

Results of German Salmon Tagging in the Sea

by
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In November 1960 67 feeding salmon have been tagged in the southern part of the Baltic. To 4 individuals Carlin-tags were attached, whereas the other fish have been marked with double-barbed nylon darts connected to vinyl tubes (spaghetti) with inserted legends.

The salmon marked were caught by drift lines. They have been measured and weighed before being tagged. In doing so, a small cut has been carried out by means of a scalpel below the dorsal fin. Thereafter the dart was introduced, put through the dorsal bones and turned around. Thus the loss of the dart, being fixed with a barb to at least one bone, is prevented.

The condition of the salmon has been recorded especially considering the place where the hook injured the fish. If the hook is found somewhere around the jaws, salmon is normally in very good condition, that is, if not exhausted by a long struggle before taken onboard. On the other hand none of the individuals with injured gills are proper for tagging. They will perish earlier or later on account of the loss of blood.

Although the number of recaptured fish (15 salmon = 22,4 %) within one year is very small, it is shown, that recaptures of salmon released in good condition are better than recordings of fish tagged in mean or bad conditions.

Table 1. Recaptures of tagged salmon in relation to their condition

condition	number tagged	recaptured	
		number	%
very good	30	9	30
mean	25	4	16
bad	12	2	17

5 of the salmon tagged had a total length of 35 - 55 cm (no recaptures announced), 62 were 65 - 85 cm length. 9 recaptures = 60 % were recorded in the southern Baltic, 6 = 40 % in the vicinity of the Bothnian rivers (Fig. 1). 4 recaptured fish tagged in the Bornholm area have been caught near the place of their release. On the other hand, 6 of the fish tagged in the vicinity of Memel migrated to rivers in the Bothnian Sea, 2 southward into the Bay of Danzig and 2 westward to the Bornholm area.

Table 2. Recaptures of salmon tagged in November 1960 in the southern Baltic

Number of individuals	time		increment		place of recaptures
	number of months	date	weight kg	length cm	
1	1	Dec.	-	--	southern Baltic
6	4 - 5	March/April	-	-	" "
6	7 - 9	June/Aug.	1.75	10.2	Bothnian rivers
3	9 -12	Sept./Dec.	3.6	20.2	southern Baltic

4 - 5 months after tagging (March/April) 6 salmon have been recaptured in the southern Baltic. From June to August, that is 7 - 9 months after tagging 6 fish have been caught in the Bothnian Sea. Nearly 1 year after the release another 3 individuals were recorded from the southern Baltic.

In autumn of 1962 further tagging of clean salmon will be carried out.

- position of release
- recaptures

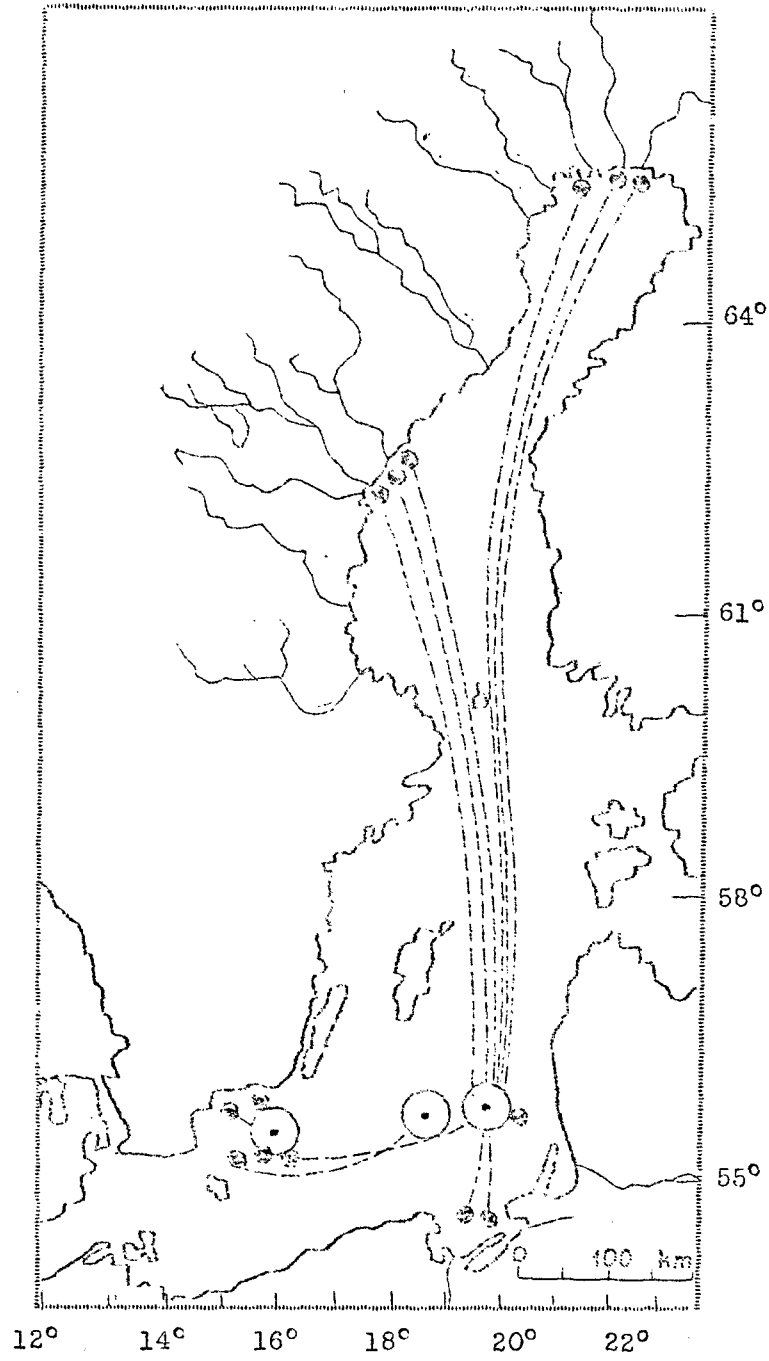


Figure 1. Recaptures of German Salmon taggings in the Baltic