

PACIFIC COOPERATIVE TAGGING PROGRAM

RELEASE

July 10, 1964

Recoveries of Marlin tagged by U. S. Sport Fishermen aid in Mapping
Migration Pattern

New recoveries are reported for marlin tagged by sport fishermen in the eastern Pacific. Four tagged marlin have been recovered within the past year, three within the past three months, by Japanese tuna longline vessels operating off the Mexican and Central American coasts. These tagged and recaptured marlin, some of the 1600 marlin tagged by sportsmen off southern California, the tip of Baja California, and off the Mexican mainland within the past two years, are beginning to reveal the migratory pattern of this prized fish.

The greatest distance covered by a tagged marlin has been from near La Paz, Baja California, to a point 1150 miles south in two and one half months. This fish was tagged by Mrs. Robert S. Fisher of Keokuk, Iowa, on June 12, 1963, and recovered on August 22, 1963, by the Japanese tuna longliner Matsumoto Maru No. 3 fishing in the equatorial current. Other recoveries show a similar north-south pattern of migration off the coast of Mexico.

One recovery was of a marlin tagged by Mr. Lyle R. Stockton of San Diego, California, on February 21, 1964, off Acapulco, Mexico. This fish was recaptured by the Tosui Maru on April 20, 1964, about 120 miles southwest of Mazatlan and had moved about 570 miles northwest of the tagging site before recapture.

A third recovery 150 miles south of the tip of Baja California was made on May 5, 1964, by the Japanese longliner Seisho Maru No. 11. This marlin was caught by Bob Wilson and tagged by George Myette, both of Newport Beach, California, on March 3, 1964, while fishing off Cape San Lucas, Baja California.

The latest marlin recovery, made near the mouth of the Gulf of California, was recaptured by the Japanese longliner Kyowa Maru No. 2 on May 15, 1964. This fish was tagged from Elmer Hehr's vessel, the Dorsal, from Newport Beach, on May 2, 1964, 20 miles northwest of Cerralvo Island with a California Department of Fish and Game tag.

Increased fishing by Japanese tuna longliners between Hawaii and the Mexican coast should result in the recapture of additional tagged marlin and sailfish and provide additional information on the seasonal distribution and migratory patterns of these fish in the eastern and central Pacific.

The cooperative tagging of big game species of marlin and sailfish in the eastern Pacific by sport fishermen is a program supported by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the International Game Fish Association.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Tiburon Marine Laboratory near San Francisco is the supervising laboratory for this program in the Pacific area.

Additional information can be obtained from:

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tiburon Marine Laboratory
P. O. Box 98
Tiburon, California

Phone: Area Code 415, 435-4855

International Game Fish Association
c/o Mr. Horace Witherspoon
2933 Royal Palm Drive
Costa Mesa, California

Phone: Area Code 714, KI 9-0654