

Spearfishing NZ Newsletter



Number 68 - May 2009

Coming & Going

For various spearfishers in NZ seasonal changes will be impacting on how often you now get out on the water and which fish are less likely to become your dinner. Not a bad time to reflect on how well you looked after yourself, your buddy and your boat during the summer months. Recent Coroner reports have highlighted how lax we can be when it comes to simple safety considerations like telling someone where we are going and giving a time we will be back. It should not be surprising that there are calls for all boats to carry a locator beacon. So if your boat's motor had started to sulk far offshore and darkness was approaching, how would you have called for assistance? Radio, flares, cell phone, prayer or curse and the waving of arms! If appropriate, make a note to do better.

NZ Spearfishing Record Certificates

Most winners have by now received their Dive NZ sponsored certificates. It seems though that some of them may have inadvertently been sent out without the official Record Keeper's signature. If you have one of those, contact Pat Swanson at patanddebs@xtra.co.nz for comment on how your certificate can be signed off. Our website is currently updating all NZ Spearfishing Records. www.spearfishingnz.co.nz

Bluewater Competition Survey Returns

Thank you to those who competed in the Bluewater Competition and have returned their Survey Form. There are a few still outstanding. We would like to get a near 100% return so if you are one who still has it sitting on your computer please fill it in and send it back ASAP. We know that not everyone who was present at the event had an email address so they probably won't be getting this Newsletter either! Two returns have included

responses from their partner and they will not be asked for a separate one. If you have lost/deleted your Survey Form contact hughr@xtra.co.nz for a new one to be sent to you, otherwise expect a personal reminder late next week.

Now the Picture!

In the last Newsletter we mentioned that Nick Williams from Hawke's Bay was the winner of the February 2009 Kingfish Cup with his 36 kg fish. We are told that during this past season the diving for fish in that part of the east coast has been exceptionally good because of the visibility. So we are puzzled why he needed a rod to be sure there was fish in the boat.



Latest New Zealand Spearo in a Dive Shop near You

This second edition has an extended range of articles that will certainly appeal both to those who are happy with one or two fish whatever their size as well as those who are more determined to find their personal best be it here or overseas.

The articles variously reflect the excitement of divers more used to the smaller species found in the southern parts of NZ and their eye opening experience of diving in the waters around Coromandel. Or again, the adjustment and different challenges faced when diving and spearing fish in kelp forests far larger than any of those around our shores. An aura has developed around Boarfish in recent years so the comment and tips in this issue should add to your success. And we are given a thoughtful reminder about our often imperfect use of the fish we spear. These and other articles will be enjoyed as much as the quality photos accompanying them.

Testing the Tidal Flows

You have to hand it to Tauranga diver Nick Sanderson for his impromptu and barely probable research into wind and tidal flows from and around Mayor Island. Nick recently described to us his 'research' equipment and methodology for the project. Taking a few editorial liberties we present his comments as follows.

STEP 1 Fall asleep on your boat on Tuhua reef at Mayor Island, with gun, float and rope insecurely tied off the stern of the boat.

STEP 2 Wake and head for home. Forget about gear until "next time."

STEP 3 A week later start to pack your gear for Easter. Exclaim, "Someone's pinched some of my spearfishing gear from my section!" So 'stolen' equipment was:

- 1.4m Rob Allen Tuna Carbon railgun, blue camo, twin 16mm amber core rubbers, 7.5mmx 180cm RA shaft. Value \$550+
- Rob Allen 35L hippo Float, Name and phone number written on it.
- 30m of green and black braided foam filled float line.
- Stainless steel Kina bomb/Krusher

STEP 4 Ask Spearfishing NZ Newsletter to publicise "stolen gear" in next mail-out.

STEP 5 Three weeks later take a phone call from an American Geologist who was fossicking for rocks by Tairua who asks, "Was this Nick Sanderson who owned a yellow float?"

STEP 6 Reply "Did it have anything attached to the end of it, he said hold on, let me see, it's wrapped around a rock and has a float line and speargun."

STEP 7 Drive to Tairua to pick it up. "Gun broken in half, spear bent and muzzle broken. (It must have got jammed on a reef, and the 3m swell tugging on the float with immense force had bent the spear at the muzzle, broke the muzzle open, and then later on the carbon barrel might have got jammed up again.)"

STEP 8 Nick concludes his account with, "The moral of the story is, apart from taking your gear home with you, is to write your name and phone number on your gear so some American geologist fossicking for rocks can call you and return your gear!"

Our additional analysis of his results suggests

1. In an extended period of ESE winds, diving gear will drift at least 27 nautical miles as the seagull flies (providing he flies over the top of Mayor Island) in a NW direction back to the mainland.
2. Insurance is a handy thing to have if a water logged memory is a bit suspect!

2009 Inter Pacific Spearfishing Champs Results

The NZ Spearfishing Team has just completed its participation in this year's Western Australia based competition. The team of primarily Whitianga based divers Colin Smith, Dwane Herbert, Ian Warnock, Julian Hansford and Manager Peter Herbert also included reserve Geoff Crawford from Northland. The party was rounded out with previous NZ representatives Brian Dowd, Geff Cookson, Paul Spence and Shirley Dryden all of whom were to 'earn their keep' in the days before the event trying to lessen the local knowledge factor by scouting the many possible competition areas so as to get an understanding of which species were to be found and passing that information on to the competition divers. Knowing where to find different species was to prove significant to the overall results. Australia increased its total fish on Day 2 whereas all other countries went in reverse.

Day One		Day Two	
Australia	50 fish	Australia	54 fish
NZ	47 fish	NZ	43 fish
Tahiti	41 fish	Tahiti	37 fish
Hawaii	33 fish	Hawaii	31 fish

Conditions on Day 1 were described as "OK" with 10-12m visibility, although the weather was predicted to deteriorate. Day 2 started out relatively calm, but had 4m swells by the end of the day and the 15m visibility closed to 2m.

Final results after 2 days:	1 st	Australia	200%
	2 nd	New Zealand	173.0%
	3 rd	Tahiti	154.2%
	4 th	Hawaii	125.8%

A more detailed account of this competition will appear elsewhere at a later time.

Lake Taupo Catfish



If you ever wondered about their average size and what they look like, here it is. We now have a better idea of when they can be seen at their most prolific, and it certainly is not late in March when this photo was taken. Once the water in the Lake starts to cool in late February they increasingly disappear to wherever it is they spend their

Autumn, Winter, Spring time.

This information is sent to you from Spearfishing NZ. If you wish your address to be removed from the mailing list contact one of the Committee members below.

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