

Roosterfish Recapture!! GFR2312, Named “Epic One”

The Roosterfish (*Nematistius pectoralis*) named “Epic One” (Tag ID: GFR2312) was originally tagged & released by angler Chris Nicholas on November 9th, 2015 while fishing with Captain Mike Alligood and mate Mariano aboard the charter boat *Epic*. The *Epic* fishes out of the Gray FishTag Official Research Center, Los Sueños Resort & Marina in Playa Herradura, Costa Rica (<https://www.lossuenos.com/marina/>). The Roosterfish was measured to be 49 inches (124.46 cm) total length and had an approximate weight of 40 pounds.

The Roosterfish was recaptured 361 days later on November 3rd, 2016 by the crew of the *Mono Congo* with Captain Thomas Jones out of the Bahia Rica Lodge. The recapture was in the coastal waters of the Gulf of Nicoya, approximately 800 feet away from the original tag location. During that 361-day time period, the Roosterfish most likely stayed in the coastal waters of Costa Rica. The Negritos Islands, where the Roosterfish was tagged and recaptured, is a famous fishing spot that has known to hold a multitude of fish species. That location holds such a diversity of fish due to the unique physical and geographic conditions. There are several underwater rock formations and the water depth changes rapidly from 220 ft to 30 ft which causes some riptides. That area is also where the Gulf of Nicoya water currents meet up with the open ocean. Those conditions are conditions are ideal for bait fish and where there is bait fish, there is predator fish feeding.



At the time of recapture, the Roosterfish had an estimated length of 50 inches and weight of 55 pounds. Based on the length measurements, this Roosterfish was a mature fish. After the tag information was recorded, the fish was subsequently released healthy and unharmed.

Roosterfish are bluish gray in color with four dark bands, the first located around the eyes, the second on the rear of the head, and last two bands curve and run along their sides. Brownish to blue/gray on their dorsal side, with silvery sides and a white bottom side. Their first dorsal fin is very elongated with seven spines (i.e. Rooster). The Roosterfish is a schooling fish that inhabits mostly nearshore coastal waters with sandy or rocky bottoms. Not much is known about the biology of the fish. Roosterfish are a highly prized recreational sportfish species. They are characterized by their strong and intense fight.

The Gray FishTag Research program has been able to shatter the expectations for fish recapture rates thanks to the hard-working professional fishermen on the water day in and day out. Tags are provided free-of-charge to the collaborating professional fishermen, and the tag data is available to the public at www.GrayFishTagResearch.org

The *Epic* charter boat crew will receive some Gray FishTag gear for their tagging efforts. The tag recovery angler, Thomas Jones, will receive a pair of Costa Del Mar sunglasses, a Tag & Recovery Certificate, and Gray FishTag gear for reporting the tag recovery.

The tagging and research efforts is made possible by our research centers and sponsors AFTCO, AA Video, American Fishing Wire, FECOP, Mold Craft, Costa Del Mar, CR Primo Fishing Tackle, Shadow Graphics, AquaWorld, Crocodile Bay Resort, Grande Alaska Lodge, Los Sueños Resort & Marina, Marina Pez Vela, The Pisces Group and The Zancudo Lodge.

For more information, please contact the Gray FishTag Research in-house fisheries scientist Travis Moore at travis@GrayFishTag.org or 954-675-3896

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