

Original: Fish Division

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INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

DIVISION OF FISHERIES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

COOPERATING WITH THE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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COMPARISON OF NATIONAL BAND AND TAG COMPANY FISH TAGS  
WITH SALT LAKE STAMP COMPANY FISH TAGS

Previous tagging experiments in Michigan waters have made use of tags purchased from the Salt Lake Stamp Company of Salt Lake City, Utah. Because the price quoted by the National Band and Tag Company of Newport, Kentucky, was only one-half of the price formerly paid, No. 3 tags were purchased for this fall's (1938) tagging program from the latter company.

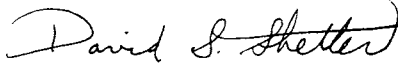
A series of 25 tags from each company was weighed; individual weights of tags were recorded. There was a difference of 0.011 grams between the lightest and heaviest of the Salt Lake Stamp Company product, and a difference of 0.009 grams between the lightest and the heaviest of the National Band and Tag Company tags. The average weight of the Kentucky tags was 0.002 grams heavier (0.448 grams as compared to 0.446 grams) than the tags made by the Utah concern. For all practical purposes they may be said to weigh the same.

The tags supplied by the National Band and Tag Company did not break on application to the fish. Just what their effect on the fish will be can only be determined after an inspection of control fish next spring at the Grayling Hatchery. Fifty brook trout were tagged with the new tags, fifty with the old tags, and fifty normal brook trout have been placed in the same pond. All fish were measured carefully and weighed in groups of five.

The National Band and Tag Company might be requested to send out the tags on wooden sticks, as the card board carriers on which they are now shipped expand on becoming wet, and this makes it difficult for the operator to remove the tags when marking fish.

The tags also should be cut more cleanly by the die or the rough edges milled more smoothly, since the rough edges are a possible source of irritation to the fish carrying the tags.

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