

2012 Taranaki Kayak Fishing Classic.

By Garry Harrison



Roger Zieltjes on his Marauder

Once again the kayak classic lived up to its reputation as the leading kayak fishing comp in NZ, with entries from as far as Greymouth in the south and all parts of the North Island.

It was great to have so many entries from Auckland this year. Thanks guys, it was great to have you in the NAKI and we look forward to hosting you again.

TARANAKI turned on great weather with just a little rain on Sunday before the prize giving and a small northerly to make things interesting on the Sunday.

We had a record 19 tons of fish weighed in over 2 days, not bad considering anglers can only weigh in three fish of each species per day. The actual number of fish caught may have been a lot more. And all this despite a full moon and most fishing calendars saying stay home and sharpen your hooks. The skill level of kayak anglers is increasing all the time. The market is well supplied with specialist kayak fishing gear and awesome fishing kayaks and NZ is leading the way. With rising fuel prizes and the global economy the future for the kayak fishing industry and for this event looks bright.

We've believed Taranaki was a big snapper and sportfish Mecca and so it was proved by a steady stream of huge snapper, some good kingies and lots of tuna presented to the weigh master.

The winning snapper went 13.5 kg, the second place 11.5 kg

with several over 10 kg.

The TARANAKI KAYAK CLASSIC was started 6 years ago by a bunch of dedicated kayak fishos from the OAKURA SURFCASTING AND KAYAK FISHING CLUB. It has grown from 60 entries in year 1 to 190 this year.

The boundaries were increased this year from Patea in the south to Maracopa in the north which gives anglers lots of great possies



Perfect conditions and a view of the mountain. What a day!

to choose from. We also introduced a Manufacturers Cup this year to encourage all the kayak manufacturers to enter factory teams. After all NZ leads the world in fishing kayaks and we should celebrate this.

With ladies, teams and junior anglers prizes along with eight fish classes and lots of spot prizes, most anglers came away with something from the prize pool.

Once again we had an auction of fish and we raised a record \$3600.00 for Coast Guard Taranaki. EGMONT SEAFOODS were on hand to fillet the catch and SUSHI NINJA then turned it into mouth watering sushi raising money for the JAPAN earthquake appeal.

This year we also had Matt Watson and the ITM FISHING SHOW filming the event for his popular show.

The prize giving kicked off with the ROOF RACK CENTRE early bird draw and Peter van Lith was on hand to draw the lucky winner who collected a new roof rack and other goodies from OAKURA TRAVEL.

SHAMUS THE ENTERTAINER kept the crowd



Garry Harrison & Roger Zieltjes with their best catches of the day.



Tony Hurring with the winning 13.5 kg snapper.

entertained and helped hand out many thousands of dollars worth of prizes and spot prizes.

The highlights were the Sons of Anchovies winning the teams prize, and team Viking Blue winning the Manufacturers Cup - but watch out guys. Team Cobra, Oceans, Barracuda, and Mission will be after you. The evening finished with spot prizes for all those who have entered before but never won a prize.

Planning is underway for next year and we promise to make it even bigger and better next year.

The 2013 event is set for March 2nd & 3rd. See you all then.



Dennis O'Callaghan from Auckland landed this nice 7.7 kg fish from his Marauder.

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