

Snook Recaptured Twice!! Fish GFR11687, Named “Tofu”

On April 6th, 2016 while fishing the mangroves around Charlotte Harbor, angler Jimmy Ly caught and tagged a Common Snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*) aboard the charter boat *Big Bully Outdoors* with Captain Andrew Herzog. Jimmy named the fish “Tofu” (GFR11687). The Snook was measured to be 19 inches (48.26 cm) total length and released in excellent condition.

The Snook was recaptured 76 days later on June 20th, 2016 by the charter angler Troy while fishing on the same boat that originally tagged the fish, *Big Bully Outdoors* with Captain Andrew Herzog. The recapture was in the same exact mangrove tree area of Charlotte Harbor, approximately 100 yards away from the original tag location. During that 76-day time period, the Snook most likely stayed in the local surrounding waters of the mangrove habitat of Charlotte Harbor. That estuarine area is ideal habitat with its brackish water, overhanging vegetation and sea grasses, as well as home to numerous small fish and crabs, which is a primary food source for the mature Snook.

At the time of recapture, the Snook had a measured total length of 21 inches. Based on the length measurements, this Snook was a mature fish. After the tag information was recorded, the Snook was subsequently released healthy and unharmed.



Incredibly, “Tofu” the Snook (GFR11687) was recaptured for a second time. Only 9 days later on June 29th, 2016 the Big Bully Outdoors charter boat struck again, this time with angler Julie catching this Snook approximately 1.5 miles (2.42 km) away from the original tag and release area. At the time of recapture number two, the Snook was measured at 21.5 inches (54.61 cm). The Snook was again released healthy and unharmed to be hopefully caught another day.

The Common Snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*) is the most abundant and largest Snook species found in Florida waters. They have a slender body, generally golden yellow in color, with a distinct black lateral line and light yellow pelvic fins. The Snook has a sloping forehead with a protruding lower jaw and large mouth. Snook are protandric hermaphrodites, which means they change sex from male to female. As the Common Snook increases in length or age, the probability of it being female increases. They are found in a variety of coastal environments. Smaller juvenile Snook tend to inhabit riverine and shallow brackish estuarine water areas.

While larger adult fish tend to inhabit a wider environmental range from near shore reefs and beaches, to river mouths, mangroves and salt marsh areas. Snook are a fast growing and moderately long-lived fish species, living about 15-20 years. Snook are a highly prized and popular fish species due to their strong fight as well as their mild and easy edible flavor if harvested.

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 *Big Bully Outdoors* charter boat crew will receive Gray FishTag gear for their tagging efforts. Both the tag recovery anglers, Troy (1st recovery) and Julie (2nd recovery) 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, Sunset Marina, 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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