

LURE

Reel News from the Tautuku Fishing Club | November 2013 | Issue 36

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Taranaki Tupperware

Kelvin Wright - Past Tautuku Fishing Club Captain

As many of you will know myself and the girls have relocated to Taranaki where I have a new role with Mercer Stainless. We relocated in April and part of the move was deciding on what to do with the Boat. We decided to leave it behind and look for a new machine when we were settle in 'Taradise'. Soon after we got to town it was clear that the fishing up here was very different to Home. Boats were at the extreme end of the scale with the serious guys running 9.5m and up alloy palaces or many weekenders running around in 5m machines. There are the exceptions to the rule but the majority are either massive or smaller runabouts. This appears to be largely driven by the local conditions and fish species. There are only a couple of options for launching a boat , the main port or Waitara River for larger boats, or smaller boats use beaches or 'direct into sea' ramps with pretty serious 'catch cages' fitted to the trailers.

The fish species available locally are varied and pretty interesting. There are plenty of 'South Island' species – Blue Cod, Trumpeter, Groper, Terakihi etc. There are also the standard (continued on page 3)



President's CORNER

Hi,

November has had some favourable days for Blue Cod Fishing. However in saying this, the last few days have been unpleasant going into the start of the Summer Months! With the cooler sea conditions, it's hoped that another 'salmon run' will occur before Christmas. Our Dunedin Community Salmon Trust will on Sunday 8th December 9am; 'fin-clip' salmon and release into the waters of The Leith. It's proposed to release up to 60,000 smolt at this time, and another 100,000 smolt during May/June Months. Volunteers are required for this exercise. So it's ALL GO @ the Dunedin, Sawyers Bay Hatchery. These smolt numbers are the largest released in the history of Dunedin Salmon rearing – giving an interesting return 2-3 years time! It will be amazing; won't it!

The last of the Paua PAU 5D meetings, (4 held between August and November), was held at the Otakou Marae; 27th November 2013. The meeting group participants represented, Te Runanga o Otakou, Te Runanga o Awarua, commercial fishers, quota owners, Paumotu, MPI, 'Paua to the People', NZ Recreational Fishing Council, NZ Sport Fishing, Our Fishing Future Inc, Green Island Fishing Club, Dunedin Community Salmon Trust Inc, City Community members and your Tautuku Fishing Club Dunedin & Haast Inc. The purpose of this group was to provide further information to assist the Minister of Primary Industries, Hon Nathan Guy, in making a decision on proposed amendments to commercial access to the PAU 5D

recreational & customary fishery. Concern was expressed by recreational & customary fishers that opening the 'closed areas' to commercial fishing would reduce the ease of access to paua for certain segments of our community. Iwi expressed that there is depleted areas along our coast in gathering paua by non divers. Paua is a 'key' recreational and customary fishery in Southern New Zealand and therefore it's important to ensure these benefits are retained. MPI don't have the scientific evidence/effects to our unique ecosystem in opening these proposed paua areas to commercial fishing. Remember, there were 2,718 status quo submissions received by MPI from our public, families, Iwi, and City Councils of Dunedin & Invercargill; versus just 22 submissions received in favour of opening up these closed areas for commercial exploitation. We await our Minister's decision!

Our Club's Maintenance Day cleared the necessary needs of building repairs, clearing of gutters, weed spraying, tree surgery, electrical repairs, cleaning of conservatory and club bar. Worth the effort – thanks to those that helped here. We propose to 'start' the repairs of the back area of our club rooms early 2014, and then the full restoration of our Historical Club rooms, end of March 2014.

Subs are due – we have a steady flow of renewal at present – a reminder to those who haven't. Your Club Captain, Murray Muir, has created interesting fishing competitions next Month and over the Christmas & New Year period.

See you @ the Christmas doo – Sunday 15th December @ 4pm. Same day 'Best Wishes' to the Coutta Hunters!

Cheers, Brett.

(continued from front page)

standard North Island staples of Snapper, Gurnard, Kingfish, Trevally plus the game fish with Marlin and Tuna regular catches off the coast. The diving is also excellent and with water temperature on Sunday of 19.5 degrees its also very pleasant.



How often you can get fishing is the main variable.....being on the west coast it is very similar to Haast either flat arse calm or in the case of up here 9m swells and horrendous. It is common to have 6-7 weeks where you cannot get out for a fish in the weekends with unfavourable weather. When you do get out the fishing is fantastic and often not far from town as I soon figured out. The big boat guys often head out to the Mokau trench – approx 100km offshore – they stay the night to make the most of the trip and with changeable weather these trips are few and far between but very productive when you get there....hence the big machines. These guys also chase the Game fish, but so do the guys in the 5m tinnies. Most Game fish seem to be caught in an area that starts 20-25km north of town but there are large marlin caught quite close to town. Close to town there are many options with reef lining the foreshore in both directions from New Plymouth and it is very regular to see many boats and kayaks line up within 1km of shore either diving or fishing very successfully in less than 10m of water. Most of the good diving locally is under 10m deep essentially all shore diveable if your keen and right in front of the town.....less than 1km offshore and between 500m and 8km from the port. Fishing is just as easy with Good numbers of snapper and blue cod being caught from Kayaks in 5-7m of water.

Not sure what to do about a boat yet I decided to get a kayak and have a play in close where I had seen and talked to many others that were successful. I got

on trade me and found a suitable yak, a Viking profish 400. I joined the local club and meet up with some like-minded keen fisho's and set about putting some fillets in the fridge. I ran into a few of the locals and one Ex Dunedin Lad – Tony Hurring. Tony has been extremely helpful in showing me the local spots and helping out with any questions etc.....one of lifes good bastards. He also has some similarly questionable mates that are also mad lip rippers and we have had some epic journeys out fishing in the kayaks. My first trip out was a nice basic paddle just clear of the port essentially in front of town where is common to catch gurnard and the odd snapper in 18m or less of water. After a couple of trips out of the port the lads dragged me up to a place called Whitecliffs, a beach launch north of New Plymouth. The sea was flat and waves would be lucky to be a foot high. We paddles out for what seemed like an eternity to start fishing in 22m of water about 6km offshore. We caught gurnard and snapper on a seriously flat day and then headed back into to find that the surf had got up.....not a lot but to a newbie that was absolutely rooted after a 6km paddle on the way back in, it was enough to provide entertainment for the locals as I got introduced to the not so rare 'Taranaki Turtle'.....this is where the un expecting newbie finds themselves surfing back in on a wave, burying the nose of the kayak and ending up wearing the bloody thing like a turtle shell as you are



dishonourably dismounted into the surf as your nose digs into the water in front of the swell and effectively stops as you and the kayak continue. This was a great trip and really the clincher for me in terms of getting really keen on kayak fishing. After a few trips out in the profish 400 I found that I really wanted a bit more space so purchased a new Profish 440. Our next trip to christen the 440 was to Opunake, not often fishable because of weather but this day it was a cracker. We launched and paddled

approx 1.5km from the launch spot and pulled up in 5m of water. Burley over the side and it was all go, with biggest challenge getting them on the boat before being smoked off into the rocks. But we had a great day with snapper, Kahawai and Blue cod on the menu.



Since then we have had several trips and gradually the paddle fitness has been coming up and more recently we have been visiting the offshore spots targeting groper and deeper water snapper spots. Some of these paddles are quite long range with trips 7-10km offshore and up to 35km being paddled over the summer trolling for tuna. Obviously you need to pick your days for these long trips but they are always done with more than one paddler and most are fully equipped with PLB's, hand held Marine radios, and cell phones. The Kayaks themselves are incredibly stable, they are quite wide and have plenty of storage for all your goodies although you have to plan ahead and be lean with you packing as it's still a kayak at the end of the day. With large centre compartments, 8 rod holders, bait bins etc they are well set up for fishing.

After having several larger boats there are a couple of distinct advantages of fishing from a kayak. Low cost - \$2500K set up and ready to fish with electronics on board. Cheap to run - most days about 6 stubbies will see you right for fuel. Very little cleaning, it takes about 5min to pack up after a day out, and if you can't be bothered....so be it...the plastic ain't corroding. The slight bonus if you can call it that is a bit of fitness on the side. With that being said there has been several times when we have left it a little late to come back and ended up with a tough paddle in 15-20knots of chop and swell that being in a 7m hard top looked pretty attractive. Despite the extra effort required the kayaks do

handle those conditions ok provided the paddler doesn't run out of steam. Planning around weather needs to be a bigger part of your preparation for a Kayak fishing trip. A comfortable paddling speed is about 6km/hr so at times it could be a two hour plus paddle home.....hence heading home before the change comes through is a good idea. We have had several hook ups on sharks, some of which have been quite big.....this often results in a short trip as you get towed along as the kayaks take little effort to pull through the water. Hence if your serious about playing big fish you need to think ahead and take one or two sea anchors to throw out and add a little more drag to your fish. I'm really looking forward to the summer and the kingfish numbers increasing. Kingi's are a fantastic fighting fish and my favourite fish to catch so there bound to be a few tours behind a kingi this summer.

Some of my mad kayak fishing mates are planning to try and live bait for a Marlin from the yak this summer. It will be a team event but one that I'm silly enough to be keen on being involved in....it will either be a horrendous cock up (most likely outcome!) or a legendary trip that will no doubt make the local rag.....but either way it will be an adventure.



Kayak fishing is extremely popular up here. With the local competition being limited to 250 entries. Some of the fish landed are pretty big with snapper up to 15kg and Kingi's over 20kg being caught from kayaks. Its also quite well organised through forums on the internet and club organised activities. Locally everyone heading out usually posts a launch time and location and people are welcome to tag along. Trip reports are then posted live on the net for everyone to see where the action or lack of it has been. www.kayakfishingnz.com is the most popular and it makes quite interesting reading looking over

the trip reports and associated piss taking in the local regions.

The local fishing club here is quite a substantial club, with over 2,000 members, it's quite large and in a prime location 5 min from the centre of town and 200m from the boat ramp. It has full boat wash facilities and a tank filling station for the divers and the local dive sho and hunting and fishing store is 200m in the other direction. Many of the members are just social members (\$30 subs) who like the club atmosphere and food available at the restaurant 4 nights per week. Thursday night is club night where they have a lucky draw that starts off at \$1000 and increases by \$50 per week until its won. These nights see 200 plus people at the club for a couple for drinks and a meal, and many trips and crew invites are organised on these nights. They have several competitions throughout the year with the 'cockies' being the largest with over 2000 entrants from around the district competing for major prizes provided by local businesses.



We will probably pick up another boat next summer as the game fish are calling but this summer I'm looking forward to and enjoying the challenge of the Taranaki Tupperware.

Catch ya later

Kelvin Wright

Past Tautuku Fishing Club Captain.



Fishing by Hand

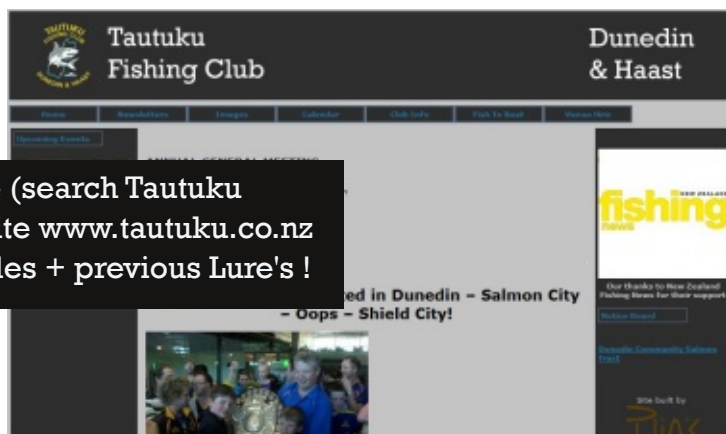
On a warm late afternoon at sunset, I was lucky to witness a few fish being caught by hand recently in Vaimaanga, Cook islands including Grey Snapper, Parrot Fish and others where this group of local men wearing gumboots, slapping the water chased the fish into a small net.



They removed the fish from the net at the reef and strung them on a rope and then waded across the lagoon ashore.

Cheers,
Alan Good

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King Fishing

WHITE ISLAND

Each year at the end of October a group of my colleagues are lucky enough to charter a boat out of Whakatane and travel to White Island for a weekend for some of the best fishing you could imagine. I was lucky enough to get invited on this trip.

Friday afternoon we gathered at the boat club on the waterfront in Whakatane, a group of excited men with tails of slaying huge beasts from the deep in previous years. I must admit I was feeling a little apprehensive especially when the talk moved to people who had been seasick for the entire trip in previous years. I had never spent the night on a boat before, how would I go? It would make for a miserable weekend if I was sick the whole time...

The boat, Pursuit, turned up around 5pm with a panicked American guy called Rick Pollock, he was frantically looking on the dock for a package. The brand new electronics were on the blink and parts were supposed to have arrived from Gisborne. Eventually the box was found and the parts exchanged. We could then get on with packing the boat and getting underway. Rick said the trip of around 40 miles to White Island would take about 5 hours. It was almost dark before we left and I was well nervous about my constitution, especially in the dark.

The boat was flash, 60 foot, slept 12, 1 crew (plus the skipper), shower, toilet all the goodies and a huge fishing deck, you could easily fish 8 in comfort. Rick ran a tight ship, the meals were great and the crew, Corey seemed to spend a lot of his day cleaning and taking care of our every need. We were made to feel like kings and they were good guys to go with it.

We got underway right on dusk and I felt fine, but soon it was dark and the lights from Whakatane were gone



I started to feel decidedly queasy, was this the start of a nightmare? I headed into cabin and lay down, before I knew it I was sound asleep. I awoke feeling fantastic (and had no problems all weekend), we had made the island and were anchored up on the lee side and underside of the boat was now lit up with blue lights to attract the bait fish. We spent the next few hours filling the live bait tank on the back of the boat. We ended up with just under 200 live baits, I was told this should just see us through the weekend.



The next morning everyone was up early, eager to get into it, we rushed through breakfast and prepared to get into it. There were guys fitting traces, checking drags and adjusting gimbals and harnesses. Harnesses, how big were these things? The gear was all larger than I was used to, the excitement was building, but being the “new-be” I decided to hold back and see how it was done before moving up to the rail. The weather was quite rough and it was cold and sunny, a stiff southerly had picked up the swell to around 2m.

Before long we were in position, Rick was yelling from the fly bridge that the fish were there get into it. A live bait went on the hook with about an 8 ounce sinker and over they went, within seconds it was on! Three guys all hooked up, every bait hit on the way down at about 40 meters. The fight was incredible the harnesses were clipped to the reel and the bend in the rod was huge! All three fish were landed after about 20 minutes. They ranged in size from 19kg to 24kg and great condition fish. You could see the look on the guy's faces they were pumped, high fives all around. One fish was kept the other 2 were returned.

The boat rules were simple. “We only keep fish over 1m in length and one fish per person per day, choose carefully!”

Now it was my turn. Three of us stepped up donned gimbals; harnesses got baited up ready to go. The call was made and over the bait went, this time however it went all the way to the bottom around 110m, I wound up a couple of turns and waited... and waited. After about five minutes I was almost bursting with anticipation, Rick was saying they are there, they are there I can see them on the fish finder. Was I going to hook my first Kingie? Was Rick wrong about the fish being there? Eventually the disappointing call came to “wind up”.



The moment I started cranking the reel the bait was hit, the hit was so hard it almost ripped the rod from my hands, Corey was yelling “Wind, wind, wind. Get the pressure on or you will lose it.” Everyone else was hit as well. Jim was frantically trying to hook my harness up, I was winding flat out. Just as the line went tight, the fish ran, the pressure was incredible, I had to lock my knees into the rail just to stop going over. I played the fish for what felt like five minutes (later I was told it was about 20 minutes) and I could see colour, Corey said it was a great fish keep going, my arms and shoulders were burning and my back was aching, but I was too close to let off now.

I just kept going over and over in my mind pull, wind, pull, wind. And suddenly it broke the surface it was as buggered as I was, it lying on its side absolutely spent. Then I knew I had won, the feeling of euphoria came over me, and this is one of the best feelings I have ever had. The smile that broke onto my face must be the reason the skipper and crew do this job. Then the call came “Do you want to keep it?” My first Kingi, there was no question, “Hell, yes”. The fish I caught was 22.4kg and 108cm, not the biggest caught that day, but not a bad fish for my first. I personally landed another 4 that day.

The next day the weather was perfect and Sean hooked up on the biggest Kingi most had ever seen, it weighed 45.5kg and would have been one of the top 10 fish ever caught. Unfortunately Sean had already kept his fish for the day and this one had to go back. It was tagged and released.

I could not recommend this trip highly enough. If you want to treat yourself to some world class fishing then this is the charter to book.

Story for Tautuku Fishing Club – LURE Monthly News by Brent Taylor, National Service Manager of Wedderburn (Sponsor) & Club Member.

Notes from our New Zealand Sport Fishing Council

Notable Catches – so far!

Snapper 11.01kg by Manu Hargreaves, of BOI Swordfish Club.

Kahawai 4.95 kg by Toby Barkla, of Whakatane Sportfishing Club.

Kingfish 48.4 kg caught from Rick Pollock's 'Pursuit'. Commiserations to a guy fishing in the Auckland Harbour, who weighed a 63 kg whopper; only to have his mates cut it up before realising it was a record!

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Sport Excellence Award

Congratulations to Lady angler – Sue Tindale who was a finalist in the 'Sports Woman of the Year' and receiving the 'AUT Sport Acknowledgement Award' for contributions to Sport Fishing!

NZ Length Records

"Full list of terms & conditions need finalisation – the programme plans are set to start December 2013.

LegaSea

Programme Manager, Mandy Kupenga is moving onto another venture. Mandy contribution in this organisation, has been very valuable for NZ Sport Fishing. Therefore LegaSea are advertising for a 'Auckland based' person to take on co-ordination duties. While LegaSea is a separate identity; NZSFC Inc Board holds/owns the shares.

2014 Yearbook

Should appear with the January 2014 issue of NZ Fishing News. Only those on the subscriber list will receive a copy of the yearbook along with the Fishing News.

NZSFC AGM delegates 2013



Nevis River Protected

On 1st November 2013 the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Amy Adams, released her decision on the Kawarau River WCO amendment relating to the Nevis River in Central Otago. The decision was in line with recommendations from the Environment Court in June this year. As well as recognizing additional outstanding characteristics including native fish habitat and landscapes the amended WCO prohibited damming throughout the river. The damming prohibition was based on anticipated adverse impacts on: kayaking values, the recreational trout fishery and wild and scenic values.

While the rare native fish Gollum galaxias was recognised as an additional outstanding characteristic, the Environment Court did not consider that damming posed a significant threat to its key habitats which are located in Nevis tributaries.

From start to finish the process took seven years and cost Fish and Game about \$630,000 and was also financially supported by Clutha Fisheries Trust who funded expert evidence on native fish and landscapes. The process involved two hearing rounds, first before a Special Tribunal in 2009 and the Environment Court in 2012 and was very well supported by local and national anglers.

One Queenstown licenceholder reflected local anglers' views on costs in saying... "Hearty congrats to you and all your F&G colleagues – protecting natural fisheries like this is one of the main reasons for paying our license fee..... and one regular fishing visitor from Norway agreed but expressed concern that Government might water down the Water Conservation Order process within the RMA as part of its Resource Management law review. That is a real risk and one that anglers need to strenuously oppose. After all WCOs are the freshwater equivalent of national parks and the highest level of recognition a river can get. WCOs have already protected more than a dozen important New Zealand rivers and the Nevis decision shows that the law still serves an important purpose.

Niall Watson.
CEO, Fish & Game Otago.



'EL PRESIDENTE'!

Greetings fellow fisho's,

The other night I, along with the great and good from Fish & Game, Forest & Bird, Landcare Trust and other worthies trotted along to the Ministry for the Environment's presentation on the draft National Policy Statement for Freshwater. Despite being held in a local winery of noted repute no wine was on offer yet attendance was high with representatives from local farmers, irrigators, croppers, iwi, council staff, environmental groups and outdoor recreationalists.

The NPS is a set of rules and guidance on how local councils should implement the freshwater management components of the RMA. The presentation was crisp, the speakers informed and articulate and the concept of how the NPS might work at community level well received. All in all a well turned out event with the audience being the sort of collaborative group the Ministry of the Environment might envision collaborating on the quantity, quality and use of water available on a catchment by catchment basis.

It is clear that the MfE have invested substantial time and money on the NPS the philosophy of which is very sane i.e. Given that we (literally) live and die by our country's freshwater and that it has many competing uses, these should be determined by the local community guided by a series of National Bottom Lines such as maximum allowable levels of pollutants. A cynical observer might comment that the size and scale of the whole exercise has become an end in its own right and the practicalities of what needs doing now have been rather forgotten. Given a pristine and healthy environment the NPS would be an excellent tool for going forwards but, as the MfEs's last three State of the Environment reports have shown, our rivers, the lowland ones in particular, have and continue to deteriorate to the point of being lifeless. So when the NPS does not prescribe any timescales other than it should be in place nationally by 2030 you have to ask whether there will be any fresh water left by then to bother collaborating about.

Perhaps the best we can expect is to repeat the words of our grandfather's to our grand children, to wit "You should have seen the size and number of fish in that river when I was young!".

David Haynes.
President.
NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers.



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An apparition appeared on the ridge where moments earlier the hind had stood, his head came to one side and eyes full of menace. By comparison, this was the devil himself; a huge-bodied stag with a splendid sweep of antlers carrying more points than a deer deserved and a temper I wanted no truck with. There was no hesitation; I simply swung the rifle back to my shoulder and fired - to no effect. Why the stag chose to come at me instead of fleeing is a question I didn't have time to ask myself ...



Daryl Crimp (Crimpy) has slung his rifle over boulder-strewn valleys, shingle-scarred peaks, craggy mountains and vegetation-tangled forests for more than forty years and doesn't plan on stopping. Hunting is more than just a hobby, a pastime and an adventure. It's a calling and for those of us fortunate enough to hear and answer it early, a life of adventure beckons. From surviving snow-stinging blizzards in the Southern Alps, challenging roaring stags in Westland, fending off irascible old boars and meeting fahr in testing terrain, to setting his mother's bedroom curtains on fire - Crimpy isn't short on adventures to share. From the pen of a master storyteller, relive each hunt in nerve-tingling detail: feel the tension mount as the wind shifts on the nape of your neck, chill to the unseen throaty roar, recoil to the musky snarl of rutting stag and squint through the wood smoke as you crumple before the campfire's glow at the end of the hunt. Thrilling, entertaining, inspiring, poignant, funny and much more than just a collection of hunts, *Something to Aim For* is a story about a son and his father - and a father and his son. It's the story of a journey, which ends with a beginning.

Something TO AIM FOR



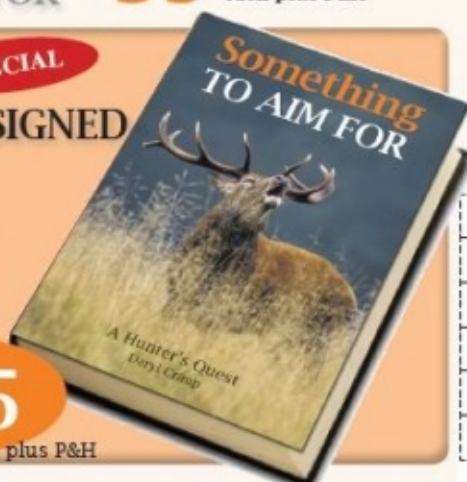
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TIME OUT @ POOLBURN!!!

"The message went out early one Friday to 9 lads from Brighton and Green Island to make the trip through to the Poolburn Reservoir and set up the hut!"



This year we also had access to the Scout Hut in case of visitors. Last year we only just managed to set up when the snow arrived; this year the weather gods smiled on us and we experienced blue skies and sunlight, with only a light breeze.

The competition began with a \$10 per head bounty on the largest brown trout to be landed by noon on the Sunday.

The troops were split between three boats and all of the secret lures came out when the other boats were out of sight. The lake was high and plenty of fish could be seen feeding in the margins.

By noon on the Sunday a total caught and released were 61 with the prize for the best fish going to Noël Stafford with a 5.25 lb fish. Most unusual catch went to Milan Hubec for landing a large yabbie using a worm. On my boat we managed to land about 30 and 25 of those we're caught on the same lure - the secret one for next year!



Steve Bennett

Be selfish - join a fishing club

By Colin Taylor, NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers

Fishing is a strange pursuit compared to other sports like golf or tennis because the 'competitors' aren't people – they're fish.

As a result, the joys of fishing, walking up a river alone or bobbing on a lake revelling in the beauties of Nature, can be a little lonely...devoid of some very enjoyable human companionship.

As Scottish poet and expert fly fisher Norman MacCaig put it: 'When I go fishing I like to know that there's nobody within five miles of me.'

But on the other hand, famous British poet John Donne penned the widely accepted truth: 'No man is an island...'

The reality is that we all benefit from associating with our fellow beings, especially like-minded ones, and this applies just as much to anglers as any other sports and recreational group.

The fact is that most people are basically selfish and that's why they join clubs – because they reap personal major benefits from them. Firstly, on club nights there's the simple fun and pleasure of swapping notes with someone who's set out on the same path as you.

And fishing clubs provide a forum where new and even old members can learn from more experienced anglers, and from each other. For example, both trout and salmon fishing clubs often host visiting experts to speak on and demonstrate the arts of fly-tying and different styles of fly-casting. These sessions range from beginner clinics through to honing the skills of highly experienced members.

Some clubs have fishing cabins and huts that are rented out to their members at very low prices when compared to local motels and lodges, while others provide access to boats, books, and DVD libraries – and members' only outlay is a modest club membership fee. Club members often get other benefits in the form of member discounts at selected tackle shops.

Like most other sports clubs, fishing clubs produce regular informative newsletters that contain invitations to join organised trips with helpful mentors. This includes up-to-date reports about the condition and performance of rivers, lakes and streams around the local region, along with advice about points of access for anglers. Some clubs carry similar information on club websites or on Facebook.

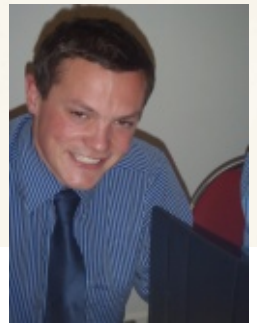
Importantly, from both a regional and national perspective, the 'power of one' is magnified many times through club membership when our beloved sport is put at risk. Members of fishing clubs are able to forge a united and powerful voice on behalf of anglers through the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers, in conjunction with Fish & Game New Zealand – when waterways are threatened by corporate greed, vested interests, and government and local council policies (or a mix of these!).

So be 'selfish' and join a fishing club....

Find a club in your area: www.nzfishingclubs.co.nz



Future looks bright!



By Aaron Shields, Vice President, Our Fishing Future Inc.

For as long as I can remember the ocean and the fascinating treasures that lie beneath the surface have been a part of my life. Fortunately I don't have to cast my mind back very far as I've only had 22 years enjoying catching crabs in the mud flats, spearing flounder, diving for paua, rock fishing and boat fishing off the rugged Otago coast. I clearly remember being 10 years old catching a wrass off the rocks at Taieri Mouth. That was the biggest fish I had ever seen at the time, I could barely run back to the crib fast enough to show the old man. Before you ask-of course I ate it!

The ability for any member of the public, regardless of colour, creed or age, to experience what I did as a child in both the present and future, is extremely important to me. It is from this deep seated passion and love for the New Zealand lifestyle that made me commit to being part of a movement to bring a professional accountable body to promote responsible fishing, unite a recreational community and ensure a sustainable fishing future for us all.

Over the past year a small group of volunteers have been working to establish the foundations for a national organisation. The progress has been steady and methodic but most importantly constructed for the right reasons. This incorporated society is called Our Fishing Future and has a purpose to promote and protect responsible public fishing in New Zealand.

Our Fishing Future is unlike anything the recreational fishing sector has witnessed before and that to me is very, very exciting. What sets Our Fishing Future apart is the mandate agreed upon by 66 individuals at an event in February 2013 (FISHinFuture Search) to establish a professional body. This would represent all public fishing interests, act charitably, focus on the youth and collaboratively reach solutions with all stake holders involved in the marine environment.

Even in my limited experience, I have seen the pain and exhaustion that fighting for a cause can bring to individuals, especially volunteers. Fortunately a new era of cooperation is on the horizon. A strategy driven by youth, who have a heightened appreciation and attitude toward sustainability is the way forward.

Recreational fishers, whether you chase marlin in the sun baked waters of the north or dive for crays in the misty fiords in the south and everything in between, your best interests lie with Our Fishing Future and the security of a recreational asset that we are so fortunate to have. The time is almost upon us to look at our peers, our families, our friends and our leaders to support Our Fishing Future.

The recent issues faced by fishers the country over have only highlighted the need for such a change. Whether we like to acknowledge it or not the future of our fisheries is uncertain, we cannot keep growing the fishing population without change occurring to fish stocks. Problems will arise, but war will be avoided if we collectively have a calm voice that can collaboratively work with everyone.

Last February a small yet diverse group agreed a clear vision and goals. They have since established the foundations for launching an organisation to realise these goals. Our Fishing Future has achieved some seed funding and has a growing support base. Watch this space for future change.

The future looks bright from where I am sitting and I am privileged to be a part of it. If you want to know more about the process go to <http://fishinfuturesearch.co.nz/>.

BEETLES ON THE WING AND ON THE WATER

This is the time of the year that trout start really hooking into terrestrial insects – as opposed to underwater invertebrates - and deliberately seek them out. Manuka beetles and brown beetles are particularly active and inspection of the gut contents of a caught fish will reveal at least one or two.

On warm evenings the brown beetle will hatch from soil beneath rank grass and fly about clumsily. Many will land on the water and be taken by waiting trout. Others will land in vegetation along the river's edge and as the air temperatures cool, will eventually lose their grip and drop in.

To take full advantage of the trout and angler needs to stay out late or get up early and use a good imitation to fool trout that will be tuned into them. Spin anglers should also consider using a bubble and fly, especially against willow edges where fly anglers can't reach!



Manuka beetles and brown beetles are both on the wing at present.

Fishing competitions popular

Over the last month both the Hawea Classic and Dunstan Classic fishing competitions have been held. The heaviest fish in the Hawea event was a fine 3.24kg rainbow trout caught by Temuka man Philip Fitzgerald. He beat 90 other competitors to claim the top prize.

Meanwhile, 102 fish were weighed in at the Dunstan Classic event where the top fish was again a rainbow of 1.66kgs which was caught by Hawea Flat resident David Wigg. Some very nice perch were caught too with the best of them being a 0.726kg specimen. Perch are great eating and that beauty should make a decent feed.



Kindy Kid hooks a handful

Alexandra Kindy's Little Adventurers had a wonderful day with their parents and grandparents learning how to fish at The Earnscleugh Pond. But young Tai Mackley got more than he bargained for when he hooked this 10lb monster. Grandad had to help reel it in as the fish was nearly as big as Tai!

Fish & Game Officer Clare Morris reckoned there were squeals of delight everywhere as the children could see the fish jumping in the pond. More than half the children in attendance managed to land themselves a trout.

A kindy day out to remember. Tai Mackley (front) gets his rainbow trout weighed.

Manorburn matesmanship

Cribby's, mates and families descended upon Upper Manorburn Dam when it opened on the 1st November. For many, it's an annual pilgrimage that has been going on for generations and while fishing is still an attraction, it comes second to the social gathering that is provided by an opening day get together.

Also on their annual pilgrimage to the reservoirs was Fish & Game staff who were there to gather fisheries information for monitoring purposes. Occasional snow flurries and 30 knot winds did little to deter the hardy 51 anglers that they interviewed. Their combined catch of 160 rainbow trout was fairly consistent with previous catch rates of around 3 fish per angler. Over half of the trout caught were released.



Old timers Brian Becker, Alistair Stuart and Win Morris from Alexandra reckon it's not all about the fishing

5th International Billfish Symposium, Taipei, Taiwan, 4-8 November 2013

Many of the world's leading players in the field of billfish research as well as a good number of up and coming scientists gathered in Taipei to focus on the global conservation and sustainable management of billfishes. With support from the NZ Sport Fishing Council and Whangamata Ocean Sports Club John Holdsworth attended to present the early results from the marlin ID project led by Clive Roberts and Lara Shepherd from Te Papa. The project has been well supported with many sportfishing clubs and motivated individuals collecting detailed measurements and samples of muscle and external parasites for genetic analysis. This was one of 50 presentations in Taipei spanning the latest in billfish genetics, stock structure, habitat utilisation, aging, modelling and more.

Marlin

The New Zealand marlin ID project found several measurements that were useful for separating the three marlin species across the whole size range, however no single characteristic separated all three. The branchiostegal membrane or frill covering the gills is shorter in blue marlin (16% to 19% of body length) than in black and striped marlin (Figure 1). Black marlin have a shorter dorsal fin than striped marlin. While size, body shape and pectoral fins are still useful, a few quick measurements can confirm species where there is doubt. These species IDs were backed up by genetic analysis.

Figure 1: The shorter frill covering the gills in blue marlin (left) than black marlin (right) is diagnostic.



Photo Kevin Flutey

Striped marlin caught in the New Zealand recreational fishery contributed samples to one of the first validated studies of age, growth and reproductive biology for the species. Some striped marlin in this region spawn in the Coral Sea, northeast of Brisbane Australia, during spring and early summer. After breeding, large adults move southward to New Zealand and the south coast of Australia to access food resources. Large striped marlin, up to 8 and a half years old, are caught in the New Zealand recreational fishery although most fish ranging from 60 kg to 110 kg are about 3 to 5 years of age. Researchers at the symposium were encouraged to collect muscle samples from spawning striped marlin or catch larvae from spawning sites for an in depth analysis of striped marlin population structure.

John Graves reported on the global population genetic structure of billfishes. Most billfishes move thousands of kilometres each year and it was previously thought that this highly migratory behaviour limited the development of separate spawning populations. Increasing genetic evidence, however, suggests the presence of unique populations of billfishes which need to be considered by fishery managers. In particular, striped marlin caught in the New Zealand recreational fishery are made up of at least one unique population within the southwest Pacific Ocean. Blue and black marlin are represented by geographically larger populations possibly on the scale of ocean basins (eg Pacific vs Indian Ocean).

Oceanography

Of interest to sport fishers is the way marlin, broadbill and sailfish seek out the edge of warm water eddies. A Japanese research vessel capable of recording ocean conditions and fishing several gear types at once showed that prey species also favour the edge of eddies where water masses converge. These eddies are not always visible in the SST plots but are revealed by sea surface height and models which look at areas of warm sub surface water. A number of studies found that in the “transition zone” between areas of high and low sea surface height, currents are higher, and billfish catch rates are higher (Figure 2 Plot of sea surface height with high catch stations circled).

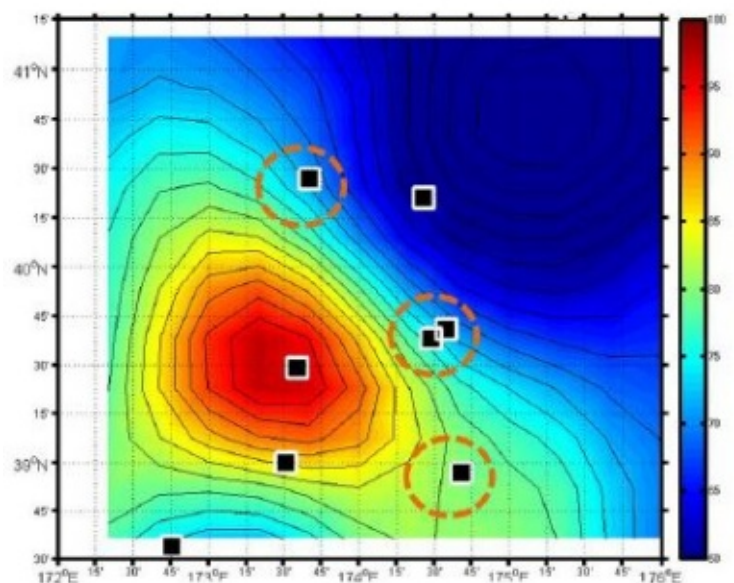


Figure 2: Sea surface height and research fishing locations in the North Pacific

Striped marlin spawning and habitat utilisation in Central America where described. They found spawning was spread over several months with a preference for 26o to 28o C SST. But the warmer water was not often preferred when feeding. Again transition zones on the edge of large eddies were favoured.

Sea surface temperature often changes with weather conditions while the subsurface temperature and salinity of eddies take much longer to change. Satellites detect small changes in surface height using radar, which is possible even through cloud cover. This helps determine how “spicy” (hot and salty) the subsurface water is. The eddies off Central America are fleeting, but off eastern Australia and NZ they can last for several days or weeks.

Eric Prince showed that the massive area of a low oxygen zone in the east Atlantic is expanding westward (Figure 3). This restricts the habitat that marlin and some prey species prefer to mainly shallower depths. Prince suggests that this phenomenon makes billfishes and tunas more susceptible

to commercial fishing gear, which may contribute to overfishing. Thankfully low oxygen zones are not an issue in the southwest Pacific Ocean due to the direction of ocean currents and upwelling zones.

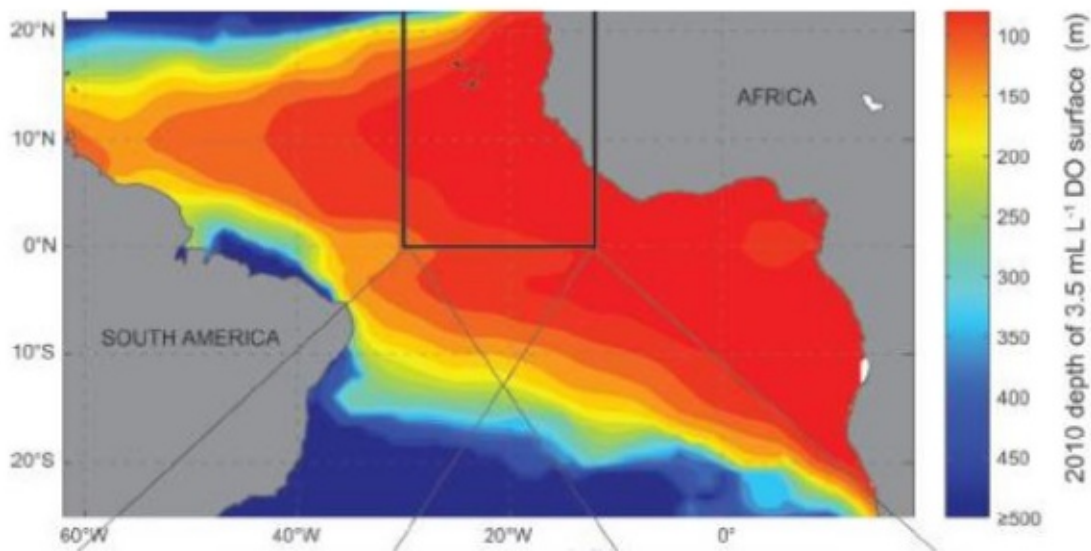


Figure 3: Depth of a low oxygen zone in the Atlantic influencing the swimming depth of blue marlin.

Also worth noting was the timely recovery of Atlantic swordfish following quota reductions and closed areas in the mid 2000s. A period of good recruitment also helped. John Neilson posed the question, was it “good luck or good management”, seems it was a bit of both. John highlighted some of the difficulties of getting effective international management action in place. When real quota cuts were made, Atlantic swordfish were able to recover. The recovery was aided by some remarkable aspects of swordfish biology. They are adapted to deep cold water with special eye and brain heaters which give them an advantage over prey, the largest females tend to feed in high latitudes where fishing pressure is generally less, and there is an extended spawning season in tropical waters. It is no accident the swordfish are one of the most widely distributed species of fish on the planet. There is some hope that swordfish stocks in NZ will continue to improve after a reduction in fishing effort in northern waters.

Hook type and tagging

Capture stress and release mortality was studied in Atlantic white marlin (closely related to striped marlin). Lactate, glucose, sodium, and cortisol in the blood increased significantly with fight time, though these changes were not lethal. 200 white marlin caught on natural baits and circle hooks were tracked with satellite tags. Just 2% were gut hooked and 98% survived. Of 72 white marlin caught on natural baits and J hooks 41% were hooked internally and 35% died. Fish caught on J hooks were 41 times more likely to be hooked deeply and 15 times more likely to be bleeding than fish caught on non-offset circle hooks. The US has passed a law that circle hooks must be used in all billfish tournaments. Fishers in NZ need to use circle hooks in natural baits for marlin if there is a chance that the fish may be tagged.

Julian Pepperell presented a summary of 40 years of conventional tagging in Australia. More than 110,000 billfish (sailfish and marlin) have been tagged and released. Apart from black marlin many Australian billfish show movement between spawning northern grounds and southern foraging grounds (eg. off Queensland and New South Wales). A breakdown of recaptures by species by decade clearly showed that conventional tagging was still adding to our knowledge of long term movements of billfish. Defining stock structure and identifying spawning grounds are important for fisheries management. Black marlin have a well-known spawning ground off the Great Barrier Reef but is that the only one in the Pacific? Where do black marlin from the Indian Ocean come from? Over 56,000 black marlin have been tagged in Australia and 390 recaptures reported (Figure 4). Much of what we know about the movement of this species comes from fish tagged by sport fishers.

The combined information from tag cards also provides a detailed record of recreational catch and trends in the fishery. And most of the fish survive. Win Win Win.



Figure 4: Recapture locations for black marlin tagged in Australia, mature fish (red) (Domeier & Speare 2012).

Selected highlights reported by John Holdsworth and Keller Kopf for the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, November 2013. For a full list of the Symposium topics go to:
<http://billfish5.oc.ntu.edu.tw/program.html>



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Office of the Mayor

25 November 2013

Gigatown - Dunedin

Dunedin is in the running to win the fastest broadband speeds in the southern hemisphere, which would bring major economic development benefits.

The opportunity to be the first city in the southern hemisphere to have one gigabit per second (1 Gbps) internet connection would enable Dunedin to become a leading digital innovation hub for New Zealand and beyond.

Chorus is organising a community competition called Welcome to Gigatown which means Dunedin will compete with other New Zealand centres over a period of 15 months to become the fastest 'Southern Hemisphere' City with the winning town getting access to 1Gbps internet services and \$200k development fund to cover the commercialisation of new services.

Mayor of Dunedin Dave Cull says: "Yes, you will be able to download data more quickly, but the real opportunity is in Dunedin building on its technological infrastructure and environment to move data more efficiently and connect with businesses and communities all over the world."

"With the right communications networks, Dunedin becomes a very attractive proposition for investors interested in the opportunities Dunedin offers in health technologies, education and learning, niche manufacturing and design technologies. That in turn will pull in more talented people who choose to live in Dunedin, raise families and work globally."

The power of this connection would give start-ups, software companies and developers who can to live anywhere in the world a reason to choose Dunedin.

For Dunedin to win, residents need to take to social media to tweet, like and share their views on why Dunedin should win access to 1Gbps internet services for three years. The hashtags are #GigatownDunedin and #GigatownDUN. Whoever creates the biggest buzz will become Gigatown so start sharing your ideas at www.dunedinnz.com/gigatown or at www.facebook.com/gigatowndunedin. Each piece of hashtagged content will earn Gigapoints, as will each subsequent share, like, retweet or comment.

An ongoing city wide conversation will need to focus on how Dunedin will apply digital communications creatively and practically on an everyday basis to achieve our economic goals of increasing skills, incomes, job opportunities and investment in the city and provide a better service for ratepayers.

The Project co-ordinator from the Digital Office, Josh Jenkins will drive Gigatown activities on behalf of the city. Josh can be contacted at josh@digitaloffice.co.nz

For more information on Gigatown, visit www.gigatown.co.nz.



Dave Cull
Mayor of Dunedin



Blue Cod – 3.315 kg Nathan Pitcher.
 Salmon – 2.820 kg Jorja Hutton.
 Groper – 6.995 kg Jack Todd.
 Sea Perch – 1.235 kg Nathan Pitcher.
 Ladies Trophy – 2.505 kg Blue Cod, Cate Bardwell.
 Junior Blue Cod – 2.335 kg Jorja Hutton.
 Junior Trophy – 6.995 kg Groper, Jack Todd.

Skippers Points:
 Non Game Fish.
 Mike Todd 1Pt.
 Nathan Pitcher 1Pt.

Provisional Points;
 Nathan Pitcher 3Pts.
 Grant Hutton 2Pts.
 Mike Todd 2 Pts.



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Read Marine Blue Cod Hunt Sunday 1st December 2013

1 entry per boat/crew.

Your 3 heaviest blue cod gutted are to be presented to the weigh master, no later than 6.30pm.

Prize giving 7.00pm. **No entry fee.**

We have decided to open the competition to non club members providing at least one fully paid up member from the Tautuku Fishing Club is on board.

Latham from Read Marine has really come to the party with competition prizes.

1st prize \$250.00 cash.

2nd prize \$150.00 cash.

Latham is also putting together other prizes for us, to be presented on the day, 3rd,4th,5th and maybe more.

We will also have a \$100.00 lucky boat draw

(You have to be there to win)

Please register with Murray Muir 03 4558808 ASAP; no later than Friday 9pm on 29th November.

If I am not home please leave a message and your phone numbers so I can get back to you in the case of the competition being postponed.

We should know if the competition is on by Friday night.

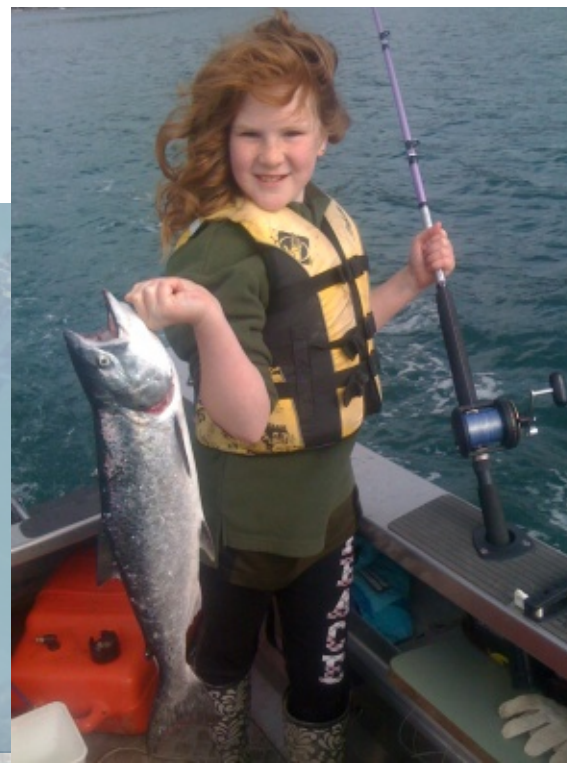


SALMON CITY!

All on @ Salmon City - Dunedin

Evidence with Jorja Hutton's 2.820kg Salmon caught this Month. Father, Grant and Uncle Andrew, also landed 'good size/good condition' salmon just off Deborah Bay.

As we have experienced fantastic weather this month of November - its been ideal conditions on our Harbour chasing Salmon & the odd Coutta!!



Elio's Coutta Hunt followed by the Xmas Barbeque, Sunday 15th November 2013

Weigh in at clubrooms at 5.00pm.

Prizes Prizes Prizes

Children 16 and under. Lawrence from Elio's Sports Store has come up with a great prize for the heaviest coutta, a Ridgeline Little Critters pack valued at \$89.99.

Other give aways for the children too. Everyone gets a prize!!!!

For the adults, we will be giving meal away some vouchers from Mitchells Tavern and anything else I can find, so make sure you weight in a coutta, and also make sure you come over to the club for the Christmas function, starting from 4pm.

This BBQ is free to ALL! Please RSVP of numbers attending to Murray Muir PH: 455 8808 or Brett 4557 592.

Drinks are free for the children & there will be a small gift from Santa.

We have invited other fishing clubs, gig music by our Band 'Super Glue' – giving the makings of a Great Time!

Murray Muir - Club Captain



Fujitsu are proud sponsors of the Dunedin Community Salmon Trust, Otago Salmon Anglers, South Canterbury Salmon Angers and Tautuku Fishing Club.