



Tag and Release Committee

Robert Murray, Chairman



It's Time To Tag & Release

RISAA's Tag & Release Committee is entering its fourth year of operation in providing tagging kits and instructions for members to participate in tagging some of the fish they catch at no cost.

The RISAA Foundation has provided the funding to purchase a number of tagging needles along with numbered tags and associated data collection postcards from the American Littoral Society.

The Committee began work in April 2015 with the establishment of program guidelines and the development of the tagging instructional brochure that is included with each kit distributed.

BASICS OF RISAA PROGRAM

- Participants must be an adult members in good standing
- Five (5) tags, five (5) tag cards, and one (1) tagging needle (first set of tags only) is provided at no charge
- Completed tagging cards must be returned to RISAA
- Additional 5-tag kits will be available at no charge once all five completed tag cards are returned to RISAA
- If the member loses the tags and/or cards, no additional tags or cards will be provided
- Replacement needles are available at a cost of \$7.50 each

TAG RETURNS SLOW COMING BACK

At this point in time the T&R Committee has distributed a total of 655 tags to seventy-nine (79) different members for their use. The bad news thus far is that only 22 members have used at least one tag and returned the completed data card. That means that 57 of you have requested and received free tagging kits and have not tagged any fish at all. That is a participation rate of only 28%.

COME ON GUYS AND GALS..... YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT.



Yellow tag placed behind the second dorsal fin on stripers

In the past year, The Tag & Release Committee has received 135 completed fish tagging cards from the 22 members who participated.

Since inception in 2015, this brings our tagging program total to 285 completed data cards thus far. That means that there are still 370 tags that are waiting to be used.

THE TOP RISAA TAGGERS

Some interesting statistics are that our best taggers:

Mark Pacheco has tagged 50 stripers;

Norm Morrisette has tagged 41 tautog and 1 black seabass, and returned the completed tagging data cards;

Diane Valerien has tagged 31 fish;

Bob Murray 22 fish;

Steve Dabkowski 20 fish;

Rich Hittinger 14 fish.

Al Gadoury, Roman Dudas, Jeff Tkacs and George Searle have each tagged 10 fish.

A major highlight in the past year was the return of a tag in a striped bass tagged by RISAA member **Ed Kearney** some 14 year ago. This now stands as the longest tagged striped bass at liberty ever.

WHAT KIND OF FISH CAN YOU TAG?

The various species tagged and released by RISAA members so far are:

105	Tautog
89	Striped bass
60	Summer flounder
24	Black sea bass
2	Cod
1	Dogfish
1	Norther Kingfish
1	Scup
1	Skate

For those of you who have received tagging kits, we need your help - and more importantly - the FISH NEED YOUR HELP, so let's get to work while having fun and helping increase our knowledge of the various species through the information that tagging can provide.

If you haven't obtained your own tagging kit, or have any questions, stop by our table at the monthly meetings and speak with us and pick up our instructional brochure.

You can also send me an email at murray@risaa.org.