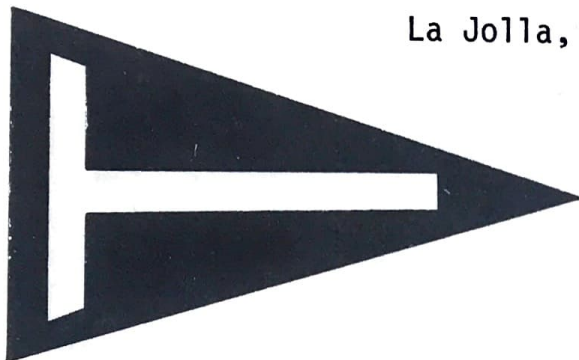


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER

P.O. Box 271

La Jolla, California 92038



COOPERATIVE MARINE GAME FISH
TAGGING PROGRAM--Pacific Area

NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
International Game Fish Association

MARCH 1975

TO ALL TAGGING PARTICIPANTS

During calendar year 1974 the number of fish reported tagged was more than double the 1973 amount for a total of 1,697 fish tagged and released. Billfish accounted for a high percentage of the fish tagged, totaling 1,616 or 95.2% of the total number. The 1974 billfish tagging record is much improved over the 1973 record when only 747 billfish were tagged out of a total of 858 fish tagged.

Of the total number of billfish tagged, striped marlin accounted for 818, black marlin 577, sailfish 194, and blue marlin 27.

The tagging results are again approaching the 1972 all-time record high of 2,040 fish tagged, and we hope this trend will continue in 1975, for only through your cooperation and individual effort can the seasonal migration patterns of billfish and other pelagic big game fish be determined.

A breakdown of the tagging by species and area is as follows:

<u>Striped marlin</u>	Southern California, U.S.A.	73 (three times the number ever tagged in 1 year)
	Baja California, Mexico (about the southern tip)	740
	Mazatlán, Mexico	4
	Hawaii, U.S.A.	1

<u>Black Marlin</u>	Cairns, Australia	574
	Baja California, Mexico	3
<u>Blue Marlin</u>	Baja California, Mexico	22
	Hawaii, U.S.A.	5
<u>Sailfish</u>	Baja California, Mexico	120
	Guaymas, Mexico	27
	Mazatlán, Mexico	14
	Panama	29
	Australia	4

Two species, common to the Gulf of California and about the lower tip of Baja California, Mexico, which we have requested assistance in tagging, are the roosterfish and yellowtail. In 1974 a total of 13 roosterfish and 14 yellowtail were tagged. The tag now in use ("H" type) appears to be suitable for use on both these species giving a high rate of return for both. We hope anglers fishing the tip and the Gulf will continue to tag these species. A total of 10 giant black seabass were tagged about the Southern California islands by scuba divers as part of a co-operative effort between the California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Southern California sport diving organizations.

In addition to the above, anglers reported tagging white sturgeon (San Francisco Bay), grouper, bonito, dolphin, shark, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, and a "flowery cod" (Australia). There are odd ones every year, for in 1973, two whale sharks were reported tagged and this year one billfish angler in Australia reported accidentally tagging himself.

RECOVERIES

Billfish recoveries are as important as the initial tagging, and without them the cooperative program would be futile. In 1974 we had the same number of tags returned as in 1973, however, the proportion of billfish tags recovered increased, for black marlin tagged off Australia in particular. The 1973 record of recoveries was the highest on record so the 1974 record of 35 recoveries by sport and commercial fishermen can be regarded as very good.

Excellent cooperation in informing the Japanese longline fishing fleet of our interest in recovering billfish tags has been given by the Far Seas Research Laboratory (Dr. Susume Kume) and the Kanogawa Prefectural

Experiment Station, Kanagawa Pref., Japan (Dr. Eiji Hanamoto). The two laboratories have been acting as tag recovery points in Japan, and their fishermen are becoming more aware of where to send billfish tags, so the recovery rate should continue to increase.

For billfish, black marlin lead the recovery list with 15, striped marlin second with 10, sailfish and blue marlin, one each. Other species recovered were black seabass (2), yellowtail (1), yellowfin tuna (1), and roosterfish (4). Information on 1974 tag returns may be found in Table 1.

BILLFISH SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION

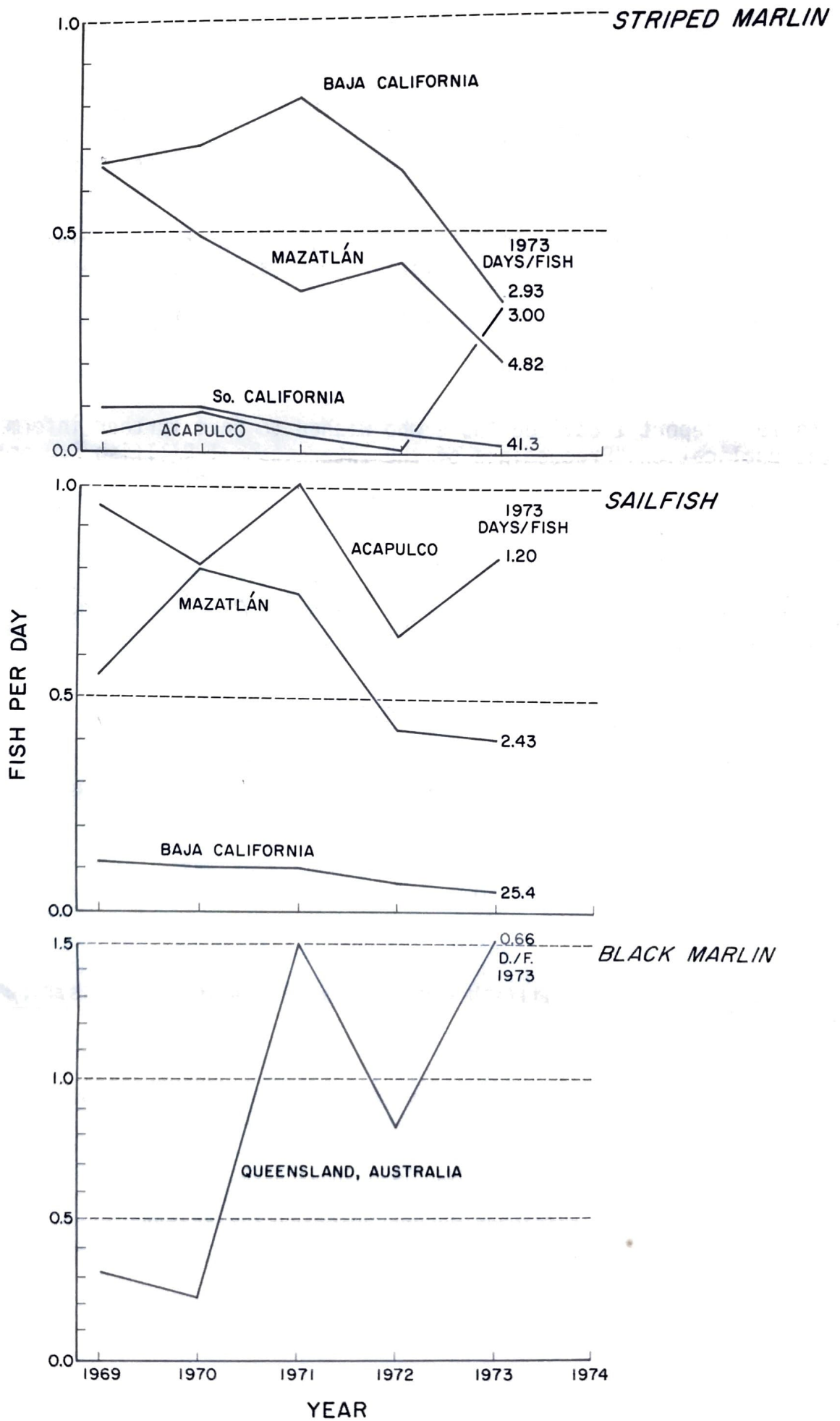
In the 1973 report I advised those who wished to have further information on the publication, "Proceedings of the International Billfish Symposium" held in Kona, Hawaii, August 1972 to indicate your interest on the Billfish Angler Survey Report. Many of you did, and should have received information from me on how to obtain a copy. Copies of this 335-page report on the worldwide resource of billfishes can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The title is: NOAA Technical Report, NMFS-SSRF-675, Proceedings of the International Billfish Symposium, Part 2 (stock no. 0320-00083), price: \$3.95.

ANNUAL BILLFISH ANGLER SURVEY - For 1974

Enclosed you will find a form for the annual Billfish Angler Survey. The results of the surveys conducted 1969 to 1973 are given on page 4.

The Billfish Angler Survey assists us in determining the catch trend of sport billfishing in the Pacific, and without your assistance in completing the survey form, little information would be available in determining the impact of commercial and sport fisheries on the success of sportfishing. The 1974 Survey is being expanded to cover most of the billfish anglers fishing the Pacific through the cooperation of the International Game Fish Association. The Billfish Angler Survey form is being distributed to all big game fishing clubs in the Pacific by the IGFA, and to locations about the Atlantic for use by members that might fish the Pacific.

In completing the Billfish Angler Survey form, you will note some changes from the 1973 form. More countries and fishing locations have been added, and the catch and effort reporting has been broken into quarterly periods. Again, I stress that we would like to have an honest, accurate-as-possible response from you for the number of days in each quarter you went billfishing and the number of billfish caught (boated or released) by quarter. If you fished and caught a billfish, or more, great. However, if you didn't,



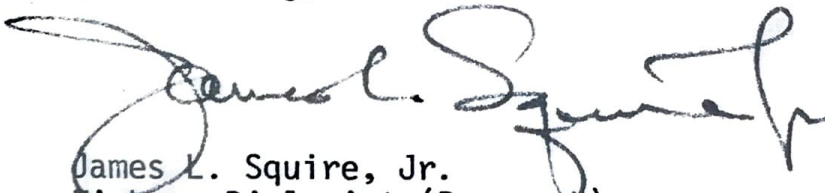
please enter the negative information as zero catch, as this information is just as important in the calculation of catch/effort levels, though it is not as rewarding to you personally.

Please complete only one form per angler.

U.S. Government regulations require periodic revision of our mailing list for annual tagging reports, so if you wish to receive the reports, return the angler card with your name and a note (no billfishing 1974) and your name will be retained on the list. Those individuals fishing and returning the survey form will automatically remain on the mailing list.

We hope the 1975 season will be the best ever for you.

Good fishing,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James L. Squire, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

James L. Squire, Jr.
Fishery Biologist (Research)
Southwest Fisheries Center
La Jolla, California, U.S.A.

P.S. Please send in the tag cards after use, there are too many "unknowns" in the recovery records.

Table 1. Recovery Data
Recovery Information Received During 1974

Tagged			Recovered			
Species/location of tagging	Tagged by	Date (month, day/year)	Location	Recovered by	Distance recovered from point of tagging	Days at large
<u>BLACK MARLIN</u>						
(160) Ruby Reef, near Cairns, Australia	Jo Jo Del Guercio Marathon, Florida U.S.A. Captain/P. Bristow	10-3-73	Lat. 18°00'S Long. 148°03'E	Yoshiteru Imagawa T/S Genyo maru	197 SE	19
(162) Lena Reef, near Cairns, Australia	Jo Jo Del Guercio Marathon, Florida U.S.A. Captain/P. Bristow	10-6-73	Lat. 15°28'S Long. 145°59'E	Masamitsu Ishikawa No.2 Satsuma seiun-maru	13 NE	35
(163A) Agincourt Reef, near Cairns, Australia	R.R. Vincent Hobart, Tasmania Captain/V. Vlasoff	10-11-73	Lat. 16°07'S Long. 146°16'E	Fukushima maru	33 SE	31
(174) near Cairns, Australia	Unknown/possibly by S. Zuckerman or H. Ashby off boat of Captain Stewart J.R. White.	Early October 1973	Lat. 15°05'S Long. 146°10'E	Captain Daikichi Tatehara No.3 Hayabusa maru on November 3, 1973	78 N (est.)	39 (est.)
(175) Cairns, Australia area Escape Reef (probable)	Unknown/possibly by W. Chapman (CGFC) off boat of Captain P. Wright	10-10-72 (about)	Lat. 3°00'S Long. 144°00'E	Captain Tokuo Inano Fukumaru No. 11 on March 9, 1973	1,110 N around W. end of New Guinea	149 (est.)
(176) Opal Reef, Off Cairns, Australia	Mrs. Judy Gray Brisbane, Australia Captain/D. Wallace	10-10-74	Lat. 14°26'S Long. 145°44'E	Captain Shin Kasai Yakushi maru No.38	102 N	35
(177) No.2 Argincourt Reef, near Cairns, Australia	E.J. Gould New York, N.Y. U.S.A. Captain/P. Bristow	11-5-73	Lat. 17°23'S Long. 147°05'E	Kano maru	128 SE	364
(178) near Cairns, Australia	Unknown/used by angler fishing with Captain V. Vlasoff	Estimated April or May, 1973	Lat. 17°11'S Long. 147°00'E	Kano maru on November 16, 1974	76 SE (est.)	-

Table 1. (Continued)

Tagged			Recovered			
Species/location of tagging	Tagged by	Date (month, day/year)	Location	Recovered by	Distance recovered from point of tagging	Days at large
(179) Linden Bank, near Cairns, Australia	Malcolm Florence Townsville, Australia Captain/L. Woodbridge	9-12-74	Lat. 13°55'S Long. 145°11'E	Yoshiteru Imagawa T/S Genyo maru	150 N	58
(180) No.10 Ribbon Reef, near Cairns, Australia	Jo Jo Del Guercio Marathon, Florida U.S.A. Captain/P. Bristow	10-8-73	Lat. 16°01'S Long. 146°42'E	Ashyu maru	72 NE	364
(181) Onyx Reef, near Cairns, Australia	Haakon Nordass Minnesota Lake, Minnesota U.S.A. Captain/K. Klaproth	10-5-74	Lat. 15°01'S Long. 145°57'E	Ashyu maru	63 N	21
(182) No.9 Ribbon Reef, near Cairns, Australia	F. Inscho Coral Gables, Florida U.S.A. Captain/P. Wright	10-4-74	Lat. 13°40'S Long. 145°45'E	Captain Akinobu Yoshioka Makatori maru	72 N	24
(183) Agincourt Reef, near Cairns, Australia	Haakon Nordass Minnesota Lake, Minnesota U.S.A. Captain/K. Klaproth	9-25-74	Lat. 33°45'S Long. 151°22'E Off Long Reef near Sidney, Australia	Miss Norelle Thompson Stannore, NSW, Australia (First angler recapture of two black marlin off Australia. Woman black marlin record for NSW, Australia.)	1,290 S	92
(184) No.10 Ribbon Reef, near Cairns, Australia	Steve Zuckerman Santa Monica, California U.S.A. Captain/P. Bristow	9-4-74	Lat. 18°45'S Long. 150°10'E	Yoshiteru Imagawa T/S Genyo maru	351 SE	65
(185) No.2 Ribbon Reef, near Cairns, Australia	Rupert Meyer Torrak, Victoria Australia Captain/P. Bristow	9-2-73	Lat. 16°18'S Long. 146°30'E	T/S Funakawa maru	70 SE	34

Table 1. (Continued)

Tagged			Recovered			
Species/location of tagging	Tagged by	Date (month, day/year)	Location	Recovered by	Distance recovered from point of tagging	Days at large
<u>STRIPED MARLIN</u>						
(187) near Rancho Buena Vista Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Unknown	6/19 or 20 1974	Lat. 21°00'N Long. 111°00'W	<u>Chokyu maru No.11</u> recovery data unknown	200 SW	-
(188) near Rancho Buena Vista Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Howard Shaw San Jose, California U.S.A. Captain/L. Perez	5-27-74	Lat. 23°00'N Long. 108°25'W	<u>Chokyu maru No.11</u>	105 SE	10
(189) near Rancho Buena Vista Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Unknown	-	Lat. 23°00'N Long. 108°50'W	<u>Chokyu maru No.11</u> on June 30, 1974	70 SE	-
(191) near Rancho Buena Vista Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Dorothy Rivoli Vancouver, Washington U.S.A. Captain/F. Loreda	6-6-74	Lat. 22°00'N Long. 110°00'W	<u>Kyowa maru No.11</u> in June 1974	110 S	350 (est.)
(192) near Rancho Buena Vista Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Howard Moss Brooklyn, New York U.S.A. Captain/Octavio	6-24-74	Lat. 23°30'N Long. 111°40'W	<u>Kyowa maru No.23</u>	150 W	33
(193) near Rancho Buena Vista Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Unknown/records indicate probably used in May 1974	May 1974	Lat. 23°19'N Long. 110°24'W	<u>Kyowa maru No.23</u>	105 W	60 (est.)
(194) near Gordo Bank Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Bernard A. Guentner San Diego, California U.S.A. Captain/V. Lucero	6-3-74	Lat. 24°00'N Long. 109°05'W	<u>Kyowa maru No.23</u>	50 NE	< 7 (est.)
(195) near Rancho Buena Vista Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Frank W. Scroggs Costa Mesa, California U.S.A. Captain/J. Collins	6-8-74	Lat. 23°30'N Long. 108°50'W	<u>Chokyu maru No.12</u>	50 E	20 (est.)

Table 1. (Continued)

Tagged			Recovered			
Species/location of tagging	Tagged by	Date (month, day/year)	Location	Recovered by	Distance recovered from point of tagging	Days at large
(196) off Cabo San Lucas Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Ted McConville Balboa, California U.S.A. Captain/J. Donnelly	6-9-74	Lat. 23°05'N Long. 110°55'W	<u>Keifuku maru No. 5</u>	55 NW	30
(197) 4 miles south of Punta Chileno Baja California, Sur	Ray E. Ayres Boise, Idaho U.S.A. Captain/P. Ceseña Aripez	6-17-72	Lat. 23°05'N Long. 110°55'W	<u>Keifuku maru No. 5</u>	75 NW	670
<u>BLUE MARLIN</u>						
(190) near Rancho Buena Vista Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Ernest W. Kravel Whittier, California U.S.A. Captain/M. Araisa	5-4-74	Lat. 22°00'N Long. 109°00'W	<u>Kyowa maru No. 11</u>	110 S	15 (est.)
<u>SAILFISH</u>						
(186) near Rancho Buena Vista Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Cy Holden Bakersfield, California U.S.A. Captain/Memo	7-6-74	Lat. 24°15'N Long. 109°10'W	<u>Chokyu maru No. 11</u>	50 NE	6
<u>ROOSTERFISH</u>						
(173) near Rancho Buena Vista Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Linda Perry Huntington Beach, California U.S.A. Captain/L. Verdugo	6-23-71	2 miles South of Punta Arena, Baja California, Sur, Mexico	John W. Palmer San Clemente, California U.S.A.	< 5	1,085
(200) "Tuna Hole" near Rancho Buena Vista Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Keith Heppler Riverside, California U.S.A. Captain/Louis	7-25-73	Off Punta Colorado Baja California, Sur Mexico	Mrs. G.A. Bacon Pocatello, Idaho U.S.A.	< 6	391

Table 1. (Continued)

Tagged			Recovered			
Species/location of tagging	Tagged by	Date (month, day/year)	Location	Recovered by	Distance recovered from point of tagging	Days at large
(202) Punta Arena Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Donald V.T. Bear San Diego, California U.S.A Captain/Juan	6-21-73	Punta Coyote, South of Loreto, Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Robert E. McColbough, Jr. Van Nuys, California U.S.A.	165 N	485
(161) near Rancho Buena Vista Baja California, Sur, Mexico	Steve Hanten Whittier, California U.S.A. Captain/A. Vaegoz	6-6-72	Near San Jose del Cabo Baja California, Mexico	Jim Cogswell Burbank, California U.S.A.	40 SW	634
<u>BLACK SEA BASS</u>						
(172) Anacapa Island, California, U.S.A.	Jim Mabry Ventura, California U.S.A.	9-16-73	Anacapa Island, California U.S.A.	Tom Eldridge Lakewood, California U.S.A.	> 1	13
(201) Anacapa Island, California, U.S.A.	W.G. Graham Thousand Oaks, California U.S.A.	10-22-72	Anacapa Island, California U.S.A.	Robert Stanbery Simi Valley, California U.S.A.	> 1	575
<u>YELLOWTAIL</u>						
Punta Canoas Baja California, Sur, Mexico	W.T. Weik Huntington Beach, California U.S.A. Captain/B. Barnes	11-29-72	N. Coronado Island Baja California, Mexico	Bob Castle, c/o Boat Holiday San Diego, California U.S.A.	230 N	609
<u>YELLOWFIN TUNA</u>						
near Cairns, Australia	Unknown	-	Near Palm Beach near Sidney, Australia	C.G. Nicholson Whale Beach, NSW, Australia on March 3, 1974	1,260 S	-