

WHY DO WE NEED CHINOOK AND COHO HEADS?

CHINOOK and COHO produced in hatcheries are marked and implanted with a CODED-WIRE TAG (CWT). These CWTs are used to provide information to scientists and fisheries managers:

- Abundance, Survival, and Distribution
- Trends for planning future fisheries
- Run timing in marine and freshwater

The CWT program is part of an international agreement between Canada and the USA, the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The information is used to assess large-scale trends and better manage all fisheries that affect chinook and coho.



Inserting a CWT.



Bring this brochure with you!

It is designed to record data and is water resistant!

CHINOOK COHO

Date Caught: _____

Area Caught: _____

Gear: _____

Length, Nose to Fork (cm): _____

Further Information

For more information about CWTs or how you can help, contact your local First Nation fishery monitor, or call Salmon Head Recovery Program at

Contacts

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Salmon Head Recovery Program
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WANTED



CHINOOK AND COHO HEADS



LOWER FRASER FISHERIES ALLIANCE

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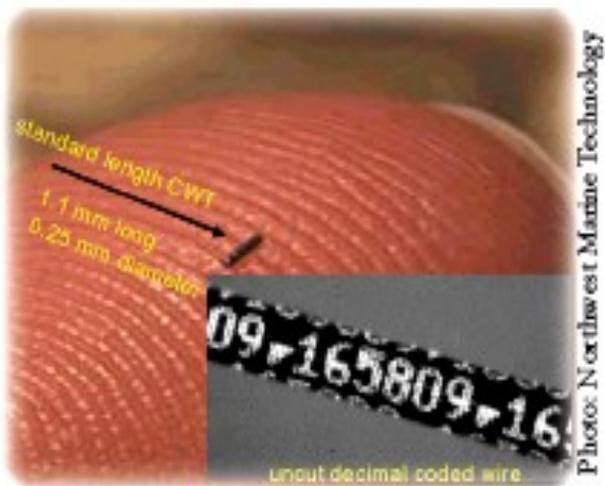
WHAT IS A CODED-WIRE TAG (CWT)?

A coded wire tag is a small wire (approx. 1mm long) containing a unique code (as seen in picture below). Tags are injected into the nose cartilage of juvenile salmon prior to ocean migration and identify the stream origin and age of each fish.

Each year, Canada and the United States tag over 50 million juvenile salmon. As part of this work, DFO applies about 5.5 million tags to Coho and Chinook, using about 5.5 kilometers of wire in the process.

The Fraser River Watershed, has eight important Chinook and Coho indicator salmon stocks. Indicator stocks represent the distribution of other stocks including wild stocks in the watershed. Tagging of indicator stocks allows DFO to monitor the overall health of salmon stocks.

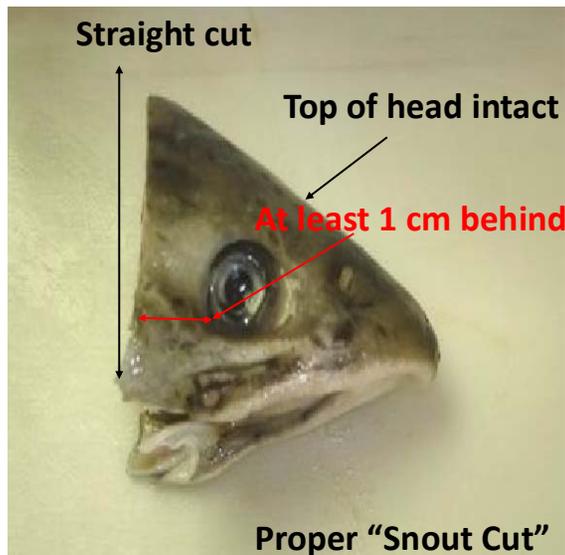
Usable data from CWT stocks sometimes only requires 10 CWTs to be submitted!



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Two ways to contribute!

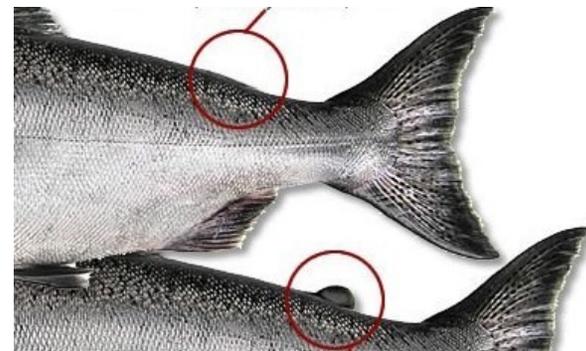
1. Submit a CHINOOK OR COHO head from an ADIPOSE CLIPPED fish.



You must retain the upper portion of each head as shown in the upper photo. This cut is required so tags are not lost.

2. If you do not want to donate the fish's head, record any ADIPOSE CLIPPED COHO OR CHINOOK. Just knowing that a hatchery-marked fish is caught is valuable information.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF A COHO OR CHINOOK HAS A CWT?



All Chinook and Coho injected with a CWT are marked by the **removal of the adipose fin** when the fish is tagged as a juvenile.

HOW IS CWT INFORMATION USEFUL FOR FIRST NATIONS

- Without CWT information from First Nation's fisheries, the data used to manage and plan First Nation's fisheries is taken from fisheries in other sectors
- Data is required annually to inform on fishery trends of Chinook and Coho
- To make informed decisions affecting the Chinook and Coho stocks and fisheries
- To understand where Canadian Chinook and Coho stock are harvested
- To advise on objective based fishery management plans; and
- To guide decisions to reduce or increase harvest in certain fisheries on specific stocks.