



NEWSLETTER

August 2009

Club Weigh Masters

Hamilton

Joe Johnson
07 8552390

Warren Swetman
07 8477480 or 025 798337

Raglan

Mike Ingerson
07 8250000 or 027 436 4878

Huntly

Wayne Rendall
07 8288408 or 027 2041001

Logan Baxter
0273471112

Pukekohe

Keith Vallabh
09 2385582 or 0274 988871

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Cnr. Ohaupo Rd and Normandy Ave, Hamilton

Fax: 07 843 4083

Freephone 0800 272 589

Website: www.salt-away.co.nz

Club Officers

President: Bob Gutsell 021 750562 bob_gutsell@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Wayne Rendall 07 828 8408 timothyrendall@xtra.co.nz

Catch Cards:

**Claire & Tony Brinkworth 255 Collie Rd, R.D. 8
Te Kowhai, Hamilton**

Secretary/ Treasurer:

Sue Pavlovich Phone/Fax 07 843 8131 or
027 3446988 wbsfc@xtra.co.nz

Committee:

| | | | |
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Magazine:

Mark & Taryn Olsen 07 847 6944 taryn22@clear.net.nz

Subscriptions: \$40 adult . \$60 family (July to June)

Membership enquiries to
Sue Pavlovich phone 843 8131

Clubroom: 839 0062

Hall Manager — Philip Gibb 846 4578 glenis.gibb@clear.net.nz

Club Dates

Club Night

A.G.M - 15th 5.30pm

August 2009

| M | T | W | TH | F | S | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 31 | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | | | | | | |

11th Committee Meeting

15th — A.G.M

5.30pm At WSFC Club Rooms, Grantham St
Bring the family for a BBQ Dinner & support
our prize giving

September 2009

| M | T | W | TH | F | S | S |
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| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
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8th - Committee Meeting

**No Club Night This
Month**

President's Report

A strange thing happened to me last weekend.....I actually went fishing. It was the first chance to get the boat wet in saltwater since November last year. Busy jobs, young families and other interests have a habit of getting in the way of the things we enjoy most. There are two main ways of overcoming these sorts of problems. The first is to make the most of each chance you get as we did last Sunday. Of course the weather was fantastic, except for the light variable southerly that seemed to chill the ocean from the top to bottom.

Fish could be seen on the sounder in good numbers but were very lethargic. And so the story went around most parts of the country. With the exception of a few that actually fished the afternoon through to the evening which seems to have been when most of the action happened. We fished one spot for part of the morning then went searching elsewhere for fish that just weren't hungry. The reality is that had we simply stayed where we were, we probably would have steadily built our tally until the afternoon bite had started. Yes hind sight is a beautiful thing, but we learnt something or reminded our selves of stuff we already knew, and that is Winter fishing is different to summer fishing and different tactics are required, of, and patience is a virtue!

The second and possibly more effective method for some. Is to plan one's fishing in advance. Oh yes I can hear the moans already, but what about the weather? Well here's the rub, the old adage "fortune favours the brave" probably wasn't said about fishing but it's equally appropriate. It was only 10 years ago when we would grace the shores of various parts of the Coromandel peninsula, with our presence along with the trusty 12 foot tinny. Rain hail, or 50 knot easterly we fished. We learnt to make the most of the conditions, we learnt how to pick spots that were close to home and learnt how to drag fish out of them, we learnt how to take advantage of weather conditions, we learnt how to keep ourselves safe, we caught fish and good ones at that. The bottom line was that we learnt and we got better and better at catching fish and we learnt the territory.

And so here we are, the last fishing calendar year ended on June 30th and now we're into the new fishing year, our AGM is on August 15th. At this meeting you have the opportunity to stand for committee, Vote for the new committee and executive officers. We also have a couple of remits for you to consider and vote on at the meeting.

The first is a proposal by the Raglan sport fishing club to voluntarily implement a 1 metre minimum for Kingfish caught off the west coast. Of course this means that you can still catch and keep Kingfish at 750mm if you want a feed of Kingfish. However if you want to weight the fish for club points then it will need to be at least 1 metre in length. The intention of this proposal is that it has been found that Kingfish are not sexually mature until they are 1 metre in length. So the idea is that we won't keep fish that haven't had a chance to breed.

The second remit is for the club to allow the use of braided lines of any weight to be used for club records, points and competitions, providing there is at least 2 metres of line-class (pre-test) monofilament between the end of the braid and the start of the Leader or Double. Normal Double and leader rules apply the only change we're proposing is that we use Braid lines with an effective "tippet" on line class monofilament, a very similar set-up to that allowed in Saltwater fly fishing. Why is this important? because;

1. Braided lines are not freely available as pre-tested lines. Ones that are available are very expensive.
2. Given that the braided lines currently available are not pretested, the chances of the line significantly over testing are high.
3. The current club and IGFA rules preclude the use of Monofilament joined to a braided backing because in the case of the two lines being joined the heavier of the two is considered as the line class on which the fish was caught.

Modern fishing methods, Soft plastic and Long Jig fishing in particular are developed largely around Braided lines.

Myself and the committee believe this is part of the reason why people are reluctant to join fishing clubs, because the methods they are now using are ineligible for club points. We'll be discussing this and voting on it at the AGM.

Note that if you want to fish the nationals or claim a New Zealand or International record, you'll need to abide by the IGFA rules.

At the last committee meeting we had an offer for somebody to act as a weigh master and if we would calibrate their scales we would then have a local weigh master right here in Hamilton. Well as attractive as that sounded, we got talking and decided that what we'd really like to have is a 7 day/ week weigh station.

I've since had a discussion with one of our friendly local tackle retailers and they've agreed in principle to allowing us to set up a weigh station on their premises. We still need to decide if their people will be trained as weigh masters or whether we'll provide our own. But the reality is that by the start of the serious action of next fishing season, we'll have a facility in Hamilton where you can weigh your fish for your club. So back to fishing, what was the shaggy dog story at the beginning all about. Well it's this... We'll be running a number of Fishing weekends over the next 12 months, some based out of Raglan and others on the east coast. The point of these weekends is that we'll have an opportunity to

fish together as a club and get to know each other a bit more. There'll be some competition but not as we know it... All fish caught over those designated weekends will qualify for double points counting toward individual and boat trophies at next year's AGM.

We also have a trophy for the single fish amassing the most points, but to qualify for that you only get normal points as it wouldn't be fair on those currently holding records in the club for that basis.

The idea here is to create and promote competition without flogging our sponsors to death!

So when are we going to do this? Here's a proposed schedule for next the rest of this financial year;

August 22/23rd - Raglan

October 17/18th - Raglan Final weekend before the end of the winter challenge

November 7/8th - Coromandel Weekend Shelley Beach.

November Date TBC Raglan Sport-fishing club Icebreaker competition.

January 24th 2010 - Manu Bay competition

February 17/18/19/20th - WSFC One base Tournament Raglan

March 20/21st - Club weekend at Waihi or Whangamata.

Additionally we'll be running our normal club nights but will most likely run a club night every second month or so. So after our August AGM, the next Club night will most likely be October for the prize giving for the Winter challenge, followed by our end of year Christmas bash in December, and then we'll see each other again at the one base, and then another club night again in April.

So that's a general outline of a proposed plan for next year. I suspect we may need to cull one or two of the double points weekends. But the reason I've put this plan out there is to encourage people to get involved in helping run these events. The idea is that I'd like each committee member to run one weekend and one club night and help with the one base. If you're keen to be involved with the committee then you know what you're in for.

If your voting for committee you need to know these are the things I want us to focus on, if you agree then you'll vote for us, if you disagree, hopefully you'll nominate and vote for some alternative people.

My vision for the year ahead is to getting the club growing and vibrant by engaging both new and existing members in the thing we enjoy the most FISHING!

Cheers Bob

Roller-Coaster Ride

Sunday the 26th looked good on buoy weather at Raglan so I rustled up a crew on Friday night.

Prepared the boat on Saturday afternoon and headed to Raglan at a leisurely 8.30 am as low tide was at 6 am and no need to rush. We radioed in and crossed the bar about 10am and faced the metre swell that was thinking about braking but didn't. We headed to bar reef for a snapper fish with great expectations as I had heard recent stories of good fish being caught and off Carters.

It didn't take long to figure out it wasn't going to be our day as we pulled up shark after shark.

We tried different depths and spots with good sign on the sounder but was rewarded with only six gurnett and a few Kahawai for the day and plenty of practice catching and releasing sand sharks.

The sea conditions got better as the day past and returning over the flat bar was a piece of cake until we came to the joggle. The tide was heading out and we had 4' to 5' foot holes appear out of nowhere and breaking waves hitting us from all directions. My boat is reasonably big and it pushed around like a cork and leaned on some pretty steep angles. Ken's steering and throttle control got us through ok but I will be avoiding those first few hours of the outgoing in future. It was the first time I have experienced those joggle conditions and in a smaller boat it would have been quite a concern. Since that day I have found out the tides were big compared to normal. I will be taking more note of the tide height in the future.

So when the bars flat still call up the Coast guard and log your crossings and wait till you are safely in the harbor to log out as you don't know what the joggles up to until you get there.

Safe boating

Mark O, Seavannah



Waikato Sport Fishing Club

P O Box 9036
HAMILTON 3240

Email: wbsfc@xtra.co.nz

Phone: Club Secretary 07 8438131

Membership Renewal

Name _____ M / F

Postal Address _____

City _____ Email _____

Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

Family Details:

Spouse (A) _____ M / F

Child (B) _____ D.O.B.: _____ M / F

Child (C) _____ D.O.B.: _____ M / F

Child (D) _____ D.O.B.: _____ M / F

Boat Name: _____ Make: _____

Call Sign: _____

Fees: Adult \$40.00, Family \$60.00 (2 Adults + Children 16 yrs and under as at 1st July 2009), Junior \$15 (16 Yrs and under as at 1st July 2009), Student \$20.00 (Must have Student ID card).

Have you ever been banned or barred from any club in the past? YES/NO

I hereby agree to abide by the club rules.

Do you want you Newsletter Emailed. YES/NO

Do you give consent for your email address to be added to the NZBGF Council database? YES/NO

Signed By: _____ Date: _____

You can Download this form at

<http://www.waikatosportfishing.co.nz/membership09-10.pdf>

Waikato Sport Fishing Club

A.G.M and Prize Giving 2009

Prize Giving Trophies and Certificate List

Gary Pitcaithly
Maylene Ross
Tony Brinkworth
Mark Olsen
Steve Richards
Gerry Gerrand
Andrew Forkert
Frank Van Vroonhoven
Jake Dingle
Steve Hawkes
Sonia Page
Sharee Steer
Tracey Forkert
Ethan Rendall
Kayla Forkert
Richard Faisandier
Steven Sharp
Gary Monk
Jonathon Burton
Ryan Pitcaithly
Stuart Ross
Coral Johnson
Slade Kerr
Blair Housley
Ryan Housley

Please could the listed club members try to be present at the prize giving
to receive their award



Waikato Sport Fishing Club

Catch Card

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Junior Name..... Date...../...../.....
 Membership No.....
 Address.....

I HEREBY DECLARE that I am a financial member of a club affiliated to the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council and that in accordance with the club and I.G.F.A rules, I have tagged or landed the fish described below and that all details given are true and accurate

Species..... **Caught on** Bait
 Time Hooked..... Fly Lure
 Time Boated..... **Category** Mens
 Caught Where..... Ladies
 Boat Name..... Junior
 Line Weight..... Kg Day Member
 Courtesy Weigh Club.....
 Tag & Release Tag No.....
 Angler Signature.....
 Skipper Signature.....

Club use only **Ref No.....**

Fish..... Weight.....Kg Length.....cm Girth.....cm

I certify that the weight and measurements are correct and the tackle complies with the club and I.G.F.A rules.

Weigh Masters Name.....

Weigh Master Signature.....

New Zealand Gamefish Tagging Programme



2008-09 SEASON WINDING DOWN

It seems that the winter weather has arrived and all that remains of this summer's fishing are fond memories. We would like clubs and anglers to send in all tag cards that for the 2008-09 season. Please copy this newsletter to your records office and pass on our thanks for the great job they do for their members.

REVIEW OF GAMEFISH TAGGING PROGRAMME

For almost 9 years, management of the gamefish tagging database has been contracted out by the Ministry of Fisheries as a contestable research project. The NZBGFC and clubs assist by purchasing and distributing the tags made by Hallprint in South Australia. A tagging policy and objectives developed in 2001 saw yellowfin included as a species to tag. Now it is time to review progress. A panel including international experts, Ministry of Fisheries and NZBGFC will look at ways to improve outcomes from gamefish tagging for:

- The fishers who tag fish: who contribute to conservation, participate in research, get recognition of catch, receive feed-back on recaptures, and support the international sport fishing ethic of catch and release.
- MFish and NZBGFC: who get agreed objectives, provide service to their members, obtain definition of catch for contest participants, a time series of release and recapture numbers and locations, and some growth and seasonal movement data.
- Researchers: who want to use the existing time series of data. Generally these will be projects such as southwest Pacific swordfish and striped marlin stock assessments, and NIWA kingfish growth studies.

Researchers or Mfish: who want to use the existing tagging skill and fishing power of a large number of fishers to answer specific questions by directing effort toward a species or area (e.g. Pacific bluefin tuna off the South Island west coast, kingfish at White Island).

Tag and release has become an integral part of sport fishing in many parts of the world. The New Zealand programme started from relatively humble beginnings in 1975. Currently about 2000 fish per year have a small numbered plastic streamer attached prior to release. The project relies on the cooperation of anglers and a few commercial fishers who release fish; the Ministry of Fisheries who fund data management and reporting; the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council who purchase and distribute the tags, and Blue Water Marine Research who are contracted to manage the database.

The project focuses on billfish, sharks, yellowfin tuna and yellowtail kingfish with the aim of gathering information on growth rates, movement patterns and distribution of these large predatory fish. If you have any ideas on improvements that could be made to the gamefish tagging programme please email John or Pete at the address at the end of this newsletter.

Copies of the annual billfish and gamefish tagging report are available at <http://fpcs.fish.govt.nz/science/ResearchDocuments.aspx>

STRIPED MARLIN

There were 785 striped marlin reported as tagged and released inside New Zealand fisheries waters in the 2007-08 season and three recaptures reported. This season there already have been more marlin tagged and five recaptures have been reported, though details are not available for all of them.

One striped marlin tagged off Cape Runaway in April 2008 was recaptured 350 nautical miles east of Brisbane in mid November. It had been at liberty for 224 days and travelled 1105 nautical miles. This fish had probably been to the Coral Sea spawning grounds along with marlin from Australia.

Four marlin were recaptured after short periods of freedom on the King Bank in March. One had been at liberty for 23 days, two fish were tagged a second time and released without recovering the tag and one was found in weak condition on the surface the day after tagging. It was gaffed and pulled on board. Satellite tagging of striped marlin in previous seasons shows that generally these fish recover from capture and release well.

MAKO SHARKS

The number of Mako sharks tagged in New Zealand fisheries waters during the 2007-08 season was 286. It looks like we will have a similar number tagged in 2008-09. There did seem to be a few more makos seen in the last two seasons. There were several shark recaptures reported by Spanish longliners fishing a few hundred miles east of New Zealand during winter months, and one 30kg mako swam from White Island to the south Taranaki coast in just 46 days.

BLUE SHARKS

There were 107 blue sharks tagged during the 2007-08 season, with 3 recaptures, all by longline vessels outside New Zealand Fisheries waters. So far we have 92 in the database for 2008-09 with two recaptures near New Caledonia and one from Vanuatu.

KINGFISH

The number of kingfish tagged and released in New Zealand fisheries waters during 2007-08 was 1086, one of the best years on record and well above the average of the previous 10 years. Fifty-four kingfish recaptures were reported in 2007-08. These fish ranged from 54 to 152 cm in length at the time of recapture. Time at liberty ranged from 9 to 2595 days (over 7 years) and displacement ranged from 0 to 415 nautical miles. Six kingfish were recaptured in commercial single trawl nets, all off the west coast of the North Island, while the remainder were taken by recreational fishers.

The most notable recapture of a kingfish last season was a fish that was tagged off Raglan, west coast North Island in 2005, and recaptured after 1112 days at Channel Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Recorded movements of kingfish from west coast to east coast or vice versa are rare events. This kingfish was estimated at 75 cm on release and was measured at 88 cm on recapture. It was estimated to weigh 3.5 kg on release and weighed 7.6 kg on recapture. The capture site was a minimum distance of 415 nautical miles from where the kingfish was tagged.

Of the hundreds of kingfish tagged at White Island, only a handful have been observed to move any substantial distance after tagging, while the vast majority have been recaptured in the same vicinity, some on several occasions. In January 2008 a fish that was recaptured at Rangatira Reef 2595 days after being tagged. This fish weighed 31 kg at the time it was recaptured, having been estimated to weigh 30 kg on release, seven years earlier.

PACIFIC BLUEFIN CARD MISSING

In 2008-09 the first two tagged west coast Pacific bluefin were recaptured. Both had conventional tags and were caught on the same day, 27 August 2008. One tag looked to be recently applied but this fish was released and the tag not retrieved. The second has also turned into a bit of mystery. Caught on the vessel Reel Passion, this fish measured 258cm in length and weighed 279kg. Unfortunately the tag card (G 53255) has not been handed in. So there are no release details for this fish and we have been unable to establish who might have tagged it. The tag card was issued to Tauranga Game Fishing Club in January 1997 and sold to a recreational angler. The tag did not look new so could have been placed in the fish in 2007 or even earlier. If you have any used tag cards please hand them to a NZBGFC affiliated club or post them to the address below.

NEXT UPDATE

There may be changes or recommendations for the tagging programme following the project review meetings on 20 and 21 July. An update summarising these proposals will be circulated once the Ministry of Fisheries releases the findings. If you would like to discuss aspects of the tagging programme phone John on (09) 434 3383.

SEND IN YOUR TAG CARDS

Please hand your tag cards to your club at the end of your fishing trip or post to the address below. It would also help if clubs send in all tag cards once a month. We would like all the 2008-09 tag cards sent in now.

POSTAL ADDRESS

The New Zealand gamefish tagging programme is funded by the Ministry of Fisheries and the NZ Big Game Fishing Council. All tag cards and recapture information should be handed into your local gamefish club or posted to the Ministry of Fisheries in Auckland. All clubs should use this address for the tagging programme.

Gamefish Tagging

Ministry of Fisheries

PO Box 19747

Avondale

Auckland 1746

Thanks

John Holdsworth

bluewater@igrin.co.nz

Corrections

Last month's newsletter failed to recognise Supreme Sheetmetals on the major sponsors list for the Waikato Sport Fishing Club & Buccaneer Boats One Base. Supreme Sheetmetals has supported our club for the last 4 tournaments and are valued sponsors. Apologies to Bob and Antony and thanks for your sponsorship.



The Kahawai Legal Challenge - Supreme Court Decision

The decision of the Supreme Court was released on 28 May 2009, with a majority of the Judges (4 to 1) disallowing the appeal by recreational fishers.

Don't forget how we got here

Kahawai was the last major inshore fish to get introduced to the quota management system. It is highly visible, often feeding in schools at the surface from North Cape to Otago.

Recreational fishing groups challenged the Minister's decisions relating to the setting of the total allowable catch (TAC) and the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) including allowing for recreational fishing interests for kahawai, and the way they had been made, as a test case. Recreational fishers won in the High Court and had partial costs awarded against the Crown. The Ministry accepted the High Court decision but commercial fishers appealed. The Appeal Court overturned some of the key High Court findings which held, in effect, that the social, economic and cultural well being of the people had not been properly considered by the Minister. Recreational fishers (NZBGFC and NZRFC) decided to pursue the case on appeal to the Supreme Court to try to restore the favourable reasoning of the High Court.

The Supreme Court

When the Supreme Court agreed to hear the KLC appeal they made it clear that they would be ruling on whether the Minister's decisions were legal or not, and as the final appellate court would be concerned with the legal principles rather than any factual issues.

The decisions of the five judges were not unanimous. The majority decision of four judges disallowed the appeal but made a number of rulings that will be applied to future Ministerial decisions on fisheries management. The following are some of the key findings of the Supreme Court as they concern non-commercial fishing interests.

There is a clear statement in the judgment that "the Act envisages that the allowance for recreational interests will be a reasonable one in all circumstances" but that it falls to the Minister's discretion on how to provide for different fishing interests - "The Act does not confer priority for any interest over the other. It leaves that judgment to the Minister".

The Minister may decide to favour non-commercial interests when setting allowances but when doing this must keep commercial interests in mind.

The majority view is that "the allowance accordingly represents what the Minister considers recreational interests should be able to catch but also all that they will be able to catch."

However, the amateur fishing regulations enable the Minister to limit what the amateur catch is going to be (bag limits, size limits etc) - "the legislation accordingly governs all aspects of rights of the various fishing sector interests to the exclusion of the common law."

The majority held that if the Minister is "properly informed" and "is satisfied that the catch history of the parties in previous years provides a reasonable basis for assessment of allocations, it is open to the Minister to take that approach."

An assessment of non-commercial interests would seem to be necessary if the Minister was to be properly informed. In this regard the majority decision also held that "the notion of people providing for their wellbeing, and in particular their social well-being, is an important element of recreational interests."

When setting the TAC the Minister may chose to maintain stock size above the level that can produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY). The Minister has the flexibility to leave more fish in the water to allow for the "aspirations of the fishing sectors for utilisation of the resource."

Summary

These findings of the Supreme Court provide a clear and binding ruling on how the relevant provisions of the Fisheries Act should be applied. This is something recreational fishers have not had before, as this is the first time we have fully engaged in the legal process to help define their rights. In doing so we developed a relationship with Maori customary fishers who recognised the importance of defining non-commercial fishing rights. The needs and aspirations of thousands of amateur and sustenance fishers were put clearly before our Courts, and the support and encouragement from most fishers has been outstanding.

The process was longer and more expensive than anticipated. However, amateur fishers have now demonstrated their resolve, commitment and capability to fight, if need be, through the courts for their interests. We have learned some lessons on the decision making and judicial processes and their arguments have been fine tuned. In the end however, it is the Minister who must apply the fisheries laws to the information available and make a decision.

The Supreme Court ruling leaves in place, or does not upset, some earlier rulings by our Courts. The Minister must review Kahawai TAC's and TACC's next year. In doing so he/she must have "particular regard" to the national significance of natural resources in the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park when setting allowances and there will be a review of amateur bag limits.

Going forward, our amateur fishing representatives must use the Supreme Court ruling in their submissions on the review of kahawai TAC's and TACC's. Findings from both the majority and dissenting decisions will also assist when submitting on the Fisheries Act review next year.

All those involved really appreciate all the hard work and support of the legal team, the councils, clubs and option4.

NZBGFC July 2009

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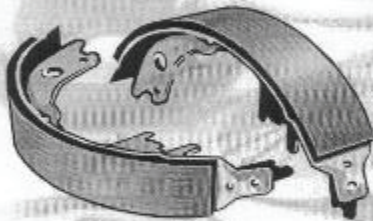
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JOKE OF THE MONTH

Take The Bait

It was a cold winter day, when an old man walked out onto a frozen lake, cut a hole in the ice, dropped in his fishing line and began waiting for a fish to bite.

He was there for almost an hour without even a nibble when a young boy walked out onto the ice, cut a hole in the ice not too far from the old man and dropped in his fishing line. It only took about a minute and WHAM! a Largemouth Bass hit his hook and the boy pulled in the fish.

The old man couldn't believe it but figured it was just luck. But, the boy dropped in his line and again within just a few minutes pulled in another one.

This went on and on until finally the old man couldn't take it any more since he hadn't caught a thing all this time.

He went to the boy and said, "Son, I've been here for over an hour without even a nibble. You have been here only a few minutes and have caught about half a dozen fish! How do you do it?"

The boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rrarm."

"What was that?" the old man asked.

Again the boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rarrm."

"Look," said the old man, "I can't understand a word you are saying."

So, the boy spit into his hand and said, "You have to keep the worms warm"

N.Z REGISTERED MAGAZINE

Waikato Sport Fishing Club INC.
PO Box 9036
Hamilton North
www.waikatosportfishing.co.nz



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