

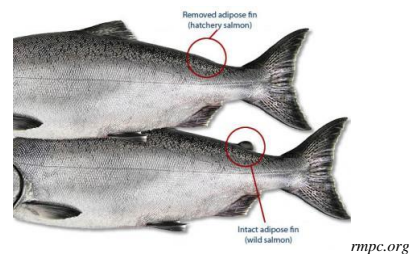
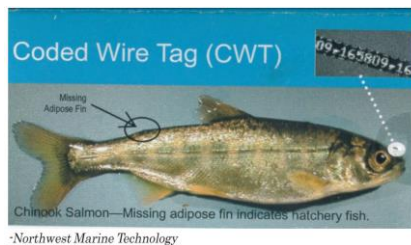


Dear Charter Boat Captain:

April 4, 2025

The Department, along with the other agencies on Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, began a widespread coded wire tagging program for stocked fish in 2010. The program began with clipping adipose fins and placing a coded wire tag in stocked lake trout and Chinook salmon. Chinook salmon tagging efforts ended in 2017 but adipose fin clipping efforts have continued (except for 2020). In 2018, the program transitioned to fin clipping and tagging steelhead. The last steelhead bearing a coded wire tag will be stocked in 2025. Beginning in 2025, the program will be transitioning to fin-clipping and tagging Chinook salmon and Coho salmon.

By fin clipping hatchery-produced fish and comparing reports of fin-clipped fish to non-clipped fish, biologists can determine the contribution of wild salmonids in the population. Since the hatchery fish contain a coded wire tag in their snouts, we can also collect other information from these fish including movement, stocking survival rates, and contribution of a particular stocking event or location to the overall harvest.



We are asking that you work with the DNR to help us collect wire tagged snouts from fin-clipped fish and data from all salmonids.

How can you help?

- 🦄 Report fin-clipped fish on your sport trolling survey in Survey123. You can add additional information about the harvested fish, such as specific location, weight, length, or anything else in the comments section of your survey.
- 🦄 USFWS and DNR staff may be at some tournaments and boat ramps in 2025 to collect information from harvested salmonids. If you are contacted by one of these crews or you encounter them at fishing tournament, please work with them to provide the necessary biological information; length and weight of the fish plus collect the snout or aging structure.
- 🦄 You can also contribute to these efforts by removing and freezing the head of adipose fin-clipped **lake trout** and **steelhead** (most clipped Chinooks are not currently tagged). Frozen heads can be dropped off at a WDNR office or cooperating business. If the coded wire tag recovery form is completed and included with the head, you will receive correspondence with any information that we have on that individual fish (stocking port, age class, etc.).

I realize that this may slow down your processing of fish for your clients but information like this will shape the future of not only the number of salmonids stocked in Wisconsin water but also stocking locations. The more information we can collect, the better we can manage your fisheries.

Thank you for partnering with us on this very important project. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (920) 493-7593 or miranda.westphal@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,
Miranda Westphal
Great Lakes Specialist

More information

Fish with a Missing Fin?

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/questions/missingfin>

Chinook Salmon Research:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/lakemichigan/ChinookSalmon.html>

Chinook Mass Marking Program Information:

https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Fishing/LM_GreatLakesMassMarking2022ChinookSalmon.pdf

Chinook Wild Production:

https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Fishing/LM_GreatLakesMassMarking2022ChinookSalmonWildProduction.pdf

Lake Trout Mass Marking Program Information:

https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Fishing/LM_GreatLakesMassMarking2022LakeTrout.pdf

2022/23 Lake Michigan Salmon and Trout Meeting:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/lakemichigan/LakeMichiganSalmonandTroutMeetings.html>

Please drop off frozen heads of fin-clipped fish to one of the following locations:

DNR OFFICES

DNR Service Center
2984 Shawano Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54313
Call ahead
(920) 662-5480

DNR Satellite Center
101 N Ogden Road
Peshtigo, WI 54157
Call ahead
(715) 582-5052

DNR Satellite Center
110 S Neenah Avenue
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235-2718
Call ahead
(920) 559-0767

DNR
UW-Milwaukee School of
Freshwater Sciences
600 East Greenfield Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Call ahead
(414) 550-1831

COOPERATING BUSINESSES

A&K Feed, Seed & Bait
1616 Shore Drive
Marinette, WI
(715) 732-6100

Peshtigo Shell Gas Station
815 French Street
Peshtigo, WI
(715) 582-3681

Town Marina
8132 Hwy. 57
Baileys Harbor
920-839-9778

Howie's Tackle
1309 Green Bay Road
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
(920) 746-9916

Accurate Marine and Storage
203 Dodge Street
Kewaunee, WI
920-388-2326

Seagull Sports Marina
1400 Lake Street
Two Rivers, WI 54241
(920) 794-7533

The Wharf
733 Riverfront Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081
(920) 458-4406

Port Washington Marina
106 N. Lake Street
Port Washington
(262) 284-6606

McKinley Marina Fish Cleaning
Station
1750 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr.
Milwaukee
414-273-5224

Kortendick Ace Hardware
3806 Douglas Avenue
Racine, WI
(262) 639-4820

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CODED WIRE TAG RECOVERY FORM**

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

| SPECIES (CIRCLE ONE) | SEX (CIRCLE ONE) | SOURCE (CIRCLE ONE) |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CHINOOK | MALE | SPORT |
| COHO | FEMALE | CHARTER |
| RAINBOW | UNKNOWN | COMMERCIAL |
| LAKE | | WEIR |
| BROWN | | DNR SURVEY |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| DATE CAUGHT | _____ / _____ / _____ m m d d y y | CAPTURE LOCATION (port or river) |
| LENGTH (circle one) inches mm | _____ . _____ | WEIGHT (circle one) pounds kg |
| | | _____ . _____ |

Please Print Clearly

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Angler Name | |
| E-Mail | |
| Home Address | |
| City | |
| State | Zip Code |

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| | | _____ . _____ |

Please Print Clearly

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Angler Name | |
| E-Mail | |
| Home Address | |
| City | |
| State | Zip Code |