

Reports

3-1-1991

Tag and Release Programs Available to Fishermen

Jon Lucy
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wm.edu/reports>



Part of the [Aquaculture and Fisheries Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lucy, J. (1991) Tag and Release Programs Available to Fishermen. Marine Resource Advisory No. 40. Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary. <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.21220/m2-h09k-6z43>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by W&M ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Reports by an authorized administrator of W&M ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@wm.edu.



Tag and Release Programs Available to Fishermen

Recreational fishermen are becoming more accustomed to releasing a portion of the day's catch. This situation is in part attributable to a growing conservation ethic developing across the fishing community. It is also the result of an increase in government fishery management actions aimed at maintaining healthy fish stocks. Such management programs often include size and daily catch limits which require that fishermen release some of their catch.

In addition to complying with fishery management regulations and exercising sound conservation practices during their fishing activities, fishermen can go another step and tag released fish. By carefully tagging fish, they can assist fishery scientists in gaining a greater understanding of a species' life history and stock dynamics, e.g. migratory patterns, growth rates, stock age structure, etc.

Fishermen interested in becoming more involved in tagging can contact the following program coordinators. In certain instances, awards are provided for tagging minimum numbers of fish as well as for returning tags from recaptured fish. Tagging instructions should be followed completely, including the prompt return of the tag data cards. Be certain that you are willing to follow through on the tagging data requirements before requesting tags.

Billfish, Tunas,
Amberjack, Cobia:

COOPERATIVE GAME FISH TAGGING PROGRAM
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149
(305) 361-5761
Mr. Ed Scott, Coordinator

Billfish, Tunas,
Amberjack, Cobia:

AFTCO TAG/FLAG TOURNAMENT
and
AFTCO TAG A TUNA FOR TOMORROW

AFTCO Manufacturing Company, Inc.
17351 Murphy Avenue
Irvine, CA 92714
(714) 660-8757
Mr. Ben Secrest, Coordinator

Sharks:

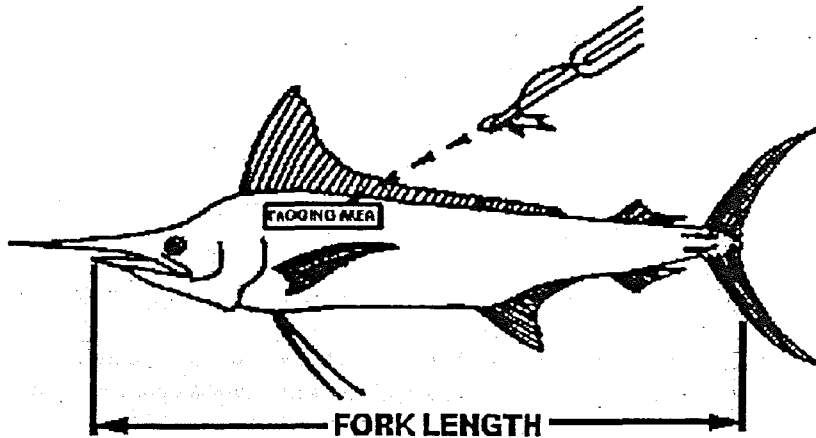
COOPERATIVE SHARK TAGGING PROGRAM

National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Center
South Ferry Road
Narragansett, RI 02882-1191 Mr. Jack Casey, Coordinator

Inshore-Offshore
Species—
striped bass,
summer flounder,
bluefish,
black sea bass,
tautog, etc.

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

Sandy Hook
Highlands, NJ 07732
(201) 291-0055
Ms. Pam Carlsen, Coordinator



NOTE: Programs generally prefer that tags be requested by (and therefore assigned to) an individual. Requests for large blocks of tags for clubs may be discouraged since any follow-up information needed on a particular tagged fish is best obtained from the individual who actually did the tagging.

SPECIAL NOTE: Proper fish handling procedures are important in reducing stress on fish to be released or tagged and released. Improperly handled fish can be traumatized and ultimately may die. A NMFS Catch and Release Quick Reference Card outlining proper handling techniques is available from: VIMS Sea Grant Marine Advisory Services office (804/642-7166) or National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9450 Koger Boulevard, St. Petersburg, FL 33702 (813/893-3141).

Virginia Sea Grant Advisory No. 40, March 1991
Prepared by Jon Lucy, Marine Recreation Specialist
Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
College of William and Mary
Gloucester Point, VA 23062.