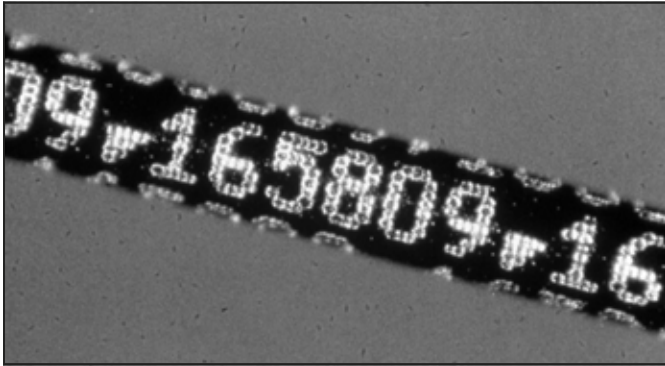


1.1 Billion Tagged Fish



This 55 pound 5 year old Chinook salmon was coded wire tagged as a smolt before release.

Many species of aquatic organisms all around the world have been successfully tagged with Northwest Marine Technology's Coded Wire Tags. Coded Wire Tags are tiny pieces of stainless steel wire 1.1 mm in length x 0.25 mm diameter with a numeric code printed on them (enlarged, top left). Because they are so tiny, Coded Wire Tags can be implanted into very small animals with little effect on the host. Coded Wire Tags are unique in their nearly universal high retention rates, even through molts and metamorphosis. Retention for the life of the animal is the norm. Hundreds of publications describing the uses of Coded Wire Tags are available on our website.

In the Pacific Northwest of the United States and Canada, researchers and managers have been tagging wild and hatchery coho and Chinook salmon with Coded Wire Tags since 1968. This program is remarkable in the cooperation between government entities, its longevity, and the amount of data collected and shared.

The fish are tagged as juveniles (photo, center) and the tags are recovered from the returning adults in commercial and sport fisheries (photo, bottom) on spawning grounds, and in hatcheries. So far, more than 1.1 *billion* juveniles have been released with Coded Wire Tags, representing the biggest tagging program in history. Over 5 million tags have been recovered at thousands of sites across six American states and one Canadian province. Tags are recovered on virtually every day of the year.

Researchers and fish managers have learned much about salmonid survival, fishery contributions, hatchery practices, and a myriad of other subjects from this program. Please contact us if we can help with your tagging needs.

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