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# Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program Annual Report 1997

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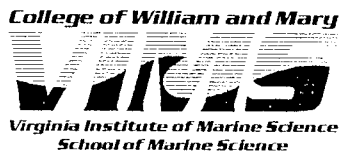


# VIRGINIA GAME FISH TAGGING PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 1997

**Claude M. Bain III**  
**Jon A. Lucy**  
**Michael D. Arendt**



Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program  
College of William and Mary



Virginia Marine Resources Commission

# Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program Annual Report 1997

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*Thanks to:*

*Those anglers who took the time and effort to attend tag training workshops, then put their fishing skills to work to tag, release and record tagging data.*

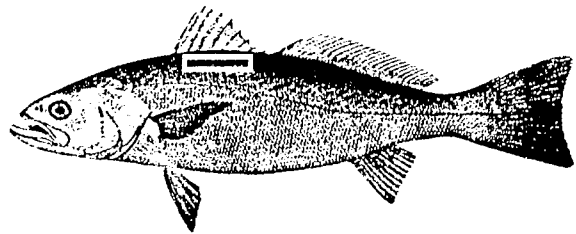
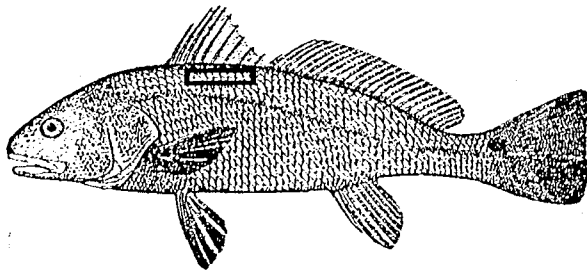
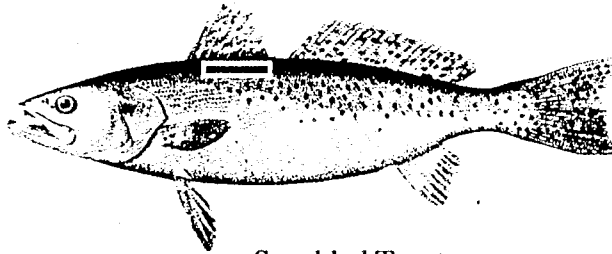
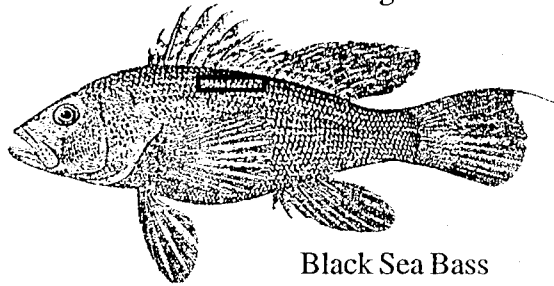
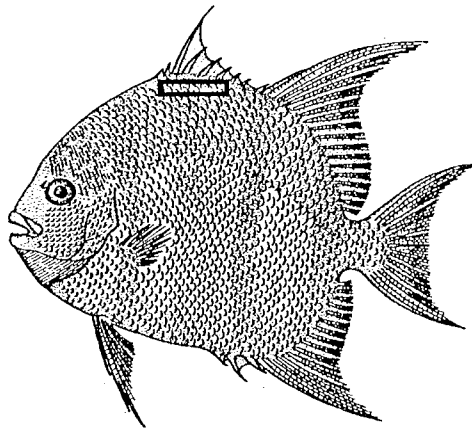
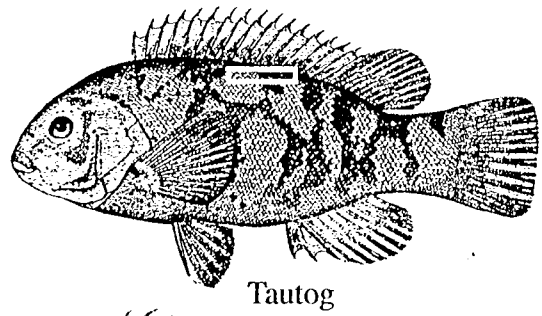
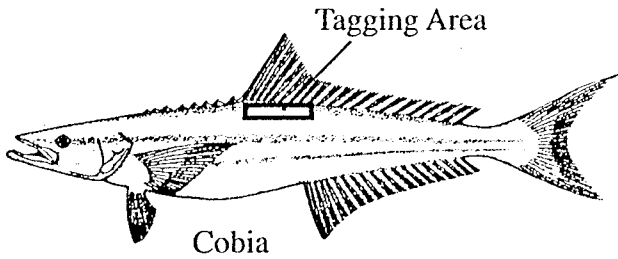
*Those individuals out on the water in the recreational and commercial fisheries, and those working onshore in seafood businesses, who took enough interest and effort to report tags in recaptured fish.*

*The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program, on behalf of the co-directors and the Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board, greatly appreciates the dedication of those contributing to this effort to expand understanding of the fish stocks on which we all depend.*



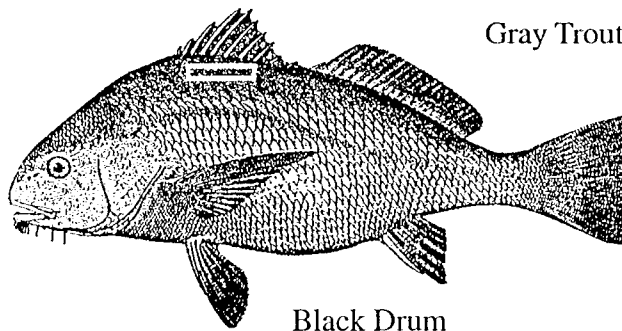
This work is the result of research supported in part by NOAA Office of Sea Grant, U.S. Department of Commerce, under grant No. NA90AA-D-SG045 to the Virginia Graduate Marine Science Consortium and the Virginia Sea Grant College Program

# Target Species for Tagging



Red Drum

Gray Trout (Weakfish)



Black Drum

# VIRGINIA GAME FISH TAGGING PROGRAM

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP), a cooperative project of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), set records for participation, fish tagged, and fish recaptured during its third year of operation.

A total of 5,213 fish were tagged by recreational angler volunteers in 1997. This was an increase of 47% over 1996 (3,536 fish tagged) and nearly four times the effort during 1995 (1,348 fish tagged).

Program participation increased 13%, with 143 anglers volunteering to tag fish. This compares with 127 volunteers in 1996 and 64 in 1995.

Recaptures of tagged fish equaled 221 for the year, more than double the annual total in each of the previous two years. During 1996 a total of 104 tagged fish were recaptured, while 106 fish were recaptured in 1995.

The VGFTP is primarily funded with revenues from Virginia's saltwater recreational fishing license. In addition, support for the program is provided by Virginia's Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program at VIMS.

## PROGRAM GOALS

The VGFTP is designed to accomplish three specific goals:

1. To develop a quality-oriented tagging program utilizing recreational anglers to enhance data collection efforts for specific species of fish;
2. To educate anglers about the need, benefits, limitations, and operation of tagging programs and other information gathering efforts directed toward saltwater finfish, including the proper methods for reporting the recapture of tagged fish; and,

3. To reinforce efforts to educate anglers about the benefits and proper techniques for catching, handling, releasing, and tagging fish.

## THIRD YEAR PARTICIPATION

The VGFTP places annual limits on participation and requires attendance at a minimum of one training session for all volunteers. This provides the program directors an opportunity to interact with all program participants to help assure the quality of their tagging efforts.

Registration for the 1997 program began on January 20, 1997, with participation limited to the first 160 recreational anglers to register. By the end of March, when the registration period ended, 156 anglers had enrolled in the program.

Training workshops for new taggers were held during the first two weeks of April in Wachapreague, Virginia Beach, and Gloucester Point. Instruction and discussion of proper fish handling techniques, tagging techniques, procedures for the accurate and efficient reporting of tag events, and the goals and philosophy of the VGFTP were featured at these sessions. Anglers who had participated in the program in prior years were not required to attend a second session. However, upon invitation several experienced taggers attended and contributed practical tips to the sessions.

After receiving tagging equipment and going through written tagging instructions, anglers practiced inserting tags in fish obtained from local seafood markets. The practice element of the training program clarifies questions about proper tagging technique, reinforces proper fish handling procedures, and allows anglers the chance to develop a feel for the tagging process while under supervision. Mistakes in tag placement and improper anchoring of tags, common occurrences during practice tagging, provide an excellent learning situation through which anglers immediately benefit from their mistakes and gain confidence in their skills.

## TARGETED SPECIES

Black Drum	( <i>Pogonias cromis</i> )
Black Sea Bass	( <i>Centropristis striata</i> )
Cobia	( <i>Rachycentron canadum</i> )
Gray Trout	( <i>Cynoscion regalis</i> )
Red Drum	( <i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i> )
Spadefish	( <i>Chaetodipterus faber</i> )
Speckled Trout	( <i>Cynoscion nebulosus</i> )
Tautog	( <i>Tautoga onitis</i> )

These eight species of fish are targeted by the VGFTP principally for the following reasons: 1) they contribute significantly to Virginia's recreational fisheries; 2) there are gaps in the scientific data available on the species regarding how "Virginia's" populations of these species interact with, and impact upon, the overall populations of which they are a component; 3) the species are typically not targeted by other directed tagging efforts in the region; and 4) tagging studies can provide insight into aspects of the species' life history, e.g., data on local and regional movement patterns of young as well as sexually mature fish, documentation of species' utilization of specific types of habitat or water areas (i.e., the Hot Ditch), limited growth data, and insight into survival rates of released fish.

Finally, tagging programs may be most valuable in the questions they raise, rather than the answers they provide. Quite often the information provided by tag and recapture events in larger-scale tagging programs point toward inconsistencies in accepted theories regarding fish movement and behavior patterns. Such occurrences may suggest the need for, and help to define, future fisheries research.

The newest addition to the program, black sea bass, was targeted for tagging in 1997. Size and bag limits for the fishery are resulting in more fish having to be released, enhancing the opportunity for tagging. Sea bass caught offshore are typically taken from water depths greater than 45-50 ft., raising concerns among anglers and fishery managers about survival rates of fish typically having expanded swim bladders when released back overboard.

## 1997 TAGGING AWARDS

Volunteers participating in the VGFTP have the opportunity to earn recognition for their conservation efforts. Participants tagging a minimum of 25 fish are awarded Conservation Certificates. During 1997, 49 participants qualified for conservation awards (Table 1). This compares with 32 awards earned in 1996 and 16 in 1995. Twenty-one anglers earned conservation awards in both 1996 and 1997, and nine anglers earned awards in each of the past three years.

The angler tagging the most fish for the VGFTP in 1997 was Tom Heinz, who tagged a total of 505 fish.

### MOST FISH TAGGED

Tom Heinz (Nassawadox) 505 Fish

Special recognition is given to the anglers tagging the most fish in each of the species targeted by the VGFTP.

### TOP TAGGING AWARDS BY SPECIES

Black Drum-16	Carolyn W. Brown
Black Sea Bass-78	Al Paschall
Cobia-23	David A. Arris
Gray Trout-448	Tom Heinz
Red Drum-148	Robert W. Collins
Spadefish-121	Ken Neill, III
Speckled Trout-52	Mike Perron
Tautog-106	Ken Neill, III

Table 1. Anglers awarded Conservation Certificates for tagging 25 or more fish during 1997.

Tagger	Black Drum	Black Sea Bass	Cobia	Gray Trout	Red Drum	Spadefish	Speckled Trout	Tautog	Total
David A. Arris	0	0	23	1	2	3	0	0	29
Julie Ball	0	0	0	24	0	14	0	4	42
Ken Beach	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	25
Welton Beard	0	49	0	47	0	0	0	4	100
Dean Bieiri	0	0	0	7	0	14	6	0	27
Carolyn Brown	16	5	7	9	29	50	10	8	134
Marty Bull	0	0	0	23	1	0	1	0	25
Roy Cahoon	2	0	0	19	9	0	8	0	38
Robert W. Collins	2	18	1	133	148	0	35	13	350
Rick Falls	0	45	3	33	0	38	0	9	128
Mike Firestone	1	27	1	17	9	30	3	4	92
Ren Fortier	0	0	0	0	4	0	21	0	25
Bill Hall	1	1	3	18	9	15	1	4	52
Chuck Harrison	9	8	1	121	3	5	1	1	149
Tom Heinz	0	2	0	448	8	0	47	0	505
Anthony Ingram	0	16	0	22	0	3	0	5	46
Kevin Josenhans	0	0	0	2	0	0	23	0	25
Jim Jenrette	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	92
Jim Karsnitz	0	0	0	24	1	0	0	0	25
Buddy Kerr	0	58	1	138	1	0	1	0	199
John Miller	0	0	2	26	40	0	0	0	68
Luke Negangard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	37
Ken Neill, III	5	63	3	114	4	121	3	106	419
Keith Nuttall	0	0	0	7	0	0	46	0	53
Tom O'Connor	0	6	1	28	2	0	0	0	37
Craig Paige	13	0	0	0	12	3	10	4	42
Al Paschall	4	78	0	85	35	0	29	14	245
Mike Perron	2	41	1	64	80	1	52	86	327
Rick Phipps	1	23	0	9	1	4	0	14	52
Alfred Redd	0	25	0	20	0	0	0	4	49

[continued]



Table 1. [continued]

Tagger	Black Drum	Black Sea Bass	Cobia	Gray Trout	Red Drum	Spadefish	Speckled Trout	Tautog	Total
Jeff Regal	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	32
George Reiger	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	31
Gary Richardson	0	0	1	97	0	0	7	0	105
Joe Robbins	0	2	0	35	0	0	0	4	41
Lawrence Rooks	0	5	0	23	0	1	0	0	29
P. G. Ross	0	1	1	24	0	11	0	4	41
Parks Rountrey	0	4	0	18	0	1	2	0	25
Art Saunders	1	0	0	38	2	5	9	0	55
Stan Simmerman	0	21	1	10	0	0	0	0	32
Larry Snider	0	0	0	21	0	4	0	0	25
Bill Susewind	0	3	0	3	1	11	0	7	25
Andy Thompson	4	0	2	155	2	17	39	0	219
Larry Turner	0	13	0	41	0	0	0	1	55
Scott Warren	0	19	0	21	0	14	0	18	72
Geoff White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	63
Gilbert Wilson	0	0	2	0	0	24	0	0	26
Mark Wray	1	0	0	37	1	4	0	10	53
Steve Wray	3	25	4	10	10	65	0	121	238
James C. Wright	0	2	1	28	0	1	8	20	60

As part of its ongoing effort to reward quality tagging efforts, not just numbers of fish tagged, the VGFTP recognizes the volunteer, from the current year or a prior year, who has the most tag returns during the year from fish he/she originally tagged. For 1997, Ken Neill, III had 45 fish recaptured which he originally tagged.

<b>MOST TAG RETURNS</b>	
Ken Neill, III (Grafton)	45 Returns

Fishermen returning information and tags from fish they have recaptured are awarded caps and decals featuring the VGFTP logo.

## **TAG AND RECAPTURE DATA**

VGFTP volunteers tagged and released 5,213 fish in 1997. The top species tagged was gray trout (2,303), followed by tautog (810), black sea bass (576), spadefish (499), red drum (438), speckled trout (406), cobia (109) and black drum (72) (Fig. 1).

Tag returns totaled 221, more than twice the number for the prior two years (Fig. 2). Tautog yielded the highest number of tag returns with 57, followed by black sea bass (47), red drum (44), spadefish (32), gray trout (17), speckled trout (12), cobia (10), and black drum (2).

The greatest tag return rate occurred in red drum (9.8% recapture rate). Black sea bass ranked second (8.2%), followed by spadefish (6.4%), cobia (4.6%), tautog (4.4%), and speckled trout (2.7%). Recapture rates for Black drum and gray trout were 1.0% and 0.7%, respectively. These recapture rates represent the number of fish by species recaptured in 1997 divided by the number of fish tagged in that year. The long term recapture rate for tautog (three years) was 10.2%, the highest for all species targeted by the VGFTP.

Some tentative patterns are beginning to emerge from the three-year data base, confirmation of which will depend upon continued tag returns. Preliminary observations follow, as well as comments on particularly interesting tag returns from 1997.

## ***Tautog Movement and Possible Site Fidelity***

There is a growing indication of site fidelity with tautog, particularly for fish tagged at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT); however, a few tag returns also show inshore-offshore movement of fish. Of 155 tautog recaptures since the inception of the tagging program, 126 recaptures (81%) occurred at the same location where the fish were tagged. Among the 29 recaptures which involved significant movement of tautog, eight (8) involved "special situations," making the data questionable in comparison to typical tag-release situations, i.e., a fish immediately tagged and released after being boated.

Regarding the eight special fish, three were caught, placed in live wells, then transported significant distances before being tagged and released. Five of the fish were caught and held in tanks for approximately seven weeks for studying tag retention, then released at the Kiptopeke State Park boat ramp on December 17, 1996. The five fish moved offshore approximately 10-28 miles during a period of 18-284 days (Fig. 3). Three of the five fish were recaptured during mid-January to late April 1997 at the Triangle Wrecks; in addition, one fish was recaptured in January at the Chesapeake Light Tower Artificial Reef and the other in September 1997 at the Santore Wreck (just inshore of the Light Tower Reef).

In contrast to the referenced movement, two tautog from the tag retention group likewise released at the boat ramp were recaptured at Kiptopeke's Concrete Ships, demonstrating no significant movement for 143 and 311 days, respectively. As referenced, the handling and holding of these fish for a tag retention experiment before release back into the field makes the recapture data difficult to interpret.

Concerning conventionally released fish, four tautog tagged and released at the Concrete Ships in October 1997 by program taggers were recaptured at the same site 1-53 days after release (recaptures occurred in October, November, and December 1997). More recaptures from the site will help clarify whether a definitive movement pattern exists for tautog utilizing the area.

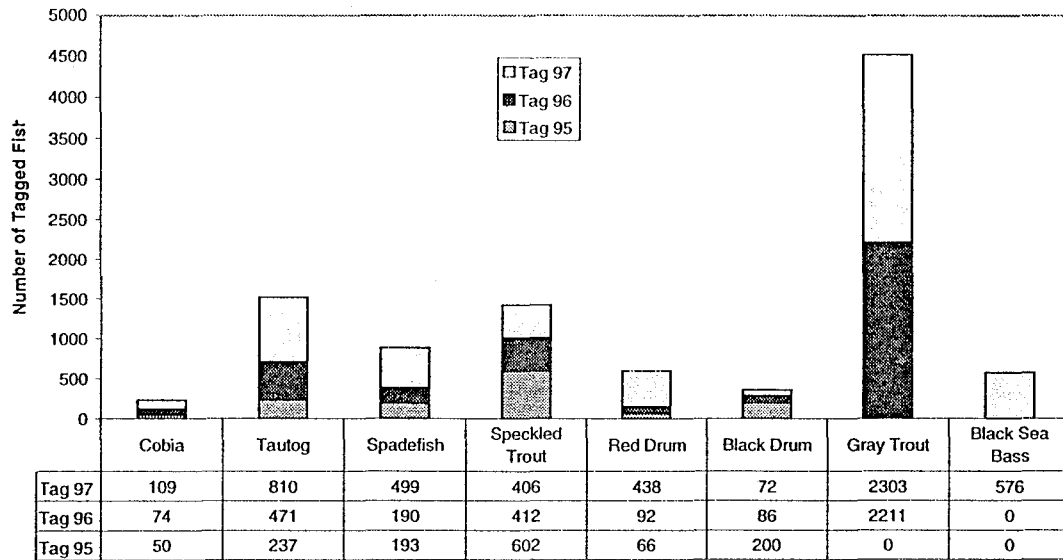


Figure 1. Number of fish tagged by species, 1995-1997.

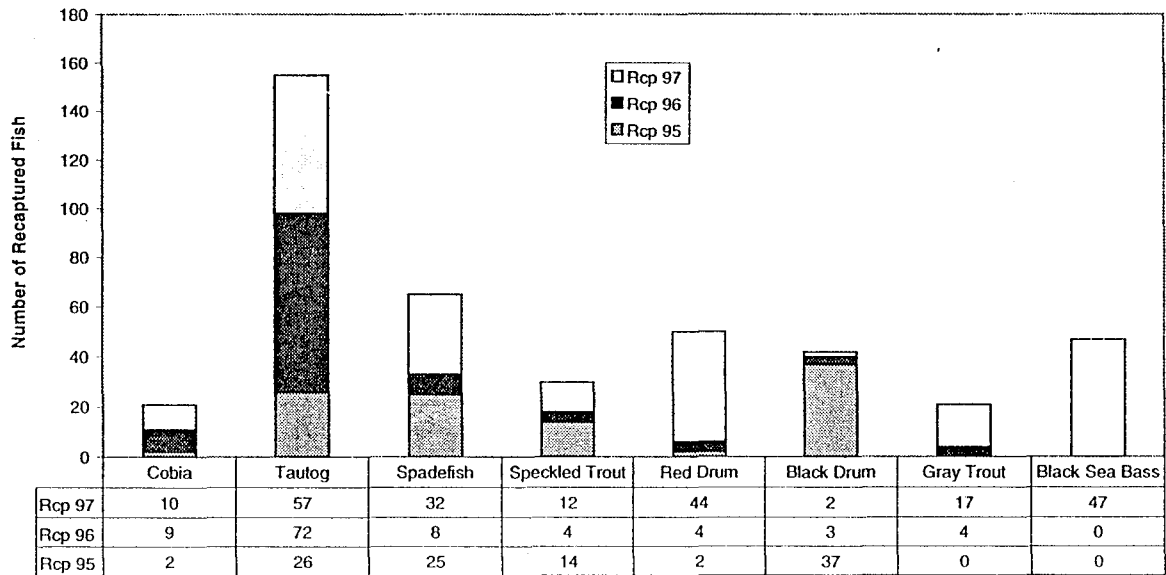


Figure 2. Number of fish recaptured by species, 1995-1997.

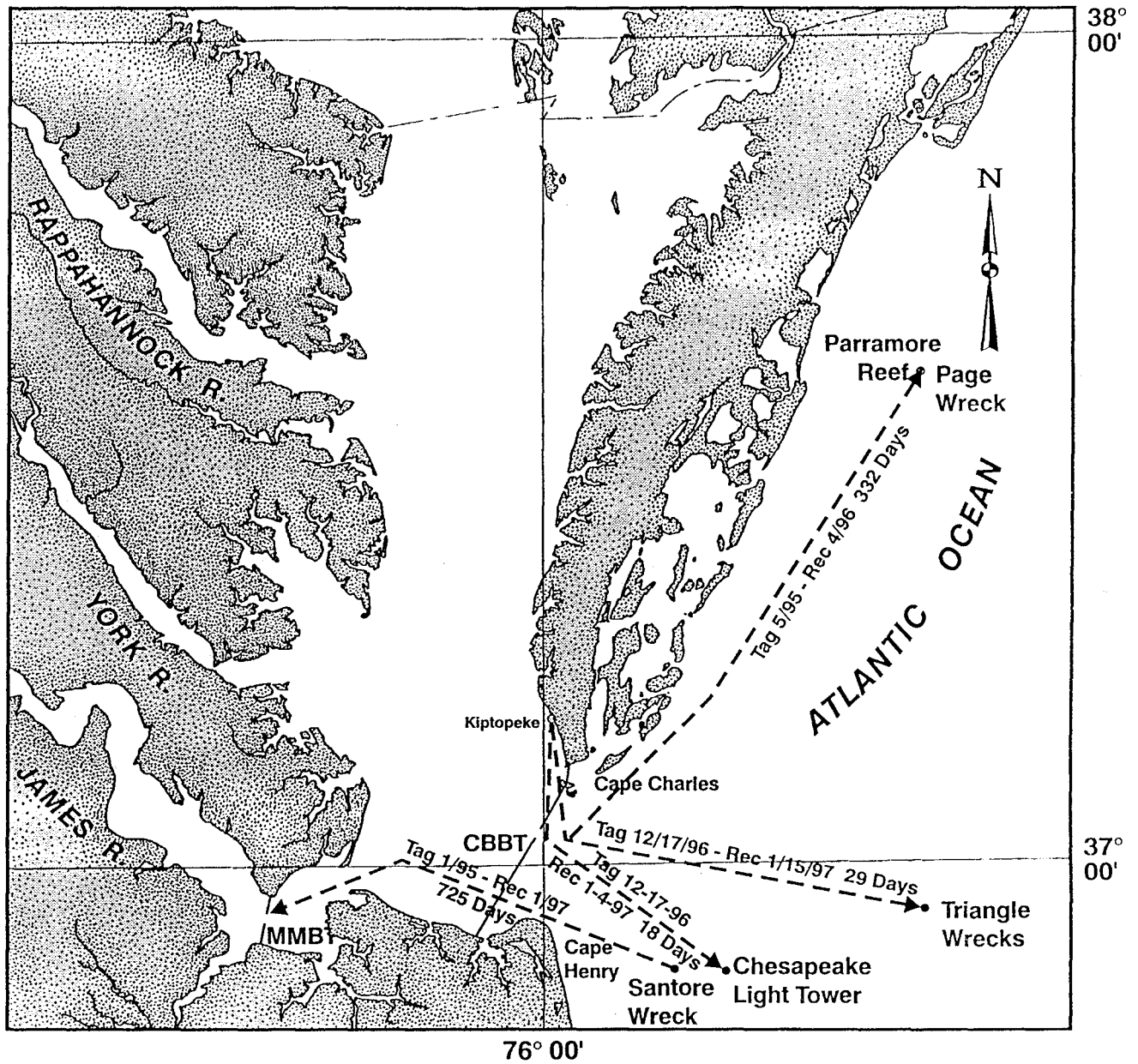


Figure 3. Tautog tag returns indicating some inshore and offshore movement.

The other 21 recaptures of tautog which demonstrated significant movement consisted of 17 fish moving among sites inside, or adjacent to, the mouth of Chesapeake Bay (moving approximately 1-20 miles; at large 11-300+ days). Two fish moved from inshore to offshore sites and two fish moved from offshore to inshore.

Details on the inshore-offshore recaptures are as follows:

1. A tautog tagged offshore January 12, 1995, at the Santore Wreck off Virginia Beach was recaptured inshore January 7, 1997, at the Monitor Merrimac Bridge-Tunnel in the lower James River (726 days at large).
2. A tautog tagged about four miles offshore of Virginia Beach at the Winthrop Wreck (also called the Turn of the Century Wreck) on January 3, 1995, was recaptured inshore January 30, 1997, at the Yancy Wreck adjacent to the CBBT 1<sup>st</sup> Island (731 days at large).
3. A tautog tagged inshore May 21, 1995, at the CBBT 4th Island was recaptured offshore April 18, 1996, at the Page Wreck, part of the Parramore Artificial Reef off Wachapreague (332 days at large).
4. A tautog tagged inshore May 6, 1996, at the CBBT 4th Island was recaptured offshore March 8, 1997, at the Tiger Wreck, southeast of Virginia Beach (306 days at large).

### Red Drum Recaptures

Data is beginning to accumulate which documents the movement of small red drum from the lower Bay and Rudee Inlet southward during the fall and early winter. Excluding red drum tagged in the "Hot Ditch" of the Elizabeth River (the warm water discharge of the Virginia Power electric power production plant), 17 small red drum (under 24 inches) have been recaptured since the start of the VGFTP. Over half of these fish were recaptured within 2-9 days of release in the same general area in which they were tagged. However, seven of these fish moved south in the fall (Fig. 4).

1. Three fish tagged in September 1997 in Lynnhaven Inlet were recaptured in October 1997 on the Outer Banks of North Carolina (one at Oregon Inlet, one at Avon, and one at Cape Lookout) (25-43 days at large).
2. Two fish tagged in early and late October 1997 in Rudee Inlet were recaptured on the Outer Banks of North Carolina (one at Oregon Inlet and one at The Point in Buxton) 9 and 10 days, respectively, after release.
3. A fish tagged in October 1995 at the Monitor Merrimac Bridge Tunnel (the lower James River) was recaptured in October 1995 in Oregon Inlet (48 days at large); it was released with its tag in place and recaptured again during the first week of January 1996 off Little River Inlet, SC (46 days at large).
4. A fish tagged in October 1996 at Hatteras Inlet was recaptured in early January 1997 off Beaufort Inlet, NC (91 days at large)

### Gray and Speckled Trout Recaptures

Trout produced three interesting tag returns.

1. A small gray trout (11.25 inches ) tagged June 10, 1997 at the Cell in the Chesapeake Bay was recaptured September 1, 1997, off Savannah, GA (84 days at large). There is no explanation for this mid-summer exodus of a gray trout from the Bay, nor the fish moving such a long distance.
2. A small gray trout (14.75 inches long) tagged in October 6, 1997, at the first small boat channel of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge/Tunnel was recaptured November 28, 1997, at Hatteras Inlet (53 days at large).
3. A speckled trout tagged September 25, 1996, inside the mouth of the York River (Goodwin Islands) was recaptured May 3, 1997, in the Nags Head, NC surf (220 days at large).

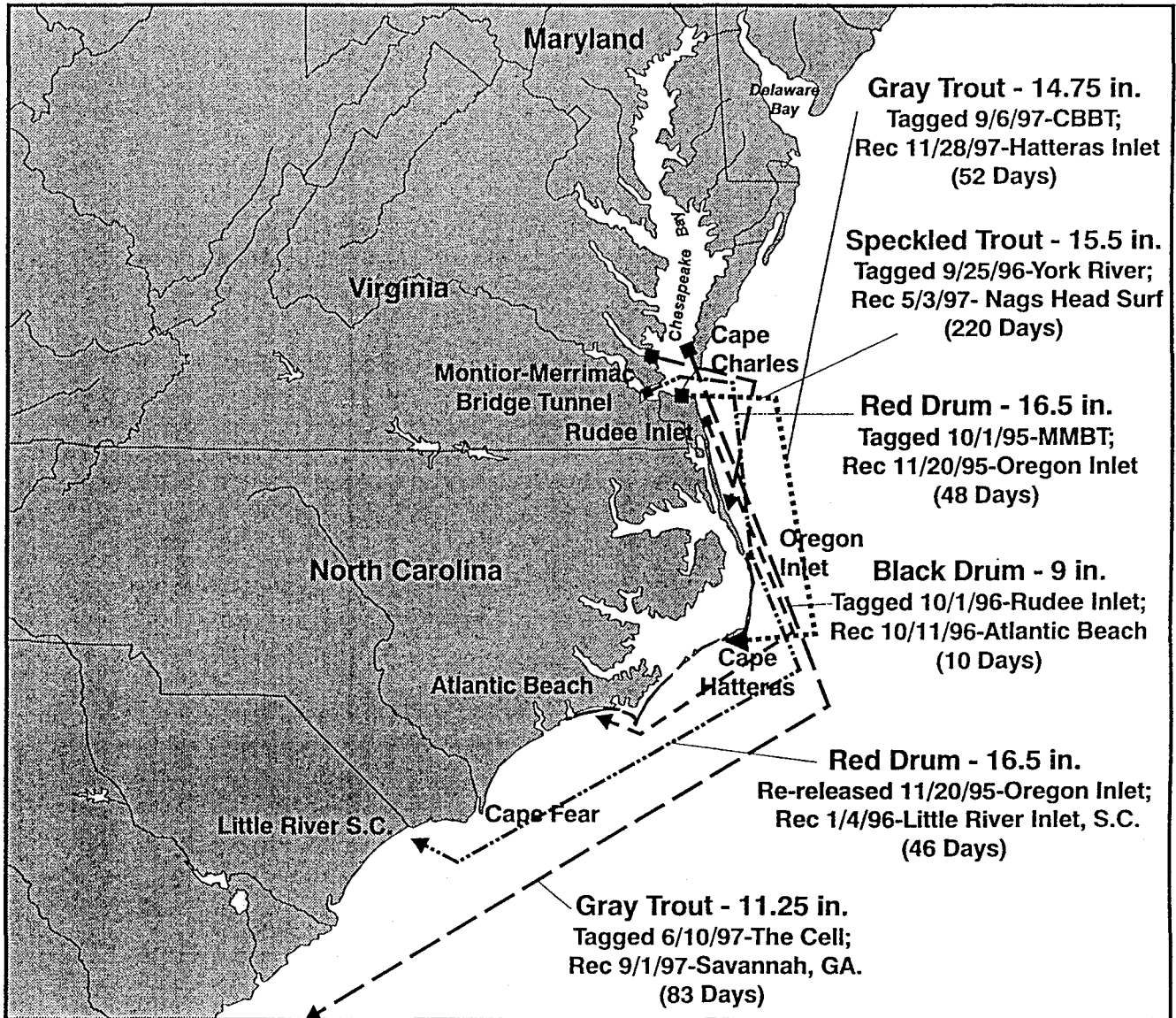


Figure 4. Gray-speckled trout and red drum returns documenting southward movement.

For both red drum and speckled trout, intensive tagging efforts at the Hot Ditch in the Elizabeth River during 1997 are providing opportunities for examining retention and dispersal of the species associated with the thermal discharge from the power station. Numerous December recaptures of fish tagged at the location during late October through early November showed fish staying in the area for 20-40 days. A speckled trout (12.75 inches) was recaptured twice over a period of 57 days between late October and early December. An 11 inch red drum tagged at the site in mid-August was recaptured at the site in early November, having been at large 88 days. More returns during 1998 may shed light on seasonal dispersal of both species from this unusual area.

Detailed tag return data for each species appear at the end of the report.

## **TAG RETENTION-FIELD AND TANK STUDIES**

Several experienced taggers were selected to help test and assess the use of T-bar tags and tagging guns during 1997. They used both small dart tags (the standard tag used by the VGFTP) and T-bar tags. They were requested to double tag fish as well as tag fish using single tags of one type or the other. Additionally, project coordinators conducted experiments in large tanks with gray and speckled trout to compare retention of dart and T-bar tags in these species. At the conclusion of the tank trials, all fish in good condition were released with two tags in place.

### **Field Studies-Double Tagged Fish**

By the end of the year there were 511 double tagged fish at large in the field, topped by tautog (200), gray trout (198), spadefish (51), speckled trout (38), black sea bass (19), cobia (4), and black drum (1). All volunteers using the T-bar tags and tagging guns reported that the equipment was easier and more convenient to use in comparison to the small dart tag and its tagging applicator. Also, their experience indicated that application of the T-bar tag was less stressful for smaller fish, a conclusion also drawn by program coordinators from tank experiments.

Thirty-two (32) double tagged fish were recaptured during 1997, including several tagged by program coordinators. The majority of double-tag recaptures were tautog (26) and spadefish (5), along with one black sea bass.

Comparing retention rates between small dart and T-bar tags, of 20 recaptured tautog and four spadefish with this tag combination, 14 tautog retained both tags as did all four spadefish. Of the six (6) tautog losing one tag, the loss ratio was four (4) dart tags to two (2) T-bar tags. Another five (5) recaptured tautog had been double tagged with small dart tags and internal anchor tags (tag anchors inserted through a small abdominal incision). One fish retained the dart tag and anchor tag while the other four each lost only the dart tag. This 1997 field data, from a relatively small number of recaptures, indicates that the small dart tag may not be retained in targeted fish as well as the T-bar tag.

### **Tank Studies**

#### *Tautog*

Tank experiments during the fall of 1996 at VIMS Wachapreague Laboratory on the Eastern Shore supported this finding in tautog. In two groups of fish (22 and 33 fish held 48 and 40 days, respectively), loss rates were 6% and 33% for dart tags compared to no loss of T-bar tags. See the 1996 VGFTP Annual Report for more details on these experiments.

#### *Gray Trout*

Similarly, tank experiments comparing the same tag types were conducted on two groups of gray trout at Wachapreague during June through August 1997. Contributed boat time and fishing effort by volunteer anglers, including Mr. Herb Gordon and Mr. Richard Welton, made these experiments possible. With 26 and 21 tagged fish observed for periods of 64 and 34 days, respectively, higher tag loss rates were observed for the small dart tag. Even greater attention to tag anchoring in the second fish group did not significantly reduce the high rate of dart tag loss (50% versus 48%); however, T-bar tag loss rates were improved, declining from 31% to 10%, respectively.

### *Speckled Trout*

A tag retention experiment on speckled trout comparing the small dart and T-bar tags was conducted at VIMS Gloucester Point Campus during October 1997. This experiment would not have been possible without the volunteered boat time and fishing expertise provided by Mr. Keith Nuttall. The species-specific response to tags, as indicated in the trials with tautog and gray trout, was even more dramatically demonstrated in speckled trout. Double tagged trout (36 fish), observed in a large tank system for 7-10 days, experienced no loss of either type of tag. The experiment was terminated earlier than desired because the fish were showing signs of stress associated with handling and high water temperatures during the earlier portion of the trial.

*Footnote:* Tank experiments examining tag retention provide the necessary controlled conditions under which to most efficiently compare different types of tags. For such experiments fish are generally captured on hook and line, held in boat live wells, then carefully transferred to aerated tanks to be transported by truck to laboratory facilities. While held in large recirculating or flow-through tanks for the experiment, the fish are regularly fed fresh or frozen food such as hard crab, shrimp, or forage fish.

### **ANTICIPATED CHANGES FOR 1998**

As a result of the tag retention experiments and field data from recaptures of double tagged fish, the program plans to diversify the tags and tagging equipment used by its trained volunteers in 1998. Taggers, once trained on use of T-bar tags and tagging guns, will be provided this additional equipment. Tagging will continue with dart tags, but taggers will be instructed to use such tags primarily on larger fish (greater than approximately 18 inches total length). The T-bar tag will be used on smaller fish in an effort to achieve higher tag retention rates in such fish.



### 1997 Black Drum Recaptures

Species	Tagged	Length (in.)	Location	Recaptured	Length (in.)	Location	Days Out
Black Drum	3/18/97	16	Owls Creek	3/21/97	16	Owls Creek	3
Black Drum	8/15/97	50.5	CBBT, 2nd Island	8/24/97	50	CBBT, 2nd Island	9

### 1997 Cobia Recaptures

Species	Tagged	Length (in.)	Location	Recaptured	Length (in.)	Location	Days Out
Cobia	6/29/96	57	Inner Middle Ground Shoal	6/29/97	59	Off Back River	365
Cobia	6/29/96	44	Inner Middle Ground Shoal	7/5/97	52	Inner Middle Ground Shoal	371
Cobia	7/5/97	51	CBBT, 12 Mile Post	7/11/97	48	Inner Middle Ground Shoal	6
Cobia	7/23/95	44	Off Silver Beach	7/14/97	54	Winter Harbor; off Winter Harbor	722
Cobia	6/28/97	34	CBBT, 12 Mile Post	7/14/97	34	Guy's Point; #2 Day Marker	16
Cobia	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	7/17/97	45.25	Deep Water Spoil Area off Cape Charles	Unknown
Cobia	7/5/96	34	Plantation Flats	7/27/97	38.5	Inner Middle Ground Shoal	387
Cobia	6/14/96	55	Latimer Shoal (RN16 Buoy)	7/27/97	58	York Spit	408
Cobia*	11/15/97	13	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/23/97	13	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	8
Cobia*	11/23/97	13	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/14/97	13	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	21

\*Same fish.

### 1997 Black Sea Bass Recaptures

Species	Tagged	Length (in.)	Location	Recaptured	Length (in.)	Location	Days Out
Sea Bass	6/11/97	8.375	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	6/17/97	9	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	6
Sea Bass	5/24/97	16	Triangle Wreck	6/20/97	10.5	Ricks Wreck	27
Sea Bass	6/17/97	14	1800 Wreck; 28 miles SE of Rudee Inlet	6/29/97	16	Off Virginia Beach (unspecified)	12
Sea Bass	6/17/97	12	1800 Wreck; 28 miles SE of Rudee Inlet	6/30/97	7	Off Virginia Beach (unspecified)	13
Sea Bass	6/20/97	8.5	Ricks Wreck	7/1/97	10	The "Reef" Area (S. of CLT)	11
Sea Bass	7/7/97	11	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	7/20/97	11.5	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	13
Sea Bass	7/20/97	10.5	Anglo-American Wreck	7/28/97	Unknown	Anglo-American Wreck	8
Sea Bass	8/17/97	10	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	8/23/97	12	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	6
Sea Bass	8/17/97	12.25	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	8/23/97	12.5	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	6
Sea Bass	8/5/97	8	CBBT, 3rd Island	8/26/97	10	CBBT, 2nd Island	21
Sea Bass	7/7/97	11	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	8/31/97	10	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	55
Sea Bass	7/7/97	14	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	9/6/97	12.75	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	61
Sea Bass	8/17/97	9.5	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	9/6/97	9.25	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	20
Sea Bass	9/7/97	8.5	Tiger Wreck	9/8/97	9.75	Tiger Wreck	1
Sea Bass	8/29/97	10	CBBT, 1st Island	9/10/97	8	CBBT, 2nd Island	12
Sea Bass	9/7/97	9	Tiger Wreck	9/19/97	9.25	Tiger Wreck	12
Sea Bass	9/13/97	9	CBBT, 12 Mile Post	9/19/97	9	CBBT, 12 Mile Post	6
Sea Bass	7/7/97	9	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	9/20/97	8.125	Santore Wreck	75
Sea Bass	8/15/97	8.5	The "Reef" Area (S. of CLT)	9/20/97	10	The "Reef" Area (S. of CLT)	36
Sea Bass	8/29/97	9.25	CBBT, 1st Island	9/27/97	9.5	CBBT, 1st Island	29
Sea Bass	9/7/97	10	Tiger Wreck	9/28/97	10.25	Tiger Wreck	21
Sea Bass	9/27/97	10.5	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	10/3/97	11	The "Reef" Area (S. of CLT)	6
Sea Bass	9/27/97	10.25	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	10/4/97	11	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	7
Sea Bass	9/7/97	8	Tiger Wreck	10/4/97	8	Tiger Wreck	27
Sea Bass	9/7/97	9.5	Tiger Wreck	10/4/97	9.5	Tiger Wreck	27
Sea Bass	9/27/97	9.5	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	10/4/97	10.5	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	7
Sea Bass	9/7/97	10	Tiger Wreck	10/5/97	11	Tiger Wreck	28
Sea Bass	10/4/97	10	CBBT, 2nd Island	10/5/97	10	CBBT, 2nd Island	1
Sea Bass	9/27/97	7	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	10/5/97	6.25	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	8
Sea Bass	9/26/97	8.5	CBBT, 3rd Island	10/6/97	7	CBBT, 3rd Island	10
Sea Bass	9/7/97	9.5	Tiger Wreck	10/10/97	10.5	Tiger Wreck	33
Sea Bass	9/7/97	8	Tiger Wreck	10/11/97	8	Tiger Wreck	34
Sea Bass	9/27/97	11	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	10/12/97	12	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	15
Sea Bass	10/4/97	10	CBBT, High Level Bridge	10/12/97	10	CBBT, High Level Bridge	8

[continued]

### 1997 Black Sea Bass Recaptures [continued]

Species	Tagged	Length (in.)	Location	Recaptured	Length (in.)	Location	Days Out
Sea Bass	9/19/97	11.5	CBBT, High Level Bridge	10/12/97	13	CBBT, High Level Bridge	23
Sea Bass	10/5/97	11	CBBT, 2nd Island	10/14/97	10	CBBT, 2nd Island	9
Sea Bass	10/12/97	9.5	CBBT, 2nd Island	10/14/97	9	CBBT, 2nd Island	2
Sea Bass	9/27/97	10.75	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	10/23/97	Unknown	CBBT, 4th Island	26
Sea Bass	9/6/97	9	CBBT, 2nd Island	10/25/97	10	CBBT, 2nd Island	49
Sea Bass	8/30/97	8.75	4A Buoy Drydock Wreck	10/30/97	Unknown	The "Reef" Area (S. of CLT)	61
Sea Bass	9/15/97	9	CBBT, 2nd Island	10/31/97	10	CBBT, 2nd Island	46
Sea Bass	9/15/97	8.5	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	10/31/97	9.75	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	46
Sea Bass	9/27/97	9	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	11/1/97	10	Salty Sea Wreck	35
Sea Bass	10/12/97	11	CBBT, 2nd Island	11/11/97	11.5	CBBT, 2nd Island	30
Sea Bass	9/7/97	10	Tiger Wreck	11/11/97	11	Tiger Wreck	65
Sea Bass	10/12/97	9.75	CBBT, 2nd Island	11/21/97	11.5	Santore Wreck	40
Sea Bass	12/3/97	12	Santore Wreck	12/16/97	5	Santore Wreck	13

### 1997 Gray Trout Recaptures

Species	Tagged	Length (in.)	Location	Recaptured	Length (in.)	Location	Days Out
Gray Trout	5/22/97	12.5	Little Creek Jetties	5/24/97	12	Harrison's Fishing Pier	2
Gray Trout	5/22/97	16	CBBT, 1st Island	5/30/97	16	CBBT, 1st Island	8
Gray Trout	5/22/97	22	CBBT, 1st Island	5/31/97	20	CBBT, 1st Island	9
Gray Trout	6/1/97	13.5	CBBT, 12 Mile Post	6/1/97	14.5	CBBT, 12 Mile Post	0
Gray Trout	6/9/97	13	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	6/25/97	12	CBBT, 4th Island	16
Gray Trout	6/16/97	14.5	CBBT, 2nd Island	6/30/97	15	CBBT, 2nd Island	14
Gray Trout	6/16/97	16.5	CBBT, 2nd Island	7/4/97	17.75	CBBT, 8 Mile Post (Bend Area)	18
Gray Trout	6/21/97	15.5	CBBT, 2nd Island	7/12/97	14.5	CBBT, 2nd Island	21
Gray Trout	5/25/97	15	CBBT, High Level Bridge	7/15/97	14.5	Unknown	51
Gray Trout	7/19/97	11.25	Occohannock Creek	7/20/97	11	Occohannock Creek	1
Gray Trout	8/20/97	13	Wachapreague Channel	8/22/97	12.5	Wachapreague Inlet	2
Gray Trout	8/20/97	16	Broad Bay	8/24/97	19	Broad Bay	4
Gray Trout	5/30/97	14	CBBT, 1st Island	8/28/97	Unknown	Unknown	90
Gray Trout	6/10/97	11.25	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	9/2/97	Unknown	Savannah, GA	84
Gray Trout	7/19/97	11	CBBT, 12 Mile Post	9/14/97	12	Coleman Bridge	57
Gray Trout	9/25/97	14.5	CBBT, 1st Small Boat Channel	10/7/97	15	CBBT, 1st Small Boat Channel	12
Gray Trout	10/6/97	14.75	CBBT, 1st Small Boat Channel	11/28/97	Unknown	Hatteras Inlet, NC	53

### 1997 Speckled Trout Recaptures

Species	Tagged	Length (in.)	Location	Recaptured	Length (in.)	Location	Days Out
Speck Trt.	9/25/96	15.5	Tue Marshes Light	5/3/97	20	Nags Head, North Carolina	220
Speck Trt.	8/24/97	13.5	Occohannock Creek	8/28/97	13.5	Occohannock Creek	4
Speck Trt.	9/15/97	19	Fox Island	9/29/97	22	Fox Island	14
Speck Trt.	9/18/97	17.25	Holland Island Bar Light; Holland Island Bar	10/3/97	18	Bloodsworth Island, MD	15
Speck Trt.	11/5/97	12.25	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/9/97	12.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	4
Speck Trt.	11/2/97	12	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/11/97	13	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	9
Speck Trt.	11/8/97	17.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/12/97	17	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	4
Speck Trt.*	10/29/97	12.75	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/15/97	13	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	17
Speck Trt.	11/23/97	17	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/27/97	18.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	4
Speck Trt.*	11/15/97	12.75	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/8/97	12	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	40
Speck Trt.	11/23/97	12	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/23/97	12.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	30
Speck Trt.	12/10/97	12	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/29/97	12	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	19

\* same fish

### 1997 Red Drum Recaptures

Species	Tagged	Length (in.)	Location	Recaptured	Length (in.)	Location	Days Out
Red Drum	10/6/96	18	Hatteras Inlet, NC	1/5/97	19	Off Radio Island, Beaufort, NC	91
Red Drum	9/5/97	14.5	Rudee Inlet	9/7/97	15.5	Rudee Inlet	2
Red Drum	10/2/97	15	Oregon Inlet, North Carolina	10/2/97	17	Oregon Inlet, North Carolina	0
Red Drum	9/25/97	16	Rudee Inlet	10/4/97	15	Rudee Inlet	9
Red Drum	10/1/97	16	Rudee Inlet	10/10/97	16.25	Oregon Inlet, North Carolina	9
Red Drum	9/25/97	15.75	Rudee Inlet	10/12/97	16.75	Rudee Inlet	17
Red Drum	9/29/97	15.5	Lynnhaven Inlet	10/24/97	17.75	Oregon Inlet, North Carolina	25
Red Drum	9/12/97	17	Lynnhaven Inlet	10/25/97	17	Cape Lookout, NC	43
Red Drum	9/15/97	17	Lynnhaven Inlet	10/27/97	18.25	Avon, NC (Surf)	42
Red Drum	10/29/97	16.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/1/97	17.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	3
Red Drum	10/28/97	18	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/5/97	19	Elizabeth River (Nor-Port waterfront)	8
Red Drum	10/28/97	17	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/7/97	17.75	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	10
Red Drum	10/21/97	15.25	Rudee Inlet	11/7/97	15.5	Cape Point, North Carolina (The Point)	17
Red Drum	8/12/97	13	Elizabeth River (Southern Branch)	11/8/97	19	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	88
Red Drum	11/1/97	17.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/11/97	18.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	10
Red Drum	10/28/97	16.75	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/11/97	13	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	14
Red Drum	11/8/97	19.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/11/97	19.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	3
Red Drum	11/7/97	12	Avon, NC (Surf)	11/12/97	16	Avon, NC (Surf)	5
Red Drum	10/28/97	17	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/12/97	18	Elizabeth River (Nor-Port waterfront)	15
Red Drum	10/28/97	15.75	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/15/97	16	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	18
Red Drum	11/8/97	15	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/16/97	16	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	8
Red Drum	11/5/97	18.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/17/97	28	Elizabeth River, Gilmerton Bridge	12
Red Drum	11/8/97	14.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/19/97	18.25	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11
Red Drum	11/4/97	15.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/26/97	15.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	22
Red Drum	11/16/97	14	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/28/97	14.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12
Red Drum	11/23/97	13.75	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11/28/97	13	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	5
Red Drum	11/2/97	16.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/2/97	18	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	30
Red Drum	11/7/97	17.75	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/2/97	18	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	25
Red Drum	10/29/97	18	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/2/97	19	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	34
Red Drum	11/26/97	14	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/2/97	14	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	6
Red Drum	11/8/97	17.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/4/97	20.5	Elizabeth River (Southern Branch)	26

[continued]

### 1997 Red Drum Recaptures [continued]

Species	Tagged	Length (in.)	Location	Recaptured	Length (in.)	Location	Days Out
Red Drum	10/28/97	15.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/7/97	16.25	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	40
Red Drum	11/24/97	16.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/8/97	16.75	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	14
Red Drum	11/23/97	14.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/15/97	15.75	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	22
Red Drum	11/4/97	19.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/20/97	19.5	Elizabeth River, Gilmerton Bridge	46
Red Drum	12/13/97	15	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/21/97	19	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	8
Red Drum	11/7/97	17.25	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/21/97	18.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	44
Red Drum	12/10/97	15	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/21/97	Unknown	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	11
Red Drum	12/20/97	14	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/23/97	14	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	3
Red Drum	11/23/97	16	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/25/97	18	Elizabeth River (Nor-Port waterfront)	32
Red Drum	11/15/97	17.75	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/26/97	18	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	41
Red Drum	11/16/97	15.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/27/97	14	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	41
Red Drum	12/3/97	17.5	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/27/97	17	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	24
Red Drum	11/24/97	18	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	12/28/97	18	Elizabeth River (Hot Ditch)	34

### 1997 Spadefish Recaptures

Species	Tagged	Length (in.)	Location	Recaptured	Length (in.)	Location	Days Out
Spadefish	6/25/97	15.25	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	6/26/97	15.25	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	1
Spadefish	6/28/97	8.5	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	7/6/97	6	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	8
Spadefish	7/7/97	7.75	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	7/8/97	8	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	1
Spadefish	7/7/97	16	Chesapeake Light Tower	7/8/97	14	Chesapeake Light Tower	1
Spadefish	7/3/97	10.5	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	7/11/97	13	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	8
Spadefish	6/29/97	13.5	CBBT, 3rd Island	7/12/97	14	CBBT, 3rd Island	13
Spadefish*	7/13/97	9.5	Anglo-American Wreck	7/15/97	10	Anglo-American Wreck	2
Spadefish	7/13/97	10	CBBT, 3rd Island	7/19/97	8.25	CBBT, 3rd Island	6
Spadefish	7/5/97	8.5	CBBT, 4th Island	7/27/97	9.5	CBBT, 3rd Island	22
Spadefish	7/20/97	8	Anglo-American Wreck	7/27/97	7.75	Anglo-American Wreck	7
Spadefish	7/13/97	9	Anglo-American Wreck	7/28/97	Unknown	Anglo-American Wreck	15
Spadefish	7/13/97	9	Anglo-American Wreck	8/3/97	8	Anglo-American Wreck	21
Spadefish	7/7/97	15.5	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	8/3/97	12	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	27
Spadefish	7/13/97	8.5	Anglo-American Wreck	8/3/97	9	Anglo-American Wreck	21
Spadefish	8/3/97	9	Anglo-American Wreck	8/3/97	9	Anglo-American Wreck	0
Spadefish	7/5/97	9.25	CBBT, 4th Island	8/8/97	11	CBBT, 3rd Island	34
Spadefish	8/3/97	8	Anglo-American Wreck	8/9/97	8	Anglo-American Wreck	6
Spadefish	7/13/97	8.25	Anglo-American Wreck	8/9/97	8	Anglo-American Wreck	27
Spadefish	8/1/97	10	Anglo-American Wreck	8/9/97	11	Anglo-American Wreck	8
Spadefish	7/20/97	9	Anglo-American Wreck	8/9/97	9	Anglo-American Wreck	20
Spadefish	7/16/97	10	Anglo-American Wreck	8/9/97	Unknown	Anglo-American Wreck	24
Spadefish	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	8/9/97	16.5	Anglo-American Wreck	Unknown
Spadefish*	7/15/97	9	Anglo-American Wreck	8/10/97	10	Anglo-American Wreck	26
Spadefish	8/3/97	19	4A Buoy (East of 12 MP)	8/10/97	20.5	4A Buoy (East of 12 MP)	7
Spadefish	7/19/97	Unknown	Y "B" Buoy (near Ches. Light Tower)	8/12/97	10	Y "B" Buoy (near Ches. Light Tower)	24
Spadefish	8/7/97	7.75	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	8/12/97	12	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	5
Spadefish	8/11/97	8.5	Anglo-American Wreck	8/16/97	8	Anglo-American Wreck	5
Spadefish	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	8/17/97	16.5	Anglo-American Wreck	Unknown
Spadefish	8/8/97	10	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	8/24/97	7	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	16
Spadefish	8/8/97	8.25	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	8/24/97	7	The Cell; WT-2 Buoy	16
Spadefish	7/13/97	17	Anglo-American Wreck	8/29/97	17	Anglo-American Wreck	47
Spadefish	6/29/97	14.5	4A Buoy (East of 12 MP)	8/31/97	15	4A Buoy (East of 12 MP)	63

\*same fish



### 1997 Tautog Recaptures

Species	Tagged	Length (in.)	Location	Recaptured	Length (in.)	Location	Days Out
Tautog	12/17/96	14	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	1/4/97	14	Chesapeake Light Tower Reef	18
Tautog	1/12/95	14.5	Santore Wreck	1/7/97	19.25	Monitor Merrimac Bridge-Tunnel	726
Tautog	12/17/96	13.25	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	1/15/97	13.75	Haviland Wreck	29
Tautog	5/6/96	12.5	CBBT, 4th Island	3/8/97	13	Tiger Wreck	306
Tautog	2/16/97	14	Wreck; 27 Miles East of Cape Henry	3/17/97	Unknown	Wreck; 27 Miles East of Cape Henry	29
Tautog	12/28/96	12	Morgan Wreck	3/27/97	13	Clark Wreck	89
Tautog	3/30/95	10.5	Winthrop Wreck	3/30/97	17	CBBT, Yancey Wreck	731
Tautog	2/16/97	13	Wreck; 27 Miles East of Cape Henry	3/30/97	13.5	Wreck; 27 Miles East of Cape Henry	42
Tautog	4/14/96	13	Kingston Celonite Wreck	4/5/97	16	Winthrop Wreck	356
Tautog	12/17/96	11.75	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	4/14/97	12	Haviland Wreck	118
Tautog	3/20/97	12.75	Triangle Wreck	4/14/97	12.5	Luchenbach Wreck	25
Tautog	4/22/96	15	CBBT, 4th Island	4/15/97	17	CBBT, 4th Island	358
Tautog	4/22/96	14.75	CBBT, 4th Island	4/20/97	12.5	CBBT, 4th Island	363
Tautog	4/27/96	11.5	CBBT, 4th Island	4/21/97	14	CBBT, 4th Island	359
Tautog	11/28/96	12	Linkhorn Bay	4/24/97	11.5	Off Ocean View	147
Tautog	12/17/96	13.25	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	4/26/97	Unknown	Triangle Wreck	130
Tautog	4/10/97	14	CBBT, 4th Island	4/27/97	14.25	CBBT, 4th Island	17
Tautog	4/15/97	12.75	CBBT, 4th Island	4/28/97	13	CBBT, 3rd Island	13
Tautog	4/27/97	Unknown	Linkhorn Bay	5/2/97	14	Linkhorn Bay	5
Tautog	4/10/97	16	CBBT, 4th Island	5/2/97	15	CBBT, 4th Island	22
Tautog	4/21/97	12.5	CBBT, 4th Island	5/2/97	12.75	CBBT, 4th Island	11
Tautog	2/16/97	13.5	Wreck; 27 Miles East of Cape Henry	5/2/97	14.5	Wreck; 27 Miles East of Cape Henry	75
Tautog	5/5/96	14.5	CBBT, 4th Island	5/8/97	15	CBBT, High Level Bridge	368
Tautog	4/21/97	13.5	CBBT, 4th Island	5/8/97	18.5	CBBT, 4th Island	17
Tautog	12/17/96	14	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	5/9/97	15.125	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	143
Tautog	4/27/97	15	CBBT, 4th Island	5/9/97	14.5	CBBT, 4th Island	12
Tautog	5/10/97	13.5	CBBT, 4th Island	5/15/97	13.5	CBBT, 4th Island	5
Tautog	4/5/97	14.25	CBBT, 4th Island	5/17/97	14	CBBT, 4th Island	42
Tautog	4/10/97	13	CBBT, 4th Island	5/24/97	13	CBBT, 4th Island	44
Tautog	4/15/97	14.25	CBBT, 4th Island	5/24/97	14.75	CBBT, 4th Island	39
Tautog	4/7/97	12	Unidentified Wreck off Myrtle Island	5/24/97	12	Unidentified Wreck off Smith Island	47
Tautog	4/15/97	13.25	CBBT, 4th Island	5/31/97	13.25	CBBT, 4th Island	46
Tautog	4/15/97	13	CBBT, 4th Island	6/3/97	13.5	CBBT, 4th Island	49
Tautog	4/20/97	13.75	CBBT, 2nd Island	6/12/97	15	CBBT, 2nd Island	53
Tautog	4/22/96	16.25	CBBT, 4th Island	6/23/97	17	CBBT, 4th Island	427
Tautog	4/20/97	16.5	CBBT, 2nd Island	6/23/97	16	CBBT, 2nd Island	64
Tautog	2/23/96	Unknown	Benson Wreck	7/5/97	14	Benson Wreck	498

[continued]

### 1997 Tautog Recaptures [continued]

Species	Tagged	Length (in.)	Location	Recaptured	Length (in.)	Location	Days Out
Tautog	7/4/97	15.5	Nandua Barge	7/5/97	15	Nandua Barge	1
Tautog	12/28/96	12	Morgan Wreck	7/13/97	15.75	Luchenbach Wreck	197
Tautog	1/12/95	13	Santore Wreck	8/29/97	20.5	Santore Wreck	960
Tautog	12/17/96	13.375	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	9/27/97	22	Santore Wreck	284
Tautog	4/20/97	20.75	Poquoson River	10/12/97	20	Chub Rock; 1 mile west of York Spit Light	175
Tautog	12/17/96	12	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	10/24/97	15	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	311
Tautog	5/17/97	15	CBBT, 4th Island	10/24/97	15	CBBT, 3rd Island	160
Tautog	10/23/97	14	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	10/24/97	14	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	1
Tautog	4/15/97	13.5	CBBT, 4th Island	10/25/97	15.5	CBBT, 3rd Island	193
Tautog	10/24/97	13.5	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	10/25/97	14	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	1
Tautog	7/26/97	12	York Spit Light	10/29/97	13	York Spit Light	95
Tautog	6/10/97	11	CBBT, 4th Island	10/30/97	Unknown	CBBT, 4th Island	142
Tautog	10/24/97	16	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	11/17/97	14	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	24
Tautog	10/24/97	13	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	12/16/97	12	Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke	53
Tautog	4/13/97	11	Cape Henry Wreck	12/20/97	11	Cape Henry Wreck	251

## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU CATCH A TAGGED FISH

1. The **most important information on a tag is the tag number**. This is the key to identifying the fish. It is critical to record the exact tag number.
2. **If you plan on releasing the fish, quickly write down the tag number, measure or estimate the fish's length, then gently release the fish with the tag in place.** Multiple recaptures of a tagged fish are particularly valuable to the tagging program. If you keep the fish, remove the tag for reporting purposes. In either case, **contact the tagging office with the tag information (757-491-5160).**
3. **Measure and record** both the **total length** and **fork length** of the fish, or **estimate the length** if you do not have a measuring device. Provide an estimated weight for the fish.
4. **Record** the **species** of fish, **date** of the catch, and exact **location** where the fish was caught.
5. **Record** any information about the fish which could be useful; for example, any **unusual markings or wounds**.
6. When you report the recapture of a tagged fish, you will be provided with information about the fish (when and where it was tagged; size when tagged) and **you will be given a logo award from the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.**

## HANDLING AND RELEASING FISH

1. **Plan ahead.** Minimize stress and exhaustion by using tackle strong enough to land fish quickly. Set hooks quickly to minimize the opportunity for fish to swallow hooks and avoid the use of treble hooks. When practical, bend down the barbs on hooks or use barbless hooks.
2. **Minimize the handling of fish, and do not touch the eyes or gills.** Large fish are best released by leaving them in the water and removing the hooks. Small fish should be brought on board and handled with a damp towel or damp cotton gloves, which will minimize damage to the skin and protective slime of fish. Control the fish, gently but firmly so it cannot "flop" around and cause itself any further injury. Do not use a gaff.
3. **Use the right tools to remove the hooks.** Needlenose pliers work well for fish hooked in the mouth, while a deep-throat dehooker or disgorger should be used for deeply hooked fish. Cut the leader close to the fish's mouth if hook removal is not possible. Never pull or jerk on the leader to remove a hook.
4. **Release fish gently, and if the fish is stressed or exhausted, revive it** by gently moving it forward through the water until it is able to swim off.

*In the interest of good sportsmanship and good conservation...keep only what you need...release the rest.*