



TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST

Charities Registration No. CC55555

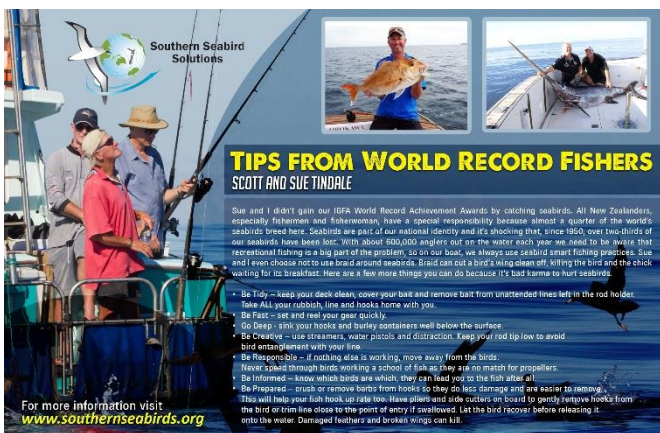
IRD no. 126-648-057

Newsletter #6....Autumn/Winter 2019 roundup

Hi Everyone

We have just passed the shortest day for the year so I think a mid-year round up on activities from the trusts members is due. Firstly a bit about the volunteer work we're doing around the country....

If you visited the Hutchwilco boat show in Auckland this year you would have seen Sue and I helping out on the Southern seabird solutions stand again. These boat shows are always a great opportunity to talk fishing and engage with the public on the things that effect the sea life we interact with. As ambassadors of our outdoor pursuits it is also important to raise public awareness of how important it is to care for our environment and its occupants. Seabirds can be a pain in the ass as far as fishing is concerned, they steel your baits and get tangled in your lines but there are ways that we can discourage them hanging around and avoiding hooking

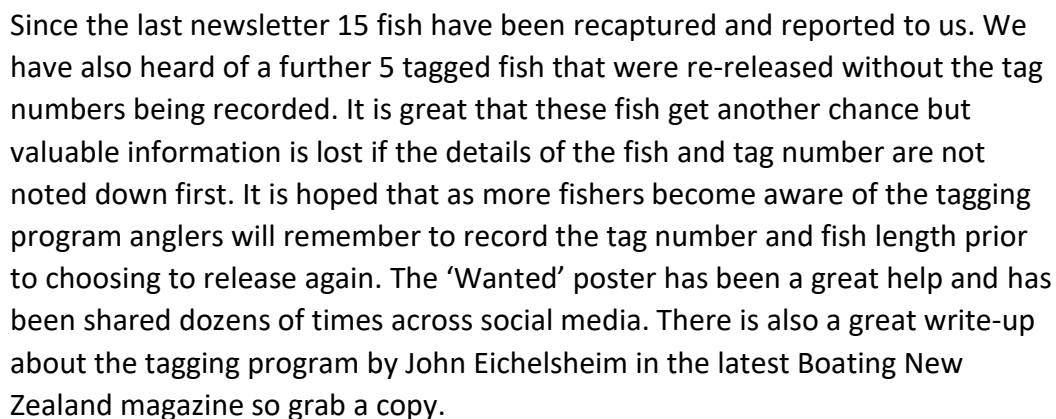


or harming them. Visitors to the stand were shown our 8 handy hints and advice on how to catch fish not seabirds.

This year our stand was visited by the Hon. Stuart Nash, Minister of Fisheries New Zealand where we were able to have a short chat about the inshore tagging program. It was encouraging to then receive a letter from the Minister expressing an interest in our volunteer work especially the Trust's citizen science approach to researching our fisheries with the inshore fish tagging program.

We are happy to announce that we have been offered our own stand at the next boat show in Tauranga during the first week of November and another in Auckland next year. This will give us a great opportunity to promote these citizen science projects face to face with the public. As always we will be looking for volunteers that are keen to help out setting up and fronting the stands. Tagging kits and measure mats will be on sale for any visitors wishing to join the inshore tagging program on the day. We will be there to answer any questions and offer friendly advice. Many thanks to the event organisers for supporting the trust in this way, looking forward to seeing you all there.





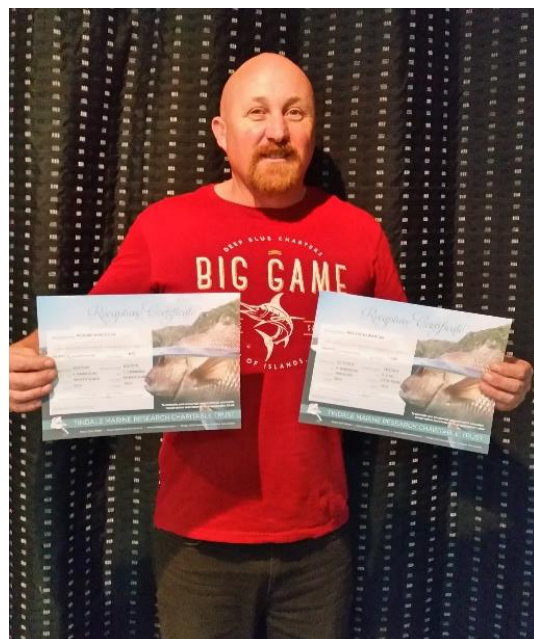
To date we have distributed over 5000 tags with around 1300 reported as deployed. There have been 22 species of fish tagged with 5 of these species recaptured. Not surprisingly the most common tagged and released fish species is Snapper (873) next is Kahawai (176) followed by Gurnard and Kingfish. Blue Cod stands at only 1 tagged and released, which is odd considering it is claimed to be of significant importance to recreational anglers over most of the country. With all the concerns in the media on this species it is hoped that this tagging program can shed some light on their seasonal movement's, mortality and growth rates.

Please get your tagged fish details in to us as soon as possible after release. We have had a few recaptures of late that we had no records of on file. A bit of phoning around was needed to match up these records. If taggers sit on the details too long data can be lost, especially if you have to rely on fading memory. Recording of your tag and release details can be done on line, or by emailing a copy of your catch sheet to us. Remember you do not have to wait until the catch sheet is full. If you would like a spread sheet template that you can update as you go, contact us for a copy. If you decide to share the tags in your kit with fellow anglers fishing with you remember to fill in the free registration form so we can match the tagger with the fish.

Notable recaptures

Richard Nawisielski heads the leader board with 6 of his tagged fish being recaptured so far, all from the Hauraki Gulf. They were all recaptured by recreational fishers. One of these recaptures was of a snapper he caught from 40m depth. It was recaptured 72 days later in 55m of water in the same area.

One of his other fish made it to stardom by being recaptured during the filming of an Australian television fishing show aboard Nautilus charters. This fish made a brief appearance on screen before being released for a third chance at life. More on this and other recaptures later in this report.



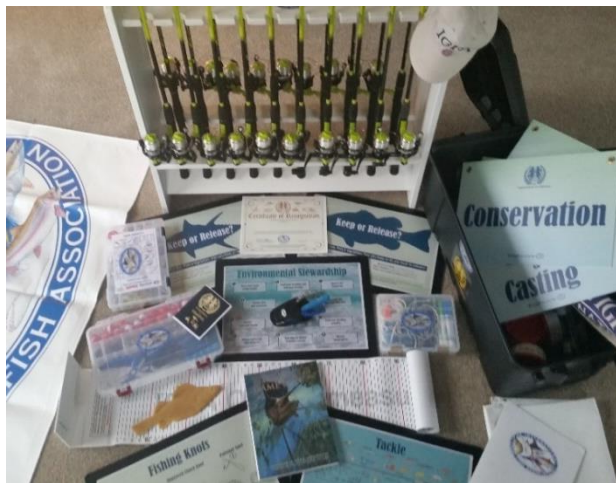
Length records for tagged fish

Michael Jenkins is in the record books again. This time while lure fishing from the rocks off Waiheke Island he tagged and released a 78cm Snapper, an all tackle New Zealand land-based length record. Congratulations Michael, that's a nice looking fish. To qualify for this sport fishing category fish must be photographed, measured and released live. I will continue to look out for potential records amongst your tag returns should anyone wish to apply for a NZ record. Again it pays to take photos of your tagged fish as another angler's potential record could not be claimed due to the lack of a photo. It would be a shame to miss an opportunity like this after going to the trouble to tag and release an exceptional fish.



IGFA passport to fishing

To coincide with the International Game Fish Association's (IGFA) 80th anniversary the IGFA announced five key initiatives in its new three year strategy. One of these is to teach 100,000 youth around the world to fish and to help establish the next generation of educated, ethical, conservation-minded and accomplished anglers. To achieve this goal the IGFA has asked its committee of international representatives to promote this vision through its Passports to Fishing education program. The focus of the program is to educate young anglers about- basic tackle, knot tying, conservation, stewardship, casting and angler safety. It is these basic principles that become the foundation of an ethical angler. Fishing regulations, fish handling and looking after our environment are also central to the project. Participants can then put theory into practice. As an IGFA representative I was approached by the IGFA back in June to co-ordinate a fishing event to coincide with International Fishing Day on June 7. Unfortunately the New Zealand winter- and late



arrival of the educational kits meant it was impossible to do this. Despite that the IGFA are very keen to promote something from Oceania that include kids in fishing and conservation, so they have embraced the "take a kid tagging" aspect of our inshore tagging program. This is a great opportunity to showcase the Trust's work to the world. Consequently the trust will be partnering the 'passport to fishing' education program with local schools, education facilities interested groups and fishing clubs who wish to hold a youth fishing program over the next year. Anyone that would like to be involved should check in with Scott for events near you.

Satellite tagging sharks and rays

As reported in the last update, three Great White Sharks and two Giant Manta Rays were fitted with a new style of satellite tag this year. Tags on two of the sharks at the Chatham Islands detached early, as did one on a manta rays. All but two of these tags have been recovered and returned for analysis. One of the manta rays moved more than 1500 km north of New Zealand. Fortunately its tag was one of those recovered and it has been returned to Wildlife Computers to extract the archived data. The analysis of this data should shed new light on these mysterious creatures' travels and its behaviour.



The great white shark Mac3 had a good following on face book as he played around close to the west coast



beaches unfortunately his tag stopped transmitting much too soon. Like most of you I like to follow their tracks but the shark must swim close to the surface for the tag to transmit a location. It is possible he has stayed deep preventing the tag from transmitting, or the tag may have been damaged or the wet-dry sensors may have become fouled with something. The tag is due release, so we're hoping it will float to the surface and report to us any day now. It would be great to find out where he has been hiding. Failing that, we hope someone will come across the tag and let us know its been found.

Mysteries at the Museum

A few days each month we help out in the marine collections at Auckland War Memorial Museum. Last year we spent a considerable amount of time off site curating around 5000 fish



specimens collected from New Zealand and around the Pacific. This year we have been working in the museum labs transferring mollusc and invertebrates collected on recent expeditions into the SW Pacific into preserving jars. Each item is preserved in ethanol, labelled with the species name and collection date and location and stored for future study. Students and researchers from around the world can access collections to increase our knowledge of the surprising diversity of life-forms found in our oceans.



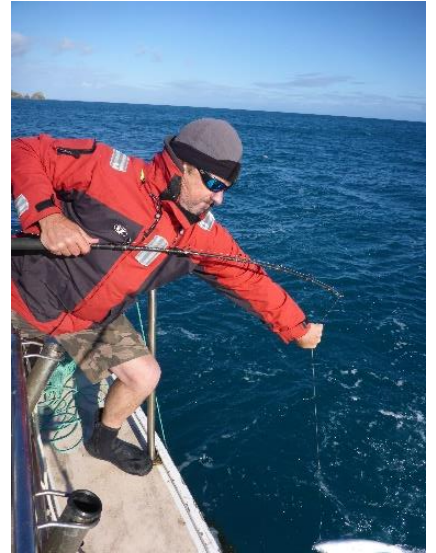
A new addition to the museum collection last month was a young great white shark that was found dead on 90 mile beach earlier this year. The shark was picked up, frozen and delivered to the museum for study by the guys that discovered it. Clinton Duffy and Tom Trnski, Head of Natural Sciences at the Museum weighed it, and took detailed measurements and DNA samples before preservation. The tiny apex predator measured 1.05m long and weighed 7.8kg making it the third smallest on record and the smallest in any collection. News reporters filmed the event for TV's Seven Sharp airing on the 25th of June. For those that missed it you can view it on our Facebook page.

There was nothing to suggest the shark had been captured and discarded and its condition suggested it may have starved to death. There was nothing in its stomach, and it weighed less than late stage great white embryos reported in scientific literature. The ocean throws out some interesting things sometimes so keep an eye out as you never know what you might find that could be of interest to science.



Kapiti tagging program

In mid-April Clinton Duffy and I met up with Wellington Department of Conservation staff and a locals for a tag and release training exercise off the Kapiti coast. In rather blustery windy conditions around 50 fish, mostly Kahawai, were tagged and released giving us an opportunity to teach best handling and tagging procedures to all aboard. Thanks to Pete Lamb and the crew for looking after us. The success of this first trip led to another in better conditions held in early May where another 50 fish were tagged and released by a new cohort of taggers. Future training trips are to be held as the weather improves. If you fish the Kapiti coast area look out for introductions to the tagging program being held at clubs and other locations later in the year. It is hoped this program can assist in better understanding the Population dynamics and movements of fish around the Kapiti Island Marine Reserve.



Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust Inshore Fish Tagging program Recapture report.

T0825

While surfcasting off the Foxton river mouth on the 2nd of March 2019 Angelo DiBartolo caught, tagged and released a 55cm kahawai.



Bronsyn Taueki and friend Jay Hawkins were very excited to recapture this fish on the 2nd of May 100m to the right of the triangle marker, Waitarere side of Foxton beach. This fish was recaptured less than 500m from its original release location after 61 days at liberty. It measured 56.5cm on recapture



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At the start of the last 'summer roundup' I shared a comment from Mike who emailed... *"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 was 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 actually want to take some home for tea'...* Well to complete the story they tagged and released a snapper and so the story continues...

T1293

On the 3rd of March 2019 Mike Stott and family headed out for a fish in their boat off Matakana Island with their new tagging kit where they tagged and released their first fish, a Snapper measuring 30.5cm caught in 14m of water.

Sixty-two days later on the 4th of May this fish was recaptured by David Dawson fishing from his boat 'Doing it' in 16m of water off Karewa Island. This fish was recaptured 4.35km from the original release location.

T0872

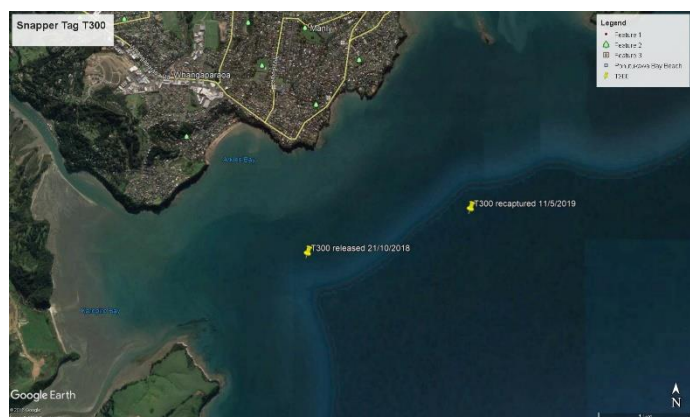
While out with the boys on a fishing trip to Great Barrier Island on the 23rd of February 2019, Richard Nawisielski tagged and released a snapper he caught on a bait in 40m of water.

This fish was recaptured on the 6th of May by Tony Combridge slow jiggging in 55m of water off the Broken Islands. The snapper was caught 1.6km from the release point and measured 35cm on recapture. Tony commented the tag was very clean and easy to read but he only noticed it when he went to fillet it.

T0300

Richard Nawisielski tagged and released another fish, this time off Arkles bay on the 21st of October 2018. It was a snapper measuring 30cm that was taken in 6m of water.

On the 11th of May 2019 Gregg Tully recaptured it off Little Manley in 12m of water. He measured the fish at 31cm. This local fish was captured 1.85 km from its release point and was at liberty for 202 days.



T0863

Another fish tagged and released fish by Richard Nawisielski was caught at the Broken Islands on the 23rd of February. This snapper measured 35cm was caught while bait fishing in 11m of water.

On the 14th of May 2019 Nautilus charters skippered by Scott Lloyd-Jones had taken an Australian film crew and contestants to Great Barrier Island to film the Mark Berg fishing show. While sheltering around Broken Islands Brisbane angler Rodney Kahil recaptured this Snapper on a soft bait. The snapper was quickly filmed and re-released to be given a third chance. After 80 days at liberty this fish was recaptured 1.32km from its original release point.



T0435

Robert Janse was fishing for snapper at spot x near the Ahaas in the Hauraki Gulf on the 26th of December 2018 where he tagged and released a 57cm Snapper caught on a bait in 12m of water.

Robert revisiting the same site with Deon Kumm on the 18th of May 2019, and Deon happened to recapture Robert's fish. This time measuring 58cm. It had been at large for 143 days.

T2910

Another tag and release by Robert Janse. This time a 42cm snapper caught on the 23rd of March 2019 at Horn rock in 12m of water.

On the 25th of May Steve Gemmell left Omaha for a day's fishing at Horn rock where he recaptured this Snapper on a soft bait drifting past the northern face. It measured 43cm on recapture. Steve reported the fish was in great condition with no signs of trauma around the tag area. In fact he did not notice the tag until he was filleting it. This fish was recaptured within 750 m of its release point on recapture.

T2225

Michael Bawden joined us for an afternoon tagging fish on the Kaipara harbour on the 25th of May 2019. Boat rules were that all non-gut hooked fish were to be tagged and released. Guilted by Sue into releasing his favourite eating fish this 43.5cm Gurnard was tagged, photographed and let go.

Nine days later Tom Hollings recaptured this fish 5.18km away in mid channel opposite the Shelly beach wharf on a bait.



T2010

In February Bruce Gooney of the White shark Conservation Trust and Clinton Duffy joined us in the Bay of Islands for a few days aboard 'Orokawa'. The weather made it impossible to venture too wide so we opted to catch a few fish in the lee of the cliffs hoping to spot a few sharks. While drifting in 55.2m of water Clinton caught a 32 cm Snapper which showing no signs of barotrauma was measured, tagged and released.

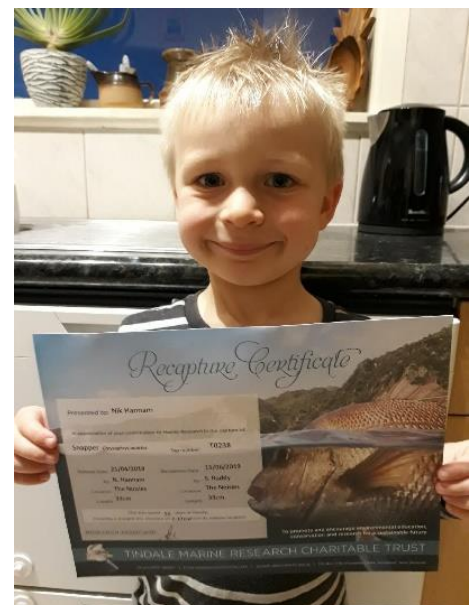
121 days later in June Commercial long liner Adam Kellian reported the recapture of this fish 118km away off the Mokohinau islands. He reported it was caught in 50m of water and the tag had a little growth on it. The recapture of this deep water release is rather interesting in that it shows that proper handling and release techniques improves survival, and this fish must have had quite a journey to get where it did.

T0238

Nik Hannam shot out for a fish on the 21st of April 2019 amongst the Nosies, Hauraki Gulf where he caught and released a 33cm Snapper in 12.1m of water while line fishing.

On the 15th of June Luke Davies and Scott Ruddy ventured out to the same area where Scott recaptured this Snapper. Luke reported the fish was in very healthy condition with no damage to the tag area. It measured the same size after 55 days at liberty and was caught within 120m of its original release location.

Nik had his recapture certificate confiscated by his son soon after it arrived in the post. A very proud smile he has too.



T2326

On the 31st of January 2019 I stopped off at Little Barrier for a short fish while heading north to satellite tag manta rays. While anchored up in 15.1m of water on the western side I tagged and released several snapper including this 31cm specimen.

On the 20th of June Gavin Perry fishing aboard the longline vessel 'Sam' reported the recapture of this fish. It measured 32cm and was caught 2km to the north of the original position 140 days later.

T0874

23rd of February 2019 was a busy day for Richard Nawisielski tagging 15 fish at Great Barrier Island. Three of these have now been recaptured. This latest, a 52 cm Yellow Tail kingfish, was tagged and released while jigging in 40m of water.

On the 22nd of June Jason Platt was fishing Anchorite Rock aboard charter vessel 'Reel Action' skippered by Django Broeshart when he recaptured Richard's fish. Django reported the fish was healthy with no marks and a clean tag. It measured 57cm and was re-released for a 3rd chance. After 119 days at large it had grown 5cm in length and moved 27km from the tag location.

T3068

To the west coast now where on the 22nd of June Graeme Johnson tagged a dozen Kahawai fly fishing the Omokiti flats, Kaipara harbour. Amongst his tagged fish was this Kahawai measuring 48cm caught and released in 4.3m of water.

On the 30th of June Gifty Treasa George was aboard a charter vessel for a day's fishing with her work mates. Gifty recaptured this Kahawai not far from Shelly Beach, 3.06km from its release point and 8 days after its release. It was measured on board at 48.5cm.



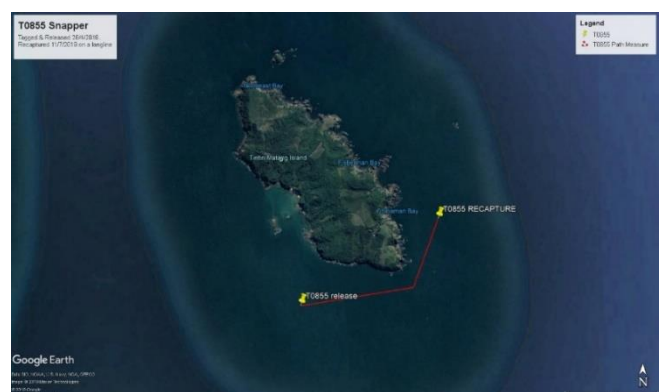
T3066

Another of Graeme's Kahawai tagged on the 22nd of June has also been recaptured. This 47cm Kahawai headed off in the opposite direction and was recaptured 18 days later at the mouth of the Hotoe River 12.2km away. Colin Brown was fishing in 1m of water just off the southern side of Moturimu Island when he caught it. He reported its length at 48.2cm

T0855

Richard Nawisielski's 6th recaptured fish from 100 tags gives him a 6% recapture rate after fishing just over ½ a year. This fish, a snapper, was tagged and released on the 28th of April 2019 while fishing the south side of Tiritiri Matangi Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Measuring 31cm it was caught in 15m of water.

On the 11th of July 2019 Paul Henderson set a recreational longline below the lighthouse off the eastern side of Tiritiri Matangi Island and recaptured this fish. Paul reported the fish measured 30.5cm and that the tag had some algae growth on it. The fish was gut hooked so was kept.



That's all for now, be safe out there and I'll catch ya on the next roundup.... Scott

GIVING OUR FISH A SECOND CHANCE
TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST
INSHORE FISH TAGGING PROGRAM.
....RUN BY FISHERS FOR FISHERS....

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