

About our Redfish Tracking Project

By Betty Staugler
Kids Cup/ Sea Grant

If you catch a redfish in the Pine Island Sound and release it at Punta Gorda, does that fish swim right back to Pine Island, or does it stay in the redfish population at the top of Charlotte Harbor?

Charlotte Harbor anglers have reported dart tag recaptures from 20% (of 64 tagged Kids Cup fish in 2007) and 10% (of 68 tagged in 2008).

In 2007, 18 of 20 acoustic-tagged redfish were heard post-release, and 20 of 20 were heard in our 2008 study. Detailed

tracking of the acoustic-tagged fish are showing some movement patterns specific to catch locations: some Bull Bay caught reds were recorded at the Cape Haze receiver, some Pine Island Sound caught reds have been recorded or recaptured in or near Pine Island Sound, and some upper Harbor caught reds remained in the upper Harbor. There has been a surprisingly high use of the PGI canal system by our released redfish.

The Redfish Tracking team is made up of scientists and professional staff from the University of Florida Sea



Sonic transmitter implant

Grant, Mote Marine Laboratory, and FPL's Progress Energy.

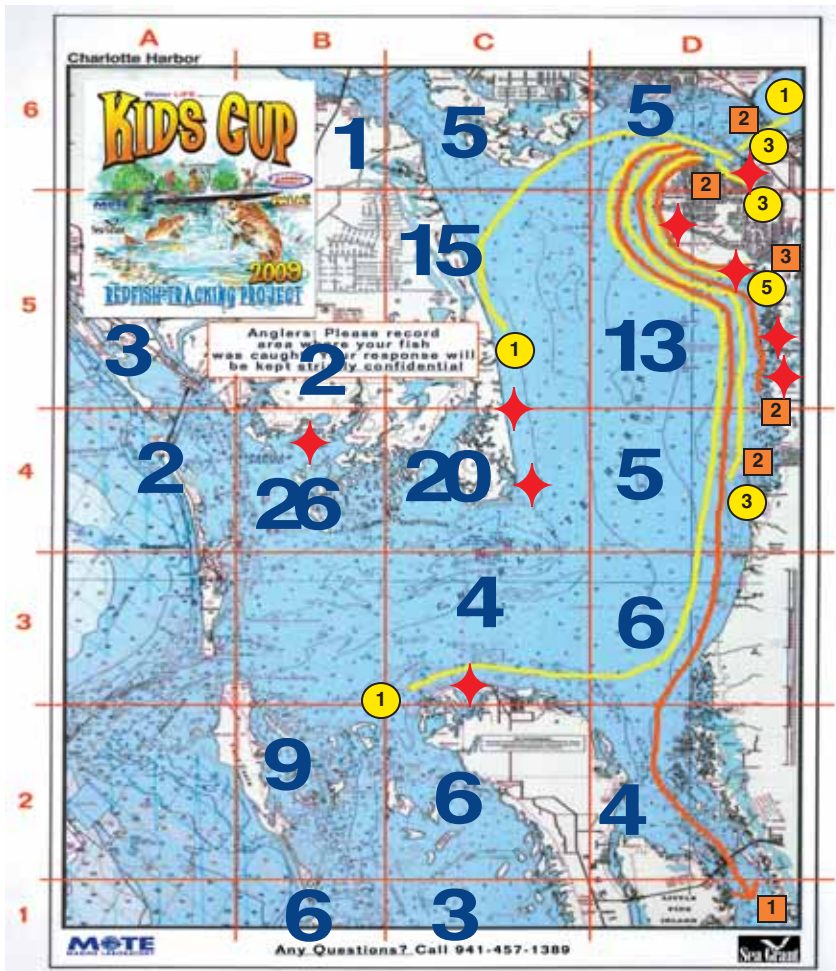
We are using an array of sophisticated underwater listening devices around Charlotte Harbor to track these fish. The listening devices can pick up the passage of a fish within 400 meters. The information from the listening devices is posted to a website. The web address is at the bottom of this page.

Anglers have been able to log onto the internet and track the movements of each implanted fish. This is important because more and more questions about the health of our fishery are arising and anglers need to find

out the answers for themselves.

This year we will again ask all our anglers to give us some specific information when they return to the weigh-in chart, telling us what area of the chart the fish was caught in and how it was transported. There will be a copy of this chart in the captain's bag. Your responses will be kept confidential.

At the weigh-in, all fish caught will have plastic streamer tags affixed to their dorsal fins. We will be asking local anglers to report re-catching these tagged fish in the coming months. Thank you for participating in this study.



ARE THE FISH SWIMMING BACK TOWARDS WHERE THEY CAME FROM? YOU BE THE JUDGE. All Kids Cup redfish have been released at or in the vicinity of Fishermen's Village in Punta Gorda. THE LINES on the chart represent some of the distant fish-travels we have recorded by sonic tracking. ORANGE LINES are for fish tagged in 2007, YELLOW LINES are for fish tagged in 2008. The numbers in CIRCLES and SQUARES are the total number of individual fish recorded at that spot. THE RED ICONS represent where a Kids Cup dart (streamer) tagged fish has been recaptured. THE BLUE NUMBERS show how many fish came from each quadrant on the map during the past two years.

Redfish Tracking TITLE SPONSORS:



West Coast Inland Navigational District



We would like to thank the Charlotte County and the Charlotte County Marine Advisory Committee for help with the Kids Cup Redfish Tracking Project.



Have You Seen Us??



We are tagged Kids Cup fish. Kids are following us in an effort to learn about the environment through fishing!

If you catch us please note:
1. Date..... 2. Place of Capture..... 3. Length of Fish..... 4. Tag Number
Report information to the REDFISH HOTLINE 1-800-367-4461 for a reward.

And PLEASE...SET US FREE with tag intact so kids can continue to receive information about us in the future.

**FOLLOW THE TRACKING for the next 12 months from:
<http://www.waterlifemagazine.com>**