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The 2024 NZSFC Youth Nationals: A Record-Breaking Event

The 2024 NZSFC Youth Nationals supported by Daiwa ended with a record-breaking turnout and an impressive display of angling skill and sportsmanship. This year, 341 anglers participated, marking a significant 57% increase from the previous year. The competition was fierce, representing 15 clubs battling it out for top honours.

Throughout the competition, a total of 799 fish were caught, including those weighed, measured, tagged, and released. This number is a testament to the skill of the keen young anglers participating in the event. Tag and release efforts were also commendable, highlighting the conservation-minded approach of the next generation of kiwi anglers.

Several clubs stood out for their strong participation and performance in the competition. The Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club had a significant showing, with 122 anglers representing the club. Counties Sport Fishing Club also made a mark with 47 anglers, showcasing the club's commitment to youth fishing development. Tairua Pauanui Sport Fishing Club and Kawhia Boating and Angling Club also had impressive showings, with 35 and 30 entries respectively.

2024 YOUTH NATIONALS CATCH TALLY

ALBACORE	12	SHARK	8
		(6 T/R)	
BROADBILL	2	SNAPPER	295
BLUE COD	8	TREVALLY	86
GURNARD	51	YELLOW FIN	1
KAHAWAI	214	SKIPJACK	65
KINGFISH	49	STRIPED MARLIN	2 T/R
MAHI MAHI	6		

799 fish in 14 days = 57.071fish per day

341 anglers = fish per angler 2,343

Highlights from 2 weeks of School Holiday Fishing



As the 2024 NZSFC Youth Nationals kicked off, the excitement among those entered was palpable. With no school for 2 weeks and the promise of fishing instead; this year's event looked likely to be one for the books. Week One began with a mix of weather conditions, offering both challenges and opportunities for the participants.

The first part of week 1 saw some remarkable performances, with anglers like Brock Johnston from Counties Sport Fishing Club and Indi La Franchie from Kawhia Boating and Angling Club standing out in their respective categories. Brock's dominance in Kahawai, Shark, and Snapper categories early on showcased his skill and determination, while Indi's impressive performance in Kahawai highlighted her talent at a young age.

*Primary angler **Lindi Rowe** from Bay of Islands Swordfish Club with a 17.70kg Yellow tail Kingfish on 6kg held by brother Charlie*

As the competition progressed, the anglers faced changing conditions and shifting leaderboards. The improved weather conditions in the second part of the week brought about significant changes, with leaders in some sections facing stiff competition from others. Clubs like Kawhia Boating and Angling Club and Whakatane Sport Fishing Club made their presence felt, with multiple anglers securing top positions in various categories.

Week Two revealed the changing dynamics of the leaderboard. Kawhia Boating and Angling Club emerged as a dominant force, with strong performances in Albacore, Gurnard, and Kahawai categories. Other clubs like Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club and Whakatane Sport Fishing Club also made their mark, with anglers such as Jaxon Walker, Alexis Ogle and Sam Jackson putting up impressive displays.



We had 8 entries from our southernmost club entering the Youth Nationals this year from Wellington Surfcasting and Angling Club. Here is Young **Theo Rein** with a Kahawai ready for the table after being weighed.



Ella La Francie from Kawhia Boating and Angling Club showing her great snapper.



Jed Jackson from Akitio Boating Club and his gurnard catch.



Indi and Jake Harper on board with their snapper catches from Counties Sport Fishing

Parker Church's Mighty Kingfish



Parker Church, a 7-year-old angler from the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club, found himself in a thrilling battle with a Kingfish weighing an impressive 20.94kg. Despite his best efforts, the fish proved too strong, requiring a helping hand from his dad, Ryan from Churchy's Charters, to keep both Parker and the rod onboard. This resulted in a self-disqualification, but Parker's honesty and integrity in reporting this are commendable. His passion for fishing at such a young age is truly inspiring, and we eagerly await his return next year.

Alexis Ogle's Kingfish Success

Alexis Ogle showcased her fishing skills by landing a 26.43kg Kingfish, adding to the list of memorable moments from the Youth Nationals. Her catch highlights the talent and determination of young Kiwi anglers, making her a standout competitor.



Jaxon Walker's Historic Striped Marlin



11-year-old Jaxon Walker made history by landing an estimated 85kg Tag and Release (T&R) Striped Marlin. This catch not only marked a first for junior anglers in both the MBGFC Junior Tournament and the NZSFC Youth Nationals but also showcased Jaxon's perseverance after previous setbacks. His determination is a true inspiration to all young Kiwi anglers.

Ali Sanders' Rare Yellowfin Tuna



Ali Sanders, fishing aboard Early Bird for the Kawhia Boating and Angling Club, achieved a rare feat by reeling in a 48kg Yellowfin Tuna. This catch was not only a personal triumph but also a significant moment for Kawhia, marking the first Yellowfin Tuna caught in the history of the Youth Nationals. Ali's success is celebrated by Kawhia and the NZSFC.

Lachlan Kidd's Swordfish Feat



Fishing for the Mount Maunganui Sport Fishing Club, **Lachlan Kidd** landed a solid 219kg Swordfish aboard the Bandit skippered by Kane Spiers. This catch, a first for the Youth Nationals, showcased Lachlan's skill and determination, adding to the event's rich history.

Riley Gibson's Broadbill Triumph

Riley Gibson's catch of a 184kg Broadbill was a remarkable achievement, despite challenges with broken scales at the Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club. The support and camaraderie shown by Marsden Cove with a courtesy weigh of his fish demonstrated the strong bonds within the NZSFC's fishing community. Riley's dedication and skill at such a young age are truly remarkable.

Some clubs achieved the dizzy heights of champions, some anglers are now ten foot tall and bulletproof, crowing their praises for skippers, crew, sponsors, as well as the committees and helpers. Some highlights from the two weeks.

The proof that the next generation has strongholds around the country and will be even stronger next season. These kids seized the day and the two weeks.



MARSDEN COVE FISHING CLUB INC.	
DATE	21/11/2024
ANGLER	RILEY GIBSON
FISH	BROADBILL
TACKLE	37KG
LAUNCH	FINNALEE
SKIPPER	DANNY HANCOCK
WEIGHT	184KG

The 2024 NZSFC Youth Nationals was more than just a fishing competition; it was a commented by many of how good it is to spend time on the water, the wide support of all the fishing community and the passion for the sport shared by anglers of all ages. The event brought together young anglers from across the country, providing them with an opportunity to showcase their skills, learn from each other, and forge lasting friendships.

The 2024 NZSFC Youth Nationals in association with Daiwa was a resounding success, setting a high standard for future events and cementing its place as a premier youth fishing competition in New Zealand.

Daiwa NZ has continued its support for the NZSFC Youth Nationals, marking their third year as the event's sponsor. Their contribution of \$10,000 worth of prizes across all age and species categories was instrumental in making this year's event a success and giving our young anglers something to aim for as their entry into the world of competitive fishing. Additionally, Just Another Fisherman provided T-shirts for the event, adding to the excitement of the young anglers. It was so good to see so many of our entrants proudly wearing these t shirts.

The support from Daiwa NZ and Just Another Fisherman was greatly appreciated by NZSFC, and we want to express our gratitude for their ongoing commitment to youth fishing. Looking ahead, the NZSFC is eager to expand the event even further in 2025, building on the success of this year's tournament. We encourage our clubs and their members to contact their local schools now for next year's event, remembering entrants do not need to be a member of a club to enter the Youth Nationals. The Youth Nationals are a great way to get kids into fishing.

SCOREBOARD: WINNER AND PLACES

SECTION A CHAMPION NEW ZEALAND YOUTH ANGLERS

HIGH SCHOOL – ALBACORE

1st	LUKE PEASE	Kawhia Boating and Angling Club	81.67 points
2nd	SUMMER KORKIE	Kawhia Boating and Angling Club	57.00 points
3rd	ALI SANDERS	Kawhia Boating and Angling Club	

Kawhia has a stranglehold in this category, **1st, 2nd, and 3rd** and never looked like letting go once they took the lead.

HIGH SCHOOL - BROADBILL

1st	RILEY GIBSON	Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club	497.30 points
2nd	LACHLAN KIDD	Mt Maunganui Sportfishing Club	365.00 points

132 points in it, line class is the king when you're chasing points, it will be a long spell before these two-stop smiling with these two fish any adult would be proud of catching.

HIGH SCHOOL - MAHI MAHI

1st	LUKE PEASE	Kawhia Boating and Angling Club	13.30 Points
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2nd SUMMER KORKIE Kawhia Boating and Angling Club 13.00 Points

It was interesting to see some late-season mahi-mahi, west coast too.

HIGH SCHOOL - SKIPJACK & SLENDER TUNA

1st EMILY STEELE New Plymouth Sportfishing & Underwater Club 201.83 points

2nd RYAN STEELE New Plymouth Sportfishing & Underwater Club 196.17 points

Let's hope the fishing stays on the boat against the fish, brother and sister going toe-to-toe or is it cast to cast?

HIGH SCHOOL - TUNA

1st ALI SANDERS Kawhia Boating and Angling Club 200.00 points

A 48 kg beast caught on 24 kg line proving that west is best yet again, a nice late-season yellowfin.

PRIMARY - KINGFISH

1st LINDI ROWE Bay of Islands Swordfish Club 295.00 points

Doing what Lindi does best, fishing on the family launch "Rowe De O" in the Bay of Islands.

HIGH SCHOOL – SHARK

1st BROCK JOHNSTON Counties Sport Fishing Club 1233 Points

SECTION B NZ CHAMPION HEAVIEST FISH

HIGH SCHOOL - ALBACORE

1st RILEY BIRD Kawhia Boating and Angling Club 5.93 kg

2nd SUMMER KORKIE Kawhia Boating and Angling Club 5.76 kg

3rd ALI SANDERS Kawhia Boating and Angling Club 5.43 kg

Only 50 grams separating the three anglers once again Kawhia leading the way.

HIGH SCHOOL - BLUE COD

1st JED JACKSON Akito Boating Club 1.78 kg

A nice cod, bet it tasted great. Jed also came second in the section.

HIGH SCHOOL - BROADBILL

1st LACHLAN KIDD Mt Maunganui Sportfishing Club 219.00 kg

2nd	RILEY GIBSON	Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club	184.00 kg
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HIGH SCHOOL - GURNARD

1st	MAX BASHFORD	Wairarapa Sport Fishing Club	1.04kg
2nd	MAX BASHFORD	Wairarapa Sport Fishing Club	1.03kg.
3rd	JOSH LA FRANCHIE	Kawhia Boating and Angling Club	0.98kg

SOME GOOD-SIZED GURNARD FROM WAIRARAPA WITH MAX TAKING 1ST AND 2ND WITH FISH OVER 1KG HIGH SCHOOL - KAHAWAI

1st	MARSHALL LASKER	Kawhia Boating and Angling Club	2.04kg
2nd	HUNTER APITI	Kawhia Boating and Angling Club	2.035kg

Kawhia in a tight battle with just 5 grams deciding the winner. Well done Marshall Lasker.

HIGH SCHOOL - KINGFISH

1st	ALEXIS OGLE	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	26.43kg
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A 58 pound Kingi in anyone's catch brag book is impressive. There are many adult anglers dreaming of a kingfish that big.

HIGH SCHOOL - SNAPPER

1st	LEXI FORD	Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club	8.37 kg
2nd	BLAKE HAY	Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club	8.02kg
3rd	KATE STABLES	Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club	7.60kg

So close to the magic 9.1kg (twenty-pound club), good to see Mercury Bay the club with the most entries in the winner's circle.

HIGH SCHOOL - TREVALLY

1st	COREY MUNN	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	4.10 kg
2nd	COREY MUNN	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	3.85 kg
3rd	COREY MUNN	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	3.06 kg

One club, one angler, and three great Trevally, one of the best fighting fish for their weight, well done Corey.

PRIMARY - KINGFISH

1st	LINDI ROWE	Bay of Islands Swordfish Club	17.70 kg
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2nd LINDI ROWE Bay of Islands Swordfish Club 15.95 kg

Nice kingfish on light tackle too, watch this space, next year Lindi will be back with bigger fish in sight.

PRIMARY - SHARK

1st REBEKAH CRAWSHAW Tauranga Sport Fishing Club 125.80 kg

While big enough to place first here, I'm sure this could be her biggest fish to date.

PRIMARY - SKIPJACK & SLENDER TUNA

1st KOBY MAXWELL Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club 5.85 kg

2nd KOBY MAXWELL Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club 5.54 kg

Both these fish are big, over 12 pounds old school weight.

PRIMARY - SNAPPER

1st RYDER HAMILTON Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club 8.49 kg

2nd ELLA GIBSON Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club 8.22 kg

3rd IMOGEN FORSYTH New Plymouth Sportfishing & Underwater Club 7.75kg

Once again, some great fish landed, and oh so close to the magic 9.07kg- known as the 20-pound club, and well spread out around the country.

SECTION C - OVERALL CHAMPION ANGLER

CHAMPION HIGH SCHOOL ANGLER

1st BROCK JOHNSTON Counties Sports Fishing Club 2,233.33 points

2nd SUMMER KORKIE Kawhia Boating and Angling Club 976.62 points

3rd ALEXIS OGLE Whakatane Sport Fishing Club 880.25 points

What can we say but bravo.

CHAMPION PRIMARY ANGLER

1st TYLER SPEED Mt Maunganui Sportfishing Club 845.00 points

2nd ELLA LA FRANCHIE Kawhia Boating and Angling Club 739.50

3rd INDY LA FRANCHIE Kawhia Boating and Angling Club 614.50 points

These anglers are our future with the skillset shown they will catch more and bigger as they grow older.

It's heartening to see these young anglers not only competing but also embracing the ethos of conservation by measuring and releasing fish. This shift towards sustainable practices reflects a deep understanding of the need to preserve our marine resources for future generations.

These achievements not only highlight their individual abilities but also speak to the guidance and support they receive from their clubs and mentors, nurturing their passion for the sport and instilling in them a sense of responsibility towards the environment.

As we witness the success of these young anglers, it's clear that they are not just competitors but also stewards of our marine ecosystem. Their commitment to sustainable fishing practices is a positive sign for the future of recreational fishing in New Zealand.

SECTION D - LENGTH

HIGH SCHOOL – BLUE COD

1 st	JED JACKSON	Akitio Boating Club	45cm
2 nd	OLLIVER PASK	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	33cm

HIGH SCHOOL – GURNARD

1 ST	JED JACKSON	Akitio Boating Club	51cm
2 nd	NATHAN CHILDS	Tauranga Sport Fishing Club	44cm
3 rd	JOSH LA FRANCHIE	Kawhia Boating and Angling Club	43cm

HIGH SCHOOL – KAWAHAI

1 st	KEIFER BLAND	Tauranga Sport Fishing Club	56cm
2 nd	ELLA ENSOR	Tauranga Sport Fishing Club	55cm
3 rd	RILEY GIBSON	Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club	53cm

HIGH SCHOOL – KINGFISH

1 st	SAM JACKSON	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	121cm
2 nd	ALEXIS OGLE	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	112cm
3 rd	ELLA ENSOR	Tauranga Sport Fishing Club	108cm

HIGH SCHOOL – SKIPJACK TUNA

1 st	SAM JACKSON	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	60cm
2 nd	ALEXIS OGLE	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	59cm

3 rd	ELLA ENSOR	Tauranga Sport Fishing Club	44cm
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HIGH SCHOOL – SNAPPER

1 st	SAM JACKSON	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	75cm
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2 nd	BLAKE HAY	Whangarei Deed Sea Anglers Club	75cm
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3 rd	ALEXIS OGLE	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	67cm
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HIGH SCHOOL – TREVALLY

1 st	BROCK JOHNSTON	Counties Sport Fishing Club	54cm
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2 nd	JED JACKSON	Akitio Boating Club	48cm
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3 rd	JOSH LA FRANCHIE	Kawhia Boating and Angling Club	46cm
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PRIMARY – BLUE COD

1 st	JETT CUSHING	Hawkes Bay Sports Fishing Club	36cm
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2 nd	AUSTIN PASK	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	35cm
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PRIMARY – GURNARD

1 st	GRAYSON SLOBBE	Wellington Surfcasting & Angling Club	43cm
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2 nd	INDY LA FRANCHIE	Kawhia Boating and Angling Club	42cm
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3 rd	AUSTIN PASK	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	40cm
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PRIMARY – KAHAWAI

1 ST	AUSTIN PASK	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	56cm
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2 nd	TAJ CHAPPLE	Tairua- Pauanui Sports Fishing Club	53cm
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3 rd	EMILY CROAD	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	53cm
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PRIMARY – KINGFISH

1 ST	TYLER SPEED	Mt Maunganui Sport Fishing Club	105cm
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2 nd	MASON ALLAN	Wellington Surfcasting & Angling Club	95cm
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3 rd	BRAXTON ALLAN	Wellington Surfcasting & Angling Club	79cm
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PRIMARY – SKIPJACK TUNA

1 ST	BLAKE GREYLING	Mt Maunganui Sport Fishing Club	45cm
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2 nd	TYLER SPEED	Mt Maunganui Sport Fishing Club	45cm
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PRIMARY – SNAPPER

1 st	MASON ALLAN	Wellington Surfcasting & Angling Club	70cm
2 nd	TYLER SPEED	Mt Maunganui Sport Fishing Club	67cm
3 rd	AUSTIN PASK	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	60cm

PRIMARY – TREVALLY

1 ST	INDY LA FRANCHIE	Kawhia Boating and Angling Club	41cm
2 nd	BLAKE GREYLING	Mt Maunganui Sport Fishing Club	41cm
3 rd	BENJAMIN HOLWERDA	Tairua Pauanui Sport Fishing Club	36cm

SECTION E – TAG AND RELEASE (T&R)

HIGH SCHOOL SHARK

1st	BROCK JOHNSTON	Counties Sport Fishing Club	3 T&R
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Good to see conservation leading the way, 3 T&Rs for Brock- shows a good effort all round.

HIGH SCHOOL STRIPED MARLIN

1st	SUMMER KORKIE	Kawhia Boating and Angling Club	1 T&R
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Well done Summer, tagging a marlin in autumn and getting your name in the results, awesome fishing.

PRIMARY STRIPED MARLIN

1st	JAXON WALKER	Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club	1 T&R
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Not to be outdone, Jaxon just had to tag and release his stripey. Well done, that man.

SECTION F - TOP CLUB IN NEW ZEALAND

1st	COUNTIES SPORTS FISHING CLUB	2267.33 points
2nd	KAWHIA BOATING AND ANGLING CLUB	2011.57 points
3rd	MT MAUNGANUI SPORTFISHING CLUB	1,249.75 points

SECTION H - FUN OR FUNNY PHOTO

CHAMPION HIGH SCHOOL

1 st	ELLA ENSOR	Tauranga Sport Fishing Club	“Got One In The Bag”
2 ND	RILEY SAUNDERS	Counties Sport Fishing Club	“I tagged a Marlin”
3 rd	ALEXIS OGLE	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	“Hooked a Big One – Not!”

CHAMPION PRIMARY

1 st	COOPER THOMSEN	Tairua Pauanui Sports Fishing Club	“Best Boat Ever”
2 nd	BROOK HOLWERDA	Tairua Pauanui Sports Fishing Club	“Little Mermaids”
3 rd	HAYLEY TIDMARSH	Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club	“Bad Hair Day”

SECTION J – MARINE PHOTO

CHAMPION HIGH SCHOOL

1 st	BROCK JOHNSTON	Counties Sport Fishing Club	“Birds Waiting”
2 nd	OLLIVER PASK	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	“Under the Boat”

CHAMPION PRIMARY

1 st	AUSTIN PASK	Whakatane Sport Fishing Club	“Underwater Shark”
2 nd	LEVI NICHOLSON	Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club	“Stingray”
3 rd	TYLER SPEED	Mt Maunganui Sport Fishing Club	“Hungry Birds”

For all the information see our website <https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/nzsfy-youth-nationals-2024/>

