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**Contest Rules:**

1. The contest is restricted to human powered or sail assisted kayaks only. Any other form of propulsion or watercraft is prohibited. No ferrying of kayaks by other boats is permitted. All fish submitted for weigh-in are to have been caught on the water from a kayak and transported to shore by kayak.
2. Only rods or hand lines may be used, with only two hooks allowed per rod or hand line per angler. Treble hooks are permitted only on artificial lures.
3. The contest boundaries are from the southern bank of the Marokopa River in the north, to the northern bank of the Patea River in the south. All contest fishing must be carried out within these boundaries only. No fishing is allowed within any Marine Reserve or other officially prohibited areas.
4. The contest registration will commence at 6.00pm and the safety briefing will be at 8.30pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at the Butlers Reef Bar, Oakura. Attendance at the safety briefing is required of all contestants.
5. Entries are limited to 200. No further entries will be accepted after 8.00pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012, or after 200 entries are received, whichever is first.
6. To be eligible for receipt of prizes, anglers must be registered to enter the contest and additionally, be present at the official prize giving to claim any spot-drawn prizes.
7. The official contest fishing period commences at 5.00am Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and finishes at 4.00pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Any fish caught outside these times are not eligible for weigh-in.
8. The contest weigh-in station will be at the Butlers Reef Bar, Oakura.
9. Weigh-in times are 4.00pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March and 4.00pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Anglers who are not present at the weigh-in station by the stated time will not be permitted to weigh their fish. The weigh master will be the sole judge of time.
10. All fish presented for weigh in must be a minimum of 500gm in weight, and additionally for this contest, the minimum length for snapper shall be 30cm. All fish submitted for weighing shall comply with the NZ Amateur Fishing Regulations. No under size fish will be accepted.
11. Any competitor weighing in under size fish will be excluded from that day's competition.
12. Fish deemed not to be in food fresh condition will be rejected from weighing.
13. No contestant may weigh-in more than three fish of the same species per day, and all fish submitted are to have been caught by the contestant.
14. The main contest spot prize will be won by the contestant whose entry form number is drawn at random from all the eligible anglers' entry form numbers during the official prize giving on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012.
15. The Early Bird Spot Prize will be won by the contestant whose entry form number is drawn at random from all the "Early Bird" entry form numbers during the official prize giving on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012. (Note: Only contest entries paid for and received no later than 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012, shall qualify for this prize).
16. The Species Grand Slam prize will be awarded to the angler who weights in the most of the eight individual eligible species. Only the heaviest fish of each species shall qualify, with the total combined weight being the final determining factor.

17. The Heaviest Fish and Runner-up prizes are for the first and second heaviest fish of each species category that are weighed-in during the contest period. The eligible species are: Tuna, Kingfish, Snapper, Kahawai, Trevally, Gurnard, Blue Cod, and John Dory. Only one species per prize per angler will be awarded.
18. Anglers are only eligible to win **one** prize per species, i.e. they cannot win both the heaviest fish prize and runner up prize. For example, if an angler is the only person to weigh in a particular species, they will be awarded the heaviest fish prize, and the runner up prize will be drawn as a spot prize. Similarly, if an angler weighs in the two heaviest fish in a species category they will be awarded the heaviest fish prize, with the runner up prize going to the angler with the next heaviest fish
19. The winner of the Team Trophy prize shall be the team with the highest aggregate of points accrued across all the eligible species weighed-in by the respective team members. A team must be registered in the contest and shall consist of no more than four contestants already individually registered for the main contest.
20. If two fish of the same species are weighed-in at equal weights then the first fish that was submitted for weighing shall be deemed the heaviest. The second fish weighed-in at that weight shall then become the runner-up in that species category.
21. The organisers reserve the right to cancel the fishing on one or both days of the competition.
22. In the event of cancelation all prizes will be drawn all prizes must be won.
23. All matters on which these rules are silent shall be determined at the discretion of the organizing committee.
24. Competitors' details may be used for advertising purposes.
25. The mystery weight fish prize will be determined by a computer generated random weight, with the angler whose fish is closest to the mystery weight the winner.
26. The purchasing of an entry in the Taranaki Kayak Fishing Classic constitutes acceptance of the rules and regulations of the contest and participants agree to abide by the decision of the Organizing Committee. No correspondence will be entered into.

## **Safety Rules**

1. Solo fishing is discouraged. Contestants are advised to buddy up with another angler or group. The organizers will be pleased to assist in arranging partners if required.
2. At least one form of electronic communication (cell phone or VHF radio) is required for each angler or group. The cell phone number or VHF call sign will be recorded on the registration forms of the respective contestants. The VHF radio channels to be utilized for the contest will be advised at the registration briefing.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the contestants to determine that launching and fishing conditions at the locations they choose to fish are safe for their craft and personal abilities.
4. All contestants shall be required to confirm and sign at registration time that they have the following mandatory safety equipment in order to be eligible to fish the contest.

### **Mandatory**

- Approved PFD/Life Jacket (to be worn at all times on the water)
- Communication (cell phone and or/VHF radio – one per fishing group)
- Distress whistle (attached to PFD)
- Tow Line/Anchor Rope
- Hand Bailer Pump (not required for sit- on-top kayaks)
- Paddle Rescue Float (not required for sit-on-top kayaks)
- Sit-In Kayaks must have sealed bulkheads or buoyancy bags bow & stern

### **Optional**

- White Navigation Light or Torch (mandatory if night fishing)
- Flares & Signalling Mirror
- EPIRB Locator Beacon

- Hi-Viz Kayak Safety Flag
- Spare paddle
- First Aid Kit
- Sun Screen
- Sun Hat & Sun Glasses
- Food & Water

*Note: These rules may be revised as deemed necessary by the Organizing Committee. Contestants will be duly notified of any changes.*