

## ► **1,000 giants tagged**

An Atlantic bluefin tuna weighing more than half a ton had the honor of being fitted with the 1,000th electronic tracking tag placed by Stanford University researcher Barbara Block's "Tag-a-Giant" (TAG) team on Oct. 20.

The 10'-long fish was caught and released in the Gulf of St. Lawrence off Port Hood, Nova Scotia by a group of researchers from Stanford, Dalhousie University, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium, working with Canadian fishermen from Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

The TAG team has been placing tags on bluefin since 1996. The first tag was placed on a fish off North Carolina's Outer Banks. Since then, the team has traveled from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico and from Ireland to Corsica and to Spain, according to Block, who chronicled the 1,000th tag placement on her online blog.

"Placing 1,000 tags on giant bluefin has been a long quest for TAG researchers whose work has helped to reveal the life history of these amazing, elusive creatures," she wrote. "The tagging data ... have been vital in identifying how populations of bluefin tuna use the North Atlantic, leading to new discoveries about their physiology, their migratory patterns, and their population structure."