

Scientific study reveals utility of modern fish tagging technique

Tagging in some fashion is a long-practiced method used to manage fisheries. It works best when the marks made on fish are long-lasting and reliable. A study by biologists, Dr. Catherine Phillips and Joe Fries at the San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center, of tags on two endangered species, the fountain darter and San Marco salamander, was recently published in the scientific journal, the *North American Journal of Fisheries*



A liquid plastic tag is useful for marking the endangered fountain darter, a scientific study shows.

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Management. They researched the utility of a visible elastomer tucked slightly under the animal's skin. Think of it as a small piece of colorful liquid plastic. Having marked and monitored many darters and salamanders, Phillips and Fries learned that the method was useful for management. Moreover, the method did not hamper survival or growth of either animal, something essential for endangered species conservation. ♦ Craig Springer