

# Mote Releases Snook at Riverview High School

December 14, 2016



On December 14, 2016, Mote Marine Laboratory released tagged snook at Riverview High School's dock. They had three stops for releases and scheduled one at Riverview High school. Each fish was previously tagged with a "PIT" tag (Passive Integrated Transponder) similar to the ones used for identification of our pets. This requires minor surgery and the fish are given at least three weeks to recover and make sure they are healthy for release.



Each fish is scanned and the number is read and catalogued then placed in a blue bucket which is transported to the dock. In all, we released about 120 fish! Snook will be tracked over the next few years and their locations will be logged whenever it passes a "PIT" research station in Phillippi Creek. Mote has already installed 8 of these monitoring stations and plans to install one of these at our dock!



Mote Marine Laboratory is conducting a study of fish in Phillippi Creek to learn where they congregate during different life stages. They are studying how juvenile snook use various shoreline types such as seawalls with and without vegetation, natural shorelines and mixtures of the three.



Phillippi Creek is the largest coastal watershed in Sarasota County. Snook have been found to live in creeks, especially during the winter. They will travel up into freshwater and have been found all the way up into the Celery Fields Regional Stormwater Facility. Snook is an important gamefish found in SW Florida and generates well over a million dollars of recreational fishing revenue in the state yearly.