

A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for
fisheries representatives and their organizations

CWT sampling in Fraser River fisheries

What is a coded wire tag (CWT)?

A coded-wire tag is a small wire (~1.1mm long) containing a unique code. 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, about 5.5 kilometers of wire in the process.

The Fraser River watershed, alone, 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 managers to estimate and monitor the overall health of salmon stocks.

Why are CWTs important?

Coded-wire tags allow Canada to fulfill international Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations and provide valuable management information, including:

- Abundance, distribution and survival;
- Trends for planning next year's fishing season; and
- Run timing in salt and freshwater areas.

CWT sampling is required in all commercial, recreational and First Nations fisheries with Chinook or Coho retention. If sufficient recoveries of CWTs are not obtained from fisheries, Canada's ability to accurately assess trends in salmon abundance and survival is affected.

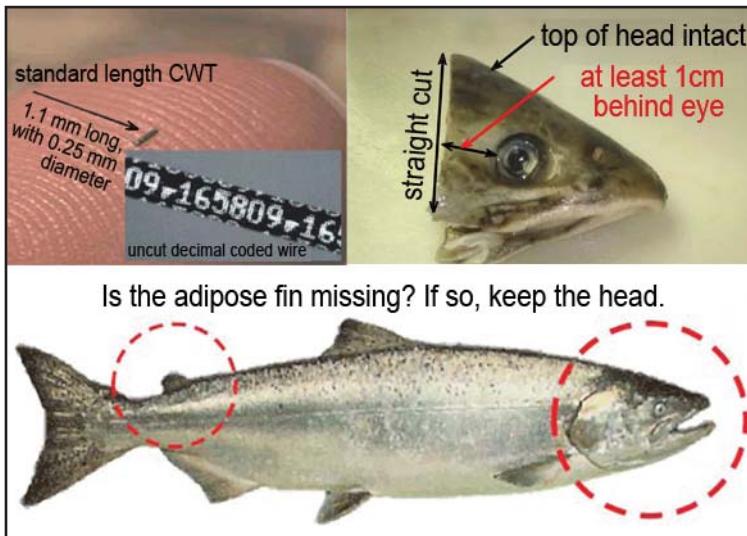
How do you know if a salmon has a CWT?

All Chinook and Coho implanted with a CWT are marked by the removal of the adipose fin when the fish is tagged as a juvenile. For Chinook in the Fraser River, all adipose fin clipped fish contain a CWT; however, only five to 10 percent of fin-clipped Fraser Coho contain a CWT.

How can you help?

When providing catch information to your fishery monitor make sure to provide a count of adipose fin clipped Chinook and Coho and, if you have retained an adipose fin-clipped salmon, please allow your local First Nation fishery monitor to remove the head (or snout) for analysis.

Information provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



For more information about CWTs or how you can help, contact your local First Nation fishery monitor, or call DFO at 1-866-483-9994 (toll-free).

MEETING NOTICES

FORUM ON CONSERVATION AND HARVEST PLANNING FOR FRASER SALMON

May 9-11, 2011

Location: Kamloops Convention Centre
1250 Rogers Way, Kamloops BC

(Please note: Start time on Monday, May 9 is 1:00pm)

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Kamloops Towne Lodge at a rate of \$105 plus taxes for single occupancy, and \$115 plus taxes for double occupancy (standard rooms with two queen size beds). To reserve your accommodations, please call the hotel directly at 250.828.6660 or toll free 1.800.665.6674.

FRASER SALMON ROADMAP MEETING DATES

June 22-23, 2011:

Campbell River Band -- Thunderbird Hall

1420 Weiwaikum Road, Campbell River, B.C.
(Accommodations information to be announced soon)

Mark your Calendars!

October 12-13, 2011: Chase, B.C. (Location TBD)

December 6-7, 2011: Richmond, B.C. (Location TBD)

February 8-9, 2011: Chilliwack, B.C. (Location TBD)

For more meeting dates check out
our calendar at www.frafs.ca

The Watershed Talk is also available
for download at www.frafs.ca

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