



TINDALE  
MARINE RESEARCH  
CHARITABLE TRUST

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

Compiled by Founding Directors,  
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Clinton Duffy

# SPRING REPORT

## #19

1 September to 30 November 2022



# TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST

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## **Newsletter No. 19 spring update 1<sup>st</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2022**

Winter most definitely makes fishers restless. Braving the elements or stuck at home waiting for an opportunity to hit the water as soon as the weather permits. Once again this year has been a drag with Covid restrictions still lingering, cyclones and short, wet days. In pre-covid years many New Zealanders would flee the winter blues with a tropical island retreat. Luckily by late October most travel restrictions were lifted here and abroad bringing things back to a new normal. By late spring undeterred by the expense the mass exodus soon started.

The Trust directors Sue and Scott had cancelled many overseas commitments due to logistics around covid restrictions but chose to take up the opportunity to head to Fiji once things eased to check out reef fish research and manta ray studies. As guests of Hidden Gem Charters both Scott and Sue demonstrated tag and release, and deep water release techniques to help reduce the mortality of reef species bycatch. Ed Porter was keen to get a local tagging program up and away to encourage all charters in Fiji to fish in a more sustainable way in the face of increasing pressure from locals and the tourism industry.

On returning to New Zealand Scott and Sue drove 5800 km around the South Island for several engagements, covering the south in Trust recapture stickers at every fishing location they could find along the way. Interest was high, and they sold out of tagging kits and posters. Each day was spent fishing a new location using a couple of broken surfcasting rods. This resulted in over 150 tagged and released fish. Not hard in the perfect weather they experienced and it wasn't long before some of these fish were recaptured as other anglers headed for the coast too.



The biggest disappointment was seeing how some recreational fishers choose to abuse of the fisheries resource. This included set nets blocking river mouths, dumped fish on the beaches and witnessing unwanted catches killed and unwanted fish killed and dumped on beaches or dumped dead back into the sea. Some people just don't deserve to be allowed to fish.



*Above, school shark (a QMS species) and dogfish dumped on a beach in Southland.*

*Right, A kontiki fisherman dumping dead bycatch into the sea. These were alive when landed and left baking in the sun for an hour before dumping into the ocean.*

## **Conservation & environmental news**



Each quarter we report on incidents involving recreational bycatch of protected species. Until the advent of social media discussion and management of bycatch was entirely focused on the commercial sector.

The recreational sector on the other hand was largely invisible in these discussions. Mostly because there is little or no recreational reporting. As a recreational fisher if you haven't accidentally caught a seabird in New Zealand, then you haven't done much fishing! It's unavoidable in many instances like this white fronted tern that snatched a lure cast into a kahawai school in Southland this month. It was released unharmed but as it is a protected species this encounter still had to be reported. For convenience the Department of

Conservation has produced an App (Protected Species Catch) to make this job easier so I recommend you all download it onto your phone for when you accidentally hook, tangle or run over a protected species. (<https://www.dragonfly.co.nz/work/rec-fishing-bycatch.html>)

You can find it on Google Play

([https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=nz.co.xequals.doc.ProtectedSpeciesCatch&hl=en\\_NZ&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=nz.co.xequals.doc.ProtectedSpeciesCatch&hl=en_NZ&gl=US))

All fishing has an impact on other life around us. It's a shared fishery and we are privileged to have over half the world's sea bird species to share it with. It's time we all changed the way we fish and use tackle and techniques that minimise harm. Unattended nets, barbs on hooks, discarded fishing line, baited hooks left unattended in holders are all bad habits that are easily changed.

### **Great white sharks**

From early spring through to the end of summer juvenile and adult great white sharks will be encountered in greater numbers and around our coastline, including harbours and estuaries.

Already, two carcasses of juvenile great white sharks both with their heads removed, have been reported to the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Great white sharks are protected under the Wildlife Act, so it is illegal to hunt, kill, or harm them. If one is accidentally caught or killed, you are required to report it to DOC or the Ministry for Primary Industries. Deliberately killing a great white shark or other protected fish could result in a fine of up to \$250,000- and two years' imprisonment.

During the summer period there is an increase in reports of dead white sharks being found on beaches with fishing gear still in their mouths reflecting the seasonal increase in recreational fishing effort.

It is not illegal to accidentally catch a white shark, but it must be released alive and unharmed. If you catch a white shark or any other protected species release it as soon as it is safe to do so, preferably with as little fishing gear attached as possible, and report it to DOC as soon as possible. This can be done via the local DOC office, emailing the Sharks Mailbox ([sharks@doc.govt.nz](mailto:sharks@doc.govt.nz)), the Protected Species Catch app. or phoning 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).


Find out more about great white sharks here:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/marine-fish-and-reptiles/sharks-mango/white-shark/>

Protected species identification guides for fishers can be found at:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/conservation-services-programme/csp-resources-for-fishers/protected-species-identification-guides/>



: Juvenile white shark - Fisheries NZ

## Satellite Tagging

### Tope shark (school shark) mini-PAT update by Alex Burton, Massey University.

Two mini-PAT tags that were deployed to track the movements of tope aka school sharks (*Galeorhinus galeus*) as part of my PhD thesis were recovered during spring. Both of these tags were deployed in early January 2022. The deployment of tag 21P0900 was short lived as it popped off after only five hours. It originally washed up on North Head, Kaipara Harbour, but could not be found. Then in early September Department of Conservation rangers found the tag washed ashore on Ripiro Beach.



The deployment of tag 21P0920 was a bit longer. In August 2022 this tag popped off in the South Taranaki Bight and eventually washed ashore on Te Horo Beach in late November 2022. This tag was also recovered, this time with the assistance of the local and TMRCT communities, as well as a radio receiver.

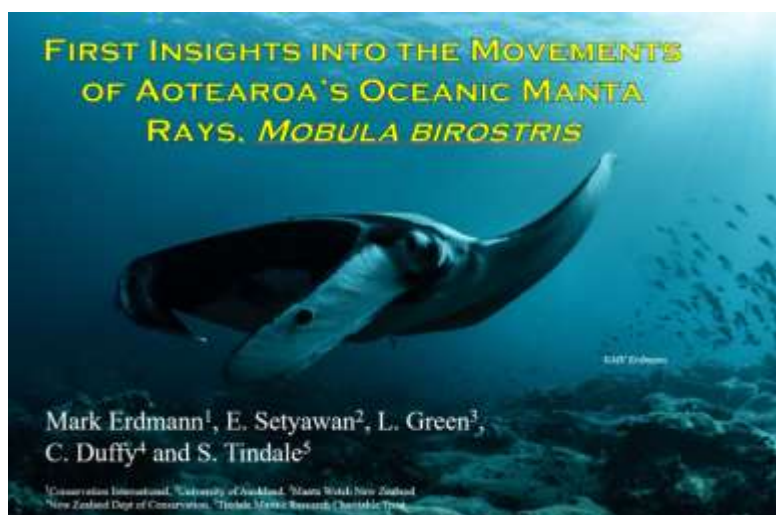
The recovery of these tags allows me to download all archived data, which provides a much better look into the movements and habitat use of the sharks they were attached to.

Several other mini-PATs are either still attached to school sharks or have detached and are yet to be recovered. If you find one of these tags on the beach or floating in the water around NZ, please collect it and get in contact with me by email ([a.burton@massey.ac.nz](mailto:a.burton@massey.ac.nz)) or cell phone (0224005009) or the Trust.

If you do capture a school shark with a satellite and/or dart tag attached, please record details relating to the capture and report them to the Trust. If possible, please release the shark to help further the research. If it cannot be released, please record details related to the capture, collect the tag, and get in contact with Alex or the **Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust**.

### Manta rays

As spring arrives so do many seasonal visitors to our shores. Big game fishers keen to venture out wide in pursuit of that first gamefish of the season often run across pelagic species like turtles, sunfish and manta rays. This year has been no different with reports of fish along both coasts of the North Island. Dr Mark Erdman from Conservation International and the team will be out again this summer looking to satellite tag oceanic manta rays within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. If you see any of these majestic giants record the location and observations and get in touch. The more eyes out there the better



The team is currently working on the data from the satellite tags deployed on oceanic manta rays over the last few seasons and have seen some great movements and results so far. An update on the progress of this project will be in the next summer report.



## Species profile

### **Basking Shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*)**

Basking sharks (*Cetorhinus maximus*), the second largest fish in the world, were once commonly seen inshore around the lower North Island and down the east coast of South Island to Foveaux Strait and Stewart Island during late spring and summer. Large schools, sometimes numbering hundreds of sharks, were regularly seen off Kaikoura, in Pegasus Bay and off Kaitorete Spit from the 1960s to mid-1990s. The last sighting of a school this size was of about 100 sharks



spread along the coast between Ashley River mouth and the Spenser Park end of Brooklands Lagoon, Pegasus Bay, around 2005. The last confirmed sighting of a basking shark in coastal waters was of single shark that spent several days in Onapua Bay, Tory Channel, and Marlborough Sounds in 2012. The cause of the disappearance of such a large, conspicuous fish from our inshore waters is unknown. Although it is suspected that impacts from human activities like fishing or changes in environmental conditions may have played a role in their disappearance this species is known for long mysterious disappearances elsewhere in its range. After a long absence from parts of its range in the Northern Hemisphere, large numbers have returned to the waters around the British Isles and the east coast of the US. Scientists are still in the dark as to why these fish have not returned to our coastal waters. Remember if you have ever come across a basking shark, alive or dead, we would like to hear about it. Particularly if you have photographs to confirm the identification and numbers.

#### **Basking shark facts:**

**Maximum size:** reported to reach 12.2m total length (TL)

**Maximum age:** unknown

**Maximum weight:** two 11m sharks were estimated to weigh between 6200 kg and 6350 kg.

**Size at maturity:** 5-7m TL for males, and 8.1-9 m for females

**Age at maturity:** uncertain, estimated to be 12-16 years for males, and about 20 years for females

**Size at birth:** uncertain, thought to be about 1.5-2.0 m

**Litter size:** the only information on litter size is a report of 6 pups found in a female taken off Norway in August 1936

**Gestation period:** unknown

**Diet:** zooplankton (small planktonic animals) - mainly calanoid copepods – and possibly small pelagic fishes

**Distribution:** global except polar seas

**Habitat:** Much of their time is spent below the surface in deep water (to at least 1000 m) but they move inshore in spring and summer to take advantage of seasonal blooms of zooplankton, at this time they can sometimes be seen in very shallow water, and will even enter large coastal lagoons such as Lake Ellesmere /Te Waihora. Satellite tagging suggests a preference for water temperatures between 15 and 17.5°C.

**Closest relatives:** the basking shark belongs to the order Lamniformes which also contains sand tiger sharks, thresher sharks, porbeagle, mako and great white sharks.

**Population size:** a genetic study has estimated the global effective population size (an estimate of the number of reproductive individuals) to be only 8200.

**Non-human Predators:** killer whales and great white sharks.

## Public engagements.

Although the world is slowly moving on from Covid restrictions many are still working from home or avoiding gatherings as a precaution. This new normal is both convenient and inconvenient at the same time. I have found joining fisheries working groups virtually makes discussions between sectors feel more like a box ticking exercise. You cannot read the room or engage in those all-important side conversations through a square screen.

Engaging with the public, running fishing events and giving club talks has been a challenging affair over these past few years. Many events have been cancelled or postponed but we have made it to the podium for a few.

## Fishing club talks

### Mairangi Bay Fishing Club, Auckland

After the talk at Mairangi Bay Fishing Club had been postponed several times a suitable time and date was finally set. Trust directors Scott and Sue received a very warm welcome when they arrived to give a comprehensive presentation on the inshore tagging program. Scott started off by discussing how and why the tagging program was started, the movements and growth rates of the tagged fish recaptured so far, the ins and outs behind the scenes and some of the patterns emerging from the data so far. For those wanting to get involved in the tagging program Scott also covered how to handle, tag, measure and release fish safely and efficiently. He also discussed recording procedures showing how to record each tagged and released fish and how important it is to record the data correctly and send it to the Trust as soon as possible. As with most fishing clubs there is always interest in angling records so Scott included a section on New Zealand and World Records that could be claimed for from tagged and released fish. There are many opportunities for young and old alike, with a large number of records already claimed by taggers in the



program. Over 200 people turned out for the presentation, with many families and children in attendance, and what started out as a one-hour talk ended up running for two hours with plenty of questions answered. When the talk was all over Pure Fishing subsidised the purchase price of any tagging kits sold on the night to those present and purchased 3 kits to give away in the nights prize draws. Everyone went home with something as Sue and her volunteers handed out the Trust fish posters and stickers to all of those in attendance. A big thanks goes out to Pure Fishing for subsidising the kits and prize draws on the night and special thanks to the club for hosting a great evening.

## Tautuku Fishing Club Dunedin & Haast INC

Trust directors Scott and Sue visited the Tautuku Fishing Club, Dunedin, on the 6<sup>th</sup> November. This clubhouse is one of the most prestigious buildings for a fishing club in NZ and holds a huge amount of angling history from the Deep South. There was a good turnout with most of the members in



attendance. Scott gave a talk on the inshore tagging program, explaining how to get involved and, how to tag and release fish. Although most fishers have an opinion on what is happening under the surface or wade deep into politics of what should or shouldn't be, very few had ever had the opportunity to research their local waters themselves. Scott explained the benefits of local research like tagging fish and the valuable information that can be gained from the tagging program. The talk was well received as were the fish posters and stickers given to all of those in attendance. Thank you to the **Tautuku Fishing Club Dunedin & Haast INC** committee for hosting Scott and Sue on the night and letting them stay on the front lawn in their campervan for the night. Ian Gunion "Gunny" kindly took Scott & Sue out the next day to do some fish tagging and demonstrate the processes for him to share.

The following afternoon they met up at the Taieri River boat ramp and headed out for a few hours fishing down the coast. There were plenty of species to target including large blue cod, trumpeter, wrasse and barracouta. These provided a nice range of options to demonstrate tackle, handling, tagging and releasing on a variety of sizes and species of fish. They ended up tagging and releasing 50 fish in an hour or so between three anglers. This included a new club pin and a few pending New Zealand length records to boot.



## Boat shows

Yes it's that time of year again. Tickets are on sale now for the Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show to be held

between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2023. All ticket entries go into the draw for \$300,000 door prize of a trailer boat package.

The Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust hopes to inspire visitors to the event with the latest research projects and tagging program updates. Be sure to pencil in these dates and hope to see you there.

This year we are looking for a few keen volunteers to help out on the stand promoting environmental education, the Trust's Inshore Tagging Program and our other citizen science initiatives. If you are keen to help and are available for one or more days give us a call. Over 10,000 Trust fish posters were given away at the last two shows, a handy resource for fishers, students and enthusiasts alike.





## Monthly Sponsors prize draws

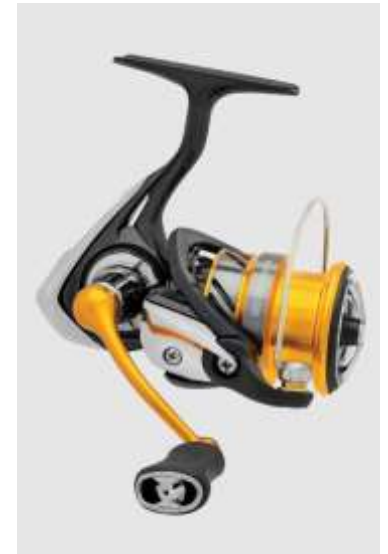
It has been another busy quarter with recaptures reported most days. A **BIG** thank you to **Daiwa NZ** who continue to sponsor Bait Junkies to compliment the recapture certificates sent out to both anglers involved in the tagging and recaptures.



Over spring the Trust has again sponsored additional tags. These have been added to the kits and supplied to avid taggers in the tagging program.

## Membership draw

**Daiwa New Zealand** sponsor the monthly prize draws. One lucky winner will receive a **Daiwa Revros LT 4000-c** spinning reel to be drawn from tagged and released fish reported during the month. All late entries will go into the month they are received so it pays to keep your data entries up to date.



**Congratulations** to all our spring winners. They are:

The **September** draw winner is **Doug Lambert**. Doug tagged and released a 37cm snapper (T19855) that he caught fishing in Bream Bay on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.

The **October** draw winner is **Navare Taylor** who tagged and released a 49cm snapper at Waihau Bay on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

The **November** draw goes to **Graham Wilson** for a rig (spotted dogfish) T21804 measuring 82cm he caught at Clifford bay on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

Remember to send in your completed tag and release data before the end of each month to be in these draws. Old or late entries will be entered into the month received, so it is not too late to send in your data.

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

We would like to thank our sponsors and those individuals that have donated their time and money to helping to put together this program.



The Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust is a charity organisation 100% run by volunteers and solely reliant on the generosity of the public. We are constantly looking at ways to help you and the fishery and are still looking for a main sponsor to help supply replacement tags. Every tag represents another fish returned to the sea for a sustainable future. If you or anyone you know is interested in contributing or sponsoring these then please get in touch.

*"To Promote and encourage environmental education, conservation and research for a sustainable future"*



## Meritorious tag and releases

Every quarter we like to highlight some of the interesting and meritorious catches involving tagged fish. There are no doubts that members of the Trust are dominating the NZ record books each year. This spring is no different with multiple NZ and IGFA World Record catches tagged and released.

Paul Mills has two new **IGFA World Records** for snapper, both caught fly-fishing in the far north.

His first IGFA World Record is this 54cm snapper, T12089 caught from his skiff on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2022. The fish was photographed on the official measure mat and released to live another day.



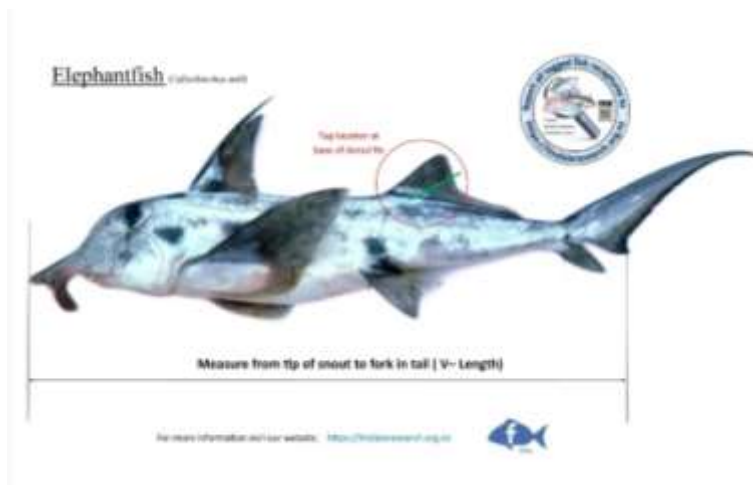
The second of Pauls IGFA length records T12094, was caught on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2022 and measured 64cm. It was caught on a crab fly cast to the fish as it was tailing in the shallows.

Over 30 pending **New Zealand angling records** were submitted by Trust members during spring. Most were tagged and released demonstrating how much potential there is for the conservation minded fisher interested in supporting marine research. If you would like to know more about the processes check out the Trust earlier reports or contact the recreational fishing organisations NZACA or NZSFC who administer and maintain a list of current New Zealand fishing records.



## Handy hints

As this inshore fish tagging program evolves we like to add handy hints to make the processes easier for fishers new and old.



Sometimes this requires integrating our processes with those of other institutions. One such issue is the differing opinions on where and how to record lengths of some of our inshore species. Elephant fish have always been a contentious species in this regard. The issue with elephant fish is that although total length is a frequently used measurement the tip of the tail is often damaged or completely missing. After discussions with marine researchers at NIWA and Te Tapa, and Fisheries NZ it is recommended that the fork length (V-length) as shown here be adopted as the standard

measurement for Elephantfish by taggers, and for New Zealand angling records. Where possible it would be helpful for taggers to record fork length (V-length) and total length (TL) of Elephantfish so we can get a better understanding of the relationship between the two measurements.

## YouTube links

Below are some handy “how to” videos to help you handle, measure and tag and release your fish safely. You can also find these on our website and social media pages along with other handy hints.

How to measure, tag and release an **Eagle ray**: <https://youtu.be/diqjZkZXOul>

How to measure, tag and release a **Rig**: (spotted smooth hound): <https://youtu.be/9AhR6cDnwdE>

How to measure, tag and release a **Tope Shark**: (School Shark): <https://youtu.be/eia0-LWzDM8>

How to measure, tag and release a **Kahawai**: <https://youtu.be/7xkCJCl9vBM>

How to measure, tag and release a **Snapper**: [https://youtube.com/shorts/xTE\\_id7lbqs?feature=share](https://youtube.com/shorts/xTE_id7lbqs?feature=share)

How to measure, tag and release a **Gurnard**: <https://youtu.be/AiEGBvf0Emg>

How to measure, tag and release a **Trevally**: <https://youtu.be/buOdM8agfT4>

How to measure, tag and release an **Elephant fish**: <https://youtu.be/daf90AMYg1s>

You will find additional videos on our Website, social media pages and on YouTube.

We are also keen to include any of your videos to assist other member and fishers wanting to know more about best practices and the correct handling and releasing of healthy fish. Post videos and advice on the Trust facebook community page or tag the Trust on your own posts. #tindaleresearch, @tindaleresearch



## 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. As Christmas is looming consider the gift that keeps on giving.

For those on the north shore, **Hunting and Fishing North Shore** stock 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 fish tagging kits \$45**

These kits contain everything you need to get involved and are designed to share with your mates. Each kit has comprehensive instructions Complete with tags, tag applicator, 1500mm roll out measure mat, recording sheets and accessories to make the process as simple as we can all contained in a handy zip up carry bag.



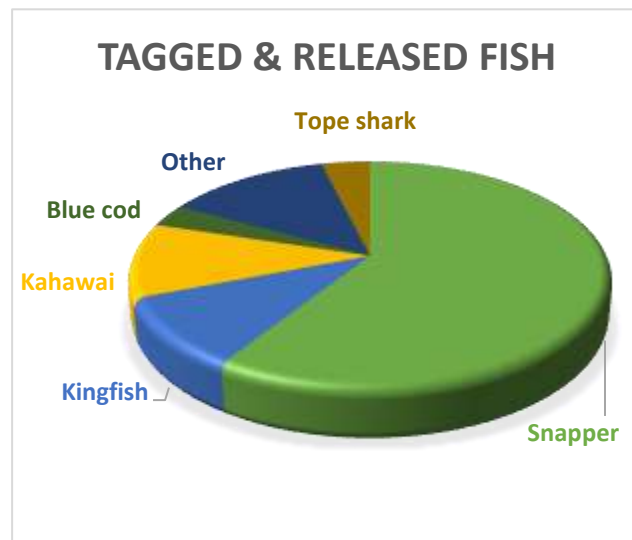
### **TMRCT measure mats \$15**

These waterproof and durable roll up measure mats are a must for every fisher. At 1500mm they are a handy length for measuring all of our inshore fish species. Approved for New Zealand fishing records these are also great for release tournaments or checking on those minimum size requirements of your take home catches.

## TMRCT Inshore Tagging Program

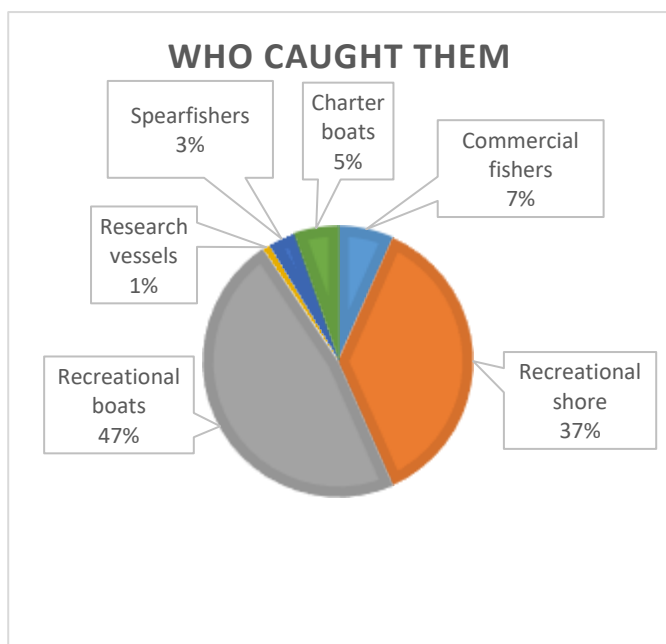
This graph shows the proportion of different species (total number of species 62) tagged and released in the Tindale Marine research Charitable Trust Inshore Fish Tagging Program. To the end of spring 2022 just over 23500 tags have been distributed around the country with members reporting just under 8000 tagged fish released.

As you can see, the most frequently tagged and released species is snapper (59%). Members have tagged a great cross section of snapper sizes from juveniles to trophy size. These have been caught around all of the North and the upper South Islands. Kingfish and kahawai make up 21% of all tagged and released fish and feature high in the recaptures also.



The inshore fish tagging program membership to the end of spring has grown to 1063, and now covers most of New Zealand. This unique program collects data on a multitude of fish species living in a diverse range of habitats around the country. This includes growth rates, size composition and seasonal movements. Trends in the data are already showing up and will form a base to look back at in the future. To increase the collection of information on inshore fish species across all sectors we are currently looking

at options for commercial fishers to release tagged fish. Although fish have tails and move it is hoped that this will give a better picture of the shared inshore fishery. Recapture rates in this program have always been high by international standards and are sitting around 1 fish recaptured for every 19 released nationally. This recapture rate has slowly crept up from 1 in 25 when the project began. Of those tagged fish recaptured, 62% were retained and 38% returned live to the sea. Overall, 6.6% of reported fish recaptures have been by commercial operators and 92.6% by recreational fishers. This ratio too has been more or less constant across the years. Should non-reporting be prevalent the recapture rate which is already high would be even higher.



## Spring 2022 recapture summary

- 554 additional fish tagged this quarter
- 33 tagged fish were recaptured during this quarter
- 17 recaptured from recreational boats
- 9 recaptured from recreational shore fishers
- 5 recaptured by commercial fishers
- 1 spear fishing
- 11 recaptured tagged fish were released again (33%)
- Longest time at large before recapture 1478 days
- Furthest displacement via sea 1039km





## **TMRCT Inshore Tagging Program Recaptures**

There have been a constant flow of tagged fish recaptures over spring. Here are some of the highlights we have decided to include in this report. We apologise if your fish are not included but we give preference to the ones that have photos and interesting stories attached.



### **T19957 snapper**



Maru Tangimatai was fishing with Maarona Ngauraiti at the south head of the Kaipara harbour on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 when Maarona caught a tagged snapper measuring 34cm caught in 10m of water. After a quick photo by Maru the fish was carefully released again with the GPS location recorded for the next time it's recaptured.

This fish was tagged 8 days earlier 3.1km to the west by Michael Bawden fishing in 7.6m of water. The water temperature was also recorded as 16.2°C and was caught on an outgoing tide.

### **T8396 snapper**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 Bevan Beauchamp was straylining a bait in the Albert Passage when he caught an 80cm snapper in 9m of water.

This fish was recaptured 7 days later by Derek Gerritsen fishing in the same general area. Derek kept the fish measuring it later at 78cm. It is common for discrepancies between live and dead fish measurements as muscles contract when rigor mortis sets in.



### **T21097 snapper**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 Viliami Losalu was fishing in 50m of water outside the Manukau Bar when he caught this tagged snapper measuring 42.5cm.

This fish was tagged 161 days earlier on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 by Trust Director Sue Tindale. Sue remembers this day well, gale force winds, overcast and showers! We measured the fish at 42cm and it was caught in 20.1°C water, 3.26m deep. The fish had travelled a shortest distance of 110km in just over 4 months demonstrating a large seasonal movement. Autumn/spring.



### **T11426 snapper**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 Dr Jade Maggs, NIWA scientist and former ORI tagging program director in South Africa was spearfishing off Flat Rock in the Hauraki Gulf when he shot a tagged snapper measuring 33cm.

This fish was tagged at the same location 114 days earlier on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 by Graeme Young fishing in 16m of water. It measured 31cm.

### **T0224 Snapper**

Brynn Catford was fishing the Eastern side of Motuora Island on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 when he caught a 29cm tagged snapper in 20m of water. After recording the size and location Brynn released the fish to carry on its journey again.

This fish was tagged 516 days earlier on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 by Nik Hannam fishing in the same general location in 18m of water. The fish measured 27.5cm on release.

### **T8511 snapper**



This is the third time this snapper has been caught and released within a 4km range.

Originally tagged by Graeme Young at Motuketekete Island in the Hauraki Gulf on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 and measuring 28cm this fish was recaptured 21 days later by Graeme's nephew, Matthew Huson fishing in 16m of water off Motutara Island.

A total of 642 days since first being tagged and released it was again recaptured this time back at Motuketekete Island. It was caught on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 by Phil Shieffelbein who released it again unmeasured to continue on its journey.

### **T12534 snapper**

Simon MacNicol, skipper of the commercial fishing vessel "Kiella" reported the recapture of a tagged snapper they caught long lining 30km east of North Cape in 75m of water. Simon landed the fish on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 and estimated the size at around 500mm.



This fish was tagged on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 by Matt Harrison fishing at the Cavalli Islands in Northland. It was one of 3 fish he tagged that day with this one measuring 40cm.

In the 124 days at large this fish has moved a shortest distance of 134km and had travelled out of fisheries management area 1 (FMA1) and was caught in FMA 9, something they are not known to do.

### **T19157 snapper**

"Spot X" on the Kaipara Harbour is one of our control areas to monitor seasonal changes. For this reason we ensure we tag and release a large selection of species each season and include of a variety of size ranges. Snapper for instance frequent this spot over the warmer summer months but are absent through the colder winter periods when these tagged fish have been recovered up to 400 km away. Returnees are suspected as we come across tagged fish the following seasons a year later back at these same areas.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2022 during a Trust tagging trip we tagged and released a 25.5cm snapper at "Spot X". This fish was recaptured close to the same spot just under a year later by Scott Hunter fishing on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. This tagged fish had been at large for 286 days (summer/spring) and was measured at 27cm. Scott said unfortunately the tag came off when he removed some weed growth on it before releasing the fish again.



### **T16088 Rig**

Hadley Dawes joined the tagging program in July 2022 and was keen to get as much fishing in his area as possible. It wasn't long before he got his first recapture. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 Hadley tagged and released his 8<sup>th</sup> fish, a 105cm Rig surfcasting from the shore at Seddon. This fish was recaptured 59.6km away on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October by Bill Holmes night fishing from the shore at Kekerengu, caught on a prawn bait. Bill said it was raining and did not notice the tag in the dark. He was not able to get a measurement as by the time he realised it was tagged the fish was already trunked. This fish had travelled a shortest distance by sea of 59.6km and had been at large for 70 days.

### **T20582 snapper**

Ryan Butler emailed in a recapture of a 35cm tagged snapper he caught in the Bay of Islands on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

This fish was tagged and released by Gerald Gates 138 days earlier on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June at Te Puna Inlet while he was fishing in 6m of water. The snapper measured 33cm on release. Unfortunately no GPS location was given for the recapture location so no distance travelled can be accessed.

### **T6445 Blue Moki**



Meegan Campbell from Talley's contacted the Trust on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 to report the recapture of a Blue Moki by the commercial boat 'FV Toroa'. The fish was captured by this commercial set netter while fishing in the Kaikoura area. Unfortunately they were not able to get a measurement of this fish.

This fish was originally tagged back on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 by Ollie Gale while he was fishing in the Banks Peninsula in 7 metres of water. Ollie measured the fish at 54cm. Since this fish's tag and release in February it has travelled a shortest distance by sea of 144 kms in 240 days.

### **T5720 Snapper**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2022 we were notified of a recapture of a tagged snapper by Joel Coppins. This fish was caught while he was fishing in the Tauranga Harbour and measured 53cm.



This fish was tagged by founding member Robert Janse who was one of the first people to join the tagging program. He tagged and released this fish of 44.5cm back on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 while he was fishing at the Ahaas.

Since its tag & release this fish has grown 8.5cm and it has travelled a straight line distance by sea of 200km in 1009 days.

This is Roberts 21<sup>st</sup> recapture since joining the program.

Someone looks very impressed with this fish.

### **T1394 Kahawai**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 trust director Scott Tindale was fishing on the Kaipara Harbour with Mike Bawden. They tagged and released 80 fish between the two of them, not bad for a late start to the day. This fish Scott tagged and released was a 51cm Kahawai that he caught near the Sand Island.



Fast forward to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2022 where this fish was recaptured by Shane Wintle while fishing at Tinopai, he noted that the tag was covered in some weed which he wiped off.

This fish had been at liberty for 45 days and had grown 1cm. this Kahawai had travelled a straight line distance by sea of 14.2km before it was recaptured. Scott & Sue now have 63 recaptures from this program between them.

### **T11432 Snapper**



On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 Graeme Young tagged and released a snapper while fishing near Flat rock, it measured 38.5cm at the time of release.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2022 the trust was notified that this fish had been recaptured by Paul Hamblyn while fishing near Flat rock in 23 metres of water. Paul said that he did not notice the tag until he got home otherwise he would have released the fish again. This fish had grown 1.5cm and had travelled a straight line distance by sea of .16km in 142 days.

### **T16918 Snapper**

It is great to see a lot of long term recaptures now that the program has been running for a few years. This snapper was tagged and released by Trust director Scott Tindale on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 while fishing at our control spot on the Kaipara Harbour. It measured 58cm and was caught in 3.9 of water on a bait.

487 days later David Hampton was fishing on the Hoteo side of the Kaipara on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 when he recaptured this tagged fish.

He estimated the size at 60cm. The fish had grown approximately 2cm since its release and was recaptured 15.4km straight line distance by sea.



### **T18048 Snapper**

Adrian Johnson has been tagging fish for a number of years now. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2022 he tagged and released a snapper measuring 74cm while he was fishing near Tutukaka.

Fast forward 95 days, Adrian was out fishing again, and he recaptured this fish in the same area. This time it measured 75cm. So the fish had grown 1cm in 95 days and had travelled .16km straight line distance by sea. This is Adrian's 4<sup>th</sup> recapture since he joined the tagging program.



### **T3089 Snapper**



Another long term recapture. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 Andrew Tohu had gone out for a days fishing near Ruakaka. He tagged a released a number of fish including this snapper at 37.5cm.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 this fish was recaptured by the commercial longliner FV Sapphire. The skipper reported that this fish was in excellent condition. At almost a year at large since its tag and release this fish was recaptured a straight line distance by sea of 11.1km in 362 days.

This is Andrew's first tagged fish to be recapture, well done Andrew.



### **T13334 Snapper**

Since joining the tagging program Donovin King has had 10 recaptures including a number of fish that he has recaptured himself.

This particular fish T13334 was a 37.5cm snapper that he tagged and released on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 at Motutapu.

284 days later on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 this snapper was recaptured by Andrew Ardern while he was bait fishing in the Rakino Channel in 9 metres of water.



This fish had not strayed very far and was recaptured 0.66km away, a straight line distance by sea.

### **T17184 Kahawai**

We enjoy discovering where all of the different fish in the tagging program travel to, but this particular fish is one of my favorites.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 trust directors Scott & Sue went out for a morning fish on the Kaipara Harbour. It was not a very nice day as the wind got up quite strong, but we did manage to tag and release 34 fish before I convinced Scott to call it quits for the day.



One of these fish was a 37.5cm Kahawai which we tagged and released in 3.21 metres of water. It was the first fish for the day.

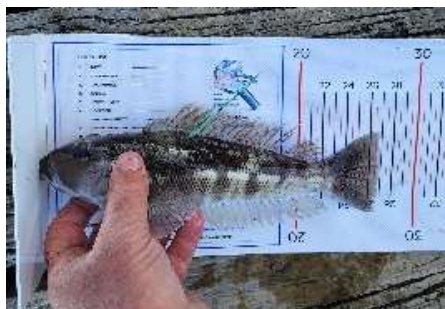
This fish was recaptured on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 by Gary Arnet and Kane Benny while they were netting for mullet on the Waikato River. Gary measured the fish at 46cm.

The cool thing about this particular fish was that it was caught 14km upstream from the Waikato river bar, so it had travelled a long distance up the river for a little fish.

The shortest straight line distance by sea that it travelled was 160km in 487 days. It grew 8.5cm in that time.

### **T22759 Blue Cod**

During Scott & my trip around the South Island in October & November we managed our best to tag and release fish in every bay that we went to to promote the program, and believe me we went to hundreds of different beaches, and went down every road that we could find. There are now 'how to report recapture' stickers on just about every sign near a bay or beach in the South Island.



One particular destination was the Jackson Bay wharf around the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 where we tagged a number of fish. It was quite an eventful afternoon. Scott and I spoke about the tagging program to a number of different people that were fishing off the wharf. We also

handed out stickers and posters to the anglers on the wharf who were really interested in the program. As per usual Scott helped a number of people on how to catch fish, cast & tie knots etc. One particular family took a shine to us and got Scott to show the children how to catch, handle and tag and release fish properly. To add to the fun the children decided to name every fish that was tagged and released including this blue cod measuring 27cm that was named "James". The next day we were woken at 6am to take them tagging fish again but had to make our way north.

"James" the blue cod was recaptured 6 days later by Richard Hale while softbaiting off the Jackson Bay wharf, in exactly the same place that it was tagged. Richard was quite surprised that he had caught a tagged fish so re-released "James" again to see where he travels to next.

### **T19449 Snapper**

Nick Peacock went out for a days fishing at Waiinu Beach on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2022. While he was out there he tagged and released this snapper of 29.5cm he caught in 24m of water.



Later on in the year on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 Matthew Denzel went surfcasting at Ototoka Beach where he recaptured this fish. He decided to keep the fish as it had been gut hooked and, he didn't think that it would survive. Since its tag and release this fish had grown 5.5cm and was recaptured 296 days later a straight line distance by sea of 12.7km away.

### **T22764 Tope Shark**

Trust directors Scott and Sue tagged and released this tope shark while surfcasting after sunset at Bruce Bay on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. It was a beautiful calm night and they tagged a number of different species of fish in a couple of hours.



This juvenile tope shark was recaptured a few days later on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 by Steve Mackie while he was surfcasting also at Bruce Bay. He re-released the shark again to carry on with its travels, it will be interesting to see where it goes to next.

This fish had remained in the same general area being caught 6 days later about 100m further down the beach.

### **T5421 Snapper**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 Richard Nawisielski (Ski) went out for a days fishing at Kawau. Ski tagged and released a number of fish including a snapper measuring 34cm caught in 14m of water.

Fast forward almost 3 years to the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 where Murry White was straylining a piper bait at Kawau Island. Murry said it was a bad day for fishing with a south east breeze and by 11.30am he had only caught this one fish so it was kept.

At 1092 days at large this fish was recaptured a straight line distance by sea of 6.46km from where Ski had tagged it. This is his 9<sup>th</sup> tagged fish recapture since he joined the tagging program in 2018.

### **T22777 Tope Shark**

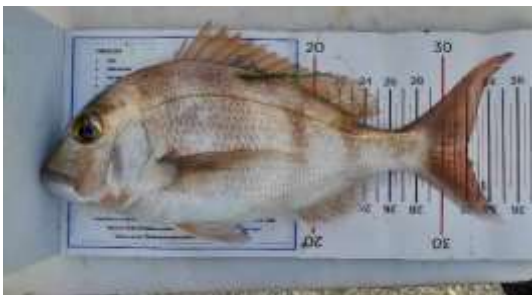
This is another of the tagged and released fish from Scott & my South Island trip during November to be recaptured.

This Tope (Grey boy because it was in the south) was another of the fish that was tagged at the north end of Bruce Bay while they were surfcasting at sunset on 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.



9 days later on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 this fish was recaptured by Chris Blythe while he was surfcasting in the middle of the Bruce Bay beach 1.43km to the south. Bruce bay is a popular fishing destination and school sharks a popular southland table fish so the shark was kept.

### **T13315 Snapper**



As mentioned earlier in the report Donovan King has had many recaptures since he joined the tagging program. This latest recapture brings his total number up to 11.

Donovin tagged and released this 31cm snapper on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 at Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Then on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2022 he recaptured this snapper in exactly the same area that he had tagged it in 2021.

This time he measured the fish at 32cm so it had only grown 1cm in 351 days. He kept the fish as it died after release it and was recovered. Eitherway it was good that it had an extra year at large so that it could breed again.

### **T13328 Snapper**

The other tagged snapper that Donovan King recaptured on 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2022 is this fish at 40.5cm which he also recaptured at Motutapu Island.

The fish was originally tagged by Donovan on 4/1/2022 at Motutapu and it measured 39cm when it was released. It then travelled 41 metres straight line distance by sea in 293 days.



This was one of two tagged fish that Donovan recaptured on this day. Interestingly all but one of Donovins recaptures have been at the same location that they were tagged at indicating a resident population.

## **T12248 Blue Cod**

After giving a talk at the Tautuku Fishing Club in Dunedin in November Trust directors Scott and Sue were invited out for an afternoon fishing by Ian Gunian, one of the club members. We met Ian as arranged at the boat ramp the following afternoon for a few hours fishing for local species and hoped to demonstrate how to tag and release a variety of fish species. The trip ended with 50 tagged and released fish including this blue cod measuring 40cm that was caught by Sue.



On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2022 Ian and Les Bell headed out to the same place near Taieri to do some fishing and diving. Before they got in the water Les recaptured the blue cod that Sue tagged on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. He then re-released it again. While they were on their dive they spotted another two tagged blue cods, and a tagged banded wrasse, that had also been tagged on that November trip.

## **T8452 snapper**



As with all research programs there are always a few issues we try to avoid. Backups and duplicate copies of data and photos are one way to avoid problems. Lost phones with all your records can be a disaster so we like to constantly request members to send in their tagged fish details ASAP. The manual forms in your kits can also get wet or blow away so it pays check these off as soon as you can.

For Trust members Manny and Ed unfortunately a lost tagging catch sheet has meant no details for 10 fish of which 4 have already been recaptured. Their latest fish is a snapper recaptured by Xiaoquan Iyu surfcasting off Great Barrier Island on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. Xiaoquan estimated the length at 90cm.

The closest we estimate the tag and release is around January of 2021 and was one of the 10 fish they tagged on the eastern side of Great Barrier Island between September 2020 and January 2021 with the largest snapper measuring around 79cm.

A very big Thank You goes out to all the volunteers, supporters and contributors that have helped make this project a great success. Keep those tagging reports coming in, remember to share your stories and adventures online. That is it from us until next year. Stay safe and have a great end of the year.

Tight lines

**Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust**



***In memory of George Tindale 2019-2022***