

# 2025 NZSFC YOUTH NATIONALS

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The 2025 NZSFC Youth Nationals were a huge success, showcasing the skill, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship of our next generation of anglers. Across both Primary and Secondary School divisions, the turnout was strong, the competition was tight, the weather was challenging.

## ANGLER PARTICIPATION

**533** youth anglers  
took part

**22** clubs represented  
nationwide

## FISH CAUGHT & TAGGED

**795** fish caught across  
all sections

**99** fish tagged and released,  
and measured and released



5 yellowtail  
kingfish  
- tagged



5 sharks  
- tagged



1 broadbill  
- tagged

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

### Secondary School Champion Angler

**Tyler Speed from Mt Maunganui Game Fishing Club** took the win with 1,609.67 points including the only tagged Broadbill.

Second place went to Brock Johnston from Counties Sports Fishing Club with 1,172.75 points, while Josh La Franchi from Kawhia Boating and Angling club got third with 956.33 points.

### Primary School Champion Angler

**Maddison Slobbe from Wellington Surfcasting and Angling Club** claimed first place with 954.00 points.

Christian Stone (New Plymouth) followed closely with 938.25 points, and Lachlan Rigby (Hawkes Bay) came third with 697.50 points.

# FULL TOURNAMENT RECAP

This year's Youth Nationals ran over two full weeks and attracted more than 500 of the most dedicated junior fishers from across New Zealand. Conditions were challenging, entries were at record levels, and the bar was set high from the very start.

Counties Sports Fishing Club entered as defending champions after a dominant performance in 2024. All eyes were on Tyler Speed and Brock Johnston, the Champions from last year, to see if they could repeat their previous wins.

Mercury Bay once again led the way in participation, entering more juniors than any other club. Mt Maunganui close behind.

## Conditions and Species

Fishing conditions varied. Yellowfin and striped marlin were elusive. Strong bait schools helped kingfish and snapper hunters. Kahawai numbers were hit-and-miss, while bigger trevally patrolled the surf and estuaries.

Some reckoned the gurnard and blue cod sections would prove decisive, especially with rough weather pushing many boats off the water.

From the start, it was clear that technique and light line use would make all the difference.

Length-based sections showed solid results, including eight Primary School kahawai over 50cm and three Primary School snapper over 60cm.

Among individuals, Tyler Speed was already making his mark, while Ella La Franchi stood out with 792 points.

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# FINAL RESULTS

## High School Division – Section Winners

### **Albacore (Weighed):**

Emily Steele led with 2.905kg on 2kg and her brother Ryan Steele took second and third

### **Blue Cod (Weighed):**

Josh La Franchi took first and second place and caught the only Blue Cod for the secondary section.

### **Gurnard (Weighed):**

Josh La Franchi landed the winning fish at 0.870kg on 1kg line. Josh also took out 2nd place. Brock Johnston and Austin Pask were close behind.

### **Kahawai (Weighed):**

Olliver Pask coming first with 1.995kg on 1kg edging out Brock Johnston and Sam Jackson

### **Kingfish (Weighed):**

Tyler Speed took top spot with a 14.95kg fish on 6kg line. Tyler also took out 3rd place. Ryan Steele 2nd place with 7.995kg on 6kg line.

### **Snapper (Weighed):**

Brock Johnston won with a 5.060kg fish, ahead of Josh La Franchi and Sam Jackson.

### **Skipjack Tuna (Weighed):**

Brock Johnston led with a 3.915kg fish on 2kg line. Ali Sanders and Riley Bird rounded out the top three.

### **Trevally (Weighed):**

Brock Johnston first place with 1.270kg on 1kg line. Second and third were Corey Munn and Sam Jackson.

## Primary Division – Section Winners

### **Blue Cod (Weighed):**

Maddison Slobbe took first place with a 0.78kg fish on 1kg. She also took second. Third place went to Christian Stone.

### **Gurnard (Weighed):**

Indi La Franchi landed the winning fish at 1.170kg on 1kg line. Ella La Franchi took 2nd place and Indi also took out third place.

### **Kahawai (Weighed):**

Lachlan Rigby landed a 2.050kg fish on 1kg gaining first place. Christian Stone followed with 2nd and third places.

### **Kingfish (Weighed):**

Maddison Slobbe took top spot with a 7.080kg fish on 6kg line. Parker Churches and Gordon Clothworthy scored 2nd and third places respectively.

### **Skipjack Tuna (Weighed):**

Lachlan Rigby led with a 6.210kg fish on 6kg line. Riley Burch and George Karl rounded out the top three.

### **Snapper (Weighed):**

Christian Stone won with a 7.795kg fish on 2kg, ahead of his second fish and third place went to Ella La Franchi.

### **Trevally (Weighed):**

Christian Stone first with 2.455kg on 1kg edging out Maddison Slobbe who gained 2nd and third places.

## Measure and Release Highlights

### **Kingfish (Length):**

Tyler Speed measured the longest at 106cm, followed by Jay Godden and Jett Cushing.

### **Snapper (Length):**

Sam Higgie led with a 66cm fish, followed by Brock Johnston for 2nd and third place.

### **Kahawai (Length):**

Luca Jenks came out on top with a 58.5cm fish with brother Che Jenks coming 2nd with 57cm.

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## TOP CLUBS

**Mt Maunganui Sportfishing Club** - Interclub Winner and Secondary School Champion Tyler Speed.

**New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club** - Second interclub

**Counties Sports Fishing Club** - Third interclub

**Wellington Surfcasting and Angling Club** - Primary School Champion Maddison Slobbe

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This event doesn't happen without club volunteers, parents, and the effort of youth fishing leaders across the country. And it certainly wouldn't be possible without our generous sponsors.

A huge thank you to **Daiwa** and **Just Another Fisherman** for backing our youth and giving them a chance to shine on the national stage.

The 2025 NZSFC Youth Nationals proved once again that our future is in good hands, on the water, in our clubs, and for the health of our fisheries.





Secondary School Champion Tyler Speed with the longest Kingfish



Emily and Ryan Steele with Brock Johnson in Taranaki



Mila, Alayna, and Lyla fishing on 3kg line



Riley Burch with a new club record for Hawkes Bay



5 year old Jordi Scotland with his PB snapper at his first comp in Mercury Bay



4 year old Liam Silvester with his first ever fish in Mercury Bay