

Cobra Kayaks Classic Fishing Competition 2012

By Dave Atkins



After a short safety briefing on the Friday evening, it was an early start for some on Saturday 14th April. The competition officially opened at 5 am. Nobody could have predicted the incredibly good weather that day; bright sunlight, not a breath of wind, no swell. It hotted up to be a great competition.

With over 60 entries and several categories, including heaviest snapper, kahawai, kingfish and trevally to compete in, the odds were good. Since this was solely a kayak fishing competition no other craft including mother-ships, was allowed. Kayakers, for their own safety, had to 'buddy up' with someone else, but many went out as a group of four.

Because the conditions were so good a large area was accessible. Not far from Tauranga Harbour there are great holes and reefs renowned for good fishing. One competitor even went as far as Motiti Island about 6 km offshore to try his luck on the reefs.

Most caught their limit in a short time and were satisfied with the size and weight of their catches. Two pm at the Tauranga Fish and Dive Club was the exciting weigh in time seeing who had caught what. After drinks and nibbles we had prize giving. There were many entries for the heaviest snapper. Shelley Cooney's 5.86 kg catch won. Andrew Temara caught the only kingie, but that was enough to win. Other prizes went to Don Roser for the heaviest gurnard (0.48 kg), heaviest trevally at 19 kg went to Scott Scherer, and heaviest kahawai (2.84 kg) was Craig Beatie's.

The spot prizes from sponsors, Cobra Kayaks, Canoe & Kayak Bay of Plenty, Killwell, Bodyline and more, meant that all competitors had a chance to win something. The ultimate prize was a full spec Cobra Marauder fishing kayak with paddle and buoyancy aid. The very excited winner was Nick Clayton from Wellington. In his excitement he jumped into the kayak, collapsed its stand and tumbled it to the floor. Good thing Cobra Kayaks are so robust. It was a great day.

We look forward to another competition dedicated to kayak fishermen in the Bay of Plenty next year.



Photos - Far left: The water was oily calm, on the day.

Above: Shelley Cooney, winner of the biggest Snapper

Right top: Andrew Temara' won the Heaviest Kingfish

Right middle: & bottom: Perfect conditions enabled competitors to fish in and out of the harbour



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