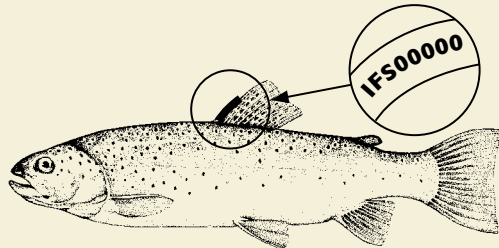
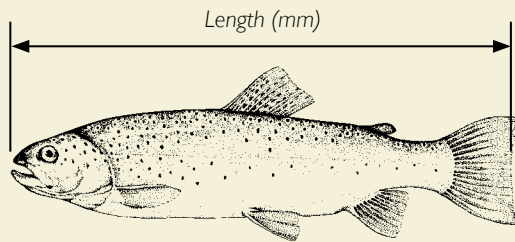


What to do if you catch a tagged fish?

You are welcome to keep any tagged fish but it would greatly assist the Service in managing the fishery if you record and provide the following information:

- Name and contact details of the angler who caught the fish.
- Date and location of the capture.
- Measurement of the length of the fish from snout to fork of tail (see diagram) and weight.
- Tag number and colour.
- Whether the fish was kept or released.
- Any other relevant comments (eg. skin damage).

Contact the Inland Fisheries Service by phone (6261 8050 or 1300 463747) or email infish@ifs.tas.gov.au and provide the above details.



This brochure was produced by the Inland Fisheries Service with funding from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry organised by the North West Fly Fishers Club of Tasmania Inc.



CONTACT DETAILS

17 Back River Road,
New Norfolk, 7140
Ph: 1300 INFISH
www.ifs.tas.gov.au

Tagging Freshwater Fish



Inland
Fisheries
Service



Why tag fish?

Tagged fish are released periodically by the Inland Fisheries Service for management of the recreational trout fishery. Tagging is primarily used as a research tool for projects undertaken by the Service to manage inland fisheries. It is a useful way to estimate the number of fish in a lake or river, or to investigate fish growth rates, the distances that fish move, and to assess the life span of fish.

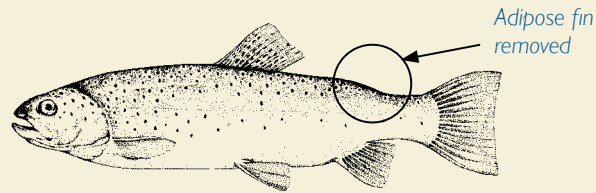
Recently, the Service tagged adult brown trout to investigate the benefits of stocking rivers with adult fish in north west Tasmania. Results from this study provided valuable information regarding the catchability, growth and movement of stocked trout in this type of system over time. In addition, the Service also uses tags to identify trout associated with prizes used in angling competitions or promotions.



Tags used by the IFS

'T-bar' tags and adipose fin clipping are the most common methods of tagging and identification used by the Service. Acoustic transmitters and radio tags are also used to track movements of fish (eg. the movement of sea-run brown trout throughout the Derwent River, and carp in Lakes Crescent and Sorell).

Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags are often used by industry to identify individual fish in hatcheries, and can be found in some fish stocked by the Service (eg. Atlantic salmon). Tags generally vary in colour to distinguish different projects and are uniquely numbered to identify individual fish.



T-bar tag inserted in brown trout.



PIT tags used for identifying fish in hatcheries.



Acoustic tag used for tracking fish movement (photo courtesy of TAFI).



Radio transmitter used for tracking carp movements.

Future use of tags at IFS

Modern innovations in fish marking technology are currently being considered by the Service for marking smaller fish. This will allow a more accurate assessment of survival rates of stocked trout and assist in gaining a better understanding of native fish biology. These techniques include inserting Visual Implant Elastomer (VIE) and Alpha numeric (VIA) tags, and exposing fish to chemical dyes which are fluorescent under ultra-violet light.



Brown trout injected with red elastomer tag (photo courtesy of Northwest Marine Technology).



Inserting a T-bar tag is a quick and simple tagging method that causes minimal harm to the fish.