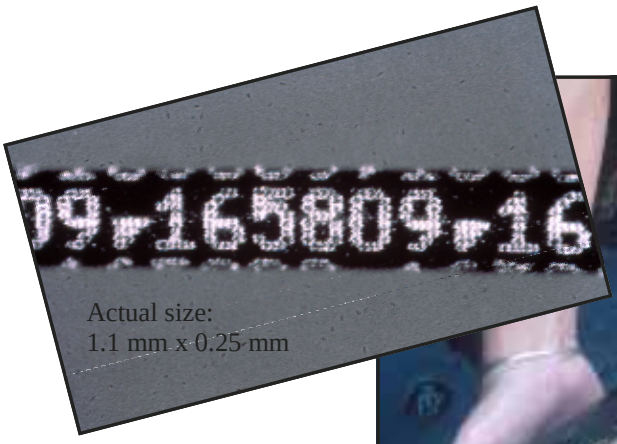
A Responsible Approach



Juvenile mullet can be tagged with Coded Wire Tags (above) which can then be recovered from adults (right) to evaluate hatchery programs.

A half century ago, efforts to supplement marine fish stocks in the United States were abandoned for lack of evidence of their success. Since then, worldwide declines in coastal fisheries have sparked a resurgence in hatchery-based marine stock enhancement. New aquaculture and tagging technologies, along with demands for accountability in fisheries management, have resulted in a quantitative approach to marine stock enhancement[1].

For example, Dr. Ken Leber at Mote Marine Laboratory (www.mote.org) in Florida conducts research that addresses critical uncertainties about stock enhancement of important coastal commercial and recreational species. In a recent publication[2], Dr. Leber used Coded Wire Tags to estimate the postrelease mortality of striped mullet *Mugil cephalus* released at different sizes. He found that size-dependent postrelease mortality had a significant impact on the cost-effectiveness of stocking strategies. Dr. Leber has also used Coded Wire Tags in his research evaluating the effectiveness of stocking snook, Pacific threadfin, and red snapper.

This research, and many other programs examining marine stock enhancement around the world rely on Coded Wire Tags to identify and track hatchery reared fish and crustaceans after release. Please contact us if we can help with your program.

[1]Blankenship H. L. and K. M. Leber, 1995. A responsible approach to marine stock enhancement. American Fisheries Society Symposium 15: 167-175.
[2]Leber, K. M., R. N. Cantrell and P. Leung. 2005. Optimizing cost-effectiveness of size at release in stock enhancement programs. North American Journal of Fisheries Management. 25:1596–1608.

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