



Media Advisory (MA06.04) June 5, 2006 Contact: George Liles, 508 495-2378

NOAA Offers New Rewards for Returned Fish Tags *\$250 Lottery for Black Sea Bass and Scup Tags*

NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center will hold quarterly drawings to award \$250 to fishermen who return tags and provide basic information about tag-bearing black sea bass or scup. The drawings will be held in the Woods Hole Science Aquarium, beginning in late June.

The NEFSC has several ongoing tagging programs to examine the biology and movement of fish. Two programs, the Cooperative Black Sea Bass Tagging Project and the Cooperative Scup Tagging Program, currently offer rewards. Fishermen who call in to report orange tags on black sea bass tags or lime green tags on scup receive an embroidered cap. Fishermen who report tags marked "\$100 Reward" receive a check.

In an effort to boost the number of tags reported, NEFSC scientists are now offering a second choice: fishermen who report tagged black sea bass or scup may choose either an embroidered cap or entry into the drawing for the \$250 prize. Fishermen who capture fish with \$100 reward tags (red for black sea bass, orange for scup) are not eligible for the \$250 drawing.

The first drawing will take place the last week of June in the NEFSC's aquarium in Woods Hole. An aquarium visitor will draw the winning tag. The drawing will offer odds of approximately 1 in 250 for each tag submitted. Fishermen may enter more than one tag.

To be enter the \$250 drawing, fishermen must mail the tag to: NEFSC Cooperative Tag Drawing, NOAA Fisheries, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543, Attn: Moser.

The tags must be accompanied by basic recapture information: name and address of fisherman; date of tag recapture; location of recapture (latitude/longitude, Loran, or the reef/wreck name is preferred).

Tags received after 23 June 2006 will be entered in the second drawing, which will be held in late August 2006. The \$250 lottery program will continue until the NEFSC receives fewer than 100 new entries during a quarter. At that time, the program may be adjusted or discontinued.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of the nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, 61 countries and the European Commission to develop a global network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

On the Web:

NOAA Fisheries Service: www.nmfs.noaa.gov

NOAA: www.noaa.gov

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