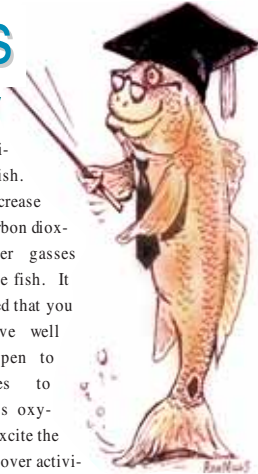


Redfish Questions



Q. Why aren't there many other tagging programs to gather information on redfish that are caught and released during redfish tournaments?

A. There are several reasons why angler-based tagging programs are not usually the scientific data collection method of choice:

1) Tagging programs are very labor intensive and require a lot of manpower to manage. Not having enough manpower, or money to provide manpower are always issues for research. The Kids Cup is an exception to that. The Kids Cup addresses this problem with the necessary funding raised through community support and with a qualified and experienced fish handling and tagging staff.

2) Anglers (for the most part) do not have enough training to tag fish and can cause more harm than good to the fish during the tagging process. Tagging by the Kids Cup weighmaster, done while the fish is on the measuring board, has been both efficient and harmless. The procedure for surgically implanting the sonic tags has been developed by fishery biologists and surgeons from Progress Energy and Mote Marine.

3) Even though fish may be tagged during a tournament, it is not scientifically possible to directly calculate whether or not a fish died just because of tournament-related activities. More controls are needed to be able to collect solid data on mortality (deaths). On average, a tagging program will get 1% - 5% tag return information. The Kids Cup, on the other hand, has had a 15% average return rate of tagged fish data during the past two years.

This is not to say that the FWC has ruled out using angler-based tagging programs as a data collection method. The FWC, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) is considering using angler-based tagging programs in the future but those programs will be subject to very controlled circumstances to preserve the integrity of the data collected. The Kids Cup will most likely be a model for other angler based tagging programs

Q. If I have the appropriate size live well on board my boat to qualify me to use the culling permit, do I have to put the redfish that I catch during the tournament in the qualifying live well?

A. Yes. FWC rule and the culling permit require a live well minimum size of 18 gallons so that up to 2 redfish could be maintained on board a vessel with the minimum needed space to survive. The permit specifically states the following: "All boats used (for culling) in the tournament must contain recirculating or aerated live wells that are at least 2.4 cubic feet or 18 gallons in capacity. Any fish caught and culled pursuant to this permit must be maintained in the live well that meets these specifications."

Q. Can you over oxygenate a live well?

A. It is possible to over oxygenate a live well especially when the live well has a lid that is kept closed. Closing the lid to a live well increases the oxygen level,

which increases respiration by the fish. This will increase the level of carbon dioxide and other gasses expelled by the fish. It is recommended that you leave the live well cracked or open to allow gasses to escape. Excess oxygen will also excite the fish and cause over activity that may lead to the fish bumping and bruising itself in the live well. We suggest using an adjustable oxygenation system with ceramic air stones. Ceramic air stones produce small bubbles that dissolve quickly. It is important to have a steady, rising stream of bubbles, but the water should not be boiling from the input of oxygen.

The best possible way to avoid over-oxygenating or under-oxygenating a live well is to use a device that measures dissolved oxygen content in the water. It is also possible to tell by observing a fish's behavior if the oxygen level is appropriate. The fish should appear to be relaxed and be opening and closing its gill covers. If the fish appears overactive, the oxygen level may be too high. If the fish is coming to the surface, they are looking for more oxygen and the oxygen level may be too low.

Q. What about Rejuvenade in the livewell?

A. Rejuvenade excites the fish and stimulates their biological systems – stimulation is not desirable for fish that are going to be sedated for tag surgery. If at all possible, avoid using any stimulant or sedative in your livewell. If you do add chemicals to your livewell please be sure to tell the weighmaster when you come to the weigh in.

Q. Is it better to use medical grade oxygen for the live well?

A. We have not found that the grade of oxygen makes a difference. Our redfish hatchery uses industrial grade oxygen typically used for welding and is much less expensive than medical grade oxygen.

Q. Is it better to use a Boga-grip when handling fish during the measuring and weigh-in process?

A. Yes and no. If used correctly, a Boga-grip can be a benefit. If the fish is held horizontally and supported at the belly, the boga grip can be helpful by reducing handling and gaining control over the fish to aid transport and measurement. Unfortunately, when using a boga grip the tendency is to hold the fish vertically and the fish may struggle too hard and break its jaw. If you choose to use a Boga-grip, we emphasize that you keep the fish horizontal and support its weight at the belly.

Perin's Barber Shop
Est. 1956
Jim-Steve-Rob
(941) 474-5236
1105 S. McCall Rd. Englewood, FL 34223
Mon.- Fri. 8:00-5:00 Sat. 8:00-12:00

MURDOCK TIRE & AUTO CENTER
Nitrogen Tire Filling Service
Complete Repair, Wholesale Tires and Alignments

5 Blocks North of Toledo Blade Blvd. on US-41 & Vandango
Good luck Jimmy Jr.

Jim Caruthers
Peter Lanzilotta
Owner / Operator
Phone: 941-766-8473 (TIRE)
Or: 941-425-8473 (TIRE)
Fax: 941-205-8477
murdocktireandauto@embarqmail.com
740 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Brenda's Restaurant
Brenda Ryan
25349 Airport Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941 637-7719
Good Luck to all the Anglers!
Catering Available

Tight Lines and Good Luck to all the Kids Cup anglers!
Rio Villa Bait & Tackle
113 Rio Villa Dr. 639-7166

Fish Hard Have Fun!
CHARLOTTE



HONDA
(941) 743-8883