



## APRIL NEWSLETTER

The last two months seem like a blur of big fish and screaming reels! It has been an epic couple of months and we've had a ball meeting everyone who came out and chased some big Coromandel kingfish with us! The highlight had to be a huge kingi played in glorious sunshine and flat seas for 1 1/2 hours on 15lb line.....more on that soon!

In this newsletter we have some Epic tales to recount, so grab a quiet drink and read on!

### **Family Effort!**

Noel, Florance and Joshua joined us from Te Awamutu on the first Saturday of March.

From the moment we got anchored on the reef it was non stop action, and the livebait tank the skipper had filled before sunup got emptied out very quickly with heaps of big kahawai and rat kingi's stealing our livies from under balloons on the surface.

We were nearly down to our last livie when the big Shimano started howling on a big kingi. It had taken a live mackerel fished on a sinker close to the bottom.

Florance took the rod and did really well to get the fishes head back up as it run through the kelp and over the reef – the flurocarbon leader doing its job and holding tight. After a quarter of an hour Noel helped finish the fish off and a nice kingi of 16kg was boated! We spent the rest of the day having some fun with more kahawai around Castle Rock and getting stuck into some big schools of Albies closer to the Aldermen Is. The trip over from Hamilton at 3am in the morning turned out to be well worth it aye guys!!!



## **Ron nabs a Hatric of Kingis (in an hour!)**

The next morning we had another Mooloo supporter, with Ron Wilson driving over from Hamilton in the early hours to target a few kingis.

Once again we headed out with a full tank of livies but the conditions were nothing like the day before, with about 2metres of sea, mainly a short sharp easterly chop - hardly pleasant! Not to worry, we only had time to get one rod in the water before the balloon popped and line started screaming from the Shimano Tyrnos reel. Ron had a tustle with a nice 14kg king, and the water was that clear we could see the fish plugging away under the boat for most of the fight. A few yahoo's erupted as the fish came into the boat.

A livie was chucked straight out and yet again he only had time to get about 10metres from the boat before the balloon got dragged under and Ron was buckled over on another good sized kingi!! As Ron was playing fish you'd hear a big splash and look at to see more kingi's bullying bait on the surface!!!

Morning fishing like this when the kingi's are feeding hard on bait has to be one of the best sights a fishermen can lay his eyes on – and we've been lucky to have plenty of mornings like this in March!

We looked at our watches at about 8.30am – we had been on the water an hour, caught three very nice kingi's as well as releasing another smaller one. That is what I call fishing!



## **Pins go wild!**

We did a few trips to the '6 mile' reefs north of the Aldermen Islands for some speed jigging. We had two absolutely mind blowing sessions, where nearly every drop and wind on the jigs would produce a big hit from a hard fighting fish. The fish out on these reefs would have to be the hardest fighting kingi's we've come across for their size and are still as feisty as it comes when they get to the boat.

The first trip was with Paul Trowell from Rotorua, Paul's first drop netted a nice 7 pound snapper, but the next ended in tears with a kingi on a mission to take him to the cleaners! Paul swapped from his trusty rod over to some of our braid jigging set ups and we started dealing to a some good fish, we got



six good kingi's, most of which we released. One went 18kg and the rest around 14-15kg.

The next trip out to 'the Pins' was at Easter, with Ben 'Pies' Allen and our local butcher (who has smoked fish for a few of you!) Brett Collins keen to get into some kingi action after spending all summer smoking other people's fish! We started off fishing a pin closer to the Aldies that netted a nice kingi and once again a big fish took us to the cleaners, We headed out to the pins out wide and spent two hours of non-stop kingi mayhem.

The bigger the jig, the bigger the fish, with 400gm pink or orange jigs working the best. We would drift past boats who were anchored quietly fishing for small reef fish, with people having confused looks on their faces as all our rods were buckled over on huge fish! We'd carry on drifting for another 15 minutes til the fish got to the boat and motor back – drop – and straight into another fish! At one stage the big kingi's were surfing down waves chasing saurie, with huger schools of fish erupting out of the water trying to get away from the swarms of big kingis (and this is in 100m of water!)

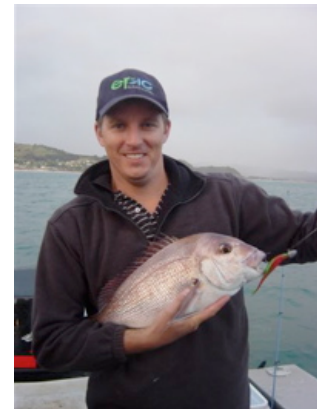
Once again we left the kingi's still biting as the arms got weary, minus a few kilo's of jigs, plus 90kgs of kingfish....

## Going Baitless!

Well, not quite baitless but we should of! We filled up a big chilly bin of bait and burley for the Matarangi Snapper Comp mid April, planning to be out on the water chasing a fish that might net us the \$20,000 first prize for biggest snapper!

The weather put paid to that plan though, with gale force winds the organizers had no choice but to cancel. With the winds offshore we decided to fish anyway and get rid of some bait....

Well that was the plan, a 100m off Kuaotunu boat ramp we spotted a few gannets diving and so over it was with some of the New GULP softbaits fished on our new BERKLEY drop shot rods (thanks to Fishing Coast to Coast who sent them a couple of days prior). The first drop netted a nice snapper to Paul 'Chalky' White of about 5 pound. The other rig got hit by a mackeral which promptly got put out under a balloon as we had spotted kingi's crashing bait on the surface. Like our session with Ron earlier in the month, the livie was in the water for only a minute or two before a



big hole appeared in the water where the balloon had been and Chalky was being pulled over the side by a big kingi!! We drifted out towards the Black Jack reef and played the feisty fish for a good twenty minutes before the gaff went into our consolation prize for the tournament!

We motored back to where all the action was and another livey was deployed with the same result – this time a slightly better fish with my old man – Graham connected to a nice kingi. There was a bit of ribbing between Chalky and Graham as to how long it was taking him to get the fish in but the fish proved a bit bigger and went 16kg.



We motored back to the action again and another livey went over. This time the guys kindly let me take the fish and after spending lots of time watching others catching big fish it was nice to tangle one myself for a change. A few short strokes and all seemed to be under control. Nearly to the boat, this must be a little fella – well we were wrong there! The king took off and 40 minutes later we were still playing it – anyway the result was a 19.2kg kingi – three very nice kingi's once again by 8.30 in the morning.

We spent the afternoon cleaning fish and having a few quiet before a very enjoyable prizegiving at Matarangi that night. This looked to be a very well organized competition and we'll be back fishing it next year – hopefully this time with better weather and targeting some snapper!

#### **Going Baitless cont.....**

Well, that big bag of bait made its way out of the freezer again a few days later and proved a waste of time taking it once again. This time we had Scott and Ruth with us from the Hawkes Bay, celebrating their honeymoon – with a spot of fishing! Couldn't think of a better plan myself!



We raised very few fish with berley and so decided to drift through some birds in

close to the shore. Scott and Ruth started having a ball with some nice snapper and big kahawai nailing the GULP soft baits as they dropped down below the surface!

The next fish peeled off a lot more line and started making runs for the kelp 8m below us! Scott did extremely well to keep the fishes head out of the kelp and rocks and we kept the boat over the top of the fish as we inched him out to deeper water. What we first thought was a kahawai, then a big snapper was now looking like a VERY big kingi – on 15lb line and 20lb trace!!!

To cut a very long story short, close to two hours later we had the kingi to the boat (actually more like he charged at the boat....) and Scott boated a 40lb kingi – a great effort on light gear!!

You can see the big ‘Nuclear Chicken’ which the kingi sucked in here.....along with the happy couple!!



On that note, we might leave you, and save some of our usual recipes and stories from ANZAC day (and ironically breaking our Aussie kingfish curse the same day!) for one of our next newsletters!

I don't think the fishing will slow up too much in the next month or two and hopefully there will be a few big snapper mixed in with the big kingi's in our next update. The weather is getting cooler here but there are some awesome still days and this is the best time of the year for fishing! We have a few spare days in May and June so get in touch if you want to get out on the water!

Until then – hope you are all well and talk soon!!

Cheers from Carl, Belinda,  
Bella and Oscar  
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