

Application Instructions for Plastic Dart Fish Tags

This information is for guidance to the first time user. Procedures will vary, depending on the species to be tagged, type of tag, fish & field conditions. We recommend making yourself familiar with tagging procedures and practice their use before engaging in actual tagging operations.

A. Care & storage of tags

Tags should not be subjected to heat much above normal ambient temperatures. Leave tags in the original packaging until all tags are used. Keep the unpacked magazine flat or upright with the barbs uppermost to prevent them from falling out.

B. Care of tag applicators.

The tip only of the applicator should be kept sharp to a V point & preferably stored with the cover over the tip when not in use to prevent damage or injury.

IMPORTANT: When sharpening the applicator take care not to create a cutting edge on the inside of the tube where the barb seats. After use, wash in clean water & dry.

Do not use the tag applicator as an iki spike otherwise it will block the tube.

C. Loading the applicator

It is a good idea to keep a pre-loaded one in your tag applicator. Place your tagging kit with spare tags, your measure mat, notes & a pen in a handy place so that the fish does not have to wait too long for you to find them.

Important: Check the tag serial number before inserting in the applicator.

If the tag does not slide easily in and out of the applicator then it is either choked with debris or blocked. This must be rectified otherwise you will probably get a hung –up tag.

Loose fitting tags can be secured by making a slight bend in the middle of the tag.

Push the tag fully into the applicator with the barb sitting snugly in the groove.

D. Insertion of tags into fish.

Minimise trauma & damage to fish. Keep it under control. If it has noticeably suffered by capture do not waste time tagging it. Release gently, or keep if legal & you intend to eat.

Anglers & fishermen should carefully observe the procedures for recording of fish details. Record the Tag number, fish species, fish length, and catch location as indicated on the tagging catch sheet. Please ensure that these are reported promptly. Take photos if you can.

1. Remove a scale with the applicator point just below the base of a dorsal spine, usually the second to fourth depending on the species. Avoid placing the tag deeply into muscle.
2. Hold needle with exposed tag barb in line with fish, with barb facing head. Turn needle so barb is on the fish side.
3. Start inserting the needle at a shallow angle under the scales until you feel it pierce the skin, then raise the needle to an angle of 45 degrees so making clearance for the barb.
4. When barb is below skin, return to a shallow angle & insert until the barb is just beyond the fin spine. A slight “click” can be felt as the barb slides over the bone & locks behind it.
5. Pause for a second then withdraw the needle smoothly. A slight tug will help “set” the tag.
6. The fish should then be gently released. Fish showing undue stress, damage or inability to swim should not be released
7. Check out our “how to video” on our website or find us on Face book.