

Tag Times

Issue 6, May 2011

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NSW YELLOWFIN GOES TROPICAL

A yellowfin tuna, first released off Durras, near Batemans Bay on the south coast of NSW was recaptured off Wari Island, Papua New Guinea (PNG). The tuna was estimated to be 70cm long and was tagged by *Wicked One* on 27 May 2007. The fish was recaptured 1250 days later by a commercial boat operating out of Port Moresby, PNG, on 28 October 2010. On recapture, the fish was reported to measure 125cm long and weigh 32kg. It had travelled a straight line distance of 1462 nautical miles north from its release point.

The record straight line distance for a yellowfin tuna tagged by the Program comes in at 3957 nautical miles for a fish tagged off Ulladulla, NSW and recaptured off Caroline Island, part of the Republic of Kiribati.



A small tagged yellowfin tuna ready for release.



TONGAN BLUE MARLIN RECORD

On 24 October 2009 while fishing in a tournament in Vava'u, Tonga, Michael Gordon-Jones of New Zealand tagged and released his first blue marlin on the local charter boat, *Hakuna Matata*. The fish was caught on a lure near a local FAD and was estimated to be 95kg.

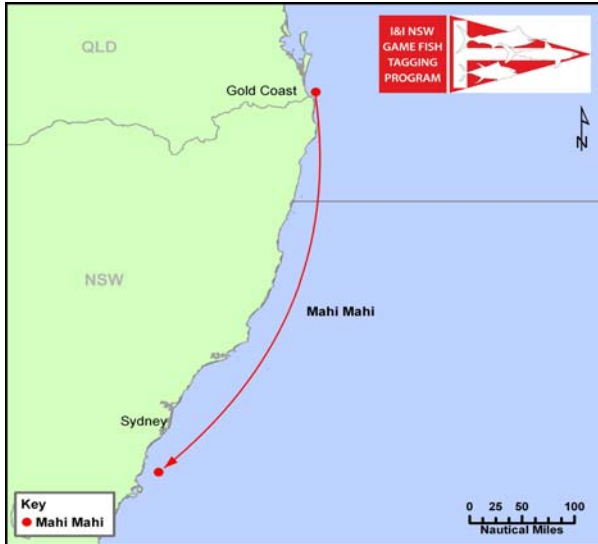
Michael returned to Vava'u in 2010 to fish the same tournament onboard *Reel Addiction* with Captain Steve Campbell at the helm. On 25 October 2010 he tagged his second blue marlin. On closer inspection, the fish was found to already have a tag in place. Remarkably this tag was found to be from the same blue marlin Michael tagged 1 year and 1 day before!

The fish was found only 19 nautical miles south west from where it was first tagged and was re-released with a new tag. This now brings the total number of blue marlin recaptured under the Program to 21.

INTERSTATE MAHI MAHI

On January 16 during the 2011 Light Tackle Masters, Gold Coast GFC vessel *Addixion* tagged and released a Mahi Mahi at 75cm and an estimated weight of 4kg.

49 days later off the coast of Kiama, *Reckless* recaptured this fish after it had travelled 419 nautical miles down the east Australian coast and increased in size to 110cm and 6.1kg.



A tagged Mahi Mahi ready for release.

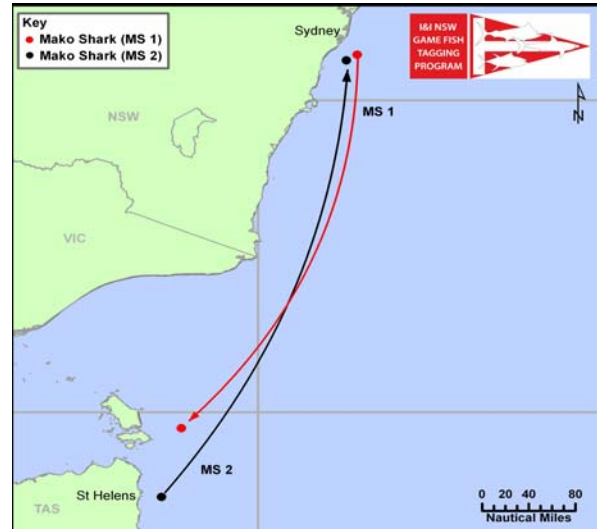
TASSIE MAKO TRAVELS TO STANWELL PARK

In Issue 2 of the Tag Times newsletter we reported on a Mako Shark that was tagged during the 2009 Wollongong GFC tournament. This fish had travelled from Stanwell Park Canyons in NSW to the waters off Flinders Island in Tasmania (Mako Shark 1 on map). The fish covered the 379 nautical miles in 110 days.

Recently a recapture showing the reverse movement was reported to the Program. The Mako was tagged off St Helens in Tasmania by the St Helens GFC vessel *Backlash* at an estimated length of 200cm and 85kg.

This fish was recaptured by Broken Bay GFC boat *Carnage* at the 2010 Wollongong GFC Tournament after 602 days and 439 nautical miles straight line distance.

The fish weighed in at 82.2kg.



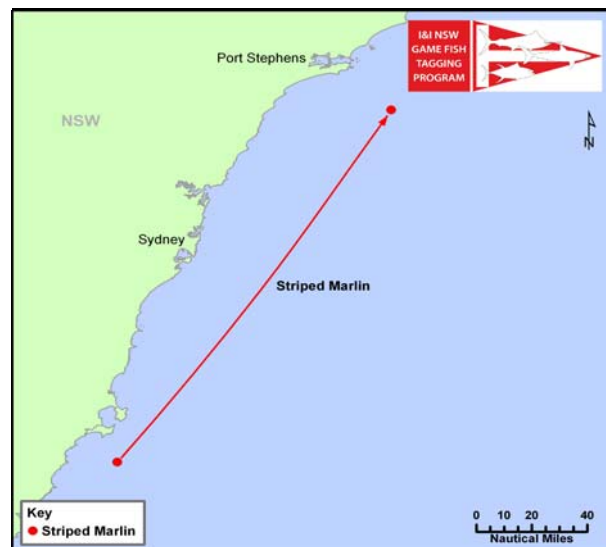
SCOTTY SCORES A STRIPEY

Scott Thorrington of Haven Charters fishing on his new vessel *Flying Fisher* off Port Stephens recaptured a tagged Striped Marlin estimated at 70kg on 14 April 2011.

Amazingly this is one of 110 marlin caught by Scotty this year, 94 of which have been tagged and released.

Upon reporting the recapture it was discovered that this fish was originally released off Ulladulla on 14 January 2011 by the Shoalhaven GFC vessel *Dads Boat*.

This fish had travelled 162 nautical miles in its 90 days at liberty.



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