

iTag Membership Agreement

Vision: To integrate tracking data and knowledge to improve our understanding of spatial ecology of aquatic animals and its linkage to sustainable use of our natural resources.

Mission: The mission of the iTAG community is to increase the capability in the Gulf of Mexico to assess movements and spatial ecology of aquatic animals at the Large Marine Ecosystem scale through improved networking, increased infrastructure, and sharing of acoustic transmitter detection data.

Objectives: Our objectives to meet this need include: (1) building a community environment amongst Gulf of Mexico (GOM) telemetry scientists to foster integrative science and a synthesis of current acoustic telemetry infrastructure within the GOM; (2) identify key data needs for fisheries management that telemetry research can help address; (3) organize telemetry workshops to provide an opportunity for this community to come together, network, meet with equipment vendors, and learn about emerging telemetry research and what is being conducted in the GOM; (4) increase infrastructure at the regional scale, including acoustic receiver arrays and the capability to share detection data; and (5) help to facilitate the integration of movement and oceanography/environmental data.

Nature of Service: The iTAG community is a scientific network facilitating the exchange of information and data between scientists. The iTAG community provides to its members benefits such as but not exclusive to: the means to exchange orphan detection data, a map of telemetry arrays throughout the Gulf of Mexico, iTAG members and their contact information, and meetings to help create increased collaboration at the regional scale.

Membership Responsibilities: The following standards of agreement shall be expected of all members of the iTAG community

- i. Members will update orphan tag numbers and current receiver locations at least once a year.
- ii. Must be willing to share tag IDs with the iTAG community and general information about array (number of receivers, general location, start and end dates of study)
- iii. Tag deployment by scientists within another's array should always be discussed with array owners prior to initiation of a study and there should be written agreement between all parties involved.
- iv. Members should maintain at least some receivers, have a written agreement with other members maintaining receivers, or at least have plans to deploy receivers in the near future.
- v. Authorship criterion: Must include the but/for clause (detections received/given that are integral to the results and publications of a another study warrant co-authorship), but also meet journal requirements for authorship
- vi. Unethical actions within the iTAG community
 1. Data ranching: without discussing collaboration, expecting a significant proportion of your detection data to come from someone else's receivers (i.e., tagging and releasing fish within someone else's array)
 2. Data mining: putting out receivers in proximity to another researcher's array and no tags with the intent to publish or present (without written consent) from the data received
 3. Data blocking: putting out tags with such short delays that other tags cannot be detected reliably
 4. Data theft: the unauthorized retrieving and downloading of a receiver.
 5. Data hoarding: Not releasing the detection data (in a timely manner) to the corresponding scientist who tagged the fish and who is in good standing within the iTAG community
- vii. Violations of any of the articles listed herein shall be reported to a member of the iTAG steering committee.
- viii. Consequences of breaking the standards. The assumption is that each member can be trusted until seen otherwise. If the steering committee agrees (through a majority vote) that a member has acted unethically, that person will no longer be a member of the iTAG community.

These are the terms and conditions set forth by the iTAG community for membership. By agreeing, you are expected to follow all terms and conditions listed above. The iTAG steering committee reserves the right to modify this document in the future as needed and will notify all members of the iTAG community if such an event occurs.