

CT Commercial Blackfish Tagging Instructions

All commercially harvested tautog must be tagged in order to be sold or offered for sale. Tautog harvesters must comply with all the tagging requirements as specified in the Declaration of Regulation 26-159a-13 (please see reverse for complete regulation on tautog tagging).

Tautog Tagging Basics:

Loading the applicator: The side of the tag with the plus signs has a dimple where the point will insert when the tag closes. This dimple insets into the lower jaw of the applicator where there is a matching bowl (see picture below). Place the open tag in the correct orientation inside the jaws of the applicator and then insert the tag until both sides snap in.

Tagging the fish: The tag needs to be affixed to the left operculum (gill plate). It is helpful to hold open the operculum bone. Be sure the side of the tag with the identification number is facing outward then squeeze the applicator closed to apply.

To disengage: Push the applicator in and slightly downward then open. The point on the tag should be bent through the dimple.

We have included links below to some helpful videos produced by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the NJ DEP that demonstrate how to affix tags on blackfish.

VMRC Tautog tagging video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4iAxRrFOuc>

NJDEP Tautog tagging video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5JoyKsxxkBo>

Bowl in lower jaw of applicator



Applicator Care:

It is important to thoroughly rinse and dry your applicator after use. Doing so will extend the life of the applicator and ensure it works properly. Please take care with both the uniquely issued tags as well as the applicator. All tags must be accounted for and any unused tags must be returned to the CT DEEP Marine Fisheries Program by February 15th of 2022. If you need additional applicators they can be ordered through the National Band & Tag Company (Style #681S-MOD).

Declaration of Regulation: 26-159a-13

Any person engaging in commercial fishing for tautog or possessing tautog with the intent to sell, barter, or trade tautog must abide by the following provisions for commercial tautog tagging adopted under Amendment 1 to the Tautog Fishery Management Plan of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

- 1) No person engaged in commercial fishing may land or offload tautog without first affixing a commercial tautog tag issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (department) to the left opercula bone (gill plate) of all tautog to be landed or offloaded, such that the identifying number on the commercial tag is clearly visible.
- 2) Commercial fishermen may only land or offload tautog affixed with commercial tautog tags issued by the department during the same calendar year as the landing or offloading event.
- 3) No tautog shall be sold, purchased, bartered, or traded in Connecticut unless it bears a commercial tautog tag as defined in Amendment 1 to the Tautog Fishery Management Plan of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- 4) No person shall transfer commercial tautog tags between individuals or fish.
- 5) Any person issued commercial tautog tags by the department in any calendar year must return any unused tags and submit a report of tag use to the department by February 15 of the following calendar year. Failure by any person to return unused tags, submit required reports, or account for disposition of tags issued previously may result in loss of future privilege to obtain commercial tautog tags.
- 6) Any tautog tagged with a commercial tautog tag must remain tagged until it reaches the final consumer. Processed or fileted tautog shall be packed with the commercial tautog tag originally affixed to that tautog. Tags must be retained with processed or fileted tautog and be available for inspection until the processed or fileted tautog is sold to the final consumer.