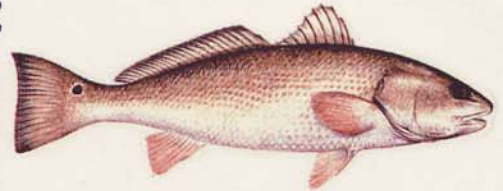


# Become A Partner In: Project Tampa Bay Redfish Conservation and Stock Enhancement



## Center for Fisheries Enhancement, Mote Marine Laboratory

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The Tampa Bay Project responds to the critical need to improve the conservation of redfish, and their habitats in Florida coastal waters through angler and community education. The project will serve as a state, national, and international model for developing a responsible approach for using marine stock enhancement as an effective fisheries management tool. **The goal of the Tampa Bay Project is to increase the number of redfish available for recreational angling by releasing hatchery-raised redfish.**

Components of Mote Marine Laboratory Program include:

- ♦ **Acoustic Telemetry** - *Scientists track redfish implanted with acoustic transmitters to locate hatchery-reared and wild fish, and to obtain information about survival, distribution, movement, habitat preference, and contribution to the fishery;*
- ♦ **Fin Clip Program** - *Scientists and anglers collect tissue samples (nickel-sized, tissue grows back) from the second dorsal fin of redfish to identify hatchery reared or wild redfish through mitochondrial DNA analysis; and*
- ♦ **Community Awareness** - *Educate and promote project awareness and conservation of redfish habitats and populations.*

Data acquired through this study will help managers determine the most cost-effective method of hatchery-reared fish, and identify the optimum habitats for stocking. Used as a model, it can then be implemented to provide quick recovery for depleted stocks and increase angling opportunities. This discipline can be used to actuate other fish restocking programs.

Mote Marine Laboratory, a non-profit research institution, has had a significant impact on the conservation of the Florida marine environment. Its mission is the pursuit of excellence in marine and environmental research and education. Support for this project comes from; saltwater fishing license funds, grants such as from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and assistance from local businesses and angler organizations. All in-kind gifts are used directly for redfish research which includes awards to local anglers participating in the Fin Clip Program.

A Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission  
and Mote Marine Laboratory Partnership