

# Chair's Introduction

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In 1988, at the last ASFB workshop on tagging (Hancock 1989), presentations and discussions covered a very broad range of topics; from the assumptions on which tag and recapture experiments are based, to case studies on a wide range of fishes and invertebrates, and the strengths and weaknesses of analyses on tagging data. With very few exceptions the papers presented in 1988 focussed on the use of "conventional tags" – simple, individually-numbered plastic dart or metal markers. Ten years ago alternative methods and technologies were either in the early stages of development, or had not been invented. Kearney (1989) briefly discussed the potential for studying migration using indirect means (e.g. otolith chemistry, otolith marking, radio-isotopes, etc.), Keenan and MacDonald (1989) introduced the concept of genetic tagging, and Jernakoff (1989) described an innovative study using electromagnetic tags on rock lobsters.

Today, a decade later, an impressive array of new electronic technology is available to study fish migration, behaviour and responses to environmental factors. There has also been considerable research into the use of alternative approaches - otolith chemistry, genetic tags, etc.

The speakers in this session will provide brief descriptions of both conventional and new methods and technology used in movement and migration studies. In many applications, Australian fisheries scientists are leading international research efforts in this field, so much of what is presented will be at the

cutting edge. The objective is to show what is available and, where either the literature or personal experience allows, to provide an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the various approaches.

## References

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