

METHOD OF SUPPLY OF TAGS AND TAGGING EQUIPMENT FOR ALL TAGGING OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE SIOFA AREA

Introduction

The Eighth Meeting of the Parties requested the Secretariat provide information on the SIOFA website summarising how CCPs can obtain tags and tagging equipment from CCAMLR for the tagging of toothfish.

SIOFA fisheries catching toothfish must tag toothfish in accordance with paragraph 26 of SIOFA CMM 2021/15 (Management of Demersal Stocks) “*CCPs shall require their flagged vessels to tag and release Dissostichus spp. specimens at a rate of at least 5 fish per tonne green weight caught. A minimum overlap statistic of at least 60% shall apply for tag release, once 30 or more Dissostichus spp. specimens have been caught.*”

Process

The CCAMLR tags must be ordered in sets of 1000 tags. It is recommended that for each set of 1000 tags ordered, two tagging guns be purchased.

To order any tags and tagging equipment, please use the following link <https://www.ccamlr.org/fr/node/97105> to access to the Tagging Equipment Order Form.

In addition to purchasing tags, tagging guns and needles. A Tagging Equipment box is also available for purchase (A\$30.00). The Tagging Equipment box consists of the following items:

- one waterproof storage box large enough to hold tags, guns and spare needles;
- plastic container for storing damaged or partially used magazines, spare needles etc.;
- CCAMLR pen;
- CCAMLR tag photo template ruler.

The CCAMLR tag photo template ruler is a very important tool, and it is recommended to have several water-repellent copies on board.

Please take photographs of any recovered tags using the supplied CCAMLR tag photo template ruler. The SIOFA toothfish tagging protocol for the SIOFA Area is the same as the CCAMLR Tagging protocol (See Tagging Process, below).

Postage and delivery charges

Postage is supplied by CCAMLR through DHL, as this is the most reliable and timely worldwide coverage service. Please note that after processing your order that CCAMLR can only provide an estimate of delivery costs, as these are calculated by DHL once any parcel has been received from the Secretariat. A final invoice will be issued once any parcel has been dispatched.

Returning unused and damaged tags

It is recommended that all unused and damaged tags be returned to the Secretariat at the end of the fishing trip, as part of the tagging program auditing process. This allows unused and damaged tags to be tracked and recorded by the Secretariat. The return postal address is:

SIOFA Tagging Program Coordinator
APSOI – (DAAF – Batiment B – Rdc)
Parc de la Providence
97400 Saint Denis

Tag release and recoveries

As specified in SIOFA CMM 2021-02 (Data Standards), the following data is required to be collected and reported for tag releases and tag recoveries.

Tag releases

The following data shall be reported for all tagged fish, seabird, mammal, or reptile

Tag type, wording, and colour

Tag number

Date and time of tagging

Species

Animal length

Type of length

Animal sex (F=female, M=male, I=indeterminate, D=not examined)

Position (Lat/Lon) of release

Animal status at release (injured/uninjured)

Tag Recoveries

The following data shall be collected for all recovered fish, seabird, mammal or reptile tags if the organism is dead, to be retained, or alive:

- Name of observer
- Name of vessel
- International radio call sign (if any)
- Vessel flag CCP (ISO 3-apha)
- Collect, label (with all details below) and store the actual tags for later return to the tagging agency
- Species from which tag recovered
- Tag colour
- Tag wording and type of tag (spaghetti, archival)
- Tag numbers
- Date and time of capture (UTC)
- Location of capture (Lat/Lon, to the nearest 1 minute)
- Animal length / size (cm or mm) with description of what measurement was taken (such as total length, fork length, etc.)
- Sex (F=female, M=male, I=indeterminate, D=not examined)
- Whether the tags were found during a period of fishing that was being observed (Y/N)

Tagging Process

As requested by MoP8, (Para 97), the Secretariat is finalising the SIOFA toothfish tagging protocol, and consultation with the CCAMLR secretariat. This will be available by the 1st December 2021 from the SIOFA website. In the interim, it is recommended to use the CCAMLR protocol at (<https://www.ccamlr.org/en/system/files/Toothfish%20and%20Skate%20Tagging%20Instructions.pdf>.)

If you have any questions about the tagging of toothfish, tagging equipment, or the collection of data, please contact the SIOFA Secretariat (secretariat@siofa.org).
