



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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David Cupka, Chairman
Ben Hartig, Vice Chairman

Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director
Gregg T. Waugh, Deputy Executive Director

Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel

Hilton Garden Inn
5265 International Boulevard
North Charleston, SC 29418
Phone: 1-800-445-8667 or 843-308-9330
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Meeting Report and Minutes

Advisory Panel Members Present:

David Harter (Chairman)
Dewey Hemilright (Vice-Chairman)
Christopher Burrows
Dr. Kyle Christiansen
Richard DeLizza
Robert Johnson
Fred Kinard
Tim Nettles
George Patterson
W. A. Phinney, Jr.
Ray Rosher
Joe Shute

Advisory Panel Members not Present:

Harris Huddle
John Tortorici

Council Members:

David Cupka (Chairman)
Tom Swatzel

Council Staff:

Gregg Waugh
Brian Chevront
Mike Collins

Presenter:

Don Hammond

General Public:

Robert S. Johnson
Heather Olmr

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) met on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 from 9 am until 3 pm. After approving the agenda and previous meeting minutes, the AP received a presentation Don Hammond, Cooperative Science Services, regarding ongoing research and results from his dolphin tagging program. A copy of Mr. Hammond's presentation is attached to this report. Additionally, the AP discussed the following topics:

- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 currently under development
- For-hire sale of dolphin and wahoo

Regarding Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5:

Action 1

The AP did not make a motion regarding Action 1 to revise the ABCs, ACLs, and ACTs for dolphin and wahoo. The discussion was in favor of recommending the proposed changes (Alternative 2), however they decided no motion was necessary.

Action 2

The AP discussed this action to revise the AMs for dolphin and wahoo as separate species. For wahoo, the AP decided that given the nature of the species, it was best to recommend that the AM be triggered for both sectors only if the stock was overfished and the total ACL is exceeded.

MOTION: Recommend the Council approve Alternatives 4 and 7 as preferred alternatives for Action 2 for wahoo only. Motion passes 12 - 0.

Regarding dolphin, the AP decided that the current AM trigger for dolphin is sufficient and that it did not need to be changed for either sector.

MOTION: Recommend the Council the select alternative 1 as the preferred alternative for dolphin for both commercial and recreational sectors with no payback because it is “annual crop”. Motion passes 12-0.

MOTION: Request the Council approve the bag limit sale of dolphin and wahoo by commercially licensed for-hire vessels. Motion passes 12-0.

Action 3

The AP discussed revising the sector allocations for dolphin. They decided that the average landings of the past 5 fishing seasons, 2008-2012, was an appropriate time series for setting the allocation for dolphin rather than using the formula used in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment.

MOTION: Request the Council approve Alternative 4 of Action 3 as the preferred. Motion passes 12-0.

Action 4

The AP discussed the proposed revisions to the framework in Action 4. In the discussion, there was some concern by an AP member that Alternative 2 might streamline the process too much by reducing the number of opportunities for the public to comment on proposed changes to ACLs.

For this action only, the AP decided to vote on each alternative individually. Below are the numbers of votes (out of 12) in favor of each alternative.

Alternative 1: 0 votes in favor
Alternative 2: 11 votes in favor
Alternative 3: 11 votes in favor

Action 5

The AP discussed the proposed trip commercial limits for dolphin. In light of the highly migratory nature of dolphin based on data that were presented to them by Don Hammond (see attached presentation), as well as the fact that the stock is neither overfished, nor is the total ACL being exceeded, the AP decided this action is not necessary at this time.

MOTION: Recommend the Council select Alternative 1 under Action 5 as their preferred.
Motion passes 11 to 1.

Lastly, the AP discussed for-hire sale of dolphin and wahoo. The AP recommended that the licensed for-hire sector ought to be allowed to sell dolphin and wahoo to licensed dealers.

For-hire sale of dolphin and wahoo

At this point, the AP had a discussion of for-hire sale of dolphin and wahoo. They were concerned that in spite of the AP's previous two unanimous requests, the Council failed to include a provision to reinstate for-hire sales for dolphin and wahoo. Again, the AP stated their desire to allow bag limit sales.

Dolphinfish Research Program

Made possible by a grant from Costa Del Mar



Don Hammond, Director
Cooperative Science Services, LLC
Charleston, South Carolina

<http://DOLPHINTAGGING.COM>

Sponsored in part by



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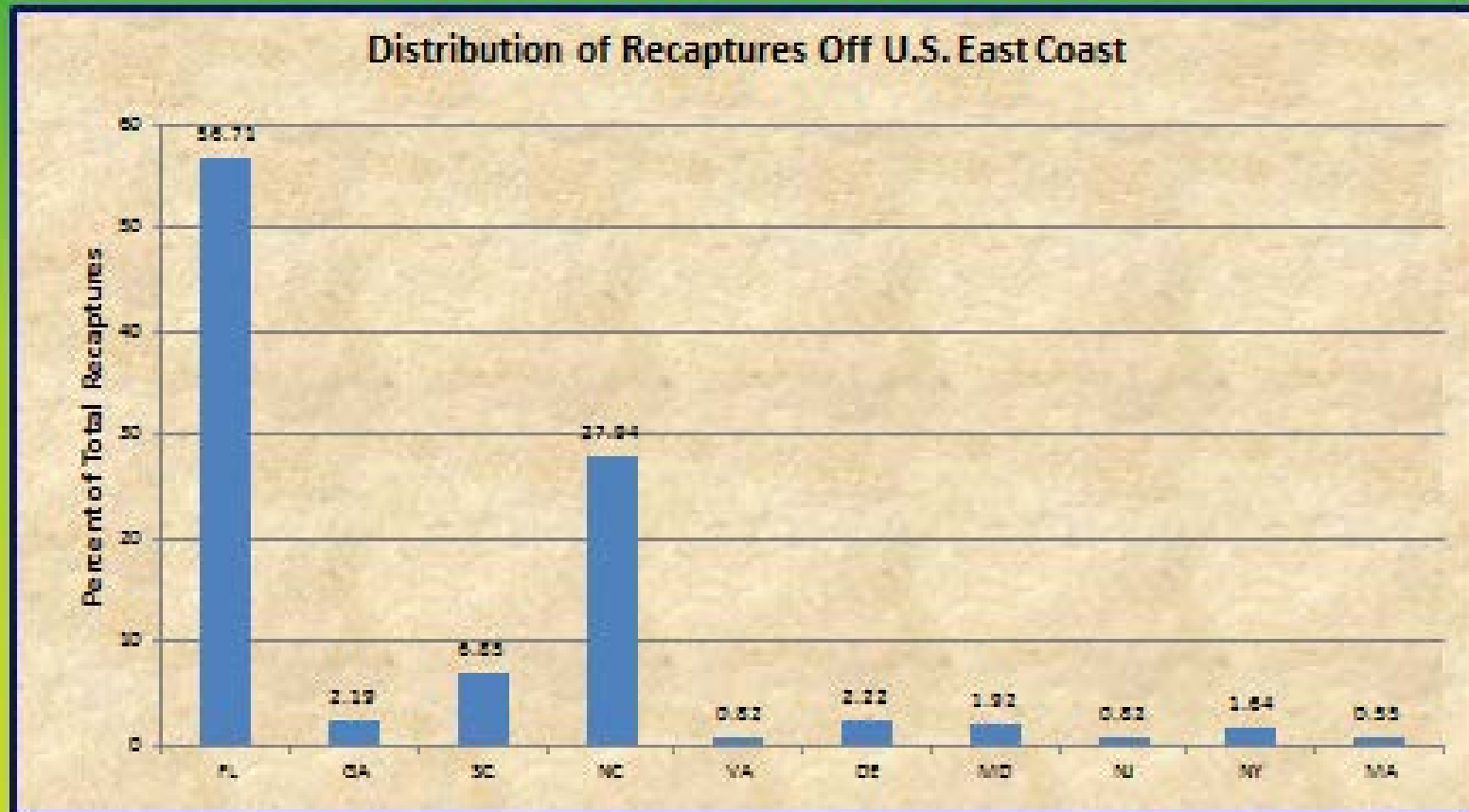
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Tag Recovery Boundaries



Recoveries Off U.S. East Coast



Emerging Patterns

- **Florida In-state – 181** Fish tagged and recovered off Florida's east coast having a liberty period of less than 90 days.
- **General In-state – 28** Fish tagged and recovered off same state having a liberty period of less than 90 days.
- **General Out-of-state – 117** Fish recovered in the same year but a different state/territory as tagged.
- **East Coast Southerly - 7** Fish having a liberty of no more than 60 days with a minimum distance moved of 60 miles to the south.
- **Florida Semi-annual Visit – 11** Fish tagged and recovered off Florida during the same calendar year having a liberty of 90 days or more.
- **East Coast Return Migration – 11** Fish recovered in a subsequent year to their release on the same coast/territory as tagged having a liberty of 120 days or more.
- **International Dispersals – 15** Fish tagged off U.S. East Coast and recovered in distant international waters or those belonging to other nations.
- **Bahamas to U.S. East Coast – 11** Fish tagged in Bahamian waters and recovered off East Coast.
- **Bahamas In-territory – 3** Tagged and recovered the same year in Bahamian waters.
- **Bahamas Tongue of Ocean Lingerer – 23** Tagged and recovered in the Tongue in same year.

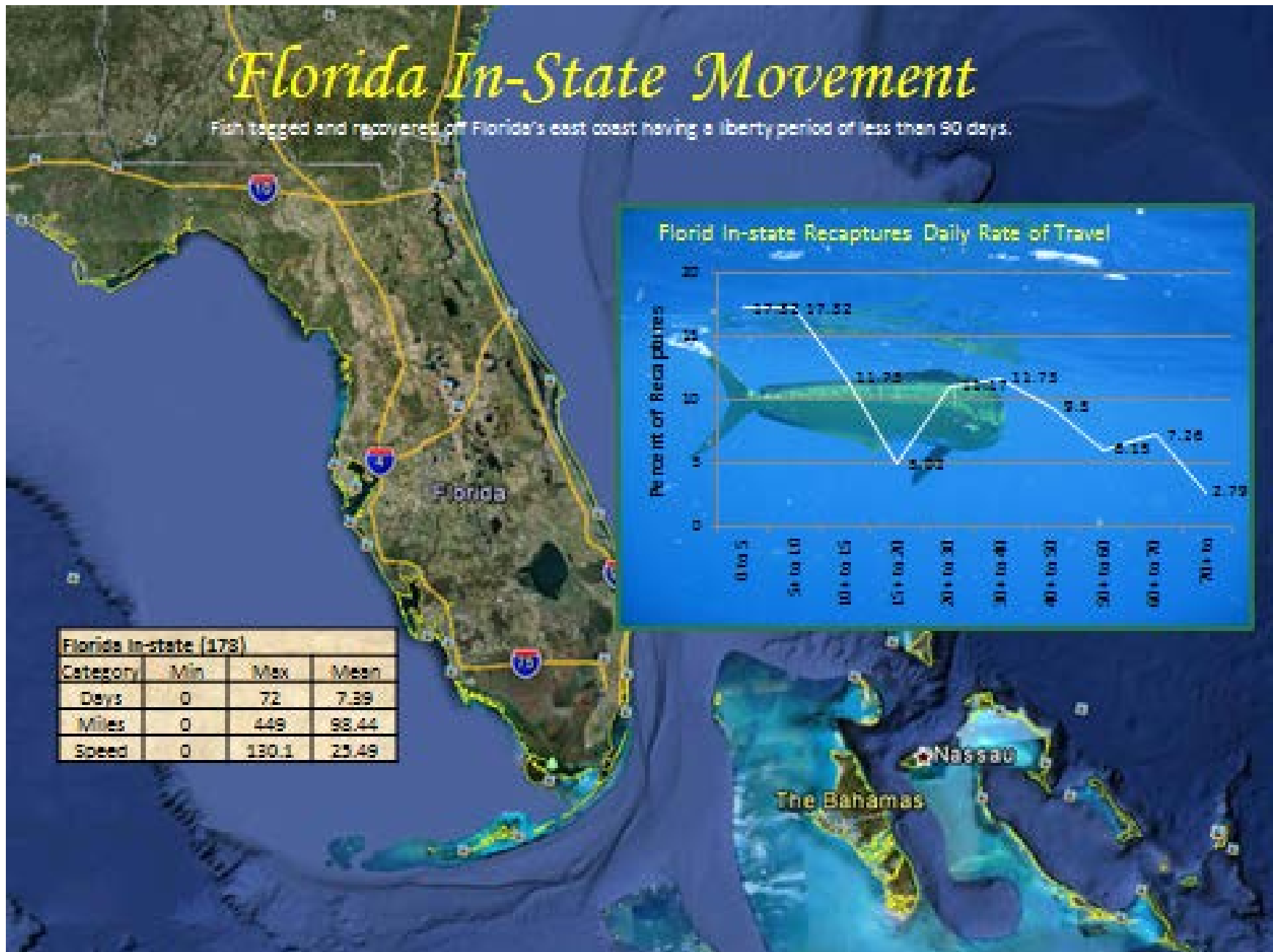
Observed Movement Frequencies

Distribution of Recaptures Based on Movement Classification
(N=407)

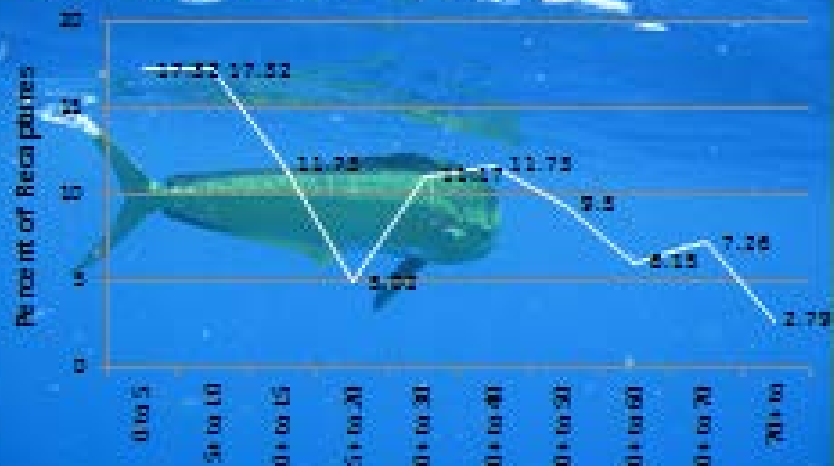


Florida In-State Movement

Fish tagged and recovered off Florida's east coast having a liberty period of less than 90 days.



Florida In-state Recaptures Daily Rate of Travel



General In-State/Territory Movements

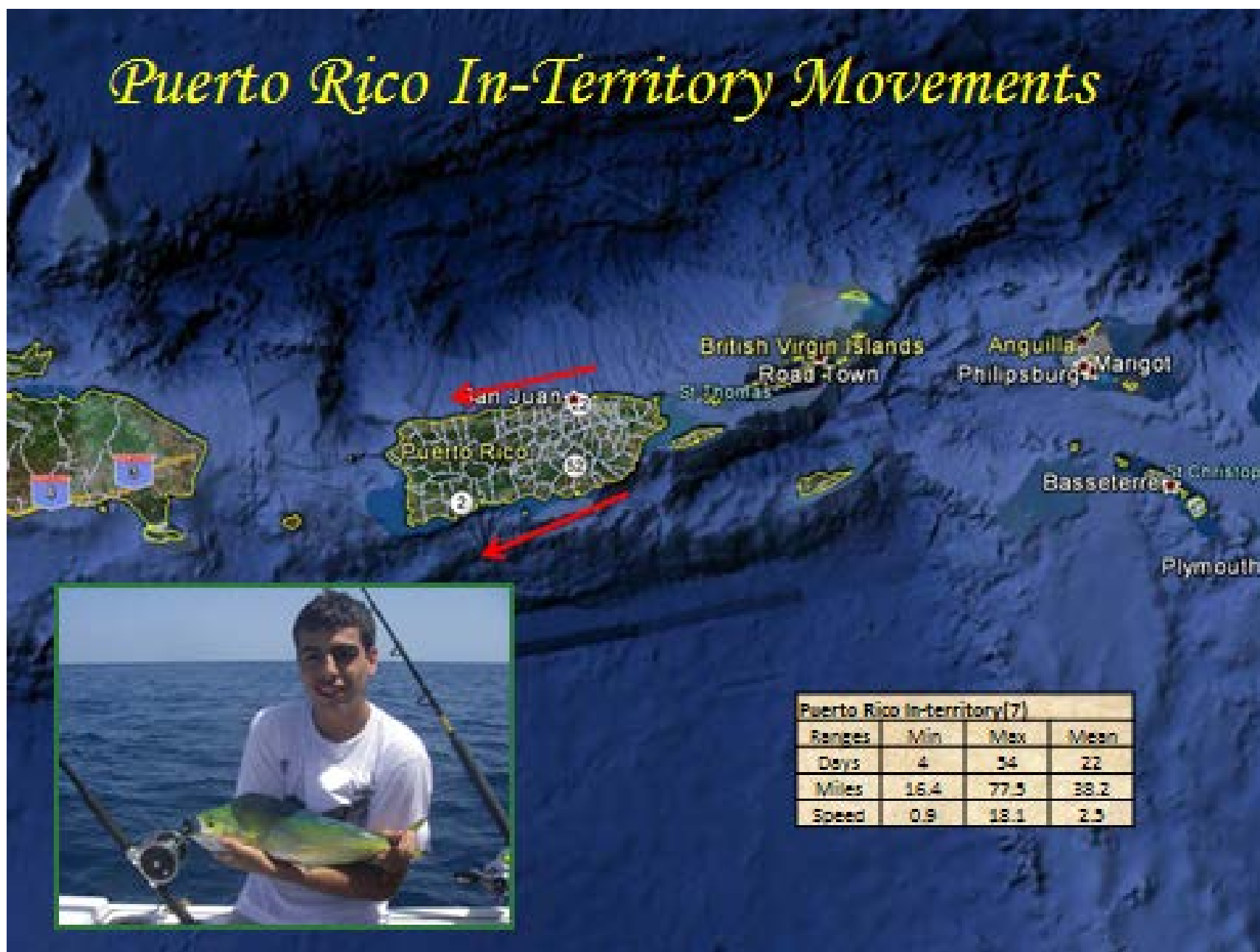
Fish tagged and recovered off same state/territory having a liberty period of less than 90 days.



North Carolina In-state (7)			
Range	Min	Max	Mean
Days	2	27	9.8
Miles	12	123	64
Speed	4.6	21.9	18.1

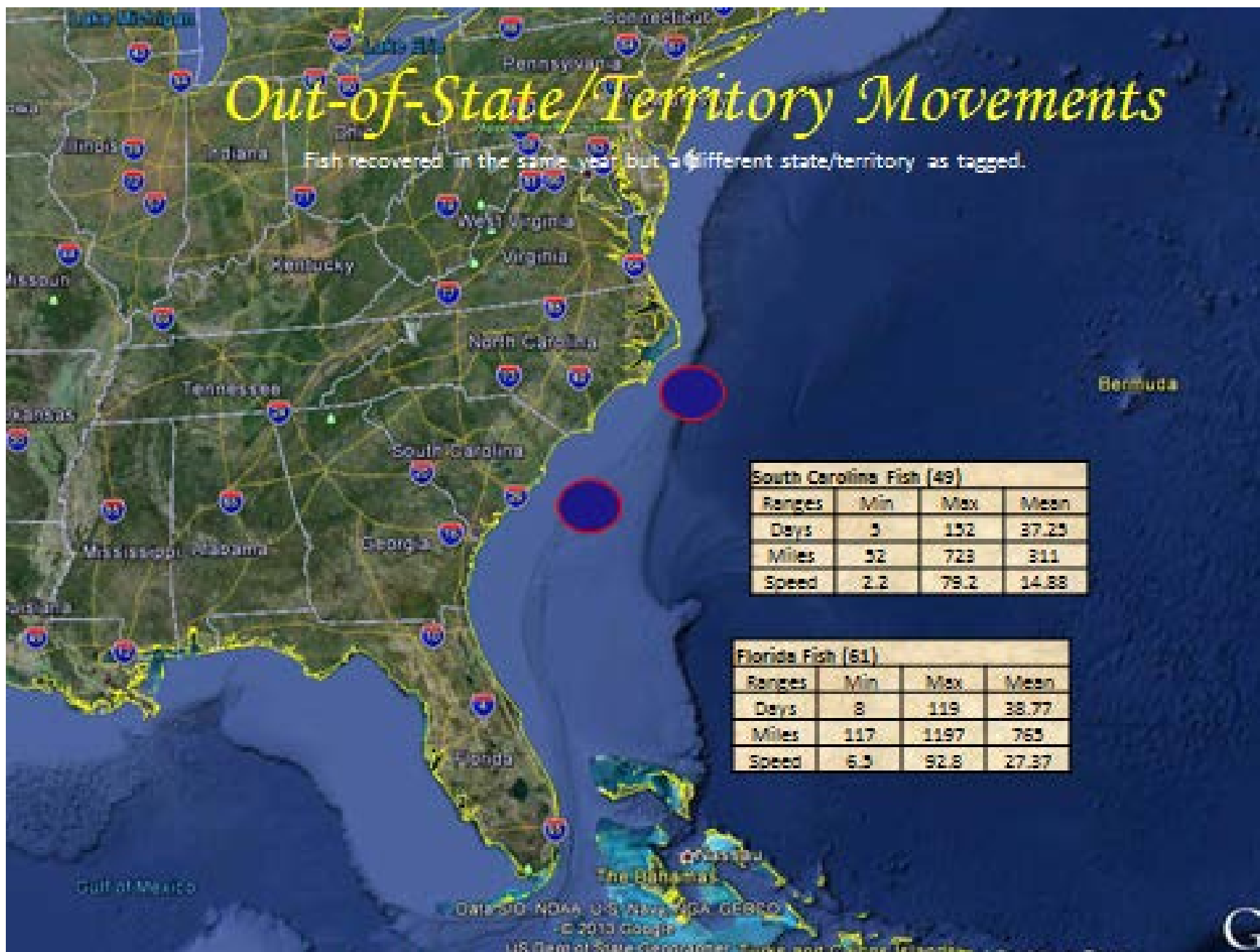
South Carolina In-state (6)			
Range	Min	Max	Mean
Days	0	76	20.4
Miles	0	63.9	44.4
Speed	0	44.4	9

Puerto Rico In-Territory Movements



Out-of-State/Territory Movements

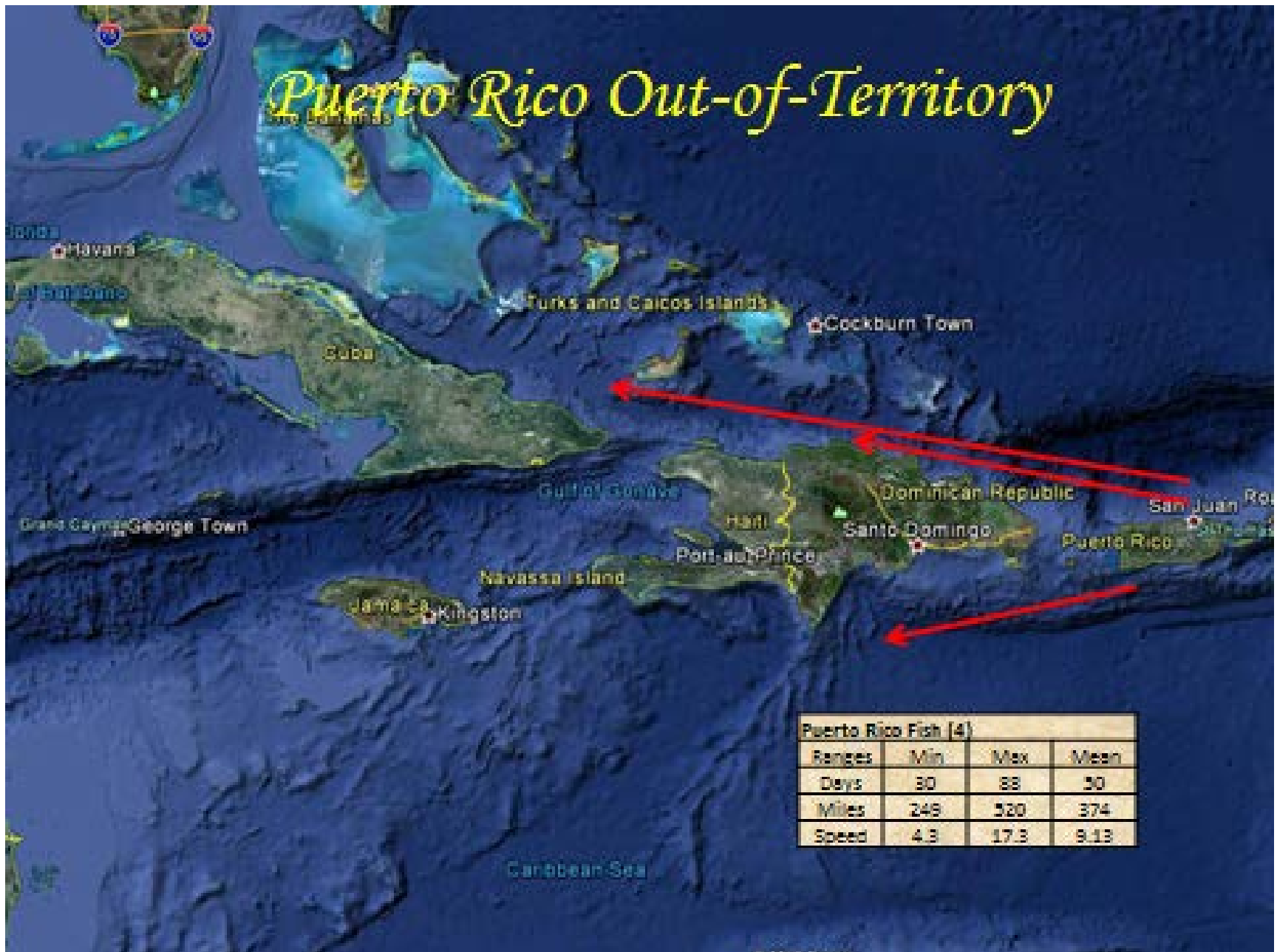
Fish recovered in the same year but a different state/territory as tagged.



South Carolina Fish (49)			
Ranges	Min	Max	Mean
Days	5	152	37.25
Miles	52	723	311
Speed	2.2	79.2	14.88

Florida Fish (61)			
Ranges	Min	Max	Mean
Days	8	119	38.77
Miles	117	1197	765
Speed	6.5	92.8	27.37

Puerto Rico Out-of-Territory



East Coast Southerly Movement

Fish having a liberty of no more than 60 days with a minimum distance moved of 60 miles to the south.

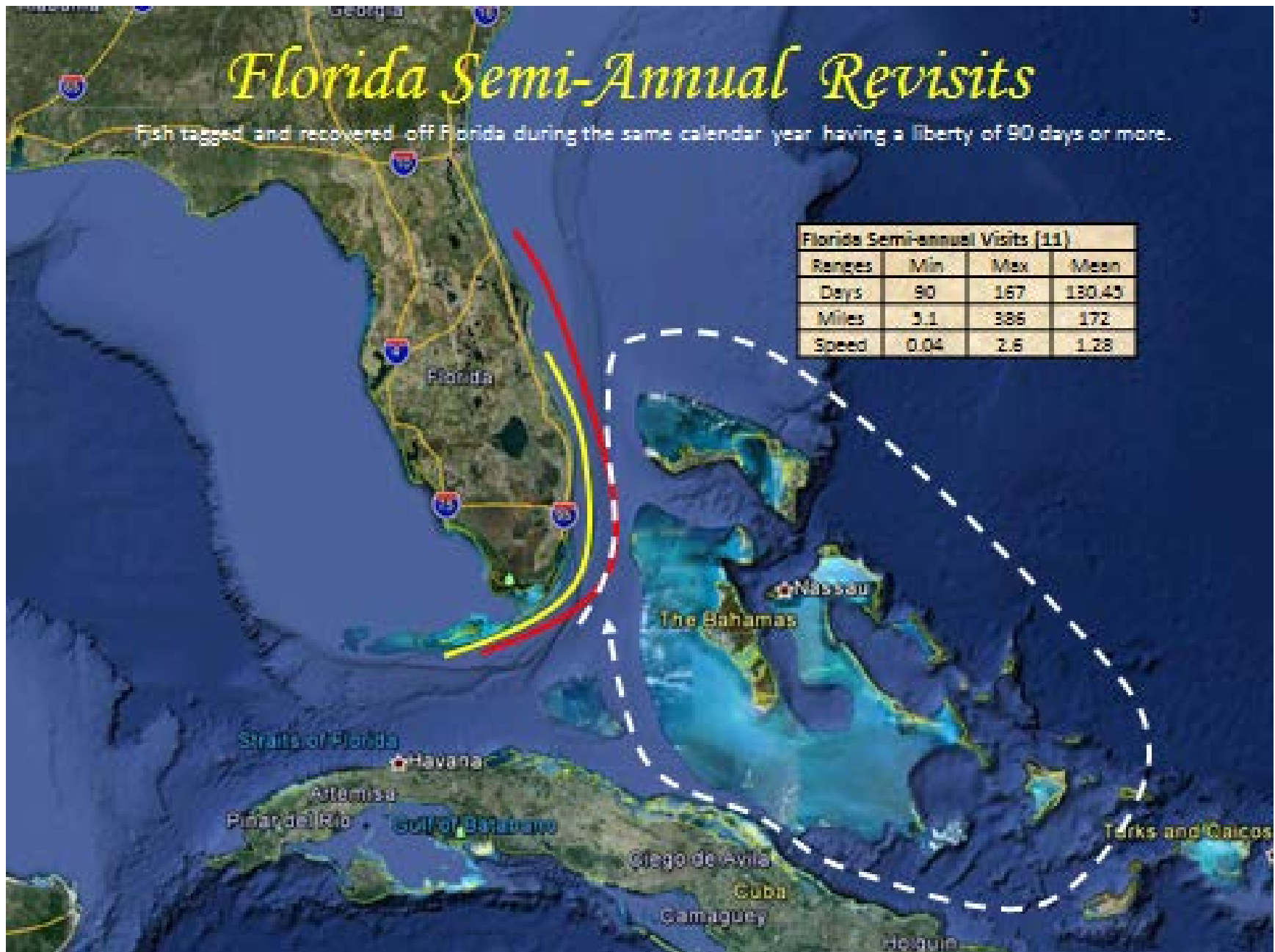
Florida Southerly (7)			
Ranges	Min	Max	Mean
Days	6	48	21.7
Miles	63	150	116.6
Speed	4.1	19.1	7.24



Florida Semi-Annual Revisits

Fish tagged and recovered off Florida during the same calendar year having a liberty of 90 days or more.

Florida Semi-annual Visits (11)			
Ranges	Min	Max	Mean
Days	90	167	130.43
Miles	3.1	386	172
Speed	0.04	2.6	1.28



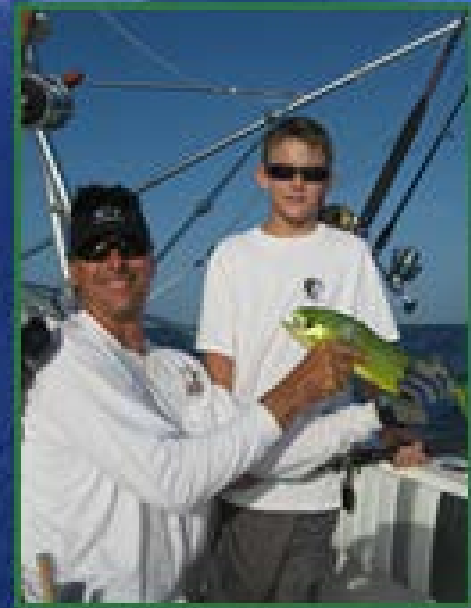
East Coast Return Migrations

Fish recovered in a subsequent year to their release on the same coast/territory as tagged, having a liberty of 120 days or more.



Return Migrations (11)			
Range	Min	Max	Mean
Day	161	388	279
Miles	71	387	280
Speed	0.3	2.1	0.96

Bahamas Connections

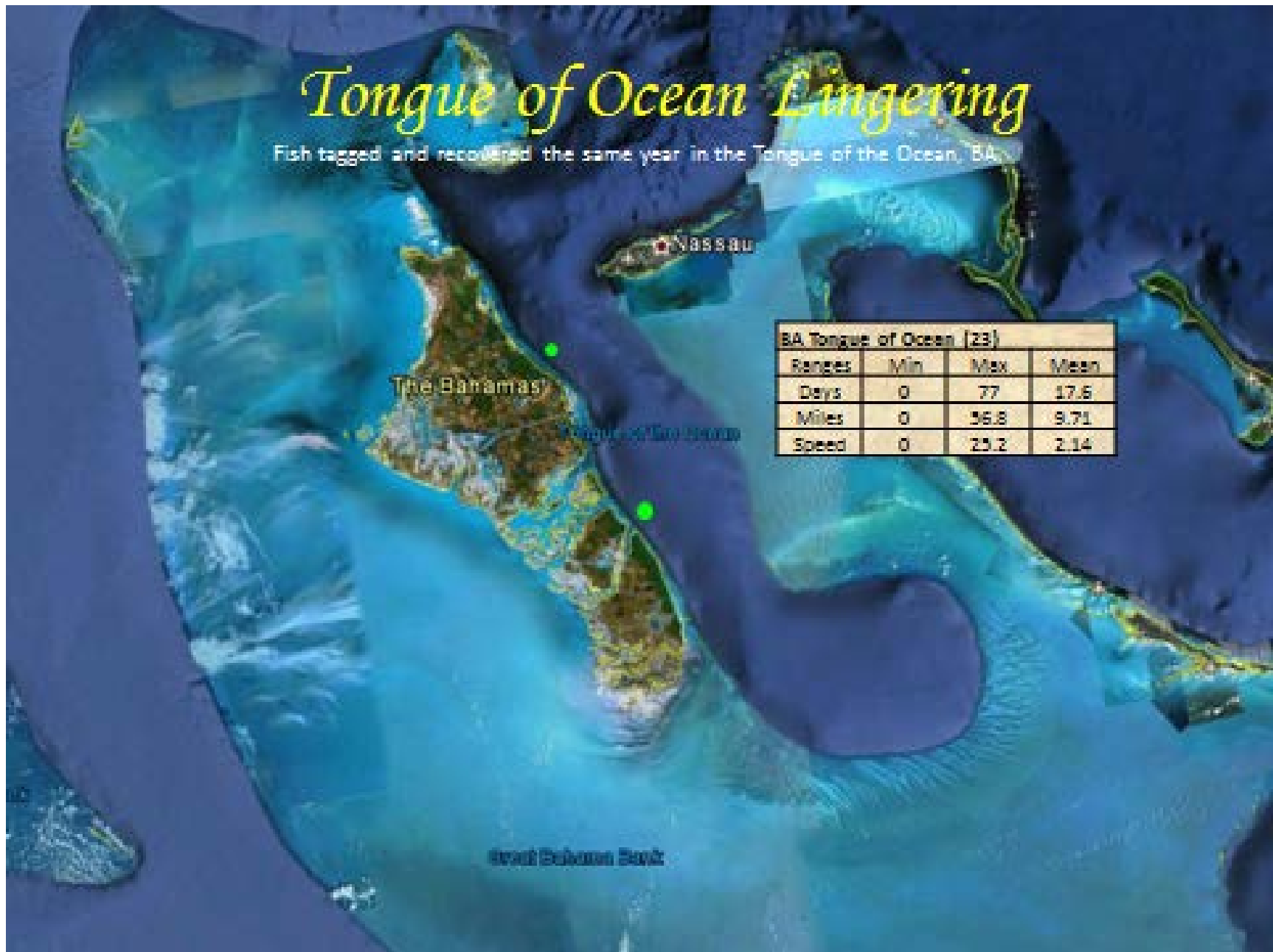


Bahamas Fish to U.S. East Coast (11)

Ranges	Min	Max	Mean
Days	14	87	47.27
Miles	128	1162	700
Speed	9.1	29.5	15.7

Tongue of Ocean Lingerer

Fish tagged and recovered the same year in the Tongue of the Ocean, BA



Western North Atlantic Movements



Points to Consider

- Recognize that dolphins are the mainstay of the blue water troll fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic Bight and Caribbean Sea
- The U.S. East Coast fishery is a shared fishery supplied from the Gulf through the Straits of Florida and now the Old Bahamas Channel with additional recruitment from eastern Bahamas
- Dolphins are nomads of the oceans and currents are their highways
- Age and growth studies and tag recoveries indicate that dolphins grow from 0.5 to 1 inch in length per week
- Fish less than 30 inches can gain one pound in weight every two weeks
- Grasp the magnitude of the challenge in managing a fish so exposed to international fishing
- Do not accept the difficulty of acquiring data on the dolphin fishery as an excuse for NOAA not to collect the needed management data for this important species