



# WEIGHMASTERS HANDBOOK 2023

Version Two - August 2023





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# WEIGHMASTERS GUIDE SHEET

## Mission Statement

To develop and implement a programme to train Club Weighmasters to a credible standard, to satisfy the expectations of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) and clubs affiliated to said body, and also meet the requirements of the IGFA. This programme is to be updated on a regular basis to keep weighmasters up to a high standard of fish identification and weighing procedures. Weighmasters should always keep in mind that the weighstation is the front door to the Club.

## Contents

Understanding why we need to be consistent with fish identification and procedures. Learning the correct procedure for documentation in applying for records.

Understanding weighing equipment, scales and line tester's certification.

Regular updates and feed back to clubs and members of NZSFC regarding rules and regulations.

Keeping equipment up to standard including the weigh station. This includes catch cards, tags and scales certifications up to date, together with the weighmasters Kit Bag.

- Various tail ropes
- Knife, clippers, zip lock bags or envelopes for line tests or sampling
- Tape measure, measuring board
- Roll of insulation tape
- Catch cards and pens
- Club membership forms
- Fish ID books and/or photos
- Club Year Books and NZSFC Yearbook
- Chalk and/or white board pens
- General

Weighmasters should spend time concentrating on club public relations and have regular interaction with members relating to commonly used fishing techniques and indeed new techniques to keep anglers up to date with possible rule changes. This can be done with club education nights once or twice a year and, if necessary, bring in guest speakers.

When weighing fish during competitions make life easy for yourself by getting as much information as possible from the angler or skipper before the fish is brought to the weigh station. Ask that the angler has the catch card filled out before Weigh-in starts. Interact with the public and talk about the species, its features, any scaring, tags etc. Make sure you have references at your convenience in case you get in a bind over fish ID or rules.

Be consistent about decisions i.e. mutilation. Have on hand references to club and national records. Take time to measure and explain why you, as weighmaster, should check the gear, ropes, gaff length, tackle, rigs etc. Explain all of this to the spectators.

Above all, think how you as weighmaster can make the weigh-in a pleasurable experience for both the angler and spectators alike.

**Warren Harris**

(Weighmaster/Tutor MBGFC)

November 2013

# WEIGHMASTER'S DUTIES

Make yourself familiar with the club, NZSFC & IGFA rules

**Catch cards** - Angler to complete, check details are correct

**People to assist** - If you need help at the weigh station then ask people to do so.

**Tail Ropes to weigh fish** - Use correct size for the fish being weighed

**Check Anglers Gear** - NZSFC strongly recommends that weighmaster's inspect (and measure) all equipment used to capture the fish.

- Rod and Reel - make sure rod is not broken
- Main line - check there is at least 5m of the stated breaking strain line directly preceding the double line, leader, or hook. Also visibly check it's the line weight that the angler says it is, if in doubt use a line tester to check
- Trace - Leader/Double - check leader/double length is correct for the line weight being used
- Hook arrangement - Is it legal (no 3 hook rigs or double hooks used with skirted lures etc)
- Gaff/Net - is it legal (max length 2.44m) Tag Pole - is it legal (max length 3.66m)
- Choke or tail ropes, flying gaff ropes used during capture - max length of 9.14m

**Inspect Fish** - Check for any recent wounds that may have occurred during the angling process, eg prop lacerations, shark bites etc.

**Species Identification** - If you're unsure then either involve others with more experience or just leave the species part blank until it's correctly identified at a later date.

**Hanging or Platform scales?** - fish type/length

- Turn on & wait for zero
- Attach tail rope or place tray on scales and "zero" the scales
- Weigh Fish & record weight
- Before weighing next fish check that scales have re-zeroed correctly. Wash any ropes, trays used during the process.

**Catch Board** - Ask the angler if they would like the catch board written up for photos, this also applies to all underweight Billfish.

**NZ or World records** - Many NZ or World records get missed, especially junior or small fry records. Ultimately this is the angler's responsibility, however if you suspect it could be a NZ or World record check the current NZSFC yearbook/website or advise the angler to not cut the fish up until confirmed whether it is or not a record. There is a lot of paperwork, photos & measuring required for record applications, feel free to contact anyone else who has more experience to help the angler with this process.

# I'VE JUST WEIGHED A PENDING NZ OR WORLD RECORD CAPTURE – WHAT DO I DO?

Assuming all tackle & equipment has been checked and complies with the rules & regulations.

Is it a NZ or World record? Check NZSFC or IGFA website for latest records.

Download the latest applicable record application form from the NZSFC website, or find it in the annual NZSFC yearbook.

Work through the form and fill out everything required, write N/A where something isn't applicable, eg in the inches space if you have measured in cm.

Ask an IGFA or NZSFC rep for assistance with the application if required.

## MEASUREMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE CLAIM

- Rod Tip Length - Centre of reel seat to rod tip.
- Rod Butt Length - Rod butt to centre of reel seat.
- Fish Length/Girth – Refer to diagrams on the application form.
- Double Length.
- Leader Length – Including wind on if used, also includes any swivel used

## LINE SAMPLE

All record applications must include a minimum of 5 metres of main line **still attached to the double line and/or leader** (if used). Records caught on fly tackle must include the entire leader still attached to the fly.

This line sample needs to be neatly wound around stiff cardboard or something similar and be easy to unwind without knotting for the person processing the record.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

- Angler with the fish.
- The Rod & Reel used to make the capture.
- Fish on the scales.
- Weight showing on the scales.
- Fish Length/Girth – With a tape measure or measure board underneath the fish clearly show full length of the fish plus close ups if required to read the measurement.
- Photo of the lure used if it's not included with the line sample.
- If required pic's of any controversial mutilation wounds.
- If required specific identification pic's of dorsal fins, pectoral fins, liver etc.

## OTHER ITEMS

- Weighmaster and skipper to sign the application form.
- An IGFA rep can sign the species identification section.
- Signed affidavit on the application form, for a world record from either a JP or IGFA Rep, for NZ record from either a JP, IGFA Rep, NZSFC board member, or club president.
- Scale certification certificate – Obtain from club secretary.
- Application Fee - If applicable.

## TIME LIMIT ON CLAIMS

Must be in the hands of the record officer within 60 days.

# WEIGHMASTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The weighstations are the front door of every club. Their procedure and presentation reflect on their club as a whole.
2. All weighing scales must have a current certification 12 months of the year. There is no given time when there may be a requirement to weigh a world or National record.
3. All weighpersons must make themselves familiar with the operation of the scales they are using. Makes and brands of scales can and do vary from club to club.
4. A club must fish under NZSFC and IGFA rules, and regulations as well as their club rules. Weighpersons must make themselves familiar with these rules especially the tackle and species. They will be checking the leaders and the double line and making sure of the line weight and gaffs set down in the IGFA rules as well as species.
5. Weighpersons must check for any new wounds in the fish such as propeller or predator inflections etc. Any one of these injuries must be reported to the appropriate person or persons within the club for them to adjudicate over the legality of the catch. The only injury that is acceptable is the clean gaffing wound or wounds.
6. Weighpersons must have proof of NZSFC club membership before a courtesy weigh can be performed. There may be a club fee to pay before courtesy weighing. A non-member will be charged a fee before weighing any fish. Weigh persons must receive from the angler the filled in weigh/catch sheet before weighing the fish, to be completed with the weight and their signature verifying the weight after the fish is weighed by the weighperson.
7. Weighpersons must make sure that the scale is zeroed and witnessed by the angler or their representative before weighing the fish. The angler or representative must be present to verify the weight of the fish when the weighperson has the final weight.
8. All fish must be hung by the tail prior to weighing. For consistency all marlin bills (mouths) must be taped before weighing.
9. Fish can be weighed by the tail, in a cradle or on a flat platform. The weight of the cradle or tail rope must be deducted from the total weight or hung from the scales and then zeroed before weighing commences.
10. When weighing the fish other than on a platform, it must be allowed to totally settle to ascertain the correct weight. If the scales have a motion sensor this must be used.
11. Bait fish that are in the throat or the stomach of the fish are included in the weight of the fish.
12. The only weight that is recognised is the first weight of the fish on a recognised weighstation. Any other weight that may be established will not be recognised.
13. All lures and traces where practicable must be removed before weighing. Lures are not included in the weight.
14. Weigh persons must not get into consultation with the angler or the crew if there is any discrepancy with the fish or procedure required to weigh fish outside of these times.
15. Weighpersons must make themselves familiar with the presentation procedure for the identification of tagged and released fish. This may be different from club to club.
16. Weighpersons must make themselves familiar with the courtesy weighing requirements of their club. Two weigh sheets should be filled in, one for the club weighing the fish and one for the angler to take back to their club. (Council's policy is that all clubs must courtesy weigh for other affiliated clubs when required).
17. Weighpersons must use the IGFA and NZSFC yearbook for species identification for all fish. There are other publications that can be used for the same purposes.
18. All clubs must be a member of IGFA.
19. Each club will notify the NZSFC of their weighpersons each year.
20. Each club should notify its members and the NZSFC of their normal weighing hours.
21. Each club should notify its members and neighbouring clubs of their courtesy weighing requirements.
22. If in doubt on any detail seek assistance.

## NOTES FOR EVERYONE

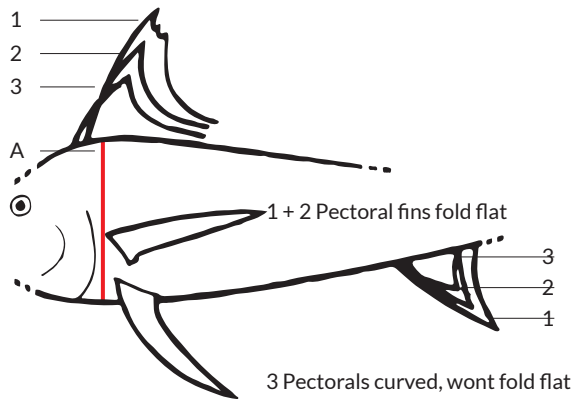
- Recent wounds on a fish that have occurred while the fish is being angled such as shark bites or propeller wounds or anything else other than clean gaffing automatically disqualifies the fish as a mutilated catch.
- If a weighperson has a concern over the line weight he/she must use the club's line tester to identify the breaking strain. It is in the interest of every club to have their own line tester.
- The identified weight of a fish is the first time that it is weighed. No other weight that may be identified will be accepted.
- To avoid spoiled (decayed) fish they should be all weighed on the day of their catch. It is up to the individual clubs whether they make this mandatory or not.

# ANGLERS, CREWS, BOAT OWNERS & CHARTER BOAT CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN THEY COME TO THE WEIGH STATION

1. Every angler, crew, boat owner and charter boat captain must make themselves totally familiar with the fishing rules and regulations set down by IGFA, NZSFC and individual clubs and their tournaments.
2. The weighperson is in charge of the weighstation. Anglers, crew, boat owners and charter boat captains are required to work in with the weighperson with the handling and the presentation for the weighing of fish.
3. The angler must complete the weigh sheet other than the weight before presenting the fish to the weighperson.
4. If a fish has any new wounds other than the clean gaffing wound or wounds such as may be inflicted by a propeller or another predator this will disqualify the fish. If this fish is weighed in a mutilated condition it will not qualify for any IGFA, NZSFC, Club or tournament trophies or prizes.
5. Parties are requested to co-operate with the weighperson to check any relevant equipment related to this catch.
6. The angler or their representative must be on hand to make sure the scales are zeroed before weighing the fish. Also, the angler or representative must be present to verify the weight of the fish when the weighperson has the final weight.
7. Parties are requested not to get into any consultation over any disagreement that may occur at the weighstation with the weighperson. Any disagreements should be taken to the appropriate person in charge of fishing regulations within the club for them to adjudicate over. When the weighperson is the weighmaster and judge they will then adjudicate on the IGFA and NZSFC fishing rules and regulations, along with any club and tournament rules that may apply.
8. Anglers are requested when courtesy weighing to adhere to the individual club's requirements, procedures and weighing times which may vary from club to club. Anglers must produce their club membership card or proof of membership before the fish can be courtesy weighed. There may be a courtesy weigh fee required by the club performing the courtesy weigh. Visiting anglers who are non-members will be charged a fee before weighing the fish. There should be two weigh sheets filled in for courtesy weighs, one for the club doing the courtesies weigh and one for the angler to take back to their own club. This is the angler's responsibility.
9. Parties are requested to make themselves familiar with the weighing hours of the club and the procedure required to weigh fish outside of these times.
10. When parties wish to have the tag and release of a fish identified at the weigh station they must adhere to the protocol of the individual club.
11. Weighing of fish can be a joyous occasion with a little celebration going on before you get to the weigh station. Parties must appreciate that weighpersons have a big responsibility and not let their exuberance interfere with the serious procedure of weighing of the fish and the possible checking of the equipment and the fish.
12. The only weight that is recognised is the first weight of the fish on a recognised weigh station. Any other weight that may be established will not be recognised.
13. Tag cards must be checked when handed in. The minimum information required is date, location, species and estimation of size. Other information on the state of the fish's well-being is desirable.
14. Anglers and crew should co-operate with the Marine Biologists, Scientists and other Government Officials or Organisations in charge of science and research.



# BILLFISH IDENTIFICATION



## KEY

1. Striped Marlin
2. Blue Marlin
3. Black Marlin

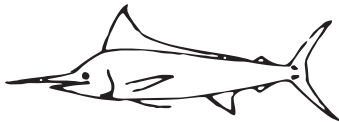
## Dorsal Fin

1. About equal to A
2. About 2/3 of A
3. About 1/2 of A

## Anal Fins

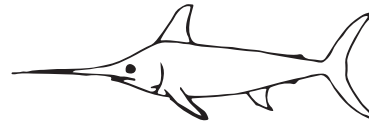
- Each species
- Similar proportion

## Features: Billfish



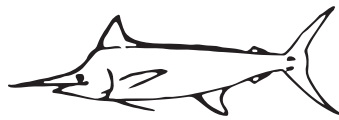
### STRIPED MARLIN

- Sloped head slender - spear
- High dorsal fin prominent lateral line
- Flat relatively straight sided pectoral fins
- Moderately deep anal fin



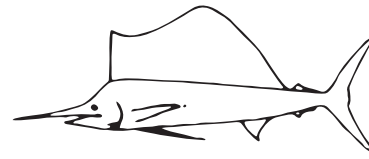
### BROADBILL

- All fins rigid
- Long flat sided sword
- Curved pectorals



### BLUE MARLIN

- Scooped head moderate heavy spear
- Moderately high dorsal fin
- Flat relatively straight sided pectoral fins
- Deep anal fin



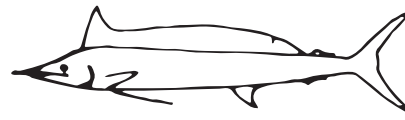
### SAILFISH

- Very high dorsal fin (sail)
- Slender spear
- Flat straight sided pectorals



### BLACK MARLIN

- Humped head heavy spear
- Low rounded dorsal fin
- Curved pectoral fins that, in fish up to 60kgs may be movable but do not sit flat along body
- Pectorals airfoil in section and curved in outline
- Low anal fin

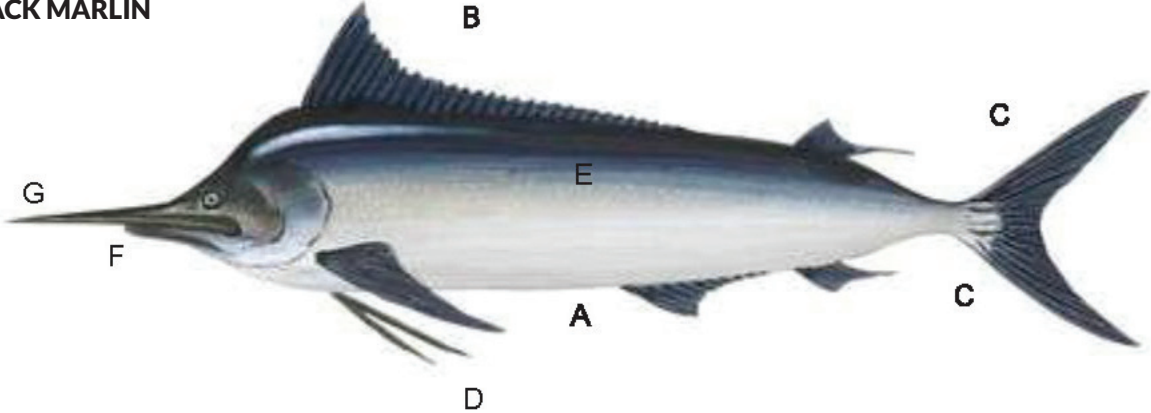


### SPEARFISH

- Relatively high dorsal
- Short spear
- Flat pectorals

# WHAT MARLIN IS THAT?

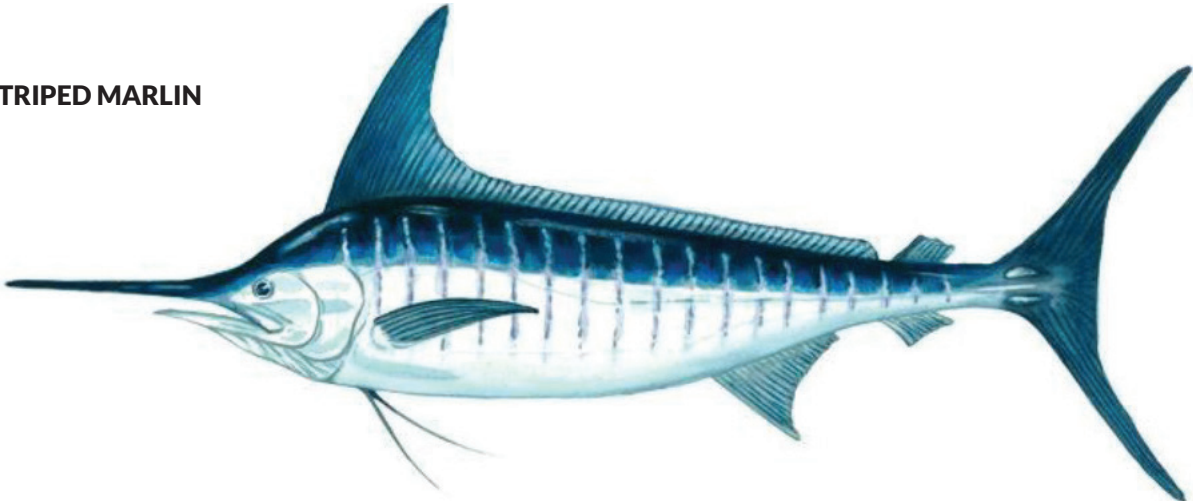
**BLACK MARLIN**



**BLUE MARLIN**



**STRIPED MARLIN**



FEATURE	BLACK MARLIN	BLUE MARLIN	STRIPED MARLIN
<b>A. PECTORAL FINS</b>	Rigid. Cannot be folded along the body (for fish over about 120kg). Curved like half sickle, aerofoil cross section.	Can be folded along body. Strap like, flat cross-section	Can be folded along the body. Strap like often "leaf" shaped. Flat cross section.
<b>B. FIRST DORSAL FIN (WHEN FULLY ERECT)</b>	Lowest of marlin, somewhat rounded tip. Height about half body depth. Rarely has spots. Stout (fin rays are relatively thick). In fish less than 50kg, dorsal relatively high for much of its length	Intermediate (but obviously high). Height about two-thirds of body depth (about to level of origin of pectoral fin). Pointed tip, sometimes has numerous small spots. Stout (fin rays are relatively thick).	Highest of marlins. Height equal to, or just less than, body depth. Trailing edge more gradual than other two marlin, often resulting in rounded tip and "ragged" trailing edge. Relatively floppy (fin rays not stout).
<b>C. SECOND DORSAL FIN &amp; SECOND ANAL FINS</b>	Second dorsal fin anterior to (in front of) second anal fin (measure as shown in accompanying figure).	Second dorsal fin posterior to (behind) second anal fin.	Second dorsal fin posterior to (behind) second anal fin.
<b>D. PELVIC OR VENTRAL FINS</b>	Very short. Less than 15% of lower jaw-fork length.	Moderately long 16-23% of lower jaw-fork length.	Long. 15-27% of lower jaw-fork length.
<b>E. LATERAL LINES</b>	Single obvious only in small specimens (less than 25kg).	Complex, but not visible. (if skin is cleaned & dried, lateral line shows as "chicken wire" shapes on the skin).	Often visible as a single line, esp in fish under about 80kg. Present in larger fish, but not always obvious.
<b>F. LOWER JAW</b>	Short & "stocky" (like chickens beak). Often turned down at the tip.	Short & "stocky" (like chickens beak). Sometimes with downward turn at the tip.	Long and slender. Acutely pointed.
<b>G. BILL</b>	Stoutest of three marlins. Large sharp denticles over surface - can cause abrasive injuries when handling.	More slender than black, stouter than striped. Large sharp denticles over surface - can cause abrasive injuries when handling.	Slenderest of the three marlins. Very small denticles over surface - unlikely to abrade skin when handling.
<b>H. LENGTH RATIOS</b>	% of eye-fork to lower jaw-fork lengths ranges between 85-88%. Similar to blue marlin.	% of eye-fork to lower jaw-fork lengths ranges between 86-89%. Does not overlap with striped marlin.	% of eye-fork to lower jaw-fork lengths ranges between 82- 86%. Does not overlap with blue marlin.
<b>SCALES</b>	Scales relatively deep, but can be clearly seen	Very obvious just under the skin. Scales are nearly always exposed by skin breaking when handling	Scales not obvious (deep in skin). Not easily exposed by superficial abrasion of skin.
<b>BODY SHAPE</b>	Oval in cross-section. Robust at level of pectoral fin, tapering gradually toward tail.	Oval in cross-section. Usually heavier than striped marlin for any given body length	Slab-sided. Elliptical in cross-section. Weight per body length least of the three marlins
<b>FLESH COLOUR</b>	Pinkish white/grey	Pinkish white/grey	Mostly distinct orange colour (resembling smoked salmon).
<b>COLOUR/VERTICAL BARS</b>	Many show bars when alive (esp juveniles), but disappear after death. Dorsal fin usually a distinctive mauve/pink in life. Body colour tends to a dull grey after death.	Show vertical bars when alive but disappear after death. Body colour becomes steely grey to very dark blue after death. Dark colour over whole body, including head. Light blue eye colour stands out.	Vertical bars in life and always visible after death. Whole body does not become dark after death. Belly usually retains creamy white colour.

# BILLFISH

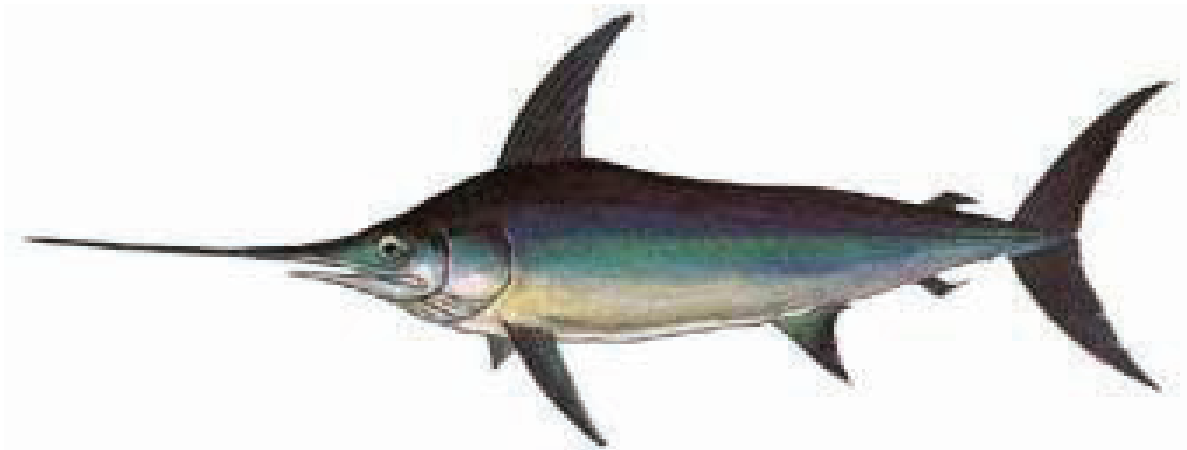


## SHORTBILL SPEARFISH

*TETRAPTERUS ANGUSTIROSTRIS*

### Identifying characteristics:

- Very short, stout bill (little overlap past lower jaw)
- Body very long, slender and laterally compressed
- Elongate, dark blue first dorsal fin, other fins are darker blue
- Dark blue dorsal region cleanly separated from silvery white sides and belly
- Not clearly marked with vertical bars or stripes
- Low sloping nape (between bill and first dorsal fin)



## BROADBILL

*XIPHIAS GLADIUS*

### Identifying characteristics:

- The Broadbill Swordfish's bill elongates into a true sword shape. Measuring at least one-third the length of the body, it is long, flat, pointed, and very sharp (especially on smaller fish) and significantly longer and wider than the bill of any other billfish. The lower jaw is much smaller, although just as pointed, ending in a very wide mouth.
- The swordfish has a stout, fairly rounded body and large eyes. The first dorsal fin is tall, non retractable, and crescent-shaped. The second dorsal fin is widely separated from the first and very small. Both are soft rayed, having thin, bony rods that extend from the base of the fin and support the fin membrane.
- The anal fins approximate the shape of the dorsal fins but are noticeably smaller. Ventral fins, on the underside of the fish, are absent. There is a strong longitudinal keel, or ridge, on either side of the caudal peduncle, which leads to a broad, crescent-shaped tail. Adult swordfish have neither teeth nor scales.
- The back may be dark brown, bronze, dark metallic purple, grey-ish blue, or black. The sides may be dark like the back or dusky. The belly and the lower sides of the head are dirty white or light brown.

# SHARK IDENTIFICATION

## Blue in colour

### MAKO

- Bullet head
- Upper and lower tail lobes almost equal
- Long gill slits
- Long narrow pointed teeth
- Short pectoral fin
- Keel on side of body near tail

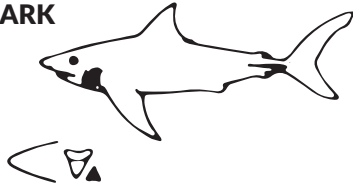
### BLUE SHARK

- Pointed head
- Upper lobe of tail much longer than lower lobe
- Short gill slits
- Short wide serrated teeth
- Very long pectoral fin - its length equal to the length from the first gill slit to the tip of the nose

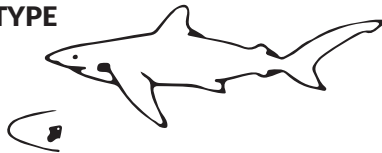
### HAMMERHEAD



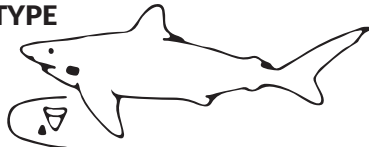
### WHITE SHARK



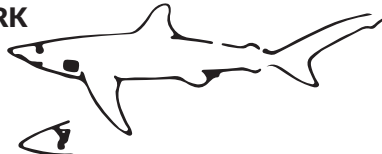
### WHALER TYPE



### WHALER TYPE



### BLUESHARK



## Large dark-coloured eyes

### WHITE POINTER

- Bullet head
- Upper and lower lobes of tail almost equal
- Long gill slits
- Broad triangular serrated teeth
- Prominent keel on side of body near tail

### TIGER

- Blunt head
- Upper lobe of tail much longer than lower
- Short gill slits
- Curved cockscomb teeth
- Not true keel but low ridge

## Yellowish cat type eyes

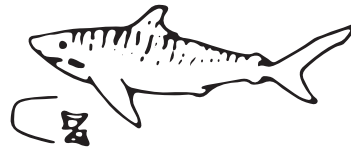
### WHALERS

- Upper lobe of tail is longer than lower
- Short gill slits
- First dorsal fin larger, second dorsal fin much smaller
- Broad slightly serrated teeth in upper jaw, narrow slightly serrated teeth in lower jaw
- Head ranges from blunt to pointed

### THRESHER



### TIGER

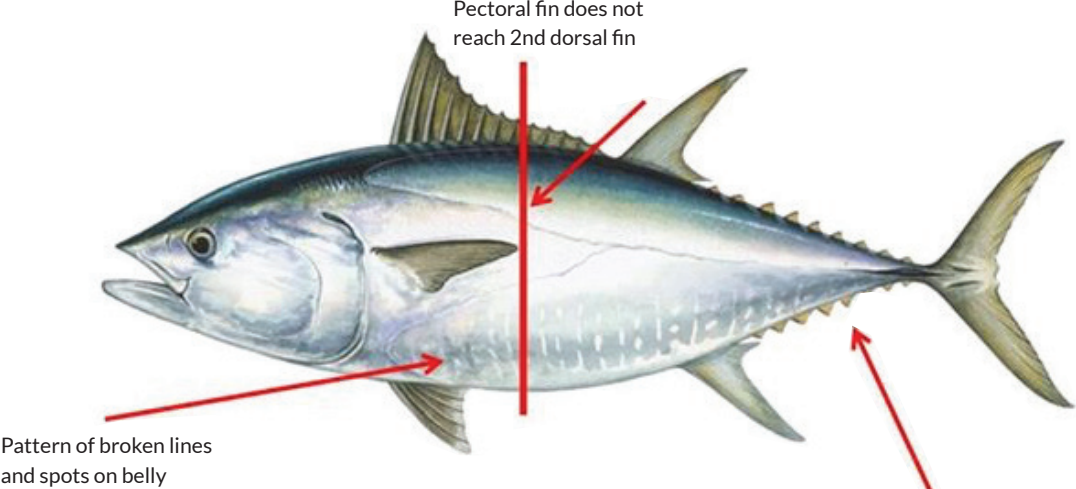


### MAKO

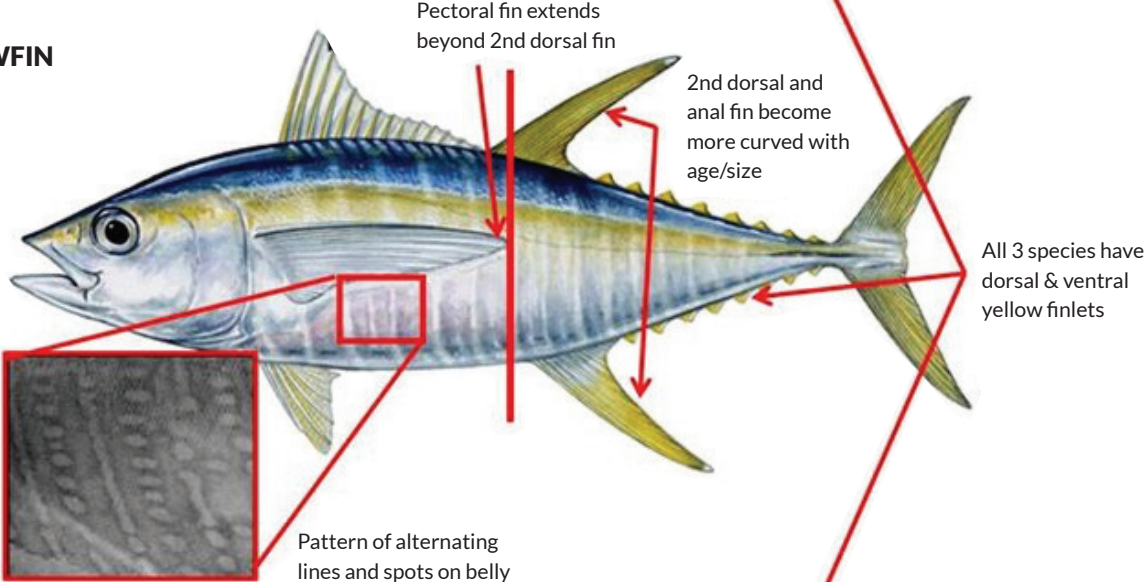


# TUNA IDENTIFICATION

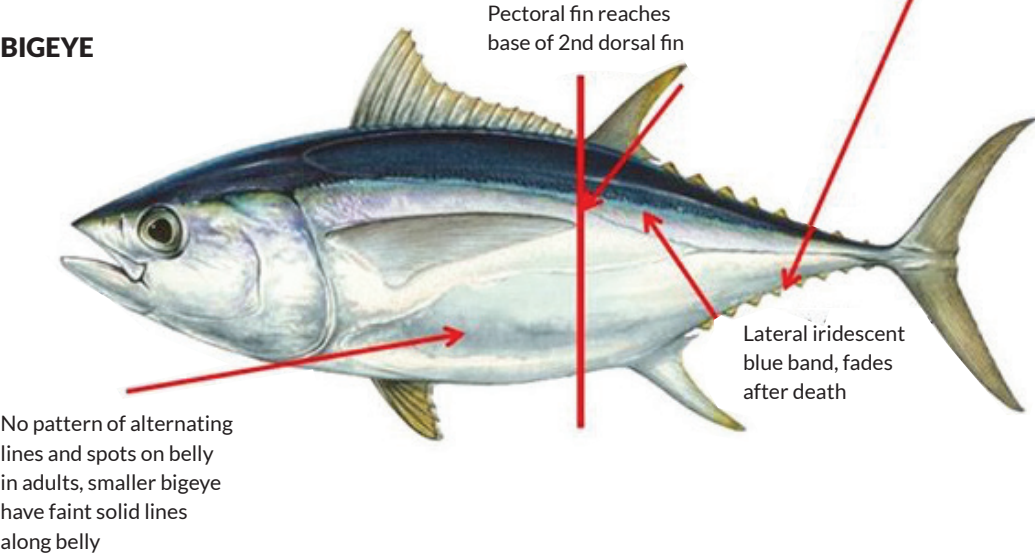
## BLUEFIN



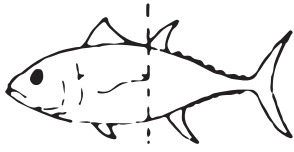
## YELLOWFIN



## BIGEYE



# TUNA & MACKEREL IDENTIFICATION



## BIG EYE TUNA

- Liver has dark streaks
- Greatest body depth is MORE than 25% of body length, as X-X on Aust. Record Application Form
- Moderate pectoral fins
- Yellow finlets with broad and blotchy black edge



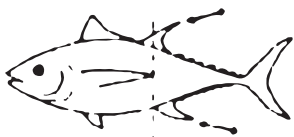
## DOGTOOTH TUNA

- No scales
- Prominent teeth
- Short pectoral fins
- Greyish to yellowish finlets



## SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA

- Has swim bladder
- Liver has dark streaks
- Short pectoral fins
- Yellow with black edge



## YELLOWFIN TUNA

- Liver is even coloured
- NO dark streaks
- Greatest body depth is LESS than 25% of body length, as X-X on Aust. Record Application Form
- Long pectoral fins. In adult fish pectoral and anal fins are elongated
- Yellow finlets with well defined black edge



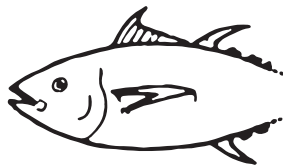
## LONGTAIL/NORTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA

- No swim bladder
- Short pectoral fins
- Yellow blotch on finlets



## ALBACORE

- Very long pectoral fins
- Dark or silver finlets



## ADULT TUNAS WITH SHORT SECOND DORSAL AND ANAL FINS

### KEY

1. BLUEFIN TUNAS
2. BIG EYE TUNA

Pectoral fin <80% of head length  
Pectoral fin >80% of head length



## KAWA KAWA/MACKEREL TUNA

- Wavy green lines on back
- Spots on belly



## SHARK MACKEREL/SCALEY MACKEREL/LARGE SCALE TUNA

- Double lateral line



## WAHOO

- Lower jaw longer than upper jaw
- Straight tail
- No gill rakers on gills



## BONITO

- Stripes on back



## NARROW BARRED MACKEREL

- Veed tail
- Upper jaw longer than lower
- Gillrakers on gills



## STRIPED TUNA/SKIPJACK TUNA

- Stripes on belly

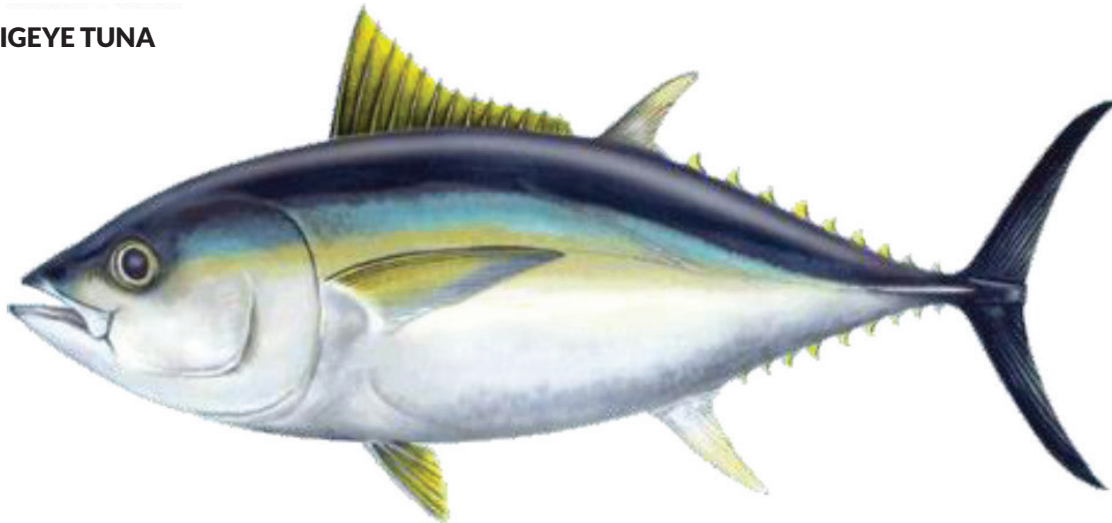
# DISTINGUISHING BIGEYE & YELLOWFIN TUNA

Two of the most difficult species of Tuna to tell apart, especially when small, are the yellowfin and bigeye tuna. This table summarises the principal differences between them at all sizes.

**YELLOWFIN TUNA**



**BIGEYE TUNA**





FEATURE	YELLOWFIN	BIGEYE
LIVER	Three lobes, one noticeably longer than other two. Bottom surface of the liver is a plain, uniform colour.	Three lobes of roughly equal length. Bottom surface streaked with many fine, blood-coloured lines, especially towards edge of middle lobe.
SWIM BLADDER	Small and not obvious. Only occupying about half of the body cavity ("above" the internal organs).	Large and obvious, occupying the full length of the body cavity.
COLOUR WHEN ALIVE	Metallic-black back, bright yellow band along body above silver/white sides and belly.	Dark blue/black back, blending to cobalt metallic-blue, to golden band above silvery/grey sides and white belly.
TAIL (ESPECIALLY FISH OVER 7KG)	Yellow golden tinge. Middle part of trailing edge indented into a distinct "V", with raised ridges on either side.	Dark, showing little if any yellow. Dusky black after death. No distinct "V" at middle of tail. Pair or raised ridges absent.
FISH 2 TO 5 KG	Many silvery oblique bands (striations) covering lower rear-half of body. Bands alternate between solid ones and lines consisting of rows of spots. Body relatively elongated and slim. Pectoral fin reaches to level of second dorsal fin, and is often rounded at tip.	Widely spaced, irregular vertical stripes, mostly solid, with darker areas in between. Head large compared with body. Body deep and rotund. The top and bottom edges from head to tail form continuous curves. Pectoral fin sharp-tipped, and as long or longer than yellowfin at this size.
FISH 10 TO 20 KG	Alternating bands of stripes and rows of spots still present, but wider apart than juveniles. Body still elongated, with the body profile between the second dorsal fin and the tail almost straight. Shape of pectoral fins from above blade-like, with tips pointing at about 45 degrees to line of body.	Vertical bands less distinct as fish grows, but still visible in live fish. Pectoral fins very long at this size, reaching the rear of the second anal fin. With a thin, flexible tip. Shape of pectoral fin from above is crescent-like, with the tips pointing to the rear.
FISH 21 TO 35 KG	Body still elongated, resulting in relatively small head compared with total length. Body striations now less obvious. Pectoral fin now relatively short and still. Second dorsal and anal fins ("sickles") begin to elongate.	Body is now very rotund (taking on the shape of a football). Head noticeably large, but relatively short tail "wrist". Pectoral fin still quite long. Importantly, second dorsal and anal fins remain short.
FISH 45 TO 70 KG	Body now more robust and barrel-shaped, but body, especially tail wrist, still elongated compared with bigeye. "Sickles" now quite elongated unlike any other tuna. Whitish patches still evident on rear third of underside.	Body very deep and even more "football" shaped, accentuating the relatively short tail-wrist. Large head compared with body is quite noticeable. Pectoral fin now much shorter and thicker. Very few, if any, markings on underside.
LARGER THAN 70 KG	"Sickles" greatly elongated, sometimes extended to the level of the tail tips.	Body very deep; head large, virtually no body markings.

# EXTERNAL CHARACTERISTICS

## Finlet Coloration

### **YELLOWFIN**

- bright yellow with no black edging



### **BIGEYE**

- yellowish colour edged with fine black line



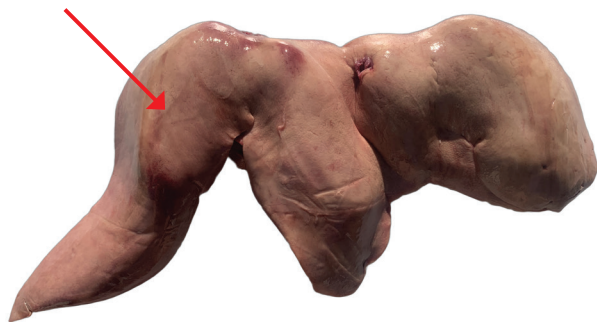
# INTERNAL CHARACTERISTICS

## Liver morphology and appearance

Large, conspicuous organ along anterior, ventral portion of gut cavity

### YELLOWFIN

- One lobe is longer and thinner than the other. The other two are rounded, smooth, clear with no striations.



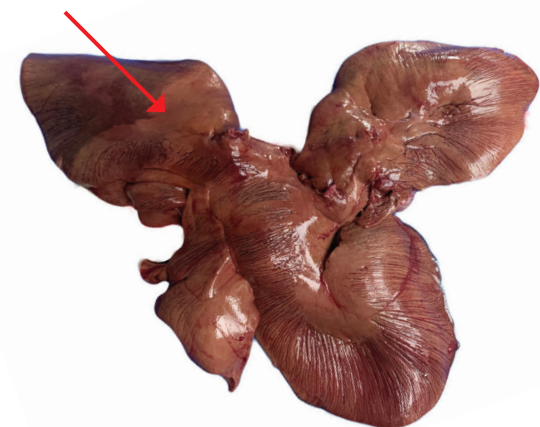
### SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA

- Ventral surface of liver striated, lobes roughly equal in length.



### BIGEYE

- Three rounded lobes of about equal size. Ventral surface striated



### SBT VS BIG EYE TUNA FIRST GILL-ARCH RAKERS IDENTIFICATION

Count the first gill-arch rakers (whiteish comb like projections)

- Southern Blue Fin Tuna have 31 to 40 rakers (average 33.7)
- Big Eye Tuna have 23 to 31 rakers (average 27)



# BLUEFIN TUNA IDENTIFICATION

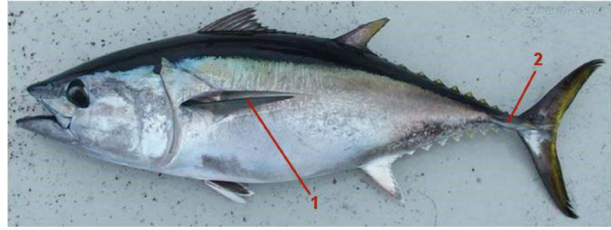
## SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA

*THUNNUS MACCOYII*

Southern bluefin have a moderately long and muscular body with small scales covering skin. They are bluish black in colour along the back and silvery white below. Keels are present near the tail and are coloured yellow in juveniles and black in adults. Looks similar to bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) but fishers experienced in catching SBT will be able to identify/distinguish bigeye by the larger shape of the eye and the chubby form of the fish.

### Identifying characteristics:

- Pectoral fins (1) short, less than head length; top front of the body cavity has a prominent bulge (when gills and gut removed).
- Coloration: dark blue back transitioning into lighter blue with dark fins; lower sides and belly mainly silver, faint vertical lines or dots fading on death;



caudal keel (2) pale or yellow but may be darker in large fish. Attains 220 cm length and 165 kg in weight.

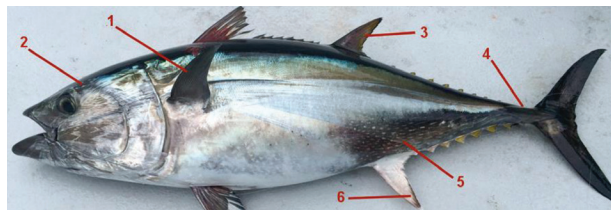
- The pectoral fin of bluefin do not reach past the beginning of the second dorsal fin
- The silver underside of a bluefin's body is marked with white dots and uneven lines
- The second dorsal fin is a mix of grey and yellow in colour
- The tail fin is dark blue in colour

## PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

*THUNNUS ORIENTALIS*

### Identifying characteristics:

- Pectoral fins (1) short, less than head length; top front of the body cavity has a small narrow bulge (when gills and gut removed). New Zealand's largest growing tuna attaining over 300 cm fork length and 400 kg weight.
- Coloration: dark blue back transitioning into lighter blue with dark fins; may have spots on the head (2); 2nd dorsal fin (3) reddish-brown; caudal keel (4) at base of the tail dark; lower sides (5) and belly silver with consistent spots and faint vertical lines; anal fin (6) silver edged with black.
- An important international study needs more otoliths (balance bones) from New Zealand Pacific bluefin. Please keep the head and email [bluewater@pl.net](mailto:bluewater@pl.net) to arrange collection.



# JUVENILE TUNA IDENTIFICATION

## ID guide to juvenile and small tunas for New Zealand

This guide was created to assist recreational fishers and fishing clubs in identifying species of tuna that are less than 30 kg using external features of freshly caught fish. The range of juvenile tunas has been increasing and some recreational fishers may catch these for the first time. There is a recreational bag limit of one southern bluefin tuna per person per day and the need for fast identification and live release is increasing.

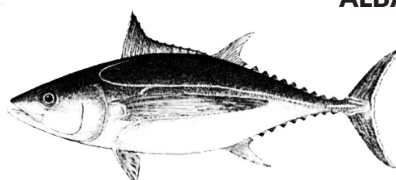
This guide was produced for Fisheries New Zealand project STN2021/02. You can record your tuna catch at [fishcatch.co.nz](http://fishcatch.co.nz)

## Species overview

### SKIPJACK



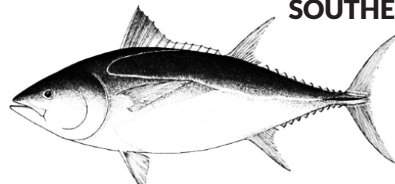
### ALBACORE



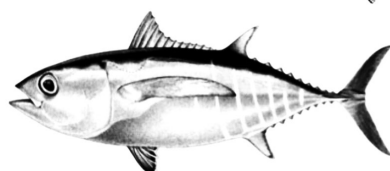
### YELLOWFIN



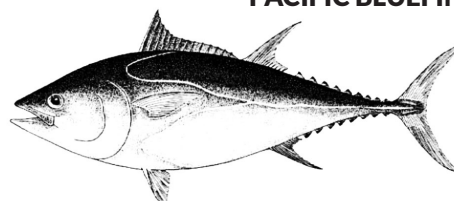
### SOUTHERN BLUEFIN



### BIGEYE



### PACIFIC BLUEFIN

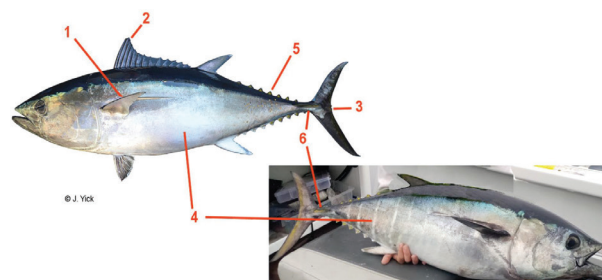


## JUVENILE SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA

*THUNNUS MACCOYII*

### Identifying characteristics:

- Pectoral fins (1) short, less than head length; first dorsal fin (2) slightly longer than second dorsal fin; slight notch in central portion of trailing edge of tail (3). In New Zealand they weigh from 10 kg to 170 kg, with ages from 2 years to 30 years old.
- Coloration: dark blue back transitioning into lighter blue; lower sides and belly (4) mainly silver, faint vertical lines or dots fading on death; dorsal finlets (5) bright yellow edged in black; caudal keel (6) pale or yellow but may be darker in large fish; tail may have some yellow fading when dead. In New Zealand, juveniles mainly off the south west coast in summer and larger fish further north in autumn and winter.

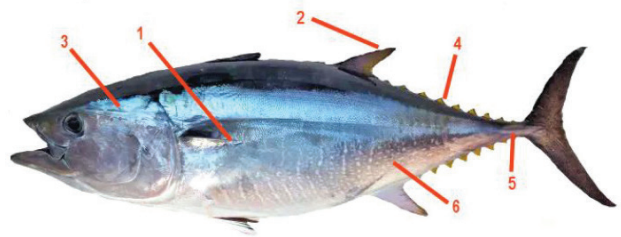


## JUVENILE PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

*THUNNUS ORIENTALIS*

### Identifying characteristics:

- Pectoral fins (1) short, less than head length; second dorsal fin (2) as high as the first dorsal fin; top front of the body cavity has a small narrow bulge (when gills and gut removed). New Zealand's largest growing tuna attaining over 300 cm fork length and 400 kg weight, but adults and juveniles are not common. Mainly a North Pacific species.
- Coloration: dark blue back transitioning into lighter blue with dark fins; may have spots on the head (3); second dorsal fin (2) dark or reddish-brown; finlets (4) dusky yellow, edged in black; caudal keel (5) dark; lower sides (6) and belly silver with consistent spots and faint vertical lines.



## JUVENILE YELLOWFIN TUNA

*THUNNUS ALBACARES*

### Identifying characteristics:

- Pectoral fins (1) moderately long, reaching back to below the second dorsal fin (2) but not beyond; bright yellow finlets (3); a distinct notch in central portion of trailing edge of tail (4); second dorsal fin and anal fins may be long in large fish. Mainly 60 to 120 cm fork length in New Zealand. Yellowfin less than 60cm have shorter pectoral fins with rounded tips but are rare in New Zealand.
- Coloration: black/dark blue back transitioning into metallic blue and sometimes a yellow stripe; fins often yellow; sides (5) and belly silver often with more than 10 evenly spaced vertical rows of small white spots, fading on death.

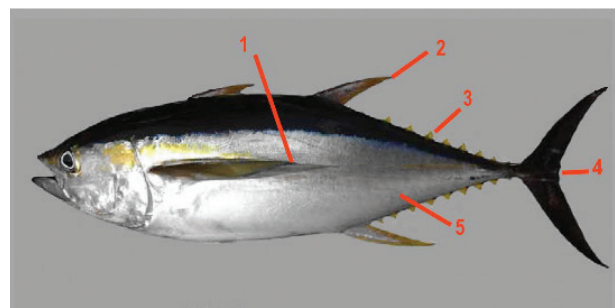


Image credit David Itano

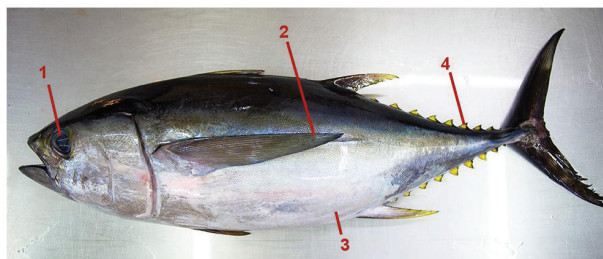


## JUVENILE BIGEYE TUNA

*THUNNUS OBESUS*

### Identifying characteristics:

- Eyes (1) large and elliptical; pectoral fins (2) moderately long, reaching to the back of the second dorsal fin, may be shorter in large fish. Deep bodied tuna with wide girth (3) back to the anal fin; no notch in central portion of trailing edge of tail. Fish smaller than 70 cm fork length with shorter, bendy pectoral fins seldom seen in New Zealand. Can attain 250 cm fork length and 195 kg weight.
- Coloration: dark blue back transitioning through iridescent blue to yellow, may have irregular vertical rows of dots or lines on belly (3) fading on death; finlets (4) yellow, edged with black.

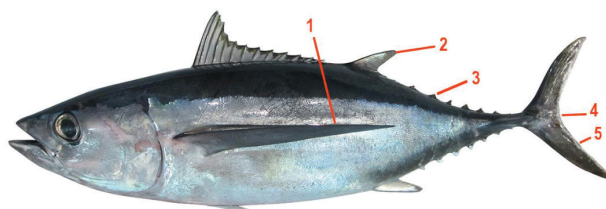


## ALBACORE TUNA

*THUNNUS ALALUNGA*

### Identifying characteristics:

- Pectoral fins (1) very long, reaching past the second dorsal fin in fish more than 50 cm fork length; second dorsal fin (2) distinctly shorter than the first dorsal fin; finlets (3) dark; no notch in central portion of trailing edge of tail (4). Mainly 50 to 80cm fork length in New Zealand.
- Coloration: dark metallic blue back and silver white lower sides and belly; no spots or markings; narrow white trailing edge on the tail (5).

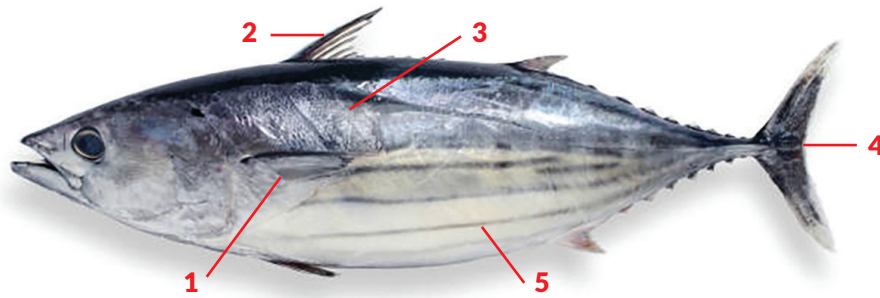


## Record claim photos

- In addition to photos of the whole fish for IGFA and New Zealand record claims please take close-up photos clearly showing the relative length of the pectoral fin. Also, the colour of caudal keel, lower body, and finlets (southern bluefin tuna below left).
- A distinctive feature for southern bluefin tuna is the large hard bulge (bust) at the front of the gut cavity. This can be clearly seen when gills and gut are removed. This is the white area in the photo (below right) taken with the gill plate held back.
- A photo of the gut cavity would greatly assist identification of southern bluefin tuna for record claims.



# OTHER TUNA SPECIES



## **SKIPJACK TUNA** *KATSUWONUS PELAMIS*

### **Identifying characteristics:**

- Short pectoral fins (1); first dorsal fin (2) much higher than second dorsal fin; scales on corset and lateral line only (3); no notch in central portion of trailing edge of tail (4). Mostly 45 to 70 cm fork length in New Zealand.
- Coloration: dark purple, blue back; lower sides and belly silver white; 4 to 6 dark, longitudinal stripes along lower side and belly (5); multi coloured sheen across body, fades when dead.



## **SLENDER TUNA** *ALLOTHUNNUS FALLAI*

### **Identifying characteristics:**

- Extensive gill raker system
- Short, pointed, pectoral fins relative to body size
- Large eyes





**FRIGATE TUNA**  
*AUXIS THAZARD*

**Identifying characteristics:**

- Coloration: Head dark blackish purple fading to a blue coloured back. White ventral surface. Purple pectoral and pelvic fins with black inner sides.
- At least fifteen wavy lines found in area above lateral line where no scales are present
- Corselet extends narrowly along lateral line with fewer than six scales deep below insertion of second dorsal fin
- Dorsal fins broadly separated (unlike kawakawa)
- Pelvic fins separated from one another by a large single flap (interpelvic process)
- Small, conical teeth found in a single series



**BUTTERFLY TUNA**  
*GASTEROCHISMA MELAMPUS*

**Identifying characteristics:**

- Metallic blue/black on the back with intense silver flanks and belly.
- Silver pectoral fins whilst the other fins are black and slightly transparent.
- Scales are extremely large and rough, covering the whole body (It is these scales that are the principal reason for the butterfly tuna's other common name – scaly tuna).
- Juveniles have extremely large fan-like pelvic fins which as the fish matures shrink to a size more in keeping with the fishes bulk. In addition juveniles have a more pointed head which as the fish matures becomes more blunt.

# WAHOO



## WAHOO

*ACANTHOCYBIUM SOLANDRI*

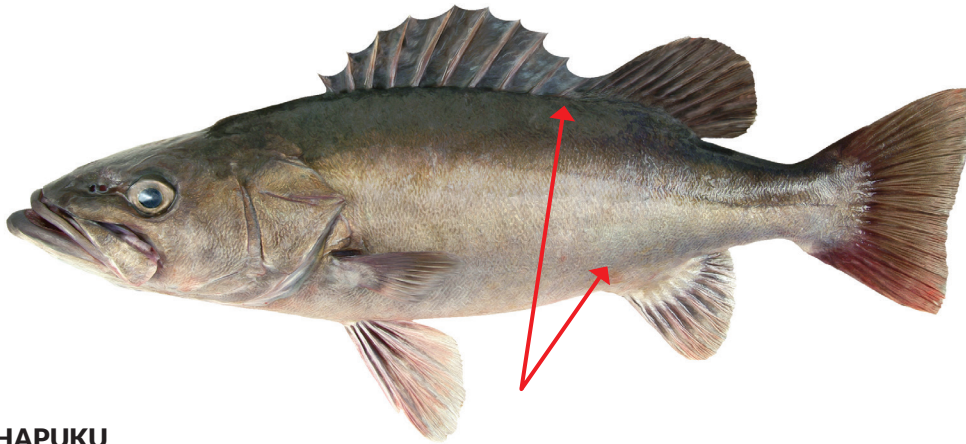
### Identifying characteristics:

- Many vertical bars along the body that may fade after death
- Nearly vertical trailing edge of caudal fin
- Close fitting, nearly triangular teeth
- The length of the snout makes up half of the total head length
- Distinctive dip in lateral line underneath (not after) the first dorsal fin

### Snout and total head length

- Snout tip and jaw terminal, unlike barracuda and *Scomberomorus* having extended lower jaw
- Extreme forking of caudal fin
- Prominent caudal keel flanked by two smaller keels on caudal fin base

# HAPUKU



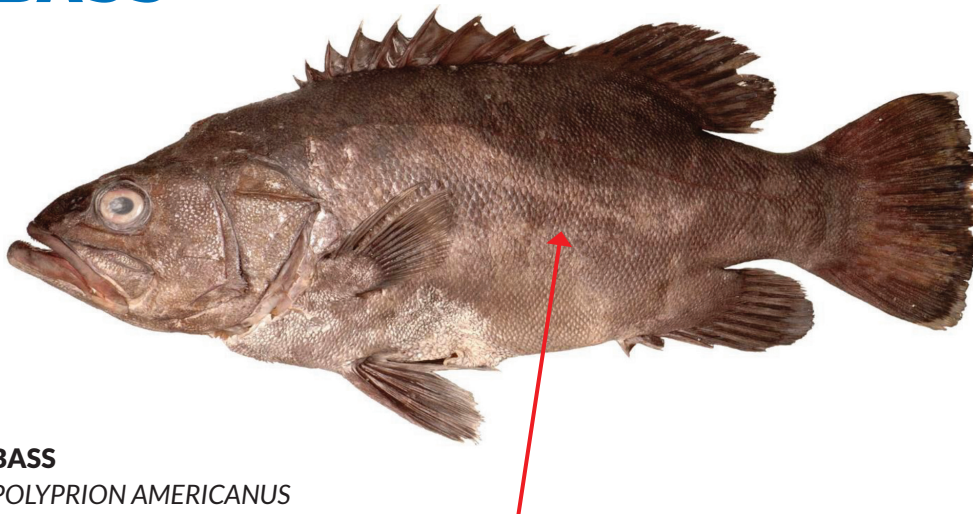
## HAPUKU

*POLYPRION OXYGENEIOS*

### Identifying characteristics:

- Head pointed
- Body Slender
- Gill cover has horizontal ridge ending in a spine
- Dark blue-grey above, clearly distinct from pale sides and belly
- Length: 70 – 90 cm, up to 150cm
- Weight: 5 – 20 kg, up to 40 kg
- A demersal species over the continental shelf and upper slope.
- Depth range: 5 – 500m, most common in 100 – 400m
- Spawning occurs during winter

# BASS



## BASS

*POLYPRION AMERICANUS*

### Identifying characteristics:

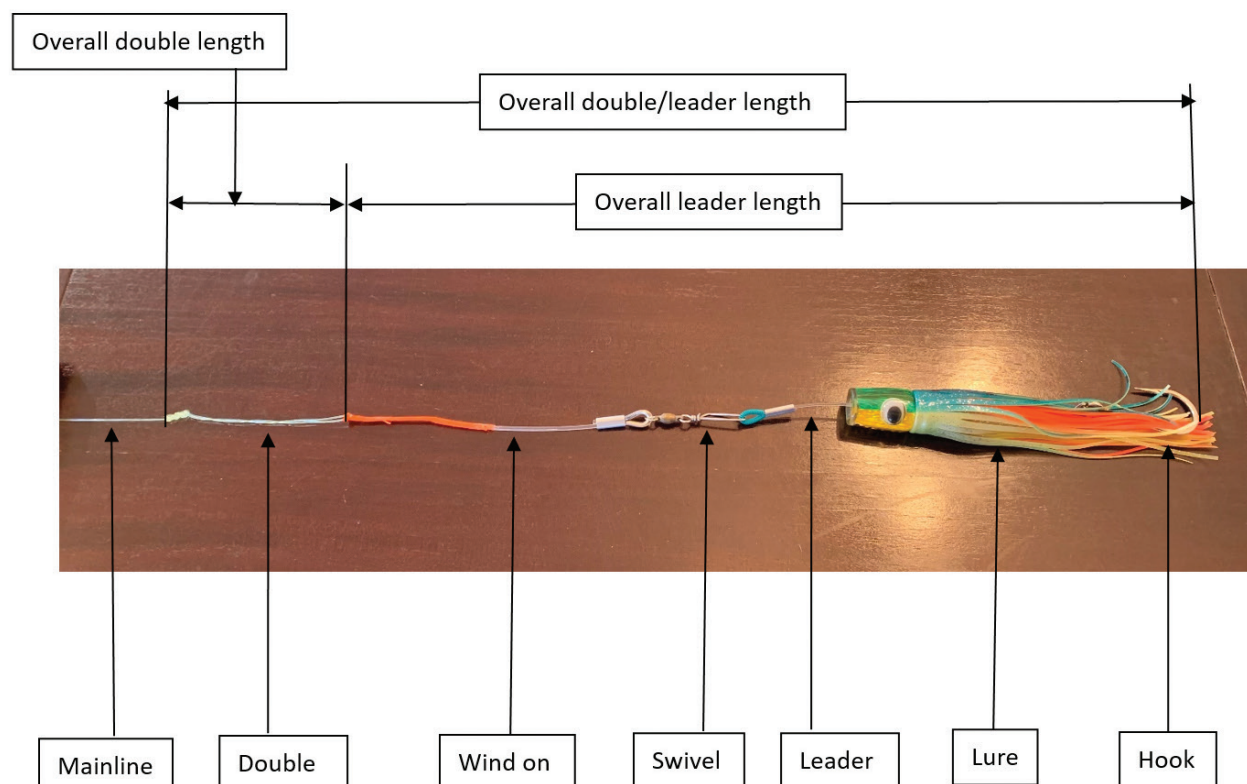
- Head rounded
- Body deep
- Gill cover has horizontal ridge
- Ending in a spine
- Uniform dark-grey
- Length: 70-100cm, up to 180cm
- Weight: 5 – 30kg, up to 100kg
- A demersal species over the continental shelf and upper slope
- Depth range: 50 – 800m, most common in 50 – 600m
- Spawning occurs during winter

# QUICK GUIDE TO DOUBLE/LEADER/EQUIPMENT LENGTHS

- If a top shot is used a minimum of 5m of main line directly preceding the double line, leader or hook
- if using 10kg line and under, the maximum double line or leader is 4.57m
- If using 10kg and under the combined double line and leader length must not exceed 6.1m
- If using 15kg line and over, the maximum length of the double line or leader is 9.14m
- If using 15kg line and over, the combined double line and leader length must not exceed 12.19m
- Max fixed gaff or net length 2.44m
- Max flying gaff overall length 2.44m
- Max effective flying gaff rope / Tail rope / Choke rope length 9.14m
- Max tag pole length 3.66m

## WHERE TO MEASURE DOUBLE AND LEADER

Where to measure a Typical Double/Wind On/Leader Rig



# NZSFC FISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS 2023

## Section 1: Introduction

### 1.1 Understanding this document

This document contains the Angling Rules and Regulations for the New Zealand Sportfishing Council (NZSFC).

The basis of the rules is the International Game Fish Association International (IGFA) Angling Rules, which are set by IGFA. Where IGFA updates any rule, then that rule automatically supersedes the IGFA sourced wording within this document.

Within Section 2 of this document, the wording sourced from the IGFA Rules is shown as black text. NZSFC additions shown in Section 2 are in red text. The combination of the two for NZSFC rules and regulations. Any angler wishing to fish strictly by IGFA rules only should refer to that set of rules (only).

NZSFC promotes Tagging and Releasing of Gamefish, and a number of additional NZSFC rules are applied to address this including the definition of when a fish is caught. There are also other NZSFC rules and regulations added to this document that relate to New Zealand specifically, including alignment with NZ angling practices and fisheries management. These rules can only be amended at the NZSFC Annual General Meeting following constitutional requirements.

### 1.2 Records

There are records kept by IGFA (internationally), NZSFC and NZACA (NZ only). This document includes the IGFA rules. A full list of the IGFA record categories and requirements is available from IGFA.

This document includes a complete list of requirements/categories for NZSFC Records. NZSFC maintains NZ records for all NZ Anglers. Information regarding process and fees payable are included in Section 2.

### 1.3 NZSFC Awards and Trophies

NZSFC provide awards and trophies for members of NZSFC affiliated clubs. **This includes day members.**

### 1.4 General

As these IGFA fishing regulations are for world record claims, these rules have been extended by the NZSFC for better understanding to enable them to be more suited for club trophies and tournaments. Any club who is considering running a fishing tournament with high value prizes should extend these fishing rules further to cover any circumstances pertaining to their club and sponsors requirements.

These fishing rules and regulations must be used for NZSFC National Record Claims. These fishing rules and regulations must be used in the Annual NZSFC National Fishing Tournament.

Any Club or organization using these Rules and Regulations do so at their own risk. The NZSFC does not accept any responsibility in the use of these rules and regulations in any other Tournaments.

## Section 2: IGFA Rules including NZSFC additions

**Note: In section 2 - Black Text are IGFA sourced Rules, NZSFC additions are shown in Red Text.** The following angling rules have been formulated by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) to promote ethical and sporting angling practices, to establish uniform regulations for the compilation of world game fish records, and to provide basic angling guidelines for use in fishing tournaments and any other group angling activities.

The word “angling” is defined as catching or attempting to catch fish with a rod, reel, line, and hook as outlined in the IGFA International Angling Rules. There are some aspects of angling that cannot be controlled through rule making, however. Angling regulations cannot insure an outstanding performance from each fish, and world records cannot indicate the amount of difficulty in catching the fish. Captures in which the fish has not fought or has not had a chance to fight do not reflect credit on the fisherman, and only the angler can properly evaluate the degree of achievement in establishing the record.

Only fish caught in accordance with IGFA International Angling Rules, and within the intent of these rules, will be considered for world records. Following are the rules for freshwater and saltwater fishing and a separate set of rules for All-Tackle Length and fly fishing.

### **RULES FOR FISHING IN FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER**

*(Also see Rules for Fly-fishing)*

#### **EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS**

##### **A. LINE AND BACKING**

1. Monofilament, multifilament, and lead core multifilament lines may be used. For line classes, see World Record Requirements.
2. Wire lines are prohibited.
3. The use of backing is permissible.
4. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first 16.5 feet (5 meters) of line directly preceding the double line, leader, or hook. This section must be comprised of a single, homogeneous piece of line and may not exceed 60 kilogram (130 pound) line class.

##### **B. DOUBLE LINE**

The use of a double line is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications:

1. A double line must consist of the actual line used to catch the fish.
2. Double lines are measured from the start of the knot, braid, roll or splice making the double to the farthestmost end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel or other device used for securing the trace, leader, lure or hook to the double line.

**Saltwater species:** In all line classes up to and including 10 kilograms (20 pounds), the double line shall be limited to 4.57 meters (15 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 meters (20 feet). The double line on all classes of tackle over 10 kilograms (20 pounds) shall be limited to 9.14 meters (30 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 12.19 meters (40 feet).

**Freshwater species:** The double line on all classes of tackle shall not exceed 6 feet (1.82 meters). The combined length of the double line and the leader shall not exceed 10 feet (3.04 meters).

### **C. LEADER**

If a leader is used, it must meet the following specifications: The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangement or other device, and is measured to the bend of the last hook. The leader must be connected to the line with a snap, knot, splice, swivel or other device. Holding devices are prohibited. There are no regulations regarding the material or strength of the leader.

**Saltwater species:** In all line classes up to and including 10 kilograms (20 pounds), the leader shall be limited to 4.57 meters (15 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 meters (20 feet). The leader on all classes of tackle over 10 kilograms (20 pounds) shall be limited to 9.14 meters (30 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall be limited to 12.19 meters (40 feet).

**Freshwater species:** The leader on all classes of tackle shall be limited to 1.82 meters (6 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 3.04 meters (10 feet).

### **D. ROD**

1. Rods must comply with sporting ethics and customs. Considerable latitude is allowed in the choice of a rod, but rods giving the angler an unfair advantage will be disqualified. This rule is intended to eliminate the use of unconventional rods.
2. The rod tip must be a minimum of 101.6 centimeters (40 inches) in length. The rod butt cannot exceed 68.58 centimeters (27 inches) in length. These measurements must be made from a point directly beneath the center of the reel. A curved butt is measured in a straight line. When the rod butt is placed in a gimbal, the measurement from the center of the reel seat to the pivot point of the gimbal can be no more than 68.58 centimeters (27 inches). (The above measurements do not apply to surfcasting rods.)

### **E. REEL**

1. Reels must comply with sporting ethics and customs.
2. **Power driven reels of any kind are prohibited. This includes motor, hydraulic, or electrically driven reels, and any device, which gives the angler an unfair advantage.**
3. Ratchet handle reels are prohibited.
4. Reels designed to be cranked with both hands at the same time are prohibited.

### **F. HOOKS FOR BAIT FISHING**

1. For live or dead bait fishing no more than two single hooks may be used. Both must be firmly embedded in or securely attached to the bait. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than a hooks length (the length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 45.72 centimeters (18 inches) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook. A hook may not precede bait, lure or bait/lure combo by more than one hooks length.
2. The use of a dangling or swinging hook is prohibited. Double or treble hooks are prohibited.
3. A two-hook rig for bottom fishing is acceptable if it consists of two single hooks on separate leaders or drops. Both hooks must be embedded in the respective baits and separated sufficiently so that a fish caught on one hook cannot be foul-hooked by the other.
4. A photograph or sketch of the hook arrangement must accompany all record applications made for fish caught on two-hook tackle.

## G. HOOKS AND LURES

1. When using an artificial lure with a skirt or trailing material, no more than two single hooks may be attached to the line, leader, or trace. The hooks need not be attached separately. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than an overall hook's length (the overall length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 12 inches (30.48 cm) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook. The trailing hook may not extend more than a hook's length beyond the skirt of the lure. A hook may not precede bait, lure or bait/lure combo by more than one hook's length. A photograph or sketch showing the hook arrangement must accompany a record application.
2. Gang hooks are permitted when attached to plugs and other artificial lures that are specifically designed for this use. Gang hooks must be free swinging and shall be limited to a maximum of three hooks (single, double, or treble, or a combination of any three). Baits may not be used with gang hooks. A photograph or sketch of the plug or lure must be submitted with record applications.
3. Assist hooks or other such single hooks that are attached to a lure with a lead constructed of monofilament, multifilament, wire or other such material must conform to the following: When using assist hooks on any artificial lure, other than a skirted lure, the lead cannot be more than 1 ½ hook's length and the bend of the hook may not be more than 4 inches (101mm) whichever is less, from the closest point of attachment on the lure. Double and treble hooks may not be used as assist hooks.
4. Only one lure containing hooks may be used at a time.

## H. OTHER EQUIPMENT

1. **Fighting chairs** may not have any mechanically propelled devices that aid the angler in fighting a fish.
2. **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.
3. **Gaffs** and nets used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 8 feet (2.44 meters) in overall length. In using a flying or detachable gaff the rope may not exceed 30 feet (9.14 meters). The gaff rope must be measured from the point where it is secured to the detachable head to the other end. Only the effective length will be considered. If a fixed head gaff is used, the same limitations shall apply and the gaff rope shall be measured from the same location on the gaff hook. Only a single hook is permitted on any gaff. **Choke ropes must not exceed 30 ft (9.14 meters) including the wire or chain on one end.** Harpoon or lance attachments are prohibited. Tail ropes are limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters). **(Once the catch is alongside and under control and the crew are unable to lift the fish on board, an anchor rope or block and tackle may be attached to the tail or gaff rope to bring the catch on board as long as the crew can verify it was not used in the fight of the fish).** (When fishing from a bridge, pier or other high platform or structure, this length limitation does not apply).
4. **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.
5. **Outriggers, down riggers, 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.
6. **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.
7. **A safety line** may be attached to the rod, reel or harness provided that it does not in any way assist the angler in fighting the fish.
8. **Tag poles must not exceed 12 feet (3.66 meters) in length.**



## ANGLING REGULATIONS

1. From the time that a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the angler must hook, fight, and land or boat the fish without the aid of any other person, except as provided in these regulations.
2. If a rod holder is used once the fish is hooked, the angler must remove the rod from the holder as quickly as possible.
3. In the event of a multiple strike on separate lines being fished by a single angler, only the first fish fought by the angler will be considered for a world record.
4. If a double line is used, the intent of the regulations is that the fish will be fought on the single line most of the time that it takes to land the fish.
5. A harness may be attached to the reel or rod, but not to the fighting chair. The harness may be replaced or adjusted by a person other than the angler.
6. Use of a rod belt or waist gimbal is permitted.
7. When angling from a boat, once the leader is brought within the grasp of the mate, or the end of the leader is wound to the rod tip, more than one person is permitted to hold the leader. Anyone assisting a shore-bound or wading angler must be within a rods length of the angler before touching the leader or netting or gaffing the fish.
8. One or more gaffers may be used in addition to persons holding the leader. The gaff handle must be in hand when the fish is gaffed
9. The angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is weighed.
10. In the event of an angler wishing to re-use a successful lure on the same day, the leader must be cut on a 45 degree angle at the swivel top or loop end. Both pieces together with the re-rigged lure must be presented to the weighmaster or judge that day.
11. Any catch will not be deemed to be complete until after the catch is weighed. In the event of a fish being tagged, the catch will be deemed complete when the tag is inserted in the fish. Subject to verification of weighing or releasing requirements.
12. When tagging a fish, the tag pole must be held at all times.
13. Only fish tagged with tags supplied or approved by Council will be recognised. Fish are tagged for the purpose of research.
14. Tag cards should be handed into weighmasters as soon as possible after the fish are tagged
15. Any fish tagged while still in the water should be alongside the boat and under control so the tag can be placed correctly.
16. The council strongly recommends that non off-set circle hooks be used when live baiting for any species. This will give fish a better chance of survival when tagged & released.

## DEFINITION OF WHEN A FISH IS CAUGHT:

1. When landing or boating a fish the leader, if used, should be in hand before it is gaffed.
2. Time of Capture – For the purposes of competitions or awards, time of capture shall be when the fish is boated or landed (weighed fish) or is successfully tagged and released or released.
- 2a. The catch will not be confirmed as caught until the fish is weighed or the tag card is presented. The intention is that all angling regulations & rules, including equipment used, to entice, hook, fight, land and secure the catch must comply with all IGFA International Angling rules & NZSFC fishing rules until the fish has been weighed or tagged and released. Once a fish is gaffed it cannot be tagged and released.

3. In the event of a fish being tagged for releasing the leader should be in hand when the tag is inserted into the fish. When the tag is inserted the catch is deemed complete. The leader then can be intentionally cut as close to the fish as possible, or the hooks removed, or the fish releases itself.
4. 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 as close to the fish as possible, or the hook is removed.
5. A fish that has been tagged and the leader in hand still uncut and attached to the fish, maybe 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.
6. When fly fishing it is not necessary to have the leader in hand and when a fish is released without tagging the fish should be within tagging or gaffing distance when released

**The following acts will disqualify a catch:**

1. Failure to comply with equipment or angling regulations.
2. The act of persons other than the angler in touching any part of the rod, reel, or line (including the double line) either bodily or with any device, from the time a fish strikes or takes the bait or lure, until the fish is either landed or released, or in giving any aid other than that allowed in the rules and regulations. If an obstacle to the passage of the line through the rod guides has to be removed from the line, then the obstacle (whether chum, float line, rubber band, or other material) shall be held and cut free. Under no circumstances should the line be held or touched by anyone other than the angler during this process.
3. **Returning the rod to the rod holder**, resting the rod in a rod holder, on the gunwale of the boat, or any other object while playing the fish. **The rod being passed to the angler after the fish has taken the bait or lure.**
4. Handlining or using a handline or rope attached in any manner to the angler's line or leader for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
5. Shooting, harpooning, or lancing any fish (including sharks and halibuts) at any stage of the catch.
6. Chumming with or using as bait the flesh, blood, skin or any part of mammals other than hair or pork rind used in lures designed for trolling or casting.
7. Using a boat or device to beach or drive a fish into shallow water in order to deprive the fish of its normal ability to swim.
8. Changing the rod or reel while the fish is being played.
9. Splicing, removing, or adding to the line while the fish is being played.

10. Intentionally foul-hooking a fish.
11. Catching a fish in a manner that the double line never leaves the rod tip.
12. Using a size or kind of bait that is illegal to possess.
13. Attaching the angler's line or leader to part of a boat or other object for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
14. If a fish escapes before gaffing, or netting, and is recaptured by any method other than as outlined in the angling rules.
15. Holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish or takes pressure off the angler. Touching or briefly holding the angler to prevent them from falling does not constitute a disqualification.
16. When live baiting and the deckhand or any other person other than the angler is holding the rod when the fish takes the bait.
17. If a fish escapes before gaffing, netting, tagging, or deliberately releasing it, it will be considered a free swimming fish and will not be regarded as a catch.
18. That any marlin or shark intentionally taken out of the water to be Tagged and released will be disqualified.
19. If the tag pole is used in a manner of a Harpoon, when tagging a fish or when it leaves the hand.

**The following situations will disqualify a catch:**

1. When a rod breaks (while the fish is being played) in a manner that reduces the length of the tip below minimum dimensions or severely impairs its angling characteristics.
2. Mutilation to the fish, prior to landing or boating the catch, caused by sharks, other fish, mammals, or propellers that remove or penetrate the flesh. (Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars or regeneration deformities are not considered to be disqualifying injuries). Any mutilation on the fish must be shown in a photograph and fully explained in a separate report accompanying the record application.
3. When a fish is hooked or entangled on more than one line.
4. When a catch violates laws or regulations governing the species or the waters where it was caught.

# NZSFC/IGFA WORLD RECORD REQUIREMENTS

Game fish catches can only be considered for record status if they are caught according to the IGFA/NZSFC Angling Rules. Following is information on world record categories, requirements and procedures for filing claims.

All materials submitted as part of the application process become the property of IGFA.

## World and NZ Record Categories

### GENERAL INFORMATION

IGFA maintains world records for both freshwater and saltwater game fish in All-Tackle, All-Tackle Length, Line Class, Tippet Class and Junior and Smallfry categories. In order to qualify for a record, a catch must be a minimum of .453 kg. (1 lb.) in weight, and must outweigh the existing record by the required amount or meet the minimum weight requirement for vacant records.

No applications will be accepted for fish caught in hatchery waters, sanctuaries or small bodies of water that are stocked with fish for commercial purposes. The intent of this rule shall prevail and IGFA retains the right to determine its applicability on a case by case basis. The catch must not be at variance with any laws or regulations governing recreational catch or harvest of the species or waters in which it is caught.

When an additional species of game fish is made eligible for IGFA All-Tackle Length, Line Class, Tippet Class, Junior or Smallfry world records, the effective date will be announced by the IGFA. Fish caught on or after the effective date will be eligible for records. Announcement of an additional species in the World Record Game Fishes book or in other IGFA communications will be considered proper notification in lieu of any other notice.

If an angler submits more than one application for the same record, caught on the same day, only the heaviest or longest of the fish will be accepted.

**If claiming a World Record, fees apply – it will automatically become a New Zealand record once ratified as a World Record. For Junior & Smallfry Records the lines need to be tested for NZ Records – just as long as it is caught on a line class that IGFA allows for the species and line weight used. IGFA have no line classes for Junior & Smallfry Records.**

**Where the current NZSFC recognized Line class exceeds the current IGFA line class, then that record shall stand for ongoing competition.**

### FISH SPECIES RECOGNISED BY NZSFC:

The NZSFC recognises all species of fish that IGFA recognise that can be caught in NZ waters, all line class species selected will be published in our yearbook, and all other species will be published on our website.

### ALL-TACKLE

All-Tackle World Records are kept for the heaviest fish of a species caught by an angler in any Line Class up to 60kilogram (130 lb). All-Tackle record claims are considered for all species of fish caught according to the IGFA International Angling Rules.

Applications for All-Tackle species not currently included in the IGFA Line Class and Tippet Class listings must meet the following criteria:

1. The fish must represent a valid species with a recognized scientific name.
2. The fish must be identifiable based on photos and other supporting data presented with the application.
3. The fish must be considered “trophy sized.” A rule of thumb is that the weight must fall within the top half of the maximum reported weight for the species. If no maximum weight is available, it must fall within the top half of the maximum reported length for the species. Maximum reported weight and length for species may be found at [www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org) or from other reputable sources.

### ALL-TACKLE LENGTH

All-Tackle Length World Records are kept for the longest fish of each eligible species caught according to the IGFA International Angling Rules in any Line Class up to 60 kg. (130 lb.) and released alive.

### NATIONAL LENGTH RECORDS

Any measuring devices approved by the NZSFC can be used. Any board other than the IGFA Board will not be allowed for World Records. There are only 5 species that IGFA currently recognise and they are albacore, kahawai, snapper, skipjack tuna and yellowtail kingfish.

Trevally, John Dory & Blue Cod are added for NZ purposes, plus any other species that the NZSFC so nominate from time to time.

## JUNIOR

Junior World Records are kept for the heaviest fish of each eligible species in any Line Class up to 60 kg. (130 lb.). Junior records are kept for both male and female anglers ages 11-16. All species recognized for Line Class records and Tippet Class records are also recognized for Junior records. All IGFA International Angling Rules apply, with the exception that fish do not have to be weighed on land.

## SMALLFRY

Smallfry World Records are kept for the heaviest fish of each eligible species in any Line Class up to 60 kg. (130 lb.). Smallfry records are kept for both male and female anglers ages 10 and under. All species recognized for Line Class records and Tippet Class records are also recognized for Smallfry records. All IGFA International Angling Rules apply, with the exception that fish do not have to be weighed on land.

## LINE CLASS

Line Class world records are kept for each eligible species according to the breaking strength of the first 5 meters (16.5 feet) of line directly preceding the double line, leader or hook. This section must be comprised of a single, homogeneous piece of line. For all Line Class records, the weight of the fish must be at least ½ of the Line Class used to make the catch.

## TIPPET CLASS

Tippet Class world records are kept for the eligible species according to the breaking strength of the class tippet. For all Tippet Class records, the weight of the fish must be at least ½ of the Tippet Class used to make the catch. World records are kept in the following Line and Tippet classes:

LINE CLASSES	
Metric (Kilogram)	U.S.(Pound)
1	2.20
2	4.40
3	6.61
4	8.81
6	13.22
8	17.63
10	22.04
15	33.06
24	52.91
37	81.57
60	132.27

## LINE TESTING

The IGFA tests all line and tippet samples submitted with world record claims using the metric system, which varies slightly from the imperial measurement system. For example, the imperial measurement system equivalent of 4 kg. is 8.81 lb. Thus, line designated by the manufacturer as 8lb. class line may test up to 8.81 lbs. (4 kg.) to qualify for a 4kg. (8 lb.) Line Class world record. The imperial measurement system equivalents in pounds for the metric Line Classes are as follows:

- Line and tippet samples submitted with record claims are uniformly tested in accordance with IGFA protocols.
- Note: IGFA offers both line and tippet testing service for IGFA members

LINE CLASSES	
Metric (Kg)	U.S.(Pound)
1	2
2	4
3	6
4	8
6	12
8	16
10	20
15	30
24	50
37	80
60	130

TIPPET CLASSES	
Metric (Kg)	U.S.(Pound)
1	2
2	4
3	6
4	8
6	12
8	16
10	20

## Record Catch Regulations

### GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Protested applications or disputed existing records will be referred to the IGFA Rules Committee for review. Rules Committee decisions may be appealed to the IGFA Board of Trustees. IGFA reserves the right to refuse to consider an application or grant a claim for a record application. All IGFA decisions will be based upon the intent of the regulations.
2. Any and all claims and/or disputes regarding the IGFA International Angling Rules shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida without regard to such jurisdiction's conflict of laws principles. In the event that parties are unable to mutually resolve any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, in connection with, or in relation to the IGFA International Angling Rules, such dispute, controversy or claim shall be resolved by litigation; in that connection, each of the parties to such dispute hereby:
  - (i) irrevocably and unconditionally consents to submit itself to the sole and exclusive personal jurisdiction of any federal or state court located within Broward County, Florida (the "Applicable Courts"),
  - (ii) waives any objection to the laying of sole and exclusive venue of any such litigation in any of the Applicable Courts,
  - (iii) agrees not to plead or claim in any such court that such litigation brought therein has been brought in an inconvenient forum and agrees not to otherwise attempt to deny or defeat such personal jurisdiction or venue by motion or other request for leave from any such court, and (iv) agrees that it will not bring any action, suit, or proceeding in connection with any dispute, claim or controversy arising out of or relating to the Angling Rules in any court or other tribunal other than any of the Applicable Courts. Nothing in this Section shall prevent enforcement in another forum of any judgment obtained in the Applicable Courts.In the event that it shall become necessary for any party to take action of any type whatsoever to enforce the terms of the IGFA International Angling Rules, the prevailing Party shall be entitled to recover all its costs, including attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses, including all out of pocket

expenses that are not taxable as costs, incurred in connection with any such action, including any negotiations, mediations, arbitrations, litigation, and appeal.

3. The IGFA will not recognize or approve any IGFA World Record application where a financial award is offered for obtaining the record.

### NEW ZEALAND RECORD CLAIMS

The Council will keep a Register of National records caught by its anglers.

To qualify for New Zealand record claims:-

1. (a) Fish must be caught in NZSFC waters  
(b) All NZSFC fishing rules and angling regulations must be complied with at the time of catch
2. To qualify for New Zealand records, all claims must be in the hands of the NZSFC records officer within sixty (60) days of the catch.
3. New Zealand Sport Fishing Council adopt the IGFA minimum fish weight policy for the qualification of New Zealand record fishes, providing that fish meeting this minimum weight also exceed the minimum size regulations prescribed by the New Zealand Government
4. A sample of the line used must accompany the claim. NZSFC to follow the same line samples requirements as IGFA. The line sample must be supplied in a form that can be easily unrolled for testing without tangling. In regard to Braid or any other IGFA permitted type line, if two lines are attached then both must be submitted for testing.
5. The following photographs are required to accompany the claim:
  - (a) The full length of the fish, the rod & reel used to make the catch.
  - (b) The angler photographed with the fish.
  - (c) In the event of a Big Eye Tuna claim, a photo must also be submitted of the liver of the fish.
  - (d) A photo of the fish lying on its side with a tape or rule laying alongside the fish.
6. All NZ Record Claims are open to all anglers in NZ. If the angler is not a member of a national body (NZSFC or Angling & Casting) at the time of capture there will be a fee of \$150 for the claim to be processed. If the angler is a non-member the fish will only qualify for a national record and no other trophies.
7. Anglers with disabilities claiming record. Any angler with a disability will contest NZ records as listed. They may due to their disability make special procedures to enable them to angle a fish

safely and mitigate a disability to enable them to fish. They will as far as physically possible fish within NZSFC and IGFA rules. Any departure from these rules is to be noted on the record application and the reason given. The award of the record in this special circumstance will need to pass the records officer requirements and assessment of a special panel of judges appointed from time to time by the Board. The record will be recorded in the appropriate category in the NZ records book

In some instances, an IGFA officer, IGFA representative or a representative from a local IGFA member club may be asked to recheck information supplied on a record application. Such action is not to be regarded as doubt of the formal affidavit, but rather as evidence of the extreme care with which IGFA investigates and maintains its records.

### **SPECIES IDENTIFICATION**

1. Photographs must be submitted by which positive identification of the exact species can be made. Read the photographic requirements at the end of this section. Applications without photographs will not be accepted.
2. If there is the slightest doubt that the fish cannot be properly identified from the photographs and other data submitted, the fish should be examined by an ichthyologist or qualified fishery biologist before a record application is submitted to IGFA. The scientist's signature, title and qualifications should appear on the IGFA record application form or on a separate document confirming the identification of the species.
3. If a scientist is not available, the fish should be retained in a preserved or frozen condition until a qualified authority can verify the species or until notified by IGFA that the fish no longer needs to be retained.
4. If no decision can be made from the photographs and the angler can provide no further proof of the identification of the species, the record claim will not be considered.

### **WITNESSES TO CATCH**

On all record claims, witnesses to the catch are highly desirable. It is important that the witnesses can attest to the angler's compliance with the IGFA International Angling Rules and Equipment Regulations.

### **MINIMUM WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS**

For all Line Class and Tippet Class categories, the catch must weigh at least ½ as much as the Line Class or Tippet Class. For example, a fish entered for the 6 kg.

(12 lb.) Line Class or Tippet Class category must weigh a minimum of 2.72 kg. (6 lb.).

### **WEIGHTS NEEDED TO DEFEAT OR TIE RECORDS**

1. To replace a record for a fish weighing less than 11.33 kg. (25 lb.), the replacement must weigh at least 56.69 grams (2 ounces) more than the existing record.
2. To replace a record for a fish weighing 11.33 kg. (25 lb.) or more, the replacement must weigh at least one half of one percent more than the existing record. For an existing record weighing 45.35 kg. (100 lb.), the additional weight required to defeat the record would be 226.7 grams (8 ounces).
3. A catch that matches the weight of an existing record or exceeds the weight by less than the amount required to defeat the record will be considered a tie. In the case of a tie claim involving more than two catches, the weight must be compared with the original record (i.e., the first fish caught). No catch weighing less than the original record will be considered. In the event of an angler tying an existing record they currently hold; the catch must weigh at least 28.35 grams (1 ounce) greater than their current record to qualify for a tie.

### **TIME LIMITS ON CLAIMS**

With the exception of AllTackle World Records, claims for record fish caught in U.S. continental waters must be received by IGFA within 60 days of the date of catch. Claims for record fish caught in other waters must be received by IGFA within 90 days of the date of catch.

### **WEIGHING REQUIREMENTS**

1. All fish submitted for record consideration must be weighed on scales that have been certified for accuracy by government agencies or other qualified and accredited organizations within the past 12 months. Disinterested witnesses to the weight should be used whenever possible. If at the time of weighing the fish the scale has not been properly certified within the past twelve months, it must be checked and certified for accuracy as quickly as possible, and an official report stating the findings of the inspection prior to any adjustment of the scale must be included with the record application. **A copy of the test certificate must be forwarded to the Secretary of the NZSFC before January 1 of each season.**

2. The weight of the sling, platform or rope (if one is used to secure the fish on the scales) must be determined and deducted from the total weight.
3. No estimated weights will be accepted. With the exception of Junior and Smallfry records, fish must be weighed on land.
4. Only weights indicated by the graduations on the scale will be accepted. Visual fractionalizing of these graduations is not allowed. Any weights that fall between two graduations on the scale must be rounded to the lower of the two.
5. NZSFC/IGFA reserves the right to require any scale to be recertified for accuracy if there are any indications that the scale might not have weighed correctly.
7. All fish must be weighed by the person/s nominated by the club as the weighmaster of the club or on scales for which a current certification of accuracy is available.
8. NZSFC Clubs should set their own rules to cover the trucking of fish to weigh stations within their own recognised waters.

Note: IGFA offers a scale certification service for IGFA members at a fee of \$40 USD.

### PREPARATION OF CLAIMS

To apply for a world record, the angler must submit a complete IGFA application form, the mandatory length of line and terminal tackle (described below) used to catch the fish, and acceptable photographs of the fish, the rod and reel used to catch the fish, the scale used to weigh the fish, and the angler with the fish.

### APPLICATION FORM

A current, official IGFA world record application form must be used for record claims. This form may be found on the [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org) website or in the World Record Game Fishes book. No other version of the application form will be accepted.

When making any record claim, the angler must indicate the specified strength of the line or tippet used to catch the fish. In the cases of Line Class and Tippet Class records, this will place the claim in an IGFA Line or Tippet Class category (see Line Class and Tippet Class categories). All lines and tippets will be examined by IGFA to verify the specified strength of the line. If the line or tippet over tests its class, the application will be considered in the next highest class. If the line or tippet under tests into a lower Line or Tippet Class, the application will not be considered for the lower Line Class or Tippet Class. The heaviest Line Class

permitted for both freshwater and saltwater records is 60 kg. (130 lb.). The heaviest Tippet Class permitted for Tippet Class records is 10 kg. (20 lb.). If the line or tippet over tests these maximum strengths, the claim will be denied.

Extreme care should be exercised in measuring the fish, as the measurements are often important for weight verification and scientific studies. See the measurement diagram on the record application to be sure the fish is measured correctly.

The angler is responsible for obtaining the necessary signatures and correct addresses of the boat captain (where applicable), weighmaster (where applicable) and witnesses on the application. If an IGFA officer or representative, or an officer or member of an IGFA club is available, he or she should be asked to witness the claim. The angler must appear in person before a qualified authority to have an application notarized. In locations where notarization is not possible or customary, the signature of a government official, a member of an embassy, legation or consular staff or an IGFA officer or representative may replace notarization. Applications delivered to the IGFA Headquarters in person do not require notarization.

Any deliberate falsification of an application will disqualify the applicant for any future IGFA World Record and any existing records will be nullified.

### LINE OR TIPPET SAMPLE

All applications caught on fly fishing tackle must be accompanied by the fly, the entire tippet and the entire leader connected in one piece.

All applications caught on conventional tackle must be accompanied by the entire leader (including the hook or hooks), the double line and at least 5 meters (16.5 feet) closest to the double line, leader or hook. All line samples and the leader (if one is used) are to be submitted in one piece. Broken or incomplete line samples must be accompanied by a full explanation. The IGFA reserves the right to reject applications with broken line samples that prevent it from testing the breaking strength and/or verifying the length of the double line and leader. If a lure is used with the leader, the leader should be cut at the eye attachment to the lure. Each line sample must be submitted in a manner that it can be easily unwound without damage to the line. A recommended method is to take a rectangular piece of stiff cardboard and cut notches in two opposite ends. Secure one end of the line to the cardboard and wind the line around the cardboard through the notched areas. Secure the other end, and



write your name and the specified strength of the line on the cardboard. Any line sample submitted that is tangled or cannot be easily unwound will not be accepted.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS

Photographs showing the full length of the fish, the rod and reel used to make the catch, and the scale used to weigh the fish must accompany each record application. A photograph of the angler with the fish is also required.

For species identification, the clearest possible photos should be submitted. This is especially important in the cases of hybrids and fishes that may be confused with similar species. Shark applications should include a photograph of the shark's teeth and of the head and back taken from above in addition to the photographs taken from the side. Whether the shark has or does not have a ridge between the dorsal fins should be clearly evident in this photograph for identification purposes.

For best results, photograph the fish broadside to the camera so that no part of the fish is obscured. The fins should be fully extended and not obscured with the hands in cases where the number of spines and rays need to be counted. When photographing a fish lying on its side, the surface beneath the fish should be smooth and a ruler or marked tape placed beside the fish if possible. Photographs from various angles are most helpful. An additional photograph of the fish on the scale with actual weight visible is also helpful.

It is important that we have clear, publishable photographs of the fish and the angler, including action shots, if available. Original, high resolution digital files are preferred and will assist the IGFA in publicizing the world record catch. The IGFA encourages anglers to release record fish whenever possible and we prefer to see photos of fish carefully being held horizontally, and not vertically, to prevent harming the fish.

### FORMULAS FOR WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Persons submitting world record claims are required to provide the weights and measurements of the fish in the units in which they were taken. The following formulas are provided for your information.

WEIGHTS				
Ounces	X	28.349	=	Grams
Ounces	X	.02835	=	Kilograms
Pounds	X	453.59	=	Grams
Pounds	X	.45359	=	Kilograms
Grams	X	.0353	=	Ounces
Grams	X	.002	=	Pounds
Kilograms	X	35.2736	=	Ounces
Kilograms	X	2.2046	=	Pounds

MEASURES				
Inches	X	25.4	=	Millimeters
Inches	X	2.54	=	Centimeters
Feet	X	30.48	=	Centimeters
Feet	X	0.3048	=	Meters
Millimeters	X	.03937	=	Inches
Centimeters	X	.3937	=	Inches
Centimeters	X	.0328	=	Feet
Meters	X	39.27	=	Inches

# NZSFC/IGFA FLYFISHING RULES

## Equipment Regulations

### A. LINE

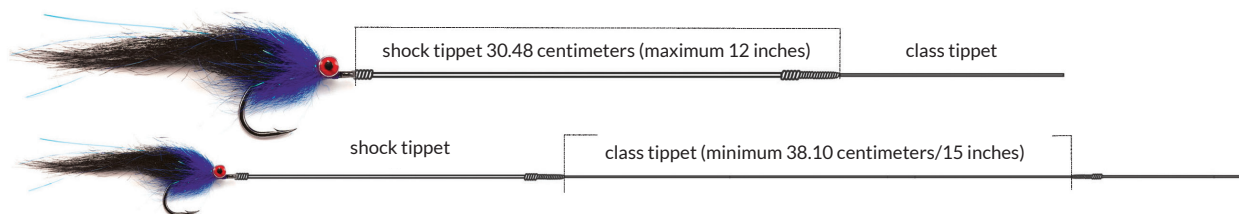
Any type of fly line and backing may be used. The breaking strength of the fly line and backing are not restricted.

### B. LEADER

Leaders must conform to generally accepted fly fishing customs. A leader includes a class tippet and, optionally, a shock tippet. A butt or taper section between the fly line and the class tippet shall also be considered part of the leader and there are no limits on its length, material, or strength. A class tippet must be made of nonmetallic material and either attached directly to the fly or to the shock tippet if one is used.

The class tippet must be at least 38.10 centimeters (15 inches) long (measured inside connecting knots). With respect to knotless, tapered leaders, the terminal 38.10 centimeters (15 inches) will also determine tippet class. There is no maximum length limitation. A shock tippet, not to exceed 30.48 centimeters (12 inches) in length, may be added to the class tippet and tied to the fly. It can be made of any type of material, and there is no limit on its breaking strength. The shock tippet is measured from the eye of the hook to the single strand of class tippet and includes any knots used to connect the shock tippet to the class tippet. In the case of a tandem hook fly, the shock tippet shall be measured from the eye of the leading hook.

Shock tippet is not to exceed 30.48 centimeters (12 inches) in length measured from the eye of the hook to the single strand of class tippet and includes any knots used to connect the shock tippet to the tippet.



The class tippet must be at least 38.10 centimeters (15 inches) long (measured inside connecting knots). With respect to knotless, tapered leaders, the terminal 38.10 centimeters (15 inches) will also determine tippet.

### C. ROD

Regardless of material used or number of sections, rods must conform and cast according to generally accepted fly fishing customs and practices. A rod shall not measure less than 1.82 meters (6 feet) in overall length and any rod that gives the angler an unsporting advantage will be disqualified. Overall butt length (including any extensions) may not exceed 15.24 centimeters (6 inches) when measured from the center of the reel foot to the end of the butt. Overall butt length for two handed or spey rods longer than 3.35 meters (11 feet) may not exceed 25.4 centimeters (10 inches) when measured from the center of the reel foot to the end of the butt.

### D. REEL

The reel must be designed expressly for fly fishing. There are no restrictions on gear ratio or type of drag employed except where the angler would gain an unfair advantage. Electric or electronically operated reels are prohibited.

### E. HOOKS

A conventional fly may be dressed on a single or double hook or two single hooks in tandem. The second hook in any tandem fly must not extend beyond the wing material. The eyes of the hooks shall be no farther than 15.24 centimeters (6 inches) apart. Treble hooks are prohibited.

## F. FLIES

The fly must be a recognized type of artificial fly, which includes streamer, bucktail, tube fly, wet fly, dry fly, nymph, popper and bug. The use of any other type of lure or natural or preserved bait, either singularly or attached to the fly, is expressly prohibited. The fact that a fly can be cast with a fly rod is not evidence in itself that it fits the definition of a fly. The use of any fly designed to entangle or foul hook a fish is prohibited. No scent, either natural or artificial is allowed on flies. The use of scented material in a fly is prohibited. Only a single fly is allowed with the exception of dropper flies that may be used only in the circumstances described below.

Dropper flies are permissible only for fishing for Salmonid species (e.g., trout, grayling, salmon, etc.) under the following configuration:

1. Dropper flies may consist of no more than two flies fished in tandem that are surface flies, subsurface flies or a combination of the two.
2. The material connecting the two flies must be equal to or less than the breaking strength of the class tippet material connecting the lead fly to the fly leader.
3. Catches will be categorized by the breaking strength of the class tippet preceding the lead fly, no matter which fly the fish is caught on.



## G. GAFFS AND NETS

Gaffs, tail snares and nets used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 2.44 meters (8 feet) in overall length. In the case of tail snares, overall length is defined as the distance from the beginning of the handle to the apex of the snare when loaded. This limitation does not apply when fishing from a bridge, pier or other high stationary structure. The use of a flying gaff is not permitted. Only a single hook is permitted on any gaff. Harpoons or lances are prohibited. A rope or any extension cannot be attached to the gaff.

## ANGLING REGULATIONS

1. The angler must cast, hook, fight, and bring the fish to gaff or net unaided by any other person. No other person may touch any part of the tackle during the playing of the fish or give aid other than taking the leader for gaffing or netting purposes. Anyone assisting a shorebound or wading angler must be within a rods length of the angler before touching the leader or netting or gaffing the fish.
2. Casting and retrieving must be carried out in accordance with normal customs and generally accepted practices. The major criterion in casting is that the weight of the line must carry the fly rather than the weight of the fly carrying the line. Trolling a fly behind a moving water craft is not permitted. The craft must be completely out of gear both at the time the fly is presented to the fish and during the retrieve. The maximum amount of line that can be stripped off the reel is 36.75 meters (120 feet) from the fly.
3. Once a fish is hooked, the tackle may not be altered in any way, with the exception of adding an extension butt. A harness cannot be attached to the fly rod.
4. Fish must be hooked on the fly in use. If a small fish takes the fly and a larger fish swallows the smaller fish, the catch will be disallowed.
5. One or more people may assist in gaffing or netting the fish.
6. The angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is weighed.

### **THE FOLLOWING ACTS WILL DISQUALIFY A CATCH:**

1. Failure to comply with equipment or angling regulations.
2. The act of persons other than the angler in touching any part of the rod, reel, or line either bodily or with any device during the playing of the fish, or in giving any aid other than that allowed in the rules and regulations. If an obstacle to the passage of the line through the rod guides has to be removed from the line, then the obstacle shall be held and cut free. Under no circumstances should the line be held or touched by anyone other than the angler during this process.
3. Resting the rod on any part of the boat, or on any other object while playing the fish.
4. Handlining or using a handline or rope attached in any manner to the angler's line or leader for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
5. Intentionally foul hooking or snagging a fish.
6. Shooting, harpooning, or lancing any fish (including sharks and halibut) at any stage of the catch.
7. Chumming with the flesh, blood, skin, or any part of mammals.
8. Using a boat or device to beach or drive a fish into shallow water in order to deprive the fish of its normal ability to swim.
9. Attaching the angler's line or leader to part of a boat or other object for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
10. If a fish escapes before gaffing or netting and is recaptured by any method other than as outlined in the angling rules.
11. When a rod breaks (while the fish is being played) in a manner that reduces its length below minimum dimensions or severely impairs its angling characteristics.
12. When a fish is hooked or entangled on more than one line.
13. Mutilation to the fish, prior to landing or boating the catch, caused by sharks, other fish, mammals, or propellers that remove or penetrate the flesh. Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars or regeneration deformities are not considered to be disqualifying injuries. Any mutilation on the fish must be shown in a photograph and fully explained in a report accompanying the record application.
14. Holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish or takes pressure off of the angler. Touching or briefly holding the angler to prevent them from falling does not constitute a disqualification.

# ALL-TACKLE LENGTH CATEGORY RULES

## Catch-and-Release Only

### GENERAL INFORMATION

All fish entered for All-Tackle Length World Records must be measured by anglers at the site of capture and released so that they swim away on their own and in good condition. Fish should be revived by moving them forward in the water to ensure a healthy release. Fish caught and entered for length records are not eligible for weighing and submission for other record categories.

### RULES AND EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

All IGFA rules and equipment regulations stipulated for fishing with conventional and fly tackle in fresh and saltwater shall apply with the exceptions below. All angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is measured and released alive.

#### A. Gaffs and nets

1. The use of gaffs to land fish is prohibited.
2. Nets used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 2.44 meters (8 feet) in overall length. When fishing from a bridge, pier or other high stationary structure, this length limitation does not apply.
3. The use of knotless, rubber coated nets or other similarly designed nets that minimize slime and scale removal is strongly recommended.

#### B. Measuring device

1. All fish must be measured using the official IGFA measuring device.
2. The measuring device mat may be shortened by cutting it, but it may not be rejoined after it has been shortened.

### ANGLING REGULATIONS

The following acts will disqualify a catch:

1. Failure to comply with IGFA equipment or angling rules.
2. If the fish dies during the documentation process, or does not swim away on its accord after release.

### LENGTH RECORD REQUIREMENTS

All fish entered for All-Tackle Length World Records are subject to the same requirements stipulated for other record categories with the following additions and exceptions. Species eligible for All-Tackle Length World Records may be found in the *World Record Game Fishes* book or online at [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org).

#### A. Measuring requirements

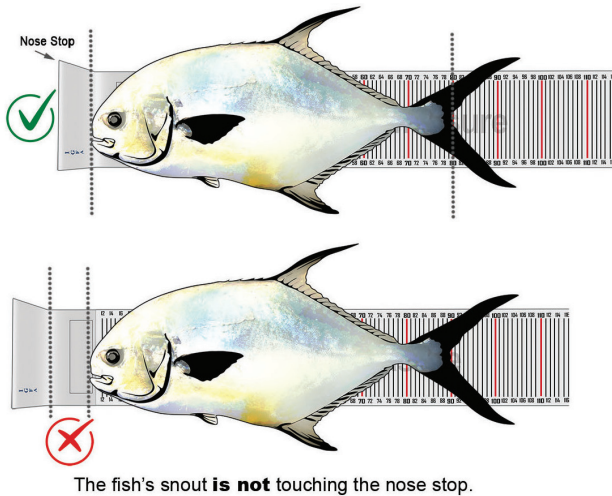
1. Fish must be measured using the official IGFA measuring device on a flat surface.
2. The fish's snout must be touching the nose stop and free of lures or lifting devices.
3. With the fish lying on top of the measuring device, measurements must be taken from the most forward part of the fish's snout to the rear center edge of the tail.
4. All measurements must be made in centimeters.
5. Fish that measure between centimeter increments shall be recorded at the lower of the two increments. For example, a fish that measures between 45 and 46 centimeters will have a recorded length of 45 centimeters.

Order your IGFA Official Measuring Device at  
[nzsportfishing.co.nz/shop](http://nzsportfishing.co.nz/shop)



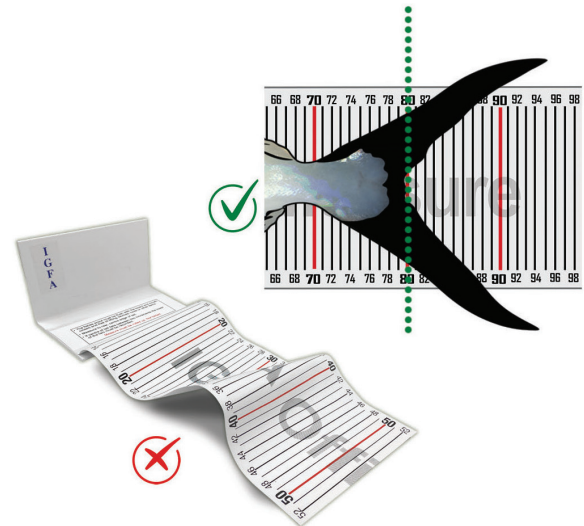
## USING YOUR MEASURING DEVICE

- With the fish lying on top of the measuring device, measurements must be taken from the most forward part of the fish's snout to the **rear centre edge** of the tail.
- The fish's snout must be touching the nose stop and be free of hands, flies or lifting devices.
- All measurements must be made in centimeters. Fish measuring between centimeter increments



shall be recorded at the lower of the two increments. For example, a fish that measures between 79 and 80 centimeters will have a recorded length of 79 centimeters.

- The fish must be measured using the official IGFA measuring device on a flat surface. There must be no wrinkles or overlaps in the device when measuring the permit.



NZSFC recommends that where a fish entirely covers the first portion of the measure mat fully obscuring the measure ruler numbers, then the fish should be photographed with the nose towards the upper or lower section of the stop to reveal measurement in full

## B. Minimum length requirements for vacant records

Fish entered for vacant record categories must measure within the top half of that species maximum recorded length.

## C. Minimum length requirements needed to defeat or tie existing records

1. To defeat an existing record, the fish must measure at least two (2) centimeters longer than the existing record.
2. A catch that matches the length of an existing record or exceeds the length by less than two centimeters will be considered a tie. In the case of a tie claim involving more than two catches, length must be compared with the original record (first fish to be caught). Nothing measuring less than the original record will be considered. In the event of an angler tying an existing record they currently hold; the catch must measure at least one centimeter greater than their current record to qualify for a tie.

## D. Photographic requirements

Photographs included with applications must contain the following:

1. The full length of the fish on the measuring device clearly showing the position of the mouth and tail. The fish may be held in position, but must be done in a manner that does not obscure the view of the fish on the tape.
2. A close up showing the position of the fish's nose and tail on the measuring device.
3. The angler with the fish.
4. The rod and reel used to make the catch.

## **GENERAL BEST HANDLING PRACTICES**

To remove your fish from the water to document it for record purposes, anglers should use either hands or a knotless, rubberized landing net to minimize slime and scale loss. Lip gripping devices may be used to help subdue fish.

However, large fish should not be hoisted vertically out of the water, as this can cause damage to jaw muscle and bone as well as to internal organs. The best method for removing fish from the water by hand is to grip the fish or the lower jaw and support the fish's underside. Again, the point is always to hold fish horizontally and not vertically.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

IGFA World Records require pictures and measurement and/or weighing of the catch. All of this takes time, so you should have the necessary equipment ready before landing the fish. If the documentation process takes longer than a minute, periodically place the fish back in the water or place in a live well to allow it to breathe.

## **RELEASING**

Considerable care should be exercised when releasing fish. Fish should be placed in the water and held by the base of the tail. If the fish does not swim away from your grasp on its own, gently move it forward in the water to get water flowing over the gills. For best results, move the fish in the forward direction only instead of back and forth. Moving the fish in a slow circle or gently towing it.

## Section 3: NZSFC Regulations

These NZSFC regulations are provided to address New Zealand specific practices.

### 3.1 SPORT NZ (FORMERLY SPARC)

Appeals can be taken to the Sports Tribunal in respect of disciplinary matters or breaches of NZSFC fishing rules and regulations. Any appeals must be submitted within 28 days

### 3.2 NZSFC FISHING WATERS

To be eligible for NZSFC Awards/Trophies or New Zealand Records fish must be caught in the waters within 200 miles of the coasts of the two main islands of New Zealand including the Chatham Islands

### 3.3 CATCH SUMMARY SHEETS:

These must be completed and sent to the Council Secretary on a regular basis. They should include all fish weighed by the Club and all Tag Cards handled by the Club.

### 3.4 IGFA & NZSFC RULES

- a) When clubs are conducting their own tournaments – and visiting clubs are involved, they must make their own rules of entry.
- b) When members of unincorporated clubs are entering the Nationals and fishing for Council trophies they must prove they are a separate club in their own right and not part of another club.
- c) Clubs may conduct fishing tournaments for sustenance reasons without complying with NZSFC fishing rules and regulations (Section 7.5 of the constitution refers). Fish caught for these reasons will not qualify for any present Council awards or prizes.

### 3.5 COURTESY WEIGHING:

- a) All clubs are required to courtesy weigh fish (at no charge) for anglers of affiliated clubs within the recognised hours of the weigh stations operation of the club. A fee may only be charged to non-affiliated fishers requesting a courtesy weigh. Clubs intending to charge for courtesy weighs for non-affiliates must advise Council of their intention and the fee to be charged at the beginning of the season.
- b) Anglers requiring a courtesy weigh or courtesy Tag & Release must present two completed weigh sheets /catch cards to the weighmaster (either on sheets / cards from the club providing the courtesy weigh, or their own club's sheets / cards prior to the fish being weighed. For Tag& Release, the weighmaster shall sight and check the completed Tag Card. The weighmaster shall retain / forward the Tag.

All club weigh sheets/catch cards shall have three additional tick boxes easily distinguishable near the particular Club's heading.

- i. Courtesy Weigh – non-member
  - ii. Copy
  - iii. Courtesy Weigh - NZSFC Affiliated Member. There shall be a line beside this box (suitably headed) to record the fishers Club and Membership No.
- c) When a fish is courtesy weighed the fish will be accredited for statistical purposes to the angler's club.
    - i. An inland club can negotiate with a coastal club to use their facilities as a satellite weigh station. This must be notified to the NZSFC Secretary. The tally goes to the inland club and the coastal club must be aware they can't count them in their own tally as well.
  - d) The recognition of the angler weighing this fish is at the discretion of the anglers club.
  - e) Courtesy weighs must be used where practical to ensure fish are recorded to the weigh stations within the area of catch.



### 3.6 PERMANENT WEIGH STATIONS:

As included with Club information in the NZSFC Yearbook.

### 3.7 CATCH FLAGS:

Catch flags are a symbolic and optional gesture to communicate a boat's catch.

ALBACORE	White Flag with Red Fish
BROADBILL	Yellow flag with Black fish
MARLIN	Blue Flag with White Fish
TUNA	White Flag with Blue Fish
SHARK	Red flag with Black fish
YELLOWTAIL	
KINGFISH	White Flag with Green Fish
WAHOO	White Flag Orange Fish
OTHER SPECIES	Yellow Flag
TAGGED FISH	Red with White T

Generally these flags measure 70 cm x 35 cm

Individual Club's should make their own arrangements with regard to the flying of flags whilst playing a fish.

### 3.8 MARLIN

- a). It is recommended for all clubs affiliated to the NZSFC that the minimum weight for marlin is 90kg. The minimum weight should apply for award or contest purposes and is recommended as a guide to encourage tagging of marlin, with the exception of b) below.

It should not discourage any marlin landed being weighed even if it is assessed as being under the recommended 90 kg weight. All marlin presented to a club for weighing should be recorded and details forwarded to the NZSFC for statistical recording purposes.

- b). All club, NZ or world record claims will be recognised regardless of marlin weight if ratified.
- c). The NZSFC is to seek and provide regular information to clubs on tagging of marlin. This should include recommended techniques and equipment to enhance the initial placement of tags, the recovery of the fish and ultimately improved recapture rates of tagged marlin.

### 3.9 SHARKS

White Sharks are now protected in New Zealand so the records we have are 'historical' only. No Awards will be given.

### 3.10 TAGGING PROGRAMME

Species in the tagging programme:

- Broadbill
- All marlin species (excluding spearfish)
- Blue and Mako sharks
- Yellowtail Kingfish - Kingfish in particular should be measured before letting them go
- Tuna

Tags (each) \$6.90 inclusive of GST

Tags - Nylon (Billfish) \$6.90 inclusive of GST

Please check [nzsportfishing.co.nz](http://nzsportfishing.co.nz) for current pricing.

### 3.11 NEW ZEALAND SPORT FISHING COUNCIL CALENDAR

Last 8 days in February ending on the last Saturday NZSFC Nationals

April School holidays	Youth Nationals
1st July each year	Fish Tallies
Membership Details	Total number of members as at 30th June
7th July each year	Final day for Nominations for Council Trophies
	Apart from the first marlin weighed and tagged when the weigh sheet must be forwarded within 24 hours of the fish being weighed or tagged
30th December each year	Last day for payment of affiliation fees Last day for Scales Certificates

## Section 4: Awards and Trophies

### 4.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR TROPHIES & AWARDS

To qualify for NZSFC Trophies:-

1. Fish must be caught in NZSFC waters
2. All NZSFC fishing rules and angling regulations must be complied with at the time of the catch
3. All anglers must be financial members of Clubs affiliated to the NZSFC at the time of capture. For the Photo competition the photographer must be a financial member of a Club affiliated to the NZSFC. Photos become the property of the NZSFC and can be used in whatever publications they so choose.
4. With the exception of the first marlin of the season trophies, nominations must be received by the Secretary no later than July 7 each year. With regard to the First Marlin these nominations must be notified to the Council Secretary by faxing or emailing the weigh sheet within 24 hours of the fish being weighed or tagged.
5. For each Annual Trophy, NZSFC will present a suitable miniature which will NOT include Council plaques.
6. Judging of the Old Man and the Sea Cup will be by such persons as the Board decide
7. Weighed marlin must exceed 90 kg
8. Nominations for trophies and awards must come from Clubs
9. A Club may put in more than one nomination

## 4.2 RECOMMENDATION TO CLUBS FOR RECORD PIN AWARDS:

(NB This recommendation is for those Clubs who award Pins)

For a New Zealand Record = a Silver Pin with a Ruby coloured Eye

For a World Record = a Gold Pin with a Ruby coloured Eye

Clubs to make their own arrangements regarding purchase and distribution of these pins at their own cost.

## 4.3 GRAND SLAM CLUBS:

The NZSFC has introduced grand slam clubs for its anglers fishing in New Zealand. They are unique to New Zealand and serve as a supreme award for a lifetime of angling. To qualify for a slam club an angler must catch one of each type specified for each of the awards and meet the minimum weight requirements for each fish. All fish to be eligible to qualify towards your grand slam must be caught in accordance with angling rules for IGFA and NZSFC. You must have proof of capture (certificate, club yearbook, or photo of your fish with weigh board information included). All claims must be endorsed and verified by your club secretary. Your club must have been affiliated at the time of capture. These are lifetime awards and retrospective captures count provided the requirements are met. There are 5 different slam clubs.

### **THE BILLFISH SLAM** *Minimum Weights*

STRIPED	100 kg
BLUE	150 kg
BLACK	90 kg
BROADBILL	110 kg
SPEARFISH	10 kg

### **THE SHARK SLAM** *Minimum Weights*

THRESHER	120 kg
WHALER	120 kg
MAKO	160 kg
HAMMERHEAD	100 kg
BLUE	100 kg

### **THE TUNA SLAM** *Minimum Weights*

YELLOWFIN	35 kg
BIGEYE	25 kg
BLUEFIN	70 kg
ALBACORE	10 kg
EITHER PACIFIC	70 kg
SKIPJACK	5 kg

Tuna slams claims the fish must also exceed the line weight.

### **THE INSHORE SLAM** *Minimum Weights*

SNAPPER	10 kg
KINGFISH	25 kg
KAHAWAI	3 kg
TREVALLY	5 kg
JOHN DORY	2 kg

The Inshore Slam includes a land-based section.

<b>THE SOUTHERN SLAM</b>	<i>Minimum Weights</i>
BLUE SHARK	50 kg
PORBEAGLE	80 kg
MAKO	150 kg
THRESHER	130 kg
ALBACORE	exceed lineweight
SLENDER	exceed lineweight
KINGFISH	exceed lineweight
TUNA	exceed lineweight
<i>(Northern Pacific or Southern Bluefin)</i>	
BILLFISH	90 kg

Catch 6 of the 8 fish to claim the Grand Slam

These fish must be caught in the South Island fishing grounds.

Any meritorious fish caught ie. World Record, unusual fish of note, be considered by Council on a one-off basis to count towards part of the slam.

### **This came into effect 1 July 2010**

#### **BILLFISH TAGGING SLAM**

STRIPED MARLIN

BLUE MARLIN

BLACK MARLIN

BROADBILL

SPEARFISH

To qualify the following criteria will apply;

- a) All fish must be caught and tagged in New Zealand Waters
- b) The slam must be applied for, the application must be endorsed and verified true and accurate by the club secretary whom the applicant belongs to and endorsed by the appropriate Fishing Committee (if applicable) of that club.
- c) Proof will be by an official catch card recognized by the NZSFC, by verification from a club year book or magazine. The club must have been affiliated to the NZSFC at the time of capture.
- d) IGFA & NZSFC rules are to be observed.
- e) A plaque or certificate will be issued if the slam is awarded.
- f) The recipient is to be honoured in the Council's annual yearbook.

To apply send details of your qualifying fish to the NZSFC secretary at PO Box 54242, The Marina, Auckland, 2144. Enquiries can be made to [secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz).

# ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

## Double Lines and Leaders



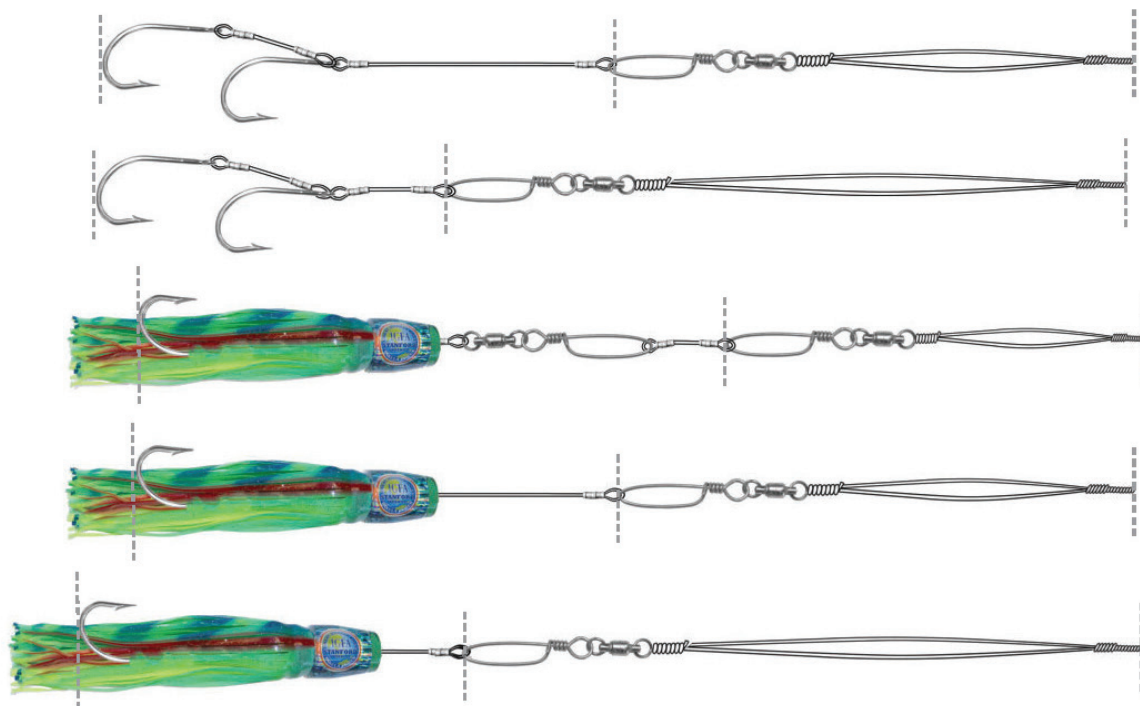
Double lines are measured from the start of the knot, braid, roll or splice making the double line to the farthermost end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel or other device used for securing the trace, leader lure or hook to the double line. A double line must consist of the actual line used to catch the fish. For saltwater species, the double line shall be limited to 4.57 meters (15 feet) for all line classes up to and including 10 kg. (20 lb.); and shall be limited to 9.14 meters (30 feet) for line classes over 10 kg. (20 lb.). For freshwater species, the double line on all classes of tackle shall not exceed 1.82 meters (6 feet).



The leader shall be limited to 4.57 meters (15 feet) for saltwater species in line classes up to and including 10 kg. (20 lb.), and 9.14 meters (30 feet) for all line classes over 10 kg. (20 lb.). For freshwater species, the leader on all classes of tackle shall be limited to 1.82 meters (6 feet).



The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangements or other device.



The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 meters (20 feet) in line classes up to and including 10 kg. (20 lb.) and 12.19 meters (40 feet) in line classes over 10 kg. (20 lb.) for saltwater species. The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 3.04 meters (10 feet) for freshwater species.

# ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

## Natural Baits and Artificial



**LEGAL** if eyes of hooks no more than 45.72 centimeters (18 inches) apart in baits and no more than 30.45 centimeters (12 inches) apart in lures. **NOT LEGAL** if eyes further apart than these distances.



**LEGAL** as eyes of hooks are no less than a hooks length apart and no more than 30.45 centimeters (12 inches) apart, and the trailing hook does not extend more than a hooks length beyond the skirt.



**NOT LEGAL** as the second or trailing hook extends more than the hooks length beyond skirt. See also two hook rigs.



**LEGAL** as hook is contained within the skirt.



**NOT LEGAL** in bait or lures as eyes of hooks are less than a hooks length (the length of the largest hook) apart.



**NOT LEGAL** as the single hook extends more than its length beyond the skirt.



**LEGAL** as eyes of hooks are no less than a hooks length apart and no more than 45.72 centimeters (18 inches) in baits and 30.45 centimeters (12 inches) in lures.



**NOT LEGAL** as back hook is not firmly imbedded in or securely attached to bait and is dangling or swinging hook.



**LEGAL** in baits and lures. The point of one hook is passed through the eye of the other hook.



**LEGAL** as both hooks are firmly imbedded or securely attached to bait. Would not be legal if eyes of hooks were more than 45.72 centimeters (18 inches) apart.

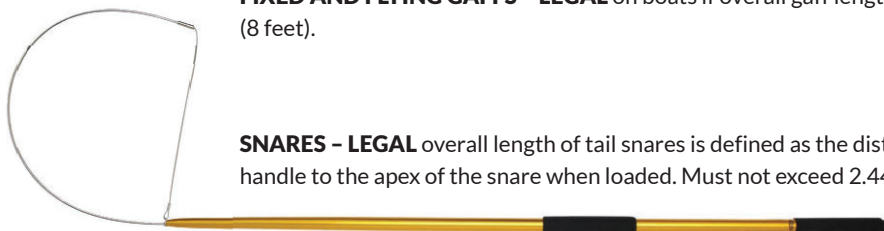
## Gaffs and Snares



**FLYING GAFFS - LEGAL** on boats if effective rope length does not exceed 9.14 meters (30 feet).



**FIXED AND FLYING GAFFS - LEGAL** on boats if overall gaff length does not exceed 2.44 meters (8 feet).



**SNARES - LEGAL** overall length of tail snares is defined as the distance from the beginning of the handle to the apex of the snare when loaded. Must not exceed 2.44 meters (8 feet) in overall length.

# ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

## Assist Hooks

Assist hooks or other such single hooks that are attached to a lure with a lead constructed of monofilament, multifilament, wire or other such material must conform to the following: When using assist hooks on any artificial lure, other than a skirted lure, the lead cannot be more than 1 ½ hook's length and the bend of the hook may not be more than 101 millimeters (4 inches), whichever is less, from the closest point of attachment on the lure. A maximum of three assist hooks can be used. Double and treble hooks may not be used as assist hooks.



**IGFA COMPLIANT** With this assist hook, the lead is within 1 1/2 hooks length (measured from the closest point of attachment on the lure to the eye of the hook).



**IGFA COMPLIANT** Multiple assist hooks are allowed. Double and treble hooks may not be used as assist hooks.



**IGFA COMPLIANT** Assist hook (or hooks) can be attached to either end of the lure.



**ARTIFICIAL LURES** Assist hooks can be used with any artificial lure, other than a skirted lure.



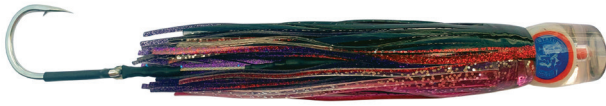
**NOT IGFA COMPLIANT** With this assist hook, the lead exceeds 1 1/2 hooks length (measured from the closest point of attachment on the lure to the eye of the hook).



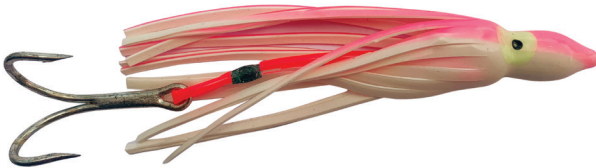
**NOT IGFA COMPLIANT** With this assist hook, the bend of the hook is more than 101 millimeters (4 inches) from the closest point of attachment on the lure. Total length to bend of hook i.e. 107 millimeters (4.25 inches) > 101 millimeters (4 inches).

# IGFA LEGAL OR NOT LEGAL

## IGFA NOT LEGAL



✗ IGFA Not Legal because the eye of the hook is outside of the lure skirt



✗ IGFA Not Legal because double or gang hooks cannot be used with skirted lures



✗ IGFA Not Legal because the assist cords can only be 1 1/2 times the hook length



✗ IGFA Not Legal because the ledger rig has more than 2 single hooks being used

## IGFA LEGAL



✓ IGFA Legal because the eye of the hook is inside the lure skirt



✓ IGFA Legal because this is designed as a jig and a fixed double hook is allowed



✓ IGFA Legal because "up to 3 gang hooks are permitted when attached to plugs and other artificial lures that are specifically designed for this use"

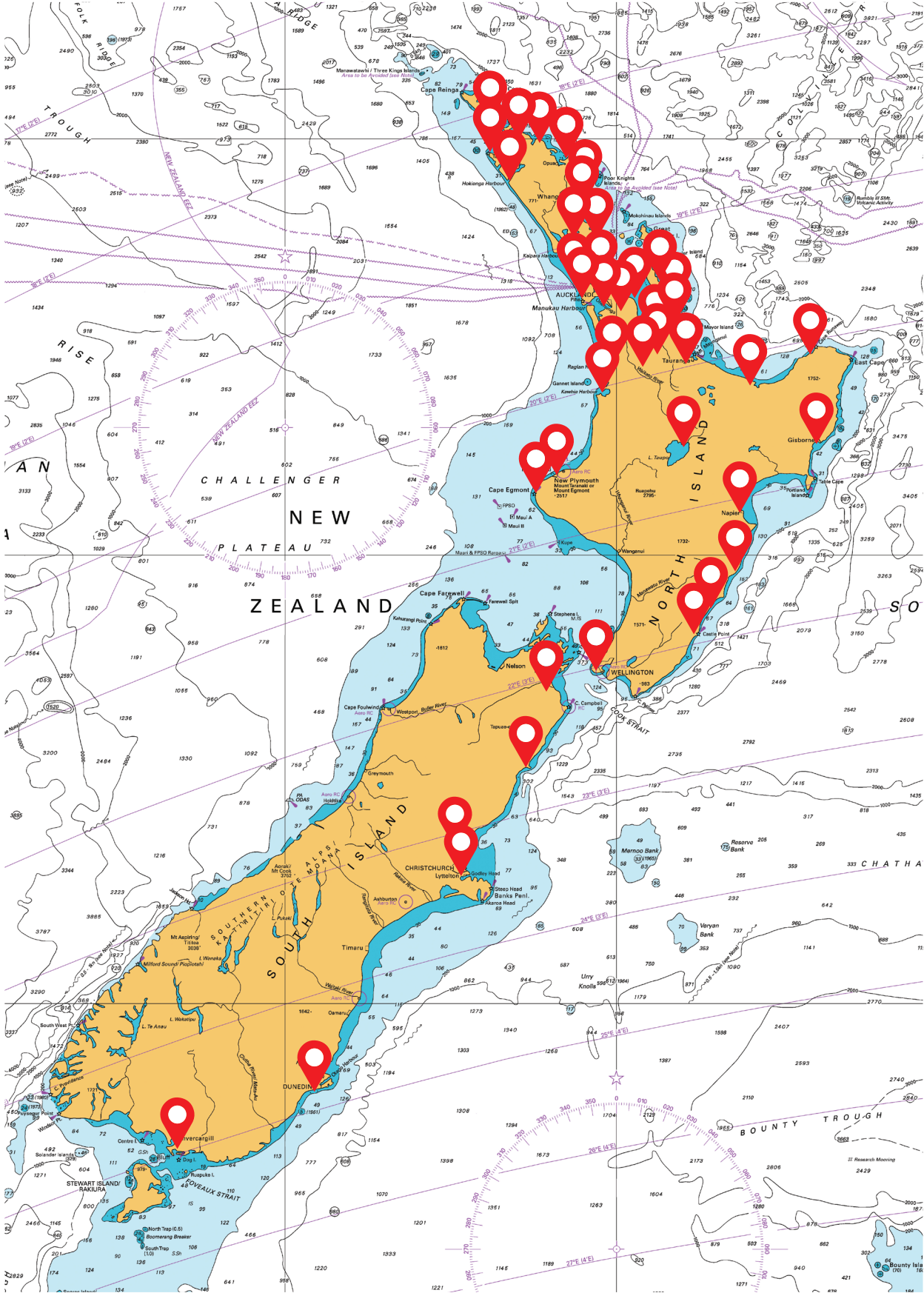


✓ IGFA Legal because the ledger rig has only 2 single hooks being used



# NZSFC CLUB LOCATIONS

Join your nearest club. Find out more at [nzsportfishing.org.nz](http://nzsportfishing.org.nz)



# IGFA ALL-TACKLE LENGTHS

These are IGFA species. Refer to NZSFC website: [nzsportfishing.co.nz](http://nzsportfishing.co.nz) for NZSFC eligible species.

## Saltwater

Albacore	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	61 cm	Pompano, African	<i>Alectis ciliaris</i>	58 cm
Amberjack, greater	<i>Seriola dumerili</i>	92 cm	Pompano, Florida	<i>Trachinotus carolinus</i>	27 cm
Barracuda, great	<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	95 cm	Pompano, snubnose	<i>Trachinotus blochii</i>	39 cm
Barracuda, Guinean	<i>Sphyraena afra</i>	95 cm	Queenfish, talang	<i>Scomberoides commersonianus</i>	60 cm
Barracuda, Mexican	<i>Sphyraena ensis</i>	65 cm	Rockfish, black/blue	<i>Sebastes melanops</i>	31 cm
Bass, black sea	<i>Centropristis striata</i>	33 cm	Rockfish, yelloweye	<i>Sebastes ruberrimus</i>	51 cm
Bass, European	<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	46 cm	Roosterfish	<i>Nematistius pectoralis</i>	81 cm
Bass, kelp (calico)	<i>Paralabrax clathratus</i>	33 cm	Runner, rainbow	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	60 cm
Bass, striped	<i>Morone saxatilis</i>	67 cm	Samson fish	<i>Seriola hippos</i>	75 cm
Bluefish	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	59 cm	Seabass, blackfin	<i>Lateolabrax latus</i>	47 cm
Bonefish, Atlantic	<i>Albula spp.</i>	50 cm	Seabass, Japanese (suzuki)	<i>Lateolabrax japonicus</i>	63 cm
Bonefish, Pacific	<i>Albula spp.</i>	50 cm	Seabass, white	<i>Atractoscion nobilis</i>	83 cm
Bonito, Atlantic	<i>Sarda sarda</i>	42 cm	Seabream, gilthead	<i>Sparus aurata</i>	37 cm
Bonito, Pacific	<i>Sarda spp.</i>	49 cm	Seatrout, spotted	<i>Cynoscion nebulosus</i>	50 cm
Buri (Japanese amberjack)	<i>Seriola quinqueradiata</i>	52 cm	Shark, bonnethead	<i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>	50 cm
Cobia	<i>Rachycentron canadum</i>	85 cm	Sheepshead	<i>Archosargus probatocephalus</i>	32 cm
Cod, Atlantic	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	80 cm	Skipjack, black	<i>Euthynnus lineatus</i>	42 cm
Cod, Pacific	<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>	56 cm	Snapper (squirefish)	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>	47 cm
Corbina, California	<i>Minticirrhus undulatus</i>	33 cm	Snapper, cubera	<i>Lutjanus cyanopterus</i>	69 cm
Dentex	<i>Dentex dentex</i>	49 cm	Snapper, grey	<i>Lutjanus griseus</i>	37 cm
Drum, black	<i>Pogonias cromis</i>	67 cm	Snapper, African red	<i>Lutjanus agennes</i>	69 cm
Drum, red	<i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i>	72 cm	Snapper, mullet	<i>Lutjanus aratus</i>	58 cm
Flounder, summer	<i>Parachutes dentatus</i>	44 cm	Snapper, mutton	<i>Lutjanus analis</i>	45 cm
Grouper, black	<i>Mycteroperca bonaci</i>	77 cm	Snapper, Pacific cubera	<i>Lutjanus novemfasciatus</i>	67 cm
Grouper, gag	<i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>	66 cm	Snapper, red	<i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>	48 cm
Grouper, red	<i>Epinephelus morio</i>	42 cm	Snapper, yellowtail	<i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>	34 cm
Halibut, California	<i>Paralichthys californicus</i>	66 cm	Snook, Atlantic	<i>Centropomus spp.</i>	25 cm
Jack, almaco	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	80 cm	Snook, Pacific	<i>Centropomus spp.</i>	25 cm
Jack, crevalle	<i>Caranx hippos</i>	57 cm	Tarpon, oxeye	<i>Megalops cyprinoides</i>	75 cm
Jack, horse-eye	<i>Caranx latus</i>	50 cm	Tautog	<i>Tautoga onitis</i>	44 cm
Jack, Pacific crevalle	<i>Caranx caninus</i>	50 cm	Threadfin, giant African	<i>Polydactylus quadrifilis</i>	100 cm
Kahawai (Australian salmon)	<i>Arripis trutta</i>	41 cm	Threadfin, king	<i>Polydactylus macrochir</i>	83 cm
Kawakawa	<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>	47 cm	Trevally, bigeye	<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	44 cm
Ladyfish	<i>Elops spp.</i>	39 cm	Trevally, bluefin	<i>Caranx melampygus</i>	58 cm
Leerfish (Garrick)	<i>Lichia amia</i>	61 cm	Trevally, giant	<i>Caranx ignobilis</i>	76 cm
Mackerel, cero	<i>Scomberomorus regalis</i>	47 cm	Trevally, golden	<i>Gnathanodon speciosus</i>	48 cm
Mackerel, king	<i>Scomberomorus cavalla</i>	75 cm	Tripletail	<i>Lobotes surinamensis</i>	48 cm
Mackerel, narrowbarred	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	100 cm	Tuna, blackfin	<i>Thunnus atlanticus</i>	52 cm
Mackerel, Pacific sierra	<i>Scomberomorus sierra</i>	49 cm	Tuna, longtail	<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>	72 cm
Mackerel, Spanish	<i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i>	39 cm	Tuna, skipjack	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	49 cm
Madai	<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>	40 cm	Tunny, little	<i>Euthynnus alletteratus</i>	53 cm
Meagre	<i>Argyrosomus spp.</i>	30 cm	Weakfish	<i>Cynoscion regalis</i>	48 cm
Milkfish	<i>Chanos chanos</i>	60 cm	Yellowtail, California	<i>Seriola lalandi dorsalis</i>	80 cm
Permit	<i>Trachinotus falcatus</i>	52 cm	Yellowtail, southern	<i>Seriola lalandi</i>	78 cm
Pollack, European	<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	50 cm			
Pollock	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	56 cm			

## Freshwater

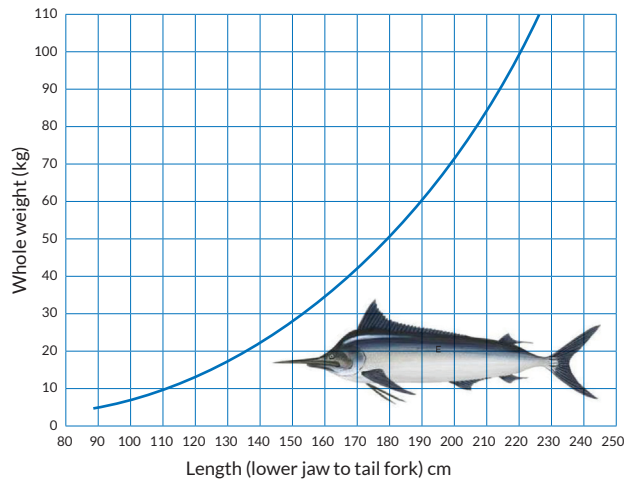
Arawana	<i>Osteoglossum bicirrhosum</i>	41 cm	Payara	<i>Hydrolicus scomberoides</i>	53 cm
Asp	<i>Leuciscus aspius</i>	40 cm	Peacock, blackstriped	<i>Cichla intermedia</i>	26 cm
Barbel	<i>Barbus barbuis</i>	44 cm	Peacock, blue	<i>Chichla piquiti</i>	30 cm
Barramundi	<i>Lates calcarifer</i>	62 cm	Peacock, butterfly	<i>Cichla ocellaris</i>	33 cm
Bass, Australian	<i>Macquaria novemaculeata</i>	27 cm	Peacock, Orinoco	<i>Cichla orinocensis</i>	32 cm
Bass, largemouth	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	48 cm	Peacock, speckled	<i>Cichla temensis</i>	45 cm
Bass, smallmouth	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	34 cm	Pellona, Amazon	<i>Pellona castelnaeana</i>	37 cm
Bass, spotted	<i>Micropterus punctualtus</i>	34 cm	Perch, European	<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	40 cm
Bass, striped (landlocked)	<i>Morone saxatilis</i>	65 cm	Perch, Nile	<i>Lates niloticus</i>	100 cm
Bass, white	<i>Morone chrysops</i>	24 cm	Perch, white	<i>Morone Americana</i>	21 cm
Bass, whiterock	<i>Morone saxatilis</i> <i>M. tchrysops</i>	44 cm	Perch, yellow	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	18 cm
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	119 cm	Pickereel, chain	<i>Esox niger</i>	39 cm
Bowfin	<i>Amia calva</i>	45 cm	Pike, northern	<i>Esox lucius</i>	68 cm
Brycon	<i>Brycon spp.</i>	24 cm	Salmon, Atlantic	<i>Salmo salar</i>	64 cm
Buffalo, bigmouth	<i>Ictiobus cyprinellus</i>	48 cm	Salmon, Atlantic (landlocked)	<i>Salmo salar</i>	46 cm
Buffalo, smallmouth	<i>Ictiobus bubalus</i>	50 cm	Salmon, chinook	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	53 cm
Carp, common	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	55 cm	Salmon, chum	<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>	48 cm
Carp, grass	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>	66 cm	Salmon, coho	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	53 cm
Catfish, blue	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	73 cm	Salmon, pink	<i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i>	39 cm
Catfish, channel	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	60 cm	Salmon, sockeye	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	35 cm
Catfish, flathead	<i>Pylodictis olivaris</i>	75 cm	Shad, American	<i>Alosa sapidissima</i>	35 cm
Catfish, redtail (pirarara)	<i>Phractocephalus hemiliopterus</i>	69 cm	Snakehead	<i>Channa spp.</i>	29 cm
Catfish, sharptooth	<i>Clarias gariepinus</i>	85 cm	Snapper, Papuan black	<i>Lutjanus goldiei</i>	50 cm
Char, Arctic	<i>Salvelinus alpinus</i>	51 cm	Sorubim	<i>Pseudoplatystoma spp.</i>	52 cm
Crappie, black	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	24 cm	Taimen	<i>Hucho taimen</i>	78 cm
Crappie, white	<i>Pomoxis annularis</i>	24 cm	Tambaqui	<i>Colossoma macropomum</i>	53 cm
Dolly varden	<i>Salvelinus malma</i>	50 cm	Tigerfish	<i>Hydrocynus vittatus</i>	43 cm
Dorado	<i>Salminus maxillosus</i>	55 cm	Tigerfish, giant	<i>Hydrocynus goliath</i>	64 cm
Gar, Florida	<i>Lepisosteus platyrhincus</i>	42 cm	Trahira	<i>Trahira spp.</i>	26 cm
Gar, longnose	<i>Lepisosteus osseus</i>	77 cm	Trout, brook	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	34 cm
Gar, shortnose	<i>Lepisosteus platostomus</i>	38 cm	Trout, brown	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	51 cm
Grayling	<i>Thymallus thymallus</i>	25 cm	Trout, bull	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	51 cm
Grayling, Arctic	<i>Thymallus arcticus</i>	37 cm	Trout, cutthroat	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki</i>	44 cm
Huchen	<i>Hucho hucho</i>	72 cm	Trout, golden	<i>Oncorhynchus guabonita</i>	35 cm
Inconnu	<i>Stenodus leucichthys</i>	64 cm	Trout, lake	<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>	74 cm
Kokanee	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	32 cm	Trout, rainbow	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	54 cm
Muskellunge	<i>Esox masquinongy</i>	76 cm	Trout, tiger	<i>Salmo trutta x</i> <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	43cm
Muskellunge, tiger	<i>Esox masquinongy x</i> <i>Esox Lucius</i>	57 cm	Walleye	<i>Stizostedion vitreum</i>	52 cm
Nembwe	<i>Serranochromis robustus</i>	27 cm	Zander	<i>Stizostedion lucioperca</i>	43 cm
Oscar	<i>Astronotus ocellatus</i>	19 cm			

# HOW BIG IS IT?

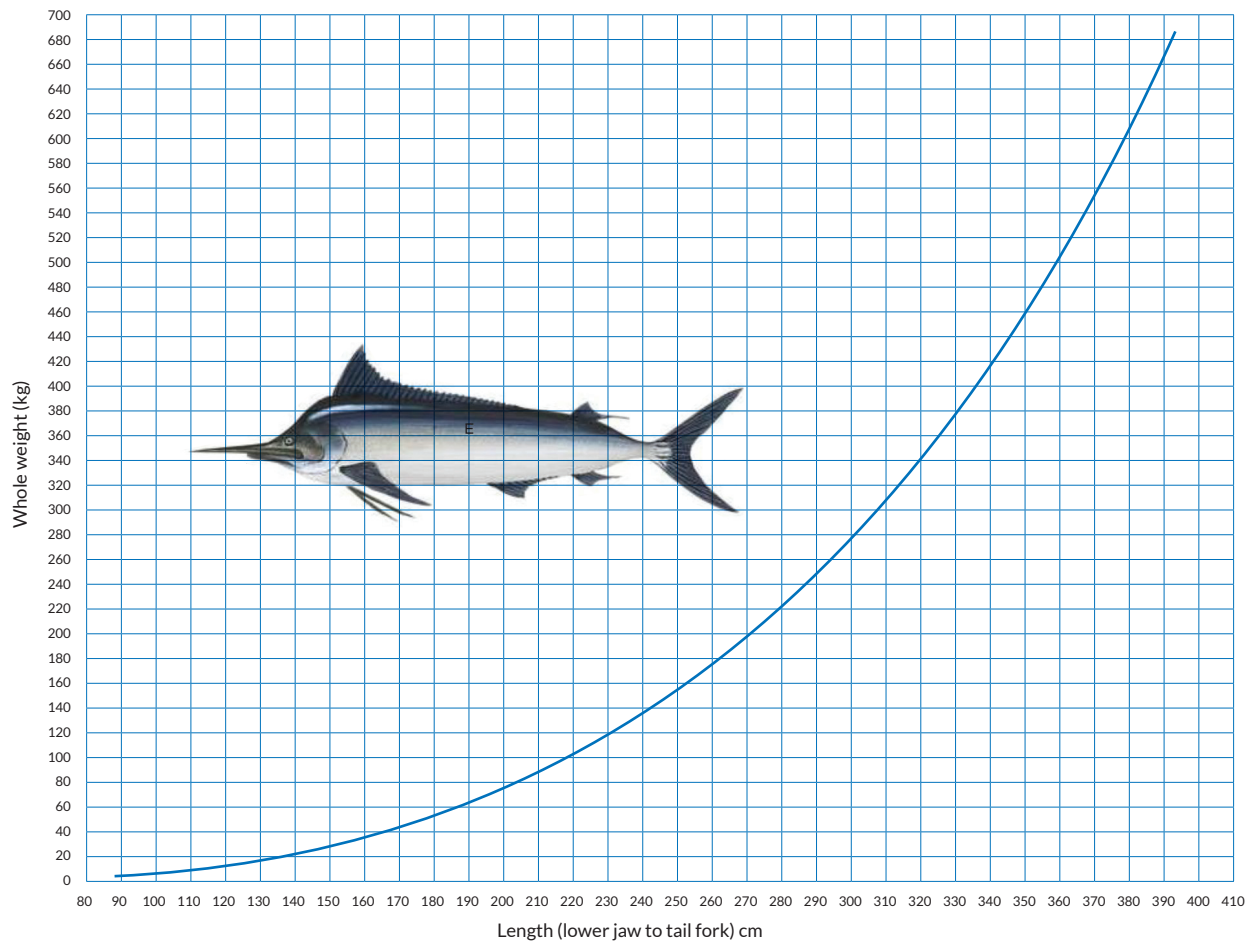
Estimating the size and weight of your catch is one of the more refined skills of a gamefisherman. It's especially important when practicing tag-and-release as many of the important statistics flowing from tagging programs are influenced by your size and weight estimates.

Prepared by Dr Julian Pepperell, and illustrated by Craig Smith, here's a quick reference guide to help you more accurately determine the weights of striped, blue and black marlin, plus yellowfin tuna, tiger sharks and mako sharks.

Length/weight curve for Black Marlin (up to 110kg)

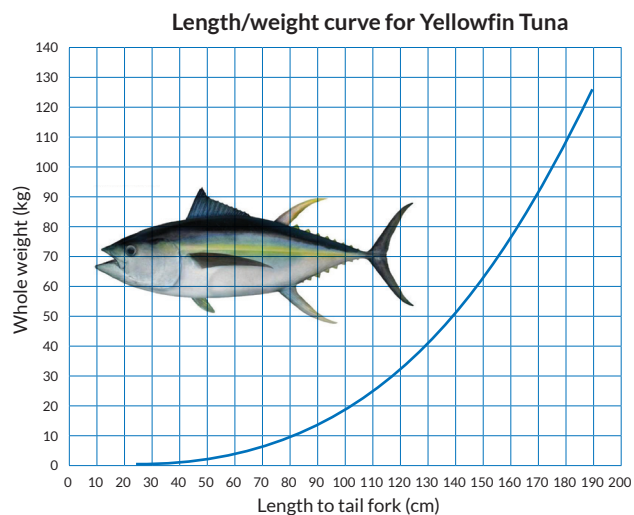


Length/weight curve for Black Marlin (Full size range)

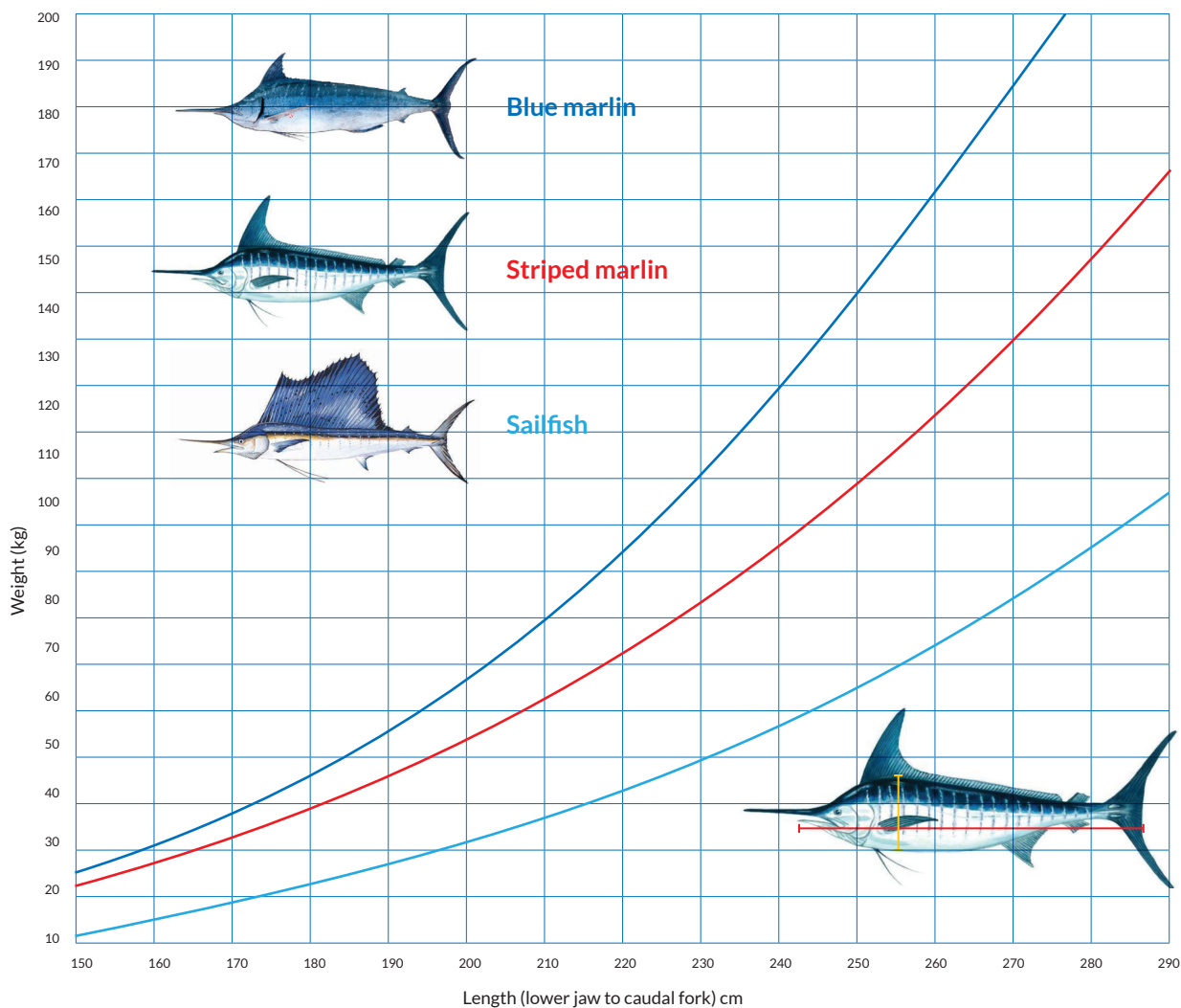


The graph to the right shows the length/weight relationship for yellowfin tuna. To determine the approximate weight of your fish, measure from the tip of the nose to the fork in the tail, then draw a vertical line on the graph from the length of the fish to the curve, and from that intersection, draw a horizontal line to the weight axis.

The below graph depicts average curves for blue marlin, striped marlin and sailfish in the more commonly caught size ranges. The length of the fish is measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork in the tail - the 'short length' used in record claims. In order to read these curves, draw a vertical line from the length of the fish to the curve, and from the intersection, draw a horizontal line to the weight axis. Please note that the black marlin length/weight relationship is nearly identical to blues.



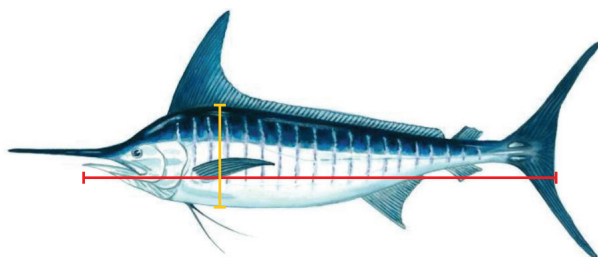
### Length/weight curve for Blue marlin, Striped marlin and Sailfish (Common size ranges)



# GAMEFISH WEIGHT CALCULATION TABLE

Estimated weight in Kg

Girth																								
cm	66	69	71	74	76	79	81	84	86	89	91	94	97	99	102	104	107	109	112	114	117	119	122	
inches	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	
173	68	26	28	30	32	35	37	40	42	45	47	50	53	56	59	62	65	68	71	75	78	82	85	89
175	69	27	29	31	33	35	38	40	43	45	48	51	54	57	60	63	66	69	72	76	79	83	87	90
178	70	27	29	31	33	36	38	41	43	46	49	52	54	57	60	64	67	70	74	77	81	84	88	92
180	71	27	29	32	34	36	39	41	44	47	49	52	55	58	61	65	68	71	75	78	82	85	89	93
183	72	28	30	32	34	37	39	42	45	47	50	53	56	59	62	65	69	72	76	79	83	87	90	94
185	73	28	30	33	35	37	40	42	45	48	51	54	57	60	63	66	70	73	77	80	84	88	92	96
188	74	28	31	33	35	38	40	43	46	49	52	54	58	61	64	67	71	74	78	81	85	89	93	97
191	75	29	31	33	36	38	41	44	46	49	52	55	58	62	65	68	72	75	79	83	86	90	94	98
193	76	29	31	34	36	39	41	44	47	50	53	56	59	62	66	69	73	76	80	84	87	91	95	99
196	77	30	32	34	37	39	42	45	48	51	54	57	60	63	67	70	74	77	81	85	89	93	97	101
198	78	30	32	35	37	40	43	45	48	51	54	57	61	64	67	71	74	78	82	86	90	94	98	102
201	79	30	33	35	38	40	43	46	49	52	55	58	61	65	68	72	75	79	83	87	91	95	99	103
203	80	31	33	36	38	41	44	47	50	53	56	59	62	66	69	73	76	80	84	88	92	96	100	105
206	81	31	34	36	39	41	44	47	50	53	56	60	63	66	70	74	77	81	85	89	93	97	102	106
208	82	31	34	37	39	42	45	48	51	54	57	60	64	67	71	75	78	82	86	90	94	99	103	107
211	83	32	34	37	40	42	45	48	51	55	58	61	65	68	72	75	79	83	87	91	95	100	104	109
213	84	32	35	37	40	43	46	49	52	55	58	62	65	69	73	76	80	84	88	92	97	101	105	110
216	85	33	35	38	41	43	46	49	53	56	59	63	66	70	73	77	81	85	89	94	98	102	107	111
218	86	33	36	38	41	44	47	50	53	56	60	63	67	71	74	78	82	86	90	95	99	103	108	113
221	87	33	36	39	42	44	48	51	54	57	61	64	68	71	75	79	83	87	91	96	100	105	109	114
224	88	34	36	39	42	45	48	51	54	58	61	65	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	97	101	106	110	115
226	89	34	37	40	43	46	49	52	55	58	62	66	69	73	77	81	85	89	94	98	102	107	112	117
229	90	35	37	40	43	46	49	52	56	59	63	66	70	74	78	82	86	90	95	99	104	108	113	118
231	91	35	38	41	43	47	50	53	56	60	63	67	71	75	79	83	87	91	96	100	105	109	114	119
234	92	35	38	41	44	47	50	54	57	60	64	68	72	75	80	84	88	92	97	101	106	111	115	120
236	93	36	39	41	44	48	51	54	58	61	65	68	72	76	80	85	89	93	98	102	107	112	117	122
239	94	36	39	42	45	48	51	55	58	62	65	69	73	77	81	85	90	94	99	103	108	113	118	123
241	95	36	39	42	45	49	52	55	59	62	66	70	74	78	82	86	91	95	100	105	109	114	119	124
244	96	37	40	43	46	49	52	56	59	63	67	71	75	79	83	87	92	96	101	106	110	115	120	126
246	97	37	40	43	46	50	53	56	60	64	68	71	75	80	84	88	93	97	102	107	112	117	122	127
249	98	38	41	44	47	50	54	57	61	64	68	72	76	80	85	89	94	98	103	108	113	118	123	128
251	99	38	41	44	47	51	54	58	61	65	69	73	77	81	86	90	95	99	104	109	114	119	124	130
254	100	38	41	45	48	51	55	58	62	66	70	74	78	82	86	91	96	100	105	110	115	120	126	131
257	101	39	42	45	48	52	55	59	62	66	70	74	79	83	87	92	96	101	106	111	116	121	127	132



- Estimated weight in Kg. These tables are based on a well documented formula and give a good estimation of gamefish weight.
- The girth is the total distance around the fish - the line shown in yellow is half the girth. Formula applicable to marlin, tuna and sharks.
- Add up to 10% for a well conditioned fish

1. Measure from tip of lower jaw to V or tail
2. Measure girth at widest point.

124	127	130	132	135	137	140	142	145	147	150	152	155	157	160	163	165	168	170	173	175	178	180	183	185
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
93	97	100	104	109	113	117	121	126	130	134	139	144	149	153	158	163	168	173	179	184	189	195	200	206
94	98	102	106	110	114	119	123	127	132	136	141	146	151	156	161	166	171	176	181	187	192	198	203	209
95	99	103	108	112	116	120	125	129	134	138	143	148	153	158	163	168	173	179	184	189	195	200	206	212
97	101	105	109	113	118	122	127	131	136	140	145	150	155	160	165	170	176	181	187	192	198	203	209	215
98	102	106	111	115	119	124	128	133	138	142	147	152	157	162	168	173	178	184	189	195	200	206	212	218
100	104	108	112	117	121	125	130	135	140	144	149	154	159	165	170	175	181	186	192	197	203	209	215	221
101	105	109	114	118	123	127	132	137	141	146	151	156	162	167	172	178	183	189	194	200	206	212	218	224
102	107	111	115	120	124	129	134	138	143	148	153	159	164	169	175	180	186	191	197	203	209	215	221	227
104	108	112	117	121	126	131	135	140	145	150	155	161	166	171	177	182	188	194	200	206	212	218	224	230
105	109	114	118	123	128	132	137	142	147	152	158	163	168	174	179	185	191	196	202	208	214	221	227	233
106	111	115	120	124	129	134	139	144	149	154	160	165	170	176	182	187	193	199	205	211	217	223	230	236
108	112	117	121	126	131	136	141	146	151	156	162	167	173	178	184	190	196	201	208	214	220	226	233	239
109	114	118	123	128	133	138	143	148	153	158	164	169	175	180	186	192	198	204	210	216	223	229	236	242
111	115	120	124	129	134	139	144	150	155	160	166	171	177	183	189	194	200	207	213	219	226	232	239	245
112	116	121	126	131	136	141	146	151	157	162	168	173	179	185	191	197	203	209	215	222	228	235	242	248
113	118	123	128	132	138	143	148	153	159	164	170	175	181	187	193	199	205	212	218	225	231	238	244	251
115	119	124	129	134	139	144	150	155	161	166	172	178	183	189	195	202	208	214	221	227	234	241	247	254
116	121	126	131	136	141	146	151	157	162	168	174	180	186	192	198	204	210	217	223	230	237	243	250	257
117	122	127	132	137	142	148	153	159	164	170	176	182	188	194	200	206	213	219	226	233	239	246	253	260
119	124	129	134	139	144	150	155	161	166	172	178	184	190	196	202	209	215	222	229	235	242	249	256	263
120	125	130	135	140	146	151	157	162	168	174	180	186	192	198	205	211	218	224	231	238	245	252	259	266
121	126	132	137	142	147	153	159	164	170	176	182	188	194	201	207	214	220	227	234	241	248	255	262	269
123	128	133	138	144	149	155	160	166	172	178	184	190	197	203	209	216	223	230	236	243	251	258	265	273
124	129	134	140	145	151	156	162	168	174	180	186	192	199	205	212	218	225	232	239	246	253	261	268	276
126	131	136	141	147	152	158	164	170	176	182	188	195	201	207	214	221	228	235	242	249	256	264	271	279
127	132	137	143	148	154	160	166	172	178	184	190	197	203	210	216	223	230	237	244	252	259	266	274	282
128	134	139	144	150	156	162	167	174	180	186	192	199	205	212	219	226	233	240	247	254	262	269	277	285
130	135	140	146	152	157	163	169	175	182	188	194	201	207	214	221	228	235	242	250	257	264	272	280	288
131	136	142	147	153	159	165	171	177	183	190	196	203	210	216	223	230	238	245	252	260	267	275	283	291
132	138	143	149	155	161	167	173	179	185	192	198	205	212	219	226	233	240	247	255	262	270	278	286	294
134	139	145	151	156	162	168	175	181	187	194	200	207	214	221	228	235	243	250	257	265	273	281	289	297
135	141	146	152	158	164	170	176	183	189	196	203	209	216	223	230	238	245	253	260	268	276	284	292	300
136	142	148	154	160	166	172	178	185	191	198	205	211	218	226	233	240	248	255	263	271	278	286	295	303
138	143	149	155	161	167	174	180	186	193	200	207	214	221	228	235	242	250	258	265	273	281	289	297	306

# CHECKLIST FOR RECORDS

## CHECK IF CAUGHT WITHIN NZSFC/IGFA FISHING RULES & ANGLING REGULATIONS

	Angler Master	Weigh Sec	Club Name	
<b>CHECK FOR MUTILATIONS</b> (if any full explanations) Mutilation which could effect fighting capabilities will disqualify capture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>LINE: ONE PIECE 16.0M</b> Including double	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>DOUBLE LENGTH OK</b> Including knots, swivels, clips etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>LEADER LENGTH OK</b> Including hook, lure etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>HOOK ARRANGEMENT OK</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>ROD &amp; REEL OK AND MEASURED GAFFS CHECKED &amp; MEASURED</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>WEIGHING</b> To nearest LOWER graduation NETT weight	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>SCALE TEST CERTIFICATE OK AND ENCLOSED WITH CLAIM</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>PHOTOS</b>				
1. Show full length of fish, dorsal fin, pectoral fins, tackle used & scales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
2. Shark's teeth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
3. Any usual scars etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
4. Lure if not included with claim. Mark length on back of photo.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>FISH IDENTIFICATION POSITIVE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>FEE ENCLOSED</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

**NOTE: CLAIM MUST REACH NZSFC WITHIN  
60 DAYS OF CAPTURE**



# APPLICATION QUICK-CHECK LISTS

The following check list was designed to assist anglers in the record submittal process. Before submitting a record application, anglers are encouraged to read the NZSFC and IGFA International Angling Rules for a complete list of world record requirements and regulations.

## Photo documentation

The following photos are required for all NZSFC/IGFA record submissions:

- Angler with the fish
- Rod and reel used to weigh fish
- Fish being measured on the IGFA's Official Measuring Device (All-Tackle Length records only).
- Additional photos of fish that may pose some difficulty to identify (fins, teeth etc).

*\*Videos can be used in place of photographs*

## Scales

- All potential world records to be weighed on a scale that has been certified within the past year.

## Tackle

The following items are required for all record submissions:

### CONVENTIONAL TACKLE

- Full length of leader/trace including hooks, lures etc (if used)
- Full length of double line including knots, swivels, clips, etc (if used)
- Sample of main line (~15 metres/50 feet) immediately following the leader, double line, or hook/lure.
- Sample(s) of backing (~15 metres/50 feet) (if used).

### FLY TACKLE

- The full length of fly leader, including:
- Shock tippet (including fly).
- Class tippet.

## Application

- Every applicable section of the record application must be completed.
- Contact information for witnesses to the catch and the weighing are required.
- Every application must be signed by the angler/guardian in the presence of a notary or acceptable substitute.

# IGFA REPRESENTATIVES LIST

## NZSFC IGFA Representatives:

**Tony Hill** - Whakatane

**Pete Saul** - Tutukaka

**Richard Baker** - Auckland

**Mark Hemingway** - Mt Maunganui

**Jeff Romeril** - Auckland

**Wayne Bicknell** - Napier

**Jerry Garrett** - Bay of Islands

## Acknowledgements to those who have contributed to this Weighmaster Booklet

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals who wholeheartedly offered their fish and/or internal organs, as well as their valuable time and expertise, for the purpose of photographing, providing photos, sharing information, and participating in photo editing. Your contributions have played an integral role in the creation of the weighmaster handbook, and we deeply appreciate your dedication to enhancing our project.

Thank you for your unwavering support and collaboration.

### **In no particular order:**

Warren Harris

Capt TK Walker

Brad Hemingway

John Holdsworth (Blue Water Marine Research)

Pete Saul

Vance Fulton

Heyden Johnstone

Steve Burling

John Peck

Andrew Church

Wahoo Fishing Charters, Rarotonga

Helen Pastor

Megan Bardsley

Ian Steele

Mark Hemingway

IGFA

## New Zealand Record (DELETE ONE) IGFA World Record Application

### FORM FOR RECORDING FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER GAME FISH CATCHES

Read all IGFA angling rules and world record requirements before completing and signing this application. The angler's signature on the completed form must be witnessed by a notary, Justice of the Peace or other person authorized to witness statutory declarations. This application must be accompanied by line or tippet samples and photographs as specified in the World Records Requirements. Hybrids and other species that may pose a problem of identity should be examined by an ichthyologist or qualified fishery biologist.

I AM SUBMITTING THIS ENTRY FOR:

- An all-tackle world record.
- A NZ/IGFA world record in the following line class:  
\_\_\_\_\_ lb / \_\_\_\_\_ kg
- A fly rod world record in the following tippet class:  
\_\_\_\_\_ lb / \_\_\_\_\_ kg

Junior Angler\*

- M-Smallfry (to 10)       M-Junior (11-16)
- F-Smallfry (to 10)       F-Junior (11-16)

SPECIES

Common name: \_\_\_\_\_

Scientific name: \_\_\_\_\_

WEIGHT: Fish was weighed in:  lbs  kgs.

lbs: \_\_\_\_\_ oz: \_\_\_\_\_ kg: \_\_\_\_\_

Digital weight (if weighed on electronic scales, give weight exactly as shown): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF CATCH (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF CATCH: \_\_\_\_\_

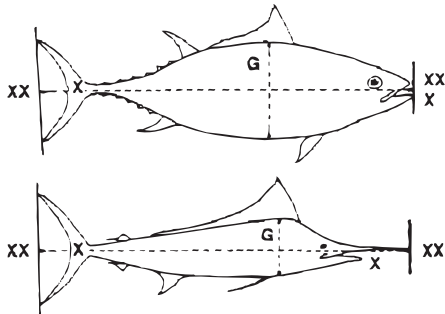
LENGTH (see measurement diagrams)

inches: x to x \_\_\_\_\_ xx to xx \_\_\_\_\_

cm: x to x \_\_\_\_\_ xx to xx \_\_\_\_\_

GIRTH (see measurement diagrams)

inches: \_\_\_\_\_ cm: \_\_\_\_\_



METHOD OF CATCH (trolling, casting, fly fishing, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

FIGHTING TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

Was this catch recorded on video?  Yes  No.

ANGLER (Print name as you wish it to appear on your record certificate):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address- required for certificate mailing (include country and address code):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Age/birthdate if 16 or under: \_\_\_\_\_

Angler's fishing club affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

EQUIPMENT

Rod

Make: \_\_\_\_\_

Tip length (center of reel to end of tip): \_\_\_\_\_

Butt length (center of reel to lower end of butt): \_\_\_\_\_

Reel

Make: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Line or tippet

Make: \_\_\_\_\_

Size stated on label: \_\_\_\_\_

Mono / Dacron / Braid / GSP line used (please circle)

WORLD RECORDS - FEES PAYABLE

- I am an IGFA member, enclosed is \$US50 application fee.
- I am not an IGFA member, enclosed is \$US80 for annual membership and record application fees

NB Junior & Smallfry World Record claims are also \$US80 which includes membership. Please enclose US draft for World Record claims

OR please charge to my:

- Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Account No.

□□□□ / □□□□ / □□□□ / □□□□

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NZ RECORDS - FEES PAYABLE

- I am a NZSFC member
- I am an NZACA member
- I am not a member of NZSFC or NZACA enclosed is \$150

Note: All items must be filled in. If an item does not apply, write "none used". Do not leave any spaces blank.

Length of double line: \_\_\_\_\_

Make of backing: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER EQUIPMENT:**

Type of gaff: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of trace or leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Number and type of hooks: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of lure, fly or bait: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOAT (if used)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Captain's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mate's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of scale: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date last certified: \_\_\_\_\_

Person and/or agency that certified scales: \_\_\_\_\_

Weighmaster: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**WITNESSES:**

Witness to weighing (other than angler, captain or weighmaster):

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnesses to catch (other than captain). List two names and addresses if possible.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons witnessing the catch: \_\_\_\_\_

**VERIFICATION OF SPECIES IDENTITY**

(See world record requirements.)

Signature of examining ichthyologist: \_\_\_\_\_

Title, degree or qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Anglers are encouraged to write a detailed description of the catch. In some cases this may be required. The description may be used in a future IGFA publication.

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, the undersigned, hereby take oath and attest that the fish described in this application was hooked, fought, and brought to gaff by me without assistance from anyone, except as specifically provided in the regulations; and that it was caught in accordance with IGFA angling rules; and that the line submitted with this application is the actual line used to catch the fish on the stated date. I further declare that all information in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that IGFA reserves the right to employ verification procedures. I agree to be bound by any ruling of the IGFA relative to this application.

Signature of angler: \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ the year \_\_\_\_\_

**World Records -**

Notary, Justice of the Peace, or other person authorised to witness statutory declarations, signature and seal:

**New Zealand Records -**

Board member, club president or club delegate to witness this declaration, signature and name required:

When completely filled out and signed, mail this application with photos and line sample by quickest means to:

RECORDS OFFICER, NEW ZEALAND SPORT FISHING COUNCIL, PO BOX 403100, NGUNGURU 0154, NZ **within 60 days of the catch to be eligible for a record.**



New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Inc

# WEIGHMASTER CERTIFICATE

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of

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has attended and successfully completed a  
Weighmaster Qualification Course  
held by

---

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tutorial Weigh Master**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Club President**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_







Scan here to download  
a digital version

**WEIGHMASTERS HANDBOOK 2023**  
Version Two - August 2023

[nzsportfishing.co.nz](https://nzsportfishing.co.nz)