

Update – Angler-Based Redfish Fin Clip Program – 10/9/2008



Redfish Stock Enhancement A Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Mote Marine Laboratory Partnership

Provided by Carole Neidig, Staff Scientist, Mote Marine Laboratory, Center for Fisheries Enhancement, Sarasota, FL

Anglers Please Help - Need Samples from Slot and Over Slot Size Redfish Fin Clip Collection Area Extended - Levy County to Collier County

Goal of Project Tampa Bay: Demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of responsible stock enhancement in a large estuarine ecosystem.

Objectives:

- Determine optimal size and habitat for stocking redfish.
- Increase the number of redfish available to anglers.

Results:

- Since March 2000, > 4 million juvenile redfish of three size groups (Phase 1 ≈ 1 - 1.8 in.; Phase 2 ≈ 2.4 - 4 in.; and Phase 3 > 6 in.) have been released in the Alafia and Little Manatee Rivers.
- More than 2,279 anglers have contributed more than 9,000 redfish fin clips.
- Of the fin clip samples analyzed by the FWC Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) BioGenetics Lab for DNA, 83 have been identified as hatchery-reared redfish (54 collected by anglers using Fin Clip Kits and 29 from anglers providing redfish fin clips to FWRI Fisheries Dependent Monitoring staff at boat ramps).
- Smallest was 6.8 in., largest was 32 in. [59 in slot (18"-27"), 21 under slot size, and 2 > 27 in.]
- Shortest time between release and capture was 106 days and longest was 1,253 days.
- Farthest distance a redfish was captured from its release site: approx. 90 Miles = released 4 miles upriver in the Alafia River and captured in Turtle Bay. Fish was a Phase 1 (1-1.8 in.) when released and at capture measured 22.4 in. TL. There were 878 days from release to capture.
- Hatchery fish capture locations: Alafia River, Bullfrog Creek, Bahia Beach, Apollo Beach, Little Manatee River, Cockroach and Little Cockroach Bay's, Piney Point, Bishop Harbor, Old Tampa Bay, Weedon Island, Lassing Park, Tarpon Key, Terra Ceia Bay, Miguel Bay, Manatee River, Perico Harbor, Palma Sola Bay, Sarasota Bay, and Turtle Bay in Charlotte Harbor.
- There are 98 Participating Bait & Tackle Shops, valuable components of this project.
- In July 2008, 40 anglers received prize packages with great products donated by national and local businesses. Next prize giveaway will be in November 2008!

New in 2008: ♦ Junior Division (15 yrs. and younger). Juniors - record "JUNIOR" next to your name on the angler contact information section of fin clip sample label. Special Year End Prizes! Contact information kept confidential.

- ♦ Coming Soon - Stinky Joe's "Fish On Lures" Tournament – To Benefit Mote Marine Lab Redfish Program – Early Spring 2009. Watch for Updates at: www.captainjoefishing.com.
- ♦ Postponed until 2009 – 2nd West Coast Hunt for Reds Redfish Spot Tournament & Free Kids Fishing Clinic. Watch for updates at: www.huntforreds.com.
- ♦ Available Now - Fin Clip Kits with Vials of Preservative, No Sample Refrigeration or Freezing Required – Great for Kayak and Wade Anglers. Request one today!

To obtain a *free* Fin Clip Kit, bait & tackle shop list,
additional fin clip supplies, or event information:

**FWC Hotline 1-800-367-4461 or Mote Redfish Lab 941-388-4441 #448,
or email redfishlab@mote.org. Thank You For Your Valuable Support!**