



TINDALE  
MARINE RESEARCH  
CHARITABLE TRUST

Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust quarterly report. Includes Trust member news, activities, engagements and achievements over Summer 2023

Scott Tindale, Sue Tindale,  
Clinton Duffy, Rex Harrison  
Founding Directors

# Summer REPORT

## #20

1 December to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Content contributions from **Ben Steer**  
and members of the **TMRCT** inshore  
tagging program



# TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST

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## **Newsletter No. 20 summer update 1<sup>st</sup> December to 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2023**

For most of us in Northland, it feels like summer lasted for only a day. Strong winds, relentless rain and flooding tested the patience of those camping over the holidays, cutting off roads and cancelling flights. Trust director Clinton Duffy and family spent a challenging tenting holiday at Great Barrier Island over Christmas and ended up experiencing living out of a car as they sheltered from yet another storm. The predicted 'heat wave' over summer only made it to the South Island, with Greymouth experiencing its hottest day in 76 years (30.9 degrees Celsius) on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The weather forecasters and weather modellers guessed wildly what was to come, only succeeding with after-casting.



Back-to-back cyclones cancelled most Northland gamefishing tournaments, leaving only small opportunities to head wide but with huge swells still smashing the coasts even after the wind finally receded.

It almost got to the stage that the fishing could be something we could try on the front lawn. Flooding, slips, property, and infrastructure damage were compounded as each front passed leaving a trail of devastation behind hampering repairs and clean ups.



In contrast the South Island basked in beautiful sunny days as the high pressure systems centred over the Alps giving locals plenty of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and what New Zealand's south has on offer.

Staff shortages and ferry breakdowns were another issue for those wanting to escape the north to dry out...



## Tagging kit helps rescue operation

As much as the inshore tagging programs' intended use is to monitor seasonal movements of fish, it has also recently helped police and coastguard with a reported boating incident.



On the 6<sup>th</sup> of February a boat was discovered smashed up on the rocks at Te Naire in Northland. Among the wreckage was a bag of fishing gear including a Trust tagging kit. Through the registration database we were able to assist locating the owner as there were concerns the owner could have possibly been lost at sea. The outcome was positive as the boat had come adrift during the storm and floundered on the rocks. The vessel and the belongings were later recovered with assistance from locals, coastguard, and police.

## 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 a \$300,000 door prize of a trailer boat package.

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

This year again we are looking for a few keen volunteers to help out on the stand promoting environmental education, the Trust inshore fish tagging program and our citizen science initiatives. If you are keen to help and are available for one or more days give us a call. Over **34,000** Trust fish ID posters, stickers and educational pamphlets have been given away at the last few boat shows and events and we will have on hand a further **12,000** for this upcoming event. These are a handy resource for fishers, students and enthusiasts alike.



## Satellite tagging update

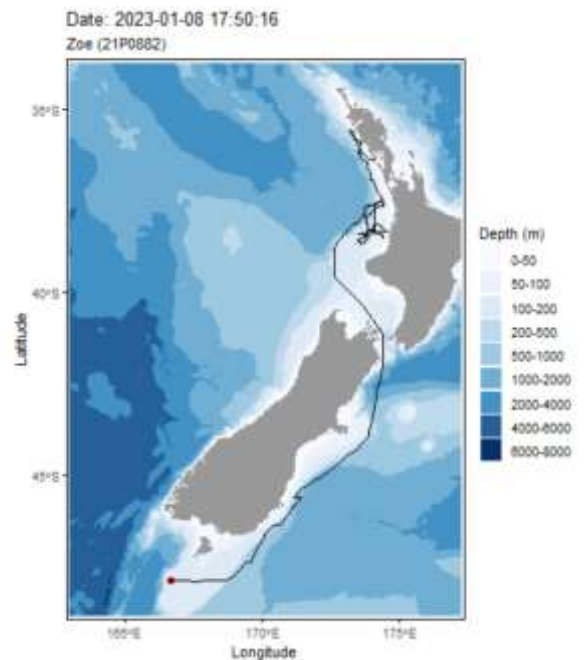
Alex reports that the remainder of the satellite tags attached to 20 school sharks in the Kaipara Harbour by the Trust in January 2022 are due to release by the end of this summer. Each of these satellite tags were programmed to release after 12 months and collect data on depth, temperature, and ambient light every few minutes. Once these tags deploy to the surface they will transmit a summary of the stored data via satellite back to wildlife computers for Alex to check. This data will then be analysed to indicate location and behaviour of the shark throughout its journey.



To track the movement and habitat use of school sharks in New Zealand waters, school sharks have been fitted with dart tags and satellite tags, with the help of the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust (TMRCT). Dart tags are small, green, elastomer tags with unique ID numbers so that a fish/shark can be identified if it is recaptured. Thousands of these tags are being deployed by fishers onto over 62 marine fish species around the country as part of the TMRCT tagging programme.

Satellite 'mini-PAT' tags, in addition, have been attached to 25 adult school sharks. These tags collect detailed information on the shark's movement and habitat use over a year, after which they pop-off and transmit the data to Alex via satellite. If tags can be recovered, more in-depth data can be obtained from the on-board archive and, subsequently, allow for better insight into the movement and habitat use of the shark the tag was attached to. The tag can then be refurbished and used again. All of these sharks were double tagged with both the Mini-PAT electronic pop off tags and the Trust's streamer serial numbered tags. This is so these fish can be identified if any are recaptured after the satellite tags have released continuing their journey. So please record the tag number and length of any tagged school sharks and release them again so we can continue to follow their progress.

These sharks have yielded some interesting results so far, with one shark's last known position being just off Snares Islands south of New Zealand. A straight line distance of over 1500km. Most of this trip was in the last month before the satellite tags detachment. For an animation of this journey, see this video: [youtu.be/EBrMrhddvCo](https://youtu.be/EBrMrhddvCo).



Thanks to the efforts of the Trust and the New Zealand public, many recaptures have been reported and even some mini-PAT tags have been recovered and returned to Alex. This includes one tag that detached near Kapiti Island in August 2021 that was found washed up on Pitt Island nine months later in May 2022. Data that has been recovered from the mini PAT tags and is being analysed to plot the movement tracks of the sharks.

Updates are included in the quarterly reports found on the Trust website newsletter page.

## 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 of the anglers involved in the tagging and recaptures.

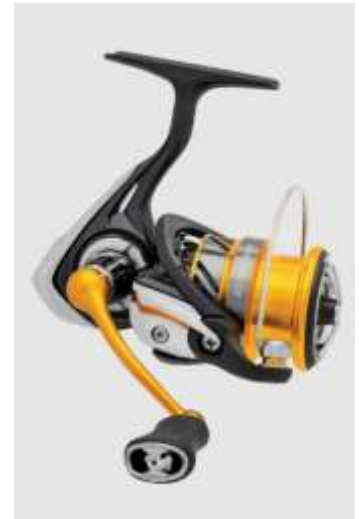


Over spring the Trust has again sponsored additional tags. These have been added to the kits and supplied to avid taggers in the tagging program.

## 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 summer winners. They are:

The **January** draw winner is Michael Bawden who tagged and released a 54cm snapper (T24227) while fishing in the Kaipara Harbour on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2023.

The **February** draw winner is Bevan Johnson who tagged and released a 70cm hammerhead shark (T16164) at Ngunguru Bay on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.

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.*

## YouTube links

Below are some handy “how to” videos to help you handle, measure and tag & 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/diqjZkZXOuI>

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>

## Tagging kits

For those in Auckland, **Hunting and Fishing North Shore** still have a few tagging kits in stock at the original price of \$45.00 on a first come first served basis. Once they run out the new price will apply. Call in and have a chat to Justin who will be happy to assist you in what you need.

Michael Jenkins is manning the Trademe site where you can order kits online using a credit card. Please note as these items are sold at or below cost there is a surcharge for sales via trademe.

Of course 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.



Thanks go out to all the trust volunteers that have helped put this program together. We are working hard to keep costs minimal and still provide quality products and services. Unfortunately costs are increasing for everything across the board. In December our latest fish tag order arrived with a price increase. This would normally be passed on to any new orders from mid-January but Sue & Scott have decided to cover this cost in the interim or until the last of the remaining tagging kits in stock are sold.

### **TMRCT fish tagging kits \$45**

The Trust is still looking for a tag sponsor. Even with the latest price increase a gold coin donation is helping to save a fish thanks to our members. This is an area that any business wishing to align with supporting sustainability, conservation and research can apply.

## TMRCT Measure Mats



We have now sold out of our stock of fish measure mats. With several new projects in the pipeline requiring the tagging and releasing of larger fish species, we are currently looking into a 'shark measure mat'. The concept is for one around 3m long and its intended use was for those that are catching mature sharks from the shore but there is now some interest for a universal measure that can also be used for measuring large species like tuna and marlin boat side.

We are looking for expressions of interest from you so we can calculate a cost effective production run and establish a budget figure. There is also an opportunity for sponsors to have their logos on the next print run of this or our standard measure mats used in our tagging kits, NZ length records, and during fishing competitions around the country.

## Meritorious catches



While the start to the game fishing season in the north was hampered by bad weather, the opposite was the case in the South Island. This offered fishers ample opportunities to venture out wide and explore new waters.

On January 14<sup>th</sup> Pete Thomas and crew were trolling 20km off Greymouth for tuna when they caught this short bill spearfish in 20 degrees water. This is the first known capture of this species by a recreational angler this far south. Checking through the sport fishing records revealed no spearfish have been reported caught below the latitude of Raglan on the North Islands west coast. This is indeed a meritorious catch, especially for the south island fishery.

Pete also mentioned that there were captures of bigeye and yellowfin off Jackson Bay this season and if the weather holds out he was keen to check out more of this untapped fishery.

## NZ and IGFA World Records

New Zealand Angling & Casting has confirmed over 30 additional New Zealand angler record catches for tagged and released fish from the Trust's inshore tagging program this quarter. Congratulations go out to these members from all of us.

It is always great to see acknowledgement for angling achievements made by fishers using sustainable fishing practices like tag and release. A full list of New Zealand angling records can be found on the NZACA website.

Scott continues to monitor tagging members tag returns for potential angling records and several have again been submitted over this quarter. Just remember that a photo or a video is required of the fish on an approved measure mat to be considered. Fish overhanging a measure mat or not clearly showing the length measurement are not acceptable.

You can read about the qualifying requirements in the IGFA rules at [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org) or at <https://www.nzaca.co.nz>



Paul Mills caught, recorded and then released again a tagged snapper while fly fishing in the far north. Having correctly followed the process IGFA have now approved this length record in the fly-fishing section and by default it is now also the new current NZ record for the same category. In a strange turn of events Paul had re-caught his own tagged fish that he tagged and released 3 months earlier, also an IGFA World

Record. That's two IGFA World Records from the same fish... more on this later in the report.

## Species Profile

### **Kahawai (*Arripis trutta*)**

The kahawai, also known as Australian salmon and over 14 other maori names, is one of the most identifiable fishes in New Zealand. Kahawai are a schooling pelagic species of the family Arripidae. They are found out to 250m depth around the full length of the country from the Kermadecs to the bottom of South Island. They are common in harbours and estuaries but will venture well up rivers and streams foraging for food. Their range also includes the Chatham Islands to the east and across the Tasman, including Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands and Australia's east coast from Queensland to Tasmania. Samples from both countries suggest mixing between the two populations across the Tasman Sea.

Two kahawai species occur in New Zealand waters. The rarer Northern or Kermadec kahawai (*Arripis xylabion*) was described in 1993. Common kahawai reach a maximum recorded length of 89cm FL (fork length or v-length) and weigh up to at least 7.3kg, whereas the Kermadec kahawai reaches 90cm and at least 11kg.



Common kahawai are sexually mature at 4-5 years, at a length of 30-40cm. Spawning occurs in late spring and summer. A mature female kahawai can produce between 210,000 and 440,000 eggs. Although there is a northward spawning migration in Australia centering off southern Queensland there is no similar pattern reported in New Zealand yet. The Trust's tagging program is gathering information on growth and movements of this species, so will hopefully reveal more about how this species behaves around our coast and what areas are important for them. If you tag or recapture a spawning fish (indicated by running eggs or milt) please record it in the 'Comments and Observations' box in the online tag and release or tag return form. Unfortunately it is rare that tagged kahawai are released again after recapture to continue on their journey. Out of 885 tagged kahawai in the Trust program only one recapture has been released again. It will be up to you to encourage the public to record and release tagged fish again.

We frequently get asked about the estimated age of kahawai, trust director Clinton Duffy was able to provide further information on this..... "It turns out that estimating the age of a large kahawai from its length is not that straight forward. Pasted below are a couple of age-length keys for kahawai from this report - <http://docs.niwa.co.nz/library/public/FAR2006-57.pdf>. As you can see there is a lot of variation in age at a given length and 57 cm fish have been aged between 9-18 years old and 62 cm fish between 9-11 years. Eggleston (1975) aged kahawai from all around New Zealand (but only 10 in each age class) and got age estimates for kahawai between 55-60 cm lengths of 17-22 years. Maximum reported age is 26 years (<http://docs.niwa.co.nz/library/public/FAR2016-26.pdf>). So it seems a 57 or 62 cm FL kahawai could be anywhere from 9-26 years old."



## TMRCT Inshore Tagging Program

As our membership and following increases, it is timely to re-look at the leader boards. There are currently 24,800 tags in circulation amongst the 1200 registered members. To the end of this quarter 8630 tagged and released fish are included in the Trust data bases.

### Top 10 Tag and Release Anglers

Ranking	Anglers Name	No. Fish Tagged and Released
1	S. Tindale	2266
2	G. Johnson	399
3	M. Jenkins	393
4	R. Janse	391
5	G. Wilson	296
6	R. Nawisielski	254
7	L. Davis	198
8	C. Duffy	163
9	K. Glover	147
10	K. Oxenham	141

### Top anglers that have had tagged fish recaptured

Ranking	Anglers Name	No. Tagged	No. Recaptured	Recapture Rate
1	S. Tindale	2266	80	1:28
2	G. Wilson	296	49	1:6
3	R. Janse	391	24	1:16
4	M. Jenkins	393	14	1:28
5	L. Davis	198	13	1:15
6	D. King	76	10	1:8
7	G. Young	70	9	1:8
8	R. Nawisielski	254	8	1:32
9	C. Rix	29	6	1:5
10	G. Gilbert	60	6	1:10
11	G. Johnson	399	6	1:66
12	K. Ranui	88	6	1:15
13	T. Lusk	69	5	1:14
14	A. Boyes	39	4	1:10
15	A. Johnson	74	4	1:18
16	K. Glover	147	4	1:37
17	P. Mills	49	4	1:12
18	R. Plant	43	4	1:11

Recapture ratios can vary considerably between anglers as it is up to the taggers to where and what species to tag and release. Isolated areas, seasonal fishing effort, and fish density are just some of the variable factors. Many additional members of the tagging program have had up to 3 of their tagged fish recaptured so far including many long term recaptures. The nationwide recapture rate across all tagged and released fish in the program is around 1 fish in 19. This is considered very high for wild, open ocean fisheries and does not take into account under reporting, tag shedding, natural and fishing related mortality.

## Summer 2023 tag and recapture summary- (1/12/2022 to 28/2/2023)

- 663 additional fish tagged this quarter
- 48 tagged fish were recaptured during this quarter
- 19 recaptured from recreational boats
- 17 recaptured from recreational shore fishers
- 7 recaptured by commercial fishers
- 1 spear fishing
- 23 recaptured tagged fish were released again this quarter (48%)
- Longest time at large before recapture so far, - is 1478 days
- Furthest displacement via sea of a TMRCT tagged fish, is 1495km (satellite tag release)



## TMRCT Inshore Tagging Program Recaptures

As per usual there has been a constant flow of tagged fish recaptures over summer. We have had as many as 5 recaptures in one day and many with interesting stories attached. Here are some of the highlights we have decided to include in this report. We apologise if your fish is not included but we give preference to the ones that have photos and interesting stories attached.

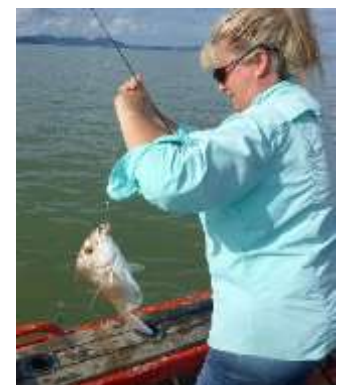


### **T14774 Snapper**

It is always quite exciting when we get a recaptured fish especially if it has travelled a long distance. This particular fish travelled from the North Island to the South Island. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 we received a call from Jamie at Talley's processing plant in Motueka. He informed us that the commercial trawler 'Resolution II' had recaptured a tagged snapper at Croisilles, Tasman/Golden Bay. It measured 37cm and had a tag number of T14774.



Looking up the details of this fish we found that it was tagged and released over a year earlier by Trust Director Sue Tindale on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021. It was tagged at the Keyhole on the Kaipara Harbour and measured 34cm on release. This fish had grown 3cm over 369 days. It also had travelled from the North Island to the South Island a shortest straight-line distance by sea of 500km.



### **T12079 Snapper**

Paul Mills is an experienced fly fisherman. He decided to go out for a day's fly fishing on Rangaunu Harbour on 13 of March 2022. While there he tagged and released a number of fish. One was a snapper at 41cm.

Fast forward to 10 December 2022 when Trust director Scott received a phone call from Cody Baker, the skipper of the commercial long line boat 'FV Exenda,' reporting the recapture of a tagged snapper. Cody told us that it was the first tagged fish that he had caught and he was quite excited about it. This 41cm snapper was caught in 50m of water and had travelled a straight-line distance by sea of 20km in 273 days.



### **T12094B Snapper**

All recaptures tell interesting stories but this one is quite cool because Paul had also applied for a 'World Length Record' for this fish. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2022 Paul was fly fishing in Rangaunu Harbour. During the day he caught a 64cm snapper on fly and realised that the fish would qualify for a world length record for snapper caught on fly, so he carefully measured and photographed it before sending it on its way.



On the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 Paul was fly fishing in the same area and spotted a large snapper tailing in the warm 20°C water of the shallows. He cast out his fly and caught the snapper. When he lifted it out of the water, he realised that this was the same snapper that he had caught for his world length record in September. Qualifying for another IGFA world record he took a quick photo and re-measured the fish at 65cm before re-releasing the fish to carry on with its travels. This fish travelled a straight-line distance of 0.47km in 87 days and had grown 1cm during that time. More proof that tagging does not adversely affect a fish's behaviour as they continue foraging in their preferred seasonal areas.

### **T12094C Snapper**

As mentioned earlier in this report, Paul Mills caught a snapper twice for 'IGFA-World Fly-Length Records. This snapper was recaptured again on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022 by Dean Crene while he was fishing at Walker Island in 6 metres of water. Dean said unfortunately the fish had swallowed the hook and it did not survive so he was unable to release it again a third time.



This fish was recaptured a shortest distance by sea of 2.21km from where Paul last released it and had been at large for 94 days. It is a shame that it did not survive this time, but on the upside, it has provided some exciting sport fishing and did have another chance to breed since its original tag and release. Congratulations to Paul for his two approved world records, well done.

## T22788 Tope Shark

During Trust Directors Scott & Sue's trip around the South Island recently to promote the inshore fish tagging program they stopped at every area that had access to the coast and immediately started surfcasting. Their goal was to tag and release a fish in every land based fishing area around the South Island as well as leave educational material and recapture stickers with community groups and fishing outlets. One of the places that they stopped at on 11 November 2022 was the small settlement of Okarito Beach on the west coast. During the night time fish they tagged and released several species of fish including a juvenile tope shark measuring 45cm.

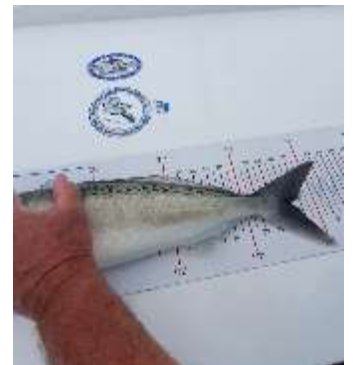


Upon their return home on 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 Scott received an urgent phone call from Edwina Scannell. She was very excited and rang to report recapturing the tagged tope shark while they were surfcasting at Hokitika. The urgency of the call was they wanted to release it again and were just checking that they had recorded all the information required before they let it go. A quick photo of the tag number and the fish was successfully released to continue its journey. They estimated the length at 45cm and said that it had been a real

team effort. The fish is now re-entered into the data base again under Edwina's details for when it is recaptured the next time.

## T2219 Kahawai

I always enjoy writing about the travels of kahawai as they are cool little fish that seem to travel long distances, even up rivers chasing whitebait at certain times of the year. This kahawai was tagged and released by me, Trust Director Sue Tindale on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2019. I went out for an afternoon's fishing on the Kaipara Harbour with Trust director Scott Tindale and Michael Bawden. As usual both Michael and Scott teased me ruthlessly all day. We managed to tag and release 33 fish during that afternoon. This fish measured 46.5cm and was released in 16.9°C water.



Fast forward to 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 when this fish was recaptured by Debbie Caskey while surfcasting at the White Cliffs in Taranaki. They roped down the cliff to get to their fishing spot where Debbie cast out her new fishing rod from the ledge and hooked up the Kahawai. Unfortunately they did not measure the fish, but during the time since it was tagged the fish had travelled at least 301km shortest straight line distance by sea and been at liberty for over 1290 days.

Graham Wilson often recaptures his own tagged blue cod in the upper reaches of the Marlborough sounds. The fish in these sheltered waters tend to stay local unlike their counterparts along the exposed coastline. The tagged fish in the Marlborough Sounds give a good insight into the recreational fishing pressure and the fragile nature of this fishery. The daily bag limit of 2 blue cod is a management policy that needs to be observed if this fishery is to be sustainable. With increased visitor participation the fishery needs ongoing monitoring to evaluate any changes and react before sustainable levels diminish beyond recovery.

### **T20703 Blue Cod**

Graham Wilson recently won a Daiwa Revros LT 4000-C spinning reel in the Trust November 2022 monthly draw. Graham was keen to head out and give it a go so decided to test it out near Picton. Graham says the reel works really well and was easy to cast, catching several fish as he moved along the shoreline. One of the fish he caught that day on the 25<sup>th</sup> December was a tagged blue cod T20703. When Graham got the fish to shore, he realised that it was the blue cod that he had tagged and released on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022 that measured 30cm. Graham took a photo of the tagged fish with the new reel, re-measured the cod at 34cm and released it again to carry on with its journey. The fish had grown 4cm in 183 days and had not travelled far. A big thank you goes out to **Daiwa NZ** for supplying the reels for these monthly draws.



### **T21813 Blue Cod**

This blue cod measuring 32cm was tagged and released by Graham Wilson on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 near Picton. 31 days later Graham recaptured his tagged blue cod in the same general area on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2022, he measured the fish at 32cm and released it again.

### **T21829 blue cod**

On the 15/12/2022 Graham Wilson tagged and released a 40cm blue cod near Picton. He then recaptured this same fish 30 days later on the 13/1/2023 in the same place measuring 40.5cm and released it again.

### **T20746 blue cod**

Another of Graham's fish from the upper Marlborough Sounds, a 38cm blue cod he tagged on 14/10/2022, was recaptured 115 days later by Warren Huntley on the 5/2/2023. This fish was caught within 1.95km and was re-released.

### **T20744 blue cod**

A blue cod measuring 36cm tagged and released by Graham Wilson on 8/10/2022 was recaptured by Matt Cox 87 days later on the 2/1/2023 measuring 37cm. This fish was caught in the same area in the Marlborough Sounds and was kept.

### **T18877 Blue Cod**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 Graham Wilson headed out for a day's fishing off Durville Island. While he was enjoying his day he caught a number of fish soft baiting which were tagged and released. This particular blue cod caught in 13m of water was measured at 34cm before being released to carry on with its journey. 190 days later on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, this fish was recaptured by Geoffrey Wratt at Port Hardy. Geoffrey is a keen diver and after he had finished his dive, decided to catch a fish to take home for dinner. Geoffrey caught this tagged blue cod in 50m of water and measured it at 35cm. Since its original release this fish had grown 1cm and was caught a straight-line distance by sea of 17.8km from its release location.

### **T19600 Snapper**

Graeme Johnson took his motorhome for a short road trip in February 2022 and stopped off for a few nights at the Sullivan's Bay campground. Graeme has a YouTube channel he regularly uploads to including many of his tag and release fishing adventures. While there he had a go at a bit of fishing and tagged and released several fish from the shore including this 23cm snapper.

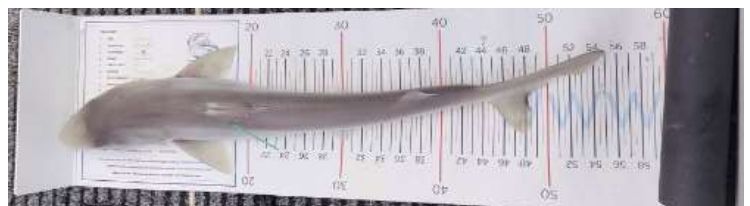


Then on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022, almost a year later 11-year-old Blake Stevens recaptured this fish also in Sullivan's Bay. He said that the tag was covered in algae, and he had to scrape it off with his fingernail to read the tag number.

They estimated the fish at 24cm and re-released the fish as soon as possible. This snapper was re-caught 0.1km straight line distance by sea from its release point and had been at liberty for 306 days.

### **T19421 Tope Shark**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 Nicholas Peacock decided that he would head out in his boat for a fish off South Beach, Wanganui. He ended up around 7km off shore catching several fish in a depth of around 20m of water. One of these fish was a tope shark (school shark) measuring 55cm TL that he decided to tag and release.



Twenty-two days later on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 Steven Bell went out for an afternoon fish at South Beach using a kontiki line. When Steven brought the kontiki back to shore he found he had recaptured Nicholas' tope shark. He carefully took it off the line and quickly released it back into the water after taking a quick photo. This fish had relocated 9km straight line distance by sea in 22 days. It will be interesting to see where it goes next.



### **T13195 Snapper**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 Chris Sheehan went out for a day's fishing in the south channel just outside the Kaipara Bar. He tagged and released several fish in 13m of water including this 33cm Snapper. He said that it was a very healthy snapper and that the area was infested with sharks.

This fish was recaptured 394 days later by Jadon Fernando-Eccles while he was fishing in 5 metres of water just inside the Kaipara Harbour entrance. Since it had been released this fish had grown 5cm and was recaptured a straight line distance by sea of 12.6km from where it was tagged.

### **T8653 Snapper**

Founding member Robert Janse has been part of the tagging program since it was introduced in late 2018. Since then Robert has had over 40 recaptures and this is his 6<sup>th</sup> recapture from this area of the Hauraki Gulf. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Robert was out for a day's fishing at the Ahaas where he tagged and released a snapper measuring 33.5cm.

This fish was then recaptured two and a half years later on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 by Joel McIntosh while he was fishing in the Hauraki Gulf. Joel measured the fish at 39cm. Since its release this snapper has grown 5.5cm and was recaptured a straight-line distance by sea of 19.6km. This snapper has also been at large for 884 days.

### T15703 Snapper

Jared Fisher headed out to Mayor Island for a day's fishing on 1 September 2022. During this trip they caught several fish that they decided to tag and release including Jared's nice snapper measuring 71cm.

Ninety-one days later, on 24 December 2022 Craig Thornton decided to go out to Mayor Island and shot this fish spearfishing. When he got home he measured it at 79cm. Since it was tagged the fish had grown 8cm and was recaptured a straight line distance by sea of 2.79km away.



### T5767 Snapper

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 Luke Davies was fishing near Stevenson's Island, Northland. During the day Luke caught several solid fish to take home and decided to tag and release a few including this 76cm snapper that he caught on a kahawai bait.



47 days later on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 Chris Hulbert was fishing in the same area in 15m of water when he recaptured this fish. Chris did a quick measure and photo and released the fish back into the water to carry on with its travels. The fish had grown 0.5cm in 47 days and was recaptured a straight line distance by sea of 0.68km. Chris said *"the fish looked fine, it was a good fight and the fish swam off strong"*.



It will be interesting to see where it turns up next.

### T12099 Kahawai

After a great day's fly fishing in the Rangaunu Harbour with his son on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2022 Paul Mills reported they had tagged and released a 53cm kahawai caught in very shallow water. *Thumbs up from the crew and us too.*

This kahawai was recaptured 261 days later by Blake Hay while fishing from shore in Rangaunu Harbour. Blake measured the fish at 55cm.



During its time at liberty it had shifted a straight line distance by sea of 15.7km. After recapturing this tagged fish Blake is now keen to join the tagging program to see where his released fish end up.



## T14514 Bronze Whaler

Trust directors Scott & Sue & Trust founding members Michael Jenkins & Robert Janse ventured out on the Kaipara on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 for a Trust tagging trip to carry out some satellite and conventional tagging of school sharks and other species. It was a very eventful day, they were fishing in 6.76m of water and tagged over 50 fish including attaching six satellite tags to tope sharks.



One of the fish they tagged with conventional Trust tags was this juvenile 72cm bronze whaler that Robert caught by hand as it swam past the boat. Scott said it was *snatched up, measured, tagged and back in the water before it knew what happened, while to the chorus of laughter.*

Kerry Harty recaptured this fish a year later at Albatross Bay, Kawhia on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2023 while fishing from his boat in 15m of water. After a quick measure and photograph they released it again. This fish was recaptured a straight line distance by sea of 203km and had been at large for 356 days.

## T21085 Snapper

On the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Trust directors Scott & Sue went out for an afternoon's fish tagging out on the Kaipara Harbour. Opting to seek shelter from the choppy waves and high wind near Gibbs Farm (the forecast 10 knot winds ended up gusting 35 knots instead), they tagged and released a number of fish including a 28.5cm snapper.

This snapper was recaptured on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 by Sam Adshead while bait fishing from his boat out on the Kaipara Harbour. Sam measured the fish at 34cm and said he only noticed the tag when he was cutting it up for dinner. This fish had grown 5.5cm in the 266 days since release and was recaptured a straight line distance by sea of 1.77km away.



## T20798 Snapper

Chris Rix has been a member of the tagging program for a couple of years now and during that time he has tagged and released 29 fish and had 6 recaptured. His latest recaptured fish was a 33cm snapper that he tagged and released at Great Mercury Island on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 while straylining in 17metres of water.

Within 15 days this fish was re-captured by the charter boat "MV Whai" at Great Mercury Island. Skipper John Ellwood was not sure which of his clients caught the tagged fish as it was only discovered while doing a count up. John measured the fish at 34.1cm. This snapper had been caught in the same general area it was originally tagged and released in.



### T16165 Snapper

Louis Mulcare & Bevin Johnson are avid recreational fishers and have tagged and released quite a few fish in the Northland east coast waters. The 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 was one of those typical days seeing the duo fishing off Ngunguru Bay south of Tutukaka when Louis tagged and released a 32cm snapper caught in 5m of water on a bait.

This fish was recaptured on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 by Finn Benton who was surfcasting at Patau North. He caught the fish at 9.47pm at night so took a quick photo to record the tag number before releasing it back into the water again. This fish had travelled a minimum straight line distance by sea of 7km in the 13 days since it had been tagged. It will be really interesting to see where it turns up next.



### T19212 and T19225 Blue Cod

After giving a talk on the tagging program at the Tautuku Fishing Club Dunedin & Haast Inc., Trust Directors Scott & Sue were invited out for an afternoons fishing to demonstrate tagging and releasing fish with club member Ian Gunion on his boat. The following afternoon on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 the weather conditions off the Otago coast were near perfect giving them the perfect opportunity to cross the Taieri bar. Fishing at two separate locations along the coast the trio ended up tagging & releasing over 50 fish in a few hours including many of the local species found in this part of the world. It wasn't long before some of these tagged fish were re-sighted by divers.



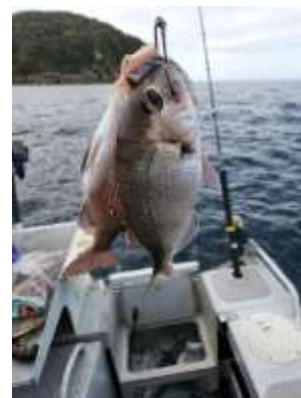
61 days later Ian took his 9 year old grandson Ruben Shaw out for the day fishing where both Ian & Ruben recaptured 2 of these tagged blue cod. **T19212** a 28cm blue cod recaptured by Ian and **T19225** a 32.5cm Blue cod recaptured by Ruben. Both fish were caught in the same general location that they were tagged and released. Unfortunately Ian forgot to re-measure the fish before they were released again to carry on with their journeys.

### T19860 Snapper

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 Doug Lambert tagged and released a 34cm snapper that he had caught at Whananaki South. It was his first tagging trip, he tagged & released 3 fish and they ended up taking seven home measuring up to 50cm for dinner caught between the four of them.

211 days later on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, 9 year old Leo Parkes was out fishing with his father Andrew on a charter boat when he recaptured this fish while fishing in 30+m of water at the Hen & Chicks. Since it's tag and release this fish has travelled a minimum straight line distance by sea of 52.2km and grown 1cm.

Both Andrew & Leo were really impressed with the tagging program, and they decided to purchase their own tagging kit so that they could also be involved in the Trust Inshore Fish Tagging Program. Welcome to the team guys.



### **T3100 Snapper**

This is Andrew Tohu's 2<sup>nd</sup> tagged fish recapture and by coincidence both recaptures have been caught by the same commercial long line boat. Andrew tagged and released this latest snapper he caught in 22m of water off Ruakaka on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2021. It measured 53.5cm.



This snapper recapture was reported by Bruno Bell, skipper of "FV Sapphire" while fishing the Waipu/Bream Bay area on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. The fish was recaptured a distance of 9.15km from the tag and release point and was in great condition. Bruno measured the fish at 54cm and it had been at large for 37 days.

Bruno also commented on the "razor back" snapper with the milky flesh they had been catching in the area lately, especially in the 60m depth range. He sent in this photo to show their slender appearance. MPI are currently looking into this phenomenon to find out why this is becoming more common in the Hauraki Gulf and surrounding areas of late.



### **T15922 Snapper**

Hannes Botha was fishing at Hunters Creek, Tauranga on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 when he tagged and released a 30.5cm snapper caught on a running rig.

390 days later on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2023 Daniel Gallagher recaptured this fish while fishing in 4m of water in Tauranga Harbour. Daniel measured the fish at 35cm and it was caught close to where it was tagged a year earlier. The snapper was kept and had grown 4.5cm during this time.

### **T14860 Tope Shark**

Hadley Dawes enjoys tagging and releasing sharks from the shore around the Marlborough area. On the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 he tagged and released a 45cm juvenile tope shark at Seaview in Seddon.

Four days later this little shark was recaptured 4.21km away by young Conner Warman while he was out fishing with his grandfather at the Blind River. They took a quick photo & Connor released the fish safely back into the sea. Unfortunately the tag was removed as they had never caught a tagged fish before. After handing the tag to the staff at Henderson's boating and chandlery shop in Blenheim, Lesya was then able to report the recapture to the Trust. It is cool to see the younger members of the community fishing sustainably by releasing these sharks to carry on with their travels.



### T5055 Kingfish

Mike Fleming tagged and released a 90cm kingfish on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 while fishing from shore in Port Jackson.

He then recaptured the same fish 235 days later on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 while fishing in the same place that he originally caught the fish. He quickly re-measured the fish at 97cm and took a quick photo before re-releasing it again. This kingfish had grown 7cm since Mike had tagged it almost 9 months earlier.

It will be interesting to see if he catch's this fish for a third time. Well done Mike.



### T1696 Kahawai

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2021 William Higginson was fishing off Awatoto, Napier when he tagged and released a 45.5cm Kahawai caught in 17m of water.

633 days later on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 Chaz Culshaw was fishing at the Mohaka River mouth when he recaptured this kahawai while fishing from shore. Chaz caught the fish on a spinner and he said that it was a very healthy fish. He said that it tasted delicious and would make sure next time he caught a tagged fish that he would measure it first. This kahawai was recaptured a straight line distance by sea of 50.5km away from where it was tagged and released.

### T22305 Kahawai



Another of our founding trust tagging program members is Kingi Ranui. Kingi has tagged and released many fish over the years including tagging fish caught by members of the public that he meets while out fishing. Not only is Kingi active in promoting sustainable fishing practices, conservation and citizen science research in his home town through the tagging program. Kingi is active in recruiting new members to help better understand the fishery in the area to monitor any changes over time.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 Kingi was out for a day's fishing along the Tauranga shoreline when he filmed the catching, tagging and releasing of a 49.5cm Kahawai for his social media page.

It wasn't very long before this fish was recaptured by 10 year old Finley Sarjeant. Finley caught this tagged kahawai on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 while fishing from their boat in the Tauranga Harbour 7.98km from where it was tagged by Kingi 28 days earlier.



### T15583 Kingfish

Jacob Earles was fishing at Cape Runaway on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 when he tagged and released a kingfish measuring 100cm. He took a quick photo of the fish before re-releasing back into the water. Jacob said that the fish was skinny and it looked like it had just spawned.

Sixty one days later on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 Greg Potter was fishing with a live koheru at Cape Runaway when he recaptured this fish. Greg measured the fish at 103cm and it was kept. Even though it was recaptured 61 days later it was caught in the same general area that Jacob tagged and released it.



### T19965 Snapper

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 Trust director Scott and founding Trust member Mike Bawden went out for a day's fishing on the Kaipara Harbour. Stopping at several locations in the southern arm of the harbour



they finished up tagging and releasing 106 fish, not a bad day's work between the two of them. One of the fish that they tagged and released was a 42.5cm snapper that was caught by Scott in 4.2metres of water, it was an outgoing tide with a 16.2° water temperature.

This fish was recaptured 149 days later on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 by Justin Souness who was surfcasting off the western side of the sand island near Tapora. Justin estimated the size at 40cm and it was kept.

It had travelled a straight line distance by sea of 1.98km since it was tagged and released.

### T10194 Bronze Whaler

As Scott and I have had a lot to do with all kinds of sharks over the years including filming and satellite tagging Great Whites, Hammerheads, Mako's, Topes etc, I am always interested in where all species of sharks travel to.



This particular bronze whaler was tagged and released at Omaha Beach by Calvin Fourie on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2023. Calvin removed the hook and took a quick photo before releasing the shark back into the water. He said that it was a good release. Then 16 days later this fish was recaptured by Divan Swanepoel while fishing in the same place. He also removed the hook and released the fish safely in a good condition. Over the warmer summer months these sharks will often hang around an area of food abundance close to shore before migrating out to sea again during winter and returning the following summer. Pretty cool aye.

### T18905 tope shark

Scott recently had a phone call from Curly Brown the skipper aboard the commercial fishing vessel "FV. Hikurangi" to report the recapture of a tagged tope shark caught by the trawler fishing in 190m of water off the west coast of Northland. The shark was measured at 83cm.

This was a fish that Scott had tagged and released at the Sand Island near Tapora in the Kaipara Harbour on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. This shark measured 66cm and was one of



many fish that tagging program member Michael Jenkins and Scott tagged that day while fishing in 8m of water. At 440 days at large this shark had a shortest distance travelled by sea of 107km to the recapture point. During that time it grew 17cm.



The other very cool thing about this story is that Curly Brown recaptured the trust's very first recaptured fish back in 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2018. That fish was a snapper that I had tagged, that had travelled 305km in 41 days from the Kaipara Harbour to the Taranaki Bight and grew 2cm during this time.

It is great to see all participants in our shared fishery engaging in this citizen science project. Straight forward observations and data collecting supporting research on the fish that we all love to catch.

### T11904 kingfish



While sheltering from the winds inside Whangaroa Harbour on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 we decided to check out the many coves and inlets catching and releasing as many fish as we could catch. Scott switched to catching bait on a micro jig and his 3kg setup only to hook up an 82.5cm kingfish. After a bit of dancing around the cockpit Scott was able to successfully land the fish ready to tag and release it without the help from the sleeping crew member who was rudely awoken to take these photos.



341 days later this fish was recaptured by Mark Frear while fishing with a livebait near the same spot in the Whangaroa Harbour. Mark measured the fish at 88cm and approximately 9kg. Mark kept the fish.

### T21030 trevally



Trust founding director Scott was tagging & releasing fish in Whangamumu Harbour in the early evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, while Sue was cooking (burning) dinner. One of the fish that he tagged and released was a 23.5cm trevally hanging around a tethered 'skippy' frame tied to the transom.

333 days later on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 at 8.34pm this tagged fish was recaptured by 12 year old Luke Wilson on a sabiki while at anchor in the same bay after a successful day's game fishing where they had caught a striped marlin. Unfortunately they removed the tag, but the fish was re-released to re-join his school.



### T24763 tope shark

Emilio Ayerdi from Southland joined the Trust inshore tagging program a day before Christmas last year. It wasn't very long before he had his first recapture. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 Emilio went out fishing for the day at Frasers Beach in Manapouri Southland. While fishing from shore he tagged and released a male tope shark measuring 132cm.

Then 42 days later on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2023 Tane Simeon a commercial set netter on-board "FV Galeos" phoned Scott to report the recapture of this tagged tope shark they caught in 94 metres of water off the lower east coast of Southland, a straight line distance of 40.7km from where it was released.



### T14819 tope shark

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 Ben Knight was fishing in 35 metres of water off the Kapiti Coast when he caught a small male tope shark measuring 100cm long. He took a quick photo of the shark and tagged and released it back into the water again.



On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 Scott received a telephone call from the skipper of the Commercial Trawler "FV Streaker". Kevin Saunders reported that they had recaptured this little shark in approximately 182 metres of water and that it was around 4kg and approximately 1m long. This shark was recaptured 17.2km from where it had been tagged and released 270 days earlier.

Kevin added that there were too many snapper earlier in the year so they had waited until these moved away closer to shore so they could continue fishing for their target species.

It is really cool to see all sectors embracing the tagging program and it is leading to some really interesting data.

### T0599 snapper

Jake Dikstaal at Leigh Fish reported receiving a tagged snapper caught east of Whangamata in the Bay of Plenty by the Danish seine vessel "FV. Rose Louise" that was uploaded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2022. The fish was 42cm long and weighed 1.4kg.



This fish was tagged and released by Nic Clegg on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2019 at Rangataua Bay, Tauranga. Nic was fishing from the shore and measured the fish at 29.5cm prior to release.

This fish has been at large for 1422 days, just under 3 years 11 months, and was recaptured 41.1km from the release location.

## T20971 snapper

As with any tagging program around the world there is always the issue around tagging data bias in regards fishing related mortality, tag shedding, natural predators, and under reporting. Here at the Trust we have endeavoured to minimise these issues as much as possible to offer a fair report on the inshore fishery through this citizen science program. We hope by engaging with all sectors in our shared fishery and direct marketing the recapture requirements to those out there on the water, avoids under reporting as much as can be expected. That said we do occasionally have tags recovered washed up on our shores. The diligent public with keen eyes have reported the recovery of these tags as they walk the shores picking up rubbish. The condition of the tags can shed some light on the fate of these fish, be it chewed, cut off or yanked out and discarded.

This quarter we have one tag reported found on Orewa beach by Robert Davis who recovered it near the high tide mark on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022. This tag was originally attached to a 28cm snapper on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, by Kerry-Ann Glover at Kirita Bay near Coromandel. Unfortunately we can only guess how this tag made it the 76km in those few months to where it was recovered.



## Donations

We would like to thank those of you that have donated goods, services or funds to the Trust. Your generous support is greatly appreciated and it all goes back into supporting these programs. Many of the volunteer taggers have received a top up of tags from these donations ensuring a continuation of this citizen science project around the country. Thousands of Fish ID posters and stickers have been distributed to government departments, institutions, fishing clubs, tackle stores and fishers around the country to help anglers identify many of our inshore fish species and participate in sustainable fishing practices.

If you, or a business or organisation would like to support helping the community with this or any other aspects of the **Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust** we would love to hear from you.

The Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust is a registered charity and all donations are tax deductible. We have attached a handy IRD guide for those wishing to support the trust financially.

You can contact the Trust directly or go to our give a little page at <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/tindale-marine-research-charitable-trust>



We would also like to thank our sponsors and individuals for their kind donations and support....



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





# TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST

Charities Registration No. CC55555

IRD no. 126-648-057

## **End of year tax refunds**

For many of you out there the end of March is the end of the Tax year. This is important information for those that have or intend making a donation to this trust.

The Tindale Marine research Charitable Trust is a New Zealand registered charity with full donee status. This means that for individuals and corporates (companies), for any donations made to the Trust, you are entitled to a full tax credit as described below.

### **Individual's donations.**

Individuals can claim a 33.33% tax credit for all donations over \$5.00 they make to an approved donee. A tax credit reduces the amount of tax you have to pay. The total tax credits an individual can claim is capped at one third of their total taxable income. Remember to keep your valid donation receipts so you or your accountant can complete an IR526 Tax credit claim form and forward to IRD.

### **Corporate giving.**

Companies can claim tax deductions for all donations made to an approved donee providing their claim does not exceed their total annual income. A tax deduction is a reduction in the amount of taxable income. Companies can claim this deduction using the IR4 form.

You can only claim donation tax credits within a period of four years following the year in which the gift was made.



For more information go to [www.ird.govt.nz](http://www.ird.govt.nz)