

Spearfishing NZ Newsletter



Number 67 - March 2009

Seasonal changes are upon us and the hour of daylight saving will shortly be removed. (April 5th) Water temperatures we hear are starting to head in the 'wrong' direction for some. But whether or not it is nearing the end of your season, your float's dive flag should still be clearly visible when you are out there on the water. For some, and it seems those with Ronstan floats in particular, the flag has gone missing. This is becoming a major concern in some popular diving areas. While you owe it to your own safety to have a flag visible, it is equally important for boaties to be able to identify you as a diver. We have heard criticism from various places indicating divers are their own worst enemies in this regard, for a plastic float without a flag looks just like another buoy often seen on the end of a net or long line. For that, boats do not have to slow down to 5 knots within 200m but can instead travel as many of them do at 15-20 knots right next to it. A diver surfacing in front of the fast approaching boat is unnerving to say the least! Water Safety NZ and NZU have done a lot of work over the years trying to get the safety message across. We all have a responsibility to follow the Rules and have a visible flag!

Meanwhile, stay safe out there! We have had many comments this season of divers close encounters with sharks that are nudging them, brushing around legs, charging at fish on a spear.



The last seem to be the more worrying. Keep your eyes open and get your fish out of the water ASAP! Thanks to Kane Grundy for the recent photo of this Hawke's Bay critter.

Coming up - Far North Competition Saturday - 18 April 2009

At Marsden Cove 7:30am briefing. To be swum at the Hen and Chickens and pairs competition. Cost: senior \$25.00, junior (under 18) \$15:00 plus \$10.00 Inter Pacific levy.

Kingfish Cup Winner 2009

Nick Williams from Hawke's Bay wins with his 36kg fish. While we showed a photo in the last Newsletter of another very big Kingfish speared near Taupo Bay in Northland, there was a problem with the weighing of the fish. Do remember to weigh your fish on a suitable set of scales, preferably digital ones if you are claiming a Record.

Results: Wild Blue North Island Spearfishing Champs 14/3/09

The rescheduled North Island Champs at Kapiti Island overcame the usual drop-off in competitor numbers when weather has caused a postponement. Twenty-six pairs competed, with the 'boys from out of town' taking the first 3 places. There is no question that the winners Julian Hansford and Dwane Herbert are first-rate divers and were able to use this event as another training competition before they head to Australia in April as part of the NZ Team for the Inter Spearfishing Pacific Champs. (The other two members of that Team are the third placed pair of Colin Smith and Ian Warnock, also from Whitianga.) The performance of the second placed pair, Matt Lind and Scott Perkins is especially creditable because both these divers work in jobs that don't have them diving every day.

The fish list for Kapiti is more expanded than most and includes species that can favour local knowledge. Copper Moki for example, were speared only by two local Kapiti area divers. It is an event that cannot be won diving just one area of the island. So a boat, knowledge of where to move to depending on tidal directions and a willingness to look for fish in 25m or so of water take on a degree of significance..

	# of fish	Weight	Points	Placing
Dwane Herbert/Julian Hansford	16	25.3	1853	1
Matt Lind/Scott Perkins	15	26.2	1762	2
Colin Smith/Ian Warnock	13	23.0	1530	3
Barry Coleman/Fintan G	11	9.6	1196	4
Guy Brew/Dave Mullins	10	18.4	1184	5
Kevin Lowery/Kevin Byers	10	12.4	1124	6
Kolt Johnson/Nick Williams	10	10.2	1102	7
Mal Bird/Mark Warnock	10	7.8	1078	8
Garth & Oliver [J] MacIntyre	9	10.2	1002	9
Paul Matthews/Blair Rolinson	9	8.2	982	10

	# of fish	Weight	Points	Placing
Willie Bullock/Ronan Bullock	7	8.4	784	11
Dave Scott/Anthony Sanger	7	5.8	758	12
Chris Marshall/Kerry Brannigan	7	5.4	754	13
Steve Rose/Anne Rose[W]	6	7.2	672	14
Rex Benbook/George M	6	7.0	670	15
Alex Rose[W]/Ben O'Hagen[J]	6	5.8	658	16

RIFFE BLUE WATER COMPETITION

The weather did this event no favours in the days leading up to the competition. The wind and heavy rain further south of the Doubtless Bay venue scared off half of those who had put their names down to attend. But in the words of most of those who did compete, "...there was no need to stay away." Certainly the very clear water that had previously been along the coast offered much less visibility and the billfish that had been caught in numbers right up until the weather front crossed the North Island "...put their heads down," to use the description of one fisherman. But they were there, and Darren Shields, using his nous and listening to the radio chatter of the gamefish boats figured out where the fish were to be found. He was subsequently unfortunate in not landing the large striped marlin that swam by him.

Most competitors concentrated their attention on the other eligible species. The first four places went to people who often fish in the area suggesting they had some advantage over those less familiar with where to fish. However, it is unlikely in the future that Derek Bergman the overall winner will be the only person to tow his boat up to near North Cape specifically to find a large kingfish. That and other options will now be more familiar to at least 20 other people!

The organisers plan to contact again those who attended for further feedback. But it seemed from comment at the event people enjoyed themselves and some seriously lobbied us to be sure that Spearfishing NZ runs it again next year. The local residents are equally supportive of that because a) they enjoyed the fish auction, b) the local volunteer fire brigade was the benefactor and c) they so loved our Tee shirts they finished up approaching us to buy almost the lot. Thanks to Graeme Leitch for the design work. However, there may have to be changes in the future with pre-registrations because there are fixed costs associated with setting up such an event. This competition is no different from various other sporting codes in that respect

Final official results vary slightly from that shown on the score board after the last day's weigh-in. At the competition an underweight kingfish had inadvertently been included in the scores. Later when entered into the computer scoring system that was removed while a few second

decimal places for individual scores were more accurately rounded up. Our major sponsors (Riffe, Cressi, Beuchat, OMER) and the winners of their prizes can be best seen on the link to Bluewater Results at www.spearfishingnz.co.nz

Name	Kahawai		Kingfish		Snapper		Trevally Total		Final	
	Weight	%	Weight	%	Weight	%	Weight	%	%	
Derek Bergman	1.75	83.33	25.56	100	6.06	91.68	1.25	37.88	312.89	1 st
Geoff Crawford	1.95	92.86			4.14	62.63	3.30	100	255.49	2 nd
Gary Fischer	1.52	72.38	19.97	78.13	5.14	77.76	0.85	25.76	254.03	3 rd
Shirley Dryden	1.82	86.67			5.80	87.75	1.06	32.12	206.54	4 th
Jackson Shields	1.53	72.86			6.61	100	0.81	24.55	197.41	5 th
Nick Sanderson	1.36	64.76	15.96	62.44	4.19	63.39			190.59	6 th
Nick Bergman	1.86	88.57	16.68	65.26			1.05	31.82	185.65	7 th
Max Bergman	1.95	92.86			3.71	56.13	0.69	20.91	169.90	8 th
Brett Smith	1.64	78.10	17.37	67.96			0.77	23.33	169.39	9 th
Shane O'Brien	1.34	63.81			4.44	67.17			130.98	10 th
Darren Shields	2.10	100							100.00	11 th
Heath Folpp	1.37	65.24					1.02	30.91	96.15	12 th
Rob King	1.79	85.24							85.24	13 th
Rick Angus	1.65	78.57							78.57	14 th
Dave Mullins					5.19	78.52			78.52	15 th
A. MacDonald	1.57	74.76							74.76	16 th

For a variety of reasons, the following DNW. They were variously running the boat, were targeting particular fish, their fish were less than the minimum weight, or they were exploring a new diving area!

Anthony Broadhead	Ben Knight	Mike Smith	Fran Rose
John Anderson	Glen Farac	Sam Barnes	Scott Buswell

A sombre note


Some will be aware that a scuba diver drowned diving from a boat while in the company of the Bluewater Competition organisers. Garry Weeds aged 65 was visiting the event with his son Kelly Weeds who is the owner of both the Bay of Islands and Waipapa Dive HQ shops.

Garry will be remembered in the Far North for his work in getting the ex navy ship Canterbury sunk as a diving wreck in Deep Water Cove at the Bay of Islands. 'Old hand' spearfishers will remember him around 1970 as the holder of the then NZ Kingfish Record of 94 lbs (or 42.7kg) a fish speared at White Island.

Splash Gordon's Wellington Shore-based Competition 28/3/09

“You can't beat Wellington on a good day” in the words of the song, and this day was no exception. It is doubtful if any other centre in NZ could have provided such great conditions for a shore-based competition. Cloudless sky, no wind, calm sea, no swell, indeed the south coast was like a lake with visibility varying between 8-10m for the 36 divers. Most of those competing were novices in the spearfishing competition scene and all credit to the shops around NZ who organise such events for people at this level of entry. Not only does it give spearfishers a chance to “test” themselves but the willingness of outlets to arrange with sponsors a wide range of Spot Prizes is indeed creditable. They deserve your support! The species weighed in at this event was a typical south coast catch of Blue Moki, Blue Cod, Butterfish, Kahawai, Tarakihi, Crayfish. Surprisingly there was no John Dory or Kingfish although the latter is reported to have been given a ‘fright’ by one competitor.

Individual Placings

1 st	Blair Rolinson	1060 points and Winner of a  wet suit
2 nd	Johnny Robinson	1030

Pairs Placings

1 st	Blair Rolinson & Kerry Mumford	1960 points
2 nd	George & Keith Michael	1760

Lucky Draw amongst Butterfish entries  wet suit, Aaron Isbistber

This information is sent to you by the Committee of Spearfishing NZ

Secretary	Judy Johnston	n.j@clear.net.nz
Treasurer	David Scott	david.scott@paradise.net.nz
Chairman	Bob Rosemergy	hughr@xtra.co.nz
Website		www.spearfishingnz.co.nz