

Alaska Trappers Association Official Position Statement Trap Identification Tags

The Alaska Trappers Association does not support a requirement that identification tags be attached to traps and snares anywhere in Alaska. Proponents of this concept suggest that trap tags would reduce or eliminate trapping violations. That is idle speculation. Only law-abiding trappers would obey this new regulation. “Outlaw” trappers would ignore the requirement, as they do with other regulations. Thus, trap tags would serve no useful purpose and would place an unnecessary burden on law-abiding trappers.

In addition, tagged traps belonging to law-abiding trappers could be stolen and re-set illegally. This is not idle speculation. It happened to a member of our Board of Directors when he was trapping in the Lower 48. Fortunately, local law enforcement officials were aware of his ethical standards and normal trapping areas. He was not cited, but this incident serves as an example of how tagged traps can be used against a law-abiding trapper. Threats of similar actions have been made in recent years in Alaska.

We are also concerned about the potential for uneven enforcement throughout the State. Regulations should be enforced equally in all areas.

The Alaska Trappers Association does not support implementation of a regulation requiring identification be attached to all traps and snares.

Adopted this 28th day of April, 2015

ATA President