

# Lobster Tagging Project

Lobster have been tagged and released in Atlantic Canada since the 1930's. DFO Science wants to revitalize a region-wide lobster collaborative tagging project with fishing associations and harvesters to determine localized / seasonal movement of lobsters as well as longer scale migrations. Estimates of mortality, growth increments and molting intervals may also be possible from the tagging data. This is important information that can be used to accurately describe the lobster population.

Traditionally, tagged lobster were removed from the water once caught. We hope to improve on this process by asking fishers to **voluntarily return all tagged lobster to the water (after recording the tag number)**. As these tags are retained by the lobsters through the molt, returning tagged lobsters to the water allows for long-term tracking of lobster with multiple recaptures over time. If choosing to keep the lobster, the recapture information is still valuable to the study.

The following information is required for each captured tag:

- **Tag Number and Colour**
- **Sex of Lobster-Male, Female or Berried Female (eggs)**
- **Location in Lat/Long (i.e. 45° 65.36 N, 59° 15.25 W)**
- **Date of Recapture**
- **Vessel and Captain Name and Lobster Fishing Area (LFA)**
- **Name, Address, Email & Phone Number of person reporting capture.**



The following information is also helpful if collected:

- **Depth of recapture**
- **Condition of Lobster (One claw, eggs, mossy, barnacles, soft, etc.)**

We believe that the use of smartphones will make reporting tags even easier through the following steps:

1. **Take a picture of plotter or navigation computer (for position)**
2. **Take a picture of the tag clearly showing the tag number (starts with the letters XY)**
3. **Optional- take a picture of the lobster with the measuring gauge laid on its back. This will allow us to calculate the size of the lobster for growth studies as these tags are retained through molting.**

This information can be emailed or texted directly from your cell phone by typing [lobtags@gmail.com](mailto:lobtags@gmail.com) into the recipient field (To:). If emailing or texting, please ensure that all required information listed above is included. Alternatively, the **"Lobster Tag Reporting"** form on the back (or second page) of this information sheet can be used to record this information for tags. After the season, it can be scanned and emailed or texted to the address above or mailed to:

Lobster Science PED  
PO Box 1006, Dartmouth, N.S.  
B2Y 4A2

All individuals reporting tag recaptures will be contacted with information on the movement history of the tagged lobster and entered in a draw for a Lobster Science hat. Tag recaptures reported without information on date, location and tag number will not qualify for tagging rewards as this information is required for the study.

**Unfortunately information about tag recaptures entered in logbooks does not reach DFO science and does not get included in our study.**

DFO Lobster Science appreciates all assistance with this tagging study. Cooperation between lobster harvesters and DFO Science increases the knowledge and understanding of lobster in our region. Such knowledge can be used to help ensure the long term sustainability of lobster stocks and the lobster fishery.