

THE AXE

Winter 09'

AXEMEN
SPEARFISHING



PUTTING THE CRAP BACK IN ELITE
www.axemenspearfishing.co.nz



Kingie Crockett with a June mocher

Porae's Corner

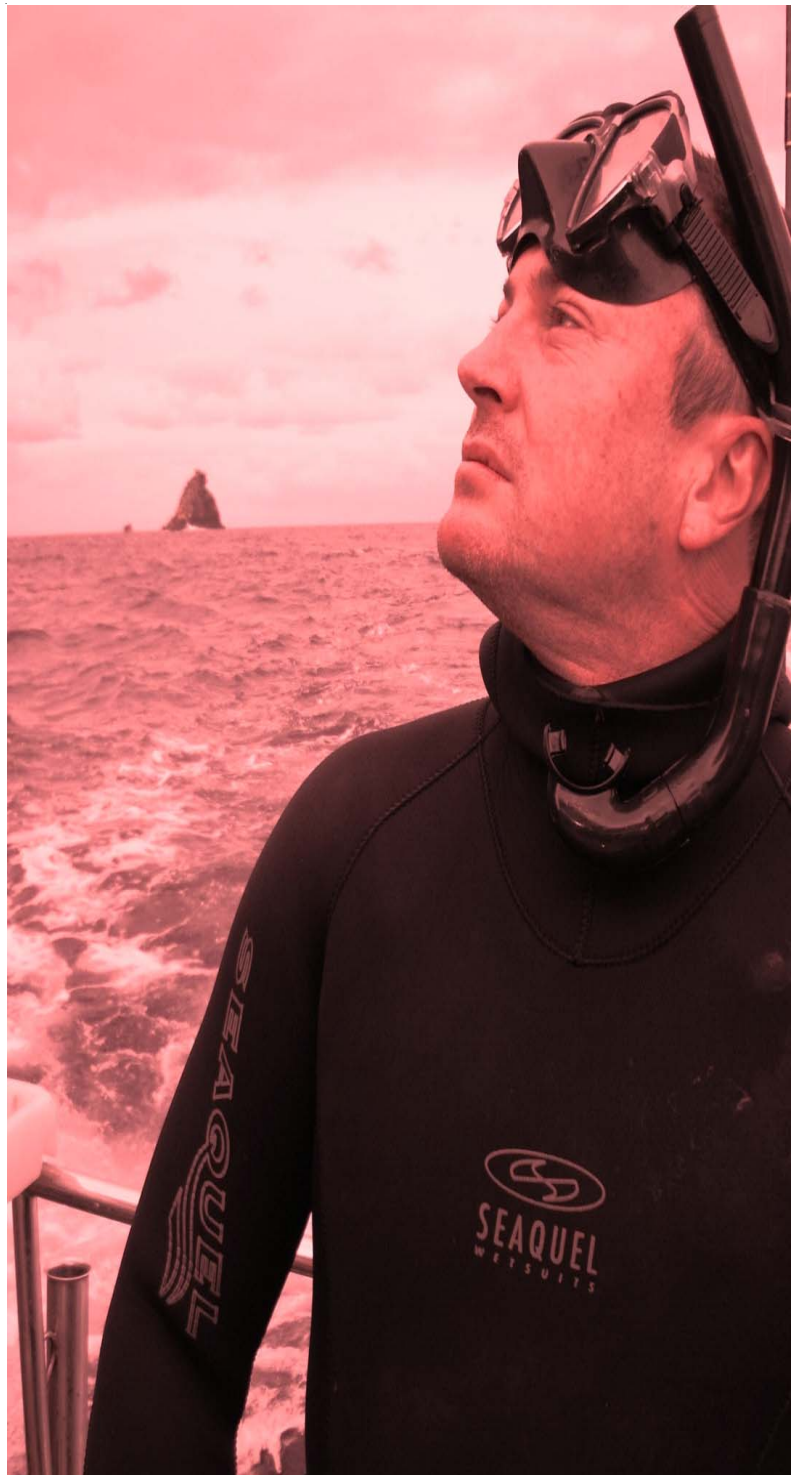
The Captain Speaks...

It's my pleasure to welcome you to The Axe. Right from the start we have had a clear vision – to “put the crap back in elite”. As part of driving this vision to fruition I put together a solid project team to deliver what we promise will be sporadic, long-winded, full of misinformation but absolutely deliver on our on-going commitment to not taking ourselves seriously and having a laugh along the way

There's also been some awesome trips and the crew have landed a nice range of fish. We hope you'll learn a thing or two by reading the articles. We're going to need your support Axe brothers and sisters as we take on the Mighty Bluefins in a comp in March 2010.

Disturbing has been the growth in the club – something we had not planned for, and even more perplexing – the emergence of the polespear “old school” crew... So, I hope you enjoy the first “The Axe”. May we produce more than over...

Porae – Club Captain





AXEMEN V BLUEFINS

03.2010

Rise Of The Phantom Menace

Club Rookie Report

Axemen 2009 – The rise of the Phantom Menace (or, my first 6 months as a rookie): After visiting the fishing.net.nz spearo section a few times I noticed an “Axemen meeting” note and thought I might as well go along. After all, the meeting was a short walk away from work and I like things that are easy to get to (i.e. I am lazy) – that and the great style and finesse displayed by the posts on the club website was intriguing ...

As a rookie spearo I was looking for other spearos to hang out with and learn a few things along the way – which I have definitely got. My first Axemen trip was in response to Kingi sending out an email invite in early January that went something like “Going to Little Barrier this Thursday afternoon – who wants to come?”. (If you want to read about this afternoon escapade see Kingi's write-up in the last issue of NZ Spearo).

I picked up a few tips on both diving weedlines and snooping that day – and also experienced the “wind against tide and nasty swell” trip back from Lil B ... This was followed a few weeks later by a couple of days around the Cavallis with Kingi and Snoop.

*Phantom Menace takes
on Porae at the Cavallis*



Again I learnt a lot – including shooting my first snapper snooping properly and learning that no matter how hard you swim down a 20m float-line won't stretch (and floats are called floats for a reason) The latest was last weeks trip to Great Barrier with Geoff – but that's a trip best discussed over a few beers ...

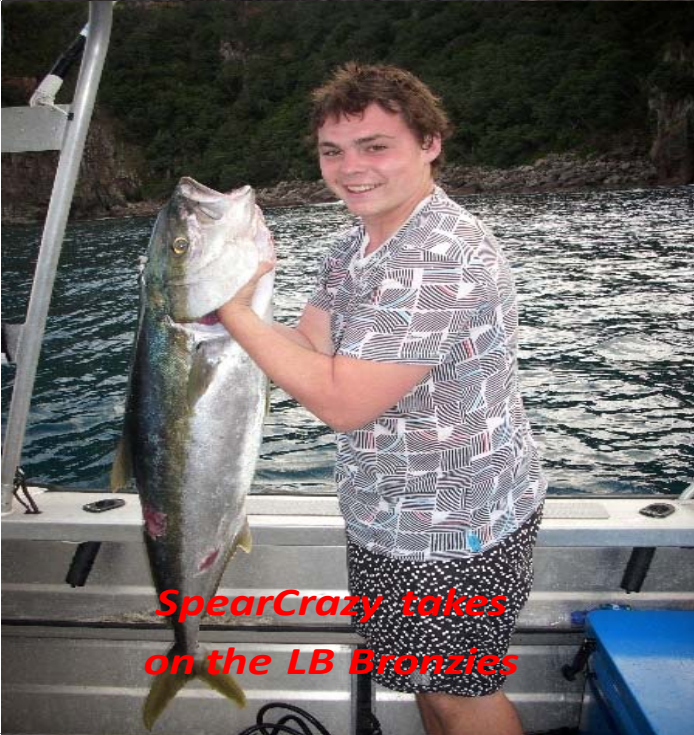
More seriously – I have got good stuff from the club and, I hope, put a bit back by posting the odd story etc. and getting involved. I have a long way to go before I would classify myself as an experienced spearo but I have had a lot of fun and even learnt a thing or two through coming to a few meetings and getting involved. PS – see me if you want to have a crack at Underwater Rugby



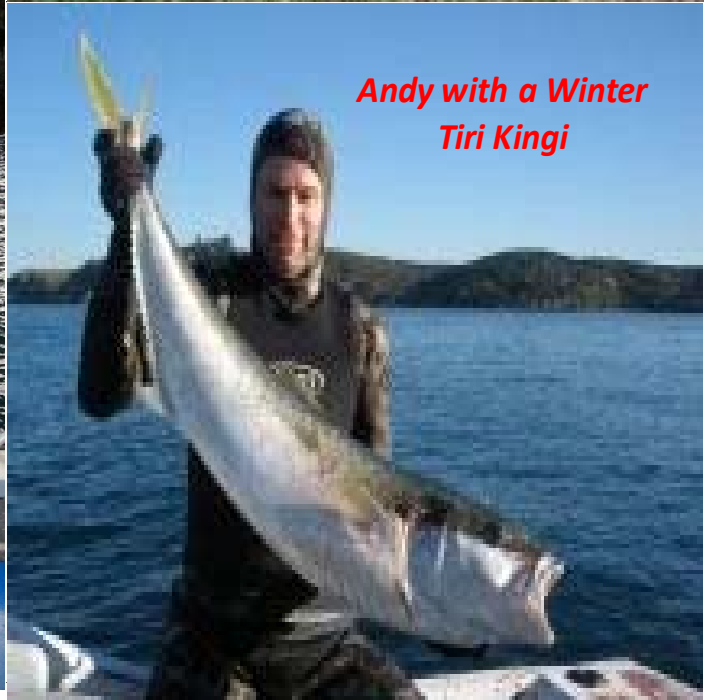
*Mermaid with a
NZ Record Trevally*



*The Matangi Butcher
Kill'em' all*



*SpearCrazy takes
on the LB Bronzies*



*Andy with a Winter
Tiri Kingi*



*Chairman Mao and
Kingie Crockett
show of a couple of
nice weedline fish*



*Snoop with a 4.6kg
Great Barrier Boarie*

Stalking The Monster

Dive Story Of The Month

“On a cold and clear Sunday morning in late June Snoop, Des the Chef and I headed out to Waiheke on Awarua for a morning diving in Navy Seal’s Waiheke backyard. Suiting up in the dark at the Belmont ramp wasn’t much fun but by the time we picked up Navy from Oneroa beach the sun was out and it was looking good. We headed to the NE end of the island and quickly slid into the 11.5 degree water, with Des dropping us off at 500m intervals along the coast. It was great snooping country though the boaties were backed up right close to shore and were getting shirty with us – I had a couple of them give me a hard time when I needed to get past them.

“I was over in a flash trying to shove the spear through”

As luck would have it this worked to my advantage as about 50m past them I came around a deep gut with walls coming up out of water and out of the shadow a big moocher appears about 2 foot beneath the surface. I think I was still in the shadow with sun behind me so I don’t think he could see me very well. That said he pulled up and could sense something was up – he was a crusty old thing and he didn’t get that way by being careless.

He was at extreme range but I knew I couldn’t get any closer as he was looking right at me – I took the shot and had the great pleasure of seeing him simply roll over on his side and start sinking with the spear sticking into him.



A stone shot - just when I needed it. I was over there in a flash trying to shove the spear through before he came back to life. It was jammed right in the bone so I couldn’t shove it through – I was lucky as the flopper was not even into the fish and so not to temp fate I wrapped him up with my legs and iki-ed him pronto

He was a canny old humpy head fish that went 21 pounds but I guess his luck finally ran out. Not a bad start to the day for me though! It was tempting to hold him up out of the water accompanied with a one finger salute to the fishos but I stuck to the motto of “discretion is the better part of valour” on this occasion

I must be getting old. Continuing down the coast it was hard to focus with a big fish already on the float however I saw multiple 10-15 pounders, one of which I almost managed to get a clear shot at in a shallow gut. I also saw a big school of about 20 fish in the 5-15 pound range who hung around for quite a while but would never let me get close enough for a shot. I made a half hearted (as always) effort at burleying them in but all I got for my troubles was a kina spine through my fingernail (which is still there I might add – the marine life’s revenge!)

It was probably the best snapper dive I have ever had over about 300m magic metres of coast. I will definitely be heading out for some more winter half day trip with Navy – I can tell you I’m jealous of him living with that country on his door step!”



“Kingie” Crockett is a free-lance writer, philosopher and big game hunter. In his spare time he sells phone cabling. His three great passions in diving are “danger”, “bities” and “XO big ass fish”. A talented diver, Matt has won the augural Axemen Club Competition in 06’ and has landed an Axemen trophy each season for the last three years running. Being an Okker he is not to be trusted

AXEMEN

SPEARFISHING



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Congratulations to
Porae our Club
Captain on turning 40

PORAE



club captain

He now qualifies for
the Axemen Seniors
circuit



Anyone Seen Ghost?

Last seen boarding a plane for Hong Kong to check on the print of his latest edition of NZ Spearo magazine Jon aka "Ghost" has lived up to his nick name since joining the club a couple of years back. As a professional graphic artist and designer Ghost saw an opportunity for a high quality spearfishing magazine. A passionate spearo Jon decided in 08' to launch NZ Spearo magazine – leaving full time employment to establish the magazine. The first and second issues have been a class above with amazing photos, stories and presentation. So fellow Axemen let's do our part to support him.

How can we do this? First, buy a full subscription to the magazine – it is well worth it and gets you through those "dive-less" weekends. Second, invest in a good quality digital camera so you can take high quality photos of the fish you catch. Take some time to take photos of the surroundings and your mates in action too. If you are super keen invest in a high quality camera housing – this will set your articles a cut above. One of his key frustrations is getting great articles in on time for proofing and even worse, receiving really poor quality photos that he can't use.



So, in this digital age we live in, take the time to take some great photos. With the winter magazine going to print as this is typed I can't wait for the next issue. The lastthe thing you can do to support Ghost is kick him in the butt to go diving again. We are over hearing "the magazine is going to print in a week so I'm snowed"... every time an invitation to go diving is extended. Good on you Ghost. The Axemen are with you



NEW ZEALAND

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The French Connection

International Correspondent

We met Jean-Paul Suzanne and his wife at a coastal spot of Coromandel. They were holidaying with their son around the east coast of the North Island. Email from Jean-Baptiste Suzanne aka "The French Connection"

"If you plan to come to France go to Paris (where I live, in Monmarte, it's the most incredible city to Corse (a beautiful island in the south, where I know the best French spearo of the 90s, and maybe of the world, he taught everything to J.B. Esclapez).

His name is Jean Denis Caumer. And to Brittany, Corse is good for "Pagre" and "Seriole", maybe "Barracuda", but not for sea bass or lobster; for them you have to come to Brittany, where I have a lovely house on the beach. In Paris there is nothing but poisonous fish, in the Seine

Don't go to the South Coast, it's ugly these days. I will tell you more when you come"

Jean-Baptiste also mentioned that when targeting lobster, particularly the big ones, that it paid to have a speargun handy. He mentioned that hunting the bass on the Atlantic side was a highlight of spearfishing.



Jean-Baptiste Suzanne aka "The French Connection" - Opito Bay operation

He said the Mediterranean side has been effectively fished out to 40 metres, and only a handful of guys can actually spear fish comfortably at that depth. It is no wonder that both he and his wife found New Zealand to be a magical place. He managed to shoot a nice snapper (as pictured above) while working a cray hole and also land a kingi after we spoke with him from a shore dive.

They found the kahawai more to their liking than the snapper which they thought was "for the fish of New Zealand" very tough. He also struggled as he had brought his 9mm wetsuit top from France and struggled with overheating.



The Reaper – Death to all Kingies



*Deng-Deng with a Club Record
3.7kg JD*



*Snoop with a
Coromandel special*



*Junior Tomahawk
Michael "Mussels"
assaults North Island's
Everest*



*Navy Seal steals a Chicks
beauty*



*Tim "Trout" supports Doc
Taupo deer culling
project*

The Islander

Navy Seal's Report

The northern shores of Waiheke have been very productive of late with lots of snapper in the shallows, including some small school's in the 1 - 7kg range. The snapper schools will circle reasonably close and don't seem to scare to badly. In this regard, you might consider taking a 1.3 - 1.4 metre gun, as a spare, just in case you encounter these schools. This will allow you to take some longer shots as they circle

Viz has been good but we will need at least three days of fine weather with winds from the S-SW to counter the recent rain. Some good crays are present along with large trevs (off Kauri Point). Also, don't be shocked to see the odd kingfish around these north eastern points especially if you get buzzed by schools of kahawai.



Navy Seal is a heavily/heavy into/on property development/developers and the reputed "wild man" of Auckland's East coast islands. If he isn't shooting pheasants, blowing away ducks or changing nappies ... he's out diving and fishing. A fifth generation proud "Islander" he ventures across the Hauraki Straits from time to time for a mega Axemen trip... with the "Mainlanders"

Polespear Of fear

'Going Old School'

Some times you just plain get talked into things. For the team at The Axe the mere thought of using a polespear was beyond comprehension. The consensus, it is hard enough to shoot decent fish with a speargun let alone disadvantage oneself even further by using an “old school” polespear.

Reid aka “The Snapper Whisperer” gave up using a conventional speargun a few years ago when he, like most of us would crave to be, had too much big snapper in the freezer to eat.. And found that the “thrill” of the hunt wasn’t there. He needed a challenge and the polespear provided it.

We watched his progress as he excitedly posted his first major catch, I think possibly a butterfish. But as time progressed he started to land the standard fodder, butterfish, kahawai and then... he nabbed a wee snapper. Not bad going. Still clearly mad, but not bad going. Then he started to land the type of snapper or kingi that you wouldn’t be ashamed off... but landing a 10kg snapper and 23kg kingi, awesome stuff



So why give polespearing a try? James aka “The Deer Hunter” started to get in my ear. He talked about the thrill of the hunt restored. The need to get closer to fish. The need to be patient. Very patient. To use the available cover be it boulders, weed, cracks or ledges to conceal your approach. Not to mention the improved breath holds required to “wait out” big fish that were out of polespear range

But, even better, you will become a better diver. Why? Well, it depends on how you look at things, but the disadvantages actually become incredible future advantages. You have to dive smarter and get closer – up to a metre from fish to pull off a good kill. Polespearing by its very own nature encourages the diver to get in position, be patient and look for the best shot possible.



So for the competitive diver, there appeared a clear benefit of a winter season spent polespearing in preparation for dive comp season in summer.

At the most recent club night Reid and James showed off an arsenal of different types of polespears available. These ranged from one to two piece polespears from 6 foot to 10 foot in length. The one piece is ideal as it is quicker through the water. A two piece has the advantage of practicality, easily stored and transported.

Construction included various combinations of fibreglass, steel and aluminium. There were different spear tips from pragger heads (for baitfish and smaller reef fish) to drop tips (for large snapper or pelagics such as kingfish). Both guys were passionate about polespearing really reinvigorating their dive experience and each have landed some large fish.

It appears you need a different type of polespear depending on the application as for smaller reef fish like butterfish. A spear of 6 to 7 foot would be plenty and allow room for movement.

To target bigger fish such as snapper then some modification would be required with a larger polespear with enough weight behind it to hit and hit hard. A slip tip certainly appeals as this was what Reid had used to nail the large 7kg snapper (pictured previous page) sitting in a weedy gut. The heavy polespear and slip tip made short work of the snapper with a solid head shot. It seems the heavier the polespear the harder the



hit and the more likely a quick kill – ideal when targeting big snapper. The downside of course is that you have to get close - very, very close

Perhaps even better when targeting big snapper on the snoop, the polespear in theory provided a more useful “close quarters” tool. The ability to peer over ledges or guts and tuck the spear well under the chin and out from view, or manoeuvre the spear from above at greater angles than could be achieved with a speargun appeals

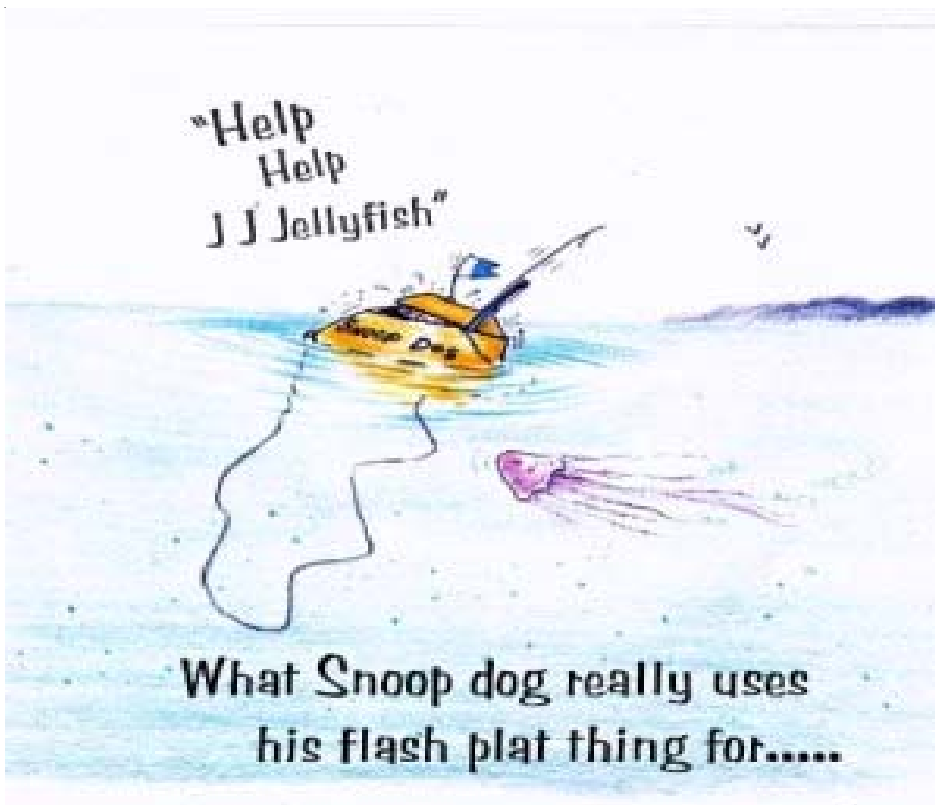
Kingie Crockett on holiday earlier this year in Bermuda where fish may only be taken on polespear remarked "the boys on board handed me a polespear and mentioned the fish I might spear, but they didn't sound that confident". He emerged from the dive after nailing a "large dark object" at the edge of the reef that turned out to be a grouper and at 22kg just off the world record.

"I had to get so close to nail the fish who put up an almighty fight".

Nicely done Matt.



**Bermuda Polespear glory
22kg Of Black Grouper**



Graeme "Cartoons" Leitch at the bequest of a member of the Axemen club whom shall remain nameless (Porae) on Snoop's bright yellow dive plat that has become all the dive rage...

Cartoons is based out of Tauranga and is a talented cartoonist and his art work is for sale at both Ocean Hunter and Wild Blue.

“The Hapa”

New Product Release

Ocean Hunters new Hapa (meaning half and half) polespear was designed by Mike Smith and manufactured by the staff at Ocean Hunter. By keeping the design simple and affordable it is a another challenge that all freediver’s can take on while also fine tuning their Hunting skills.

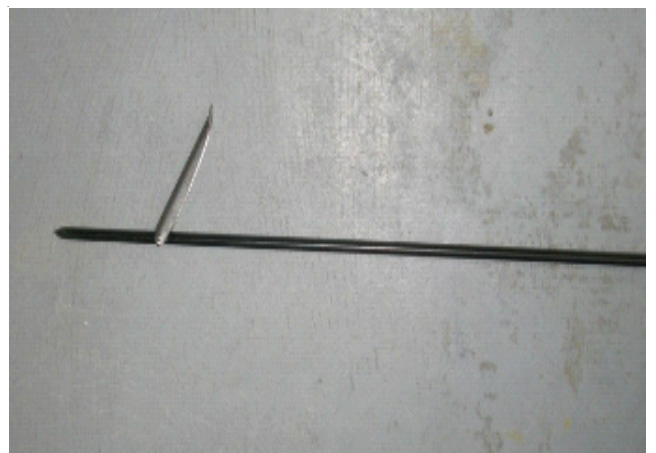


There are a lot of other polespears on the market that are either too bulky/too light/too heavy/too expensive or poorly manufactured but the Ocean Hunter “Hapa” has been designed with a low profile shape for speed but with sufficient weight to still penetrate fish. It also comes with a super grip to make it easier to hold when loaded.

We have made the “Hapa” available in one and two pieces with spring steel shaft and 400 grade stainless fittings and can be custom ordered with an Ocean Hunter pro point slip tip (custom order only).



If anyone is thinking about getting into polespearing or has any questions call or email us or come in and have a better look at Ocean Hunters new “hapa” polespears in store now



OCEANHUNTER
New Zealand's Spearfishing and Freediving Specialists

Slow On The Uptake

Snoop Comes To "Grips" With Polespearing

A two piece "Hapa" purchased and ready for action, neatly packed in the back boot of my car I hit the gas. Reaching the most speared spot in all of New Zealand, I entered the water, some would say "confident" perhaps even a little "smug" as I thought about how impressive the large fish were going to be that I would surely land on my first attempt. About 4 hours later I stood up back at the wharf exhausted after my round trip from the weedline, dive plat empty

I had seen a stack of good fish from schooling koheru and nice trevally, to butterfish in the shallows and snapper of burley over my favourite boulder. What had gone wrong? Well, clearly the strategy of swimming directly at fish hadn't worked nor my tactical use of the Hapa which I couldn't seem to manage to shoot properly. The result, I think I hurt the feelings of a poor butterfish when it fled my pathetic effort at spearing it.

Undeterred my two-piece stowed in my kayak I pulled up into a minty spot off the Coromandel coast. In the very shallows I soon learnt that it was my floatline that was tugging against the spear that stopped all momentum. Simple solution, hold the rubber and a length of floatline and hey presto, I gave the polespear some "slack". Ah, this is how you do it. The beauty of a polespear is that you can adjust your grip and therefore the power of the rubber.



This allowed me to adjust the shots depending on the proximity of the fish amongst the rocky shallow terrain. Using the weed covered boulders to conceal my presence and hold myself in position – polespear poised

This was like the World Championships of Butterfish spearing – the stakes were high. Holding my position the butters popped out of the weed and ghosted along within range of my outstretched spear. I learned to hold the spear under my body so as not to spook the fish and in a smooth motion extend then fire. I then nailed my first victim. I also found I could easily change the angle on the spear to move in closer to the target and I have to say made some massive improvements in my stealth, approach toward fish and breathhold, landing four fat butters.

I chose the two piece design as it can be unthreaded and stowed inside my yak. Polespearing encourages taking fish for the table – easily as it turns out. I've found my gun either too clumsy or powerful on the smaller fish and at times I just couldn't be bothered shooting smaller fish. Now I have a challenge by using the polespear. The next step will be targeting small snapper and perhaps some docile John Dory or Giant Boarfish on a weedline.

09' Club Comp

Update

The 2009 Axemen Club Competition has been epic. Commencing the 1st of January – the 31st of December is action day for those wanting to catch up on valuable end of year points. Our comp is designed to encourage spearos to get out diving and also develop broader skills and to be successful.

In order to complete the Open Grade fish list you must be able to not only work the shallows for snapper and other reef fish – dive weedlines for John Dory, Giant Boarfish, Terakihi – dive deep boulders and pins for Pink Mao Mao and Golden snapper - then move to open water to target pelagics like kingfish. Here's a guide as to how the competition works

Rookie Grade

All Axemen start out as Rookies in Rookie grade. Here you can target easier fish such as butterfish, blue moki and porae for example, and collect up to two of each species per dive day for points (excluding Kingfish where the club limit is one). You can pick up Open Grade fish which can be a bit trickier to target. Once you have 30 points you graduate from Rookie to Open grade. Any points you got in Rookie grade on Open grade fish transfer with you. For example, if you shoot a 2kg snapper, the points transfer with you!



Open Grade

In open grade the fish list is restricted to a much more difficult range of fish which requires a much wider skill set to obtain. The difference in Open grade is that the diver may only weigh in their heaviest fish of each species each dive year. So, if you hit a 9kg snapper, well done, but your've maxed out your points on snapper – so you would want to target other fish where you have no points. But, as an added bonus, at year end the heaviest fish recorded in each species attracts an additional bonus point which trust me does make a huge difference



09' Club Comp

Update

So How Do I Register My Catch?

Go to www.axemenspearfishing.co.nz
Select "Evidence" and under the Points Table is an "Email The Points Master" option. Double click this option and it will open up an email in Outlook so you can email the type of fish and weight. The Points Master (whom is voted in each year) will then register your points on the club

The Year Of The Horse

Perhaps we should call this "The Year Of The Horse" with some serious fish landed and club records shattered. Reid aka The Snapper Whisperer polespeared a nice 6kg Giant Boarfish early on in the year to break the previous record, only for Kina to smash it with a 7kg booter. Kina went on to destroy the Snapper record with a 10.8kg monster and shoot the club's first official Golden Snapper at 2.3kg.

The Bounty Hunter has been circling the trophy cabinet in his usual menacing manner landing a big 10.5kg snapper off Taupiri and then destroying the club kingi record with a 36.5kg monster. Up until that point, or should I say five minutes earlier Kingie Crockett had managed a new club record of 32kg only to watch Bounty drag in



Kingie Crockett accelerated heavily at the start of January with large snapper, boarfish, trevally and the club's first game fish an impressive black grouper (on polespear). This saw him rock to 30 plus points, but at the mid-point in the dive year – there are at least three other divers in striking distance of the renegade Aussie. Could this be the year of Kina – the commercial spearo?

Want An Update On The Comp?

Go to www.axemenspearfishing.co.nz
Select "Catch Bag" to view the Leader's Board



Open – fish list

OPEN GRADE COMPETITION		Enter	Total
FISH LIST	Points	Catch	Points
Giant Boarfish	2		0
Giant Boarfish 2kg+	3		0
Giant Boarfish 5kg+	5		0
Gamefish*	5		0
Gamefish* > 20kg	7	1	7
Golden Snapper	6	1	6
John Dory	1	1	1
John Dory >1<2kg	2		0
John Dory > 2kg	3		0
Kingfish	1		0
Kingfish 10kg+	2		0
Kingfish 18kg+	3		0
Kingfish 20kg+	4		0
Kingfish 23kg+	5	1	5
Kingfish 26kg+	6		0
Kingfish 29kg+	7		0
Pink Mao Mao	2		0
Skipjack Tuna	3		0
Bonito Tuna	3		0
Snapper	1		0
Snapper 2kg+	2		0
Snapper 3kg+	3		0
Snapper 4kg	4		0
Snapper 6kg+	5		0
Snapper 7.5kg+	6		0
Snapper 9kg+	7	1	7
Trevally	1		0
Trevally 2kg+	2		0
Trevally 3.5kg+	3		0
Trevally 4.5kg+	4		0
Trevally 7kg+	6		0
Terakihi	3		0
Crayfish <1kg	1		0
Crayfish >1<2kg	2		0
Crayfish >2kg+	3		0

Rookie – fish list

ROOKIE GRADE		Enter	Total
FISH LIST	Points	Catch	Points
Blue Cod	1		0
Blue Moki	1		0
Trumpeter	1		0
Blue Mao Mao	1		0
Butterfish	1		0
Kahawai	1		0
Porae	1		0
Trumpeter	1		0

Axe Broken By The Barrier

Great Barrier Dive Trip Report

You know those spearing stories you read, where it turns out to be a perfectly flat day, and as soon as you dive into the water there are just schools of gigantic fish just desperate to be impaled by you spear.

This is not one of those stories.

Late June five intrepid Axemen, set out to Great Barrier Island, on a very strange spearing adventure. Porae, The Reaper, Terakhi Terror, The Phantom Menace, and The Tax Collector made up the team.

5pm on a Sunday night at Princess Warf, Auckland, there she was, the Lara Star and 80 foot Barge that has seen many adventures throughout the Pacific. We piled aboard, Axemen, members of the Bluefins Club, the Band, the Outdoors with Geoff team, and some other guys (I never really worked out who they were).

Towing Geoff 6m tinny, we were off, powering in flat conditions across to the Barrier (at 8 knots). After few beers, and a pot of venison stew, it was off to bed with the band playing and the first of many renditions on the microphone by Geoff of Sweet Caroline.

In Brass monkey conditions the next morning we were into it. Splitting into the four tenders (3-4 per boat) we spread out throughout the Broken Islands.



Along with Mike 'the Tax Man' and a Blue Fin, our boat spread out and snooped the inner islands. I spent the first hour burleying up in a calm bay, which had lots of snapper around. Despite several nice 2-3 kg snaps coming in, I eventually departed the bay with nothing on my float line.

Crossing to a larger, very calm bay, I slowly snooped the southern face, in millpond like crystal clear conditions. Pulling myself through the weeds, rather than kicking, I was suddenly faced with the tail of a nice sized snap, hold up resting in the bay. I hadn't sensed my presence, so I calmly extended my 8 year old Picasso 1.2 gun, and as it drifted sideways, I secured it, with a superbly placed gut shot. It weighed in at 4.6kg, a nice eater.

Heading back to the Lara, the Blue fin had a couple of Jonnies, and Mike had spent his time in the maternity annex, harassing every pregnant crayfish on the island. By the first afternoon, fish on the boat were pretty slim, with the biggest snap being 6kg, and the rest being a mixture of butterfish and of course the mighty Porae Gamefish. I had seen many, but left them out of respect.

Later in the afternoon Long John and some other Bluefins, headed out for some weedline diving, and managed to secure the fish of the trip. A couple of gigantic Trevs (6kg I think) and a 7kg Boarfish. That night more band, more drinking, and more Sweet Caroline.

The next day we were keen to head to the Needles, but the Skipper was not agreeable, as he doubted our 12 foot tinny tender would make it. He had obviously not heard of the legendary Kalgoorie Battler. As he was the Skip, we obeyed, and headed again throughout the Broken Islands, with not real success.

Late afternoon on the second day, being totally frustrated with my lack of fish, I set out for a solo dive on the leeward side of an island, not far from the boat. Drawing upon all my snooping experience (which wasn't a long download) I was determined to land a big snap. Rounding the western corner of a small island, I was caught in a strong current, which make it very hard to make progress. Likely I had consumed that powerful superfood the two previous mornings, and with the offal infused boost of Big Eat power, I dropped down 5 meters and peered over a nice drop off, just in front of me.

There, completely still in he strong current, sat a nice Big Snap. Facing away, it was unaware of my presence.

Easing my gun I prepared to fire. To steady myself I had to stop kicking, then..... whoosh the current dragged me back from the ledge 10 meters. Once again, I kicked in to the current, and peered over the edge, the snap was still there but now turning sideways. Steadying again, same again, dragged back by the current. Third time peering over the edge, I prepared to fire while kicking, but the Moocher was gone. It must have seen me on the second approach. Bugger.....bugger, bugger, and bugger!!! I would replay these events many times over in my mind. I would estimate the fish to have been about 8kgs.....Bugger.



Further along the same island I snooped a pannie sized snap. Tasty but small. Back at the boat The Reaper had secured some nice Trevs. Great for sashimi. Back at the boat, there were a few other fish landed, some small snaps, and another Boarie. Matt from the Bluefins, returned from a dive off Geoff's boat. He had secured a nice Kingie (12-14kg), but had a few nice cuts in his wetsuit from the prop of a drunken boat driver. I don't care about a guys reputation, driving a boat pissed ain't cool!

Another night of Sweet Caroline, and a nice trip home the next day, in Glass like conditions. Catch of the trip had to be the ace diver 'Kina', renewing his membership with the Axemen. After reviewing his diving CV, we decided to appoint him immediately. Welcome aboard mate!

A big thanks from the Axemen to Red. His boat is a good stable dive platform, with plenty of hot water, and a great band. As for Outdoors with Geoff, lets discuss that over a Whiskey

Porae

Brent "Porae" is a world-renown "rural pub tour" expert, having personally visited most, if not all rural pubs in the wider north island while on tour with the Axemen

