

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH 2015



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

Website: www.irish-trophy-fish.com

Coiste Éisc Mór na hÉirinn

The Irish Specimen Fish Committee

Founded in 1955, the ISFC is an independent voluntary body, representative of angling interests in Ireland, whose principal function is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large (i.e. specimen) fish caught on rod and line by anglers in Ireland, both in freshwater and marine waters. The Committee also ratifies Irish record rod caught fish. The ISFC coordinates and administers the unique specimen awards scheme which is designed to recognize any angler who catches a specimen fish and to publicise the angling venue. Successful anglers are awarded a certificate and a commemorative badge. Specially commissioned silver medals are presented to captors of record fish and special awards are also made to captors of multiple specimen fish (on a cumulative basis). This report is a detailed listing of all particulars relating to specimen and record fish captures in Irish waters in 2015. Over 29,000 claims have been received by the ISFC over the past 60 years. This dataset is one of the most valuable and long-running time-series of its type.

Irish Specimen Fish Committee Members 2015

Dr. Robert Rosell (*AFBI*), Chairman, Dr. William Roche, Secretary, Shane O'Reilly and Micheál Hennessy (*Inland Fisheries Ireland*), Alan McGurdy, Stewart McGrane (*Game Angling*), Dr. Edward Fahy, Dr. Patrick Boylan (*Loughs Agency*), Der Casey (*Coarse Angling*) and Brian Cooke (*Sea Angling*).

Awards Presentation

The Annual Presentation of Awards

to anglers whose claims were accepted during 2015

will be held in

Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport

Swords, Co. Dublin at 2.30pm sharp

on Saturday 20 February, 2016

Irish anglers who are due awards are invited to attend

Cover: Derek Greene with a January River Shannon Pike of 10.94 kg

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The Best Yet? by Derek Evans

ISFC Chairman's Review 2015



Many of us will remember 2015 for its particular weather pattern – after a promising spring came a markedly wet and cold spell, which ran well into what should have been summer. There is some evidence that this affected fish growth and behaviour. Undoubtedly it affected angling activity probably due to low temperatures and consistently high water levels. Nevertheless, specimen hunters and other anglers managed to find and catch large fish covering the majority of the full range of species normally reported, with new records established for twaite shad and smooth hound. When it came to the crunch, the file of specimen claims for checking and processing at the December committee meeting was as daunting as ever. Claim numbers were similar to previous years although there were a greater number of queried claims which will have to be re-visited in 2016. Particularly large volumes of claims were received for thick lipped mullet (16% of total ratified) and smoothhound (14%), and in freshwater, carp (10%). Large numbers of the exotic mullet species, golden greys and thin-lipped, were also ratified.

The committee faced its usual themes – striking a balance between accurately recording and ratifying claims, while sticking to the rules we have established to ensure consistency over time and the validity of the specimen fish list as a record of changing patterns of fish abundance, growth and distribution.

These patterns are of considerable interest. Whereas some species produce steady reports of specimens over time, others are highly variable and dependent on particular sets of conditions. For example, where particular conditions favour spawning and recruitment of mixed cyprinid species, this can result in establishing one-off cohorts of pure species or long-lived hybrids which can be present in a river or lake system for two decades or more. The specimen lists for these species from particular venues will increase for a time as these grow, perhaps threatening the record before eventually disappearing through age and natural loss.

As flagged in 2014, ISFC is re-listing four cartilaginous fish species in 2016. These are common skate, angel shark (monkfish), undulate ray and porbeagle shark. These species are being restored to the listing as strictly length based specimens only which allows them to be returned alive to the water. There are two major reasons to restore these species: (1) to collect data on their distribution and status which is scientifically valuable and (2) to provide more species for anglers to target as specimens. In re-listing these species, the ISFC is extremely cognisant of their conservation status and requires that anglers handle them with the utmost care and that best possible approaches are adopted for lifting and returning them – such as the use of a fish sling or similar. Unfortunately, as established records for all species are historically on a weight-based system we cannot get around the need to weigh fish, on land, to award a new record for any species.

From 2016 onwards a photograph must accompany all claims for all elasmobranchs (dogfish, sharks, rays and skates) showing the fish on a measuring mat or length marked board. We gave advance notice of this in 2014 yet some claims still came to us, undoubtedly of large fish, with poor, inadequate or exaggerated angle photography. Identification by default, i.e. concluding from an indistinct picture that the fish cannot be anything other than the species claimed, is not enough for the committee – we need to see positive identification features.

We strongly encourage the submission of photographs on measuring mats for all species, not just elasmobranchs, and this is essential if a fish is to be awarded official record status. Students of the work of the ISFC over the years will note that this is a tightening of procedure, but also that identification and verification of the vast majority of claims is now done without an expert (other than the captor or witness) seeing or handling the actual fish. Hence another plea to please fill in all details to reduce the time taken to process claims and avoid the need for follow-up. The committee goes through claims in detail and does check, so the details have to be correctly recorded and if supporting documentation is inadequate then claims will be rejected.

On a sad note, ISFC, and all associated with angling in Ireland, lost a long-standing friend with the passing of Derek Davis during the year. Derek presented our awards on a number of occasions, with humour when articulating his great passion for the environment and angling as a sport for all - we extend our condolences to his family and friends.

ISFC is a standalone voluntary body comprised of volunteers giving their own time, or those whose employers give the time in the interest of fisheries science and marketing of angling. For the latter reason our services have always been free to anglers. Costs are incurred for the awards, presentations, genetic analyses and production of the annual report. I have to record that the committee was forced to spend time at all meetings in 2015 discussing its financial position, following reduction in some key sponsorship and erosion of our limited reserves. We are urgently seeking to restore lost funding to keep ISFC sustainable. We wish yet again to thank Inland Fisheries Ireland, AFB, fishery owners, angling clubs and individuals who help fund and support our activities.

May our dreams of big fish become a reality in 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'R. Rosell'.

Robert Rosell, Chairman

16th December, 2015

Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2015

In 2015 the ISFC processed 547 claims; 447 were ratified, including two new records. A total of 23 were rejected for non-compliance with the rules and a further 77 will be queried further. Details of new records, special awards and specimen awards 2015 are listed below:

NEW IRISH RECORDS (Engraved Silver Medal)

For fish exceeding the current Irish record weight



NEW RECORD Twaite Shad

1.64 kg, River Barrow, St. Mullins, Co. Carlow, 15 May 2015 – Thomas Lynch



NEW RECORD Smooth Hound

8.62 kg, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow, 24 May 2015 – Garech Murphy

SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES 2015

20 SPECIES AWARD (Engraved Plaque)

Ross Macklin, Rochestown, Cork

2001	Carp, Grey Mullet, Tench
2007	Blonde Ray, Bream, Eel, Twaite Shad
2008	Roach/Bream Hybrid, Rudd
2009	Cuckoo Wrasse, Golden Grey Mullet, Rudd, Rudd/Bream Hybrid
2012	Ballan Wrasse, Brown Trout (River)
2014	Gilthead Bream, Painted Ray
2015	Bass, Perch, Smooth Hound

10 SPECIES AWARD (Engraved Bronze Medal)

Ken Garry, Tallaght, Dublin 24

1974	Rudd/Bream Hybrid
1999	Pike (River), Roach/Bream Hybrid
2000	Perch
2001	Tench
2002	Bream
2013	Flounder
2015	Dace, Smooth Hound, Thick Lipped Mullet

Craig Murphy, Inchicore, Dublin 8

2011	Tench, Thick Lipped Mullet
2012	Bream, Pike (River)
2013	Twaite Shad
2014	Smooth Hound, Three Bearded Rockling, Trigger Fish
2015	Ballan Wrasse, Flounder, Golden Grey Mullet

James Walsh, South Douglas Road, Cork

2001	Coalfish
2004	Pollack
2007	Lesser Spotted Dogfish
2008	Cod
2009	Ling
2010	Bluemouth, Flounder, Gilthead Bream
2014	Albacore, Painted Ray

10 SPECIMENS AWARD (Silver Pin)

Andrew Boyce, Shankill, Co. Dublin	2009-2015
Christopher McGregor, Trim, Co. Meath	2010-2015
Peter McGroary, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal	2006-2015
Francis McNeilly, Crossgar, Co. Down	2012-2015



Fish of a Lifetime Award for Jamie Cummins for his 1.94 kg Twaite Shad.



Mullet of the Year 2015 for Patrick Lombard's Golden Grey

Dr MICHAEL KENNEDY AWARD (Engraved Plaque)

MULLET OF THE YEAR

Dr Michael Kennedy, a pioneering fisheries biologist and one of the founders of the ISFC, had a lifelong research interest in mullet species. The Kennedy Award is for the best specimen (highest percentage of the record) and/or a new record of any of the three mullet species for that year.

The 2015 winner is:

Patrick Lombard, Cork – 1.16 kg **Golden Grey Mullet** at Clonakilty Bay, 1 September 2015

Dr AEJ WENT AWARD (Engraved Plaque & Token)

YOUNG SPECIMEN ANGLER OF THE YEAR

Dr Arthur Went, a noted fisheries biologist and one of the two founder members of the ISFC, nominated this award which is for the best specimen of the year (based on the highest percentage of the specimen weight) taken by an angler aged 13 years or younger.

The 2015 winner is:

Ryan Flynn, Dublin 24 – 8.33 kg **Carp** at The Lough, Cork, 4 October 2015

The MINISTER'S AWARD (Mounted Bronze Medal)

Inaugurated by the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, this “fish of a lifetime” award is for the best specimen fish of the year (other than a new record), and is presented to the angler who catches a fish which represents the highest percentage of the existing record.

The 2015 winner is:

Jamie Cummins, Co. Carlow – 1.94 kg **Twaite Shad** from the River Barrow (St. Mullins), Co. Carlow, 18 May 2015

BEST INTERNATIONAL SPECIMEN FISH AWARD (Engraved Plaque)

This award is for the best specimen fish, (calculated as the highest percentage of the current record weight), taken by an overseas angler.

The 2015 winner is:

Adam Kirby, Andover, England - 4.90 kg **Stone Basse** at Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork 18 August, 2015

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2015

FRESHWATER FISH 2015

Coarse Fish and Pike

BREAM**Record 6.07kg; Specimen Weight, 3.402 kg (7.5 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
4.20	9.25	-	Ballyhoe Lake	12-Apr	Owen McGuinness	Boilie
4.05	8.94	-	Drumlaheen Lough	12-Sep	James Dignam	Maggots
3.97	8.75	58	Lough Boderg	31-May	James Dignam	Maggots
3.52	7.75	-	Lough Boderg	31-May	Luke Canavan-Dignam (J)	Maggots



Owen McGuinness with the heaviest Bream of 2015



Aaron Darcy with his Carp

Year of capture is 2015 unless otherwise stated.

Length (L) assumed to be forklength (cm) for freshwater species and bass, total length for all other marine species.

Country of residence of international angler denoted by relevant letter after surname.

(J) after surname denotes juvenile angler.



Heaviest Carp of 2015 for Derick O'Brien

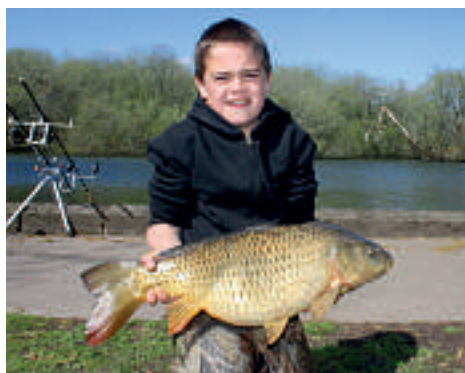
CARP

Record 14.24 kg (32.4 lbs); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
9.70	21.37	-	The Lough, Cork	27-Sep	Derick O'Brien	Boilie
8.67	19.12	68.5	The Lough	26-Sep	Paddy Higgisson	Boilie
8.65	19.06	78	The Lough	21-May	Karl Bohan	Boilie
8.45	18.62	76	The Lough	20-Sep	Barry James	Boilie
8.45	18.62	-	The Lough	27-Sep	Derick O'Brien	Boilie
8.39	18.50	-	The Lough	03-Apr	James Dignam	Boilie
8.36	18.44	73	The Lough	26-Jan	Jerry O'Connor	Boilie
8.33	18.37	70	The Lough	04-Oct	Ryan Flynn	Boilie
8.28	18.25	-	The Lough	27-Sep	Derick O'Brien	Boilie
8.28	18.25	65	The Lough	27-Jun	Paddy Higgisson	Boilie
7.94	17.50	70	The Lough	08-Mar	Karl Roche	Boilie
7.88	17.37	66	The Lough	08-Mar	David Flynn	Boilie
7.54	16.62	69	The Lough	20-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Boilie
7.26	16.00	70	The Lough	22-Mar	David Flynn	Boilie
7.26	16.00	77	The Lough	04-May	Don Whelton	Boilie
7.12	15.70	-	The Lough	03-Oct	Noel Darcy	Boilie
7.09	15.62	70	The Lough	19-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
7.03	15.50	72	The Lough	22-Mar	Vincent Roche	Boilie

CARP – continued

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
7.03	15.50	-	The Lough	03-Apr	Luke Canavan-Dignam (J)	Boilie
6.96	15.35	-	The Lough	02-Oct	John Ambrose	Boilie
6.92	15.25	69	The Lough	22-Mar	Jerry O'Connor	Boilie
6.80	15.00	67	The Lough	13-Jun	Barry James	Boilie
6.80	15.00	65	The Lough	27-Sep	Terry Jackson	Boilie
6.80	15.00	70	The Lough	23-Oct	Nicholas McEvoy	Boilie
6.58	14.50	69	The Lough	04-Apr	John Flynn	Boilie
6.46	14.25	71	The Lough	09-May	Paddy Higginson	Boilie
6.46	14.25	65	The Lough	09-Apr	Jerry O'Connor	Boilie
6.41	14.12	69	The Lough	20-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Boilie
6.35	14.00	66	The Lough	05-Jul	Barry James	Boilie
6.29	13.87	67	The Lough	01-Jan	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
6.26	13.80	61	The Lough	13-May	Joseph Marsella	Boilie
6.24	13.75	-	The Lough	03-Oct	Aaron Darcy (J)	Boilie/Pop Up
6.18	13.62	65	The Lough	28-Mar	David Flynn	Boilie
6.18	13.62	68	The Lough	10-Sep	Amy O'Brien (J)	Boilie
6.12	13.50	55	The Lough	27-Sep	Terry Jackson	Boilie
6.08	13.41	74	The Lough	14-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Boilie
5.95	13.12	67	The Lough	16-May	Nichola Ward (J)	Maggots
5.90	13.00	67	The Lough	19-Apr	Amy O'Brien (J)	Boilie



***A Carp from May for
Conor Ward***



***Four year old Amy O'Brien
with a 5.9 kg Lough Carp***



Anthony Kelly with a nice Mirror Carp



Paddy Higginson had two Carp in the top ten which included this 8.28 kg fish



The fourth heaviest Carp of 2015 fell to Barry James in June



David Flynn with a Lough special

CARP – continued

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
5.90	13.00	69	The Lough	24-Jul	Karl Bohan	Boilie
5.78	12.75	-	The Lough	03-Oct	Noel Darcy	Boilie
5.78	12.75	63	The Lough	20-Sep	Amy O'Brien (J)	Boilie
5.56	12.25	58	The Lough	27-Sep	Terry Jackson	Boilie
5.56	12.25	64	The Lough	18-May	Conor Ward (J)	Boilie
5.53	12.19	60	The Lough	05-Apr	Anthony Kelly	Boilie
5.50	12.12	67	The Lough	04-Apr	Anthony Kelly	Boilie

DACE

Record 1 lbs 2ozs (0.51 kg); Specimen Weight 0.3 kg (0.66 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.32	0.71	-	R Nore, Thomastown	28-Mar	Noel Darcy	Bread
0.31	0.69	30	R Barrow, St. Mullins	28-Mar	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
0.30	0.66	-	R Nore, Inistioge	22-Mar	Ken Garry	Bread Flake
0.30	0.66	30	R Nore, Thomastown	03-Apr	Dan Lynch	Bread
0.30	0.66	28	R Nore, Thomastown	11-Mar	Joseph Marsella	Bread
0.30	0.66	28.5	R Nore, Thomastown	18-Jun	Noel Darcy	Bread



***A Dace from the River Nore
for Ken Garry***



***Lough Erne produced
the only specimen
Perch in 2015 – Ross
Macklin got one in April***

PERCH

Record 5 lbs 8 ozs (2.494 kg); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.646 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.36	3.00	45	Lough Erne	04-May	Terry Jackson	Berkley Flex
1.28	2.81	-	Lough Erne	21-Apr	Ross Macklin	Shad



*An urban Pike
for Noel Darcy*

PIKE (RIVER)

Record 42 lbs (19.051 kg); Specimen Weight 9.072 kg (20 lbs)

10.94	24.12	-	R Shannon, Rooskey	04-Jan	Derek Greene	Sardine
10.60	23.37	-	R Shannon, Rooskey	15-Jan	Derek Greene	Sardine
9.10	20.06	104	R Barrow, G'namanagh	17-Mar	Noel Darcy	Dace



*David Tully with a
firm grip on his
Roach/Bream*

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

Record 3.37 kg (7lbs 7 ozs); Specimen Weight 1.6 kg (3.528 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.69	5.94	50	Drumlaheen Lough	25-Jul	James Dignam	Corn
2.40	5.29	47.5	Lough Derravaragh	21-Sep	David Tully (J)	Maggots
2.35	5.18	-	R Barrow, St. Mullins	22-Apr	Joseph Marsella	Maggots
2.20	4.85	53	Lough Derravaragh	21-Sep	Liam Tully	Maggots
1.70	3.75	45	Lough Derravaragh	29-Sep	Zoe Tully	Maggots
1.65	3.64	44	Lough Derravaragh	22-Sep	Clare Maurer	Maggots
1.60	3.53	46	Lough Derravaragh	22-Sep	Liam Tully	Maggots

ROACH/RUDD HYBRID

Record 2.1 kg (4.63 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.9 kg (1.98 lbs)

0.91	2.00	38.5	R Lagan, u/s Stranmillis	12-Jun	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
0.91	2.00	37	R Lagan, u/s Stranmillis	12-Jun	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster

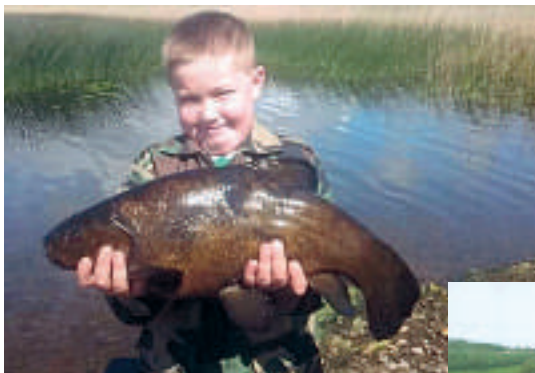


Luke Canavan-Dignam with a Lough Carp

RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

Record 7 lbs 10 ozs (3.458 kg); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.64 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.28	2.82	41.5	Inniscarra Res	09-Sep	John Millerick	Maggots
1.26	2.78	40	Inniscarra Res	09-Sep	John Millerick	Maggots
1.25	2.75	40	Inniscarra Res	02-May	James Dignam	Sweetcorn
1.24	2.73	40	Inniscarra Res	08-Sep	John Millerick	Maggots



A summer Tench for a happy Callum Kelly



Ballyhoe Lake Tench with Owen McGuinness



James Dignam with a Dysart Lake Tench

TENCH

Record 8.15 lbs (3.697 kg); Specimen Weight 2.722 kg (6 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.95	6.50	51	Blackies Lough	23-Jun	Terry Jackson	Maggot/Caster
2.89	6.37	-	Ballyhoe Lake	30-May	Owen McGuinness	Sweetcorn
2.83	6.25	-	Ballyhoe Lake	29-May	Callum Kelly (J)	Corn/Maggots
2.78	6.12	-	Dysart Lough	25-Jun	James Dignam	Maggots
2.78	6.12	50	Rahans Lake	06-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Sweetcorn
2.75	6.06	-	Dysart Lough	25-Jun	Luke Canavan-Dignam (J)	Maggots

Game Fish 2015

SALMON

Record 57 lbs (25.855 kg); Specimen Weight 9.072 kg (20 lbs)

9.27	20.44	95.25	Cong River	14-May	David McLoughlin	Prawn
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BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

Record 26 lbs 2 ozs (11.85 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs)

6.69	14.75	81.3	Lower Lough Erne	09-Jun	Sean Ross	Tasmanian Devil
4.54	10.01	77	Lower Lough Erne	12-Apr	Samuel Holden	Rapala

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

Record 20 lbs (9.072 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)

6.15	13.56	-	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Sidney Kennedy	Worm
5.06	11.16	-	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Andrew Newman	Worm
5.02	11.07	-	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Duncan Cole	Worm
3.91	8.62	-	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Brian Newman	Worm

BROWN TROUT (RIVER) – continued

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.74	8.25	74	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Sidney Kennedy	Worm
3.40	7.50	-	Cong River	22-Mar	Noel Darcy	Fish bait
3.26	7.19	69	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Sidney Kennedy	Worm
2.61	5.75	-	River Inny	19-Apr	Robert Reid	Roach



***Cork angler
Michael Quilligan
with a Currane
Sea Trout***



***Ken Towner
from London
with a Sea Trout
taken on the fly***

SEA TROUT

Record 16 lbs 6 ozs (7.428 kg); Specimen Weight 2.722 kg (6 lbs)

5.35	11.80	80	Lough Currane	10-Apr	Liam Ellis	Rapala
4.10	9.04	74	Lough Currane	29-May	Justin Clayton-Jones (UK)	Fly
3.93	8.66	72.39	Lough Currane	03-May	Michael Quilligan	Rapala
3.73	8.22	70	Lough Currane	20-May	Ken Towner (UK)	Fly
3.58	7.88	66.5	Lough Currane	08-Apr	Andrew Brown	Fly
3.08	6.78	72.01	Lough Currane	08-Jul	David Eccleston (UK)	Fly
3.04	6.70	67.5	Lough Currane	25-Aug	Ramon O'Reilly	Fly
2.98	6.56	-	Lough Currane	29-Aug	Matt Whitelaw	Fly

Marine Fish 2015

BASS

Record 17 lbs 13 ozs (8.08 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
4.80	10.58	75	Ballyteigue Bay	24-Jul	Bert Kehoe	Lugworm
4.76	10.50	75	Woodstown Strand	29-Aug	Vincent Walsh	Ragworm
4.71	10.37	78	Cork Harbour	21-Apr	Pat O'Shea	Savage Gear sandeel
4.68	10.31	-	Inchydoney	11-Jul	Ross Macklin	Deadly Dick
4.65	10.25	79	Saleens	30-Aug	Henry Kelly	Sandeel
4.56	10.06	73	Wexford	03-Apr	Andrew Boyce	Crab/Lugworm



***Henry Kelly with his
Saleens Bass***

BLUEMOUTH

Record 1.32 kg (2.91 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.9 kg (1.98 lbs)

0.92	2.03	35	Valentia Island	15-Jun	Donal Domeney	Mackerel
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BRILL

Record 9 lbs 8 ozs (4.309 kg); Specimen Weight 1.75 kg (3.858 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.04	4.50	52	Cork Harbour	03-Oct	Paul Twomey	Mackerel



*Paul Twomey with
the first specimen
Brill since 1996*

CONGER EEL

Record 72 lbs (32.659 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)

23.59	52.00	188	Kinsale	25-Jul	Pat Kirwan	Mackerel Fillet
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DAB

Record 2 lbs 5.5 ozs (1.06 kg); Specimen Weight 0.6 kg (1.32 lbs)

0.69	1.53	39	Dingle	10-Oct-14	Andrew Boyce	Mackerel
0.62	1.37	39	Dingle	10-Oct-14	Andrew Boyce	Mackerel

BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH

Record 1.33 kg (2.94 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.0 kg (2.205 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.10	2.43	69	Islandmagee	08-Oct	David Craig	Mackerel
1.10	2.43	69	Islandmagee	20-Jun	David Craig	Mackerel
1.02	2.25	71	Islandmagee	09-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel

LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record 4 lbs 4 ozs (1.928 kg); Specimen Weight 1.47 kg (3.25 lbs)

1.62	3.56	71	Howth Head	16-Aug	Philip Browne	Mackerel
1.56	3.44	74	Islandmagee	10-Feb	David Craig	Mackerel
1.50	3.31	70	Rathlin Island	22-Aug	William F. McLaughlin	Mackerel



Ian Mulligan with one of his three specimen Gilthead Bream



Youghal angler Keith McGrath with two specimen Flounder taken on 5th October in Youghal

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record 23 lbs 13 ozs (10.801 kg); Specimen Weight 7.257 kg (16 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
8.40	18.52	105	Kenmare Bay	14-Sep	Eric De Muynck (B)	Mackerel
8.07	17.80	104	Kenmare Bay	03-Sep	Jonathan Van Der Sluis (NL)	Mackerel
8.03	17.70	104	Kenmare Bay	05-Sep	Louis Boone (NL)	Mackerel
7.85	17.30	130	Kenmare Bay	27-Sep	Rob Baron (NL)	Mackerel
7.85	17.30	-	Kenmare Bay	29-Sep	Jan Kraaijeveld (NL)	Mackerel
7.48	16.49	120	Cork Harbour	21-Jul	Dirk Kroone (NL)	Mackerel Strip
7.26	16.01	114	Dingle Bay	02-Jun	Anthony Foley	Razor fish



*John Ambrose with a 4.6 kg
Gilthead Bream from Rosscarbery*



*A Bannow Bay Flounder of
1.19 kg for Andrew Boyce*

SPUR DOGFISH

**Record 11.06 kg (24.38 lbs); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs);
Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 105 cm**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
8.92	19.67	113	Tralee Bay	30-Jul	Philip Barry	Scad Strip
8.40	18.52	119.4	Islandmagee	07-Aug	David Craig	Mackerel
8.02	17.69	113	Rathlin Island	22-Aug	Brian Foster	Baited Muppet
7.40	16.31	111.8	Islandmagee	02-Oct	David Craig	Mackerel
6.89	15.19	111	Tralee Bay	06-Aug	Philip Barry	Mackerel Strip
6.58	14.50	104	Ballycastle	22-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Flapper
6.44	14.19	105	Rathlin Island	22-Aug	Brian Foster	Baited Muppet
6.24	13.76	109.2	Islandmagee	02-Oct	David Craig	Mackerel
6.12	13.50	105.5	Ballycastle	07-Sep	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
6.12	13.50	101	Ballycastle	22-Aug	Andrew Wolsey	Mackerel
6.12	13.50	103	Ballycastle	22-Aug	Andrew Wolsey	Mackerel
6.10	13.44	103	Rathlin Island	22-Aug	Brian Foster	Baited Muppet
6.00	13.23	102	Ballycastle	22-Aug	William F. McLaughlin	Mackerel



***A Ballycastle Spurdog of 6.12 kg
for Terry Jackson***



***Gary Blake with his
specimen Flounder***

SPUR DOGFISH – continued

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
5.93	13.07	106	Tralee Bay	01-Aug	Joseph Donnelly	Scad Strip
5.56	12.25	98	Ballycastle	19-Sep	Terry Jackson	Baited Sabikis
5.50	12.13	100	Ballycastle	22-Aug	William F. McLaughlin	Mackerel
5.44	12.00	99	Ballycastle	19-Sep	Andrew Wolsey	Mackerel
L-BS	-	116	Tralee Bay	13-Aug	Thomas O'Regan	Mackerel Strip
L-BS	-	110.5	Downings	31-Jul	Edward Van Haagen (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	-	109	Downings	31-Jul	Albert Kouwenhoven (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	-	109	Tralee Bay	13-Aug	Philip Barry	Mackerel Strip
L-BS	-	108.5	Downings	08-Jun	Rinus Hage (NL)	Baited Hokkai
L-BS	-	108	Downings	11-Aug	Willem Pieter Looren (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
L-BS	-	108	Downings	31-Jul	Albert Kouwenhoven (NL)	Mackerel Flapper

FLOUNDER**Record 4.91 lbs (2.229 kg); Specimen Weight 1.1 kg (2.425 lbs)**

1.75	3.86	45	Clonakilty	26-Apr	John Buckley	Lugworm/Crab
1.37	3.02	49	Youghal	16-Oct	Keith McGrath	Crab
1.36	3.00	49	Clonakilty Bay	01-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Lugworm
1.34	2.95	46	Ballyteigue	28-Dec-14	Francis McNeilly	Peeler Crab
1.30	2.87	46	Youghal	27-Jun	Joe Muir	Crab
1.30	2.87	44	Youghal	24-Oct	John Owens	Crab
1.25	2.76	43	Youghal	06-Oct	Keith McGrath	Crab
1.19	2.62	47	Bannow	10-Sep	Andrew Boyce	Crab
1.15	2.54	43	Youghal	16-Oct	Keith McGrath	Crab
1.13	2.50	43	Wellington Bridge	10-Oct	Gary Blake	Peeler Crab
1.13	2.50	45	Ballyteigue	25-Oct	John Patrick Chew (J)	Crab
1.12	2.47	41.2	Wicklow	06-Oct	Craig Murphy	Peeler Crab
1.10	2.43	40	Youghal	24-Oct	John Owens	Crab



*Ronald Surgenor with a Garfish
taken at Malin Head*



*Drew McMinn with his
Smooth Hound*

GARFISH (B. bellone)

Record 1.729 kg (3.812 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.0 kg (2.205 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.07	2.35	-	Malin Head	03-Sep-14	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel Strip



*Derek Bennett with
a Bannow Estuary
Gilthead Bream of
3.05 kg taken in
August*

GILTHEAD BREAM

Record 3.505 kg; Specimen Weight 1.4 kg (3.08 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.06	6.74	51	Bannow Estuary	11-Aug	Derek Bennett	Peeler Crab
2.38	5.25	-	Rosscarbery	19-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
2.09	4.60	-	Rosscarbery	04-Sep	John Ambrose	Ragworm
1.93	4.26	45	Rosscarbery	04-Sep	Noel Darcy	Lugworm
1.93	4.25	-	Clonakilty	24-May	John Buckley	Lugworm/Crab
1.93	4.25	48	Clonakilty Bay	12-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
1.87	4.12	47	Clonakilty Bay	12-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Maddies

GREY GURNARD

Record 3 lbs 1 ozs (1.389 kg); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)

0.70	1.55	40	Cork Harbour	01-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Mackerel
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LING

Record 55 lbs (24.95 kg); Specimen Weight 11.34 kg (25 lbs)

15.23	33.57	140	Rathlin Island	17-Oct	William Downey	Mackerel/Squid
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*Don Whelton's
Thick Lipped
Mullet was taken in
Rosscarbery*



Thick Lipped Mullet dominated the 2015 specimen fish list. Sarah Lynch had this one in April



Duncan Cole with his 2.77 kg fish



Stephen Brennan studies his July fish before returning it to the water



A Rosscarbery Mullet for Mandy O'Brien

THICK-LIPPED MULLET

Record 9.1 lbs (4.128 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.52	7.75	66	Cork Harbour	15-Jul	Joseph Marsella	Bread Flake
3.18	7.00	59	Cork Harbour	01-Oct	Joseph Marsella	Bread Flake
3.18	7.00	63	Rosscarbery	07-Sep	Glenn McCormack	Bread
3.18	7.00	-	Wicklow	01-Jul	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.95	6.50	-	Wicklow	25-Sep	Ken Garry	Bread Flake
2.86	6.31	63	Inchydoney	10-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
2.78	6.12	52	Rosscarbery	01-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.78	6.12	59	Rosscarbery	02-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.77	6.11	61	Rosscarbery	13-Oct	Duncan Cole	Pet Food
2.75	6.06	60	Rosscarbery	21-Aug	Micheál Hennessy	Bread
2.72	6.00	61	Rostellan	22-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
2.72	6.00	60	Rosscarbery	12-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
2.72	6.00	58	Rosscarbery	12-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.72	6.00	59	Rosscarbery	13-Jun	Nicholas McEvoy	Bread Flake
2.70	5.95	59.5	Rosscarbery	15-Oct	Duncan Cole	Pet Food
2.66	5.87	63	Rosscarbery	14-Jul	Stephen Brennan	Bread
2.66	5.87	57	Rosscarbery	07-Sep	Glenn McCormack	Bread
2.66	5.86	59	Rosscarbery	18-Sep	Francis McNeilly	Cat Food
2.61	5.75	60	Cork Harbour	26-Jun	Stephen O'Neill	Bread Flake
2.61	5.75	58	Rosscarbery	01-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.59	5.70	-	Rosscarbery	02-Sep	Peter McGroary	Bread Flake
2.58	5.69	60	Rosscarbery	18-Sep	Francis McNeilly	Cat Food
2.57	5.66	57	Rosscarbery	06-Sep	Thomas Lynch	Bread Flake
2.56	5.65	61.2	Rosscarbery	29-Aug	Craig Murphy	Bread
2.55	5.62	57	Malahide Estuary	01-Jul	James Dignam	Bread
2.55	5.62	59	Cork Harbour	14-Jul	Maurice O'Keeffe	Bread
2.55	5.62	57	Rosscarbery	02-Jul	Dan Lynch	Maddies
2.54	5.60	-	Wicklow	02-Jul	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.53	5.58	60	Rosscarbery	12-Oct	Francis McNeilly	Cat Food
2.52	5.56	55	Clonakilty	21-Mar	Stephen Hurley	Bread Flake
2.49	5.50	59.5	Wicklow	21-Jun	Craig Murphy	Bread

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.49	5.50	56.5	Cork Harbour	22-May	Stephen O'Neill	Bread Flake
2.49	5.50	57.5	Cork Harbour	29-Apr	Stephen O'Neill	Bread Flake
2.49	5.50	56	Cork Harbour	28-Jun	Joseph Marsella	Bread Flake
2.49	5.50	-	Rosscarbery	07-Sep	Damian Allchorne	Bread
2.49	5.50	59	Rosscarbery	29-Sep	Dan Lynch	Bread
2.49	5.50	62	Clonakilty	04-Apr	Sarah Lynch (J)	Maddies
2.49	5.50	60	Rosscarbery	22-Jul	Anthony Foley	Bread
2.44	5.37	60	Rosscarbery	15-Aug	Liam Millerick (J)	Bread
2.41	5.31	57.5	Rosscarbery	05-Sep	Thomas Lynch	Bread Flake
2.41	5.31	59	Rosscarbery	08-Jul	Stephen Brennan	Bread
2.40	5.30	-	Wicklow	17-Aug	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.38	5.25	55	Strangford Lough	14-Jul	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.38	5.25	59	Cork Harbour	13-Jul	Tony Tait	Bread Flake
2.38	5.25	60	Rosscarbery	14-Aug	John Millerick	Bread
2.38	5.25	-	Cork Harbour	13-Sep	Damian Allchorne	Bread
2.38	5.25	60	Rosscarbery	16-Aug	Dan Lynch	Maddies
2.38	5.25	56	Rosscarbery	30-Jul	Jerry O'Connor	Bread Flake
2.38	5.25	-	Rosscarbery	27-Aug	Jerry O'Connor	Bread Flake
2.38	5.25	57.5	Rosscarbery	15-Aug	Andrew Wolsey	Maddies
2.37	5.22	61	Rosscarbery	29-Jul-14	Ronald Surgenor	Bread
2.36	5.20	58.5	Dun Laoghaire	26-Aug	Craig Murphy	Bread
2.35	5.19	57	Strangford Lough	19-Jul	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.35	5.19	61	Rosscarbery	08-Jul	Stephen Brennan	Bread
2.35	5.19	61	Rosscarbery	12-Jun	Nicholas McEvoy	Bread Flake
2.35	5.18	58	Rosscarbery	12-Oct	Duncan Cole	Pet Food
2.34	5.15	59	Rosscarbery	30-Aug	Gary Blake	Bread
2.32	5.12	55	Strangford Lough	14-Jul	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.32	5.12	61	Rosscarbery	15-Aug	John Millerick	Bread
2.32	5.12	57	Rosscarbery	09-Jul	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread
2.32	5.12	56	Rosscarbery	18-Aug	Jerry O'Connor	Bread Flake
2.32	5.12	58	Rosscarbery	06-Oct	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.32	5.12	59	Rosscarbery	23-Jul	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.32	5.12	-	Wicklow	20-Jul	Dan Smith	Bread
2.32	5.12	-	Rosscarbery	03-Aug	Desmond Frazer	Bread

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.31	5.09	57	Rosscarbery	20-Aug	Don Whelton	Bread
2.30	5.06	58	Rosscarbery	02-Jul	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread
2.27	5.00	55.88	Rosscarbery	26-May	Noel Lane	Bread Crust
2.27	5.00	-	Rosscarbery	01-Aug	John Millerick	Bread
2.27	5.00	58.5	Rosscarbery	25-Jun	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread
2.27	5.00	57	Rosscarbery	10-Jul	Mandy O'Brien	Bread
2.27	5.00	57	Rosscarbery	10-Jul	Mandy O'Brien	Bread
2.27	5.00	-	Wicklow	11-Aug	Dan Smith	Bread
2.27	5.00	54.5	Dundrum Bay	09-Aug	Andrew Wolsey	Bread



Thick Lipped Mullet

Golden Grey Mullet



*Thin Lipped Mullet (all mullet
photographs by Stephen Brennan)*

GOLDEN GREY MULLET

Record 1.2 kg (2.65 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.16	2.56	47	Clonakilty Bay	01-Sep	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
1.04	2.30	47	Cork Harbour	22-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
1.02	2.25	47	Donore	10-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.91	2.00	45	Rosscarbery	07-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
0.86	1.90	45.5	Cork Harbour	22-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.82	1.81	42	Rosscarbery	10-Jul	Dan Lynch	Maddies
0.82	1.81	44	Clonakilty	01-Jul	Stephen Brennan	Ragworm
0.79	1.75	46.99	Rosscarbery	18-Aug	Christy Lane	Ragworm
0.79	1.75	44	Rosscarbery	16-Aug	John Millerick	Maddies
0.79	1.75	41.5	Clonakilty	11-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.77	1.69	42	Rosscarbery	02-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.77	1.69	42	Clonakilty Bay	13-Aug	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
0.77	1.69	44	Rosscarbery	22-Jul	Micheál Hennessy	Ragworm
0.75	1.66	40	Clonakilty Bay	01-Sep	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
0.74	1.62	40	Cork Harbour	12-Aug	Tony Tait	Maddies
0.74	1.62	41	Rosscarbery	14-Jul	Thomas Lynch	Maddies
0.74	1.62	43	Rosscarbery	14-Jul	Thomas Lynch	Maddies



*Golden Grey Mullet
for Terry Jackson*

GOLDEN GREY MULLET – continued

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.74	1.62	42	Rosscarbery	16-Aug	John Millerick	Maddies
0.74	1.62	36	Cork Harbour	12-Aug	Joseph Marsella	Maddies
0.74	1.62	41.5	Rosscarbery	16-Aug	Andrew Wolsey	Maddies
0.73	1.60	43.8	Rosscarbery	30-Aug	Craig Murphy	Bread
0.70	1.55	43.5	Cork Harbour	22-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.70	1.54	42	Rosscarbery	30-Jul-14	Ronald Surgenor	Ragworm
0.69	1.53	40.05	Rosscarbery	14-Jul	Thomas Lynch	Maddies
0.68	1.50	40	Rosscarbery	14-Aug	Terry Jackson	Ragworm
0.68	1.50	40.5	Rosscarbery	15-Aug	Terry Jackson	Ragworm
0.68	1.50	41	Rosscarbery	24-Aug	Micheál Hennessy	Maddies



Sidney Kennedy with a 1.5 kg Thin Lipped Mullet from Rosscarbery

THIN LIPPED MULLET

Record 2.86 kg (6.3125 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.5 kg (3.31 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.31	5.09	55	Clonakilty Bay	14-Jul	Stephen Brennan	Ragworm
2.13	4.69	55.88	Rosscarbery	11-Jun	Christy Lane	Ragworm
2.10	4.62	57.5	Rosscarbery	10-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Maddies/Ragworm
1.84	4.06	58.42	Rosscarbery	09-Aug	Noel Lane	Ragworm
1.76	3.87	48.26	Rosscarbery	30-May	Noel Lane	Ragworm
1.73	3.81	50.8	Rosscarbery	03-Jun	Christy Lane	Ragworm
1.70	3.75	51	Dingle	31-Oct	Stephen Brennan	Lure
1.70	3.75	50	Rosscarbery	19-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
1.70	3.75	55	Rosscarbery	16-Aug	Terry Jackson	Ragworm Baited Spoon
1.64	3.62	52	Rosscarbery	23-Aug	Dan Lynch	Maddies
1.59	3.50	53.34	Rosscarbery	19-Jul	Noel Lane	Ragworm
1.56	3.44	52.5	Courtmacsherry	10-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Maddies/Ragworm
1.56	3.44	-	Clonakilty	24-Aug	Micheál Hennessy	Maddies
1.50	3.31	50.5	Rosscarbery	06-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Maddies/Ragworm



***Heaviest Pollack of 2015 for
John Boyle***



***A Valentia Pollack for
Lennart Schmidt***

POLLACK

Record 19 lbs 3 ozs (8.703 kg); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.50	14.33	94	Brandon Bay	10-Jun	John Boyle	Mackerel
6.36	14.02	86	Valentia	23-Aug	Lennart Schmidt (UK)	Mackerel Strip
5.50	12.13	83	Valentia	09-Sep	Chris Farmer (UK)	Mackerel Strip
5.47	12.05	84.8	Giant's Causeway	07-Jul	David Bradley	Jellyworms

POUTING

Record 4 lbs 13.5ozs (2.197 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg (3 lbs)

1.41	3.11	44.5	Dublin Bay	23-May	John Hughes	Ragworm/Mackerel
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BLONDE RAY

Record 37 lbs (16.78 kg); Specimen Weight 11.34 kg (25 lbs)

11.61	25.60	-	Cork Harbour	12-Sep-14	Peter Anderson (DK)	Mackerel
11.40	25.12	102.5	Cork Harbour	18-Sep-14	Micheál Hennessy	Mackerel



*Donal Domeney with
the only specimen
Homelyn Ray of 2015*

HOMELYN RAY

Record 8.28 lbs (3.756 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.72	6.00	72	Aghada	30-Aug	Donal Domenev	Mackerel



Youghal yielded the majority of specimen Painted Ray. Nicholas McEvoy had this one on 1st November

John Owens and a Painted Ray from early November



PAINTED RAY

Record 17.21 lbs (7.806 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs)

6.12	13.50	90.17	Youghal	11-Nov-14	Noel Lane	Crab
6.00	13.23	89	Youghal	03-Nov	John Owens	Crab
5.88	12.96	85	Youghal	01-Nov	George Ruxton	Crab
5.73	12.62	88.9	Youghal	25-Nov-14	Christy Lane	Crab
5.62	12.40	81	Brandon Bay	14-Mar	Donal Domenev	Sandeel
5.55	12.24	80	Youghal	03-Nov	Joe Muir	Sandeel
5.44	12.00	-	Youghal	02-Dec-14	Damian Allchorne	Sandeel
5.23	11.53	84.5	Youghal	26-Nov-14	Francis McNeilly	Sandeel
4.99	11.00	84.5	Youghal	03-Nov	Pat Dalton	Crab/Sandeel
4.88	10.75	81	Youghal	01-Nov	Nicholas McEvoy	Crab/Sandeel
4.85	10.69	80	Garryvoe	11-Dec-14	Thomas O'Regan	Sandeel
4.75	10.47	83.5	Youghal	02-Nov	Joe Muir	Crab
4.65	10.25	81	Youghal	28-Nov	John Smyth	Sandeel
4.60	10.14	81	Youghal	03-Nov	George Ruxton	Crab

STING RAY

Record 33.2 kg (73.19 lbs); Specimen Weight 13 kg (28.66 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
18.68	41.18	125	Tralee Bay	23-May	Philip Barry	Crab



Three Bearded Rockling for Andrew Boyce



A Wicklow Three Bearded Rockling for Belinda Kennedy

THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

Record 3 lbs 1 oz (1.389 kg); Specimen Weight 0.794 kg (1.75 lbs)

1.09	2.40	48	Bullock Harbour	10-Sep	Craig Murphy	Mackerel Strip
0.87	1.91	42	Dun Laoghaire	23-Mar	Patrick Fagan	Mackerel
0.86	1.90	43	Moneypoint, Co. Clare	30-May	Micheál Hennessy	Mackerel
0.85	1.88	-	Wicklow	19-Apr	Belinda Kennedy	Mackerel
0.84	1.86	44	Dun Laoghaire	16-Mar	Patrick Fagan	Mackerel
0.82	1.81	44	Greystones	03-Apr	Andrew Boyce	Mackerel
0.81	1.79	43	Greystones	09-Mar	Patrick Fagan	Mackerel
0.80	1.76	44.5	Portrush	08-Aug	Andrew McConaghie	Mackerel Strip
0.79	1.75	40	Greystones	15-Aug	Andrew Boyce	Mackerel

SCAD

Record 1.97 lbs (0.894 kg); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.73	1.60	40	Kinsale	01-Dec-14	Gary Morton	Mackerel Strip
0.72	1.58	40	Kinsale	01-Dec-14	Martyn Rayner	Sabiki Rig
0.71	1.56	40	Kinsale	01-Dec-14	Martyn Rayner	Sabiki Rig
0.69	1.52	39	Kinsale	01-Dec-14	Gary Morton	Mackerel Strip
0.68	1.50	38	Kinsale	01-Dec-14	Gary Morton	Mackerel Strip
0.68	1.50	39	Kinsale	01-Dec-14	Martyn Rayner	Sabiki Rig



*Ian McMullan with
a Twaite Shad*



Twaite Shad (1.21 kg) for Nicholas Ward

TWAITE SHAD

New Record 1.64 kg (3.62 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.4255 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
*1.94	4.28	-	R Barrow, St. Mullins	18-May	Jamie Cummins	Tasmanian Devil
1.64	3.62	54	St. Mullins	15-May	Thomas Lynch	Tasmanian Devil
1.63	3.59	54	St. Mullins	17-May	Francis McNeilly	Tasmanian Devil
1.55	3.42	52	St. Mullins	19-May	Andrew Wolsey	Tasmanian Devil
1.50	3.31	54	St. Mullins	23-May	Eoin Walsh	Tasmanian Devil
1.46	3.22	-	St. Mullins	20-May	Stephen Brennan	Tasmanian Devil
1.46	3.22	-	St. Mullins	30-May	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
1.45	3.20	51	St. Mullins	15-May	Peter Bolger	Tasmanian Devil
1.43	3.15	49	St. Mullins	07-May	Eddie Butler	Tasmanian Devil
1.42	3.13	48	St. Mullins	24-May	Ronan Doherty	Tasmanian Devil
1.42	3.12	52.5	St. Mullins	20-May	John O'Donoghue	Cobra
1.42	3.12	45.1	St. Mullins	04-May	Sidney Kennedy	Tasmanian Devil
1.42	3.12	50	St. Mullins	15-May	Glenn McCormack	Tasmanian Devil
1.36	3.00	53	St. Mullins	15-May	Sidney Kennedy	Tasmanian Devil
1.36	3.00	50	St. Mullins	16-May	Sidney Kennedy	Tasmanian Devil
1.36	2.99	53	St. Mullins	23-May	Jimmy Kelly	Tasmanian Devil
1.32	2.91	-	St. Mullins	18-May	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
1.31	2.89	52	St. Mullins	24-May	Stephen M O'Sullivan	Tasmanian Devil
1.30	2.87	53.5	St. Mullins	19-May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
1.30	2.87	51	St. Mullins	19-May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
1.30	2.87	51	St. Mullins	18-May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
1.30	2.87	48.5	St. Mullins	18-May	Andrew Wolsey	Tasmanian Devil
1.30	2.87	50	St. Mullins	23-May	Mark Lennon	Tasmanian Devil
1.29	2.84	48	St. Mullins	15-May	Peter Bolger	Tasmanian Devil
1.27	2.80	-	St. Mullins	29-May	Ian McMullan	Tasmanian Devil
1.25	2.75	50	St. Mullins	15-May	Damien Allchorne	Tasmanian Devil
1.24	2.73	-	St. Mullins	29-May	Ian McMullan	Tasmanian Devil
1.23	2.71	-	St. Mullins	23-May	Duncan Cole	Tasmanian Devil
1.23	2.71	48	St. Mullins	16-May	Craig Murphy	Tasmanian Devil
1.22	2.69	54	St. Mullins	29-Apr-14	Martyn Rayner	Tasmanian Devil

* insufficient supporting information provided for record fish purposes

TWAITE SHAD – continued

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.22	2.69	47	St. Mullins	20-May	Francis McNeilly	Tasmanian Devil
1.22	2.69	-	St. Mullins	20-May	Stephen Brennan	Tasmanian Devil
1.21	2.67	46.5	St. Mullins	21-May	Joseph Marsella	Tasmanian Devil
1.21	2.67	53	St. Mullins	23-May	Nicholas Ward	Tasmanian Devil
1.20	2.65	53	St. Mullins	30-Apr-14	Martyn Rayner	Tasmanian Devil
1.20	2.65	-	St. Mullins	17-May	Dermot Jenkins	Tasmanian Devil



***Wicklow Smooth
Hound for charter
skipper Kit Dunne***

BLUE SHARK

**Record 206 lbs (93.44 kg); Specimen Weight 45.359 kg (100 lbs)
Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 190 cm**

L-BS - 195 Outer Cork Harbour 24-Jun Kevin Murphy Mackerel



***A night session
produced a 106 cm
Smooth Hound for
Albert Allan***



David McCormick with a Wicklow Smooth Hound



Smooth Hound for Gavin Moran

SMOOTH-HOUND

**New Record 8.62 kg (19.0 lbs); Specimen Weight 3 kg (6.62 lbs)
Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 100 cm**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
8.62	19.00	123	Wicklow	24-May	Garech Murphy	Peeler Crab
8.21	18.10	116	Wicklow	19-Jun	Jamie Byrne	Crab
7.98	17.60	121	Wicklow	24-Jun	David Evers	Crab
7.76	17.10	116	Wicklow	24-Jun	Brian Cooke	Peeler Crab
7.74	17.06	129	Howth Head	20-Jun	Bert McGregor	Crab
7.53	16.60	113	Wicklow	29-Jun	Joseph Redmond	Peeler Crab
7.37	16.25	113	Wicklow	26-Jun	James McGovern	Peeler Crab
6.85	15.10	110	Wicklow	26-Jun	Brian Cooke	Peeler Crab

SMOOTH-HOUND – continued

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.80	15.00	110	Wicklow	19-Jun	Kit Dunne	Peeler Crab
6.62	14.60	110	Wicklow	22-Jun	Kit Dunne	Peeler Crab
6.58	14.50	113	Wicklow	22-Jun	Des Chew	Crab
6.26	13.80	112	Wicklow	26-Jun	John Millerick	Peeler Crab
5.99	13.20	112	Wicklow	24-Jun	Brian Cooke	Peeler Crab
5.85	12.90	109	Wicklow	25-Jun	Noel O'Connor	Crab
5.81	12.80	105	Wicklow	22-Jun	Joe Caffrey	Crab
5.67	12.50	-	Wicklow	20-Jun	Ross Macklin	Crab
5.62	12.40	101	Wicklow	20-Jun	Aidan Cox	Crab
5.51	12.15	106	Wicklow	30-Jun	Dave McElroy	Peeler Crab
5.44	12.00	110	Wicklow	20-Jun	Robert McClean	Crab
5.35	11.80	111	Wicklow	20-Jun	Paddy Keogh	Crab
5.26	11.60	103	Wicklow	22-Jun	Christopher McGregor	Peeler Crab
4.85	10.70	96	Wicklow	30-Jun	Niall Burke	Peeler Crab
4.82	10.62	105	Howth	07-Jun	Bert McGregor	Peeler Crab
4.76	10.50	102	Wicklow	22-Jun	Christopher McGregor	Peeler Crab
4.72	10.40	100	Wicklow	28-Jun	Drew McMinn	Peeler Crab
4.59	10.12	108	Wicklow	06-Aug	Sean O'Shea	Crab
4.54	10.00	102	Wicklow	28-Jun	Drew McMinn	Peeler Crab
4.31	9.50	101	Wicklow	28-Jun	David McCormick	Mackerel
4.30	9.48	102	Kilmore Quay	09-Sep	John Belgar (UK)	Mackerel
4.26	9.40	101	Wicklow	19-Jun	Kit Dunne	Peeler Crab
4.10	9.04	105	Ballyhealy, Wexford	23-Aug	Francis McNeilly	Peeler Crab
3.99	8.80	93	Wicklow	30-Jun	Boris Seigal	Peeler Crab
3.99	8.80	-	Wicklow	20-Jun	Gavin Moran	Crab
3.91	8.62	100	Passage East	22-Jul	Nicholas McEvoy	Crab/Ragworm
3.72	8.20	-	Wicklow	20-Jun	Gavin Moran	Crab
3.69	8.12	98	Howth Head	16-Aug	Bert McGregor	Squid
3.67	8.10	96	Wicklow	14-Jun	Shane O'Dea	Crab
3.65	8.05	96	Kilmore Quay	06-Sep	Darren Leatherbarrow (UK)	Mackerel
3.63	8.00	99	Wicklow	28-May	Rory McAlinney	Peeler Crab

SMOOTH-HOUND – continued

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.58	7.89	100	Arklow	19-Jul	Aidan Cox	Crab
3.57	7.87	97	Passage East	24-Jun	Josh Ryan	Peeler Crab
3.45	7.60	93	Wicklow	22-Jun	Christopher McGregor	Peeler Crab
3.40	7.50	95	Wicklow	25-Jun	Christy Lane	Crab
3.40	7.50	-	Dublin Bay	20-Oct	Ken Garry	Peeler Crab
3.36	7.41	99	Ballymoney	02-Jul	David Craig	Crab
3.36	7.40	100.5	Wicklow	08-Aug	Gary Blake	Crab
3.29	7.25	92	Passage East	08-Jun	Nicholas McEvoy	Peeler Crab
3.29	7.25	101	Wicklow	19-Jul	Robert McClean	Crab
3.27	7.20	100	Arklow	17-Jul	Craig Murphy	Crab
3.27	7.20	94	Wicklow	23-May	Paddy Keogh	Crab
3.22	7.10	91	Wicklow	26-Jun	Shay McLoughlin	Peeler Crab
3.22	7.10	101	Dublin Bay	15-Jun	Ronan Doherty	Crab
3.19	7.04	104	Arklow	15-Aug	Andrew Boyce	Crab
3.18	7.00	96	Arklow	15-Jul	Sean O'Shea	Crab
3.18	7.00	100	Wicklow	11-Jul	Dean Costelloe	Peeler Crab
3.13	6.90	103	Wicklow	30-Jul	Noel Taaffe	Peeler Crab
3.12	6.87	95	Passage East	24-Jun	Noel Darcy	Peeler Crab
3.08	6.80	98	Arklow	15-Jul	Craig Murphy	Crab
3.06	6.75	96	Arklow	16-Jun	Craig Murphy	Crab
3.06	6.75	97	Howth Head	07-Jun	Philip Browne	Crab
3.06	6.75	95	Passage East	24-Jun	Nicholas McEvoy	Peeler Crab
3.04	6.70	91	Wicklow	12-Jul	Paddy Keogh	Peeler Crab
L-BS	-	107	Dublin Bay	01-Aug	John Hughes	Peeler Crab/Squid
L-BS	-	106	Brittas Bay, Wicklow	22-Jul	Albert Allan	Crab



*Robert McClean
and a Wicklow
Smooth Hound*

*Joe Caffrey
with a 5.8 kg
Smooth Hound*



*One of the
best Smooth
Hounds of 2015
fell to Joseph
Redmond*

STONE BASSE

Record 11.72 lbs (5.32 kg); Specimen Weight 3.628 kg (8 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
4.90	10.81	-	Courtmacsherry	18-Aug	Adam Kirby (UK)	Mackerel



Passage East produced a number of specimen Smooth Hounds in 2015 including this one for Josh Ryan

A Smooth Hound of 107 cm for John Hughes in Dublin Bay



Aidan Cox with his 5.62 kg Smooth Hound

TOPE

Record 66 lbs 8 ozs (30.159 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)
Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 160 cm

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
27.22	60.00	171	Howth Head	19-Sep	Bert McGregor	Mackerel Flapper
22.23	49.00	163	Wicklow	22-Jul	Martin Corr	Peeler Crab
21.32	47.00	165.5	Wicklow	23-Jul	Anne Hooijenga (NL)	Peeler Crab
20.87	46.00	-	Greystones	28-Jun	Derek Kilbey	Mackerel
20.41	45.00	155	Wicklow	14-Jun	David Bailey	Mackerel
19.96	44.00	161	Wicklow	12-Jul	Paddy Keogh	Peeler Crab
19.55	43.10	150	Wicklow	07-Aug	Stephen Meredith	Peeler Crab
19.05	42.00	162.5	Wicklow	12-Aug	Henk Theulings (NL)	Mackerel
18.92	41.71	149.9	Islandmagee	07-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel
18.46	40.70	154.9	Islandmagee	18-Aug	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	-	162	Kilmore Quay	26-Sep	Tony Murphy	Mackerel



A 20.87 kg Greystones Tope for Derek Kilbey



Dutch angler Henk Theulings with a fine Tope from Wicklow



Martin Corr with the second heaviest Tope of 2015

WHITING

Record 4 lbs 14.5 oz (2.225 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg (3 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.50	3.31	53	Brandon Bay	10-Jun	Ray Heaslip	Mackerel



Ray Heaslip had the only specimen Whiting of 2015



Andrew Wolsey with his 1.55 kg Twaite Shad. Many large shad were encountered in 2015.



John de Greve from Belgium with a Kenmare Bay Ballan Wrasse

BALLAN WRASSE

Record 4.3 kg (9.47 lbs); Specimen Weight 2.154 kg (4.75 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.65	5.85	53	Slea Head	25-Sep	Gary Blake	Ragworm
2.50	5.51	-	Kenmare Bay	12-Sep	John de Greve (B)	Red Shrimps
2.40	5.29	-	Kenmare Bay	12-Sep	Paul de la Riviere (B)	Shrimps
2.30	5.07	-	Kenmare Bay	12-Sep	Marnix Van Der Brande (B)	Shrimps
2.22	4.89	50	Sligo Bay	20-Aug	Ronan Doherty	Lugworm
2.18	4.80	48	Valentia Island	02-Oct	Craig Murphy	Crab

CUCKOO WRASSE

Record 2 lbs 7 ozs (1.106 kg); Specimen Weight 0.567 kg (1.25 lbs)

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.77	1.70	40	Youghal	22-Oct	Ray O'Sullivan	Mackerel
0.70	1.54	38	Rathlin Island	17-Oct	Alexander William Coulter	Green Muppet
0.68	1.50	-	Ballycastle	30-Aug	Andrew Wolsey	Squid
0.60	1.31	37.5	Ballycastle	19-Sep	Terry Jackson	Baited Sabikis
0.60	1.31	36	Killybegs	18-Apr	Mike Patton	Mackerel



***Mike Patton with a
Killybegs Cuckoo Wrasse***

Special Notices

SPECIMEN WEIGHT REVISION

No specimen weight revisions for 2016.

GEOGRAPHICAL LIMIT FOR MARINE SPECIES CLAIMS

The geographical limit for claiming marine specimen fish is defined as the marine waters bound by the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland sectors of the European Economic Zone (EEZ), and on the north east coast by the midpoint between NI and the remainder of the United Kingdom landmass.

IMPORTANT POINTS REGARDING CLAIMS

Photographic evidence for new records: Except in the few cases where a body or presentation of the fish is required for species identification, a series of clear photographs must accompany all **record** fish claims. The photograph(s) must show the full fish lying on a flat surface and include a measure of scale (measurement mat, ruler). Preferably it should be photographed on a measuring mat or similar. Supplementary photographs showing the fish being weighed and the recorded weight would assist in further substantiating the claim.

Weighing instruments and certification: All fish must be weighed on scales which are verified for accuracy. Shop scales normally used in trade are checked regularly by officers of the Legal Metrology Service (National Standards Authority of Ireland) or their equivalent and are acceptable for weighing specimen and record fish. Club or personalised (i.e. scales not normally certified by the Weights and Measures Authority for trade purposes) can be certified for accuracy. Such scales, if certified by a reputable agency/company, are acceptable to the Committee. Certification will be valid for one year from the date of issue of the certificate of accuracy. The manufacturer's certificate of accuracy will not suffice. Weights from scales which are not certified at the time of weighing or certified in retrospect will not be accepted.

Since 2012 the National Metrology Laboratory (NML) has provided a service to calibrate mechanical and digital fish scales (personal/club) based on EN 45501, from 0 – 100kg. The NML is the national metrology institute for Ireland and is responsible for establishing, maintaining and developing the national measurement standards for physical quantities and their dissemination to Irish users. NML operates as a division of NSAI (The National Standards Authority of Ireland).

Contact details:

NSAI National Metrology Laboratory (Rory Hanrahan)

Griffith Avenue Extension

Glasnevin

Dublin 9

Tel: 01 8082609

<http://www.nsai.ie/Our-Services/Metrology/Calibration-Services/Fish-Scale-Calibration.aspx>

Claims cannot be accepted in the case of fish which have been weighed on board a boat, **UNLESS WEIGHED ON A CERTIFIED MOTION-COMPENSATED BALANCE.**

Weighing scales and minimum weight: Scales must be appropriate to the size of fish being weighed. **Since 2015, to ensure that fish are weighed on appropriate scales, the minimum weight**

was set at 10 times the scale interval (or weighing division). This means that for scales with a 50g interval (or scale division) fish being weighed have to exceed 500g (1lb 2 ozs) in weight. For a 2 oz interval a minimum weight of 20 ozs applies. The interval or scale division in the majority of scales used by specimen anglers tend to be 10g or 20g and anglers should ensure that their scales is suited to the sizes of fish being targeted.

Weight conversion figures: The ISFC decided to use the metric system (kg) for reporting from 2006 onwards, although some older record fish will be reported in the imperial system until a new record is set. To aid anglers in the conversion between both systems conversion factors are provided below:

Kilogrammes to pounds

X kg divided by 0.454 = Y metric pounds

Pounds to kilogrammes

X lbs divided by 2.205 = Y kg

Metriification: Since 2006, fish weights have been presented in kilograms in the Annual Report. Many anglers continue to use imperial measurements for fish and, recognising this, the ISFC decided to report in both metric (SI) and imperial metric systems since 2010. Claims will be accepted under either system unless legislation dictates otherwise.

Length measurements on claim form: A length measurement provides informative data about the species being claimed and additional verification information, and is requested for all species. Lengths (cm) as submitted on each claim form have been presented in this report since 2009. Considerable length variation is evident for many species due to natural variability (time of year, sex, location, feeding etc) but it is likely that fish length measurement techniques are inconsistent also. Measurement mats are recommended to provide standardized measurements of specimen fish.

NEW in 2016 - Photograph requirement for ALL elasmobranchs (Dogfish, Sharks, Skates and Rays): from 2016 onwards a claim for any of the above (including weight based specimens) will require submission of a photograph showing the fish being measured on a measuring mat (with an end stop) or equivalent, with its length clearly discernible.

Place of capture: For freshwater species all claims must include the name of the water in which the fish was caught (e.g. Monalty Lake) and in the case of the larger systems, the area (e.g. River Shannon – Rooskey). For marine species taken by boat angling the port of origin and the place of capture (examples: Burford Bank, 5 km West of Stags Head or Smiths) should be stated.

Closed seasons: Closed seasons apply to several species (e.g. bass, brown trout, salmon, eel etc). Any fish taken in the closed season will not be ratified.

Maximum number of claims per species: A maximum of three (3) awards will be made to any particular claimant for any single species in any one year. However, if an angler achieves this target and subsequently captures a larger fish within the year, this fish can be claimed. However, the final number of awards for any species in a single year will not be more than three.

Exclusion from specimen status (stocked fish): Where species of fish are introduced to a fishery at or above existing specimen weights, those species from that particular fishery shall not be considered for specimen or record status. Escapees from fish farms in either freshwater or marine are also excluded.

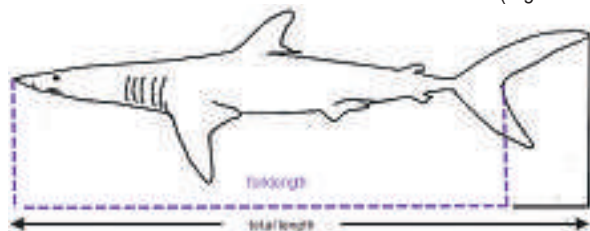
LENGTH-BASED SPECIMEN CLAIMS

Length-based claim procedure: Length-based specimens were introduced on a pilot basis for Tope in 2011 to test the feasibility of operating with threshold lengths for selected elasmobranchs. This would allow live fish to be returned to the water unharmed without the requirement for measuring weight on land. Claims to be made on the existing claim form and the angler will specify that length only is being measured.

Fish must be measured on a recognised measuring device with an end stop and suitable graduations. Suitable devices (measuring mats) are available from IFI, IGFA or tackle manufacturers.

The fish has to be placed belly down on the measuring device with its dorsal caudal lobe depressed into line with its body axis and total length measured as a point to point distance (not over the curve of the body) from the snout tip to the tip of the dorsal caudal lobe. The snout tip must be placed against a perpendicular front bar or plate to index the 0 cm measurement accurately.

Except for Blue and Porbeagle Shark (where total length vs weight relationship data are limited), all length data to be given as total length; this is the measurement most often used as an independent variable and is the standard measurement in scientific shark literature (e.g. Campagno, 1984).



The following evidence must accompany each length-based specimen claim:

- (a) Photograph(s) showing fish placed belly down on properly extended measuring device with snout against perpendicular bar or plate with the actual recorded length (cm) visible
and
- (b) the sex of the fish. Males can be identified by their claspers (modified pelvic fins) which are thin elongated paired fins situated behind the pelvic fins. Females do not have claspers but have an opening between the pelvic fins.

NEW in 2016 - Length-based specimen species and thresholds: Since 2015 four species namely Tope (since 2011), Spur Dogfish, Smooth-Hound and Blue Shark could be claimed as length-based specimens. From 2016 onwards, following an extensive review by the ISFC, Angel Shark (*Squatina squatina*) (Monkfish), Undulate Ray (*Raja undulata*), Porbeagle Shark (*Lamna nasus*) and Common Skate (*Dipturus batis* complex) will be restored to the specimen fish listings as length-based specimens only. The primary reasons for re-listing these species are to (a) collect data on their distribution and status which is scientifically valuable and (2) to provide additional species for anglers to target as specimens. In re-listing these species, which have an exceptionally high conservation value, the ISFC requires that anglers handle them with the utmost care and that best practise approaches are adopted for lifting and returning to the water. Fish slings or similar are recommended. Detail on exact capture locations (Latitude/Longitude) would contribute further to refining species distribution information but will not be published by ISFC.

Threshold values for all length based specimens and wingspan measurement thresholds (for ray and skate) are shown below. Wingspan to be measured by placing fish on measuring mat. **Blue shark and Porbeagle shark threshold lengths, both forklengths, are 190 cm and 180 cm respectively.**

Species	Threshold length (cm) TL = total length FL = fork length	Wingspan (cm)	Weight-based specimen allowed
Spur Dogfish	105 cm TL	-	Yes
Smooth-Hound	100 cm TL	-	Yes
Tope	160 cm TL	-	Yes
Blue Shark	190 cm FL	-	Yes
Angel Shark (Monkfish)	125 cm TL	-	No
Undulate Ray	90 cm TL	59 cm	No
Porbeagle Shark	180 cm FL	-	No
Common Skate	180 cm TL	170 cm	No

FISH SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Genetic fingerprinting of certain cyprinids, Shad species and Smooth-Hound: In July 2006 the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources introduced a bye-law titled CONSERVATION OF AND PROHIBITION ON SALE OF COARSE FISH BYE-LAW NO. 806, 2006 which provided for the following conservation measures:

- a bag limit of 4 coarse fish in any one day,
- prohibits the killing of any coarse fish greater than 25 cm in length,
- prohibits the sale of any coarse fish in Ireland (excluding NI), this provision will not apply to fishing tackle dealers and fish bait suppliers who have been granted an exemption by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI).

This bye-law meant that the ISFC could not accept bodies of any coarse fish (dace, roach, rudd or any hybrids > 25 cm) from anglers for the purposes of claiming a specimen. Bodies were required to positively identify to species or hybrid level because of the similarity of their external features.

For many years the Committee recognised that genetic fingerprinting of cyprinids was required for consistent identification of fish, to enable fish to be returned alive to the water and, importantly, to allow anglers to continue to claim specimen cyprinids. Arising from research into the dynamics of selected cyprinid species in some Irish lakes, carried out by researchers in the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin and funded by IFI, genetic fingerprinting of cyprinid specimens commenced in 2007.

Results showed clear differentiation and identifications have been made using a combination of these results and all photographic evidence received. Several fish were not as claimed which demonstrated the scope of the technique. Since 2009 this technology has been adopted by the ISFC as the standard approach to cyprinid identification. Arising from the capacity to distinguish between hybrids, rudd/roach hybrids were added to the list of eligible species from 2010.

To support a cyprinid claim, anglers are requested to submit a small sample of scales (3 scales) in a dry envelope (not in a plastic bag or tin foil) and good quality colour photographs. The entire fish on its side with, the dorsal and anal fins fully splayed, and close up photographs of the head (side on) are required for each fish claimed.

The success of ongoing collaborations between the ISFC, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin on shad (*Alosa* spp.) and smooth-hound (*Mustelus* spp.) meant these species could be identified by genetic fingerprinting from 2009 onwards. This eliminated the requirement for a body to be presented for both groups of fish. An extensive study of smooth-hound carried out by Dr. Edward Farrell, formerly UCD, found no evidence of *M. mustelus* (Common smooth-hound) in Irish waters despite extensive sampling. Therefore ISFC no longer require a tissue sample for genetic analysis to support a claim for a smooth-hound.

Considerable numbers of hybrid shad which were identified by genetic analysis were caught by anglers in 2011. The Committee decided to add this Allis/Twaite hybrid to the listing of eligible fish in 2012 because of the numbers of claims submitted. Following a review no statistically significant difference in mean weight of specimens was determined between Twaite and Hybrid Shad and the Committee set the qualifying weight at 1.2 kg for the Hybrid also. Only three claims may be submitted for any combination of Shad (i.e. Shad or suspected Shad Hybrids). No hybrids have been identified since 2011.

Sample requirements for genetic analysis of selected cyprinids and shads for species/hybrid determination			
Species	Sample required	Storage	Additional information
Roach, Rudd and their hybrids	3 scales	In an envelope with fish details and date	Good quality photographs required
Shad species	3 scales	In an envelope with fish details and date	Ensure fish is retained in water as much as is feasible
Notes: As all fish can be returned alive please handle carefully. Allow envelope to dry out to preserve the sample. <u>Do not</u> store scales or tissue in plastic as sample will degrade.			

As genetic analysis of scales requires considerable time to process samples, anglers are requested to submit scale samples before 15th October.

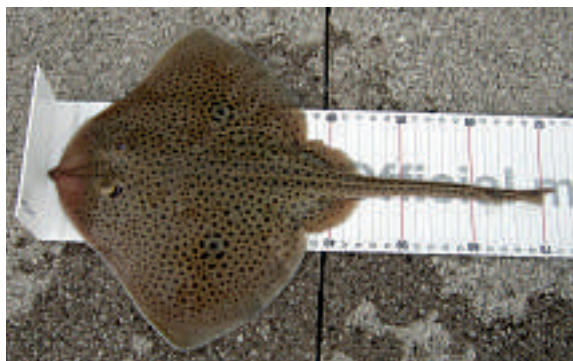
Guidance for anglers taking photographs for fish identification purposes: Photographic requirements to support general identification or genetic analyses are described below.

In 2005 the ISFC added a clause to Rule 4 which facilitated anglers who wished to present photographs for fish identification purposes. Photographs are acceptable **if they provide conclusive evidence of the identity of the fish**. To assist anglers, a list of some external identification features for these particular species are presented below.

Photographs should be taken as soon as possible after the fish is captured. The photograph must be in focus, clear and in colour, printed on good quality paper and show the relevant identification features. It should include the name of the angler and date of capture. Close up photographs are required for many features and these photographs should fill the entire frame.

Species	Features to photograph (a) the whole body (lateral view) must be photographed for all species AND (b) the specific features detailed below
All cyprinids (Dace, Roach, Roach/Bream, Roach/Rudd, Rudd, Rudd/Bream)	Whole body; body with fins extended and close ups of: (a) mouth - closed (b) dorsal fin (c) full lateral line (d) anal fin Three scales to be taken
Angler Fish	Whole body; head area showing head appendages upright
Brill	Whole body; close up of skin
Cuckoo Wrasse	Whole body; lateral view, close up of head
Dab	Whole body; close up of skin and lateral line
Flounder	Whole body; close up of lateral line scales close to head
Golden Grey Mullet Thin-Lipped Mullet	Whole body and close ups of: (a) head including pectoral fin (lying flat) (b) mouth showing upper lip (c) underside of head
Grey Gurnard	Whole body; close up of lateral line and head
Thick Lipped Mullet	Whole body; close up of head showing upper lip (head-on), underside of head to back of gills
Herring	Whole body; keel of fish
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	Whole body; underside of head
Mackerel	Whole body; close up of stripes on back
Megrim	Whole body; head
Ray's Bream	Whole body; close up of head
All Gurnards	Whole body; detail of lateral line, head with pectoral fin fully expanded
Red Mullet	Whole body; close up of head
Scad	Whole body; close up of entire lateral line
Shad - Allis, Twaite & Hybrid	Whole body; three scales to be taken
Smooth-hound	Whole body and close ups of: (a) tail fin (b) underside of head showing mouth (c) back in region of dorsal fin
Three Bearded Rockling	Whole body; close up of head and lower jaw area, and close up of area in front of dorsal fin
Torsk	Whole body; close up of skin and dorsal and tail fin area

Additional details of important features are detailed in IFI's Fish Identification Guide
<http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Angling/angling-publications.html>



Homelyn Ray Total Length



Smooth Hound on measuring mat



*Examples of close-up images required for cyprinid identification.
Photograph of fish on measuring mat (or similar) which show general shape, position of fins and other features also required.*

ESTABLISHING A NEW SPECIMEN FISH CATEGORY

An important function of the ISFC is to act as a focal point for data collection on the occurrence of notable, rare or unusual species taken on rod and line in Irish waters. In some instances this has led to species previously regarded as “unusual” being added to the list of eligible species. Examples from recent years include smooth-hound (*Mustelas asterias*) and three bearded rockling (*Gaidropsarus vulgaris*), (from 1983), garfish (*Belone svetovidovi*) (from 1986), torsk (*Brosme brosme*) (from 1988), trigger fish (*Balistes carolinensis*) (from 1992), bluemouth (*Helicolenus dactylopterus*) (from 2002), albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) (from 2002), golden grey mullet (*Liza aurata* (Risso)) (from 2005), gilthead bream (*Sparus aurata* L.) (from 2007), blackmouthed dogfish (*Galeus melastomus*) (from 2008), Black Bream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*) (from 2009), and thin lipped mullet (*Liza ramada*) from 2011.

*To begin the process of attempting to establish a new specimen fish category, anglers **are requested to submit a completed claim form** for each fish captured.* This is important to establish a database for the species and enable further investigation and comparison of future claims. Claims for 10 fish of that species must be submitted for it to be considered for possible inclusion on the listings. The specimen weight will be set from this dataset and other relevant data. The record fish will be ratified after 5 fish exceeding specimen weight are ratified.

With some species a body may have to be forwarded for positive identification. Other arrangements would apply for larger fish. The availability of a body will allow the Committee to verify positive identification of the species and the claims will allow monitoring of numbers and weights of the species. This facilitates assessment of the likelihood of capture, the likely specimen weight and the availability and seasonality of the species. It is difficult to legislate for every situation that may arise but the final decision will rest with the Committee and will be based on a balanced review of the information available. While this process is progressing some details of interesting fish captured will be reported in the annual report.

EXCLUSIONS FROM SPECIMEN FISH LISTINGS

Exclusion from specimen status – Eel and Bluefin Tuna: Freshwater eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) was suspended from ISFC listings in 2009 because exploitation of eel stocks by any means was prohibited by bye-law to eliminate exploitation and assist stock recovery. The Conservation of Eel Fishing Bye-Law No. C.S. 319, 2015 renewed the conservation measures and eel remains a suspended species.

In the absence of a recreational angling quota Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) was suspended from ISFC listings in 2014.

REVIEW OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS

The first systematic review of specimen weights was carried out by ISFC in 2009-2010 when specimen weights were reduced for 3 of 18 fish categories in freshwater (16.7%) and 15 of 69 marine species (21.7%). The Committee reviewed weights again in 2014. The 2014 review focused on species where < 5 specimens had been ratified since 2009. Sixteen weights were reduced from the 36 species reviewed.

The complete list of species reviewed and specimen weight changes is shown below:

Species	Current specimen weight kg	Revised weight kg
Pike (Lake)	13.608	No change
Roach	0.907	No change
Angler fish	12.0	10.0
Black bream	1.0	0.9
Black sole	0.8	0.7
Brill	2.0	1.75
Cod	9.072	No change
Garfish (<i>B. svetovidovi</i>)	0.355	0.3
Grey gurnard	0.68	No change
Haddock	3.175	3.0
Hake	3.5	3.0
Halibut	15.0	12.0
John Dory	1.814	No change
Mackerel	1.0	No change
Red Mullet	0.454	0.4
Plaice	1.5	1.4
Cuckoo Ray	1.8	1.6
Electric Ray	9.072	No change

Species	Current specimen weight kg	Revised weight kg
Sting ray	13.608	13.0
Thornback Ray	8.0	7.0
Ray's Bream	2.0	No change
Red Sea Bream	1.8	1.0
Scad	0.68	No change
Allis Shad	1.814	No change
Shad hybrids	1.2	No change
Blue Shark	45.359	No change
Mako shark	90.718	No change
Six-gilled shark	45.359	No change
Thresher shark	54.431	No change
Long-nosed skate	36.287	No change
White skate	54.431	No change
Stone basse	3.628	No change
Torsk	2.721	2.5
Trigger fish	1.474	No change
Tuna-Albacore	12.0	No change
Turbot	7.0	6.0

BIG GAME FISH

Since 2000 the ISFC has adopted a watching brief with regard to the rules governing the capture of big game fish. Based on the deliberations of an ISFC sub-committee appointed in 2002, revised rules derived from relevant sections from the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) rules have been incorporated into the existing ISFC rules (see Rule 2).

ADMINISTRATION

Captors Addresses: Because of difficulties in establishing eligibility for the 20 Species, 10 Species, 50 Specimen and 10 Specimen Awards, captors are advised to inform the Committee of any changes in their addresses.

Tagging photographs: The annual report is enhanced by photographs. Many, particularly digital images, are submitted by different means including DVD, CD and email. For greater efficiency contributors must tag all photographs, DVDs, CDs and emailed photographs with relevant details. DVDs and CDs should have a list of the angler(s), the species, the weight and date(s) of capture printed on the disk. All emailed photographs should be tagged with abbreviated angler name, species, weight and date.

PRESENTATION OF 2014 AWARDS

The late Derek Davis, Chairman of the National Inland Fisheries Forum, broadcaster and angler, made the Annual Presentation of Awards to successful anglers at Bewleys Airport Hotel on 21 February 2015.

In late March 2015, Dutch and Belgian anglers were presented with their specimen awards by renowned angling journalist Peter Dohmen and Micheál Hennessy, Inland Fisheries Ireland, at VISMA, Rotterdam.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Photographs: The majority of photographs in this report are taken by anglers. Good quality colour photographs have enhanced the report considerably since 2000. Anglers, charter skippers, fisheries staff and journalists are acknowledged for their photographs.

Special acknowledgements: Charter skippers, club members, guesthouse owners, tackle dealers and the many staff from Inland Fisheries Ireland who follow up claims and ensure that the necessary paperwork is attended to are gratefully acknowledged.

Sincere thanks to Myles Kelly, IFI and ISFC web manager, for his input throughout 2015 and to Derek Evans for his article published in the 2015 report.

AFBINI continues to provide a specimen fish identification service for anglers in the northern part of Ireland and the ISFC is indebted to Dr Steven Beggs and Dr Robert Rosell.

Special thanks are due to the extremely cooperative staff of the National Metrology Laboratory NSAI for certification of anglers' scales. The genetic fingerprinting work undertaken by Dr. Stefano Mariani (up to 2011) and Dr. Jens Carlsson and their teams at UCD has significantly advanced ISFC fish identification procedures and the Committee is very grateful to everyone involved in this important activity.

Inland Fisheries Ireland continues to provide unstinting administrative support and other services to the ISFC and is sincerely acknowledged. Bridie Fleming supports all activity in the ISFC and is a vital part of the continued success of the Committee.



***Measuring Gary Blake's
100.5 cm Smooth Hound***

DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIMEN AWARDS

Nationalities of anglers whose claims were ratified:

Year	Ireland	Netherlands (NL)	United Kingdom (UK)	Germany (D)	Belgium (B)	France (F)	Other	TOTAL
1985	443	25	90	15	3	2	n/d	578
1986	349	21	93	16	3	7	n/d	489
1987	300	36	59	8	1	4	n/d	408
1988	259	14	60	5	4	4	n/d	346
1989	261	18	48	10	0	0	n/d	337
1990	286	21	45	23	4	1	n/d	380
1991	332	30	46	19	1	3	n/d	431
1992	336	32	56	9	1	3	n/d	437
1993	352	30	45	16	3	4	n/d	450
1994	282	33	39	13	1	2	n/d	370
1995	295	35	55	18	7	1	n/d	411
1996	307	27	69	6	4	2	n/d	415
1997	449	28	57	9	5	4	n/d	552
1998	344	46	53	6	5	4	n/d	458
1999	310	33	35	3	1	1	1	384
2000	403	41	48	13	1	0	2	508
2001	427	28	37	5	4	3	4	508
2002	471	23	43	7	6	2	7	559
2003	384	63	41	11	13	4	5	521
2004	412	48	38	3	9	4	4	518
2005	432	62	52	10	7	4	1	568
2006	351	44	42	2	10	0	2	449
2007	424	56	28	6	12	2	2	530
2008	429	46	23	1	3	0	0	502
2009	470	39	15	5	0	0	2	531
2010	521	45	26	6	5	1	3	607
2011	519	50	14	0	3	0	1	587
2012	578	40	18	2	1	0	1	640
2013	536	41	11	5	1	0	1	595
2014	476	23	15	1	7	2	2	526
2015	422	12	8	0	4	0	1	447

n/d = not determined

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS

Expenditure and Revenue Accounts - 1st January to 31st December 2014

2013	Expenditure	2014	2013	Revenue		2014
€		€	€		€	€
				Balance b/f from 2014		23976.29
				Grants		
5924.04	Printing	4649.75	4500	IFI	4500	
4154.96	Award Medals / Trophies	595.98	4678.46	Loughs Agency		
1300	Miscellaneous / Postage	1438.56	200	TAFI	200	
	ISFC Meeting Expenses	45	8.89	Delphi	8.89	
	Awards Day Costs	249.12	100	ICSA		
24.75	Bank Charges	27.72				
	Genetic Identification	2000		Donations		
			584.26	Anglers	439.56	
				EBS	497.10	
			1000	Faillte Ireland		
	Total	9006.13				5645.55
	Balance c/d	20615.71				
		29621.84				29621.84
				Balance b/d		20615.71

“The ISFC has prepared a revenue and expenditure account for 12 months ended 31st December 2014 based on the movements in the bank. Upon review of the financial records provided we are satisfied that this income and expenditure account accurately reflects the underlying transactions”

Signed:

W. Walsh & H. O'Rourke (Auditors)

DONATIONS

The ISFC is a voluntary body and all of its activities are funded by grants/donations from diverse sources. All funders are gratefully acknowledged.

Benefactors in 2015 were:

Inland Fisheries Ireland, Irish Charters Skippers Association; Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland; Delphi Fishery Ltd. Val Atkins, 4 Abbeypark, Ferrybank, Waterford; **Peter Bolger**, 70 Ferrycarrig Road, Coolock, Dublin 17; **Jim Dooley**, 6 Bawnleigh Court, Banduff, Cork; **Eric Gosnell**, 52 Marian Park, Church Road, Blackrock, Cork; **Halfway Angling Centre (Dan Lynch)**, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork; **Bob Healeas**, 13 Trelawney Road, Chacewater, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 8JR, England; **Burkhard Hobler**, Inishmacatreer, Cross, Co. Mayo; **Christy Lane**, 10 Harrington's Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; **Noel Lane**, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork; **Nicholas McEvoy**, 6 Francis Crescent, Grange Heights, Waterford City; **Bert McGregor**, 34 Rivermead Park, St. Margaret's, Co. Dublin; **Vincent McKernan**, 19 Drummaul Park, Randalstown, Co. Armagh, BT41 3AR; **W. F. McLaughlin**, 27 Castle Gardens, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, BT49 OSD; **Jim Newell**, 129 Haypark Avenue, Belfast, BT7 3FG; **Karl O'Leary**, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; **Stephen O'Neill**, 35 Ferndale, Carrigaline, Co. Cork; **Wicklow Boat Charters (Kit Dunne)**, 10C Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.

Measuring Rudd/Bream Hybrid



Measuring Homelyn Ray disc width



Dave McElroy with his Smooth Hound from Wicklow



*Twaite Shad for
Stephen O’Sullivan*



*A 1.29 kg Twaite Shad for
Peter Bolger*

IRISH RECORD FISH

FRESHWATER SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Bream	6.07 kg	24.6.2012	Ballywillan Lough Fishery, Co. Down	Bryan Robinson
Carp	14.24 kg	26.10.2014	Loughgall, Armagh	Aaron Cummins
Dace	1 2	8.8.1966	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	John T. Henry
Eel	6 15	12.6.1979	Lough Droumenisa, Bantry	J. Murnane
Perch	5 8	1946	Lough Erne	S. Drum
Pike (Lake)	42 12	25.9.2005	White Lake	Larry Kelly
Pike (River)	42	22.3.1964	River Barrow	M. Watkins
Roach	1.425 kg	6.10.2002	Drumacritten Lake	Terry Jackson
Roach/Bream Hybrid	3.376 kg	3.5.2013	Monalty Lake, Co. Monaghan	Jason Dingle
Roach/Rudd Hybrid	2.1 kg	5.5.2009	River Lagan, Co. Antrim	Terry Jackson
Rudd	4 8	5.9.1996	Coney Lake	Hugh Gough
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7 10	19.10.1996	Monalty Lake	Brendan Doran
Tench	8.15	20.6.1995	Ballyeigher Lake	Nick Parry
Salmon	57	1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Brown Trout (Lake)	26 2	15.7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Brown Trout (River)	20	22.2.1957	River Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place
Sea Trout	16 6	29.10.1983	Shimna River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus

MARINE SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Angler Fish	42.985 kg	3.11.1985	Belfast Lough	Sean Neill
Bass	17 13	21.10.2000	Doughmore Strand	Emmet Naughton
Black Sole	6.32	28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Bluemouth	1.32 kg	28.7.2008	Caherciveen	Sue Tait
Brill	9 8	8.9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	15.1 kg	30.8.2003	Castletownshend	Roger Barham (UK)
Cod	42	1921	Ballycotton	I.L. Stewart
Conger Eel	72	June, 1914	Valentia	J. Green
Dab	2 5.5	2.10.2002	Cork Harbour	Mick Duff (UK)
Blackmouthed Dogfish	1.33 kg	10.8.2011	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Jan Vrieswijk (NL)
Spur Dogfish	11.06 kg	3.6.2013	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Tom Walsh
Greater Spotted Dogfish	23 13	17.09.2003	Kenmare Bay	Perry Dumay (NL)
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	4 4	26.7.1982	Valentia	Cor Heinis (NL)
Flounder	4.91	2.10.1993	Ballyteigue	Brian Russell
Garfish (<i>B. belone</i>)	1.729 kg	28.5.2007	Cork Harbour	Stephen O'Neill
Garfish (<i>B. svetovidovi</i>)	1.11	5.8.1994	Courtmacsherry	Eric Leijten (NL)
Gilthead Bream	3.505 kg	17.8.2013	Dingle, Co. Kerry	Jeremy Coleman (UK)

MARINE SPECIES (Contd.)

Species	Weight		Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
	lbs	ozs			
Tub Gurnard	12	3.5	8.8.1973	Bullsmouth, Achill	Robert Seaman
Grey Gurnard	3	1	21.9.1967	Rosslare Bay	Brendan Walsh
Red Gurnard	3	9.5	17.7.1968	Belmullet	James Prescott
Haddock	5.39	kg	21.2.2010	Union Hall	Tony Santry
Hake	25	5.5	28.4.1962	Belfast Lough	H. W. Steele
Halibut	156		23.7.1972	Belmullet	Frank Brogan
Herring	0.48	kg	17.9.2011	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Hamish Currie
John Dory	7	8	12.8.1984	Killala Bay	Cleona Walkin
Ling	55		3.1.2004	Cork Harbour	Ailbhe O'Sullivan
Mackerel	4	2	18.9.1979	Ballycotton	Ulrich Plassmann (D)
Megrim	1.85	kg	26.7.1987	Killala	Paul Hennigan
Angel Shark (Monkfish)	73		1.6.1980	Fenit, Co. Kerry	James Boyd
Grey Mullet	9.10		26.9.1993	Cork Harbour	Cay Heerwagen (D)
Golden Grey Mullet	1.2	kg	16.7.2014	Cork Harbour	Stephen O'Neill
Thin Lipped Mullet	2.86	kg	23.8.2014	Clonakilty, Cork	Ian Mulligan
Red Mullet	0.82	kg	20.9.2010	Kilmore Quay	Sue Tait
Plaice	8.23		23.1.1982	Ballycotton Pier	Edmund Cull
Pollack	19	3	1904	Ballycotton	J. N. Hearne
Pouting	4	13.5	2.4.1983	Kilmore Quay	John Devereaux
Thornback Ray	37		28.5.1961	Ling Rocks, Kinsale	M. J. Fitzgerald
Blonde Ray	37		10.10.2005	Cobh	Paul Tennant
Sting Ray	33.2	kg	19.5.1999	Tralee Bay	Michael Wall
Cuckoo Ray	5	11	3. 8.1975	Causeway Coast	V. Morrison
Undulate Ray	18		11.6.1977	Fenit	Ann-Mari Liedecke (DK)
Homelyn Ray	8.28		28.9.1983	Cork Harbour	Edmund Cull
Painted Ray	17.21		29.8.1994	Garryvoe, Co. Cork	Edmund Cull
Electric Ray	40	kg	24.8.2002	Achill	Shay Boylan
Ray's Bream	6	4.25	26.8.1978	Valentia	Martin Sarney (UK)
Red Sea Bream	9	6	24.8.1963	Valentia	P. Maguire
Twaite Shad	1.64	kg	15.5.2015	St. Mullins	Thomas Lynch
Porbeagle Shark	365		1932	Keem Bay, Achill	Dr. O'Donel Brown
Blue Shark	206		7.10.59	Achill Head	J. McMonagle
Six Gilled Shark	480	kg	16.6.09	Carrigaholt	Joe Waldis
Common Skate	221		1913	Ballycotton	T. Tucker
White Skate	165		7.8.1966	Clew Bay	Jack Stack
Scad	1.97		6.9.1986	Clonakilty	Master R. McCarthy
Smooth-Hound	8.62	kg	24.5.2015	Wicklow	Garech Murphy
Stone Basse	11.72		14.7.2005	Baltimore	Tony Rainer (UK)
Three Bearded Rockling	3	1	1.5.1990	Arklow	Maurice Laurent
Tope	66	8	15.7.1979	Carlingford Lough	Cyril Young
Torsk	4.858	kg	26.6.2006	Rosguill	Jan de Bakker (NL)
Trigger Fish	2.54	kg	7.9.2006	Slea Head	Bob Moss
Turbot	34		9.6.1982	Cork Harbour	Frank Fleming
Tuna – Albacore	29.96	kg	5.9.2007	Caherciveen	Henry McAuley
– Bluefin	440	kg	5.10.2001	Donegal Bay	Adrian Molloy
Whiting	4	14.5	19.3.1981	Kenmare Bay	Comdt. M. J. O'Connor
Ballan Wrasse	4.3	kg	20.8.1983	Clogher Head	Bertrand Kron (F)
Cuckoo Wrasse	2	7	15.9.1998	Causeway Coast	Brian McLoughlin

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS

FRESHWATER FISH	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs	
Bream (<i>Abramis brama</i>)	6.07 kg		3.402	7.5	–
Carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)	14.24 kg		5.443	12	–
Dace (<i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>)	1	2	0.3	0.66	Scales* & photos*
Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	6	15	suspended from listings		–
Perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)	5	8	1.2	2.646	–
Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (Lake)	42	12	13.608	30	–
Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (River)	42		9.072	20	–
Roach (<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>)	1.425 kg		0.907	2	Scales* & photos*
Roach/Bream Hybrid	3.376 kg		1.6	3.528	Scales* & photos*
Roach/Rudd Hybrid	2.1 kg		0.9	1.98	Scales* & photos*
Rudd (<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>)	4	8	0.9	1.98	Scales* & photos*
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7	10	1.2	2.64	Scales* & photos*
Tench (<i>Tinca tinca</i>)	8.15		2.722	6	–
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	57		9.072	20	Scales
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (Lake)	26	2	4.536	10	Scales
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (River)	20		2.268	5	Scales
Sea Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	16	6	2.722	6	Scales
Slob Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	–		4.536	10	Scales
* for genetic fingerprinting					
SEA FISH					
Angler Fish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	42.985 kg		10.0	22.046	Body
Bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	17	13	4.536	10	–
Black Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>)	6.32		0.7	1.54	–
Black Bream (<i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</i>)	–		0.9	1.98	Body
Bluemouth (<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>)	1.32 kg		0.9	1.9845	Photo
Brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)	9	8	1.75	3.75	Body
Coalfish (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	15.1 kg		6.804	15	Photo
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	42		9.072	20	–
Conger eel (<i>Conger conger</i>)	72		18.144	40	–
Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	2	5.5	0.6	1.32	Body
Dogfish – Blackmouthed (<i>Galeus melastomus</i>)	1.31 kg		1.0	2.205	Photo
Dogfish - Lesser Spotted (<i>Scyllorhinus caniculus</i>)	4	4	1.474	3.25	Body
Dogfish - Greater Spotted (<i>Scyllorhinus stellaris</i>)	23	13	7.257	16	–
Dogfish – Spur (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	11.06 kg		5.443	12	–
Flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)	4.91		1.1	2.4255	Body
Garfish (<i>Belone belone</i>)	1.729 kg		1.0	2.205	Head and gills
Garfish (<i>Belone svetovidovi</i>)	1.11		0.3	0.66	Head and gills
Gilthead bream (<i>Sparus aurata</i>)	3.505 kg		1.4	3.08	Photo (whole body, head shot showing mouth and eyes)
Gurnard - Grey (<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>)	3	1	0.68	1.5	Body
Gurnard - Red (<i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i>)	3	9.5	0.907	2	Body
Gurnard - Tub (<i>Trigla lucerna</i>)	12	3.5	2.268	5	Photo (pectoral fins must be fully expanded)
Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)	5.39 kg		3.0	6.61	–

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS – contd.

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs	
Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)	25	5.5	3.5	7.72	–
Halibut (<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>)	156		12	26.46	–
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)	0.48 kg		0.34	0.75	Body
John Dory (<i>Zeus faber</i>)	7	8	1.814	4	–
Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>)	55		11.34	25	–
Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	4	2	1.0	2.205	Body
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)	1.85 kg		0.794	1.75	Body
Angel Shark (<i>Monkfish</i>)	73		Length based specimen only - 125 cm TL threshold length		
Mullet - Grey, thick lipped (<i>Chelon labrosus</i>)	9.1		2.268	5	Body
Mullet - Golden Grey (<i>Liza aurata</i>)	1.2 kg		0.68	1.5	Body
Mullet – Thin Lipped (<i>Liza ramada</i>)	2.86 kg		1.5	3.31	Body
Mullet – Red (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)	0.82 kg		0.4	0.88	Body
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	8.23		1.4	3.086	–
Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)	19	3	5.443	12	Photo
Pouting (<i>Trisopterus luscus</i>)	4	13.5	1.361	3	–
Ray - Blonde (<i>Raja brachyura</i>)	37		11.34	25	Photo
Ray – Cuckoo (<i>Raja naevus</i>)	5	11	1.6	3.53	Photo
Ray - Electric (<i>Torpedo nobiliana</i>)	40 kg		9.072	20	Photo
Ray - Homelyn (<i>Raja montagui</i>)	8.28		2.268	5	Photo
Ray - Painted (<i>Raja microcellata</i>)	17.21		4.536	10	Photo
Ray - Sting (<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>)	33.2 kg		13.0	28.66	Photo
Ray – Thornback (<i>Raja clavata</i>)	37		7.0	15.43	Photo
Ray - Undulate (<i>Raja undulata</i>)	18		Length based specimen only - 90 cm TL threshold length		
Ray's Bream (<i>Brama brama</i>)	6	4.25	2.0	4.41	Body
Red Sea Bream (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>)	9	6	1.0	2.205	–
Rockling, Three Bearded (<i>Gaidropsarus vulgaris</i>)	3	1	0.794	1.75	Body
Scad (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)	1.97		0.680	1.5	Body
Shad - Allis (<i>Alosa alosa</i>)	–		1.814	4	Scales
Shad - Twaite (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	1.64 kg		1.2	2.65	Scales
Shark - Blue (<i>Prionace glauca</i>)	206		45.359	100	Photo
Shark - Mako (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>)	–		90.718	200	Photo
Shark - Porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)	365		Length based specimen only - 180cm FL threshold length		
Shark - Six-Gilled (<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>)	480 kg		45.359	100	Photo
Shark - Thresher (<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>)	–		54.431	120	Photo

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs	
Skate - Common (<i>Raja batis</i>)	221		Length based specimen only - 180 cm TL threshold length		
Skate - Long Nosed (<i>Raja oxyrinchus</i>)	–		36.287	80	Photo
Skate - White (<i>Raja alba</i>)	165		54.431	120	Photo
Smooth-Hound (<i>Mustelas asterias</i>)	8.62	kg	3.0	6.62	Photo
Stone Basse (<i>Polyprion americanus</i>)	11.72		3.628	8	–
Tope (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	66	8	18.144	40	Photo
Torsk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>)	4.858	kg	2.5	5.51	Body
Trigger Fish (<i>Balistes carpriscus</i>)	2.54	kg	1.474	3.25	Photo
Tuna - Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	29.96	kg	12.0	26.46	Photo
Tuna - Bluefin (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>)	440	kg	suspended from listings		
Turbot (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>)	34		6.0	13.23	–
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)	4	14.5	1.361	3	–
Wrasse Ballan (<i>Labrus bergylta</i>)	4.3	kg	2.154	4.75	Photo
Wrasse Cuckoo (<i>Labrus mixtus</i>)	2	7	0.567	1.25	Body

N.B. Where species identification states body required, high quality photographs (see Rule 4) may suffice.



Specimen Thick Lipped for Dan Smith taken in Wicklow

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE RULES

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- (1) IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE:** This Committee consists of representatives of the Irish Angling Federations and the Government Departments and official organisations interested in angling. Its objective is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large fish on rod and line in Irish waters. A list of Specimen Fish is published annually by the Committee. Only fish which can be fully vouched for as to weight and species can be accepted and listed by the Committee. Length-based specimens can be claimed for certain elasmobranchs. Except in exceptional circumstances, claims will remain valid for a period of one year following the year of capture.
- (2) FAIR ANGLING:** “Fair Angling” means any legitimate method of angling with rod and reel which is recognised as a fair and sporting method. A fish must be hooked in or in the immediate vicinity of the mouth when it has taken the bait or lure; fish which have been foul-hooked, even accidentally, are not eligible. A fish in respect of which a claim is made must be hooked, played and brought to gaff or net by the angler **UNAIDED**, though the fish may be gaffed or netted by another, and it is permissible for the person using the gaff to take hold of the trace or doubled line (in the case of big game fishing) to steady the fish when it has been played out and brought within reach. If a fixed rod holder is in use while boat fishing, and a fish strikes, the rod must be removed from the holder as quickly as possible. This is to ensure that the angler hooks and plays the fish with rod in hand. Where a fighting chair is employed, it must not have any mechanically driven device which aids the angler in playing a fish. Body harnesses (which attach the rod to the body) are permissible but must not be fixed to the chair. Gimbals must be free swinging including those which move in the vertical plane. Gimbals which permit the angler to rest or reduce strain while playing a fish are prohibited. Breakage of rod, reel or line, or alteration or substitution of tackle, while a fish is being played, disqualify it for claim or record purposes. A fish may not be shot, lanced, clubbed or harpooned before landing. Claims for fish caught during the statutory close season for the species (where this applies) cannot be accepted.
- (3) WEIGHING:** Fish must be weighed in the presence of independent, reliable witnesses on a properly certified scales, e.g., a shop scales or an official club scales which is covered by a calibration certificate from an appropriate service provider (e.g. NML). A weighing scales must be appropriate to the size of fish being weighed. **From 2015 onwards the minimum weight will be 10 times the scale interval (or weighing division).** Where weights are in large divisions (e.g. 1 lb/1 kg divisions) the weight of a fish must be rounded **DOWN** to the nearest actual division.

Claims cannot be accepted in the case of fish which have been weighed on board a boat, UNLESS WEIGHED ON A CERTIFIED MOTION-COMPENSATED BALANCE.

*Please note: All club and personal scales **MUST** be certified annually by an independent agency. Weighing scales must be covered by a Certificate of Accuracy at the time of weighing. They cannot be certified in retrospect, i.e. after the fish has been weighed.*

- (4) IDENTIFICATION:** The identification of a fish must be fully documented where there is a possibility of its confusion with any other (and particularly larger) species. For this reason, the Committee, in respect of some species, insists that scales from the fish, close up photographs or the actual body must be forwarded as actual proof of identification, before it will consider claims.

FISH SCALES must be submitted in respect of claims for **SALMON, SEA TROUT, BROWN TROUT** (including **SLOB TROUT**), **RUDD, ROACH**, and their hybrids, and **SHAD**. Any brown trout taken in tidal waters, i.e., in the sea or in an estuary below the freshwater boundary as defined for that river will be regarded for claim purposes as a slob trout. About 10 scales scraped from one shoulder of the salmonid should be sent with the claim.

THE ACTUAL BODY must be forwarded for identification in the case of the following species:- **MACKEREL, SCAD, HERRING, FLOUNDER, DAB, BRILL, MEGRIM, GREY & RED GURNARDS, GREY MULLET, GOLDEN GREY, THIN-LIPPED AND RED MULLET, ANGLER FISH, LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH, THREE BEARDED ROCKLING, BLACK BREAM, RAYS BREAM, CUCKOO WRASSE, TORSK, "RIVER" EELS** taken in tidal waters and **GARFISH** (head and gills only). Claims may be ratified where a photograph is of sufficient quality to provide conclusive evidence (i.e. key identification features clearly visible) to identify a fish, to the satisfaction of the Committee. However, the onus to provide suitable evidence rests solely with the angler.

CLEAR, SHARP, CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHS, showing the entire fish with its fins and other features easily seen, and not fore-shortened or obscured by shadows or bystanders must be provided in the case of **TOPE, SHARKS, RAYS, BLUEMOUTH, POLLACK, COALFISH, BALLAN WRASSE, TRIGGER FISH, ALBACORE, TUB GURNARD** (pectoral fins of gurnard must be fully expanded), **GILTHEAD BREAM** (whole body and head shot showing mouth and eyes) and **BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH**.

RECORD FISH: Claim must be supported by a series of clear photographs showing relevant features for positive identification and an indication of fish length (i.e. fish on a measurement mat or similar). Records will be weight based only.

In the case of skates and rays, photographs of both back and belly surfaces should be provided and particulars of the coloration given (with particular reference to the presence of dark or grey spots, or streaks or patches on the belly side). Detailed photographs of the teeth should be furnished in the case of Porbeagle and Mako Sharks. In addition, there should be a clear close-up photograph showing the jaws and teeth exposed.

(5) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF CLAIMS: A maximum of three (3) awards will be made to any particular claimant for a single species in any one year. However, provision will be made that when an angler achieves this target and subsequently captures larger fish, these will be taken into account but the final number of awards for any species in a single year will not be more than three awards. By including this latter provision, it will ensure that the anglers competitive spirit is kept up and higher achievements could still be sought.

(6) SENDING FISH TO THE COMMITTEE:

Please

(1) Notify the Committee when a fish is being sent in for identification.

Telephone: 01-884 2600.

E-mail: info@fisheriesireland.ie

(2) Do not forward fish to the Committee before Bank Holidays or weekends; (keep in a cold store or preferably frozen if fish cannot be delivered quickly on or before Friday afternoon).

(3) Please attach a label to each fish forwarded for identification giving the captor's name and address, date and place of capture and the weight of the fish.

(4) Fish should not be sent in polythene bags or wrapped in aluminium foil as this causes rapid decomposition. Specimens should be wrapped in greaseproof paper and then in newspaper and brown paper.

(7) AWARDS: Anglers whose claims have been accepted by the Committee will be awarded special "Merit Badges" in the case of Specimen Fish and Silver Medals in the case of Record Fish. Specimen Fish Certificates will also be issued in respect of all ratified claims. Only one merit badge will be awarded to any angler per annum even where multiple claims are received. Specially commissioned awards are made to anglers for cumulative specimen fish captures of 20 species, 10 species, 50 specimens or 10 specimens. Other special awards are the Dr. Micheal Kennedy Award (Mullet of the year), the Dr. Arthur Went Award (Young Specimen Angler of the Year), the Minister's Award (Fish of a Lifetime) and the Best International Specimen Fish Award (for the best overseas angler specimen).

IMPORTANT – Completed claim forms should be sent to: The Irish Specimen Fish Committee, Inland Fisheries Ireland, 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, Rep. of Ireland (Tel. 00-353-1-884 2600) before 15th November each year. Where required for identification purposes (see Rule 4) fish should be sent to the same address. Scales from shad and cyprinid hybrids for genetic analysis must be forwarded to ISFC before 15th October.

For marine fish taken in Northern Ireland contact Dr. Steven Beggs, AFBINI, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX, Ph: +44 (0) 28 9025 5503.
Email: steven.beggs@afbini.gov.uk

For freshwater fish taken in Northern Ireland contact Dr. Robert Rosell, AFBINI, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX. Tel: +44 (0) 28 9025 5236,
Fax: +44 (0) 28 9025 5004.
Email: robert.rosell@afbini.gov.uk



Craig Murphy with his specimen Flounder

The Best Yet?

Irish Times angling correspondent Derek Evans has fished for many different species over his five decades of angling but what rates amongst his best fishing experience?

'ELEVEN O'CLOCK, moving left to right, 30 ft out. Trust me on this one, Derek. Strip, strip, stop, strip," Ishi whispers. And whizzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz. My first fish is on and ripping line from the reel at a rate of knots. I'm down to backing line as the run continues across the flats. Will this fish ever tire?

Pound-for-pound, this species is the fastest and strongest I have ever encountered. The initial burst can reach 15 km/h!

Fishing for these guys looks easy but there is some serious skills involved as I find out. Yes, I have the 9 ft rod with sinking tip and shooting head and, yes, the Delphi diva fly to resemble a crab-like creature is guaranteed to work wonders. But, alas, these fish seem to sense my lack of experience! Ishi is stationed on the raised platform behind me, slowly and silently sculling the 17 ft stiff-pole as he peers the shallows for fish in the clear water. "I spot them at 85 ft," he says. I anxiously await a shout.

Quietly spoken, I hear: “Derek, two o’clock, three of them, coming towards the boat. Cast now. Let it sink. Strip, wait. They’re moving away. Try again. Faster, Derek.” Panicking, I entangle the line under my feet and form a lovely bird’s nest. I have spooked the fish and they’re gone.

Throughout the day I interchange with my fishing buddy Steve and soon I begin to tick all the boxes required to catch these artful strategists. I am duly rewarded and at close of play can boast four fish to the boat and umpteen near misses. Each weighs about 2 kg (4.4 lb) and barbless hooks ensure a safe return to the water.

Preferring brackish water, high temperatures and depth ranges from 1-15 m, my silvery quarry is typically in the 2-3 kg range. Inhabiting shallow coastal waters and estuaries, these explosive fighters usually occur in shoals but larger individuals are often solitary. The tell-tale sign of fish on-site is purposeful swimming in the surface waters punctuated by sharp swirls, or sub-surface swimming creating subtle bow waves. Sound familiar? If I was at home my description might lead you to think of the well-built and extremely powerful thick-lipped mullet. But my target on this trip was *Albula vulpes* or bonefish which is one of the most important game fishes worldwide. Frequenting warm seas in the sub-tropics of the Eastern Pacific from California to Peru and the Western Atlantic from North Carolina to Florida, the Bahamas, Gulf of Mexico, Antilles and Caribbean to Brazil I was fortunate to tackle these superb fish in the Bahamas.



Back home I recall a wonderful experience of joining John Quinlan in Cahersiveen, Co Kerry for a days fly fishing for mullet on the magnificent beaches and rock outlets along the Waterville and Ballinskelligs headlands. That morning, John, a sea-angling guide who specialises in fly-fishing for bass and mullet, decided that we should go to a location in Ballinskelligs Bay. Peering down from the cliff tops into the clear waters below we could see scores of mullet feeding on sand hoppers which had originated from seaweed on the beach. What a magnificent sight! The mullet were literally only metres

from the water's edge and the water was alive with boiling, swirling fish ranging from 1- 3 kg.

Creeping on 'all fours' before casting from a sitting position I gingerly managed to present a perfect line to our suspicious fish. The cast comprised two yellow worm flies on size 16 hooks and 1.8 kg fluorocarbon line. Into the shoaling mass the flies lingered for a few seconds and then I felt it - whizzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz - success was almost immediate. I had learned from my bonefish experience.

The 'take' was the bonefish take and dash, with a run of almost 50 metres before slowing down. A titanic struggle on my light gear ensued before I landed and unhooked a plump fish. The relative tranquillity and calm water had descended into complete turmoil and it took several minutes to settle before the feeding fish returned and presented another chance for me to try again. Delicate casting was the order of the day so as not to spook our elegant targets. Five fish later, including two fish just below specimen weight, the mullet moved on and we sat back and took stock of a scintillating hour and half of fishing heaven.

Both species deliver absolutely superb sport. With over 50 years of angling under my belt this type of fishing is the most spectacular, rewarding and enjoyable I have ever encountered. The Bahamas has a slight edge for weather and a truly different fishing experience but Kerry and its mullet on the fly will always be special for me.

NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



A 3.36 kg Smooth Hound from Ballymoney Beach for David Craig in July

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IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

Some important points for claiming specimen fish:

1. Use official ISFC claim form and complete **ALL** relevant sections fully.
2. **Print** your name, address (including country) and telephone number in block capitals in Section 2.
3. **Weighing:** Fish **MUST** be weighed (on land) on **CERTIFIED** club scales etc. or alternatively, on a shop scales. If in doubt, use a shop scales. Fish must not be weighed on board a boat.
4. **Scales must be certified annually** by a competent independent authority and the certificate of accuracy must be current at time of weighing. Certificate must accompany each claim.
5. **Fish scales, actual bodies or photographs** of some species are required (See Section 4 of the Rules for details).
6. You **MUST** sign and date Section 6 of the Claim Form. Ensure witnesses sign the Claim Form.

Back Cover: Ballyteigue Flounder for John Patrick Chew in October



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