

Special Edition



TINDALE
MARINE RESEARCH
CHARITABLE TRUST

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

Compiled by Founding Directors,
Scott Tindale, Sue Tindale Rex
Harrison and Clinton Duffy

WINTER REPORT

#22

1st June to 31st August 2023



TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST

Charities Registration No. CC55555

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Newsletter No. 22 winter update 1st June to 31st of August 2023

We started off winter running! Boat show follow ups, conferences, working groups, zoom meetings, Awards and surgery filled the calendar so a bit of juggling was needed to fit it all in. Fishing would have to wait and processing all the tagging data squeezed in where we could find time, delaying these reports too.

Seafood Sustainability Awards 2023

Straight to it then... we start with the big news where the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust at short notice were advised that we were finalists in the 2023 Seafood Sustainability Awards. Scott and Sue were invited with one guest to attend the awards presentation in the grand hall at parliament in Wellington on the 6th of June. With a tight schedule already full we were not sure if we would be able attend until Trust member Judy Brown convinced us it would be a good day out and something new for her too. The last flights available were booked and the calendar was again full.



Members of the Tindale Marine research Charitable Trust Judy Brown, Scott Tindale and Sue Tindale

Not expecting much of a result for us in the face of so many high quality applicants, this year we arrived late (two women getting ready takes a lot longer than one). The room was full of dignitaries from around the country but we had little time to chat as we were soon all ushered to our seats as proceedings began.



Hon. Rachel Brooking Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, Scott Tindale and Sue Tindale

Opening address was from the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, Rachael Brooking, with a full line-up of categories to get through.

“These Awards highlight those passionate people who contribute to the sector’s sustainability through their innovation and mahi. They know that all the benefits we get from the ocean are dependent on our ability to look after it. There is a lot at stake. The kai we get from fishing for our friends and whanau are part of what makes this place our home. I recognise the great responsibility we have to look after what we have and pass on a healthy ocean, full of kaimoana, for future generations. Partnership with industry to ensure ongoing sustainability will be key to these efforts. We have already made a great start with the draft fisheries transformation plan and the Aquaculture Strategy, demonstrating the importance of collaboration. In addition, MPI and Partner investment of \$57 million since 2018. Our success is dependent on the people, from all walks of life, who work and depend on the sea, and I’m proud to acknowledge their contribution through these awards. Congratulations to all winners and finalists at this year’s event, all of whom reflect a commitment to sustainability that will ensure our fisheries and aquaculture continue to thrive for the benefit of future generations.”

Hon. Rachael Brooking

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

The Seafood Sustainability Awards are a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate those who demonstrate outstanding dedication to the sustainability of New Zealand’s seafood sector. Individuals, businesses of all sizes, iwi organisations and not-for-profits from across aquaculture, fishing, innovation and research are invited to apply across a broad range of categories:

- **Operational Innovator Award**
- **Market Innovator Award**
- **Future Leader Award**
- **Ocean Guardian Award**
- **Tangata Tiaki/ Kaitiaki Award**
- **Minister for Oceans and Fisheries Award**
- **Supreme Sustainability Award**

As the night progressed recipients of each award were asked to the podium to say a few words and were presented with awards by representatives of the Award Partners, Fishserve, Aquaculture New Zealand, Seafood New Zealand, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and Te Ohu Kaimoana.

Scott was still eating his meal when the room's attention all of a sudden was on our table as the winners of the Ocean Guardians Award was read out. It's not often Scott is lost for words but with a bit of composure Sue and Scott made it to the podium and thanked all of the supporters, Trust members and everyone out there making a positive difference for a sustainable future.



After a short recess to take in the moment, desert was served. The room was a buzz with congratulations and expressions of interest in all that had preceded the event. As proceedings reconvened and after a quick round up of the night the final Awards were announced.

Dan Bolger, Deputy Director-General of Fisheries New Zealand took the stand to announce the final overall award winners of the Supreme Sustainability Award and said, "We have seen a very high standard among the winners of the different categories tonight, so when it comes to the winner of the Supreme Sustainability Award – it is a recognition of something very special indeed.

One of the key considerations for the judges when they were choosing the winner was thinking about to what extent the recipient has impacted others.

Tonight's winners have had a huge impact in New Zealand. They are well known across the recreational fishing sector. Not only are they very successful and internationally renowned anglers themselves but they have worked tirelessly to increase public participation and interest in the health of our oceans.

Through their charitable research trust, they have developed methods to reduce fish and seabird mortality by raising public awareness of the detritus polluting our marine environment and washing up on our beaches.

They have developed a successful fish tagging program which has tagged 1000s of fish and provided valuable information used for monitoring fish stocks. Fisheries New Zealand supports this programme and is looking for ways to incorporate this data into our Fisheries Management system.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the Supreme Sustainability Award for 2023 and they are Scott and Sue Tindale and the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust."



Two speechless Tindale's in one night

SUPREME SUSTAINABLE AWARD. SUE & SCOTT TINDALE. TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CARITABLE TRUST



Dan Bolger, Deputy Director-General, Fisheries New Zealand, Sue and Scott Tindale

OCEAN GUARDIAN AWARD



Ray Smith Director-General MPI, Sue and Scott Tindale



“These Awards highlight that achieving excellence requires collective efforts from businesses, communities, and government. Congratulations to all finalist and to everyone working for healthy oceans.”

Conservation & environmental news

Satellite Tagging Projects

International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Great Marlin Race Campaign

Each year the International Game Fish Association announces its annual IGFA Great Marlin Race campaign, uniting anglers, researchers, and conservationists from around the globe to support the research and preservation of billfish stocks worldwide.

This initiative has become the world's largest citizen science *billfish satellite tagging project* and combines the thrill of sport fishing with scientific research and conservation efforts. Using cutting-edge satellite tag technology, organisations or individuals can sponsor a satellite tag to be deployed during a recreational angling trip or tournament. The specially designed satellite tags collect information for up to 240 days on movement, depth, temperature, and more providing invaluable data on the migration patterns, behaviour, and conservation needs of billfish.

At the end of each season, data is compiled from all satellite tags and the marlin that has travelled the farthest distance is declared the IGFA Great Marlin Race winner for that year. In addition to sponsoring a tag, anglers interested in contributing to the IGFA Great Marlin Race can donate directly to the initiative to help ensure a future for billfish.

Since 2021 over 550 billfish have been satellite tagged including blue, black, white and striped marlin, sailfish, shortbill spearfish and Mediterranean spearfish in 23 tagging locations around the world including NZ. To date it is estimated that these fish have tracked a combined distance of around 687,293 nautical miles and have contributed to 12 peer-reviewed publications.



"As an organization dedicated to the conservation and sustainable management of game fish and marine resources, we are excited to invite anglers from around the world to join us in supporting the IGFA Great Marlin Race," said IGFA President Jason Schratwieser. "By leveraging the passion of recreational anglers and the knowledge of marine scientists, we're making significant strides in protecting billfish around the globe."

To learn more about the IGFA Great Marlin Race Annual Campaign or to make a contribution, please visit <https://igfa.org/igmr2023e/>. or contact IGFA representative Scott Tindale stindale@xtra.co.nz

Fisheries NZ,

Picton workers issued fines,

Thanks to the good spotting by Trust member Graham Wilson, Fisheries officers were able to respond to an over fishing incident witnessed by him in Picton this winter. Graham questioned three fisherman who had in excess of 4 times their daily bag limit that he spotted while he was fishing from the shore, Graham took a few photos of their catch reporting sadly that two of the fish in their haul had Trust research tags on them.

In a reply to Graham from Fisheries

“Yesterday the three fisherman you came across were formally interviewed by Fisheries in relation to the various offences found. Their employers were present along with interpreters. The men had no idea at all of any fishing regulations, they had not been in NZ long, only a matter of months. The fisherman will be receiving infringement notices (instant fines) as opposed to Court, they are not staying in the Country.



Their employers accepted their responsibilities as well and have worked with Fisheries already to develop a more user friendly set of rules in a small booklet relevant to the Marlborough Sounds area, basically more pictures than words and in the languages that are relevant to the RSE work scheme. I showed them the Tindale Research fish chart and they will put it up in the meal room on the notice board. If you could provide more of these we will spread them across all the grape contract companies.

The van you took the photo of was not the one used by the group so they got away in another vehicle prior to your arrival, they were both parked together at the yacht club, and the fish was all consumed that same night.

Thank you for taking the time to approach and photograph what you found on Sunday, the evidence you provided allowed me to pursue the offenders, most people just complain to us about this sort of offending but your actions have allowed Fisheries to deal with it, and with some education hopefully some positive outcomes for the fish in the future.

Thanks again, Ramon

Ramon Smith | Senior Compliance Officer – Blenheim - Upper South Island- Fisheries Compliance Services



Graham and Ramon have been sent additional Trust Fish ID posters, stickers and tagging program literature to share with the wider community. These are also available from other Trust members and fishing tackle stores in the Marlborough area.

A great collaborative effort from our Trust members.

Public engagements.

NZ Federation of Commercial Fishers conference 2023



Doug Saunders-Loder, President of the NZ Federation of Commercial Fishermen contacted Scott late May 2023 about whether he might be available on 1st, 2nd June to attend the New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishers Annual Conference. It was to be held in Blenheim with the view of Scott being the Guest Speaker on the evening of the 2nd before dinner and drinks. Doug felt that there was considerable interest by the membership in the Trust inshore Tagging Program and would make for a good round up on the final night of the conference. Having just finished talks at the Auckland Boat show Master Classes Scott only needed to move a few meetings around to make himself available. The Federation were very well organised and in short time made arrangements for flights and accommodation in Blenheim.

On arriving just in time to hear the opening address from the Minister of Oceans, Hon. Rachael Brooking, Scott joined federation members and guests in the audience listening to presentations and updates from a variety of organisations. The day continued with presentations from MPI and Fisheries NZ representatives discussing the latest reforms and camera rollout. Fishserve gave an update followed by Ben Pierce's presentation on 'Young Fish' the seafood youth program. National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) representatives gave an update on the latest research and new technology. After lunch the Maritime NZ panel faced a Q & A session with an interesting play on anchoring watch rule interpretations. Updates from the Seafood NZ, Inshore Council and PUBLIC Agency followed before the conference round up and close for the day. With so many changes to the fishing industry in the past few years there was plenty of discussion and questions raised for each speaker to address.

During the breaks there was an opportunity to put faces to the names of many of the skippers that had already reported tagged fish in the program and catch up with dignitaries and delegates Scott had previously met during the many fisheries meetings. Outside the conference room the foyer and second meeting room were filled with industry suppliers' stands with representatives on hand to chat about new innovations and products. NIWA staff circulated information pamphlets containing the link to their new release and likely survival of fish returned to the sea survey in response to last year's Fisheries Act changes. The first day meeting ended with a short break before reconvening in the main lounge for happy hour drinks and a "fish and chips" dinner. The evening finished with awards presentations and a charity auction for the Shipwreck Relief Society.

Day two was the formal AGM followed by a formal dinner and of course a PowerPoint presentation and question time by Trust Director Scott. In keeping to his normal poor time keeping and too much to talk about, and with the conference centre needing to lock up for the night, everyone headed across the road taking over the pub and continue the chat over a few drinks before retiring in the early hours of the morning for a bit of sleep before the flights home.



“Open letter to all commercial fishers in the inshore fin fishery.... Firstly a big thank you goes out to all the commercial fishers and fish receiving companies that are already members of the program by reporting tagged fish recaptures.

In 2018 Scott and Sue Tindale established a voluntary inshore fin fish tagging program applying the best attributes of similar programs around the world, while adapting it to suit the modern way we fish in New Zealand. The original intent of the program was to fill gaps in our knowledge of recreationally caught fishes and to encourage sustainable fishing practices. With the very first recapture in 2018 off the Taranaki coast by commercial fisher Curly Brown it quickly evolved into looking at a shared fishery. Our goal is to provide facts not opinions to fishers and those responsible for managing the fishery. The first five years have been interesting. As the number of anglers and tagged fish in the program have grown we have begun to see interesting patterns of movement, particularly as the time at liberty of tagged fish has increased, and a consistent picture of who is catching and reporting tagged fish. To date we have received 5 sustainability awards including this year’s Supreme Sustainability Award presented during the Seafood Sustainability Awards ceremony held at Parliament in early June.

Generally tagging programs target specific species of fish. We felt it better to let the fishers decide what to tag and where to fish, enabling a better understanding of what we as fishers see every day. Our coverage is nationwide and includes over 65 fish species tagged by anglers participating in the program. This program is endorsed by Fisheries New Zealand and has been included in a number of community lead and government organisations projects.

Since the program’s inception we have been asked questions about past and emerging issues that our tag and release data may be able to shed light on. The current review of post-release survival of schedule 6 discards has really highlighted the lack of research undertaken on this in New Zealand. Then with the apparent increase in the prevalence of milky flesh snapper in the Hauraki Gulf now raising questions about the possible spread of the condition and whether these fish die or recover from it. On the west coast what are the implications of snapper migrating further south? These are the types of questions that can be answered by tag and release studies run with multi-sector involvement & run continuously over the years.



The Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust is an independent, entirely voluntary, not for profit organisation. While this can make funding the tagging program challenging, the independence of the program means its scope is not limited by the objectives or interests of other groups. As time has gone on we have also had tags from other long defunct tagging programs reported to us, some of these fish have been at liberty for more than 20 years. This highlights the value of ongoing projects like this now established program.

Although recaptured fish have been reported by all sectors of the fishing community, tagging has predominately been undertaken by recreational fishers, Department of Conservation staff, NIWA researchers and students attending university institutions. We therefore would like to encourage you to become involved too.

In August 2021 we asked the then Minister of Fisheries and senior officials to consider allowing commercial fishers to tag and release fish as part of the inshore tagging program removing any potential bias in the data & completing all sector involvement. Fisheries NZ were not willing to change the legislation so have instead agreed to waive the special permit fees and are prepared to assist any commercial operators wishing to participate in the program. Tagging equipment is available at cost as we do not have the funding to provide these free of charge. Registration with the program however is free.



So, what now? We have prepared the ground work, tested the waters and set the wheels in motion. Those of you that attended the New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen Conference in Blenheim this year you would have already seen a presentation on the program. For any that missed it, please familiarise yourself with the program to see if this project fits your expectations by having a look at the tagging program’s webpage

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

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

“Helping to provide evidence based data in the face of so many opposing opinions”

Collaborations

The Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust is often contacted by individuals, research organisations and community groups looking for assistance or information on marine species. The Trust is founded on the principle of promoting and encouraging environmental education, conservation and research so are happy to include some of these requests on our social media posts or within these reports. In the spirit of citizen science we hope that you are able to help out and spread the word if you can.

Wanted! Elephantfish stomachs and contents

“Hi, my name is Katie, and I am a post-graduate student at Victoria University.

For my master’s thesis, I aim to complete the first comprehensive diet study of elephantfish in New Zealand waters and compare diet preference across fish size, and by regions and depths. Studying elephantfish diet will improve our understanding of the species’ ecological role in the marine ecosystem. To do this, I will complete a stomach contents analysis, identify, and count prey items, and analyse any patterns in prey preference. I am looking to collect stomach samples from elephantfish throughout its distribution during the summer months when elephantfish make their migrations inshore. If you are based in the Wellington Region and can provide any samples to my study, please get in touch! Ideally, I would like to collect fish length, sex, and the stomach. I will be happy to provide additional details and coordinate with you.

Thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you, Katie”

Cooperkatie02@gmail.com



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 every year. This winter is no different with multiple NZ and IGFA World Record catches tagged and released. To find out what records are obtainable, where to go, and how to apply for these, check out our earlier reports. IGFA rules apply so make yourself familiar with these before you head out fishing.



Congratulations to our Trust members who have now entered the record books both here and globally.

Scott as always will be watching your tag returns for anything that could qualify. He picked up a few this winter that would have qualified but unfortunately the anglers did not have the required photo. So remember to keep taking photos on an approved measure mat. Either keep photo and information safe on your phone and on a backup (two phones reported lost) or email them when you submit a tag and release. They are also handy for the recapture reports, condition comparisons and showing you mates.



World Volunteer Fishtag Summit 2023

The world's first volunteer fish tagging summit was held over two days on the 24th and 25th of August 2023. This online zoom meeting was organised after several talks between scientists and tagging program organisers looking at options to bring together the international efforts on fish tagging and related research. The Summit attendance was made public with fishers, individuals, fisheries managers, marine scientists and organisations tuning in from around the world. In order to accommodate the varying time zones across the globe, 35 time slots were allocated for the organisations presenting overviews of their citizen science fish tagging programs. The conference was also recorded for those that wished to view at a later date. <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/96g8whsvluvi4n6ryu92g/h?rlkey=0swewd8s9gxlippc0dnlp1xlb&dl=0>.

Summary:

Fish tagging can be traced back to the 1700's as a way of identifying individual fish. Over the centuries tagging fish has spread to over 100 countries around the world monitoring fish populations by scientists and fishers. The World Tagging Summit 2023 was held with Steve Morgan, the publisher of Fishing Monthly magazines, as MC welcoming everyone and providing an overview of the program for the days ahead. The summit featured presentations from various tagging programs, including volunteer fish tagging programs, game fish tagging programs, and shark tagging programs. The presentations highlighted the history and evolution of fish tagging, the outputs and benefits of long-running tagging programs, and the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and difficulties facing volunteer tagging. The presenters also discussed the importance of collaboration, advocacy, and funding to realize the full potential of tagging programs.

There were presenters from New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and Ireland and across the USA who provided detailed overviews of their tagging programs. The presenters discussed the data collected by their programs, including catch, age and stock assessments for important species, fish movement patterns, growth rates, and population dynamics. They also highlighted the importance of collaboration with other tagging programs and fisheries managers to enhance data and outreach efforts.

The summit covered improvements made to various tagging programs, showcasing the use of latest technology, such as apps, social media, video the internet to streamline the tagging process and collect valuable data. The presenters discussed the A Sea Project and Re Fish Tagging Program, which aim to improve knowledge of discards and model the survivability of discarded fishes.

Overall, the World Tagging Summit provided a comprehensive overview of various tagging programs and their contributions to fisheries research and management. The presenters highlighted the importance of collaboration, advocacy, and funding to realize the full potential of tagging programs, as well as the use of technology to streamline the tagging process and collect valuable data. The summit showcased the importance of environmental education, conservation and research for a sustainable future.



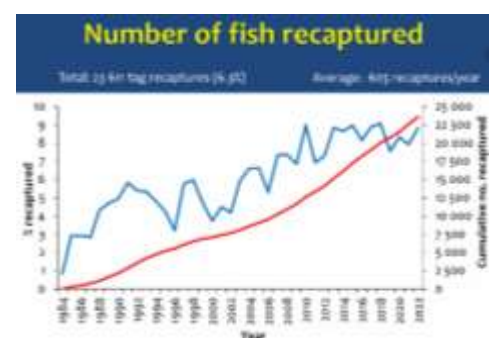
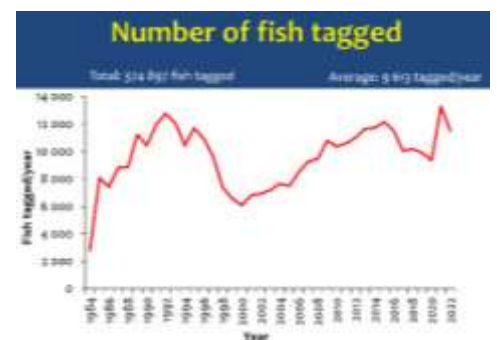
The Role of Volunteer Fish Tagging Programs in Fisheries Research and Management

David Hall, a former researcher and senior fisheries manager, discussed the history and development of fish tagging programs over the last 70 years, particularly the involvement of anglers in assisting research. He presented the outputs and benefits of long-running tagging programs and highlights the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and complexities of volunteer tagging. He concludes by emphasizing the untapped potential of volunteer tagging and the need for better collaboration and advocacy to secure funding and develop new technologies. David Hall expresses hope for making a difference in the world through the Summit and introduced the program presentations.

Emily McGuckin fish tagging program director, presented the **American Litteral Society's fish tagging program**. Based in New Jersey USA this is the longest running fish tagging program. Amongst their commitments they focus on restoration, education, and advocacy for the New Jersey and New York coastlines. Emily discussed the history and current status of the Citizen Science Tagging Program, which is a membership-based program that requires anglers to purchase their own tags to ensure high-quality data. The program has over 2,500 anglers and has tagged over 630,000 fish, including over 100 different species. The data collected is used to create catch age and stock assessments for important species.



Bruce from the **Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI)** presented an overview of their fish tagging project in Durban, South Africa. The project started in 1984 as a collaborative citizen science project between scientists and anglers to collect information on fish movement patterns, growth rates, and population dynamics to ensure their wise and sustainable use. The project has over 7,000 members and has tagged just under 375,000 fish in 38 years, with an average of just under 10,000 fish tagged per year.



How has the ORI-CFTP contributed towards science and conservation?

Academic achievements

- Over 200 academic publications (scientific papers & book chapters)
- Over 24 post-graduate student degrees using ORI-CFTP data
- Over 80 talks and posters given at conferences & workshops

Resource management

- Over 150 unpublished reports for management agencies
- Direct inputs into fishery policy and species-specific fishing regulations

Angler attitudes and behaviour

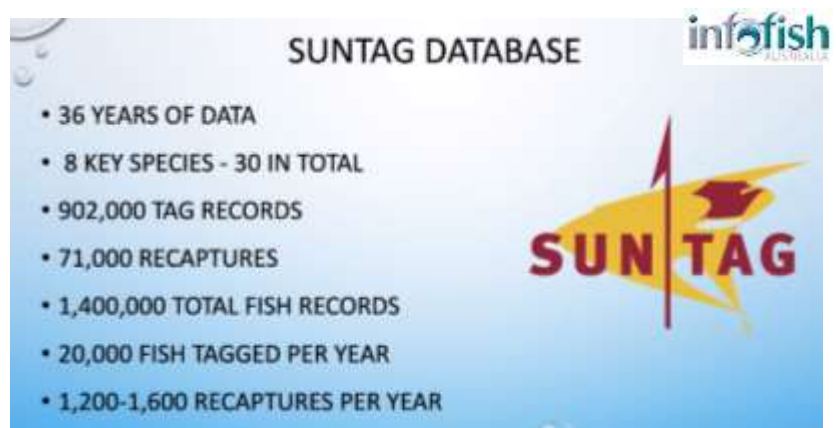
- Over 100 talks and tagging demonstrations for anglers
- Over 200 articles in fishing magazines and newspapers
- Over 90 radio and television interviews and documentaries
- Over 150 Facebook and Instagram posts
- 16 YouTube videos on all aspects of tagging and fish handling

NB – There has been a documented change in angler attitudes and behaviour towards

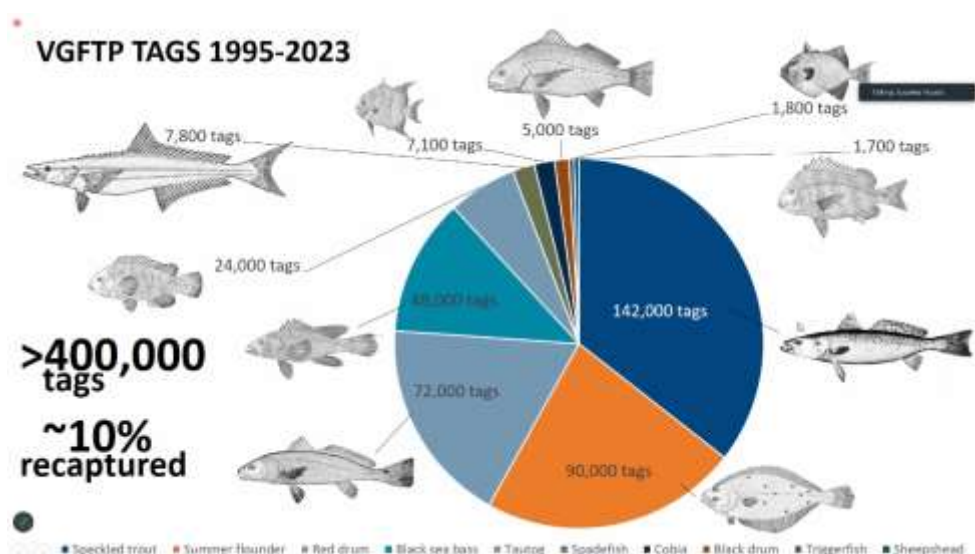
Joey Coz from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources presents the **South Carolina Marine Game Fish Tagging program (SCMGFTP)**, which is a volunteer angler-based tagging program that promotes natural resource conservation and provides fisheries managers with data for projects. The program is an excellent outreach tool for reinforcing catch and release fishing and encourages best fishing practices. Coz discusses the program's history, target species list, and tagging methods, as well as plans for improving data collection and engaging with the angling community.



Bill Sawynok, the operations manager for **Infotag Australia** and **Suntag Australia**, provides an overview of the Fish Tag Australia program, which combines four different programs that use a single database. The program has tagged over a million fish and has been used to study the impact of COVID-19 on recreational fishing. Sawynok discussed fishing licence contributions, the program's government funding, data collection methods, and how they manage recaptures.



Susanna Musick, Marine Recreation Specialist at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, USA, presented an overview of the **Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program**, which trains volunteer anglers to tag and release fish and provide data on their movement and habitat use in Virginia waters. The program is a partnership with recreational anglers, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and the Marine Resources Commission, and is funded by saltwater license funds in Virginia. The program has trained over 600 volunteers since 1995, and has tagged over 400,000 fish, with a recapture rate of about 10%.

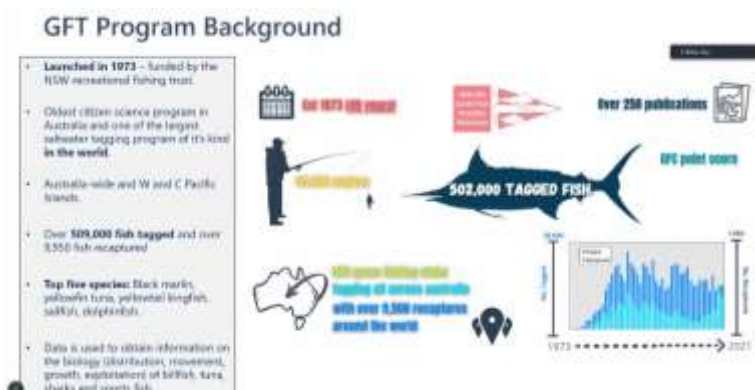


Steve Morgan introduced three presentations on pelagic game fish tagging programs, including pre-recorded presentations from John Holdsworth of Blue Water Marine Research on the **Fisheries New Zealand Co-op tagging program** and Wesley Merton- director, Dolphinfish Research Program, Beyond Our Shores Foundation, Newport, Rhode Island, USA with an overview of the **Dolphinfish Tagging Program**.

Cooperative Pelagic Fish Tagging Programs Numbers of Billfish Tagged

Program	Year Commenced	Number of Billfish Tagged to 2021
US: NMFS NOAA southeast	1954	>100,000
US: NMFS NOAA southwest	1963	62,000
Australia: NSW DPI	1973	162,000
New Zealand : MPI	1975	33,000
South Africa: ORI	1984	3,600
US: The Billfish Foundation	1990	220,000
African Billfish Foundation	1991	55,000

Clay Hilbert Fisheries Management officer from the Game Fish Tagging department of regional NSW gave an overview of the **New South Wales Game fish Tagging program**. Clay discusses the program's funding, participation, and data usage, highlighting its importance as a scientific and educational tool, as well as a means of stakeholder engagement and improving social license and community perception of recreational angling. Clay provided updates on tagging procedures and the potential use of artificial intelligence to improve analysis reporting. Clay wants to modernise the New South Wales game fish tagging program and improve resources for anglers.



Founding Director Scott Tindale explained how the **Tindale Marine research Charitable Trust Inshore Fish Tagging Program** started in New Zealand as a word-of-mouth initiative and has now grown to over 1,150 volunteers in the last 5 years. This is the last volunteer tagging program to be set up since 1995 and has deployed thousands of tags on many of the data deficient coastal fish species. The Trust leaves it up to the volunteers to decide what species, what size of fish and where to fish and now have tag data

on over 65 species from around the country. The program collects the usual data such as date, depth, species, GPS location, water temp, and fish condition, method of catch, fish length and photos both before and after. The program also provides resources such as tagging kits, measure mats, and instructional videos on how to tag and release fish. Scott updated the group on their personal investment and financial constraints of the project and their aim to increase public awareness and participation. Steve Morgan thanked him for his personal undertaking of such a massive cross sector worthy cause.

Kate Zewinski-coordinator at the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Apex Predators, Population and ecosystems monitoring and analysis division, US Department of Commerce, Kate presented an overview of the **NOAA Cooperative Shark Tagging Program**, highlighting its collaborative efforts between recreational and commercial fishermen to learn about shark life history and promote conservation through catch and release. The program has been running for over 60 years and has authored over 40 peer-reviewed publications using its tagging data.

Dylan Gibson-Research associate at the **Centre for Fisheries Research and Development**, school of ocean science and engineering at the university of southern Mississippi gave an overview of the co-operative sport fish tag and release program.



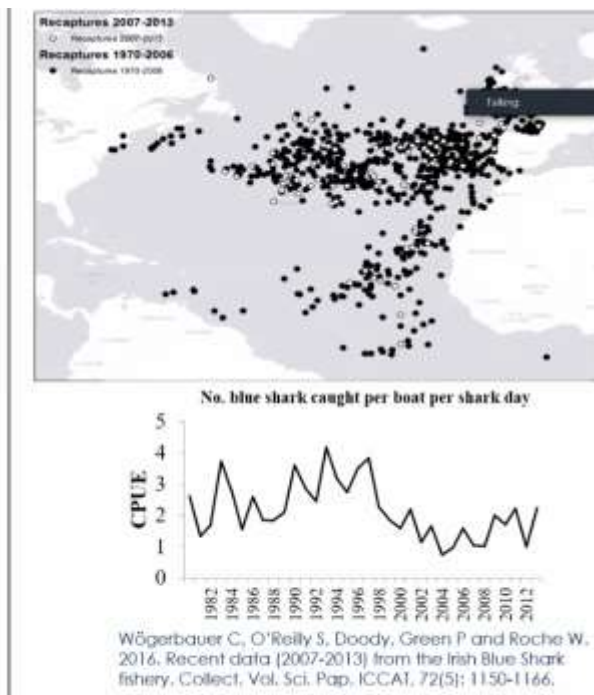
Randy Pausina presented an overview of the cooperative marine fish tagging program, **Tag Louisiana, USA** which involves various levels of participation and passion. Randy will re-establish and expand the cooperative marine fish tagging program in Louisiana and improve data collection and analysis methods.

Ciara Wogerbauer – Technician **Inland Fisheries Ireland**, gave an overview of two angler-collaborative tagging programs providing valuable information on non-commercial fish species caught around the Ireland coast.

Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*)

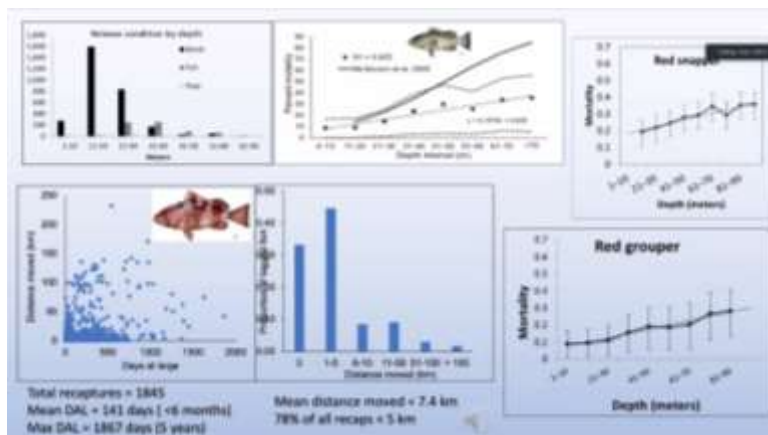
Status: IUCN: **Endangered** in N. Atlantic

- 21,052 taggings around the Irish coast (44% of all taggings)
- 824 recaptures throughout the North Atlantic
- Often bycatch of large commercial tuna fishing boats
- Highly Migratory Species
- 90% female
- 75% adult blue shark (>1.7m)
- South Irish coast was top tagging destination for blue shark



Ashley Fuller gave a presentation on **Reinhardt Taxidermy's** new tagging program, which is designed to engage customers by creating a connection with their fish by promoting safe fish handling practices and release of fish. Ashley emphasized the importance of education and training on fish replicas as part of their commitment to the industry and conservation taxidermy. Ashley Fuller discussed the process of establishing this new tagging program and have partnered with a charter company in Florida tagging a few sharks already. They are manually collecting data and have plans to expand their program while continuing to educate themselves and their customers.

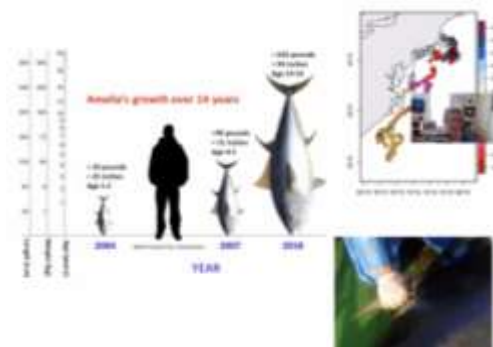
From the **Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission**, fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Sean Wilms gave an overview of the My F Wc tagging program, which aims to fill a significant data gap in the Florida recreational fishery. This also included the objectives and methodology of the Ac Project and Re Fish Tagging Program, which involve collecting data on discards, changes in fish populations and community structure, and fish habitat utilization. The project uses scientific observers to record data on weather, sea parameters, location, target species, and catch level on higher vessels, such as head boats and charter boats. The Re Fish Tagging Program deploys Dart tags on high priority reef fish species to model the survivability of discarded fishes and gain critical post-release mortality information.



Areas covered were;

- * Discard mortality and stock rebuilding
- * The A Sea project objectives
- * The A Sea project methodology
- * The Re Fish Tagging program

Molly Lutcavage Director and research professor at the Large Pelagic Research Centre School of Environment, University of Massachusetts Boston USA gave a presentation on the **Western Atlantic bluefin tuna tag and release program**. On day two Molly returned to talk about the 'Hi Tag' products used in tagging tuna.



HiTag™ : Smart cheap tag technology for tracking fish from sport and commercial fisheries



Molly Lutcavage, Tim Lam, Clay Tam, Drew Bennett, Tom Flannigan.

Aaron Adams, Director of Science and Conservation, Bonefish and Tarpon Trust based in Miami Florida gave an over view of the **Bonefish and Tarpon Trust tagging program**. On day two he returned to give an integrated approach to research using both dart and electronic tags. This research is centred off a small group of islands near the Florida coast.



Peter Chaibonsai, Director of Conservation programs, **Billfish Foundation** Fort Lauderdale Florida gave an overview of the marlin species tagged in the program around the world. This program reaches across the pacific with many charter fleets involved based throughout the pacific islands.

On day two Julian Pepperell, Managing Director of **Pepperell research and consulting** showcased the "Billfish story from tagging" with a bit of history as it developed over the decades.

Day two began looking at the global perspective and future roles of volunteer tagging programs in a changing fisheries world. Key note speakers discussed the challenges of funding to ensure consistency in the data collection and developing new ideas to meet new challenges. Some programs looked at local benefits to communities where recreational fishing is a key element of its economy. Tony Williams, Mayor of Rockhampton, Queensland Australia showed the benefits of fishing licences providing for new amenities, boat ramps and fishing jetties as well as a fish hatchery to enhance the fishing experience. This has successfully created a sustainable catch and release tourist industry in this recreational only fishery. Discussions led to developing new ideas in integrating tagging data with other data sources. Looking at the role of tagging in understanding what is happening in and above the water.

Tagging programs are routinely used to individually identify fish in order to acquire information on growth, movements & to provide estimates of population size & natural mortality. Additionally knowing the biology of the fish, how productive they are, how fast they grow, where or how far they go is vital to the conservation & management of marine species. Information that can be gained by tagging fish species include but are not limited to:

- Individual species movement dynamics. Did that fish I released survive?
- Seasonal patterns of movement, How far do they travel?
- Resident or migrant? Do they return seasonally to the same areas?
- Does sea temperature affect their movements?
- By catch management, do the unwanted or undersize fish survive after being released?
- Can released fish survive after being pulled up from the deep? Barotrauma vs embolism.
- How fish are best handled to increase release survivability?
- Preferred habitat, what things impact their environment? Natural and manmade impacts.
- Growth, how fast do they grow? Do they have growth spurts at different times of the year?
- Do their growth rates vary across the country? Is it influenced by food sources and availability
- Can we detect changes in fish's behaviour from environmental changes over time? Extended range & depth
- Do injuries affect growth rates? Can we monitor spread or recovery of diseased or injured fish?
- Who are catching the fish? By sector and method

Key Questions:

- * How can fish tagging programs contribute to the management and conservation of fish populations?
- * How can fish tagging programs engage and involve both commercial and recreational fishers?
- * What are the benefits and limitations of using technology in fish tagging programs?
- * What are the best practices for engaging and educating anglers in tagging programs?
- * How can tagging data be used to inform fisheries management and conservation efforts?
- * What are the key factors to consider when starting or expanding a fish tagging program?
- * What are the main challenges and opportunities in running a successful tagging program?
- * What are the main goals and objectives of tagging programs?

Final thoughts:

Small budget programmes with public participation provide National Coverage. Data collection for scientists. Increased understanding of fish distribution and ultimately protection of important habitat. Increased public perspective on conservation awareness and dramatically improving catch and release rates. Stakeholders who invest in tagging have a major involvement maximising survival rates. And finally education and empowerment of citizens with real not opinion based science.

Best handling practices and bycatch mitigation

Poor tackle selection and bad handling practices are the leading cause of bycatch mortality. Preparation is key and with a few easy adjustments to the fishing tackle you use can make all the difference in ensuring you fish sustainably. With an increase in land based shark fishing it would seem appropriate to share with you some of the best practices and tackle we use. "If it's worth doing then it's worth doing it right".



Hooks. Use only circle or recurve hooks and crush or remove the barb. This will make hook removal much easier when getting close to sharp teeth and if the fish is lost it can fall out eventually on its own.

Traces. In most cases a short wire 'bite end' will need to be added to a monofilament trace. Keep the wire short, no more than ½ a metre on all but the largest of shark species. A heavy swivel using aluminium crimps at the junction will prevent the line from twisting and acts as a safety stopper for the trace man

or angler when landing the fish. Never take a wrap on wire when handling large fish. Monofilament traces are easier on the hand and are able to be cut easily if you get into trouble. If the fish escapes with the trace still attached the aluminium crimp will quickly erode from electrolysis of the dis-similar metals freeing it from the fish.

Equipment. "Preparation is key" again this is critical for a quick release. Apart from the tagging equipment, heavy bolt cutters, Hook remover, measure tape, and line cutters should be kept handy. I have witnessed close calls and injuries from anglers trying to remove hooks by hand or using small pliers. Sharks are quick and their teeth are sharp so you don't want to find out the hard way.



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. Please download or share these to your social media pages as a quick reference on how to tag correctly.

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/7xkCJCI9vBM>

How to measure, tag and release a **Snapper**: 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.

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 winter 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 winter winners. They are:

The **June** draw winner is **Stefan Vermeulen**. Stefan tagged and released a 163cm tope shark (T16276) that he caught land based fishing in the Manukau Harbour on the 24th of June 2023.

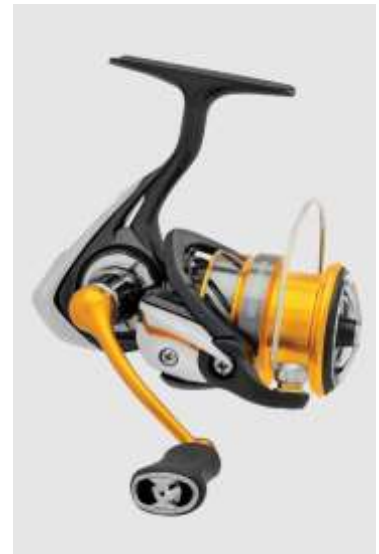
The **July** draw winner is **Sam Richardson** who tagged and released a 29cm blue cod (T13809) at Titoki Bay from the shore on the 18th of July 2023.

The **August** draw goes to **Tomo Thompson** for a skate (T23817) measuring a disc width of 1100cm that was caught off Kaikoura on the 15th of April 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.

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



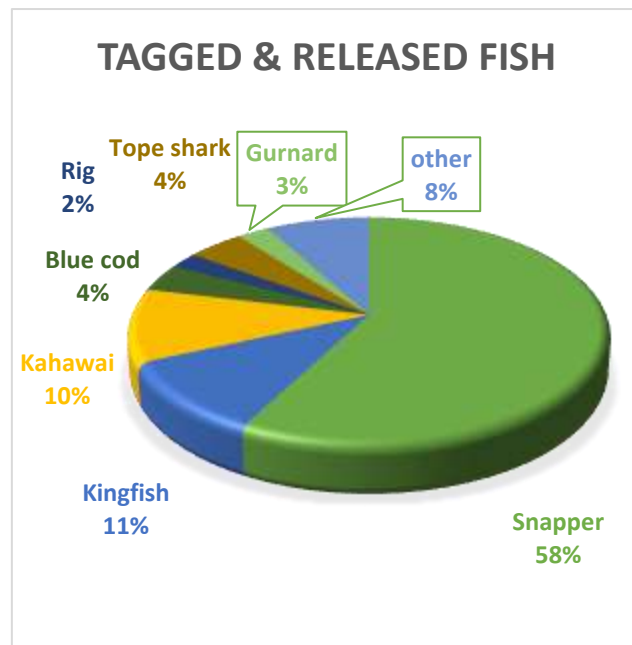
The Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust is a charity organisation 100% run by volunteers and solely reliant on the generosity of businesses and the public. We are constantly looking at ways to help you and the fishery and are still looking for a main sponsor/partner to help supply replacement tags. 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 research tags then please get in touch.

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

TMRCT Inshore Tagging Program

This graph shows the proportion of different species (total number of species 65) tagged and released in the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust Inshore Fish Tagging Program. To the end of winter 2023 just over 26,730 tags have been distributed around the country with members recording 9243 tagged fish released.

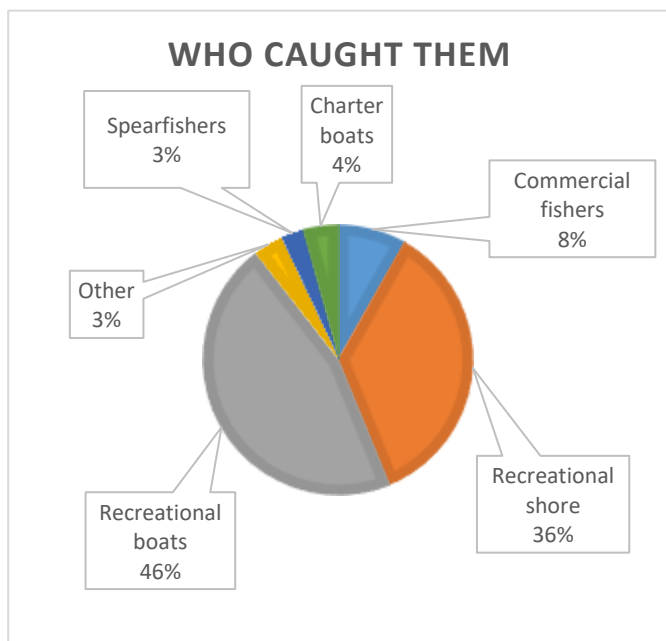
As you can see, the most common tagged and released inshore species is still snapper (58%). Members have tagged a great cross section of snapper sizes from juveniles to trophy size. These have been caught around all of the North and the upper South Islands. Kingfish and kahawai make up 21% of all tagged and released fish and feature high in the recaptures also.



The inshore fish tagging program membership to the end of winter has grown to 1268, and now covers all of New Zealand and a few overseas. 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 18 released. This recapture rate has slowly crept up from 1 in 25 when the project began. Of those tagged fish recaptured, 61% were retained and 39% returned live to the sea. Overall, 8% of reported fish recaptures have been by commercial operators and 92% 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.



Winter 2023 recapture summary

- 278 additional fish tagged this quarter
- 34 tagged fish were recaptured during this quarter
- 9 recaptured from recreational boats
- 20 recaptured from recreational shore fishers
- 5 recaptured by commercial fishers
- 17 recaptured tagged fish in winter were released again (50%)
- Longest time at large before recapture 1460 days
- Furthest displacement via sea this quarter 449km



TMRCT Inshore Tagging Program Recaptures

Despite the cold and blustery weather over winter there has been a constant flow of tagged fish recaptures over winter. 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.



Recapture update for winter 2023

T22316 kingfish



Nathan Reid from Moana reported the recapture of a tagged kingfish that was caught by the commercial fishing trawler 'F.V. Margaret Philippa.' He reported the recapture was on the 3rd of June 2023 in the Bay Of Plenty with the average depth of the tow at 69m of water. This fish was

spotted in the processing factory and measured 71.9cm fork length.

This 71cm female kingfish had been tagged and released by Josh Tawera on the 24th of March 2023 while live baiting a piper from shore in the Tauranga Harbour. At 72 days at large this kingfish had a shortest distance travelled by sea of 41km to the recapture point.

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 we target.

T16622 kahawai



On the 27th of June 2023 Tyler Hall from Kelly Tarlton's received a delivery of fish from the Auckland Fish Markets to feed the sharks. When Tyler opened one of the boxes, to his surprise he found this



tagged kahawai. He then contacted Trust director Scott with the batch details from the consignment along with the measurement of the fish at 41cm fork length. Thanks to Tyler, Scott was able to liaise with Sandford's and the fish

markets to establish who caught the tagged kahawai and the date and where it was caught. It turned out Scott knew the fisher, Shaun Ford a commercial set netter in the Kaipara Harbour. Shaun had caught the fish in 2m of water on the 23rd of June 2023. Shaun had also caught a tagged Rig earlier in the week but lost the tag in the bottom of his dory.

This 37cm kahawai had been tagged by Trust director Scott on the 28th of August 2022, **300 days** earlier while fishing in the Kaipara Harbour in 2m of water. Since its tag and release the fish has grown 4cm and was caught 6.67km from where it was tagged.



T3202 snapper

Carl Arthur was fishing in the 10kg Classic Competition with Steve Wong when he caught a 56cm Snapper near Arid Island in 28m of water. Carl gave this fish to Auric Mirfin who noticed that it had a tag in it. Auric



then contacted the Trust to report the details of the recapture of a tagged fish. Auric noted that the fish was a kelpie and was very dark.

This fish was another long term recapture of Luke Davis's. Luke had tagged this fish **1460 days** earlier on the 23rd of June 2019 while fishing at Great Barrier Island in 5m of water. Strangely it had not grown in length at all and was caught just 5.62km away from where it was originally tagged.

T3237 snapper

This is another of Luke Davis's long term recaptures. Luke tagged this 49cm snapper while soft baiting at Great Barrier Island in 5m of water on the 2nd of September 2019.

Fast forward **1412 days** to the 14th of July 2023 when this 55cm fish was recaptured by Ian Cawson while bait fishing in 10m of water at Great Barrier Island. Ian commented that the fish was a beautiful kelpie.

Since its tag and release this fish has grown 6cm and was recaptured 16.9km away from its tag and release point.



T3233 snapper

Another long term recapture. On the 2nd of September 2019 Luke Davis tagged and released a number of fish including this snapper at 48.5cm which he caught in 5m of water at Great Barrier Island. Many of the fish he tagged that month have now been recaptured around 4 years later in the same general area.



On the 6th of July 2023 this fish was recaptured by Kurt Medland while bait fishing in 5m of water at Great Barrier Island. Kurt said that it was a nice healthy fish of around 3kg and it put up a good fight.

Since its tag and release **1404 days** earlier this fish had travelled a distance of 13.5km from where it had been tagged.



It looks like Kurt has made good use of his crayfish measure that he received with his recapture certificate and Daiwa Softbaits.



T3231 snapper

Another of Luke Davis's winter long term recaptures turning up after 4 years. Luke tagged this 51cm snapper while fishing at Great Barrier Island in 5m of water on the 2nd of September 2019.



Fast forward **1435 days** till the 6th of August 2023 when this fish was recaptured by Shane Langsford bait fishing in 7m of water at Great Barrier Island. This was the 2nd fish that Ian Cawson witnessed being recaptured as Ian was fishing in his dingy when they caught their first tagged fish. (See **T3237**)

Since its tag and release this fish had grown 6.5cm and was recaptured 17.6km away from its tag and release point.

T4664 snapper



Jeff Hill aboard the commercial longliner "F.V. Mistress" reported the recapture of a tagged Snapper, caught on the 6th of August 2023 off the coast of Port Taranaki. Jeff was fishing in 91m of water and measured the fish at 30cm. The tag was covered in filament weed but came off easily so he could read the tag details.



This fish was tagged on the 17th of December 2022 by Paul Templer who was fishing out from Te Horo Beach off the Kapiti coast. Paul measured this fish at 29.5cm and it was caught in 34.4m of water.

This fish was recaptured a shortest distance by sea of **254km** from its tag and release location and had been at large **233 days**. It is also another example of deep water release survival.

T10907 snapper

Jamie Burgard from Talleys Motueka reported the recapture of a tagged snapper by the commercial fishing vessel "F.V. Claymore". Arlun Wells, skipper of vessel reported that it was caught while trawling in 80m of water in Golden Bay, top of the South Island. It was landed on the 27th of July 2023 measuring 39.5cm fork length and weighed 1.53kg.



This fish was tagged on the 2nd of March 2021 by Trust Director, Scott Tindale while out on a Trust tagging trip in the Kaipara Harbour. The snapper measured a fork length of 34cm and was caught in 3.33m of water

This fish had travelled a shortest distance by sea of **499km** from its tag & release location **878 days** earlier, and had migrated from the largest harbour in the North Island to the top of the South Island. It is amazing how far away these little fish travel around New Zealand.



Blue cod are an important recreational fish in the south island of New Zealand. Russell Wilson and Graham Wilson (no relation) have been tagging and releasing them from the shore in Marlborough for a few years now. With many recaptures, Russell and Graham have been able to give us a great insight into blue cod seasonal growth rates and behaviour. Some of their recaptures this winter are:

T21818 was 35.5cm when tagged on the 10th of December 2022 by Graham Wilson and measured 39.5cm. **220 days** later on the 17th of July 2023 it was recaptured by Russell Wilson in the same general area and was released again.

T21819 measured 34cm when tagged on the 10th of December 2022 by Graham Wilson. **210 days** later on the 7th of July 2023 it was recaptured by Russell Wilson. It measured 36.5cm and was released again.

T22527 measured 32.5cm when tagged on the 6th of July 2023 by Russell Wilson and then was recaptured by him 12 days later on the 17th of July. This was one of the two recaptures that Russell had on this day & both were released again.

T22517 measured 33cm when tagged on the 17th of July 2023 by Russell Wilson and then was recaptured by him 19 days later a distance of 1.12km away and was released again.

T20720B measured 30.5cm when tagged on the 3rd of July 2022 by Graham Wilson and then measured 34cm when recaptured by Graham on the 25th of June 2023 and released again. Russell Wilson then recaptured this fish 40 days later in the same general area. Russell also released it again. Releasing tagged fish again is very important to the fishery as a whole, not only does it provide growth rates for the area it additionally gives these fish a chance to breed again providing for a sustainable fishery.

T22522 measured 32cm when tagged on the 6th of July 2023 by Russell Wilson and then he recaptured just over a month later and 1.32km away before releasing it again.

T22527B measured 32.5cm when tagged on the 6th of July 2023 by Russell Wilson and then was recaptured by him again 12 days later on the 17th of July. Russell then recaptured this fish again 33 days later in the same general area before releasing it again to carry on with its travels.

T20701 was 34cm when tagged on the 5th of June 2022 by Graham Wilson and measured 38cm when recaptured **425 days** later in the same general area by Russell Wilson on the 3rd of August 2023. It was released again.

T20701B was then recaptured 27 days later by Russell Wilson on the 29th of August 2023. Russell had recaptured the fish in the same general area and released it again. Total days at large since Graham tagged and released it was **451 days**

T22528 was recaptured within a kilometre of the tag and release spot after 48 days. It measured 26cm when tagged by Russell Wilson on the 6th of July 2023 and measured 26.5cm when recaptured again by him on the 22nd of August 2023. It was also released again.



T22518 measured 38.5cm when tagged on the 30th of July 2023 by Russell Wilson and 31 days later on the 29th of August Russell recaptured it again. This time it measured 40cm and was released again in the same general area.

T22516 measured 34cm when tagged on the 30th of July 2023 by Russell Wilson and measured 35cm when recaptured again by Russell 31 days later on the 29th of August in the same general area.

T21820 measured 26cm when tagged on the 10th of June 2022 by Graham Wilson and measured 34cm when recaptured **256 days** later by Graham on the 25th of June 2023. Like most of his fish it was caught on a soft bait and released again.

T20720 Graham Wilson tagged this 30.5cm blue cod on the 31st of July 2022. It was recaptured **330 days** later by Russell Wilson on the 22nd of August 2023 and measured 33cm. It was caught in the same general area.

T21847 & T21848 These two fish were tagged & released by Graham Wilson on the 21st of May 2023. One fish measured 32cm & the other measured 33cm. Both fish were recaptured on the 25th of June 2023 by immigrant vineyard workers who spoke very little English and had no idea of the recreational fishing rules. It is unfortunate that they had caught and killed these undersize fish and had also taken well over their daily bag limit. Fisheries officers followed this up and issued instant fines before they returned overseas again. More on this earlier in the report.

T20716 measured 33cm when tagged and released by Graham Wilson on the 15th of July 2022 and measured 33cm when recaptured by Russell Wilson **412 days** later on 30th of August 2023. Russell noted that this little guy had only one eye and was caught in the same general area. Russell released him again to carry on with his travels.



Some interesting statistics for blue cod from the Trust Inshore Fish Tagging Program are as follows:

Tagged Blue Cod = 363

Recaptured = 85

Re-released = 66

Kept = 19

Areas like Fiordland and the Marlborough sounds are exclusively recreational fishing grounds. The pressure on these sheltered waters is intense with recapture rates of tagged fish in the area is 1: 7 (1:4 for blue cod) and are the highest in the country. Even with strict fishing rules and reduced bag limits within these areas it is still vulnerable to overfishing and requires constant monitoring through tagging research and the promotion of sustainable fishing practices to avoid unnecessary release mortality.

T19891 kahawai

On the 10th of June 2023 Doug Lambert was fishing at Bream Bay. He said that it was a hard days fishing in southerly winds, but he still managed to tag and release this 45cm kahawai along with several snapper while fishing in 17.4 m of water.



26 days later Rylen Elson was surf casting with a pilchard bait in Waipu cove where he recaptured this tagged fish. The fish was recaptured a straight line shortest distance by sea of 3.29km from its release location.

T19890 snapper

Doug Lambert also tagged and released a 30cm snapper in the same area and date as the kahawai T19891 mentioned above. This snapper was recaptured 33 days later on the 12th of July 2023 by Avian Wilde. It was 2.66km shortest distance by sea from its tag and release location. He said that it was a nice fat fish, but he only spotted the tag when he was filleting the fish.

T20616 snapper

It is great to see an increase of long term recaptures now that the program has been running for over 5 years. This snapper was tagged and released by Tom Lusk on the 28th of May 2022 while fly fishing at Moturua Island in the Bay of Islands. It measured 56cm when it was tagged and released.



427 days later Riccardo Burturini was bait fishing in the same general area on the 28th of July 2023 when he recaptured this tagged fish.

Riccardo said that the fish was in a really healthy condition and after a quick measure and a couple of photo's he released the fish again to carry on with its journey.



This fish has grown 5cm since it was tagged and release and is the 2nd recapture that Tom has had from this spot from that same day. It is also interesting that the split in the tail on release had repaired completely on recapture. It now sports a new split lower down.



T18536 Tope shark

Liam Shadgett was surf casting off the rocks near the southern entrance to the Manukau Harbour on the 2nd of July 2022 when he tagged and released a 143cm School shark (Tope).

This Tope Shark was recaptured a year later on the 9th of July 2023 by Stefan Vermuelen who was bait fishing from shore at Huia on the northern shores of the Manukau Harbour entrance.



Stefan said that the shark was very healthy and that the current tag was still in a good condition. He wiped down the tag and took a quick photo before re-releasing the shark to carry on with its travels. In the **373 days** since she was tagged this fish was recaptured 3.64km in a straight line across from its original tag & release location. From the research carried out so far on school sharks in this area this would indicate a return migration of this mature pregnant female tope shark ready to drop her pups.

T23035 snapper

Rob Ainsley aboard the commercial longliner “F.V. Layla” reported the recapture of a tagged Snapper, on the 5th of August 2023 caught 20km off the coast of New Plymouth in 125m of water. Rob measured the fish at 40cm.

This fish was tagged and released on the 29th of November 2021 by Graeme Johnson while on a tagging mission in the Kaipara Harbour. Graeme measured this fish at 31cm and it was caught in 2.7m of water. This fish was re-captured **316km** from its original tag location **615 days** later.



It is really awesome to have all sectors involved in this tagging program, and it is another example showing that tagging has no adverse effects on the fish. The other thing to note is this fish has had two more years of breeding since Graeme tagged it, which leads to more fish in the sea for future generations.

T22635 snapper



On the 19th of July 2023 Ryan Brosnan was soft baiting in 19m of water off Motiti in the Bay of Plenty when he caught a tagged snapper. Ryan took a quick photo of the tag before releasing the fish again but unfortunately did not measure it.

This fish was tagged on the 2nd of March 2023 by Greg Kendrick who was bait fishing in 22m of water at East Motiti. The fish measured 35cm and was recaptured in the same general area **140 days** later.

T18095 kingfish



On the 28th of March 2022 Jake Pyne was fishing on a beautiful calm day in Maketu. One of the four fish that he tagged that day was this 113cm kingfish caught on a surface popper.

477 days later on the 17th of July 2023 Chris Adamson was fishing on his jet ski in the same general area in 5m of water and hooked this kingfish. After a 2 hour fight and being towed 3km, the kingfish was then attacked by a shark. The shark bit off the kingfish's tail and broke the line. Luckily the kingfish floated up to the surface so Chris could retrieve what was left of the fish.

Chris measured the kingfish at 120cm without its tail (pre caudal length). Since its tag and release 477 days earlier this fish was hooked 3.81km away from its tag and release location.

T18007 snapper



Todd Rankin-Hurrt was bait fishing at Tutukaka on the 24th of August 2023 when he caught a 45.5cm tagged snapper in 10m of water.

This fish was tagged **492 days** earlier on the 20th of April 2022 by Adrian Johnson while fishing at Ngunguru. The fish measured 40cm on release

and was recaptured 6.9km from its tag and release location.



T5055B kingfish

This tagged kingfish has now been caught three times. Mike Fleming first tagged and released this 90cm kingfish on the 2nd May 2022 while fishing from shore in Port Jackson.



He recaptured the same fish **235 days** later on the 20th of January 2023 while fishing at the same place. He 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 was then recaptured by Mike Meiring on the 14th of July 2023 while he was straylining at Waiheke Island.

The fish was kept thus ending its journey. Since its initial tag and release **439 days** earlier it was recaptured a shortest distance away by sea of 33.2km from its original release location.





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

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 research and educational 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 educational institutions and individual fishers around the country helping budding citizen scientists and anglers identify many of our coastal & inshore fish species.

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. 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>



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

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

Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust

“To Promote and encourage environmental education, conservation and research for a sustainable future”

