

# CaterMarine Small Boats Tournament 2026

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

## **Anglers Entry Fee:**

An entry fee of \$100 per angler or \$50 for a junior angler (17 years of age or under)

**Entry Fees:** No team or angler can compete in the tournament unless their entry fee and membership payments have been made in full prior to start fishing. A team must consist of two or more anglers and no more than eight anglers.

**Boat waterline length:** Must be under 8m in length  
**Tournament Memberships:** If an angler is not a member of a club affiliated to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council then they must also pay a tournament membership of \$30 before their team starts fishing.

**Meet the Teams Registration and Briefing:** Friday 30 January commencing at 5:00pm with the briefing starting at 6:30pm at the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club, Paihia. All crews must be represented by a fishing member of the crew and must register and make full payment of entry fees and tournament memberships on this night to be eligible to fish the tournament. Late entries will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances. Any communication or notice to one team member is notice to all team members, whether at the briefing, over VHF Radio CH3 or by phone.

**Prize Giving:** 1 February commences from 6pm at the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club, Paihia

**Fishing Days and Times:** Saturday 31 January start fishing 7am stop fishing 5pm and Sunday 1 February starting fishing 7am stop fishing 4pm

**Start Line:** There is no start line. You are allowed to be on your favourite fishing ground at time of start fishing. No tournament lines are allowed in the water until the 7:00am announcement on VHF radio CH 3 to start fishing. You may catch bait prior to 7:00am.

**Eligible Fish Species:** Billfish (Marlin & Broadbill does not include Shortbill Spearfish), Shortbill Spearfish, Tuna, Snapper and Kingfish. Note: Gamefish species are Billfish, Shortbill Spearfish and Tuna

## **Prize Categories:**

- 1st heaviest billfish (marlin & broadbill) and tuna
- 1st heaviest snapper and kingfish
- 1st snapper and kingfish measured and released (on approved IGFA NZSFC measuring devices)
- Team most points - weighed, tagged and measured and released combined using points as described below.
- Angler most points - weighed, tagged and measured and released combined using points as described below.
- Most tagged and released billfish (marlin & broadbill) shortbilled spearfish, (based on accumulated T&R billfish and shortbill spearfish)
- 1st tagged & last tagged billfish each day (\*Note cash prizes will not be lucky draws)
- Average length snapper
- Average length kingfish

**Points Formula:** Weight of fish x 100 divided by line weight. Applies to billfish (marlin & broadbill) shortbill spearfish & tuna.

Weighed snapper and kingfish weight in kilos x 5, no fish formula applies.

Measured and released snapper and kingfish 1 point per cm, only top 5 scoring fish for each team, a maximum of two for each angler per day of each species recognised.

Snapper must measure over 40cm and kingfish over 90cm.

Tagged billfish (marlin & broadbill): 37kg line 500 points | 24kg line 650 points | 15kg line 800 points  
Tagged shortbill spearfish: 150 points Tagged tuna: 150 points (yellowfin, big eye).

**Tournament Winner:** The overall winner will be awarded to the team and angler with the most points as per above.

**Fishing Area:** Bay of Islands Swordfish Club Gridmaps

**Weigh Stations:** Weigh stations will be available in Paihia & Russell between 5:00pm – 7:00pm or by arrangement with weigh master on Saturday 31 January and between 4pm – 6pm on Sunday 1 February.

All fish must be weighed on the day of capture unless still being played when stations close on Saturday. No fish accepted after official weigh times on Sunday 1 February.

Fish may be courtesy weighed at any Zone One Weigh Station. Please call other clubs in advance to arrange your weigh in and ask them to forward details of weigh in to Email: olivia@trucker.co.nz Bay of Islands weigh masters may be contacted through tournament base, channel 3 or listed phone numbers.

**Calling in catches:** All catches must be called in on VHF CH3 within 30 minutes of the capture being completed. All hook ups must be called in also on VHF CH3. If unable to make contact with VHF CH3 then calls may be relayed or phoned into 0276855066

**Line Weights:** Maximum 37kg | Minimum 15kg for billfish (marlin & broadbill) and tuna. No line weight restriction for snapper and kingfish.

**Tournament Fish Rules:** For all tournament awards fish must exceed the following weights or measurements if weighed in.

- Marlin and broadbill 90kg
- Yellowfin tuna, shortbill spearfish 15kg or exceed line weight
- Big Eye 20kg or exceed line weight
- Snapper must exceed 30cms in length. Snapper must exceed 40cm for measure and release.
- Kingfish must exceed 80cms in length. Kingfish must exceed 90 cm for measure and release.

All qualifying fish must have the double line, leader, lure and or hook available for inspection if requested. All measured and released fish must have a dated and timed viewable digital photo to verify length.

All fish must be caught in accordance with IGFA and NZSFC rules to qualify for this tournament.

All fish caught in this tournament will be recorded as catches for the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club Inc and may not be claimed for recognition by any other club.

**Measure and Release:** Snapper and kingfish may be measured and released. A limit of 5 per day per team or 2 per day per angler of each species may be entered for measure and release. If we can't see the picture clear enough with the whole fish in the picture and the correct process adhered to then the fish may be subject to disqualification.

1. A clear photo must be taken to be eligible for this section.
2. All snapper will be measured from the tip of the nose to the shortest point of the 'V' in the tail.
3. All fish are to be measured on IGFA/NZSFC APPROVED MEASURING DEVICE which are available for sale at the briefing.
4. All photos must have the date & time shown on your phone + sponsor card on top of fish.
5. Please make sure we are able to zoom into your photo and can clearly see the measurements.
6. All photos must be emailed to olivia@trucker.co.nz or 0276855066 by 1700 on Sunday 1 February to allow time for judging, physical weigh sheets must be delivered to the club by 1800 to accompany the photos for the fish to be counted and eligible for prizes.

**Catch Limits:** Marlin, broadbill (billfish) and tuna – a limit of two of each species per team per day and one of each species per angler per day may be weighed in.

No limit on the number of marlin, shortbilled spearfish and tuna that may be tagged and released. Snapper and kingfish a limit of 5 per species per day per team or two of each species per day per angler may be weighed in.

**Dead or Alive Bait Hooks:** All tournament participants must use non-offset circle hooks for all species whenever live or natural bait are being used.

**Banned Line:** Braid/ Spectra and fusion type lines may be used as backing as approved by the NZSFC and IGFA (Monofilament, multifilament, and lead core multifilament lines may be used. Wire lines are prohibited. The use of backing is permissible. The catch shall be classified under 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, homogenous piece of line and may not exceed 37 kilogram (80 pound) line class.)

**Weigh Sheets and Tag Cards:** All fish captured, tagged or measured and released must be accompanied by a correctly filled out Bay of Islands Swordfish Club weigh sheet when handed in at the weigh station or handed into tournament control.

All tagged fish claims must also be accompanied by the correctly filled out tag card with the weigh sheet. Please make sure your weigh sheets and accompanying tag cards are correctly filled out as this can lead to fish being disqualified if they are not correct. Ensure weigh sheets are signed by both angler and skipper.

All measured and released fish must have a dated and timed viewable digital photo to verify length accompanying their weigh sheet.

All qualifying fish must have the double line, leader, lure and or hook available for inspection if requested. On the last day all physical (hard copy) weigh sheets, tag cards and photos must be delivered to the Convenors by 6pm in the Bay of Islands Swordfish club Paihia. Failure to do so will result in the fish being disqualified

**Radio Round Ups:** The official tournament radio call sign will be Cater Marine Small Boats VHF CH 3. Radio Round ups will be at 1pm and 4pm on Saturday and 12pm and 3pm on Sunday. Stop Fishing: VHF CH3 will call STOP FISHING and their call will be the official stop fishing time. Any fish hooked up

before stop fishing can continue to be played until boated or tagged. If this takes the angler past the daily check in times or weigh station times then the fish will count for the following days tally, special dispensation will be granted on Saturday however on Sunday if the weigh sheet and accompanying tag card or the fish cannot be brought to the weigh station during the official weighing times then the tagged or weighed

**Conduct:** Any participant in a Bay of Islands Swordfish Club-sanctioned tournament who engages in misconduct, inappropriate behaviour, or any action that brings the Club into disrepute may face a stand-down from all Club tournaments.

Serious misconduct or significant breaches will result in a minimum stand-down period of one (1) year.

Severe breaches, including but not limited to gross misconduct, violence, intimidation, or deliberate actions which may damage the Club's reputation, will result in a minimum stand-down of five (5) years.

If a breach is committed by an individual member of a team or crew, the stand-down will apply to the entire team and vessel involved in the tournament.

The Executive Committee of the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club will determine the severity of the breach, the parties affected, and the appropriate stand-down period. All decisions made by the Committee are final.

**Disputes:** Payment of the entry fee constitutes acceptance of the above rules and acceptance of any decision made by the Committee, in accordance with the BOISC Constitution.

Any dispute should be put in writing to the convener prior 1900 hrs on the day of the incident.

Disputes over a fish's weight must be resolved before the fish is removed from the weigh station. These disputes will be resolved by the weigh master and tournament convener, and their decision will be final.

**Safety Notice: THE CATER MARINE SMALL BOATS FISHING TOURNAMENT HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR 2 DAYS OF COMPETITION AND IT IS THE SKIPPERS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE THAT ON ANY ONE DAY, THE SEA CONDITIONS AND WEATHER FORECASTS ARE SAFE FOR HIS BOAT TO PUT TO SEA. IT IS THE SKIPPER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE BOAT THEY INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN IS CAPABLE OF PUTTING TO SEA AND MEETING LOCAL COAST GUARD REQUIREMENTS. PARTICIPATION IN THE CATER MARINE SMALL BOATSFISHING TOURNAMENT DOES NOT DIMINISH EACH SKIPPER'S SOLE RESPONSIBILITY UNDER MARITIME LAW NOR SHIFT ANY OF THAT RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAY OF ISLANDS SWORDFISH CLUB EVEN IF THE EVENT OFFICIALS MADE THE DECISION ON THE CONDITIONS FOR THAT DAY.**