

BONEFISH & TARPON UNLIMITED'S EMAIL EXPRESS

BTU held a public science presentation in Islamorada to a standing-room crowd of Middle and Upper Keys anglers and guides. Scientists Dr. Jerry Ault of the University of Miami, Dr. Jon Shenker of Florida Institute of Technology and Dr. Aaron Adams of Mote Marine Lab highlighted findings from the most recent efforts.

We have also embarked on a program of chapter formations in U.S. and Mexico coastal locations where there is a high interest in bonefish or tarpon. Chapters are already in operation in Tampa, Homosassa and North Key Largo, with chapters soon to be functioning in Miami, Melbourne, the Keys and Texas. If you are interested in being involved with these or other groups, get in touch with Executive Director Doug Kelly at dkelly@tarbone.org.

This will be an important year in BTU's ultimate objective of providing information and programs to enhance and sustain the quality of bonefish and tarpon fisheries. As always, your support is very much appreciated.

Tom Davidson, Chairman

TARPON FOR SCIENCE TOURNAMENT - Gary Giles of Palm Bay won the 1st Annual Indian River Lagoon Tarpon "Fishing For Science" Tournament, supported by BTU and benefiting Dr. Jon Shenker's efforts at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. Gary released 136 tarpon from June to October - 71 on fly - along with obtaining fin clippings for DNA studies. Even more amazing: All his catches were made without the use of a boat! Gary mostly cast an all-black finger mullet fly on 6- and 9-weight fly gear in nearby marinas and Turkey Creek.

MORE MIGRATORY EVIDENCE - Dr. Jerry Ault's tagging results with tarpon using Pop-up Archival Transmitting (satellite) tags suggests that, indeed, tarpon are moving between the Gulf shorelines of Central America and the U.S.

In addition to more PAT tagging, we hope to learn what determining what (spawning, temperature, barometric pressure, feeding) are causing the they move in differing directions

Best wished for 2005.

Bonefish & Tarpon Unlimited

24 Dockside Lane, PMB 83

Key Largo, FL 33037

www.tarbone.org

813-546-8241

