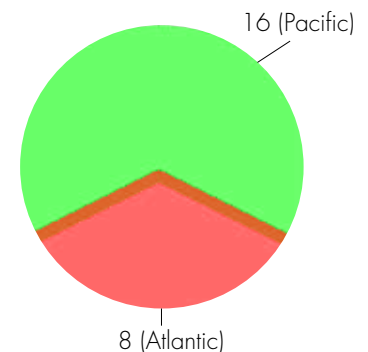
CATCH SUMMARY



TAG BY OCEAN



RECAPTURE BY OCEAN



TAG #	ORIG. TAG. DATA	ORIG. EST. WEIGHT	RECAP. TAG. DATA	RECAP. EST. WEIGHT & LENGTH	TIME AT LARGE	DIST.
BF536420	A: Scott Kozak C: John Logioco May 21, 2014 Isla Montuosa, Panama CRAZY KRISTINA		December 16, 2014 Costa Rica		209 days .6 years	320 mi 515 km
BF553784	A: Michael Canfield September 18, 2014 Venice, Louisiana		A: James Snider C: Eddie Burger November 11, 2014 Medusa Oil Rig, Gulf of Mexico		54 days .1 years	140 mi 226 km
BF553774	A: Peter Melera C: Eddie Burger September 18, 2014 Venice, Louisiana		A: Graham Reeves C: Woody Woods Stena Forth drill ship, Gulf of Mexico BELLE		36 days .1 years	93 mi 148 km

BLUEFIN TUNA

THUNNUS THYNNUS

Since 1990 the valuable data contributions made by the sportfishing community are well documented at TBF and by other scientists. Dr. Molly Lutcvage, Director of the Large Pelagic Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, her work featured in National Geographic and in the New York Times, is one of those scientists. She established a Research Partnership with TBF, for collecting the much needed tagging data on juvenile bluefin tuna by creating the Tag-A-Tiny™ project. The project enlists anglers and charter captains to report the data, which is included in TBF's Tag and Release Data Base. Thus far over 1,400 small bluefin tuna have been tagged in that program with TBF, which has generated important recapture data. Several of these fish were at large for 5 years and grew over 300-400 pounds. Tag a Tiny™ program helped engage the recreational fleet, and established a US reporting network for ICCAT-linked bluefin projects. Since 2005 LPRC scientists also deployed over 247 electronic tags on juvenile bluefin, providing the first fishery-independent understanding of their year-long migrations and habitat use. With the continued growing international scrutiny placed on juvenile Atlantic bluefin tuna, LPRC's research and additional data collection grows in importance for the United States.

CHARACTERISTICS: Atlantic bluefins are dark blue to black on their dorsal (upper) surface and silvery ventrally (underneath). Bluefins are known for their finlets that run down their dorsal (upper) and ventral (lower) sides toward their anal fin. They have been reported to swim over 20 knots in short bursts and can grow to over 1000 lbs.

DIET: Smaller pelagic fish including mackerel, herring, flying fishes, mullet and squid.

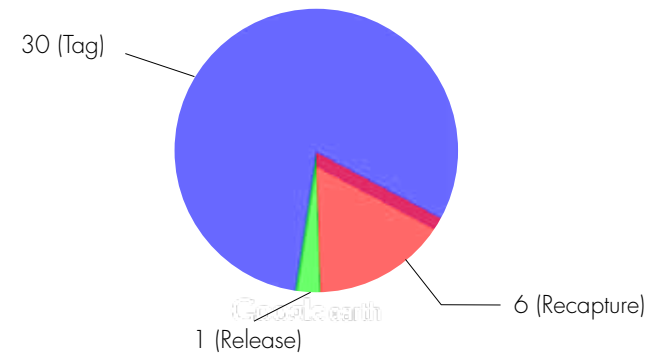
LIFESPAN: Average natural lifespan of bluefin tuna is 15-30 years.

STOCK STATUS: Atlantic bluefin tuna are currently managed as two separate stocks, eastern and western Atlantic. There is much debate as to the amount of mixing between the two, raising questions whether they are distinct or if there is one Atlantic-wide stock. Both eastern and western Atlantic bluefin populations have gone through significant rebuilding in the last decade after reaching historic lows in the early 2000s. The 2014 assessments indicate that eastern and western Atlantic bluefin are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. However, much debate continues over many factors in the assessments and the reported status of the stocks.

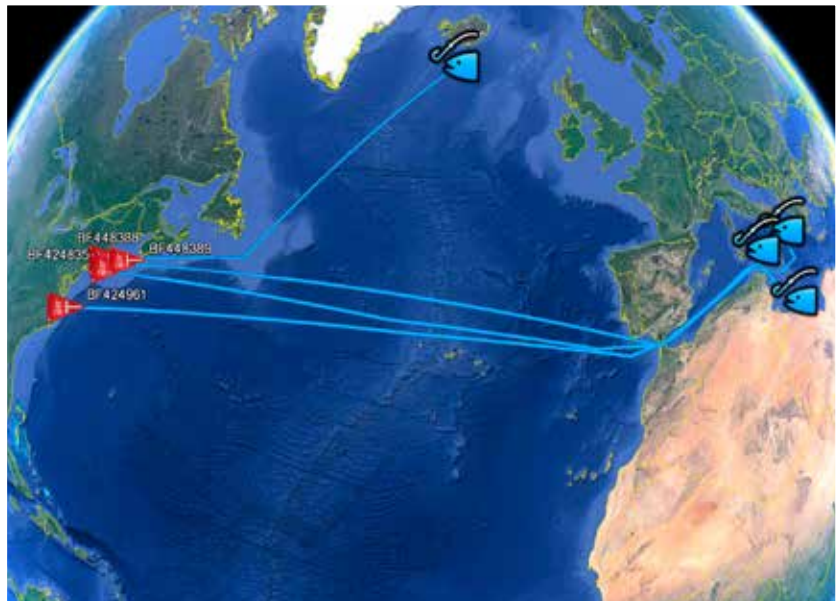


Illustration by Carey Chen

CATCH SUMMARY



COMMENTS: Atlantic bluefins are able to thermoregulate keeping their body temperatures higher than the surrounding water, which is why they are well-suited to colder waters.



TAG & RELEASE STATS: There were 30 bluefins tagged, one released without a tag, and six recaptures. All of the tags deployed were on Atlantic bluefin with most tagging efforts centered in the New England and to a lesser extent the Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States. Interestingly, of the six recaptures, four were bluefin tagged in the western Atlantic that made trans-Atlantic migrations and were recaptured in the eastern Atlantic or Mediterranean. Remarkably, the average time at large and distance traveled for these fish was 5.7 years (2,081 days) and more than 3,900 miles (6,300 km).

TAG #	ORIG. TAG. DATA	ORIG. EST. WEIGHT	RECAP. TAG. DATA	RECAP. EST. WEIGHT & LENGTH	TIME AT LARGE	DIST.
BF448388	A: Luke Saultsky C: Nat Moody August 4, 2009 Stellwagen Bank, MA		November, 4, 2014 400 miles south of Iceland CHOKYU-MARU	220 in 558 cm	1920 days 5.3 years	2374.4 m 3821 km
BF523316	C: Joel Jacquard September 25, 2012 Port Mouton FIN SEEKER		C: Andrew Houlihan October 29, 2014 Port Mouton GLOOSCAP		764 days 2.1 years	61.2 m 99 km
BF523324	A: Matt Comb C: Joel Jacquard September 29, 2012 Port Mouton FIN SEEKER	900 lb 410 kg	C: Andrew Houlihan October 7, 2014 Nova Scotia GLOOSCAP	680 lb 308 kg 109 in 276 cm dressed	738 days 2 years	61.2 m 99 km
BF448389	A: Ronald Butler C: Nat Moody August 4, 2009 Stellwagen Bank, MA	375 lb 175 kg	A: Greco Daniele C: Barca Salvatore July 10, 2014 Sicily, Italy	200 lb 90kg dressed	1801 days 4.9 years	4354.4 m 7008 km
BF424835	A: Michael Horgan C: Eric Stewart June 19, 2008 Cape Cod, MA	220 lb 100 kg	June 15, 2014 Malta	189 lb 85kg dressed	2187 days 6 years	4524.3 m 7281 km
BF424961	C: Ken Neill July 18, 2007 Washington Canyon		June 15, 2014 Malta	280 lb 127 kg dressed	2524 days 6.9 years	4502.2 7245 km

2014 AWARD WINNERS

OVERALL RELEASE WINNERS

Top Overall Release Angler – Pat McCotter – Vandemere, NC USA
Top Overall Release Lady Angler – Tiffany Day – Kitty Hawk, NC USA
Top Overall Release Youth Angler – Brown Gaddy – Manteo, NC USA
Top Overall Release Captain – Brad Philipps – Guatemala City, Guatemala

TOP RELEASE ANGLERS – ATLANTIC OCEAN

Blue Marlin – Gray Ingram – Jupiter, FL USA
Sailfish – Brown Gaddy – Manteo, NC USA
White Marlin – Laurent Sahyoun – Mandelieu, France

TOP RELEASE ANGLERS – INDIAN OCEAN

Black Marlin – Toby Mason – Dampier, Australia
Sailfish – Riley Smith – Exmouth, Australia

TOP RELEASE ANGLERS – PACIFIC OCEAN

Black Marlin – Sharon Poulter – Smithfield, Australia
Blue Marlin – Pat McCotter – Vandemere, NC USA
Sailfish – Gray Ingram – Jupiter, FL USA
Striped Marlin – Jack Duvall – Kemah, TX USA
Swordfish – John Gregory – Kerikeri, New Zealand

TOP RELEASE CAPTAINS – ATLANTIC OCEAN

Blue Marlin – Ronnie Fields – Lake Park, FL USA
Sailfish – Dean Panos – Pembroke Pines, FL USA
White Marlin – Christian Benazeth – Auch, France

TOP RELEASE CAPTAINS – INDIAN

Black Marlin – Eddy Lawler – Exmouth, Australia
Sailfish – Eddy Lawler – Exmouth, Australia

TOP RELEASE CAPTAINS – PACIFIC OCEAN

Black Marlin – Paul Poulter – Smithfield, Australia
Blue Marlin – Pete Rae – Atlantic Beach, NC USA
Sailfish – Brad Philipps – Guatemala City, Guatemala
Striped Marlin – Eddy Cesena – Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
Swordfish – John Gregory – Keri Keri, New Zealand

OVERALL TAGGING WINNERS

Top Overall Tagging Angler – Laurent Sahyoun – Mandelieu, France
Top Overall Lady Tagging Angler – Laura Jessen – Sarasota, FL USA
Top Overall Youth Tagging Angler – Kaleb Richardson – Lafayette, LA USA
Top Overall Tagging Captain – Chris Sheeder – Guatemala City, Guatemala

TOP TAGGING ANGLERS – ATLANTIC OCEAN

Blue Marlin – Gray Ingram – Jupiter, FL USA
Sailfish – Charles Gaddy – Manteo, NC USA
Swordfish – Richard Gudoian – Key Largo, FL USA
White Marlin – Laurent Sahyoun – Mandelieu, France

TOP TAGGING ANGLERS – INDIAN OCEAN

Black Marlin * – Scott MacGowan – Baynton, Australia
Black Marlin * – Jo-Ann Riley – Baynton, Australia
Blue Marlin * – Marcus Longhurst – Broome, Australia
Blue Marlin * – Jo-Ann Riley – Baynton, Australia
Sailfish – Henry Riggs-Miller – Victoria, Seychelles

TOP TAGGING ANGLERS – PACIFIC OCEAN

Blue Marlin – Jada Holt – Kailua-Kona, HI USA
Sailfish – Chris Jessen – Sarasota, FL USA
Striped Marlin – Jack Duvall – Kemah, TX USA

TOP TAGGING CAPTAINS – ATLANTIC OCEAN

Blue Marlin – Ronnie Fields – Lake Park, FL USA
Sailfish – Fin Gaddy – Manteo, NC USA
Swordfish – Sean O'Connor – Key Largo, FL USA
White Marlin – Christian Benazeth – Auch, France

TOP TAGGING CAPTAINS – INDIAN OCEAN

Black Marlin – Eddy Lawler – Exmouth, Australia
Blue Marlin – Eddy Lawler – Exmouth, Australia
Sailfish – Jourdain Ellens – Broome, Australia
Striped Marlin – Eddy Lawler – Exmouth, Australia

TOP TAGGING CAPTAINS – PACIFIC OCEAN

Black Marlin – Tim Richardson – Bangalow, Australia
Blue Marlin – Pete Wishney – San Clemente, CA USA
Sailfish – Chris Sheeder – Guatemala City, Guatemala
Spearfish – Gene Vander Hoek – Kailua-Kona, HI USA
Striped Marlin – Jaime Gonzales – Cabo San Lucas, MX

YOUTH WINNERS

TOP TAGGING

Ages 8 & Under – Charles Gaddy
Manteo, NC USA

Runner-Up – Sebastian Ortiz-Stoessel
Miami, FL USA

Ages 11-12 – Aidan Burke
Los Angeles, CA USA

Runner-Up – Hefner Appling
Port Aransas, TX USA

Ages 13-15 – Kaleb Richardson
Lafayette, LA USA

Runner-Up – Shawn MacMullin
Key Largo, FL USA

Ages 16-17 – Nick Brackmann
Huntington Beach, CA USA

TOP RELEASE

Ages 8 & Under – Brown Gaddy
Manteo, NC USA

Runner-Up – Charles Gaddy
Manteo, NC USA

Ages 9-10 – Diego Adkins
El Paso, TX USA

Runner-Up – Moira Brummell
Granger, IN USA

Ages 11-12 – Cameron Johnson
Davie, FL USA

Ages 13-15 – Jonathan Gaskill
Vandemere, NC USA

Runner-Up – Riley Smith
Exmouth, Australia

Ages 16-17 – Samuel Yohanan
Lighthouse Point, FL USA



GET ON BOARD! Tag 'Em Today, Catch 'Em Tomorrow!



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