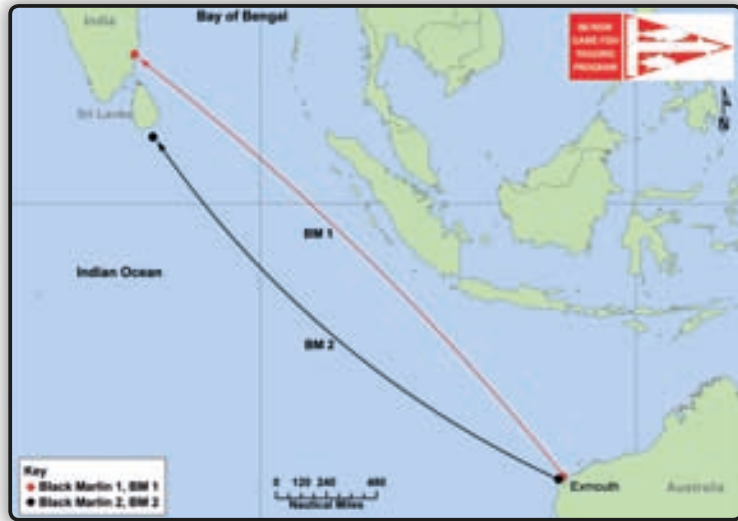




Second black marlin heads to India



RECENTLY, another exciting recapture of a black marlin was reported to the NSW Industry & Investment Game Fish Tagging Program (GFTP).

On the 20th of September, the GFTP received a voicemail from the Sri Lankan Fisheries Department advising us that one of our big fish had been caught. Unfortunately, we missed the call. After several failed attempts to recontact the caller, we finally got to speak with a woman who spoke only broken English, but she let us know of the recapture details. The report was that a koppera fish had been caught with one of our tags in it.

Koppera is the local Sri Lankan generic name for marlin. It was reported to have been caught on hook and line by a commercial fisherman 30 nautical miles southeast of Hambantota, Sri Lanka, on his boat *Dewmi* on September 8, 2010. The koppera measured 200cm and weighed 40kg.

This fish was originally tagged by Ben Miles on *Azura*, fishing off Exmouth on March 24, 2010 and was first caught on a lure using 60kg line. It was estimated to be 25kg in weight.

The black marlin had been at liberty for 168 days and had travelled a straight-line distance of 2529 nautical miles northwest from its release point.

Interestingly, this is the second black marlin caught in the vicinity of southern India after having been released off the Exmouth coast, and there are a number of other similarities between the recaptured fish. Both black marlin were originally tagged by boats participating in the Exmouth GFC Gamex tournament held every year in March. The first recapture was a similar-sized black marlin (estimated at 30kg) released in 2008 and later recaptured after a similar time at liberty (in August 2008) at a location approximately 350

nautical miles further north by a commercial fisher operating out of Pondicherry, South India.

We hope the new contacts that have been made with the local fisheries departments and fishermen will ensure that any further recaptured fish are reported back to the GFTP, and the inter-connectivity between the different continents can be explored further.

SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA GOES WEST

A southern bluefin tuna, released off Kangaroo Island in South Australia, has been recaptured by a Taiwanese commercial boat fishing the Indian Ocean more than 1300 nautical miles from the West Australian coastline.

The fish, originally released at an estimated weight of 20kg

by the GFC of South Australia vessel *Raptor*, was recaptured at a cleaned weight of 21kg by the longliner. It had travelled a minimum straight-line distance of 2305 nautical miles in its 508 days at liberty.

This latest recapture sits at number 10 for the longest distance travelled by a tagged southern bluefin tuna and puts the total number recaptured at 113.

The I&I GFTP is funded by the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust. It operates throughout Australia and across many Pacific islands. If you would like to participate in the program please contact: I&I NSW, PO Box 21, Cronulla, NSW 2230, Australia. Phone (02) 9527 8411 or email: gamefish.tagging@industry.nsw.gov.au

– **Phil Bolton, Fisheries Manager, Tagging**

Species	Tag Number	Rel. Date	Rel. Location	Est Rel. Length/Weight	Recap. Date	Recap. Location	Est. Recap. Weight	Days at Liberty	Approx. Distance Moved (NM)	Map Ref.
Black Marlin	B031440	12/03/2008	Exmouth (WA)	30 kg	08/08/2008	Pondicherry (South India)	213 cm / 45 kg	149	2853	BM 1
Black Marlin	B062568	24/03/2010	Exmouth (WA)	25 kg	08/09/2010	Sri Lanka (30 nm SE of Hambantota)	200 cm / 40 kg	168	2529	BM 2
Southern Bluefin Tuna	A513328	26/02/2009	Kangaroo Island (West Bay)	100 cm / 20 kg	19/07/2010	Indian Ocean (1324 nm W-SW of Perth)	100cm FL / 21kg (Cleaned)	508	2305	Southern Bluefin Tuna