

Lake Superior Steelhead and Kamloops Rainbow Trout Tags

The Minnesota DNR tags and marks steelhead and Kamloops Rainbow Trout in Lake Superior to obtain information necessary for research and management. Reporting tagged or marked fish helps biologists to identify stocks (determining whether stocks or subpopulations are being utilized for sport or commercial fisheries), characterize fish migrations (the path and distance of migration, rate of movement, and homing tendencies of a species), and behavior (habitat selection and intra- and interspecies interactions), determine age (for validation of aging methods and determining growth rates), abundance (using mark-recapture experiments), mortality rates (the effects of natural and fishing mortality on a population), and stocking success (tracking the results of stocking hatchery-reared fish).

If you catch a tagged steelhead or Kamloops: Leave the tag in the fish (if fish will be released), record the tag number, and measure (or estimate) the size of the fish. Information about the tagged fish should be reported at the Minnesota DNRs [Tagged Fish Reporting website](#). This information will be forwarded to the appropriate MN DNR office that can provide more information about your tagged fish.

Steelhead Tags

All steelhead captured at the Knife and French river fish traps each spring are tagged with *individual numbered FloyTags* inserted at the base of the dorsal fin. Steelhead captured at the Knife River trap are given grey tags and steelhead captured at the French River trap are given yellow tags (see photo 1).



Photo 1. Steelhead Rainbow Trout captured at the French River and tagged with a yellow numbered FloyTag at the base of the dorsal fin.

Kamloops Tags

All Kamloops captured at the Knife and French river fish traps each spring are tagged with unnumbered T-bar tags inserted at the base of the dorsal fin. Different colored tags are used each year at French River to identify Kamloops that were recaptured within and among years. Kamloops captured at the Knife River trap are given an orange tag every year (see photo 2).



Photo 2. Kamloops Rainbow Trout captured at the French River and tagged with a yellow (unnumbered) T-bar tag at the base of the dorsal fin.