



Capturing a magic sunset anchored up for dinner at White Island.



JP with his huge Hapuka – 300 mtrs of line, 5 kilo of line and 30minutes to land.

HOOKED UP! And it was Rex with the first Kingy of the day, bait up and another pass, BANG another....

Within 5 minutes I was hooked up and the line was peeling off. Gimbal belt on I started pumping and winching... Man what a big fish...

kamikaze 3kg flyers at 50km/h can be quite engaging. Squid, fliers and Mackerel are the menu for Kingfish expedition over the next few days.

We fished pretty well all night where we had visits from inquisitive Kingfish but ones not hungry enough! The wind started to chop up and it was time to get some shuteye. Hanging on the top bunk and getting tossed around sports a whole new challenge, sorry about that Steve! With a good hearty breakfast under our belts it's off to the Kingfish grounds, that wind just would not loose it's puff. HOOKED UP! And it was Rex with the first Kingy of the day, bait up and another pass, BANG another and this time Mike who was rewarded from his relentless jigging on the bow and then... Nothing. A few more passes still no more hits. Skipper Lance, "Well no sense flogging a dead horse, Hapuka are in the order", with that we were off and 2h later I was on the end of a rod and winch, a 2 kg sinker, a huge hook plunging into 300 metres of dark blue water and no land to be seen from either direction. Within 5 minutes I was hooked up and the line was peeling off. Gimbal belt on I started pumping and winching... Man what a big fish. After 30-40 minutes my arms were just burning under the strain. This is where my brother JP casually reminded me gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays! Each of us landed a prize Hapuka with Mike landing TWO at the same time! Now that was a workout, Mike the machine!

On our way back in the late afternoon to White Island to anchor up for the night Lance stopped at another Kingfish ground and immediately we got two more hook ups. This time it was Shane and Steve. I got a big hit and wow it was like a freight train knocking you over. Alas my Kingfish is waiting for me for next year. Shane's fish had a tag, which upon sending it away you get a full history of that fish by return mail. Pork roast was on the menu that night (Phil amazed us all) and by 8.30pm it was eyelids clamped shut. Apparently the wind swung around and blew up to a point where the anchor alarm went off where Lance had to find another mooring. I didn't hear a thing. I slept for a solid 10hrs!

Day two, another hearty breakfast and we're off Kingfish and Terekihi. Another really successful day. We headed back to Whakatane at about 2pm which was the end of our 48hour charter adventure. It was a trip to remember! The guys were all such great company, as a mater of fact we solved all the world's problems seven times over, caught fish and had a great laugh. Times like that makes you realize how wound up we all get in our day to day lives. So not only is it great fun it's a necessary therapy! Make sure you plan a few charters for next year. Lance and Phil off the Enchanter really know their stuff, enthusiastic to a fault, patient and well organized. It was indeed a great adventure. See you all next year and remember gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays!