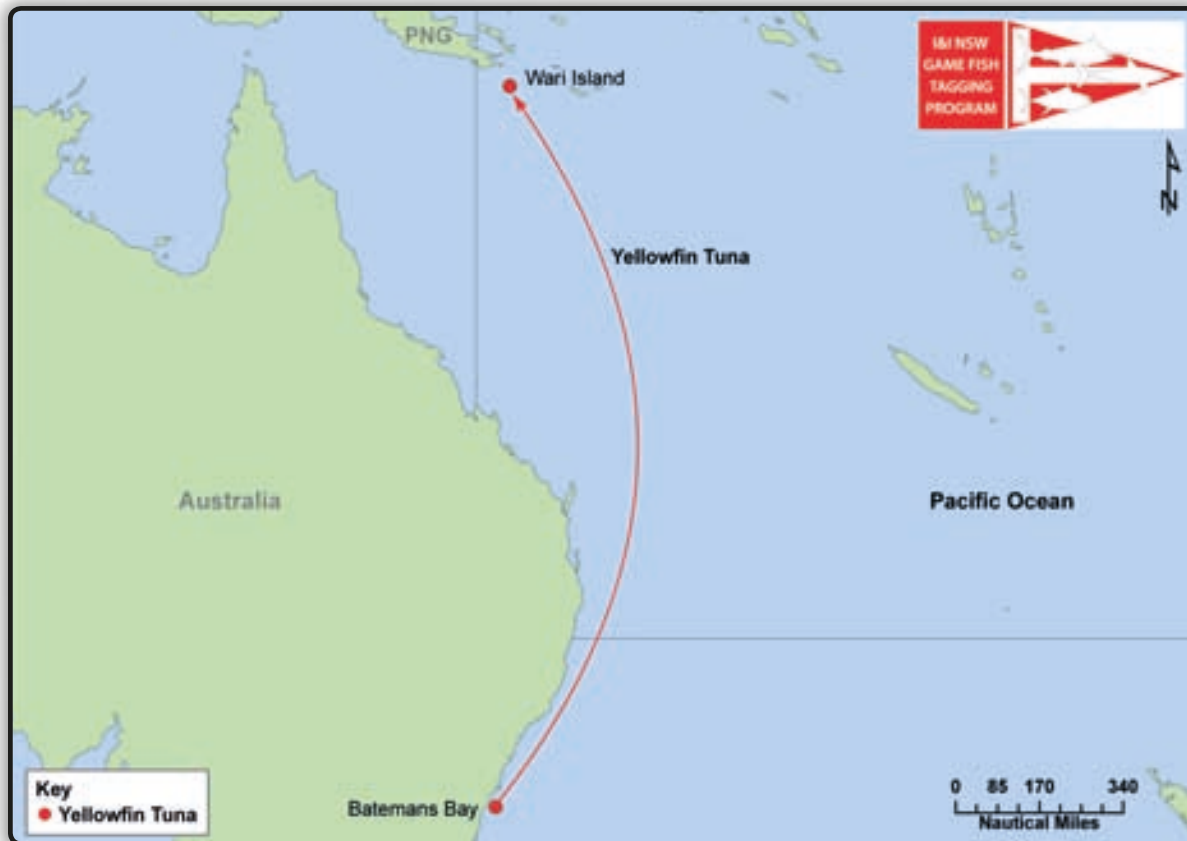




Two exciting recaptures for the I&I NSW Game Fish Tagging Program



ON October 24, 2009, while fishing in a tournament in Vava'u, Tonga, Michael Gordon-Jones of New Zealand tagged and released his first blue marlin on the local charter boat, *Hakuna Matata*. The fish was caught on a lure near a local FAD and was estimated to be 95kg.

Michael returned to Vava'u in 2010 to fish the same tournament onboard *Reel Addiction* with Captain Steve Campbell. On October 25, 2010, he tagged his second blue marlin fishing the South Bank area. On closer inspection, the fish was found to have another tag in place. The tag number

was reported back to the tagging program in Sydney and, upon investigation, it was found to be the same blue marlin tagged by Michael one year and one day before. Remarkable!

The fish was caught only 19 nautical miles southwest of where it was first tagged and was re-released with a new tag. This now brings the total number of blue marlin recaptured under the program to 21.

Another exciting recapture was that of a yellowfin tuna, first released off Durras, near Batemans Bay on the south coast of NSW, and recaptured off Wari Island, Papua New

Guinea (PNG). The tuna was estimated at 70cm long and was tagged by *Wicked One* on May 27, 2007. The fish was recaptured more than three years later on October 28, 2010, by a commercial boat operating out of Port Moresby, PNG. On recapture, the fish was reported to be 125cm long and to weigh 32kg. It had travelled a straight-line distance of 1462 nautical miles north from its release point. Out of the 623 reported recaptures of yellowfin tuna, this recent fish comes in as the 12th longest distance recapture.

The record straight-line distance for a yellowfin tuna

tagged by the program comes in at 3957 nautical miles for a fish tagged off Ulladulla, NSW, and recaptured off Caroline Island, part of the Republic of Kiribati.

The NSW Recreational Fishing Trust funds the tagging program. It operates throughout Australia and across many Pacific islands. If you would like to participate in the program please contact I&I NSW GFTP at 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, I&I NSW

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.
Blue Marlin	B055749	24/10/2009	Tonga (Middle FAD)	95kg	25/10/2010	Tonga (South Bank)	80kg	366	19	-
Yellowfin Tuna	A482072	27/05/2007	Durras (East) NSW	70cm/10kg	28/10/2010	Wari Island (PNG)	125cm/32kg	1250	1462	Yellowfin Tuna