



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Marine Fisheries

Dr. Louis B. Daniel III

Director

Pat McCrory  
Governor

John Skvarla III  
Secretary

February 21, 2014

Dear Red Drum Taggers,

Thank you all for your work tagging red drum and documenting your data in 2013. Your efforts contribute to a long and valuable data set for adult red drum in North Carolina; a data set that now spans 30 years. Tagging data has contributed directly to our understanding of the red drum population. Tagging data provides information on movement and migration, exploitation (rate of removals) and provides a means to validate age and growth data. Additionally, red drum tagging also provides insight on the size of fish captured and released in the recreational fishery. All of these elements either contribute directly to or provide ancillary data used in the assessment of this stock.

From talking to some of you and studying the tagging information that has already come in, it looks like 2013 was another good red drum fishing year from north to south. There were reports of some slower than usual spring fishing on the Outer Banks for adult fish, mainly due to weather. We continue to see a good range of sizes of fish in your information and the number of recaptures (n=58) is consistent with the numbers from the recent years. Here is a table listing the number of fish tagged, recaptured and the percent returned for the last 14 years:

<u>Year</u>	<u># tagged</u>	<u>#recaptured</u>	<u>% return</u>
1999	1167	38	3.3
2000	1276	41	3.2
2001	991	32	3.2
2002	1164	33	2.8
2003	1022	21	2.1
2004	1214	26	2.1
2005	1399	44	3.2
2006	1792	84	4.7
2007	1448	105	7.3
2008	998	67	6.7
2009	924	67	7.3
2010	1635	70	4.3
2011	1108	63	5.7
2012	962	64	6.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,100</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>4.4%</b>

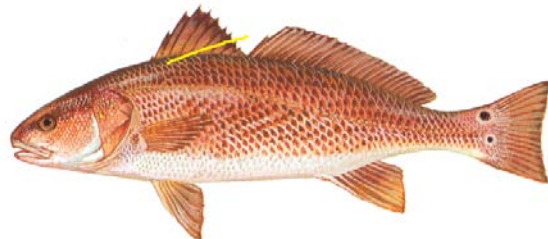
Attached is the list of Volunteer tagged fish that were recaptured in 2013. You will notice that one of the fish carried a tag for almost 15 years before being recaptured 4 <sup>1/2</sup> miles from where it was tagged! Also of interest are four tags on the list that were recaptured a second time. Both the first and second tagging events are highlighted in gray on the spreadsheet.

Another noteworthy piece of information concerning the recaptures through the years is that there has not been a recapture from Virginia or South Carolina waters since 2009 (see below).

Tagger	Tag Date	Location Tagged	FL	Recap	R Location	R FL	Days	Miles
A Harmon	08/09/08	off Great Island, NW Pamlico S.	29	7/11/09	Little Creek Inlet, mouth Chesapeake Bay	30	337	148
G Beckwith	08/19/04	Brant Island Slough	37	5/30/09	Fisherman's Island, Eastern Shore	38	1746	159

Other news that will be of interest to you concerns a new tagging grant that the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries has recently been awarded. Funds are available through North Carolina's Coastal Recreational Fishing License. A small portion of the grant will help fund our volunteer tagging program this year. As you all can imagine this is great news! The main element of the grant involves DMF staff tagging red drum that are commonly encountered in our ongoing fishery independent surveys using both a high-reward and a double-tagging component. Keep your eye out for internal anchor 'belly' tags that could be double tagged with a tag on both sides of the fish. These will be yellow tags. A reward of a hat, fish towel or \$5.00 will be given for each tag reported. The high reward tag is worth \$100. That tag is also a belly tag and is red. It *must be* returned to DMF in order to receive the \$100 reward. The majority of the fish with these tags will be less than 27 inches but some larger fish will be tagged as well. Attached is a copy of the sign we will be posting at tackle shops, fish houses and boat ramp/fishing access locations. We appreciate you all helping spread the word and also answering questions concerning this new tagging study. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Please remember that the placement of the tag is very important. We would like for it to be placed one scale row down (in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row down) between the leading edge and the middle of the first dorsal fin. Make sure to get the tag an inch or so into the flesh. Those big stainless anchors should be locking in the shoulder muscle. After inserting the tag, give it a tug to make sure it is secured.



Any 2013 tagging information that you still have, please mail, fax, email or call the information in as soon as possible. Let us know if you need any supplies.

Have a great fishing year!  
Best Regards

Carol and Lee

Contact:  
[carol.etheridge@ncdenr.gov](mailto:carol.etheridge@ncdenr.gov)  
[lee.paramore@ncdenr.gov](mailto:lee.paramore@ncdenr.gov)  
Phone: (252) 473-5734  
Fax: (252) 473-1674

Mail tag info to: NCDMF  
PO Box 1965  
Manteo, NC 27954

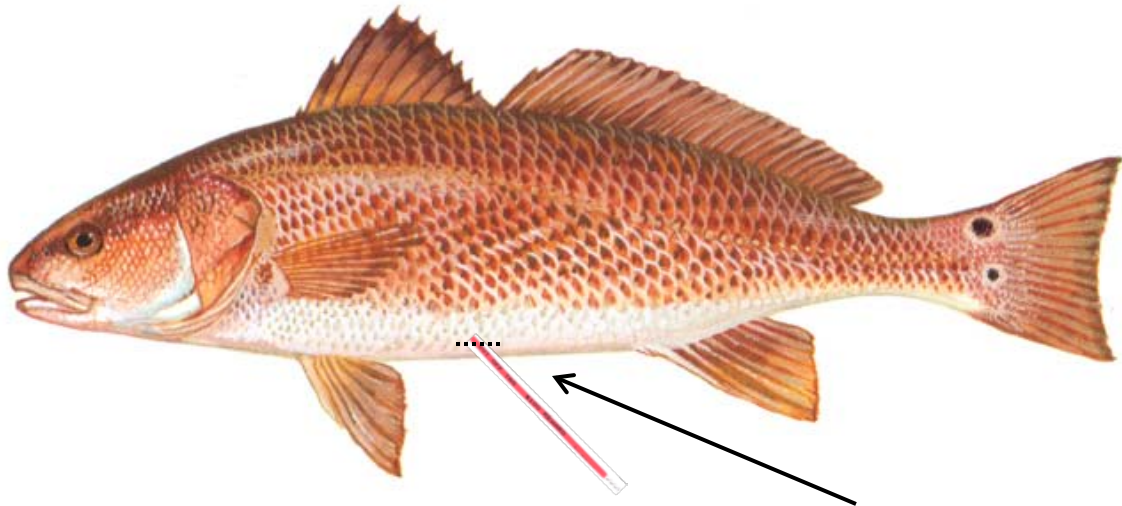
**2013 Preliminary Red Drum Tag Recaptures**

Tag #	Tagger	Tag Date	Tag Location	Length FL (inches)	2013 Recap Date	Recapture location	Length FL (inches)	Days Out	Distance Traveled (miles)
D34129	George Beckwith	09/15/98	off Point of Marsh, Neuse River	45	08/18	Turnagain Bay	47	5452	4.5
D38751	George Beckwith	08/21/01	lower Neuse River	42	09/09	Turnagain Bay	42	4412	5
D39135	George Beckwith	09/21/01	lower Neuse River	46	09/25	Gum Thicket Shoal	51	4388	3.5
D38370	Norman Miller	10/29/01	Ocracoke Inlet	41	08/20	NE of Neuse River Entrance Buoy	45	4314	25.5
D51946	George Beckwith	08/27/03	3 mi. W of Brant Island Slough	39	09/15	Lighthouse Shoal	42	3673	9
D52981	Norman Miller	04/29/04	Ocracoke Inlet	41	08/30	Cedar Island Beach	41	3411	11
D54565	George Beckwith	09/03/05	Maw Point	38	09/15	near Neuse River Entrance Buoy	42	2935	2.5
D54751	George Beckwith	09/24/05	Gum Thicket Shoal	39	09/07	mouth of Neuse River	41	2906	3.5
D57103	Chuck Hudson	09/07/06	Swan Island	36	08/20	mouth of Neuse River	39	2540	3.5
D57463	George Beckwith	09/13/06	lower Neuse River	43	08/12	Gum Thicket Shoal	44	2526	4
D59101	Bobby Smith	08/19/08	mouth of Neuse	44	09/04	Point of Marsh, Neuse River	44	1843	4
D56999	1st tagged by George Beckwith @ lower Neuse R. on 9/2/06			45	total days out to second recap = 2567				
D56999	1st and 2nd recap	09/04/08	off Brown's Creek, Neuse River	48	09/11	Beacon #1 off Oriental, Neuse River	-	1834	7.5
D83850	Norman Miller	09/13/10	Lehigh; inside Ocracoke Inlet	47	08/21	Cedar Island, 1 mi. from ferry dock	47	1074	18
D84804	George Beckwith	09/17/10	off South River	46	08/24	mouth of South River	46	1073	1
D84333	Abel Harmon	08/17/11	Shell Point, W Pamlico S.	47	08/07	mouth of Pamlico River, NE side	47	722	5
D87665	George Beckwith	08/23/12	Gum Thicket Shoal	45	10/20	Outer Banks Fishing Pier, Nags Head	45	424	86
D88229	George Beckwith	09/04/12	Maw Point	43	10/20	Ocracoke Inlet	45	412	29.5
D84986	Curtis Morris	09/24/12	East end Bear Isl. @ Bogue Inlet	28	11/09	14 mi. SE of New River Inlet	29	412	14
D87667	George Beckwith	08/23/12	Gum Thicket Shoal	46	09/20	off Brown's Creek, Neuse River	46	394	5
D87758	George Beckwith	08/23/12	Lighthouse Shoal, Neuse River	42	09/08	mouth of Bay River off Bay Point	42	382	7
D87556	Mitchell Blake	08/24/12	off Daniels Point, Neuse River	40	09/07	Maw Point, mouth of Bay River	40	380	15.5
D84294	David Carter	09/01/12	Gum Thicket Shoal	43	08/30	5 miles East of Oriental, Neuse River	43	364	2
D87560	Mitchell Blake	08/24/12	off Daniels Point, Neuse River	49	08/20	mouth of Neuse River, south side	49	362	14
D84739	1st tagged by Bobby Smith @ Rattan Bay on 9/3/11			48	total days out to second recap = 718				
D84739	1st and 2nd recap	08/28/12	off Oriental, Neuse River	48	08/21	off Oriental, Neuse River	48	359	1
D87425	Henry Kidd	09/14/12	off Cedar Island	42	09/01	Pamlico Sound off Jones Bay	42	353	16
D84400	Abel Harmon	08/09/12	Deep Bay	46	07/21	Deep Bay	46	347	0.5
D87571	Mitchell Blake	09/09/12	East of Oriental, Neuse River	48	08/18	East of Oriental, Neuse River	48	344	1
D88460	George Beckwith	09/22/12	ENE of Neuse River Entrance Lt.	39	08/27	1 mi. NE of Neuse River Entrance light	39	340	3.5
D83720	Doug Hinson	10/10/12	Ocracoke Inlet	36	09/08	across from Oriental, Neuse River	36	334	38
D88474	George Beckwith	09/23/12	2 mi. NE of NR Entrance Light	44	08/18	1 mi. NE of Neuse River Entrance light	-	330	1
D87546	Bobby Smith	09/17/12	Point of Marsh	43	08/05	Maw Point, mouth of Bay River	43	323	6
D87933	Norman Miller	11/04/12	Ocracoke Inlet	44	07/19	Deep Bay	44	258	32

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Tag #	Tagger	Tag Date	Tag Location	Length FL (inches)	2013 Recap Date	Recapture location	Length FL (inches)	Days Out	Distance Traveled (miles)
D83579	Ken Wilson	09/28/12	Corova Beach, below NC/VA line	47	05/22	Hatteras Inlet	47	237	99
D88705	Jot Owens	05/20/13	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	28	10/03	n-end Figure 8 Island @ Rich's Inlet	28	137	9
D88716	Jot Owens	05/30/13	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	28	08/18	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	28	81	0.5
D82436	Lewis Emery	07/09/13	Cedar Creek, mouth of CFR	28	09/18	mouth Cape Fear River near Southport	34	72	2.5
D88722	Jot Owens	05/30/13	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	29	07/30	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	29	62	0.5
D88708	Jot Owens	05/20/13	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	28	07/19	Caswell Beach, Oak Island	28	61	27
D88702	Jot Owens	05/20/13	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	29	07/18	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	29	60	0.5
D88717	1st tagged by Jot Owens @ Masonboro Inlet on 5/30/13			28	total days out to second recap = 135				
D88717	1st and 2nd recap	08/22/13	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	28	10/11	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	32	51	0.5
D88380	Justin Trujillo	06/16/13	Carolina Beach Inlet	29	08/02	Carolina Beach Inlet	32	48	0.5
D88714	Jot Owens	05/30/13	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	28	07/05	Fort Fisher, surf	28	37	15
D85032	Timothy Taramelli	07/28/13	Queen's Creek near Swansboro	27	08/30	Queen's Creek near Swansboro	28	34	0.5
D85044	Timothy Taramelli	10/13/13	Bear Creek	30	11/14	Bear Inlet East of Hammock's Beach	30	33	2.5
D88550	George Beckwith	08/18/13	NE of Neuse River Entrance Light	42	09/14	Bay River	42	28	7
D88713	Jot Owens	05/30/13	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	30	06/25	Snow's Cut, near Cape Fear River (CFR)	30	27	11.5
D88740	Jot Owens	09/20/13	Masonboro Inlet Jetty	26	10/11	Fort Fisher, surf	27	22	16
D88501	George Beckwith	08/18/13	NE of Neuse River Entrance Light	46	09/07	off Cedar Bay, South of NR Entrance Light	46	21	7.5
D88273	Bobby Smith	08/27/13	Cedar Bay, mouth of Neuse R.	25	09/08	Rattan Bay	25	13	3
D88763	Abel Harmon	06/24/14	Deep Bay	50	07/02	Deep Bay	50	9	0.5
D88621	Curtis Morris	09/30/13	East end Bear Island	28	10/06	off Bear Inlet	28	7	3
D88766	Abel Harmon	06/24/14	Deep Bay	46	07/04	Deep Bay	46	7	0.5
D88718	1st tagged by Jot Owens @ Masonboro Inlet on 5/30/13			27	total days out to second recap = 81				
D88718	1st and 2nd recap	06/29/13	Carolina Beach surf	27	08/18	Fort Fisher, surf	27	7	51
D88077	Norman Miller	11/03/03	Ocracoke Inlet	25	11/07	Portsmouth Island surf	25	5	5
D88259	Bobby Smith	08/15/13	Cedar Bay, mouth of Neuse R.	45	08/17	Pamlico Sound off Bay River	45	3	10
D89411	Abel Harmon	08/18/13	Pamlico River, mouth	45	08/19	Pamlico Sound off Germantown	45	2	9

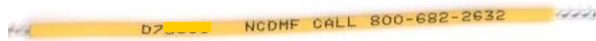
# Reward For Tagged Red Drum



**PLEASE CUT OFF TAG FOR REWARD!**

**Yellow tag = hat, towel  
or \$5**

**Red tag = \$100 if returned**



If you catch a tagged red drum, please cut off the tag and call **1-800-682-2632** to report the recapture and associated information. Red tags must be returned (mailed or delivered) to receive the \$100 reward.

**Some fish will have two tags. It is important to check both sides of the fish and cut off all tags present.**

**To report tags call: 1-800-682-2632**

Mail to: NC Division of Marine Fisheries  
PO Box 769  
Morehead City, NC 28557

Information contact:  
[lee.paramore@ncdenr.gov](mailto:lee.paramore@ncdenr.gov)

