



**TINDALE  
MARINE RESEARCH  
CHARITABLE TRUST**

Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust quarterly report. Includes Trust member news, activities, engagements and achievements over Summer of 2022

**Scott Tindale**  
Founding Director

# SUMMER REPORT

## #16

December 2021 to end of February 2022



# TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST

Charities Registration No. CC55555

IRD no. 126-648-057

## Newsletter No. 16 Summer update 2022

I think after all the dramas with covid-19 lockdowns during the year, and wondering how to get through the usual Christmas stresses we were looking forward to a relaxing summer out on the water. Auckland was only released from a 4-month lock down late December leaving just a few weeks to prepare for the fishing season before the NZ annual close down for the holidays. Boat maintenance posed an issue for many with supplies short and contractors run off their feet.

For those that were ready to head out, the weather gods decided to throw a few cyclones our way. Gale-force south easterlies smashed the northland coast keeping most holiday makers at home. So if that wasn't enough an island off Tonga in the South Pacific decided to blow its top sending a mid-night tsunami slamming into the unsuspecting New Zealand coast, damaging or destroying many vessels already sheltering in a number of northland marinas.

The first available weather window saw us head to Tutukaka marina to access the damage to our boat. Many boats had been damaged or sunk during the night's disaster there. Our diver's checked the boat's underside before the call was made to move her to Opuia in the Bay of islands to free up space for the salvage crews working in the harbour. And so our New Zealand summer begins...



### **Bait camera, tagged fish**

With so many easterlies hounding us we spent quite a bit of time tagging and releasing fish in Kaipara harbour. We like to set up a baited camera to access the density and species makeup of the fish under the boat each trip. The water clarity in the Kaipara is not that good but using wide angled lenses does help. This year we have captured on film several previously tagged fish hanging out around the cameras. Unfortunately the tag numbers are too small to read off the video but it shows they are still in the area.

Not every fish is a film star but every now and then something unexpected happens. On the first of January we decided to drop the camera off the edge of the channel when a great white shark decided to grab it and tow us around. A tug of war ensued before I pulled the juvenile shark to the surface behind the boat where he released his grip on the munched camera frame. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> encounter with Great white sharks we had had this season along with many other reported sightings by fishers in the area so we added a bit of humour to the take online. This made news worldwide. You can view the footage on YouTube at; <https://youtu.be/RwtOrsek20>



## **Research projects**

For decades the Tindale's have been involved, contributed to or assisted in many research projects for government departments, institutions, research and other organisations here and around the world. This summer started off with a number of new requests and the continuation of several existing projects we are already involved with.



The combined skills and experience of the trustees and those of the growing network of fishers and citizen scientists engaged with the Trust has enabled us to locate, catch or otherwise document many marine species, including rare forms of marine life that would be too expensive to monitor any other way. Covid-19 interruptions put many other field operations on hold, or severely restricted their activities. For the Trust's inshore tagging program there was little interruption. Reports of recaptures continued to flow in from around the country with both recreational and commercial fishers able to carry on fishing with minimal change in effort it seems.

Every summer many coastal fish species return to the shallow harbours to leave their young in a safe food rich environment. This is also the time when larger predators take advantage of the bounty offered in the murky shallows. Off shore is no different with many pelagic visitors having arrived from the Pacific to our coasts to give birth, breed or feed up on the nutrient rich waters pushed up to the surface by the ocean currents. They too are ever cautious of the presence of apex predators on the prowl. It's a great time of year to see sharks of all species. As summer rolled on Great White shark sightings were on the increase at key hot spots around the country as they returned to their summer haunts, some were caught on film and made the news headlines here and around the world. Some might say a welcome break from the doom and gloom of covid stories online.

## **School Sharks (Tope)**

In the first weeks of January 2022 Trust members headed out on several tagging trips. The first trip for 2022 included Trust director Scott Tindale, founding member Michael Jenkins and Ben Steer who is working on visualising some of the tagging data. It wasn't long before Ben prematurely released our first shark, a tope (school shark), boat side. In the next few hours we tagged and released 13 mature tope with trust tags and attached two mini-PAT (satellite tags) supplied by Massey university student Alex Burton to two others. The last tope hooked by Michael for the day was bitten in half as he was bringing it in by what was suspected was a great white shark. The half we got back, along with a number of embryos recovered from her, was sent to Massey University for Alex to study. The day ended with a collection of 50 fish tagged and released, including trevally, snapper, kingfish, kahawai, bronze whaler sharks and tope. The bait camera footage included plenty of additional fish species happily hanging out foraging for titbits below the boat including a couple of snapper sporting tags. Unfortunately we couldn't read the tag numbers as they were obscured by filament weed.



The arrival of mature female tope sharks into the Kaipara Harbour shallows is an annual event. The area we fish is less than 2m deep over sand with narrow guts each side, and it has produced great numbers of these sharks for us over the past 15 years. After the deployment of the two mini-PAT's, Alex was keen to get the rest of his Satellite tags out so he dropped off 10 additional mini Pat tags to deploy on our next mission west. This time the team consisted of Trust directors Scott and Sue Tindale and founding tagging program members Michael Jenkins and Robert Janse. The day started out netting mullet for fresh bait on the banks. While we waited for the tide Sue recaptured a tagged Kahawai that was released in the same area months earlier. Moving to the shallows it wasn't long before we tagged and released the first shark. The day produced 25 school sharks tagged and released with Trust tags, 10 with satellite tags and 15 released untagged. Other species tagged and released included 24 snapper 4 kahawai 3 bronze whaler sharks and a nice size kingfish. The purpose made platform across the transom of the boat made handling, measuring, tagging and releasing all these fish quick and methodical, with minimal stress to the fish. This is essential when handling multiple fish that are caught at the same time.



These mini-PATs are due to automatically release later this year and will transmit a summary of information that is stored within them. If the tag is washed ashore and recovered or found on a captured shark please contact us ASAP to arrange collection. As with any other tagged fish you might recapture, if at all possible, record the serial number and leave the tag in place and release the fish live to continue the research. Remember to send in your recapture details and any photos via the link on our website.

## Satellite tagging oceanic manta rays

2022 saw us back out wide in search of these majestic giants. Persistent easterly blows stalled earlier attempts to head out but by the end of January it was all go. The Crew consisted of Trust directors Scott, Sue & Clinton with project leader Dr Mark Erdmann from Conservation International ready with the tags. The following is Marks update to one of our supporters at the end of summer....

“Dear Paula

It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to ‘**Paula**’ the Oceanic Manta, named in appreciation of your efforts to keep Scott and Sue’s house and dog happy and in order while they have been carting me around on the ocean looking for mantas! Some interesting little facts about this manta:

**Paula** is a female Oceanic Manta ray with a wingspan of approximately 3.6m. She is what scientists would call a “melanistic” individual - an “all black” manta with a stunning white anchor formation on her belly - see attached photos. I believe Scott has some additional clips/images of her to share with you. She’s a beauty!

**Paula** was tagged with a SPLASH10 Fastloc GPS towed satellite tag on 22 January 2022 in the outer Hauraki Gulf; we expect this tag to remain on her for 2-3 months (possibly up to 4) and it will periodically send us updates on where she’s been and what her diving behaviour is like. We only get these messages via the ARGOS satellite network on calm days when the tag is on the surface of the ocean, so it’s common to go 2-3 weeks without hearing anything. So far, **Paula** the manta has communicated with us 4 times, she was hanging out to north of Great Barrier Island for a while and her last message was the most surprising - she’s moved 900km offshore and is now up towards the Kermadec Trench! We know from previous tagging that a number of NZ mantas will migrate to Fiji or Tonga as the water cools here in NZ, but for her to have already left NZ waters is quite interesting and “different”.

**Paula** has not sent much diving data yet, but we can see her deepest dive reported so far has been to 116m depth. I expect that now she is out in the deep blue that we might get some MUCH deeper diving, but let’s see what we get! Anyway, thanks again for your efforts (which in turn has allowed me to join Scott and Sue on offshore tagging.”

In other news **Emmy**, one of the oceanic Manta rays tagged off Whangaroa on our first mission 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 was re-sighted by Mark off the Hen and Chicken Islands on the 22 of February this year. Each manta ray has a unique colour pattern on their under belly, sort of like finger prints, so individuals can easily be identified.

Check out Marks RNZ interview

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon/audio/2018835967/hiding-in-plain-sight-oceanic-manta-rays-in-new-zealand>



## Protected species

One of the things about fishing is that there is almost always some unintended bycatch. In most cases this adds variety and interest to a day on the water but sometimes it can involve protected species. All marine reptiles (even sea snakes), sea birds and marine mammals are fully protected within New Zealand fishery waters



Discarded fishing tackle harms sea life



Omaha Beach

(Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone). In addition, all hard corals and black corals, and many gorgonians (fan corals) and hydrocorals (e.g. 'red coral') are protected, as well as some sharks and groupers. Species of fishes protected in New Zealand waters are: whale shark, smalltooth sandtiger (deep water nurse shark), great white shark, basking shark, oceanic whitetip shark, oceanic manta ray, spinetail devil ray, spotted black grouper and Queensland/giant grouper.

Although it is illegal to deliberately take, kill or harass any of these species, it is not an offence to catch one by accident as long as you release it and report it as soon as possible to the Department of Conservation. You can report captures of protected species to your local DOC office, the DOCHOT after hour's emergency hotline or by using DOC's Protected Species Catch app (available from Google Play).

This summer provided two examples of fisher behaviour that had contrasting outcomes for protected species.

The first occurred at Waihi Beach on 27 December when two great white sharks were killed in two recreational set nets. On the face of it the fishers involved were acting legally – the nets were of the appropriate length and mesh size and were labelled with the fishers' names and phone numbers. They claimed that they had not caught or did not know they had caught the sharks. However, the way they were fishing left a lot to be desired. They were operating as a team and had left the nets set permanently for days. Clearing them early each morning before most of the locals got up. Bad weather inevitably



Waihi Beach

meant that there were times the nets could not be cleared for days. One net appears to have either washed ashore or been hauled and cleared on the beach early on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Later that morning locals found a recently dead juvenile white shark and hammerhead on the beach close to where the net was set. Fisheries officers and DOC staff were called and hauled both nets to make sure they had been set legally. Another dead juvenile great white shark as well as numerous rotting crabs, mullet, parore and snapper were found in the second net. Both fishers were notified their

nets had been hauled and within a short time they set two more nets in the same locations before recovering the other nets. So, while they technically did nothing illegal by not staying in attendance with their nets, leaving to them fish overnight and not removing them before bad sea conditions set in they were directly responsible for the death and wastage of a large amount sea life, including two protected sharks. It is exactly this sort of behaviour that casts other fishers in a bad light. It certainly didn't win those involved any friends in Bowentown.



In this second example on a more positive note, a juvenile green turtle was recently caught on rod and line by two anglers fishing for snapper in Tauranga Harbour. When they got the turtle to the boat, they landed it and attempted to remove the hook. Upon finding the turtle had swallowed the hook they called DOC from the boat and told them what had happened. Tauranga DOC staff arranged to pick up the turtle from them and transported it to the Veterinary Hospital at Auckland Zoo, where it was x-rayed and operated on to remove not one but two hooks from its stomach. The second hook being a souvenir from a previous encounter with a recreational fisher. By not panicking and simply cutting the turtle off, these fishers have probably saved the life of this turtle. All sea turtle species are endangered, meaning every one that survives to maturity matters. The costs associated with the rehabilitation of stranded and injured turtles are largely met by Auckland Zoo and the Kelly Tarlton's Marine Wildlife Trust.



The juvenile green turtle in this image was found at Piha, west Auckland. It was taken to be rehabilitated at Sealife Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium and released at the Poor Knights on 31 March 2022. The turtle was tagged with South Pacific Regional Environment Program tags (SPREP). The aluminium tags are clearly visible attached to the front flippers. The animal is shown in its transport bin just prior to release. Photo credit DOC.

If you come across a dead or injured sea turtle on shore or at sea (it happens more than you might think) record its location and size (length and width of the shell), check it for tags – these are usually on the trailing edge of the flippers, take as many photographs of it as you can and report it to DOC as soon as possible. If it is entangled in fishing gear or any other form of rubbish untangle it and allow it to swim away if it is strong enough to do so. If it is deeply hooked try to land the animal without doing any more harm to it and call DOC. It may be possible to have the hook surgically removed as in the case of the hapless Tauranga green turtle. Sightings of turtles can be reported to DOC's herpetofauna database (<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/reptiles-and-frogs-distribution/>).

## The Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat show 2022.

After several months of waiting for restrictions to ease the organisers have announced **its all go!**

Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust will be at the show in the fishing hall stand 101, just inside the entrance. Make sure you reserve this date and pop in for a chat. Volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions on marine research and will be handing out our latest fish ID posters. Tagging kits and measure mats will be on sale too.

The Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show is New Zealand's largest, longest-running and most popular boat show.



**12-15 May, 2022**

**Auckland Showgrounds, Greenlane, Auckland**

[www.boatshow.co.nz](http://www.boatshow.co.nz)

Open 10am to 6pm daily, with a late night until 9pm on Friday.

### **Admission:**

**\$25 online (until May 11, 2022)** or at the gate

Children 16 and under - Free

### **Fish ID posters**

After the success of the last boat show and the overwhelming response to our poster giveaways we have decided to do it again this year. We will only have 5000 on hand to give out so get in quick before they run out. This latest edition includes common and scientific names for each of these common inshore species, all of them are tagged fish in the program too. Q-codes at the bottom direct you to the website and reporting pages for tagged fish recaptures. Drop by for a chat and pick up this latest copy.



Trust director Scott Tindale will also be giving a new presentation titled *modern gamefishing techniques* at the Master classes' stage twice a day. A good chance to catch up on new and improved ideas.

## Notable catches NZ & IGFA World Records

One of the advantages of tagging and releasing fish is the ability to enter the record books without the need to kill and weigh fish. This summer IGFA has approved the 3 Pending Kahawai length records mentioned in the last spring report and our taggers have added four more pending World records for this quarter.

To qualify for IGFA world records, fish must be photographed on the IGFA official measure mat and the fish must be released live.

For NZ records the fish must be also measured on an approved measure mat and the fish must be released live. The only difference is there are additional measure mats approved for NZ record applications only and these include the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust official measure mat. In both instances all IGFA angling rules apply.

## Pending IGFA World Records



This 76cm Albacore Tuna was caught on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 by Scott Tindale while trolling wide of the Bay of Islands in 325m of water. This fish was tagged & released for a pending IGFA all tackle length world record. Note the tag placement just below the second dorsal fin.



One of a double hook-up this 77cm Albacore tuna was tagged and released by Sue Tindale on 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2022, wide of the Bay of Islands for a pending IGFA all tackle length record.



On the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> of February we were greeted with a massive school of large kahawai rounding up piper in the bay. This gave us an opportunity to raise the stakes on the recently approved IGFA fly- All tackle length records. The first tagged and released fish was caught by Scott measuring 53cm, and it was caught while fly fishing off the back of the boat.

We tagged and released several more before deciding to have a go from the shore where Sue tagged and released this 53cm Kahawai on the first cast for an IGFA fly-All tackle length record (Tie). We tagged and released a dozen more as 100's of kahawai chased piper up onto the rocks and swam around our feet. Seabirds watched on too full to fly, so we collected a bucket full of stranded piper for the freezer.



## Approved NZ length Records

In addition to the 3 approved IGFA world records there have been 5 approved NZ length records for fish tagged and released in the Trust tagging program by the NZ Angling and Casting Association.

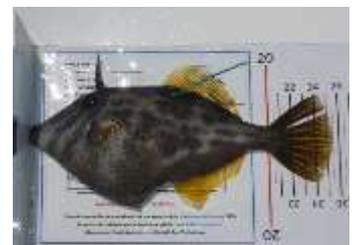


For those that follow social media you will know the significance of this new approved NZ length record. This latest approved NZ record, the famous Hiwihiwi, was caught in the Bay of Islands on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January. This fish makes it into the record books as the all tackle- boat section, length record at 28cm and was tagged and released to fight another day.

Greg Gilbert was recently approved for the NZ all tackle length record (land based) for this tagged and released Blue Moki measuring 62cm. Greg caught this fish while surfcasting off the beach at Kaikoura on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 using mussel for bait.



The NZ length record for **Gurnard** has increased to 45.5cm and a **Leather jacket** at 25.5cm has been added to the approved records list. All of these fish were tagged and released for this length record section set up to recognise angling achievements while promoting sustainable fishing practices.



## “How to” video links

Every tagging kit includes a tagging code of practice and tagging instructions but sometimes it's easier to watch it first-hand. This year we have put together some handy 'how to' videos to make your handling, measuring, tagging and releasing fish safe and easy, and we have included a few of the more common species.

How to tag and release Snapper <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbiusrEw11Y>

How to tag and release gurnard <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AiEGBvf0Emg>

How to tag and release juvenile school sharks <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/eia0-LWzDM8>

How to tag and release Kahawai <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/7xkCJCI9vBM>

How to tag and release Rig <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/9AhR6cDnwdE>

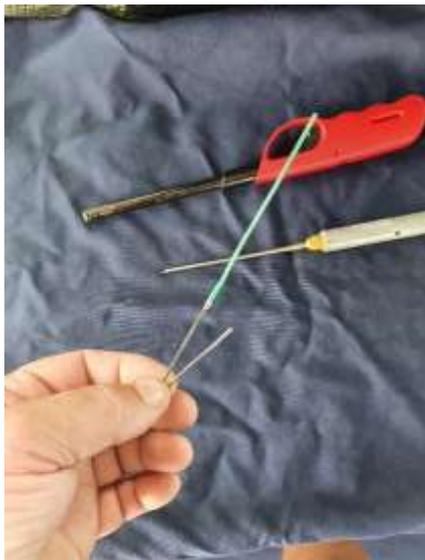
How to tag and release Trevally <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/buOdM8agfT4>

How to tag and release Eagle rays <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/diqjZkZXOuI>

For those that are serious about catching big fish here is a link we made for making your own wind on leaders. Proven in the field on huge tuna and sharks by experienced IGFA world record anglers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcihPHAKung>

## TMRCT inshore tagging program tips



Broken a tag off inside the applicator? Easily fixed...

Forcing or screwing the tag into a fish can result in the barb getting sliced off and jamming the tag inside the tag applicator. Tough skinned fish like sharks require a pilot hole first by using a shark spike, and this makes inserting the tag into the fish easier.

Should you end up with a tag jammed inside the applicator the first thing is to try is flick your wrist with the applicator pointing downward. This should shoot the tag out with the increased G force.

If this fails, heat the end of a piece of wire, a hair pin or paper clip will do, and push it up inside the applicator needle so it melts the broken tag tip. Hold it there until the wire cools. The tag will adhere itself onto the tip of the wire allowing you to extract the wire with the tag imbedded. Your tag applicator will now be cleared and usable again.

## Tagging kits

Thanks go out to all the trust volunteers that have helped put this program together. We are working hard to keep cost minimal and still provide quality products and services.

For those on the north shore, **Hunting and Fishing North Shore** now stocks tagging kits and fish posters. Call in and have a chat to Justin who will be happy to assist you in what you need.

If you are in East Auckland **Yeehaa Tackle** Panmure. Luke Davis still has a few kits left in stock as we gear up for the summer. Have a chat and check out his wall of recapture certificates.

Michael Jenkins is manning the Trademe site where you can order kits and mats online using a credit card.

And lastly there is always our website <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagging-program/order-tagging-gear/> for those that wish to order online with payment by direct deposit into the Trust account.



TMRCT measure mats \$15



TMRCT fish tagging kits \$45

## Monthly Sponsors prize draws

It has been another busy quarter with recaptures reported most days. A Big thank you to **Daiwa NZ** who continue to sponsor Bait junkies to compliment the recapture certificates sent out to each angler involved in the tagging and recaptures.



## Membership draw

Each month we draw a random tag number from that month's tag and release entries and thanks to **Daiwa New Zealand** the winners receive a Daiwa Legalis LT 4000D-C spinning reel and a spool of J-Braid x8 20lb line valued at a RRP \$230.00

**Congratulations** to our monthly winners

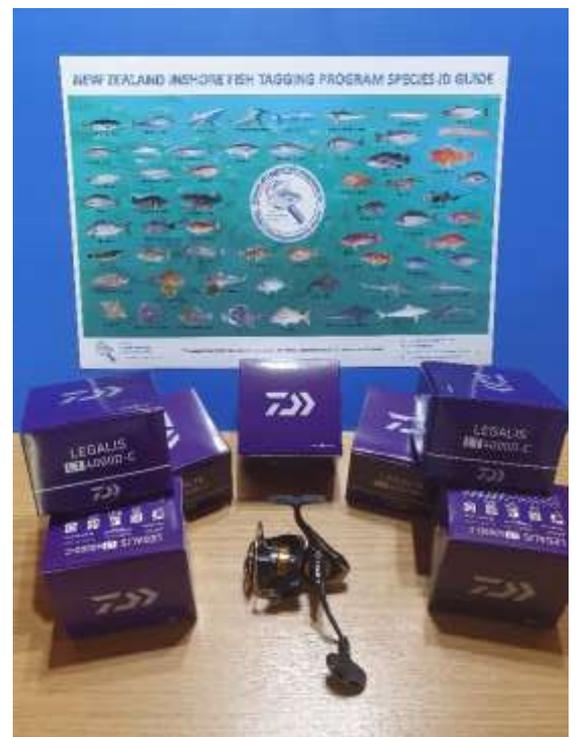
December... **Keegan Oxenham** from Rotorua

January... **Paul Mills** from Kaitaia.

February... **Greg Gilbert** from Christchurch.

Remember to send in your completed tag and release data before the end of each month to be in the draw. Old or late entries will be entered into the month received.

*Note: tag and release forms sent in with incomplete or missing data are not eligible for prizes.*



## Lucky Draw

Each report we draw a tag number from our data base using Random.org. As always you will need to send in all your tagging data to be in the draw as vacant tag numbers will be redrawn. The lucky winner of each draw receives a \$100 gift voucher thanks to the team at Bunnings Silverdale.

This reports random number is .... **Tag Number T1807**

**Congratulations** to Micah Hill who tagged and released a 72cm Kingfish fishing the Tauranga harbour on 17/11/ 2021



## Sponsorship and donations

Again we would like to thank our sponsors and the individuals that have donated to this great project.

## Tindale Marine Research Tagging Program summer overview

The TMRCT Inshore tagging program membership continues growing and has now reached over 860 keen fishers. To date we have distributed just over 20,500 tags. Members have reported 6449 tagged fish across 45 species to the end of summer 2022 (February 28<sup>th</sup>). It is great to see at least 1/3 of tags are already on record as deployed.

Please do not leave reporting tagged and released fish too long, as I still find I'm having to chase up taggers for information on tagged fish that have been recaptured before they have been reported by the tagger.

Please keep your tagging data safe and update it to the trust website as soon as possible. This will prevent data getting lost and help us to give you regular updates on the stats. The link for recording your tagged fish is on the home page of the website or you can scan this QR code.

The direct link is <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagging-program/fish-tag-release-form/>



Housekeeping...can I please ask taggers not to send **tagging data** via txt, social media or in messenger. This makes transferring the information and keeping a backup impossible. By all means share your stories videos and photos on these other forums, but please remember the data needs to be collated first. Please use the above link on the website only except for those of you who are emailing tag spreadsheet updates.

Note; we suggest that any photos are sent to the trust email [tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz) separately, as the website portal only accepts small files. Your photos make these reports more interesting so we look forward to receiving them.

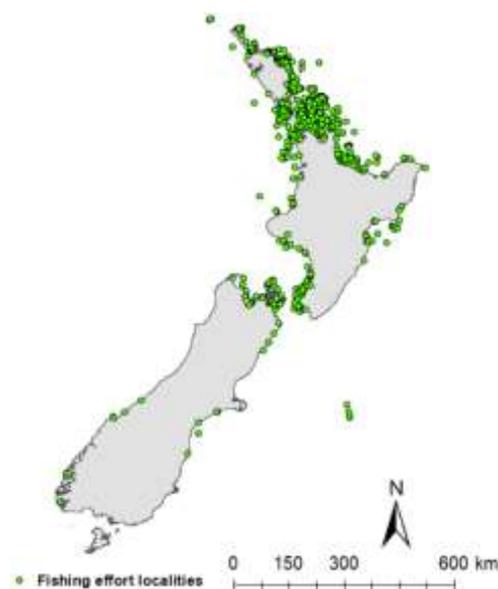
### Summer 2022 recapture summary

- **43 tagged fish were recaptured for the quarter**
- **23 recaptured from recreational boats**
- **14 recaptured from the shore**
- **2 recaptured from charters**
- **2 recaptured by commercial & 1 from a research vessel**
- **29 tagged fish recaptured were released again**
- **1 fish speared**

The tagged fish recapture rate nationwide is still surprisingly high and is still sitting around 1 fish recaptured for every 22 fish tagged and released. This has been fairly constant since the project began 4 years ago.... Should non-reporting be prevalent the recapture rate would be even higher.

Most of the tagged fish recaptures this quarter were in the Hauraki Gulf region (32%).

FMA 8 (North Island west coast) accounted for 28% of tagged fish recaptures.





## Recapture update for summer 2022

### T9614 snapper

Kim Hobson reported the recapture of this tagged snapper via the Fish & Game website. Kim was fishing at little Tiri Island in the Hauraki Gulf on the 13 of November 2021 when the fish struck in 20m of water. Kim measured the fish at 82cm then took a photo of the tag in the fish before releasing it again. The phone number on the tag was difficult to read so Kim reported it to F & G who passed on the information to the Trust.



This fish was tagged and released just over a year earlier on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2020 by Manuel Greenland fishing in 20m of water off Katherine Bay in the Hauraki Gulf. The fish was measured at 70.5cm on tag and release. This fish had a straight line displacement of 68.1km and had been at large for 408 days.

### T13605 Kingfish

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 Chris Rix tagged and released a 40cm kingfish he caught on a lure just outside the Tauranga harbour.

81 days later this fish was recaptured in the same area by Ollie Bassett who re-measured this fish at 42cm before releasing it again.



### T6866 Kingfish

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2020 Rutta Auksmukste was fishing with friends at Mayor Island when she tagged and released this 84cm Kingfish caught in 40m of water.

721 days later on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2021 Amber Jones was spearfishing at Castle Rock when she shot this fish in 10m

of water. Amber measured the fish at 92.5cm. It was recaptured 58.8km from the release location.



### T7323 Kingfish



Late evening on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October Robert Plant was popper fishing in the Tauranga harbour where he tagged and released this kingfish.

44 days later and 3.5km away, Darcy Wales recaptured this fish while lure fishing from the shore line. It measured 86cm.



### T11780 blue cod

This is one of a dozen Blue cod recaptures tagged and released by Graham Wilson in the Marlborough area this summer. This 33cm fish was recaptured 50 days later by 11 year old Jody Harrison fishing with dad. It was the only Blue cod they caught amongst lots of snapper but Jody opted to measure, photograph and release the fish again to continue the research.



### T17160 kahawai



On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 Scott Tindale tagged and released this film star 49cm Kahawai in the southern arm of the Kaipara Harbour while filming 'how to tag' fish videos for the tagging program.

167 days later Garry Traves was fishing near the bunker when he recaptured this tagged fish. Garry did not find the tag until he was preparing to put the fish in the smoker. By that time the head had been disposed of so he was not able to get a length measurement. Garry estimated the length at 55cm

### T11795 Blue cod

Another of Graham Wilson's tag and released Blue Cod's from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2021 has been recaptured in the same area.

Nine year old Sam Richardson was fishing with his father on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December when he recaptured this tagged fish while soft baiting from the shore. Sam is the third generation of his family to recapture a tagged fish from the trust inshore tagging program, keeping it a family affair. The fish was measured at 33cm before being carefully released again.



### T0229 snapper



On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 young Luke Hannam tagged and released a 29cm snapper while fishing in the Hauraki Gulf with his family in 18m of water.

54 days later this fish was recaptured by Ryan Watt while straylining in 15m of water of Motuora and it was released again.

Then on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 William Allen recaptured this fish a third time while soft baiting in 20m of water. The fish was estimated at 29cm before being released again adding to the total of 252 days at large.

### **T2940 snapper**



On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 founding tagging member Robert Janse tagged and released this 77cm snapper in 10m of water off Horn Rock in the Hauraki Gulf.

925 days later on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 Josh Darby was soft bait fishing in the same area when he recaptured this fish in 15m of water. Josh measured the snapper at 78cm before releasing it again.



### **T14763 Kahawai**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 Trust directors Scott & Sue were out on the Kaipara Harbour filming 'how to tag fish' segments for the website. Four kahawai were tagged and released including a 49cm specimen. The water temperature was 19.2°C but fishing was slow due to the small tides. 73 days later on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 we headed back out to the same spot to catch bait. Sue took a break from mulleting to cast a line off the sand banks where she recaptured this fish again. This time it measured 49.5cm and was released again.



### **T17140 Snapper**

Chances of recapturing a tagged fish in the Kaipara is the lowest in NZ. Our tagging stats show this area has a recapture rate at around 1:43. This by all accounts is a good thing and reflects on the low fishing pressure and an abundance of seasonal fish in a healthy environment.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of January founding tagging member Michael Jenkins accompanied me on a Kaipara Harbour tagging mission for the day. 85 fish were tagged and released including this 34.5cm snapper. Several tagged fish were also spotted on the underwater footage on our return.



36 days later on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January Calvin Tan was fishing close to where we released this fish when he recaptured this tagged snapper measuring it at 35cm.

### **T17109 snapper**

Another snapper recaptured from this area again in 36 days was a 36.5cm fish tagged and released by Scott Tindale on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

This fish was recaptured on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 by David DuPavillon aboard the Massey University research vessel Aronui Moana while looking for school sharks. David measured the fish at 37cm before releasing it again.



### **T14751 Snapper**

Another fish tagged and released by Scott Tindale on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 in the Kaipara Harbour this time a 36cm snapper filmed for our how to videos.

Blair Joyce, factory manager at Egmont Seafood's contacted the Trust to report the recapture of this fish on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 aboard the commercial fishing vessel 'Savannah'. They were fishing off the Taranaki coast in 74m of water where this fish was caught in a set net. At 80 days at liberty this fish had travelled a shortest distance by sea of 290km and was recaptured in a similar area as several other Kaipara Harbour tagged fish have been recaptured. Unfortunately the fish was not measured but the length was estimated at 38cm.



### **T11120 Tope shark**



Jason Bennett contacted the Trust to report the capture of a tagged school shark on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2022. Jason was Commercial fishing 12.4km off the coast of Taranaki aboard the fishing vessel 'Robert H' when they netted this Tope shark measuring 650mm VL.

This Tope shark was tagged in the Kaipara Harbour on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 by Sue Tindale fishing in 1.7m of water. It measured a total length of 66cm (570mm VL) prior to release. This juvenile Tope shark has travelled a shortest distance by sea of 281km and had been at large for 386 days.



### **T12479 snapper**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2021 Ayden Dunn was fishing at Cooks Beach when he tagged and released a 52.5cm snapper caught in 3m of water.



134 days later Ayden was fishing with Glen Appleton aboard the same boat when Glen recaptured this snapper straylining in 3m of water. The fish measured 53cm and was recaptured within 230m of the tag & release location.

### **T12981 snapper**

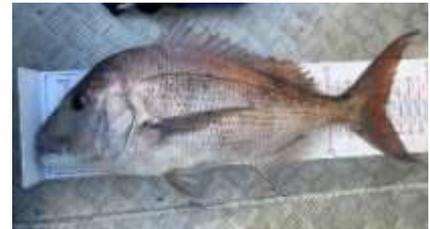
On the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 Matt Vitali tagged and released his first fish. He forgot his measure mat so used an 'eyemeter' to estimate the length at 30cm. The fish was caught in 9m of water off the little Barrier Island in the Hauraki Gulf.

20 days later this fish was recaptured by Jasmine Mc Cartney while fishing near the ranger hut 700m to the west. Jasmine also estimated the length at 30cm and released it again. Although no usable length data was obtained this does show an example of the fishing intensity in the Hauraki Gulf where the tagged fish recapture data records a 1:17 recapture rate.



## **T9633 snapper**

Edward Scharenguivel was fishing the shallows of Great Barrier Island on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January when he caught a tagged snapper measuring 61.5cm. He took a photo and then released it again.



This fish was tagged 459 days earlier on the 22 of October 2020 in the same spot by Luke Davis. The fish was caught in 5m of water and measured a V-length of 60cm.

It is not uncommon to recapture fish in the same area especially during the same season or around the same time of year. Next are a few of Donovan King's summer recaptures this season at spot x near Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf. All were tagged and recaptured by Donovan in the same area where his personal recapture rate is around 1:9.

**T13319** a 30 cm snapper tagged and released on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 was recaptured 72 days later in the same spot. A quick clean of the tag and it was away swimming again.



**T13329** a 33cm snapper tagged and released on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 was recaptured in the same spot 27 days later on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 when it was remeasured at 33.5cm before being released again. It was then recaptured again on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February in the same spot, measured and released again a third time.



**T13323** a 31cm snapper tagged and released on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 was recaptured in the same spot 35 days later on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2022. It measured 32cm before being released again.

**T13320** a 29cm snapper tagged and released on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 and recaptured 64 days later on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2022.

These all demonstrate handling & release survivability and that the tagging processes do not alter the fish's natural behaviour as they continue to forage in their preferred summer habitats.



The Tagged fish recapture rate for the Hauraki Gulf marine park area (Mangawai to Waihi) is 1:17 with 99.88% of recaptures recovered by recreational fishers.



### **T23043 Kahawai**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 Graeme Johnson was fishing in the Kaipara Harbour when he tagged and released an early season run Kahawai measuring 45cm. This fish was recaptured 83 days later 6.9km to the north at Potu Point by Dave Mackie on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January while fishing in 20m of water. Dave said it was the smallest amongst a large school they got onto. Dave has since ordered his own tagging kit and 100 tags to get started on his 2022 mission to tag 1000 fish....

### **T9490 Snapper**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 Tom Smart was fishing in a local one base tournament at Whangaroa when he caught the heaviest snapper, a 75.5cm tagged snapper that weighed in at 8.7kg. This fish was tagged and released 36 days earlier by Alastair Sheard at a distance of 2.27km from the recapture spot and caught in 18m of water where it was measured at 74cm.



### **T13115 Kingfish**

Recreationally Kingfish are one of the most sort after coastal sportfish due to their distribution, size and fighting ability. They are found in the shallowest of harbours - out to the deep offshore reefs and can be found almost nationwide. Tagged fish have even crossed the Tasman to Australia making them great candidates for tag and release. Shallow water anglers often see kingfish riding alongside rays in these harbours as the rays forage along disturbing bait fish and other edible morsels.

In Tauranga Harbour an area where the tagged fish recapture rate is very high (1:9), Geoffrey Burntsen was working the flats at low tide on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 when he tagged and released a 65cm kingfish. 22 days later on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February Spike Allen recaptured this fish on a livebait in 20m of water just outside the Tauranga harbour entrance. The fish was estimated at 70cm

### **T8527 snapper**

Miles Lawrie reported the recapture of a tagged snapper he caught in the Mahurangi Harbour on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 in 3m of water. Lawrie quickly wiped the tag clean, took a photo and released it again. He estimated the length at 30cm.



This fish was originally tagged and released on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 by Graeme Young (a former ORI fish tagging member) off Moturekareka Island in the Hauraki Gulf. This fish had a straight line movement of 14.5km and had been at large 334 days before recapture.

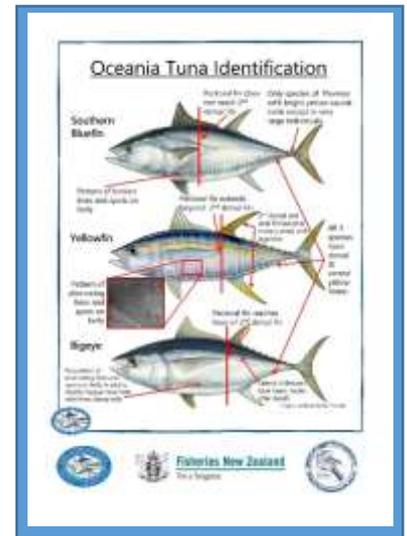
### **T18918 Snapper**

The second recapture of a tagged fish by Calvin Tan while fishing on the Kaipara Harbour this year is this 41cm snapper that he caught and released again in 7m of water. This fish was originally tagged 66 days earlier by Trust director Scott Tindale and measured 36cm. It had not moved far over the summer months.



## Fisheries New Zealand

Behind the scenes Scott Tindale has continued to be involved in several government appointed fisheries working groups and steering committees. The last two years of covid restrictions has moved all of these meetings online bringing in input from around the country. Recently at the Marine amateur fishers working group (MAFWG) and the high migratory species working groups we have discussed the southern Bluefin tuna fishery, conservation efforts and the international commitments to this species.



With the upcoming changes to recreational bag limits in May and to assist recreational anglers in the correct ID of southern blue fin tuna IGFA have kindly assisted us in putting together this easy to understand Oceania tuna Identification comparison sheet. These will be circulated later in the year when these changes come into force.

Remember to keep up to date with all fishing regulations and rules **before** you head out.

So that's it for another seasonal report. Remember to keep sending in your tagging data regularly so I can keep you all up to date and sorry to those whose recaptures were not mentioned. Catch you on the next issue....

Tight lines from

Sue, Scott and the team at

**Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust**

Po. Box 278 Silverdale 0944 – Email [tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz) – web <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz>



Eagle ray foraging in shallow water in the Hauraki Gulf

