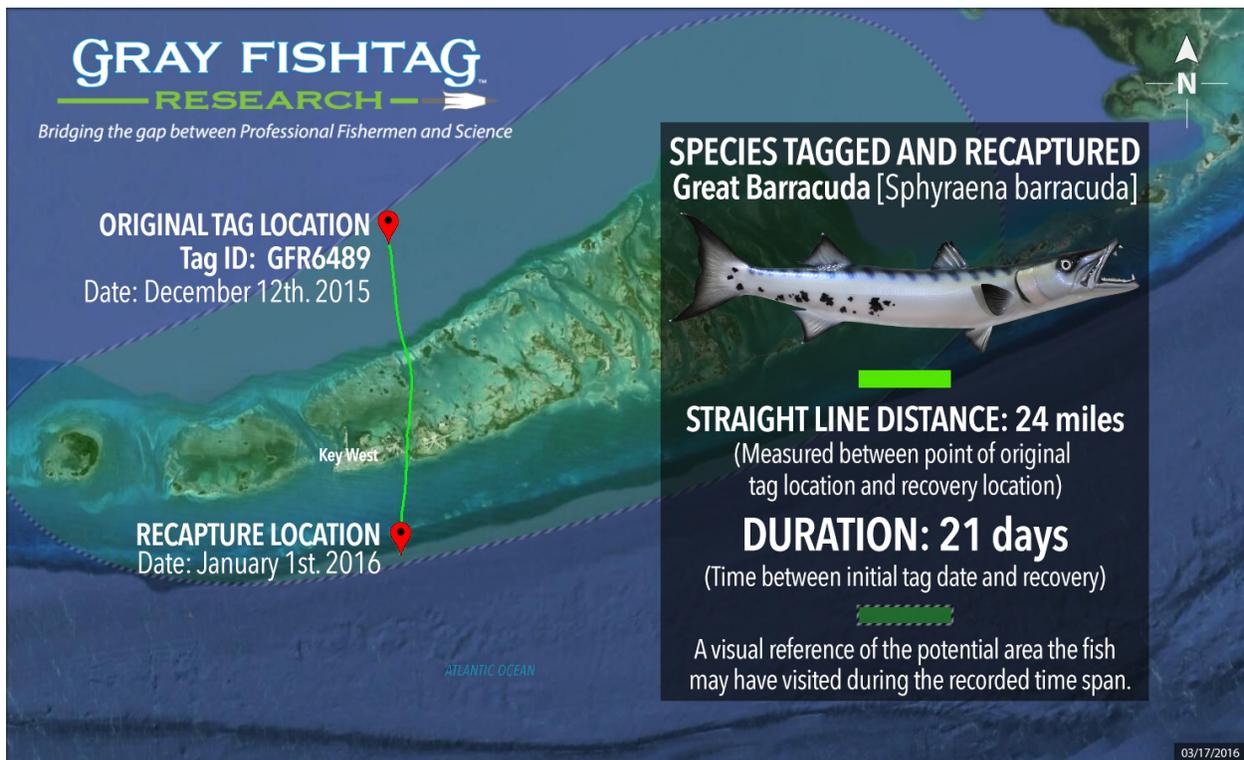


Tag Recapture!! GFR6489 Barracuda, Named “Cap’N Dan”

The Great Barracuda (*Sphyraena barracuda*) named “Cap’N Dan” (Tag ID: GFR6489) was originally tagged & released by angler Daniel Kohler on December 12th, 2015 while fishing with Captain Daniel Zier and mate Garrett Frey aboard the charter boat *Second Nature*, out of Key West, Florida. The Barracuda was measured to be 36 inches (91.44 cm) total length and had an approximate weight of 15 pounds.

The Barracuda was recaptured 21 day later on January 1st, 2016 by the crew of the Lucky Charm, Captain Moe Mottice and Mate Tommy Hooks out of Key West, Florida. The recapture was near the Vandenberg Wreck in the waters off Key West, approximately 24 miles away from the original tag location. During that 21 day time period, the Barracuda most likely stayed in the waters around Key West. That area is ideal habitat with its near shore abundance of coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves as well as home to numerous small fish, which is the primary food source for the Barracuda.



At the time of recapture, the Barracuda had an estimated length of 37 inches and weight of 15 pounds. Based on the length measurements, this Barracuda was a mature fish. After the tag information was recorded, the Barracuda was subsequently released healthy and unharmed.

Great Barracuda's exhibit a brownish to blue/gray on their dorsal side, with silvery sides and a white bottom side. The black spots found on the lower sides of the Great Barracuda is what distinguishes it from other barracuda species. The Great Barracuda inhabits both nearshore and offshore waters near the surface. They are often found in waters associated with coral reefs, seagrasses, and mangroves and tend to move offshore as they grow larger in size.

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 *Second Nature* charter boat crew will receive some Gray FishTag gear for their tagging efforts. Tommy Hooks 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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The success of the program is made possible by the participation of the hard working fishing professionals and the generous contributions from our partners and donors. Any contribution is tax deductible and will go directly to support our cause and help the growth of the program.

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