



Marine Game Fish Tagging Program Monthly Summary May 2021



Because program activity is ongoing, this report represents approximate numbers, and may not be reflective of overall activity.

During the month of May 2021, a total of 210 fish were tagged and released by 28 active participants. There were 71 recaptures reported from 63 recreational anglers. Anglers tagged fish representing 8 species and recaptured fish representing 6 species (Table 1).

The tagging program is actively analyzing the distribution of tags by county to determine where there are geological gaps in tagging data (Figure 1). To increase the distribution of tags outside of Charleston County, we ask that potential taggers contact Joey Coz at CozJ@dnr.sc.gov or (843) 953-9588 to inquire about being added to the waitlist for tags.

Species	Tagged and Released	Recaptured and Re-released	Recaptured and Retained
Red Drum	120	51	8
Flounder	56	2	2
Black Drum	15	5	1
Sheepshead	7	1	
Dolphin	4		
Cobia	4		
Amberjack	3		
Atlantic Spadefish	1		
Scamp			1
TOTAL	210	59	12

Table 1: The number of fish tagged and recaptured by the program participants for the month of May 2021. Note the number recaptured could include fish that were initially tagged before the start of the month.

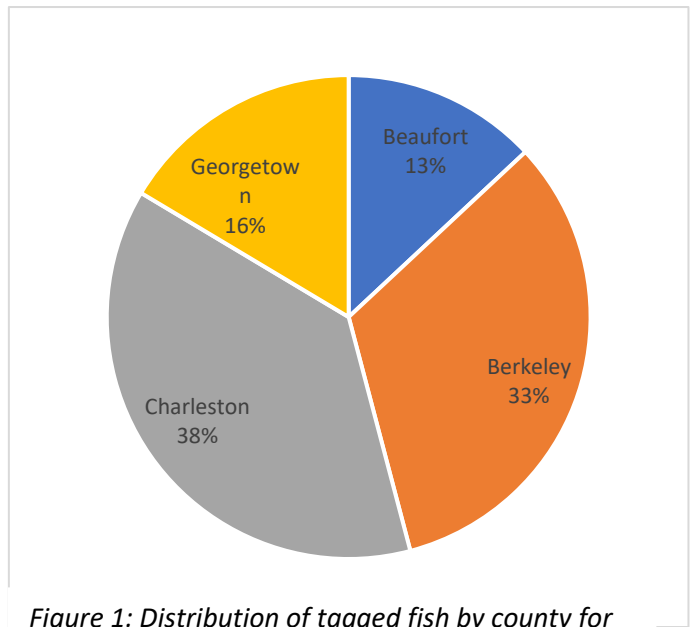


Figure 1: Distribution of tagged fish by county for May 2021

There were two notable recaptures for the month of May:

The first was a red drum recaptured at Winyah Bay that had been originally tagged off the beach on Cape Island in the fall of 2016. While the distance between the tagging event and recapture event are not astonishing, the days at large certainly is. This fish was at large for 1,678 days! That's over 4 ½ years!

Event Date	Event Type	Tag	Len.	Angler	General Location
10/15/2016	Capture, Initial tagging, Released	██████	42	Johnson, Harry	Cape Island, Mill Island
05/20/2021	Recapture, Previous tag observed, Released	██████	46	Chapman, Thomas	Winyah Bay

The second was a scamp recaptured in the vicinity of where it was originally tagged. This recapture is notable because the tagging program has not had a scamp recapture since September of 2017 and because after Chris tagged it, he used a SeaQualizer descending device to release it! This fish was at large for 742 days!

Event Date	Event Type	Tag	Len.	Angler	General Location
05/12/2019	Capture, Initial tagging, Released	██████	19	Conklin, Chris	Offshore Little River, Sc
05/23/2021	Recapture, Removed tag, Harvested	██████	25	Shackleton, Zack	Cape Fear Terrace