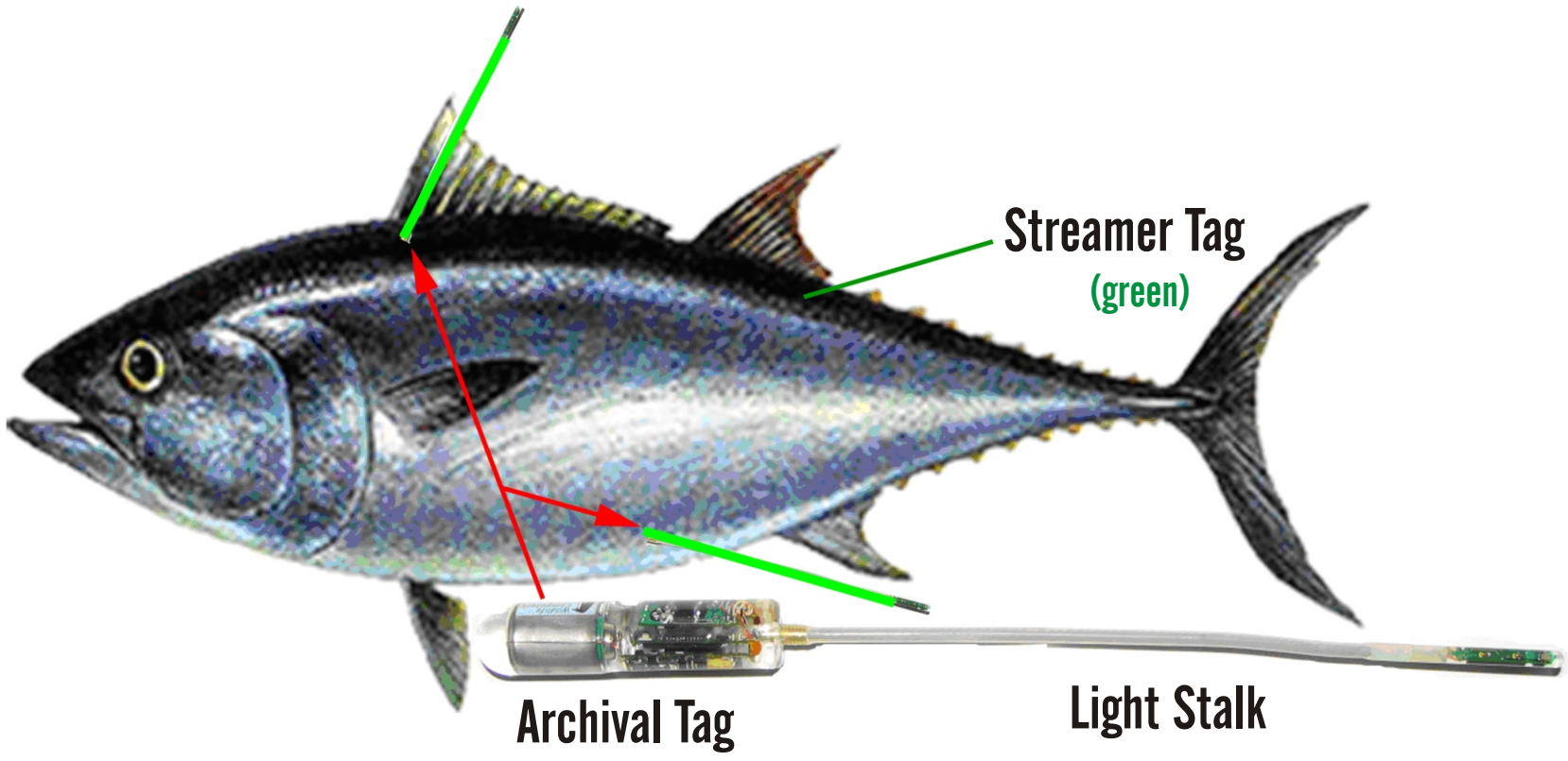
$500 REWARD

Offered for implanted archival tags from Atlantic bluefin tuna



Archival tags will be implanted in juvenile bluefin tuna beginning June 2005

Juvenile Bluefin CO-OP Tagging Project: Starting in June, 2005, archival tags will be implanted in juvenile bluefin tuna by a team of scientists from the University of New Hampshire, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, working with recreational and commercial fishermen. The research will help determine the migration patterns of northwest Atlantic bluefin tuna in support of trans-Atlantic research prioritized by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

Description of tag

Implanted archival tags are small data loggers that are placed inside the fish, either in the dorsal side (back muscle) or ventral side (belly cavity). Each logger has a long, thin light stalk projecting out of the fish. Tag sensors record depth, temperatures (of fish muscle and water), and light. The only way to recover the data from these tags is with your cooperation.

If you capture a bluefin showing the light stalk and/or green streamer tag follow the instructions below.

How do I get my reward?

- We would like to get back the whole fish (if possible), but fish must be intact.
- Tagged fish could be undersize, BUT even so, keeping the tagged fish (with its archival tag in place) will NOT count against your daily catch limit; NOAA Fisheries enforcement personnel have been so informed.
- If keeping the whole fish is not an option, PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE LIGHT STALK OFF, but carefully remove the entire implanted archival tag with its light stalk (DO NOT CUT or PULL on the STALK).
- Stow the data logger tag and any ID streamer tag in a safe place.
- Please note the date, catch location, sea surface temperature, and length and weight of the fish. All information is important.
  Please call us immediately.

Please Call the Closest Regional Contact:

New England:
Large Pelagics Lab, University of New Hampshire
1-603 862-2891 or 1-603-862-2897 (Molly Lutcavage)
Email tuna.lab@unh.edu

New York-RI region:
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
1-508-693-4372 (Greg Skomal)
Email gregory.skomal@state.ma.us

Mid-Altantic region:
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
1-804-684-7166 (Jon Lucy or Rich Brill)
Email lucy@vims.edu or rbrill@vims.edu

ICCAT
Phone +34 91 416 5600 (Spain)

(only these individuals can provide official documentation for your catch and reward verification)

Please Help. Your timely response is vital to this research. Thank you for being a part of the Juvenile Bluefin CO-OP Tagging Project.

University of New Hampshire
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Sea Grant Virginia
William & Mary VIMS
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
School of Marine Science