



## **TAGGING PROGRAMME**

The New Zealand gamefish tagging programme is a cooperative project between the Ministry of Fisheries, the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, its affiliated clubs, and anglers.

It provides information on the size and distribution of fish released by recreational fishers. Recaptures provide information on distance and direction of movement, time at liberty, and in some circumstances the average migration rate of the fish involved.

This tagging programme was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1975 following requests from gamefish clubs. These programmes have gained widespread support from recreational anglers and provide the only logistically and economically feasible way to tag large numbers of billfish.

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (formerly New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council) has supported the programme since its inception and has purchased and distributed all tags through gamefish clubs since 1992. The contract to manage the tagging database is currently held by Blue Water Marine Research Ltd.

## **SEND IN YOUR TAG CARDS**

Please hand your tag cards to your club at the end of your fishing trip or post to the address below. It would also help if clubs send in all tag cards once a month. We have missed out on some really interesting information when fish get recaptured but the tag card was not handed in.

## **RECAPTURES**

There is a reward shirt for sending in a gamefish tag with recapture information. We need to know the same information that is provided on release. Tag number, date, location, species, length or weight, fishing method, anglers name and address and shirt size. Post the tag and information to:

**Gamefish Tagging  
Ministry of Fisheries  
PO Box 19747  
Avondale  
Auckland 1746**

John Holdsworth  
[John@bluewatermarine.co.nz](mailto:John@bluewatermarine.co.nz)