

SHORT REPORT

BFT TAGGING IN MARINA DI CAMEROTA (SA) – ITALY

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The scope of this short report is to briefly describe the activities carried out in Marina di Camerota (SA) between 23 and 27 July 2015 for BFT tagging campaign in the off shore cage located 39° 57,903 N; 15° 21,295 E.

On the 3rd of June 2015 around 100 specimens of BFT (average weight 35 Kg) were caught by the Italian PS "Vergine del Rosario". The school was transferred into a floating cage of 50 m diameter and towed to the farming site in Marina di Camerota (SA) where it was anchored on the 10th of June.

After several feeding tests, it was decided to take the opportunity for tagging the tunas before their release.

ICCAT GBYP provided the team with 100 conventional double barb big-billfish spaghetti tags and 5 miniPATs.

Tagging operations took place on the 23rd of July, early morning. The school was very stressed and difficult to approach in the cage, probably due to the high temperature of the water (SST 30°C).

Anyway, the bottom of the net was lifted and tagging started at around 10 a.m.

Five miniPATs were successfully implanted in a first round, and then 50 conventional tags were implanted with the same good result.

The tagging activities ended at around 4 p.m, when the bottom of the net was released.

On the 27th of July the school was released into the wild. Operation started at 12 p.m. The visual controls in the cage before the release confirmed that 5 miniPATs were still well implanted.

The release operations ended at about 2 p.m. All the specimens were released on the NW side of the cage where the school used to station the days before.