



TINDALE
MARINE RESEARCH
CHARITABLE TRUST

Summer Report

#28

1st December to 28th February 2025



Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust quarterly report. Includes Trust member news, activities, engagements and achievements over summer 2025

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Founding Directors

Content contributions from the members of the **TMRCT** inshore tagging program



TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST

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Newsletter No. 28 summer update 1st December to 28th February 2025

Summer started off with a bang for game fishers. Marlin and yellowfin tuna fever hit the upper east coast of North Island in full force early December and just as quick, like a sweeping broom, the train shifted well south overnight. Calls of 6 to 10 marlin hooked off the top of the South Island, then marlin landed by fishers as far south as Jackson off Westland, even marlin caught off the Kaikoura coast. What was gearing up to look like a great season all-round instead left the northeast coast bare, sending mass migrations of recreational boats to Auckland's west coast due to reports of plague proportions of marlin sighted and landed within a few miles off the coast. Coast guard recorded their busiest day on record with over 700 calls in a day as boats headed out to sea. For the few of us left on the Northland east coast, we had the place to ourselves. Thin marlin pickings but plenty of yellowfin in close and nice weather.

For the Trust it was a very busy summer chasing up tag returns. With lots of volunteers enjoying their time out on the water and plenty of fish tagging going on. The excitement of getting in amongst the action often delayed anglers sending in their tagging data. In many cases this resulted in the corresponding flood of recaptures by the fishing public being reported well before the taggers had submitted the details of their tag and releases. Sadly, some members had also lost or forgot to record their tag and release details so we were not able to report on these catches. Please ensure that you keep your tagging equipment and tagging data safe and please make sure that you record all catch details on your forms and send in your completed tagged fish data as soon as possible.

Conservation news

Seabird Sustainability Awards 2025

Trust directors and former recipients of the Southern Seabird Trust Seabird Smart Awards, Scott and Sue Tindale were cordially invited by their excellences The Governor-general of New Zealand the Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro and Dr Richard Davies to attend the 2025 Seabird Smart Awards held at Government house on the 12th of February this year.

This year's awards recognised Greg Summerton, Rosa Edwards and John Ellwood for their work to reduce harm to seabirds in NZ from fishing and promoting seabird safe fishing practices. Celebrity chef Al Brown, also a Trust member, took part in the ceremony and served guests a Kokoda dish using Summerton's fish products.



Upcoming events.



The 2025 Hutchwilco boat show held at the Auckland show grounds every year is not very far away now. The organisers have again offered the Trust a stall in this year's event to promote the Tagging Program so we are looking for a few tagging volunteers to help out over this 4 day event. The new owners of the show have also asked if Scott could do daily talks at the safety and education stream stage on the Trust's programs education and volunteer work so if you have anything of interest you would like included give us a call.

The dates are 15th to 18th of May so check your dairies to see if you are free or mark it on the calendar.

Nautical terms

One thing that has really stood out running this volunteer tagging program is the many versions of units of measurement used across the sector sent in to us. When I was in the engineering and building industrys we adjusted quickly from imperial to metric systems but when we all go fishing its still knots fathoms and pounds that are the common languages we use.

So have you ever wondered why after half a century after the introduction of the metric system here in NZ we still use old units of measure when on the sea? I suppose for some, fish sound bigger in pounds than in kilograms, bragging about a 20lber is much more interesting to say than 9kg. However, but for some units there is a much more applied explanation.

Knots (kn). Still the standard unit of speed used around the world for wind speed and in aviation for flight speed. This unit of measurement originated in the 17th century as a way to to measure speed at sea. To do this sailors used a device called a common log or chip log. This was a long rope with evenly spaced knots tied at intervils along its length tied to a wedge shaped piece of wood. This was dropped over the side and the line was payed out as the ship moved forward. The sailor would count how many knots passed through his hand as the rope was allowed to free spool into the water. An hour glass would be used to calculate the time lapsed. After a set time the line was retrieved and the number of knots counted. Together the count over time gave the ship's speed in "knots", one knot equalling one nautical mile per hour. Distance could also be calculated in nautical miles by the time it would take to get there.



The nautical mile was officially set at 1.852 kilometers in the early 20th century and is tied to the Earths geography. To explain this, the earth is a globe so we can divide it into 360°. As each degree is made up of 60 minutes, therefore there are 21600 minutes around the earths circumference. The earths circumference, distance around the equator is therefore 21600 nautical miles (24901 land miles or 40075km). The Earth measures approximately One nautical mile per one minute of latitude making it more practical than using a standard land mile. 1kn/hr =1nautical mile, = 0.1°, =1.852km, =1.151 land miles.

Next issue Longitude and latitude

Species Profile.

Kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*)

Other names: warehenga, haku, yellowtail kingfish, yellowtail amberjack, yellowtail jack, yellowtail, southern yellowtail



In terms of an iconic New Zealand recreational species the kingfish probably only comes second to the snapper. Kingfish are large pelagic predators found throughout New Zealand from the Kermadec Islands to Stewart Island and the Chathams. They belong to the family Carangidae or Jacks, which includes species such as koheru, jack mackerel, rainbow runner, trevally, pilotfish, amberjacks, Almaco jack and Samson fish. Maximum reported size is 193 cm total length and 58.4 kg. Recreationally the current IGFA All Tackle World Record ('southern yellowtail') is jointly held by David Lugton and Mike Godfrey who each caught 52 kg fish off White Island and Tauranga in 1987 and 1984 respectively (www.igfa.org). In fact, New Zealand boasts some of the largest kingfish in the world with most world line class records being caught here.



Juvenile kingfish grow rapidly reaching about 50 cm total length in three years and about 90 cm in nine years. Maximum age is more than 23 years. Males mature around 83 cm (7 years old) and females around 97 cm (10 years old) (Francis 2024). The recreational minimum legal size is 75cm with a daily bag limit of 3 for most areas, and 1 for Chatham Rise.

Kingfish spawn in spring and summer. The eggs are buoyant and about 1.3 mm diameter. They hatch 67-75 h after fertilization at water temperature around 20° C. They reach about 30 mm total length around 40 days after hatching, at which size they develop their characteristic banded juvenile colour pattern. By 87 days after hatching, around 218 mm fork length and 136 g in weight, juvenile kingfish are miniature versions of the adults.



Small juveniles, up to about 15 cm total length, are generally found well offshore, at or near the surface, often associated with floating patches of seaweed or flotsam. Once they develop their adult body shape and colouration they form large pelagic schools. These can sometimes be found aggregating beneath flotsam, fish aggregation devices or around the floats and lines of rock lobster pots set in deep water. As kingfish grow they become increasingly coastal and can be found in a variety of inshore habitats ranging from estuaries and inlets to offshore islands and reefs. Their diet consists mainly of fishes but crustaceans, large polychaete worms (epitokes), squid and a variety of sea birds, including little penguins, shearwaters and petrels, are also taken. Pelagic prey is taken by all life stages but as kingfish grow and become more reef-associated they take more reef and bottom-living fishes. Kingfish of various sizes can often be seen swimming just above or below stingrays, using them as stalking horses to approach potential prey and possibly to avoid predators. In turn, kingfish are preyed upon by pelagic sharks (e.g. great white, mako and bronze whalers), marlin, swordfish and false killer whales.



Scientific debate continues around whether kingfish represent one widely distributed species or three distinct species, i.e. *Seriola aureovittata* (Temminck & Schlegel, 1845) in the Northwest Pacific, *Seriola dorsalis* (Gill, 1863) in the Northeast Pacific and *Seriola lalandi*

(Valenciennes 1833) in Brazil, Chile, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. However, what is clear is that there is little or no gene flow between North Pacific and Southern Hemisphere populations and there is no genetic difference between Australian, New Zealand and Chilean populations. However, there is genetic evidence to suggest there is little connectivity between the South African and Pacific populations, and that kingfish populations on isolated seamounts and islands represent discrete breeding populations making them vulnerable to overfishing or even local extinction.

Kingfish are a hardy species and are therefore a great candidate for tag and release. In 1975 the government funded a co-op tagging program in a collaboration with the NZ Big Game Fishing Council, where club members could not only assist management and support research but also as a way to add sustainable release sections to fishing tournaments or end of year prize giving's. The information collected had been the main source of recreational fishing data for the Ministry on this species. However, a shift in core ideals to 'feeding the families' following the name change to NZ Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) has seen a big shift in the number of fish tagged under that program. Last season despite NZSFC members landing over 700 qualifying kingfish only around 60 were tagged and released. Commercial fishing company Sealord NZ however topped up that number by tagging and releasing around 150 kingfish caught as by-catch in the jack mackerel fishery using co-op program tags.

The majority of kingfish tagged and released under the co-op program were tagged from a single charter vessel *Pursuit*, fishing in the outer Bay of Plenty. Most recaptured fish, around 94%, that had been at liberty for 30 days or more were recaptured within 100 nautical miles (185 km) of the release point. This fish tagged by Trust director Scott off the BOP bucked the trend and was recaptured off the west coast near New Plymouth. Four other fish tagged in New Zealand have been recaptured in New South Wales, and others at Lord Howe Island and Wanganella Bank in the Tasman Sea. Kingfish tagged and released in eastern Australian tagging programs have also been recaptured in New Zealand confirming trans-Tasman movement occurs in both directions.



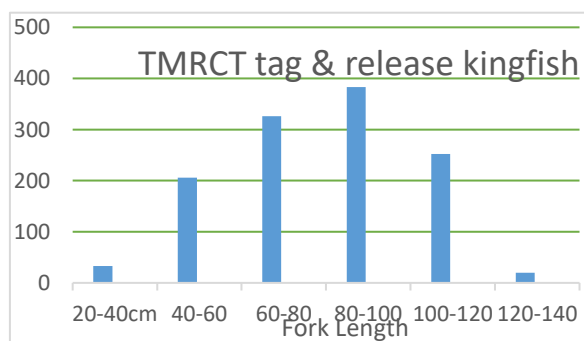
With the introduction of the **Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust** inshore tagging program in 2018 tagging kingfish quickly expanded to every district around New Zealand. An important distinction between this program and



the Co-op program run by the NZSFC is that it is open to all fishers and therefore includes both boat and land-based anglers. With well over 1100 kingfish tagged in the TMRCT program, we are starting to see long-distance movements and recaptures. Kingfish tagged at North Cape have been recaptured near Wanganui and fish tagged in Tauranga harbour have been recaptured in Wellington Harbour. Currently the recapture rate of kingfish in the TMRCT program is sitting around 1 in 15. All helping to add greater depth to New Zealand's knowledge of this

species.

Looking at the Trust data, only around 24% of recaptured kingfish are released again. Most of these recaptured fish have been caught by recreational fishing methods with 65% by rod and reel aboard recreational boats, 12% by spear gun and 4.5% by commercial fishing methods.



This graph shows the average length of kingfish tagged and released in the TMRCT program. It demonstrates a wide range of sizes tagged by members around the country. These range from juvenile and sub adults to trophy sized fully mature fish. Seasonal and area specific growth rates should be able to be accessed from recaptures over time. Sadly only 29% of recaptured tagged kingfish are released again.

Member photos

Citizen scientist making a difference



Yellowfin tuna were everywhere off North Island coasts this season, with large schools seen crashing baits close to shore and off shore islands. This gave recreational sport fishers an opportunity to tag and release a variety of sizes. This juvenile was tagged and released off the Tutukaka coast by Trust director Sue Tindale. It was caught while trolling a small lure in less than 80m depth of water.

Junior angler Becket Dawes was surfcasting with his father Hadley at Clifford Bay when he caught this 116cm total length broadnose sevengill shark (*Notorynchus cepedianus*). After a few quick photos the shark was measured, tagged and safely released again. Documenting the tag and release catch details made it easy to claim the all tackle NZ Small fry male length record. Well done Becket

Sevengill sharks tend to migrate into shallow coastal bays and estuaries during spring- summer and can travel great distances. More on this capture later in this report.



Summer started with a rush of people heading out on the water before Christmas, leading to an increase in the number of boating incidence. Within a few weeks there were reports of boats grounding, a fishing vessel sinking off Kawau bay and sadly a few lives lost crossing the notorious west coast bars.



While we were taking the boat for a run out of Gulf Harbour we witnessed this launch hard aground at Whangaparaoa, an up turned zodiac inflatable amongst rocks off Kawau and coast guard steaming buy to assist another boat that had broken down. It's a busy time of year for everyone so please be prepared, diligent and safe out there while you are fishing and enjoy what the outdoors has to offer.

Tight lines and happy holidays.



Handy links and resources for the online savvy



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

Email tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz

Facebook @tindaleresearch www.facebook.com/tindaleresearch/

Instagram #tindaleresearch

Donations <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/tindale-marine-research-charitable-trust/>

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

Fish ID guide <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/project/fish-id-guide/>

Report Great white shark sightings <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/project/great-white-shark-sightings/>

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

Fish Tagging explained <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagging-program/what-is-tagging/>

Tagger Registration <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagger-registration-form/>

Report Tag & Release <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/fish-tag-release-form/>

Report Tag Recapture <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/fish-tag-recovery-form/>

Tagging kits & Accessories <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagging-program/order-tagging-gear/>

Instructions and forms <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagging-program/downloadable-printable-forms>

How to tag a fish video Small snapper: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbiusrEw11Y>

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

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

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

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

IGFA International Game fish Association & Angling World Records www.igfa.org

NZ Recreational Fishing Rules www.fisheries.govt.nz/travel-recreation/fishing/fishing-rules/

TAGGING KITS

\$50.00

Includes:

- * Free Registration & Membership
- * 1500mm roll up PVC Measure mat
- * Tag Applicator with floating handle
- * Cartridge of 10 serial numbered dart Tags
- * Tagging Instructions
- * Code of Practice & handy hints
- * Recording Sheet
- * Citizen Science bumper sticker
- * Handy zip up carry bag
- * Free stuff from our supporters
- * Online support, reports and updates



MEASURE MAT

\$20.00

Features include:

- New Zealand designed & manufactured
- 1500mm roll up PVC Measure mat with PVC head board.
- Easy to read digits to 0.5cm increments
- Suits left or right handed measuring
- Durable and washable



GAME FISH MEASURE

\$20.00

Features include:

- New Zealand designed & manufactured
- 3000mm x 75mm roll up PVC Measure Mat
- Easy to read digits starting from 1000mm to 3000mm at 1cm increments
- Great for Boat or Land based fishers
- Suitable for Marlin, Shark and Tuna
- Durable and Washable



TMRCT TAGS

"Save a fish with a gold coin donation."

Packs Include:

- * Cartridge of either 10 or 50 individually serial numbered PDS dart Tags
- * Tagging Instructions
- * Code of Practice & handy hints
- * Recording Sheet
- * Citizen Science bumper sticker
- * Free stuff from our supporters
- * Online support, reports and updates.

Top up your tagging kit ready for the next fishing adventure with family or friends.



All tagging equipment including tagging packs, fish tags and accessories are available from our website orders page <https://tindaleresearch.org.nz/tagging-program/order-tagging-gear/>

Also available from Trade Me (credit card and surcharges apply)

Tagging Leader board

As of the end of February 25 members in the TMRCT inshore tagging program have tagged over 100 fish, 6 have made it to the leader board reaching the milestone of 250 or more tagged and released fish.

Scott & Sue Tindale	2822
Robert Janse	512
Graeme Johnson	491
Graham Wilson	459
Michael Jenkins	393
Richard Nawisielski	254



Longest fish leader board

The following chart is the longest fish tagged and released for the most common species. There are a few ties but the first fish recorded stands. Many of these are also New Zealand angling length records.

<u>Snapper</u>	<u>5/02/2023</u>	<u>S. Jameson</u>	<u>Port Jackson</u>	<u>88.5cm VL</u>
<u>Kahawai</u>	<u>5/03/2020</u>	<u>D. Adams</u>	<u>Tauranga</u>	<u>61.5cm VL</u>
<u>Kingfish</u>	<u>9/11/2023</u>	<u>J. Aubertin</u>	<u>East Cape</u>	<u>140cm VL</u>
<u>Gurnard</u>	<u>4/06/2022</u>	<u>G. Gilbert</u>	<u>Nape Nape</u>	<u>53cm VL</u>
<u>Trevally</u>	<u>14/12/2019</u>	<u>G. Gates</u>	<u>3 Kings Island</u>	<u>74cm VL</u>
<u>Blue cod</u>	<u>12/07/2019</u>	<u>T. Dawson</u>	<u>Chatham Island</u>	<u>48.5cm VL</u>
<u>Blue Moki</u>	<u>8/04/2021</u>	<u>G. Wilson</u>	<u>Marlborough</u>	<u>62cm VL</u>
<u>Elephant fish</u>	<u>10/11/2022</u>	<u>S. Tindale</u>	<u>Bruce Bay</u>	<u>81cm VL</u>
<u>Tope shark</u>	<u>16/06/2020</u>	<u>M. Jenkins</u>	<u>Karekare Beach</u>	<u>174cm TL</u>
<u>Rig shark</u>	<u>10/09/2022</u>	<u>G. Gilbert</u>	<u>Nape Nape</u>	<u>137cm TL</u>
<u>7 gill shark</u>	<u>17/12/2023</u>	<u>P. Davy</u>	<u>Otago</u>	<u>260cm TL</u>
<u>Bronze Whaler</u>	<u>31/01/2021</u>	<u>E. Ballantine</u>	<u>Rangiputa</u>	<u>305cm TL</u>



TMRCT Sponsors prize draws



A Big thank you to **Daiwa NZ** who continue to sponsor Bait Junkies to compliment the recapture certificates posted out to both of the fishers involved. It has been another busy quarter with recaptures reported most days over another very busy summer.

Bait Junkies, along with the recapture certificates have been given to the angler that originally caught and tagged the fish as well as the angler that recaptures it. It is great to see many of our members using these products tagging and releasing fish so we have also added a pack to the tagging kits sent out. A high proportion of fish are lip hooked using these lures reducing the potential of gut hook mortality when releasing fish.

Monthly Recapture Draw

Daiwa New Zealand sponsor the monthly tag and release prize draws. One lucky winner will receive a **Daiwa Revros LT 3000-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. *Note: tag and release forms sent in with incomplete or missing data are not eligible for prizes.*

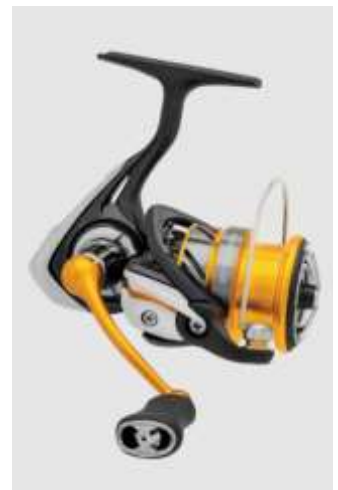
Congratulations to all our summer tagged fish monthly prize draw winners.

They are:

The **December** draw winner is **Karl Yeo** who tagged and released a kingfish (T26471) measuring 102cm he caught near Motuora Island in the Hauraki Gulf on the 20th of December 2024.

The **January** draw winner is **Harvey Smith** who tagged and released a 30cm kahawai (T7977) on the 15th of January 2025 surfcasting on the Auckland West Coast

The **February** draw winner is **John Martin** who tagged and released a 34cm snapper (T11336) on 26th February 2025 in the Bay of Islands.



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.

Commercial fishers Prize draw

As an independent volunteer based non-profit charity organisation it was difficult to find an appropriate prize for the commercial sector members that report tagged fish recaptures. Thanks to Seafood New Zealand who have kindly donated some quality merchandise supporting the TMRCT tagging program and the commercial fishers and fish receivers that report tagged fish recaptures.

One person is drawn each quarter receiving a Seafood New Zealand cap and tee-towel valued at \$55.00 with the balance receiving TMRCT posters and certificates. This quarter we have 11 commercial recaptures to choose from.

Congratulations Jason Reece aboard the fishing vessel Happy VI Who reported the recapture of T15347 a snapper measuring 62cm caught on the 18th of December 2024.

See further information later in this report

The Seafood New Zealand's commercial fish species poster you will recognise hanging on the wall of every seafood outlet and takeaways in NZ and is available as a tea towel or T-shirt. It features over 60 species beautifully photographed by Terry Hann and includes both English and Maori common names so you can learn while you dry!



For anyone wanting to get their hands on one of these, they are also available from Seafood New Zealand's website <https://www.seafood.co.nz/shop/products/fish-species-tea-towel/>

Membership draw

To finish off the year we have the last of the rechargeable headlamps kindly donated by **Gladiator Sports**. These are very handy for hands free operation while fishing nights from the shore or boat.

One lucky winner was chosen from our registered member's data base each month during this year. Every member that has registered, tagged or recaptured a fish in the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust Fish Tagging Program both in the past and present qualified. Make sure your contact details are up to date, otherwise these prizes will be redrawn.



December draw of random registration numbers is R416.

Tristan Berkowitz from Auckland.

Congratulations to our summer monthly member draw winner. We hope you get plenty of use from these awesome products while tagging and releasing fish in your local area.

TMRCT Inshore Tagging Program

As we progress further into the seventh year of the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust Inshore Tagging Program Sue has put together a few statistics from the results so far.

Membership in the tagging program has increased to just over 1570 and our following on social media platforms and hits on our website are not just from keen fishers here in NZ, but include people interested in the marine space from around the world.

In total, taggers have received 34,780 fish tags and have reported 12,805 tagged and released fish. The number of species tagged and released is 71 with the bulk of these covering all the common species found around our coastal waters.

Recapture ratios can vary considerably between anglers as it is up to the taggers to decide where they fish and what species they tag and release. Isolated areas, seasonal fishing effort, and fish density are just some of the factors influencing recapture rates. Those members that joined the tagging program early on are now seeing recaptures of fish tagged several years prior. A few members have had their tagged fish recaptured multiple times. One tagged fish has been caught 6 times, two tagged fish have been caught five times, three tagged fish have been caught 4 times, and 30 caught 3 times. Unfortunately over 60% of the tagged fish recaptured are kept by fishers ending their story on a plate or are used as bait. Commercial fishers cannot release tagged fish under the current legislation. As for recreational fishers it is disappointing that so many tagged fish are kept and not released again. Releasing tagged fish will help us collate data on the movements and growth of these fish across their lifetimes, hopefully showing behaviours such as seasonal movements and return migrations. We commend those that do understand the importance of tag and release and in maintaining a consistent flow of data helping to monitor any trends or changes in the fishery. Without consistent and quality data on our fishery you can expect opinion based closures and reduced bag limits.



The nationwide recapture rate across all tagged and released fish in the program is still around one fish in seventeen. The bulk of these recaptures are still by recreational methods showing how extensive recreational fishing effort around the country truly is. This recapture ratio is considered very high for wild, open ocean fisheries and does not take into account under reporting, tag shedding, natural and fishing related mortality.

TMRCT Inshore Tagging Program

The inshore fish tagging program membership covers all of New Zealand, as well as a few overseas locations. This unique program collects data on a wide range of fish species living in a diverse range of habitats at varying depths. The data provided by the members show trends in area specific growth rates, size composition and seasonal movements helping to understand the demographics of the fish we catch, their condition on release, barotrauma and post release survival. It can also be used to understand fisher behaviour by analysing method of catch, the platform used and who are catching the fish. All this information can be used to support a sustainable fishery and enhance fisher experience.

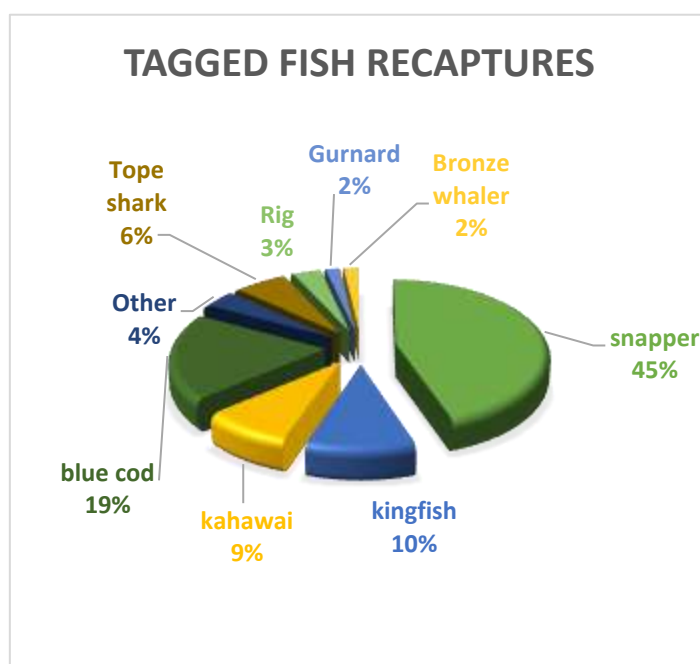
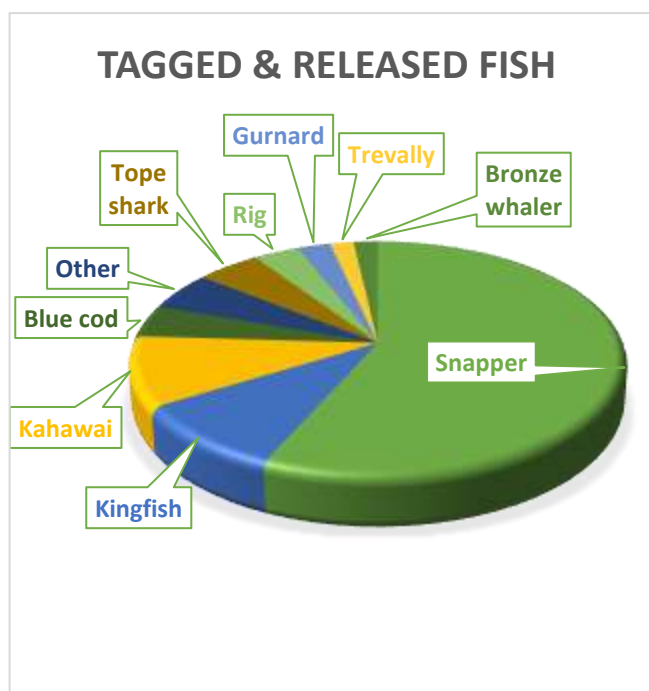
This graph shows the proportion of different species (total number of species 71) tagged and released in the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust Inshore Fish Tagging Program.

The most common species are those hotly contested between the commercial and recreational sectors so it is appropriate to look more closely at the results in this shared fishery.

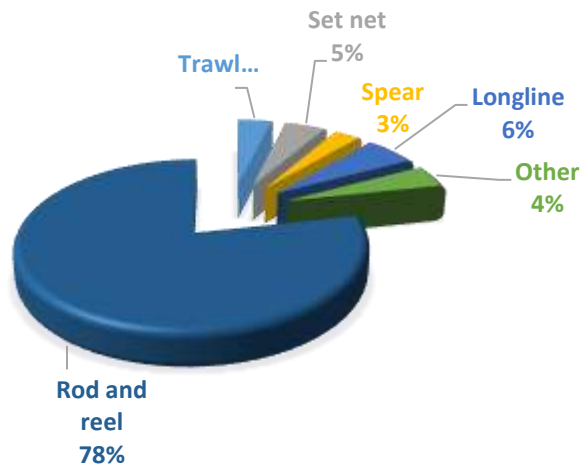
As you can see, the most frequently tagged and released species is snapper (57%). Members have tagged a great cross section of snapper sizes from juveniles to trophies. These have been caught around all of North Island and as far south as Otago. Kingfish and kahawai make up 20% of all tagged and released fish and also feature high in the recaptures.

Reported recaptures can be broken down into who, when, where and how the fish was recaptured providing, interesting information on the nature of the fishery. Because although tagging has predominately been undertaken in this program by volunteer recreational fishers, with some tagging undertaken by permitted commercial fishers, Department of Conservation staff, NIWA scientists and university students, recaptured fish have been reported by all sectors of the community.

Remembering recapture rates are generally high in this program for a wild catch fishery that spans thousands of square kilometres of ocean habitat off our 15000km of coastline. The most common recapture method is recreational rod and reel, with 82% of all reported recaptures being by this method.



METHOD OF RECAPTURE



Tag and release studies have always given a good understanding of a fishery, especially from the recaptures. They provide information that helps in understanding mortality by method, depth, handling and location.

Although this program was not started or intended for fisheries management purposes it is fast becoming an important source of data on our inshore fishery. We are focused on providing open source, up to date independent research and future opportunities for those willing to participate in this citizen science. Any students studying

for marine science degrees or research collaborators looking for assistance in collecting tagging data on fish species for the new term can apply to the Trust.

Evidence based science has always been needed when it comes to sustainably managing fisheries but in New Zealand the recreational sector has traditionally been overlooked by fisheries managers due either to the mistaken belief that it is insignificant, or just too difficult to quantify. For our overseas readers, there are no marine licences or catch reporting for recreational fishers in NZ so we do not know how many go fishing or how many fish are taken. Recent attempts to characterise recreational fisheries have focused on attempting to model catches based upon deeply flawed surveys and ad-hoc assumptions about the behaviour of recreational fishers. The cost of this approach is eye watering. This money would be better spent on collecting actual data, which means getting out on the beaches and the water and engaging directly with fishers. We therefore intend to remain open and unbiased, giving detailed overviews of what we fishers from all sectors are currently experiencing out on the water. This is needed if management of the fishery is to move from opinion-based (be it politicians, managers or lobbyist) to fact-based decision-making.

Who recaptured them?

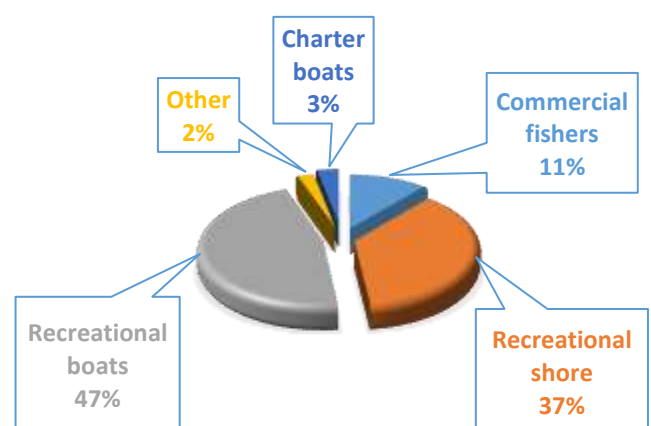
*Recreational boat includes; fishing from all water craft i.e., raft, kayak, Jet Ski, runabout, launch, yacht, super yacht etc.

*Recreational shore includes; land-based fishing from the shore ie, a beach, rocks, wharf or jetty. Also includes kontiki, torpedo and drones fished from the shore and heli-fishing.

*Commercial fishers includes; long liner, trawler, Danish seine, set netter, cray pot and reported by fish receiver etc.

Note; these percentages have remained fairly consistent since this program began over seven years ago and have not altered much in the 28 reports so far.

WHO CAUGHT THEM



Summer 2025 tag and recapture summary- (1/12/2024 to 28/02/2025)

- 679 additional fish tagged and released this quarter
- 56 tagged fish were recaptured during this quarter
- 24 recaptured from recreational boats
- 20 recaptured from recreational shore fishers
- 11 recaptured by commercial fishers
- 1 recreational spear fishing
- 25 recaptured fish were released again this quarter
- Longest time at large before recapture this quarter is 1733 days
- Longest time at large before recapture to date is 1746 days
- Furthest displacement via sea of a TMRCT tagged fish, is 3132km (school shark, NZ to Australia)



TMRCT Inshore Tagging Program Recaptures

As usual there was a constant flow of tagged fish recaptures over summer. We had many with interesting stories attached. Here are some of the highlights. We apologise if your fish is not included but we give preference to the ones that have photos and interesting stories attached.



T29285 Bronze Whaler



Since joining the Trust tagging program Jason Boa has tagged and released 35 fish from the shore. This 263cm total length female bronze whaler shark is his first recapture. It was tagged and released by Jason while surfcasting at night in Nelson on the 23rd of November 2024.

She was recaptured **8 days** later on the 1st of December 2024 by fellow tagging member Angus Skipage while surfcasting a bait

from shore in the same general area.

These sharks are a seasonal visitor to this area, encountered during the warmer summer months feeding on fish in the sheltered bays and shallow harbour.



T3039 Snapper



Graeme Johnson has been a very keen fisherman for many years and since joining the tagging program in 2019 he has tagged and released a total of 485 fish. This is his 16th recapture. Graeme uses a number of different angling methods to catch these fish including bait, lure and fly.

On the 8th of March 2020 Graeme was fishing in Kaipara Harbour in 2m of water where he tagged and released a number of fish including this 35cm snapper caught on fly.

Fast forward **1733 days** (4 years, 8 months, 27 days) later on the 4th of December 2024 this fish was recaptured by Jamie Bungard, skipper of the commercial fishing trawler 'F.V. Claymore' off the West Coast, South Island. The fish was picked up in the Talleys factory fish processing plant who reported the catch details to the Trust along with a photo of the fish condition and size.

Over its **1733 days** at liberty this fish had grown 10.7cm and travelled from the North Island to the South Island a total straight line distance by sea of 553km.

Graeme has had 3 of the fish he tagged that day recaptured, 2 of these have been recaptured off the South Island.



T20195 Tope Shark

On the 11th of June 2022 long time Trust member Robert Janse was surfcasting at Whatipu where he tagged and released a 148cm female tope shark.

906 days (2 years, 5 months, 22 days) later on the 2nd of December 2024 the Trust was contacted by Pat Adams the skipper of the commercial longliner 'FV. Fishy Business' who reported the recapture of the fish off South Taranaki in 85m of water. In a strange coincidence Pat had phoned Scott while he was out on the water filming tagging and releasing fish with Adam Clancy for the fishing show "Fishy Business".

Since this tope shark was tagged and released it had travelled 294km straight line distance by sea away from its release location.



Robert has had 39 recaptures from the 512 fish that he has tagged since joining the tagging program. An impressive 13 to 1 ratio across a variety of fish species.

T28671 Rig

We often get reports of tagging members recapturing their own tagged fish. It's time on the water and dedication to get involved that makes a difference, and sometimes the fish just won't leave.



Greg Gilbert is a keen fisherman who has been one of the Trusts founding members. Over the past 7 years Greg has tagged 189 fish from the South Island shores and this is Greg's 8th recapture.

Greg was surfcasting at Pendarves Beach on the 7th of December 2024 where he tagged and released an 88cm Rig. Later that day Greg captured this same fish again and quickly re-released it to carry on with its travels.

Greg reported that another angler further along the beach recaptured a tagged rig as well but unfortunately did not note down the number before re-releasing it.

T25808 Snapper

After winning the monthly draw of a Daiwa fishing reel, Graeme Young went out for a day's fishing at Moturekareka Island in the Hauraki Gulf on the 11th of August 2024. While softbaiting Graeme caught a 38cm snapper which he tagged and released using the new set up.



127 days later on the 15th of December 2024 Tim Morton-Jones was out spearfishing at Passage Reef across from the Beehive when he speared this tagged fish. He said unfortunately he did not notice the tag until the fish was filleted. This fish was speared 2.6km straight line distance by sea away from its original tag location. Since joining the tagging program Graeme has tagged 147 fish and had 16 recaptures, all from the Hibiscus coast area of the Hauraki Gulf.

T5783 Snapper

On the 1st of November 2024 Luke Davies was fishing in 24m of water using a lure slider off Rakino Island in the Hauraki Gulf when he caught this 47.5cm snapper. He quickly documented the catch details on his phone as he tagged and released it.



45 days later on the 15th of December 2024 Rodney Rod Holder was straylining at Onetangi Bay in 10m of water when he recaptured this fish. Since release 45 days earlier this fish had travelled a straight line distance by sea of 16.2km away from its tag location.

T15347 Snapper

Jason Reece, skipper of the commercial longliner 'F.V. Happy VI' contacted the Trust on the 18th of December 2024 to report the recapture of a tagged snapper. This snapper had been recaptured in 42m of water off the Bay of Islands. Jason reported that it was a nice healthy fish measuring 62cm. Jason was keen to know more about the program and mentioned that the owners would be keen for him to tag and release a proportion of their longline caught fish helping the research on this important species.



Checking back on the tagging details we reported that this fish had been tagged and released by Bevan Beauchamp **44 days** earlier on the 5th of November 2024, live baiting a jack mackerel in 25m of water at Rangiatea in the Bay of Islands. This fish was recaptured a straight line distance of 3.96km away from its tag location. Since joining the program Bevan has tagged 24 fish and had 4 recaptures in the Bay of Islands area.



T31311 Snapper

Tats Sou was straylining from his kayak at Waikauri Bay, Hauraki Gulf in 15m of water on the 24th of December 2024 when he recaptured a tagged snapper. He measured the fish at 77cm fork length. Tats said "*The fish had swallowed both hooks so he had to keep it*".

This fish had been tagged and released **25 days** earlier on the 30th of November 2024 at the western point of Motutara Island by Graeme Young who was fishing in 14.1m of water. Since its tag and release this fish has travelled a straight line distance by sea of 10.6km away from its tag and release location.



T32202 Snapper

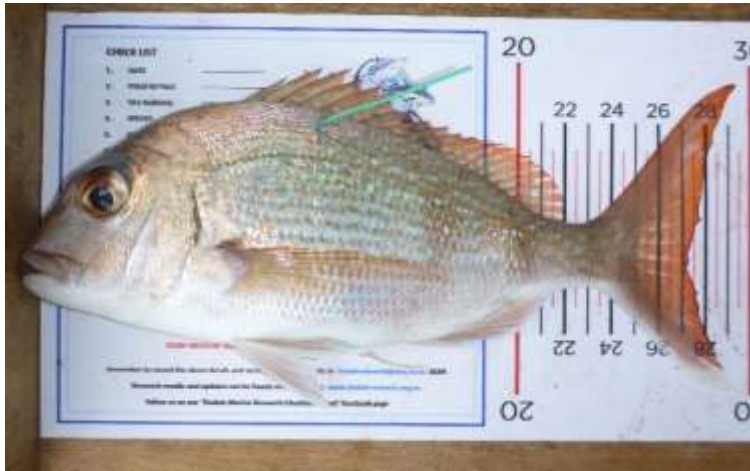
This is Matt Harrison's 4th recapture since he joined the tagging program in 2021, since this time he has tagged 28 fish. This 35cm snapper was tagged and released by Matt while fishing at the Coppermine Island, Hen and Chicks, in 17m of water on the 28th of July 2024.

This snapper was recaptured **188 days** later on the 31st of January 2025 by Jovan Harris while straylining in 11m of water at Whatupuke Island at the Hen & Chicks. Jovan said that it was the first time that he had ever caught a tagged fish and he will know what to do for the next tagged fish that he catches.

This fish was recaptured a straight line distance by sea of 2.54km away from its tag location 188 days earlier.

T21111 Snapper

Trust director Scott was doing some work on the boat in the marina berth and while there he decided to take a break and tag some fish. One of these fish was this 27cm snapper, caught on a bait in 2.5m of water on the 27th of December 2023.



395 days (1 year, 29 days later) on the 24th of January 2025 11 year old Luke Bennett was bait fishing outside the marina by the poles when he recaptured this snapper. This fish was recaptured a straight-line distance by sea of only 1km away from its tag location but had grown 3cm since its release. What had this fish been up to since its release? Had it stayed put all that time or had it returned to its summer haunt following a seasonal offshore migration?

T34656 Trevally

Since joining the tagging program in 2020 Liam Shadgett has tagged and released 208 fish with 7 reported recaptures.

Liam was bait fishing in 3m of water in Rangaunu Harbour on the 6th of January 2025 and tagged and released this 50.5cm trevally. It was one of the 4 fish that he tagged and released that day.

22 days later on the 28th of January 2025 this fish was recaptured by Mark Thompson the skipper on the commercial set netter F.V. Tohora, near Rat Island, Houhora. It was reported to the Trust by the fish receiver who measured the fish at 51cm.



This fish had travelled a straight line distance by sea of 2km away from its release point and had grown .5 cm during that time.

T26109 Tope Shark



Hadley Dawes was surfcasting near Seddon on the 11th of February 2024 where he tagged and released this 65cm tope shark.

On the 18th of January 2025, just under a year later this shark was recaptured by Hadley who was surfcasting in the same general area. Hadley measured the shark at 72cm and took a quick photo before re-releasing the shark again. He said that '*the shark swam of strong*'.

In **343 days** this shark was recaptured not far away, 2km straight line distance by sea but grown 7cm during that time.

Hadley has now tagged 248 fish and has had 9 recaptures since joining the program in 2022.

T26468 Snapper

Karl Yeo was live baiting in 20m of water at Motuora Island in the Hauraki Gulf on the 29th of December 2024 where he tagged a 28cm snapper.

29 days later on the 26th of January 2025 Nick Goodwin was fishing at Mahurangi Heads when he recaptured this fish in 10m of water. He measured the fish at 28cm, took a photo and quickly re-released it back into the water.

This fish was recaptured 4.4km straight line distance by sea away from where it was tagged. This is Karl's 2nd recapture from the seven fish that he has tagged since joining the program in 2023.

It will be interesting to see where it goes to next.

T14932 Tope Shark



Hadley Dawes went out for a day's fishing at Seddon on the 4th of November 2023. He tagged and released this 152cm tope shark which he caught while surfcasting from shore at night.



442 days (1 year, 2 ½ months) later on the 18th of January 2024 this tope shark was recaptured off Wanganui by Henry Brennan on the commercial gill netter "F.V. Medea".

This fish has travelled **183 km** straight line distance by sea away from its original tag location. This shark not only travelled from the east coast to the west coast it also left the South Island travelling to the North Island. It is amazing how far some of these fish travel.

T30199 Snapper



On the 21st of December 2024 Jonathan Watts from Northside Adventures took Alan Romanick and his friends out for a day's fishing on the charter boat "Tickefy". They were fishing on the northern side of Motuora Island and Alan Romanick's sister, an American tourist, recaptured a tagged snapper which she caught in 22m of water. She estimated the size of the fish at 30cm.

After a quick photo the fish was released back into the water again and swam off well.



This 29cm snapper was tagged by Trust director Scott Tindale **29 days** earlier on the 23rd of November 2024 while on a Trust tagging trip with Mike Bawden. It was caught in 20.5m of water at Motuora on an overcast day with the wind gusting 15-25 knots.

This snapper was recaptured in the same general area.

T29702 Kingfish

David Jose was fishing at Maori Rock, North Channel of Kawau Island on the 29th of December 2024 when he recaptured a tagged kingfish. David measured the fish at 96.5 cm. This kingfish had been tagged and released **23 days** earlier on the 7th of December 2024 by Joshua Lohead who was top water fishing in 22m of water near Kawau Island. Since its tag and release the fish has travelled a straight-line distance by sea of 7.68 km from its original tag location.

This is Joshua's 1st recapture from the 6 fish that he has tagged since joining the program.



T26116 Seven Gill Shark



Hadley Dawes is a long term tagger and member of the Trust tagging program. On the 24th of November 2024 Hadley took his son Beckett with him fishing at Clifford Bay. During the day Beckett caught this 116cm seven gill shark which Hadley quickly tagged after taking a photo.

36 days later on the 29th December this shark was recaptured by Jimmy Stevenson who was fishing at Kawatiri Beach in Westport. Jimmy took a photo of the shark before re-releasing it back into the water. He estimated the size at about 121cm.



Since its tag and release on the South Island east coast this shark has travelled 416km straight line distance by sea to its recapture location on the west coast. It turns out that this tag and release is not only a fast traveller it is also a "pending NZ small fry length record for Beckett". Well done team.

T27480 Kingfish

Lee Deeprise was surfcasting in the rain off the Pouto Wharf on the 16th of November 2024 where he caught an 83cm kingfish while live baiting. He tagged the fish and took a quick photo before releasing the fish back into the water.



Fast forward **28 days** later on the 13th of December 2024 Leah Donaldson decided to go for a fish at low tide on the same wharf. Two hours after the tide started to come back in Leah caught this tagged fish which she estimated at about 90cm and about 6.5kg. She said it was a beautiful sunny day. Leah took a photo of the fish before re-releasing it back into the water again.



T27480/B Kingfish

On the 3rd of January 2025 a gentleman telephoned the Trust to relay the recapture of a kingfish caught by an Asian fisherman next to him on the wharf who spoke very little English. After recording the catch details Scott then texted the tag and release information to the gentleman for it to be relayed back to the fisherman. Thank you for your assistance in translating for the angler.

This kingfish was the same fish that was recaptured by Leah Donaldson above on the 13th of December 2024. It had been recaptured this time by Raymund Olac who caught the fish while fishing from the same wharf at Pouto. Raymund was very happy with his catch so decided to keep it.



The fish was measured at 85cm and had therefore grown 2cm since its tag and release by Lee Deeprise **49 days** earlier on the 16th of November 2024.

T23746 Rig

Hamish Morgan was surfcasting at Kekerengu on the 12th of December 2024 when he recaptured this rig. The fish was kept but unfortunately was not measured.

It was originally tagged by Graham Wilson while surf casting a ledger rig on the 26th of July 2024 and measured 110 cm. This fish had been at liberty for **140 days** (4 months, 17 days) and was recaptured in the same general area.

Avid tagger Graham has now had 88 recaptures from the 459 fish that he has tagged and released over the years. That's a staggering 1 in 5 recapture rate!



T0695 Snapper

Trust director Clinton Duffy was tagging fish at North Cape on the 3rd of April 2024 as part of the Auckland Museum and Ngati Kuri Bio Blitz. While there he tagged 6 fish including a 29 cm snapper which he caught on a bait in 14 m of water just inside Mirimotu Island.

244 days (8 months) later on the 1st of December Douglas Dobbs skipper of the Commercial Longliner 'F. V. Kaipara' recaptured this fish in 45.8 m of water near Houhora. Douglas said that the tag had a bit of growth on it which they wiped off easily to read. He estimated the weight at 0.6 kg

Since its tag and release this fish had grown 1cm and had relocated a straight line distance by sea of 27.5km from where it was tagged.

T25588 Snapper

Aaron Mason went surfcasting off the rocks at the south end of Pakiri Beach on his day off from Leigh Fisheries on the 4th of December 2024. One fish he caught was a 55cm tagged snapper.

This snapper had been tagged and released **200 days** earlier on the 19th of May 2024 by tagging member Troy Rae-Royle whom was straylining from shore. This snapper was recaptured in the same general area and still measured 55cm.

T27481 Kingfish

This is another of Lee Deeprise's tagged kingfish recaptured from Pouto Point. On the 17th of November Lee decided to go out for another days surfcasting where he tagged and released this 63cm kingfish.

34 days later on the 20th of December 2024 Jr Belostrino was fishing from the Pouto Point wharf and recaptured this tagged kingfish. He took a photo of the tag number before re-releasing the fish back into the water to carry on with its journey. He estimated the size at around 60cm.



This is Lee's 47th tag and released fish surfcasting around NZ, 4 have been recaptured so far with all 3 tagged at this spot recaptured.

T10578 Kingfish

Hunter Stevenson was casting a spinner into a bird workup in the main channel of in Tauranga Harbour on the 26th of December 2024. He was targeting kahawai but instead recaptured a tagged kingfish. He took a photo of the fish, noted down the tagged number before releasing it again. Hunter measured the fish at 71cm.

This fish had been tagged and released by tagging member Nick Devcich on the 25th of November 2024 while fishing in 7.3m of water at the Tauranga Harbour entrance. On release this fish measured 68cm.



Since this fish was tagged by Nick **32 days** earlier it had travelled 4.11km straight line by sea away from its tag location and had grown 3cm.

This is Nick's 1st recapture from the 11 fish that he has tagged and released in the program.

T20711 Rig

This is another long term recapture of Graham Wilson's.

On the 2nd of July 2022 Graham Wilson was out fishing for the day at Cape Campbell, Clifford Bay where he tagged a 98cm rig which he caught on a bait while surfcasting from shore.

889 days (2 years, 5 months, 5 days) later on the 6th of December 2024 the Trust was contacted by MPI observer Will Smith who reported the recapture of this rig by commercial set netter "F.V. Toroa". This fish had been recaptured in 130m of water in Kaikoura.

Since its tag and release 889 days earlier this fish had travelled a straight line distance by sea of 107km away from where Graham had originally released it.

T33774 Seven Gill Shark

New member Craig Corboy was surfcasting from shore in Omaui, Southland on the 28th of December 2024 when he caught a seven gill shark. Craig took a quick measurement of the shark at 167cm before tagging and releasing it back into the water.



15 days later Nigel Spencer was bait fishing at the New River entrance, Invercargill where he recaptured this shark. He took a quick photo before re-releasing the fish back into the water. It was recaptured 3.63km further inland from where it was tagged.

This is Craig's 1st recapture from the 6 fish that he has tagged since joining the tagging program.

T9025B Snapper

This is another interesting example of fish movement in and out of the Hauraki Gulf and demonstrates the advantages of tag and release to monitor these migrations

This snapper measured 70cm when tagged and released on the 22nd of December 2021 by Geoff Bostock who was fishing in 6m of water off Kawau Island in the Hauraki Gulf.



775 days later on the 4th of February 2024 this fish was recaptured by Richard Grigg at the Alderman Islands off the Coromandel Coast 133km straight line distance by sea away from its tag and release location. Richard took a quick photo before re-releasing the fish again to carry on with its journey.

Another **307 days** later on the 7th of December 2024 this fish was captured for a 3rd time by Steve Wong Kam who was fishing in a tournament close to the original tag location at Kawau Island. Steve measured the fish at 73cm.

Since its tag and release **1082 days** earlier this snapper has travelled a total straight line distance by sea of 265km back and forth. But who know where it might have ventured between these catches.

Releasing tagged fish again is very important in understanding these seasonal migrations but also gives these marked fish a chance to breed again adding more fish in the sea.



T30503 Kahawai

Frank Tobia was fishing by the Nine Pin light on the Manukau Harbour in 10m of water on the 7th of December 2024 when he recaptured a tagged kahawai that he caught on a bait. Frank said unfortunately he did not notice the tag until he got home from fishing and forgot to measure it.

This 45cm kahawai had been tagged and released **64 days** earlier on the 5th of October 2024 by

Glynn Anderson who was bait fishing in the Manukau Harbour in 11m of water. This is Glynn's 3rd recapture from the 72 fish that he has tagged since joining the tagging program in 2024. This fish was recaptured 6.22km straight line distance by sea away from its original tag and release location.



T28365 Snapper



On the 1st of April 2024 Trust director Scott Tindale and Mike Bawden went to the Kaipara Harbour for a day filming and tagging fish. By May the bulk of these snapper usually leave this harbour for their winter migration south. They tagged and released 34 fish including a 42.5cm snapper which Mike caught on a bait. This snapper was tagged at Spot X, our "control site", in 2.55m of water.

273 days later on the 29th of December 2024 George Holomoana Kelisano Esela was fishing in the shallows by the prawn farm and recaptured this snapper. He measured the fish at 48cm before re-releasing it again.

Since its tag and release 273 days earlier the snapper had grown 5.5 cm, and was recaptured 7.92km straight line distance by sea away from where Mike had released it.

T29525 Kingfish

On the 11th of January 2025 Max Hutching's was live baiting in 2.8m of water at the Waikere Bank in the Kaipara Harbour when he recaptured a tagged kingfish measuring 85cm. Max reported that he caught the kingfish at ½ tide in a 15kn south west wind. He took a quick photo before re-releasing the fish again.

This kingfish had been tagged and released **19 days** earlier on the 24th of December 2024 by trust member Jason Nola while live baiting at Waikere Bank. This is Jason's 2nd recapture from the 2 fish that he has tagged since joining the tagging program.

This kingfish was recaptured by Max a straight-line distance by sea of 3.78km away from where it had been tagged and released.



T25925 Snapper

On the 15th of June 2024 avid tagger Doug Lambert was bait fishing at Bream Bay in 10m of water. One of the 5 fish that he tagged and released that day was a 33cm snapper.

211 days later on the 11th of January 2025 Steven Water's was bait fishing at the Waipu River Reef when he recaptured this fish. The fish was kept and he said that it was in good condition.

Since its tag and release 211 days earlier this fish had grown 2cm and had travelled a straight line distance by sea of 2.83km away from where it had been tagged.



T25121 Snapper

Jereme Aubertin was softbaiting from his jet ski on the 13th of June 2024 at Town Point Maketu where he tagged and released a 48 ½ cm kingfish that he caught in 4m of water. **180 days** later on the 9th of December 2024 this fish was recaptured by the commercial trawler "F.V. Kaiti" while fishing in 33m at Hawaii. Mike the skipper said that he uses 6" cod ends so he ends up catching very few undersize fish.

Since its tag and release 180 days earlier this fish has travelled a straight line distance by sea of 84.6km away from its tag location.

T25847 Snapper

Graeme Young has been a keen member of the tagging program since joining in 2020. On the 28th of June 2024 Graeme was out for a day's fishing at Motutara Island. One of the 41 fish that he tagged and released that day was a 31cm snapper that he caught in 15m of water. He said that the water was 14.3° and it was full of jellyfish.

Fast forward **225 days** to the 7th of February 2025 this fish was recaptured by Wade Elliot who was out for a day's fishing with Graeme. They were fishing in 14.1m of water at Motutara Island when they recaptured Graeme's fish. Wade commented that it was not a very healthy fish.

Since being tagged **225 days** earlier this fish had stayed the same size and was recaptured in the same general area.

T29395 Snapper

On the 13th of February 2025 David Goodwin was out fishing for the day in Bream Bay where he recaptured a 32cm snapper that he caught on a bait in 12m of water. David said that he did not realise that the fish was tagged until he got home. He said that he does not usually keep a fish that size but it was a tough days fishing off the rocks at Bream Tail.

This 27.5cm snapper was one of the eight fish that Keolin Moodley tagged and released on the 9th of March 2024 while fishing at Mangawhai Heads.

Since its tag and release **342 days** earlier this fish has grown 4.5 cm and was recaptured a straight line distance by sea of **2.22 km** away from its original tag location.

T22792 Tope Shark

In November 2022 Trust directors Scott and Sue went on a 5800 km road trip around the South Island, covering the south in Trust recapture stickers at every fishing location they could find along the way. Interest was high, and they sold out of tagging kits and ran out of posters. Each day was spent fishing a new location using a couple of broken surfcasting rods. This resulted in over 150 tagged and released fish. Not hard in perfect weather, and it wasn't long before some of these fish were recaptured as other anglers headed for the coast as well.



One of the fish that was recaptured was a 45.5cm tope shark that Scott tagged and released while surfcasting at Okarito Beach in Westland on the 12th of November 2022. Scott and Sue tagged and released 21 fish that night and this tope shark was tagged and released at 7.50pm.

816 days (approx. 2 years and 3 months) later on the 8th of February 2025 this tope shark was recaptured by Rob Woods while fishing off the rocks below the Cape Foulwind light house. Rob estimated the size at 60cm, and said that he caught 6 gurnard and 1 snapper that day so it was a good days fishing. Since being tagged this shark has travelled 197km straight line distance by sea northward of its tag and release location.

T30194 Snapper

Trust director Scott Tindale and Mike Bawden went out tagging fish in the Hauraki Gulf on the 23rd of November 2024. It was an overcast day with a south west wind of 15-25 knots. They stopped off at the northern end of Motuora Island where they tagged 20 fish including a 28cm snapper which Scott caught on a bait in 20.5m of water.

79 days later on the 9th February this fish was recaptured in 10m of water at Motuora by Doug Reddell. Doug said that unfortunately he didn't have a decent measure on board but they settled on 29cm with the measure sticker on the side of the boat. Doug took a quick photo before re-releasing the fish back into the water again. This is the 3rd fish recaptured from Scott's outing that day.



T15935 Snapper

Simon Carter was out for a day's fishing at Cattle Bay, Motiti Island in the Bay of Plenty on the 22nd of February 2025 and recaptured a 31cm tagged snapper in 22m of water on a hand line.



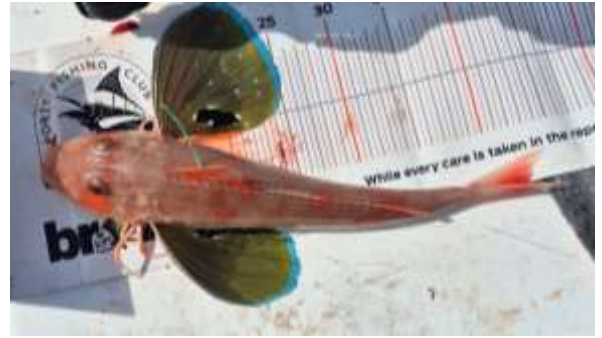
Simon reported that the fish was in a healthy and reasonable condition, (neither fat nor skinny). He said that there was not much growth on the tag and no sign of any abscess or infection around the tag or anchoring bone. The tag was well inserted and anchored and he caught it during the night.

This snapper was tagged and released **435 days** earlier on the 16th of December 2023 by Hannes Botha while fishing with a ledger rig at Maketu.

Since its tag and release **435 days** earlier this fish has grown 2cm and has travelled a straight line distance by sea of **16.4 km** away from its original tag location.

T30551 Gurnard

On the 9th of November 2024 Glynn Anderson went out for a day's fishing off the Manukau Harbour. They had an awesome days fishing and won the Manukau Junior Fishing Competition. During the day Glynn tagged and released a number of fish including this 39cm gurnard which he caught in 14m of water near Hamilton's Gap. Glynn said that they also saw tonnes of Maui Dolphins that day.



96 days later on the 12th of February 2025 this fish was recaptured by Nathan Harvey on the commercial Danish seine "F.V. Eight Bells" off Piha in 45m of water. Nathan contacted the Trust to report the recapture of this fish, he said the fish weighed 520 grams, and measured 39 cm fork length.

This fish was recaptured **26.6 km** straight line distance by sea away from its tag location.

T13819 Tope Shark

Robert Ainsley skipper of the commercial longliner "F.V. Layla" reported the recapture of a tagged tope shark that they caught while longlining 17nm north of New Plymouth in 85m of water. Robert landed the fish on the 25th of February 2025, and he measured the juvenile shark at 69cm total length.



This fish had been tagged and released on the 12th of July 2024 by Glynn Anderson who was fishing in 14m of water on the Manukau Bar. This fish measured 54.5 cm on release.

Since being tagged by Glynn **229 days** earlier this fish has moved a shortest straight line distance by sea of 188km away from its tag location and has grown 14.5 cm.



T8253 Kingfish

On the 24th of January 2025 Steven Jameson was fishing at Port Jackson in 5m of water where he tagged and released 3 kingfish that he caught from the same spot. One of the fish was this 123cm kingfish that he caught on a livebait.



This kingfish was shot **11 days** later with a spear gun by Harrison Ward from Christchurch, holidaying at Port Jackson. Harrison said that after he shot the kingfish through the back and out of the guts he played the fish on the line for 10 minutes before the fish ripped off the spear. Harrison followed the fish up current and had a failed 1st attempt to catch it then later found the fish again, so he swam down and ended up capturing the fish by putting it in a bear hug to get it to the surface.

T22796 Tope Shark

This is another long term recapture of a fish that was tagged by Trust director Scott during his and Sue's road trip around the South Island in November 2022.

On the 12th of November 2022 Scott and Sue were surfcasting at Kakapotahi, Waitaha River mouth, Beach road, Westland where Scott tagged and released a 64 ½ cm total length tope shark that he caught on a bait. It was one of the 5 tope sharks that they tagged that day.

Just over two years and 3 months later on the 12 of November 2025 this shark was recaptured by Bevan Ikin from the commercial longliner "Impulse 2" fishing in 45m of water out from Big Bay. Bevan measured the fish at 70cm total length.

Since its tag and release **819 days** earlier this fish had travelled 262km straight line distance by sea away from its tag location and had grown 5.5 cm in length.



Blue Cod

Both Russell Wilson and Graham Wilson (no relation) have had a huge amount of blue cod recaptures since joining the tagging program. Many of their fish have been recaptured numerous times contributing to growth rates and monitoring fishing pressure in this area. Releasing tagged fish is very important to the fishery as a whole, not only does it provide post release survival and growth rates for the area it additionally gives these fish a chance to breed again providing for a sustainable fishery.

Graham and Russell's tagged fish recapture summary this summer is as follows:

T26967 Blue Cod



This blue cod was 36cm when tagged at Karaka Bay on the 17th of November 2024 by Russell Wilson and measured 37cm when recaptured by Russell in the same general area on the 29th of December 2024.

T20701/E Blue Cod

This blue cod was 34cm when tagged on the 5th of June 2022 by Graham Wilson. It measured 37.5cm when recaptured and released again in the same general area by Russell Wilson on the 3rd of August 2023.

It was then caught for a 3rd time by Russell Wilson on the 29th of August 2023 who measured it at 38cm before releasing it again.

This fish was caught for a 4th time by Russell on the 26th of November 2023, still measuring 38cm. It was caught for the 5th time by Russell on the 15th of September 2024 in the same general area and it now measured 40cm. This is the 6th time that it has been caught, it was recaptured by Russell on the 8th of February 2025 while surfcasting from shore at Pine Bay, Picton harbour. Since its initial tag and release **980 days** earlier this fish has grown 6cm and was recaptured still foraging in the same general area.



T20720/C Blue Cod 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 was released again. Russell Wilson then recaptured this fish 40 days later on the 3rd of August 2023 in the same general area. Russell released it again. This fish was caught a 4th time by Russell Wilson on the 5th of February 2025, this time it measured 37cm. Since its initial tag and release **921 days** earlier it has grown 6.5cm and stayed in the same general area.



T26963 Blue Cod

This blue cod measured 34cm when tagged and released at Karaka Bay in Picton on the 22th of November 2024 by Russell Wilson. **76 days** later on the 5th of February 2025 Russell recaptured it in the same general area.



T26988 Blue Cod

This fish measured 30cm when tagged and released at Pine Bay in Picton on the 29th of September 2024 by Russell Wilson. **70 days** later on the 7th of December 2024 Russell recaptured it in the same general area. It measured 34cm and was released again.



T26966 Blue Cod

This fish was caught by Russell Wilson at Karaka Bay measuring 36cm when tagged on the 17th of November 2024. It was then was recaptured by him in the same general area **15 days** later on the 1st of December 2024 and was released again.



T26966/B Blue Cod



This same blue cod was recaptured for a 2nd time on the 24th of December 2024 by Glen Richardson while fishing at Titoki Bay. Glen measured the fish at 38cm and took a quick photo before re-releasing the fish again. This fish had grown 2cm since its tag and release **38 days** earlier and was recaptured in the same general area.

T26969 Blue Cod



This blue cod measured 36cm when it was tagged and released on the 10th of November 2024 by Russell Wilson while fishing from the shore at Karaka Bay. It was recaptured **50 days** later on the 29th of December 2024 by Greg Belcher while bait fishing at Bob's Bay in Picton. This fish was recaptured a straight line distance by sea of 1.52km away from its original tag location.



T26009 Blue Cod

On the 6th of September 2024 Graham Wilson headed out for a day's fishing in Picton. He was enjoying his day and caught a number of fish which he tagged and released while soft baiting. This particular blue cod caught from shore was measured at 35cm before being released to carry on with its journey. **117 days** later on the 31st of December 2024, this fish was recaptured by Kevin Boyd while trawling a lure slowly around Bob's Bay in 7m of water. Since its original release this fish had grown 2cm and was recaptured 2.73km straight line distance by sea away from where it was tagged 117 days earlier by Graham.

T23651 Blue Cod



This blue cod was tagged by Graham Wilson while he was softbaiting from shore in Picton on the 23rd of June 2023. Graham measured the fish at 33cm when he released it.

Fast forward **591 days** (1 year 7 ½ months) Tracey Jaques was fishing in the same general area when she recaptured this fish. She measured the fish at 37.5cm. Since its tag and release this fish had grown 4.5cm. It is amazing how fast these fish grow.

T26033 Blue Cod

On the 4th of January 2025 8 year old Kareem Richards was out fishing with his dad in Beatrix Bay in the Marlborough Sounds during their annual holidays when he recaptured a tagged blue cod. The fish was recaptured in 10m of water and measured 34cm.

This fish was tagged and released on the 24th of December 2024 by Graham Wilson while softbaiting in 15m of water at Beatrix Bay.

Since its tag and release **12 days** earlier this fish had travelled a straight line distance by sea of 2.37km away from its release point.

T26036 Blue Cod

Graham Wilson was softbaiting at Beatrix Bay in 15m of water on the 24th of December 2024 where he tagged and released a 32.5cm blue cod.

51 days later on the 12th of February 2025 the Trust received a call from Gary Anderson who was holidaying with friends. Gary told Scott that he had recaptured this fish while fishing in 20m of water at Pelorus Sound. He said unfortunately he did not see the tag until he was back home as they were more concerned with the shag that was trying to eat the undersize fish that they released. Scott referred Gary to the website to the article that he had written about the use of release weights.

Since its tag and release 51 days earlier this fish had grown 1.5cm and had travelled a straight line distance by sea of 10.5km away from where Graham had tagged it.

T26004 Blue Cod

This blue cod measured 31cm when it was tagged and released by Graham Wilson while softbaiting from shore in Picton on the 6th of September 2024.

This fish was recaptured by Russell Wilson while surfcasting at Karaka Bay on the 15th of December 2024. Russell measured the fish at 35cm and took a quick photo before re-releasing the fish again.



Since its tag and release **101 days** earlier this fish has grown 4cm and was recaptured in the same general area.

T26965 Blue Cod



This blue cod measured 33cm when tagged and released at Karaka Bay by Russell Wilson on the 17th of November 2024. It was then recaptured by Russell on the 15th of December 2024 in the same general area.

T26965/B Blue Cod

This fish was recaptured by Russell for a 2nd time on the 23rd of February 2025. It was caught in the same area but had grown 2cm since Russell tagged and released it on the 17th of November 2024.





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

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 the public around the country to help anglers identify many of our inshore fish species and participate in sustainable fishing practices.

All Donations received by the Trust go back into the tagging program to supply tagging equipment and informative educational material.

Helping everyone to expand the knowledge of the marine environment through citizen science.

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 us directly by emailing tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz by phone 0274760687

Or donating to our give a little page,

<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....



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....Have a great fishmas, tight lines from the team at



Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust

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

