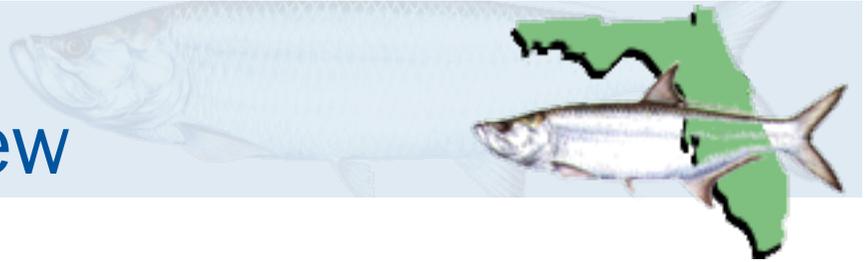


# 2007 Tarpon Genetic Recapture Review



## Did Someone Say Recapture?

Yes! There are 3 new recaptures to add to Gary Clark's recaptured tarpon off Sanibel last year. The more anglers who take the extra effort to sample and return the tarpon DNA samples the more recaptures we get and the more we all learn about how these fish can survive multiple angling events. What a positive for the fishery!

### General location of and names of anglers with confirmed recaptures:

#### *Florida Keys*

Caught and recaptured in April by Pat Share within 24 hours from the same secret fishing hole! That was a hungry tarpon.

#### *Miami area*

Tarpon recaptured by Tim Humphries in Oct. 2006. Original capture information unknown because angler did not fill in their data sheet or provide their contact info. Data slips are very important; please be complete!

#### *Tampa Bay area*

Caught in January and recaptured in March, 2007 by Robert McCue; two months later and a few miles apart.

Many more samples were turned in during 2007 than in 2006, so hope for more recaptures during 2008! Anglers with recaptured fish will be notified and those with computer access will be able to Google their tarpon.

## Continued in 2008: The Jaw Scrape And we mean scrape!

The objective is to remove some skin cells from the bony, upper jaw of a captured tarpon before it is released. The new jaw scrape technique was a success and will continue in 2008. Take the abrasive sponge and rub it **firmly** and quickly back and forth several times on the outside of the jaw. Use enough pressure when rubbing until you see silver or white on the sponge and not just clear slime. This indicates you have removed some skin cells and therefore DNA. Fin clip methods of DNA collection will still be accepted.



*The colored abrasive pad **must** turn white or silver from removed skin cells to be successful.*

## All Tarpon: Anywhere, Any Size!

All tarpon is pretty self explanatory. But **anywhere** and **any size**? Yes! Tarpon are a long-lived species. Having good genetic information from little tarpon is just as important as getting the DNA samples from large tarpon, and this "biological tag" will allow scientists to track that individual fish throughout its lifetime. Keep in mind you do not have to remove the fish from the water to sample your tarpon. Just get in the habit of taking a kit with you every time you go fishing and sample every tarpon you catch from anywhere.

Angler participation in collecting tarpon DNA samples throughout Florida is imperative to the success of this valuable project. In 2007, we had a fantastic year. Angler participation increased 2.4 times and the number of samples returned increased 3.1 times as compared to 2006. In addition, a few folks from Texas, Louisiana, and North Carolina have also asked for kits to sample their tarpon. We've even gone international! Samples were received from Mexico, Trinidad, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, French Guyana and Angola. Other kits have been sent to Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Cuba. Bottom line, remember the motto:

**All Tarpon, Anywhere, Any Size.**



*Scraping the jaw of a tarpon to remove enough skin cells for a DNA sample.*

**Note:** Fish is in the water.

# Collecting Tarpon DNA

Your participation is valuable to the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study. Despite their popularity, little is known about the recapture rates of tarpon populations. Please call the FWC's Tagged Fish Hotline number (1-800-367-4461) or email [tarpongenetics@myfwc.com](mailto:tarpongenetics@myfwc.com) to receive a free DNA sampling kit. All samples from individual tarpon can be stored at room temperature. At the end of the season, you

## Quick Facts on DNA Data:

*Number of anglers who returned a sample:*

2006: 66

**2007: 155**

plus 80 samples from anonymous anglers

*Number of samples returned:*  
(as of Nov. 30)

2006: 326

**2007: 1,011**

*Total number of samples in database: 1,750\**

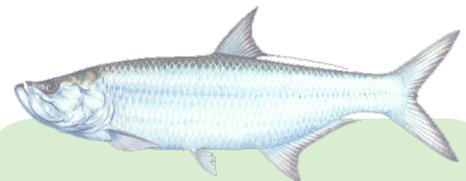
\* not all samples are used in recapture rate calculations

Total number of recaptures: 4

Current recapture rate: **0.365%**

can mail them to the FWC-FWRI lab in St. Petersburg or drop them off at one of the statewide sample collection centers (see listing on the website at: [http://research.myfwc.com/features/view\\_article.asp?id=26619](http://research.myfwc.com/features/view_article.asp?id=26619)).

A small sample of skin cells provides enough DNA to genetically or biologically tag and identify an individual tarpon with remarkable certainty. By evaluating these DNA samples to determine the recapture rates of fish over time, we will be also able to assess the success of tarpon stocks and determine if tarpon "mix freely" between different bodies of Florida waters and beyond.



DNA—the tag that lasts forever!

*Thank you to everyone who volunteered and took a kit!*

Anglers who submitted 5 or more samples:

Roy Bennett	John Manuel
Marty Benson	Robert McCue
Joel Bickford	Fred Milleman
Andy Boyette	Clark Nash
Bill Burrows	Omar Orraca
Phil Dugger	Charlie Owens
Ozzie Fisher	Larry Pentel
Tee Grizzard	Mike Rementer
Tim Humphries	Brad Richards
Ed Hurst	Jeff Shindle
John Jackson, III	Bernard Sloan
Derrick Jacobsen	Geoffrey Smith
Jim Johnson	Tom Stephens, Jr.
Bill Jones	John Ullrich
Steve Jones	Bruce Ungar
Jim Lemke	Ed Walker
Nathaniel Lemmon	Kyle Wrenn

Tarpon Tournaments that participated in the Genetic Recapture Study:

- Gold Cup Invitational
- Golden Fly Invitational
- Islamorada Ladies Invitational
- Professional Tarpon Tournament Series
- Sarasota Sport Fishing Angler Club
- Silver King Classic
- Silver Salute Corporate Challenge
- Suncoast Tarpon Roundup
- Tampa Bay Tarpon Rodeo
- Women's World Tarpon Fly

Thanks to all those who supported this research!

Contributors: Bob's Machine Shop, Diiatchi, Fisherman's Log, FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Get Smoked Gear, Hydro Glow, Lotion Potion, MirrOlure, Mote Marine Laboratory, Outback Steakhouse, Sea Sucker, and Stow Mate.

## 2007 Raffle Winners

If you return DNA samples you are eligible to win a thank you gift box from our annual random raffle. This year's recipients are:

Pete Schulz of Jupiter  
Mark Sosin of Boca Raton  
Clark Nash of Largo  
Bill Algier of Cape Coral  
Bob Winger of Fort Myers  
Bill Jones of Marco Island

Please drop off your samples at a statewide collection location near you or mail directly to:

FWC-FWRI  
ATTN: Tarpon Genetics  
100 8th Ave. SE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 896-8626

## Top 5 Samplers in 2007

Robert McCue of New Port Richey  
Ed Walker of Holiday  
Roy Bennett of Cape Coral  
Mike Rementer of Tampa  
Kyle Wrenn of Cape Coral



Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
[MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com)

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Our partner  
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To participate in  
the FWC/MML  
Redfish Fin Clip  
Program contact  
(941) 388-4441 ext. 448 or [redfishlab@mote.org](mailto:redfishlab@mote.org)