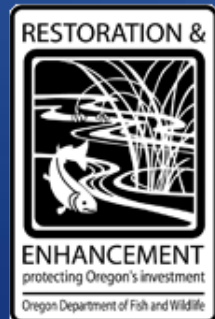


# Getting Paid To Fish?

Using a tag-reward model  
to evaluate a stocked trout  
fishery  
Wallowa Lake, OR

Kyle Bratcher, Josh McCormick,  
Jeff Yanke, Justin Herold



## Be part of the ODFW Tag Team!

ODFW has released tagged fish in this waterbody to evaluate harvest, survival, growth, and migration – and we need your help!



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For questions, or to turn in a reward tag, contact:

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE



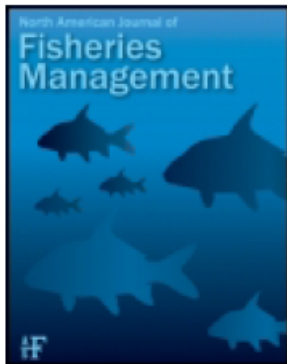
# Oregon Trout

- **ODFW stocks 7M trout yearly**
- **Evaluation objectives**
  - **Return-to-creel (RTC)**
  - **Harvest**
  - **Angler Effort**
- **Traditional creel methods**
  - **Expense**
  - **Long-term monitoring**
- **ODFW Trout Working Group (2013)**
  - **Focus on resident fisheries**
  - **Need for effective creel**





# Idaho Research



## North American Journal of Fisheries Management

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ujfm20>

### A Reward-Recovery Study to Estimate Tagged-Fish Reporting Rates by Idaho Anglers

Kevin A. Meyer<sup>a</sup>, F. Steven Elle<sup>a</sup>, James A. Lamansky Jr.<sup>a</sup>, Elizabeth R. J. M. Mamer<sup>a</sup> & Arthur E. Butts<sup>a</sup>

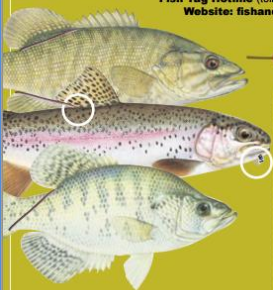
<sup>a</sup> Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 1414 East Locust Lane, Nampa, Idaho, 83686, USA

Version of record first published: 18 Jul 2012

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

## TAG! YOU'RE IT!

Fish Tag Hotline (toll free): 1-866-258-0338  
Website: [fishandgame.idaho.gov](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov)



**Anglers may keep or release the tagged fish.**

If you release the fish, please write down the tag number and release the fish with the tag intact. The tag may include a reward amount; the tag must be clipped from the fish and returned to IDFG for the reward to be paid. If two tags are with the fish, both numbers are needed.

**Why do we need this information?**

IDFG uses tag information to manage the fishery by evaluating the harvest, survival, growth, and migration of various fish species.



Aside from taking an active role in managing the resource, anglers will receive a history of the fish, including where and when it was tagged, how long it was when it was tagged, and information on whether it had previously been caught and released.

**What to do when you catch a tagged fish:**

Contact IDFG with this information:

- \* Tag number(s)
- \* Where the fish was caught
- \* Date caught
- \* Species
- \* Length of fish
- \* Did you keep or release the fish?
- \* Did the fish have two tags?
- \* Would you have kept the fish if it were not tagged?
- \* If released, was the tag removed?
- \* Your name, address, and phone number.
- \* Do you want the tag returned to you?

Fish Tag Hotline (toll free): 1-866-258-0338  
Website: [fishandgame.idaho.gov](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov)  
Go to the Fishing Page



2012-06-08



# Oregon's Tag Team

- **Modeled after Tag-You're-It (IDFG)**
  - **Ratio of reward to non-reward FLOY tags**
  - **\$50 = 92% reporting rate**
- **Wallowa Lake in 2014**
  - **Henry Hagg Lake, and Lake of the Woods ongoing**
- **Cost**
  - **R&E Grant-\$16,000**
  - **Assume all rewards funded**

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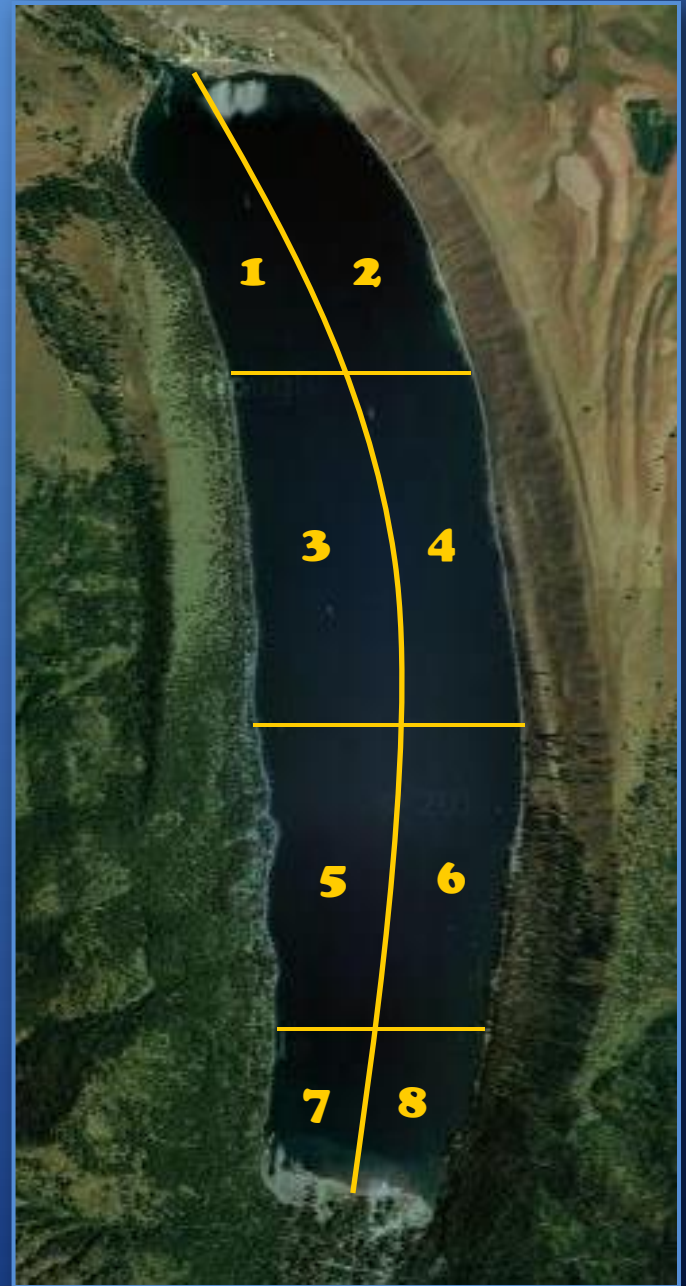


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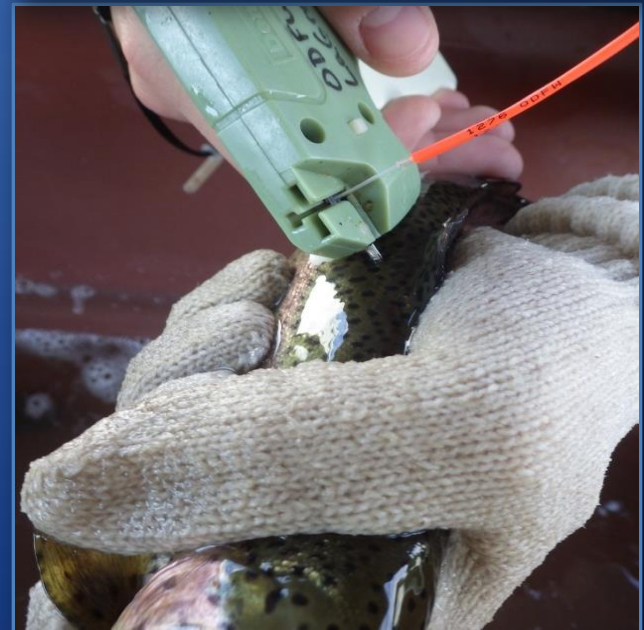
# Wallowa Lake

- **Nearly 40K stocked yearly**
  - **38K Legal, 2K Trophy**
  - **Stocked 6 times from May-August**
  - **Distributed by stocking boat or at ramp**
- **Questions**
  - **What is current RTC?**
  - **What are harvest rates?**
  - **When are fish caught?**
  - **Where do fish go after release?**



# Tagging

- **FLOY Tags**
  - **Visible, customizable, low cost**
- **Tag allocation**
  - **Numbers**
  - **Representative samples per release date, location, and size class**
- **Methods**
  - **In-hatchery day before release**
  - **Requires 3-4 people**
  - **2-3 hours to tag 350-400 fish**
- **Held in net pens within raceway overnight**
  - **Low tag loss/mortality**





# Reporting

- **Advertise**
  - **Press releases**
  - **Signs @ waterbodies**
  - **Advertising effort**
- **Let anglers collect the data!**
  - **ODFW office or marina**
  - **Phone, Online, Mail options**
- **Reward disbursements**
  - **Must have tag in hand to disperse reward**



# Results

- **Legals**
  - **1,740 – Non \$ tags released**
    - **446 returned (25.6%)**
  - **76 – \$50 tags released**
    - **42 returned (55.3%)**
- **Trophies**
  - **156 – Non \$ tags released**
    - **45 returned (28.8%)**
  - **14 – \$50 tags released**
    - **8 returned (57.1%)**
- **\$2,500 dispersed**
  - **50 tags (56%)**



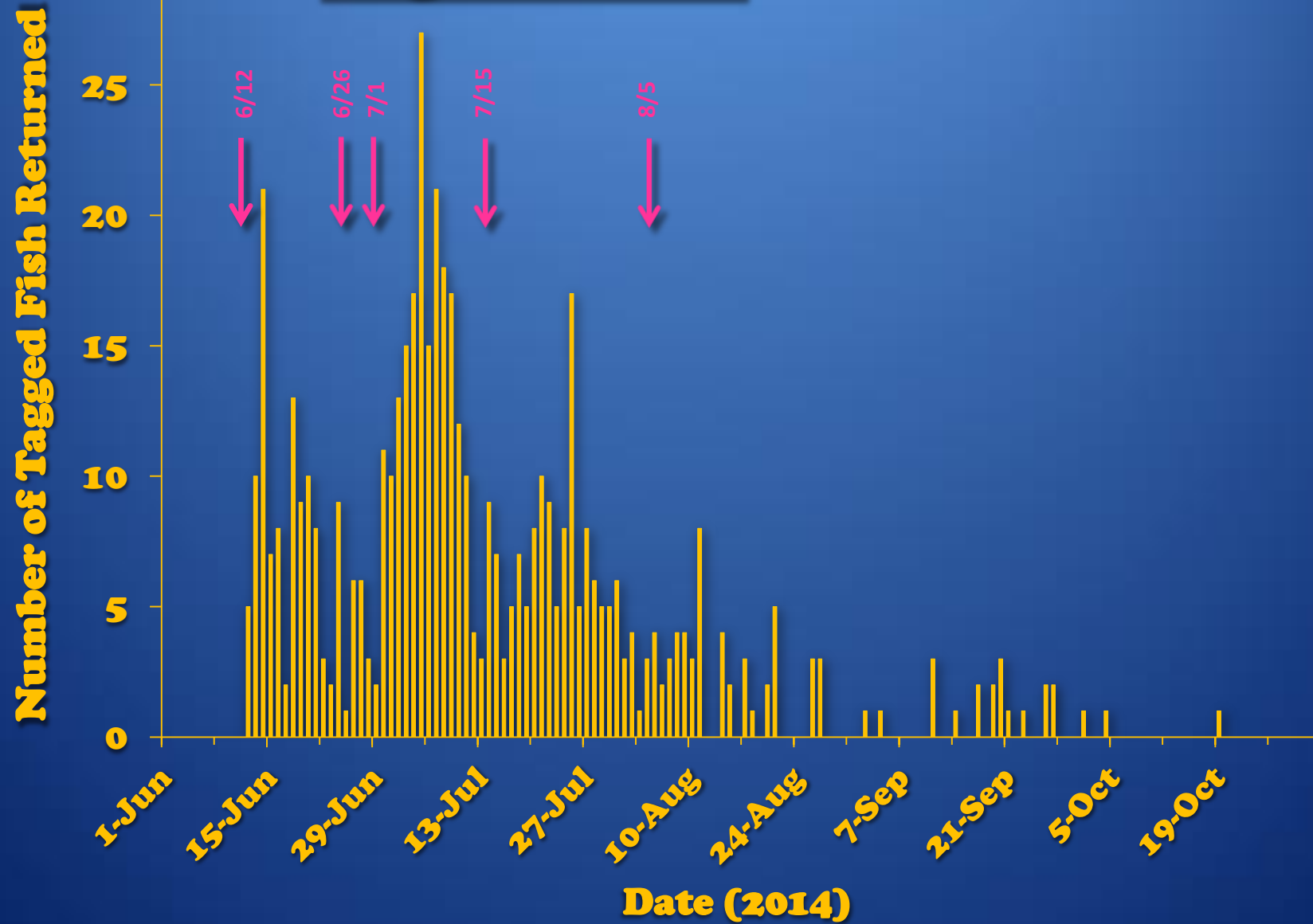


# Exploitation

- **19,127 fish caught of ~32,000 (61%)**
  - **754 Trophies (62%)**
  - **18,373 Legals (60%)**
- **14,197 harvested (45%)**
  - **598 Trophies (49%)**
  - **13,600 Legals (45%)**
- **Harvest of caught fish 74.5%**
- **Median days between release and capture = 9**

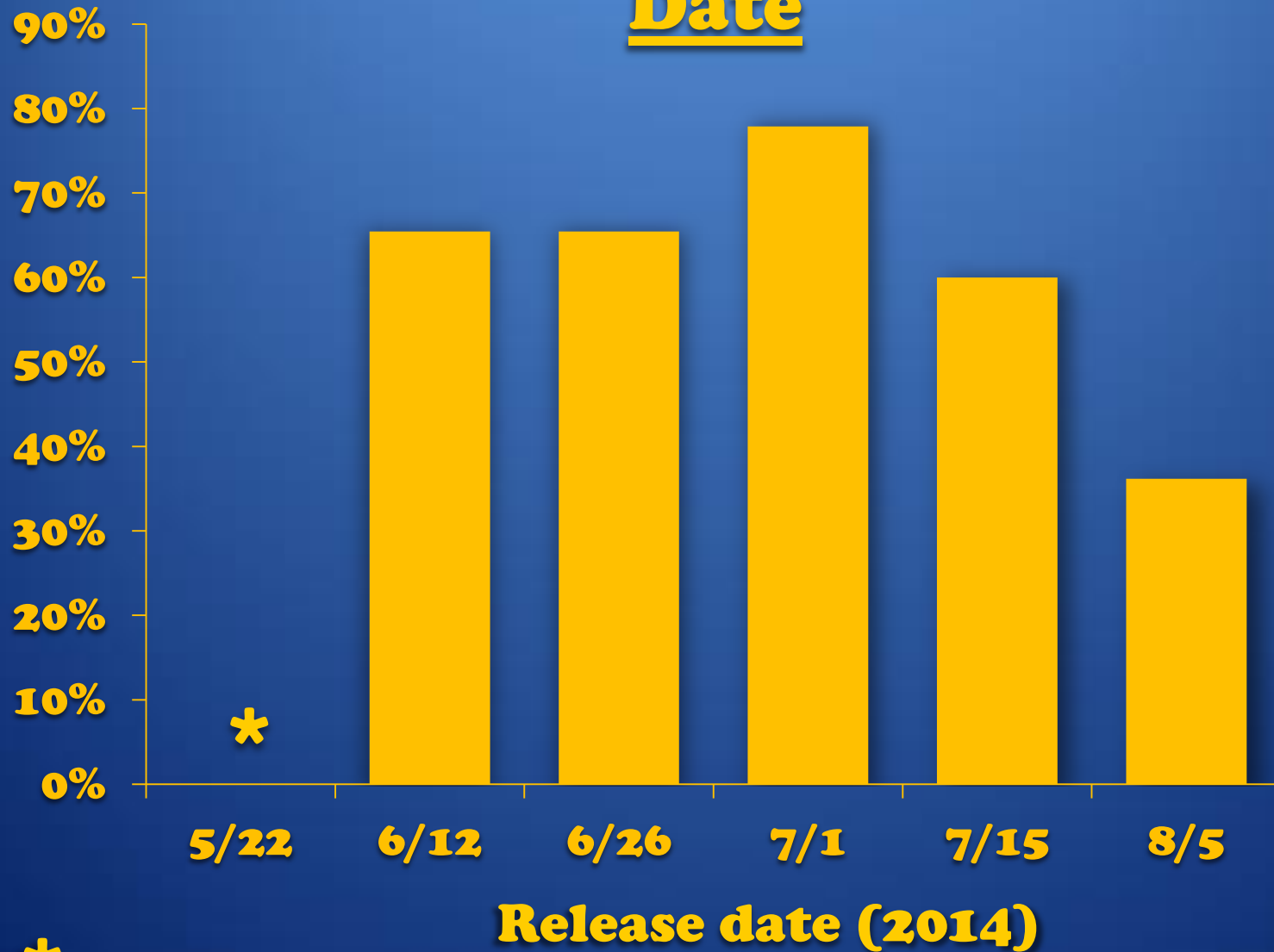


# Tag Returns





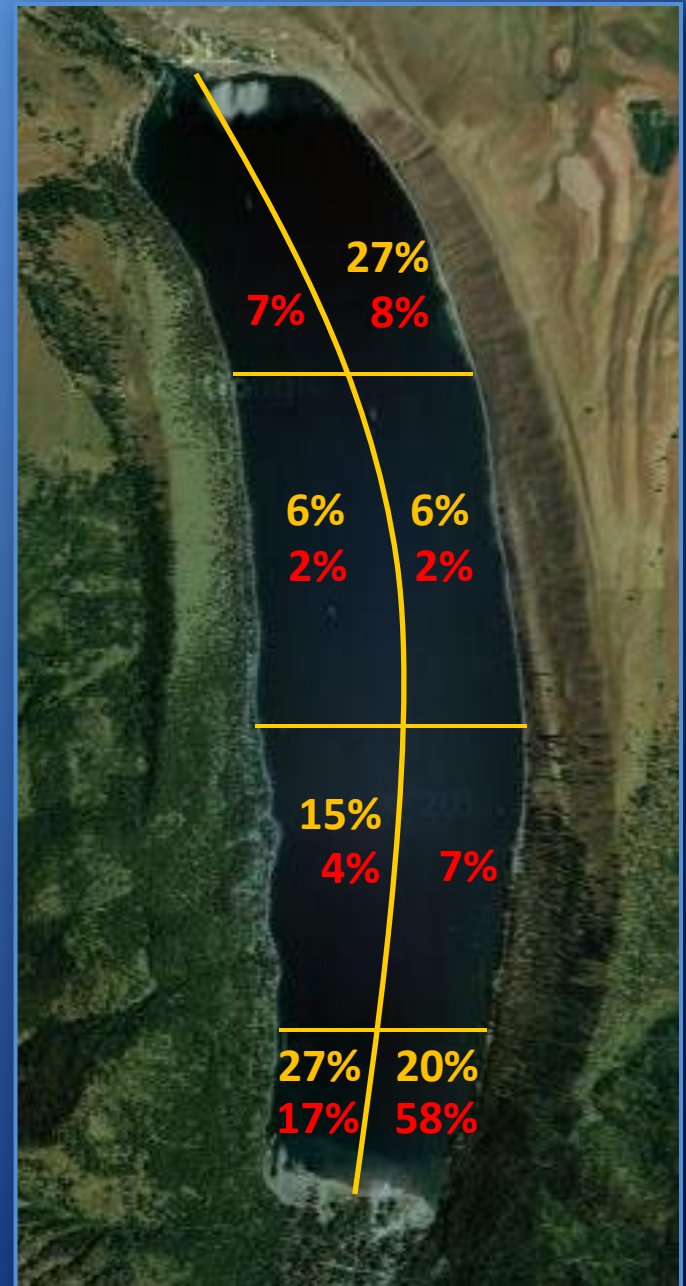
# Return to Creel by Release Date



Fish released before tags were available

# Movement

- **Where were fish caught after release?**
  - **Yellow** = % of total release
  - **Red** = % of total returns
- **Most fish caught outside zone of release**
  - **58% of returns from zone 8**
  - **Conditions or Effort?**





# Challenges

- **Not all reports come in complete**
  - **Follow-up**
- **Fish are being released without tags**
  - **May be hard to train anglers**
- **No estimate for effort**
  - **No catch rates**

**OREGON ODFW Tag Team Reporting**

Be part of the ODFW tag team!  
Take an active role in the management of Oregon fisheries!  
ODFW has released tagged fish in this fishery to evaluate, harvest, survival, growth, and migration, but we need your help. If you catch a tagged fish, please report it ODFW. Some tags include rewards of up to \$50, and fish can be kept or released. If you release a fish, please write down the tag number and release the fish with the tag intact. If the tag includes a reward, the tag must be removed from the fish and returned to ODFW to receive the reward.

Report tags by visit, mail, on the web or phone call to the ODFW Enterprise field office at:  
65495 Alderslope Rd. Enterprise, OR 97828  
Phone: (541) 4263-279  
[http://dfw.state.or.us/RR/fish\\_tag\\_return/index.asp](http://dfw.state.or.us/RR/fish_tag_return/index.asp)

**Water body** WL

**Name: First, Last** JEFF DRULLINGER

**Address: Number and Street** 300 COUNTRY CLUB RD

**City, State, Zip** Enterprise OR 97828

**Phone** (541) 485-4872 **Email** j3cdacres@msn.com

	Fish 1	Fish 2	Fish 3	Fish 4
Date	7/2	"	7/2	7/2
Location within waterbody (see reverse for locations)	Zone: 8	Zone: 8	Zone: 8	Zone: 8
Fish Length (inches)	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8
Tag Numbers (e.g. R-123 or 1234)	0582	0388	0641	0547
Kept or released?	Kept <u>Released</u>	Kept <u>Released</u>	Kept <u>Released</u>	Kept <u>Released</u>
If kept, was it kept because it was tagged?	Y <u>N</u>	Y <u>N</u>	Y <u>N</u>	Y <u>N</u>
If released, was it released with or without tag?	With <u>Without</u>	With <u>Without</u>	With <u>Without</u>	With <u>Without</u>

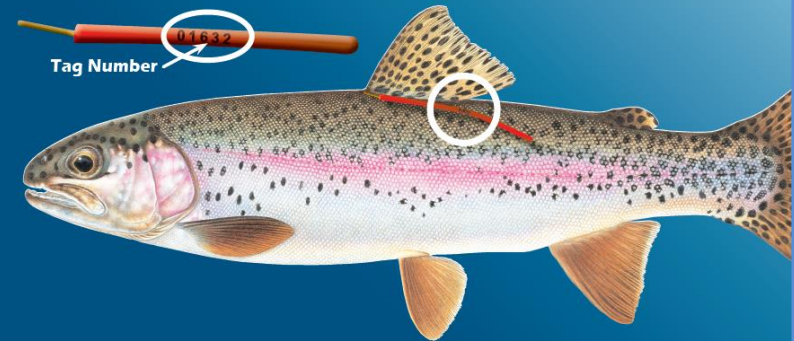


# Benefits

- **Provides cost/time effective creel**
  - **Return to creel**
  - **Harvest**
  - **Fishery Performance**
  - **Size-class performance**
  - **Movement**
- **Stocking Strategies**
  - **Timing**
  - **Stock performance**
  - **Location**
- **Get anglers involved in management**
  - **Increased contact/outreach**
  - **Good experiences**

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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE



# Conclusions

- **Return-to-Creel**
  - **ODFW objective of 60%**
- **Harvest**
  - **45% harvest on all fish**
- **Release timing**
  - **Best returns early July**
  - **Move August stocking earlier?**
- **Movements**
  - **Stocking boat not needed to disperse fish**





# Questions ?

