

# REPORT OF IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE For the Year 1976

During 1976 the Committee was composed of Dr. A.E.J. Went, Dr. A. Gibson and Miss Eileen Twomey (Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries), D. Brennan and P. Fitzmaurice (Inland Fisheries Trust Inc.), Noel Kavanagh (Bord Failte Eireann), Captain J.P. O'Toole (Irish Federation of Sea Anglers), James Keaveney (National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland), Captain G. Moorkens (Angling Council of Ireland), Martin Phelan (Irish Trout Fly Fishers' Association).

During the year the Committee received 488 claims and ratified 422.

## SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 1976

(Dates of capture 1976 unless otherwise stated)

### BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

Record, 26 lbs. 2 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 10 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
15 5	Lough Corrib	17th September, '75	Mrs. J.M. Kentgens	Mepps No. 4
13 7½	Lough Mask	3rd June	Des Elliott	2" Copper & Silver spoon
13 4	Lough Mask	25th June	V. Rozowski (D)	Rapala Plug
10 15	Loch Na Sool, Co. Roscommon.	7th May	Alan Benson	Worm
10 6½	Lough Melvin	20th April	Master T.J. Morrow	Spoon
10 4	Lough Mask	8th June	H.T. Wolf (D)	2" Copper & Silver Spoon
10 0½	Lough Mask	19th May	Martin Morrin	Mepps

### BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

Record, 20 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 5 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9 10	River Erne, Belurbet.	16th May	W. Millar	Blue Devon

### BREAM

Record, 11 lbs. 12 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 7½ lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9 6¾	River Shannon, Lanesboro.	5th May	Neil Mills (GB)	Bread
9 2	Cullaun Lough, Co. Clare.	27th May	A. Savin (GB)	Worm & Maggot
9 1	Lough Iron	11th June	John Foy (GB)	Redworm
8 14¾	Lanesboro	20th April	D. Bullimore (GB)	Bread
8 14½	Lough Iron	31st May	John Foy (GB)	Bread & Maggot
8 10¼	Lanesboro	10th April	B. Lister (GB)	Bread Flake
8 9½	Lanesboro	20th May	A.J. Hall (GB)	Bread & Maggot
8 9½	Lanesboro	9th April	B. Lister (GB)	Bread Flake
8 9	Lough Corrib	16th September	M. O'Connell	1½" Silver Gold Spoon
8 9	Lanesboro	30th April	Paul Norris (GB)	Bread Flake
8 7½	Lanesboro	28th April	M.K. Frost (GB)	Bread Flake
8 4	Lanesboro	21st May	David Denham (GB)	Bread

## BREAM (continued)

4	Capragh Lake, Carrickmacross.	2nd June	A. Gardner (GB)	Maggots
4	Lanesboro	22nd April	M.K. Frost (GB)	Bread Flake
3 1/4	Lanesboro	22nd April	W.A. Lister (GB)	Bread
2 1/4	Lanesboro	30th April	M.K. Frost (GB)	Bread Flake
1 1/4	Lanesboro	19th May	A. J. Hall (GB)	Maggots
1	Lanesboro	21st May	David Denham (GB)	Bread
1	Lanesboro	17th April	Gordon Dickenson	Bread
	Monalty Lake, Carrickmacross.	19th August	H. McAllister	Maggots
7 14 1/4	Lanesboro	21st April	Gordon Dickenson	Bread
7 13 1/4	Lanesboro	18th April	M. Hamilton	Bread
7 12 1/2	Lanesboro	6th May	Neil Mills (GB)	Bread
7 12	Monalty Lake	19th August	H. McAllister	Maggots
7 11 3/4	Lanesboro	20th May	C. Bellott (GB)	Bread
7 11 1/2	Lanesboro	17th April	Damien Maddock	Bread
7 11 1/4	Lanesboro	4th May	David Denham (GB)	Maggots
7 11 1/4	Lanesboro	22nd April	M. K. Frost (GB)	Bread Flake
7 11	Lanesboro	12th April	M.K. Frost (GB)	Bread Flake
7 10 1/2	Lanesboro	9th April	M. Bernard (GB)	Worm
7 10 1/4	Lanesboro	17th April	Gordon Dickenson	Bread
7 10 1/4	Lanesboro	21st May	David Denham (GB)	Bread
7 10	Lanesboro	17th April	Damien Maddock	Bread
7 9 1/4	Lanesboro	25th May	S. Wicker (GB)	Maggots
7 9	Lanesboro	9th April	W.M. Cockett (GB)	Worm
7 8 3/4	Lanesboro	20th May	John Mills (GB)	Bread Flake
7 8 1/2	Lanesboro	20th May	Colin Bellott (GB)	(GB) Bread
7 8	Capragh Lake	2nd June	K. Hodder	Worm & Maggot
7 8	Lanesboro	30th April	A. Russell (GB)	Paste

## CARP

Record, 18 lbs. 12 ozs.		Specimen Weight, 10 lbs.		
WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
15 11	The Lough, Cork.	11th July	Philip Dewey	Maggots
13 4	The Lough	19th November	Conor Healy	Anchored Crust
10 8	The Lough	19th November	Conor Healy	Anchored Crust
12 9	The Lough	19th April	Conor Healy	Floating Crust
11 9	The Lough	25th August	Conor Healy	Floating Crust
11 8	The Lough	17th August	Paddy Higginson	Floating Crust
10 2	The Lough	25th August	Paddy Higginson	Floating Crust

## EEL

Record, 5 lbs. 15 ozs.		Specimen Weight, 3 lbs.		
WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5	The Lough, Cork	12th July	Jim McGrath	Dead rudd
4 8	The Lough	12th July	Conor Healy	Dead rudd
4 2 1/2	Celbridge, Co. Kildare.	27th August	Niall Byrne	Dead rudd
4	The Lough	9th July	Anthony Haynes	Dead rudd
3 10	Kaats Strand, Wexford.	19th April	Anthony Murphy	Ragworm
3 3	Mallow, Co. Cork.	27th August	R.S. Wheatley (GB)	Dace
3 0 1/2	Arthurstown, Co. Wexford.	11th July	Walter Keane	Worm

## PIKE (LAKE)

Record, 38 lbs. 2 ozs.		Specimen Weight, 30 lbs.		
WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
37 12	Lough Derg	2nd February	Tom Tiernan	Copper Spoon
	Lough Beg, Co. Antrim.	15th January	Alan McQueen	Herring

## PIKE (RIVER)

Record, 42 lbs.		Specimen Weight, 20 lbs.		
WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
23 9	Lower Bann River	8th February	Mervyn Swann	Perch
21	River Barrow	24th July	Harry Batchelor	Mepps No. 3.
20 5	River Shannon, Athlone.	14th June	R.C. Kershaw (GB)	ABU Spinner

## RUDD

Record, 3 lbs. 1 ozs.		Specimen Weight, 2 1/4 lbs.		
WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 15	Lough Derravaragh	9th May	C.W. Gibson	Wet-fly
2 12 1/2	River Shannon, Athlone.	26th August	Barry Brill	Bread Flake
2 12	Athlone	23rd August	Barry Brill	Bread Flake
2 10	River Shannon, Lanesboro.	17th May	L.J. Gooding (GB)	Bread Flake
2 9 1/2	Lough Analla, Co. Westmeath.	26th May	Des Doherty	Bread Flake
2 8 3/4	Lough Analla	26th May	Vincent Baker	Bread Flake
2 8 1/2	Athlone	12th August	L.P. Gaffey	Maggots
2 7 1/2	Lough Analla	19th June	Vincent Baker	Bread Flake
2 7	Lough Annaghmore, Strokestown.	26th August	Master M.C. Butler (GB)	Bread
2 7	Lanesboro	8th May	Neil Mills (GB)	Bread
2 6	River Shannon, Shannonbridge.	29th August	R. Galligan (GB)	Bread
2 5 1/2	Atedaun Lake, Corofin.	22nd April	T. Eustace (GB)	Bread Flake
2 5	Lough Analla	14th September	Vincent Baker	Bread Paste
2 5	Lough Annaghmore	26th August	P.H. Butler (GB)	Bread
2 4	Lough Annaghmore	23rd August	P.H. Butler (GB)	Bread
2 4	Lough Annaghmore	26th August	P.H. Butler (GB)	Bread
2 4	Athlone	24th August	Hugh Gough	Bread Flake
2 4	Lough Analla	12th May	D. Bridgewood (GB)	Worm & Maggot

## RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

Record, 5 lbs. 13 1/2 ozs.		Specimen Weight, 3 lbs.		
WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 2	Monalty Lake	23rd May	Victor Moore	
4 15	Monalty Lake	25th August	Hugh Gough	Maggots
4 11 1/4	Lough Ree, Athlone.	29th April	T. Moran	Bread Flake
4 9	River Shannon, Athlone.	17th August	M. Daly	Bread
4 1 1/4	Lanesboro	8th May	John Mills (GB)	Bread Flake
4 0 1/2	Athlone	23rd August	Barry Brill	Bread Flake
4 0 1/2	Bunn Lake, Cavan	15th June	B.J. Neave (GB)	Maggots
4	Athlone	18th August	M. Daly	Bread
3 13	Athlone	17th August	M. Daly	Bread
3 12 1/2	Athlone	17th August	Barry Brill	Bread
3 12	Athlone	18th August	Barry Brill	Bread
3 12	Lough Ree, Lanesboro.	8th August	P. Chamberlain (GB)	Bread Flake
3 11 1/2	Lanesboro	9th May	John Mills (GB)	Bread Flake
3 11	Athlone	17th August	Barry Brill	Bread
3 11	Derrygid Lake, Cavan.	8th July	M. Wilson (GB)	Mussel
3 9 1/2	Athlone	18th August	Barry Brill	Bread
3 9 1/2	Castlefergus L, Co. Clare.	8th April	Colin Campbell	Bread Flake

## RUDD/BREAM HYBIRD (continued)

3	9¼	Lanesboro	16th May	A.J. Hall (GB)	Bread Flake
3	9	Lanesboro	27th April	B. Bailey (GB)	Casters
3	8	Shannonbridge	29th August	W. Tambour (A)	Bread
3	7	Athlone	18th August	M. Daly	Bread
3	6	Lanesboro	27th April	L. Crowther (GB)	Casters
3	6	Lanesboro	21st May	I.W. Ferguson (GB)	Bread Flake
3	5¾	Lanesboro	11th May	Neil Mills (GB)	Bread & Worm
3	4	Monalty Lake	19th August	Stephen Welshman	Maggots
3	4	Athlone	18th August	M. Daly	Bread
3	3½	Shannonbridge	5th August	R. Galligan (GB)	Bread
3	3¼	Lanesboro	19th August	Master D. Jordan	Bread Flake
3	2	Athlone	20th August	Barry Brill	Bread
3	0¾	Lanesboro	20th May	A.J. Hall (GB)	Bread Flake
3		Lanesboro	21st May	A.J. Hall (GB)	Bread Flake
3		Pond, Malahide.	17th June	Brian Redmond	Bread

## BASS

Record, 16 lb. 6 oz.

Specimen Weight, 10 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14 6¼	Castlegregory	21st November	Gordon H. Thornes (G.B.)	Clam & Lug
13 10¾	Ballyteigue, Co. Wexford.	31st August	David Gray	Crab
13 2	Kilcoole Strand	3rd October	Mervyn Rooney	Squid Strip
12 8	Youghal	29th August	Dick Caulfield	Mackerel Strip
11 11	Sneem	27th July	Dr. H. Winkel (D)	Mackerel
11 1	Cobh	11th September	Kevin Jones	Mackerel Strip
10 8¼	Roches Point	11th August, '75	Myles Ponsonby	Soft Crab
10 4	Cobh	6th September	Patrick Leahy	Mackerel Strip

## TENCH

Record, 7lb. 13¼ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 6 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 3¾	River Shannon, Lanesboro.	20th May	C. Bellott (GB)	Bread
7 0¼	Lanesboro	14th May	Damian Gilmore	Bread Flake
7 0¼	Lanesboro	25th May	John Keeley (GB)	Maggots
7	Lanesboro	24th May	Alan Cooper (GB)	Maggots
3 15½	Lanesboro	5th May	D. Stodart (GB)	Worms
3 15	Lanesboro	24th May	A.C. Wicker (GB)	Bread Flake
3 12¾	Lanesboro	18th May	John Keeley (GB)	Maggots
3 10¼	Lanesboro	7th May	P. Burrell (GB)	Bread Paste
3 9	Lanesboro	14th May	D.C. Mallett (GB)	Bread
3 8	Lanesboro	31st May	Keith Prior (GB)	Bread
3 8	Lanesboro	3rd May	P. Burrell (GB)	Bread
3 7	Lanesboro	5th May	Brian Green (GB)	Paste
3 6½	Lanesboro	24th May	John Keeley (GB)	Maggots
3 6½	Lanesboro	27th May	L. J. Gooding (GB)	Maggot & Worm
3 6	Lanesboro	25th May	J.W. Green (GB)	Bread
3 5½	Lanesboro	31st May	D. Gilmore	Bread Flake
3 5½	Lanesboro	14th May	V.F. Jackson (GB)	Worms
3 5½	Lanesboro	4th May	D. Gilmore	Bread Flake
3 5¼	Lanesboro	19th May	R. Mackriell (GB)	Bread Flake
3 5¼	Lanesboro	14th May	M.K. Frost (GB)	Bread Flake
3 4½	Lanesboro	23rd April	G. Verbeek (D)	Bread
3 4¼	Lanesboro	10th May	D.C. Mallett (GB)	Bread
3 3¾	Lanesboro	4th May	Damian Gilmore	Bread Flake
3 3	Lanesboro	7th May	M.K. Frost (GB)	Maggots
3 3	Lanesboro	20th April	D. Stodart (GB)	Bread Flake
3 2½	Lanesboro	31st May	Damian Gilmore	Bread Flake
3 2½	Lanesboro	14th May	M.K. Frost (GB)	Bread Flake
3 2	Coosan Lough, Athlone.	21st June	E. Kershaw (GB)	Bread Flake

## TENCH (continued)

8 2	Lanesboro	28th May	M. K. Frost (GB)	Bread Flake
8 1¼	Lanesboro	20th May	D.S. Denham (GB)	Maggots
8 1	Lough Analla	1st June	Vincent Baker	Loebworm
8 1	Lanesboro	12th May	P. Crowther (GB)	Bread
8 0¾	Lanesboro	14th May	Damian Gilmore	Bread Flake
8	Coosan Lough	21st June	R.C. Kershaw (GB)	Bread Flake

## COALFISH

Record, 24 lb. 7 oz.

Specimen Weight, 15 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
16 4	Cork Harbour	14th July	J. Planken (NL)	Mackerel

## COD

Record, 42 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 25 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
36 6	Causeway Coast	22nd August	Daniel McCook	Mackerel
33	Courtmacsherry	21st July, '75.	Mark Gannon	Mackerel Strip
32 8	Causeway Coast	28th June	Raymond McKendry	Mackerel Strip

## CONGER

Record, 72 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 40 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
54	Cleggan Pier	16th August	John Brittain	Mackerel
41	Valentia	21st August	Albert Roux (GB)	Coalfish

## GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record, 21 lb. 4 oz.

Specimen Weight, 16 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
19 6	Enniscrone	10th September	Thomas Lyons	Pollack feathers
19	Courtmacsherry	27th May	W.H. Den Otter (NL)	Mackerel Strip
19	Valentia	22nd August	James Curran	Mackerel
18 4	Sneem	16th September	W.G. Bousie (NL)	Mackerel Strip
18 4	Bantry	3rd October	John Murnane	Mackerel Strip
18 4	Dingle	15th August	Voel O'Mahony	Mackerel Strip
17 8	Valentia	19th September	Gerald Fitzgerald	Mackerel Strip
17 8	Killala	15th August	W.J. Nelson	Mackerel Strip
17 8	Sneem	16th September	G. Schuurman (NL)	Mackerel
17 4	Fenit	3rd June	W.H. Danzer, JNR (D)	Mackerel
17	Courtmacsherry	23rd July	Dr. D. Rusche (D)	Mackerel Strip
17	Courtmacsherry	18th June	Peter Smith (GB)	Mackerel Strip
17	Fenit	31st May	W.H. Danzer, Snr. (D)	Mackerel
17	Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry.	3rd August	Dan Rooney	Mackerel
16 15	Cobh	9th September	C. Kloppenburg (NL)	Mackerel
16 12	Valentia	10th August	F. Sacheiti (F)	Mackerel
16 12	Ballinskelligs	26th July	B. Rooney	Mackerel
16 9	Westport	11th July	Frank McCaffrey	Mackerel
16 8	Enniscrone	2nd August	E. Bushell (GB)	Mackerel
16 8	Achill	29th August	Aldo J. Raffo	Mackerel Strip
16 8	Killala	15th August	Jim Byrne	Baited feathers
16 6	Greystones	22nd May	Robert J. Gileen	Herring
16 4	Sneem	15th September	H. Homan (NL)	Mackerel Strip
16 4	Killala	14th August	Mrs. T. Connolly (GB)	Mackerel Strip
16 2	Enniscrone	8th August	E. Bushell (GB)	Mackerel
16 1	Belmullet	21st August	Master P. Labrot (F)	Mackerel Strip
16	Courtmacsherry	24th July	Villain Charly (F)	Mackerel Strip

## SPUR DOGFISH

Record, 16 lb. 4 oz.

Specimen Weight, 12 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14 10	Cobh	8th September	Michael Haines (GB)	Mackerel
14 8	Belfast Lough	10th October	Alan McMaster	Mackerel Strip
14	Clare Island	16th June	John Furness (GB)	Whiting Strip
13 12	Killala	31st August	Rudi Breuch (D)	Mackerel Strip
13 10	Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry.	19th August	G.K. Hudson	Mackerel Strip
13 8	Enniscrone	5th September	Frank Lulham	Mackerel fillet
13 8	Sneem	6th September	N. van Geelen (NL)	Mackerel Strip
13 8	Killala	31st August	W. Aufdermauer (D)	Mackerel Strip
13 8	Sneem	3rd June	A. Bosman (NL)	Mackerel Strip
13 6	Clare Island	17th June	John Furness (GB)	Mackerel Strip
13 4	Ballycotton	12th October, '75	Paddy Hennessy	Mackerel
13 2	Youghal	26th August	Hans Hofman (D)	Mackerel Strip
13	Strangford Lough	22nd August	Cecil I. Collins	Mackerel fillet
13	Dungarvan	24th July, '75	Willy Hartz	Feathers
12 10½	Greystones	31st October	G.K. Hudson	Mackerel fillet
12 9	Strangford Lough	8th September	Joe Bradley	Mackerel Strip
12 8	Courtmacsherry	23rd September	Andre Vissers (B)	Mackerel Strip
12 8	Killybegs	13th August	W. McGonigle	Mackerel
12 8	Mizen Head, Arklow.	22nd May	Martin Nolan	Mackerel
12 8	Sneem	27th June	C. Trimp (NL)	Mackerel Strip
12 8	Sneem	14th September	A. Ligt (NL)	Mackerel Strip
12 4	Clare Island	20th June	Miss T. Merrick (GB)	Mackerel
12 4	Valentia	10th August	Derrick McKenna	Mackerel
12 4	Sneem	7th September	H.M.W. Martens (NL)	Mackerel Strip
12 3½	Kilmore Quay	25th July	J.B. Toner	Mackerel
12 2	Sneem	16th September	G. Schuurman (NL)	Mackerel Strip
12 2	Sneem	15th June	W. J. Joosten (NL)	Mackerel Strip
12	Strangford Lough	22nd August	W.J. McKee	Mackerel fillet
12	Fenit	1st June	W.H. Danzer, Snr. (D)	Mackerel
12	Sneem	26th June	K. Van Rooyen (NL)	Mackerel Strip

## FLOUNDER

Record 4 lb. 3 oz.

Specimen Weight 2 lb. 8 oz.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 6½	Greystones	21st October	Eric Norton	Ragworm
3 6	Dungarvan	7th February	Wl. D. Kelly	lugworm
3 5	Dungarvan	14th February	Billy Cowming	lugworm
3 2½	Dungarvan	15th January	Wl. Cowming	lugworm
3 1	Dunmore East	22nd August	Patrick Burns	Mackerel Strip
3 1	Dungarvan	24th January	Wl. Cowming	lugworm
3 1	Ballinrannig	1st January	Robert Moss	lugworm
2 15½	Strand, Dingle			
2 15	Dungarvan	7th February	Wl. D. Kelly	lugworm
2 14	Dungarvan	16th January	Wl. Cowming	lugworm
2 13	Dungarvan	19th January	Wl. Cowming	lugworm
2 13	Cork Harbour	5th June	J. O'Flaherty	Crab
2 12	Dungarvan	15th January	Wl. Cowming	lugworm
2 11	Dungarvan	28th February	Wl. Kelly	Squid
2 11	Dungarvan	15th January	Billy Cowming	lugworm
2 10½	Dungarvan	3rd June	Wl. D. Kelly	Crab
2 10½	Fenit	18th January	John K. White	lugworm
2 10	Dungarvan	14th February	Wl. Kelly	Squid
2 10	Dungarvan	17th January	Billy Cowming	lugworm
2 9½	Fenit	23rd October	John K. White	lugworm
2 9	Dungarvan	15th January	Billy Cowming	lugworm
2 9	Ballinrannig	6th January	Robert E. Moss	lugworm
2 8½	Fenit	4th January	John K. White	lugworm
2 8½	Dungarvan	7th February	Wl. D. Kelly	lugworm
2 8	Ardmore	11th September	Peter O'Dowling	lugworm
-	Ardcavan, Wexford	31st October	Francis Baxter	Ragworm

## GARFISH

Record 3 lb. 10¼ oz.

Specimen Weight 2½ lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 12	Courtmacsherry	31st August	M.v/d Wildenberg (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2 9	Sneem	2nd September	A. Bloom (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2 8	Courtmacsherry	17th June	P. Van Vuuren (NL)	Pollack feathers
2 8	Courtmacsherry	31st August	L.V. Sunder (NL)	Mackerel

## GREY GURNARD

Record 3 lb. 1 oz.

Specimen Weight 1½ lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 4	Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry	15th August	Brendan Rooney	Mackerel
1 12	Port-na-Blagh, Co. Donegal	18th July	Master Paul Cole	Mackerel
1 10	Causeway Coast	5th May	Cecil Lindsay	Lugworm
1 9	Causeway Coast	24th July	Ivan Elliott	Mackerel
1 8½	Killala Bay	16th September	Hermann Meyns (D)	Mackerel Strip
1 8	Ballinskelligs	15th August	G.K. Hudson	Mackerel Strip

## RED GURNARD

Record 3 lb. 9½ oz.

Specimen Weight 2 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 5½	Westport	4th July	Mrs. Mary Tarmey	Mackerel Strip
2 5	Causeway Coast	5th September	W.F. McLaughlin	Feathers
2 4	Enniscrone	26th September	A. Riksen (D)	Mackerel Strip
2 4	Valentia	5th September	E. O'Neill	Mackerel
2 2	Malin Head	18th August	Norman Maddox	Mackerel
2 1	Causeway Coast	15th August	E.A.N. Johnson	Feathers
2	Causeway Coast	28th August	E.A.N. Johnson	Feathers

## TUB GURNARD

Record 12 lb. 3½ oz.

Specimen Weight 5 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8 12	Enniscrone	20th August	Karl Walden (CH)	Mackerel
8 12	Enniscrone	12th August	M. Houve (F)	Mackerel
7 10	Achill	17th July	M. P. Heery	Feathers
7 1	Downings, Co. Donegal	6th June	J. Hutchinson	White feathers
5 12	Enniscrone	14th July	Miss A. Huisman (NL)	Mackerel fillet
5 11½	Enniscrone	1st August	E.J. O'Dowd	Mackerel Strip
5 8	Enniscrone	16th August	M.C. Tromp (NL)	Mackerel Strip
5 2	Enniscrone	28th September	John Hassett	Mackerel Strip
5 5½	Killala	16th August	W. Trouerbach (NL)	Mackerel Strip

## HADDOCK

Record 10 lb. 13½ oz.

Specimen Weight 7 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9 4	Courtmacsherry	8th August	Theo Banen (NL)	Mackerel Strip
7 4	Causeway Coast	17th July '75	Kenneth Graham	Ragworm

## HAKE

Record 25 lb. 5½ oz.

Specimen Weight 10 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12 4	Dungarvan	7th September	A. Zonderland (NL)	Mackerel
10 7	Belfast Lough	14th August	Lawrence Clawson	Lugworm

## HERRING

Specimen Weight ¾ lb.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12½	Black Head	17th June	Jonathan M. Peel	Feathers

## JOHN DORY

Record 7 lb. 1 oz.

Specimen Weight 4 lbs.

DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3rd July	John O'Shea	Artificial eel

## LING

Record 46 lb. 8 oz.

Specimen Weight 25 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
29 12	Sneem	15th September	H. Homan (NL)	MI. Roche
25 7	Ballycotton	20th July '75	MI. Roche	Mackerel Strip
25 2	Kinsale	5th August	Jim Sheehan	Mackerel
25 2	Cobh	13th September	D. Stapley (GB)	Mackerel

## MACKEREL

Record 3 lb. 8 oz.

Specimen Weight 2½ lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 10	Dungarvan	3rd September	H. de Rooy (NL)	Feathers
2 9½	Kinsale	5th August	H.L.R. Emmet	Feathers

## MONKFISH

Record 69 lbs.

Specimen Weight 50 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
54	Westport	28th June '75	L. Swift (GB)	Mackerel
51 8	Sneem	16th September	H. Homan (NL)	Mackerel

## PLAICE

Record 7 lb. 2½ oz.

Specimen Weight 4 lb.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4 1	Gilliney Strand, Co. Dublin.	30th June	Master G. Dungan	Lugworm

## POLLACK

Record 19 lbs. 3 ozs.

Specimen Weight 12 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
16 3	Clifden	7th October '75	Rose Kessler (D)	Mackerel Strip
16	Brandon, Dingle	25th August	Günther Matzen (D)	Feathers
15	Courtmacsherry	19th July	A. van Daela (B)	Mepps 4.
14 8	Kinsale	20th August	H.L.R. Emmet	Mackerel Strip
14 4½	Achill	13th August	G. Boyle	Artificial Eel
13 12	Clifden	9th August	F. Steenbergen (NL)	Mackerel
13 8	Causeway Coast	9th August	Derek McLeister	Red Gill
13 3	Dingle	26th August	Rex M. Smith (GB)	Mackerel
13 3	Kinsale	10th October	Dr. R. Raymond	Red Gill
13 3	Achill	2nd July	Barbara Enrich (D)	Baited Feathers
12 11	Causeway Coast	22nd August	James Kirkpatrick	ABU Pilker
12 10	Enniscrone	28th June	Werner Mueller (D)	Red Gill
12 8	Causeway Coast	6th July	J.S. Mullan	Red Gill
12 6½	Cork Harbour	29th August	D. Mulcahy	Mackerel
12 6½	Achill	3rd July	John O'Shea	Artificial Eel
12 5	Kinsale	16th September	L. Holland (GB)	Rubber Eel
12 4½	Achill	4th July	Michael Leahy	Baited feathers
12 4	Causeway Coast	7th August	John McBride	Feathers
12 2	Clifden	17th July	Johan Krul (NL)	Mackerel
12 1	Achill	14th August	Andrew Martin	Red Gill

## POUTING

Record 4 lb. 10 ozs.

Specimen Weight 3 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 1½	Ballinskelligs	23rd April	Paul Keen (GB)	Herring
3 0½	Sneem	27th June	H.W.M. Bodewes (NL)	Mackerel
3	Look Head Co. Wexford	18th April	Roy Tynan	Feathers

## BLONDE RAY

Record 36 lb 8 oz.

Specimen Weight 25 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
26 6	Cork Harbour	4th July	Mrs. E. Conlon	Mackerel Strip
25 6	Cork Harbour	24th July	Mrs. E. Conlon	Mackerel Strip

## CUCKOO RAY

Record 5 lb. 11 oz.

Specimen Weight 4½ lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4 12	Causeway Coast	21st July	Derek McLeister	Mackerel Strip

## PAINTED RAY

Record 12 lb. 12½ oz.

Specimen Weight 10 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12 8	Brandon Bay	6th August	William Colvin	Mackerel Strip
12 3	Brandon Bay	27th September	Ian R. Howcroft (GB)	Mackerel fillet
11 3	Fenit	15th June	Tim Eley (GB)	Mackerel last
11	Brandon Bay	13th August	Wm. Hodgins	Mackerel Strip
11	Brandon Bay	26th	September	MI. G. Lane (GB) Mackerel Fillet
10 8	Brandon Bay	13th August	Wm. D. Colvin	Mackerel Strip
10 4	Brandon Bay	12th August	Wm. Hodgins	Mackerel Strip

## HOMELYN RAY

Record 7 lb. 7½ oz.

Specimen Weight 5 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 7½	Dunfanaghy, Donegal	17th July	John Kerr	Mackerel Strip
6 4	Brandon Bay	4th August	Wm. D. Colvin	Mackerel Strip
6 1½	Causeway Coast	31st August	Samuel Collins	Mackerel Strip
5 12	Causeway Coast	30th August	Derek McLeister	Mackerel Strip
5 3	Causeway Coast	5th September	J.S. Mullan	Mackerel
5 2	Fenit	3rd June	W. H. Danzer Jnr. (D)	Mackerel fillet.

## THORNBACK RAY

Record 37 lbs.

Specimen Weight 20 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
23	Greystones	29th May	Raymond Bannerman	Herring
22	Greystones	4th July	Robert Yeomans	Mackerel Strip

## UNDULATE RAY

Record 17 lbs. 2 oz.

Specimen Weight 12 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
17 2	Fenit	10th June	W.H. Danzer Snr. (D)	Mackerel
16 8½	Fenit	23rd June	Harry Hardy (GB)	Mackerel
16 8	Fenit	15th June	Ronald North (GB)	Mackerel last
15 12	Fenit	25th June	Harry Hardy (GB)	Mackerel
15 8	Fenit	8th June	W.H. Danzer Jnr. (D)	Mackerel fillet
14 12½	Brandon Bay, Dingle	19th September	I.R. Howcroft (GB)	Mackerel fillet
14 8	Fenit	24th June	Bill Howes (GB)	Mackerel
14 2	Fenit	12th June	W.H. Danzer Jnr. (D)	Mackerel Strip
14 2	Fenit	20th June	Mrs. W. E. Burrows (GB)	Mackerel
14 2	Fenit	6th June	W.H. Danzer Jnr. (D)	Mackerel fillet
14 2	Fenit	29th May	D.F. Timothy (GB)	Mackerel
14 1	Fenit	6th June	W.H. Danzer Snr. (D)	Mackerel
14	Fenit	1st June	W.H. Danzer Snr. (D)	Mackerel
14	Fenit	26th June	E.F. Burrows (GB)	Mackerel
14	Fenit	10th June	W.H. Danzer Snr. (D)	Mackerel
14	Fenit	11th June	W.H. Danzer Snr. (D)	Mackerel Strip
14	Fenit	27th May	Russell Dare (GB)	Mackerel Strip
13 8	Fenit	29th May	H. Robinson (GB)	Mackerel Strip

## UNDULATE RAY (continued)

3	Fenit	2nd June	W.H. Danzer Jnr. (D)	Mackerel
3	Fenit	8th June	W.H. Danzer Jnr. (D)	Mackerel fillet
3	Fenit	10th June	W.H. Danzer Jnr. (D)	Mackerel Strip
13	Fenit	15th June	F.S. Tooze (GB)	Mackerel Strip
13	Fenit	23rd June	E.F. Burrows (GB)	Mackerel
13	Fenit	1st June	W.H. Danzer Jnr. (D)	Mackerel
13	Fenit	10th June	W.H. Danzer Snr. (D)	Mackerel
13	Fenit	7th June	W.H. Danzer Snr. (D)	Mackerel fillet
13	Fenit	14th June	Derek Phillips	Mackerel
13	Fenit	12th June	W.H. Danzer Jnr. (D)	Mackerel Strip
13	Fenit	10th June	W.H. Danzer Jnr. (D)	Mackerel Strip
13	Fenit	30th May	W.H. Danzer Snr. (D)	Mackerel
13	Fenit	12th June	W.H. Danzer Snr. (D)	Mackerel
13	Fenit	24th June	E.F. Burrows (GB)	Mackerel
13	Fenit	10th June	W.H. Danzer Jnr. (D)	Mackerel fillet
13	Fenit	10th June	W.H. Danzer Snr. (D)	Mackerel
13	Fenit	26th May	Edward Foale (GB)	Mackerel

## WHITE SKATE

Record 165 lbs.

Specimen Weight 120 lbs.

PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
Westport	28th June	Dan Corcoran	Mackerel

## TOPE

Record 60 lbs. 12 ozs.

Specimen Weight 40 lbs.

WEIGHT b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
19	Strangford Lough	22nd October	Roy Mason, M.P. (GB)	Mackerel
13 12	Greystones	4th July	Francis Cranks	Mackerel fillet
10 8	Killiney Bay, Co. Dublin,	5th September	R. Lovell-Butt	Mackerel
40	Culdaff Bay	28th June	James J. Chatham	Mackerel

## RAY'S BREAM

Record 6 lbs.

Specimen Weight 5 lbs.

WEIGHT b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 14 3/4	Courtmacsherry	6th September	Brian Furphy	Mackerel
5 5	Dingle	14th August	Rex M. Smith (GB)	Feathers
5 5	Clifden	1st October	N.W. Schilperoort (NL)	Mackerel feathers
5 4 1/2	Courtmacsherry	28th August	Sean Ahern	Mackerel feathers.

## TURBOT

Record 26 lb. 8 oz.

Specimen Weight 18 lbs.

WEIGHT b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12 12	Cobh	8th September	Thomas McCrossan	Mackerel
8	Kilmore Quay	11th July	Serald Erskine	Mackerel Strip

## WHITING

Record 4 lb. 8 1/2 oz.

Specimen Weight 3 lbs.

WEIGHT b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 6	Clare Island	18th June	John Furness (GB)	Sandeel
1 2	Clare Island	18th June	John Furness (GB)	Sandeel
1	Clare Island	18th June	Miss T. Merrick (GB)	Feathers
3 4	Clare Island	18th June	G.W.B. Burry (GB)	Mackerel
3 2	Clare Island	16th June	G.W.B. Burry (GB)	Sandeel

## BLUE SHARK

Record 206 lbs.

Specimen Weight 100 lbs.

WEIGHT b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
115	Courtmacsherry	4th July	Vic Suykerbuyk (NL)	Mackerel
111	Dungarvan	17th August	John O'Donnell	Mackerel
110	Courtmacsherry	24th June '75	Michael McCowen	Mackerel
107	Dungarvan	17th July	Con Crotchett	Mackerel
105 8	Courtmacsherry	4th July	K. Berting (NL)	Mackerel
103 8	Killala	21st September	M. Muldowney	Mackerel
103	Dungarvan	28th July	H. Whitehead (GB)	Mackerel
102	Clifden	15th July	Dirk Pols (NL)	Mackerel
102	Dungarvan	6th July	E. Fictoor (NL)	Mackerel
102	Courtmacsherry	7th July	Alfred Wagner (D)	Mackerel
101	Cork Harbour	11th August	Leo McCarthy	Mackerel
100 4	Killybegs	15th August	Pat Cotter	Mackerel

## BALLAN WRASSE

Record 7lb. 6oz.

Specimen Weight 6 lbs.

WEIGHT b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 8	Valentia	21st August	Don Wheeler (GB)	Limpet
3 5 1/2	Causeway Coast	28th August	Watson McCook	Tagworm

## COMMON SKATE

Record 221 lbs.

Specimen Weight 130 lbs.

WEIGHT b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
165	Westport	25th August	Gunther Krieg (D)	Mackerel fillet
157	Clifden	13th October	J. Siemerink (NL)	Pollack
157	Valentia	17th August	F. Sachetti (F)	Mackerel
150	Kenmare Bay	4th August	Hugh C. Dunn	Mackerel
144	Achill	13th August	T. McGaffin	Mackerel Strip
140 8	Ballinskelligs Co. Kerry.	3rd August '75	John Wadham	Mackerel
140	Valentia	5th August	J.B. Robinson (GB)	Mackerel
138 8	Enniscrone	16th September	A.Y. Kuilenburg (NL)	Conger eel fillet.
136	Valentia	5th August	J.A. Hewitt (GB)	Pollack fillet
130	Sneem	7th September	J.L. Derden (NL)	Mackerel

## CUCKOO WRASSE

Record 1 lb. 11 1/4 oz.

Specimen Weight 1 1/4 lbs.

WEIGHT b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 11 1/4	Causeway Coast	10th October	Trevor Best	Mackerel
1 10 1/2	Causeway Coast	16th October	Peter Rudden	Mackerel
1 9 1/4	Causeway Coast	12th August	Genneth Quigley	Tagworm
1 9	Causeway Coast	3rd August	R. Kirkpatrick (GB)	Mackerel
1 7 1/2	Causeway Coast	15th August	Harold Allan	Mackerel Strip
1 7	Causeway Coast	8th May	Wm. Bittles	Tagworm
1 6 1/2	Ballycastle	16th September	Peter Johnson	Mackerel last
1 6 1/4	Causeway Coast	8th May	Robin Niblock	Tagworm
1 6	Ballycastle	16th September	Brian O'Connor	Baited spoon
1 5	Valentia	3rd June	John Wallace (GB)	Mackerel
1 5	Causeway Coast	15th August	John McAuley	Tag and Mackerel Strip

## CUCKOO WRASSE (continued)

4½	Causeway Coast	15th August	A. Flanigan	Tag and Mackerel Strip
4½	Causeway Coast	15th August	Samuel Burns	Tagworm
4½	Causeway Coast	10th August	Peter Simpson	Mackerel
4½	Ballycastle	18th September	Peter Johnson	Mackerel last
4½	Causeway Coast	2nd October	Bill Hamill	Squid
4	Belmullet	19th September	Peter Gaffey	Baited feathers
4	Achill	16th August	Peter Johnson	Mackerel
4	Tory Island, Donegal	19th April	Ronald Connery	Baited feathers

## NEW RECORDS

Three new Irish Records were established during 1976.

- (1) **UNDULATE RAY**, 17 lbs. 2 ozs. caught by W. H. Danzer, Snr., Postfach 224, Druckerweg 3, 4010 Hilden, Germany, in Tralee Bay, Fenit, Co. Kerry, on 10th June, 1976. This fish exceeds the previous record by 6 ozs.
- (2) **HOMELYN RAY**, 7 lbs. 7½ ozs. caught by John Kerr, 93 Old Westland Road, Belfast 14, in Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal, on 17th July, 1976. This fish exceeds the previous record by 6½ ozs.
- (3) **CUCKOO WRASSE**, 1 lb. 11¼ ozs. caught by Trevor Best, 8 Hillside Gardens, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, on the Causeway Coast on 10th October, 1976. This fish exceeds the previous record by 1¾ ozs.

## FISH OF A LIFETIME AWARD

As no specimen fish below the Record weight taken during 1976 measured up to the Committee's criteria, it has been decided not to make this award for 1976.

## TEN PIN AWARD WINNERS

The following qualified in 1976 for the special award made to anglers who have ten or more specimen fish:—

Albert Hall, 12 Helmsdale Road, Rise Park, Romford, Essex, England.  
 Michael Frost, 16 Kent Close, Cheylesmore, Coventry, England.  
 Barry Brill, 31 Battery Heights, Athlone, Westmeath.  
 Gerald Fitzgerald, 13 Marian Place, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry.  
 George Hudson, 12 McDonnell Drive, Athy, Co. Kildare.  
 D. McLeister, 19 Lambeth Way, Coleraine, Co. Derry.  
 Willi Danzer, Jnr. Postfach 224, Druckerweg 3, 4010 Hilden, Germany.  
 John Wadham, Pier House, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry.

## 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, 1977 was won by Thomas J. Morrow, Hillcrest, Derrychara, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, N.I. for a Brown Trout (Lake) of 10 lb. 6½ oz. taken in Lough Melvin on 20th April, 1976. For this year only the donor has decided to give a further prize for a marine species to Pierre Labrot, 18 Place de L'Eglise, 28320 Gallardon, France, for a 16 lb. 1 oz. Greater Spotted Dogfish taken at Belmullet on 21st August, 1976.

## NEW AWARD

For the 1976 season and onwards, the Committee has decided to recognise the angling prowess of those anglers who have had authenticated claims for specimens of ten separate species of fish. The first to qualify for the new award are John B. Healy, Solicitor, Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry and Patrick Maguire, Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry.

## REVISED SPECIMEN WEIGHTS

For the 1977 season and onwards, the Committee has decided to **increase** the specimen weight for **Undulate Ray** (*raja undulata*) from **13 lbs** to **14 lbs**. It has also decided to **reduce** the specimen weight for **Lesser Spotted Dogfish** (*Scyliorhinus caniculus*) from **7 lbs** to **3 lbs**.

## COMMON SKATE

In the interest of conservation of the species, the Committee has decided to remove the Common Skate (*Raja batis*) from the list of eligible fishes for three years, i.e. 1977, 1978 and 1979. No claims whatsoever, except in the case of a New Record (i.e. a fish weighing in excess of 221 lbs) will be considered during this period and the Committee hopes that anglers will return unharmed to the water all Common Skate which they capture in the interest of conserving an endangered species. The Committee will review the situation again at the end of 1979.

## 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, 1974, 1975 and 1976.

	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
1975	204	132	46	27	3	6
1976						

## 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 advanced 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 storage until Monday. **Fish must not be wrapped in aluminium foil or polythene bags, as this hastens decomposition.** They should first be wrapped in greaseproof 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. (See Rules on Claim Form).**

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

### IN IRELAND

The Annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims were accepted during 1975 was made at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. The presentation for the 1976 awards will take place at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin, on Saturday, 29th January, 1977, at 3. p.m. All Irish anglers who are due awards are cordially invited to attend.

### ABROAD

Presentations were held for British anglers who were due awards for 1975 in London and Manchester. It is hoped that similar presentations will be held early in 1977 and award winners will receive invitations.

Presentations were also held in Rotterdam for anglers from the Netherlands and in Dusseldorf for anglers from West Germany during 1976 and it is hoped to make presentations to Continental anglers at suitable centres during 1977.

Our grateful thanks are due to Bord Failte Eireann (Irish Tourist Board) for making these presentations possible.

## ACCOUNTS

A statement of the Committee's accounts for the calendar year 1975 is given in this Report. The 1976, accounts will be audited early in 1977 and will be published in the next Report.

## IMPORTANT NOTE

Fish taken in the Republic of Ireland and forwarded for identification purposes should be sent as heretofore to Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture & Fisheries, 3 Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin 1 (phone 741121).

Fish taken in Northern Ireland should in future be sent to Fisheries Laboratory, The Cutts, Coleraine (phone 4521), indicating that the fish has been sent for identification on behalf of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee.

A label must be attached to each fish giving the captor's name and address, date and place of capture and the weight of the fish.

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.

## DONATIONS

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 Failte Eireann; The Inland Fisheries Trust Inc.; Aer Lingus Teoranta; ABU (Great Britain) Ltd., 40 Wellington Street, Glasgow, Scotland; Irish Trout Fly Fishing Association; Dublin Coarse Fish Angling Club; National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland; Lough Arrow Fish Preservation Association; Aghada S.A.C.; Argonaut S.A.C.; Bangor S.A.C.; Donaghadee S.A.C.; Dunmore East S.A.C.; Dun Laoghaire S.A.C.; Gaff S.A.C.; Greystones Ridge S.A.C.; Howth S.A.C.; Inchicore S.A.C.; Lazy K S.A.C.; Old Head S.A.C.; P.O.E.T.S. S.A.C.; Sandpipers S.A.C.; Shannonbridge A.C.; Tramore-Waterford S.A.C.; Youghal S.A.C.; Guinness Superlatives, 2 Cecil Court, London Road, Enfield, Middlesex, England; A. Ashworth, "Cedar Cottage", 15A Gronant Road, Prestatyn, North Wales; Miss Dorothy Baker, 17 Mercier Park, Curragh Road, Cork. E. Barker, 9 Silvermoor Drive, Ravenfield, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, England; Ian Bell, "Pinewood, Mullentine Road, Portadown, Armagh; Joseph Bradley, 112 Cliftonpark Avenue, Belfast; Rudi Breuch, 53 Bonn Beuel 1, Friedrich-Breuer Strasse 46, West Germany; B.R. Brewer, 11 Whitehall Estate, Tullamore, Co. Offaly; Fred Buller, Chubbs of Edgware Ltd., 33 South Parade, Mollison Way Edgware, Middlesex, England; Dick Caulfield, 24 Kennedy Park, Tramore, Co. Waterford; W.H. Colahan, Bank of Ireland, Oughterard, Co. Galway; Harry Collins, 44 Killester Park, Killester, Dublin 5; Mr. & Mrs. S. Conlon, Pembroke House, Passage West, Co. Cork; Aidan Connolly, 19 Gransha Park, Glen Road, Belfast; W.G. Crawford, Department of Agriculture, The Mall West, Armagh, N. Ireland; Frank Devlin, 5 Dorchester Park, Portadown, Armagh, N. Ireland; P. F. Dore, St. Anne's, Freshford Road, Kilkenny; Norman Dunn, Flat 2f, Ballyhalbert Gardens, Bangor, Co. Down; W.J.K. Eakin, 2a Donegall Avenue, Belfast. N. Ireland; James Farrell, 137 Leinster Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6; A. Flanagan, Beech Villa, Newry Road, Banbridge, Co. Down; M. Frost, 16 Kent Close, Cheylesmore, Coventry, England; J. W. Fulton, 10 Roslin Gardens, Belfast, N. Ireland; Eamonn Furlong, 98 St. Anne's Square, Portmarnock, Co. Dublin; John Furness, "Bymead", Axminster Road, Charmouth, Dorset, England; Sean Gannon, American Street, Belmullet, Co. Mayo; A. Gibney, 24 Monaloke Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin; R. Hancox, 25 Lime Avenue, Northampton, England; T. Hartnett, 26 Rathmore Avenue, Kilmacud, Co. Dublin; J. R. Heaslip, 13 St. Joseph's Drive, Montenotte, Co. Cork; B. Heavey, St. Anne, Cowpasture, Monasterevan, Co. Kildare; George Higgins, 201 Lower Braniel Road, Belfast, N. Ireland; A. Kelly, 11 McDonnell Drive, Athy, Co. Kildare; Donal Kelly, "Olivette" Camden Road, Crosshaven, Co. Cork; R. Kennedy, 1 Dangan Park, Kimmage, Dublin 12; Enda Lee, 45 Priory Grove, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin; Sir George Leeds, Roche Bois, Mont Es Tours, St. Aubin, Jersey, Channel Islands; D.J. Lynch, 6 Seaview Terrace, Donnybrook, Dublin 4; M. Marley, 34 Dollymount Avenue, Dublin 3; W. Massey, 17 Tulip Grove, Hempstalls Lane, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, England; Samuel Moody, 227 Roden Street, Belfast, N. Ireland; Captain G. Moorkens, Endsleigh, Templeogue Road, Dublin 6; J.S. Mullan, Main Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland; T.J. McCorry, 17 Orby Parade, Belfast, N. Ireland; A. McEvoy, 8 Lower Grange, Waterford; Alan McMaster, 57 Victoria Road, Bangor, Co. Down, N. Ireland; Rory O'Connor, c/o Bank of Ireland, Finglas, Dublin 11; J. O'Keeffe, 212 The Donaghies, Raheny, Dublin 5; D. Phillips, 51 Martin Savage Park, Ashtown, Co. Dublin; Mrs. E. Pratt, Arcade Stores, Youghal, Co. Cork; Guy De Raemaeker, G. Gezellelaan 48, 2670 Puurs, Belgium; Jac W. Rikter, Cantharella Motel, Sneem, Co. Kerry; G.F.G. Rivaz, 51 High Street, Hungerford, Berkshire, England; Daniel Rooney, 21





## 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. The 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 Allied Irish  
Banks 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.

### THE IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE COMES OF AGE

The Irish Specimen Fish Committee came of age in 1976. It was the brainchild of Dr. A. E. J. Went (Fisheries Branch, Department of Agriculture) and Dr. Michael Kennedy (Inland Fisheries Trust Inc.), who were gravely concerned at the time at the number of exceptional fish taken by angling not being recorded and therefore a knowledge of them was lost to posterity. There was then no machinery in existence whereby capture of record or notable fish taken by angling could be authenticated and recorded.

After correspondence with the Department of Agriculture representatives of various angling interests were invited to a meeting at which it was proposed to set up a committee to record not only "record" fish but also notable fish above minimum or specimen weights, which would be decided for each species. As a result the Irish Specimen Fish Committee in April 1955.

From the beginning it was intended that the Committee should be as broadly based as possible, with representatives of all bodies concerned with angling in Ireland.

The first Committee was composed of: Chairman, A.E.J. Went D.Sc. (Fisheries Branch, Dept. of Agriculture) Hon. Secretary, Seamus Davin, (Bord Failte Eireann) with representatives of Inland Fisheries Trust Inc. (Ml. Kennedy), Irish Federation of Sea Anglers (Capt. C.P. O'Toole), National Salmon Anglers Federation of Ireland (R. Rice), Trout Anglers' Federation of Eire (J.F. McCarthy) and the Editor, for the time being, of *Stream and Field in Ireland* (George Burrows). Later the Angling Council of Ireland, the National Coarse Fish Federation of Ireland and the Irish Trout Fly Fisher's Association were invited to participate.

As a first step the Committee drew up a list of minimum weights for the various species of fishes which it was intended to record and also sets of rules of procedure for the verification of claims. These were published in *Stream and Field in Ireland* (Vol. 7. No. 3-6, January — April, 1956).

Later it was decided to recognise the capture of record fish by awarding inscribed silver medals and specimen fish by awarding certificates and lapel badges.

The Committee published its first report in February 1957 covering the period mid-1955 to the end of 1956. This and the Report for 1957 were stenciled, the Committee's first printed report being for the year 1958. Since its inception the committee has dealt with no less than 7334 claims.

The Committee is a voluntary one and its members receive no remuneration of any kind. It renders a valuable service to both Irish angling and tourism and its annual report is eagerly awaited and widely read both home and abroad. In the 21 years of its existence the Committee has grown in status and its work is now recognised internationally.

#### Specimen skates and rays taken in Irish Waters (1956 — 1975)

by  
Arthur E. J. Went.

The Committee's annual reports and the claim forms together provide a vast amount of information on specimen fish generally and as part of the policy of the Committee to provide anglers with as much information as possible on their catches reports of various species have been published from time to time 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";
- (d) Report for 1974, "Notes on some specimen cartilaginous fishes" (dealing with the dogfishes, tope, monkfish and bluesharks) and
- (e) Report for 1975, "Specimen coarse fish from Irish waters" (dealing with bream, carp, dace, eels, perch, pike, roach, rudd, rudd/bream hybrids and tench).

The present paper deals in detail with the skates and rays for which the Committee has established categories. They are:—

Common or grey skate (*Raja batis*); White skate (*Raja alba*); Blonde ray (*Raja brachyura*); Cuckoo ray (*Raja naevus*); Homelyn (*Raja montaquii*); Painted ray (*Raja microcellata*); Thornback ray (*Raja clavata*); Sting ray (*Dasyatis pastinaca*) and Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*).

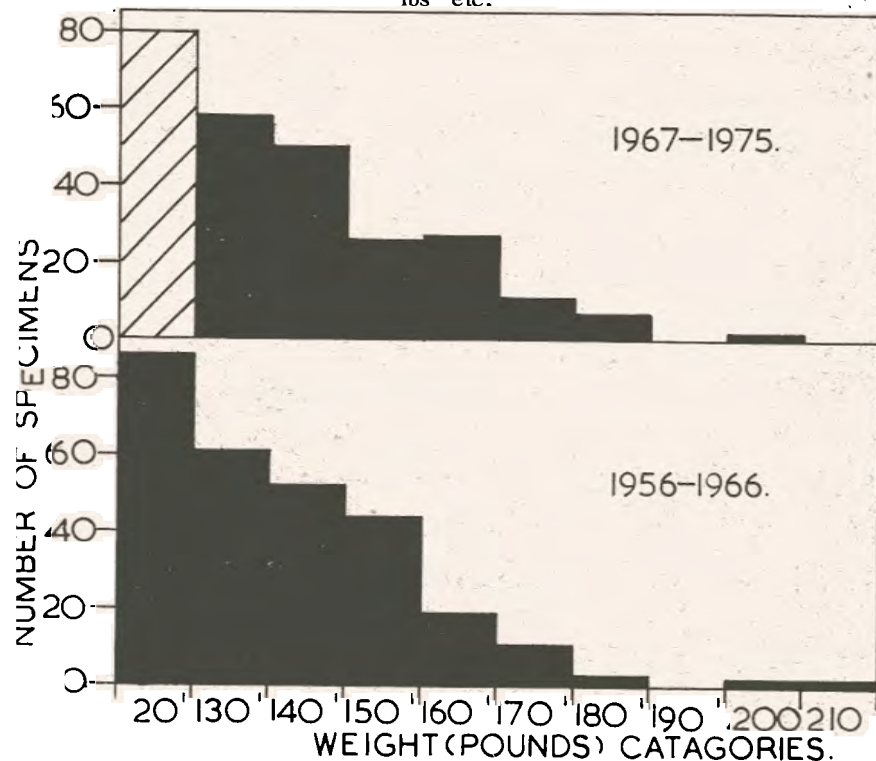
The record fish at the time of writing this report were as follows:—

Species	Weight	Locality	Captor	
Date of Capture	lb		kg	
Common skate	221		100.31913	Ballycotton
White skate	165		74.97 August 1966	Clew Bay
Blonde ray	36½		16.69 Sept 1964	Cork Harbour
Cuckoo ray	51½		2.63 Aug 1975	Causeway Coast
Homely ray	71½		3.27 Sept 1973	Causeway Coast
Painted ray	12¾		5.826 Oct 1975	Garryvoe, Cork
Thornback ray	37		16.828 May 1961	Kinsale
Sting ray	51		23.18 Aug 1970	Killfenora Strand
				Co. Kerry
				Fenit
Indulate ray	16¾		7.624 June 1975	W H Danzer

### COMMON SKATE

This species is by far the commonest of the specimen skates and rays taken on rod and line in Irish waters. When the Committee was established the specimen weight was fixed at 120 lb. (54.5 kg) but in 1967 it was raised to the present level of 130 lb. (59.1 kg). From 1956 to 1966 inclusive, a total of 280 specimens were recorded and from 1967 to 1975 inclusive, 181 specimens. The reasons for the decision to increase the specimen weight were complex but they included a desire to save at least some of these large fish from being killed. In Fig. 1

Fig. 1. Number of specimens common skate in the periods 1956/66 inclusive and 1967/1975, inclusive. The cross hatched area in the upper part of the Figure indicates the loss of "specimens" lost by the change of weight from 120 to 130 pounds. Weigh-in category 120, etc.; - all fish of 120 lbs but not exceeding 130 lbs etc.



the weight distributions of the specimens in two periods, namely 1956 to 1966 inclusive, and 1967 to 1975 inclusive, are shown. On the basis of the relationship between the numbers of fish weighing between 120 and 130 lb. in the earlier period to the remaining fish one can calculate a **notional loss** of specimens by increasing the specimen weight from 120 to 130 lb. The number of fish between 120 and 130 lb. lost was calculated at approximately 30 (or ca 30% of the total) and these have been shown in Fig. 1 as the cross hatched area. The average annual number of specimens in the different weight groups for the two periods were as follows:—

	Weight category *										
	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	
1956/66	7.8	5.5	4.7	4.0	1.7	1.0	0.3	—	0.2	0.2	
1967/75	—	6.4	5.5	2.9	3.0	1.2	0.8	—	0.2	—	

\*The 120 lb category etc = all fish weighing 120 lb but less than 130 lb etc. Apart from the loss of the 120 lb category the remaining figures are very similar.

The number of specimen common skate weighing 130 lbs and upwards from 1956 to 1975 inclusive, are indicated on Table 1. The maximum weight for each year fluctuated from

TABLE 1.—Numbers of specimen common or grey skate weighing 130 lb (59.1 kg) and upwards taken each year from 1956 to 1975, inclusive, together with the annual maximum weight and locality.

Year	Number of specimens	Maximum weight Weight (lb.)	Locality
1956	1	205	Kinsale
1959	5	152	Ballycotton
1960	17	183	Kinsale
1961	19	211	ditto
1962	36	185	ditto
1963	37	181	Kenmare Bay
1964	21	202	ditto
1965	28	178	Valentia
1966	32	218	Kenmare Bay
1967	30	180	Valentia
1968	21	187½	Ballycotton
1969	26	187¾	Strangford Lough
1970	28	188½	Cork Harbour
1971	24	208	(Clare Island/Clew Bay)
1972	15	202	Castlegregory (Co. Kerry)
1973	14	171	Valentia
1974	11	162½	Kenmare Bay
1975	12	163½	Killala Bay
Total	376		

152 lb (69.1 kg) to 218 lb (98.9 kg). Comment might be made of the five fish, which whilst not beating the record, weighed more than 200 lb (90.8 kg). They were as follows:—

The 218-pounder was actually caught by M. Humphries Junior, when he was only 13 years of age. He would now certainly have qualified for my award for the best specimen taken by a juvenile who has not reached his or her fourteenth birthday on 1 January of the appropriate year.

The localities which have produced specimens of 130 lb and upwards have been given in Table 2. Valentia topped the lists with the most specimens (77 in number), followed by

TABLE 2.—Numbers of common skate weighing 130 lbs and upwards in the different locality with the maximum weight for each locality.

Locality	Number of Specimens	Maximum Weight
	1	
	3	
	1	
	2	
	6	
	30	
	28	
	68	
	7	

**TABLE 2 — continued**

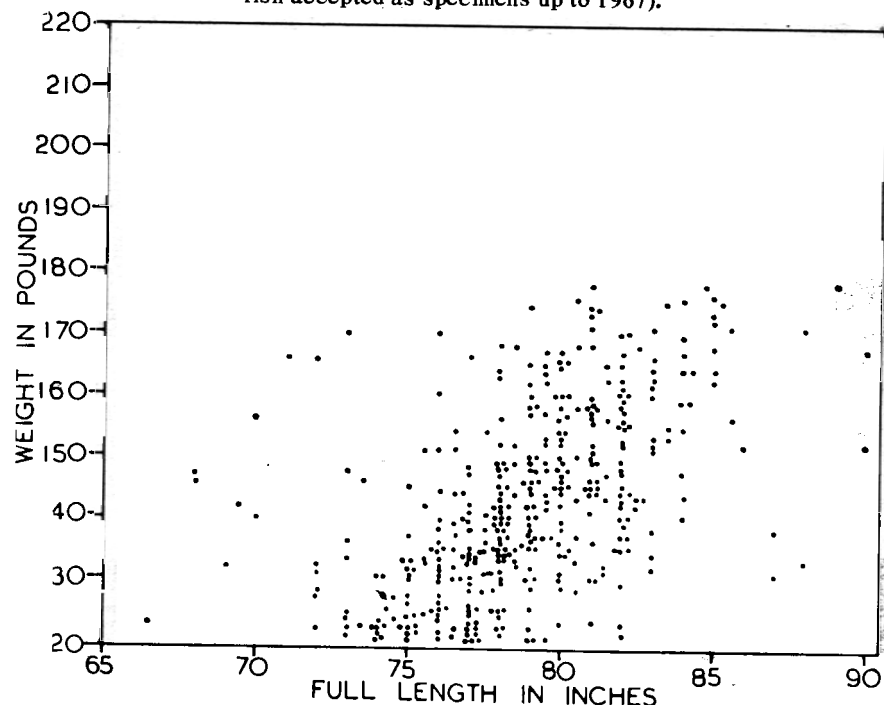
Glandore		133
Baltimore		165½
Bantry Bay	5	152
Kenmare Bay	23	218
Derrynane	1	130
Ballinskelligs Bay	1	137
Valentia	77	180
Dingle Harbour*	3	162
Smerwick Harbour	1	174
Castlegregory	1	202
Tralee Bay (Fenit)	16	170
Kilrush	1	142
Galway Bay	7	169½
Clew Bay°	64	208
Killala Bay†	11	163½
Moville	2	134
Strangford Lough	15	187¾
TOTAL	376	

\* Including Blasket Islands. ° Including Achill and Clara Island. † Including Enniscrone.

Kinsale with 68 and Clew Bay with 64 specimens. Ballycottin, Cork Harbour and Kenmare Bay had 30, 28 and 23 specimens, respectively.

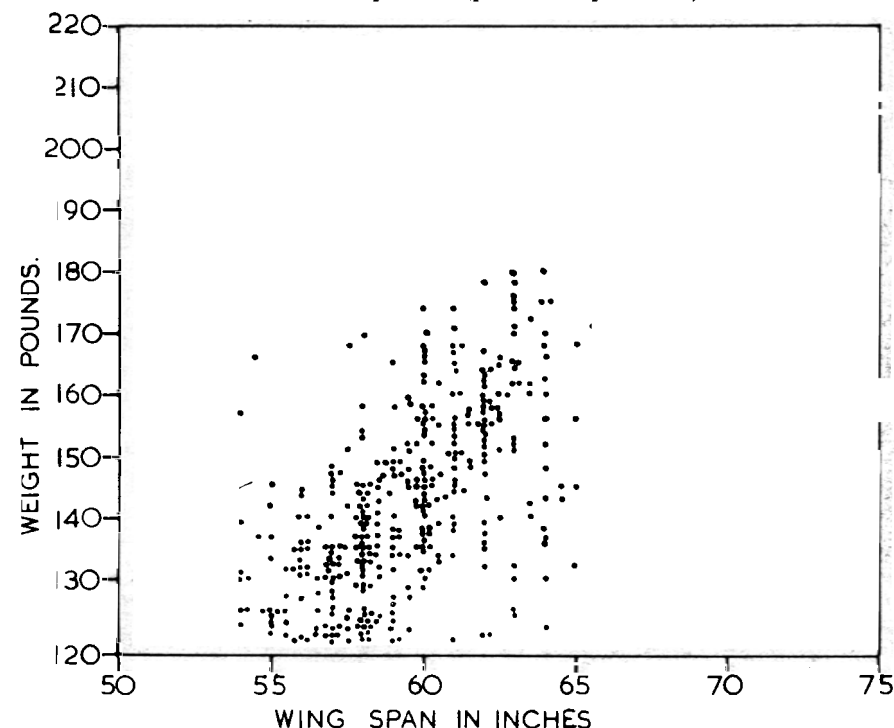
The Committee is often asked, if weighing on board ship cannot be permitted, some form of measurement could be used to ascertain whether or not a particular fish is likely to reach specimen weight. The problem is not really important for the smaller rays because they can be tentatively weighed on board, whereas it is difficult to weigh large live skates on board with any degree of accuracy. The records of the Committee include details of the lengths,

**Fig. 2. Relationship between weight and length in common skate (including those fish accepted as specimens up to 1967).**



wing spans and weights for most of the common skate accepted as specimen since 1955. There is unfortunately, no co-relations between the full lengths and weights (Fig 2) or between wing spans and weights (Fig 3).

**Fig. 3. relationship between wing span and weight in common skate (including those fish accepted as specimens up to 1967).**

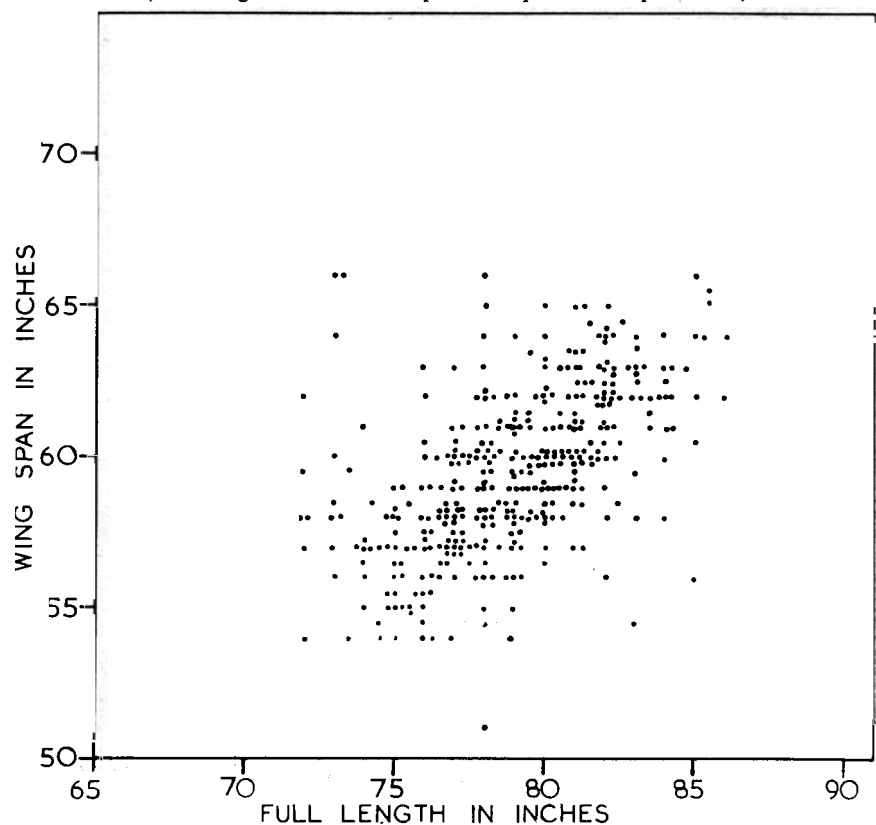


In the common skate there is a very great variation in the relative body proportions, lengths and wing spans, (Fig 4). These factors together render impossible any satisfactory arrangement whereby measurements of common skate on board a ship can be used to estimate fairly accurately the weight of the fish.

**TABLE 3.—Number of specimen white skate weighing 120 lb (54.5 kg) and upwards taken each year, together with the annual maximum weight and locality.**

Year	Number of Specimens	Weight		Locality
		lb	oz	
1958	1	140½		Clew Bay
1959	1	123		ditto
1964	2	146½		Galway Bay
1965	1	134		Clew Bay
1966	3	165		ditto
1968	4	128		ditto
1969	1	124		Fenit
1971	1	124		Galway Bay
1972	5	128½		Fenit
1973	1	149		Clew Bay
1974	1	140		Enniscrone
TOTAL	21			

Fig. Relationship between full lengths and wing spans in common skate (including those fish accepted as specimens up to 1967).



All one can say that any common skate with a full length of 67 inches or less, or a wing span of 50 inches or less, is unlikely to make the specimen weight of 130 lb, although all fish exceeding these measurements may not make specimen weight.

### WHITE SKATE

This species is not very common inshore around the Irish coasts and since the Committee was established 21 specimens taken on rod and line have been authenticated as indicated in Table 3. All the specimens came from the west of Ireland as is indicated in Table 4, just over half from Clew Bay, from which, in addition, some smaller specimens have been taken.

TABLE 4—Numbers of white skate weighing 120 lb and upwards taken from 1958 onwards in the different localities, with the maximum weight for each locality.

Locality	Number of Specimens	Maximum weight (lb)
Fenit	6	128½
Galway Bay	3	146½
Clew Bay	11	165
Enniscrone	1	140
TOTAL	21	

### BLONDE RAY

This species was first added to the list of fishes for which the Committee was prepared to receive claims in the year 1958 when the specimen weight was fixed at 20 lb (9.1 kg). Later in 1969 the specimen weight was raised to 25 lb (11.35 kg) at which it still remains. A total of 75 specimens weighing 25 lb and upwards have been authenticated as indicated in Table 5. Of these 75 specimens no less than 62 were taken from Cork Harbour (Table 6).

TABLE 5. — Number of specimen blonde rays weighing 25 lb (11.35 kg) and upwards taken each year since 1959, together with the annual maximum weight and locality.

Year	Number of Specimens	Weight lb oz	Locality
1959	2	32 0	Dingle
1961	2	26 8	Valentia
1963	1	28 0	Kinsale
1964	1	36 8	Cork Harbour
1966	6	31 0	ditto
1967	9	34 8	ditto
1968	14	33 10	ditto
1969	14	31 12	ditto
1970	6	31 8	ditto
1971	3	29 ¾	Causeway Coast
1972	5	28 8	Cork Harbour
1973	1	25 1	ditto
1974	1	26 7	ditto
1975	10	29 0	ditto
TOTAL	75		

TABLE 6. — Number of specimen blonde rays weighing 25 lb (11.35 kg) and upwards taken from 1959 to 1975, inclusive, from the different localities with the maximum weight for each locality.

Locality	Number of Specimens	Maximum Weight lb oz
Greystones	1	25 0
Dungarvan	1	31 8
Cork Harbour	62	36 8
Kinsale	3	28 0
Valentia	1	26 8
Dingle	1	32 0
Fenit	1	27 8
Killala	1	26 12
Moville	2	26 0
Causeway Coast	2	29 ¾
TOTAL	75	

### CUCKOO RAY

The cuckoo ray was added to the Committee's list in 1969 when the specimen weight was fixed at 4½ lb (2.04 kg). A total of 24 specimens were accepted by the Committee since 1969 (Table 7) from four localities but mainly from the Causeway Coast in County Antrim (Table 8).

TABLE 7. — Number of specimen cuckoo rays weighing 4½ lb (2.04 kg) and upwards taken each year since 1969, together with the annual maximum weight and locality.

Year	Number of Specimens	Weight lb oz	Locality
1969	2	4 12	Causeway Coast
1970	6	5 1½	ditto
1971	4	5 6	ditto
1972	2	5 0	ditto
1973	3	4 11½	Killala
1974	5	5 3	Causeway Coast
1975	2	5 11	ditto
TOTAL	24		



**TABLE 8.** — Number of specimen cuckoo rays weighing 4½ lb and upwards from 1969 from the different localities with the maximum weight for each locality.

Locality	Number of Specimens	Maximum Weight	
		lb	oz
Kinsale	1	4	8
Killala	1	4	11½
Causeway Coast	21	5	11
Belfast Lough	1	4	9
TOTAL	24		

### HOMELYN RAY

The homelyn ray was also added to the Committee's list in 1969, when the specimen weight was fixed at 5 lb (2.3 kg.). A total of 88 specimens were accepted by the Committee since 1969 (Table 9), most of them from the Causeway Coast (Table 10).

**TABLE 9.** — Numbers of specimen homelyn rays weighing 5 lb (2.3 kg) and upwards taken each year since 1969, together with the maximum weight and its locality.

Year	Number of Specimens	Weight		Heaviest fish Locality
		lb	oz	
1969	3	6	2	Cork Harbour
1970	9	6	2¾	Dungarvan
1971	8	6	8	Causeway Coast
1972	14	6	15	ditto
1973	24	7	1	ditto
1974	15	6	7	ditto
1975	15	6	10	ditto
TOTAL	88			

**TABLE 10.** — Number of specimen homelyn rays weighing 5 lb and upwards taken from 1969 to 1975, inclusive, from the different localities with the maximum weight for each locality.

Locality	Number of Specimens	Maximum Weight	
		lb	oz
Dungarvan	4	6	2¾
Cork Harbour	5	6	2
Brandon Bay	1	5	3½
Fenit	2	6	2
Belmullet (Broadhaven)	3	5	12
Causeway Coast	73	7	1
TOTAL	88		

### PAINTED RAY

The painted ray was added to the Committee's list in 1970 when the specimen weight was fixed at 10 lb (4.5 kg). Only 15 specimens have been recorded so far as indicated in Table 11. All the specimens were obtained from the south coast from Ardmore, Co. Waterford to Fenit, Co. Kerry (Table 12).

**TABLE 11.** — Numbers of specimen painted rays weighing 10 lb (4.5 kg) and upwards taken each year since 1970, together with the maximum weight and its locality.

Year	Number of Specimens	Weight		Heaviest fish Locality
		lb	oz	
1970	5	12	10	Cobh
1971	2	11	11	ditto
1973	3	10	14	Whiting Bay (Ardmore)
1974	2	11	4	ditto
1975	3	12	12½	Garryvoe, Co. Cork
TOTAL	15			

### THORNBACK RAY

The thornback ray was put on the list when the Committee was established in 1955, the specimen weight being fixed at first at 25 lb (11.4 kg) but it was later lowered to 20 lb (9.1 kg). A total of 49 thornback rays weighing 20 lb (9.1 kg) and upwards were recorded since 1961 (Table 13). Specimens were taken over a wide area of the coastline, almost 37% having been taken in the Irish sea resorts of Bray, Greystones and Arklow, Co. Wicklow (Table 14).

**TABLE 12.** Numbers of painted rays weighing 10 lb and upwards from the different localities with the maximum weight for each locality.

Locality	Number of Specimens	Maximum Weight	
		lb	oz
Whiting Bay (Ardmore)	5	11	4
Garryvoe, Co. Cork	1	12	12½
Cork Harbour	3	12	10
Dingle Bay	1	11	12
Brandon Bay	4	12	0
Fenit	1	10	8
TOTAL	15		

**TABLE 13.** — Numbers of specimen thornback rays weighing 20 lb (9.1 kg) and upwards taken each year since 1961, together with the maximum weight and its locality.

Year	Number of Specimens	Weight		Locality
		lb	oz	
1961	1	37	0	Kinsale
1965	1	20	1	Belfast Lough
1966	1	22	8	Lambay Island
1967	3	21	6	ditto
1968	3	25	2	Kinsale
1969	3	24	8	Ballycotton
1970	8	22	0	Arklow
1971	6	22	0	Dungarvan
1972	4	27	12	Cork Harbour
1973	8	25	0	Greystones
1974	5	25	8	Enniscrone
1975	6	23	8	ditto
TOTAL	49			

**TABLE 14.** — Number of thornback rays weighing 20 lb and upwards from the different localities with the maximum for each locality.

Locality	Number of Specimens	Maximum Weight	
		lb	oz
Bray	2	22	4
	14	25	0
	2	22	0
	3	22	0
	1	23	0
	1		1
	5	27	12
	4	37	0
	1	20	0
	3	25	8
	7	22	0
	1	20	0½
	1	20	1
	4	22	8
	49		

### STING RAY

The sting ray is not an uncommon species around the Irish coasts. The species was added to the Committee's list in 1960, and the specimen weight was originally fixed at 25 lb (11.4 kg). It was raised to 30 lb (13.6 kg) in 1962. Four specimen string rays (weight 30 lb or upwards) have been authenticated as follows:—

Year	Locality	Weight
1961	Rosslare	46½
1961	Fenit	40¼
1970	Kilfenora Strand	51
1974	Morris Castle Beach	46

### UNDULATE RAY

This species was at one time thought to be rare in Irish waters but evidence is now available that it is fairly common in the Tralee Bay (Fenit) area.

The undulate ray was added to the Committee's list in 1969 when the specimen weight

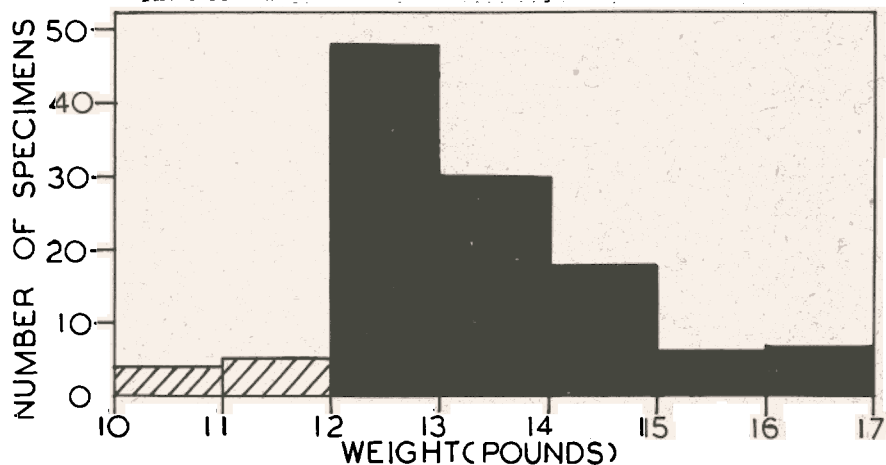
was fixed at 10 lb (4.5 kg). In 1971 the specimen weight was raised to 12 lb (5.4 kg) and in 1976 to 13 lb (5.9 kg). The number of specimen undulate rays weighing 10 lb and upwards taken from 1969 to 1975 inclusive, numbered 118, all from the Fenit area (Table 15).

**TABLE 15** — Number of specimen undulate rays weighing 10 lb (4.5 kg) or upwards taken at Fenit, Co. Kerry, in the different years together with the annual maximum weight.

Year	Number of specimens	Maximum weight	
		lb.	oz.
1969	4	11	12
1970	15	13	12
1971	7	15	2
1973	5	16	8
1974	18	16	5½
1965	54	16	12
TOTAL	118		

The raising of the specimen weight will reduce the number of specimens in future. Assuming that the numerical ratios of the various weight groups remain constant at the pre-1976 level then the raising of the specimen weight to 13 lb would reduce the number of claims by approximately 44% in future.

**Fig. 5.** Weight distribution of undulate ray taken from 1969 to 1975, inclusive. The cross hatched fish were taken only in 1969 and 1970.



As for the common skate the Committee is often asked if an angler could measure undulate rays in any way to ascertain on board ship whether or not a particular fish is likely to make specimen weight. The records of the Committee include details of the lengths, wing spans and weights for most of the undulate rays accepted as specimens since 1969. There is, however, no co-relation between weights and full lengths and wing spans as indicated in Figs 6 and 7. All that one can say is that undulate rays with lengths of 30 inches and wing spans of 21 inches are unlikely to make specimen weight but that is not to say that longer or wider fish will be specimens.

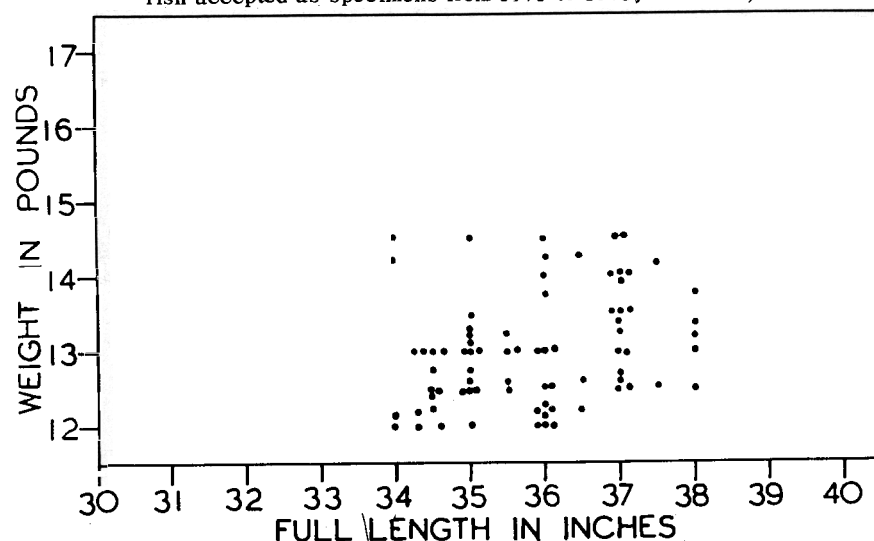
#### DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIMEN SKATES AND RAYS

A total of 766 skates and rays of the present specimen weights have been authenticated since the Committee came into being in 1955. Of these no less than 502 specimens were taken at five localities as follows:—

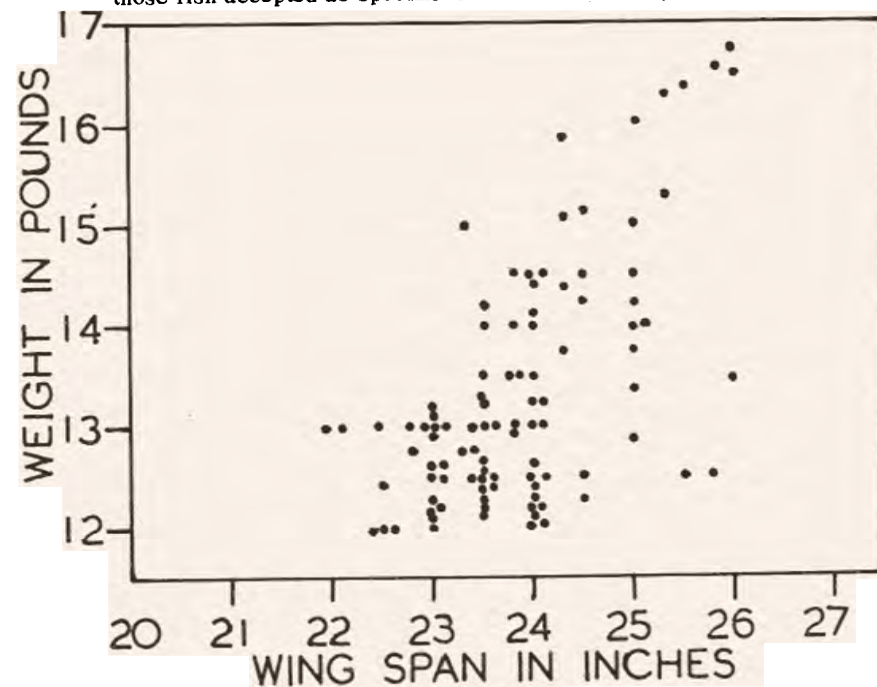
Fenit (Tralee Bay)  
Cork Harbour  
Causeway Coast  
Kinsale  
Clew Bay

145 specimens (118 undulate rays)  
103 specimens  
103 specimens (73 homelyn rays)  
76 specimens and  
75 specimens

**Fig. 6.** Relationship between weight and length in undulate rays (including those fish accepted as specimens from 1971 to 1975, inclusive).



**Fig. 7.** Relationship between weight and wing span in undulate rays (including those fish accepted as specimens from 1971 to 1975, inclusive).



Whilst some localities have produced large numbers of specimen common skate their distribution has generally been much more widespread than specimens of the remaining species. The white skate were taken only on the south-west and west coasts from Tralee Bay to Enniscrone, Co. Sligo. Most of the homelyn and cuckoo rays were taken on the Causeway coast, most of the blonde rays from Cork Harbour and all the undulate rays from Tralee Bay. The painted rays were spread over the south and south-west coasts and the thornbacks from around the whole Irish coast.

## RARE, SCARCE OR LOCAL SPECIES CAUGHT IN IRISH WATERS IN 1976

by DAN MINCHIN, B.Sc.

The following fish have been taken in Irish waters up to 1 December 1976, and a full list of the fishes taken in 1976 will be published in the Irish Naturalists Journal. A list of the fishes occurring in Irish waters, by A.E.J. Went and M. Kennedy, has been published in 1969 by the National Museum, Dublin.

Species	Scientific Name	Locality
Darkie Charlie	<i>Dalatias licha</i>	Dingle Bay, Donegal Bay
Electric ray	<i>Torpedo nobilitiana</i>	Achill, Irish Sea
Great Silver Smelt	<i>Argentina silus</i>	Dingle Bay
Spanish Ling	<i>Molva macrophthalma</i>	Dingle Bay
Stone Bass	<i>Polyprion americanus</i>	Dungarvan Bay
Ray's Bream	<i>Brama brama</i>	West Cork, Kerry
Red Mullet	<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>	S. Irish Sea, Dingle, Courtown.
Red band fish	<i>Cepola rubescens</i>	N. Irish Sea
Spanish mackerel	<i>Scomber colias</i>	Dingle Bay
Bonito or Pelamid	<i>Sarda sarda</i>	Achill, Bantry Bay.
Long fin tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	50 miles W. of Blaskets
Black fish	<i>Centrolophus niger</i>	Unknown
Norway Haddock	<i>Sebastes viviparus</i>	Dingle Bay
Streaked gurnard	<i>Trigloporus lastoviza</i>	Dingle Bay
Norway bullhead	<i>Taurulus liljeborsi</i>	Greystones
Trigger fish or	<i>Balistes carolinensis</i>	Duncannon, Bantry Bay.
File fish		Arklow, Mayo.

## IRISH RECORD FISH — FRESHWATER SPECIES

SPECIES	WEIGHT lb. oz.	DATE OF CAPTURE	PLACE OF CAPTURE	CAPTOR
Salmon	57 0	1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Sea Trout	14 3	15/5/1973	Dooagh Beach, Achill	Dr. Eoin Bresnihan, Yorkshire.
Brown Trout (River)	20 0	22/2/1957	R. Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place, Parteen, Co. Clare.
Brown Trout (Lake)	26 2	15/7/1894	Lough Ennel	W. Meares
Bream	11 12	1882	River Blackwater (Monaghan)	A. Pike
Carp	18 12	6/6/1958	Abbey Lake	John Roberts, Bracklyn, Co. Westmeath
Dace	1 2	8/8/1966	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	John T. Henry, Epsom.
Perch	5 8	1946	Lough Erne	S. Drum
Pike (River)	42 0	22/3/1964	River Barrow	M. Watkins, Carlow
Pike (Lake)	38 2	25/2/1973	Lough Corrib	Brendan Hardiman, Co. Galway.
Roach	2 13½	11/8/1970	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	Lawrie Robinson, Leeds.
Rudd	3 1	27/6/1959	Kilglass Lake	A.E. Biddlecombe, Hale
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	5 13½	12/4/1975	R. Shannon, Lanesboro	P.J. Dighton, Cambridge.
Tench	7 13¼	25/5/1971	River Shannon, Lanesboro	Raymond Webb, Norfolk.
River Eel	5 15	25/9/1968	River Shannon, Clondra	Edmund Hawksworth, Newport, Isle of Wight.
Angler Fish	71 8	5/7/1964	Cork Harbour	Michael Fitzgerald, Cobh.
Bass	16 6	13/11/1972	Causeway Coast	James McClelland, Coleraine.
Black Sole	3 10	19/10/1970	Woodstown Strand, Co. Waterford.	Richard W. Nicholson, Waterford.

30

	WEIGHT lb. oz.	DATE OF CAPTURE	PLACE OF CAPTURE	CAPTOR
Coalfish	24 7	26/8/1967	Kinsale	J.E. Hornbrook, Monkstown, Co. Cork.
Cod	42 0	1921	Ballycotton	I.L. Stewart
Conger	72 0	June, 1914	Valentia	J. Green
Dab	1 12½	10/9/1963	Kinsale	Ian V. Kerr, Redcar, Yorks.
Spur Dogfish	16 4	20/6/1969	Strangford Lough	Crawford Mclvor, Belfast.
Greater Spotted Dogfish	21 4	13/9/1975	Malin, Co. Donegal.	Draw Alexander, Londonderry.
Lesser Spotted Dogfish				OPEN
Flounder	4 3	5/8/1963	Killala Bay	J.L. McMonagle, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo.
Garfish	3 10¼	16/9/1967	Kinsale	Evan G. Bazzard, Amersham.
Tub Gurnard	12 3½	8/8/1973	Bullsmouth, Achill	Robert J. Seaman, Surrey
Grey Gurnard	3 1	21/9/1967	Rosslare Bay	Brendan Walsh, Rosslare
Red Gurnard	3 9½	17/7/1968	Belmullet	James Prescott, Preston
Haddock	10 13½	15/7/1964	Kinsale	F.A.E. Bull, Essex.
Hake	25 5½	28/4/1962	Belfast Lough	H.W. Steele, Bangor.
Halibut	156	23/7/1972	Belmullet	Frank Brogan, Bangor Erris, Co. Mayo
Ling	46 8	26/7/1965	Kinsale	A.J.C. Bull, Essex.
John Dory	7 1	6/9/1970	Tory Island, Co. Donegal	Stanley Morrow, Belfast.
Mackerel	3 8	1/7/1972	Clogherhead Pier, Co. Lough	Roger Ryan, Drogheda.
Monkfish	69 0	1/7/1958	Clew Bay, Westport	Michael Fuchs, France.
Grey Mullet	7 12	7/9/1975	Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow.	Colm Quinn, Raheny, Dublin.
Plaice	7 2½	27/5/1973	Youghal	Cecil Pratt, Youghal, Co. Cork.
Pollack	19 3	1904	Ballycotton	J.N. Hearne
Pouting	4 10	1937	Ballycotton	W.G. Pales
Thornback Ray	37 0	28/5/1961	Ling Rocks, Kinsale	M.J. Fitzgerald, Cork.
Blonde Ray	36 8	9/9/1964	Cork Harbour	D. Minchin, Cork.
Sting Ray	51 0	8/8/1970	Fenit, Co. Kerry	John K. White, Waterford.
Cuckoo Ray	5 11	3/8/1975	Causeway Coast	Vivian Morrison, Ballymena, Co. Antrim.
Undulate Ray	17 2	10/6/1976	Tralee Bay, Fenit	W.H. Danzer, Snr, Hilden, Germany
Homelyn Ray	7 7½	17/7/1976	Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal	John Kerr, Belfast 14.
Painted Ray	12 12½	26/10/1975	Garryvoe Strand, Co. Cork.	Michael Wall, Middleton, Co. Cork.
Ray's Bream	6	1/9/1975	Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork.	W. van der Zee, Harlingen, Holland.
Red Sea Bream	9 6	24/8/1963	Valentia	P. Maguire, Caherciveen.
Porbeagle Shark	365 0	1932	Keem Bay, Achill	Dr. O'Donel Browne, Dublin.
Blue Shark	206 0	7/10/1959	Achill Head	J. McMonagle, Achill.
Common Skate	221 0	1913	Ballycotton	T. Tucker
White Skate	165 0	7/8/1966	Clew Bay, Westport	Jack Stack, Westport.
Lope	60 12	12/9/1968	Strangford Lough	Crawford Mclvor, Belfast.
Turbot	26 8	1915	Valentia	J.F. Eldridge
Whiting	4 8½	4/8/1969	Kinsale	Eddie Boyle, Dublin.
Ballan Wrasse	7 8½	26/7/1964	Killybegs	A. J. King, Dundonald.
Cuckoo Wrasse	7 6	10/10/1976	Causeway Coast	Trevor Best, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

The Irish Specimen Fish Committee, Balnagowan, Mobhi Boreen, Glasnevin, Dublin 9.

## SCHEDULE (1977)

### 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	1¼
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	2¼	3
RUDD ( <i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i> )	... 3 1	2¼	3



	IRISH RECORD		SPECIMEN	"SETTING UP"
	lb.	oz.	b.	lb.
RUDD X BREAM HYBRID	5	13½	3	—
ROACH X BREAM HYBRID	—	—	3	—
TENCH ( <i>Tinca tinca</i> )	7	13½	6	—
EEL ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	5	15	3	—
<b>SEA FISH</b>				
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
DOG FISH—SPUR ( <i>Squalus acanthias</i> )	16	4	12	—
LESSER SPOTTED ( <i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i> )	—	—	3	3
GREATER SPOTTED ( <i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i> )	21	4	16	—
FLOUNDER ( <i>Platichthys flesus</i> )	4	3	2½	3
GARFISH ( <i>Belone bellone</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> )	—	—	¾	—
JOHN DORY ( <i>Zæus faber</i> )	7	1	4	7
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	12	5	8
RED ( <i>Mullus surmuletus</i> )	—	—	1	—
PLAICE—( <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> )	7	2½	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	11	4½	—
HOMELYN ( <i>Raja montagui</i> )	7	7½	5	—
UNDULATE ( <i>Raja undulate</i> )	17	2	14	—
PAINTED ( <i>Raja microcellata</i> )	12	12½	10	—
STING ( <i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i> )	51	0	30	40
RAY'S BREAM ( <i>Brama brama</i> )	6	0	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
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	suspended	—
WHITE ( <i>Raja alba</i> )	165	0	120	—
LONG NOSE ( <i>Raja oxyrinchus</i> )	—	—	80	—
TOPE ( <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> )	60	12	40	60
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	11¼	1¼	—

\* 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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