



**TINDALE
MARINE RESEARCH
CHARITABLE TRUST**

Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust
quarterly report. Includes Trust member news,
activities, engagements and achievements over
Spring of 2020

Scott Tindale
Founding Director

SPRING REPORT

#11

December 2020



TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST

Charities Registration No.CC55555

Newsletter #11 Spring Report 2020

This year is nearly completed. For many it felt like a tagged and released fish with many ups and downs. Hopefully next year we can avoid any lockdowns and plan a few extra trips out on the water again.

For the Trust we celebrate two years since going public with the inshore fish tagging program. It was a big challenge to set up a totally independent, impartial, non-affiliated program requiring all sectors of the fishing community to work together. Customary, commercial fishers, recreational anglers and the public nationwide are encouraged to report recapture data with the results shared with everyone, contributing to a better understanding of our marine environment. Thankfully this citizen



science initiative has been greatly received by a wide range of people and organisations throughout the community. That recognition extended even to parliament this year at the 2020 seafood sustainability awards.

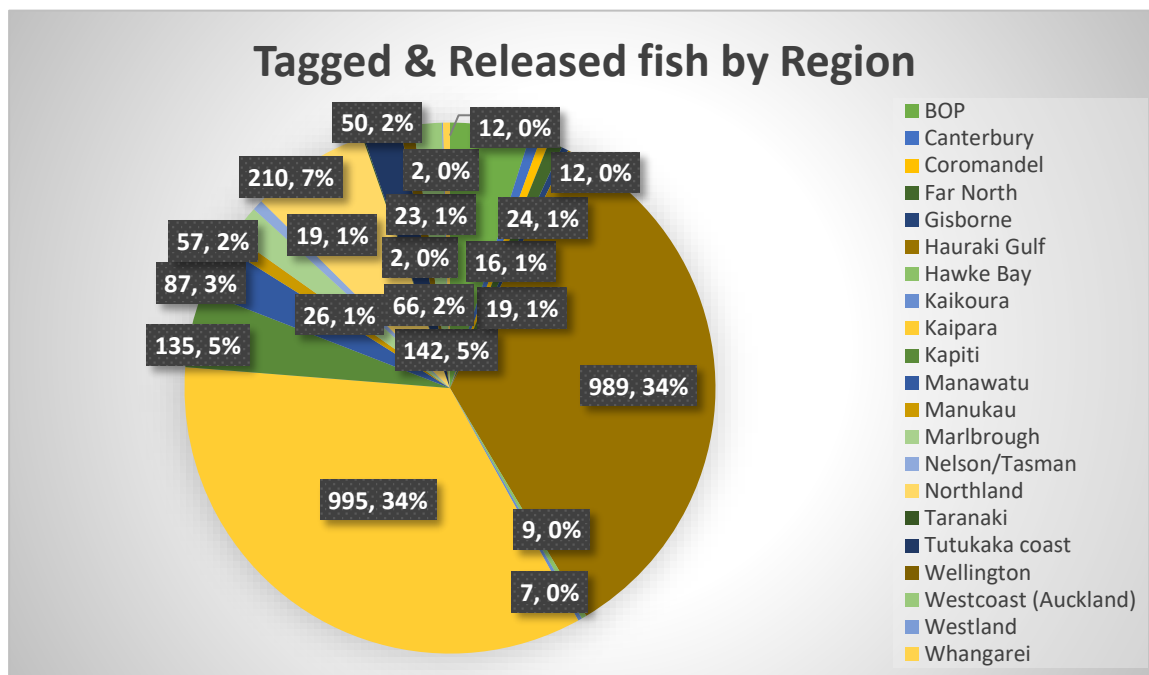
We now have 11,500 tags in circulation and around 500 members. Just over quarter of these tags have been deployed and are recorded in the TMRCT data base so far. This data covers 38 fish species across the country of varying sizes. There are over 100 tagged fish that have been recaptured, a quarter of which have been re-released for another cycle and one fish has been caught 3 times. As with all tagged and released fish, every recapture has given us an insight into the daily lives of these fish species, expanding our knowledge on their growth rates, seasonal movements, survivability and the general demographics that make up their life. This important information is not only helping the community understand what's going on under water it is currently assisting several scientific studies, Masters and PHD students in their research papers.

A full independent review of the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust Inshore fish tagging program is expected to be finalised early in the New Year again supporting the importance of such citizen science programs. On behalf of the Trust a very big thank you and well done to our volunteers and everyone involved.

Hopefully we can all learn something new and pass on our experiences especially how best handle released fish to reduce fishing related mortality, practice fishing more sustainable and reduce our impact on the environment.

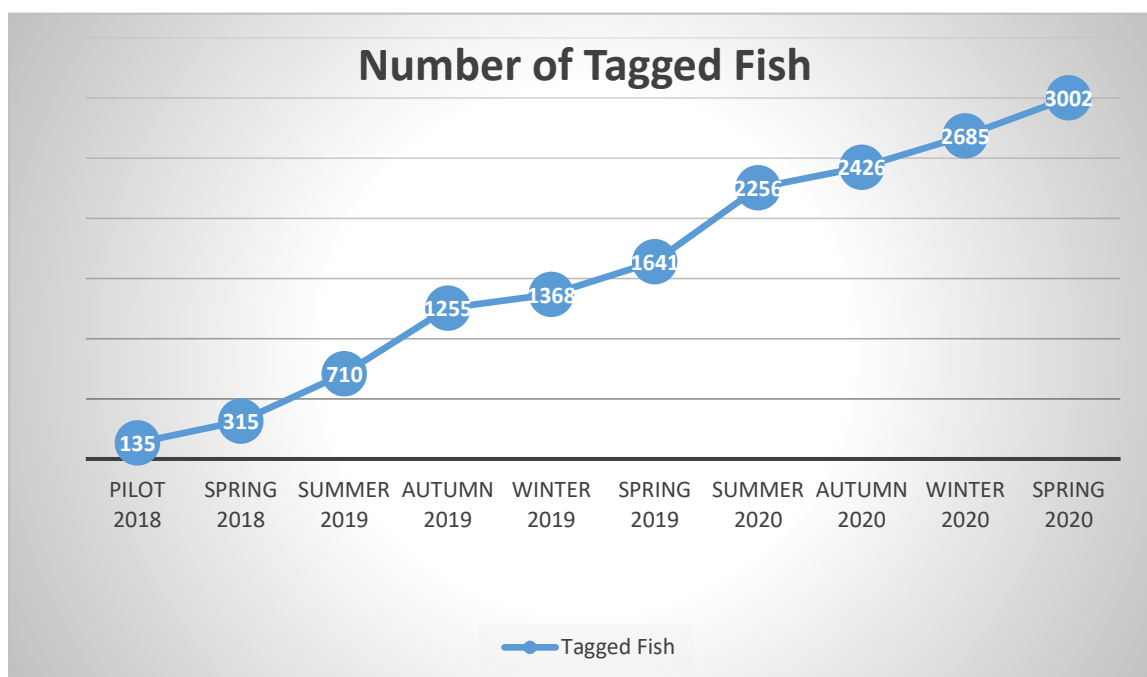
Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust Inshore Tagging Program

Statistics to end of November 2020



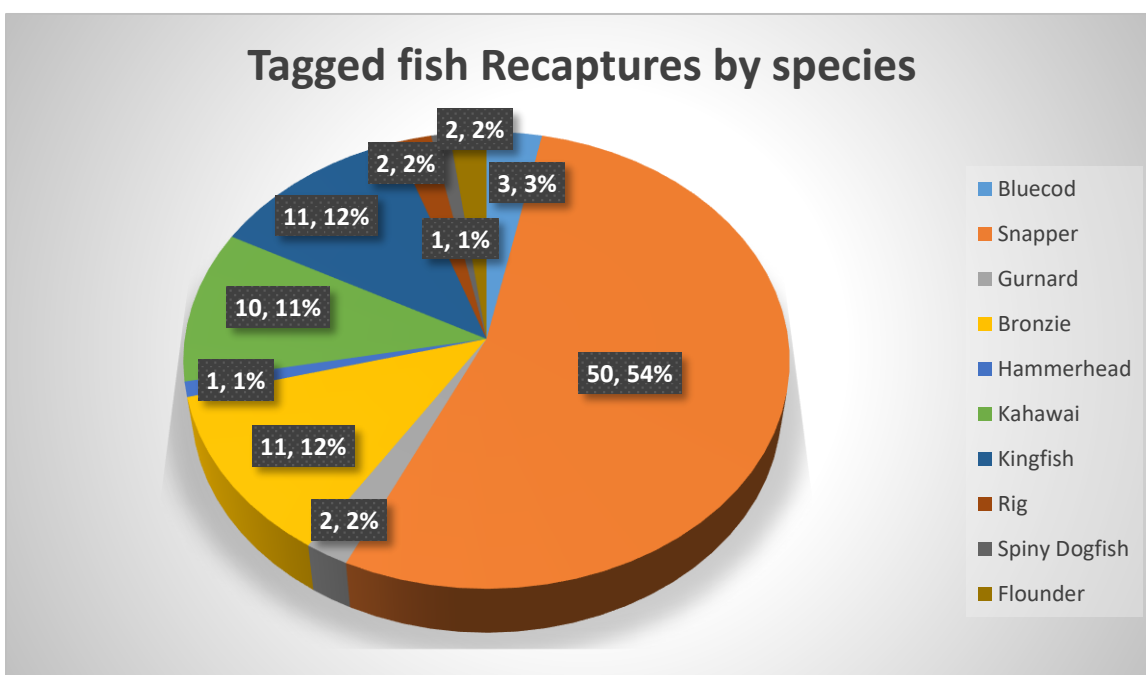
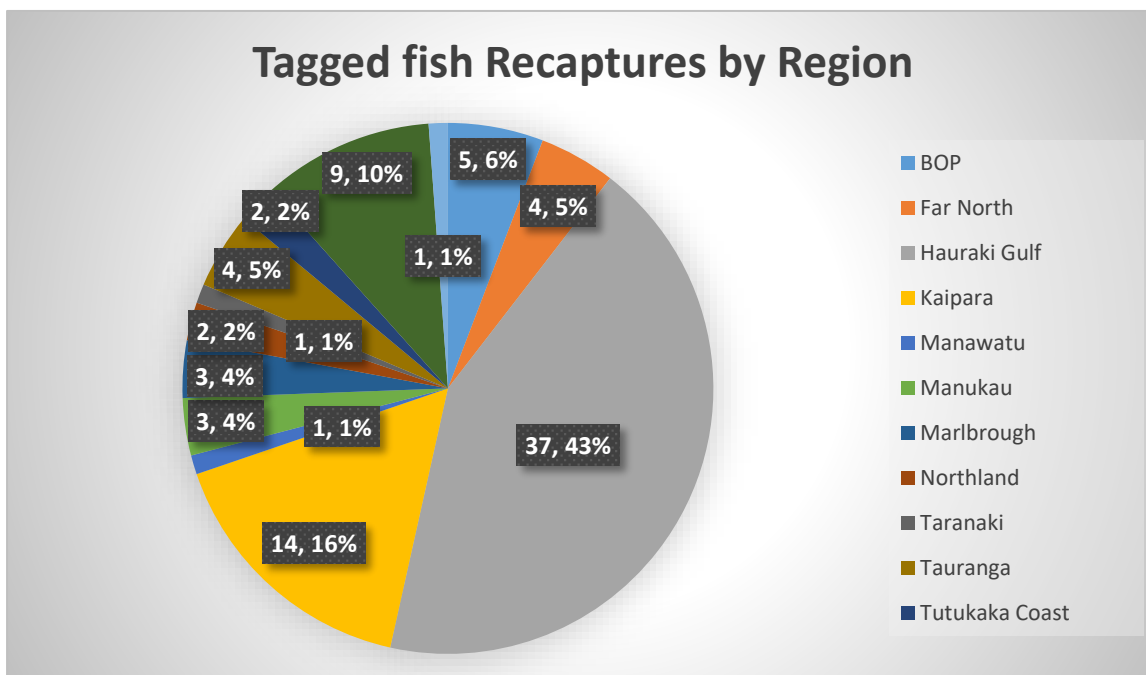
38 fish species have been tagged and released in over 22 regions around our coastline. The areas covered extending from the Three Kings Islands in the far north to Fiordland in the far south. We can see from this chart the highest number of fish tagged and released are in the most populated areas. About the same number have been tagged in the Hauraki Gulf as the Kaipara Harbour, both combined making up 68% of total of tagged fish releases in the program so far.

The most tagged species are Snapper, Kahawai, Yellowtail Kingfish and Gurnard, in that order. Fish size covers the spectrum from juvenile to trophy size in most species enabling us to determine growth rates verses maturity when recaptured.



Recaptures by species

95% of all recaptures are by recreational fishing methods and are reported as captured from boat (Private & charter), Kayak and landbased activities. These methods include set line, set net, spearfishing, handline, rod & reel and fly. 43% of the tagged fish recaptures recorded have occurred in the Hauraki Gulf. This is expected as it is estimated that 33% of recreational fishing effort is in this area. 81 recaptures have usable data unfortunately several other recaptures were data deficient and are excluded from this data set until complete. Five reported recaptures were from commercial vessels and include both trawl and longline methods. Three recaptures were reported off the west coast of the north Island EEZ , one was reported from the outer Hauraki Gulf area.



Top Ten Tag and Release members

<u>Ranking T&R</u>	<u>Anglers Name</u>	<u>No. of Fish tagged & released</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>S. Tindale</u>	<u>727</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>M. Jenkins</u>	<u>259</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>R. Nawisielski</u>	<u>192</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>R. Janse</u>	<u>170</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>G. Johnson</u>	<u>145</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>L. Davis</u>	<u>122</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>A. Di Bartolo</u>	<u>57</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>W. Downer</u>	<u>56</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>C. Duffy</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>T. Lusk</u>	<u>52</u>

Members that have had recaptures

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tagged</u>	<u>Recaptures</u>
<u>S. Tindale</u>	<u>727</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>M. Jenkins</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>R. Janse</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>R. Nawisielski</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>G. Johnson</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>G. Young</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>L. Davis</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>G. Wilson</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>S. Wilkinson</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>T. Lusk</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>A. Di Bartolo</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>B. Buchman</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>B. Hall</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>B. Johnson</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>B. Riddiford</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>C. Caine</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>C. Duffy</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>G. Gates</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>G. Gilbert</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>G. Watson</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>H. Geyser</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>K. Ranui</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>M. Bawden</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>M. Stevenson</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>M. Stott</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>N. Hannam</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>N. Robinson</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>R. Plant</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>S. Windsor</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>M. Jacobson</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>

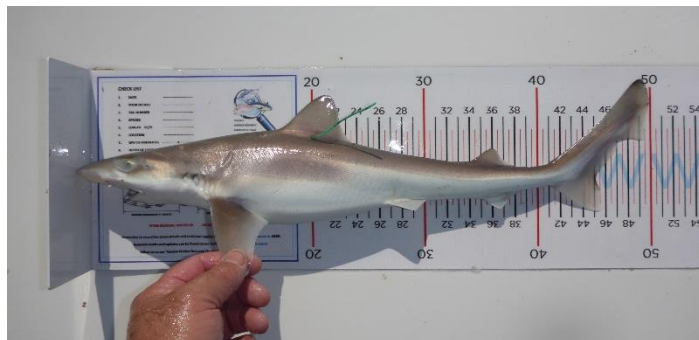
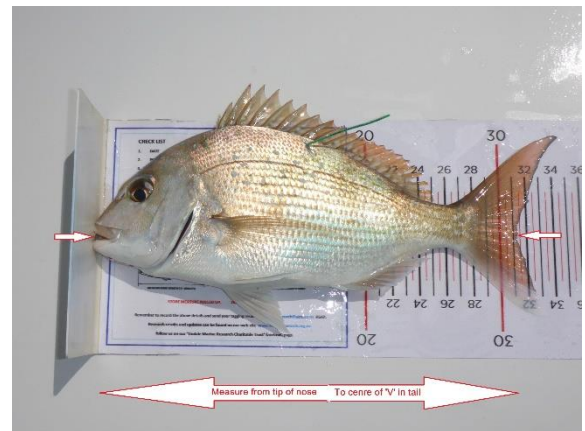


Fish weight from length conversion charts

1. Measuring

Fin fish other than sharks and rays are measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose with the mouth closed to the centre of the “V” in the tail. This is called the “Fork Length” shortened to “FL” or V length “VL”

It is best to lay the fish on a measure with a headboard. A flexible or rollup measure will need to lay on a flat surface or on a ridged backing board.



Sharks are usually measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. The tail is to sit in a natural position not stretched out. This is called “Total length” or TL. Large sharks require two people to measure with the tape held straight aligning up with the fish at each end.

Precaudal length (tip of snout to the start of the upper lobe of the tail) is sometimes used, particularly if the tail is damaged, but can be difficult to determine in some species.

Rays and skate are measured in a straight line across the width. This is called disc or span width. When handling rays it is best to cover the spine on the tail with a heavy damp towel while lifting or sliding the ray onto the measure mat by the mouth.

As with all species, wet the surfaces that the fish is laid on as well as your hands or gloves to avoid damaging the fish's protective coating



Here are a few length to weight estimate conversion charts. Handy for those tagging and releasing fish that would like to know and estimated weight. Fish condition and time of year can vary their length to weight ratio so is an average for each species. Generally fish condition is put on over late summer, post spawn to tie them over for the colder winter months where metabolism is slowed to reserve energy.

Snapper *Chrysophrys auratus*

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (cm)
27	0.4
28	0.5
29	0.5
30	0.6
31	0.7
32	0.7
33	0.8
34	0.8
35	0.9
36	1.0
37	1.1
38	1.2
39	1.2
40	1.3
41	1.4
42	1.5
43	1.6
44	1.7
45	1.9
46	2.0
47	2.1
48	2.2
49	2.3
50	2.5
52	2.8
54	3.1
56	3.4
58	3.8
60	4.1
62	4.5
64	5.0
66	5.4
68	5.9
70	6.4
72	6.9
74	7.4
76	8.0
78	8.6
80	9.2
82	9.9
84	10.6
86	11.3
88	12.0
90	12.8
92	13.6
94	14.5
96	15.4
98	16.3
100	17.2



Snapper.

Scientific name *Chrysophrys auratus*. Other names include squirefish and Tamure. They are from the family Sparidae (seabreams) of which there are about 140 species worldwide. The three species found in New Zealand waters are Snapper, Yellowfin bream and Pacific seabream.

Sparid snapper should not be confused with the tropical snappers in the family Lutjanide of which there are over 100 species worldwide.

Snapper are the most abundant coastal species targeted by recreational anglers in the North Island and upper South Island waters. Abundant to 60m but can be found to depths of 280m. Also found around southern Australia, Norfolk and Lord Howe islands.

Snapper have been recorded to a maximum size of 130cm SL (precaudal) and over 20kg. Sexual maturity occurs at 3-4 years or 20-28cm and are serial spawners, releasing many batches of eggs during spring and summer, November to March in some areas. Water temperature plays an important role in recruitment with warmer years producing more fish. Snapper undergo a female stage as juveniles with a proportion changing to males at maturity. Adults can live to 70 years old. Length and weight are not necessarily related to age with one of the oldest fish recorded at only 8kg



Kahawai *Arripis trutta*

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
30	0.4
31	0.5
32	0.5
33	0.6
34	0.6
35	0.7
36	0.7
37	0.8
38	0.9
39	0.9
40	1.0
41	1.1
42	1.2
43	1.2
44	1.3
45	1.4
46	1.5
47	1.6
48	1.7
49	1.8
50	1.9
51	2.0
52	2.1
53	2.2
54	2.4
55	2.5
56	2.6
57	2.7
58	2.9
59	3.0
60	3.2
61	3.3
62	3.5
63	3.6
64	3.8
65	4.0
66	4.1
67	4.3
68	4.5
69	4.7
70	4.9
71	5.1
72	5.3
73	5.5
74	5.7
75	5.9
76	6.2
77	6.4
78	6.6
79	6.9
80	7.1



Kahawai.

Scientific name *Arripis trutta*. Other names include Australian salmon

From the family Arripidae we have two species found in New Zealand waters, the other being the rarer Northern or Kermadec Kahawai. The main distinguishing feature between the two is the distinctive notch in the v of the tail of the common kahawai. The Kermadec kahawai tail is a straight v shape and lacks this notch.

Found around New Zealand's coastline including the Chatham Islands to a depth of over 200m. Also the east coast of Australia from Queensland to Tasmania, Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands.

Common kahawai reach a maximum recorded size of 89cm & weighing 7.3kg while the kermadec kahawai reaches 90cm and at least 11kg in weight.

They are sexually mature at 4-5 years, at a length of 30-40cm. Adults can live to 26 years. Aging from sampling kahawai otolith has shown huge variations in age at a given length. 57cm fish have been aged between 9-18 years old and 62cm fish between 9-11 years. Earlier studies in 1975 got age estimates for kahawai 55cm to 60cm at 17-22 years old.



Trevally *Pseudocaranx georgianus*

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
25	0.3
26	0.3
27	0.4
28	0.4
29	0.5
30	0.5
31	0.6
32	0.7
33	0.7
34	0.8
35	0.9
36	0.9
37	1.0
38	1.1
39	1.2
40	1.3
41	1.4
42	1.5
43	1.6
44	1.7
45	1.9
46	2.0
47	2.1
48	2.3
49	2.4
50	2.6
52	2.9
54	3.3
56	3.6
58	4.0
60	4.5
62	5.0
64	5.5
66	6.0
68	6.6
70	7.2
72	7.9
74	8.5
76	9.3
78	10.0
80	10.8
82	11.7
84	12.6



Trevally.

Scientific name *Pseudocaranx georgianus*. Other names include; Araara, silver trevally and white trevally (Australia).

There are a number of species in the family Carangidae that are very similar around the world and classification has changed for our trevally several times. In the early years there was thought to be 4 species in NZ mainly due to variations in colour but now marine scientists have settled for one in our waters.

Found in New Zealand waters from the Kermadec islands north of New Zealand to Fouveaux straight in the far south. They have been caught in coastal waters up to 240m deep with juveniles common in shallow waters and adults congregating at rocky headlands over deeper waters.

Trevally have been aged to over 45 years old. Maximum recorded length is 827cm fork length (FL). Trevally can attain 30cm in 3 years but a 30 year old fish aged from ear otolith was only 45cm.



Kingfish *Seriola lalandi*

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
75	5.5	123	21.6
76	5.7	124	22.1
77	5.9	125	22.6
78	6.1	126	23.1
79	6.4	127	23.6
80	6.6	128	24.1
81	6.8	129	24.7
82	7.1	130	25.2
83	7.3	131	25.7
84	7.5	132	26.3
85	7.8	133	26.8
86	8.0	134	27.4
87	8.3	135	28.0
88	8.6	136	28.5
89	8.8	137	29.1
90	9.1	138	29.7
91	9.4	139	30.3
92	9.7	140	30.9
93	10.0	141	31.5
94	10.3	142	32.1
95	10.6	143	32.8
96	10.9	144	33.4
97	11.2	145	34.0
98	11.5	146	34.7
99	11.9	147	35.4
100	12.2	148	36.0
101	12.5	149	36.7
102	12.9	150	37.4
103	13.2	151	38.1
104	13.6	152	38.8
105	14.0	153	39.5
106	14.3	154	40.2
107	14.7	155	40.9
108	15.1		
109	15.5		
110	15.9		
111	16.3		
112	16.7		
113	17.1		
114	17.5		
115	17.9		
116	18.4		
117	18.8		
118	19.3		
119	19.7		
120	20.2		
121	20.7		
122	21.1		



Kingfish.

Scientific name *Seriola lalandi*. Other names include yellowtail kingfish & Haku.

Kingfish are another species in the Carangidae family (trevallies) here in New Zealand and are found around the world in temperate waters of the southwestern and eastern Atlantic, indo-pacific and eastern Pacific. They are most abundant around the north Island of NZ but venture as far south as Foveaux Strait. Their range is throughout the water column from shallow bays to a depth of 820m.

Tagged fish have migrated in both directions between New Zealand and Australia. The longest time at liberty for a NZ tagged kingfish is 19 years, 10 months from the bay of plenty. This fish when tagged measured 98cm and then 148cm on recapture earlier this year.

Spawning occurs during spring and summer. Juvenile fish up to 30cm are pelagic and are often found way off shore hanging around floating debris. They initially grow fast reaching 50cm in 3 years and 90cm in 9 years. Males mature at around 7 years or 83cm, females around 10 years or 97cm. The maximum size is recorded at 193cm and weighing 58.4kg.



Great White Shark update



“Mac 3” boat side in the Kaipara harbour 2019

On the 4th of November 2020 a member of the public found a satellite tag wash up at Mahuta Gap, Ripiro Beach, Dargaville and dropped it off to the local area DOC office who contacted Clinton Duffy. Clinton was able to determine it was one of the tags supplied by Conservation International and had come off a juvenile Great white shark we had tagged and released in January 2019. This shark named by the tag sponsor “Mac 3” was the first great white shark to be fitted with this new type of tethered tag in a trial to see if we could get better data on their movements in coastal waters in particularly harbours. Measuring 2.5m the female shark was captured in 10m of water in the south arm of the Kaipara Harbour by the Trust team. The tag on the shark reported well showing the shark moving out of the harbour and along the coast, first north then south to the Waikato, before returning to the Kaipara in early February. At that point the tag stopped reporting. The recovery of the tag will give the research team the opportunity to retrieve the archived data stored on it and allow Wildlife Computers technicians to determine what caused the tag to stop transmitting and possibly improve the design. This archived data should include location, depth and water temperature for every minute of each day until the batteries were exhausted.



Three Splash10 satellite tags manufactured by Wildlife Computers were fitted to Great white Sharks in 2019. Two at the Chatham Islands and one in the Kaipara Harbour.

Two additional Splash10 tags were attached to Oceanic Manta rays by the Trust team and Conservation International off the Whangaroa coast that same year.

Lucky Draw

Each report we draw a tag number recorded in the TMRCT data base using random.org. You will have to send in your catch data to be included in these draws as vacant tag data is redrawn. The lucky winner of each draw receives a \$100 gift voucher thanks to the team at **Bunnings Silverdale**. This month's random number is

Tag Number T5002

Congratulations to Mike Fleming who reported a tagged and released Kingfish measuring 105cm on the 7th March 2020 in the Hauraki Gulf. Mike receives the spring report **Bunnings Warehouse** \$100 gift card.



Make sure you are up to date by sending in your tag and release information regularly and be in the draw for the next quarterly reports. It took 4 attempts this draw to land on a tag number.

Competitions and Events

THE **Hutchwilco** NEW ZEALAND **BOAT SHOW**

After unfortunately having to cancel the event this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic the organisers are happy to announce the dates 13th-16th of May for the **2021 Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show** at the Auckland showgrounds. If the unthinkable arises again due to the pandemic again a backup date is set for the 8th-11th of July. The Trust has been offered stand 101 in hall 1 (the fishing hall) to showcase the inshore tagging program, marine research and IGFA world records. Pencil in the date, come and have a chat to the team we hope to see you there. If you are keen to assist on the stand give me a call.



NZ Lure Masters 2020

October 2nd & 3rd saw 500 anglers out on the water competing around the country for prizes for catching the longest fish in the 2020 NZ Lure Masters Competition. This lure caught, measure only comp was held over 2 days in early October where around 4800 fish were recorded and photos submitted via the tournament App.

The **Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust** donated a prize for the most tagged and released fish which was won by tagger Edward Scharenguivel.

If you tagged a fish in this tournament and has not sent the tagged fish deployment data direct to the trust please email them in ASAP as there was an issue with the recording of tagged fish via the tournament App.

Sponsorship and Grants

The inshore fish tagging program came about after listening to the many people that approached us wanting to get involved in marine research. Most said they “Wanted my job” and were especially keen on volunteering in an exciting environment of exploration and adventure. The program was an easy first step for everyone to becoming a contributor as a citizen scientist while enjoying their fishing pastime. On releasing the inshore fish tagging program 2 years ago it has been great to receive overwhelming support, endorsements and acknowledgement from all sectors of the community. Over these past few years we have received many awards and endorsements but unfortunately these do not contribute in any way financially to the running costs of the program. Without the major start up sponsorship from Sue and myself and contributions from a small group of individuals this project would have never got off the ground and would still be a pipe dream for the next generation to contemplate. The Trust has been unsuccessful in getting funding through grants to support the operation costs of the inshore tagging program and have applied to eight institutions so far.

It is regrettable that for this project to continue without outside sponsorship to offset the costs and continue subsidising the program, we will have to increase the price of the tagging program kits and accessories. Most of you have received free tags sponsored by Sue and myself in the past. We had hoped to be able to find a sponsor to replace the tags deployed free of charge but now with the manufacturing cost increases and no new sponsor to cover this option, unfortunately we will have increase the cost of the tags too.




If you yourself or know of a business that is keen to take on the role as sponsor of the tags or any part of the program please contact one of the trust executive. I'm sure everyone would love to see this program expand to its full potential contributing to the sustainability and Kaitiakitanga of the fishery.




Until Christmas 2020 (if not sold out beforehand.)

MEASURE MAT



Features include:

- New Zealand designed & manufactured
- 1500mm roll up PVC Measure mat with PVC head board.
- Easy to read digits to 0.5cm increments
- Suits left or right handed measuring
- Durable and washable



These NZ made roll out measure mats are great for any measure only fishing tournaments.

TAGGING KITS



Includes:

- * Free Registration & Membership
- * 1500mm roll up PVC Measure mat
- * Tag Applicator with floating handle
- * Cartridge of 10 serial numbered dart Tags
- * Tagging Instructions
- * Code of Practice & handy hints
- * Recording Sheet
- * Citizen Science bumper sticker
- * Handy zip up carry bag
- * Free stuff from our supporters
- * Online support, reports and updates

All available online at <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagging-program/order-tagging-gear/>

Notable recaptures

T8025



Tom Lusk was fishing in the Bay of Islands on 11th of July 2020 when he tagged and released this 40cm snapper in 15m of water. This is Tom's third tagged fish recaptured since March this year.

62 days later
on the 10th
September
Steven
Burniston

recaptured this fish in 30m of water off Robertson Island in the Bay of Islands 2.41km from the tag and release position. Steve only noticed the tag when he went to fillet the fish as it had a bit of growth attached to it. Steve measured the fish at 39cm showing a 1cm difference between a live and dead fish measurement.



T3208

Luke Davis from Yeehaa Tackle store is a keen advocate for tag and release fishing. While on a fishing trip to the western side of Great Barrier Island on the 23rd of June 2019 Luke tagged and released this dark coloured snapper measuring 67cm caught in 5m of water.



On the 20th of September 2020 Barry Baxter was spearfishing not far from where Luke tagged and released this fish when he recaptured this snapper 456 days later. Barry did not measure the fish but estimated it at 76cm. it weighed 8kg so is a fairly good estimate on length.

The GPS marks show a shortest distance separation of only 3.93km so it was likely this area was its preferred late winter foraging ground.



T7245

The data collected in tagging programs can show growth rates and seasonal movement trends and patterns when carried out regularly. So it is important to continue field research on as many days as possible throughout the year. MBIE gave permission for the program to continue through Covid-19 level 3 lockdown so we were able to tag and release many fish like this Kahawai T7245 and note any seasonal changes.

This 47cm Kahawai was tagged in 3.07m of water on the Omokoiti flats in the Kaipara harbour on the 9th of May 2020 and reported recaptured by M. Treadaway on the 20th of September 4.48Km to the SE also in approximately 3m of water.

These wintering grounds for fish like kahawai push bait schools within reach of seabirds who would otherwise struggle showing the importance of co-habitation of species within the ecosystem.



T3224

Another nice fish tagged and released by Luke Davis from Yeehaa Tackle while on a trip to Great Barrier Island on the 20th of September 2019. This Snapper measured 66cm and was released in 5m of water on a softbait.

379 days later Thomas Glover was on a spearfishing trip to Great Barrier Island where he went for an early morning dive and shot this fish just the other side of a bommie in 3m of water. Tom did not notice the tag until he returned to the boat where they measured the fish at 71cm and weighing in at 14lb. The recapture was only 3.31km from where Luke had tagged it just over a year earlier and had grown 5cm in that time.



T5709 for a third time

Robert Janse is no stranger to catching big fish. On a land based shark fishing to Grahams Beach on the Manukau Harbour on the 20th of October 2019 Robert put his Assassin rod through the paces to tag and release this female Bronze whaler shark T5709 measuring a total length of 299cm.



Then on the 11th of November 2019 this fish was recaptured by Nick Robinson at Big Bay 4.1km to the west. The shark was photographed and re-released again....



A year later on the 2nd of October 2020 back at the same beach Robert had originally tagged and released the shark it was captured a third time by Lemmy Shadgett. He measured the shark precaudal length at 225cm before releasing it again.

Trust scientist Clinton Duffy using the data he had compiled on Bronze whaler sharks was able to estimate total length with the following conversion formula:

$$y = 1.324x + 3.6459$$

$$R^2 = 0.997$$

The R^2 value indicates the 'goodness of fit' - in this case it is 99.7%.

Y = total length, and x = pre-caudal length.

Plugging in the value for precaudal length given the estimated total length is 301.5 cm.



T0094

I often say a tag is never wasted especially if a fish survives to tell its story.

In the first months of this tagging project in winter of 2018 we carried out a pilot study where we tagged and released several fish including a 27cm snapper T0094 off Russel in the Bay of islands in 17m of water. Since then several of these tagged fish have been recaptured giving us an array of information on our coastal species.

Wind the clock forward 2 year and 2 month (815 days) where on the 14th of September 2020 Luke Ogle from Black dog cat boat builders was walking along the beach at Mimiwhangata in Whangaruru Harbour on the Tutukaka coast when he picked up a tag washed up on the high tide. The tag T0094 was scuffed along its length but clean where it would normally be inserted in a fish indicating it had only recently been removed or discarded from the fish. Straight line displacement was 54km from the tag and release position.

We can only guess what the fate of the snapper was but I think this tag still had an interesting story to tell....even if the fish was not there to complete the story.



T8652

Tim Manson reported a tagged fish recapture while he was stray lining a piper in 16m of water at the Ahaas in the Hauraki Gulf on the 27th of October 2020. Tim kept the fish measuring it a couple of hours later when he was back on shore at 44cm.

This fish was tagged and released on the 4th of July 2020 by Robert Janse also near the Ahaas in 10m of water. Robert measured the fish at 44.5cm prior to release 1.69km from the recapture position.



T5722

Another tagged fish capture for Robert Janse, this time recaptured by himself. On the 3rd of November 2019 Robert tagged and released a 293cm female Bronze whaler shark at Big Bay in the Manukau harbour.

365 days later on the 1st of November 2020 Robert recaptured this shark at Grahams Beach in the Manukau Harbour, 4.5km away. It re-measured at 296cm and was estimated at 152kg before releasing again.

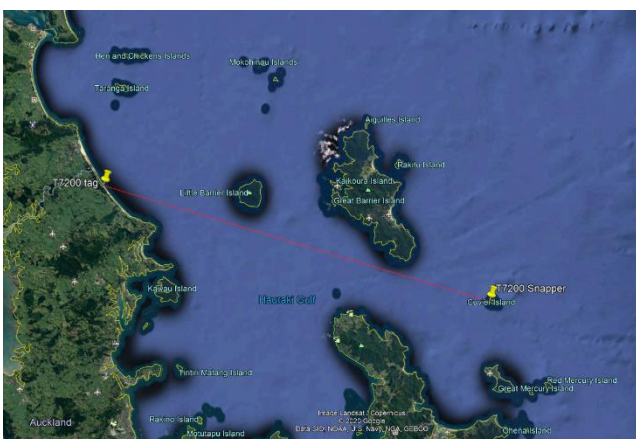


T8818

Graham Wilson has spent a bit of time over this winter tagging and releasing fish from the Marlborough Sounds shoreline including several Blue cod in the Picton area. So far he has recaptured 4 of these fish within ½ a kilometre of the release points between 49 and 158 days later. All fish were re-released again. This fish T8818 was recaptured 108 days after release. Graham noted that he had a concern about the filamentous red algae attached to the recent recaptured fish tags. Clinton Duffy, Trust scientist said it was possibly polysiphonia sp. This stringy algae looks unsightly but is weightless in water and easily rubbed off by the fish if it was to be a nuisance. Recapturing these fish in the same area over these last half of this year shows the fish are not too concerned and are foraging as usual.



T7200



Matthew Wilmot was surprised to find a chewed up looking tag on the shore while walking along Tomarata Beach on the 8th of November. The tag on closer inspection had the barb missing so looked to have been forcibly removed from the fish recently. From the tag serial number we were able to confirm the tag was attached to a snapper on 23rd of February 2020 caught and released by Hendrik Geyser fishing at Cuvier Island 102km to the south east. This the 2nd 'tag only' found washed up on a beach with no answers to the fate of the fish.

T8962

On the 2nd of November 2020 Graeme Johnson was fly-fishing on the Kaipara harbour when he tagged and released several snapper including a 27cm snapper T8962.

12 days later Tony Harvey was fishing off Gibbs farm when he recaptured this fish in 2m of water. The fish was kept and had travelled 4.25km from where it was tagged.

T9220

Another short time recapture, this time Bevan Johnson fishing in Ngunguru bay tagged and released a 41cm snapper. 5 days later Rodney Webb recaptured this fish 10km seaward. Rodney did not notice the tag until he was back home.

T8538

On the 15th of March 2020 Graeme Young tagged and released a few snapper in 18m of water all of which had the swim bladder protruding from the mouth. T8538 was measured at 27cm on release and is the second of these bloated fish tagged by Graeme to be recaptured.

The fish was recaptured on the 16th November 2020 246 days later by Aaron Philips off Motuora Island in the Hauraki Gulf in 55 feet of water. Arron cut the tag off before releasing the fish again.

T6753

Kingi Ranui is a great advocate for tag and release fish. Kingi was recently talking to a local named Frank when the topic of tagging popped up. Frank then continued to say he had caught a tagged kingfish about 1m in March before lockdown. He then searched his tackle bag and produced the tag. He said the fish was in great condition and had not noticed the tag until processing it. Checking the tag records, this kingfish was tagged and released on the 5th January 2020 by Rob Plant fishing in the Tauranga Harbour. It measured 94.5cm

T6068

Another tag and release involving Kingi Ranui, this time as the angler. On the 29th October 2020 Kingi tagged a yellow tail king fish measuring 73.5cm he caught in 4m of water land base fishing in the Tauranga harbour.

A report of this fish recapture was passed on by the co-op tagging program where it was reported 6 year-old Zayden Wallace-Bagley had caught this fish with his father live baiting from the shore. The fish was kept and they estimated the fish at 75cm



T5335

Ben Telfer was fishing from his boat off Motuihe Island on the 26th October where he caught a snapper measuring 33cm. He did not notice the tag until dispatching it otherwise he said he would have released it again.

This fish was one of several fish tagged and released by Michael Jenkins land based fishing off Motuihe Island on the 23rd of June 2020. At 126 days at liberty this fish was recaptured just over half a km from where Michael tagged and released it and is the 4th recapture he has had from this location so far.

T2691

Georgia Carter contacted the Trust to report her partner Ricky Scott had caught a tagged Kahawai in a set net in 1m of water at the Piako River in the upper reaches of the Firth of Thames on the 5th of October. It was not measured but they estimated it at around 25cm.

On the weekend of the 1st -3rd November 2019 a year earlier Bastian Buchmann was helping on the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust stand at the Tauranga Fishing and Boat Show. On the last day Bastian decided to get in a bit of fishing before setting up for the day. He headed off the Mount Manganui jetty where he managed to tag and release several fish including a 28.5cm kahawai caught on a soft bait.

This fish has travelled a shortest distance by sea of 263km in the 338 days at liberty. A massive journey for a little fish, all the way around the Coromandel peninsula into the Hauraki Gulf and up the Firth of Thames....



Well that's all for this quarter. The start of the summer report looks to be a busy one with 3 recaptures in the first week already. Don't forget to send in your tag and release data regularly to be included in the prize draw for the next report. A very big thank you to all the volunteers out there making a difference.

Stay safe and tight lines from the team at the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust. Roll on 2021



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