



Tracking Small Falcons Around the Globe

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protect the birds is challenging in countries en route. Illegal hunting or unsustainable harvest is still a very potential threat for both species.

However, the situation is not without hope, as demonstrated by the story of the Naga people, India and the local and regional conservation authorities. Understanding the importance of what happens in their backyard, they went from harvesting tens of thousands of birds in 2012 to completely halting trapping and hunting in 2013. They aided conservation and public awareness programs and when releasing Pangti, the tagged female falcon named after their village, they prayed to god for her safe return (photo 2).



Photo by Nick Williams

Photo 2. Researchers and locals pray for the return of the satellite tagged falcons.

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Electronic Tagging Yellowfin Tuna in the Gulf of Mexico...

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The fishery dependent nature of the IA recaptures is quite apparent from Figure 1, strengthening the argument for using these two different tag types in concert. While average DAL for IA deployments is 169.3 days (range 5-417 days) versus 90.1 DAL for PSATs (range 14-131 DAL), average displacement is greater for PSAT deployments (204.1 km versus 63.4km). Once completed, this electronic tagging dataset should greatly improve the body of knowledge on the yellowfin tuna resource in the GOM and its connectivity with the Atlantic-wide population, thereby improving managers’ abilities to assess stocks and manage the fishery.

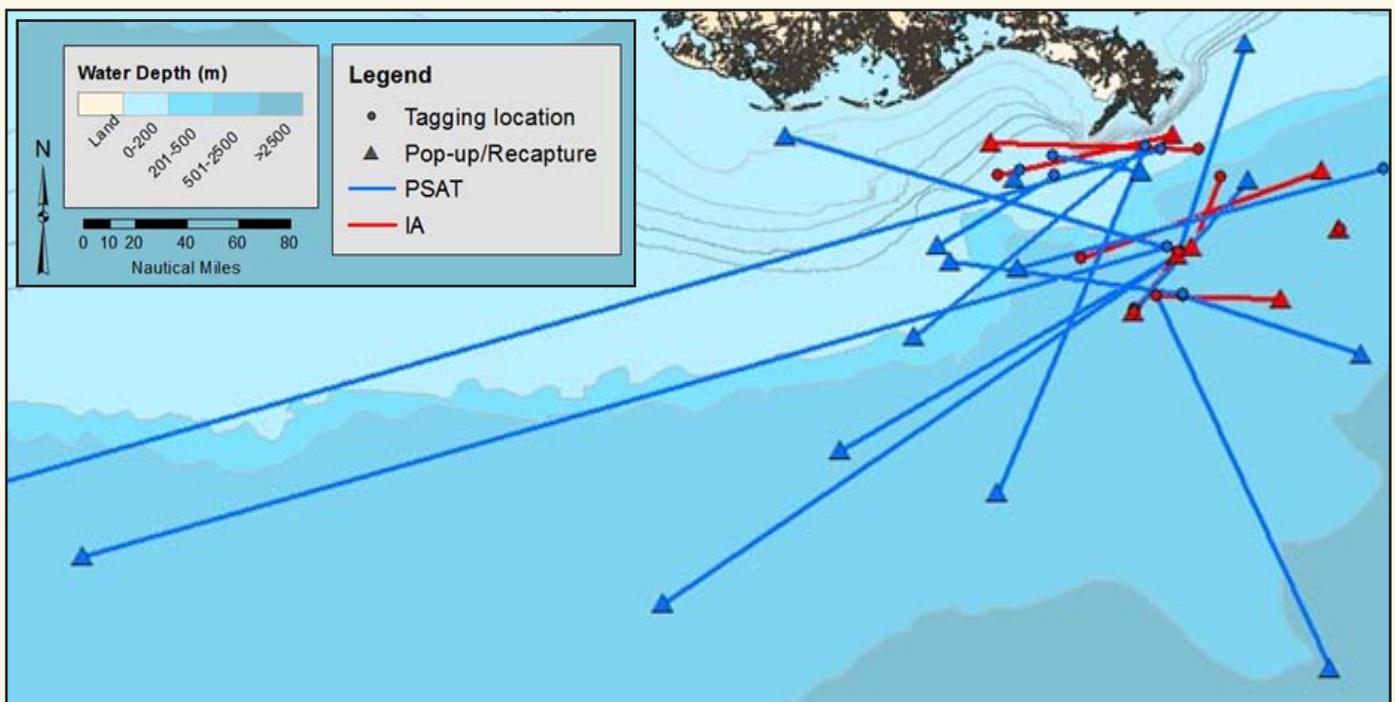


Figure 1. Displacement of yellowfin tuna fitted with MTI X-Tags (PSATs) and IA tags.