

ROCK HOPPERS

FISHING TOURNAMENT

Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd NOVEMBER 2026



General Rules

1. Read the rules before you enter the Rockhoppers Fishing Competition. Make sure you are clear on all the rules – if in doubt, ask the organiser. A competitor who commits a breach of the rules will be disqualified.
2. The contest is restricted to rock fishing only. Any form of floatation or aerial device used to access rocks is prohibited. If anglers are younger than 16 years, they must be accompanied by an adult. Beach and wharf fishing within the permitted fishing boundaries is also permitted.
3. There is a **\$45 entry fee** (Juniors under 14 years are FREE) for this competition. The entry fee can be paid by direct credit to the **Swordfish club account 12-3102-0067824-09 using reference "RH [name]"**. Note Included in the entry fee are lunches at Hones on Saturday 21st November (12-1pm) and at the BOSIC on Sunday 22nd November after the competition weigh-in and immediately prior to the prize-giving.
4. Entry registrations must be received by the start of the competition briefing at 5.15pm on Friday 20th November. You cannot enter once the competition briefing begins.
5. **Entry forms are available** from: **BOISC club rooms in Russell and Paihia, Russell Booking and Information Centre, Orongo Bay Service Station** and from **Screaming Reels and Hones Garden** (both on the main street Russell) or complete the reverse side of the entry form and leave it at the BOISC clubrooms, and finally, **at the BOSIC website: www.swordfish.co.nz**
6. Fishing may occur along the coast line between Veronica (Okiato) Point, Opua (Lat: 35.18.208 Long: 174.6.948) and Paroa Bay (Lat: 35.15.936 and Long: 174.11.209). See map below.
7. The **competition briefing will start at 5.15pm (sharp) Friday 20th November** at the BOSIC club rooms, Russell. Competition rules and safety issues will be discussed.
8. **Fishing may commence from 7.00pm Friday 20th November** (high tide is at **4.58pm**) and **will run continuously until 10am Sunday 22nd November** at which time all lines must be out of the water, irrespective of whether the angler is hooked up or not.
9. Anglers are permitted to use two rods at any time and two hooks per line. Nylon and braid are permitted. Line weights are unlimited. Dead and live baits and or lures are permitted. Burley can be utilised and deployed prior to fishing start time. Evidence of any entrant breaching competition rules will be disqualified.
10. The **fish weigh station will be open between 11am and 12pm on Saturday 21st November and 10am and 11am on Sunday 22nd November in front of the BOISC building on the Russell waterfront**. Anglers with fish to submit for the competition MUST be in the fish weigh queue with their fish, if not the fish will not count in the competition. The weigh-master will be the sole judge of the time. The weigh masters' decision is final, and no negotiations will be entered into.
11. A **lunch** will be provided for registered competition anglers between **12-1pm** at Hones (Pizza) on Saturday 21st and at **midday** on Sunday 22nd November in the BOISC clubrooms comprising fish and chips and salad. Prize giving will follow lunch.

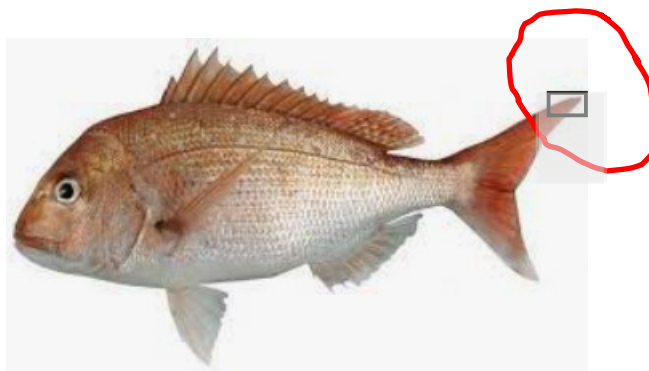
12. **Prize giving will commence around 1pm at the BOISC Russell clubrooms on Sunday 22nd November.**
13. To be eligible for the receipt of prizes, all prize winners **must be present** at the prize giving.
14. There are a range of prize categories: heaviest snapper, longest measured (and released) snapper, heaviest kahawai, average weight snapper, juniors' section, lady angler – see below. Total prize pool is anticipated to be in excess of \$5,000 comprising cash, vouchers, fishing gear.

Heaviest Snapper Category – overall

- a) Anglers will be able to weigh up to their daily bag limit each day (strategy tip: this is relevant for your chances in the Average snapper Weight prize category). Snapper weighed on each day are eligible for the overall heaviest snapper, **however, only the heaviest snapper** from any angler will be eligible for placings in the **overall heaviest Snapper categories**.
- b) Overall 1st, 2nd, 3rd heaviest snapper prizes will be awarded during the competition.

Longest Measured (and released) Snapper

- c) Overall 1st, 2nd, 3rd longest measured fish will be awarded during the competition.
- d) Anglers must use the **BOISC Official Measuring Tape** to measure the fish (these will be available to purchase at the BOISC clubrooms at the briefing (price \$25 each and sold by the BOISC club at cost), or if you already have a BOISC Official Measuring tape, bring your own. Fish being measured and released must be clearly photographed on the measure tape and the whole fish must be on the tape and clearly visible in the photograph. Importantly the fish tail must be obviously clipped (see picture below). The photo must also be date stamped (ask convenors for clarification if you are unsure how this is done) and emailed to the BOISC using the following email: office@swordfish.co.nz before 10am Sunday 22nd 2026 (to assist the convenors please send the photo as early as possible).



Special Note: with respect to the Heaviest Snapper and Longest Measured snapper, only one angler can be eligible to win either the heaviest snapper or the longest measured snapper i.e. six prizes and six different anglers.

Overall Heaviest Kahawai Category

- e) A total of 2 (two) kahawai may be submitted by the angler on each day. Kahawai weighed on each day are eligible for the overall heaviest kahawai, **however, only the heaviest kahawai** from any angler will be eligible for placings in the **overall heaviest Kahawai categories**.
- f) 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be given for the **overall** heaviest Kahawai category. Kahawai can be weighed either day.

Juniors / Children Category Under 14 (boys and girls combined)

- g) Junior Anglers will be able to weigh up to their daily bag limit each day (strategy tip: this is relevant for your chances in the Overall Average Snapper Weight prize category). Snapper weighed on each day are eligible for the Overall Heaviest Snapper category, **however, and if a junior wins the Overall Heaviest Snapper prize, they will not be eligible for the Junior snapper prizes. In addition, and subject to the above condition, only the heaviest snapper from any Junior angler will be eligible for placing in the Junior heaviest Snapper category.**
- h) 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th prizes will also be given for the overall heaviest snapper in the junior's competition.

- i) 1st, 2nd 3rd and 4th prizes for overall heaviest Kahawai. Only the heaviest kahawai may be submitted by the junior angler on each day. Kahawai can be weighed either day.

Overall Average Weight Snapper Prize

- j) There will be a prize for the average weight snapper caught during the competition. All anglers (adults and juniors) and all snapper caught are eligible in this category.

Lady Angler Prize

- k) Heaviest snapper. This prize will be awarded to the Lady Angler who catches the heaviest snapper that does not win the Overall Heaviest Snapper category i.e. snapper weighed on each day are eligible for the Overall Heaviest Snapper category. **If a Lady Angler wins the Overall Heaviest Snapper prize, this winning fish will not be eligible for the Lady Angler prize.** A second or third placing in the Overall Category will qualify for the Ladies prizes.
- l) 2nd heaviest snapper prizes will also be awarded in the Lady's Angler category.

Tagged Snapper

- m) A special prize of \$500 goes to any angler that catches the snapper with the Competition tag embedded in it. This snapper will be caught, tagged and released in the two weeks prior to the competition and within the competition boundary. Any angler catching and presenting a snapper at the weigh-in with the tag that corresponds to the tag card wins the \$500 prize.

- 15. **All fish must exceed the minimum legal length permitted** for each species to be eligible. **All anglers must also adhere to daily catch limits.**
- 16. All snapper presented for competition will be donated to the BOISC for Sunday's competition lunch and for distribution to those in need within the Russell community. However, there is usually plenty available to take home and not all fish are required (subject to lunch supply constraints).
- 17. Any competitor submitting or proven to have kept an undersized fish will be disqualified.
- 18. Fish not deemed to be in fresh condition will be excluded from the competition.
- 19. If two or more fish are of equal weight, then the first competitor to have submitted their fish for weighing will be deemed to be the first place getter. The next competitor to have submitted their fish for weighing shall be the next place getter, and so on.
- 20. In the event of cancellation due to extreme weather, the competition will be postponed to a date as soon after as possible, and so on if the weather postpones the event again. There will be no refunds if the event is postponed. If the event is postponed a notice will be posted on the BOISC website (www.swordfish.co.nz) no later than 24hours prior to the event briefing.
- 21. Competition details and photos maybe used for BOISC promotional purposes.
- 22. The purchase of an entry in the Rockhoppers competition constitutes acceptance of the rules and regulations of the competition and participants agree to abide by the decision of the organiser. No correspondence will be entered into.
- 23. **BOISC and the competition organisers will take no responsibility for any death, loss, injury or damages which may occur as a result of anyone's participation in the competition and event. You enter this event at your own risk.**
- 24. Conduct: the competition convenors / organisers reserve the right to cancel the entry of any person who, in the sole opinion of the convenors / organisers, is contrary to the spirit in which this event is run. The decision of the organisers will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

SAFTEY RULES

25. Attend the competition briefing at 5.15pm, Friday 20th November, located at the Russell premises of the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club.
26. It shall be the sole responsibility of the Angler (and any accompanying guests) to determine that the chosen fishing location and conditions are safe for their personal fishing and outdoor capabilities.
27. It is strongly recommended that each Angler (and any accompanying guests) wear a personal safety/flotation device when fishing from the rocks and to check the weather and sea condition forecasts published by the usual weather forecast outlets: Swellmap, Russell Radio, MetService etc.
28. It is strongly recommended that each Angler (and accompanying guest) advises a personal friend or family member of their expected time of return and contact them when they have returned from fishing.

Fishing Boundary (inside red line)

