

# PACIFIC MARINE GAME FISH COOPERATIVE TAGGING PROGRAM

RELEASE

July 20, 1965

## Conservation Awards For Tagged Marlin

In spite of the cool water conditions that prevail in southern California this year, there is still hope of a good marlin season if the water warms up soon. To encourage the tagging and releasing of these game fishes, Horace Witherspoon, vice-president of the International Game Fish Association, has just announced that a special Conservation Certificate will be awarded to the first person whose marlin, tagged in California waters during the 1965 season, is subsequently recovered, either in the United States or foreign waters. This award is being made by the Pacific Marine Game Fish Cooperative Tagging Program to stimulate tagging in California waters, according to Mr. Witherspoon.

The Pacific Marine Game Fish Cooperative Tagging Program is sponsored by the International Game Fish Association, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the Tiburon Marine Laboratory of the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. This program was instigated several years ago to enlist the aid of sport fishermen to learn basic facts necessary to the conservation of game fishes.

Several hundred marlin were tagged in Mexican waters last year and a few in California waters. Eleven tagged fish have been recovered. These are too few from which to draw definite conclusions, but they have indicated a north-south migration, and also that marlin fished in California and Mexican waters are the same population. What is needed to get conclusive results is more tag returns, and this is possible only if more marlin are tagged.

There has been a great increase in the number of marlin tagged by U.S. sport fishermen in Mexico this year, and it is hoped that an award for the first marlin tagged in California waters in 1965 that is subsequently recovered, will stimulate tagging in California waters. Many people, of course, want to bring their catch to shore for photographing or to have mounted. This is quite understandable, stated Mr. Witherspoon, but others, if they have previously caught marlin, would rather tag and release the fish and have the satisfaction of contributing to scientific research on this species, as well as having the thrill and enjoyment of catching them.

Tagging equipment is now available at all marine angling clubs. Members can obtain equipment at their club headquarters, and most clubs will loan equipment to responsible non-members. An award also will be made to the member of each marine angling club who tags the first marlin this season and also to the boat owner from whose boat the most marlin are tagged in California waters during the 1965 marlin season. It is hoped, Mr. Witherspoon stated, that these incentives will increase the number of marlin tagged this year.

For further information contact:

Horace Witherspoon  
4645 Fairfield Drive  
Corona del Mar, California

G. B. Talbot  
Tiburon Marine Laboratory  
P. O. Box 98  
Belvedere-Tiburon, California

Phone: Area Code 415, 435-4855

Phone: Area Code 714, 673-6310