



THURSDAY 19TH - SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026



SURTEES
BUILT TO FISH



21ST ANNUAL FISHING COMPETITION

FISHING DAYS

Friday 20th & Saturday 21st March 2026

HIGH TIDES

Friday 8.23 am
Saturday 9.09am

START TIME

6.00am Friday 20th February 2026. All fish submitted in this competition must have been caught from a Surtees boat.

VENUE

Whakatane Sportfishing Club located on Muriwai Drive
Whakatane

REGISTRATION & ENTRY FEE

This year we will have a maximum of 300 anglers.
Early entries registered and paid before the 15/11/2025 go into an early bird prize draw. Entries close on the 15/02/2026 or when 300 anglers are reached. Entry fee is \$100 per person and includes a buffet dinner at the Club on Saturday night, a T-Shirt and each crew gets a Goodie Bag.

All entries are to be completed and fully paid for online via the Surtees website - no exemptions.

www.surteesboats.com

NO Registrations on the night!

You will receive email confirmation of your entry from Jotform - check your junk email if you don't.

VHF COMMUNICATION

Coastguard Channel

Whakatane	18
Boat to Boat	60
Emergency	16

BRIEFING

Will be held in the Whakatane Sportfishing Club at 7pm on Thursday, March the 19th 2026. Surtees T-Shirts from Entry Pack must be worn by competitors to be eligible for spot prizes.

All Skippers or a nominated crew member MUST attend the briefing.

PRIZE GIVING

Prize giving will be held at Whakatane Sportfishing Club at 6.30pm on Saturday, 21st March 2026

Surtees T shirts (from entry pack) must be worn by competitors to be eligible for spot prizes.

Your attendance is required to be eligible for a prize.

Dinner will be served from 5.00pm on Saturday night.

For prize draws on briefing night, your prize can be collected by the skipper of the boat you're fishing from.

SPECIES

Length - all fish are now measure, photo & release

- Snapper
- Trevally
- Kahawai
- Kingfish

Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the listed species.

We will also have a Snapper mystery length over 40cm.

MINIMUM SIZES

Snapper: 35cm

Kingfish: 75cm

Trevally: 25cm

Kahawai: No size limit applies



TOURNAMENT FISHING RULES

SAFETY RULES

1. All skippers or a nominated crew member must attend the briefing. The principal briefing for the Surtees Twenty First Annual Fishing Competition will be held on Thursday 19th March 2026, at 7:00pm in the Whakatane Sportfishing Club. Attendance to this briefing is compulsory and no team can compete in this competition unless the skipper or nominated team member has attended the briefing.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the skipper or a nominated crew member to advise his/her other team members of the information given at the briefing.
3. In the interest of safety the competition committee reserves the right to alter all times for the duration of the competition depending on the weather or sea conditions.
4. In the event of an emergency on the water, participants are to notify the Whakatane Coastguard on VHF channel 16.
5. All boats must carry correct size life jackets for all passengers.

All participants agree and accept -

- To enter this competition at their own risk.
- That boating and fishing involves a risk.
- Not to hold competition organisers, officials, sponsors or any other person involved with the competition liable for any loss or injury to person or equipment incurred during the competition.
- Notwithstanding any representations made, it shall be the responsibility of all participants to ensure that the provisions of all statutes, ordinances, regulations and by-laws related (but not limited) to boating and fishing are complied with.
- All participants agree to have read and understood the competition rules.

MARINE RESERVES

It is the responsibility of the skipper to familiarise themselves with any and all Marine Reserves in the area.

Te Paepae o Aotea (Volkner Rocks) Marine Reserve is a protected marine area located approximately 55 km northeast of Whakatane and 5 km northwest of Whakaari (White Island). The reserve spans 1,267 hectares and encompasses three volcanic rock pinnacles that rise to 113 meters above sea level. All forms of fishing, including netting, hand gathering, and the taking or killing of marine life, are prohibited. Additionally, disturbing or damaging marine life or the seabed, removing natural materials, and feeding fish are all banned activities.

SKIPPER RESPONSIBILITY

- I have the necessary skill, knowledge and qualifications to safeguard all on board.
- My Surtees and all equipment are properly maintained.
- My Surtees carries all the necessary safety equipment.
- We have a minimum of two means of communication; i.e. VHF marine radio, cell phone, flares.
- Each passenger has a correctly fitting buoyancy aid.
- My passengers are briefed on the location and use of all safety equipment.
- My vessel is loaded within its limit and all equipment is securely stowed.

HELPFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

We have accumulated a selection of local information that can be accessed via the Surtees Fishing Comp tab in the DAIWA APP or SURTEES BOATS WEBSITE

You will be able to find restaurants, bars, accommodation, boat storage and bait and tackle shop information to help you plan your trip to Whakatane.

RAMP INFORMATION

Whakatane does not currently charge for the use of any of their boat ramps.

There is a boat wash station located at the Whakatane boat ramp.

BAIT & TACKLE

Iceman – Commercial Wharf, 2/2 The Strand Whakatane - Phone 07 307 0218

BOAT STORAGE

PeeJay Storage, 65 Keepa Road, Coastlands (5km drive to the Fishing Club)
Contact Isaac Tait on 021436543

WHAKATANE HOLIDAY PARK

The Whakatane Holiday Park has generously offered anglers 20% off accommodation for the duration of the fishing comp. Use code #SURTEES26 at checkout





Measuring your catch

A clear digital photograph of the fish, correctly placed on the measure from your entry bag, is critical for your fish to be entered. It is your responsibility to ensure you provide an image that we can use to validate your entry.

Place your fish on an official measure as shown above, sit your angler number on the fish and take one or more digital photographs that clearly show the whole fish, placed side-on, on the measure with either the upper or lower jaw touching the edge of the L shaped plastic end of the measure.

Ensure the V of the tail is clearly visible and as close to the middle of the cm increments on the upper part of the measure as possible. Take the photo from directly above the fish looking down on it rather than from the front or side.

Please note that the Infotish administration team reserve the right to disqualify any catch at their sole and absolute discretion for any reason whatsoever including but not limited to suspected measure tampering and false submissions.

How is length determined

The fish will be measured from the innermost point of the V as shown above: Measuring mats will be in 0.5cm increments.

CHECKLIST

1. Make sure the photo is of sufficient quality and suitable to enable the length to be verified.
2. The photo submitted must be in landscape format.
3. Take several photos just in case. Shadows can cause problems if the fish is placed on part sun/part shadow.
4. The tip of either the upper or lower jaw must touch the edge of the L shaped plastic end of the measure. It is permissible to place a hand on or have someone hold the fish on the measure to settle it while a photo is taken, provided this does not obscure the fish or the angler number significantly or prevent us from being able to validate your catch.
5. The V of the tail should be as close to the middle of the cm increments on the upper part of the measure as possible. The measure should be placed on a flat surface.
6. The jaw of the fish must not be distorted in an attempt to exaggerate the length.
7. Fish must be measured fresh and must not be significantly cut in a manner that alters the length. If you are going to keep your catch we strongly recommend you DO NOT gut or gill your catch before taking the photo as it will render the fish ineligible for the competition. Photos with the fish clean of any blood are preferred and images with excessive blood may be declined.





Submitting your catch

SUBMITTING YOUR CATCH

You will need to download the Daiwa NZ App prior to the fishing competition. Our competition will be available to check out a week prior to the comp.

DURING THE COMPETITION

Log In to the Daiwa NZ App and select your group - Surtees Fishing Comp - Enter. Click Record Catch - Choose the category you would like to fish in and press Enter.

Log your catch.

Once your catch has been approved by the Infofish administration team you will see the message 'Accepted Image Received' in the Event Info tab. More information will be available in your entry bag.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE DATA ON YOUR PHONE TO UPLOAD YOUR CATCH, wireless internet is available at the Whakatane Sportfishing Club.

All catches must be uploaded by:

Saturday 21st March 3:00pm

Please be patient and respect the officials during this time.

COASTGUARD

We are proud partners of Coastguard New Zealand and will support them again this year with all proceeds made from the competition.

The Coastguard volunteer rescue crews provide the primary maritime search and rescue service in New Zealand and make sure you are safe out on the water.

Last year they brought over 6,000 people home safely after an emergency on the water - and we are happy to support them to make sure they can keep doing what they are doing to look after us.

Visit www.coastguard.nz for more information or to sign up to one of their courses to expand your knowledge.

