

# NZSFC Club Monthly Report: May 2024

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

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**May 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
  - MACA - MARINE AND COASTAL AREA (TAKUTAI MOANA) ACT 2011
  - CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS
  - TAG AND RELEASE CATCH BOARDS
  - CAULERPA CAMPAIGN
  - APRIL NZSFC BOARD MEETING
  - COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATIONS
  - FIORDLAND BAG LIMIT
  - GISBORNE CRAYFISH INJUSTICE
  - FAST TRACK APPROVALS BILL
  - WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL COASTAL PLAN
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## NZSFC YOUTH NATIONALS 2024

The 2024 NZSFC Youth Nationals supported by Daiwa ended with a record-breaking turnout and an impressive display of skill and sportsmanship. This year, 350 anglers participated, marking a significant 57% increase from the previous year. The competition was fierce, with participants aged up to 18, representing 16 clubs battling it out for top honours.

Throughout the competition, a total of 1054 fish were caught, including those measured, tagged, and released. Tag and release efforts were also commendable, highlighting the conservation-minded approach of the next generation of kiwi anglers.

Winners of the Photo Competition are:-

**Best Live Marine Photo - Senior** - "Birds Waiting" from Brock Johnston - Counties SFC.  
Second place goes to Olliver Pask from Whakatane SFC - with his photo "Under the Boat"

**Best Live Marine Photo - Junior** - Underwater Shark - Austin Pask - Whakatane SFC.  
Second place goes to Levi Nicholson from Mercury Bay GFC - "Stingray" and third place to Tyler Speed from Mt Maunganui SFC for his photo "Hungry Birds".

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**Best Funny Photo - Senior** goes to Ella Ensor from Tauranga SFC for her photo “got one in the bag”. Second place goes to Riley Saunders from Counties SFC for his photo “I tagged a Marlin”, and third to Alexis Ogle with her photo “I hooked a big one - Not!”

**Best Funny Photo - Junior** first place to Cooper Thomsen from Tairua-Pauanui SFC for his photo “Best Boat Ever”, second place goes to Brooke Holwerda from Tairua-Pauanui SFC for “Little Mermaids” and third place to Hayley Tidmarsh from Mercury Bay GFC for her “Bad Hair Day”.

To see these photos just click the link

<https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/2024-youth-nationals-photo-competition/>

### **Notable Highlights from the Youth Nationals:**

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.

**Parker Church's Mighty Kingfish:** Despite his young age, Parker Church from the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club engaged in a thrilling battle with a Kingfish weighing an impressive 20.94kg.

**Alexis Ogle's Kingfish Success:** Alexis Ogle's impressive catch of a 26.43kg Kingfish highlighted the competitiveness, talent and determination of young Kiwi anglers.

**Jaxon Walker's Historic Striped Marlin:** 11-year-old Jaxon Walker finally achieved his goal for the past few years by tagging an estimated 85kg Tag and Release Striped Marlin.

**Ali Sanders' Yellowfin Tuna:** Ali Sanders achieved a rare feat by reeling in a 48kg Yellowfin Tuna, marking a significant moment for Kawhia.

**Lachlan Kidd's Swordfish Feat:** Lachlan Kidd landed a solid 219kg Swordfish, showcasing his skill and adding to the event's excitement.

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**Riley Gibson's Broadbill Triumph:** Riley Gibson's catch of a 184 kg Broadbill was a remarkable achievement, showcasing his dedication and skill.

**Champion Anglers:** Tyler Speed from Mt Maunganui Sportfishing Club and Brock Johnston from Counties Sports Fishing Club emerged as the Overall Champion Anglers in the Primary and High School categories respectively.

**Top Club:** Counties Sports Fishing Club claimed the top spot in the Interclub Competition, showcasing their dominance in youth fishing.

The 2024 NZSFC Youth Nationals brought together young anglers from across the country, providing them with a platform to showcase their skills, learn from each other, and forge lasting friendships. It set a high standard for future events and cemented its place as a premier youth fishing competition in New Zealand.

For a detailed look at all the action, winners, and standout moments,

[Click here for the full report.](#)

## 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](mailto:mike.plant@nzsportfishing.org.nz)

- Name
- Club
- Day Job
- Current Boat
- Favourite Lure
- Most Memorable Catch
- Dream Fishing Destination
- Why you joined a club

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## TAG AND RELEASE 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.

## CAULERPA

Caulerpa seaweed, an invasive marine algae species, has just been discovered at two new sites in the Hauraki Gulf - the Mokohinau Islands and Rakino Island. MPI is attributing the infestation to boat movements. MPI fails to mention that Caulerpa's natural reproduction process is fragmentation. A small frond can travel many miles in water currents. This is one of the many reasons why the NZSFC has been so vocal about banning trawling within the Hauraki Gulf and coastal waters.

**Caulerpa Awareness Campaign:** NZSFC have supported an awareness campaign regarding Caulerpa, working with MPI to secure funding and implement various awareness activities and also establish ongoing revenue streams for clubs. A REMINDER TO CLUBS TO SEND PROOF OF THIS TO MIKE OR HELEN FOR PAYMENT.

## APRIL NZSFC BOARD MEETING

The quarterly NZSFC Board meeting on 6 April 2024 covered a wide range of topics and discussions that are crucial for the effective operation and management of the organisation. Here's a summary of the key points discussed:

- The meeting began with President Ian Steele welcoming Brent Rigby, the incoming Zone 5 (Lower North Island) delegate that is keen to take over from Wayne Bicknell later this year. The minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed, and various matters were discussed, including the final draft and pending release of the Weighmaster Video and Club Display Stands.

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- **Zone 1 (Northland)** acknowledging Mike for his retort in the NZ Herald regarding the Kubota Tournament and discussing requests for information about the Display stands.
  - **Zone 2 (Auckland)** discussed the Oral submissions that were made to the Environment Select Committee on the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill. The submissions made it clear to the Committee that the proposed Bill does not address the underlying concerns of depletion and loss of biodiversity. They also proposed having a Zone secretary to help with admin/paperwork, funded by a levy from Clubs.
  - **Zone 3 and 4 (Coromandel and central BOP)** Also discussed submissions made by clubs on the HGMP, Challenges faced regarding club membership and the idea of catching new members at the end of the season.
  - **Zone 5 (Lower North Island)** reported on issues with daily bag limits and quota for paua and crayfish(see Gisbourne crayfish injustice CRA3 below), as well as updates on new club delegates and a new Zone Representative. They thanked Helen Pastor and Mike Plant for their work on the NZSFC Nationals.
  - **Zone 6 (Waikato/Taranaki)** discussed updates on Waikato Coastal plans and issues with Swell Map's accuracy. They also talked about efforts to address interference from other VHF transmitters. The upcoming review of Snapper (SNA8) was discussed.
  - **Zone 7 (South Island)** discussed the decline in support from regional councils. There is concern about proposed Marine reserves. There was a request for NZSFC to create a one-page check sheet so that some delegates will be able to use teams and zoom.
  - **Zone 8 (Eastern BOP)** raised concerns about gill netting over deep water reefs and discussed the benefits of tagging fish. They also talked about efforts to address declining tournament numbers.They also discussed the Bar calling procedure and efforts to reinstate it.
  - In general business, there were discussions about better explaining the value of membership to club members and a planned meeting with Hon SHANE JONES (Minister for Oceans and Fisheries) to discuss fisheries issues. The meeting closed at 2.04pm, wrapping up a productive session with important updates and discussions.

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## COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATIONS REPORT

- **Event Support:** NZSFC are actively involved in supporting NZSFC Clubs and the Sport Fishing community, Many clubs are engaging Mike to help with a range of activities. Please reach out and see what he can assist you with.
- **Crisis Management:** Mike and the wider team managed crisis and emergency communications for the 2024 Kubota Billfish Classic hosted by MBGFC. This included media releases and replies to letters to the editor and articles criticising Sport Fishing. NZSFC and LegaSea have publicly addressed sustainability and welfare concerns for the Kubota event that were raised by environmentalists, emphasising economic benefits, commitment to tag and release practices, and community support.
- **Public Perception:** Mike has noted a shift in public perception towards fishing clubs, and he attributes this is due to greater awareness and concern for declining fish populations. The wider public are becoming aware of this issue and there is a risk of misplaced blame being directed at clubs and competitions contributing to this decline. Mike and the LegaSea team are working on a strategy to put Clubs and recreational fishing on solid ground and publicly present clubs as community organisations that care about the marine environment.
- **Coastal Fisheries Restoration:** NZSFC has engaged with many various stakeholders and advocated for investment in restoring coastal fisheries to increase relevance of clubs and address public concerns.
- **Community Engagement:** We support our clubs to work with local communities, Iwi, and conservation groups, engaging in dialogue regarding fisheries management and environmental stewardship. Beach clean ups have been successful for our clubs recently.
- **Podcast Involvement:** The Communications committee has been working on some great stories to share with you on the NZSFC Pod and Reel podcast, showcasing inspiring stories from the fishing community. The NZSFC podcast is now on the NZSFC Website under News and Podcasts.

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<https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/pod-and-reel-the-nzsfc-podcast/>

- **Youth Engagement:** Mike served as the MC for MBGFC's Youth Tournament. This successful tournament now has a \$10,000 Hunting and Fishing gate prize. Please reach out if your Club is struggling with youth engagement within the fishing community.
- **Future Advocacy:** Last week Mike was in Wellington meeting with Maritime NZ to advocate for funding and support for Far North Radio and Whakatane's bar calling service at the Safer Boating Forum, and to meet with affiliated clubs and teams in the lower North Island.

### **FIORDLAND BAG LIMIT CHANGE**

New, reduced bag limits apply to many popular species caught in Fiordland and the Chatham Islands. In 2022 we submitted against the proposals. Our concerns have been ignored. If fishing in these areas, please make sure you are familiar with the new rules.

<https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Submission-joint-recreational-Fiordland-amateur-regulations-Sep22.pdf>

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/fishing-aquaculture/recreational-fishing/fishing-rules/fiordland-marine-area-fishing-rules>

### **GISBORNE CRAYFISH INJUSTICE (CRA3)**

The Minister's recent decision to halve the daily bag limit to three for spiny red rock lobster across CRA 3 (East Cape, Gisborne, and Māhia) while applying a minimal 20% reduction to the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC), has left many locals frustrated. It is becoming clear that priority is given to exporting crayfish overseas over the community's ability to gather kai moana.

a. The Gisborne Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club and Zone 5 (supported by NZSFC), sent an emotive letter to Dana Kirkpatrick the new Gisborne MP, outlining their anger and disappointment at the unbalanced decision. The club and community expect their MP to advocate for their interests in objecting to the bag limit cuts and the government's prioritisation of exports while ignoring the needs of local families.

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b. You can read a summary of NZSFC submission on the CRA 3 review here.

<https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/CRA3-Submission-Summary-Feb24.pdf>

### **FAST TRACK APPROVALS BILL**

In April the NZSFC submitted a detailed submission opposing the proposed Fast-track Approvals Bill. The Bill places excessive power in the hands of development Ministers, allowing them to approve infrastructure or development projects without public participation and considering the wider impacts on our marine environment.

<https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Fast-Track-Bill-submission-recreational-19-April-2024.pdf>

### **WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL COASTAL PLAN**

In April, NZSFC submitted a supplementary submission on the proposed Coastal Plan, calling on the Waikato Regional Council to acknowledge the values associated with recreational fishing. Also, outlining concerns of mobile bottom contact fishing methods on habitats vulnerable to disturbance.