

Club Rules

WHANGAREI DEEP SEA ANGLERS' CLUB FISHING RULES

Statement of Purpose

Our Fishing Rules have evolved internationally so that, in their observance every fish should have a sporting chance. Captures in which the fish has not fought, or in which the fish has not had the chance to fight, on the gaff rope or at the boat, are not caught within the intent of our rules and do not reflect credit on the fish or the angler. Only fish caught within the Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club and NZSFC Angling Rules, incorporating the IGFA Equipment and Angling Regulations, and within the intent of these rules will be recognised.

All anglers must be a financial full, seven day, or day members of the Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers' Club prior to catch to be eligible for trophies. A seven day member or day member is only eligible for limited trophies.

1. The Fishing area is within 200 miles of the two main islands of New Zealand.
2. All fishing tackle must be in accordance with the IGFA Equipment Regulations.
3. The Club recognises all species of fish caught in South Pacific waters for which IGFA maintains line class records, plus any other species that the committee decides to recognise at any time.
4. The season ends on the 30th June each year and the new season starts on the next day, the 1st July.
5. A single fish may only count for one Club ie, a fish weighed for the Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club may not be counted for any other Club. Similarly if a fish is weighed or tagged during a contest run by another Club then that fish does not count for the Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club.
6. DEFINITION OF WHEN A FISH IS CAUGHT
 - a) In the event of a fish being taken on board the leader, if used, must be in hand before it is gaffed. The catch will be deemed complete when the fish is weighed. Once a fish is gaffed it cannot be tagged and released.
 - b) In the event of a fish being tagged for releasing the leader, if used, must be in hand when the tag is inserted into the fish. The catch is deemed complete when the tag is inserted. The leader can then be intentionally cut or the hooks removed.
 - c) In the event of a fish being released without tagging the fish is deemed caught and released when the leader is in hand and the leader is intentionally cut or the hook is deliberately removed.
 - d) If a fish escapes before gaffing, tagging or deliberately releasing, the fish is considered a free swimming fish and will not be considered as a catch.
 - e) A fish that has been tagged and the leader in hand, still uncut and attached to the fish, may be gaffed and weighed if the angler considers that it is unlikely to survive or for any other reason. The tag must remain in the fish until it is weighed and then removed and returned to the tag card.
7. MINIMUM CLUB REQUIREMENTS FOR FISH TO QUALIFY
 - a) Blue, Black and Striped Marlin must exceed 75kg when caught on 15-24-37-60kg line. When caught on 10kg line or less, they must exceed the breaking strain of the line used.
 - b) All Broadbill and Game Sharks (Mako, Blue, Hammerhead, Thresher, Bronze Whaler, Tiger, Porbeagle) must exceed 70kg when caught on 15-24-37-60kg line. When caught on 10kg line or less they must exceed the breaking strain of the line.
 - c) Yellowtail must exceed the breaking strain of the line used. They must also exceed 75cm in length from the nose to the vee of the tail in a straight line. (MPI regulation)
 - d) Tuna must exceed 15kg when caught on 15-24-37-60kg line. When caught on 10kg line or less, they must exceed the breaking strain of the line used.
 - e) Shortbilled Spearfish, Albacore, Wahoo, Sailfish and Tope must exceed 10kg when caught on 15kg line and above, or when caught on 10kg line or less must exceed the breaking strain of the line used. Mahi Mahi must exceed 5kg when caught on 6kg line and above, or when caught on less than 6kg

line must exceed the breaking strain of the line used. Snapper maximum line weight is 15kg with a minimum weight of 5kg.

f) Kahawai, Trevally and Skipjack / Slender Tuna have a maximum line weight of 15kg with no minimum catch weights. Hapuku and Bass have a maximum line weight of 37kg with a minimum weight of 10kg. (MPI size restrictions are applicable). Records for Hapuku and Bass will be maintained for line classes 10 to 37kg.

g) There are no minimum weights of any species, except Marlin, for small fry anglers as long as MPI regulations are adhered to. The minimum weight for landed Sharks for Junior anglers is 40kg.

h) Any new species for the Club recognised by the NZSFC and IGFA will be accepted.

i) In all instances the fishing laws of New Zealand apply.

j) The Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club reserves the right to amend these specific rules for contests eg, "fun" winter tournaments.

8. FLASHES AND CATCH CERTIFICATES

a) Will be issued (on request) for all recordable weighed fish qualifying under our rules 7 a) through to 7 e) inclusive.

b) All tagged Billfish and tagged Gamefish of other species that exceed minimum legal size (as in Yellowtail) or recommended minimum size (as in 10kg for Sharks) will qualify for flashes and certificates.

9. RULES GOVERNING PINS

a) A silver pin will be presented to the Angler who catches the first gamefish of each species in accordance with the minimum weights. As the season progresses each heavier fish of each species earns a silver pin except fish species in Rule 7 f).

b) If the first gamefish is tagged as per Rule 8 b) a silver pin is awarded.

c) No angler in any one day may be awarded more than one pin for any one species.

d) For National Records a silver pin with a ruby eye will be presented.

e) For World Records a gold pin will be presented. Should an angler catch two World Records in one day, a gold pin with a diamond eye will be presented.

10. FIRST & HEAVIEST FISH OF THE MONTH

a) Club Rules' minimum weights will apply to weighed fish.

b) The tagging and releasing of fish will only apply to Marlin

11. FISH ELIGIBLE FOR TROPHIES

a) Unless otherwise specified by the Donor, are the same as in Rule 7.

b) Lynelle Saul Trophy – Snapper maximum line weight is 15kg with a minimum weight of 5kg. To qualify for this trophy, Snapper must equal or exceed the line weight used.

c) In the case of a tie for a trophy awarded for the number of fish caught, where tagged fish are not included, weights will be taken into consideration when awarding the trophy.

d) In the case of a tie for a trophy awarded for the number of fish caught where tagged fish are included, weights will not be considered and the trophy shared.

e) Any application for any most meritorious trophy must be in the hands of the secretary no later than the first week of July

12. WEIGHING OF FISH

a) Fish transferred to another boat at sea or brought over land – full hooks, trace, and double plus 16

metres of line in one piece must accompany the fish when weighing, or the entire tackle used, in the case of a record claim.

b) The Angler, Skipper and Crew must assist the weighmaster in the measurement of the gear used and the weighing of the fish, with a completed catch sheet presented with the fish before weighing. All Marlin bills must be taped **or tied** before being weighed and the weigh station has the right to remove the taping/tie.

13. COURTESY WEIGHS

a) Courtesy Weighs for WDSAC members will count for the Marlin tally of the season, and for all trophies unless otherwise specified by the Donor.

b) Courtesy Weigh Catch Forms and Tag Cards must be received by the Weighmaster or Secretary within 14 days of the catch.

14. TAGGED FISH

(Also refer to rule 6 – Definition of When a Fish is Caught)

a) All tagged fish must be tagged on 60kg line or less to count for all eligible trophies and in Club tallies for the year.

b) Hook-up and Release times must be supplied with the tag cards. Weigh sheets should be filled out for each tag card.

c) All tagged fish shall be in the Gamefish Tagging Program, these are: "ALL BILLFISH, MAKO & BLUE SHARKS, YELLOWFIN TUNA and YELLOWTAIL."

d) 3.66 metres is the maximum overall length for Tag Poles.

e) The Pole must be kept in hand at all times.

f) The Gamefish Tagging Program recommends that fish should be alongside the boat and under control so the tag can be placed correctly.

g) When a fish is tagged, it is not to be removed from the water before it is let go, **with the exception of yellowtail.**

h) The Gamefish Tagging Program recommends that fish that are hooked in the mouth or lip are selected for tagging and not fish that are totally played out and not likely to survive.

i) The Gamefish Tagging Program recommends that the tag should be placed high on the back, about half way along and angled back at 45° so that it will stream with the flow of water when swimming.

15. RELEASED FISH (without tagging)

a) A fish is "DEEMED RELEASED WHEN THE LEADER IS IN HAND AND THE TRACE IS EITHER CUT INTENTIONALLY OR THE HOOK REMOVED."

16. IKI SPIKING

a) Iki spiking is permitted.

17. BLEEDING

a) Bleeding is only allowed if the club sanctioned prescribed method of bleeding is followed:

i. Place the gaff in the Tuna's head to prevent damage to the meat.

ii Cut to the bone just forward of the caudal fin, disconnecting the muscles and tendons that control the tail. Do the same to the other side of the tail. This inhibits the fish's ability to flop around.

iii. Lift the pectoral fin and locate the lateral line close to its base. Using a short, thick bladed knife, make a stab wound about two inches deep, piercing the major blood vessels of the lateral line.

18. OTHER EQUIPMENT

a) *Fighting chairs* may not have any mechanically propelled devices which aid the angler in fighting a fish.

b) *Gimbals* must be free swinging, which includes gimbals that swing in a vertical plane only. Any gimbal that allows the angler to reduce strain or to rest while fighting the fish is prohibited.

c) *Gaffs and nets* used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 8 feet (2.44 metres) in overall length. In using a flying or detachable gaff the rope may not exceed 30 feet (9.14 metres). (When fishing from a bridge, pier or other high platform or structure, this length limitation does not apply).

d) *Entangling devices*, either with or without a hook, are prohibited and may not be used for any purpose including baiting, hooking, fighting or landing the fish.

e) *Outriggers, downriggers, spreader bars and kites* are permitted to be used provided that the actual fishing line is attached to the snap or other release device, either directly or with some other material. The leader or double line may not be connected to the release mechanism either directly or with the use of a connecting device. Spreader bars are also acceptable when used strictly as a teaser.

f) *Daisy chains, birds, floats and similar devices* may only be used if they do not unfairly hamper or inhibit the normal swimming or fighting ability of the fish, thereby giving the angler or crew an unfair advantage in fighting, landing or boating the fish.

g) A *safety line* may be attached to the rod provided that it does not in any way assist the angler in fighting the fish.

19. The Committee shall have the right to alter, delete or add to any of the rules.