

BLACK PEARL CHARTERS NEWS

OCTOBER 15

It's been awhile since my last report but now summer is approaching and although those NorWester's are pumping but it's only a good thing for our fishing and it's sure to heat up from now on.

This first thing I would like to mention is safety! There's been several fishing related accidents this weekend of which most were just simple human error, things like crashing into a cliff at night while on the plain and loosing divers in windy swells conditions are completely avoidable. It's just common sense guys! if it doesn't feel safe it probably isn't, don't underestimate the ocean even on a nice day the currents and swell can be unpredictable. Always use your electronics as a guide only as satellites move giving gps reading that can be off by 50m sometimes, if you are doing lots of night fishing I would suggest getting a radar as they are the only true real time electronic gear and I would have one before a gps any day. Anyway that's just my little gripe for time being, I don't like seeing people getting hurt and I would hate to see you guys getting stuck with even half of the maritime safety, insurance and registration fees us charter guys have to pay. I highly recommend you do a boat master or a course similar before summer if your new to boating or need a refresher!

Right, back to the fishing and the major news is the schools of Kahawai buzzing around the harbour at the moment. They are all feeding on White bait so I would suggest using the smallest possible lure you can cast and you will triple your hookups. The Gurnard have shown up in numbers as they usually do at this time of year, try around the harbour and anywhere on a sandy

bottom and your sure to stumble across some for a feed. Apart from that there's been the odd report of snapper from up the coast a bit but I haven't had any myself yet but they will be here soon!



I would like to start adding a bit more of an instructional type theme to my news letter, I've also started doing a few tips and tricks style short videos if that's your thing! You will be able to find these on my YouTube channel

This month I would like to talk a bit about Tarakihi and how to catch them as they are a good stable fish to target and quite often "get me outta jail" on charters.

Using your sounder, take some time to have a good look around the place you've chosen to fish, usually a rock or a area of foul. Look for bottom to midwater sign, they will usually show up as quite a solid mark. As they are a schooling fish and can be very localised, on my sounder they show up as blue and red - don't forget they can be up off the bottom sometimes up to 15m.

When I was trout guiding down south I got to learn where the fish sit in the current, I find fish in general are quite lazy and if you think of a reef in the ocean as a rock in the river the fish will often sit behind/down current in the lee letting the food come to them. It's something I find a good starting point with all my fishing including Grouper etc and more often then not you will find them at the tail end of a rock or reef.

When you have located a likely looking group of suspects try to position the boat on top of them, I stress the boat not the anchor. Using the tracking lines on your gps or placing a way point over where you want to be figure out how fast and what direction you are drifting with the wind and tide, drop your anchor up the drift as far as you think necessary. It doesn't matter if you're a bit far up from where you want to be as you can always let some more rope out to get in just the right position. Never be scared to reposition the boat if you feel like you haven't hit it just right, I quite often re set two or three times until I'm happy with my position.

When that is complete you're half way there. The next thing to do and quite possibly the most important thing is burley, I'll send the burley down to the bottom and pull it up roughly 10% of the depth, if in 30m I'll pull it up 3m, 50m I'll pull it up 5m and so on.

Now you can relax and set up the gear you choose to use, I've taken to using 15kg braid matched with a medium taper rod, something with a softer tip as they can quite often give little bites and sometimes they even swim up giving you a slack line bite, braid and a softer rod helps you to feel what is going on down there. A rig with two or three small strong recurve hooks, 2-3/0 seems to do the trick. Tarakihi have very small mouths for there size and I would recommend using the smallest possible hook you feel comfortable with. I like a strong trace 50-80lb because as you are normally fishing on or around a reef there is always a chance of anything eating your bait including Kingfish, Warehou or Trevally and you want to be able to handle them if you're lucky enough to have something larger jump on. Using flash or bling as I like to call it can work very well and pink seems to be quite consistent for me. As for sinkers enough weight is needed to get down to the bottom with out having a too bigger angle on your line out the back of the boat in the tide as you might do when snapper fishing. Have your hooks close to the burley as the fish will congregate around the burley pot. This means winding up a few turns when you do put your hooks down to match the burley pot height can be very effective, it also gets you away from some of the pesky reef fish that like to snap up your baits when they're hard on the bottom, like our little friends the baby blue cod.



I believe that all baits are effective for Tarakihi but my favourites are squid, skippy and fresh Kahawai but as long as it's not two week old pink stinky squid it should do the trick. You will find the bait size is far more important than what type it is, use small baits and I mean small, a bait the size of your thumb nail will out fish a bait the size of your whole thumb any day. Just hook the bait through one end, this does two things it gives it more movement in the water and it tends to prevent clogging up the gape of the hook. This means when the fish bites it will give you a better hook up rate, remember if you are using recurve hooks not to strike and try to rip their lips off, just a gentle lift and wind is more than enough to set the hook home.

I hope this helps in your future fishing trips and always feel free to contact me for any advice.

That's all for now

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