
Contest Rules

1. The contest is restricted to human powered kayaks, sail kayaks and electric powered kayaks, for example Bixby outboard kits. Any other form of propulsion or watercraft is prohibited. No ferrying of kayaks by other boats is permitted. All fish submitted for weigh-in are to be caught on the water from a kayak and transported to shore by kayak.
2. Only rods or hand lines may be used, with only two hooks allowed per rod or hand line per angler. Treble hooks are only permitted on artificial lures.
3. The contest boundaries are from the southern bank of the Marokopa River in the north, to the southern end of Waverley beach in the south. All contest fishing must be carried out within these boundaries only. The offshore limit is restricted to the coastal zone within 5km from the closest point of land. All contest fishing must be carried out within these boundaries only. No fishing is allowed within any Marine Reserve or other officially prohibited areas.
4. The contest registration will commence at 4.00pm followed by the safety briefing at 6:30 pm on Friday 8th March 2024 at the Butlers Reef Bar, Oakura. Attendance is compulsory. Non-attendance will result in disqualification from the contest.
5. Entries are limited to 250. No further entries will be accepted after 6.30 pm on Friday 8th March 2024.
6. To be eligible for receipt of prizes all anglers must be registered to enter the contest and be present at the official prize giving.
7. The official contest fishing period commences at 5.00 am Saturday 9th March 2024 and finishes at 4.00 pm on Sunday 10th March 2024. Any fish caught outside these times are not eligible for weigh-in.
8. The contest weigh-in station will be at the Butlers Reef Bar, Oakura.
9. Weigh-in times are 4.00pm on Saturday 9th March 2023 and 4.00pm on Sunday 10th March 2023. Anglers who are not present at the weigh-in station by the stated time will not be permitted to weigh their fish. The weigh master will be the sole judge of time.
10. All fish presented for weighing must be a minimum of 500 gm in weight, and additionally for this contest, the minimum length for Snapper shall be 30cm. All fish submitted for weighing shall comply with the NZ Amateur Fishing Regulations. No under-size fish will be accepted.
11. Fish deemed not to be in good fresh condition will be rejected from weighing.
12. No contestant may weigh-in more than three fish of the same species per day, and all fish submitted are to have been caught on that day by the contestant. Contestants must at all times wear the contest wrist-bands.
13. The main Contest Spot Prize will be won by the contestant whose entry form number is drawn at random from all the eligible anglers' entry form numbers during the official prize giving on Sunday 10th March 2024.
14. The Early Bird Spot Prize will be won by the contestant whose entry form number is drawn at random from all the "Early Bird" entry form numbers during the official prize giving on Sunday 10th March 2024. (Note: Only contest entries paid for and received no later than 5pm Wednesday 31st January 2024, shall qualify for this prize).

15. The Species Grand Slam prize will be awarded to the angler who weighs in the most of the eight individual eligible species. Only the heaviest fish of each species shall qualify, with the total combined weight being the final determining factor. In addition, the first angler to catch and weigh in all 8 species will win \$2,000.00, if no angler weighs in all 8 species the cash prize will be held over to the following year's event.
16. The Heaviest Fish and Runner-up prizes are for the first and second heaviest fish of each species category that are weighed-in during the contest period. The eligible species are: Tuna, Kingfish, Snapper, Kahawai, Trevally, Gurnard, Blue Cod and John Dory.
17. Anglers are only eligible to win one prize per species, i.e. they cannot win both the heaviest fish prize and runner up prize. For example, if an angler is the only person to weigh in a particular species, they will be awarded the heaviest fish prize, and the runner up prize will be drawn as a spot prize. Similarly, if an angler weighs in the two heaviest fish in a species category, they will be awarded the heaviest fish prize, with the runner up prize going to the angler with the next heaviest fish.
18. The winner of the Team Trophy prize section shall be the team with the highest aggregate of points accrued across all the eligible species weighed-in by the respective team members. A team must be registered in the contest and shall consist of no more than two contestants already individually registered for the main contest.
19. If two fish of the same species are weighed-in at equal weights, then the first fish that was submitted for weighing shall be deemed the heaviest. The second fish weighed-in at that weight shall then become the runner-up in that species category.
20. In the event of prizes not being awarded for any reason, they will be drawn. All prizes must be won. There will be no cancellation of the contest.
21. All matters on which these rules are silent shall be determined at the discretion of the organising committee.
22. The organising committee reserves the right to cancel the fishing or change the fishing times on one or both days of the competition.
23. The purchasing of an entry in the Taranaki Kayak Fishing Classic constitutes acceptance of the rules and regulations of the contest and participants agree to abide by the decision of the organising committee. No correspondence will be entered into.

Snapper Catch and Release rules

24. The Taranaki Kayak Classic 2024 introduces, for the first time, a Catch and Release category for the longest Snapper. This recognizes the growing popularity in this form of sustainable fishing.
25. Kayak anglers can opt into participating in the Catch and Release category by selecting the tick box on the entry form. Anglers can participate in both the heaviest snapper and catch and release categories but must not submit the same snapper for both categories.
26. A prize will be awarded for the Longest Snapper.
27. Anglers competing in this category must bring their measure mats to registration on Friday 9th March 2024 to be checked by the Organising Committee. Measure mats must be affixed to a flat surface.
28. Anglers must photograph/video the whole fish up to and including the caudal (tail) fin on the measure mat. Proof of release is required for anglers to be eligible for prizes.
29. Measurement of eligible Snapper will be scaled back to the nearest 0.5cm (5mm).
30. Photographic/video evidence must be presented to the Weighmasters during the weigh-in times who will view the photos and record the length. The day and time function must be switched on each device. Weigh-in times are 4.00pm on Saturday 9th March and Sunday 10th March.

NOTE: These rules may be revised as deemed necessary by the Organising Committee. Contestants will be duly notified of any changes.

31. In the event of a tie for the longest Snapper the first angler to present their photos/video to the Weighmaster's will be deemed the winner.

Safety Rules

1. Solo fishing is not recommended. The Organising Committee recommends contestants buddy up with at least one other kayak angler. The organizers will be pleased to assist in arranging partners if required.
2. At least one form of electronic communication (cell phone or VHF radio) is required for each kayak angler. The cell phone number or VHF call sign will be recorded on the registration forms of the respective contestants. The VHF radio channels to be utilized for the contest will be advised at the registration briefing. In addition, it is recommended anglers submit a trip report to Coastguard, 1 trip report per group of anglers is OK, the trip report can be either by VHF, cell phone or App.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the contestants to determine that launching and fishing conditions at the locations they choose to fish are safe for their craft and personal abilities.
4. All contestants shall be required to confirm and sign at registration time that they have the following mandatory safety equipment to be eligible to fish the contest.

Mandatory

- Approved PFD/Life Jacket (to be worn at all times on the water)
- Communication (cell phone and/or VHF radio – one per kayak angler)
- Distress Whistle (attached to PFD)
- Tow Line/Anchor Rope
- Hand Bailer Pump (not required for Sit-On-Top kayaks)
- Paddle Rescue Float (not required for Sit-On-Top kayaks)
- Sit-In kayaks must have sealed bulkheads or buoyancy bags bow & stern

Optional (but recommended)

- White Navigation Light or Torch (mandatory if night fishing)
 - Flares & Signaling Mirror
 - EPIRB Locater Beacon
 - Hi-Viz Kayak Safety Flag
 - Spare Paddle
 - First Aid Kit
 - Sun Screen
 - Sun Hat & Sun Glasses
 - Food & Water
5. The Organising Committee reserves the right to restrict the fishing range and/or categories of eligible species if the wind is forecast to be above 15 knots or any other circumstances.