



TINDALE
MARINE RESEARCH
CHARITABLE TRUST

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

Scott Tindale
Founding Director

AUTUMN REPORT

#17

March 2022 to end of May 2022



TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST

Charities Registration No. CC55555

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Newsletter No. 17 Autumn update 2022

Welcome to the autumn report. Just as we were all getting used to living with covid-19 restrictions and the uncertainty that this issue has created, March started off with continued strong easterly winds and then we all faced huge fuel price hikes due to the conflict in Eastern Europe. Diesel jumped to \$2.55 per litre early autumn and peaked over \$3.00 later in the season so many fishers were limiting their movements and saving up for the calm days. If only we could rely on those forecasts! In the north for those that managed to get out, the fishing was exceptional. Mahi-mahi and skipjack tuna schools were everywhere giving us great opportunities to film and tag these awesome, fun to catch seasonal visitors. Autumn is also the best time of the year to target marlin and this year did not disappoint. Sue managed to catch a respectable blue marlin and three striped marlin from only a few days trolling off the Bay of Islands. Striped marlin was the 50th species to be tagged in the Trust tagging program so we were surprised to hear that a marlin had been recaptured off the Three King's Islands with a 'green' tag shortly after. More on that later in the report.

Protected species

Autumn like any other month has seen its usual bycatch of protected species around the country. While most of us try to avoid it through proper care and attention to your surroundings, it still pays to be prepared, as the unexpected can happen. Some recent catches of green turtles and seabirds have needed hospital treatment to remove fishing hooks and rehabilitation. Quick action to carefully remove the hooks and entanglements requires preparation in advance. Things like having cutters, gloves and a towel on hand should you need them is always a good idea. Some accidental catches are not so lucky with reports of dead seabirds and sharks left washed up on our shores. Efforts by Fisheries NZ and the Department of Conservation (DOC) to educate the public through the main channels are limited, so again we at the Trust encourage our members to follow our suggested guidelines and select tackle that reduces the risk to our unsuspecting wildlife. There is some reluctance within the fishing community to use the DOC protected species app for fear of reprisals reporting via the app is anonymous and can be prosecuted for not reporting incidents. Remember it is not an offence to accidentally catch a protected species. It is however an offence to not report it, or intentionally harm a protected species. Remember to report incidents or request help by phoning **0800 DOC HOT**

In late April the quick action from a Westhaven marine worker alerted Zoo staff and DOC to a sighting of fishing tackle hanging out of the mouth of a leopard seal named "Owha" that was sunbathing in the marina. On arrival the team were able to carefully approach her and remove the line and sinker.



Photo credit - Tinake



It's not always accidental catches that raise concerns, unexplained environmental issues need to be investigated and monitored by the relevant agency with the help of the public. Earlier this year around 100 little blue penguins were discovered washed up dead on Northland beaches. MPI and DOC were notified in early May of the first sightings, and in response sent seven specimens collected from Tokerau Beach to a veterinary pathologist to find out the cause of death. There were no signs of poisoning or trauma. Poor body conditions and empty gastrointestinal tracks indicated starvation leading to hypothermia was the likely cause of death.

Photo credit - Scott Tindale



12-15 May, 2022

With only enough time to scrub up and get ready after our latest mission out on the water, this year's Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show sure came around fast. For everyone involved there was a long anxious wait to see if the boat show would actually be able to proceed. The government's Covid-19 restrictions on maximum gatherings were pending review right up to the weeks before the event. This also left very little time to arrange for any printing, merchandise and staff that are critical for the exhibitors to stage a presence. Our sincere thanks go out to Dave, Mike and the management team for making it happen, and especially for including us and providing a stand again this year. This prime location at the entrance to the fishing hall gave us a massive opportunity to showcase the Trust member's volunteer work in marine research, conservation and education. Setup this year was fortunately a lot easier as we were able to run with the successful layout from the last show. It was also a privilege to have former owner of the Boat Show Tony, drop in on the last day and lend a hand with packing up, in time for a catch up at the after-function evening.



We gave away over 6000 A1 fish ID posters during the Boat Show, along with information sheets on the inshore fish tagging program and other fishing related material. Thousands of “Report Tagged Fish” stickers with the QR code were given to keen fishers to share with their mates and to put up at their favourite locations. These are now popping up all over the country, at fishing clubs, tackle stores, boat ramps and marinas, as well as being strategically placed on fisher’s boats and tackle boxes. It is hoped that this QR code direct link to the website reporting page will make it easier for fishers to log their tagged fish recaptures while out on the water, and join the growing community supporting this research project. Special thanks go out to those of you that have donated funds to support this project. You have helped get this educational material out there where it counts.



At the other end of the showgrounds on the Fisheries New Zealand stand, staff and volunteers distributed fisheries and seabird information including handing out hundreds of the Trust fish posters, stickers and Tuna ID cards in support of the Trust inshore tagging program. These fish posters were very popular with everyone visiting the stands. Many were also impressed to find out that all of the photos on the fish tagging poster were tagged and released by Scott and Sue for the Trust tagging project. Thanks go out to Fisheries New Zealand for supporting our citizen science project.

Tagging kits and roll-up measure mats sold out each day as more volunteers joined the program. This unfortunately meant our house guests had to help us make up extra kits into the early hours of the morning, for the next day ahead.

A new addition to our stand was a big screen TV. The shark videos and how-to videos played were all well received. Unfortunately a bit too well, as we had to reduce the amount of shark videos playing during the busy periods, as too many people were blocking the hall access and filling the stand, wanting to watch all of the footage.

Over all it was another busy show this year with very positive comments received from all of those involved, especially all the visitors to the stand. Most of the latter seemed well informed on the tagging program, which shows how popular and well respected the project is. This allowed us to spend more time showing off the results, and listening to fishers own experiences and observations out on the water.

For those that explored the boat show you would have hopefully seen Scott on the Master Classes stage showcasing the changing face of technology and fishing over the last 100 years. His talks were around an hour long each day and included visual presentations on everything from skip baits to satellite tagging. Some of the old techniques have seen a revival in recent years while newer developments have seen a total change to the way that we fish and interact with nature.

Special thanks go out to Judy Brown, Robert Janse and George Watson for their exceptional efforts and good humour while helping out on the stand over the four gruelling days, and to the visiting friends and Trust tagging program members we conscripted each day to help roll up and hand out posters while we chatted away to you all. Top efforts all round to all those new citizen scientists out there helping to support and undertake marine research for a better understanding of our marine environment.

Fisheries news

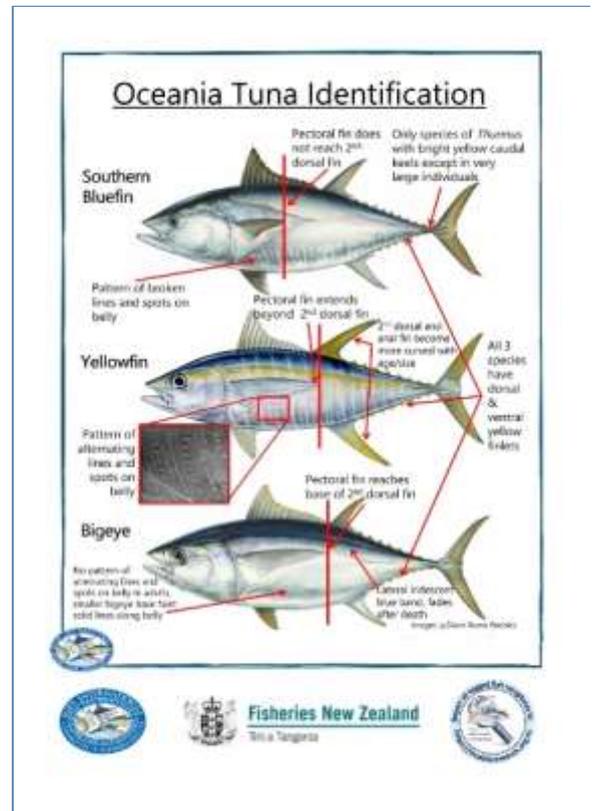
5th May 2022 saw the introduction of several changes to the recreational fishing rules in particular daily bag limits. A big concern was how to advertise the changes to the Southern Bluefin tuna limit, a reduction to a 1 per person daily bag limit, in time for the annual winter tuna run off the North Island east coast. The second issue was how anglers could distinguish a Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) from similar looking species. This issue became evident this summer when an unexpected run of juvenile SBT were caught in large numbers in shallow water from Kapiti all the way north to the Kaipara. These fish had never been encountered along this coast before so were within easy reach of any small craft. Most anglers thought these fish were yellow fin



Southern Bluefin caught off Kapiti earlier this year on fly

tuna due to the coloration of the finlets. In response Scott, an IGFA

Representative, contacted IGFA headquarters in Florida and arranged for comparison sketches to be supplied and printed in time for the Auckland Boat Show. This Oceania Region Tuna Identification card has now been sent out to anglers and clubs around the country. On the reverse side the cards specify the daily bag limits and size restrictions on all 3 species of tuna commonly caught in NZ waters.



Historically there were no bag limits for recreational fishers on a majority of fish in our waters and any restrictions were for the most popular species. This led to potential abuse of the resource so when the pink maomao saga erupted in the media last year an angry public demanded change.



To summarise these new fishing rules for recreational fishers now cover all fish species in our waters. A combined daily limit of 20 finfish per person covers most of New Zealand, 30 finfish in the lower South Island. Individual species limits also apply for some species.

A handful of specified baitfish species have a separate maximum daily bag limit of 50. The rest form part of your finfish daily bag limit. Grey mullet and skipjack tuna for instance are not listed as baitfish so form part of your daily finfish allowance.

Remember to check for all fishing regulations and restricted areas before heading out.

Interesting catches

A new interesting fish added to the tagging program this year was a bigeye thresher shark which was tagged by the Trust directors, while sword fishing off the North Island east coast. This fish measured close to 5 metres in total length. It was double tagged before videoing it's release. Bigeye threshers can be found in deep waters and are circum-global in tropical and



temperate waters. Females mature at around 3.3m or 13 years of age and can live up to 20 years. Threshers are popular recreational game fishes due to their speed, stamina and propensity to jump when hooked. Two of the three known species are found in New Zealand waters. The current IGFA world record bigeye (*Alopias superciliosus*) and common thresher (*Alopias vulpinus*) sharks were both caught off the northeast coast of New Zealand. Each was around 1000lb.

NZ & IGFA World Records

The Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust celebrated its 4th year in April. What started out as an initiative to offer recreational fishers an avenue to participate in marine research, has developed into quite a following amongst all the stakeholders within the marine sector. In the 21st century we are bombarded with opinions on everything around us. What is true or accepted fact is now blurred by social media. This has created a growing industry of citizen scientists inspired by the need to get involved and find out the facts for themselves.



Sports fishing organisations around the world have also been influenced by public opinion in the last decade or so, adopting a whole new era of catch and release record categories. In response, fishing tournaments have evolved more sustainable approaches to fishing. Many have moved away from traditional kill and weigh competitions and adopted tagging or measure and release options.

As an IGFA representative and record holder, I regularly get asked for assistance by anglers wanting to target a potential record or helping with the processing of their record applications. For those of you that have not had the chance to listen in on one of my club talks on this subject here are some of the basics in applying for a fishing record.

Firstly preparation is the key. Read up on the IGFA angling rules, these are universal for both NZ and World records and can be found online at www.igfa.org or at any fishing club.

New Zealand angling records are jointly administered by the NZSFC and NZACA. Record applications are free to their respective affiliated members but for non-members NZSFC charges a \$150 fee. NZACA on the other hand charge a fee of \$20 to non-affiliated fishing club members (includes Trust members) or \$50 to the general public that are not in a fishing club. Record application forms are available online from either of these organisations websites or by contacting Scott.

NEW ZEALAND ALL TACKLE LENGTH RECORD APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

CATCH INFORMATION

OFFICIAL INFORMATION

APPROVAL INFORMATION

Send applications & photos to Records Officer at records@nzaca.org.nz or Post to NZACA Records Office, 51A Wakelill Rd, Mairangiata, Tairāwhiti 4100.

Well done to our Trust tagging members who have dominated the NZ record books with tag and released fish over these past years. Since starting the tagging program, I have assisted Trust members obtain over 50 NZ angling records. This autumn the angling record books added five newly approved IGFA World Record catches and 14 New Zealand Record catches, all submitted by members of this tagging program. One of these tagged fish has already been recaptured. Several additional tagged fish records are pending approval. Recognising angling achievements of tagged and released fish is a bonus to the valuable contribution it makes to environmental education and marine science.



Photo collection – a few of the autumn 2022 approved New Zealand and IGFA world record tag and released fish

Tindale Marine Research Tagging Program autumn overview

Celebrating 4 years April 2018-2022

The TMRCT Inshore tagging program membership continues growing and has now reached over 962 keen fishers. To date we have just over 21,500 tags distributed. Members have reported 7048 tagged fish across 53 species to the end of autumn 2022 (May 31st). 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 not entered into the system, when they are recaptured.

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/>



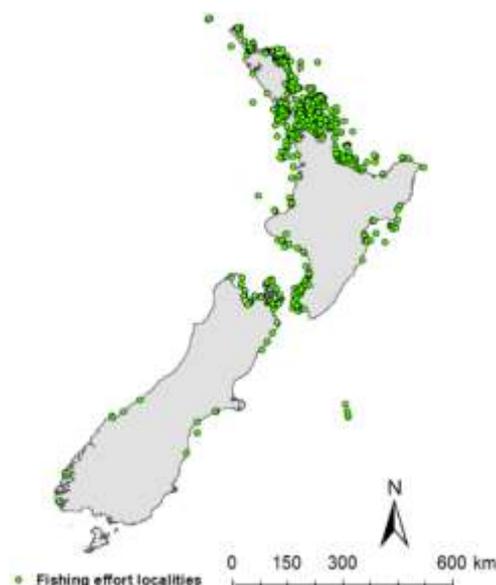
Housekeeping... Can I please ask taggers to not send in **tagging data** via text, social media or in messenger. This makes transferring info or keeping a backup impossible. By all means share your stories videos and photos on these other forums but please remember the tagging program is about collating scientific data first. Please use the above link on the website. For those of you who are tagging more than 10 fish per day, we can send you an electronic spreadsheet that you can email updates to the trust, and for manual uploading to the data base.

We suggest that any photos are sent to the trust email tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz separately, as the website portal only accepts smaller files. Your photos make these reports more interesting so we look forward to receiving them.

Autumn 2022 recapture summary

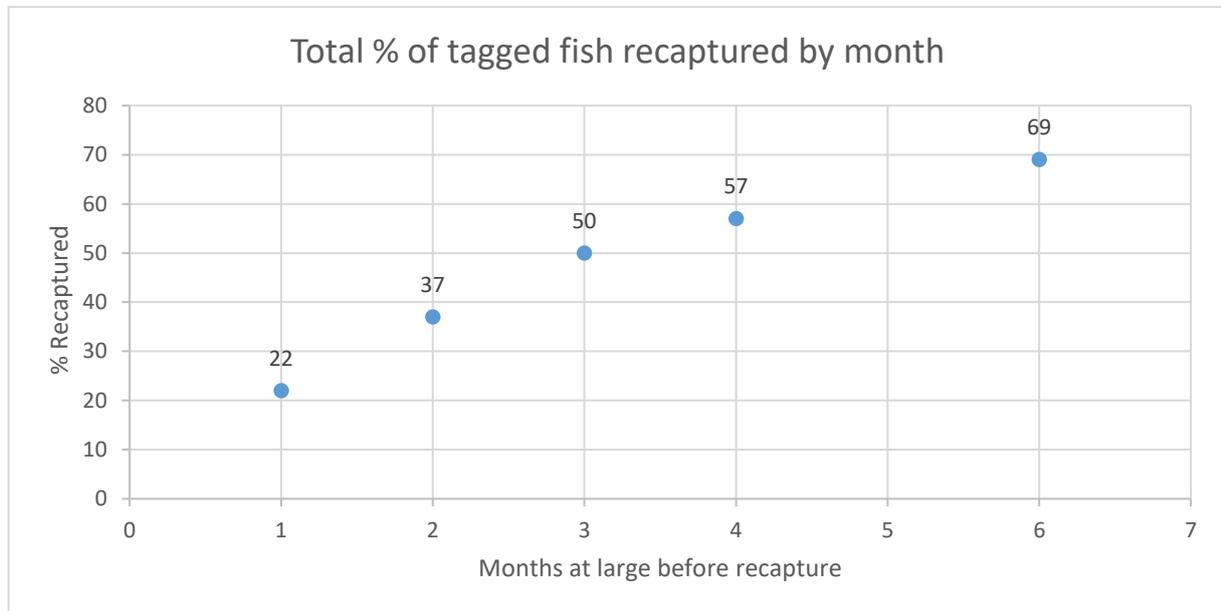
For catches between March and the end of May

- **46 tagged fish were recaptured for the quarter**
- **24 recaptured from recreational boats**
- **18 recaptured from the shore**
- **1 recaptured from charters**
- **3 recaptured by commercial and 1 from a research vessel**
- **17 tagged fish recaptures were released again**
- **Longest distance moved 584km**
- **Longest time at large 1150 days**



The who's and when's of recaptures

The tagged fish recapture rate nationwide is still surprisingly high sitting around 5%. That is 1 fish recaptured for every 20 fish tagged and released. This has been fairly constant since the project began four years ago. Should non-reporting be prevalent the recapture rate would be even higher. It is also similar to recapture rates in tagging programs in other highly populated and potentially overfished countries.



This chart shows the percentage of recaptured fish plotted against the time at liberty. As you can see 69% of all recaptures are made within six months of the fish being released and 84% of recaptures occur within a year of release. The longest time at large so far is 1150 days, or just over 3 years.

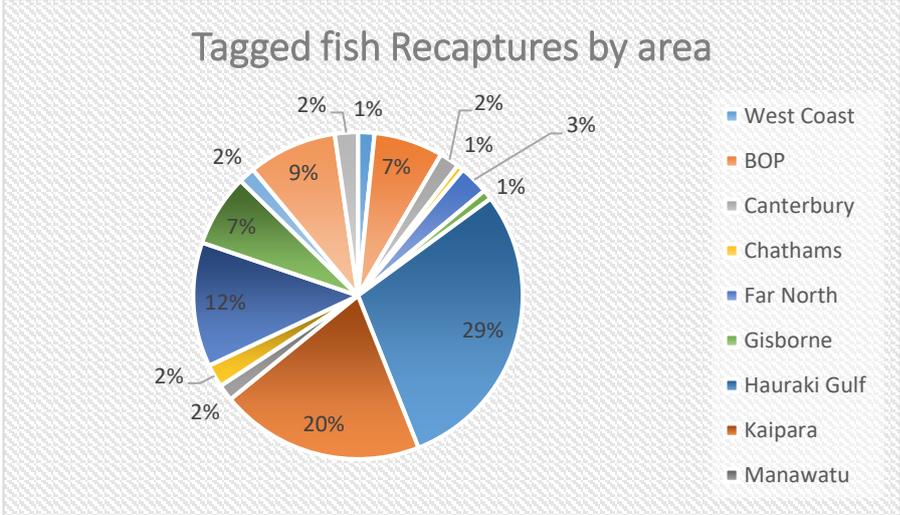
In an island nation where there is no recreational licencing or recreational harvest reporting, the number of participants and recreational harvest has only been roughly estimated. This often feels little better than guesswork. With the difficulties of reaching the fishing public with a coastline exceeding 15000km we need to be looking at ways to record what is actually happening out on the water.

Over the four year of this program 93% of reported recaptures have been by recreational fishers, and 7% by research and commercial fishing operations. Highlighting the significance of recreational fishing and the need to for greatly improved estimates of recreational catch. This is particularly important in a shared fishery.

CPUE or catch per unit effort has long been a gauge for estimating stock levels and setting sustainable catch limits. Unfortunately, it does not consider improved technology, new equipment or experience, so other methods are needed to help with assessing the bio mass of a particular catch species. Elsewhere tagging programs have been instrumental in quantifying stocks as well as showing trends and picking up changes as they happen, both environmental and man-made.

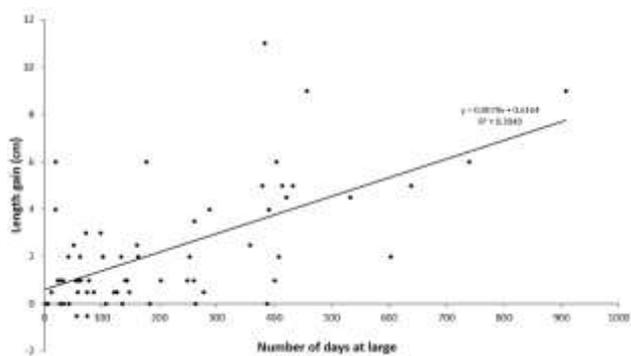
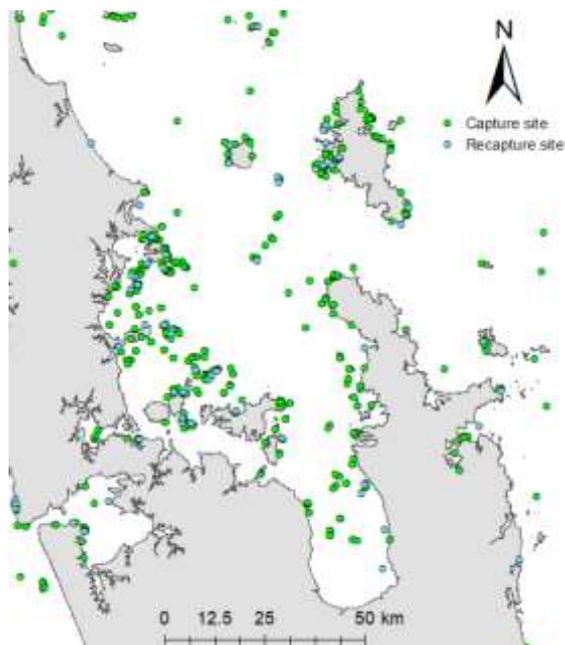


Our recaptures have increasingly shown seasonal trends in movements. Many fish recaptured in the same season they were tagged in are caught within a short distance of the tag and release location. While those recaptured in a different season are often caught further afield. This indicates these species are probably undertaking seasonal migrations but are returning to the places they were tagged in. Snapper for instance have been recaptured in summer within a few hundred meters of their original release location, whereas those recaptured in other seasons have moved over 400km. Geographical spread of tagged fish reduces bias towards the avid fishers only fishing their favourite spots. It also gives a good comparison between varying growth rates due to food and habitat availability. Kaipara harbour snapper for instance are heavier and grow faster than their east coast counterparts. It is to be expected that many tagged fish will be released in popular fishing spots close to high population areas due to convenience, but where possible taggers are exploring new spots to increase the coverage of the fishery. Recaptures cannot be predicted, so on their own account are caught by chance throughout the inshore range of the fish tagged.



Hauraki Gulf snapper

Trust volunteer Ben Steer has worked his magic again with a collection of maps and graphs showing some of the tagging program results from the Hauraki Gulf. Here we look at the results of snapper recaptures within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park area. The map on the left shows tagging and recapture sites spread across the region. On the right we have an estimated growth rate chart plotted from growth rate data collected. Snapper growth rates from this area are around half that of the Auckland west coast fish.



Scatter plot showing change in snapper size (final – initial) versus number of days at large.

TMRCT inshore tagging program



As mentioned to many of you at the boat show negotiations are still continuing with Fisheries New Zealand for funding to cover the replacement of deployed tags. The process has been a long one. From the onset the former and current ministers of fisheries have been very supportive of this citizen science project and over the last year been looking internally for ways to provide some form of financial support. Dan Bolger, DG of fisheries NZ dropped in for a chat while visiting the event and advised that they will have a proposal to us by the end of June. Hopefully I'll have an announcement for you all on this in the next issue.

Recapture update for summer 2022

Even with the strong winds and few suitable days to venture out on the water this autumn we have seen a steady flow of recaptures coming in from around the country. We started off in March with the recovery of a tag in Oakura Bay, Whangaruru, 593 days after it was attached to a parore caught by Christopher Caine off the Russell wharf in the Bay of Islands. There is no way of knowing if the fish was recaptured and the tag discarded but it is very unlikely that this tag drifted all this way so the mystery remains.

We sometimes get reports of tag recaptures that are not from our tagging program. Through our network of contacts and collaborating with other research organisations we endeavour to find out as much information as we can to match the angler with the correct program. These organisations have also reciprocated by passing on to us our members tags reported through their channels. Some of the tags are from programs that no longer exist so finding the history on the recaptures can be difficult. One such tag reported to the Trust was from Kevin Lydiard who caught a 52cm snapper at Cape Rodney in the Hauraki Gulf on the 15th of May 2022. The tag was difficult to read so with help from fellow teachers at the college they were able to supply enough information for us to work with. We were able to link the tagged fish to a study carried out by a former Auckland University PHD student that tagged the fish in the Leigh marine reserve between 2004 and 2005. The former student now resides in Switzerland so NIWA are helping to recover the original tag data to complete this story...



T11787 Bluecod

On the 3rd of December 2021 Graham Wilson tagged and released a 29cm bluecod that he caught while casting a softbait from the Picton shore. He then recaptured this fish 93 days later in the same spot where he measured it again at 31cm. This fish was his 28th tagged fish recapture and was released again.

T16939 Kahawai

On the 25th of June 2021 Clinton Duffy tagged and released a 36.5cm kahawai that he caught near the Kaipara Harbour oyster farm. It was one of 49 kahawai tagged that day and his second recapture from this trip.

Tom Hodgins recaptured this fish on the 5th of March 2022 while netting on the top of the spring tide 5km upstream from the Hoteo River club house. Tom mentioned that this part of the river is normally only fresh water this far upstream, and was normally a good spot for mullet and whitebait so he was surprised to catch a kahawai, especially a tagged one.



This kahawai had travelled a straight line distance by sea of 26.4km in the 254 days at large.

T14782 snapper

Don Fremlin reported the recapture of a tagged snapper he caught on the 12th of March 2022 in ships channel close to Helensville. Don was fishing in the lower reaches of the Kaipara Harbour in 2m of water and noted that all the fish had eaten a diet of date mussels and sea biscuits. Don measured the fish at 34.5cm on the boat but 33cm the next day at home. This fish was originally tagged 127 days earlier by Sue Tindale on the 6th of November 2021 near the harbour entrance, a distance of 18km to the north west. The snapper was caught in 5m of water and measured 31cm.



T9034 snapper



Samuel Pillidge was fishing the “Lure Masters competition” off Little Barrier Island on the 12th of March this year when he caught a 46cm tagged snapper in 10m of water.

Ironically this fish was tagged and released 22 days earlier by Wayne Downer the tournament organiser. It was one of 17 fish Wayne tagged that day along this stretch of coast. The snapper was recaptured 5.37km from the tag & release location.

T12430 Snapper

On the 20th of December 2021 Jayden Emtage was fishing off the Cavalli Islands in the far north when he caught a 35cm snapper in 18m of water. The fish had a noticeable deformed head but otherwise looked a strong healthy fish. 87 days later on the 16th of March, Paul Sharp recaptured this fish in almost the same spot. The fish measured 38cm and weighed 1kg.



T11800 Blue cod

On the 7th of December 2021 Graham Wilson tagged and released a 41cm Blue cod while fishing with softbaits from the Picton shore line. 103 days later this fish was recaptured in the same area by Russell Wilson (no relation other than a keen fisher) who has since joined the tagging program. He estimated the fish at 40cm and it was kept.



T14786 Kahawai

J. Berge emailed in a report of a tagged Kahawai recaptured while surfcasting at Puriri Point, Kaipara Harbour on the 25th of March 2022. We are still waiting on further information to confirm the length. This fish was originally tagged by a trust director on the 6th of November near Taporā. This kahawai measured 48.5cm and was caught in 11m of water. The fish had suffered an old injury and only had one eye. It was recaptured 140 days later a short distance by sea of 25km.

T5093 Kingfish On the 1st of April 2022 Graham Cogger was fishing from the shore at Fantail Bay in the Hauraki Gulf when he caught his first kingfish on a squid bait. Graham measured this tagged kingfish at 76cm.



This was the first recapture for Steven James who tagged and released this kingfish at Port Jackson on the 9th of July 2021. This fish was caught just under 8km from the tagging location after 267 days at large. Steven measured the fish at 68cm so it had grown 8cm in that time.

T18635 Striped Marlin

On the 3rd of March Trust member Luke Davis phoned to tell me they had just landed a Trust tagged striped Marlin off North Cape. I was quite surprised as the only recorded marlin in the program was the one we had just tagged off Cape Brett 200km to the south a few days before. The boat skipper Hayden Wright was able to confirm the anglers name as James Yendal and it was caught on a live bait. Luke measured the fish at 236cm long with a girth of 51cm. They estimated the weight as 90kg. On checking the tag number on the data base it was discovered to not be the fish we tagged. Unfortunately, there was no record of it being tagged on file.



One of the main reasons we record who has tagging kits and tags is so we can locate missing information or chase up data for recaptured tagged fish. Checking through the records we were able to locate the kit with this tag number in with the crew of Sir Michael Hills' super yacht the "Beast". They had been fishing in the far north on the 15th of March when angler Murry Doyle tagged and released this striped marlin 15km to the north. The crew captured some awesome footage and sent in some photos of the marlin for the report.



T8537 snapper

On the 3rd April 2022 Audrey Livingstone was fishing off Motuora Island in the Hauraki Gulf when she recaptured a tagged snapper in 25m of water. It was estimated at 27cm and released again.

This fish is Graham Youngs 7th recapture from 51 tagged and released fish. It was also another recapture from several snapper Graham had released on the 15th of March 2020, caught in 18m of water with evidence of barotrauma, or swim bladder inflation. Graham was successfully able to descend each of these fish and they all swam off strong. This snapper was measured at 26cm and was recaptured within 1.5km of where Graham had released it. This snapper had been at large for 750 days before recapture.



T11781 Blue cod

Graham Wilsons' 30th recaptured tagged fish has been caught 3 times over 152 days. This time Graham recaptured this fish on the 7th of April 2022 from the picton shore and measured it at 42cm. 1cm longer than the last time it was recaptured in January. Total growth recorded so far is 3cm since November last year and it is still in the same area.



T17947 snapper



Natasha Vasquez reported the recapture of two tagged snapper that her family caught in the Kaipara Harbour on the 2nd of April 2022. Natasha caught this one and measured it at 33cm before releasing it again.

This snapper was tagged 165 days earlier near the same spot on the 20th of October 2021 by Sue Tindale. The fish measured 28.5cm and was caught in 3.5m of 19.1° water. Interestingly it is the second fish this family has recaptured, tagged by Sue, on that same day. (see T17953)

T18482 snapper

This fish was also reported by Natasha and was caught by her dad Peter Rose on the same day as her's on the 2nd of April. It measured 33.5cm and was also released. This is the families third recapture of a tagged fish released in this part of the Kaipara by Sue Tindale. Sue had tagged and released this fish 124 days earlier on the 30th of November 2021 where it was caught in 4m of water and measured a v-length of 29cm



T6764 snapper

Steve Hathaway from "Young Ocean Explorers" tagged and released his first fish for the program on the 10th of October 2021. This 30cm snapper was caught in 10.5m of water in the Mahurangi, Hauraki Gulf. Earlier we had filmed a section for his show to explain a bit about the tagging program so when he got a chance Steve was keen to join in this citizen science project. 102 days later this fish was recaptured by Peter Scott while fishing in 12m of water at the northern entrance to the Mahurangi. Peter estimated the length of the fish at 30cm before releasing it again not far from where Steve had tagged it.



T0223 Kingfish

Nik Hannam tagged and released a 68.5cm kingfish on the 29th of April 2021 while fishing off Kawau Island in the Hauraki Gulf in 14m of water. 352 days later this fish was recaptured by Neil Harrison while livebaiting off Fairchilds reef, close to where it was tagged a year ago. The fish weighed 6.1kg and measured 82cm which shows a growth of around 13.5cm per year

This is the second recaptured fish for Nik from the 19 that he has tagged and released, and he is slowly gaining on his son Luke, who is leading with 2 of his 6 tagged fish already recaptured.

T11797 blue cod

Another of Graham Wilsons' blue cod recaptures this month was a 33.5cm fish Graham tagged on the 4th of December 2021 and recaptured it again 135 days later on the 17th of April 2022. It was measured at 36cm and released again.

T13320b Snapper

Donovin King has had his 6th tagged fish recapture from Motutpu island in the Hauraki Gulf. This 29cm snapper was originally tagged in December 2021. It was then recaptured again in February and caught a third time on the 3rd of April. In total it has remained in the same location for 99 days since first being tagged and released.



T15211 snapper

This recapture was initially reported to Blue Water Marine research and forwarded to the Trust by Sandy. David Burgess had caught a tagged 37cm snapper while stray lining off Cooks Beach on the 15th of April 2022.

This fish was tagged within 2km of this spot 244 days earlier by Ayden Dunn who measured the fish at 34cm. This is Ayden's second tagged fish that has been recaptured from his 11 tagged.

T12879 Kingfish



Benjamin Hall recaptured a tagged kingfish measuring 80cm while bait fishing off the coast at East Cape on the 15th of April 2022. The fish was photographed and released again.

This fish was tagged by Hamish Beattie on the 27th of February this year on a stick bait cast from the shore. It had moved a short distance of 35km in 48 day. This is his second recapture from 14 fish tagged.

T19623 snapper

'Neither rain wind or snow will dampen our spirits' ...welcome to Christmas in the sunny Bay of Islands?

While the Tindale's were amidst a heavy down pour of rain on the 25th of January this year Scott and Sue braved the elements to tag and release several snapper off Poroporo Island. If the rain got any heavier these fish would have swam onto the boat. This 29.5cm snapper was recaptured 85 days later on the 19th of April by Cassie McIntyre while line fishing in the same spot. They did not notice the tag in the fish until it was filleted.



T7593 snapper



Blake Fitness reported the recapture of a tagged snapper T7593 while land based fishing at Port Jackson on the 8th of May 2022. Blake measured both the total length of 59cm and the V-length at 57cm. Blake released the fish recording the GPS location.

This fish was tagged 58 days earlier by Michael Jenkins in the same area and measured 54cm. This is Michael's 14th tagged fish recapture in this tagging program.

T17001 Rig

Andrew Boyes has had his 4th recapture of a tagged fish, this time recapturing one of his own tagged fish, a Rig, or also commonly known as a smooth hound. Andrew tagged this fish on the 11th of November 2021 measuring it at 109cm total length.



Andrew recaptured this Rig at night time in the same location off Eastbourne, Wellington Harbour, 283 days later where it measured a total length of 113cm. Andrew was about to tag the fish but then noticed the original tag covered in weed. The tag was cleaned and the fish released.

T18511 snapper

Wayne Thompson was fishing with Trust member Liam Shadgett on the Manukau Harbour on the 27th of February where they tagged and released a 50.5cm snapper that Wayne caught in 6m of water.

56 days later this fish was recaptured approximately 2km away by Tony Prescott who was stray lining in 3m of water. The fish was kept and not measured.



T20491 Banded wrasse

This is the second Banded Wrasse recaptured from 4 released so far. This fish was tagged and released on the 18th of February 2022 by Greg Gilbert while surfcasting on the Kaikoura coastline. It measured 25.5cm and is Greg's 5th recapture from 34 tagged fish released so far.

The wrasse was recaptured on the 24th of April and half a kilometre away, by Tony McInnes while fishing from the shore. He did not know what species it was so released it again.

T13167 snapper

On the 26th of April 2022 visiting resident from Melbourne, Australia, Nicholas Largree was fishing at Sprints Bay in the far north when he recaptured this tagged snapper from the shore. The fish weighed 5kg and measured 64cm in length.

On the 29th of January 2022 Kireandhan Moodley tagged and released this snapper measuring 64cm while land based fishing at Spirits Bay. This fish had been at large 88 days and was recaptured 3.4km away.



T13688 kingfish



On the 5th of May Aaron Northcott had been for a dive with his uncle when they decided to have a fish off Shags point, Opunake where Aaron caught a tagged kingfish in 46m of water on a bait. They did not notice the tag until they returned and processed the fish. It was unfortunately not measured.

This fish had been tagged by Joe Edlington on the 10th of January while he was land based lure fishing at cape Reinga. This fish had travelled a shortest distance by sea of 584km in 116 days.

T11115 snapper

Jason Bennett the skipper of the “Robert H” called regarding the recapture of a tagged snapper. This fish had been caught in their commercial trawl in 110m of water about 35km off shore in the south Taranaki Bight. Jason measured the pre-caudal length of the fish at 35cm and converts to 38.5cm V-Length. This is the second interesting tagged fish recapture Jason has caught from the program, so we have supplied him with a Trust measuring mat to help with recording any future tagged fish recaptures.



This fish was originally tagged and released by Trust director Scott Tindale on the 27th of December 2020 at the Omokoiti Flats in the southern arm of the Kaipara harbour. The fish measured a V-length of 32cm and was caught in 1.7m of water. This fish has travelled a shortest distance by sea of 324km and been at large for 494 days.



T20483 Rig

Brad Olsen aboard the 9m commercial set netter “Lady Bridget” reported the recapture of a tagged Rig, spotted smoothhound, on the 17th of March off the coast of Dunedin in 18 fathoms of water. Brad advised that they were unable to measure it as they had unfortunately trunked the fish before noticing the tag.



This fish was tagged on the 19th of February 2022 by Greg Gilbert while on a tagging mission fishing along the Kaikoura coast. Greg measured this female Rig at 109cm TL and it was caught while surfcasting from the shore. This fish had travelled 437km in 27 days.



T13541 snapper

On the 10th of April 2022 Keegan Oxenham tagged and released a 33cm snapper that he had caught in 23m of water off Papamoa in the Bay of Plenty.

36 days later it was recaptured by a commercial long liner approximately 3km further down the coast in 21m of water. Zak Olsen the skipper of FV. "Tarpeena" was very interested in the program, and was also interested in pursuing any options available to commercial operators like him wanting to tag and release fish in his area. Zak also noted seeing several manta rays off Tauranga this season something they only rarely see, so monitoring and changes to fish dynamics through tagging and other constant research is critical in monitoring any environmental changes. Especially helpful for fisheries management too.

T21090 snapper



Trust director Scott Tindale ventured out on the Kaipara on the 17th of April 2022 tagging and releasing this 32.5cm snapper. Scott was fishing in 3.3m of water and tagged 15 other fish before the gale force winds gusting 35 knots cut the trip short at mid-day. The water temperature was 20.1°C.

Malcolm Clark recaptured this fish 26 days later in 21m of water off the edge of the channel 3km further down the harbour. Malcolm measured the fish at 33cm and said it weighed 0.818kg. We would also like to thank you Malcolm for your kind donation to the tagging program it is greatly appreciated. Tight lines.

T11852 Kahawai

On the 14th of May 2022 Lynley Goodhue caught a tagged kahawai for tea while line fishing from her kayak in 8m of water at Waipiro Bay in the Bay of Islands. This fish was recaptured 1.7km from the tag location and 77 days later.

This fish was tagged and released by Trust director Sue Tindale on the 27th of February 2022. Sue was fly fishing from the shore in Omakiwi bay amongst hundreds of kahawai and snapper chasing baitfish in the shallows. This 53cm Kahawai catch was filmed and documented for an IGFA World Record and on approval will be Sue's 153rd IGFA World record caught in New Zealand waters.



T2907 snapper



Jessica Anderson was fishing near Durville Rocks in the Hauraki Gulf on the 15th of May 2022 when she caught an estimated 70cm tagged snapper. Jessica had already caught this 79cm snapper on the left so opted to release the tagged fish again.

T2907 was originally tagged by founding member Robert Janse on the 23rd of March 2019 while fishing in 12m of water at Horn Rock. It measured a V-length of 61.5cm. This fish had been at large for just over 3 years or 1150 days and was recaptured a straight line distance of 53.1km away.



T13805 Blue cod



Leeann Mosna recently joined the tagging program and it wasn't long before she received her first recapture. Leeann tagged and released this Blue Cod in Picton on the 15th of April 2022 and it measured 32cm.

34 days later it was recaptured by another Trust member Graham Wilson. Graham measured the fish at 33cm and released it again. It had moved 1.2km between the capture dates.

T18026 snapper

Adrian Johnson has had his third recapture, this time catching his own tagged fish 20 days later at the same spot. This snapper measuring 32cm was caught in 15m of water off Ngunguru in northland. The tag was removed and replaced with a new one.

T12603 Snapper

The 21st of May 2022 was a very blustery day in Papamoa Beach but local Paul Iti decided to take the quad bike down the beach and send out his Kontiki long line to catch a few fish for dinner. One of two fish he caught was a tagged snapper T12603. The tag had a bit of growth on it but the fish was fat and in good condition. Paul measured the fish at 403mm and weighed it at 1.427kg.

This fish was tagged 131 days earlier by Lans Botha while surfcasting at Papamoa east. It measured 39.5cm and is his first recapture from the 5 fish he has tagged so far.



T9602 snapper



Visiting from Australia Martyn Gittens was fishing with guide Stephen Tapp on the 20th of May 2022. As they explored the rugged coastline along the seaward side of Great Barrier Martyn caught this tagged snapper while fishing from his kayak. Back on land they measured the fish at 80cm.

This fish was tagged 596 days earlier in the same general area by Manuel Greenland on the 2nd of October 2020. It was caught in 20m of water and measured 77cm before release.

T17175 Kahawai

Wellington resident Paul Middleton was fishing off the Shelly Beach wharf at the Kaipara Harbour on the 24th of May 2022 when he caught a tagged Kahawai measuring 47cm. Paul did not notice the tag until after he had dispatched the fish as the tag had a bit of weed attached to it.

This Kahawai was tagged nearly a year earlier by Scott Tindale on the 14th of July 2021. This fish had a damaged right eye and is the third Kahawai recaptured that was tagged that day. The fish measured 46cm and was recaptured 4km away 315 days later.



T13333 snapper

Donovin Kings 7th recapture of one of his tagged fish was caught on the 26th of May 2022 by Richard Mackay while fishing out of a dingy at Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Richard said this 33.4cm fish was the skinniest of the seven he caught and did not notice the tag until he got home. If he had noticed it he would have released it to see how far it would go. Donovin had tagged this 30cm snapper 117 days earlier on the 30th of January around the same area.

T13906 blue cod

Russell Wilson recently joined the tagging program and has quickly had a fish recaptured. This blue cod that Russell tagged and released on the 15th of April 2022 while fishing from the shore in Picton harbour, was caught from the shore and measured 26cm. 44 days later near the same spot, Russell recaptured this fish measuring it again now at 27cm. Russell noted that the blood in the picture was not from this fish and it swam away strong.



T18878 & T18871 blue cod

Graham Wilson was fishing off Durville Island at the top of the south Island on the 28th of May 2022 where he tagged and released several fish. The following day two of these fish measuring 35 and 36cm were recaptured by Rosie McDonald and Lukas Waide while fishing together at Durville Island in 9m of water. Both tagged fish were kept.

Again we would also like to thank all our sponsors and individuals that have donated their time and resources in support of this great project.



As always we would like to thank Daiwa NZ for sponsoring products to the inshore tagging program. It has been great to see these products being put to good use and resulting in some great catches.



So that is it for another seasonal report. Remember to keep sending in your tagging data regularly so I can keep you all up to date in the next report. Sorry to those whose recaptures were not mentioned we will endeavour to include these on the social media pages.

Catch you on the next issue....Tight lines from the team at

Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust