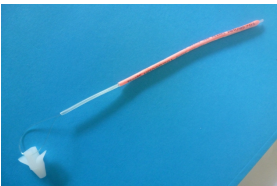




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POWERED BY **TRAKQR**

Cooperative Tagging Program

Volunteer Anglers Needed

Are you a recreational angler in the Atlantic that targets blue-water species and occasionally releases billfish or tuna? If so, we need your help. Our cooperative tagging program depends heavily on volunteers—charter captains, anglers, and commercial fishermen who are frequently out on the water. Volunteers not only tag and release billfish (sailfish and marlin), tuna, and swordfish but also report when they have recaptured one. By recording interactions with tagged fish, scientists are learning more about when and where the fish migrate and the range of their habitat. They also learn seasonal patterns, shifts in behavioral changes, and other aspects of their ecology, as well as post release survival. All of this information leads to a more sustainably managed fishery.



When Tagging a Fish

Check every fish you catch for a tag—they can easily be missed.

Recaptured Fish with a Tag:

1. Carefully record the tag number that is printed on the tag. If possible, take a picture with the tag number visible, and note any contact information.
2. If the printing on the tag is illegible or if the situation does not allow for easy viewing, remove and retain the tag. Re-tag the fish with a new tag, making a note of the old tag number on the new tag card.
3. Record the length and weight of the fish.
4. Record the date and the catch location as precisely as possible.
5. Tag the fish and ensure the tag is secure. If the fish is not lively, revive it as long as possible by pulling it alongside the boat to pass water over its gills before release.
6. Contact our team to send the old tag in for confirmation of tag number and species.

Untagged Fish:

1. Have a tag ready to attach to the fish you plan to release. Learn more about the procedure of handling a fish through the website.
2. Verify that the tag number matches the number printed on the Tag Card associated with the tag.
3. Record the length and weight of the fish.
4. Record the date and the catch location as precisely as possible.
5. Tag the fish and ensure the tag is secure. If the fish is not lively, revive it as long as possible by pulling it alongside the boat to pass water over its gills before release.

Free
Tagging Kit
(800) 437-3936
tagging@noaa.gov