

Tagging update: Australia's first shortbill spearfish recapture



sailfish by their very short bill, short pectoral fin, long, slender body and the location of their anus (the location being well forward of the base of the anal fin).

To date there have been 326 shortbill spearfish tagged in the NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging Program, and on April 10th, 2009, the first recapture was recorded.

The fish was tagged off Port Stephens on February 23rd, 2009, by Newcastle & Port Stephens GFC boat *Sidewayz Suz*, during Ladies Day at the NSW Interclub competition.

The fish was at liberty for 45 days and was recaptured at a reported lower bill fork length of 168cm by a commercial longline boat fishing approximately 50 nautical miles east of Fraser Island. This is a straight-line distance of about 492 nautical miles.

The NSW DPI program is funded by the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust. If you would like to participate in the program, please email gamefish.tagging@dpi.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 9527 8411. More information and tagging tips are available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational ■

**– Phil Bolton
Manager, Recreational
Fisheries, NSW DPI**

SHORTBILL spearfish are in the same family as marlin and sailfish, Istiophoridae, and are the billfish most rarely encountered by Australian anglers. They tend to be found in warm, tropical water, and are most commonly reported in open-ocean waters, away from land masses.

Shortbill spearfish are identifiable from marlin and

COMPETITION

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HAVE you ever put your boat away for a period and then, when you finally do get the chance for a big trip out, found that the battery has gone flat? It's an infuriating problem! Luckily, there's now a solution and *BlueWater* would like to offer it free to one of our readers.

CTEK is a manufacturer of a specialty range of marine battery chargers that will keep all types of lead acid batteries in tip-top condition.

With their unique eight-step charging process, CTEK marine chargers analyse a battery's

condition, giving the battery a full charge when it needs it. Then they automatically switch to 'pulse' maintenance mode to ensure the battery remains full – all while never boiling (and damaging) the battery or producing dangerous flammable gases and sparks.

CTEK chargers are also able to solve one of the major problems facing boat owners today – galvanic corrosion.

The chargers do not produce any harmful galvanic currents that may cause corrosion to a boat's propellers and underwater fittings.



For the chance to win a CTEK M200 or M300 marine charger (worth \$439 or \$589), tell us how a flat battery has ruined your day on the water. The most interesting story will win! Email your short story to bw.qld@bluewatermag.com.au with a heading 'CTEK Battery Charger Competition'.

Entries close on September 30th, 2009.

To select your most suitable model or to learn more about how these chargers can save your sanity early one morning, call the Australian agents, Bainbridge Technologies, on (07) 3821 3333 or visit the CTEK website (www.ctek.com). ■