

## Acoustic Tracking of Tripletail in the Gulf of Mexico

Steve VanderKooy

Fisheries Biologist and Program Manager  
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

### **Abstract**

Since 2018, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) has been collaborating with USM/GCRL and the MDMR to expand the existing acoustic receivers in Mississippi Sound and increase the number of species and individual fish tagged for migration research. The GSMFC became interested in several aspects of Tripletail biology and utilized some extra funds to begin tagging fish and tracking their movements. A total of 51 Tripletail were tagged with electronic, acoustic tags in 2019 between Mississippi and South Florida as the pandemic started and an additional 27 fish have been tagged in Florida Bay since the beginning of this year with 50 more planned this coming summer in Mississippi waters.

### **Bio**

Steve VanderKooy has been the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program Coordinator with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for nearly 26 years. His primary focus is development of regional management for commercial and recreational fisheries that overlap state and federal boundaries in the Gulf of Mexico. He also coordinates regional activities including the standardization of biological sampling protocols, standard age-and-growth methodologies, the development of socioeconomic descriptions of the fishing community, and the assessment of fish stocks. Recent work has included the movement and migration in a variety of species including Tripletail, Flounder, and other important recreational and commercial fish species. VanderKooy was the FAM Coordinator at Gulf Coast Research Lab from 1994-1997 and has continued working with GCRL faculty and staff ever since.

