

Title: *A Complete Guide to New Zealand Kayak Fishing*

Author: Tim Taylor

Published: 2013

Publisher: Fat Cat Promotions

Website: www.creativedesign.co.nz

Contents: 102 pp, colour illustrations throughout

Cover: softcover

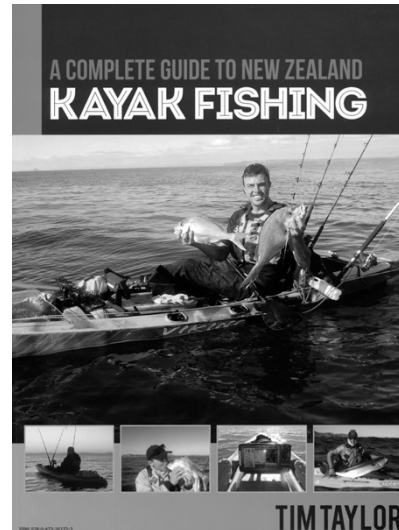
Size: 208 x 297 mm

Price: NZ\$ 16.95

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Availability: TradeMe NZ bookshops

Review: Paul Caffyn



At first glance, this is a book with an attractive layout, nice big format with plenty of illustrations, all in colour. And a book focused on New Zealand conditions, gear and equipment.

Firstly I must admit that perhaps I lack the experience and knowledge to fully review this book, as I have very clear memories of the times I have fished from a kayak. It was when training in 1977 for that very first paddle around Fiordland when off the 12 Mile, where I now live, I was doing fishing training offshore in the new kayak, and hooked onto something that pulled the tip of the rod down into the sea, and most of the line off the reel. For what seemed such a wretched long time, I was towed forwards, backwards and sideways until, with immense relief on my part, the line snapped. With those pounding bass notes of the Jaws echoing in my head, I gave up fishing training.

Tim's breakdown of categories works well, starting with types of fishing kayaks, paddles, equipment, basic paddling technique, three sections on fishing, safety equipment, anchoring, navigation, weather, surf and finally capsize although the page reference index on page 2 is incorrect from the 'Anchoring' section onwards and misses the section completely on 'Transporting Your Kayak'. Not a big error when scanning the book, but something missed when proofing.

The colour illustrations are always in appropriate place, and side bars help with explanations to some of the photos. Most of Tim's information is sound, such as noting he will not take anyone to sea who is not wearing a lifejacket. I don't agree with his comment that wetsuits are not recommended as items of clothing. This really depends on the temperature of the water. Washing and drying wetsuits after use avoids any issue with rashes.

In the 'Capsizing & Rescue' section, a highlighted quote states: 'Sooner or later every kayaker comes out of their kayak.' It is below a big photo of Tim alongside an upside down sit-on-top. This may be fair comment for sit-on-tops but it is bollocks for experienced paddlers in custom fitted kayaks. Good support strokes and a bombproof roll ensure no 'out of boat' swims.

The biggest overall section, as to be expected, is on fishing, rigs, fish finders, landing and storing fish. Both the safety and weather sections are on the brief side. Many more websites for checking marine forecast should have been included.

So overall, a nice glossy guide for how to fish in NZ waters. But I have two overall negative comments:

- there are numerous full page advertisements, which no doubt help fund publishing of the book
- the general body text is a pale grey colour - difficult to read in low light or with older eyes

However ignoring my critical comments (desktop publisher to blame) this is a well illustrated guide, with perhaps more focus on fishing from sit-on-tops than kayaks, and for a retail price of \$16.95, yu can't go wrong by purchasing this book for your fish meals, taken under the kayak quota.