

DAY 3 ROUND-UP: 2025 NZSFC NATIONALS SUPPORTED BY PELAGIC NZ

Three days in, and the NZSFC Nationals are truly hitting their stride. While some are still hunkered down in character-building conditions, others are putting in the hard yards and stacking up the points. The VHF remains quiet, the live sports offerings are slim, and the music selection on some boats is... well, questionable. But if you spent the day trolling Facebook instead of trolling for fish, you might have felt seasick watching some of the wild conditions out there.

FISHING ELSEWHERE – READ AND WEEP

Some impressive fish have been caught in club waters by non-participating anglers—which should be all the motivation you need to get out there and make the most of the improving weather:

- **Greymouth Bluefin Mayhem** – One crew landed **5 bluefin, lost 1, and dropped 2 marlin** over three days. Another post from the same area: **7 bluefin, 11 albacore**.
- **Wellington Club Day** – **Kahawai over 3kg, yellowtail up to 10kg off the beach**, and a **gurnard over 1.5kg**.
- **90 Mile Beach** – **Snapper up to 8kg, trevally to 3.5kg, kahawai to 2.9kg**—and that's just from **surfcasting**.
- **Mako Madness** – A **300+kg mako shark** was tagged on Monday.
- **Ahipara Conditions Flat as a Pancake** – Meanwhile, **Waihou Bay is serving up a washing machine**.
- **Bar Crossing Warnings** – **Whangamata and Tairua bars are breaking, and surfers are out**—so be careful on your crossings. *(And no, Mike, you're not allowed to go!)*

Meanwhile, some of the fleet is heading up to the Kings, while others are overnighting at Whangaroa before pushing north Tuesday morning.

SHORTBILL SPEARFISH RESEARCH REQUEST

John Holdsworth from **Blue Water Marine Research** is working with American researchers on **Shortbill Spearfish DNA collection**. If you **land a spearfish**, a **small muscle sample** would be hugely helpful. If you **tag a spearfish**, a **fin clip from the top of the dorsal** will do the trick.

Contact John at **+64 21 627463** to contribute to this **important research into Pacific and Indian Ocean spearfish populations**.

DAY 3 LEADERBOARD SHUFFLE – BIG MOVES!

TEAM & INTERCLUB LEADERBOARD

1. **CD Rods Top Team Trophy – NEW LEADER!** *Team Obseasion* (New Plymouth Sportfishing & Underwater Club) storms into **1st place with 3 fish and 1,100.50 points.**
2. **Most Points Team Kahawai** – *Team Obseasion* again, leading with **3 fish for 682.50 points.**
3. **Most Points Team Shark** – *Bill Collector* (Whangaroa SFC) takes the top spot with **2 tagged sharks for 200 points.**
4. **Most Points Team Striped Marlin** – *Bill Collector* again, **3 tagged marlin for 1,800 points.**
5. **Interclub Striped Marlin Battle** –
 - **1st Counties SFC – 5 tagged, 3,000 points** (wins on time).
 - **2nd New Plymouth SFC – 5 tagged, 3,000 points.**
 - **3rd Whangaroa SFC – 4 tagged, 2,400 points.**

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP LEADERS

- **Champion Line Weight Angler (Albacore)** – Junior **Ryan Steele** (New Plymouth SFC) **9.04kg on 3kg line, 301.33 points.**
- **Champion Line Weight Angler (Snapper)** – **Ryan Steele** again, **3.05kg on 1kg line, 305 points.**
- **Champion Striped Marlin Angler** – **Steven James** (Whangaroa SFC) **3 tagged, 1,800 points.**

STRATEGY CHECK – TIME TO PUSH FOR POINTS

- **Conditions Are Improving** – The **weather is easing**, and **more boats are heading out.** If you've been holding back, **now's the time to get amongst it.**
- **The Tuna Section is Heating Up** – The numbers are climbing, **Pawn Broker** leads with **5 fish, 675.14 points**—but there's **plenty of time for a shake-up.**
- **Every Second Counts** – **Ties are decided by time of last fish caught**—so **record your catch times properly!**

- **Tag, Weigh, and Play Smart** – The **shortbill spearfish research** is a great initiative, and if you're chasing **striped marlin**, there are **big points up for grabs**.

FORECAST FOR DAY 4...

The fleet is on the move, the competition is wide open, and the conditions are looking better by the day. The Nationals leaderboard is shifting fast—so expect more action as teams chase down those top spots.



Stay safe, fish smart, and may the fish be big and your line class be light!

#NZSportfishing
#NZSFCNationals2025

[Here is a link to the results on the website.](#) Please note that the scoreboard is updated each night.

Whangaroa Sport Fishing Club courtesy weighed in a yellowfin of 39.4kg for Trevor Bowmar on board Suspect from Warkworth Gamefish Club



Nicola Candy on Mile Zero



Team Kracken ready for the weather to settle on Day 3 representing Tairua-Pauanui SFC