



**TINDALE
MARINE RESEARCH
CHARITABLE TRUST**

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

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WINTER REPORT

#10

Third quarter 2020

TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST

A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 55555

#10 Winter Report 2020

Welcome to the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust 2020 winter report. For many winter is the time of year we hang up our gear, sit back and wait it out until spring fever sets in again, but instead this year has been a bit different. I think being locked down for a few months shortening the last season out on the water and being unable to travel overseas to the warm tropics mid-winter has had many fishers ready to ignore the cold and brave the elements to make up that lost time. While the weather hasn't been the best for a lot of us over the last few months, any calm days saw the carparks full, even mid-week. The results reflected the increase in effort, with many fish tagged and released and regular reports of recaptures coming in from around the country.



No parking left at the Shelly beach carpark on this day so parking on the ramp was needed for the overflow.



“The show must go on”... so after the postponement of the 2020 Seafood Sustainability Awards due to covid-19, a new date was announced for the event and was held at parliament on the 3rd of August. Armed with our facemasks for the forever re-scheduled plane flights, Sue and I headed off to Wellington and joined the celebrations where we received runners up awards in two categories. The “Kaitiakitanga Award” recognising those who support guardianship of the environment or contribute to our knowledge about sustainability... and the “Minister of Fisheries’ award”, announced on the night, recognising those who have made continuous outstanding contributions to the sustainability of New Zealand’s seafood sector. It was daunting to be the only recreational fishing representatives to make it into the finals and we are proud to have received these framed certificates to mark the occasion.





Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust Inshore Tagging Program

Putting together this project has been a mammoth task and thanks must be conveyed to all you supporters out there. It is great to see the amount of talent sharing their instructional videos on line, supporting the initiative and encouraging others to take notice. While knowledge gaps continue to limit the ability to effectively manage the marine ecosystems and resources citizen science can play a huge part in finding real solutions to problems facing our fishery. There has been questions asked about how effective a tagging program is but it doesn't take much searching on line to see this process has been around for

decades in over 100 countries and has set the ground work for making better informed decisions on many fisheries & ecosystems and supporting environmental education around the world. Reading through some of the comments online regarding some of our recaptures has really opened up discussions on how every day fishers are looking for direction on how to be more sustainable and reduce release mortality of undersize or unwanted fish. Several recaptures from fish tagged and released in deep water and recaptured again weeks or months later is an example of how effective the tagging process is in showing how with correct handling procedures we can increase the returned fish's chance of survival. Many assumptions have been proven or dispelled already from these tagging results. In a changing mind set from the public Ministry officials and NGO's are now diverting attention to best handling practices and reducing incidental or accidental fishing related sea life mortality from the recreational fishing sector. A subject formally taboo when recreational fishers are implicated. A recent project commissioned by Fisheries NZ is looking at a recreationally caught fish mortality model. It is hoped to paint a picture of survivability of the many aspects surrounding recreational angling when high grading our catch. Things like gut hook survival, deep water embolism etc. This has been attempted a couple of times in the past with commercially caught fish with poor success in the trials and no outcomes were published. In the past we have relied on the opinion that a fish in the water has a better chance of survival than in the ice bin but is it dumping a dying fish out of sight out of mind. Thankfully tagged fish recaptures are helping to find answers to these and other questions.

Out and about.

As we gear up for the warmer months the focus of the Trust has been on public awareness of tag recapture reporting and ensuring that this inshore fish tagging program has a sound foundation. We have engaged with Massey University to undertake an independent scientific review of the inshore tagging program in order to determine the scientific significance of data we are collecting and review the management processes. This is an exciting prospect and we are looking forward to seeing the published report.

Behind the scenes it is important adequate resources are always available through our supply chains for volunteers to take out in the field so our team of volunteers and supporters are busy putting together tagging kits and accessories, sharing their experiences and pursuing grant funding for things like replacement tags in the future. We are grateful for the assistance of members who have offered to distribute tagging equipment and accessories on line and through selected tackle stores. This all helps to keep costs down for you the fishing public to get involved.

Having kits and accessories available at local stores is not only convenient for those of us who don't like to order online, It's always great to chat with the guys as you browse through what's on offer instore and listen to first hand advice on how to get the best out of your time on the water. So if you are passing through east Auckland check out Luke at Yeehaa tackle, he is always keen to chat about his tagging results and how you can get involved.

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 T4788

Congratulations to **Rob Plant** who reported a 90cm yellow tail Kingfish tagged and released in Tauranga harbour on the 31st of December 2019 and wins the winter report \$100 gift card.



Make sure you send in your tag and release details regularly to be in the draw for the next quarterly reports.

Tagging recapture update for winter 2020, 1st of June to end of August.

We have had a steady increase in registrations and tagging kit purchases over winter in preparation for the spring spawning of our inshore fish species. Tagged fish over the winter period included many of the 40 species listed in the program. It is good to see many of these fish being tagged in new areas around the country too. Kahawai featured strongly as did gurnard and moocher snapper from the shallows. 13 additional tagged fish recaptures were reported during the winter months, five of these were re-released after documenting so are back out there continuing their travels. Here are some of the notable recaptures...

T8001

Tom Lusk joined the inshore tagging program just before the level 4 nationwide lockdown earlier this year. It wasn't long before he had tagged and released his first fish and shortly after had his first recapture, reported during level 3. By level 2 most recreational fishing was back to normal, so on the 23rd of May Tom was out again. This time fishing off the northern end of Kawau Island in the Hauraki Gulf where he tagged and released several fish from the shore including this 32cm snapper.



13 days later on the 11th of June Kaz Van Reemst was fishing around the same area in his boat when he recaptured this tagged fish. Kaz kept the fish and reported the recapture to the Trust via the website. He commented that the fish was a very healthy and fat fish for its size estimating the length at 36cm. It is great to see that these tagged fish survive release well, continue their daily activities foraging and hanging out in the same release locations for weeks proving no adverse effects from the tagging process.

T7460

The 29th of May 2020 was a busy day for Mark Stephenson fishing aboard "Finsandtails" with Finn Henderson off Mayor Island. Not only did he recapture a tagged fish on the day that it was tagged and released from an earlier trip, he tagged and released this solid kingfish measuring 100cm.

13 days later Jason Moller on "Salty Souls" recaptured this kingfish from the same spot. Jason said the fish fought hard from 70m of water. He said a friend's wife had caught a tagged fish a few days before so he was keen to get out and have a look himself.



T7461



Kelly Amon caught her first kingfish on the 14th of June fishing in 70m of water off Mayor Island. Kelly kept the fish, weighing it on the bathroom scales at 18kg before sharing it with family and friends. This fish was one of four tagged kingfish reported recaptured from the bay of plenty in a week that were originally tagged and released by anglers fishing with Finn Henderson aboard "Finsandtails".

This kingfish measured 105cm and was recaptured by Kelly in the same area that Sam Wilkinson had originally tagged and released it while fishing on the 29th of May.

T5152

Another first for New Zealand research... On the 25th of July 2019 Angelo Di Bartolo tagged and released several spotted spiny Dogfish *Squalus acanthias* he had caught on his kontiki set off Hokio Beach, Manawatu.

Nearly a year later on the 21st of July 2020 Clayton Pouwhare recaptured this fish while on a fishing charter out of Kawhia aboard Dove charters. They were fishing in 50m of water off Albatross point when he caught the fish. It was released again but unfortunately was not measured.

This fish travelled a shortest distance of 352km and was at large 330 days.

Generally thought of as a pest to fishermen these high migratory fish play an important role in the oceans biodiversity, many smaller species rely on the titbits and scraps dislodged or left behind from these larger species as they forage along the sea floor...



T7464

Another fish from the 29th of May tagged and released by Sam Wilkinson has been recaptured. This 104cm yellowtail kingfish was caught in 65m of water off Mayor Island and was recaptured in the same spot 17 days later on the 15th of June by Rob Williams fishing with Finn Henderson aboard 'Finsandtails'. The fish was re-released for another day.



T2211

Fishing in 2m of water at the Kaipara shallows on the first of May 2019 Sue Tindale tagged and released several fish including this 40cm snapper.



Fast forward 431 days to the 4th of July 2020 where Michael Goudswaard was fishing in 50m of water off Raglan when he recaptured this fish. Michael reported he had never seen a tagged fish before and only noticed the tag when he was cleaning up his catches and put on some better glasses. Unfortunately it was too late to get a measurement to show growth during the fish's time since tag and release.

At 1 year, 2 months and 4 days at large this fish had moved a shortest distance of over 205km from its tag and release point inside the Kaipara harbour. Again demonstrating the importance of this shallow harbour fishery to the west coast of New Zealand's North Island.

T5329

Michael Jenkins Tagged and released a 45cm Kahawai he caught from the shore of Motuihe Island on the 22 June 2020. The fish did not put up much of a fight and had existing injuries, damaged lip and large red rash on its belly.

20 days later Matt Lombard was fishing in 11m of water off Motuihe Island when he recaptured this fish amongst a school of Kahawai. He only noticed the tag when he was filleting it and noted the fish looked healthy with no signs of the red marks.

T5740

On the 21st of January of this year Robert Janse tagged and released several fish including this 101cm Yellowtail Kingfish at the Ahaas in the Hauraki Gulf.

On the 26th of July Connor Scott from Top Catch Whangaparaoa was fishing in a tournament when he recaptured this fish off Ti Point at the northern end of the Hauraki Gulf. It measured 102cm on recapture and had travelled a shortest distance of 48km and was at large for 188 days.



T2716

So how do you rank your chances at winning lotto? Well here's a catch that ranks well up there on the almost impossible charts...

On the 16th of May 2020 new tagger Mark Jacobsen was drift fishing in 57.6m of water several miles off the Manukau Heads when he caught this 29.5cm snapper. This was Marks second trip with his tagging kit so he released the tagged fish after measuring and recording the location details.

On the 28th of July Courtney Barton was randomly fishing in the same general area when he recaptured this fish in 58m of water. Courtney estimated the length at 30cm. The GPS co-ordinates provided by both anglers put the recapture less than 179m from the original tag and release point, 74 days apart in an area better known for striped marlin fishing over the summer months.



Tag and released



T8802

To the top of the south island now where Graham Wilson joined the Trust inshore tagging program wanting to know more about the survival and movement of the fish he released. It didn't take long for his first recapture. Here is a 35cm Blue Cod that Graham tagged on the 20th of June in Picton Harbour. 49 days later and 154m further along the coast Graeme recaptured this cod that he had released while lure fishing from the shore. It was re-released again to continue on its journey, hopefully to be caught and released many more times in the future.



T5347

Keen land based fisher Michael Jenkins was busy at it again with two more of his tagged fish recaptured this month. This time a Gurnard measuring 44.5cm that he tagged and released while fishing from the shore of the Kaipara harbour on the 21st of June 2020.

56 days later on the 18th of August Jason Neute was fishing with a friend approximately 2.3km further up the shoreline when he recaptured this tagged fish. Jason measured the fish at 47cm and the fish was kept.



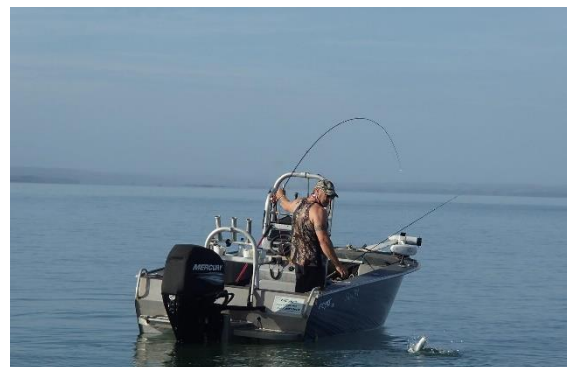
T5347

In mid-July while fishing off the beach at Cowan Bay on the Wild West coast Michael Jenkins tagged and released a Rig *Mustelus lenticulatus* or spotted smooth hound measuring 880cm TL. A month later ½ a km away at Whakaruru bay Michael recaptured this same Rig... a quick photo and it was re-released again. 32 days and 580m displacement shows there must be something this fish likes in the area.



T3030

Graeme Johnson was starting to feel left out and wondering if any of his tagged fish were going to be recaptured. A keen fly fisher Graeme has tagged several fish in the Kaipara Harbour including this 26cm Snapper which he tagged and released on the 8th of March 2020 in 2m of water.



In August the Trust was contacted by the MPI observer program with the report of a tagged fish recapture in a commercial trawl off Port Waikato, West coast. The observer noted that the crew spotted the tagged fish in the catch and were able to record the fish's details. It



measured 28cm on recapture travelling a shortest distance by sea at 151km from the tag location in 101 days.

Interestingly this is only the 5th commercial recapture of a tagged fish in the program. 95% are recaptured by recreational anglers with all members in the program that have tagged over 30 fish having at least one of their fish recaptured.

That's it for Winter 2020, catch you next time for the Spring report... TMRCT team.

Handy links and resources for the online savvy

Website <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz>

Email tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz

Facebook @tindaleresearch or www.facebook.com/tindaleresearch/

Donations <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/tindale-marine-research-charitable-trust/>

Updates and newsletters <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/newsletters/>

Fish ID guide <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/project/fish-id-guide/>

Report Great white shark sightings

<https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/project/great-white-shark-sightings/>

Inshore tagging program <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagging-program/>

Fish Tagging explained <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagging-program/what-is-tagging/>

Tagger Registration <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagger-registration-form/>

Report Tag & Release <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/fish-tag-release-form/>

Report Tag Recapture <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/fish-tag-recovery-form/>

Tagging kits & Accessories <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagging-program/order-tagging-gear/>

Instructions and forms <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagging-program/downloadable-printable-forms>

How to tag a fish video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbiusrEw11Y>

International Gamefish Association & Angling World Records www.igfa.org

NZ Recreational Fishing Rules www.fisheries.govt.nz/travel-recreation/fishing/fishing-rules/