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Development of a prototype electronic tag for studying the migratory behaviour of marine species

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Archival electronic tags can be used as standalone data loggers for sampling the ocean for gathering the environmental parameters and studying the migratory patterns of marine species, identifying their feeding and spawning grounds, etc.. A prototype archival electronic tag for monitoring the ocean parameters like temperature, pressure and light intensity has been developed. A digital temperature sensor is used to sample the temperature from the tag's surroundings, while a micro machined piezoresistive silicon digital pressure sensor, which is capable of measuring absolute pressure levels upto 14 bars, provides the depth information. One of the important parameters to be measured is the geolocation of the species, which is computed from the ambient light intensities recorded by the digital light sensor in the tag. These parameters can be sampled and recorded in the memory at preset time intervals, as set at the time of deployment of the tag. This minaturised tag provides the temperature data with 13 bit resolution, while the pressure and light intensity values have 15 bit resolutions. When used in fisheries studies, the size of the device has to be miniaturised, so that by way of attaching such devices, the normal behaviour of the species remain unaffected.