



National
Oceanic and
Atmospheric
Administration

EVOLUTION OF THE ANGLER-BASED
TAGGING PROGRAM OF THE
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES
SERVICE
OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AND
RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/irf/angler.html>

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SOME IDENTIFIED ISSUES WITH ANGLER-BASED FISH TAGGING PROGRAMS

- “LOOK-ALIKE” TAGS
- SERIAL NUMBERS OVERLAPPING WITH OTHER TAGGING PROGRAMS
- USES OF DATA/OBJECTIVES OF PROGRAMS
- NEED FOR TRAINING OF TAGGERS
- ADDITIONAL TAGGING MORTALITY OF RELEASED FISH
- LACK OF LONG-TERM COMMITMENT/EXISTANCE OF TAGGING PROGRAMS
- CONFUSION BETWEEN VOLUNTEER TAGGING PROGRAMS AND AGENCY PROGRAMS BY ANGLERS REPORTING RECAPTURES SOMETIMES CAUSES PROBLEMS FOR AGENCIES
- COMPRISED INTEGRITY OF ESTABLISHED TAGGING PROGRAMS SUCH AS COASTWIDE STRIPED BASS PROGRAM

BRIEF HISTORY OF TAG WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT

1980'S - Tag “confusion” intensifies with new interstate management programs.

Late 1980's - Discussion of possible centralized tagging coordination for Atlantic coast, but no funding and little support.

1984 - Conservation Management Institute (CMI) formed.

1990's - Internet becomes available for public use.

1996 - BOAT/US Tags developed in cooperation with NMFS overlap Coastwide Striped Bass Tagging Program tags.

January 1998 - National tag “workshop” convened in Annapolis by NMFS/IRF. The need for a tag registry is acknowledged; CMI demonstrates possible format.

OBJECTIVE

To proactively address some of the issues with angler-based fish tagging programs and create a stronger relationship between angler-tagging programs and government management efforts

PARTICIPANTS

January 1998 Tagging Workshop

Annapolis, MD

American Littoral Society
BOAT/US Clean Water Trust
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Great Lakes Fishery Commission/American
Fisheries Society
National Marine Fisheries Service
Cooperative Angler Tagging Program
Office of Intergovernmental & Recreational
Fisheries
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region V; Division of Federal Aid; Mgmt
Assistance
Sea Grant Marine Advisory Services-VIMS
National Center for Supercomputing
Applications/University of Illinois
Fish and Wildlife Information Exchange

IDENTIFIED NEEDS:

GET A HANDLE ON EXISTING PROGRAMS

EDUCATE/TRAIN VOLUNTEER ANGLER-TAGGERS

DEVISE A SYSTEM OF REGISTERING TAGS AND PROVIDING OUTREACH MATERIALS

DISCOURAGE START-UP OF NEW PROGRAMS WITHOUT IDENTIFIED OBJECTIVES, THOROUGH PLANNING, LONG-TERM COMMITMENT, PROPER TRAINING, AND GUIDANCE OF MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

INCREASE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TAGGING PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES BEFORE AND DURING TAGGING PROGRAMS

BRIEF HISTORY OF TAG WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT (continued)

1998 - NMFS/IRF funds development of tag registry.

August 1998 - NMFS/IRF-sponsored symposium on Angler-Based Tagging Programs held at AFS. Version I of Tag Registry demonstrated.

August 1998 - ASMFC Tagging Protocols workshop.

1999 - Tag Registry refined using ASMFC-generated data.

April 2000 - Special Supplement to AFS “Fisheries” focuses on angler-based tagging.

2000 - Tag registry database updated with new ASMFC data and query structure modified.

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