



CATCHING TARAKIHI AND BLUECOD - 2019
(these techniques and info will also work for snapper and other species)



Boatfishing

baits

Small strips of squid, salted blue mackerel or bonito, fresher the better. For tarakihi size of baits about finger nail size work well or about 5mm x 10mm. Hook the bait through once through one end.



berley

A berley dispenser right on the bottom when anchored up is very effective. Good quality minced paua gut, kina, bonito, pilchard, cray or crab bodies. Make sure the berley pot is weighted enough to get to the bottom, the orange cray snifter pots are good with 2 – 4 puka sinkers attached and 4mm cord. Give the pot a shake every now and then to get/keep the fish biting.



rigs

Ledger rig (sinker at bottom looped on, dropper loops or longline knots for droppers, loop or swivel on top). I have found recurve hooks the best for lip hooking fish and a positive hookup. Flasher rigs and sleeve swivel traces both work well. 30Lb trace is good for shallower non snaggy water, 50lb trace is a good average weight and 80 – 100lb trace for places in the outer sounds and Karori light or Ohau point or where there are heaps of snags, couta or sharks around.



Tides

On the south coast the outgoing tide runs from the east going to the west, the incoming tide runs from west to east. Sometimes the tide doesn't do what its supposed to do or turns early or late. Sometimes you get different tidal flows with particular spots. Off Karori and island bay the tide can be 1.5 to 2.5 hours early.

On the west coast the incoming tide runs from south to north and the outgoing tide runs from the north going southward. The Wiraka rise tide at Pukerua bay can be 1 hour late, the Ohau and Makara tide can be 1 hour early. The bridge at Mana tide can be 1 hour early.

Remember the tide doesn't always do what its supposed to do. Be careful when the tide runs against the wind as it can be twice as rough

moon

Just after the full and new moons the tide are extra large. Just after the 1st and last ¼ the tides are small. This can have an effect on how much time you have around the turn of the tide to fish and how rough the water can be with wind against tide

spots and locations

Bluecod

- South coast - Karori light (30-50mtrs), Turakerei head (50 - 70mtrs), Baring head (30-60mtrs)
- Harbour - Falcon shoal (13mtr), Aotea quay wharf (close in where the ships are not working)
- West coast - Ohau point (50-70 mtrs), back of Mana (100 - 180mtrs)
- pretty much everywhere in the Outer Sounds

Tarakihi

- South coast - back of island bay (40mtrs), Turakerei head (50 - 70mtrs), Airport reef and the edge of the marine reserve (40-45mtrs)
- Harbour - falcon shoal (13mtr), east of ward isl (18mtr)
- West coast - Verns and Hunters (70mtrds), south end of mana (30-50mtrs), makara fenceine (25mtrs)



John Morrison and Geoff O'Halleran with some oversize tarakihi caught at Boom Rock in 70mtrs

Tackle

Rods

5 – 7ft rods are preferred with a medium or flexible tip. Ratings on the rod range from 6 – 8kg or 10kg or 15kg depending on what line you are using.

Reel

Anything will do. It depends on personal preference. Daiwa sl30h, tld15, penn fatham, tica lever drag are all good reels

Braid

The braided lines are a big advantage for getting down in the current and feeling the bites when the tide running as there is no stretch and it is thin diameter. You can also get 2 – 3 times the line on your spool and don't require as heavier sinker compared to using nylon. We use 50lb braid on the charter boat more for abrasion resistance and easier untangling. 20 - 30lb or even lighter is fine for most people.

Nylon

6 through to 15kg depending on personal preference, water depth and tidal conditions.

Certainly the lighter the line the more fish you'll catch.

Sinkers

4oz – 20oz depending on how much tide is running. An average weight for the coast is 10oz and in the harbour 4oz

Hooks - 1/0 to 2/0 for tarakihi, 3/0 for both or 4/0 to 5/0 for bluecod. recurves are best for mouth hooking fish

Trace line

50lb is good but lighter for tarakihi in shallow water (30lb) and heavier for blue cod (80lb) in reefy, current flowing water (like the Sounds and Karori light). You will catch more fish using fluorocarbon trace than standard nylon.

soft baits

teris and cod love softbaits, teris like a ½ or ¼ gulp crab and cod like all softbaits, particularly chatruce mullet, nuclear chicks, worms and shrimps. We use the on a ledger rig like a super flasher, we bait them up too.



drifting

For blue cod and small rocks by themselves may be better to drift fish, namely spots with heaps of current and very rough ground.

Generally you will get better tarakihi fishing when at anchor with a few exceptions. If there is too much tide running or wind blowing then drifting is the way to go. Start your drift up current or wind from the fishing spot, drop your lines down and keep in touch with the bottom by frequently letting out line. Once you have passed the spot or stop getting bites, wind up, reposition the boat and try again. Sometimes running a sea anchor (parachute) or reversing into the wind will slow the drift down and help you catch more fish.

anchoring up

Anchoring can be tricky to do when you start your boating career but worthwhile and safe if you do it right.

You need the right anchor for the job (kewene for rock and sand), danforth for sand, grapnel for reef. You need approx same length of chain for length of boat (4mm for 2.5 – 3.5mtr boat, 6mm for 3.5 – 4.5mm boat, 8mm for 4.5-7mtr boat, 10 - 12mm for 8- 15mtr boat. You need twice the anchor rope than you are trying to anchor up in. survey the area you think the fish are in (normally on the edge of a reef), go up current of the mark and deploy the anchor. When it holds tight, dispatch the berley bomb wait for the action. If you don't catch good fish in 30 minutes let some more rope out or re-anchor in a nearby spot. Use the easy lift anchor system when retrieving the anchor (with a sliding buoy). Be careful anchoring up in windy or tidal conditions.

techniques

Make sure your sinker is on the bottom. Strike or wind fast to set the hook when you get a good bite. Sometimes a couple of winds up off the bottom may catch the fish. If you are not catching fish try a smaller hook and lighter trace. Berley, turn of tide, fresh baits all help you catch fish. Net a big fish rather than see it fall off the hook at the boat.

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