

NZSFC MONTHLY REPORT

NEW ZEALAND
SPORT FISHING

June 2025

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Introduction

We've officially wrapped up our 2025 Southern Bluefin Tuna Pre-Season Seminar Series, delivered in partnership with Coastguard. What began as a casual chat between the Coastguard crew and the NZSFC team quickly evolved into a nationwide road trip with eight successful events, reaching over 500 safety conscious anglers ahead of the SBT 2025 season.

This work was driven by the emergence of this popular winter fishery and the tragic loss of too many mates on the water over recent years. With each seminar, we learned more, tweaked our presentation and shared the tips our local legends provided. It is becoming clear that a safety culture is emerging strongly within our fishing clubs and communities as no Fish is worth a life.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible support and volunteer effort from numerous clubs who stepped up and worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Achieved on a shoestring budget, the impact has been huge. We're thrilled to already have clubs and community groups lining up to host next year's events. Our next challenge is securing sponsorship to ensure we can continue and expand this vital work in 2026.

Next on our safety calendar is the 2025 Bar Awareness Roadshow happening this spring and early summer. If you're keen to host or support one of these events, please get in touch!

A huge thank you also to:

Tauranga: Tauranga Sport Fishing Club, Kilwell Sports, Decoro Gear and Tackle, Garmin

Gisborne: Gisborne Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club, Coastguard Gisborne

Hawkes Bay: Hawkes Bay Sports Fishing Club, Gun City + Fishing Napier, GOOD Lures, Hunting & Fishing Napier, Burnsco Napier, Hawke's Bay Marine, Coastguard Hawkes Bay

Hamilton: Ben Brown (Built to Fish TV), Waikato Sport Fishing Club, Elroy Thomson (Waihau Bay Fishing Club)

Auckland: Auckland Coastguard, Outboard Boating Club, Daiwa, Luke Davis

Christchurch: Coastguard North Canterbury, Fisherman's Loft, Marine Intel, Matt Shuker

Whakatāne: Whakatāne Coastguard, Whakatāne Sport Fishing Club, Matt Watson, Hubbard Contracting, ITM Whakatāne

Tairua: Tairua Pauanui Coastguard, Tairua Pauanui Sports Fishing Club, Elroy Thompson Waihau Bay Fishing Club, Cameron Walker (Tk Offshore Fishing)



Administration

Deadlines

- **End of year certificates and 5 to 1 certificates** all need to be sent to secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz by the 21st of July 2025. This date has been changed to allow clubs a bit more time to get the admin side of the process organised.
- **Annual Trophy Nominations.** The deadline for these is also the 21st of July 2025. We are looking for lots of nominations so please get to work on these. This time has also been extended to allow time to get the nominations completed.
- **Notices of Motion for the AGM.** The last day for accepting these is the 25th of July 2025. If you have an item you wish to be a notice of motion at our AGM please make sure I have it prior to this date.
- It is now time to get your nominations in for your zone delegates. If you need any voting papers please contact me.
- **AGM registrations** are out please send these back as soon as possible.
- Yearbook end of year. Please get the information about your club and catch records to me as soon as possible.
- **Junior World records** are now being recognised by IGFA. Please let your membership know about this as it is the best time to get in and get a world record.
- **Tags** – these are back in stock, both Stainless Steel and Nylon ones.
- **Constitutions** – all club constitutions need to be approved by the Incorporated Societies Inc by April 2025. This is not just the time to submit but it is the time to have it accepted. Please try to get your constitutions completed well before this time to allow for any required changes. We are happy to help those clubs who are struggling with this. Just contact Helen at the office.
- Congratulations and well done to all those clubs who have got their constitutions completed and accepted.

If your admin personnel are new in the position, please help them with the timetable. I am happy to talk through the dates and requirements with them.

Fishing Standing Committee (FSC)

- As the stunning winter bluefin fishery approaches fast the NZSFC has been working with the Coastguard to develop bluefin seminars that cover both the technical fishing aspects of bluefin fishing and the safety side.

Bluefin fishing, while spectacular, can be extremely dangerous, safety is paramount and we need to make sure that all our members are well informed and have safety in mind.

Some of our clubs are initiating minimum safety requirements for club members, like ensuring they have EPIRBS or PLB;s on board before heading outside VHF coverage areas chasing bluefin, while this is not a one size fits all approach, it is a simple sensible way to make sure that if things get bad you have a reliable means of communication that will give you a fighting chance when fishing out wide.

Best of luck and keep warm out on the water chasing those bluefin.

- Rules for both the Nationals and Youth Nationals are being worked on at the moment. Keep an eye out on the website and the new yearbook so you are all up to date when the Nationals begin.

Youth Standing Committee (YSC)

Youth Nationals 2026, Following a record-breaking 2025 event, preparations for Youth Nationals 2026 are well underway. One exciting addition on the horizon is the potential inclusion of freshwater species like Salmon & Trout. We are currently developing draft rules and will have these available to speak to at the AGM.

We are also reviewing artwork and photos for the 2026 campaign poster, keep an eye out!

The committee has expressed strong support for including a section for anglers with disabilities in future Youth Nationals. More to come on this important development.

NZSFC Future Youth Leaders!

We are looking for passionate young fishers aged 17–24 to join the new Youth Leaders committee, a fantastic opportunity to get hands-on with national projects, grow leadership skills, and help guide the future of youth fishing and beyond.

Two of our Junior Committee members, Brock Johnston and Chloe Hoffman, members of [Counties Sport Fishing Club](#) who worked the BBQ outside [Burnsco](#) Manukau. They raised over \$200 for [LegaSea](#) NZ and the Youth Ocean Trust, which will go back into giving more kids the chance to go fishing and restoring our fisheries for future generations. Awesome work.

This committee will work alongside the Youth Committee and be given real projects to run. Whether they're keen on comps, sustainability, or event planning we want to hear from them!

Apply here: [NZSFC Future Youth Leaders Application](#)

Clubs: Please encourage outstanding youth in your ranks to step forward especially those already active or showing leadership potential.



Junior Committee members, Brock Johnston and Chloe Hoffman

Meritorious Junior Angler – Nominations Open!

A reminder to all clubs to get your nominations in for the Top Junior Angler Most Meritorious award! This is your chance to recognise an exceptional young angler who has gone above and beyond in their fishing efforts. Please ensure your nominations are submitted in time for consideration.

Communications Standing Committee (CSC)

Website Improvements

Work continues on refining the NZSFC website, including the development of a new search bar to improve navigation and accessibility.

Got suggestions for what you'd like to see on the site? Share your ideas here:

Tackle Box Resources for Clubs

The Tackle Box is growing! It's your go-to space for templates, tips, and tools to support club operations.

Have a great idea for content or a resource that helped your club? Let us know through the updated club info form.

Delegate Spotlights

We're shining a light on the legends behind our clubs. If you're a delegate and haven't filled in the form yet, please do it quickly, as it helps us celebrate you.

Podcast – NZSFC Pod and Reel

- Season 2 is in full swing thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Safer Boating Forum to tell our stories from our clubs and their members, with Episodes 5–9 focused on safety, leadership, and lived experience:
 - Ep 5: *The Tragedy Off Gisborne* – hard lessons from a fatal bluefin expedition with Gisborne Tatapouri Sport Fishing Club
 - Ep 6–7: *West Coast Surf Launching* – two episodes covering local wisdom, bar crossings, and deadly conditions from members of Manukau SFC, Piha Deep Sea Fishing Club and Muriwai SFC



- Ep 8–9: *Wahine on the Water* – stories from Wild Chix, Ahipara and Mercury Bay women reshaping fishing leadership
- Episodes are 100% aligned with our safety, inclusion, and fish-care priorities.
- Women's leadership content is resonating with both club members and wider marine orgs.
- The show now connects directly to event delivery (SBT seminars), club education, and external advocacy.

Full archive: buzzsprout.com/2360073

Social Media

Celebration of club legends: Highlighted individual achievements and volunteer service across the motu – from Northland's ocean icons to grassroots efforts in small towns.

Club spotlights: Recent features on Cape Egmont, Pauanui, and Mercury Bay clubs have helped boost pride, recognition, and intra-club sharing.

Interactive posts: Simple, high-engagement prompts like:

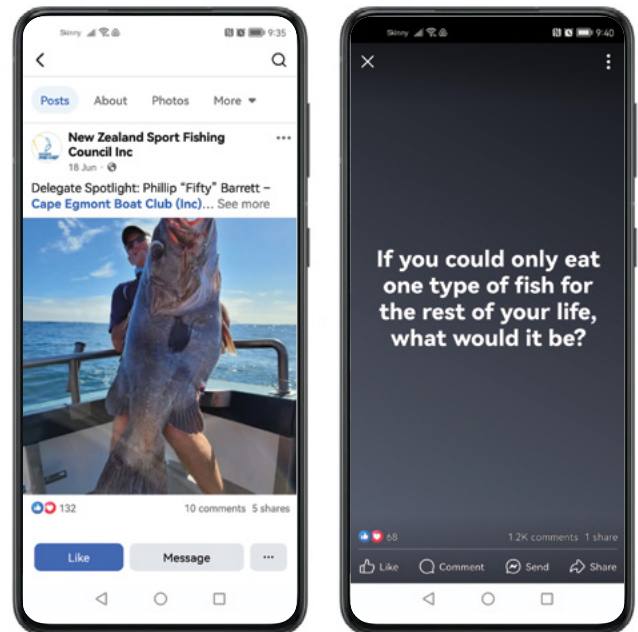
"What's the most important safety tip you'd give a new fisherman?"

"If you could only eat one type of fish for the rest of your life, what would it be?"

These posts have generated dozens of comments, helping humanise the page and keep followers engaged between heavier advocacy or event content.

Photos of catches, awards, club days, and ramps at dawn round out the visual mix, especially where they connect to podcast episodes or national campaigns.

facebook.com/NewZealandSportFishingCouncil



Fisheries Management Standing Committee (FMSC)

- **Blue cod** – The NZSFC has again asked Fisheries NZ to review Blue Cod 3 (East coast, South Island), Blue cod 5 (Southland), and Blue cod 8 (Taranaki, west coast of Wellington) by 1 October 2025. FNZ will consult with the Minister and advise their final list of fish stocks to be reviewed in October, in due course. NZSFC will engage with Clubs within the areas and stocks up for review.
- **Bottom trawling restrictions** – On 12 May, the Minister confirmed that the [proposed trawl corridors](#) within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park will not proceed. No formal statement has been issued. The [NZSFC submission](#) sent in November 2023 opposed the trawl corridors and urged Fisheries NZ to support a complete ban of bottom trawling and Danish seining in the Hauraki Gulf.
- **Waikato Regional Council Coastal Plan** – Since 2022 NZSFC has been involved in the [Waikato Regional Council Coastal Plan](#). Involvement has included attending hearings and providing detailed submissions. Thank you to nominated Club representatives from NZSFC including Dirk Sieling, Gordon McIvor, Bob Gutsell and Deryk Nielsen for attending the hearing and providing statements of evidence on 30 April 2025.
- **Napier Reef temporary closure** – NZSFC is working alongside LegaSea Hawkes Bay and Zone 5 to draft a submission in support of the proposed temporary closure to the harvest of all marine species at an artificial reef off Napier Port. The submission will be finalised and sent on 18 June 2025.
- **Kaikōura pāua season opening** – The Kaikōura pāua fishery [opened to recreational harvest on 1 May](#), for 4 months. The season runs until 31 August 2025. The new size limit for recreational harvest of pāua is 130mm or bigger.