

SPORTFISHING NEWS

Schaefer says "anglers interested in participating in one of these remarkable [tagging] voyages" next year or in 2011 should contact the *Royal Star*.

Bass and Flounder Rank High

What game fish ranks as the most popular with anglers? Striped bass, according to www.anglersurvey.com. Results from a study earlier this year showed that 20 percent of anglers surveyed reported targeting stripers at least once during the study period. Flounder rated nearly the same, at 19 percent. Other popular game fish eliciting double-digit numbers were grouper, snapper, sea bass, redfish, spotted seatrout, weakfish and bluefish.

Late Bite for Big Bluefin

While the winter bluefin bite off North Carolina didn't live up to its usual productive pace for biologists

with the Tag-A-Giant Foundation (www.tagagiant.org), surprisingly, the fish seemed determined to make up for that at the end of March. After tagging only three big bluefin in all of January, the scientists had packed up their gear, says Andre Boustany, Ph.D., a biologist with the foundation. Then "rumors of abundant fish off Hatteras [in late March] were too much to resist," so the group quickly unpacked and headed out.

"The action that day [March 31] was red-hot with more than 20 knockdowns. We ended the day with 10 fish tagged, all in the 120- to 160-pound range." Ditto a couple of days later when they did it again.

Editors Receive National Recognition

Sport Fishing's executive editor, Dean Travis Clarke, has been appointed to the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. Consisting