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TAG RETURNS IN 1997 - INTERNATIONAL HIGH-SEAS SALMON TAGGING

by

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ABSTRACT

Preliminary information is reported on all high-seas salmonid disk tags recovered from 1 September 1996 through 31 August 1997. Eighteen Japan-U.S. tags were returned (1 sockeye, 13 chum, and 4 pink salmon). These tagged salmon were released from 1995 to 1997 during international cooperative tagging operations aboard Japanese research vessels in the central Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Gulf of Alaska in June and July. The only North American recovery was a sockeye salmon released in the central Gulf of Alaska in early July 1997 and recovered approximately one month later in the San Juan Islands, Washington. Two immature chum salmon released in the central Bering Sea in mid-July 1995 were recovered as adults in September and October 1996 in Hokkaido, Japan. Eleven maturing chum salmon released in July 1996 in the central Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea were recovered in Hokkaido (10 fish) and southeastern Kamchatka (1 fish) from August to November 1996. All four tagged pink salmon were recaptured during high-seas research gillnet operations on the day following their release.

INTRODUCTION

This is a report of all high-seas salmon tags returned to the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI), School of Fisheries, University of Washington from 1 September 1996 to 31 August 1997. FRI serves as a processing center for all North American recoveries of Canadian, Japanese, Russian, and U.S. high-seas salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.) tags and recoveries of U.S. high-seas salmon tags by all nations. By agreement with the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ), FRI also reports recoveries of tagged salmon released during cooperative Japan-U.S. high-seas salmon tagging.

METHODS

FRI's high-seas tag processing center activities include: (1) advertising for tag recoveries, (2) returning tags and original recovery information to the appropriate release agencies, (3) mailing information on tag recoveries and a tag reward to fishermen and processors, (4) maintaining a file of original correspondence, data, and tags of all recoveries of U.S., U.S.-Russia, and Japan-U.S. tags (1956-present), (5) maintaining and updating an all-agency tag release and recovery computer database, and (6) reporting all recoveries of U.S., U.S.-Russia, and Japan-U.S. high-seas tags to the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). In addition, FRI scientists periodically prepare reports and maps based on historical recoveries of high-seas tags that describe the known ocean ranges of major regional stocks of Asian and North American salmonids (for example, Myers et al. 1996). The complete all-agency (Canada, Japan, Russia, and United States) high-seas tag release and recovery computer database (1954-present) is available from FRI upon request from the parties of NPAFC so that all member nations can have access to a common database.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All recoveries of high-seas salmon tags reported to FRI from 1 September 1996 through 31 August 1997 were from fish released during cooperative Japan-U.S. high-seas salmon tagging experiments aboard the *Wakatake maru* and *Oshoro maru* in the central Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Gulf of Alaska from 1995 to 1997 (Ito and Ishida 1995, 1996; Myers et al. 1995, 1997; Davis et al. 1996). Eighteen Japan-U.S. tags were returned (1 sockeye, 13 chum, and 4 pink salmon; Table 1). The only North American recovery was a sockeye salmon released in the central Gulf of Alaska in early July 1997 and recovered approximately one month later in the San Juan Islands, Washington. Two immature chum salmon released in the central Bering Sea in mid-July 1995 were recovered as adults in September and October 1996 in Hokkaido, Japan. Eleven maturing chum salmon released in July 1996 in the central Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea were recovered in Hokkaido (10 fish) and southeastern Kamchatka (1 fish) from August to November 1996. All four tagged pink salmon were recaptured during high-seas research gillnet operations on the day following their release.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Table 1. Preliminary release and recovery information for cooperative Japan-U.S. tags returned from 1 September 1996 to 31 August 1997.

A blank indicates the information is not available. LL = research longline, GN = research gillnet, PS = purse seine.

Age designation is European method, first number is number of freshwater annuli, second number is number of ocean annuli, R = regenerated.

FRI Tag No.	FAJ Tag No.	Release				Recovery														
		Date	Lat (°N)	Long	Area	2° X 5°	FL (mm)	Age	Date	Lat (°N)	Long	Area	Code	Gear	Sex	FL (mm)	BW (g)	Gonad (g)	Age	Location
A. Sockeye salmon																				
LL1021	CC6521	10-Jul-97	54°01'	144°59'W	W4554	LL	522	R.R	12-Aug-97	48°31'	123°09'	81	PS	M	2364			1.2	San Juan Is., Washington, USA; catch area 7	
B. Chum salmon																				
KK141	JJ6176	11-Jul-95	56°30'	177°30'W	W8056	LL	582	0.4	6-Sep-96	43°55'	144°40'E	02-2							Shiretoko P., Shari C., Hokkaido, Japan	
KK162	JJ6197	11-Jul-95	56°30'	177°30'W	W8056	LL	484	0.2	13-Oct-96	43°02'	145°52'E	02-1							Off Ochiishi, Hokkaido, Japan	
KK295	KK2103	30-Jun-96	51°30'	179°30'W	W8050	LL	600	R.3	25-Aug-96	51°25'	157°30'	10-0							Vestnik & Zholtaya R., southeastern Kamchatka, Russia	
KK290	KK2098	30-Jun-96	51°30'	179°30'W	W8050	LL	490	0.2	1-Oct-96	44°29'	143°08'E	02-2	M						Okhotsk C., Okoppe C., Hokkaido, Japan	
KK309	KK2117	2-Jul-96	53°30'	179°30'W	W8052	LL	590	0.4	16-Oct-96	43°40'	145°08'E	02-0	M	628	2444	89	0.4	Nemuro S., Shibetsu R., Hokkaido, Japan		
KK373	KK2181	3-Jul-96	54°30'	179°30'W	W8054	LL	532	0.3	14-Sep-96	43°55'	144°40'E	02-2	M	572	2039	125	0.3	Shiretoko P., Shari C., Hokkaido, Japan		
KK441	KK2249	5-Jul-96	56°30'	179°30'W	W8056	LL	538	0.3	13-Oct-96	43°23'	144°17'E	02-0	F						Nemuro S., Bekkai C., Hokkaido, Japan	

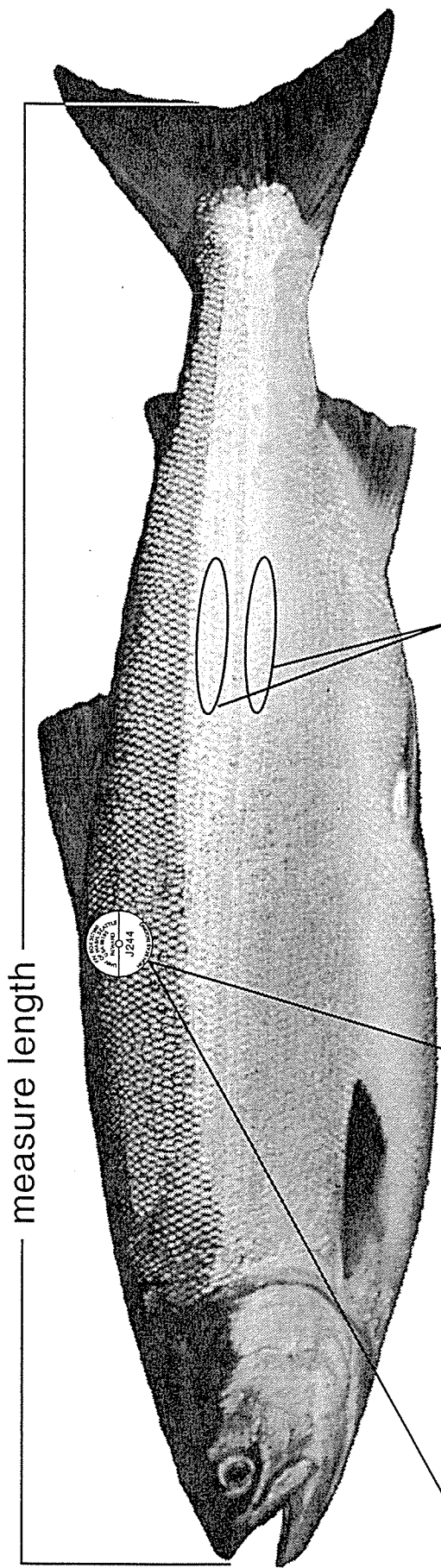
Table 1. Cont'd.

FRI Tag No.	FAJ Tag No.	Release				Recovery									
		Date	Lat (°N)	Long	2° X 5° Area	Date	Lat (°N)	Long	Area Code	FL (mm)	BW (g)	Gonad (g)	Age	Location	
B. Chum salmon (cont'd)															
KK493	KK2301	5-Jul-96	56°30	179°30W	W8056	LL	532	0.4	23-Oct-96	44°01	145°12E	02-0	M	2000	Shiretoko P., Rausu C., Hokkaido, Japan
EE698	KK2506	10-Jul-96	57°30	178°30W	W8056	LL	509	0.3	14-Oct-96	43°40	145°08E	02-0	F	540 1820	Nemuro S., Shibetsu C., Hokkaido, Japan
EE749	KK2557	11-Jul-96	57°30	177°30W	W8056	LL	574	0.3	26-Sep-96	43°55	144°40E	02-2	M	597 2347 146	Shiretoko P., Shari C., Hokkaido, Japan
EE816	KK2624	12-Jul-96	56°30	177°30W	W8056	LL	460	0.2	1-Nov-96	43°23	144°17E	02-0			Nemuro S., Bekkai C., Hokkaido, Japan
EE918	KK2726	14-Jul-96	56°30	179°30E	E7556	LL	604	0.3	24-Sep-96	43°35	145°25E	02-0			Nemuro S., Notsuke C., Hokkaido, Japan
EE922	KK2730	14-Jul-96	56°30	179°30E	E7556	LL	562	0.3	7-Oct-96	44°00	145°30E	02-0	F	582 2150 280	Nemuro S., Hokkaido, Japan
C. Pink salmon															
LL4378	LL0378	9-Jul-97	58°30	179°30W	W8058	LL	427	0.1	10-Jul-97	58°30	179°30W	25 GN			High-seas recovery, Wakatake maru, tags found in net
LL4415	LL0415	9-Jul-97	58°30	179°30W	W8058	LL	442	0.1	10-Jul-97	58°30	179°30W	25 GN	F	450 1120 100	High-seas recovery, Wakatake maru

Table 1. Cont'd.

FRI Tag. No.	FAJ Tag. No.	Release					Recovery							
		Date	Lat (°N)	Long	2° X 5° Area	FL (mm)	Date	Lat (°N)	Long	Area Code	FL (mm)	BW (g)	Gonad (g)	Age
C. Pink salmon (cont'd)														
LL4416	LL0416	9-Jul-97	58°30	179°30W	W8058	LL 504	0.1	10-Jul-97	58°30	179°30W	25 GN	516	0.1	High-seas recovery, <i>Wakatake maru</i>
LL4623	LL0623	14-Jul-97	56°30	178°30W	W8056	LL 444	R.1	15-Jul-97	56°30	178°30W	25 GN M	434 1100	7 0.1	High-seas recovery, <i>Wakatake maru</i>

RETURN HIGH SEAS SALMON AND STEELHEAD TAGS



scrape off scales from these areas on both sides of the fish and place the scales into a folded piece of paper

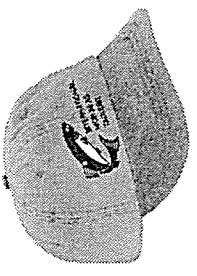
Examples of high seas disk tags

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Tag color is red/white or solid red

- Collect tag, if tag cannot be collected then get tag number and description
- Collect scales and carefully measure fish length as shown
- Record location, date, species, gear, sex, and weight

RETURN a high seas salmon tag (or tag number and description)



GET a custom embroidered cap as a reward

Send to: **High Seas Project**
University of Washington
Fisheries Research Institute
Box 357980
Seattle, WA 98195-7980

For details call: (206) 543-1101