



IGFA Great Marlin Race



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Alfred Glassel III, the son of late IGFA Trustee Alfred Glassell Jr., generously sponsored two satellite tags which were deployed on two sailfish on September 4, 2014 from IGFA Trustee Carlos Pellas' boat *Rum Runner*. The sailfish, both estimated to be 41 kg (90 lb), were described by *Rum Runner* Captain Joe Crawford as being “stronger than the average sails” and “in excellent health” when they were released with the two tags.

Chinandega, Nicaragua 2014 Deployment

Tag	Boat	Fish	Species	Tagged	Reported	Days at Large	Distance (nm)	Est. Wt. (lbs)	Est. Wt. (kg)	Angler	Tagger
13P0267	Rum Runner	1	Sailfish	9/4/2014	12/16/2014	103	398	90	41	Roberto Sandino	Alan Munez
13P0286	Rum Runner	2	Sailfish	9/4/2014	Did Not Report	NA	NA	90	41	Roberto Sandino	Alan Munez

On December 16, 2014, after 103 days of collecting data on the sailfish, the tag on the Fish 1 (Tag 13P0267) popped up to reveal that it traveled a linear distance of 398 nautical miles (nm) southeast of where it was deployed. However, you can see by the winding track that Fish 1 (Tag 13P0267) swam much farther- a distance we estimate to be 1,728 nm*! Fish 1 (Tag 13P0267) spent almost a month off the west coast of Nicaragua before traveling south where it spent over a month off the coast of Colombia, before it headed north where the tag popped off about 64 nm off the west coast of Costa Rica. Fish 1 (Tag 13P0267) spent the majority of its time swimming between the surface and depths of 75 meters where it experienced water temperatures between 26 – 30°C (79 - 86°F). Near the end of the deployment on 12/5/2014, the tag fell to the ocean bottom where it stayed for eleven days before it floated to the surface. Since tags are

*The total estimated distance is based on the length of a “best-guess” track calculated using light and sea surface temperature measurements from the tag and a complex mathematical algorithm. Since each location along the track potentially has significant error associated with it, the IGMR instead uses the reliable and more precise linear distance (the point of tag deployment determined by GPS to the point of tag pop-up determined by Argos satellites) to establish IGMR results and winners

programmed to release when they detect zero depth change in 24 hours, it is unclear why the tag stayed at the bottom for so long. One possibility is that the sailfish died and the tag was trapped under the fish. However, it is not possible to definitively determine the true cause from the available data.

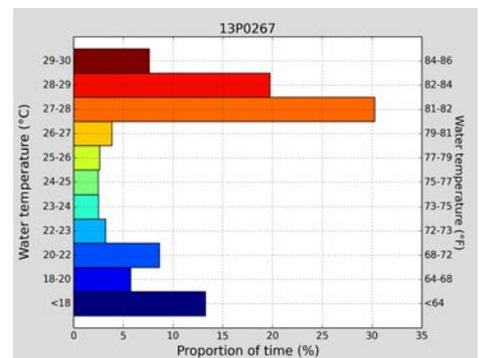
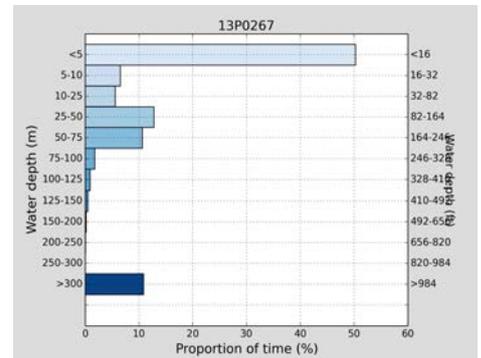
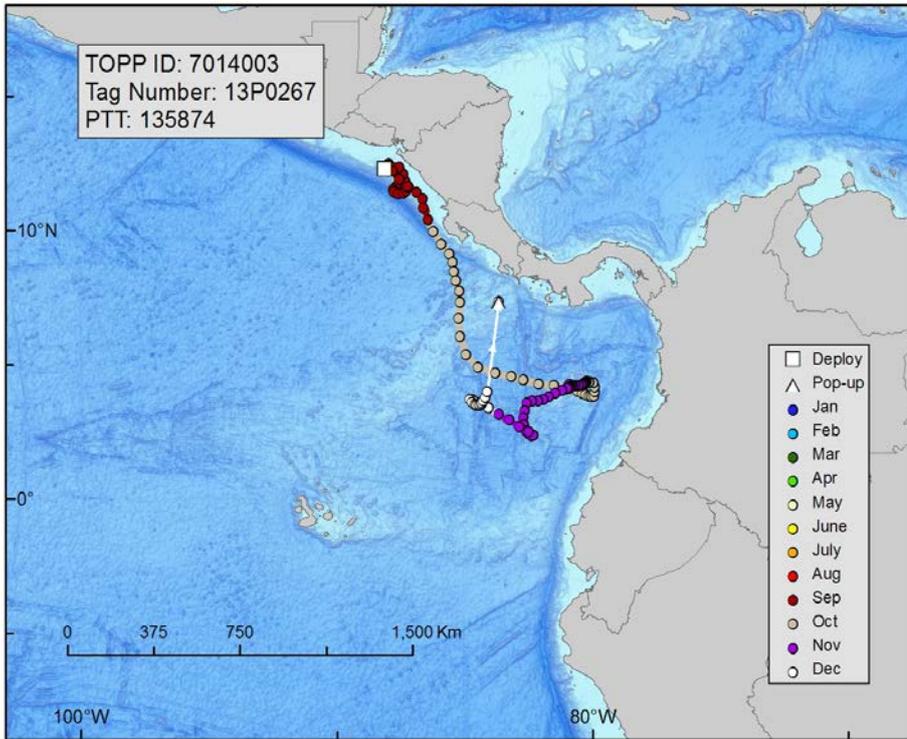
Unfortunately, the tag on Fish 2 (Tag 13P0286) did not report. Although the IGMR has a very high reporting rate of 83% and we hope to hear back from every tag we deploy, there is always a chance that a tag will not report. We can speculate a few reasons this might happen: Although each tag is painted with anti-fouling paint, biofouling can become an issue, especially during long deployments. Or, if the antenna becomes encrusted with organisms or is physically damaged, this could also impede the tag's ability to transmit data. It's also possible, although a very rare occurrence, for the tag to malfunction. Another possibility is the tag was crushed when it reached very deep depths. In very deep ocean basins like the Pacific, it is possible that the sailfish died and when it sank to the ocean floor, the tag may have been crushed before it was able to release from the carcass. Finally, it is also possible that the sailfish may have been caught by commercial longliners and the tag destroyed before it had the chance to transmit.

We are very excited to add data from another sailfish to the IGMR database. Our thanks and gratitude goes out to tag sponsor Alfred Glassel III, IGFA Trustee Carlos Pellas, angler Roberto Sandino, tagger Alan Nunez, *Rum Runner* Captain Joe Crawford and deckhand Climaco Bustos for participating in the 2014 Chinandega, Nicaragua IGMR and contributing to the growing number of billfish datasets collected through the IGMR. These datasets help us to learn about billfish behavior in an effort to increase their conservation and protect the future of the sport we love for future generations of fishing.

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Tag 13P0267

Fish 1



Tag number: 13P0267
 Sponsor: Alfred Glassel III
 Angler: Roberto Sandino
 Tagger: Alan Munez
 Boat: *Rum Runner*
 Species: Sailfish
 Estimated weight: 41 kg
 Deployed: 09/04/2014
 Reported: 12/16/2014
 Days at large: 103
 Distance traveled: 398 nm
 Maximum depth: 1504.0 m
 Minimum temp: 3.2°C
 Maximum temp: 30.8°C

