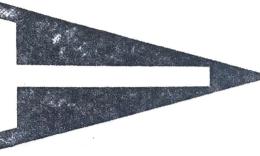


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER

P.O. Box 271 La Jolla, California 92037



COOPERATIVE MARINE GAME FISH TAGGING PROGRAM--Pacific Area

NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution International Game Fish Association Department of Fisheries--Mexico

February 1972

TO ALL TAGGING PARTICIPANTS:

Through your cooperation, a total of 2,412 marine game fish was tagged and released in the Pacific during 1971. This is a 15% increase over the 2,040 fish tagged in 1970, an all-time high for numbers of game fish tagged in a calendar year. Our files show that 1,066 individual anglers tagged one or more fish each in 1971.

The level of your effort in tagging billfish and other game fish species is indicated in figure 1. A major increase in tagging striped marlin was experienced, from slightly less than 1,000 fish in 1970, to over 1,400 in 1971. The numbers of sailfish tagged declined slightly and a considerable decline was shown in the number of roosterfish tagged. Apparently the interest and increased success in catching and tagging striped marlin in the vicinity of the tip of Baja California, Mexico, diverted some of the interest from the other smaller game species, such as roosterfish that are commonly taken in that area. A considerable increase in tagging black marlin is apparent; 130 were tagged in 1970, and 235 in 1971. This increase is due to the interest of marine game fish anglers fishing from the port of Cairns and other locations along the Queensland coast of Australia.

In spite of the excellent cooperation in tagging, the number of tag returns of recaptured marlin was down. Normally we expect about a 1% return of tagged marlin; however, in 1971, the number of returns was much below the expected figure. During the first month of 1972 two striped marlin tags from fish tagged last summer (1971) were recovered, so we are hopeful the return rate will increase.

As you will note on the Recovery Data list, most of the tagged billfish were caught in mid-1970. Since the Japanese longliners are normally away from Japan for extended periods of time, the Japanese fishery laboratories are usually not able to advise us of tag recoveries for many months after actual capture.

The Recovery Data list is a report of all tagged fish recaptured during the period 1969-1971, that have not been previously reported. It had been our practice in the past to give only the billfish recovery data. However, since we have a number of recoveries of such species as roosterfish and many of you have tagged this and other species about the tip of Baja California, all recoveries are listed in the Recovery Data list.

A number of recoveries lack information on the tagger, location of tagging and date. Again we would like to emphasize the importance of returning the tagging card to the National Marine Fisheries Service. Please search your tackle supplies and other likely locations for un-returned tag cards.

To increase the potential for recoveries of tagged billfish we are taking steps to re-advise the Japanese longline fleet of tagged marlin and sailfish in the Pacific and to request that they continue their cooperation by returning tags. Japanese fishermen have in the past cooperated by returning tags and they are the major source of returns for marlin.

In the summer of 1971, a change was made in the type of tag used. Formerly we used the type FM-67, a double barbed nylon head with yellow polyethyelene tubing. This tag is being replaced by the newer type "H" tag. This tag has a metal head with a monofilament core with an outside cover of yellow polyethyelene tubing. It has several advantages over the old FM-67 tag; the tagging applicators are much easier to construct, and the tag is negatively buoyant so if lost overboard it will sink and not be washed ashore. The success of the "H" tag for obtaining recoveries for billfish and tunas in the North Atlantic is well established, and it should be a more useful tag than the previously-used FM-67.

A new marine game fish tagging brochure was issued in 1971 by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The brochure describes the objectives and progress of the game fish tagging program over the past years. It also illustrates the types of tagging equipment and their use, and outlines on a single chart an estimate of the major movements of striped marlin about the area off the tip of Baja California, Mexico, as determined by the tagging program.

In late December the responsibility for the Cooperative Marine Game Fish Tagging Program was transferred from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Tiburon Fisheries Laboratory, Tiburon, California. The mailing address for the program is now:

National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Center P. O. Box 271 La Jolla, California 92037

Of interest to all billfishermen is the International Billfish Symposium to be held from August 9-12, 1972, at Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be the primary sponsor of this 3-day Symposium which will be held at the same location and at the same time as the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament. Scientists from around the world having an interest in billfish biology and other aspects of research on this resource will be present. This marks the first time an international meeting has been devoted exclusively to examining the progress in billfish biology and the status of the worldwide resource.

All anglers are invited to attend the Symposium which will discuss the identification, life history, distribution, migration and status of the world billfish resource. On the final day, Saturday, August 12, 1972, there will be a sportsman-scientist panel which will review the important problems facing the billfish resources throughout the world and how they might be solved.

For additional information on the Symposium contact:

International Billfish Symposium Tiburon Fisheries Laboratory P.O. Box 98 Tiburon, California 94920

At this Symposium, a paper will be given reviewing the results of tagging billfish in the Pacific over the past years, and at the time of our next annual report we hope to be able to send a copy to you. The Proceedings of the Symposium will eventually be published by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

In June 1971, the first awards of the Gardiner Foundation Award Program for tagging the greatest number of marlin and sailfish were made to Mexican sport boat captains in two areas at the tip of Baja California. The awards are made possible by the Thomas and Margaret Gardiner Foundation Award Program of Oakland, California. First, second, and third place awards are given in the two contest areas. Engraved plaques were given to the three winners in each award area in addition to the \$100.00 (U.S.) first, \$50.00 second, and \$25.00 third prizes. The resort hotel that is the home port of the first place winner in each area is also awarded a plaque. The winners for the first period were:

Region A -- (east coast of the tip of Baja, north to La Paz)

- 1. Jesus Araiza Ruiz Rancho Buena Vista
- 2. José Verdugo Ruiz Rancho Buena Vista
- 3. Filomeno Lucero Lucero Rancho Buena Vista
- 4. Hotel award Rancho Buena Vista

Region B -- (southern coast of the tip of Baja)

- 1. Pablo Ceseña Aripez Hotel Cabo San Lucas
- 2. Manuel Camacho Hotel Palmilla
- 3. Javier Abaroa Martinez Camino Real Cabo San Lucas
- 4. Hotel award Hotel Cabo San Lucas

The contest is held annually and the records are maintained at the Southwest Fisheries Center from information on the boat captain as recorded on the tagging cards. Be sure the captain has his name on the tagging card so he may receive proper credit. The next awards will be made in June 1972, for the period June 1971 to June 1972.

Enclosed you will find a postcard for your response to the annual billfish anglers survey. This is the third year we have requested that you recall, honestly and to the best of your ability, the number of days of billfishing and your catches of marlin and sailfish during 1971 ONLY. The information derived from our mailing list of over 2,000 billfish anglers will enable us to obtain data on the average catch per day of marlin and sailfish in the various fishing areas (numbers of days fishing/numbers of billfish caught). Accurate records are needed for sport-caught billfishes to examine the effect fishing is having on the billfish resource (both sport and commercial). Prior to the start of this survey in 1969 only rough estimates were available, and your cooperation in completing the postcard accurately will be of assistance to us. The card also indicates to us whether or not you wish to remain on the mailing list for this annual report. Please do not forget to complete this form.

All major resorts about the tip of Baja California have tagging equipment as do the sport fishing operators and game fishing clubs at Mazatlan, Manzanillo, Acapulco, and at other locations such as Salinas, Ecuador; Pinas Bay, Panama; Honolulu and Kona, Hawaii; Tahiti; and Cairns, Australia. We have just returned from a visit to the tip of Baja California and Mazatlan, to check the progress of tagging and to furnish equipment to the resorts there.

Tagging equipment is available at the Southwest Fisheries Center, La Jolla, California (phone 714, 453-2820, ext. 335) and in the Los Angeles area (Mr. Horace Witherspoon, 4645 Fairfield Drive, Corona del Mar, California 92625, phone 714, 673-6310).

To the 1,066 individual anglers who tagged a record number of fish in the Pacific in 1971, the National Marine Fisheries Service thanks you for your efforts, and appreciates your continued interest and cooperation.

Good fishing!

Sincerely yours,

James L. Squire

Fishery Biologist (Research)

	Recoveries for the	he past 2 yea	for the past 2 years, not mentioned in previous reports	evious reports	i de la completa de la compansión de la comp	
Tagged	sed		R	Recovered		
Species/Location	Tagged by	Date	Location	Recaptured by	Distance traveled (miles)	Days at large
STRIPED MARLIN Cabo San Lucas, B. C.	Robert J. Taylor	7/2/69	19°27'N	Capt. Kajio Kameyama	282	182
	Van Nuys, CA		113°30'W	Ishinomaki, Japan		
Tagger unknown	Issued to a Donald L. Stone	8/14/70	24°08'N 109°18'W	Capt. Setsuo Itoh Shoei Maru #12 Tag #06501	ı	i
Cabo San Lucas, B. C.	Paul McVay Newport Beach, CA	1/3/70	21°55'N 107°10'W	Capt. Hiroyuki Miki Owase, Japan Chokuy Maru #12	191	9
Cabo San Lucas, B. C.	John R. Reichardt San Diego, CA	3/23/70	22°25'N 108°45'W	Capt. Hiroyuki Miki Owase, Japan	167	36
			ama-ad _e gae	Chokuy Maru #12	248	20
Golden Gate Bank, B. C.	Catherine Shattuck Beverly Hills, CA	4/9/70	22°30'N 107°55'W	Capt. Hiroyuki Miki Owase, Japan Chokyu Maru #12	248	20
Golden Gate Bank, B. C.	Ken Nefroney Huntington Beach, CA	5/25/71	Rancho Buena Vista, B.C., Mex,	Walter Schreiner Oxnard, CA	110	433
SAILFISH				, de la decembra de la composition della composi	ne de la companya de	
Cabo San Lucas, B. C.	Steve Ransohoff Beverly Hills, CA	1/2/11	Gordo Bank, B. C., Mex.	Paul Mason Universal City, CA	24	က

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(continued)
Data (
Recovery
Billfish

Billfish Recovery Data (continued)	continued)					
Tagged	ped		R	Recovered		
Species/Location	Tagged by	Date	Location	Recaptured by	Distance traveled (miles)	Days at large
ROOSTERFISH Tagged near Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	Tagger unknown	6/59/69	Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	Alan Deeter Lancaster, CA Tag #17497		1
Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	Alex Ornstein Pasadena, CA	2/28/70	Punta Arena, B. C.	Thomas J. Hall San Francisco, CA	13	30
Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	W.S. Holstein Corona del Mar, CA	2/5/70	Las Palmas Bay, B. C.	Joe S. Stampke Hines, OR	ю	6
Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	Dr. Maurice Yvettra Los Angeles, CA	4/18/70	Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	Dino Grassilli San Francisco, CA	ഹ	734
Tagger unknown	Tagger unknown	4/25/70	10 miles south Punta Colorado, B. C.	Lawson J. Dill Burbank, CA Tag #B00765	ľ	1
Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	David F. Howard Burbank, CA	5/4/70	Punta Arena, B.C.	Ray Biagini San Francisco, CA	13	26
Tagged near Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	Tagger unknown (tag issued to RBV 5/18/70)	5/23/70	Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	Michael H. Coronado Long Beach, CA Tag #B01936	1	ı
					PARSONNEY)	

Billfish Recovery Data (continued)	continued)		Re	Recovered		
Tag Species/Location	Tagged by	Date	Location	Recaptured by	Distance traveled (miles)	Days at large
Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	M. J. French La Canada, CA	8/22/70	Punta Arena, B. C.	Jane P. Yale Denver, CO	13	252
Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	L. E. Saitman Los Angeles, CA	7/1/70	Punta Colorado, B. C.	Mrs. Elaine Tevis San Diego, CA	10	199
Tagged near Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	Tagger unknown (tag issued to RBV 5/18/70)	7/28/70	Punta Arena, B.C.	Tom Edgecomb Palos Verdes, CA Tag #B01933	I	ı
Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	R. Pratt Palo Alto, CA	8/12/70	Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	Mario L. Chirone Los Altos, CA	ശ	61
Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	Mark Walters Newport Beach, CA	01/6/1	Punta Arena, B. C.	Robert E. Bailard Carpenteria, CA	13	11
Punta Arena, B. C.	J. C. Stuard Los Barriles, B. C.	4/2/71	La Paz Bay, B. C.	Jesus Jordan Niguera La Paz, B. C.	80	629
Rancho Buena Vista, B. C.	Louie H. Todd Oakland, CA	5/29/71	Punta Arena, B. C.	Frank H. Cooper San Francisco, CA	12	292
DOLPHIN (Mahi-Mahi Date unknown Tagged off Mazatlan	Tagger unknown (tag issued to Star Fleet, Mazatlan, Sin 7/12/68)	3/3/70	Mazatlan, Mex.	Bill Heimpel Mazatlan, Mexico Tag #17259	į.	1

Billfish Recovery Data (continued)	(continued)			Roccined		
Tag	agged			najakoo		
Species/Location	Tagged by	Date	Location	Recaptured by	Distance traveled (miles)	Days at large
YELLOWFIN TUNA Cabo San Lucas, B. C.	Ted Clarke Newport Beach, CA	69/9/9	15 miles southwest Lusitania Bank	Ignacio Gallardo C. San Diego, CA	144	က

