



**TINDALE  
MARINE RESEARCH  
CHARITABLE TRUST**



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

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

# Winter Report

## #30

1<sup>st</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

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



# TINDALE MARINE RESEARCH CHARITABLE TRUST

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## **Newsletter No. 30 winter update 1<sup>st</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2025**

You can always tell when winter is upon us. If not just the cold outside, it's the fishing politics online. Like clockwork the key-board warriors hit the social media pages spitting vengeance against those out there fishing for a living to supply the public. Most have forgotten their own spoils packed away in the bottom of their home freezers as they point fingers online at the unseen "*pillager's strip-mining the sea floor*". "*Functionally extinct*" is the war cry trying to shift the blame for the current state of the Gulf by quoting what happened in the 1950's like it was yesterday but still wanting a bigger piece of the pie. In magazines they claimed the fish don't have a chance to reach the sanctuary of the recreational fishing waters with fish having to run the gauntlet through the ring of commercial boats circling the Hauraki Gulf. Tagging research over the last 7 years show 96% of recaptures are by recreational fishers. It's laughable, none want to accept any blame. In reality if the fish belong to the public then we need to remember most of the public don't fish, and collectively recreational fishers are just another bulk harvester. It won't be long before the Ministry acts, especially after more than a decade of public consultations, working groups and forums on the Sea Change Plan – "Revitalising the Gulf". Conservation Minister Dr Nick Smith officially launched the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Planning process on 10 December 2013. As I have said before be careful what you ask for you might not like what you get. My guess is we will only see more closures, like last winter with the scallop fishing closures. For now I am taking a bit of time out until spring while I catch up on some much needed maintenance around the home. Sue will be stepping in to field any calls and reply to urgent emails and tagging inquires until I'm back on board.



### **News**

As part of a broader government-led reform of New Zealand's science, innovation, and technology system they announced the amalgamation of NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) and GNS Science. The merger officially took effect on 1 July 2025, creating a new entity called Earth Sciences New Zealand, also referred to as the Earth Science Institute (ESI). The strategic Goals of the Merger is to support energy security and sustainability by combining expertise in atmospheric, freshwater, marine, and geological sciences. The new organisation operates as two business units with the NIWA unit specialising in atmospheric, freshwater, and marine research and the GNS Science unit focused on surface and subsurface Earth sciences. It is claimed the merger allows for deeper exploration of seabed geology, tectonic activity, and marine resource potential. The new institute supports research into marine heatwaves, methane seeps in Antarctic waters, and new marine species discoveries, reflecting a more integrated approach to climate and biodiversity studies. NIWA's research ships continue to serve as platforms for environmental monitoring, now with expanded mission profiles that include subsurface geological surveys and mineral exploration.

"The NIWA–GNS merger into Earth Sciences New Zealand (ESI) strengthens fisheries research by integrating climate science, oceanography, and ecosystem modelling to better manage fish stocks and adapt to warming seas impact on fisheries and coastal ecosystems. The merger strengthens partnerships with Fisheries New Zealand, Māori communities, and international bodies to ensure that fisheries science is inclusive, resilient, and future-focused." It will be interesting to see how this merger works out.

## **Species profile**

### **Bronze whaler shark (*Carcharhinus brachyurus*)**

Most of you that fish or dive around the upper North Island will be familiar with the bronze whaler (*Carcharhinus brachyurus*). It is one of your most common large inshore sharks and over summer it has a penchant for shallow water in harbours, inlets and ocean beaches. It is common as far south as greater Cook Strait, particularly Tasman Bay and Pelorus Sound, where it is often encountered around salmon farms.



Bronze whalers belong to the family Carcharhinidae. Members of this family are variously referred to as requiem sharks, ground sharks, or whalers. Carcharhinids are circumglobally distributed in tropical to warm temperate marine regions, with several tropical species also inhabiting freshwater lakes and river systems. The best known of the latter is probably the bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*), also known as the Zambesi shark or Lake Nicaragua shark. The family includes 11 genera, of which *Carcharhinus*, with 35 recognised species, is the largest. *Carcharhinus* species range in size from about 43 cm total length (*C. obsoletus*) to 420 cm total length (*C. obscurus*). Apart from those species with black tips on their fins or the unmistakable oceanic whitetip (*C. longimanus*), most *Carcharhinus* species look very similar. This makes them very difficult to correctly identify. Important diagnostic characters are the relative sizes and positions of the fins, the presence or absence of a ridge of thickened skin between the dorsal fins and the size, shape and number of teeth in each jaw.

In Australia, where 21 species of *Carcharhinus* are found the similarity between species has meant that the name bronze whaler has almost become the default name for any whaler shark. For example their “bronze whaler” fishery targets mostly dusky shark (*C. obscurus*) and sandbar shark (*C. plumbeus*). Here in New Zealand most whalers encountered in coastal waters around the mainland are the bronze whaler (*C. brachyurus*). Dusky sharks also occur off the upper North Island (North Cape to East Cape) but they are uncommon and adults at least are usually encountered in offshore waters, often following pods of whales or dolphins. They reach a much larger maximum size than the bronze whaler and can be distinguished by the presence of an interdorsal ridge (absent in *C. brachyurus*), as well as their larger teeth and the position of the first dorsal fin. The common whaler found along the Norfolk and Kermadec Ridges is the Galapagos shark (*C. galapagensis*). This species straggles as far south as King Bank. Sandbar sharks also occur at the Kermadec Islands and Norfolk Island.

### **Bronze whaler (*Carcharhinus brachyurus*)**

**Distribution:** Widespread but patchy in all temperate marine regions except the Northwest Atlantic, with few confirmed occurrences in tropical waters. In New Zealand it is common on Three Kings Ridge, Middlesex Bank, around the Three Kings Islands and off upper North Island. In summer it occurs south to Cook Strait, including Wellington Harbour and the inner Marlborough Sounds. Young of the year have been caught as far south as Waimea Inlet, Tasman Bay.



**Movement:** New Zealand and Australian bronze whalers are almost genetically identical, suggesting at least occasional movement across the Tasman. This has been confirmed by the recapture of shark tagged off east Northland off South Australia (New Zealand Gamefish Tagging Programme). Bronze whalers tagged off South Africa have been caught up to 1320 km from their release point. Repeated recaptures of female sharks close to their release point over several years by TMRCT members suggest that like many other shark species, the females return to their place of birth to pup, a behaviour known as philopatry.

Off South Africa males inhabit subtropical regions throughout the year, whereas females and juveniles migrate into these regions during winter and return to temperate regions in the spring. Mature males also migrate to temperate regions in late winter-spring, presumably to mate. In New Zealand reported bycatch in the tuna longline fishery suggest adults move offshore, beyond the shelf-break in winter.



Size: 55-70 cm TL at birth; males mature around 206-235 cm TL, females 227-244 cm TL; maximum confirmed size 325 cm TL.

Gestation time: at least 12 months, possibly 15-21 months, females probably give birth every two years. In the Southern

Hemisphere females give birth between June and February, with a peak in October and November. Litter size: 7-24 pups

Reproductive mode: live birth (viviparous), with a yolk sac placenta.

Age: in South Africa age at maturity is estimated to be 13-19 years for males, and 19-20 years for females. Maximum age is unknown.

Diet: the diet of the bronze whaler in New Zealand is poorly known, elsewhere they feed on a wide variety of bottom-living and pelagic species including octopus, squid and bony fishes. Juveniles have also been reported to feed on jellyfishes and bottom-living crustaceans. Individuals over 200 cm TL frequently feed on other sharks and rays.



### **Student research:**

Despite being so familiar very little is known about bronze whalers in New Zealand waters. One of the first pieces of directed research on the species in New Zealand pre-dates the Trust but included tissue samples collected by Directors Scott Tindale and Clinton Duffy. That study was conducted by Martin Benavides, Stony Brook University, New York, and used genetics to investigate the level of connectivity between Southern Hemisphere populations (South Africa, Australia-New Zealand, and South America) and the evolution of the species. Martin's research was published in 2011. The most comprehensive research carried out on the species in New Zealand so far is Mel (Melissa) Kellett's Masters thesis (University of Waikato), "Habitat use and trophic ecology of bronze whaler sharks (*Carcharhinus brachyurus*) in New Zealand", completed in 2021. Earlier this year Mel, now a lecturer in Marine and Environmental Management, at Toi-Ohomai Institute of Technology, Tauranga, contacted the Trust on behalf of Sebastian Ross, a student at University of Waikato, to see if he could use our tagging data for a student project. We were able to provide Sebastian with tagging data for 222 bronze whalers and 14 recaptures. His report "Population Structure and Habitat Use of Bronze Whaler Sharks (*Carcharhinus brachyurus*) in New Zealand: Insights from a Citizen-Led Tagging Program" was submitted in June and we're pleased to be able to say that his grade for it was over 95%. One of his main findings was there is a notable underrepresentation of male sharks and individuals between 80–170 cm in total length in the Trust's data. As the majority of sharks tagged in this program have been caught by a relatively small number of land-based anglers, this suggests that males and these larger sub-adults stay mainly offshore. Sebastian, Mel and Trust Director Clinton Duffy are now working on developing Sebastian's report into a short scientific paper. Some of the other things Sebastian's review has highlighted are that many tagged sharks lack sex data, the accuracy of some of the length measurements sometimes leaves a bit to be desired (as evidenced by conflicting recapture length measurements), and care needs to be taken to ensure tag numbers are associated with the correct species, length and sex data.

Congratulations from the Trust Sebastian.

## Handy links and resources for the online savvy

Remember to share your tagging adventures on your Trust social media community page



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

**Email** [tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz)

**Facebook & Instagram** @tindaleresearch [www.facebook.com/tindaleresearch/](http://www.facebook.com/tindaleresearch/) [#tindaleresearch](https://www.instagram.com/tindaleresearch/)  
@Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust – Community

**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/>

**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 fish videos** Small snapper: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbiusrEw11Y>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**IGFA International Game fish Association & Angling World Records** [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org)

**NZ Recreational Fishing Rules** [www.fisheries.govt.nz/travel-recreation/fishing/fishing-rules/](http://www.fisheries.govt.nz/travel-recreation/fishing/fishing-rules/)

**Q codes, scan for:**

Tag & release

Tag recaptures

Website



## TMRCT Inshore Tagging Program

### Tagging Leader board

As of the end of August 26 members in the TMRCT inshore tagging program have tagged over 100 fish, 8 have made it to the leader board reaching the milestone of 250 or more tagged and released fish.

Scott & Sue Tindale	2823
Robert Janse	570
Graeme Johnson	513
Graham Wilson	506
Michael Jenkins	393
Hadley Dawes	258
Liam Shadgett	274
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>15/5/2025</u>	<u>P. Mills</u>	<u>Rangaunu</u>	<u>74.5cm 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>Hapuku</u>	<u>15/10/2022</u>	<u>G. Watson</u>	<u>Banks Peninsula</u>	<u>52cm 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>



### Monthly Recapture Draw



Daiwa New Zealand sponsor the monthly tag and release prize draws. One lucky winner will receive a **Laguna LT 4000 Daiwa 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 winter tagged fish monthly prize draw winners.

The **June** draw winner is **Peter Brown** who tagged and released a 36cm gurnard (T26759) while fishing in the Kaipara Harbour on 14/6/2025.

The **July** draw winner is **Jamie Koosache** who tagged and released a 28.5cm snapper (T34097) in the Hauraki Gulf on 19/7/2025.

The **August** draw winner is **Gavin Allan** who tagged and released a 40cm snapper (T34242) on the Auckland West Coast.



## Commercial fishers Prize draw



Thanks to Seafood New Zealand who have kindly donated some quality merchandise supporting the TMRCT tagging program and

the commercial fishers, MPI observers 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 rest receiving TMRCT posters and certificates. This quarter we have 4 commercial recaptures to choose from.

Congratulations **Kiefer Hearne** aboard the fishing vessel "Kathleen G" Who reported the recapture of T24629 a snapper measuring 43cm caught in the Cook Strait on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025.



## Winter 2025 tag and recapture summary- (1/06/2025 to 31/08/2025)

It has been a hard winter for most with unsettled weather, persistent rain and high winds keeping all but the keenest off the water. Not great for us outside painting the house either.

- 195 additional fish tagged and released this quarter
- 15 tagged fish were recaptured during this quarter
- 7 recaptured from recreational boats
- 4 recaptured from recreational shore fishers
- 4 recaptured by commercial fishers
- 3 recaptured fish were released again this quarter
- Longest time at large before recapture to date is 2054 days
- Furthest displacement via sea this quarter of a TMRCT tagged fish 141km
- Furthest displacement via sea of a TMRCT tagged fish is 3132km



## TMRCT Inshore Tagging Program Recaptures

Winter this quarter was a bit slow due to the limitations imposed by the weather but we still received reports of a number of recaptures. Here are some of the highlights with their interesting stories attached. We apologise if your fish is not included but we give preference to the ones that have photos and interesting stories attached.



### **T34516 Rig**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 Liam Shadgett went fishing in the Manukau Harbour. It was a nice sunny day, and Liam was straylining a bait in 3.6m of water when he caught a 63.5cm Rig which he tagged and released. This fish was one of the 10 fish that Liam tagged and released that day.

**33 days** later on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 the Trust was contacted by Phillip Grima a commercial set netter that reported the recapture of this fish in the Manukau Harbour. Phillip said, '*sorry we didn't take photos as we did not see the tag until we had cleaned it*'. Phillip estimated the size of the fish at 75cm.

This fish was recaptured a straight-line distance by sea of 7.26km away from its tag and release location. This is Liam's 10<sup>th</sup> recapture since joining the program.

### T30375 Tope Shark

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 Cody Baker skipper of the commercial longliner F.V. Exenda contacted the Trust to report the recapture of a 123.7cm Tope Shark that he caught in 80m of water 1 mile east of the Cavalli Islands in Northland.

This fish was tagged and released by Davey Milich **232 days** earlier on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2024 while fishing at Tokau Bay north of the Bay of Islands.

This fish was recaptured 10.6km straight line distance by sea away from its tag and release location.



### T33779 Gurnard

Over the years we have had quite a number of family's join the tagging program. Craig Corboy joined the tagging program in December 2024 and since then a number of his family members have also joined up. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 Craig took his son Blake out surfcasting with him at Tiwai Beach in Southland. They tagged and released 4 fish that day including this 39cm gurnard caught by Blake.

**94 days** (3 months, 2 days) later this gurnard was recaptured in the same general area by Blake's school friend Ryan McKenzie who estimated the size at 30.5cm. Ryan measured the fish with some sea grass as they did not have a measure tape, and he took the grass home to measure it. Good thinking Ryan.



### T29844 Snapper

Trust directors Scott and Sue Tindale flew to Florida in 2014 to accept their International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Lifetime Achievement Awards for each achieving over 100 World Records. After meeting fellow world record holder and lifetime achievement award recipient Martini Arostegui at the awards, Martini contacted Scott earlier in the year to catch up again. Scott invited Martini along on a Trust tagging trip to the Kaipara Harbour. Martini now works as a postdoctoral investigator for the Marine Predators Group, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Biology Department so he was keen to see how our tagging program was working. A plan was made, and Martini and Scott went out for a day's tagging on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2024. It was a windy day, but they still tagged 38 fish and enjoyed the day. The water was a warm 20.6°. One of the places that they tagged fish at was Tokotoroto Point where Scott tagged and released a 56cm snapper that he caught on a bait in 2.7m of water.

**451 days** later on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2025 Noel Kenwright contacted the Trust to report the recapture of this snapper. Noel was bait fishing at Mosquito Bay in the Kaipara Harbour in 2.5m of water when he caught this tagged snapper. He said that he kept the fish because it was gut hooked and did not think that it would survive, otherwise he would have let the fish go. Noel measured the fish at 59cm. Since its release this fish had grown 3cm and it was recaptured 2.93km straight line distance by sea away from its tag and release location.



## T22276/B Kingfish

Kingi Ranui has been a keen supporter of the tagging program since joining in 2019. During this time he has tagged 123 fish and encouraged many other fishers to tag and release their fish.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 Kingi was surfcasting from shore in Tauranga Harbour and caught a 64cm kingfish which he quickly tagged and released.

This kingfish was recaptured **273 days** later on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 by Max Broadmore while fishing with a jig. Max estimated the size at 83cm and quickly re-released the fish back into the water again. The fish was recaptured a straight-line distance by sea of 5.78km away from its tag and release location.

**202 days** later on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 this kingfish was recaptured for a second time by local Tauranga fisherman Patrick who caught the fish while live baiting from shore. Patrick measured the fish at 87cm.



Kingi contacted the Trust and said *'Hi team, Patrick was fishing alongside of Fergus and myself today when he recaptured this fish. I recognised that this fish was a fish that I had tagged in February last year. The fish was strong, healthy and in a good condition. The tag was covered lightly in marine growth, but I was able to read it after a lite wipe with my finger. Patrick is one of our keen local fishermen here in Tauranga and we see him out often. Patrick was happy for me to send in this information and his phone number. The fish was kept; I'll send photos via email Regards Kingi*

This kingfish had grown 23cm since Kingi tagged it **475 days** earlier was recaptured 3.97km straight line distance by sea away from its last recapture point.

## T33685 Blue Cod

Russell Wilson was surfcasting from shore at Karaka Bay in Picton on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 and caught a 40cm Blue Cod which he quickly tagged and released.

**85 days** later on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2025 this fish was recaptured by Ted Mertins while bait fishing in 36m of water in the Marlborough Sounds. Ted estimated the size of the fish at 39cm and kept the fish. This fish was recaptured a short distance from where it was tagged and released.

## T28418 Kingfish

This is Kingi Ranui's second recapture for this quarter. Kingi was live baiting from shore in the Tauranga Harbour on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2025, and he caught an 82.5cm kingfish which he quickly tagged and released along with another kingfish.

**46 days** later on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2025 Jason Groom was jigging in 36m of water at Kingfish Rock at Te Kaha in the Bay of Plenty and he recaptured this kingfish which he kept. Jason said that the fish weighed around 6.5kg. Since its release this fish has moved 141km straight line distance by sea away from its tag and release location.



### T24629 Snapper

Russell Wilson was surfcasting from shore at Pine Bay in Picton Harbour, Marlborough Sounds on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 where he tagged and released a 33cm snapper.

**588 days** later on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2025 Keifer Hearne skipper on the commercial trawler 'F.V. Kathleen G' recaptured this fish in 115m of water in Cook Strait. The fish was measured at 43cm.

Since its tag and release this fish has grown 10cm and moved 57km straight line distance by sea away from its tag and release location.



### T25942 Snapper

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2025 Doug Lambert went out for a day's fishing at Ngunguru in Northland. Doug reported that it was a hard day's fishing that day, but he still managed to tag 3 fish. These were caught on baits in 16m of water. One was a 30cm snapper.

**97 days** later on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2025 Jake Dikstaal of Leigh Fisheries reported the recapture of the fish by the commercial boat 'F.V. Coral V' who unloaded at the Port of Whangarei. The fish still measured 30cm. The Trust is still hoping to hear where the fish was recaptured.



### T11952 Snapper

This is another long-term recapture; on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 Graeme Johnson and his son Sam went out for a day's fishing on Kaipara Harbour. It was a nice day, and they tagged and released 27 fish. One of the fish that they tagged and released was a 40.5cm snapper that Graeme caught on a softbait in 3m of water.

**1627 days** (4 years, 5 months, 13 days) later on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2025 Luke Farley was bait fishing on Kaipara Harbour in 1m of water and recaptured this fish. Luke measured the fish at 54cm and decided to keep it. Since its tag and release 1627 days earlier this fish has grown 13.5cm and was recaptured 5.62km straight line distance by sea from its tag and release location.

### T33691 Blue Cod

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2025 the Trust was contacted by Oakley to report the recapture of a 41cm blue cod that he caught while surfcasting from shore in the Marlborough Sounds. Oakley kept the tagged fish.

This fish was tagged and released by Russell Wilson while surfcasting from shore at Pine Bay in Picton Harbour **14 days** earlier on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2025. This fish was recaptured in the same general area.

This is Russell's 43<sup>rd</sup> fish recaptured.



### T17841 Snapper

Luke Davis was fishing at Tawhanui Point, Kawau in the Hauraki Gulf on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 where he tagged and released a 48cm snapper. Luke reported that the fish had a hook in it when he caught it and was in a bad condition. This hungry fish was recaptured the same day in the same place by another angler fishing with Luke and was quickly re-released again.



**281 days** later on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2025 it was caught for a third time by Thomas Ross while straylining in 8m of water at Kawau Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Thomas measured the fish at 48cm. He said that the fish had a decent amount of growth on the tag and a nice lump on its head. He said that unfortunately he was unable to release the fish.

### T22651 Snapper

Sean Sievwright went out for a day's fishing on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 at Town Point, Maketu in the Bay of Plenty. While softbaiting in 13m of water Sean caught a 64cm snapper that he decided to tag and release.

**545 days** (1 year, 5 months, 29 days) later on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2025 this snapper was recaptured off Town Point in Maketu by Kelly who measured the fish at 70cm before taking a photo and quickly re-releasing the fish back into the water.

Kelly reported '*as the fish was brought onto the boat the tag fell off, but at least the fish was released*'. This fish was recaptured in the same general area as it was tagged and released.



### T6865 Kingfish

Brayden Switalla contacted the Trust on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2025 to report the recapture of a tagged kingfish that he caught at Mayor Island, Tuhua in the Bay of Plenty. Brayden measured the fish at 98 cm and estimated the weight at 13 kg. The fish was caught on a livebait. Brayden reported that the fish was a healthy fighting fish, he found the tag snapped/cut off inside the fish.

This fish was tagged and released **2054 days** (5 years, 7 months, 15 days) earlier on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2020 by Andrew Church while fishing in 40 m of water at Tuhua, Bay of Plenty. When Andrew tagged and released this fish it measured 72 cm.

Since its tag and release 2054 days earlier this fish has grown 26 cm and was recaptured 3.11 km straight line distance by sea away from its tag and release location.



## Donations

We would like to thank those of you that have donated goods, services or funds to the TMRCT. 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

**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.**

citizen science project around the country. Thousands of Fish ID posters and stickers have been distributed to government departments, institutions, fishing clubs, tackle stores and fishers around the country to help anglers identify many of our inshore fish species and participate in sustainable fishing practices.

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

The Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust is a registered charity and all donations are tax deductible. You can contact us directly by emailing for information at [tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz) or by phoning Scott on 0274 760 687, 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....Tight lines from the team at

## Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust

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

