

From: [Carlo Fragola](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: [External] Tautog tagging program
Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023 3:35:08 PM

I have had several problems with the tags from applying them to the tag causing a infection on the gill of the fish

From: [Garret Thorsen](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: [External] Tautog tagging program
Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023 9:00:13 PM

To the Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commitee:

My name is Garret Thorsen and I am a commercial fisherman in New York.

* I would like my comments to be distributed to the
Tautog Management Board.*

These are my observations and comments regarding the Tautog Tagging Program.

The large metal tags we have been supplied by you (at our own cost) are very difficult to apply to the gill plate of the fish. The tags themselves CLEARLY hurt the fish. While the fish are in the tank they rub their sides in an attempt to get the tag off and many fish end up rubbing themselves raw and that leaves a big gaping wound. These tags seem cruel and they cause the fish to suffer. You need to supply us with tags that are actually meant for tagging FISH and not meant for tagging pigs.

As a long time commercial fisherman I would like the board to come up with another solution to this problem. The current tags are terrible.

Sincerely,
Garret Thorsen

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Robert MiGdaski](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [John Maniscalco](#)
Subject: [External] Tautog Tagging
Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023 4:51:03 PM

October 12, 2023

To whom it may concern;

The Long Island Sound Lobstermen's Association would like to comment in regards to the current Tautog tagging program and future changes to the program. The Association has a history with many members that harvest Tautog through lobster gear and directly target Tautog with fish pot gear.

The current program has multiple issues that need to be addressed before it is allowed to continue. The overall size of the tag is inappropriately large. The size cause many problems with live storage of fish. Many fish have to be tagged several times as the tag rips out while trying to tag a live fish. After fish is successfully tagged many members store their fish in live holding cars manufactured out of traditional lobster trap wire. The tags get stuck in trap wire and rip out of the gill plate, this causes damage to fish, a reduced sale price for the fisherman and potential law enforcement issues, due to untagged fish. The tags due to size, material and or coating cause many infections and result in unhealthy tanked fish, dead fish and unsalable fish. All at extra cost and burden to the commercial fisherman.

The cost per tag is also a concern. New York provided tags for 2 years after that the fisherman had to pay for their tags, some members had paid in excess of \$1000 for their allotment of tags. The cost is far too much. Other states were not required to pay.

The Long Island Sound Lobsterman's Association urges the ASMFC to end or delay the Tautog tagging program until an appropriate tag can be found. The current tag is clearly not the correct one at any level.

Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully, John German

President
Long Island Lobstermen's Association