

National Clubs NZ Fishing Contest

This year we had 8 different clubs taking part, with a total of 83 anglers on 29 boats, with a big contingency of competitors from Kamo Club, Ngunguru Sports & Recreation Society and Northland Club. It was so nice to host the contest at Whangaroa again, and good to see our friends from within the Clubs NZ family. What wasn't too nice was the weather and sea conditions, with the wind whipping up the sea making conditions not too comfortable out there, so the majority of fishing over the weekend took place in and around the Whangaroa Harbour.

Day 1 brought us lots of kahawai, kingfish and snapper, with Michael Lake on Taniwha (for Whangaroa) bringing in the heaviest kahawai for the day, at 2.58kg. The Papakura Club team aboard charter boat Major Tom II were keenly into their kingfish catching and one of the team – Keith Worboys, landed the heaviest of the day with a fish of 10.36kg using a live mackerel bait in the harbour. The rest of the team landed a few fish but tagged quite a few. The heaviest snapper for the day was landed by Kelly Wech from Kamo Club, on the boat Rough & Ready; a fish of 5.06kg.

Day 2 was a bit quieter out to sea and a few boats ventured outside the harbour to drag a lure or two, or a live bait, in the hope of something bigger to weigh in, but the majority of the catches were again kahawai, kingfish and snapper, with a few trevally and john dory in the mix. Yesterdays heaviest kahawai was superseded by a new heaviest fish of 2.58kg caught by Dennis Greasley on Razz II for the Ngunguru club. The heaviest snapper was landed by Bill Durrant on Gold Card, for the Kamo Club and there was also a heavier kingfish caught – a fish of 11.64kg for Paul Sullivan on Whatever, again for the Kamo Club, caught with a live bait from the harbour. Just after 'stop fishing' was called out, local angler Teresa Barton on charter boat Christina hooked into a kingfish at the harbour entrance, and 5 minutes later landed what would have been a winning fish, a lovely catch weighing 15.38kg, caught with a Rampala lure.

It seemed that no one could fail to catch a kahawai over the weekend, and despite the weather most people landed something for the contest or for a feed. There were no tuna or marlin caught but for the smaller species there were braid and mono sections with lots of prizes from sponsors Kilwell Sports and Burnsco, such as the beautiful red Tica Magma braid rods and 70L chilly bins, lots of Boner rods and Toptec reels and 24-37kg game rods, and Kiwi Sizzler gas boat BBQs. Points were allocated for 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings across all the categories, and when totalled, Kamo Club had well and truly beaten everybody else, with a massive 640 points earning them the Northland and national trophies.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year, hopefully the weather will be better, and we may give Kamo Club a fight for the trophies!