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TETHERING BEST PRACTICES

Following are our best-practice tethering techniques to optimize tag retention.

We recommend leaving a gap between the nose and the crimp, as illustrated. Tethers crimped tightly against the nose of the tag are susceptible to breakage.

- For our monofilament tether testing, the tag nose and crimp were separated by 7 mm.
- The free space allowed, as shown, is about the diameter of the crimp that is shown (for photo purposes only) in the open space inside the mono.
- For our stainless-steel cable tether testing, the tag nose and crimp were separated by 5 mm.
- If you are using a material other than what is listed, you will need to decide on the spacing. In general, the distance is more for flexible tethers (monofilament) and less for stiff tethers (steel cable).
- Ensure the area between the end of the crimp and the tag's nose is not covered by heat shrink tubing.
- If using monofilament, cut the mono on an angle so it comes to a point. Use a razor blade to cut the mono to prevent burrs. Expect a snug fit when threading the line through the nose.
- Use caution when applying heat shrink. Use just enough heat to shrink the tubing.
 - Too much heat can damage the leader material, particularly mono.
 - Some clients use hot water to apply the heat-shrink.
 - Do not use a cigarette lighter!
- MiniPATs are equipped with an electronic release feature to prevent the tag sinking to crush depths. If you are planning to use an RD1800 mechanical release device in your application, contact us to discuss your tethering plans.

 Conduct a float test after rigging your tag to ensure your final set-up is positively buoyant.



Materials available to be supplied by Wildlife Computers, and which have been used for tether testing are:

- 1.8 mm 300# monofilament (Momoi, Hi-Catch Classic, 300 lbs, smoke blue)
- 7x7 stainless steel braided cable (McMaster-Carr, 3461T35, extra-lubricated, strand core, 0.047")
- Ancor Marine Grade 1/8" adhesive-lined heatshrink—used on all steel cable tethers and some mono tethers to increase stiffness/diameter
- Ancor Marine Grade 3/16" adhesive-lined heat shrink—used on stainless steel cable to cover the crimp closest to the tag
- Nicopress Cat. No: 168-2-VB4 (for mono) & 168-1.5-VB4 (for steel) Stainless Oval Sleeves
- Nicopress 33V-CG Crimping tool (available for purchase)

For specific tethering needs, please work with your Wildlife Computers Technical Sales Consultant by emailing tags@wildlifecomputers.com.

