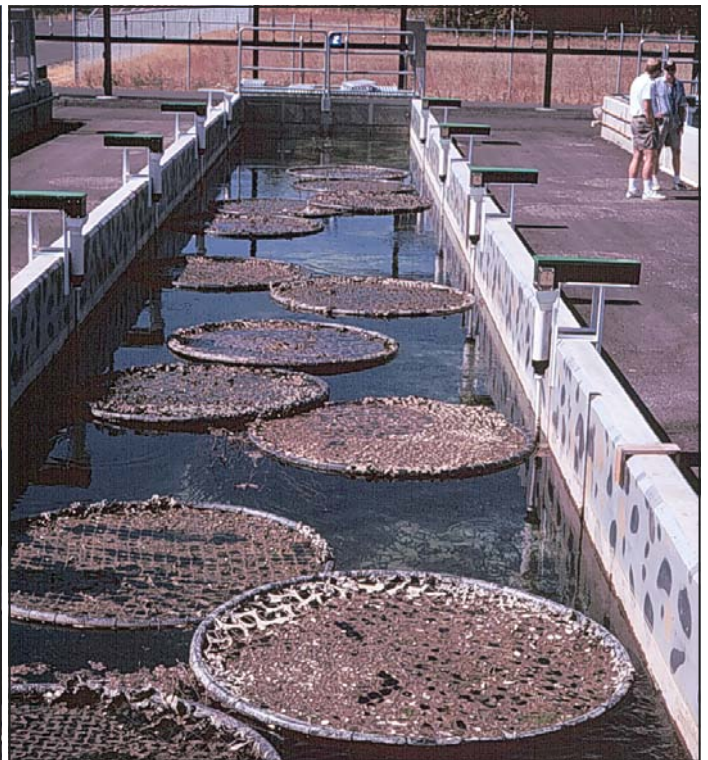
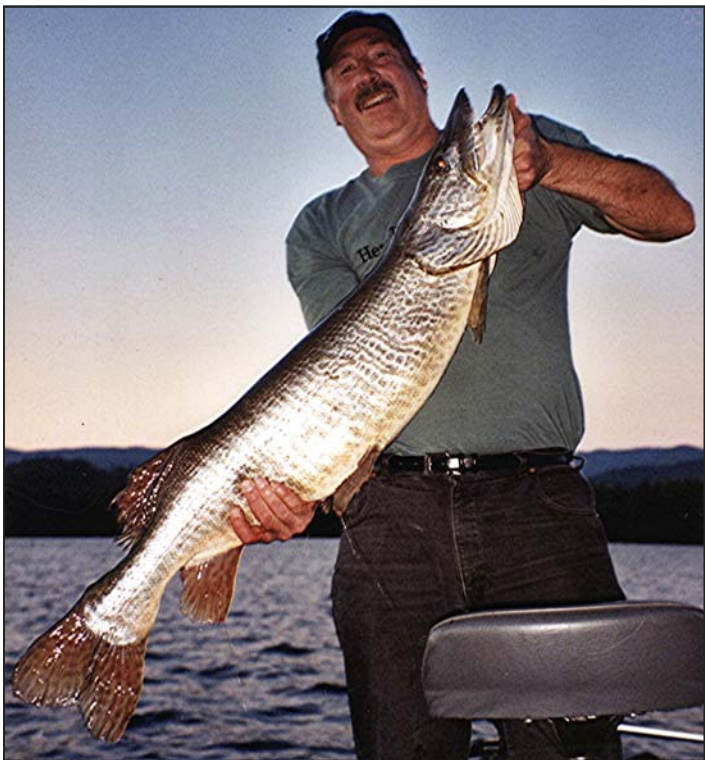


Perfecting Hatchery Practices

In the 1960s, researchers trying to evaluate the merits of different hatchery practices and programs were frustrated by the shortcomings of the available marking methods. In response, they invented the coded wire tag and founded Northwest Marine Technology. With virtually no impact on even very small animals and an unlimited number of unique codes, the coded wire tag was, and still is, ideal for evaluating hatchery practices and measuring the success of hatchery fish.

Researchers around the world use coded wire tags to perfect rearing techniques for a variety of different

species. For example, Jack Tipping, at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has spent over 25 years working with hatchery crews to evaluate how raceway configurations, feeding regimes, feed types, release timing, release size, disease control, rearing density, and spawning protocols affect the survival of hatchery reared fish. His studies have included a number of species, from salmon to tiger muskellunge, and he has published over 30 papers sharing the results with other researchers. Jack's work has improved hatchery programs, both in terms of the survival and contribution of the released fish, and in developing more efficient culture techniques.



Left: Jack Tipping displays a prize tiger muskellunge resulting from a stocking program he developed for a reservoir behind a hydroelectric dam. **Right:** Coded wire tags are ideal for evaluating the success of new hatchery practices, such as the use of automated feeders and semi-natural rearing habitat.

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