

From: [Tor Vincent](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: [External] Tautog Management Board
Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022 12:17:41 PM

From Tor Vincent
NY long island sound commercial trap fisherman

Concerned about tautog tags harming the tautog by making a large incision in the gill plate that stays open to invite pathogens that cause infections.

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Tagging study used a national tag style 1005-4
The ASMFC implemented national tag style 1005-681

Here is a comparison; The 681 is 4x the weight of the 4 and 50% longer. That gives 6x the torque on the incision by the blade. The tagging directions ask for the tag to be installed horizontal on the gill plate. The gill plate movement adds to the vibration of the tag in the incision causing an ever enlarging open incision over time.

My experience is that the fish can no longer be held in closed system tanks for nearly the length of time held in the past because the infections beginning at the incision make the fish unmarketable and a total loss if held for what was a normal time frame. Lobster and live tautog prices have been historically linked since they are often in tanks side by side when offered for sale. The market price for american lobster has rebounded to new highs after the market collapse in 2020 while the tautog price is unusually low.

Please look closely at the picture of a cardboard gill plate similar to a 3 lb fish for a size comparison of the two tags. The attached pictures in a wire basket are of a fish held for 3 months. Please observe the good side vs the infected side. It is the same fish with both photos taken the same day. Experts in the field have suggested bacteria or fungi as the expected cause of the lesions and suggest the open lesions would be infected by multiple pathogens in the tank water after they are open and exposed. A fish lost at the dock was recaptured 3-4 later, that picture is attached as well.

The ASMFC has no valid tank study of the tag implemented which is advertised by the vendor as being for 10 lb and over fish. Only the study of the much smaller tag which used a few fish in a large tank of flow through well water which would create the lightest pathogen load possible. That study did not properly consider the closed system tanks that are used to hold live fish and lobster in all property not located on the waterfront.

Thank you for your consideration.



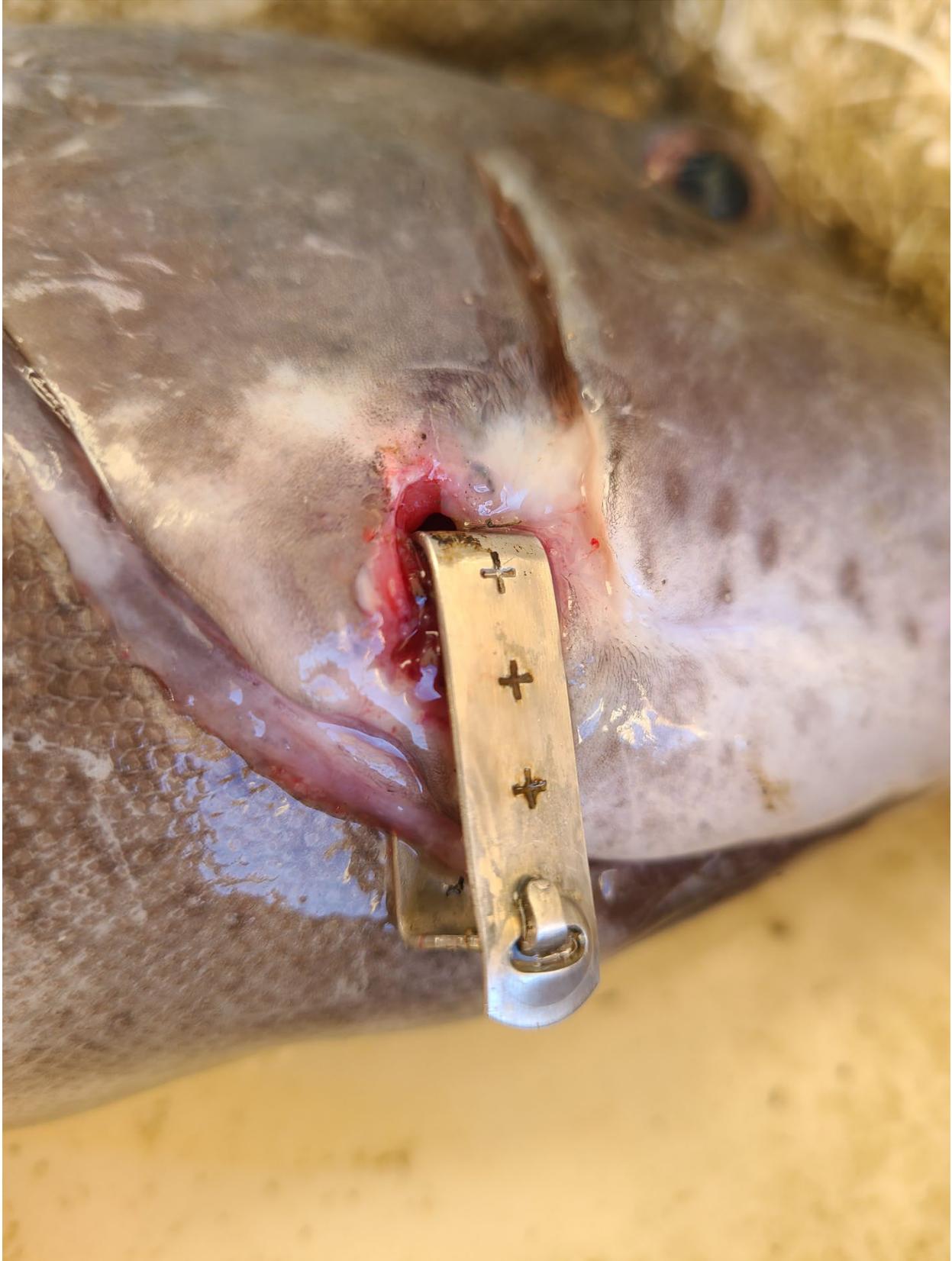


3 months in closed system



Similar to 3 pound tautog gill plate with study tag next to tag used





Recaptured tautog 3-4 weeks in wild

From: [Tim O'Brien](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: [External] Tautog
Date: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:05:53 PM

Hello, I'm a commercial fisherman from NY. Live tautog is a significant part of my income. I am not apposed to the tagging of tautog for sale. The problem we have is the current tags we use are harming the fish. The tag is rubbing against the fishes gills causing damage to the fish gills. We are also seeing infections in the tagging sight. This is hurting the market price and in effect fisherman are getting less for the fish. Buyers no longer want to hold fish because they have dead loss. Or extremely un marketable infected fish. I believe this should and could be corrected with a less invasive tag.

Thank you,
Timothy O'Brien

Sent from my iPhone