



Dear Charter Boat Captain:

As many of you are aware, the Department along with the other agencies on Lake Michigan and Lake Huron began a widespread coded wire tagging program in 2010. Starting in that year and continuing through 2016 all Chinook salmon and lake trout stocked by state and federal agencies in these two lakes have been given an adipose finclip and a coded wire tag has been inserted into the snout. Beginning in 2017, this program transitioned to tagging rainbow trout instead of Chinook salmon. All Chinook salmon stocked in 2017 - 2023 have the adipose fin clip, and some Chinooks will still have coded wire tags (e.g., for an ongoing net pen evaluation). The first full year class of clipped and tagged rainbow trout were stocked in the spring of 2018 and have been adipose fin clipped and microwire tagged for the 2024 season.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/lakemichigan/ChinookSalmon.html>  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/lakemichigan/LakeMichiganFisheriesForum.html>  
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/lakemichigan/LakeMichiganSalmonandTroutMeetings.html>

A main goal of this project is to accurately determine the contribution of wild salmonids in the population. However, because these fish also contain a coded wire tag we are able to collect other information from these fish including stocking survival rates, contribution of a particular stocking to the overall harvest, spawning site fidelity and timing of spawning.

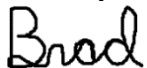
As with any project like this, **sample size** will be the key to unlocking this information. That is where you come in.

**We are asking that you work with our staff to help us collect CWT snouts from tagged fish and data from all salmonids.** What will that entail? DNR staff may be at some tournaments and boat ramps in 2024 to collect information from harvested salmonids. If you are contacted by one of these crews or you encounter them at fishing tournament, I hope that you will work with them to provide the necessary biological information. In most cases we will want to get the length and weight of the fish plus collect the snout or aging structure.

I realize that this may slow down your processing of fish for your clients but remember that information like this will shape the future of not only the number of salmonids stocked in Wisconsin but also the stocking locations. The more information we can obtain the better we can manage this multimillion-dollar fishery. The best way to do this is to work with your industry to collect these samples since you have a great track record when it comes to harvesting salmonids. So be on the lookout for these crews starting in mid-June.

I hope that you will find the time to work with us on this very important project and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me any time – 414-303-0138 / [Bradley.Eggold@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Bradley.Eggold@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,



Bradley Eggold  
Great Lakes District Fisheries Supervisor