

REPORT
of the
IRISH SPECIMEN
FISH COMMITTEE
for the
YEAR 1974

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For the Year 1974

During 1974 the Committee was composed of Dr. A. Gibson, and Dr. A. E. J. Went (Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries), Dr. M. Kennedy and D. Brennan (Inland Fisheries Trust Inc.), Noel Kavanagh (Bord Failte Eireann), Capt. C. P. O'Toole (Irish Federation of Sea Anglers), James Keaveney (National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland) and D. Kent-Ring (The Irish Trout Fly Fishing Association).

During the year the Committee received 386 claims and ratified 352.

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 1974

(Dates of Capture 1974 unless otherwise stated)

SALMON

Record, 57 lb. 0 oz.		Specimen Weight, 25 lbs.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
25 3	River Slaney	21st March	Hillery G. Ryan	1½" Blue/Silver Devon
25 0	Bundrowes River	18th March, '73	André de Schepper	Shrimp

SEA TROUT

Record, 14 lb. 3 oz.		Specimen Weight, 6 lbs.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8 11	Lough Currane	5th September	K. Kenny	Wet Fly
3 2	Tawnyard Lake	28th July	Donal McEvoy	Grey Wolf
7 2	West Pier, Dun Laoghaire	15th June	David Gaffney	ABU Toby
6 3	Keel Beach, Achill	3th June	Dr. Eoin Bresnihan	2½" Silver Toby
3 1	Margy River	13th October	Robert A. Ramsay	Toby Spoon

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

Record, 26 lb. 2 oz.		Specimen Weight, 10 lbs.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
19 4½	Lower Lough Erne	3th April	Tom Chartres	ABU Copper Toby
13 8	Lough Mask	27th May	Patrick Noone	2" Copper/Silver Spoon
13 0	Lough Derg	12th May	John Hickey	Mayfly Dap
11 8	Lough Mask	4th June	Klaus Kulbs	4" ABU Killer
11 1	Lough Corrib	29th August	Tom Mannion	ABU Flamingo Spoon
10 8	Lough Mask	31st August	Paul Kennedy	No. 2 Gold Mepps
10 7½	Lough Mask	1st August	Sean Conneely	No. 4 Mepps
10 1	Lough Corrib	30th June	John King	Wet Fly

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)**Record, 20 lbs.**

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 0	River Shannon, Drumshanbo	9th March	Alan Tew	Devon Minnow
5 6½	River Shannon, Drumshanbo	5th May	Michael Tighe	Silver ABU Toby
5 6	River Barrow	17th March	Robert A. Corry	Minnow
5 2	River Shiven	24th April	Charlie Caulfield	Worm

Specimen Weight, 5 lbs.**BREAM****Record, 11 lb. 12 oz.**

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 3	Ballinacree Lake, River Shannon, Lanesboro	15th August	Andrew Holdroyd	Branding Worm
3 3½	River Shannon, Lanesboro	11th May	Neil Mills	Bread Flake
3 3	River Shannon, Lanesboro	17th May	Ronald Silk	Bread
3 0	River Shannon, Lanesboro	26th April	Kenneth Tamplin	Worms
7 15	River Shannon, Lanesboro	22nd May	F. Butrym	Worms
7 12	River Shannon, Lanesboro	27th April	Peter J. Garrett	Maggots
7 11½	River Shannon, Lanesboro	26th May	Gordon Dickenson	Worms
7 9½	River Shannon, Lanesboro	18th May	Ronald Silk	Bread
7 9½	River Shannon, Lanesboro	12nd May	Donald Stodart	Worms

Specimen Weight, 7½ lbs.**CARP****Record, 18 lb. 12 oz.**

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
18 4	The Lough, Cork City	14th May	Richard Peard	Bread Flake
18 4	The Lough	2nd November, '73	Billy O'Brien	Dough
18 0	The Lough	4th May	Paddy Higginson	Anchored Crust
16 0	The Lough	17th April	Paddy Higginson	Anchored Crust
15 0	The Lough	1st October	Barry James	Bread Paste
14 8	The Lough	5th May	Richard Peard	Anchored Crust
14 1	The Lough	14th May	Richard Peard	Floating Crust
13 10½	The Lough	7th June	Richard Peard	Bread Flake
13 0	The Lough	12th August	Rory Sheehan	Floating Crust
12 8	The Lough	7th June	Paddy Higginson	Floating Crust
12 8	The Lough	8th May	K. Clayton	Floating Crust
11 8	The Lough	21st May	Richard Peard	Bread Flake
11 6½	The Lough	3rd June	Richard Peard	Floating Crust
11 6	The Lough	12th August	Barry James	Floating Crust
11 2	The Lough	26th May	Richard Peard	Bread Flake
11 0	The Lough	19th April	Paddy Higginson	Anchored Crust
11 0	The Lough	6th August	Barry James	Bread Paste
11 0	The Lough	30th October, '73	Peter W. Woods	Paste
11 0	The Lough	19th January	C. Hayes	Legered Crust
10 0	The Lough	12th May	Barry James	Paste

Specimen Weight, 10 lbs.**EEL****Record, 5 lb. 15 oz.**

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 7	Stoneyford Dam	22nd June	Noel Rush	Worms
5 12	O'Brien's Bridge, River Shannon	18th May	Brian Weeks	Worms
5 7	Lough Sheever, Mullingar	9th May	Declan J. Quigley	Lobworm
5 6	Ballinacree Lake, Mullingar	8th September	John B. Howcroft	Lobworm

Specimen Weight, 3 lbs.**PERCH****Record, 5 lb. 8 oz.**

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 3½	Lower Lough Erne	10th July	David Johnston	Worms

Specimen Weight, 3 lbs.**PIKE (LAKE)****Record, 38 lb. 2 oz.**

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
31 0	L. Nahinch, Strokes-town	24th February	Klaus Ulrich	Lucky Finn 10"
10 8	Lough Allen	1st October	Alex Dickey	6" Spoon

Specimen Weight, 30 lbs.**PIKE (RIVER)****Record, 42 lbs.**

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
26 0	Grand Canal	3rd February	James Fanning	Celta
25 0	River Bann	25th November, '73	Allen Martin	Perch
23 15	River Bann, Toome-bridge	25th November, '73	Robert Barry	Dead Perch
22 12	Shannon, Clondra	15th April	Gerald Hickey	Copper Spoon
22 0	River Blackwater	26th May	Harry Brown	Live Perch
20 15	River Erne	23rd February	Michael Fitzpatrick	Dead Roach
20 8	Castle River, Killeshandra	27th November	Barrie Kieth Nicholson	Live bait

Specimen Weight, 20 lbs.**RUDD****Record, 3 lb. 1 oz.**

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 10	Coosan Lough, Athlone	16th May	E. G. Kershaw	Bread Paste
2 10	River Shannon, Lanesboro	14th April	James M. O'Rourke	Bread Flake
2 6½	River Shannon, Athlone	15th August	T. Farrell	Maggots
2 6	Ballinacree Lake, Mullingar	25th June	Chris. M. Batterham	Bread Flake
2 0	Annaghmore Lake	15th June	Hugh Gough	Bread Flake
2 5	Annaghmore Lake	14th June	Anthony A. Liddle	Bread Flake
2 5	Coosan Lough, Athlone	17th May	R. C. Kershaw	Bread Paste
2 4½	River Shannon, Lanesboro	14th April	Dave Phelan	Bread Flake
2 4½	Lanesboro	3rd June	Gerard Richardson	Bread Flake
2 4	River Shannon, Shannonbridge	19th August	Robert Mulligan	Bread Paste
2 4	Annaghmore Lake	14th June	Anthony A. Liddle	Bread Flake
2 4	Lanesboro	14th April	Dave Phelan	Bread Flake
2 4	Royal Canal, Mullingar	13th May	Joseph Barnett	Double Maggot
2 4	Annaghmore Lake	14th June	A. F. Lyon	Bread Flake

Specimen Weight, 2½ lbs.**RUDD/BREAM HYBRID****Record, 5 lb. 5 oz.**

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 14	River Shannon, Lanesboro	3th May	John Mills	Bread Flake
5 12½	Lanesboro	3th May	Ronald Silk	Bread Flake
5 7	Lanesboro	14th April	Dave Phelan	Bread Flake
4 1	Lanesboro	25th May	Sean Donohue	Maggots

Specimen Weight, 3 lbs.

RUDD/BREAM—continued

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 2	Lanesboro	14th April	Dave Phelan	Bread Flake
1 2	Lanesboro	6th May	John Mills	Bread Flake
1 1	Charleville Lake	12th June	Hugh Gough	Maggots
1 15½	Lanesboro	7th May	Ronald Silk	Bread
1 13½	Lanesboro	7th May	John Mills	Bread
1 13	Lanesboro	14th April	Gerard Richardson	Bread Flake
1 13	River Shannon, Shannonbridge	31st August	Bob Galligan	Bread
3 10½	Lanesboro	31st May	A. J. Hall	Bread Flake
3 9½	Lanesboro	7th July	Edward G. Turner	Bread Flake
3 8½	Lanesboro	14th April	Gerard Richardson	Bread Flake
3 8½	Lanesboro	14th April	Gerard Richardson	Bread Flake
3 6½	Black Lake, Cavan	26th June	Edmund Hawksworth	Branding
3 5	Black Lake, Cavan	16th June	Richard Hancox	Worm/Maggots
3 4	Ballinafid Lake, Mullingar	24th June	Neil J. Bache	Bread Flake
3 4	River Shannon, Shannonbridge	24th August	Robert Galligan	Bread Flake
3 3	Charleville Lake	12th June	Alan McGurdy	Bread
3 3	Lanesboro	14th April	Gerard Richardson	Bread Flake
3 2	Black Lake, Cavan	16th June	Martin Bradwell	Worms
3 2	Black Lake, Cavan	16th June	Martin Bradwell	Worms
3 2	River Shannon, Shannonbridge	31st August	Bob Galligan	Bread
3 2	Charleville Lake	13th June	Mattie Nolan	Maggots
3 2	Charleville Lake	13th June	Mattie Nolan	Maggots
3 1	L. Bracken	7th September	A. E. Parrish	Flake Maize
3 0½	Lanesboro	14th April	Kenneth Garry	Bread Flake
3 0½	Black Lake, Cavan	16th June	Richard Hancox	Worm/Maggots

TENCH

Record, 7 lb. 13½ oz.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 13	River Shannon, Lanesboro	31st May	Leonard J. Gooding	Bread Flake
7 6½	Lanesboro	26th May	Alastair Lawson	Bread Flake
7 4	Lanesboro	31st May	A. J. Hall	Bread Flake
7 1	Lanesboro	10th June	John Mills	Bread Flake
6 15½	Lanesboro	16th May	David Cumpstone	Bread
6 11½	Lanesboro	3th June	T. Hynes	Maggots
6 11	Lanesboro	1st May	Arthur Russell	Bread Flake
6 10½	Lanesboro	27th April	John Parkings	Maggots
6 9½	Lanesboro	17th June	John Mills	Bread Flake
6 9½	Lanesboro	2nd June	Robert J. Moore	Maggots
6 8½	Lanesboro	11th June	John Mills	Bread Flake
6 8	Lanesboro	28th May	Colin R. Briscoe	Bread Flake
6 7	Lanesboro	26th May	John Mills	Bread Paste
6 7	Lanesboro	25th May	David Cumpstone	Bread
6 5½	Lanesboro	16th May	David Cumpstone	Bread
6 5½	Lanesboro	26th May	Brian Tokeley	Maggots
6 5	Lanesboro	29th May	Neil Mills	Bread Flake
6 5	Lanesboro	26th May	A. C. Francis	Maggots
6 5	Lanesboro	1st June	A. J. Hall	Bread Flake
6 4	Lanesboro	1st May	David Cumpstone	Bread
6 3½	Lanesboro	28th May	A. J. Hall	Bread Flake
6 3½	Lanesboro	27th April	Stephen Palmer	Bread
6 2½	Lanesboro	21st June	Sid Leeman	Bread
6 1½	Lanesboro	14th June	John Mills	Maggots
6 1½	Lanesboro	3rd May	Paul Norris	Bread Paste
6 0½	Lanesboro	10th July	John Mills	Bread Flake
6 0	Lanesboro	4th June	Neil Mills	Bread Flake
6 0	Lanesboro	20th June	Neil Mills	Bread Flake
6 0	Lanesboro	28th May	A. J. Hall	Bread Flake
6 0	Lanesboro	26th May	V. F. Jackson	Worms

BASS

Record, 16 lb. 6 oz.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12 9	Caherciveen, Co. Kerry	3rd November	John Wadham	Lugworm

BASS—continued

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11 12	Garryvoe Strand, Co. Cork	4th Nov., '73	Michael Stafford	Lugworm
11 8	Blackhall, Co. Wexford	3th June	Joseph Monaghan	Peeler Crab
10 15½	Inch, Dingle	17th May	H. C. Howe	Squid
10 15	White Hole, Co. Wexford	3th August	Peter Kelly	Ragworm
10 12½	Downhill, Causeway Coast	30th October	Robert Hutchinson	Clam
10 8	Cobh	19th June	W. R. McCarthy	Soft Crab
10 8	Courtmacsherry	28th April	Donal McCarthy	Peeler Crab
10 5	Garryvoe Strand	15th September	Jim Godfrey	Razorfish
10 4	Bray Head, Co. Wicklow	12th September	Richard Lovell-Butt	Mackerel Strip
10 3½	Saleen's, Dunmore East	23rd June	Walter Keane	Soft Crab
10 2½	Causeway Coast	3th October	R. A. Hamilton	Clam
10 2	Fermoyle, Dingle	16th April	Dominic Young	Lugworm
10 0½	Fenit Pier	3th August	Brian O'Connor	Mackerel Strip
10 0½	Inch Bay, Co. Cork	1th October	Denis O'Connor	Lugworm

BLACK SOLE

Record, 3 lb. 10 oz.

Specimen Weight, 2 lbs.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 5½	Arthurstown, Co. Wexford	7th July	Sean Furlong	Lugworm

COALFISH

Record, 24 lb. 7 oz.

Specimen Weight, 15 lbs.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
15 13½	Achill Head	17th August	Joseph S. Mullan	Red Gill
15 1½	Enniscrone, Killala Bay	3rd August	R. L. Coulson	Mackerel Strip

COD

Record, 42 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 25 lbs.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
29 7	Kenmare Bay	25th July	P. B. De Bruin	Mackerel
26 0	Greystones, Co. Wicklow	10th November	Samuel J. Holley	Mussel
25 0	Dingle	23rd August	Rex. M. Smith	Mackerel Strip

CONGER EEL

Record, 72 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 40 lbs.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
50 0	South Pier, Dunlaoire	9th August	Frank Reilly	Mackerel
42 0	Belfast Lough	25th August	Tom Lennon	Mackerel

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record, 20 lb. 4 oz.

Specimen Weight, 16 lbs.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
18 14½	Killala, Co. Mayo	9th July	Dermot O'Brien	Mackerel Strip
18 8	Dungarvan	29th August	John Robertson	Mackerel Strip

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH—continued

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
18 2	Clare Island, Co. Mayo	13th June	G. W. B. Burry	Mackerel
18 0	Courtmacsherry	10th September	D. Stukins	Mackerel Strip
18 0	Valentia	5th May	Bryan W. Ellis	Mackerel
17 12	Valentia	25th August, '73	John Wadham	Mackerel
17 8	Valentia	26th August	W. A. Heaphy	Mackerel
17 4	Donegal Bay	17th August	W. Campbell	Mackerel
16 8	Killala	18th May	Gerhard Eufinger	Baited Feathers
16 8	Courtmacsherry	16th June	J. Doualin	Mackerel Strip
16 5	Valentia	10th September	Arthur F. Clarke	Mackerel
16 5	Sneem, Co. Kerry	13th August	Kees de Kock	Mackerel
16 4	Sneem	24th September	M. P. Treffers	Mackerel Strip
16 3	Sneem	28th May	J. W. C. Becking	Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH

Record, 16 lb. 4 oz.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14 8	Sneem, Co. Kerry	7th September	N. J. Spruit	Mackerel Strip
13 12	Clare Island, Co. Mayo	11th June	John Furness	Mackerel Strip
13 8	Valentia	20th August	F. X. Berhout	Mackerel Strip
13 0	Strangford Lough	11th August	John J. McKee	Mackerel
12 14	Valentia	1st October	H. Zelhorst	Mackerel
12 12	Skerries, Co. Dublin	3rd August	Michael O'Leary	Mackerel
12 12	Carlingford Lough	11th August	Terry Doyle	Mackerel
12 5	Sneem	26th September	C. M. Nypels	Mackerel Strip
12 4	Dunmore East	22nd September	Thomas Hoynes	Mackerel
12 2½	Valentia	13th June	Kenneth J. Stenson	Mackerel
12 2	Skerries	3rd August	Michael O'Leary	Mackerel
12 2	Skerries	3rd August	Robert Hopper	Mackerel Strip
12 2	Clare Island	19th June	John Furness	Mackerel Strip
12 0	Skerries	3rd August	Patrick Waters	Mackerel
12 0	Skerries	3rd August	Francis Goggin	Mackerel

FLOUNDER

Record, 4 lb. 3 oz.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 6	Clonakilty	13th April	Cormac McCarthy	Soft Crab
3 2	Dungarvan	30th September	Joseph Foley	Sandeel
2 15	Cloghane, Dingle	1st November	Kevin Linnane	Baited Spoon and Lugworm
2 14½	Cloghane, Dingle	10th November	Clive Gammon	Lugworm
2 14	Inchdoney, Co. Cork	27th October	Ted Myrane	Lugworm
2 13	Causeway Coast	10th November	Robert Hutchinson	Ragworm
2 12	Dungarvan	8th October	Miguel Garcia	Soft Crab
2 9	Ardcavan Strand, Wexford	15th October	Master L. O'Carroll	Lugworm
2 8	Smerwick Harbour, Dingle	5th September	Raymond McEvoy	Lugworm
2 8	Dingle Pier	31st July	Gerard Norton	Mackerel Strip

GARFISH

Record, 3 lb. 10½ oz.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 12	Kinsale	2nd August	Giles Battcock	Mackerel Strip
2 8	Kinsale	29th August	Sean R. Riordan	Mackerel Strip
2 8	Courtmacsherry	25th August	K. G. Visser	Feathers
2 3	Kinsale	4th July	Sven. M. Stoerner	Mackerel Strip
2 3	Courtmacsherry	11th July	Evert Super	Mackerel Strip
2 2	Kinsale	11th July	J. B. Franquet	Mackerel Strip
2 2	Kinsale	10th July	J. B. Franquet	Mackerel Strip
2 2	Kinsale	7th July	Francois Pineau	Feathers

GARFISH—continued

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 1½	Cobh	22nd August	Marius Van Elk	Mackerel Strip
2 1½	Ardmore	21st July	Noel Flaherty	2 Feather Jig
2 0	Kinsale	9th July	Verner Kinderdick	Mackerel Strip
2 0	Kinsale	27th June	W. Schiobl	Mackerel Strip
2 0	Kinsale	2nd August	V. vd Zwan	Mackerel Strip
2 0	Kinsale	10th July	Aidan Gibney	Mackerel Strip
2 0	Kinsale	1st July	Leo Ant. Duwel	Mackerel
2 0	Kinsale	10th July	Madame D. Franquet	Mackerel Strip
2 0	Kinsale	2nd August	J. W. S. Muller	Mackerel

GREY GURNARD

Record, 3 lb. 1 oz.

Specimen Weight, 1½ lb.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 10	Achill	11th June	Roy Howarth	Hair Jig

RED GURNARD

Record, 3 lb. 9½ oz.

Specimen Weight, 2 lb.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 4½	Belmullet	3th June	William Nicholl	Baited Spoon
2 1	Portrush	15th September	Stephen Tweed	Ragworm
2 0½	Moville	26th August	Aidan Connolly	Mackerel

TUB GURNARD

Record, 12 lb. 3½ oz.

Specimen Weight, 5 lb.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 12	Killala Bay	11th August	Gerry Erskine	Mackerel Strip
5 9	Enniscrone, Killala Bay	3th August	Mrs. M. Slominski	Baited Feathers
5 9	Enniscrone, Killala Bay	4th August	R. J. Dickey	Mackerel Strip
5 5	Bullsmouth, Achill	23rd August	Paul Morzinek	Feathers
5 1	Port na Blagh, Donegal	27th July	Miss Hilda Clinton	Baited Feathers

HADDOCK

Record, 10 lb. 13½ oz.

Specimen Weight, 7 lb.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 0	Kinsale	26th July	Claude Petit jean	Baited Feathers

JOHN DORY

Record, 7 lb. 1 oz.

Specimen Weight, 4 lb.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 0	Bunbeg, Co. Donegal	26th May	Michael Mellett	Mackerel

LING

Record, 46 lb. 8 oz.

Specimen Weight, 25 lb.

PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
	11th August	Jas. Fintan Sheehan	Mackerel Strip
	13th October	Eric van der Horst	Mackerel
	17th June	Maurice Pamart	Baited Feathers

MACKEREL

Record, 3 lb. 8 oz.		Specimen Weight, 2½ lb.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 8	Strangford Lough	14th August	B. Green	Mackerel Strip

MONKFISH

Record, 69 lb.		Specimen Weight, 50 lb.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
53 0	Westport	1st August	W. J. Gregoire	Mackerel
53 0	Fenit	24th July	C. G. Selden	Mackerel Strip
52 8	Westport	22nd June	Mr. Thielemann	Mackerel
52 0	Fenit	4th July	R. Sumner	Mackerel Fillet

PLAICE

Record, 10 lb. 8 oz.		Specimen Weight, 4 lb.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4 3	Cobh	5th October	Eleanor Conlon	Lugworm
4 0	Hook Head, Co. Wexford	29th September	Walter Keane	Squid

POLLACK

Record, 19 lb. 3 oz.		Specimen Weight, 12 lb.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
17 6	Kinsale	26th September	B. Souster	Baited Feathers
15 0	Cobh	1st September	Aidan Manning	Red Gill Eel
15 0	Kinsale	26th September	W. P. O'Connell	Red Rubber Eel
14 10	Jingle	3rd October	Paul Reay	Red Gill
14 4	Achill	31st August	John E. Bowteli	Baited Feathers
13 8	Kinsale	21st June	Jac Duivenvoorden	Red Eel & Mackerel
13 0	Kinsale	12th June	John Matthiesen	Abu Egon 1½ oz.
13 0	Ballycotton	5th August	Philip Brown	Artificial Sandeel
13 0	Courtmacsherry	15th June	Jack Torfs	Red Rubber Eel
12 12	Kinsale	30th May	Peter Farley	Red Rubber Eel
12 8½	Causeway Coast	4th August	John Magee	Lugworm
12 8½	Dingle	9th October	Chris. J. Woodley	Pirk
12 7	Kinsale	23rd July	L. J. Ketel	Baited Feathers
12 4	Dingle	8th October	John Allan	Red Gill Sandeel
12 4	Kinsale	12th June	J. Kennedy	Toby ABU
12 2½	Achill	31st August	John McNamara	Sandeel
12 2	Ballycotton	18th August	Billy Dunne	Mackerel Strip
12 2	Valentia	28th June	P. H. Muntz	Feather
12 0½	Belmullet	9th June	Miss Emer Sweeney	Red Gill
12 0	Kinsale	21st June	Cees van der Geest	Red Eel & Mackerel
12 0	Kinsale	22nd July	A. W. Lokhorst	Mackerel
12 0	Dingle	23rd August	M. Calvert	Red Gill
12 0	Kinsale	9th October	N. Zwanenberg	Red Eel
12 0	Kinsale	31st May	G. Burger	Abu Sextet

POUTING

Record, 4 lb. 10 oz.		Specimen Weight, 3 lb.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 4½	Belfast Lough	27th April	K. Graham	Ragworm
3 3	Belfast Lough	28th July	Jack Picking	Mackerel Strip

BLONDE RAY

Record, 36 lb. 8 oz.		Specimen Weight, 25 lb.	
PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
	18th June	T. Hofstra	Mackerel Strip

CUCKOO RAY

Record, 5 lb. 6 oz.		Specimen Weight, 4½ lb.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 3	Causeway Coast	5th September	Patrick Rankin	Mackerel
5 0	Causeway Coast	17th August	David F. Glasser	Mackerel
4 14½	Causeway Coast	15th August	Robert Cardwell	Mackerel
4 11	Causeway Coast	16th August	Gary Shorter	Mackerel Strip
4 11	Causeway Coast	7th July	Derek McIntyre	Mackerel Strip

PAINTED RAY

Record, 12 lb. 10 oz.		Specimen Weight, 10 lb.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11 4	Whiting Bay, Ardmore	13th September	Desmond Connery	Mackerel Strip
10 10	Whiting Bay	10th August	Hugh Hayden	Mackerel

HOMELYN RAY

Record, 7 lb. 1 oz.		Specimen Weight, 5 lb.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6 7	Causeway Coast	18th August	Fred Fleming	Mackerel
6 6	Causeway Coast	24th August	Harry Garvin	Mackerel Fillet
6 4½	Causeway Coast	7th August	Thomas Marshall	Mackerel
6 4	Causeway Coast	7th August	Robert Cardwell	Mackerel
6 3	Causeway Coast	7th August	Jim Doherty	Mackerel Strip
5 15	Causeway Coast	7th August	Robert Cardwell	Mackerel
5 12	Causeway Coast	1st September	Robert Cardwell	Mackerel
5 10	Causeway Coast	7th August	Robert Cardwell	Mackerel
5 10	Causeway Coast	8th August	Harry Jamieson	Mackerel
5 8	Causeway Coast	11th August	Joseph S. Mullan	Mackerel & Herring
5 7	Causeway Coast	4th August	Drew Alexander	Strip
5 7	Causeway Coast	11th August	Harry Garvin	Mackerel Fillet
5 5	Causeway Coast	8th August	Harry Jamieson	Mackerel
5 4½	Causeway Coast	24th July	Thomas Marshall	Mackerel
5 1	Cobh	25th August	Jasper Wilson	Mackerel Strip

STING RAY

Record, 51 lb.		Specimen Weight, 30 lb.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
46 0	Morris Castle Beach	17th August	Thomas Burns	Ragworm

THORNBACK RAY

Record, 37 lb.		Specimen Weight, 20 lb.		
Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
25 8	Enniscrone, Killala Bay	31st July	John Tucker	Mackerel
22 0	Causeway Coast	24th August	Joe Falls	Ragworm/Herring Cocktail
20 12	Cobh	3th June	Jeremiah Kelly	Mackerel Strip
20 8	Enniscrone	19th July	Roland Butzem	Mackerel Fillet
20 5	Arklow	28th July	Eamon Garland	Mackerel Fillet

UNDULATE RAY

Record, 16 lb. 8½ oz.

Specimen Weight, 12 lb.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
16 5½	Fenit	8th June	Alec Sadler	Mackerel Head
15 10	Fenit	25th June	John Bowell	Mackerel
15 0	Fenit	2nd July	A. Swanson	Mackerel
14 3½	Fenit	30th June	Vincent Locke	Mackerel
13 3½	Fenit	30th June	Vincent Locke	Mackerel
13 3½	Fenit	17th July	Waldamer Milas	Mackerel
13 0	Fenit	5th July	M. Wilcox	Mackerel
13 0	Fenit	5th July	Master Nick. Watson	Mackerel
13 0	Fenit	5th July	M. R. Allum	Mackerel
13 0	Fenit	5th July	Cyril Jestico	Mackerel
13 0	Fenit	14th June	Josef Pytlík	Mackerel
13 0	Fenit	25th June	John Bowell	Mackerel
12 14	Fenit	24th June	Mrs. Dixie Butler	Mackerel
12 12	Fenit	24th June	Alan Butler	Mackerel
12 10	Fenit	25th June	J. E. Towner	Mackerel
12 8½	Fenit	24th June	Alan Butler	Mackerel
12 3	Fenit	5th June	J. Harvey	Mackerel
12 3	Fenit	5th July	Mrs. Elli Jahn	Mackerel

BLUE SHARK

Record, 206 lb.

Specimen Weight, 100 lb.

Weight lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
130 0	Kinsale	26th June	Levy Remy	Mackerel
128 0	Kinsale	26th June	F. van Voorst	Mackerel
123 0	Courtmacsherry	23rd July	Hans Kuppers	Mackerel
122 0	Kinsale	4th August	Karel Macor	Mackerel
121 0	Kinsale	30th June	Leo Ant. Duwel	Mackerel
116 0	Kinsale	11th July	Gerd Bahre	Mackerel Strip
113 0	Cobh	13th August	W. J. M. Sanders	Mackerel Strip
113 0	Kinsale	3rd July	Brian Hollins	Mackerel
110 0	Kinsale	20th August	W. M. D. Clements	Mackerel
107 0	Youghal	30th June	Kieran Nolan	Mackerel
106 0	Kinsale	26th June	Michel Caruso	Mackerel
106 0	Kinsale	26th July	A. W. Lokhorst	Mackerel
105 0	Courtmacsherry	23rd July	Paul Olsson	Mackerel
104 0	Kinsale	27th August	G. Franse	Mackerel
104 0	Kinsale	30th June	Bernard Waldman	Mackerel
104 0	Kinsale	30th July	Vico Verbeul	Mackerel
103 8	Kinsale	26th June	Keith Wright	Mackerel
103 8	Courtmacsherry	31st July	Gerard Alexander	Mackerel
103 0	Courtmacsherry	11th August	Guy De Raemaeker	Mackerel
103 0	Courtmacsherry	20th July	Hans Kuppers	Mackerel
102 0	Kinsale	19th August	Mr. Merle	Mackerel
102 0	Kinsale	28th June	Helmut Sawosin	Mackerel
101 0	Courtmacsherry	11th July	G. Kemkens	Mackerel
101 0	Kinsale	30th August	Robert Saunders	Mackerel
100 0	Kinsale	30th July	Merton H. Wolfman	Mackerel
100 0	Kinsale	1st July	Brian Hollins	Mackerel

PORBEAGLE SHARK

Record, 365 lb.

Specimen Weight, 150 lb.

Weight	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
151 0	Liscannor	30th June	Michael Kelly	Mackerel

COMMON SKATE

Record, 221 lb.

Specimen Weight, 130 lb.

Weight b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
162 8	Sneem, Co. Kerry	28th May	A. Dubbelman	Mackerel
160 0	Valentia	3rd June	Thos. Geo. Harker	Mackerel
158 0	Valentia	14th June	Trevor Healy	Mackerel

COMMON SKATE—continued

154 0	Kenmare Bay	25th June	MI. J. O'Connor	Mackerel Strip
143 8	Enniscrone, Killala Bay	17th August	M. Bromhead	Mackerel Strip
141 0	Westport	15th April	Guntar Schachtmann	Mackerel
139 0	Valentia	12th June	Trevor Healy	Mackerel
135 0	Westport	22nd June	Jean Locog	Mackerel
135 0	Achill	13th August	Patrick Lavelle	Mackerel
134 0	Valentia	17th August	Frits Speudel	Mackerel
130 8	Kinsale	26th August	John Bagwell	Mackerel

WHITE SKATE

Record, 165 lb.

Specimen Weight, 120 lb.

Weight b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
140 0	Enniscrone, Killala Bay	2nd July	Anne Willem vd Meulen	Mackerel

TOPE

Record, 60 lb. 12 oz.

Specimen Weight, 40 lb.

Weight b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11 5	Sneem, Co. Kerry	14th September	I. W. C. Becking	Mackerel

TURBOT

Record, 26 lb. 8 oz.

Specimen Weight, 18 lb.

Weight b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
20 12	Cork Harbour	5th October	P. J. Conlon	Mackerel
19 0	Causeway Coast	8th September	Brian O'Connor	Mackerel

BALLAN WRASSE

Record, 7 lb. 6 oz.

Specimen Weight, 6 lb.

Weight b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 0	Port na Blagh, Co. Donegal	17th July	Robert Anderson	Feathers
5 0	Dingle	2th September	Chris. John James	Rubber Eel

CUCKOO WRASSE

Record, 1 lb. 9½ oz.

Specimen Weight, 1½ lb.

Weight b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 5½	Belmullet	14th September	Leslie Cowan	Mackerel

No new Irish Records were established during 1974. The following fish, however, are worthy of special mention :—

(1) TENCH

7 lb. 13 oz. caught by Leonard J. Gooding, 18 Orchard Road, Collier Row, Romford, Essex, England, in the River Shannon at Lanesboro, on 31st May. This is the second biggest Tench recorded by the Committee.

(2) LAKE TROUT

19 lb. 4½ oz., caught by Tom Chartres, Bellisle, Lisbellew, Co. Fermanagh, in Lower Lough Erne, on 6th April. This is the third biggest Lake Trout recorded by the Committee.

(3) POLLACK

17 lb. 6 oz., caught by B. Souster, 72 Craven Gardens, Barkingside, Redbridge, Ilford, Essex, England, at Kinsale, Co. Cork, on 26th September. This is the joint third biggest Pollack recorded by the Committee.

(4) STING RAY

46 lbs., caught by Thomas Burns, 39 St. Thomas Road, South Circular Road, Dublin 8, on Morris Castle Beach, on 17th August. This is the third biggest Sting Ray recorded by the Committee.

(5) UNDULATE RAY

16 lb 6½ oz., caught by Alec Sadler, 8 Salisbury Avenue, Stanford-Le-Hope, Essex, England, at Fenit, Co. Kerry, on 8th June. This is the third biggest Undulate Ray recorded by the Committee.

(6) SUNFISH

378 lbs., caught by Heinrich Koppe, 432 Weiset, 44 Isenstasse St., West Germany, in Galway Bay, on 3rd September. There is no category for this species, but as it is the heaviest marine fish to date taken on rod and line in Irish waters it is worthy of mention.

FISH OF A LIFETIME AWARD

This award is being made in respect of a Tench weighing 7 lb. 13 oz., taken on the River Shannon at Lanesboro, County Longford, on 31st May, 1974, by Leonard J. Gooding, 18 Orchard Road, Collier Row, Romford, Essex, England. This fish is only ¼ oz. under the Irish Record.

TEN PIN AWARD WINNERS

The following qualified in 1974 for the special award made to anglers who have caught ten or more specimen fish :—

Robert Cardwell, Bushmills Road, Coleraine, Co. Derry, N.I.
Gordon Dickenson, 11 Oolegreany Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.
John Mills, 395 Oldham Road, Failsforth, Manchester, England.

SPECIAL AWARD FOR JUVENILES

The special award donated by Dr. A. E. J. Went for the best specimen taken by a juvenile, who has not reached his or her fourteenth birthday on 1st January, 1975, was won by Sean R. Riordan, 2 Greenwood Close, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancs., England, who caught a Garfish weighing 2 lb. 8 oz., at Kinsale, County Cork, on 29th August, 1974.

This will be an annual award, and a copy the Birth Certificate should accompany any eligible claims.

REVISED SPECIMEN WEIGHTS

For the year 1975 and onwards, the Committee has decided to increase the qualifying weight for Garfish from 2 lbs to 2½ lbs.

IDENTIFICATION

In future, where a claim is made in respect of Angler Fish it is essential that the actual fish be forwarded to the Committee for identification purposes.

DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIMEN AWARDS

The number of specimen fish taken by visiting anglers in recent years may be of interest for purposes of comparison. The details are listed below for 1972, 1973 and 1974.

	Ireland	Britain	Germany	Netherlands	Belgium	France
1972	169	126	29	23	7	2
1973	235	91	23	40	9	5
1974	170	117	16	36	6	9

REJECTED CLAIMS

As in every year since its inception, the Committee, with considerable regret, has had to reject a number of claims because of incomplete or inadequate documentation.

These included instances where fish were weighed on balances which were not, or could not, be checked for accuracy. Some photographs submitted as evidence of identity of species of fish were inadequate for identification purposes because they were out of focus, or obscured by spectators or were taken at such an angle that the important diagnostic features could not be certified. Some claims were also rejected because the actual fish, or its scales (where required under the rules) were not sent to the Committee's Biologists for identification, or if the fish was sent, it was in such a state of advance decomposition as to render positive identification impossible. In some cases the fish were not delivered at all but were destroyed by the Postal Authorities.

Fish must not be sent before Bank Holidays or week-ends. If they cannot reach the Committee before Friday afternoon, then they should be kept in cold store until Monday. Fish must not be wrapped in aluminium foil or polythene bags, as this hastens decomposition. They should first be wrapped in greasproof paper and then in newspaper and brown paper. Please also attach a label to each fish giving the captor's name and address, date and place of capture and the weight of the fish.

Where photographs are requested as proof of identification, it is essential that these be sharp, clear and close-up showing the entire fish with its fins and other features easily seen. They must not be foreshortened or obscured by shadows or bystanders.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The Committee wishes to thank all those who co-operated in submitting claims during 1974. The annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims had been accepted during 1973 was made in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. It is the intention of the Committee to present its awards for the 1974 season in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin, on Saturday, 22nd February, at 3 p.m. All Irish anglers who are due awards are cordially invited to attend. Presentations were held in London and Birmingham for British anglers who had qualified for Record and Specimen Awards during 1973, and in Amsterdam for anglers from the Netherlands, and in Bonn for anglers from West Germany. Our grateful thanks are due to Bord Fáilte Éireann for making these Presentations possible.

ACCOUNTS

A statement of the Committee's accounts for the period 1st November, 1972, to 31st December, 1973, is given in this Report. In future, the statement of accounts will be given to 31st December of the previous year.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Fish taken in the Republic of Ireland and forward for identification purposes should

Fish taken in Northern Ireland and forwarded for identification purposes should in future be sent to Dr. Philip Watson, Fisheries Laboratory, The Cutts, Coleraine ('phone 4521).

Please note that since 1970 the Committee's address has been Balnagowan House, Mobhi Boreen, Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 (phone 379206).

All correspondence should be sent to the above address.

The Committee wishes to express its grateful thanks to Dr. David Cragg-Hine, Fisheries Laboratory, The Cotts, Coleraine, Northern Ireland, for his very able and valuable assistance to the Committee in identifying specimen and record fish taken in Northern Ireland. His kind assistance has greatly facilitated both the Committee in its work and anglers resident in Northern Ireland. The Committee takes this opportunity to wish him well in his new post in Britain.

The Irish Specimen Fish Committee is a voluntary body representative of all angling interests in Ireland. It depends for funds on the subscriptions of well-wishers and the Committee wishes to convey its sincere thanks to those who have already subscribed, namely:—

Bord Fáilte Éireann; The Inland Fisheries Trust Inc.; Irish Federation of Sea Anglers; Guinness Superlatives Ltd.; Irish Trout Fly Fishing Association; Aghada S.A.C.; Bangor S.A.C.; Cobh S.A.C.; Dublin Coarse Fish A.C.; Dun Laoghaire S.A.C.; Dunmore East S.A.C.; Greystones Ridge S.A.C.; Hammonds Lane S.A.C.; Kittiwakes S.A.C.; Knights of the Silver Hook, S.A.C.; Michelins S.A.C.; Shannonbridge Anglers; Albert Ashworth, "Cedar Cottage", 15a Gromant Road, Prestatyn, North Wales; Dr. Eoin Bresnihan 23 Meyrick Avenue, Wetherby, Yorkshire, England; J. Coffey, 52 Beechill Villas, Donnybrook, Dublin; F. J. Devlin, 5 Dorchester Park, Portadown, Northern Ireland; P. F. Dore, "St. Anne's", Freshford Road, Kilkenny; W. J. K. Eakin, 2a Donegal Avenue, Belfast, Northern Ireland; James Farrell, 137 Leinster Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6; John Furness, Charmouth, Dorset, England; J. Gillart, 10 Lovelace Gardens, Southend-on-Sea, Essex; A. J. Hail, 12 Helmsdale Road, Rise Park, Romford, Essex, England; J. R. Heaslip, 13 St. Joseph's Drive, Montenotte, Cork; T. Kavanagh, 34 Hill View Court, Ballinteer, Dundrum, Dublin; Sir George Leeds, Roche Bois, Mont Es Tours, St. Aubin, Jersey, Channel Islands; D. J. Lynch, 6 Seaview Terrace, Donnybrook, Dublin 4; J. S. Mullen, Main Street, Portrush, Northern Ireland; M. Murphy, "The Palms", Church Bay Road, Crosshaven, Co. Cork; Richard Owen, Alley House, Rushton Spencer, Macclesfield, Cheshire, England; Guy de Raemaecker, G. Gezelelaan 48, 2670 Puurs, Belgium; Jac Rigter, Cantharella Motel, Sneem, Co. Kerry; G. F. G. Rivaz, 51 High Street, Hungerford, Berkshire, England; James Sheehan, "Ardouillen", Douglas Road, Cork; Fred Smith, 202 Manchester Road, Walkden, Worsley, Manchester, England; Brendan O'Sullivan, 37 Cherryfield Road, Walkinstown, Co. Dublin; Denis Thomas, 2 Coscorrig Crescent, Loughrea, Co. Galway; A. M. Toms, "Greenways", Pownall Avenue, Bramhall, Cheshire, England; Patrick Torphy, 6 Mount Pleasant, Loughrea, Co. Galway; P. W. Wesson, 145 Orton Avenue, Sutton Coalfield, Warwickshire, England.

Further subscriptions will be gratefully received from any society or individual desirous of helping the Committee in its work.

The Committee greatly regrets having to report that Dr. Michael Kennedy, a founder member, tendered his resignation during 1974. The Committee wishes to acknowledge the tremendously valuable work which Dr. Kennedy carried out over the years. Much of its success has been due to his untiring efforts and guidance and the impetus created by his activities will continue for many years to come.

st January, 1975.

DR. A. GIBSON, *Chairman.*

D. BRENNAN, *Hon. Secretary.*

IRISH Expenditure

1971/72	General Administrative expenses (including printing)	1971/72	1971/72
290.44†	...	£358.04	Incoming credit balance grants
24.00	Taxidermist ...	GRANTS:	
121.79	Medallions ...	200.00	Bord Failte
324.82	Travelling expenses ...	200.00	Inland Fisheries Trust
90.90	Miscellaneous ...		SUBSCRIPTIONS:
2.95	Bank fees ...	77.60	Angling Clubs
<u>834.90</u>		99.58	Individuals ...
136.85	Balance ...	36.53	Others ...
		<u>971.75</u>	
		834.90	less ...
		<u>£371.76</u>	
		<u>£371.76</u>	Total
		<u>£1,229.12</u>	Balance on 31st December, 1973
		<u>£136.85</u>	
		<u>£136.85</u>	
		<u>£367.07</u>	
		<u>£367.07</u>	

These accounts are for the 14-month period 1st November, 1972 to 31st December, 1973.

† Including certain arrears from previous account.

have examined all the docket, bank book, receipt books, etc., and hereby certify that these accounts are correct.

A. E. J. WENT:

CHRISTOPHER P. O'TOOLE.

Would you like to help?

Irish Specimen Fish Committee

The Committee is a voluntary body and it depends for funds on the subscriptions of well-wishers. This Banker's Order is for the convenience of those who wish to participate in our work. If you cannot assist us financially please help us by making anglers aware of the work we are doing and by recording all specimen and record fish taken by fair angling.

BANKER'S ORDER

To :

On January 1st each year, please debit my account with the sum of £ being my annual subscription to the Irish Specimen Fish Committee, c/o Munster & Leinster Bank Ltd., Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin 1.

Signed

Date

This form may be used by those who wish to pay their subscription through their Bank.

Notes on some Specimen Cartilaginous Fishes

By ARTHUR E. J. WENT, D.Sc.

As part of a policy to provide as much information as possible to anglers on specimen fish taken in Irish waters in the year 1971 the Committee decided to review the results obtained with regard to various species and in the annual reports for 1971, 1972 and 1973 short accounts were published as follows:—

- (a) Report for 1971. "Some notes on specimen brown trout from Irish waters."
- (b) Report for 1972. "Skates and rays" and "Rudd."
- (c) Report for 1973. "Ireland's record and specimen sea trout."

As a continuation of this policy the present paper on certain elasmobranch or cartilaginous fishes of importance to anglers in Ireland is published.

Since its establishment in 1955 the Irish Specimen Fish Committee has recorded the capture of many notable examples of elasmobranch species and this report is intended to indicate the information available as to five species, namely the spur dogfish and greater spotted dogfish, sometimes called the bull huss, tope, monkfish and blue shark, consideration of the remaining elasmobranch species being deferred until another year.

At first the Committee had to be guided in selecting a specimen weight by the rather meagre information as to the sizes the various species reach. Originally the specimen weight for spur dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) was fixed at 10 lb (4.54 kg) but from 1962 onwards it was raised to 12 lb (5.45 kg). Similarly the specimen weight for the greater spotted dogfish (*Scyliorhinus stellaris*) was fixed at 14 lb (6.36 kg) and it was raised in 1962 to 16 lb (7.26 kg). The tope (*Galeorhinus galeus*) specimen weight was originally fixed at 40 lb (18.2 kg) at which it still remains. Specimen weights for the blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) have varied over the period 1955 to 1973. At first fixed at 80 lb (36.3 kg) it was raised to 100 lb (45.4 kg) in 1962, reduced to 90 lb (40.9 kg) in 1964 and raised again in 1966 to 100 lb at which level it still remains. Incidentally the record for the lesser spotted dogfish (*Scyliorhinus caniculus*) is still open but the specimen weight has been fixed at 7 lb. (3.18 kg). The existing records (as at 31st December, 1974) for these five species are:—

Spur dogfish. 16 lb 4 oz. (7.38 kg), Strangford Lough, 20 June, 1969. Captor, C. Molvor.

Greater spotted dogfish. 20 lb. 4 oz. (9.20 kg), Dunmore East, 29 July, 1973. Captor, James Monaghan.

Tope. 60 lb. 12 oz. (27.6 kg), Strangford Lough, 12 September, 1968. Captor, C. Molvor.

Monkfish. 69 lb. (31.3 kg), Clew Bay, 1 July, 1958. Captor, M. Fuchs.

Blue Shark. 206 lb (93.6 kg), Achill, 7 October, 1959. Captor, J. McMonagle.

In this paper only the fish of the present specimen weights will be considered. In Tables 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 the localities have been arranged "clockwise" from Dublin around the Irish coasts.

SPUR DOGFISH

The annual numbers of spur dogfish weighing 12 lb or 5.45 kg (the present specimen weight) and upwards authenticated from 1969 to 1973 are indicated in Table 1, together with the details of the heaviest fish landed in each year and its place of capture. Starting at 13 lb 6½ oz (6.08 kg) in 1969 the record rose to 14 lb (6.36 kg) in 1962, to 15 lb (6.80 kg) in 1964, to 15 lb. 12 oz (7.15 kg) in 1967 and to 16 lb 4 oz (7.38 kg) in 1969, at which it still remains. The places of capture of specimen spur dogfish are indicated in Table 2, together with the local record. Specimen spur dogfish are widely distributed almost around the whole of the Irish coasts, although some localities, such as Dungarvan Bay, Kenmare Bay, Valentia and Strangford Lough accounted for a high proportion of the specimens. The size distribution in half pound groups is indicated in Fig. 1A.

TABLE 1.—Details of the annual numbers of specimen spur-dogfish of 12 lb (5.45 kg) or upwards, maximum weights and their places of capture.

Year	Number	Largest fish of the year	
		Weight lb oz	Place of capture
1959	1		Dingle Bay
1960	1		Dingle Bay
1961	3		Dungarvan
1962	7		Kinsale
1963	8		Kinsale
1964	9		Wicklow
1965	10		Kenmare Bay
1966	8		Strangford Lough
1967	7		Killala Bay
1968	9		Valentia
1969	7		Strangford Lough
1970	14		Courtmacsherry
1971	14		Strangford Lough
1972	16		Strangford Lough
1973	27		Cork Harbour
Total	141		

TABLE 2.—Number of specimen spur-dogfish 12 lb (5.45 kg) or over landed from 1959 to 1973, inclusive at the different localities, together with the local records.

Place of Capture	Number of specimens	Local record	
		lb	oz
Dublin Bay	3	12	4
Greystones	4	13	8
Wicklow Bay	5	15	0
Curraclloe, Co. Wexford	1	12	8
Kilmore Quay	1	12	6
Dunmore East	1	12	1
Dungarvan Bay	15	13	0
Youghal	1	12	4
Cork Harbour*	5	15	5
Kinsale	9	14	0
Courtmacsherry	3	16	0
Baltimore Harbour	1	12	6
Kenmare Bay	26	14	8
Valentia†	17	14	1
Dingle Bay	5	13	6½
Fenit	6	13	9
Galway Bay	1	12	0
Clare Island (Co. Mayo)	4	14	6
Achill	4	11	1½
Killala	4	15	12
Killybegs	1	12	4
Moville	1	12	2
Belfast Lough	4	13	12
Strangford Lough	15	16	4
Carlingford Lough	3	13	8
Skerries	1	12	6
Total	141		

* Including Daunt Rock

† Including Caherciveen.

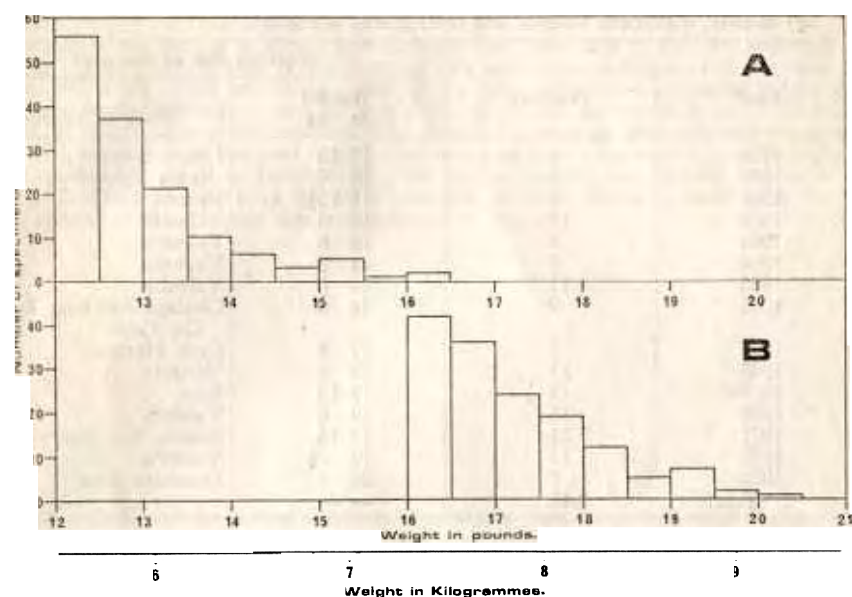


FIG. 1.—Size distribution of A: Specimen spur dogfish weighing 12 lb and upwards, and B: Specimen greater spotted dogfish weighing 16 lb and upwards.

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

The annual numbers of greater spotted dogfish of 16 lb (7.26 kg) and upwards (the present specimen weight) are indicated in Table 3, together with details of the heaviest fish landed in each year and its place of capture. Starting at 17 lb 13 oz (8.08 kg) in 1959 the record rose to 18 lb 6 oz (8.34 kg) in 1960, to 18 lb 13½ oz (8.57 kg) in 1961, to 19 lb 4 oz (8.74 kg) in 1962, to 19 lb 8 oz (8.86 kg) in 1966, to 19 lb 12 oz (8.97 kg) in 1969 and to 20 lb 4 oz (9.20 kg) in 1973, at which it still remains. The places of capture of specimen greater spotted dogfish are indicated in Table 4, together with the local record. Greater spotted dogfish have been caught around all the coasts of Ireland, except the extreme north (Counties Derry and Antrim). The size distribution in half pound groups is indicated in Fig. 1B.

TABLE 3.—Details of the annual numbers of specimen greater spotted dogfish 16 lb (7.26 kg) or over, maximum weights and their places of capture.

Year	Number	Heaviest fish of the year	
		Weight lb oz	Place of capture
1959	1		Dingle Bay
1960	4		Dingle Bay
1961	9		Kinsale
1962	15		Valentia
1963	8		Valentia
1964	4		Valentia
1965	11		Valentia
1966	9		Coulagh Bay near Eyeries, Co. Cork
1967	5		Cork Harbour
1968	11		Valentia
1969	13		Bray
1970	15		Valentia
1971	21		Sneem, Co. Kerry
1972	15		Valentia
1973	7		Dunmore East
Total	148		

TABLE 4.—Number of specimen greater spotted dogfish of 16 lb (7.26 kg) and upwards landed at the different localities, together with the local records.

Place of capture	No. of specimens	Local record	
		lb	oz
Darkey	1	18	0
Bray	2	19	12
Rosslare	3	17	12
Kilmore Quay	2	16	8
Dunmore East	4	20	4
Dungarvan	3	17	0
Ballycotton	4	17	0
Cork Harbour	3	17	8
Clonakilty	1	16	0
Kinsale	9	19	2
Baltimore	2	17	15
Bantry Bay	2	17	0
Coulagh Bay near Eyeries	1	19	8
Sneem	1	18	14
Valentia	73	19	8
Dingle Bay	8	18	6
Smerwick Harbour & Brandon Head	2	17	2
Fenit	3	18	1
Doolin, Co. Clare	1	17	14
Clare Island	4	18	0
Clew Bay	6	16	8
Achill	2	16	4
Belmullet	2	16	8½
Killala Bay	3	17	4
Lough Swilly	2	16	12
Moville	2	19	0
Belfast Lough	1	17	1
Carlingford Lough	1	16	8
Total	148		

TOPE

The annual numbers of specimen tope authenticated from 1959 to 1973 are indicated in Table 5, together with details of the heaviest fish landed in each year and its place of capture. The Irish record was 56 lb (25.4 kg) in 1955 (this fish was caught before the Committee was established), it rose to 60 lb (27.2 kg) in 1961 and to 60 lb 12 oz (27.6 kg) in 1968, at which figure it still remains. The places of capture of specimen tope are given in Table 6, together with the local record. Specimen tope have been caught from Strangford Lough around the coasts to Lough Swilly, the former locality contributing 14, out of a total of 72 specimens, recorded by the Committee to date. The size distribution (in 2 round groups) of the specimen tope are indicated in Fig. 2A.

TABLE 5.—Details of the annual numbers of specimen tope, maximum weights and their places of capture.

Year	Number	Heaviest fish of the year	
		Weight lb oz	Place of capture
1959	1	41 0	Kingsale
1960	2	41 0	Rosslare
1961	5	60 0	Shannon Estuary
1962	4	55 0	Bray
1963	2	52 0	Broadhaven
1964	12	46 0	Valentia
1965	2	47 0	Carnsore Point
1966	6	46 12	Ballyteigue Bay, Co. Wex- ford
1967	3	44 0	Strangford Lough
1968	13	60 12	Strangford Lough
1969	6	59 0	Strangford Lough
1970	6	60 0	Fenit
1971	5	58 0	Strangford Lough
1972	6	51 2	Fenit
1973	3	49 0	Strangford Lough
Total	76		

TABLE 6.—Number of specimen tope landed at the different localities, together with the local records.

Place of capture	No. of specimens	Local record	
		lb	oz
Bray	—	55	0
Wicklow	2	43	2
Carnsore Point	1	47	0
Rosslare	4	47	0
Kilmore Quay	3	47	0
Ballyteigue Bay	2	46	12
Dungarvan	2	40	0
Ballycotton	1	41	0
Cork Harbour	1	40	2
Kinsale	3	44	0
Baltimore Harbour	1	41	12
Kenmare Bay	2	43	12
Valentia	2	46	0
Dingle Bay*	5	54	8
Castlegregory	1	46	0
Fenit	8	60	0
Shannon Estuary†	4	60	0
Galway Bay	1	41	0
Clew Bay	6	50	12
Broadhaven	1	52	0
Lough Swilly	5	45	7
Strangford Lough	15	60	12
Carlingford Lough	4	51	0
Lambay Island	1	44	0
Total	76		

* Including Kells

† Including Ballybunion

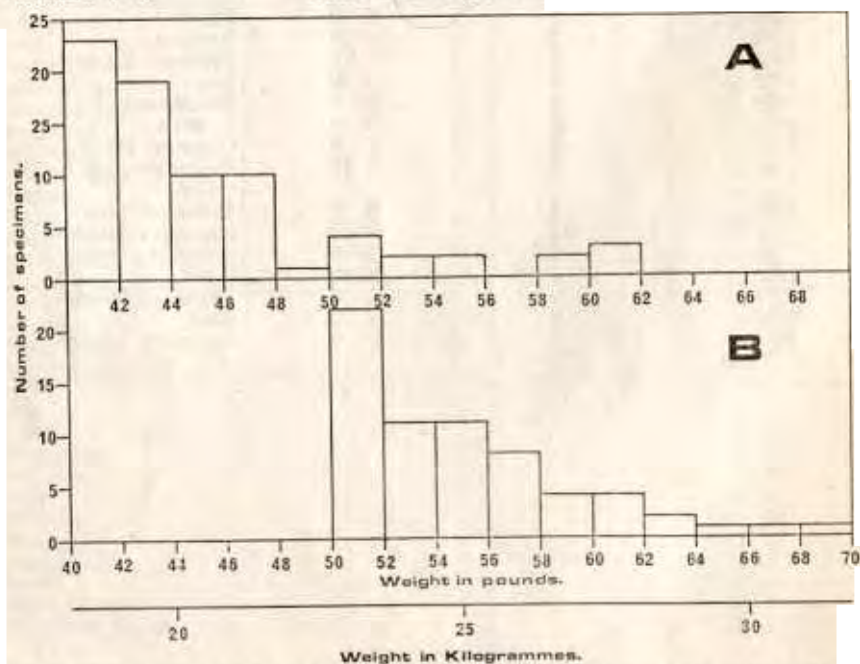


FIG. 2.—Size distribution of A: Specimen tope, and B: Specimen monkfish in two-pound groups.

MONKFISH

The number of specimen monkfish authenticated in the different years are given in Table 7, together with the heaviest fish landed in each year and its place of capture. The Irish record monkfish weighing 69 lb (31.3 kg) was taken early in the Committee's existence in 1958 and this had not been broken by 1974. Only six places provided specimen monkfish, as will be seen from Table 8, and even then 93 per cent were taken at two localities, namely Fenit and Clew Bay. The size distribution of the specimen fish in two-pound groups is given in Fig. 2B.

TABLE 7.—Details of the annual numbers of specimen monkfish, maximum weights and their places of capture.

Year	Number	Largest fish of the year		Place of capture
		Weight		
		lb	oz	
1958	3	69	0	
1959	1	53	0	
1962	4	61	12	
1963	1	55	0	
1964	15	65	0	
1965	6	60	0	
1966	12	56	0	
1967	12	60	0	
1968	1	52	0	
1969	2	56	0	
1970	1	52	0	
1971	3	55	0	
1972	3	56	0	
1973	1	54	8	
Total	65			

TABLE 8.—Number of specimen monkfish landed at the different localities, together with local records.

Place of capture	No. of specimens	Local record	
		lb	oz
Fenit	33	65	0
Kilrush	1	61	12
Galway Bay	1	58	0
Clew Bay	28	69	0
Broadhaven	1	51	0
Hassins, Co. Donegal	1	56	0
Total	65		

BLUE SHARK

The annual numbers of blue shark of 100 lb (45.6 kg) the present specimen limit, or over are given in Table 9, together with the heaviest fish of each year and its place of capture. The specimen weight originally fixed by the Committee for this species was 80 lb (36.3 kg). The record accepted by the Committee in 1955 was 122 lb (55.4 kg) but this was soon broken in 1959 by a fish of 206 lb (93.5 kg) from Achill, as indicated earlier. Unlike the other species referred to in this paper the difference between the record weight and the next contender for the title at 163 lb (74.0 kg) is relatively large. This is well illustrated in Fig. 3. The places of capture of specimen blue shark range mainly along the south coast of Ireland from Helvick to Valentia, only four specimens, including the record having been captured outside that area (Table 10). Kinsale, with 173 specimens, was responsible for almost exactly two-thirds of the total, with Dungarvan second with 33 specimens or about 13 per cent.

TABLE 9.—Details of the annual numbers of specimen blue sharks of 100 lb (45.4 kg), maximum weights and their places of capture.

Year	Number	Heaviest fish of the year	
		Weight lb	Place of capture
1959	2		Achill
1960	5		Kinsale
1961	11		Kinsale
1962	7		Kinsale
1963	7		Kinsale
1964	13		Ballycotton
1965	10		Cork Harbour
1966	12		Kinsale
1967	45		Kinsale
1968	51		Kinsale
1969	15		Youghal
1970	20		Kinsale
1971	26		Kinsale
1972	17		Kinsale
1973	20		Kinsale
Total	261		Courtmacsherry

TABLE 10.—Number of specimen blue sharks 100 lb (45.4 kg) or upwards landed at the different localities, together with local records.

Place of capture	No. of specimens	Local record lb
Dungarvan	33	196
Youghal	11	133
Ballycotton	10	121
Cork Harbour	15	144
Kinsale	173	154
Courtmacsherry	10	162
Baltimore Harbour	3	130
Valentia	2	105
Achill		206
Belmullet		108
Killala Bay	1	103
Killybegs	1	126
Total	261	—

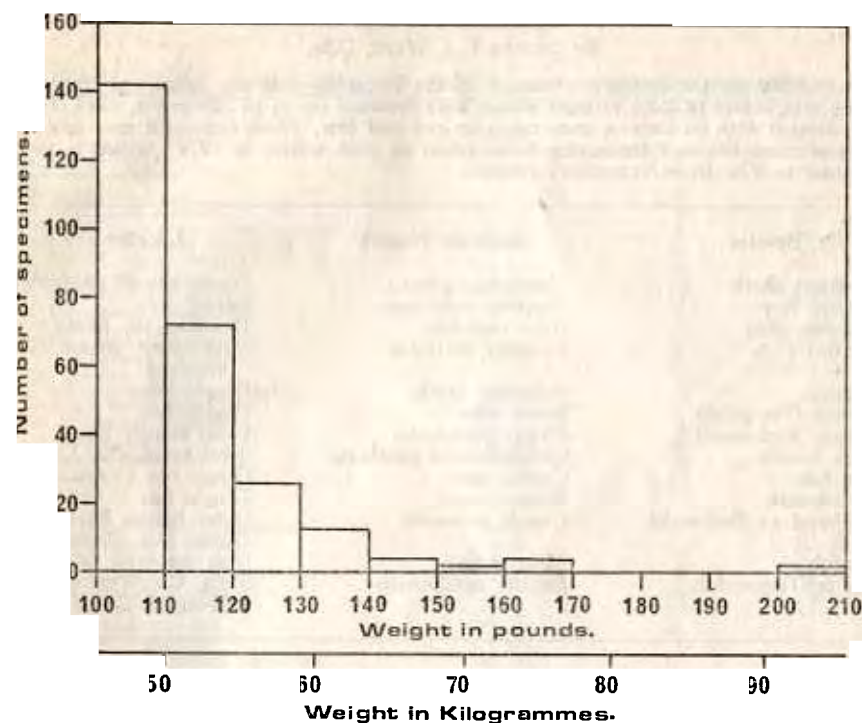


FIG. 3.—Size distribution of specimen blue sharks in ten-pound groups.

RARE, SCARCE OR LOCAL SPECIES CAUGHT IN IRISH WATERS IN 1974

By ARTHUR E. J. WENT, D.Sc.

In addition to the species mentioned in the foregoing lists the following interesting species, rare, scarce or local in Irish waters were recorded up to 14 November, 1974. Those fish indicated with an asterisk were taken on rod and line. Those interested may find full details of these fish in "Interesting fishes taken in Irish waters in 1974" which is to be submitted to *The Irish Naturalist's Journal*.

Species	Scientific Name†	Locality
Six-gilled shark	<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>	Dingle bay (2 specimens)
Electric Ray	<i>Torpedo nobiliana</i>	Bantry Bay
Undulate Ray	<i>Raja undulata</i>	Doonbeg, Co. Clare
Sting Ray	<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>	Morriscastle Strand, Co. Wexford*
Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser sturio</i>	Dingle Bay
Salmon (Pre-grilse)	<i>Salmo salar</i>	Dingle Bay
Greater Fork-beard	<i>Phycis blennoides</i>	Outer Bantry Bay
Black bream	<i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</i>	Sybil Head, Co. Kerry
Boar-fish	<i>Capros aper</i>	Dingle Bay (5 specimens)
Ray's-bream	<i>Brama brama</i>	Dingle Bay
Red-band or Red-snake fish	<i>Cepola rubescens</i>	Outer Bantry Bay
Sun-fish	<i>Mola mola</i>	Dingle Bay (Numerous)
File or Trigger-fish	<i>Balistes carolinensis</i>	Irish Sea,* off Galway*
		Slade, Co. Wexford
		Ballydavid, Co. Kerry.

† As given in List of Irish Fishes by A. E. J. Went and M. Kennedy, National Museum, Dublin.

SCHEDULE (1975)

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN AND SETTING UP WEIGHTS (REVISED)

FRESHWATER FISH	IRISH RECORD lb. oz.	SPECIMEN lb.	"SETTING UP" lb.
SALMON (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	57 0	25	50
SEA TROUT (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	14 3	6	10
BROWN TROUT (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (river)	20 0	5	10
BROWN TROUT (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (lake)	26 2	10	—
SLOB TROUT (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	—	10	—
BREAM (<i>Abramis brama</i>)	11 12	7½	10
CARP (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)	18 12	10	20
DACE (<i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>)	1 2	1	1½
PERCH (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)	5 8	3	4
PIKE (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (lake)	38 2	30	50
PIKE (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (river)	42 0	20	—
ROACH (<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>)	2 13½	2½	3
RUDD (<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>)	3 1	2½	3
RUDD X BREAM HYBRID	5 5	3	—
ROACH X BREAM HYBRID	—	3	—
TENCH (<i>Tinca tinca</i>)	7 13½	6	—
EEL (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	5 15	3	—
SEA FISH			
ANGLER FISH (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	71 8	40	—
BASS (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	16 6	10	—
BLACK SOLE (<i>Solea solea</i>)	3 10	2	3
BRILL (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)	—	8	14
COALFISH (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	24 7	15	30
COD (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	42 0	25	40
CONGER (<i>Conger conger</i>)	72 0	40	70
DAB (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	1 12½	1½	2
DOGFISH—SPUR (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	16 4	12	—
LESSER SPOTTED (<i>Scylliorhinus caniculus</i>)	—	7	—
GREATER SPOTTED (<i>Scylliorhinus stellaris</i>)	20 4	16	—
FLOUNDER (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)	4 3	2½	3
GARFISH (<i>Belone belone</i>)	3 10½	2½	—
GURNARD—TUB (<i>Trigla lucerna</i>)	12 3½	5	12
GREY (<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>)	3 1	1½	—
RED (<i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i>)	3 9½	2	—
HADDOCK (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)	10 13½	7	—
HAKE (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)	25 5½	10	—
HALIBUT (<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>)	156 0	50	—
HERRING (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)	—	4	7
JOHN DORY (<i>Zeus faber</i>)	7 1	4	—
LING (<i>Molva molva</i>)	46 8	25	—
MACKEREL (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	3 8	2½	—
MEGRIM (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)	—	3	—
MONKFISH (<i>Squatina squatina</i>)	69 0	50	—
MULLET—GREY (Thick Lipped) (<i>Crenimugil labrosus</i>)	7 10	5	8
RED (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)	—	1	—
PLAICE—(<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	10 8	4	—
POLLACK (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)	19 3	12	16
POUTING (<i>Trisopterus luscus</i>)	4 10	3	4
RAY—THORNBACK (<i>Raja clavata</i>)	37 0	20	40
BLONDE (<i>Raja brachyura</i>)	36 8	25	30
CUCKOO (<i>Raja naevus</i>)	5 6	4½	—
HOMELYN (<i>Raja montagui</i>)	7 1	5	—
UNDULATE (<i>Raja undulata</i>)	16 8½	12	—
PAINTED (<i>Raja microcellata</i>)	12 10	10	—
STING (<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>)	51 0	30	40
RAY'S BREAM (<i>Brama brama</i>)	—	5	—
RED SEA BREAM (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>)	9 6	4½	7
SCAD (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)	—	2	3
SHAD—ALLIS (<i>Alosa alosa</i>)	—	4	5
TWAITE (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	—	2½	3

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN AND SETTING UP WEIGHTS—continued

	IRISH RECORD	SPECIMEN	' SETTING UP '
	lb. oz.	lb.	lb.
SHARK—PORBEAGLE (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)	365 0	150	300*
BLUE (<i>Prionace glauca</i>)	206 0	100	—
THRESHER (<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>)	— —	120	—
MAKO (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>)	— —	200	200*
SIX-GILLED (<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>)	— —	100	—
SKATE—COMMON (<i>Raja batis</i>)	221 0	130	—
WHITE (<i>Raja alba</i>)	165 0	120	—
LONG NOSE (<i>Raja oxyrinchus</i>)	— —	80	—
ROPE (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	60 12	40	80
TUNNY (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>)	— —	100	—
TURBOT (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>)	26 8	18	25
WHITING (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)	4 8½	3	4½
WRASSE-BALLAN (<i>Labrus bergylta</i>)	7 6	6	9
WRASSE—CUCKOO (<i>Labrus mixtus</i>)	1 9½	1½	—

* Head only.

† Scientific names in accordance with the "List of Irish Fishes (second edition, 1969)" by A. E. J. Went, D.Sc., M.R.I.A., and M. Kennedy, Ph.D. Published by the Stationery Office for the National Museum (1969).

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