



TARANAKI KAYAK FISHING CLUB 2026 CLASSIC RULES

A. Contest Rules

1. **Kayaks** - This contest is restricted to human powered kayaks, sail kayaks and electric powered kayaks, for example Bixpy outboard kits. Any other form of propulsion or watercraft is prohibited. No ferrying of kayaks by other boats is permitted. All fish submitted for weigh-in are to be caught on the water from a kayak and transported to shore by kayak.
2. **Fishing Tackle** - Only rods or hand lines may be used, with only two hooks allowed per rod or hand line. Treble hooks are only permitted on artificial lures.
3. **Contest Boundaries** - The contest boundaries are from the southern bank of the Marokopa River in the north, to the southern end of Waverley Beach in the south. All contest fishing must be carried out within these boundaries only. No fishing is allowed within any Marine Reserve or other officially prohibited areas.
4. **Eligible Species** - There are 8 eligible species of fish in this contest, namely Tuna, Kingfish, Snapper, Kahawai, Trevally, Gurnard, Blue Cod and John Dory.
5. **Contest Period** - The official contest fishing period commences at 5.00 am on Saturday 7th March 2026 and finishes at 4.00 pm on Sunday 8th March 2026. Any fish caught outside these times are not eligible for weigh-in.
6. **Entries** - Entries are limited to 250. No further entries will be accepted after 6.30 pm on Friday 6th March 2026.
7. **Registration** - The contest registration will commence at 4.00 pm followed by the safety briefing at 6:30 pm on Friday 6th March 2026 at the Butlers Reef Bar, Oakura. Attendance is compulsory.

8. **Wrist-bands** - Contestants must at all times while involved in this contest wear the contest wristbands issued at the contest registration.
9. **Prize-giving** -
 - 9.1. **Place and time** - The official prize-giving (**Prize-giving**) will be held at Butlers Reef Bar, Oakura on Sunday 8th March 2026 at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Organising Committee is ready for the Prize-giving ceremony to commence.
 - 9.2. **Presence at Prize-giving required to be eligible to receive prize** - Contestants must be registered to enter this contest **and be present at the Prize-giving** to be eligible to receive any prize. If a contestant is not present at the Prize-giving when his/her name or entry number is announced as a prize winner, the prize will be immediately forfeited. In this event, in the case of fishing prizes, the prize will be awarded to the next place-getter in the relevant contest category; and in the case of spot prizes, the winner of the prize will be re-drawn.
 - 9.3. **All Prizes must be won** -
 - 9.3.1. If any fishing prize is not won due to an insufficient number of eligible entries, the prize will be awarded by drawing at random from contestants' entry form numbers.
 - 9.3.2. If there is no fishing on both days of this contest, all prizes will be awarded by drawing at random from contestants' entry form numbers. In this case, no contestant shall win more than one fishing prize.
10. **Fishing Prizes** -
 - 10.1. **Heaviest Fish Prizes** - There are prizes for the heaviest, second heaviest and third heaviest fish of each of the 8 eligible species that are weighed-in.
 - 10.1.1. Anglers are only eligible to win one prize per species in the Heaviest Fish contests. If an angler weighs in 2 or 3 of the heaviest 3 fish in a species category, s/he will be awarded a prize for only the heaviest fish that s/he weighs in, and the remaining fish of that species weighed in by that angler will be disregarded for the purpose of that Heaviest Fish contest.

- 10.1.2. If less than 3 anglers weigh in fish of a particular species, the remaining prizes will be drawn as spot prizes.
- 10.1.3. If 2 fish of the same species are weighed in at equal weights, then the first fish that was submitted for weighing shall be deemed the heavier. The second fish weighed in at that weight shall be deemed the next heaviest fish in that species category.

10.2. **Average Weight Prizes -**

- 10.2.1. There are average weight prizes for the following species of fish - Snapper, Trevally and Kahawai.
- 10.2.2. The winner of the Average Weight Prize for each of the species referred to above will be the angler whose fish weighs in at the weight closest to the average weight of all eligible fish of that species weighed in during this contest. In the event of a tie, the winner shall be the angler whose fish was weighed in first.

10.3. **Species Grand Slam Prize -**

- 10.3.1. This prize will be awarded to the angler who weighs in the largest number of different eligible species out of the 8 eligible species.
- 10.3.2. If more than one angler weighs in the largest number of different eligible species, then the winner of the Species Grand Slam Prize will be the angler whose fish weighed in has the highest combined weight. In calculating the highest combined weight, only the heaviest fish of each different species weighed in by an angler counts.
- 10.3.3. In the case of a Snapper caught and released in accordance with these competition rules, the Snapper will be deemed to have been weighed in at the weight derived by applying the **Snapper Length to Weight Conversion Table at Appendix "A"**.

- 10.4. **Grand Slam Cash Bonus Prize** - In addition to the Species Grand Slam Prize, the first angler (if any) to catch and weigh in all 8 eligible species will win \$2,000.00. If, for safety reasons, fishing for tuna is

prohibited on both days of the contest, the first angler (if any) to catch and weigh in all 7 of the other eligible species will win \$2,000.00.

10.5. **Team Trophy Prize -**

10.5.1. To qualify to win the Team Trophy Prize, a team must be registered as a team at the contest registration and comprise two (2) contestants individually registered.

10.5.2. The winning team will be the team with the highest aggregate points calculated as follows:

10.5.2.1. Only the heaviest fish of each eligible species weighed in by either team member during either day of this contest shall be taken into account in calculating team points.

10.5.2.2. In the case of a Snapper caught and released in accordance with these competition rules, the Snapper will be deemed to have been weighed in at the weight derived by applying the **Snapper Length to Weight Conversion Table at Appendix "A"**.

10.5.2.3. Points are calculated by applying the **Weights to Points Conversion Table at Appendix "B"**.

10.6. **Snapper Catch and Release Prizes** - There are prizes for the anglers who catch and release the longest, second longest and third longest snapper in accordance with these contest rules, including the additional rules below under the sub-heading "**Snapper Catch and Release Rules**".

11. **Spot Prizes -**

11.1. **Main Contest Spot Prize** - The winner will be the contestant whose entry form number is drawn at random from all the eligible anglers' entry form numbers during the Prize-giving.

11.2. **Early Bird Spot Prize** - The winner will be the contestant whose entry form number is drawn at random from all the "Early Bird" entry form numbers during the Prize-giving. **(Note: Only contest entries paid for and received no later than 5pm on Saturday 31st January 2026**

qualify for this prize).

- 11.3. **Other Spot Prizes** - In addition to the Main Contest Spot Prize and the Early Bird Spot Prize, there may be other spot prizes where the entry form number is drawn at random.

11.4. **Exclusions from Spot Prizes -**

11.4.1. All contestants are eligible to win the Main Contest Spot Prize.

11.4.2. Any angler who has won a Fishing Prize shall not be eligible to win a spot prize other than the Main Contest Spot Prize.

11.4.3. The winner of any spot prize shall not be eligible to win any other spot prize, except the Main Contest Spot Prize.

12. **Weighing-in Fish -**

12.1. The contest weigh-in station will be at the Butlers Reef Bar, Oakura.

12.2. Weigh-in commences at 3.00 pm on Saturday 7th March 2026 and 3.00 pm on Sunday 8th March 2026. Anglers' fish will be weighed-in in the order in which anglers are queued at the weigh-in station. Anglers who are not present or in line at the weigh-in station by 4:00 p.m. on those dates will not be permitted to weigh their fish.

12.3. The Weighmaster will be the sole judge of time, and whether or not an angler is present or in line at the weigh-in station by the cut-off time.

12.4. No contestant may weigh in more than 3 fish of the same species per day.

12.5. All fish presented for weighing must be a minimum of 500 gm in weight, and additionally for this contest, the minimum length for Snapper shall be 30cm. All fish submitted for weighing shall comply with the NZ Amateur Fishing Regulations. No under-size fish will be accepted.

12.6. Fish deemed not to be in good fresh condition will be rejected from weighing.

Snapper Catch and Release Rules

13. The Snapper Catch and Release category for the longest Snapper recognizes the growing popularity of this form of sustainable fishing.
14. Contestants can opt to participate in the Snapper Catch and Release category by ticking the relevant box on the entry form.
15. Anglers can participate in both the Heaviest Snapper, and Snapper Catch and Release, categories but must not submit the same Snapper for both categories.
16. Anglers competing in the Snapper Catch and Release category must bring their measure boards to registration on Friday 6th March 2026 to be checked and approved by the Organising Committee as complying with Rules 17.1 and 17.2 below.
17. **Measuring requirements -**
 - 17.1. Fish must be measured at the site of capture on a measure board that:
 - 17.1.1. is rigid and remains flat when a fish is placed on top of it;
 - 17.1.2. includes a ruler correctly calibrated and marked in centimetres; and
 - 17.1.3. has a rigid nose stop at right angles to the ruler at the zero mark.
 - 17.2. If a ruler which is not rigid is used to create a measure board, it must be affixed to a rigid surface such that the ruler cannot be moved on that surface or be bent or crinkled.
 - 17.3. In measuring a fish, the fish must be lying flat on top of the measure board, with the fish's snout touching the nose stop. The measurement must be taken from the most forward part of the fish's snout to the rear centre edge of the tail.
 - 17.4. All measurements must be recorded in centimetres.
 - 17.5. Fish that measure between centimetre increments shall be recorded at the lower of the two increments. For example, a fish that measures between 45 and 46 centimetres will have a recorded length of 45 centimetres.

18. **Release requirements** - After measurement, the fish must be released at the site of capture so that it swims away on its own. If the fish dies or does not swim away on its own after release, it shall be ineligible for entry in this contest.
19. **Evidential requirements** - The angler must present the following video / photographic evidence to the Weighmaster within the weigh-in times set out above:
 - 19.1. video evidence of :
 - 19.1.1. the angler landing the fish on his / her kayak;
 - 19.1.2. the angler with the fish, such that the angler is identifiable, **and showing the angler's competition wrist band;**
 - 19.1.3. the angler measuring the fish;
 - 19.1.4. the angler releasing the fish; and
 - 19.1.5. **the fish swimming away on its own.**
 - 19.2. video and/or photographic evidence of the full length of the fish on the measure board clearly showing the position of the fish's snout and tail, and the measurement of the fish.
20. If an angler's measure board has been approved by the Organising Committee as complying with Rules 17.1 and 17.2 above, and the Weighmaster considers that the evidential requirements in Rule 19 above are satisfied, the fish shall be eligible for entry in the Snapper Catch and Release contest. In this case, the name of the angler, length of the fish, and the date the fish was caught and released shall be recorded by the Weighmaster.
21. In the event of a tie, the first angler to present his/her photos/video to the Weighmaster will be deemed the angler who caught and released the longer Snapper.
22. **Revision of Rules** -
 - 22.1. All matters on which these rules are silent shall be determined at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
 - 22.2. These rules may be revised by the Organising Committee if it deems it necessary or expedient to do so. Contestants will be duly notified of

any changes.

- 22.3. The Organising Committee reserves the right to cancel the fishing, restrict the fishing range and/or eligible species, and/or change the fishing times on one or both days of this contest.

23. Instructions and Decisions of Organising Committee -

- 23.1. Contestants agree to abide by all instructions and decisions of the Organising Committee pertaining to this contest.
- 23.2. Decisions of the Organising Committee shall be final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into.

B. Safety Rules

1. Solo fishing is not recommended. The Organising Committee recommends contestants buddy up with at least one other kayak angler. The organizers will be pleased to assist in arranging partners if required.
2. An approved PFD /Life Jacket must be worn at all times while on the water.
3. At least one form of electronic communication (cell phone or VHF radio) must be carried at all times by each kayak angler while on the water. The cell phone number or VHF call sign will be recorded on the registration forms of the respective contestants. The VHF radio channels to be utilized for the contest will be advised at the registration briefing. In addition, it is recommended anglers submit a trip report to Coastguard, one trip report per group of anglers is OK, the trip report can be either by VHF, cell phone or App.
4. It shall be the responsibility of all contestants to determine that launching and fishing conditions at the locations they choose to fish are safe for their craft and personal abilities.
5. **The following safety equipment is mandatory -**
 - Approved PFD/Life Jacket (to be worn at all times on the water)
 - Communication (cell phone and/or VHF radio – one per kayak angler)
 - Distress Whistle (attached to PFD)
 - Tow Line/Anchor Rope
 - Hand Bailer Pump (not required for Sit-On-Top kayaks)
 - Paddle Rescue Float (not required for Sit-On-Top kayaks)
 - Sit-In kayaks must have sealed bulkheads or buoyancy bags bow & stern

6. **In addition, the following equipment is recommended**

- White Navigation Light or Torch (mandatory if night fishing)
- Flares & Signalling Mirror
- EPIRB Locator Beacon
- Hi-Viz Kayak Safety Flag
- Spare Paddle
- First Aid Kit
- Sunscreen
- Sun Hat & Sunglasses
- Food & Water

“A”

SNAPPER LENGTH TO WEIGHT CONVERSION TABLE

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
30	0.6	62	4.5
31	0.7	64	4.9
32	0.7	66	5.4
33	0.8	68	5.8
34	0.9	70	6.3
35	0.9	72	6.9
36	1.0	74	7.4
37	1.1	76	8.0
38	1.2	78	8.6
39	1.3	80	9.2
40	1.3	82	9.8
42	1.5	84	10.5
44	1.7	86	11.2
46	2.0	88	12.0
48	2.2	90	12.7
50	2.5	92	13.5
52	2.8	94	14.4
54	3.1	96	15.2
56	3.4	98	16.1
58	3.8	100	17.1
60	4.1		

“B”

WEIGHT TO POINTS CONVERSION TABLE

Points are awarded by multiplying the weight of a fish in kilograms by the relevant fish factor in the table below.

Species	Fish Factor
Gurnard	35
John Dory	30
Trevally	30
Tuna	25
Kingfish	25
Snapper	25
Blue Cod	25
Kahawai	10

The following are examples of the way the points system works:

1.2 kg snapper = Snapper fish factor of 25 x 1.2 kg (weight) = 30 points

0.9 kg gurnard = Gurnard fish factor of 35 x 0.9 kg (weight) = 31.5 points

6.2 kg snapper = Snapper fish factor of 25 x 6.2 kg (weight) = 155 points