



tagtimesnews

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SOUTH QLD BILLFISH BONANZA

Good numbers of Black Marlin and Sailfish arrived in southern Queensland this last summer.

Several hundred fish were tagged and it was reported that the Black Marlin encountered showed a relatively wide range of sizes with a number of better quality fish reported amongst the 1+ to 2+ year old fish of approximately 15 – 40 kg. There were a total of 11 Black Marlin recaptured between January and April. These fish varied from being 3 days to 136 days at liberty and most fish were recaptured within 85 nautical miles of their release point.

Two Black Marlin (BM 1 & BM 2), released with consecutive tag numbers on the same day off South Stradbroke Island by Surfers Paradise GFC vessel *Murphy's Law*, were recaptured off Mooloolaba within two nautical miles of one another after 22 and 30 days at liberty. A Black Marlin (BM 3) tagged off Fraser Island in October 2009 was recaptured by *Simple Plan* off Mooloolaba in March 2010.

The only Black Marlin (BM 4) out of the group to be recaptured in NSW was originally released off the Gold Coast by *Pacemaker* and was recaptured close to the Swansea I&I NSW Fish Aggregating Device (FAD). This fish had covered a

minimum of 327 nautical miles over a period of 70 days and was estimated to be approximately 45kg in weight.



A number of Sailfish were also encountered this year off southern Queensland. One Sailfish (S 1) clocked up the third longest time at liberty for the species after having been released off Mooloolaba in April 2006 and recaptured in April 2010 only 10 nautical miles away from its original release point by *Triton IV*. Another Sailfish (S 2) was also released and recaptured off Mooloolaba after being at liberty for 194 days.



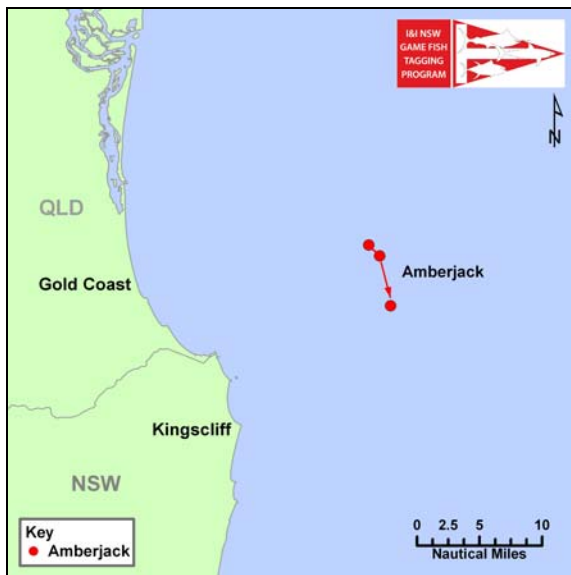
Recaptured and re-tagged Sailfish onboard *Luna* (S 2).

RE-RECAPTURED AMBERJACK

An Amberjack tagged off the Gold Coast QLD on the 6th of June 2009 by the vessel *Saltshaker* was recaptured after 7 days at a location only 1 nautical mile away by fellow Surfers Paradise G&SFC vessel *Indeep*. Both release and recapture anglers estimated this fish at 5kg before releasing the fish.

This Amberjack was recaptured again, 370 days after it was re-released, by a commercial fisher working off Burleigh Heads. The fish was estimated to measure 100cm, approximately 7.5kg.

Interestingly, the first release, recapture and re-recapture locations were found to be along the same depth line of approximately 50 fathoms.

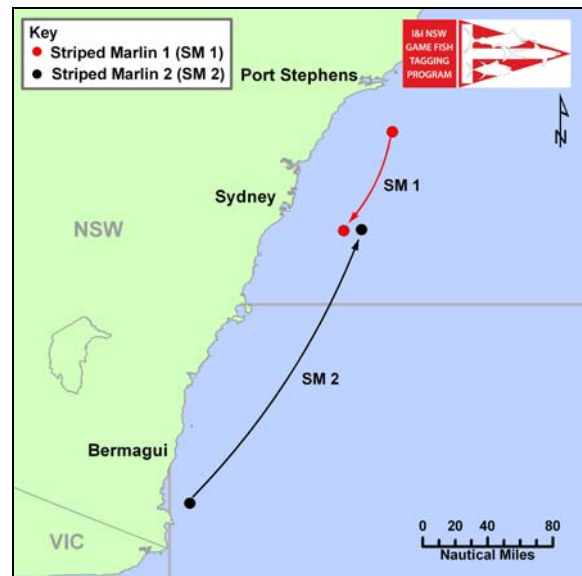


STRIPED MARLIN CONVERGE OFF SYDNEY

Two commercial recaptures of Striped Marlin off Sydney have been reported to the Program this year. One travelled south from Swansea Canyons, after being released on the 28th February 2010 by *Game Over*, to the waters well wide of Stanwell Park after travelling an approximate straight line distance of 69 nautical miles.

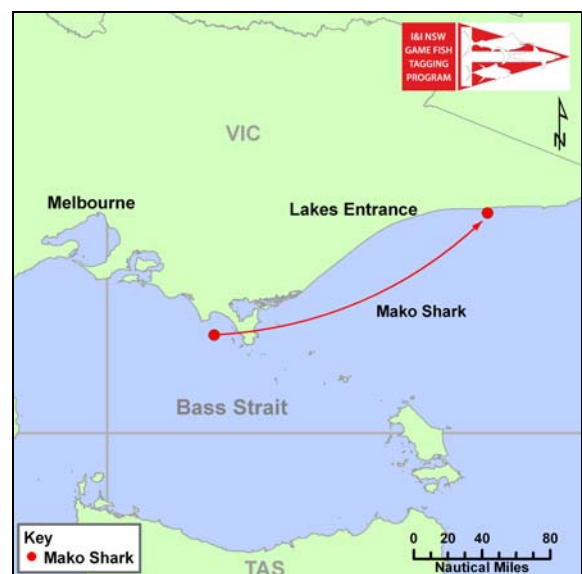
The second fish travelled north from Eden to the same area, after being released by *Nevahome* on the 27th February 2010. These two fish were at liberty for 15 and 19 days respectively.

Both were recorded as relatively small Striped Marlin with recapture weights of 55kg and 65kg.



VICTORIAN MAKO MOVEMENT

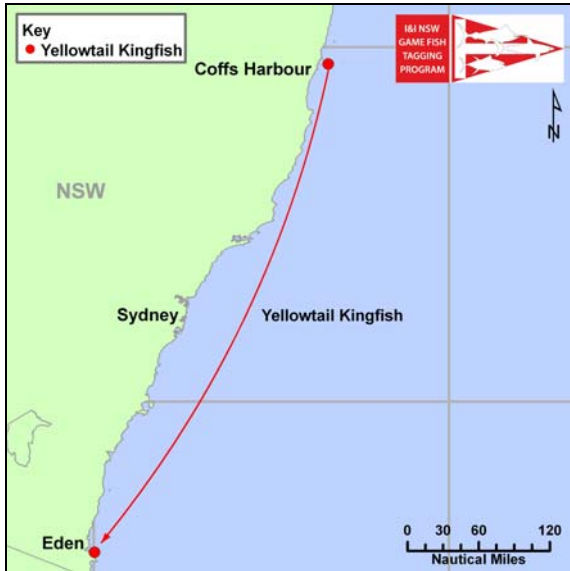
A Mako Shark tagged off Cape Liptrap on 22nd January 2010 by the South Gippsland GFC vessel *Sea Dog*, travelled an impressive 145 nautical miles in its three days at liberty before being recaptured off Cape Conran. This fish was found to weigh 45kg upon recapture.



KINGFISH HEADS SOUTH

A Yellowtail Kingfish tagged on 23rd September 2007 off Split Solitary Island in northern NSW by Coffs Harbour GFC vessel *Pelorus* was recaptured 915 days later on the 26th March 2010 off Eden after covering a straight line distance of approximately 445 nautical miles.

The fish had grown from around 50cm at the time of release to 98cm at the time of recapture.



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