



iTAG Holiday Newsletter



May all your tagged fishes come home for the holidays!



2017

It has been an exciting year, with a great conference, the orphan data exchange launch, and watching the number of arrays on the iTAG map grow.



<http://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/telemetry/itag/>

At our recent meeting members asked for a newsletter, as posting on twitter, facebook, and Instagram does not necessarily result in effective communication for those of us born before 1990 (only 33% of participants surveyed followed social media). So here is our inaugural effort.

The Orphan Report



In early 2017, we launched the orphan data exchange,

where members can easily upload detections of fish other than their own which swim into their arrays, allowing the original taggers to then "adopt" their fish. Once adoption is made, the array owner sends the detailed detection data. In 2017 ~6,000 orphaned tags were uploaded from arrays throughout the Gulf. Thank you to all who made this

possible. Your efforts resulted in 187 unique tags implanted in twenty species being "adopted" and the data making its way home to the original tagger.

This is allowing us to better understand connectivity at the large marine ecosystem scale and identify both migratory pathways and gaps in monitoring. New efforts are underway with Greg Stunz, Jay Rooker, Rick Kline and Brett Falterman to build additional lines in LA & TX as part of the iTAG/OTN collaboration.



The map above shows the spatial distribution of adoptions (dot size represents the number of adoptions from that array location). But numbers don't always tell the full story. Atlantic/Gulf connectivity has been demonstrated for a range of species, the most dramatic being a tiger shark tagged by Matt Smukall off Bimini detected by Jay Rooker's receivers at the Flower Gardens. If you want to see photos and/or read more adoption stories, please see our facebook page.

The connectivity between the Atlantic & the Gulf has been exciting to see and was only possible through working with our sister networks, **FACT & ACT**.



The Pub Report

On-going efforts: Ross Boucek and Dani Morley are guest-editing an iTAG special issue for Fisheries Research, entitled *Using telemetry for cross-ecosystem comparisons of animal behaviors*. Three papers are in review, with another five expected submissions before February. The expectation is to have these published before the next iTAG meeting (Fall 2018). Thanks to all involved in this effort.

In Press: Pratt, Harold L., Jr., Theo C. Pratt, Danielle Morley, Susan Lowerre-Barbieri, Angela Collins, Jeffrey C. Carrier, Kristen M. Hart, Nicholas

M. Whitney. Partial migration of the nurse shark, *Ginglymostoma cirratum*, from the Dry Tortugas Islands. *Environmental Biology of Fishes*

Recently published: Glenn T. Crossin, M. R. H., Christopher M. Holbrook, Nigel E. Hussey, Susan K. Lowerre-Barbieri, Vivian M. Nguyen, Graham D. Raby, Steven J. Cooke (2017). "Acoustic telemetry and fisheries management." *Ecological Applications* **27** (4): 1031-1049.