

NZSFC Club Monthly Report: March 2024

A Round up of NZSFC Club News and information for Club Committees, Delegates and Members

March 2024: This is a report for our clubs throughout New Zealand. Please distribute this information throughout your Club. This report includes a summary of:

- **NZSFC YOUTH NATIONALS**
 - **NZSFC NATIONALS 2024**
 - **CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS AND PODCASTS**
 - **CATCH BOARDS**
 - **COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATIONS**
 - **SUBMISSIONS ON THE HGMPB**
 - **SUBMISSIONS TO FISHERIES NZ**
 - **KAIKOURA PAUA OPEN SEASON**
 - **ROCK LOBSTER REVIEW**
 - **SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA**
 - **PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**
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NZSFC YOUTH NATIONALS 2024

Our Youth Nationals are coming up next month from the 13th to 27th of April 2024.

NZSFC encourages all clubs to promote and invite their junior members to take part. Furthermore clubs with relationships with their nearby schools should also extend this invite as a way to encourage more entries for their club and introduce the wider community to their local clubs. We all know the benefits of a day or more on the water with family and this is a great solution to “What do we do in the school holidays?”

There's \$10,000 worth of prizes to be won thanks to Daiwa NZ, and cool T Shirts for the juniors from Just Another Fisherman. How good is it to see records challenged by our up and coming junior members!

Could clubs please advise Helen who will be the recorder for this event and a contact phone number for them. This enables Helen to liaise with and assist with any matters as they come up during the competition.

Further information including entry forms and a poster for your club promoting the competition and another regarding the Youth Nationals T-shirts priced at \$20 is available [here](https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/nzsfc-youth-nationals-2024/): <https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/nzsfc-youth-nationals-2024/>

NZSFC NATIONALS 2024

The 2024 New Zealand Sportfishing Council (NZSFC) Nationals, supported by Pelagic, took place over eight days, initially drawing a lot of anglers from our affiliated clubs across New Zealand. The tournament began with strong participation from clubs like the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club, setting the stage for intense competition in all categories.

As the tournament progressed, the number of anglers increased, reaching over 1,200 by Day 2. Notable catches included a 192.8kg Blue Marlin, 113.1kg Striped Marlin (with 43 tagged and released), and a 31.6kg Tuna. Interclub rivalries added excitement, with clubs like the Wellington Surfcasting & Angling Club and Counties Sportfishing Club making the most of the competition.

By Day 4, over 100 Striped Marlin had been recorded, mostly tagged and released, and at the Nationals conclusion, 260 Striped Marlin had been recorded, with an impressive 95% tag and release rate. The total number of participants reached 1,320, representing 107 teams. The tournament concluded with a final number of 1388 anglers giving their all on the final day, culminating in the announcement of winners across all categories. For the full day-by-day report [click here](#).

<https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/NZSFC-NATIONALS-2024-Final-Report.pdf>

CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS AND PODCASTS

We need your help nominating members of your club who you think would make great club member spotlights to highlight on social media and chat with Mike Plant, on our upcoming Podcast - if you have members who you think fit the bill please email us a few photos of them fishing and answer the below questions and email to

mike.plant@nzsportfishing.org.nz

- Name
- Club
- Day Job
- Current Boat
- Favourite Lure
- Most Memorable Catch

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- Dream Fishing Destination
 - Why you joined a club

CATCH-BOARDS

Does your club have an original Tag and Release catch-board with the old Department of Conservation (DOC) logo on it? Recently, DOC publicly advised that they do not wish the use of their historic logo, despite being involved in the establishment of the Tagging program and assisted in the creation of the boards. NZSFC is currently speaking to DOC on this matter, and is seeking feedback from Clubs around Catch-Boards for tagging - especially if your Club holds one of the original DOC Tagging Catch-boards with the historic DOC logo on it.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATIONS

From January, NZSFC's Mike Plant has been on the road visiting clubs and attending various events and responsibilities, particularly focusing on the New Zealand Sportfishing Council Nationals and other related competitions for Clubs and their committees.

Recently he has been working on Bar crossing seminars with Coastguard, VHF radio interference issues for a few clubs, and sorting NZSFC Shirts, prizes and sponsorship arrangements for the Nationals and Youth Nationals.

During the NZSFC Nationals, Mike was immersed in the tournament's operations. He Visited Clubs, met with competitors and committee members, assisted the weighmasters, and assumed the role of Master of Ceremonies (MC) for various events for our clubs and other fundraising opportunities like the Chesters fanatical fishos that raised \$6000 for LegaSea. Additionally, Mike took on social media management for the Nationals, providing the daily updates, and assisting Helen Pastor with handling communications to Clubs and anglers, sorting prizes from sponsors, and assisting the NZSFC Fishing committee with the execution of the tournament.

In addition to his duties at the Nationals, Mike was involved in a range of other events and tasks. He participated in events such as "Girls in the Bay" organised by the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club (MBGFC), Nauti Girls at the Whangamata Ocean Sports Club (WOSC), The Kawhia One Base, The West Coast One Base in New Plymouth and the Fish n Chicks

event in Counties. Mike also managed various communications responsibilities, including podcasts, comms work, and radio appearances regarding fisheries and fishing.

Mike also attended the Matarangi's Doris Day and MBGFC's Kubota and next month at the Tairua Pauanui Sports Fishing Club, interviewing Will Fransen. After a mishap that saw him adrift at sea for 24 hours after fighting a Marlin solo, Will's gripping tale of resilience and hope will leave you inspired.

Mike Plant is the MC for this event, Tickets are on sale now, and with limited availability, it's first in, first served! Secure your spot now at www.tpsfc.co.nz/survival

Mike is currently working on an awareness campaign regarding Caulerpa and will be back in touch with affected clubs with details soon.

HEARINGS ON THE HAURAKI GULF MARINE PROTECTION BILL

The hearings for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill occurred in Auckland over the 11th and 12th of March. Many of our affiliated clubs spoke to this and have worked together with NZSFC to articulate their concerns. NZSFC had two representatives, including Andrew Johnston, Vice President, speak to the Environment Select Committee during these hearings.

SUBMISSIONS TO FISHERIES NEW ZEALAND (FNZ)

In February, NZSFC completed and submitted several important submissions to FNZ. These submissions included:

- Kaikōura pāua recreational season for 2024.
- Rock lobster Total Allowable Catch (TAC) reviews for Gisborne, North Island (CRA 3), and management procedure reviews for Otago, Southland, Stewart Island, and Fiordland (CRA 7 & 8).
- Southern bluefin tuna review.
- Pacific bluefin tuna review.

A copy of these submissions is available on the NZSFC Website, with further details below.

KAIKŌURA PĀUA OPEN SEASON

In support of a three-month opening for the Kaikōura recreational pāua season from April, NZSFC submitted recommendations for the pāua fishery to reopen for nine months of the year, starting in 2025. They also recommended controls to restore a 9-month recreational fishing season for pāua, with a daily bag limit of 3 per person. NZSFC received 159 submissions online from the Kaikōura Fishing and Boating Club, which were also sent to Fisheries New Zealand.

ROCK LOBSTER REVIEW

For CRA 3, NZSFC submitted in support of the most conservative proposed FNZ option, a 40% reduction in commercial catch limits, to enable crayfish numbers to rebuild across East Cape, Gisborne, and Māhia. They recommended the Minister split the large CRA 3 management area into two to prevent commercial fishing effort from shifting from Gisborne into Māhia. For CRA 7 & 8, NZSFC supported maintaining the status quo commercial catch limit for crayfish around Otago (CRA 7) and a modest increase of six tonnes to cover existing recreational crayfish catches from Southland to Fiordland (CRA 8).

SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA

NZSFC submitted in support of increasing the total allowable catch for Southern bluefin tuna by 186 tonnes, including an increase of 35 tonnes to the recreational allowance. This submission was in line with a global catch increase agreed to in October 2023 by the Commission for Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

In support of Fisheries NZ (FNZ) proposal, NZSFC submitted to exempt Pacific bluefin tuna from the land-all catch rules, provided the fish must be in good condition prior to release and only caught by surface longlining or trolling. They recommended assessing Pacific bluefin over 200 kg in the water and cutting the line if the fish is to be released, to maximise survival chances. Additionally, they suggested retaining Pacific bluefin bleeding

from the gills, as fish that are gut or gill hooked have a lower chance of survival on release. FNZ is planning to review catch settings applying to Pacific bluefin tuna later this year.

These submissions and recommendations reflect NZSFC's ongoing commitment to sustainable fisheries management and conservation efforts in New Zealand.