



# TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST

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## Newsletter...Summer roundup 2019

Hi Everyone

It has been a busy summer out on the water for the Trust members and from what I see in the results many of you have had some fun out there too. I am overwhelmed with the positive response and enthusiasm we are getting from everyone out there in regard the inshore tagging project. It is especially exciting for the next generation as I read your comments like... *"The kids were super excited when the tagging kit turned up at home and I explained what the principles behind the tagging program were. So, it is the first time that the kids have actually asked me to take them fishing. Once we got fishing it was hard to avoid tagging every fish we caught, because we did actually want to take some home for tea". Cheers Mike*". This is definitely a community project, benefiting present and future generations and open to all New Zealanders so we are very grateful for all the offers of help in getting this project out there. Kim's Photo of young Sam's excitement at the letterbox is priceless.... happy times ahead. For the volunteers, I will be back to some of you as things quieten down to help make up new tagging kits. Please share the "wanted" poster, it will be important to educate the fishing public everywhere what to do if they recapture a tagged fish. In the mean while keep up the great work.



Over 150 Tag and release kits have so far been distributed, from Milton in the far south to Houhora in the far north. Not a bad start considering marketing is limited to word of mouth. Thanks to a few donations we



have added extra tags to most orders and are looking to options for additional sponsorship. There are a few micro projects in the pipeline that involve the tag and release program. One such project earmarked soon for the Kapiti coast has 50 kits sponsored by Air New Zealand to be used to research fish dynamics in and around the Kapiti coast area. Inquiries from other areas of interest are the Kaikoura coast, Hauraki Gulf, Raglan and Kaipara areas. No doubt as word spreads more areas will want to know more and get involved.

I have attached an excel spread sheet kindly put together by member Johnny Tik for use by anyone that would prefer this option over individual returns on the trust website. For the computer savvy a few of you are using google drive and adding photos which is another cool idea and has been handy to look further into the condition of the released fish and compare them to the same fish on recaptures. Thanks to a massive effort throughout the tagging program by Michael Jenkins we have had several recaptures that we can compare photos of before and after. More on them later in the update. The Facebook page has been a problem for

members to post on so we have added a 'community' page. The issue was I was the only one that could post on the page and we were unable to get posts tagged onto the site. Hopefully the issue is now sorted and you can share your tagging experiences to the page. You can find it as "Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust - Community" you can go direct by clicking on the fish icon from the website. Remember to join the community page and invite your friends. In addition, I still have quite a bit to add to the website so this will be updated next month. If there is anything you think we need to include please give me a call.



We have sent out over 3700 tags so far with around 900 recorded in our data base as deployed. Some of you are waiting to finish your stock of tags before sending in the completed sheets. But it would be great if this was not left too long in case there is an issue and you need to rely on memory for any queries when they are recorded into the data base. As at the end of February we have already had 10 recaptures with some surprising results. Sadly, there have been several more I have heard about from fishers that have noticed tags on their fish and released them again without taking down any details. We need to get the word out to the wider public that this is their project too and we need everyone to help out where they can. The 'wanted poster' mentioned earlier is a start. This is your project too so any input, suggestions and ideas are always welcome.

After Christmas I temporally moved most of my office to the boat. First mission was to tag Tope sharks for a Massey University study on school shark movements. On our first day Clinton Duffy, Sue and I spent ½ the day catching fresh bait and tagged and released several other inshore species as well.



As often happens on the Kaipara harbour we had several juvenile Great White Sharks turn up instead. Fortunately we had on hand an experimental electronic satellite tag provided by Conservation international in case this happened. Prior to setting out we had decided to only tag Great white sharks between 2.4 and 3m to enable the best reception from the tag. Four great whites were encountered that day showing themselves as either too small or too big. The following day our first visitor was a quiet 2.5m great white shark that was successfully tagged and released in minutes from hook-up. Nicknamed Mac3 we were able to follow his movements

out of the harbour up to Baileys beach and down the coast to Raglan before returning to the Kaipara harbour again. Two large Great white sharks were later tagged as part of the same study at the Chatham Islands by Conservation International and





Kina Scullay. These electronic tags are set to detach and transmit stored data in around 6 months, hopefully giving further insights to the sharks' secretive life below the waves.

The next mission was on the East coast. Sue and I spent a few weeks looking for Manta ray hot spots off the NE coast and settled on basing ourselves at the Bay of Islands. We recorded several sightings of oceanic manta rays and a few Devil ray mating trains.

Dr Mark Erdman from Conservation International, Clinton Duffy and Irene Middleton then joined me for a week of relatively calm weather as we headed for the area off Whangaroa. During the best two days we were able to tag 2 giant manta rays out of the 8 sighted, a New Zealand



first. Additionally, 26 spine tailed devil rays were recorded including observation of several more devil ray 'mating trains', a courtship ritual first described in NZ waters by us two years ago.

The members of the team also managed to tag and release several inshore species in the evenings before heading into the bays for the night.



Last month I headed off on a road trip to the South Island and met up with Clinton in Wellington on my return to demonstrate best handling and tag and release procedures to representatives from the area. The group organised by the Department of conservation included DOC staff members, MPI fisheries analyst, local fishing guide Pete Lamb and the charter boat captain and crew. We met the boat at Mana and spent the day in the lee of the cliffs up the coast from Porirua. Everyone had a go at

catching, documenting, tagging and releasing their catches. Just under 50 fish were tagged including Kahawai, spiny dog fish and carpet shark. The department will be distributing the 50 tagging kits and extra tags to keen anglers that fish the Kapiti coast area. This project aims to work with local fishers to develop a better understanding of fish sizes and movements adjacent to the Kapiti Island Marine Reserve.

## Tagged Fish Recaptures

So far all our top taggers have had fish recaptures.

### T47

A 36cm snapper released Sue Tindale on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018 during a pilot study on the Kaipara harbour was recaptured by Brown & Hayman fisheries ltd 41 days later during a trawl in 80m of water off the Taranaki bite. The fork length was measured at 38cm on recapture and had travelled a straight-line distance of 305km

### T367

A 37cm snapper released by Michael Jenkins on the 21 October 2018 while surfcasting off Karekare Beach was recaptured by Mathew Wade straylining from a small dingy off Cowan Bay 26 days later. He reported it measured 38cm and weighed 1.045kg. It was in very good condition. Its stomach was full of black mussels and crabs. This fish was recaptured less than 0.4km from its release point



### T956

George Watson tagged and released a 29cm snapper on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 from his boat anchored in 10m of water. He recaptured the same fish 27 days later fishing in the same area. It was rereleased unmeasured within 25m of its original release location.

### T293

A 29cm snapper released by Richard (Ski) Nawisielski fishing from his dingy south of Arkles Bay on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 was recaptured 23 days later by Neil Garner handlining from his boat at the northern end of Arkles Bay. Neil reported that the fish was in great condition, measured 30cm and he had not noticed the tag until he filleted the fish. There was no damage to the flesh at the tag location but the tag had a little growth on it. This fish had moved less than 600m from its original release point.

### T1165

Christopher Caine visiting from South Island tagged and released a 60cm hammerhead shark while fishing from the shore at Ngarimu Bay on the 21 December 2018. This shark was recaptured 9 days later approximately 2.76km away on a longline set by Allan Ogden 1km off Te Puru. Allan reported it was one of a dozen he caught on this set



### T714

Scott Tindale released a 41.5cm snapper off the Kaipara Flats on the 29 December 2018 fishing in 2.4m of water. This fish was recaptured by Jack Alesich aboard the charter boat 'Bonnie Jay' 5 days later at the "Grave Yard" in 18m of water 23km from the release location. Skipper Wayne Bollond reported the fish measured 41.5cm and was in great condition.



### T391

Michael Jenkins released a 30cm snapper fishing from Motuihe wharf on the 19 November 2018. Norman Mcliver recaptured the fish 62 days later from the exact same location. It was re-released with an estimated size of 32cm. There were signs of slight haemorrhaging around the tag entry position and a few hydroids growing on the tag.

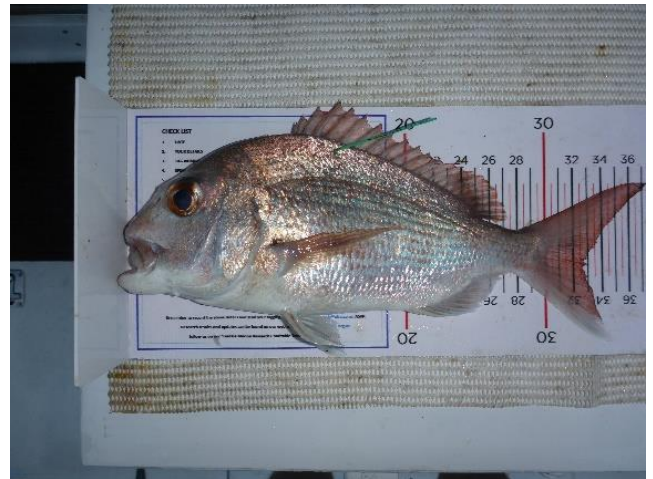


### T16

Nathan Reid from Moana NZ reported a recapture of a snapper during a trawl 12miles off 90 Mile Beach sometime between the 27 and 30<sup>th</sup> of January. This fish was tagged and released close to Shelly Beach by Sue Tindale line fishing in 2.8m of water in the Kaipara harbour on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018. On release it measured 37.5cm. At around 10 months (303 days) at liberty this fish has travelled a straight-line displacement of around 240km. Nathan reported it was export quality and no signs of trauma from tagging. Unfortunately, it was not measured.

### T2338

On the 2 February 2019 Scott Tindale sheltering in Fitzroy Harbour from bad weather tagged and released a snapper measuring 32.5cm. This fish had a badly deformed top lip and it was surprising it took such a large bait. This fish was recaptured the following day from the same anchorage by Sue Tindale. It was photographed and rereleased again.



### T647

While fishing from the shore in the Kaipara lagoon on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2018 Scott Tindale tagged and released a Kahawai measuring 49cm. This fish was recaptured 41 days later on the 8<sup>th</sup> February by Vinnie Harkins surfcasting off Murawai Beach approximately 11km away.

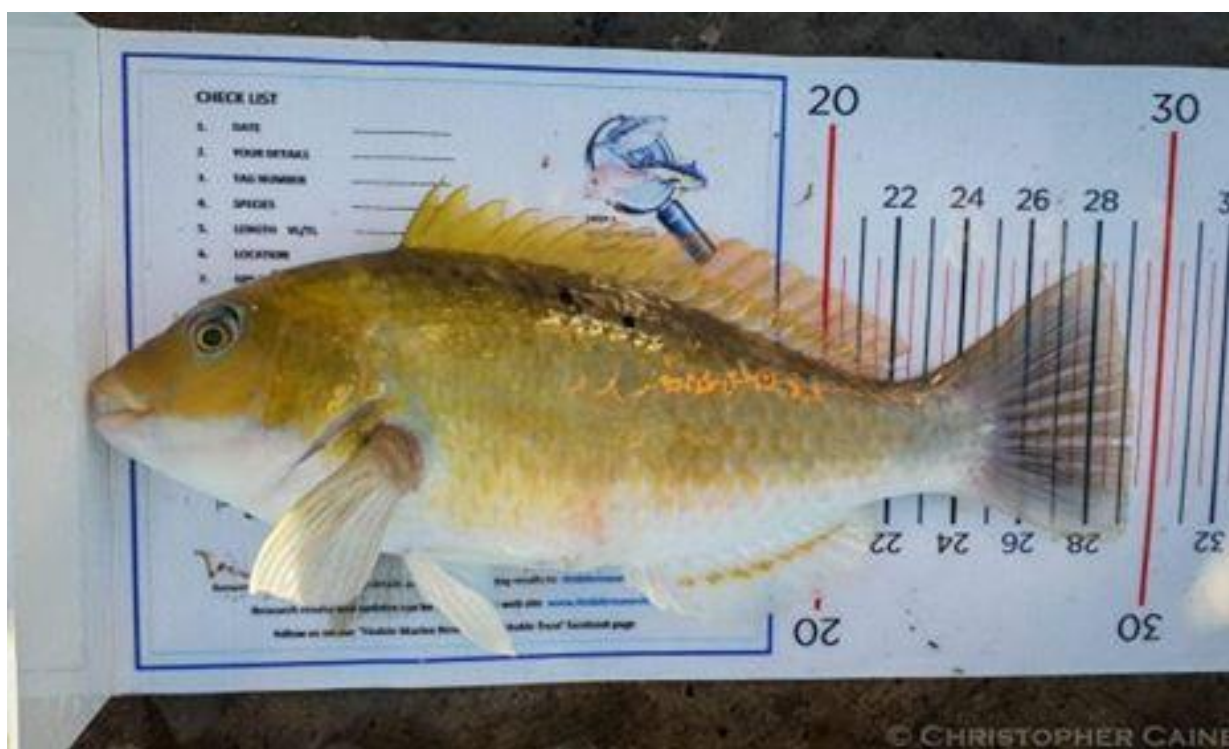


Thank you to all of you who have supported this citizen science inshore fish tagging project to date, especially everyone that have tagged fish & reported recaptures. The tagging recapture certificates have been a great finishing touch too judging from the responses I have received. Finally, I would like to congratulate 2 taggers that have been awarded NZ angling records for fish tagged and released as part of this program. Michael Jenkins and Christopher Caine have both received two New Zealand length records each. I have been advised that the last two NZ Record certificates are away being signed off by NZACA officials ready to post out. The length record system was established so trophy fish could be recognised in a way that the fish could be released again live to fight another day. True sportsmanship and sustainability at its best.

The latest autumn recaptures will be added to the next roundup.



New Zealand Length Record “Blue Moki” (*Latridopsis ciliaris*) tagged and released by Christopher Caine. Kaikoura.



New Zealand Length Record “Spotty” (*Notolabrus celidotus*) caught and released by Christopher Caine.





New Zealand Length Record 46cm “Sandager’s wrasse” (*Coris sandeyeri*) tagged and released by Michael Jenkins. Henderson Bay, far north



New Zealand Length Record 28cm “Red Mullet” (*Upeneichthys lineatus*) tagged and released by Michael Jenkins. Leigh Harbour.

Cheers

Tindale Marine research Charitable Trust.