

# SC Dolphin Tagging Study

November 2002



## NY Bight Dolphin Recapture

The commercial fishing vessel **Carol Ann** provided an important piece of information to our knowledge of dolphin movements. Captain Greg O'Neill reported the recovery of a tagged dolphin on October 24 during a trip out of Providence, RI.

Recovered in 400+ fathoms of water roughly 75 miles south of Providence Harbor, the fish turned out to be a member of a school of fish that already had two other tag recoveries. Twenty-six members of the school had originally been tagged 45 nm SSE of Charleston in late May. The first tagged member of the school was recovered 18 days after being tagged off Oregon Inlet. The second school member to be recovered was recaptured in the Norfolk Canyon off Virginia 60 days after the NC recovery.

Because Captain O'Neill took the time to measure the fish and record precise details about the recapture location, this recovery provides a wealth of information. This latest recovery comes 152 days (5 months) after the original release. During this time, the bull dolphin traveled a minimum of 617 nautical miles and grew an impressive 13 inches in fork length. The dolphin was recovered in 69.8°F water.

Captain O'Neill provided as near a perfect tag recovery report as I have ever received. Along with sending him a T-shirt and a \$20 cash reward, I wish to publicly thank him for such an outstanding job reporting the recapture. I also hope that he will serve as an example for all fishermen recovering tagged fish that follow.

Anglers reporting a tag recovery will receive a project tee shirt and could receive an additional \$20 cash reward depending on the tag. Tagged fish recaptures can be reported via the Internet web site. The ideal recapture report should include the following information.

Date recaptured	GPS Location (Lat./Long.)
Water Depth	Water temperature
Tag number	Fork length of fish
Angler name	Address & Telephone
Tee shirt size	Boat name
Boat's port	
Is boat charter, private, or commercial	

**Check out the Dolphin Tagging Web Site!**

<http://dolphintagging.homestead.com>

## Tagging Activity

Tagging activity has slowed with only 19 dolphin reported tagged since September. So far 65 vessels and 130 anglers from 6 different states have tagged 339 dolphin for the study.

Chester Kalb's unnamed vessel in Key West, FL leads the private boats in number of fish tagged with 53 tagged. Harry Johnson's "Petrel IV" out of Mt. Pleasant, SC is second with 24 fish tagged. Bill Baugh's Cudjoe Key, FL based "Ballyhoo" is in third place with 15.

Grady William's "Plumb Krazy" of Charleston, SC currently leads the charter boat category with 14 dolphin tagged. The "Mistress," out of Charleston and captained by Richard Brackett is in second place having tagged 11 fish with Mark Wilson's "Docked Wages" of Rockledge, FL following closely in third with 10 dolphin tagged.

## SC Dolphin Tagging Study

November 2002

Page 2.

Florida anglers still dominate the individual tagging category. Key West captain and angler, Chester Kalb, leads by a wide margin with 33 fish. Bill Baugh of Cudjoe Key, just up the road, is in second with 11 dolphin. There is a tie for third between Dean Kelley of Ormond Beach and Mark Wilson of Rockledge each with 10 fish.

A Penn International 50TW on a Star stand up rod will be given the charter boat, private boat and individual angler who tag the most dolphin by December 31, 2002. All tag cards must be received at project headquarters by 5:00 pm on January 8, 2003. Only one award will be given to an individual.

The research project wishes to extend a note of thanks to the following businesses for generously donating the rods and reels being given away as incentives for fishermen to tag their small dolphin.

**Barton and Burwell Fishing Supplies**  
47 S. Windemere Dr.  
Charleston, SC 29407

**Haddrell's Point Tackle & Supplies**  
885 Ben Sawyer Blvd.  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

**Star Rod Company**  
P. O. Box 608  
Morehead City, NC 28557

**The Reel John's Tackle**  
610 Wesley Dr.  
Charleston, SC 29407

#### **Holiday Note**

Hope you have a happy Thanksgiving and a joyful holiday season. The newsletter will return in January with the top taggers of 2002 and project plans for 2003.

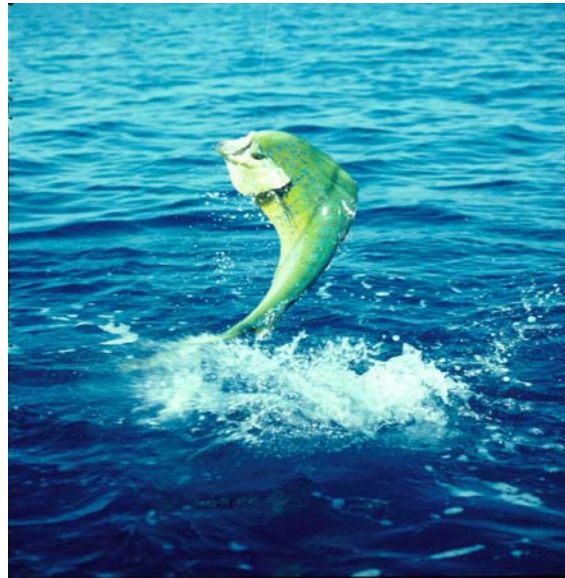


Photo Courtesy of George Poveromo

#### **Photos Requested**

We would like to receive photos of your tagging activities. Pictures of anglers releasing tagged dolphin, recapturing tagged fish (including photos of fish with tags in place), or good action shots of dolphin in the water are wanted for use in the newsletter and on the web page. Digital images are preferred but color slides or prints will be accepted. Be sure to identify people appearing in the photo and include a statement giving the SC Dolphin Tagging Study authorization to publish the photo.

For more information on the project, visit <http://dolphintagging.homestead.com> or contact

Donald L. Hammond  
Marine Fisheries Biologist  
Office of Fisheries Management  
Marine Resources Division  
SC Department of Natural Resources  
P. O. Box 12559  
Charleston, SC 29422  
Voice (843) 953-9847  
Email [hammondd@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us](mailto:hammondd@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us)