

**TARPON (MEGALOPS ATLANTICUS) GENETIC RECAPTURE  
STUDY**

**FINAL REPORT  
APRIL 1, 2011 – MARCH 15, 2012**



**Submitted to:**

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**Submitted by:**

Carole Neidig  
Thomas King  
Mote Marine Laboratory  
1600 Ken Thompson Parkway  
Sarasota, Florida 34236

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*Mote Marine Laboratory Technical Report No. 1601*

# Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*) Genetic Recapture Study

**MOTE MARINE LABORATORY  
FINAL REPORT  
APRIL 1, 2011 – MARCH 15, 2012**

During the contract period of April 1, 2011 through March 15, 2012, Mote Marine Laboratory (MML) Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture worked in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) to conduct and coordinate the Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*) Genetic Recapture Study (TGRS) around the state of Florida. The goal of the TGRS is to engage anglers in providing DNA samples and corresponding tarpon capture data to use in the evaluation of migration and movement of individual fish recapture rates, connectivity of tarpon between bodies of Florida waters, fish survival, and with time, we may be able to determine if juvenile tarpon caught in Florida provide adult tarpon to Florida's recreational fishery. Involving recreational and professional tarpon angler "citizen scientists" as well as businesses (e.g. bait and tackle shops) around the state are key to the success of this study.

## **Background**

The TGRS was established by FWRI as a fin clip program in 2005. In 2007, FWRI and MML efforts were primarily focused on establishing a network of anglers from around the state to take DNA samples and provide their associated tarpon capture information. At this same time, FWRI and MML shifted methodology to encouraging anglers to sample tarpon by taking a skin scrape on the outer portion of the jaw rather than taking a dorsal fin clip. In 2009, FWRI and MML promoted the program state-wide with particular attention directed to the Florida Keys and Florida's east coast to increase samples for DNA analysis. The FWRI partnership with MML staff and volunteers has been an asset in strengthening the program.

## **Accomplishments**

Mote Marine Laboratory staff and volunteers worked in partnership with FWRI to promote, develop, and expand the TGRS around the entire coastal area of the state of Florida. The partnership continued to substantially increase angler participation in the tarpon sampling program and establish anglers as stakeholders by having them contribute DNA samples and corresponding fish capture data. This included actively informing anglers of the importance of this project and involving them as stakeholders to collect DNA samples and record capture information from "All Tarpon-Anywhere, Any Size". This partnership has resulted in valuable biological and fishery data being collected for assessing tarpon stocks. Activities performed by MML from April 1, 2011 through March 15, 2012 are included.

## Participants

The MML portion of the TGRS was directed by Carole Neidig, M.S. (Staff Scientist) and Thomas King, Ph.D. (Senior Biologist). Assistance was provided by MML staff from other departments and MML Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture volunteers. Assistance provided by MML staff other than C. Neidig and T. King included:

- Sue Ryan, Office Administrator and Anna Marie Perez, Receptionist distributed educational handouts and sampling kits to interested anglers at the MML reception desk,
- Dan Bebak, Aquarium Director and his staff and volunteers directed interested visiting anglers to the MML reception desk or to C. Neidig or T. King to obtain a sampling kit,
- Aaron Adams, MML Staff Scientist and Director of Operations for the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust assisted by distributing study information and sampling kits, and
- Glenn Markos, Mote Aquarium Mobile Exhibit (MAME) director and MAME volunteers (including Ray Walborn, TGRS volunteer) who presented the study and distributed DNA sampling kits at community events along the west coast of Florida,

In addition to MML staff, thirteen primary MML volunteers (seasonal and resident) provided invaluable assistance with the study. Volunteers assisted by preparing materials for sampling kits, assembling sampling kits, contacting angler related businesses through phone calls and emails, preparing mailings to businesses and anglers, performing internet searches (potential poster sites, angler products, study articles on web sites), printing, laminating, obtaining products from local and national businesses for angler prizes, visiting businesses, assisting at tournaments, and promoting the study at events. The primary MML Tarpon Team volunteers included: John Arbuckle, Fran Bays, Viola Filoso, Faith Graves, Dick Helvig, Bobby Hilbrunner, Stanley Kodach, Joe Mazza, Cindy McClure, Roger Mitchell, Bob Steskal, Ray Walborn, and Janice Wojick., In addition, interns Alicia Vollimer (Florida State University) and Chadwick Vollimer (Sarasota High School) assisted from June through August 2011.

Staff from FWRI and MML forged partnerships with staff from additional agencies, businesses, and angler organizations around the state of Florida as well as several southeastern states and other countries to increase angler participation, gain assistance in sampling kit distribution, and to inform the angler community of study progress. Study collaborations continued with Florida Sea Grant Extension Offices, St. Petersburg National Marine Fisheries Service, Everglades National Park, numerous tarpon tournament series on the west coast and in the Keys, and the South Carolina Coastal Conservation Association. In 2011, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries joined the TGRS and have made the study part of their state's research plan.

## **Increase Awareness**

An important component of the TGRS was for MML to assist FWRI in promoting the study to anglers and the angler community. Anglers were encouraged to become “citizen scientists” by providing tarpon DNA samples and related fish capture data. Another important component was keeping the angler community informed of results and emphasizing the value of their participation. Participating anglers that received feedback and understood that they were invaluable contributors to the study often helped to spread the word. The following were methods used by FWRI and MML to promote the study:

- involved the participation of bait and tackle shops,
- personal phone contact with shops and many angler participants,
- personal visits to many of the shops,
- promoted media involvement through press releases and interviews,
- provided study updates and encouraged angler involvement through participation on radio shows,
- presented and promoted the study at club meetings, captain meetings, tournament award ceremonies, and angler community events,
- personally contacted guides to encourage participation,
- encouraged tournament participants to collect samples,
- collected samples from anglers at tournaments,
- provided posters for display at businesses, boat ramps, and marinas,
- provided handouts and newsletters to anglers,
- encouraged guides, artists, and businesses to issue angler challenges,
- involved local and national businesses in donating reward items, and
- provided angler prize awards to promote the study at events.

## **DNA Sampling Kit Distribution and Sample Collection Locations**

The 206 participating bait and tackle shops (Appendix) were instrumental in promoting the TGRS to local anglers, providing sampling kits, and accepting samples from anglers. To help increase the coverage of bait and tackle shops around the state, T. King contacted additional shops and enlisted their participation. In addition, K. Guindon and C. Gardinal (FWRI) enlisted new shops and provided contact information to T. King. During the contract period several shops closed, changed ownership and/or changed names, and new shops were recruited. As shops were added or deleted, T. King updated the participating shop list on the internal FWRI Share Point site by uploading an Excel® spreadsheet. In addition, he notified David Westmark (FWRI) and Chris Gardinal (FWRI) of the changes made to the list so that they could use the file to update the FWC, FWRI TGRS Website page. The site was updated by D. Westmark in February 2012. T. King also used the spreadsheet to print participating shop lists for angler events. Electronic copies of the list were provided to Vangie Collins and Kay Frantz (FWC Administrative Assistants) at the Stock Enhancement Research Facility (SERF) to use as reference for anglers who call the FWC Fish Tag Hotline. In addition, an electronic copy was provided to G. Russo (FWC, SERF) for use during outreach activities.

The TGRS team strived to increase shop participation around the state, particularly in the Panhandle, east coast, southeast, and in the Florida Keys. The following were the number of participating shops (206) per region as of March 10, 2012:

- Northwest (36),
- West Central (49),
- Southwest (28),
- Everglades (3),
- Florida Keys (34),
- Southeast (33),
- East Central (15), and
- Northeast (8).

During the tarpon angling season in each region, shops were called at least once per month, with active shops called more frequently (e.g. weekly) by T. King to confirm if samples needed to be retrieved or if sampling kits or handouts were needed. He also encouraged shop staff to call the FWRI toll free number or his mobile number if they were in the need of sampling kits or had samples to return. Some shops requested that it was not necessary for us to call them, but they would call when they needed supplies or had samples.

To expedite sample returns before the TGRS October 31, 2011 deadline, each shop was called to request if they had samples from anglers or if they could encourage anglers to submit their samples. In addition, he thanked the shop staff for their participation and support and encouraged their continued involvement.

As per K. Guindon's request in January 2012, T. King called all of the TGRS participating shops in the northwest region to inform them of two tarpon outreach events in February. A Science -Café event in Carrabelle on February 28, 2012, featured K. Guindon and J. Ault (University of Miami) presenting "Understanding Tarpon and How You Can Help the Scientists". In addition, T. King explained that there would be a Tarpon Workshop held the following day at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve. He requested that the shop staff help to spread the word about the events to their angler clients and that he would send them a printed copy of the information in the mail to display in their shop. Each shop was mailed a copy of the presentation and workshop announcement.

T. King noted that when shops were called in a region during a time of busy tarpon activity, it was usually necessary to start calling the shops over again as soon as the last shop was contacted. Some shops were efficient in calling T. King or the FWC Fish Tag Hotline to request additional kits. Often it was necessary to make repeated calls if shops were closed because of bad weather or if shop assistants requested that we call when the manager or owner was available. Numerous shops experienced frequent staff turn-over or had several part-time staff, making it necessary to try to keep staff informed about the study

so that they would be knowledgeable when interested anglers visited their business.

Many shop managers called the FWC Fish Tag Hotline or T. King directly to request a pre-paid mailer to send samples directly to MML, though shops were encouraged to mail samples directly to FWRI. Samples returned to MML from a shop were logged into the Shop Notebook prior to being provided to FWRI.

T. King kept a record of individual shops by region and kept track of each phone call, visit by FWRI or MML staff or volunteers, or other correspondence with shops. During a phone call to a shop, the following information was recorded on a form (Appendix):

- the name of the person contacted,
- date,
- requests made by shop employee (e.g. need poster, handouts, sampling kits, sample mailer),
- number of tarpon samples at the shop,
- information on whether the shop would mail the samples or if MML would need to retrieve samples,
- comments made by shop staff concerning tarpon fishing in that area, tournaments, club meetings, and any other pertinent information,
- number of kits or handouts sent, and
- the date materials were sent.

To help prevent the loss of samples in bait shops, plastic boxes (12" x 5" x 3.5") or (6" x 6" x 3.5") were purchased by MML and one was distributed to each shop. Some shops requested a new box. Each box displayed a TGRS sticker on the lid and an FWC Fish Tag Hotline telephone number sticker provided by G. Russo (SERF) on one side.

T. King noted that from conversations with participating shop staff that they were enthusiastic about promoting the study. Some shops indicated that they were eager to help; however, some indicated it was difficult to get anglers to take kits because there was not much tarpon activity in their area. Some shop owners or managers called to tell us that they had heard of the study and wanted to be included as a kit distribution and sample collection location.

From November 2011 through January 2012, shop activity slowed in all areas, though several shops requested sampling supplies. Several shops were removed from the list because of lack of participation, with few tarpon anglers visiting their business. Several shops stated they may not be open in 2012 because of the economy, and some closed during late in the year and planned to reopen in March or June 2012. As a result of continued contact with the shops and the updates of study results provided to them, anglers and shop owners have been eager to participate. Frequent calls made by T. King helped to forge a primary contact point for shop staff. Many of the shop staff stated that calling and/or visiting and taking time to speak to managers and staff about the study

and asking about how fishing was in their area helped to encourage their participation as stakeholders in the study.

During the contract period there were 1,452 tarpon DNA samples submitted to MML. The samples were primarily from shops, and many of the samples sent to MML were in self-addressed stamped envelopes provided by MML. Some shop staff indicated that their anglers mailed their samples directly to FWRI, as was encouraged by MML. There were also individual anglers that requested pre-paid mailers from MML for their samples. All samples submitted to MML were recorded and tracked to keep record of numbers from each shop and from individual anglers. Samples were provided to FWRI in a timely manner for processing.

In addition to the shops, T. King kept in contact with representatives of several organizations who distributed kits for the study. These organizations included: Rookery Bay Reserve, Everglades National Park, the South Carolina Coastal Conservation Association and newly added Southeastern Wildlife Conservation Group.

In January 2012, a Certificate of Appreciation (Appendix) and a thank you letter from the TGRS Team were mailed by MML to each shop. Artist Jeanne Johnson from Sugarloaf Marina provided MML with permission to feature her Gytaku tarpon on the certificate.

### **Posters**

No changes were made to the TGRS laminated posters during the contract period. Two sized posters were distributed, an 11 inch x 17 inch and an 8 ½ inch x 11 inch (Appendix). Both posters advertised the jaw scrape sampling method using maroon scrub pads.

During the report period, MML continued to identify locations around the state where the TGRS posters could be displayed and be viewed by potential tarpon anglers. These locations did not include the bait and tackle shops. Focus was placed on identifying public and private marinas and boat ramps in coastal areas and obtaining permission to display the TGRS poster in kiosks, outside marinas, and alongside boat ramps frequented by anglers. This involved internet searches, perusing boating booklets and magazines, contacting county visitor centers, park offices, guides, fishing club members, and recreational boating resources. Volunteers, R. Walborn and B. Hilbrunner were responsible for contacting the appropriate personnel and provided letters of request and electronic copies of the poster for review. In February 2012, B. Hilbrunner contacted the locations to confirm that they still had their poster or were in need of a replacement. B. Hilbrunner and T. King followed up with contacts as necessary and sent posters and handouts to the facilities for posting. Some of the locations requested that they be called after March to see if they needed a replacement at that time. As of March 10, 2012, there were 161 businesses or parks displaying 201 posters state-wide (Appendix). Some parks had multiple locations (e.g. boat ramp and in a park office) where posters were displayed.

## **Handouts**

Several handouts supplemental to the TGRS (see below) were available to anglers requesting tarpon DNA sampling kits at events and by mail from FWRI or MML staff:

- FWC "Regulation" publication,
- Fishing Lines Magazine,
- Estimate the weight of your tarpon cards
- Tarpon Quick Fact Sheet,
- Participating Shop list (listing of shops in the anglers area), and
- Current Study Newsletter.

Anglers were also informed that several of these items could be accessed on the FWRI website.

Electronic copies of the Tarpon Quick Facts (Appendix) and the most recent newsletter were provided to V. Collins, K. Frantz, and G. Russo (SERF), G. Markos (MML Mobile Exhibit), M. Bailey (NMFS), B. Fleuch (Sea Grant), Elizabeth Staugler (Sea Grant), and Todd Stamps (South Carolina CCA) for distribution.

In addition, a business card advertising the TGRS was provided to anglers at events so that the interested angler could contact the FWC Fish Tag Hotline to request a sampling kit. Cards were printed at MML and distributed to the TGRS team to have on hand at events.

## **Outreach Events**

There were 28 tournaments in 2011 in which FWRI and/ or MML staff attended or provided event coordinators with TGRS sampling supplies and educational materials. Seventeen community outreach events were also attended or provided with materials. A list of the events is presented in the TGRS 2011 Genetic Recapture Review Newsletter (Appendix), omitted were the Hunting and Fishing Exposition, Indian Rocks, FL, Sci-Café Presentation, Carrabelle, FL, and Tarpon Workshop, Eastpoint, FL that took place in February 2012. In addition, the MML Mobile Exhibit exhibited TGRS materials at least eleven community events from St. Petersburg to Fort Myers.

Since January 2012, MML and FWRI staff and MML volunteers worked on updating a list of tournaments and events for 2012. These were gathered from input from FWRI staff, correspondence with anglers, information provided by tournament and angler event representatives internet searches, and from magazine and newspaper listings. Staff contacted event organizers to request TGRS participation to promote the study and, if a tournament, encourage the collection of DNA samples. Some event postings were listed, but organizers had not set dates as of February 2012. Events were listed on the FWRI Share Point site as information became available.



### **Additional Outreach**

A valuable part of study promotion was the Genetic Recapture Review Newsletter (Appendix) developed by K. Guindon (FWRI) and the FWRI and MML TGRS Team with Graphic Design by Jessica Pernel. The 2011 newsletter was mailed by FWRI to anglers and participating shops in January 2012 to promote the study and provide results from 2011 to the stakeholders. Another valuable promotion was the FWRI website ([myfwc.com/research/saltwater/tarpon/](http://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/tarpon/)) which included study information, press releases, archived newsletters, interesting articles, and a downloadable participating bait and tackle shop list.

In 2011, Florida Sea Grant and the Information and Communications Services at the University of Florida worked closely with K. Guindon and fishing guides from Tampa Bay and the Ten Thousand Islands to create a Sea Grant funded video on the TGRS for FWRI and MML to use for promotion. The video was released in March 2012, and will be beneficial to display at events. It is available on the Florida Sea Grant Website and on You Tube at the following link, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzDwh5HcpJA>.

In February 2012, Janice Wojick of Wojick and Short & Associates agreed to work with MML and FWRI in preparing a brochure to promote the TGRS. The cost of the graphic set-up and printing will be at no expense to FWRI or MML. She also provided additional TGRS postcards and Thank You note cards for use in the study. These items were donated through MML.

In 2011, MML was fortunate to receive a grant from the Islamorada Fishing and Conservation Trust (IFACT) to help to enhance the TGRS in Monroe County. As reported by FWRI in the TGRS Newsletter (Appendix), the number of DNA samples returned from the Florida Keys went up 64% from the previous year. The support from IFACT was instrumental in helping us to promote the TGRS in Monroe County.

### **Reward Program and Angler Challenge Promotions**

B. Steskal and F. Bays (TGRS Donation Coordinator volunteers), and C. Neidig acquired items from local and national businesses for 2011-2012 angler rewards, bi-monthly angler awards, and for study promotions (i.e. gift baskets awarded at tournaments for the most samples submitted). These contacts were made through numerous phone calls to businesses, visiting business representatives at angler shows (i.e. Tampa Tribune Exposition and Florida Sportsman Shows), and visiting local businesses and others while traveling. In addition, some of the participating bait and tackle shops were approached for gift certificates or in-kind items. All in-kind and or cash donations (for t-shirts) were recorded and provided to the MML Donation Office. Each sponsor was sent an acknowledgement for their donation. In addition, a Certificate of Appreciation (Appendix) similar to the one sent to participating bait and tackle shops was also sent to each sponsor in January 2012 for items provided in 2011.

During the contract period in 2011, MML acquired prizes for six TGRS Bi-Monthly Awards. The award period and winner(s) were as follows: January - February

2011 (Frederick Lieb, Bokeelia), March – April 2011 (Craig Korczynski, Royal Palm Beach), May – June (Brian Jill, Palm Harbor), July – August (Cameron Gorski, Sarasota and Lance Schouest, Houma, LA), September - October (Randy Dalzell, Sr., Palm Bay), and November - December (Robert Gorta, Largo, FL). The anglers received gift certificates of \$250.00 provided by SeaSucker, Sarasota, FL, knives provided by Cutco Knives, and one angler received a hand-made tarpon platter by Kathy Zimmerman of SnookZGraphics, St. Petersburg, FL. Prize packages also included a TGRS hat (provided by FWRI), t-shirt, decal, and other donated angler items.

In 2011, T. King and C. Neidig provided a proposal to Power Pole, requesting funding to sponsor Angler Reward t-shirts. Upon receiving the award from Power-Pole, T. King worked with Black Tip GraFX in Palmetto, FL and artist Jeanne Johnson, Sugarloaf Marina, Sugarloaf, FL on a reward t-shirt design. Ms. Johnson provided permission to use her Gyotaku print of a school of three tarpon. The angler award shirts were long sleeve featuring the TGRS logo and the FWC and MML logos on the front, the three Gyotaku Tarpon school print on the back and the primary shirt sponsor “Power Pole” on the back below the print.

In October 2011, the shirts were mailed to participating anglers from 2010 who submitted five or more tarpon DNA samples. T. King had previously contacted each angler to obtain their shirt size, a somewhat difficult task to say the least, with anglers having moved, changed addresses, phone numbers or email addresses (or with none of the above listed). The Share-Point angler information site was updated based on information obtained from the direct angler contacts. A total of 128 long-sleeved shirts were sent to anglers and 60 short-sleeved shirts were provided to MML volunteers, FWRI personnel who help with the study directly, or were kept for placing in tournament gift baskets and as additional rewards.

A TGRS decal with a black logo on green background was also sent to anglers who returned one or more tarpon DNA samples as a thank you gift and study promotion. The decals were purchased by MML through funds donated by J.L Marine Systems/Power Pole.

In 2012, T. King and C. Neidig submitted a proposal to J.L. Marine Systems, Inc. /Power Pole to request funding support to sponsor Angler Reward t-shirts and decals for 2011 anglers. There were 121 anglers eligible for a t-shirt, submitting more than five DNA samples. T. King received permission from artist/Captain Brian Esposito for permission to use his pencil sketch of a tarpon head as the artwork for the 2011 angler t-shirts. He also requested bids from three t-shirt companies for shirts and TGRS decals. T. King called and or emailed each angler from 2011 that submitted five or more samples to obtain their shirt size and thank them for their participation. It was explained that shirts would be awarded depending on donation funds being granted. The angler shirt sizes as well as any corrections in their address and other contact information were entered into the angler database in Share Point. Anglers were excited and appreciative and expressed gratitude for the possibility of receiving the shirt.

Several anglers had received shirts from submitting more than five samples in 2010 or 2009.

In December 2011, FWRI staff determined the “Top Ten” anglers who submitted the most samples from January through October 31, 2011, and randomly chose 10 anglers from those who submitted samples to receive angler incentives. These 20 anglers were sent prize packages prepared by MML that contained numerous items (e.g. art work, cutting boards, clothing, gift certificates, flies, lures, sunscreen, tackle bags, boat cleaning products, rod holders, sunglasses, books) donated by national and local businesses.

Sponsors during 2011 who provided items for gift baskets, bi-monthly angler prizes, challenge gifts, and support for t-shirts included: Bass Pro Shop of Fort Myers, Black Tip GraFX, Bob’s Machine Shop, Breathe Like A Fish, Cabala’s, Clyde Butcher Venice Gallery & Studio, Coastal Angler Magazine, Cutco Cutlery, Corp., Dave Markett, Dawson Agency, Discount Tackle, D.O.A. Fishing Lures, Economy Tackle/Dolphin Dive, El Capitan Sports Center, Inc., Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fran Bays, Jeannie Johnson/Quadruple Gallery, J.L. Marine Systems, Inc./Power Pole, John B’s Fly & Light Tackle, Kathy Zimmerman/Snook ZGraphics, Mote Marine Laboratory, Mr. Bones, New Pass Grill & Bait Shop, SeaSucker, Shepard’s Red Barn, Tropical Seas, West Marine, Wojick & Short Associates, and Woody Wax.

## **Media**

During the contract period, FWRI and Mote strived to promote the TGRS through the media. At least 56 media articles concerning the study were published in magazines, newspapers, and on internet websites in 2011 (Appendix). Mote and FWRI staff and MML volunteers collected articles about the TGRS through internet searches, directly from the publishing source, or from anglers who provided the article. Copies of the articles were placed in two notebooks for MML and FWRI staff and volunteers to display at events. F. Bays and S. Kodach (MML volunteers) entered the articles into an Excel® database including the article date, title, author, and media source. Articles for 2011 and 2012 (January-March) will be uploaded to the Share Point site in March 2012.

J. Wolf, owner and editor of the Florida Keys Coastal Angler Magazine agreed to continue featuring a monthly article in 2012 concerning the TGRS. In 2012, K. Guindon submitted an article for the March 2012 Keys edition. She also submitted one to the Fish Monster Magazine in Key West. An article was also included in the March edition of *Sport Fishing Magazine*. In March, K. Guindon promoted the TGRS in northwest Florida and an article (<http://nwfailynews.com/articles/tarpon-47901-research-day.html>) was submitted to seven newspapers in the area.

An additional new media resource included “You Tube”, in which K. Guindon was featured on Panhandle Outdoors (<http://youtu.be/8ybbPovbyOw>) in March 2012. An additional resource included television shows, including the Chevy Florida Insider Fishing Report with Captain Rick Murphy and several in the Panhandle

that included interviews with K. Guindon in March 2012. Several anglers have stated that they saw the TGRS mentioned on a television show or on the radio.

In January 2012, R. Walborn (MML volunteer) commenced updating a database of radio stations, angler oriented magazines and newspapers resources, and angler clubs. These will be contacted to assist with study promotion.

### **DNA Sampling Kits**

During the contract period, no changes were made to the TGRS sampling kits, which consisted of the following:

- (3) data form slips printed on waterproof paper for the angler to record fish capture date, time, county, location, approximate total length, time it took to capture the fish, and angler contact information,
- (1) number 2 pencil,
- (3) 20mL plastic vials containing 20% ETOH storage solution,
- (3) rectangular pieces of 3M<sup>®</sup> maroon abrasive scrub pads, and
- folded instruction sheet describing study background, objectives, and methods for taking a DNA sample (printed on 28 lb. glossy paper).

In addition to providing sampling kits with three vials, kits with 12 vials “Captain Bag” were also made in one gallon size plastic Ziploc<sup>®</sup> bags. These kits included:

- (12) data form slips printed on waterproof paper for the angler to record fish capture date, time, location, approximate total length, time it took to capture the fish, and angler contact information,
- (1) number 2 pencil,
- (12) 20mL plastic vials containing 20% ETOH storage solution, and
- (12) rectangular pieces of 3M<sup>®</sup> maroon abrasive scrub pads.

An instruction sheet was not included in these kits since they were distributed to anglers who already participated.

The MML volunteers assembled tarpon DNA kits. Staff at FWRI provided MML with many of the supplies needed to make the kits. On a weekly basis, MML volunteers assembled tarpon DNA sampling kits to keep a target inventory of at least 500 kits available for distribution. The following are numbers of kits that were assembled and distributed by MML in 2011 and through February 2012:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Assembled	6,984	2,100
Distributed to Shops & Anglers (3 vials)	2,061	878
Distributed to Shops & Anglers (12 vials)	233	53
Distributed at Events	1,050	0
Provided to FWRI for Distribution	3,016	1,000

### **Angler Contributions**

During the contract period there were 1,453 tarpon DNA samples submitted to MML by shops and individual anglers. Anglers were enthusiastic about participating in the study and many expressed that they were helping to promote the study in their area. This was certainly evident in the progress as displayed in the TGRS 2011 newsletter (Appendix). As stated by K. Guindon, by October 31, 2011, a total of 4,024 samples were returned during 2011; of those, 3,861 DNA samples were collected from tarpon caught in Florida waters. There were 121 anglers who contributed five or more samples in 2011. Samples to date provided more than 100 recaptures. These samples, contributed by “citizen scientists” are helping us to gain valuable information to learn more about ranges and patterns of tarpon movements, and the linkages or connectivity, if any, between certain spawning grounds and off-season locations (K. Guindon, 2011 TGRS Newsletter).

# **APPENDIX**

- **Participating Kit Distribution and Sample Collection Locations**
- **Shop Form**
- **Certificate of Appreciation for Participating Shops and Sponsors**
- **Small Poster**
- **Poster Locations (excluding Kit Distribution and Sample Collection Sites)**
- **Tarpon Quick Facts Handout**
- **2011 Annual Newsletter**
- **2011 Media Articles**

**FWRI / MML TARPON GENETIC RECAPTURE STUDY  
KIT DISTRIBUTION AND/OR SAMPLE COLLECTION SHOP LOCATIONS**

Revised 3/12/2012 0:31

**NORTHWEST**

Scipio Creek Marina	301 Market Street	Apalachicola, FL	32329	(850)653-8030
Apalach Outfitters	29 Avenue E	Apalachicola, FL	32320	(850)653-3474
Marina Hardware	1st Street	Cedar Key, FL	32625	(352)543-5804
Carrabelle Beach	1843 Highway 98 West	Carrabelle, FL	32322	(850)697-2638
C-Quarters Marina	P.O. Box 680 (501 St. James Ave., Hwy 98)	Carrabelle, FL	32322	(850)697-8400
Lanark Market	2340 Highway 98 East	Carrabelle, FL	32322	(850)697-2211
MS Dockside Marina	292 Graham Dr.	Carrabelle, FL	32322	(850) 697-3337
Jerry's Bait & Tackle	664 Woodville Highway	Crawfordville, FL	32327	(850)421-3248
Ed's Tackle Shop	983 North Suncoast Boulevard	Crystal River, FL	34429	(352)795-4178
Pete's Pier	1 Southwest 1st Place	Crystal River, FL	34429	(352)795-3302
Bass Pro at Destin	4301 Legendary Drive	Destin, FL	32541	(950)269-6200
Half-Hitch Tackle (Destin)	621 Harbour Blvd.	Destin, FL	32541	(850)837-3121
Fishermen's Choice Bait & Tackle	330 Highway 98	Eastpoint, FL	32328	(850)670-8808
Okaloosa Island Fishing Pier	1030 Miracle Strip Parkway, East	Ft. Walton Beach, FL	32548	(850)244-1023
Gulf Breeze Bait & Tackle	825 Gulf Breeze Parkway	Gulf Breeze, FL	32561	(850)932-6789
MacRae's Motel & Marina	5300 South Cherokee Way	Homosassa, FL	34487	(352)628-2602
Outcast Bait & Tackle	10330 West Yulee Drive, Unit 8	Homosassa, FL	34448	(352)621-3474
Horseshoe Beach Marina	Highway 351	Perry, FL	32648	(352)498-5687
Keaton Beach Motel & Marina	20650 Keaton Beach Drive	Keaton Beach, FL	32348	(850)578-2897
Half-HitchTackle	8711 Navarre Parkway	Navarre, FL	32566	(850)939-9885
Coastal Corner, Inc.	49 Coastal Highway 98	Panacea, FL	32346	(850)984-2767
Half Hitch Tackle (Panama City)	2206 Thomas Drive	Panama City, FL	32408	(850)234-2621
Howell Tackle	3100 West Highway 98	Panama City, FL	32401	(850)785-8548
Sunjammers Watersports	315 North Highway 79	Panama City Beach, FL	32413	(850)235-2281
Big Lagoon State Recreation Area	12301 Gulf Beach Highway	Pensacola, FL	32507	(850)492-1595
Outcast Bait & Tackle	3520 Barrancas Avenue	Pensacola, FL	32507	(850)457-1450
Blue Water Outriggers	121 West Highway 98	Port St. Joe, FL	32456	(850)229-1100
Half-Hitch Tackle (Port St. Joe)	212A Highway 98	Port St. Joe, FL	32547	(850)227-7100
Pressnell's Bayside Marina	2115 Highway C-30	Port St. Joe, FL	32456	(850)229-2710
Indian Pass Campground	2817 Indian Pass Rd (County Road C-30B)	Port St. Joe, FL	32456	(850)227-7203
Old Florida Outfitters	30 Watercolor Boulevard	Santa Rosa Beach, FL	32459	(850)534-4343
Yellowfin Ocean Sports	285 Wilderness Way	Santa Rosa Beach, FL	32459	(850)231-9024
Tackle Outlet	5418 SW Highway 358	Steinhatchee, FL	32359	(352)498-5424
Journeys of St. George Island	240 East Third Street	St. George Island, FL	32328	(850)927-3259
St. Marks Outfitters	719 Port Leon	St. Marks, FL	32355	(850)510-7919
Yankeetown General Store	6611 Highway 40 West	Yankeetown, FL	34498	(352)447-2532

**WEST CENTRAL**

Bradenton Discount Tackle	3113 First Street East	Bradenton, FL	34208	(941)746-6020
Osprey Bay Outdoors	160 North Belcher Road	Clearwater, FL	33765	(727)524-9670
Clearwater Bait & Tackle	2999 Gulf to Bay Boulevard	Clearwater, FL	33759	(727)669-5455
West Marine	1721 Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard	Clearwater, FL	33755	(727)447-5320
Annie's Bait & Tackle	4334 127th Street West	Cortez, FL	34213	(941)794-3580
Gulfport Municipal Marina	4630 29th Avenue South	Gulfport, FL	33711	(727)893-1071
Island Discount Tackle	5503 Marina Drive	Holmes Beach, FL	34217	(941)779-2838
Fisherman's World	1500 U.S. 19	Holiday, FL	34691	(727)942-8944
Coopers Shrimp Shack	14633 Old Dixie Highway	Hudson, FL	34667	(727)868-8736
Stone's Outhouse	2062 East Edgewood Drive	Lakeland, FL	33803	(863)665-1651
Big Fish Outfitters	6908 US Highway 98 North	Lakeland, FL	33809	(863)815-9492
Bett's Fishing Center	8926 126th Ave.	Largo, FL	33773	(727)518-7637
Flint Creek Outfitters	13425 Fishhawk Boulevard	Lithia, FL	33547	(813)681-1888
Don's Dock	215 Boardwalk Place	Madiera Beach, FL	33708	(727)391-3223
Hubbard's Marina	150 John's Pass Boardwalk	Madiera Beach, FL	33708	(727)393-1947
Rick's Rods	390 150th Avenue North	Madiera Beach, FL	33708	(727)399-9963
One-Stop Bait & Tackle	4726 Trouble Creek Road	New Port Richey, FL	34652	(727)842-5610
Dockside Store	100 Circuit Road	Nokomis, FL	34275	(941)480-9744
Fly Fishing Outfitters	820 Albee Road, Suite 1	Nokomis, FL	34275	(941)412-4512
Skyway Bait & Tackle	4808 U.S. Highway 19 North	Palmetto, FL	34221	(941)721-0461
Solonika Bait & Tackle	6211 Ridge Road	Port Richey, FL	34688	(727)849-6377
Holy Mackerel Tackle	8629 49th Street North	Pinellas Park, FL	33782	(727)547-9889
South Shore Bait & Tackle	83 7th Avenue Northeast	Ruskin, FL	33570	(813)641-2010
CB's Saltwater Outfitters	1249 Stickney Point Road	Sarasota, FL	34242	(941)349-4400
Economy Tackle	6018 South Tamiami Trail	Sarasota, FL	34231	(941)922-9671
Hart's Landing	920 Ringling Causeway, P.O. Box 17945	Sarasota, FL	34236	(941)955-0011
Mote Marine Laboratory	1600 Ken Thompson Parkway	Sarasota, FL	34236	(941)388-4441
New Pass Bait & Grill	1498 1/2 Ken Thompson Parkway	Sarasota, FL	34326	(941)388-3050



**FWRI / MML TARPON GENETIC RECAPTURE STUDY  
KIT DISTRIBUTION AND/OR SAMPLE COLLECTION SHOP LOCATIONS**

	Revised	3/12/2012 0:31			
Dogfish Tackle Company		8750 Park Boulevard North	Seminole, FL	33777	(727)393-2102
Gulf to Bay Bait & Tackle		6920 Gulf Boulevard	St. Pete Beach, FL	33706	(727)367-4756
Merry Pier		801 Pass-a-Grille Way	St. Pete Beach, FL	33706	(727)360-1400
Canoe Country Outfitters		6493 54th Avenue North	St. Petersburg, FL	33709	(727)545-4554
Mastry's Bait & Tackle		1700 4th Street South	St. Petersburg, FL	33701	(727)896-8880
O'Neils Skyway Boat Basin		6701 34th Street South	St. Petersburg, FL	33711	(727)867-2585
The Pier Bait House		800 2nd Avenue Northeast	St. Petersburg, FL	33701	(727)821-3750
Ultimate Fishing Center		9385 Bay Pines Boulevard	St. Petersburg, FL	33708	(727)320-9032
Bill's Bait & Tackle		9806 Highway 92 East	Tampa, FL	33610	(813)621-4237
Cody's Bait & Tackle		9135 West Hillsborough Avenue	Tampa, FL	33610	(813)884-3100
Family Boating Centers		7806 Anderson Road	Tampa, FL	33634	(813)884-1395
Gandy Bait & Tackle		4923 Gandy Boulevard	Tampa, FL	33611	(813)839-5551
Southeastern Fishing Tackle Liquidators		2907 North Florida Avenue	Tampa, FL	33602	(813)223-3775
Tampa Bay Fishing Outfitters		3916 West Osborne Avenue	Tampa, FL	33614	(813)870-1234
Tampa Bay on the Fly		4203 West El Prado Boulevard	Tampa, FL	33614	(813)443-0660
Blue Water Fishing Supply		12403 North Florida Ave.	Tampa, FL	33612	(813)932-2707
Here Fishy Fishy Bait and Tackle		1810 S. Pinellas Avenue, Suite C	Tarpon Springs, FL	34689	(727)485-8527
The Bait Bucket		1197 Pinellas Ave. N.	Tarpon Springs, FL	34689	(727)937-1488
N. Skyway Fishing Pier		P.O. Box 146	Terra Ceia, FL	34250	(727)865-0668
S. Skyway Fishing Pier		P.O. Box 146	Terra Ceia, FL	34250	(941)729-0117
Bait Bucket		108 Pinellas Bayway	Terra Verde, FL	33715	(727)864-2108

**SOUTHWEST**

Boca Grande Marina		220 Harbor Drive/PO Box 1558	Boca Grande, FL	33921	(941)964-2550
Boca Grande Outfitters, Inc.		375 Park Avenue (P.O. Box 1799)	Boca Grande, FL	33921	(941)-964-2445
Hickory Bait & Tackle		23149 Weeks Fish Camp Road	Bonita Springs, FL	34134	(239)498-0090
Master Bait & Tackle		4465 Bonito Beach Road	Bonito Beach, FL	34134	(239)992-2553
West Marine		17105 San Carlos Boulevard	Cape Coral, FL	33931	(239)432-9800
Englewood Bait House		1450 Beach Road	Englewood, FL	34233	(727)867-3603
Stump Pass Marina		260 Maryland Avenue	Englewood, FL	34224	(941)697-2206
Guts-N-Glory Tackle		17637 San Carlos Boulevard	Fort Myers, FL	33931	(239)267-4713
The UPS Store		16970 San Carlos Boulevard, Suite 3	Fort Myers, FL	33908	(239)454-7111
Fish Tale Marina		7225 Estero Boulevard	Ft. Myers Beach, FL	33931	(239)-463-3600
West Marine		17220 San Carlos Boulevard	Ft. Myers Beach, FL	33931	(239)432-9800
Lee Co. Sea Grant UF/Lee Co. Ext. Serv.		3406 Palm Beach Boulevard	Ft. Myers, FL	33916	(239)-533-3719
Shack Baits@Punta Rassa		17501 Harbor Point Drive	Fort Myers, FL	33908	(239)489-0999
West Marine		1520 Colonial Boulevard	Ft. Myers, FL	33907	(239)275-6077
Calusa Island Marina		P.O. Box 156 385 Angler Drive	Goodland, FL	34140	(239)-394-3668
Mangrove Outfitters		4111 Tamiami Trail East	Naples, FL	34112	(239)793-3370
Marco Island River Marina		951 Bald Eagle Dr.	Marco Island, FL	34145	(239)394-2502
Capt. Pete's Bait & Tackle		550 Port O' Call Pkwy	Naples, FL	34102	(239)643-3366
UF/FAS Extension (Brian Fluech)		300 Tower Road	Naples, FL	34113	(239)417-6410
Lehr's Economy Tackle		1366 North Tamiami Trail	North Fort Myers, FL	33903	(239)995-2280
Eldred's Marina		P.O. Box 236	Placida, FL	33946	(941)697-1431
Gasparilla Marina		15001 Gasparilla Road	Placida, FL	33946	(941)697-2280
Captain Ted's Tackle		1189 Tamiami Trail	Port Charlotte, FL	33953	(941)627-6800
Fishin Frank's Bait & Tackle		4425 Tamiami Trail, Suite D	Port Charlotte, FL	33980	(941)625-3888
King Fisher Fleet		1200 West Rita Esplanade	Punta Gorda, FL	33950	(941)639-2628
Laishley Marine, Inc.		3415 Tamiami Trail	Punta Gorda, FL	33950	(941)639-3868
West Marine		700 Tamiami Trail	Punta Gorda, FL	44950	(941)637-0019
The Bait Box		1041 Periwinkle Way	Sanibel Island, FL	33957	(239)472-1618

**EVERGLADES**

Caxambas Pass Bait/Ship		909 Collier Court	Marco Island, FL	34145	(239)642-0004
Everglades Nat. Park, Flamingo Vis. Cent.		#1 Flamingo Lodge Highway	Flamingo, FL	33034	(239)695-2945
Parkway Village Marina		P.O. Box 340 1180 Chokoloskee Drive	Chokoloskee Island, FL	34138	(239)695-3261

**FLORIDA KEYS**

Big Pine Key Fishing Lodge		33000 Overseas Highway (MM 33, Oceanside)	Big Pine Key, FL	33043	(305)872-3868
Jig's Bait & Tackle		Mile Marker 30.3 (Oceanside)	Big Pine Key, FL	33043	(305)872-1040
Bahia Honda State Park		36850 Overseas Highway	Big Pine Key, FL	33043	(305)872-3897
Reef Light Tackle		29770 Overseas Highway	Big Pine Key, FL	33043	(305)877-7679
Cudjoe Gardens Marine		477 Drost Drive MM 21 Oceanside	Cudjoe Key	33050	(305)745-2352
Cudjoe Sales Fishermen's Warehouse		22536 Overseas Highway (MM 22.5)	Cudjoe Key, FL	33042	(305)745-3667
Hawks Cay Island Marina		61 Hawks Cay Boulevard	Duck Key, FL	33050	(305)289-4816
Duck Key Marina		1149 Greenbriar Road	Duck Key, FL	33050	(305)289-0161
Abel's Tackle Shop		84341 Old Highway MM 84.5	Islamorada, FL	33036	(305)664-2277
Backcountry Cowboy		82240 Overseas Highway (Bayside)	Islamorada, FL	33036	(305)517-4177
Bud 'N Mary's Fishing Marina		Mile Marker 79.8 (Oceanside) (P.O. Box 628)	Islamorada, FL	33036	(305)664-2461



**FWRI / MML TARPON GENETIC RECAPTURE STUDY  
KIT DISTRIBUTION AND/OR SAMPLE COLLECTION SHOP LOCATIONS**

	Revised	3/12/2012 0:31			
Florida Keys Outfitters		P.O. Box 603 MM 81.2 (Oceanside)	Islamorada, FL	33037	(305)664-5423
Holiday Isle Marina		84001 Overseas Highway	Islamorada, FL	33036	(305)664-2321
LaSiesta Resort & Marina		80500 Overseas Highway	Islamorada, FL	33036	(305)664-5247
Islamorada Outfitters		85932 Overseas Highway	Islamorada, FL	33036	(305)664-3232
Tackle Center of Islamorada		81924 Overseas Highway	Islamorada, FL	33036	(305)522-1920
Whale Harbor Marina		176 Coral Rd (MM 83.5 Oceanside)	Islamorada, FL	33036	(305)393-2714
World Wide Sportsman (Marina & Fly Shop)		81576 Overseas Highway (Bayside)	Islamorada, FL	33036	(305)664-3398
West Marine		103400 Overseas Highway, Suite 119	Key Largo, FL	33037	(305)453-9050
Cow Key Marina		5001 5th Avenue	Key West, FL	33040	(305)292-9111
Saltwater Angler		243 Front Street	Key West, FL	33040	(305)296-7035
Hurricane Hole		5130 Overseas Highway	Key West, FL	33040	(305)294-8025
Key West Bait & Tackle		241 Margaret Street	Key West, FL	33040	(305)292-1961
The Angling Company		33 Simonton Street	Key West, FL	33040	(305)292-6306
West Marine		725 Carolina Street	Key West, FL	33040	(305)295-0999
Keys Marine Lab		68486 US Highway 1, (MM 68.5)	Layton/Long Key, FL	33001	(305)664-9101
Big Time Bait & Tackle		11499 Overseas Highway (MM 53)	Marathon, FL	33050	(305)289-0199
Captain Hook's Marina & Dive Center		11833 Overseas Highway (MM 53) Oceanside	Marathon, FL	33050	(305)743-2444
7 Mile Marina		1090 Overseas Highway (MM 47.5)	Marathon, FL	33050	(305)395-0546
The Tackle Box		1901 Overseas Highway (MM 48)	Marathon, FL	33050	(305)289-0540
West Marine		2055 Overseas Highway	Marathon, FL	33050	(305)289-1009
Chris' Bait and Tackle		90800 Overseas Highway	Tavernier, FL	33070	(305)853-0191
Tropical Research Lab (Mote Lab)		24244 Overseas Highway	Summerland Key, FL	33042	(305)745-2729
Sugarloaf Marina		17015 Overseas Hwy (MM17)	Sugarloaf Shores, FL	33042	(305)745-3135
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>					
Ole Florida Fly Shop		6353 North Federal Highway	Boca Raton, FL	33487	(561)995-1929
Angler's Bait & Tackle		230 East Dania Beach Boulevard	Dania Beach, FL	33004	(954)925-9995
Carl's Bait & Tackle Shop		2510 Davie Boulevard	Ft. Lauderdale	33312	(954)581-8890
Rick's Yellow Bait House		35412 South Dixie Highway	Florida City, FL	33034	(305)245-5550
Lauderdale Marina		1900 Southeast 15th Street	Ft. Lauderdale	33316	(954)523-8507
St. Lucie Outboard Marine		657 North 2nd Street	Ft. Pierce, FL	34950	(772)464-1440
White's Tackle Shop		1106 South US Highway 1	Ft. Pierce, FL	34950	(772)461-6909
CARP Coastal Marine		4550 U.S. Highway 1	Grant, FL	32949	(321)952-1303
Don's Bait & Tackle		30710 South Federal Highway	Homestead, FL	33030	(305)247-6616
South Dade Outfitters		14100 Southwest 256th # 14	Homestead, FL	33032	(305)743-1142
Snook Nook		3595 Northeast Indian River Drive	Jensen Beach, FL	34957	(772)334-2145
Fishing Headquarters		633 North Highway A1A Alternate	Jupiter, FL	33477	(561)743-7335
Tuppen's Marine Tackle		1002 North Dixie Drive	Lake Worth, FL	33460	(561)582-9012
Perk's Bait & Tackle		307 North 4th Street	Lantana, FL	33462	(561)582-3133
Custom Rod and Reel		1835 Northeast 25th Street	Lighthouse Point, FL	33064	(954)786-3161
Capt. Harry's Fishing		100 Northeast 11th Street	Miami, FL	33132	(305)374-4661
El Capitan Sports Center		1590 Northwest 27th Avenue	Miami, FL	33125	(305)635-7500
Fly Shop of Miami		8243 South Dixie Highway	Miami, FL	33143	(305)669-5851
Hopkins-Carter Mar. Supp. & Fish.Supply		3300 NW 21 Street	Miami, FL	33142	(305)635-7377
River Marine Supply, Inc.		260 Southwest 6th Street	Miami, FL	33130	(305)856-0080
Lott Bros., Inc.		631 Northlake Boulevard	North Palm Beach, FL	33408	(561)844-0244
Seven Seas Bait & Tackle		47 East Blue Heron Boulevard	Riviera Beach, FL	33404	(561)842-7190
Native Tackle Supply		807 Indian River Drive	Sebastian, FL	32958	(772)228-6040
Reel Em In Bait & Tackle		1671 U.S. Highway 1 - Suite A	Sebastian, FL	32958	(772)581-1027
John B's Fly & Tackle		4326 South East Federal Highway	Stuart, FL	34997	(772)287-6535
Southern Angler		4695 Southeast Dixie Highway	Stuart, FL	34997	(772)323-9405
Lewis Marine Supply		3385 SE Dixie Highway	Stuart, FL	34997	(772)286-2218
West Marine		2506 South East Federal Highway	Stuart, FL	34994	(772)223-1515
Bill Buckland's Fisherman's Central		56 East Blue Heron Boulevard	West Palm Beach, FL	33404	(561)844-5150
Hopkins-Carter Mar. Supp. & Fish.Supply		207 Sixth Street	West Palm Beach, FL	33401	(561)832-4206
Professional Outfitters		1204 South U.S. Highway 1	Vero Beach, FL	32962	(772)569-3666
Vero Tackle and Marina		3321 Bridge Plaza Drive	Vero Beach, FL	32963	(772)234-9585
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>					
Fishin' Hole		450 North Beach Street	Daytona Beach FL	32114	(386)252-9804
Elite Angler's Service		2332 North Highway A1A	Indianapolis, FL	32903	(321)610-7570
Man Overboard Tackle		1825 South Patrick Drive	Indian Harbor Beach, FL	32937	(321)777-8860
Whitey's Bait & Tackle		9030 Highway A1A	Melbourne Beach, FL	32951	(321)724-1440
Harry Goode's Outdoor Shop		1231 East New Haven Avenue	Melbourne, FL	32901	(321)723-4751
Capt. Mullet's Bait & Tackle		1638 North Harbor City Blvd	Melbourne, FL	32935	(321)255-0102
Fishing Cove Bait & Tackle		129 North Riverside Dr	New Smyrna Beach, FL	32168	(386)428-6781
Cecil's Bait & Tackle		197 North Causeway Rd	New Smyrna Beach, FL	32168	(386)841-2848
Orlando Outfitters		2814 Corrine Drive	Orlando, FL	32803	(407)896-8220
Cape Marina at Port Canaveral		800 Scallop Drive	Port Canaveral, FL	32920	(321)783-8410
Fisherman's World Fishing Center		602 Glen Cheek Drive	Port Canaveral, FL	32920	(312)784-5285
Action Bait & Tackle		425 Garden Street	Titusville, FL	32796	(321)264-0330
The Fly Fisherman		1114 South Washington Avenue (US 1)	Titusville, FL	32780	(321)267-0348
Marine Supply... the Boating Center		717 6th Street	Winter Haven, FL	33880	(863)293-1156
Andy Thornal Company		336 Magnolia Avenue Southwes	Winter Haven, FL	33880	(863)299-9999

**FWRI / MML TARPON GENETIC RECAPTURE STUDY  
KIT DISTRIBUTION AND/OR SAMPLE COLLECTION SHOP LOCATIONS**

Revised 3/12/2012 0:31

**NORTHEAST**

<b>Amelia Island Bait &amp; Tackle</b>	1925 South 14th Street	Fernandina Beach, FL	32034	(904)277-0775
<b>Flint Creek Outfitters</b>	4414 South West College Road, STE # 91C	Ocala, FL	34474	(352)237-5325
<b>Black Fly Outfitters</b>	11702 Beach Boulevard, Suite 100	Jacksonville, FL	32246	(904)977-2220
<b>Strike Zone Fishing</b>	11702 Beach Boulevard	Jacksonville, FL	32246	(904)641-2433
<b>Thrifty Outdoors</b>	6300 Yukon Road	Jacksonville, FL	32244	(904)786-9080
<b>West Marine</b>	4874 Big Island Drive	Jacksonville, FL	32246	(904)520-4650
<b>Bob's Bait &amp; Tackle</b>	6810 US Highway 1 South	St. Augustine, FL	32086	(904)794-7501
<b>Oldest City Bait &amp; Tackle</b>	105 A1A Beach Boulevard	St. Augustine, FL	32080	(904)461-0244

**TARPON SHOP NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Caller Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of TP Samples to be Picked Up:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sending Pre-Paid Mailer:** YES / NO

**No. of TP Kits Requested:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Does Shop Need TP Poster:** YES / NO

**Shop Need TP Sample Box:** YES / NO **Does Shop Need Tarpon Quick Facts Handouts:** YES / NO  
LARGE SMALL

**Does Shop Need Tarpon Newsletter:** YES / NO

**Date Sent:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Mailer Returned:** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. Samples:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Caller Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of TP Samples to be Picked Up:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sending Pre-Paid Mailer:** YES / NO

**No. of TP Kits Requested:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Does Shop Need TP Poster:** YES / NO

**Shop Need TP Sample Box:** YES / NO **Does Shop Need Tarpon Quick Facts Handouts:** YES / NO  
LARGE SMALL

**Does Shop Need Tarpon Newsletter:** YES / NO

**Date Sent:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Mailer Returned:** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. Samples:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Caller Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of TP Samples to be Picked Up:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sending Pre-Paid Mailer:** YES / NO

**No. of TP Kits Requested:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Does Shop Need TP Poster:** YES / NO

**Shop Need TP Sample Box:** YES / NO **Does Shop Need Tarpon Quick Facts Handouts:** YES / NO  
LARGE SMALL

**Does Shop Need Tarpon Newsletter:** YES / NO

**Date Sent:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Mailer Returned:** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. Samples:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Caller Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of TP Samples to be Picked Up:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sending Pre-Paid Mailer:** YES / NO

**No. of TP Kits Requested:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Does Shop Need TP Poster:** YES / NO

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LARGE SMALL

**Does Shop Need Tarpon Newsletter:** YES / NO

**Date Sent:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Mailer Returned:** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. Samples:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

# *Certificate of Appreciation*

*Presented By*

*The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's  
Fish and Wildlife Research Institute  
and the Mote Marine Laboratory Center for Fisheries Enhancement  
Recognizing*

## *Tackle Shop or Sponsor Name*



*For Participation and Support of the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study in 2011.*





# ALL TARPON—ANYWHERE, ANY SIZE!

## TARPON GENETIC RECAPTURE STUDY

A few skin cells from the upper jaw provides enough DNA to study tarpon movement and recapture rates.



Step 1



Step 2

**TO RECEIVE A FREE DNA SAMPLING KIT AND INSTRUCTIONS:**

**E-mail: [tarpongenetics@MyFWC.com](mailto:tarpongenetics@MyFWC.com)**

**Call: (800) 367-4461**

All Tarpon DNA Donors Will Be Entered For A Chance To Win A Great Prize!



A FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and  
Mote Marine Laboratory Partnership



**FWRI/MML TARPON GENETIC RECAPTURE STUDY POSTER DISPLAY LOCATIONS (UPDATED 03112012)**

<b>Boat Ramp or Shop Name</b>	<b>No. Posters</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>County/City/Zip Code</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Contact Address</b>	<b>Telephone or email</b>
Eau Gallie Causeway Boat Ramp	1	EC	SR 519 near Central Melbourne, FL	Brevard/ Melbourne 32925	David Moore	Brevard County South Area Parks Operations 1515 Sarno Road B-2 Melbourne, FL 32925	321-302-1660
First St. Boat Ramp	1	EC	Off Hwy 1 provides access to Indian River Lagoon	Brevard/ Melbourne 32925	David Moore	Brevard County South Area Parks Operations 1515 Sarno Road B-2 Melbourne, FL 32925	321-302-1660
Peneda Causeway aka POW/MIA	1	EC	SR 404 near North Melbourne, FL north of Peneda Causeway	Brevard/ Melbourne 32925	David Moore	Brevard County Central Area Parks Operations 1515 Sarno Road B-2 Melbourne, FL 32925	321-302-1660
John Jorgensen's Landing Boat Ramp	1	EC	2 miles south of Valkaia Rd on Indian River Lagoon	Brevard/ Melbourne 32925	David Moore	Brevard County South Area Parks Operations 1515 Sarno Road B-2 Melbourne, FL 32925	321-302-1660
Kennedy Point Park	1	EC	4915 S. Washington Ave	Brevard/ Titusville 32780	Richard Tucci	Brevard County North Area Parks 475 N. Williams Ave Titusville, FL 32796	321-264-5105 richard.tucci@brevardsparks.com
Marina Park (under construction)	1	EC	501 Marina Rd.	Brevard/ Titusville 32780	Richard Tucci	Brevard County North Area Parks 475 N. Williams Ave Titusville, FL 32796	321-264-5105 richard.tucci@brevardsparks.com
Mima Boat Launch	1	EC	2010 Jones Ave	Brevard/ Mima 32754	Richard Tucci	Brevard County North Area Parks 475 N. Williams Ave Titusville, FL 32796	321-264-5105 richard.tucci@brevardsparks.com
Parrish Park	1	EC	1A Max Brewer Mem. Parkway	Brevard/ Titusville 32780	Richard Tucci	Brevard County North Area Parks 475 N. Williams Ave Titusville, FL 32796	321-264-5105 richard.tucci@brevardsparks.com
Port St. John Boat Ramp	1	EC	6650 N. Cocoa Blvd. (US Hwy 1)	Brevard/ Pt. St. John 32927	Richard Tucci	Brevard County North Area Parks 475 N. Williams Ave Titusville, FL 32796	321-264-5105 richard.tucci@brevardsparks.com
Scottsmoor Landing	1	EC	2400 Huntington Ave	Brevard/ Scottsmoor 32775	Richard Tucci	Brevard County North Area Parks 475 N. Williams Ave Titusville, FL 32796	321-264-5105 richard.tucci@brevardsparks.com
Pierhouse Restaurant Bait & Tackle Shop	1	EC	397 Christopher Columbus Dr.	Brevard/ Cape Canaveral 32920	Mike	397 Christopher Columbus Dr. Cape Canaveral, FL 32920	321-799-2161
Strike Zone Fishing	1	EC	2771 W. Newhaven Ave	Brevard/ Melbourne 32904	Joe	2771 W. Newhaven Ave. Melbourne, FL 32904	321-956-3474
West Marine	1	EC	1024 S. Harbor City Blvd.	Brevard/ Melbourne 32901	Eric	1024 S. Harbor City Blvd.. Melbourne, FL 32901	321-242-9600
West Marine	1	EC	1509 N. Harbor City Blvd.	Brevard/ Melbourne 32935	Scotty	1509 N. Harbor City Blvd.. Melbourne, FL 32935	321-242-9600
Granada Pier Bait & Tackle Shop	1	EC	15 Beach St.	Volusia/ Ormond Beach 32174	Ike Leary	15 Beach St. Ormond Beach, FL 32174	386-676-9078
Kennedy Park Boat Ramp	1	EC	100 N. Riverside Drive	Volusia/ Edgewater 32132	Jack Corder	P.O. Box 100 Edgewater, FL 32132	386-424-2485
Menard-May Park Boat Ramp	1	EC	413 S. Riverside Drive	Volusia/ Edgewater 32132	Jack Corder	P.O. Box 100 Edgewater, FL 32132	386-424-2485
West Marine	1	EC	2400 S. Ridgewood Ave.	Volusia/ S. Daytona 32119	Chip	2400 S. Ridgewood Ave S. Daytona, FL 32119	386-760-0660
West Marine	1	EC	4874 Big Island Dr.	Duval/ Jacksonville 32246	Darren Klotz	4874 Big Island Drive Jacksonville, FL 32246	904-520-4650

Bahia Honda State Park	3	FLK	36850 Overseas Hwy	Monroe/ Big Pine Key 33043	Eric Kiefer	36850 Overseas Hwy Big Pine Key, FL 33043	305-872-3897
Cow Key Marina	1	FLK	5001 5th Ave.	Monroe/ Key West 33040	Amelia	5001 5th Ave Key West, FL 33040	305-292-9111
Blimp Road Ramp	1	FLK	Blimp Road, MM 21.2	Monroe/ Cudjoe Key 33042	Eleana Mortori	3583 S. Roosevelt Blvd.. Key West, FL 33040	305-797-1510
Koehn Ave Ramp	1	FLK	Koehn Ave., MM 30.8	Monroe/ Big Pine Key 33043	Eleana Mortori	3583 S. Roosevelt Blvd.. Key West, FL 33040	305-797-1510
Little Torch Key Ramp	1	FLK	State Road 4, MM 28.5	Monroe/ Little Torch Key 33042	Eleana Mortori	3583 S. Roosevelt Blvd.. Key West, FL 33040	305-797-1510
Eden Pines Boat Ramp	1	FLK	Fern Ave., MM 30.8	Monroe/ Big Pine Key 33043	Eleana Mortori	3583 S. Roosevelt Blvd.. Key West, FL 33040	305-797-1510
John Pennekamp State Park	1	FLK	US 1 MM 102 @ Boat Ramp	Monroe/ Key Largo 33037	Trudy Ferraro	P.O. Box 487 Key Largo, FL 33037	305-451-3801
John Pennekamp State Park	2	FLK	US 1 MM 102 @ Visitor Center	Monroe/ Key Largo 33037	Trudy Ferraro	P.O. Box 487 Key Largo, FL 33037	305-451-3801
Plantation Yacht Harbor Marina	1	FLK	87000 Overseas Hwy.	Monroe/ Islamorada 33036	Tim or Johnie	87000 Overseas Hwy Islamorada, FL 33036	305-852-2381
Ports & Marina Dept- Marathon Boat Ramps	3	FLK	800 35th Street, Ocean Side	Monroe/ Marathon 33050	Richard Tanner	800 35th St. Ocean Marathon, FL 33050	305-289-7788
Amelia Island State Park Boat Ramp	1	NE	11435 Ft. George Rd. East	Duval/ Ft. George 32226	Corey	12157 Heckscher Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32226	904-251-2811
Big Talbot Island State Park Boat Ramp	1	NE	11435 Ft. George Rd.	Duval/ Ft. George 32226	Corey	12157 Heckscher Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32226	904-251-2811
Fort George Island Boat Ramp	1	NE	11435 Ft. George Rd. East	Duval/ Ft. George 32226	Corey	12157 Heckscher Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32226	904-251-2811
George Crady State Park	1	NE	A1A Bridge Boat Ramp	Duval/ Ft. George 32226	Corey	12157 Heckscher Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32226	904-251-2811
Little Talbot Island State Park Boat Ramp	1	NE	11435 Ft. George Rd.	Duval/ Ft. George 32226	Corey	12157 Heckscher Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32226	904-251-2811
Pumpkin Hill State Park Boat Ramp	1	NE	11435 Ft. George Rd. East	Duval/ Ft. George 32226	Corey	12157 Heckscher Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32226	904-251-2811
Big Lagoon State Recreation Area	1	NW	12301 Gulf Beach Hwy	Escambia/ Pensacola 32507	David Colbert	12301 Gulf Beach Hwy Pensacola, FL 32507	850-492-1595
Navarre Beach Boat Ramp	1	NW	Navarre Beach Causeway, Rt 399	Santa Rosa/ Navarre 32566	Chris Verlinde	UF/IFAS Santa Rosa Sea Grant Extension 6263 Dogwood Drive Milton, FL 32570	cell 850-777-7884 850-623-3868
Oriole Beach Boat Ramp	1	NW	3165 Linden Ave.	Santa Rosa/ Oriole Beach 32563	Chris Verlinde	UF/IFAS Santa Rosa Sea Grant Extension 6263 Dogwood Drive Milton, FL 32570	cell 850-777-7884 850-623-3868
Shorline Park South Boat Ramp	1	NW	Colley Cove Dr.	Santa Rosa/ Gulf Breeze 32561	Chris Verlinde	UF/IFAS Santa Rosa Sea Grant Extension 6263 Dogwood Drive Milton, FL 32570	cell 850-777-7884 850-623-3868
Woodlawn Beach Boat Ramp	1	NW	Woodlawn Beach Rd.	Santa Rosa/ Woodlawn Beach 32459	Chris Verlinde	UF/IFAS Santa Rosa Sea Grant Extension 6263 Dogwood Drive Milton, FL 32570	cell 850-777-7884 850-623-3868
St. Andrews State Park	1	NW	4607 State Park Lane	Bay/ Panama City 32408	Deborah Walker	4607 State Park Lane Panama City, FL 32408	850-233-5164
St. Joseph State Park	2	NW	8899 Cape San Blas Rd.	Gulf/ Pt. St. Joe 32456	Marty Knatke	8899 Cape San Blas Rd. Pt. St. Joe, FL 32456	850-227-1327
Econfina River State Park	1	NW	3600 Indian Mound Rd.	Leon/ Tallahassee 32303	Barry Burch	3600 Indian Mound Rd Tallahassee, FL 32303	850-922-6007
St. George Island State Park	1	NW	1900 E. Gulf Beach Drive	Leon/ Tallahassee 32328	Josh	1900 E. Gulf Beach Dr St. George Island, FL 32328	850-927-2111 Cell 850-370-6554

Navarre Beach Fishing Pier	1	NW	8579 Gulf Boulevard	Santa Rosa/ Navarre 32566	Rob	8579 Gulf Boulevard	850-936-1794
Alligator Point Yacht Basin (Ship Store)	1	NW	1648 Alligator Drive	Franklin/ Alligator Point 32346	Ted	1648 Alligator Drive Alligator Point, FL 32346	850-349-2511
Fathom's Steam Room & Oyster Bar	1	NW	Hwy 98	Carrabelle 32322			850-697-9712
Carrabelle Boat Ramp #1	1	NW	Hwy 98	Carrabelle 32322	Kiesha Smith (City Clerk); William will post.	Carrabelle City Hall 1001 Gray Avenue Carrabelle, FL 32322	850-697-2727
Carrabelle Boat Ramp #2	1	NW		Carrabelle 32322	Kiesha Smith (City Clerk); William will post.	Carrabelle City Hall 1001 Gray Avenue Carrabelle, FL 32322	850-697-2727
County Ramp off Timber Island	1	NW		Carrabelle 32322	Allen Pierce, County Planner, provided permission. FWC LE officers posted.	Franklin County Annex Building, 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, 32320	851-697-3263
Pirate's Landing Ramp	1	NW		Carrabelle 32322	Allen Pierce, County Planner, provided permission. FWC LE officers posted.	Franklin County Annex Building, 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, 32320	851-697-3263
B&F Marine Inc	1	SE	1991 NW 27th Ave.	Miami-Dade/ Miami 33125	Robert	1991 NW 27th Ave Miami, FL 33125	305-638-3614
Bill Bird Marina at Haulover Park	2	SE	10800 Collins Ave., NMB	Miami-Dade/ N.Miami Beach 33167	Esther Reyes	Marina Division 275 NW 2nd St. Suite # 505 Miami, FL 33128	305-755-7863 305-755-7843 FAX
Black Point Marina	2	SE	24775 SW 87 Ave.	Miami-Dade/ Miami 33032	Esther Reyes	Marina Division 275 NW 2nd St. Suite # 505 Miami, FL 33128	305-755-7863 305-755-7843 FAX
Crandon Marina	2	SE	4000 Crandon Blvd.	Miami-Dade/ Key Biscayne 33149	Esther Reyes	Marina Division 275 NW 2nd Street Suite # 505 Miami, FL 33128	305-755-7863 305-755-7843 FAX
Herbert Hoover Marina at Homestead Bayfront Park	2	SE	9698 SW 328 St.	Miami-Dade/ Homestead 33033	Esther Reyes	Marina Division 275 NW 2nd Street Suite # 505 Miami, FL 33128	305-755-7863 305-755-7843 FAX
Matheson Hammock Marina	2	SE	9610 Old Cutler Rd.	Miami-Dade/ Coral Gables 33156	Esther Reyes	Marina Division 275 NW 2nd Street Suite # 505 Miami, FL 33128	305-755-7863 305-755-7843 FAX
Pelican Harbor Marina	2	SE	1275 NE 79 St. Causeway	Miami-Dade/ Miami Shores 33138	Esther Reyes	Marina Division 275 NW 2nd Street Suite # 505 Miami, FL 33128	305-755-7863 305-755-7843 FAX
Capt Harry's Fishing	1	SE	100 NE 11th St.	Miami-Dade/ Miami 33132	Dave Junco	100 NE 11th St. Miami, FL 33132	305-374-4661
West Marine	1	SE	12195 Biscayne Blvd.	Miami-Dade/ N. Miami 33181		12195 Biscayne Blvd. N. Miami, FL 33181	305-895-1870
West Marine	1	SE	S. Dixie Hwy	Miami-Dade/ Miami 33133	Stephen	S. Dixie Hwy Miami, FL 33133	305-444-5520
West Marine	1	SE	8687 Coral Way	Miami-Dade/ Miami 33155	Andy	8687 Coral Way Miami, FL 33155	305-263-7465
West Marine	1	SE	11735 S. Dixie Hwy	Miami-Dade/ Pinecrest 33156-4438		11735 S. Dixie Hwy. Pinecrest, FL 33156-4438	305-259-5800
River Marine Supply Inc.	1	SE	260 SW 6th St.	Miami-Dade/ Miami 33130	Carlos Capote	260 SW 6th St. Miami, FL 33130	305-856-0080
West Marine	1	SE	19407 S. Dixie Hwy	Miami-Dade/ Cutler Bay 33157	Michael	19407 S. Dixie Hwy Cutler Bay, FL 33157	305-232-0811
Capt. Mark's Products	1	SE	PO Box 22281	Broward/ Ft. Lauderdale 33312	Mark Mercer	PO Box 22281 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316	954-524-3338
Cooley's Landing Marina & Boat Launch	2	SE	450 SW 7th Ave.	Broward/ Fort Lauderdale 33312	retired Jamie Hart send e-mail to jluscomb@fortlauderdale.gov	City of Fort Lauderdale/ Marine Facilities 2 S. New River Dr. E. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301	954-828-5423



George English Park Boat Ramp	2	SE	1101 Bayview Dr.	Broward/ Fort Lauderdale 33304	retired Jamie Hart send e-mail to jluscomb@fortlauderdale.gov	City of Fort Lauderdale/ Marine Facilities 2 S. New River Dr. E. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301	954-828-5423
S.E. 15th St. Boart Launch Facility	2	SE	1745 SE 15th St.	Broward/ Fort Lauderdale 33316	retired Jamie Hart send e-mail to jluscomb@fortlauderdale.gov	City of Fort Lauderdale/ Marine Facilities 2 S. New River Dr. E. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301	954-828-5423
Holland Park Boat Ramps	2	SE	801 Johnson St.	Broward/ Hollywood 33019	Jack Mathison	1405 S. 28th Ave. Hollywood, FL 33022	954-921-3404
Hollywood Marina	5	SE	700 Polk St.	Broward/ Hollywood 33019	Jack Mathison	1405 S. 28th Ave. Hollywood, FL 33022	954-921-3404
Rotary Park Boat Ramp	1	SE	3150 Taft St.	Broward/ Hollywood 33021	Jack Mathison	1405 S. 28th Ave. Hollywood, FL 33022	954-921-3404
Bill Boyd's Bait & Tackle	1	SE	407 N. Andrews Ave	Broward/ Ft. Lauderdale 33301	Bill Boyd	407 N. Andrews Ave Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301	954-462-6366
Deerfield International Pier	5	SE	200 NE 21st Ave	Broward/ Deerfield Beach 33442	Attn: Vernell director Bob Harpin	City of Deerfield Beach Parks and Rec 150 N.E. Second Ave Deerfield Beach, FL 33441	954-480-4424
Pioneer Park Boat Ramp	5	SE	248 NE 5th Ave.	Broward/ Deerfield Beach 33441	Attn: Vernell director Bob Harpin	City of Deerfield Beach Parks and Rec 150 N.E. Second Ave Deerfield Beach, FL 33441	954-480-4424
Lauderdale Marina	1	SE	1900 SE 15th St.	Broward/ Ft. Lauderdale 33316	BL Clark	1900 SE 15th St. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316	954-523-8507
Outdoors Boat Ramps	5	SE	2974 NE 14th St.	Broward/ Pampano Beach 33060	Mark Beaudreau	Interim Director Pampano Parks and Rec 1801 NE 6th St Pampano Beach FL 33060	954-786-4184
West Marine	1	SE	101 N. Federal Hwy A1A	Broward/ Ft. Lauderdale 33304	Storny Porter	101 N. Federal Hwy A1A Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304	954-564-6767
West Marine	1	SE	2300 S. Federal Hwy A1A	Broward/ Ft. Lauderdale 33316	Ray	2300 S. Federal Hwy A1A Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316	954-527-5540 954-527-0339-Fax
West Marine	1	SE	1720 E. Hollandale Beach	Broward/ Hollandale 33009	Manny	1720 E. Hollandale Beach Hollandale, FL 33009	954-921-1800
Bert Winters Park Boat Ramp	1	SE	13425 Ellison Wilson Rd.	Palm Beach/ Juno Beach 33408	John Wildner jwildner@pbcgov.org	Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Attn: John Wildner 2700 6th Ave South Lake Worth, FL 33461	561-963-6707
Burt Reynolds Park Boat Ramp	1	SE	800 N. US Hwy 1	Palm Beach/ Jupiter 33477	John Wildner jwildner@pbcgov.org	Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Attn: John Wildner 2700 6th Ave South Lake Worth, FL 33461	561-963-6707
Jim Barry Light Harbor Park Boar Ramp	1	SE	1800 Boardway, FL A1A	Palm Beach/ Riviera Beach 33404	John Wildner jwildner@pbcgov.org	Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Attn: John Wildner 2700 6th Ave South Lake Worth, FL 33461	561-963-6707
Juno Park Boat Ramp	1	SE	2090 Juno Rd.	Palm Beach/ Juno Beach 33408	John Wildner jwildner@pbcgov.org	Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Attn: John Wildner 2700 6th Ave South Lake Worth, FL 33461	561-963-6707

Phil Foster Park Boat Ramp	1	SE	900 E. Blue Heron Blvd.	Palm Beach/ Riviera Beach 33404	John Wildner jwildner@pbcbgov.org	Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Attn: John Wildner 2700 6th Ave South Lake Worth, FL 33461	561-963-6707
Bill Buckland's Fisherman's Central	1	SE	56 E. Blue Heron Blvd.	Palm Beach/ W. Palm Beach 33404	Bill Buckland	56 E. Blue Heron Blvd. W. Palm Beach, FL 33404	561-844-5150
West Marine	1	SE	12189 US Hwy 23	Palm Beach/ N. Palm Beach 33408	Stephanie	12189 US Hwy 23 N. Palm Beach, FL 33408	561-775-1434
West Marine	1	SE	1401 Old Dixie Hwy	Palm Beach/ Lake Park 33403		1401 Old Dixie Hwy Lake Park, FL 33403	561-863-1440
Broward St. Boat Ramp	1	SE	4973 SE Dixie Hwy	Martin/ Stuart 34997	Jim Lopilato	Parks Superintendent 2990 SE Dixie Hwy Stuart, FL 34997	772-225-1517 772-260-1888 (Cell)
Charlie Leighton Park	1	SE	2701 SW Cornell Ave	Martin/ Palm City 34990	Jim Lopilato	Parks Superintendent 2990 SE Dixie Hwy Stuart, FL 34997	772-225-1517 772-260-1888 (Cell)
Jensen Beach Boat Ramp	1	SE	2065 NE Indian River Dr.	Martin/ Jensen Beach 34957	Jim Lopilato	Parks Superintendent 2990 SE Dixie Hwy Stuart, FL 34997	772-225-1517 772-260-1888 (Cell)
Jensen Beach Causeway	1	SE	2400 NE Causeway Blvd.	Martin/ Jensen Beach 34957	Jim Lopilato	Parks Superintendent 2990 SE Dixie Hwy Stuart, FL 34997	772-225-1517 772-260-1888 (Cell)
Jimmy Graham Boat Ramp	1	SE	8555 SE Gomez Ave	Martin/ Hobe Sound 33455	Jim Lopilato	Parks Superintendent 2990 SE Dixie Hwy Stuart, FL 34997	772-225-1517 772-260-1888 (Cell)
Pendarvis Cove Park	1	SE	1000 SW Chapman Way	Martin/ Palm City 34990	Jim Lopilato	Parks Superintendent 2990 SE Dixie Hwy Stuart, FL 34997	772-225-1517 772-260-1888 (Cell)
Sandsprit Park	1	SE	3443 SE St. Lucie Blvd.	Martin/ Stuart 34997	Jim Lopilato	Parks Superintendent 2990 SE Dixie Hwy Stuart, FL 34997	772-225-1517 772-260-1888 (Cell)
Stuart Causeway	1	SE	225 SE Ocean Blvd.	Martin/ Stuart 34996	Jim Lopilato	Parks Superintendent 2990 SE Dixie Hwy Stuart, FL 34997	772-225-1517 772-260-1888 (Cell)
West Marine	1	SE	4545 SE Dixie Hwy	Martin/ Stuart 34997	Ashley	4545 SE Dixie Hwy Stuart, FL 34997	772-223-1515
County Rd 510	1	SE	County Road 510	Indian River/ Vero Beach	David Fleetwood	Indian River Prks and Rec 5350 77th Street Vero Beach, FL 32967	772-589-9223
Dale Wimbrow Park	1	SE	11805 Roseland Rd	Indian River/ Sebastian 32958	David Fleetwood	Indian River Prks and Rec 5350 77th Street Vero Beach, FL 32967	772-589-9223
McDonald Park	1	SE	12315 Roseland Rd.	Indian River/ Sebastian 32958	David Fleetwood	Indian River Prks and Rec 5350 77th Street Vero Beach, FL 32967	772-589-9223
Alva Boat Ramp	1	SW	21580 Pearl St.	Lee/ Alva 33920	Cindy Matar	Fiscal Mgr. Lee County Parks and Recreation 3410 Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers, FL 33916	239-533-7414 239-485-2301 Cell
Caloosahatchee Regional Park	1	SW	18500 N. River Rd.	Lee/ Alva 33920	Cindy Matar	Fiscal Mgr. Lee County Parks and Recreation 3410 Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers, FL 33916	239-533-7414 239-485-2301 Cell
Davis Boat Ramp	1	SW	2227 Davis Blvd.	Lee/ Ft. Myers 33905	Cindy Matar	Fiscal Mgr. Lee County Parks and Recreation 3410 Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers, FL 33916	239-533-7414 239-485-2301 Cell

Manatee Park	1	SW	10901 St. Rd 80 (Palm Beach Blvd.)	Lee/ Ft. Myers 33905	Cindy Matar	Fiscal Mgr. Lee County Parks and Recreation 3410 Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers, FL 33916	239-533-7414 239-485-2301 Cell
Imperial River Boat Ramp	2	SW	27551 S. Tamiami Trail	Lee/ Bonita Springs 34134	Cindy Matar	Fiscal Mgr. Lee County Parks and Recreation 3410 Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers, FL 33916	239-533-7414 239-485-2301 Cell
Royal Palm Park	1	SW	300 Royal Palm Park Rd.	Lee/ Ft. Myers 33916	Cindy Matar	Fiscal Mgr. Lee County Parks and Recreation 3410 Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers, FL 33916	239-533-7414 239-485-2301 Cell
Russell Park Boat Ramp	1	SW	East End Miramar Rd on E. Riverside Dr.	Lee/ Ft. Myers 33905	Cindy Matar	Fiscal Mgr. Lee County Parks and Recreation 3410 Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers, FL 33916	239-533-7414 239-485-2301 Cell
Fifth St. Docks	4	SW	5th St. Bayou Ave, East Side of Island	Lee/ Boca Grande 33921	Robert Green	Lee County Parks and Recreation PO Box 429 Boca Grande, FL 33921	239-533-7275
Lavendar's Landing	1	SW	7290 Barrancas Ave.	Lee/ Bokeelia 33922	Roger Clark roger@leegov.com	3410 Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers, FL 33916	239-433-5909 239-707-7273 Cell
Pine Island Commercial Marina	1	SW	6001 Maria Dr.	Lee/ St. James City 33956	Roger Clark roger@leegov.com	3410 Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers, FL 33916	239-433-5909 239-707-7273 Cell
Punta Rassa Boat Ramp	1	SW	18500 McGregor Blvd..	Lee/ Ft. Myers 33908	Roger Clark roger@leegov.com	3410 Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers, FL 33916	239-433-5909 239-707-7273 Cell
West Marine	1	SW	17105 San Carlos Blvd..	Lee/ Cape Coral 33931	Ed	17105 San Carlos Blvd.. Cape Coral, FL 33931	239-432-9800
West Marine	1	SW	1520 Colonial Blvd.	Lee/ Ft. Myers 33907	Caroline	1520 Colonial Blvd. Ft. Myers, FL 33907	239-275-6077
Bayview Park	2	SW	1500 Danford St.	Collier/ Naples 34112	Murdo Smith he retired no one knows repladement	North Collier Regional Park 15000 Livingston Rd. Naples, FL 34109	239-252-4027 239-580-9133 Cell
Caxambas Park & Boat Ramp	2 more	SW	909 Collier Court	Collier/ Marco Island 34145	Murdo Smith he retired no one knows repladement	North Collier Regional Park 15000 Livingston Rd. Naples, FL 34109	239-252-4027 239-580-9133 Cell
Cocohatchee River Park	2	SW	13531 Vanderbilt Dr.	Collier/ Naples 34110	Murdo Smith he retired no one knows repladement	North Collier Regional Park 15000 Livingston Rd. Naples, FL 34109	239-252-4027 239-580-9133 Cell
Coller (951) Boat Ramp	2	SW	Intersection 951 & Isle of Capri Blvd. (CR 952)	Collier/ Naples 34113	Murdo Smith he retired no one knows repladement	North Collier Regional Park 15000 Livingston Rd. Naples, FL 34109	239-252-4027 239-580-9133 Cell
Goodland Boat Ramp	2	SW	740 Palm Pt. Dr.	Collier/ Goodland 34140	Murdo Smith he retired no one knows repladement	North Collier Regional Park 15000 Livingston Rd. Naples, FL 34109	239-252-4027 239-580-9133 Cell
Callusa Island Marina	1	SW	385 Angler Drive	Collier/ Goodland 34140	Andrew	PO Box 156 Goodland, FL 34140	239-394-3668
Caxambas Park & Boat Ramp	3 + Kits	SW	909 Collier Court	Collier/ Marco Island 34145	Frankie	909 Collier Court Marco Island, FL 34145	239-642-0004
Port of Islands Marina	1	SW	525 Newport Dr.	Collier/ Naples, FL 34114	Bryan Fluech fluech@ufl.edu	300 Tower Rd. Naples, FL 34113	239-417-6310 X 204 239-438-5594 Cell
Anclote River Park	1	WC	1119 Bailes Bluff Rd.	Pasco/ Holiday 34691	Mike Smith	Pasco County Parks & Recreation 7750 Congress Street New Port Richey, FL 34643	813-929-1260

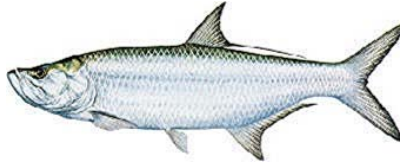
Robert J Strickland Memorial Park	1	WC	6345 Clark St.	Pasco/ Hudson 34667	Marty	Pasco County Parks & Recreation 7750 Congress St. New Port Richey, FL 34643	813-929-1260
Bellaire Launch Ramp (West End)	1	WC	West End Causeway Bridge	Pinellas/ Clearwater 33767	Ron Melton	Clearwater Parks & Recreation 25 Causeway Blvd. Clearwater, FL 33767	727-462-6954 ext. 22
Clearwater Beach Recreation Center	1	WC	69 Esplanade Ave.	Pinellas/ Clearwater 33767	Ron Melton	Clearwater Parks & Recreation 25 Causeway Blvd. Clearwater, FL 33767	727-462-6954 ext. 22
Seminole Docks	1	WC	201 Seminole St.	Pinellas/ Clearwater 33767	Ron Melton	Clearwater Parks & Recreation 25 Causeway Blvd. Clearwater, FL 33767	727-462-6954 ext. 22
Dunedin Marina at Edgewater Park	3	WC	51 Main Street, Suite 1	Pinellas/ Dunedin 34698	Bill Franz Send attn Scott	51 Main Street, Suite 1 Dunedin, FL 34698	727-298-3030
Marino's Marina	1	WC	297 Bayshore Drive	Pinellas/ Palm Harbor 34683	Tony Marino	297 Bayshore Drive Palm Harbor, FL 34683	727-784-0143
Ainger Creek Marina	1	WC	2002 Placida Rd.	Charlotte/ Englewood 34224	Walter Petersen	2002 Placida Rd. Englewood, FL 34224	941-474-2487
Kingfish Boat Ramp	1	WC	Kingfish Boat Ramp	Manatee/ Bradenton 34280	Ingrid McClellan	PO Box 14426 Bradenton, FL 34280	941-795-8272
Palmetto Boat Ramp East	1	WC	Palmetto Boat Ramp East	Manatee/ Bradenton 34280	Ingrid McClellan	PO Box 14426 Bradenton, FL 34280	941-795-8272
South Coquina Bayside Boat Ramp Anna Maria Island	1	WC	South Coquina Bayside Boat Ramp, Anna Maria Island	Manatee/ Bradenton 34280	Ingrid McClellan	PO Box 14426 Bradenton, FL 34280	941-795-8272
SR 64E Boat Ramp on Braden River	1	WC	SR 64E Boat Ramp, Braden River	Manatee/ Bradenton 34280	Ingrid McClellan	PO Box 14426 Bradenton, FL 34280	941-795-8272
Verner's Bayou Boat Ramp (59th St)	1	WC	Verner's Bayou Boat Ramp (59th St)	Manatee/ Bradenton 34280	Ingrid McClellan	PO Box 14426 Bradenton, FL 34280	941-795-8272
Fort Hamer Boat Ramp	1	WC	Fort Hamer Boat Ramp	Manatee/ Bradenton 34280	Ingrid McClellan	PO Box 14426 Bradenton, FL 34280	941-795-8272
Highland Shores Boat Ramp	1	WC	Highland Shores Boat Ramp	Manatee/ Bradenton 34280	Ingrid McClellan	PO Box 14426 Bradenton, FL 34280	941-795-8272
Jiggs Landing	1	WC	Jiggs Landing	Manatee/ Bradenton 34280	Ingrid McClellan	PO Box 14426 Bradenton, FL 34280	941-795-8272
Harts Landing	1	WC	920 John Ringling Blvd	Sarasota/ Sarasota 34236	Jim	920 John Ringling Blvd Sarasota, FL 34236	941-955-0011
New Pass Bait & Grill	1	WC	1505 Ken Thompson Parkway	Sarasota/ Sarasota 34236	Jim	1505 Ken Thompson Parkway Sarasota, FL 34236	941-388-3050
Crow's Nest Marina	1	WC	1968 Tarpon Center Dr.	Sarasota/ Venice 24285	Brad	1968 Tarpon Center Drive Venice, FL 34285	941-484-7661
Blackburn Point Park Boat Ramp	1	WC	800 Blackburn Point Rd	Sarasota/ Osprey 34229	Carolyn Brown	1660 Ringling Blvd. 5th Floor	<a href="mailto:cbrown@scgov.net">cbrown@scgov.net</a>
Centennial Boat Ramp	1	WC	1059 N Tamiami Trail	Sarasota/ Sarasota 34236	Carolyn Brown	1660 Ringling Blvd. 5th Floor	<a href="mailto:cbrown@scgov.net">cbrown@scgov.net</a>
Ken Thompson Park Boat Ramp	1	WC	1700 Ken Thompson Pkwy	Sarasota/ Sarasota 34236	Carolyn Brown	1660 Ringling Blvd. 5th Floor	<a href="mailto:cbrown@scgov.net">cbrown@scgov.net</a>
Turtle Beach Park	1	WC	8918 Midnight Pass Rd	Sarasota/ Sarasota 34236	Carolyn Brown	1660 Ringling Blvd. 5th Floor	<a href="mailto:cbrown@scgov.net">cbrown@scgov.net</a>
Nokomis Beach Park	1	WC	901 Casey Key Road	Sarasota/ Casey Key 34275	Carolyn Brown	1660 Ringling Blvd. 5th Floor	<a href="mailto:cbrown@scgov.net">cbrown@scgov.net</a>
Loreto Bay Access	1	WC	800 Loreto Court	Sarasota/ Nokomis 34275	Carolyn Brown	1660 Ringling Blvd. 5th Floor	<a href="mailto:cbrown@scgov.net">cbrown@scgov.net</a>
Higel Boat Ramp	1	WC	Tarpon Center Dr	Sarasota/ Venice 24285	Carolyn Brown	1660 Ringling Blvd. 5th Floor	<a href="mailto:cbrown@scgov.net">cbrown@scgov.net</a>
Marina Park	1	WC	301 E Venice Ave	Sarasota\ Venice 24285	Carolyn Brown	1660 Ringling Blvd. 5th Floor	<a href="mailto:cbrown@scgov.net">cbrown@scgov.net</a>
Snook Haven Park	1	WC	5000 E Venice Ave	Sarasota/ Venice 34292	Carolyn Brown	1660 Ringling Blvd. 5th Floor	<a href="mailto:cbrown@scgov.net">cbrown@scgov.net</a>
Indian Mound Boat Ramp	1	WC	210 Winson Ave	Sarasota/ Englewood 34223	Carolyn Brown	1660 Ringling Blvd. 5th Floor	<a href="mailto:cbrown@scgov.net">cbrown@scgov.net</a>
Marina Park	1	WC	7030 Chancellor Blvd	Sarasota/ Northport 34287	Carolyn Brown	1660 Ringling Blvd. 5th Floor	<a href="mailto:cbrown@scgov.net">cbrown@scgov.net</a>

Manasota Beach Park	1	WC	8570 Manasota Key Rd.	Sarasota/ Manasota Key 34223	Carolyn Brown	1660 Ringling Blvd. 5th Floor	<a href="mailto:cnbrown@scgov.net">cnbrown@scgov.net</a>
Weston's Resort	1	WC	985 Gulf Road	Englewood/ Charlotte 34224	Office	985 Gulf Blvd Englewood, FL 34223	<a href="tel:941-474-3431">941-474-3431</a>
Cape Haze Marina Village	1	WC	6950 Placida Rd.	Charlotte/ Englewood 34224	Marty	6950 Placida Rd. Englewood, FL 34224	941-697-3336
Stump Pass Marina	1	WC	260 Maryland Ave.	Charlotte/ Englewood 34224	Jerry	260 Maryland Ave. Englewood, FL 34224	941-697-4577
Eldred's Marina	1	WC	Boca Grand Causeway	Charlotte/ Placida 33946	Paul	P.O. Box 236 Placida, FL 33946	941-697-1431
Gaspirilla Marina	1	WC	15001 Gaspirilla Rd.	Charlotte/ Placida 33946	Carol or Jeff- Fuel Dock	Attn: Jeff-Fuel Dock 15001 Gaspirilla Rd Placida, FL 33946	941-964-2211
Palm Island Marina	3	WC	7080 Placida Rd.	Charlotte/ Cape Haze 33946	Capt. Tim Lynch	7080 Placida Rd. Cape Haze, FL 33946	941-697-4356
Whidden's Marina	1	WC	190 1st St. East	Lee/ Boca Grande 33921		P.O. Box 128 Boca Grande, FL 33921	941-964-2878

# THE TARPON GENETIC RECAPTURE STUDY

## A Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) & Mote Marine Laboratory (MML) Partnership

### TARPON QUICK FACTS



© Diane Peebles

- The scientific genus name of tarpon is *Megalops*. The name derives from the Greek adjective *megalo* meaning 'large', and the noun *opsi*, meaning 'face'.
- There are two species in the genus *Megalops* of the family Megalopidae. The Atlantic tarpon is known as *Megalops atlanticus* and the Indo-Pacific tarpon is known as *Megalops cyprinoides*, a much smaller fish.
- Tarpon are also known as silver kings, tarpum, cuffum, and sábalos.
- Tarpon are silvery colored with blue-gray backs and have large plate like scales.
- They have a projecting, upturned lower jaw that contains a bony plate.
- Fossil records show that tarpon have been swimming in our oceans since prehistoric times.
- Tarpon over 100 lbs are common, and a few lucky anglers catch tarpon weighing more than 200 lbs.
- The largest tarpon tend to be females.
- It takes a tarpon 8 -10 yrs to reach sexual maturity.
- Wild tarpon have been aged as old as 55 yrs. New technology supports that they may live up to 78 years.
- The record tarpon catch is 286 lbs, 9 ounces in Guinea-Bissau, Africa.
- The Florida record is a 243 lb fish captured off of Key West.
- Tarpon prefer tropical and subtropical waters and are most common from Virginia to central Brazil and throughout the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.
- Tarpon are known to migrate, but little is known about the frequency and extent of their travels.
- The behavior of tarpon swimming in a circular rotating motion is known as a "daisy chain". This behavior may be a pre-spawning behavior exhibited before moving to offshore spawning areas.
- In one spawning season a female may produce from 4.5 to more than 20 million eggs.
- Spawning in Florida waters mainly occurs in May, June, and July.
- Tarpon eggs hatch into microscopic larvae called leptocephali that have a transparent ribbonlike body with slender, fanglike teeth.
- Tarpon larvae only a few days old have been collected as far as 125 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Larvae drift with currents toward shore, reaching estuarine areas within 30 - 50 days and are about an inch long at this time. Storm events like hurricanes can shorten that transport time.
- Juvenile tarpon spend their first year in marshes and mangrove swamps, a very important nursery habitat.
- Young tarpon have rapid growth and can reach 12 -16 inches in length in one year.
- Tarpon is the only fully MARINE species that can breathe air using their swimbladder as an auxiliary breathing organ. This allows them to survive in harsh environments.
- Tarpon can only be fished recreationally in Florida. The majority of recreational anglers practice catch and release since the fish is not considered to be of any food value. However, anglers can possess them for trophy purposes at the cost of \$50.00 per tag, per fish. Without this tag, possession is illegal.
- A 2011 report shows that recreational tarpon fishing in southwest Florida provides more than \$63 million dollars annually to the economy in direct expenditures for fishing related goods and services.
- Taking a DNA sample is less invasive, less costly and lasts forever as compared to conventional tagging. The DNA method requires little handling of the fish! All that is needed - a **FREE DNA SAMPLING KIT!**

**To learn more about the movement of tarpon the FWC/MML Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study needs anglers to help collect DNA samples from ALL TARPON-ANYWHERE, ANY SIZE!**

**Join the Tarpon Research Team and obtain a tarpon DNA sampling kit by e-mailing [TarponGenetics@MyFWC.com](mailto:TarponGenetics@MyFWC.com), calling 1-800-367-4461, or visiting <http://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/tarpon>**

# RECAPTURES, RECAPTURES: Read all about it!

*Database documents more than 100 recaptured tarpon*



Since 2005, anglers participating in the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study have been helping researchers gain insight into this fascinating species. When anglers catch a tarpon and collect a DNA sample for the study, they are contributing valuable information to a growing database.

Biologists use the database to identify when a tarpon has been caught and sampled more than once. Biologists refer to these fish as recaptures. The database now includes more than 100 documented recaptures. The following reports share some of the information being gained from recaptured tarpon.

## **Learning about seasonal movements of adult tarpon**

To examine the movements of tarpon, researchers classify recaptures according to the season and the size or life history stage of the tarpon. Peak fishing season for large tarpon in most of Florida usually corresponds with spawning season, April through July. The remaining months comprise the off-season.

The map indicates where an adult tarpon was caught and sampled off Apalachicola beaches (“C”) during the July 2007 sampling season. It was recaptured two years later in May 2009 off Captiva (“R”). This tarpon’s journey of more than 280 miles represents the farthest distance yet between initial capture and resampling events for a fish in this study.





DNA samples also documented the travels of two other Gulf coast tarpon to the Florida Keys. Both were caught in Charlotte Harbor in August 2010. One was recaptured in March 2011 in Islamorada; the other, in April 2011 off Key West.

Several other spawning-season recaptures demonstrate a connection between estuarine systems of the central Gulf coast of Florida. In 2010, a tarpon caught during a June tournament in Boca Grande Pass was recaptured in August inside Tampa Bay. And a tarpon caught inside Charlotte Harbor in May 2010 was recaptured the following May at the mouth of Tampa Bay.

Such recaptures will continue to provide information about ranges and patterns of movement and the linkages or connectivity, if any, between certain spawning grounds and off-season locations.

### Learning about juvenile and subadult tarpon habitats

Four tarpon in the ever-growing Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study database were caught and recaptured nearby during the same off-season. The recaptures occurred in four different areas of the southern peninsula of Florida: the Tampa Bay area, the Ten Thousand Islands, Turkey Creek south of Merritt Island, and north of Miami Beach. All involved immature fish, indicating there are juvenile or subadult tarpon habitats throughout southern Florida that support tarpon even during the winter months.

Another juvenile tarpon was caught and sampled in the Loxahatchee River system in June 2007, then recaptured 810 days later by the same angler in September 2009, approximately two miles from its original capture location. This recapture event shows that a river system can be an important habitat for a subadult tarpon for multiple years.



*Each of these four tarpon was recaptured (“R”) less than five miles from its initial capture location (“C”).*

To receive a free tarpon DNA sampling kit and refills, call toll-free 800-367-4461, e-mail [TarponGenetics@MyFWC.com](mailto:TarponGenetics@MyFWC.com), or visit one of about 200 participating locations statewide where you can also drop off your samples.

**Attention: The study’s e-mail address will change in fall 2012. Expect an update.**





# How FWC biologists identify individual tarpon using DNA fingerprinting techniques

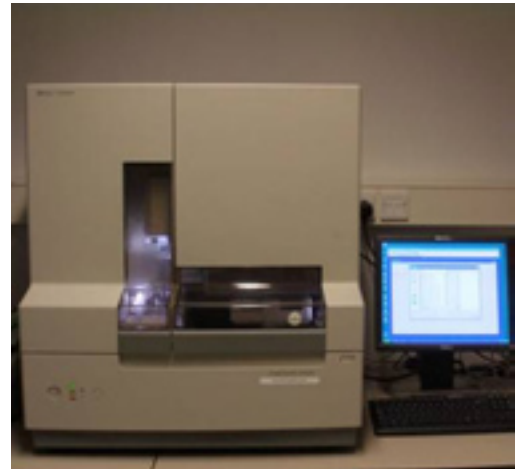
The most important part of the process is step one: anglers collecting and returning DNA samples from *any tarpon, anywhere, any size* for processing in the genetics laboratory at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). Without angler assistance, there would be no Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study.

Once a tarpon DNA sample arrives at the lab in St. Petersburg, scientists remove the skin cells from the abrasive sponge and place the material in a small tube containing a soapy solution with enzymes. This solution breaks down the cell membranes and releases DNA from the cell nuclei. Adding saltwater and alcohol causes the DNA to clump together and allows scientists to extract it in a dehydrated form that they can reconstitute by adding water.

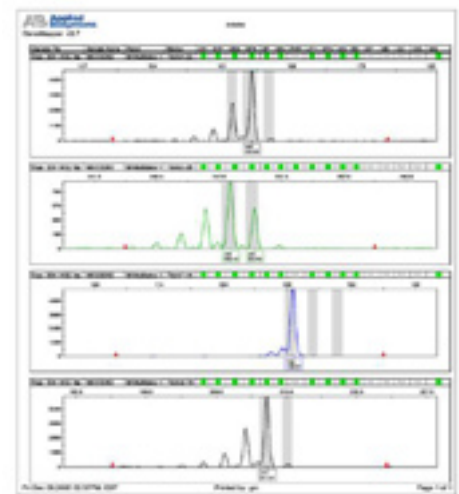
A process of rapid heating and cooling called a polymerase chain reaction uses primer chemicals to further isolate repeating segments of DNA, called microsatellites. Scientists can replicate (copy) those segments that are unique to tarpon, as if they were running tarpon DNA through a photocopier.

Tarpon samples next go into a DNA analyzer (A) that can read the genetic profile, or genotype, of up to 96 tarpon at a time. The machine prints out images displaying peaks that represent each tarpon's genotype (B).

The final step is to "read" the DNA, using 10 different primer chemicals to distinguish 10 microsatellites. The resulting image reflects the unique DNA of each individual fish. If the peaks for all microsatellites match those of a previously sampled tarpon in the database, the reading indicates a suspected recapture. Only after a second scientist checks and confirms the match does the study record a recaptured tarpon. By following this procedure, scientists can identify a tarpon's unique DNA "fingerprint" with odds of an error at less than 1 in a billion.



A



B

*All peaks must match exactly for scientists to consider the tarpon a recaptured fish.*

# The importance of the Atlantic tarpon recreational fishery to Florida's economy

Tarpon support a lucrative recreational catch-and-release fishery that infuses millions of dollars into Florida's economy. Dr. Tony Fedler, fisheries economist with Human Dimensions Consulting in Gainesville, surveyed resident saltwater fishing license holders to assess the direct and total economic impact of tarpon fishing on the local economies of the Everglades, the Caloosahatchee and Charlotte Harbor area, and the St. Lucie River system. Results from Fedler's economic analyses, summarized here, were presented at the fourth International Bonefish and Tarpon Symposium in Dania Beach in November 2011.



## Tarpon Fishery's Regional Economic Benefits

	EVERGLADES	CHARLOTTE HARBOR	ST. LUCIE RIVER
<b>Saltwater anglers that target tarpon</b>	19%	41%	21%
<b>Direct expenditures on tarpon (millions)</b>	\$102	\$64	\$11
<b>Total economic impact (millions)</b>	\$174	\$109	\$19
<b>Number of jobs</b>	1,800	1,100	820
<b>Personal income (millions)</b>	\$53	\$33	\$10
<b>State tax (millions)</b>	\$11	\$7	\$5
<b>Federal tax (millions)</b>	\$13	\$8	\$6

**The dollars and cents of a tarpon DNA sample:** From start to finish, the cost for researchers to create a DNA sampling kit and then process a returned sample in the St. Petersburg laboratory is only about \$3.35! It is a very inexpensive way to learn more about tarpon.

# A call to tarpon anglers in Florida's Panhandle and northern Gulf

Mid- to late summer brings great tarpon fishing to Florida's Panhandle as large tarpon migrate to the northern Gulf of Mexico in great abundance and linger to feed in the productive Mississippi River plume. Not so abundant are tarpon DNA samples from this part of Florida.

Biologists took the opportunity in June to tell Panhandle tarpon guides about the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study. Tom Morgan, owner of Apalach Outfitters in the heart of historic downtown Apalachicola, hosted the special event. Captain Christian Yeargens secured a nice prize basket supplied by Mote Marine Laboratory and project sponsors. In February 2012, a tarpon workshop for the public will be held at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve. The workshop will raise awareness of this study and other tarpon research in the region, as well as encourage more angler participation in these projects.

We urge all tarpon anglers—especially those in the northern Gulf—to carry a DNA kit and sample their fish, so scientists can continue to link together movement patterns and habitat usage. We need your samples!

To receive a free tarpon DNA sampling kit and refills, call toll-free 800-367-4461, e-mail [TarponGenetics@MyFWC.com](mailto:TarponGenetics@MyFWC.com), or visit one of about 200 participating locations statewide where you can also drop off your samples.

**Attention: The study's e-mail address will change in fall 2012. Expect an update.**



Timmons

## Scrape means **SCRAPE!**

Don't waste in haste: don't waste your opportunity to sample your tarpon by rushing through the scraping process. It takes only a few seconds, but you must use enough pressure to get skin cells on the sponge. Silver or white indicates that you have removed enough tissue to extract DNA. Without a good scrape, scientists will not be able to determine whether you have captured a previously sampled fish. Proper technique tremendously increases the odds that scientists will be able to identify your tarpon as a unique individual.



*Sampling tip: wipe away the slime with one side of the sponge, then flip the sponge over to scrape and remove skin cells for a good DNA sample.*

# Top 10 samplers in 2011

1. Mike Badarack
2. Jon Mallory
3. Paul D'Antoni
4. Mark Bennett
5. Robert McCue
6. Jeff Malone
7. T.J. Stewart
8. Carl Ball
9. Skip Nielsen
10. Dave Kostyo



## Top sampler goes wild on fly

This year's top sampler, Mike Badarack, had a banner year of catching tarpon along the Atlantic coast. He returned more than 200 DNA samples, and yes, he caught them on fly. Mike collected many of his samples this fall when he discovered a juvenile tarpon feeding frenzy that lasted several days. He immediately called for backup sampling supplies. Perhaps he knew that Jon Mallory was running a close second. On the other end of the size spectrum, Paul D'Antoni was busy catching the behemoths swimming around Key West waters.

It will be great to see whether the juvenile tarpon sampled in 2011 get recaptured as adults several years from now, as this is the long-term objective of the study. We are fortunate to have so many anglers sampling all sizes of the tarpon they catch. Thank you all for your dedication to tarpon research.



Rehwoidt

*Top Image: Mike Badarack with his trusty fly rod*

*Bottom Image: The study team needs DNA from tarpon of all sizes—even this juvenile, photographed for the study as an example of a small fish caught on fly. The angler immediately released the fish after taking a DNA sample.*

*To view general catch-and-release information, visit [MyFWC.com/Marine](http://MyFWC.com/Marine), select "Outreach and Education" and select "Fishing Resources."*

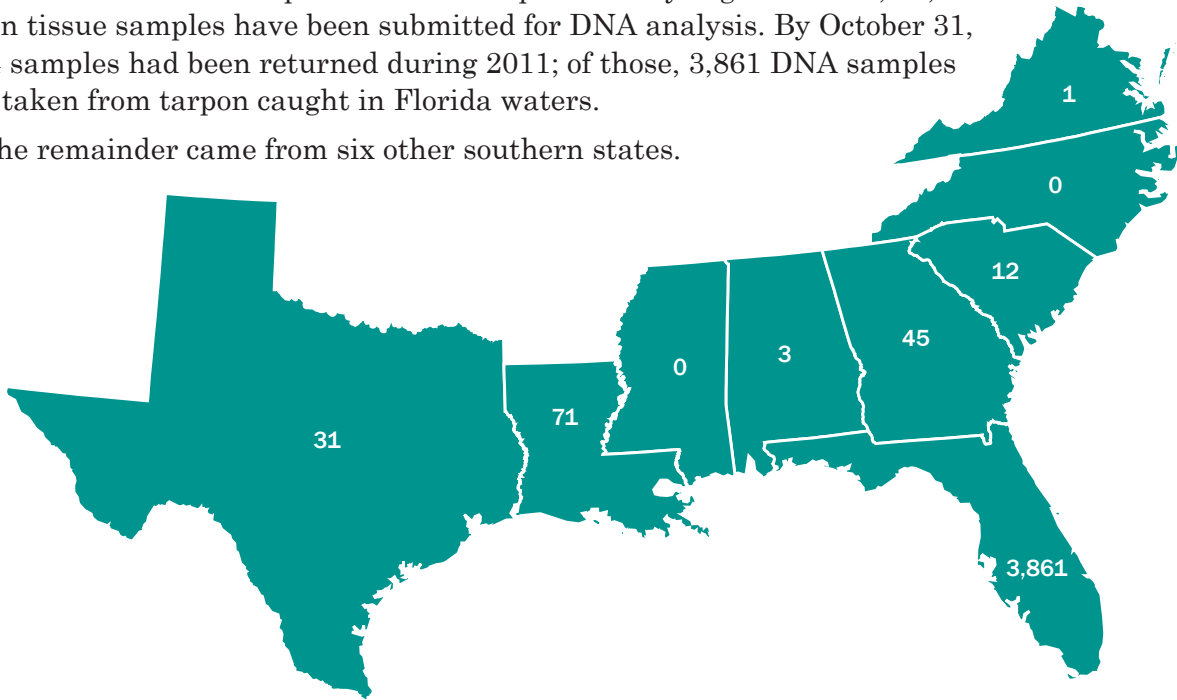


MacInnis

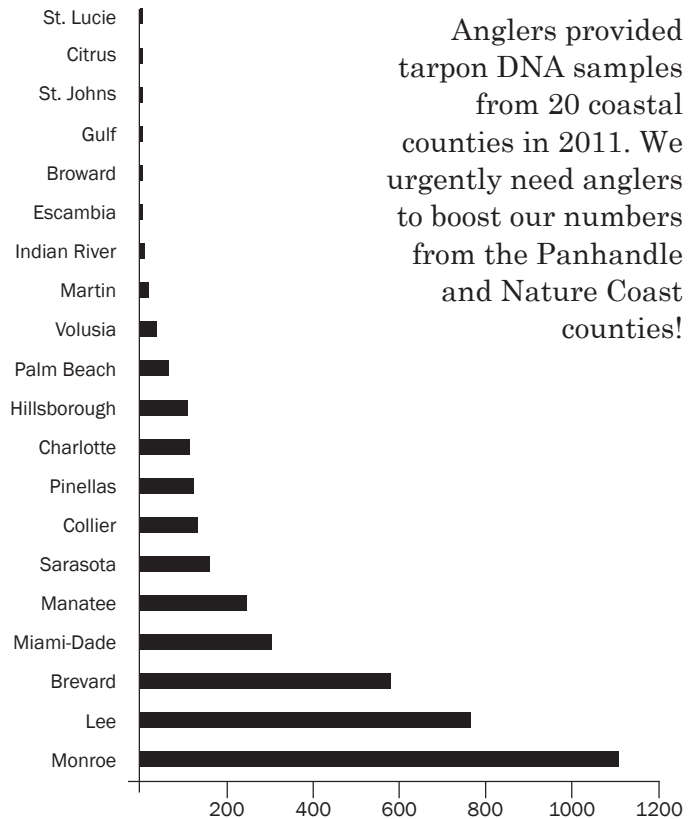
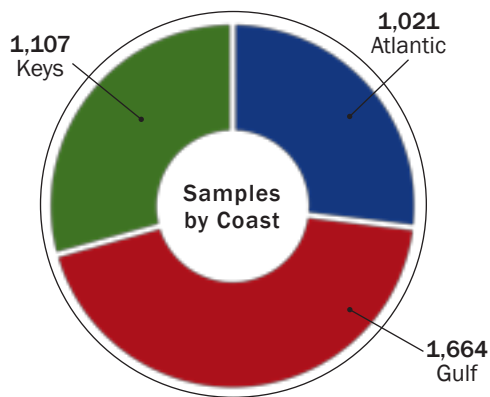
# Anglers reach new sampling heights

The number of tarpon DNA samples returned each year is growing by leaps and bounds. Since the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study began in 2005, 12,834 tarpon tissue samples have been submitted for DNA analysis. By October 31, 4,024 samples had been returned during 2011; of those, 3,861 DNA samples were taken from tarpon caught in Florida waters.

The remainder came from six other southern states.



Within Florida, distribution of samples by region was fairly even. Most adult tarpon were sampled along the Gulf coast; most juvenile tarpon, along the Atlantic coast, where sampling increased 178% over 2010 numbers. Keys anglers increased submissions 64% and returned more DNA samples in 2011 than ever before. Thank you, anglers!



Anglers provided tarpon DNA samples from 20 coastal counties in 2011. We urgently need anglers to boost our numbers from the Panhandle and Nature Coast counties!



# Congratulations!

Congratulations to the anglers who won random drawings and special challenges this year. Remember, even if you catch one tarpon all year, that single DNA sample can help advance our understanding of tarpon distribution, movement, habitat preferences, and survival. Without samples, there are no recaptures. Without recaptures, we gain no new information, so please scrape every one that you can. Your next tarpon might be a recapture.

## Random raffles

Bruce Shrock, Myakka City  
Jess Mesmer, Fort Myers  
Lee Roberts, Sarasota  
Iain Nicolson, Houston, Texas  
Doug Johnston, Largo  
Chad Manning, Apollo Beach  
Steve Ward, Coppell, Texas  
Cameron Guenther, Riverview  
Roy MacDowell, III, Wayland, Massachusetts  
Rick Murphy, Homestead



Schouest

## Bimonthly drawings

January-February: Frederick Lieb, Bokeelia  
March-April: Craig Korczynski, Royal Palm Beach  
May-June: Brian Jill, Palm Harbor  
July-August: Cameron Gorski, Sarasota;  
Lance Schouest, Houma, Louisiana  
September-October: Randy Dalzell Sr., Palm Bay  
November-December: Robert Gorta, Largo



Johnson

## Special challenge

Robert McCue collected 84 samples from Charlotte Harbor during May and June and returned them by the July deadline to win the 2011 Dave Markett challenge.

## 2011 Sponsors\*

Thank you to all the individuals and businesses that contributed their valuable time and great products for angler drawings, prizes, and event gift baskets. We are grateful for their support in helping to instill sportsmanship and enthusiasm for the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study.

Bass Pro Shop of Fort Myers, Black Tip GraFX, Bob's Machine Shop, Breathe Like A Fish, Cabela's, Clyde Butcher Venice Gallery & Studio, Coastal Angler Magazine, Cutco Cutlery, Corp., Dave Markett, Dawson Agency, Discount Tackle, D.O.A. Fishing Lures, Economy Tackle/Dolphin Dive, El Capitan Sports Center, Inc., Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fran Bays, Jeannie Johnson/Quadruple Gallery, J.L. Marine Systems, Inc./ Power Pole, John B's Fly & Light Tackle, Kathy Zimmerman/SnookZGraphics, Mote Marine Laboratory, Mr. Bones, New Pass Grill & Bait Shop, SeaSucker, Shepard's Red Barn, Tropical Seas, West Marine, Wojcik & Short Associates, and Woody Wax.

\* Donations were provided by these entities as program support through Mote Marine Laboratory.

# Star samplers

We salute the 409 anglers who returned DNA samples by Oct. 31. The following anglers, listed in alphabetical order, each provided at least five samples during the same period of 2011:

## 100+

Mike Badarack  
Mark Bennett  
Paul D'Antoni  
Jon Mallory  
Jeff Malone  
Robert McCue  
T.J. Stewart

## 50-99

Raymond Baird  
Carl Ball  
Chris King  
Dave Kostyo  
Paul MacInnis  
Skip Nielsen  
Frank Ortiz  
Bouncer Smith

## 30-49

Jeff Hagaman  
Dave Markett  
Billy Miller  
Rick Murphy  
Troy Sapp  
Tom Stephens, Jr.

## 20-29

Nestor Alvisa, Jr.  
Joel Bickford  
Vinnie Biondoletti  
Michael Camilli  
Mike Clark

Frederick Lieb  
John Manuel  
Paul Messick  
Bill Miller  
Vincent Parkinson  
Marcus Poffenberger  
Artie Price  
Pete Rapps  
David Rhea  
Owen Schroeder  
Clark Wright, Jr.

## 10-19

Jeremiah Acevedo  
Chris Barron  
Marty Benson  
Steve Bowler  
Bruce Bowman  
Roger Burge  
Richard Burson  
Monty Cabe  
Justin Cauffman  
John Crawford  
Dave Dennison  
Jeffri Durrance  
Ozzie Fischer  
Phil Hartman  
Bob Heagey  
Jim Huddleston  
Tim Humphries  
Bill Jones  
John Kipp  
Russell Kleppinger

Craig Korczynski  
Jim Lemke  
John McLay  
Heather Messick  
John Mester  
Clark Nash  
Jeff Owens  
Mary Quinette  
Lee Roberts  
Lance Schouest  
Robert Taylor  
Ted Wilson  
Gerald Winkler  
Jay Withers  
Clark Wright

## 5-9

Craig Abbott  
Andy Allen  
Eduardo Andreu  
Bill Bowers  
Meghan Brunelli  
Cody Chivas  
Shaun Chute  
Logan Clark  
Marshall DeMott  
Judy Devores  
Mark Dillingham  
Rick DuJardin  
Alex Fajet  
Bob Flynn  
Marcia Foosaner  
Steve Friedman

Reed Giasson  
Tom Goshorn  
Rick Grasset  
Brian Hart  
James Harter  
Scott Irvine  
Chrissie Jackson  
John Jackson, III  
Chet Jennings  
Grant Johnston  
Jesse Karen  
Ken Knudsen  
Luke Maglich  
Chad Manning  
Mark Maus  
Robert May, III  
Mike McDonald  
Jeff Naiman  
Mike O'Brien  
Dave Robinson  
James Roehm  
Walter Ruda  
Tom Shadley  
Dale Sparling  
Todd Stamps  
Robert Thomas  
Jeff Totten  
Mason Tush  
Larry Weiner  
Gene White  
Mike Wilson  
Nick Winger  
Ryan Young

Every angler who returned five or more tarpon DNA samples during 2010 received a shirt.

Anglers who returned a DNA sample in 2010 also received a waterproof decal for their boat, truck, or tackle box.

Volunteer tarpon anglers and DNA samplers come in all sizes and are all invaluable to this study. Great job, volunteer tarpon anglers!

*Check out the 2009 decal prominently displayed on Thomas Coffey's kayak as Walt Ruda takes a photo of the prize catch.*



Ruda

# Participating 2011 tournaments

These tournaments allowed presentations about the study at tournament events, distributed sampling kits to anglers, offered incentives, or otherwise encouraged anglers to collect DNA samples from the fish they entered in competition.

Angry Crab Tarpon Tournament  
Cape Fear Rods Golden Fly Invitational Tarpon Tournament  
Charleston Harbor Tarpon Release Tournament  
Don Hawley Invitational Tarpon Tournament  
Ed Alber Tarpon Rodeo All-Release Tournament  
Faro Blanco Invitational Tarpon Tournament  
Gold Cup Invitational Tarpon Fly Tournament  
Kayak Fishing Classics Tarpon Fever  
Key West Fishing Tournament  
Ladies Tarpon Tournament  
Marathon International Tarpon Tournament  
Outback Golden Fly Tarpon Tournament  
Professional Tarpon Tournament Series  
Raymond James Boca Grande Classic  
Redbone @ Large La Siesta Sunrise/Sunset Tarpon Tournament  
Robert James S.L.A.M. Celebrity Tournament  
Sarasota Sportsfishing Anglers Club Tarpon Tournament  
Scientific Anglers Women's World Invitational Tarpon Series  
Suncoast Tarpon Roundup  
Tampa Yacht and Country Club Tarpon Tournament  
Tarponian Tournament  
Women's Professional Tarpon Tournament Series



*Mike Clark and grandson Logan Clark claim angling awards during the 2011 Suncoast Tarpon Roundup banquet in St. Petersburg. Tournament rules require anglers to take a DNA sample from each released tarpon.*

## Community outreach

The following organizations and community event sponsors also provided education and outreach opportunities to promote awareness of the study.

Apalach Outfitters  
Backcountry Fly Fishing Association  
Fishing and Hunting Expo  
FishOn Fishing Club of New Port Richey  
Flint Creek Outfitters Father's Day Expo  
Florida Fly Fishing Expo 2011  
Florida Guides Association annual meeting  
FWC-FWRI MarineQuest  
Hernando County Fishing Club

Hunt for Reds  
Mangrove Coast Fly Fishing Club  
Stuart Rod & Reel Club  
Tampa Tribune Outdoor Expo and Boat Show  
The James P. Gills Family YMCA Kids' Fishing Festival/Ecofest  
West Marine's Fishing Frenzy, Jacksonville  
West Palm Beach Fishing Club



# Study news

## Louisiana sends bayou samples our way!

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has officially joined the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study and made it part of that state's research plan. Anglers from Louisiana provided 71 tarpon DNA samples in 2011. We welcome their participation in this cooperative research effort.



## Florida Sea Grant video available soon

Florida Sea Grant and IFAS Information and Communication Services at the University of Florida got together with fishing guides from Tampa Bay and the Ten Thousand Islands to create an educational video that will show anglers how to take a tarpon DNA sample and why they should participate in this study. The film will be ready for release in early 2012. Thank you, Sea Grant, for funding this project.



## Grant promotes outreach in Monroe County

The Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study recognizes the Islamorada Fishing and Conservation Trust for its funding support to Mote Marine Laboratory to enhance the study in Monroe County. The number of samples returned from the Keys went up 64% from last year and more than doubled along the east coast.



# Learn more about the study

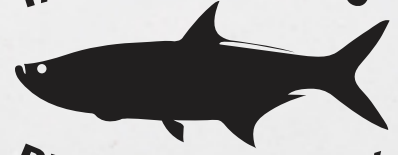
Do you belong to a group of avid tarpon anglers? Invite a Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study staff member as a guest speaker to one of your meetings. We can prepare a presentation to cover topics of interest to your group. Just contact us at [TarponGenetics@MyFWC.com](mailto:TarponGenetics@MyFWC.com) and we will be happy to discuss the possibilities.



*A researcher talks tarpon at the West Palm Beach Fishing Club.*



**TARPON GENETIC  
RECAPTURE STUDY**



# *2011 Review*

Bennett



Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
MyFWC.com



Saltwater  
Recreational  
Fishing  
Licenses

Tarpon artwork © Diane Rome Peebles



Florida Fish  
and Wildlife  
Conservation  
Commission  
100 8th Ave. SE  
St. Petersburg, FL  
33701-5020  
MyFWC.com

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MONTH	SOURCE	AUTHOR, TITLE, SOURCE, DATE
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