

Winners of the 2009 MFish photography competition



LEFT: Commercial category and overall winning photograph taken by Mark Armstrong, Waihi

BOTTOM OF THE PAGE FROM LEFT: The customary category won by Himiona Grace, Paekakariki; recreational category won by Chris Read, Queenstown; aquatic ecosystems category won by Shane Wasik, Mt Maunganui.

Note: see the Highly Commended photographs on page 24.

The Ministry of Fisheries announced the winners of the 2009 photography competition in late March.

Mark Armstrong's 'Dodging with fur seals' was chosen as the overall winner of the competition. His image of fur seals playing beside a trawler hurtling through 50 knot winds was also the winner of the commercial category. While he originally intended to photograph seabirds, the perfect moment with fur seals in mid-air beside the vessel occurred and Mark captured it with his film camera.

More than 200 entries were submitted to the competition, where entrants were asked to capture images that celebrate their connection with the sea and fishing.

The other category winners were Chris Read, from Queenstown, whose image of whitebaiting on the West Coast won the recreational category; Himiona Grace from Paekakariki who took out the customary category with her image 'Tio,

Pipi, Tuangi'; and Shane Wasik from Mount Maunganui, who won the aquatic ecosystems category with his picture 'natural camouflage' – a flounder disguised on the seafloor.

"The entries submitted to the competition were of very high calibre and captured the special relationship New Zealanders have with fishing," says Ministry of Fisheries Chief Executive Wayne McNee. "The judges had a very difficult decision. We thank everyone who entered the competition."

Judges included Ross Giblin from Wellington's Dominion Post; Athol McCredie, Curator of Photography at Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa; and Simon Woolf, a well-known Wellington photographer.

Category winners each received a voucher for \$1000 of photography gear, and the overall winner received an additional \$1000 voucher.

To view the winning entries and those recognised as highly commended, visit www.fish.govt.nz



MFish photo competition 2009: highly commended winners



Photograph taken by Shane Wasik, Mt Maunganui, in the aquatic ecosystems category.

Photograph taken by Scott Cushman, Auckland, in the recreational category.



Photograph taken by Himiona Grace, Paekakariki, in the customary category.

Photograph taken by Clive Copeman, Dunedin, in the commercial category.

