



NEW PLYMOUTH SPORTFISHING & UNDERWATER CLUB (INC.)

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Satellite Tag – Deployment Committee Meeting:

MINUTES

Date: 28th January 2020 4pm

Attendees: Paul Atmore (PA), Barry Govier (BG), Rowan Yandle (RY), John Holdsworth (JH), Ian Steele (IS) (Minutes)

Apologies: Nil

<u>Welcome & purpose – Paul</u>	Action
<p>Discussion about how we got to here – discussed for several years, esp. last 3 years. Great to see initiative going ahead.</p> <p>Purpose of the meeting to make objective decisions to ensure success of programme which includes communication with the immediate group and wider fishing community.</p> <p>Foundation of way forward. A recommendation from the recent stock assessment of striped marlin in the SW Pacific was more information from satellite tagged fish was needed. In future MPI and Australians may assist with some funding. The NZ long liners can't sell and don't target marlin and offshore boats already have detailed catch records over many years on where the Marlin congregate – this is not widely known by researchers and recreational fishers.</p> <p>Last assessment showed that S/Marlin is a species in trouble and needs more research. Ideally to close areas of spawning (hot spots) – tagging will help confirm where NZ fish go.</p> <p>NZ is an important summer foraging ground for S/Marlin from a wide area across the SW Pacific, as opposed to Australia where the fish just go up and down the coast</p> <p>Ultimate lady deployed 1 west coast satellite tag off Manukau some years ago, else none off west coast</p> <p>Give out message that this is the start of a successful series of tagging projects, not the first and last</p>	<p>FYI - all</p>

<p>IGFA Great Marlin Race – normally based around contest – the race winner is the one whose fish goes the greatest distance. The best chance of this is if the tag stays on the fish for the full 8 months. The tags cannot transmit to satellites while on the fish but store data and transmit at the end of the period or if they fall off. People need to be kept informed before, during and after.</p>	
<p><u>Tag payment, order status, payment and tag pole delivery date expectations - Ian & John</u></p>	
<p>Tags are here – all 6 – landed from IGFA / Stanford University.</p> <p>NPSUC handling finances.</p> <p>IGFA was paid in full the USD30,000 by NPSUC. NPSUC has issued invoices to all involved in program.</p> <p>IS to confirm with PA by email of those that haven't yet paid (only one outstanding – all others have paid or are about to according to NPSUC financials)</p> <p>Acknowledgement of contributors: delay in tag data (8+ months) – need to communicate in the meantime.</p> <p>Tag breakdown:</p> <p><i>Boat tag</i> Black Watch The Menace</p> <p><i>Communal tags amongst donors</i> NZMRF x 2 NPSUC 1 other</p>	

Sat Tag description, risk elements and application process – JH	
<p>John gave description of sat tags – general notes – see attached</p> <p>Programme named West Coast One Base (normally focused around a comp and agreed that this was most appropriate) – unique to Taranaki.</p> <p>The six tags/fish are to be named also based on the boats that deploy them.</p> <p><u>Tags</u></p> <p>Features: solar panel, depth/pressure sensor, temperature sensor, location is estimated while the tag is on the fish and by satellite when off the fish.</p> <p>A detailed info sheet has been produced.</p> <p>Keys steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removing the magnet tapped to the side of the tag turns the tag on 2. Remove it 1 hr before fishing so the tag can go through its test procedure. 3. Magnet held back on the white dot turns the tag off and it resets after 1 minute. 4. Magnet MUST be off for at LEAST 20 mins before inserting into fish or contacting saltwater 5. ‘DON’T lose the magnet’ – need to keep the magnet – must be kept <p>ACTION: Laminated page step by step process of times and what to do ACTION: Lee to hold and manage sign in and sign out of Tags ACTION: Do a training session(s) – must have attended to get a TAG ACTION: Educational aspect of programme. More information the better. ACTION: Make tag poles</p> <p>Comms plan needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email updates • Tags • Do an initial session – core email group • Slide show – general info to all • Tag process – slides to all • Hands on – core group and rest to watch <p><i>Handling requirements and relevant matters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone responsible for TAG – to sign in and out (one of the donors based on draw) • Discussion around using a snoot • Rubber bands to secure tag as supplied • Alcohol wipe to clean anchor once fitted to pole to disinfect anchor • Std tag pole – will have a stopper – we supply the pole also to control penetration depth • Fight time 40 mins or less • The tag will count as a tagged fish as an NZSFC approved TAG. i.e. for awards and trophies as a tagged fish • Key is getting tag close to fish first – not coming from a long way out. • Spade / anchor is flat down to help the angle of tag 	<p>IS / PA / JH PA / LD ALL ALL RY</p>

- Looking to get through membrane beneath the high point of dorsal fin – if big fish go higher on fish
- Key is location is the muscle at the base of dorsal – and through centreline of fish
- Don't waste a tag. If placement of tag is bad – recover the tag i.e. kill the fish, unless it's so bad that you can pull it out
- Photos – very important – fish, the tag, the overall fish etc as tag placement if fish tagged / caught again without satellite tag may allow confirmation of which fish based on location of tag in body
- Hooks removed if possible
- Agree on weight and length of fish estimate
- Conventional tag not needed
- Deck hand must assess that fish is active – fish must be trying to swim. Revival if not lively. If lively then let it go
- Recording time of release, condition of fish
- Complete IGMR form
- Info to club and then Lee then sent to IGFA

<p><u>Establishment of deployment protocol - training of committee members as instructors and protocol documentation - John</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw done within training session – draw all donors whether there or not in order • Each \$500 gets an entry to draw over the 4 tags (excl 2 boat tags) • Once the draw is complete and assuming the training by the skipper has been completed, your tag will be allocated to your boat. It is proposed that you have 3 fishing days to deploy your tag. This is to allow for bad weather. You will also be allocated a period of time, to be confirmed at donor/training meeting, of 1 or 2 weeks, to achieve your 3 fishing days. • If you do not successfully deploy the tag in that time, it will be signed back to Lee Drummond who will allocate to the next skipper on the draw. • Can transfer a fish from another paid and trained boat – see photo for transfer method • Black Watch and The Menace can put their tag ‘back in the rack’ if cant fish and it will become the last tag in the queue i.e. least likely to be deployed • A discussion was held on considering boundaries but agreed it too complicated and unlikely to be too far away • Crew of the boats should also come along to training session – skippers to invite • A crew of 3 or 4 people is best 4 roles (Skipper, angler, deckie and recorder). Need get approval for a trip with any less. • Need to have meeting week commencing 3rd Feb or week after but no later 	
<p><u>Options for the allocation of tags for deployment - considerations - individual boat allocation, chase boats & draw option - Paul & All</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John described that: • Timing – don’t want 6 tags out when no fish there – unless fish there, then tags only go out when conditions are suitable. Don’t want magnets coming on and off tags without much chance of catching a fish. • Better weather is much better – don’t want to be trying to do this in poor weather • Co-operation – help people locate fish • Training and current knowledge - essential for tagging boats – suggest once allocated to a boat then they get to fish for 3 days • Co-ordination meeting – debrief meeting following near miss or successful tag deployment 	
<p><u>Tag application window timing issues - target start dates and closure dates - will the marlin cooperate - contingencies - John & All</u></p>	
<p>As above – not specifically discussed, other than ideally all deployed this season, though batteries would last till next season and storage in fridge through winter if not deployed.</p>	

Meeting closed: 6.29 pm Next meeting TBC	