

That's more like it!

Pretty good weather and more fish than last years event. The Warkworth Gamefish Club 2019 One Base at Great Barrier had a record number of 47 boats 162 anglers.

Brenda L started things off early on **Friday** with Neil Taylor tagging his first marlin after a very short fight. The lid will be off the can of touch up paint, but it's good to T&R them quickly as possible. Neil picked up the Presidents Trophy for the first Billfish, \$100, and a bottle of rum. Neil followed his marlin success up with the measure and release of a top 3 snapper later that day, a very happy chappy. Friday saw most boats go wide in slightly choppy conditions, but good water temperatures. Dan Wood tagged and released a stripie on Lady Jade on Friday arvo, so we already had more fish than last year! Some crews were fishing down from Tuts, where less than 40 miles away the wind and chop were almost non existent.



Heaviest stripie for the event at 128kg and a first on the boat for Matt Oxborough on Sea Eagle



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Thanks Al, good to see you out

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Thanks Kevin for the oil packs, MTA vouchers etc solid support everytime

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A modest sized stripie was brought into the weighstation on Friday arvo. Sometimes this happens because a fish gets injured by the gear (hook through eye etc) and can't be released with a good expectation of survival, so it's better to respect it with some manuka smoke that letting it go. The snapper section was starting to fill out and there were a few mahimahi turning up.

Saturday dawned and it was business time. Good conditions and a few ideas where fish might be holding, but the time constraint of being back at base that night. Marlin hook ups are frequently within an hour of each other at a particular stage of the tide. This year they were a bit more random. The bite was still generally concentrated around the 155 area, but you could say it's a self-fulfilling prophesy: More boats in a given area = more fish raised and more shots. But it's a big area and has been consistent over the years. Some of the boats have amazing sonar, and could clearly see bait-balls with marlin in attendance. What's worse—not knowing if there's fish there, or knowing there is and they're not biting?!

Eventually two striped marlin did stick, one to Matt Oxborough on Sea Eagle, and one for Henck Otte (all the way from Wellington for our event) on Chicane, skippered by Richard Wilcock.

And Aaron Stenbeck on Dirty Berty tagged a stripie, making the trip from The Gold Coast worthwhile for crew mate Gazza's brother Brett.

The trip back to base on Saturday was in the kind of conditions that keep you coming back for more—glassy seas and steering to avoid wildlife like mantarays and sunfish. The marlin must have known we were heading back in too, there were multiple freejumpers on the west end of the 155.

At the Saturday gathering on the Fitzroy Landing we drew our first 6 potential Travel Prize winners, excitedly hanging onto their respectively numbered plastic plates. The raffle for LegaSea was well supported (thank you) and Paula and her team at The Hub cranked out much appreciated tasty burgers. Our radio quiz prizes were awarded for the previous 2 days and we were actually finished up before it got dark.



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Expanded gamefishing section. Great prizes thanks Colin

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"We'll see you right"
 Thanks James and Shane

We try to provide an informal watertaxi service Saturday and Sunday nights, but it is tough to get around all the boats. Especially when some park a big distance away. The distance is understandable when Leer Up and Luna-Sea are rafted up in the harbour though. From a risk management point of view we'll probably drop back to a b.y.o watertaxi system next year, like other Clubs do.

Throughout the fleet the availability of skippies or other bait is always a topic of conversation - is it seasonal variability, or a case of them being hoovered up by seiners with spotter planes before they get down here? NZ has a tropical fulltime and local seasonal purse seine catch of skippies, and they are not in the Quota Management System. In 2018 almost 2000T was caught in local waters, and in recent years it has been up to 10,000T (Fisheries NZ website) using super seiners. The average of 7000T since 2002 is dropping rapidly. Yup, you guessed it, there is no stock assessment for the 'management' of this fishery. The skippies that we caught this year were generally pretty small (<50cm fork length) but good marlin bait size. Skippies this size are barely out of the cradle considering that they grow to 80cm in 4 years, and max out at around 12 years at 108cm long and up to 34kg! Not so much in NZ waters though.

Sunday started out with an accurate forecast for average conditions, but it had improved by mid morning. If you had to bet on just one boat to find a willing marlin you'd bet on Violator, and sure enough they tagged the only one on the last day.

Our traditionally bang on Sunday night big dinner at the Fitzroy Boating Club didn't fire. It's a bit frustrating and out of our control, but will be sorted for next year. While on the topic of fix-ups, the initial draw for the EarlyBird prize of an outboard motor from Matakana Marine was honoured when we got back because it wasn't stated that you had to be there—so that's two lucky EarlyBirds! Thank you x 2 Matakana Marine.

The Lucky Draws on the night remain popular and generous—so many great products from Gubbs, Hunting & Fishing, and Matakana ITM. Many of the sponsored and purchased prize resources went into the boat packs. This means we get a good spread of sponsor love, and it was great seeing the Southeys and Maxxis (Beaurepaires Ww) boat bags being used for the Saturday catch up. The compulsory briefing format will remain for next year because it allows us to get the boat packs to you (so we don't have to take them over!), is important for Rules etc queries, and was a good occasion for crews to catch up over a coldie. It also much reduces the admin burden during the tournament. If there's a really good reason you can't attend the briefing we'll make arrangements, but it was such a good night most people will be trying not to miss it.

WwGFC 10kg comp **WwGFC Ladies comp**
2nd & 3rd June 2019 **9th November 2019**



Thanks Andrew & Pete




Thanks Carlton & Michelle



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Okay, so here's the fishy results for the 2019 tournament:

Striped Marlin, weighed:

1st place	Matt Oxborough (Sea Eagle)	128kg
2nd place	Henck Otte (Chicane)	104kg

[Both these marlin were firsts on these boats]

Billfish Points

1st place	Sea Eagle	128 points
2nd place	Brenda L	115 points
3rd place	Lady Jade	115 points

Snapper, measured:

1st place	Steven Matheson	83cm (Nicarla)
2nd place	Neil Taylor	80cm (Brenda L)
3rd place	Dave Adams	78cm (Blue Wazoo)

Mahimahi:

1st place Glen Campbell 7kg (Violator)
Plus another mahimahi and Pin Fish in the Club weighed by Jamaal Ropata on Outsider at 10.4kg

Shark, T&R only:

To Jordan Maker (El Camino), Mike Leggoe (Brenda L), Jamaal Ropata x 2 (Outsider), and Wayne Brown (First Affair).

Kingfish meeting the 1m minimum length evaded us again this year. Quite a few 90cm models, but with the weather being generally okay people went wide and the kingis weren't being targeted particularly hard. The 1m minimum length will remain, that's a kingfish a little over 12kg on average.

The Sunday raffle is per tradition for Great Barrier Marine Radio Inc. Thank you for your support of this and if you're not a member of GBMR there's a subscription form on the back of this report—do it now. Thank you Emmy for the latitude to hog your airwaves a couple of times a day. The GBMR raffle draws featured bottles of rum. With caps on them that lasted all of 3 seconds. Hmm, next year it might be vouchers for bottles of rum!

Our grand finale is of course the Travel Prize draw for \$7000 travel so generously supported by Mason Containers, Keith Andrews Fuso Trucks, Southeys Group, and Warkworth World Travellers.

The reduction draw is never dull! For every person on stage there's a crew dreaming of a week gamefishing somewhere tropical in the middle of a NZ winter. Or maybe a week for 4 on the Gold Coast. Perhaps visiting Aunty Mildred in Wales. Or not. Anyway, \$7k goes a long way and the odds are pretty good for just being at the WGFC One Base.

Eliminated candidates are well rewarded for being in with a chance, battery vouchers from Autec, more goodies from Gubbs, vouchers from Ww Auto Electrical, Makita power tools from Matakana ITM, and the runner up gets \$1500 travel from Archibald and Shorter—going to Geoff McFarlane this year. Which left one person on stage for \$7k travel—Mr Graeme Maker, one of the founding members of WwGFC and fishing with 3 other stalwarts, Al Mason, Rod Jones, and Rob Donaldson.



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Thanks Lance
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Thanks Bruce



You don't often get to Aotea and back unscathed in weather terms. On Monday morning the weather threw a wobbly, and if you weren't away pre-dawn or after the tide mid afternoon you took a beating. Especially between the two 'Barriers. There was a wayward anchor that ploughed up someone's bow, and another boat got a window smashed. On returning to respective home ports and anchorages most boats got a good sort out by having to put everything onboard back where it came from. Thanks for looking after yourselves in the big playground again, it gives so much but it can also take everything.

The WwGFC One Base is a significant cash and prize event put together by a small team. From putting up and taking down road signs, to seeing sponsors, taking entries and memberships, accounting, buying prizes, producing rules/entry forms/the grid, selling raffles, weighing fish, etc it's all done to the view of having it run perfectly one day. If you reckon you've got some skills or energy to contribute then you'd be welcome to help at any level of involvement.

The sponsors draw for dinner at the Sandspit Kitchen at SYC was won by Andrew and Pete of GT Trailers, on the boat Aria. They're in for a treat because the Sandspit Kitchen now run by Renae and Daniel is highly regarded and situated in arguably a world class setting.

Remember our sponsors, we appreciate their generosity and it is essential to return their support.

Thank you anglers for enjoying our event and see you next year!

Warkworth Gamefish Club Inc.



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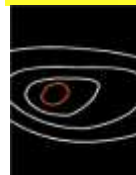
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Thanks Mike

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WwGFC One Base 24, 25, 26th January 2020



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The Three Musketeers, or something like that



Time to start the reduction draw!



Down to 8...



Graeme Maker is the last one standing for 2019



Down to 5, nervous laughter...



Uh oh, the cap's coming off



WARKWORTH GAMEFISH CLUB GREAT BARRIER 2019 ONE BASE TOURNAMENT



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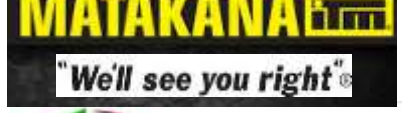
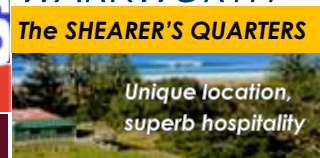
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GT BARRIER ONE BASE

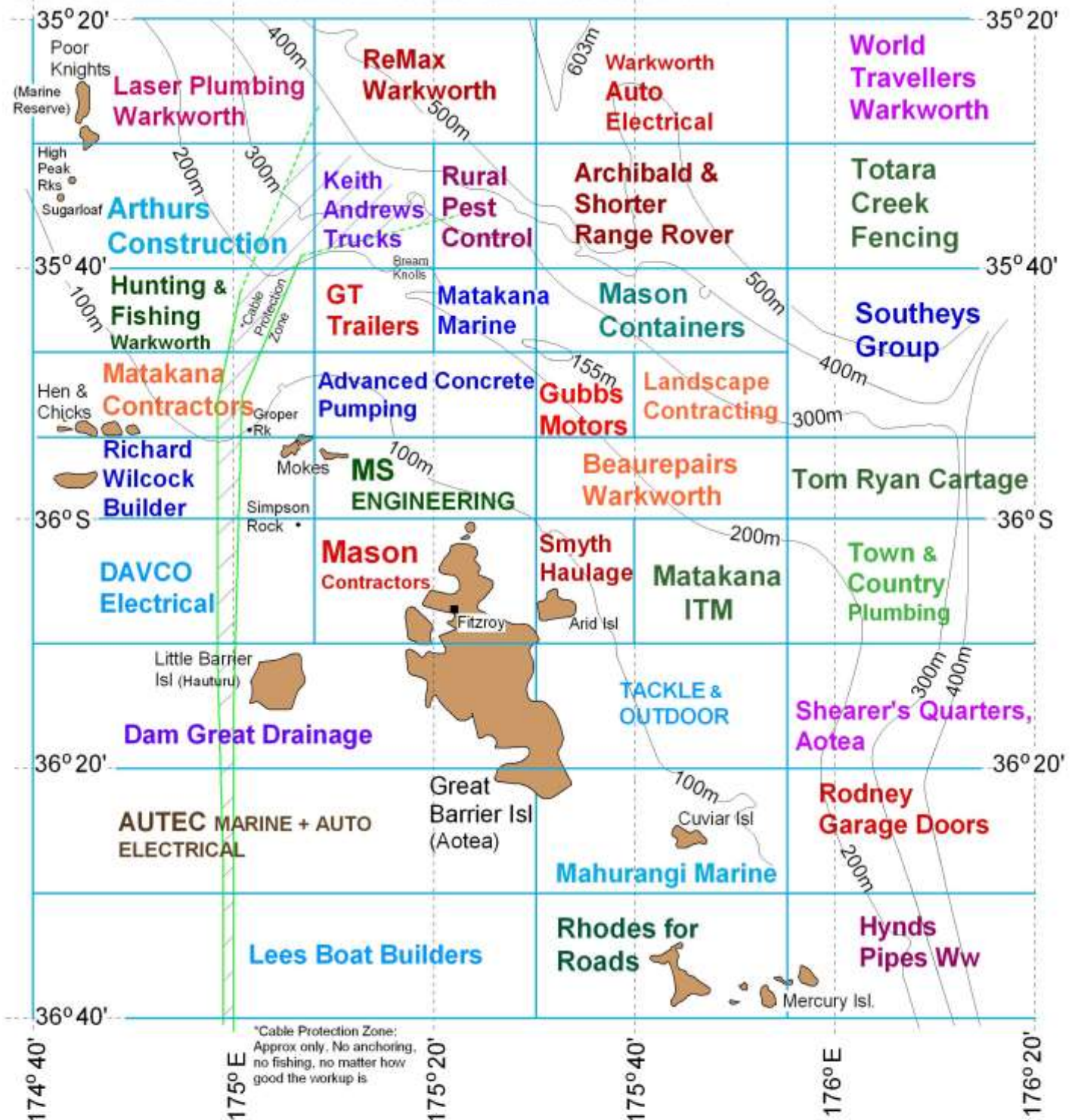
FRIDAY 25th TO SUNDAY 27th JANUARY 2019

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