



# REPORT OF IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE For the Year 1979.

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During 1979 the Committee was composed of A.E.J. Went (Chairman), A. Gibson and Miss E. Twomey (Department of Fisheries); D. Brennan and P. Fitzmaurice (Inland Fisheries Trust Inc.); J. Greene (Bord Failte Eireann); C.P. O'Toole (Irish Federation of Sea Anglers); J. Keaveney (National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland); G. Moorkens (Angling Council of Ireland); G. Timmins (Irish Trout Fly Fishing Association) and P. Byrne (Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland).

During the year the Committee received 479 claims and ratified 444.

## SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 1979

(Dates of capture 1979 unless otherwise stated)

### SEA TROUT

Record, 14 lbs. 3 ozs.			Specimen Weight, 6 lbs.: 2.721 kilos	
WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 12	R. Shimna, Co. Down	5th October	William R. Trimble	Worm
7 10½	Lough Currane	9th April	Dr. R. Krautwurst (D)	Toby
7 1	Lough Currane	25th July	Br. S. Smith	Fly
6 14½	Lough Currane	2nd June	Frank Donnelly	Fly
6 12½	Lough Currane	2nd Sept.	K. Whitehead (GB)	Wetfly
6 6½	Lough Currane	6th August	N. Hindle	Wetfly
6 2	Lough Currane	30th May	Mrs. Rioux-Boyard (F)	Fly
6 0½	Lough Currane	23rd August	Dermot Fogarty	Fly

### BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

Record, 20 lbs.			Specimen Weight, 5 lbs.: 2.268 kilos	
WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7	Clonfree River, Strokestown.	16th March	Michael Stapleton	Mepps No.2
5 14½	River Boyne	4th July	Paul McManus	Fly
5 0½	Clonfree River	20th April	Alan Stapleton	Minnow
5	River Blackwater, Lismore.	1st Sept.	Joe Walsh	Worm

### BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

Record, 26 lbs. 2 ozs.			Specimen Weight, 10 lbs.: 4.536 kilos	
WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
16 14½	Lower Lough Erne	16th April	Garnett Coulter	ABU Killer 3½"
13 2	Lough Mask	20th June	Dr. Hans Voss (D)	Stucki Perlo Copper 3
13	Lough Mask	16th June	Desmond Elliott	Copper Spoon
10	Lough Mask	9th June	James Crawford	Mepps No.2

## BREAM

Record, 11 lbs. 12 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 7½ lbs.: 3.402 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0 10	Ballinafid Lake, Mullingar.	25th May	John Foy (GB)	Maggot Cocktail
0 5	River Boyne, Donore.	13th May	M. McConalogue	Worms
9 8	Ballinafid Lake	26th May	Michael Sloane (GB)	Maggots
9 1	R. Shannon, Lanesboro.	9th May	David Denham (GB)	Bread Flake
8 14½	Ballykeeran Pond, Athlone.	29th June	Barry Brill	Worms
8 14	Ballykeeran Pond	29th June	Barry Brill	Worms
8 13½	Lanesboro	11th May	David Denham (GB)	Bread Flake
8 13	Lanesboro	13th May	Neil Mills (GB)	Bread
8 11½	Lanesboro	27th April	Robin Russell (GB)	Bread & Maggot
8 11	Lanesboro	9th May	Neil Mills (GB)	Bread Flake
8 7½	Lanesboro	13th May	M. N. Bernard (GB)	Bread
8 5½	Lanesboro	6th May	David Denham (GB)	Worms
8 5½	Lanesboro	27th April	Robin Russell (GB)	Bread & Maggot Cocktail
8 5	Lanesboro	31st May	A. J. Hall (GB)	Bread Flake
8 5	R. Shannon, Tarmonbarry.	18th May	John Jackson (GB)	Worms
8 5	Lanesboro	27th April	Robin Russell (GB)	Bread & Maggot Cocktail
8 4½	Lanesboro	13th May	David Denham (GB)	Bread Flake
8 4	R. Shannon, Athlone	8th July	Harry Rodgers (GB)	Bread Flake
8 3½	Lanesboro	27th April	Robin Russell (GB)	Bread & Maggot Cocktail
8 3	Lanesboro	21st May	John Mills (GB)	Bread Flake
8 2½	Lanesboro	30th May	David Denham (GB)	Maggots
8 2½	Lanesboro	27th April	Ross Nursey (GB)	Bread
8 0½	Lanesboro	26th April	C. Burdock	Bread Paste
8 0½	Lanesboro	9th May	Neil Mills (GB)	Bread Flake
8 0½	Lanesboro	17th May	Michael Biggs (GB)	Bread
7 14½	Lanesboro	9th May	David Denham (GB)	Bread Flake
7 14	Lanesboro	27th May	I. W. Ferguson (GB)	Worms
7 14	Lanesboro	26th April	Ross Nursey (GB)	Bread
7 13½	Lanesboro	18th May	David Denham (GB)	Bread Flake
7 13½	Lanesboro	30th April	I. Parkings (GB)	Bread Flake
7 13	Athlone	9th July	Barry Brill	Bread Flake
7 13	Lanesboro	13th May	Darien Blunt (GB)	Bread Flake
7 13	Athlone	26th June	Barry Brill	Bread Flake
7 13	Lanesboro	25th May	M. W. Stride (GB)	Bread
7 13	Lanesboro	25th May	M. W. Stride (GB)	Bread
7 12½	Lanesboro	25th May	M. W. Stride (GB)	Bread
7 12½	Lanesboro	2nd May	T. Dawson (GB)	Bread Flake
7 12½	Lanesboro	8th May	Vincent Baker	Worms
7 12	Athlone	9th July	Barry Brill	Bread Flake
7 12	Athlone	9th July	Barry Brill	Bread Flake
7 12	Athlone	26th June	Barry Brill	Bread Flake
7 12	Lanesboro	13th May	Darien Blunt (GB)	Bread Flake
7 12	Athlone	1st July	Gerry Byrne (GB)	Bread Flake
7 12	Ballykeeran Pond, Athlone.	24th July	M. English (GB)	Redworm & Gozzer Cocktail
7 12	Ballinafid Lake	13th Sept.	Fred Foster	Bread Flake
7 12	Tarmonbarry	18th May	Albert Ibbotson	Worms
7 11	River Inny, Ballymahon.	30th June	Raymond Wright (GB)	Worms

## BREAM (continued)

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 11½	Lanesboro	8th June	Wilfred Lister (GB)	Bread
7 11½	Lanesboro	27th April	Ross Nursey (GB)	Bread
7 11½	Lanesboro	13th May	Neil Mills (GB)	Bread
7 11	Athlone	1st July	Gerry Byrne (GB)	Bread Flake
7 11	Tarmonbarry	18th May	John Jackson (GB)	Worms
7 10½	Lanesboro	13th May	David Denham (GB)	Bread
7 10½	Lanesboro	29th May	David Denham (GB)	Bread Flake
7 10½	Lanesboro	29th May	M. W. Stride (GB)	Bread
7 10½	Lanesboro	14th April	Darien Blunt (GB)	Bread Flake
7 10½	R. Barrow, Monasterevan.	29th Sept.	Paul Cullen	Bread Flake
7 10½	Lanesboro	28th April	Ross Nursey (GB)	Bread
7 10	Lanesboro	12th April	Darien Blunt (GB)	Bread Flake
7 10	Lanesboro	16th May	David Denham (GB)	Bread Flake
7 10	Lanesboro	26th April	Darien Blunt (GB)	Bread Flake
7 10	Lanesboro	18th May	John Jackson (GB)	Worms
7 9½	Lanesboro	26th April	Darien Blunt (GB)	Bread Flake
7 9½	Lanesboro	1st June	Master J. Plant (GB)	Worms
7 9½	Lanesboro	13th May	David Denham (GB)	Bread Flake
7 9½	Lanesboro	28th April	Ross Nursey (GB)	Bread
7 9½	Lanesboro	5th May	G. Entrich (D)	Bread Flake
7 9	Lanesboro	20th May	Richard Barker (GB)	Bread & Maggots
7 9	Athlone	9th July	Barry Brill	Bread Flake
7 8½	Lanesboro	13th May	David Denham (GB)	Bread
7 8½	Lanesboro	13th May	David Denham (GB)	Bread Flake
7 8	Lanesboro	18th May	Richard Barker (GB)	Maggots

## CARP

Record, 18 lbs. 12 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 10 lbs.: 4.536 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11 8	The Lough, Cork.	4th July	David Magee	Sweet Corn

## EEL

Record, 6 lbs. 15 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 3 lbs.: 1.361 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6 15	Droumenisa Lake, Bantry.	12th June	John Murnane	Worms
5 15	Knockalough, Co. Clare.	4th Sept.	Philip Treytel (NL)	Strip of Trout
4 8	Clifden	11th July	Mrs. A. Kelly Geunissen (NL)	Mackerel Strip
4 5	Knockalough	18th August	Philip Treytel (NL)	Strip of Trout
4 2½	Knockalough	4th Sept.	Philip Treytel (NL)	Sandeel
3 7	Knockalough	19th August	Philip Treytel (NL)	Worms
3 3½	Dick's Lake, Carrickmacross.	9th August	David Dryden (GB)	Dead Bait

## PERCH

Record, 5 lbs. 8 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 3 lbs.: 1.361 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 3	Granstown Lake, Co. Laois.	6th Sept.	Victor Bowell	Caster Worm Cocktail
3 0½	River Barrow, Monasterevin.	18th August	Patrick Kelly (GB)	Mepps

## PIKE (RIVER)

Record, 42 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 20 lbs.: 9.072 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
29 5	River Erne, Belturbet.	17th Dec. '78	Michael Fitzpatrick	Dead Roach
28 4 3/5	River Brosna	16th May	Michael Victory	Minnow
27 9 3/5	River Shannon, Carnadoe.	4th May	Rudolf Zach (D)	Wobbler
26 0	R. Shannon, Drumshambo	24th Feb.	Sean Conlon	Voblex
25 3	River Shannon, Lanesboro.	1rd May	E. De Jonckheere (B)	Dead Perch
11 kilos	R. Shannon, Drumsna.	10th Oct. '78	Resel Choina (D)	Wobbler
23 8	R. Shannon, Clondra.	11st Sept.	Edmund Hausmann (D)	Copper Spoon
22 2	River Nore, Durrow.	19th Aug.	Victor Bowell	Toby Salmo
21 3	R. Shannon, Lanesboro.	24th Feb.	Roland Detobel (B)	Dead Perch
21 1	R. Shannon, Jamestown.	1rd March	Peter Walsh	Mackerel

## PIKE (LAKE)

Record, 38 lbs. 2 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 30 lbs.: 13.608 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10 8	Lough Allen	8th Sept.	Victor Young	Dead Bait.
10 8	Lough Allen	21st August	George Higgins	ABU Ellipse
10	Lough Corrib	25th Sept.	Tony Leigh (GB)	Copper Toby

## RUDD

Record, 3 lbs. 1 oz.

Specimen Weight, 2½ lbs.: 1.021 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 9	Annaghmore Lake	11th August	Kevin Clifford (GB)	Bread
2 7	R. Shannon, Lanesboro.	13th May	Colm Quinn	Bread Flake
2 5½	River Barrow	13th August	Paul Cullen	Bread Crust
2 4½	River Barrow	18th August	Paul Cullen	Bread Crust

## RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

Record, 5 lbs. 13 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 3 lbs.: 1.361 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 8	R. Shannon, Athlone.	20th July	Joseph Caffrey	Maggots
3 8	R. Shannon, Lanesboro.	12th May	Peter Walsh	Bread Flake
3 6	Athlone	26th June	Michael Daly	Bread Flake
3 5½	Athlone	16th July	Michael Daly	Bread Flake
3 5½	Athlone	16th July	Frank Killian	Worms
3 5	Athlone	26th June	James Keaveney	Worms

## FENCH

Record, 7 lbs. 13½ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 6 lbs.: 2.721 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 2½	R. Shannon, Lanesboro.	6th June	M. W. Stride (GB)	Bread
7 2	Lanesboro	25th May	I. W. Ferguson (GB)	Worms
7	Lanesboro	1st June	Neil Mills (GB)	Bread
6 14½	Lanesboro	31st May	John Mills (GB)	Bread Flake
6 14½	Lanesboro	1st July	Frank Duckers (GB)	Bread Flake
6 13	Lanesboro	28th June	Frank Duckers (GB)	Bread Flake
6 12	Lanesboro	25th May	David Edgoose (GB)	Lobworm & Maggots
6 11½	Lanesboro	25th May	Neil Mills (GB)	Bread
6 10½	Lanesboro	15th May	A. Beeston (GB)	Maggots
6 9	Lanesboro	1st June	A. J. Hall (GB)	Maggots
6 6½	Lanesboro	22nd May	J. Sinfield (GB)	Bread Flake
6 5½	Lanesboro	12th May	Michael Frost (GB)	Bread Flake
6 5½	Lanesboro	4th July	Brian McKenny (GB)	Bread Flake
6 4½	Lanesboro	3rd May	Michael Frost (GB)	Bread Flake
6 4	Lanesboro	16th May	J. Wheatley (GB)	Maggots
6 4	Lanesboro	31st May	M. W. Stride (GB)	Bread
6 3	Lanesboro	28th May	A. J. Hall (GB)	Black Slug
6 2½	Lanesboro	11th July	J. Heath (GB)	Bread Flake
6 2½	Lanesboro	30th May	John Mills (GB)	Bread Flake
6 2	Lanesboro	25th May	John Edgoose (GB)	Lobworm & Maggots
6 0½	Lanesboro	27th June	David Keeble (GB)	Bread
6	Lanesboro	29th May	A. J. Hall (GB)	Maggots
6	Lanesboro	1st June	A. J. Hall (GB)	Maggots

## BASS

Record, 17 lbs. 1¼ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 10 lbs.: 4.536 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12 4½	Garryvoe	11th October	David O'Brien	Lugworm
12 1	Inch Beach, Dingle.	10th October	Trevor Mitchell (GB)	Lugworm
11 10	Castlegregory, Dingle	17th July	William J. McKee	Lugworm
11 8	Dungarvan	22nd Sept.	Eugene Young	Crab
11 7½	Cork Harbour	12th October	Jim Geary	Mackerel Strip
11 4	Dowhill	7th Sept.	E. F. Manthorpe	Ragworm
11 3½	South Slob, Wexford.	25th October	Billy Beardwood	Ragworm

## BASS (continued)

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11 1	Dollymount Strand, Dublin.	21st July	Denis Murphy	Ragworm
10 15	Killiney Bay	6th July	John Horn	Sandeel
10 12	Waterville	9th August	A. Barnes (GB)	Lugworm
10 10	Roches Point	20th June	Bernard Daly	Peeler
10 9½	Ballinaclash, Blackwater.	25th May	James Byrne	Ragworm
10 9	Cobh	25th Sept.	Brian Venables (GB)	Mackerel Strip
10 8	Kilcoole Beach, Wicklow.	1st Sept.	George Tierney	Lugworm
10 4	Ardmore	29th Sept.	Noel Looby	Mackerel Strip
10 1½	Dungarvan	16th Sept.	George Young	Crab

## COALFISH

Record, 24 lbs. 7 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 15 lbs.: 6.804 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
20 4	Youghal	11th August	H. A. Vanbrabant (B)	Feathers
17 5	Dungarvan	8th August	Heinz Weyershauser (D)	Baited Feathers
17	Achill	29th August	Thea Bar (D)	Feathers

## COD

Record, 42 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 25 lbs.: 11.340 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
34 8	Clifden	29th July '78	Louis Nuyen (NL)	Mackerel Feathers
28	Causeway Coast	17th June	Jim Dinnen	Baited Spoon
26 8	Causeway Coast	17th June	William Lee	Feathers
26 8	Courtmacsherry	24th August	C. de Graaf	Mackerel Strip
25 10	Enniscrone	4th Sept.	Norman Dunn	Mackerel Strip

## CONGER EEL

Record, 72 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 40 lbs.: 18.144 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
45 8	South Beach, Arklow.	30th Oct.	Thomas Bracken	Squid
40 8	Sneem, Kenmare Bay.	27th August	Andre Vriends (NL)	Mackerel Strip

## DAB

Record, 1 lb. 13½ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 1½ lbs.: .680 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 13½	Whitegate	20th October	Patrick Curtin	Blow Lug
1 11	Whitegate	10th Nov.	Patrick O'Neill	Lugworm
1 8	Causeway Coast	26th August	Albert Gregg	Lugworm
1 8	Causeway Coast	2nd Sept.	John Dinnen	Mackerel Strip

## GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record, 21 lbs. 4 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 16 lbs.: 7.257 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
17 10	Valentia	5th August	Michael Quinlan	Mackerel Strip
16 8	Courtmacsherry	19th Sept.	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel Strip
16 2	Courtmacsherry	26th Sept.	Brian Furphy	Mackerel Strip

## LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record, 3 lbs. 13 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 3¼ lbs.: 1.475 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 12	Youghal	10th June	Dermot O'Brien	Mackerel Strip
3 12	Cobh	7th Sept.	Ken Crowther (GB)	Mackerel Strip
3 11	Valentia	18th August	F. J. Van Oss (NL)	Mackerel
3 9½	Ballinskelligs	3rd August	Paul Keen (GB)	Mackerel
3 8½	Belmullet	26th August	Jean Claude Reuland (F)	Mackerel Fillet
3 8	Killala Bay	12th August	Kathleen Munnelly	Mackerel
3 8	Shankhill, Co. Dublin.	23rd May	James Healy	Ragworm with Mackerel
3 7½	Portballintrae, Antrim.	29th July	Derek McLeister	Mackerel Strip
1.566 kilos	Portballintrae	15th July	W. A. Truss	Ragworm
3 6½	Enniscrone	6th August	Gordon Ramsey	Mackerel Strip
3 6½	Kells Bay	25th August	John Dervan (GB)	Coalfish Strip
3 6	Portrush	3rd Dec. '78	David Boyd	Herring
3 6	Tory Island, Co. Donegal.	18th August	Thomas Dempsey	Mackerel Strip
3 5½	Ballinskelligs	28th August	Dan Rooney	Mackerel
3 5	Causeway Coast	10th June	Graham Jordan	Herring
3 4½	Enniscrone	4th Sept.	Martin Cassidy	Mackerel Strip
3 4½	Ballinskelligs	24th July	Keith Wells (GB)	Mackerel Strip
3 4	Ennereilly Beach,	14th July	John Hughes	Lugworm
6 drms.	Arklow.			

## SPUR DOGFISH

Record, 18 lbs. 12 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 12 lbs.: 5.443 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
18	Sneem, Kenmare Bay.	27th June	H.P.R. Schanten (NL)	Mackerel Strip
17	Dingle	29th August	Kurt Laube (D)	Mackerel
16	Skerries	29th August	Kevin Lynch	Mackerel Strip
15 1	Westport	26th August	Patrick Slevin	Mackerel Strip
14 3	Bray	29th July	Henry Bovenizer	Mackerel
14 1	Skerries	15th July	Frank McMahon	Mackerel
14	Skerries	18th August	Master G. Barrett	Mackerel
14	Dingle	28th August	R. M. Smith (GB)	Mackerel
13 12	Innismurray	10th August	Michael Murphy	Mackerel
13 10	Skerries	1st August	Master Mark McGurdy	Mackerel Strip
13 8	Dungarvan	9th Sept.	Sheila Roche	Mackerel
13 8	Courtmacsherry	13th April	K.W. van den Bagert (NL)	Coalfish Strip
13 4	Sneem	10th October	J.P. Andringa (NL)	Mackerel Strip
6 kilos.	Sneem	8th August	Andre Nagelkerke (NL)	Mackerel Strip

# **SPUR DOGFISH (continued)**

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13	Courtmacsherry	16th May	L.G. Janssen (NL)	Mackerel
13	Courtmacsherry	9th April	P.M. Kerkhof (NL)	Coalfish
13	Courtmacsherry	10th April	K.W. van den Bagert (NL)	Coalfish Strip
13	Sneem	3rd June	A.A. van der Carel (NL)	Sprat
13	Rush	18th August	Matthew Foley	Mackerel
13	Carlingford Lough	2nd July	Norman S. Dunn	Mackerel
5,900 kilos	Sneem	24th July	C. Backer (NL)	Mackerel Strip
12 14	Belfast Lough	19th July '78	B. Elwood	Mackerel
12 14	Skerries	1st August	William Hodgins	Mackerel
5.7 kilos	Sneem	26th August	G. Geurts (NL)	Mackerel
12 7	Sneem	2nd Sept.	P. Beekwilder (NL)	Mackerel Strip
12 4	Glengad, Co. Donegal.	12th August	Barry Bowstead	Mackerel Strip
12 3	Bray	29th July	James Byrne	Mackerel
12 2½	Skerries	26th August	O. Morrissy-Murphy	Mackerel Strip
12 2	Sneem	20th June	Mrs. B. Warren-Vrolyk (NL)	Mackerel Strip
12 1	Skerries	26th August	Frank McMahon	Mackerel Strip
12	Greencastle, Co. Donegal.	29th August	Kenneth Chadwick	Rubber Eel
12	Wicklow	15th July	Peter Warren	Mackerel Strip
12	Dingle	28th August	Claude Allemandoux (F)	Mackerel

# **FLOUNDER**

Record, 4 lbs. 6½ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 2 lbs. 8 oz.: 1.134 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4 6½	Ballyteigue Bay, Co. Wexford.	21st August	David Gray	Crab
3 8	Ballinrannig, Dingle.	24th Sept.	Bill Bradley (GB)	Lugworm
3 6½	Saleens Strand, Waterford.	18th August	John Halley	Sandeel
3 4½	Ardcavan, Wexford.	26th May	Terence Pryor	Crab
3 3½	Ballyteigue Bay	23rd August	David Gray	Crab
3 2	Dungarvan	1st November	Sean Leahy	Crab
3 0½	Ardcavan	17th Dec. '78	Sylvester Barry	Lugworm
3	Ferriter's Cove, Dingle.	11th October	Frank Baxter	Lugworm
3	Fethard-on-Sea, Wexford.	14th Sept.	Val Molloy	Ragworm
3	Dungarvan	1st November	Sean Leahy	Crab
2 14½	Fermoyale, Dingle.	27th October	John O'Brien	Lugworm
2 13½	Ballyteigue Bay	23rd August	John Maddock	Crab
2 13½	Ferrybank, Wexford.	18th November	Marshall Beckett	Ragworm
2 13	Dungarvan	3rd February	Peter Walsh	Lugworm
2 12½	Ballyteigue Bay	18th August	Graham Dungan	Crab
2 11½	Kilkee, Co. Clare.	15th Sept.	Emmet Ryan	Lugworm
2 11	Ballyteigue Bay	26th August	Joe Sinnott	Lugworm
2 11	Dungarvan	29th January	Master G. Fennelly	Lugworm
2 10½	Trabeg, Dingle	16th Sept.	Bill Bradley (GB)	Lugworm

# **FLOUNDER (continued)**

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 10	Courtmacsherry	15th October	Daniel Santry	Lugworm
2 9	Ferriter's Cove	11th October	Patrick Power	Lugworm
2 8½	Ferriter's Cove	11th October	John Salmon	Lugworm
2 8½	Dungarvan	3rd February	David Lewis	Lugworm
2 8½	Dungarvan	4th February	Colm Quinn	Lugworm
2 8½	Ferrybank, Co. Wexford.	2nd December	Thomas O'Neill	Lugworm
2 8	Dungarvan	8th January	David Lewis	Lugworm

# **GARFISH**

Record, 3 lbs. 10¼ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 2½ lbs.: 1.134 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 10	Kinsale	2nd Sept.	Padraic J. Dervin	Mackerel Strip
2 9	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Ian Rowlands (GB)	Mackerel Strip

# **GREY GURNARD**

Record, 3 lbs. 1 oz.

Specimen Weight, 1½ lbs.: .680 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 14	Carnlough	25th August	Bevin Boyd	Mackerel Strip
1 9	Downings, Co. Donegal.	3rd June	F. G. Hunter	Mackerel Strip
8 drms.	Youghal	27th August	Dennis Green	Mackerel Strip
71 kilos	Enniscrone	6th September	Sam Roche	Mackerel Strip
1 8½	Belmullet	10th Sept.	Tom Hutton	Mackerel Strip

# **RED GURNARD**

Record, 3 lbs. 9¼ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 2 lbs.: .907 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 7½	Belmullet	1st Sept.	B. Morrison	Mackerel Strip
2 5½	Lough Swilly	30th Oct. '78.	Mrs. Sylvia Laird	Fly Jig
2 3½	Enniscrone	2nd June	John O'Regan	Mackerel Strip
2 2½	Horn Head, Co. Donegal.	5th August	Peter Johnson	Baited Spoon
2 2	Galway Bay	28th July	Norman Dunlop	Baited Feathers
2 2	Port Ballintrae	12th August	George Foy (GB)	Mackerel Strip
2 1¼	Causeway Coast	19th August	John Leighton	Mackerel
925 kilos	Glengad, Co. Donegal.	9th September	John McKay	Baited Spoon
2	Port Ballintrae	16th July	Benny Carson	Mackerel

# **TUB GURNARD**

Record, 12 lbs. 3¼ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 5 lbs.: 2.268 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9 6	Enniscrone	4th August	Andreas Schupfer (CH)	Mackerel Strip



# **TUB GURNARD (continued)**

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8 10	Killala Bay	12th August	Nicholas Whelan	Mackerel
7 5½	Enniscrone	2nd Sept.	Dennis Green	Mackerel Fillet
6 3½	Belmullet	28th August	John Tyndall	Mackerel
6 0½	Belmullet	9th Sept.	Roger Fleming	Baited Feathers
5 13½	Killala Bay	11th August	P. McDonagh	Mackerel Strip
5 13½	Enniscrone	25th August	Hugh Connolly, Jnr.	Mackerel Strip
5 9½	Enniscrone	7th August	D. Heaton (GB)	Mackerel Strip
5 4½	Enniscrone	2nd Sept.	J. S. Mullan	Mackerel
5 4	Enniscrone	16th August	Timothy Griffiths (GB)	Baited Feathers
2.35 kilos	Bunbeg	18th August	Alan McCoy	Mackerel Strip
5 2	Enniscrone	4th August	Tom Kennedy	Mackerel Strip
5 1	Sheephaven Bay	26th August	John Duffy	Mackerel Strip

# **HADDOCK**

Record, 10 lbs. 13½ oza.

Specimen Weight, 7 lbs.: 3.175 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 8	Portrush	11th May	Eddie Reid	Herring

# **HAKE**

Record, 25 lbs. 5½ oza.

Specimen Weight, 10 lbs.: 4.536 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13	Ballycotton	18th Sept.	Dietmar Scharf	Mackerel Strip
11 8	Enniscrone	6th August	Stephan Hildegard (D)	Mackerel Strip
10 7	Dungarvan	4th August	John Browne	Mackerel Strip

# **HERRING**

Specimen Weight, ¼ lb.: .340 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12½	Belfast Lough	26th June	Mrs. Muriel Boyd	Feathers

# **JOHN DORY**

Record, 7 lbs. 1 oz.

Specimen Weight, 4 lbs.: 1.814 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 4½	Enniscrone	2nd Sept.	William Heath (GB)	Pirk

# **LING**

Record, 46 lbs. 8 oza.

Specimen Weight, 25 lbs.: 11.340 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
38	Baltimore	23rd Sept.	Brian Sheahan	Mackerel
15.20 kilos	Kinsale	17th Sept.	R. M. Phillips (GB)	Mackerel
30	Courtmacsherry	27th July	Marian Gannon (NL)	Mackerel Strip
29 2	Cobh	6th Sept.	A. Spilker (NL)	Mackerel

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# **LING (continued)**

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
28 11	Cobh	15th Sept.	Capt. A. O'Hara	Mackerel
12.5 kilos	Kinsale	9th June	Jean Raphael (F)	Baited Feathers
27 4	Cobh	22nd Sept.	Brian Venables (GB)	Mackerel Strip
27	Cobh	10th November	Tom H. O'Connor	Baited Feathers
26 12	Youghal	8th August	Winifred Waterman	Mackerel Strip
26 5	Cobh	27th October	Tom O'Connor	Mackerel Strip
26 0	Youghal	9th September	Thomas Curtin	Mackerel Strip
25 12	Valentia	8th July	J. B. Healy	Mackerel
25 12	Cobh	25th July	Ulf Ivarsson (S)	Mackerel Strip
11.50 kilos	Kinsale	23rd September	Udo Hoff (D)	Mackerel Strip

# **MACKEREL**

Record, 4 lbs. 2 oza.

Specimen Weight, 2½ lbs.: 1.134 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4 2	Ballycotton	18th Sept.	Ulrich Plassmann (D)	Feathers
1.225 kilos	Glengad, Co. Donegal.	8th September	Nigel Jopling	Mackerel Strip

# **MONKFISH**

Record, 69 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 50 lbs.: 22.680 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
56	Fenit	31st July	B. P. Spaaij (NL)	Mackerel
55	Fenit	31st May	Edward Foale (GB)	Mackerel
53	Fenit	31st May	K. Lipscombe (GB)	Mackerel
53	Fenit	15th August	Mark Wellby (GB)	Mackerel
53	Fenit	16th August	Master Simon Tilley	Mackerel Strip
52	Fenit	15th August	H.M. de Vos (NL)	Mackerel
51	Fenit	28th May	Desmond Wright (GB)	Mackerel Strip
50 7	Fenit	12th Sept.	Rodney Yates (GB)	Mackerel
50 2	Fenit	15th August	B. P. Spaaij (NL)	Mackerel
50	Fenit	17th June	M. R. Davis (GB)	Squid
52	Fenit	15th August	H.M. de Vos (NL)	Mackerel
51	Fenit	28th May	Desmond Wright (GB)	Mackerel Strip
50 7	Fenit	12th Sept.	Rodney Yates (GB)	Mackerel
50 2	Fenit	15th August	B. P. Spaaij (NL)	Mackerel
50	Fenit	17th June	M. R. Davis (GB)	Squid

# **GREY MULLET**

Record, 7 lbs. 12 oza.

Specimen Weight, 5 lbs.: 2.268 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6 3	Ferrycarrig Bridge, Wexford.	14th August	Joseph Griffin	Ragworm
5 13	Belmullet	25th July	P. O'Ceileachair	Floating Bread
5 3½	Belmullet	2nd July	P. O'Ceileachair	Bread

# PLAICE

Record, 7 lbs. 2½ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 4 lbs.: 1.814 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 12	Cork Harbour	27th June	Sean Goggin	Lugworm
5 6	Causeway Coast	19th August	J. McLernon	Lugworm
4 14	Dun Laoghaire	24th June	Harold Bailey	Ragworm
4 12	Dungarvan	8th Sept.	John Gleeson	Lugworm
4 8	Causeway Coast	24th August	Robert McCarten	Ragworm
4 5½	Causeway Coast	11th August	T. McComb	Mackerel
4 4¾	Greystones	5th October	Maurice Brady	Ragworm & Lugworm
4 4	Causeway Coast	7th October	Ronald Hall	Baited Spoon
4 4	Greystones	19th August	Patrick Flood	Lugworm
4 1¾	Greystones	15th Sept.	Bernard Moloney	Baited Spoon
4 1½	Greystones	5th August	P. B. Campbell	Lugworm
4 1	Causeway Coast	27th August	Gerry Mason (GB)	Mackerel
4	Dun Laoghaire	10th June	Albert Smyth	Lugworm

# POLLACK

Record, 19 lbs. 3 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 12 lbs.: 5.443 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14 12	Kinsale	29th August	Ian Bunney (GB)	Red Gill
14 8	Courtmacsherry	17th Sept.	Harold Oulton	Rubber Eel
14 1	Cobh	12th June	Finbarr Barry	Rubber Eel
14	Courtmacsherry	18th August	Jan van der Haar (NL)	Mackerel Strip
13 8	Courtmacsherry	20th July	Sipko Sipkens (NL)	Mister Twister
13 8	Courtmacsherry	9th Sept.	J. D. Luscuere (NL)	Rubber Eel
13 3	Cobh	10th Nov.	James Leonard	Herring Strip
13	Dungarvan	15th July	Hans Kors (NL)	Silver Sprat
13	Courtmacsherry	12th July	Joh Semler (NL)	Mister Twister
13	Cobh	13th June	E. Cullinane	Rubber Eel
12 14	Courtmacsherry	9th July	Simon de Man (NL)	Blue/White Gill
12 13	Cobh	26th Sept.	David Glover (GB)	Red Rubber Eel
12 12	Dungarvan	29th June	G. Jarosch (D)	Red Gill
12 11	Cobh	8th July	Alain Faytre (F)	Mackerel Strip
12 10	Cobh	5th June	L. K. Andri (NL)	Rubber Eel
12 10	Ballycastle	22nd October	Andy McGarry	Rubber Eel
12 7	Cobh	7th June	H. Van Hoof (NL)	Rubber Eel
12 5	Cobh	1st June	Jan Van Gervan (NL)	Artificial Lure
12 4	Brandon, Dingle.	13th August	Mrs. Doreen Colvin	Mackerel Feathers
12 3	Achill	1st Sept.	Helmut Bar (D)	Red Gill
12 3	Cobh	13th June	George Stockley	Red Gill
12 2	Cobh	27th October	Finbarr Barry	Pirk
12 2	Causeway Coast	1st Sept.	Eoin Henry	Baited Feathers
12 2	Courtmacsherry	16th July	G. J. V. Haren (NL)	Rubber Eel
12 1	Courtmacsherry	9th July	G. Oerlemans (NL)	Red Gill
12	Clifden	10th July	Rolf Kelly (NL)	Mackerel Strip

# POUTING

Record, 4 lbs. 10 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 3 lbs.: 1.361 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 8	Cobh	24th Sept	Brian Venables (GB)	Mackerel Strip
3 7	Courtmacsherry	21st July	Bart Lohuizen (NL)	Mackerel Strip
3 6¾	Portstewart	5th May	G. McAllister	Feathers
3 6	Courtmacsherry	25th August	Eric Brouwen (NL)	Mackerel Strip

# POUTING (continued)

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 4	Valentia	17th August	Brendan Rooney	Mackerel
3 3	Courtmacsherry	1st August	Sipko Sipkens (NL)	Mackerel Strip
3 2	Valentia	4th July	F. Van Schoubroeck (B)	Mackerel
3 2	Kilmore Quay	3rd June	James McLoughlin, Inr.	Mackerel
3 2	Sneem, Kenmare Bay.	19th Sept.	H. Th. J. Van Aartsen (NL)	Mackerel Strip
3 2	Sneem	4th Sept.	P. Van Kleef (NL)	Strip of Pollack
3 1½	Valentia	22nd August	Cesar Moerenhout (B)	Mackerel
3 0½	Valentia	4th July	Jack Torfs (B)	Mackerel
1.375 kilos	Sneem	27th August	G. J. Naderom (NL)	Mackerel Strip

# BLONDE RAY

Record, 36 lbs. 8 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 25 lbs.: 11.340 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
27 8	Cobh	20th Sept.	F. Londe (NL)	Mackerel Strip

# CUCKOO RAY

Record, 5 lbs. 11 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 4½ lbs.: 2.041 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 1	Causeway Coast	16th August	Kenneth McCan	Mackerel Strip
4 11	Causeway Coast	2nd Sept.	John Dinnen	Mackerel Strip
4 9	Red Bay, Cushendall.	2nd July	William Boal	Pirk

# PAINTED RAY

Record, 14.06 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 10 lbs.: 4.536 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14 06	Doughmore, Co. Clare.	7th July	Bill Ryan	Mackerel
11 8¾	Doughmore	1st July	Bill Ryan	Mackerel
11 6¾	Doughmore	19th July	Master Pearse Ryan	Mackerel

# HOMELYN RAY

Record, 7 lbs. 7½ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 5 lbs.: 2.268 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6 4¾	Causeway Coast	30th July '77	Samuel Collins	Mackerel Strip
5 15	Ballycotton	3rd June	Mrs. Cara Roche	Mackerel Strip
5 2	Fenit	10th June	Philip Wayne (GB)	Mackerel
5 1	Fenit	9th June	Hildegard Rottgardt (D)	Mackerel



**THORNBAC RAY**

Record, 37 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 20 lbs.: 9.072 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
29 8	Courtmacsherry	25th July	J. H. Corvers (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
23 8	Clifden	25th June	Derek King (GB)	Mackerel
22 13	Greystones	7th July	Denis Horgan	Mackerel
10.25 kilos	Ballycotton	11th August	Edward Sheehan	Mackerel
22 4	Courtmacsherry	29th July	K. A. Ooms (NL)	Mackerel Strip
21	Killala Bay	12th August	Nicholas Whelan	Mackerel
20 2	Greystones	16th June	Oliver Currivan	Mackerel Strip

**UNDULATE RAY**

Record, 18 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 14 lbs.: 6.350 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
15 8	Fenit	20th June	Ernest Burrows (GB)	Mackerel
14 8	Fenit	17th June	Mrs. W. Burrows (GB)	Mackerel
14 7	Fenit	28th May	Andrew Kilfoyle (GB)	Mackerel Strip

**RAY'S BREEM**

Record, 6 lbs. 4½ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 5 lbs.: 2.268 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 12	Porcupine Bank	26th July	Peter Peck (GB)	Squid Strip
5 9	Porcupine Bank	25th July	Alan McGurdy	Feather Jig
5 7	Valentia	26th August '78.	Tony Clarke	Mackerel
5 4	Porcupine Bank	26th July	Norman Dunlop	Feathers
5 4	Porcupine Bank	26th July	John Callanan	Feathers

**IWAITE SHAD**

Specimen Weight, 1½ lbs.: .680 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 10½	River Barrow	27th May	Des Brennan	Spoon

**RED SEA BREEM**

Record, 9 lbs. 6 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 4½ lbs.: 2.041 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4 14	Achill	11th August	Mary McNamara	Baited Feathers

**PORBEAGLE SHARK**

Record, 365 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 150 lbs.: 68.038 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
73 8	Liscannor	22nd August	Trevor Belling	Mackerel

**BLUE SHARK**

Record, 206 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 100 lbs.: 45.359 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
110	Courtmacsherry	18th Sept.	Rien Staat (NL)	Mackerel
105	Dungarvan	29th August	L. v. Leeuwen (NL)	Mackerel
105	Enniscrone	4th Sept.	Willas Hammond	Mackerel
104 8	Cork Harbour	29th July	Martin Fleming	Mackerel
104	Dungarvan	2nd Sept.	Seamus Cashman	Mackerel
103	Dungarvan	8th July	Arthur Pearson (GB)	Mackerel
46.5 kilos	Kinsale	8th August	J. A. Katsman (NL)	Mackerel
101 8	Courtmacsherry	22nd August	Paul Lutton	Mackerel Strip
101	Courtmacsherry	1st July	M. Van T. Hof (NL)	Mackerel
100 12	Dungarvan	24th August	Karl Mattner (D)	Mackerel

**SIX-GILLED SHARK**

Record, 154 lbs.

Specimen Weight, 100 lbs.

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
151	Castletownsend	16th August	John Robinson (GB)	Mackerel

**ROPE**

Record, 66 lbs. 8 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 40 lbs.: 18.144 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
66 8	Carlingford Lough	15th July	Cyril Young	Mackerel
44 4	Carlingford Lough	17th July	Lawrence Peile	Mackerel
42	Fenit	18th June	Alan Maybank (GB)	Squid
40 8	Enniscrone	9th Sept.	Michael H. Gregory (GB)	Mackerel Head
40	Rathmullan	9th June	Martin Cassidy	Mackerel Strip
40	Fenit	30th May	Godfrey Huggett (GB)	Mackerel Strip

**TURBOT**

Record, 26 lbs. 8 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 18 lbs.: 8.165 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
21	Courtmacsherry	29th July	B. V. Lohuizen (NL)	Mackerel Strip
19 8	Killybegs	10th August	Adrian O'Dwyer	Mackerel Strip

**WHITING**

Record, 4 lbs. 8½ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 3 lbs.: 1.361 kilos

WEIGHT lb. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 4	Achill	30th August	Michael Corrigan	Mackerel Strip

# ALLAN WRASSE

Record, 7 lbs. 6 ozs.

Specimen Weight, 4½ lbs.: 2.041 kilos

WEIGHT b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6 2	Kilmore Quay	24th June	Timothy Hartnett	Ragworm
5 12½	Causeway Coast	3th August	Trevor Calderwood	Ragworm
5 11	Baginbun Head, Wexford.	21st October	Walter Keane	Ragworm
5 8	Dingle	13th Sept.	Mrs. R. Schreiber (D)	Baited Feathers
5 8	Kilmore Quay	27th May	Colin Manning	Artificial Ragworm
5 6½	Kilmore Quay	24th August	David Gray	Mackerel
5 6	Kilmore Quay	1rd June	Thomas Butler	Baited Feathers
4 12	Dingle	11th October	T. R. Bewes (GB)	Crab
4 10	Dunmore East	1st August	Nicholas McEvoy	Ragworm
4 10	Kilmore Quay	19th May	Eddie Flood	Mackerel Feathers
4 9½	Dingle	11th October	C. J. Woodley (GB)	Crab
4 9	Kilmore Quay	2nd June	Mark Redmond	Feathers

# CUCKOO WRASSE

Record, 1 lb. 11½ ozs.

Specimen Weight, 1¼ lbs.: 567 kilos

WEIGHT b. oz.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 11½	Ballylumford, Larne.	23rd Sept.	Graeme Denny	Mackerel Strip
1 9½	Causeway Coast	1st Sept.	Peter Johnson	Mackerel Strip
1 9	Causeway Coast	31st August	Cecil Collins	Lugworm
1 8	Sneem, Kenmare Bay.	12th August	Jan Ottens (NL)	Baited Feathers
1 7½	Dingle	29th August	Kurt Laube (D)	Mackerel
1 6½	Rathlin Island	8th July	Peter Johnson	Herring
1 5½	Causeway Coast	30th Sept.	Irvine Tannahill	Baited Feathers
516.8grms.	Causeway Coast	17th July	Rodney Avelwell	Mackerel Strip
1 5½	Causeway Coast	4th August	A. G. Boam	Baited Feathers
1 5	Causeway Coast	2nd Sept.	J. H. Garvin	Mackerel
1 5	Larne	8th July	Richard Patterson	Baited Feathers
1 4½	Belmullet	2nd Sept.	Brian Smallwood	Baited Feathers
1 4½	Kinsale	31st August	Michael Jupe (GB)	Baited Feathers

# NEW RECORDS

Seven new Irish Records were established during 1979.

- (1) **FRESHWATER EEL**, 6 lbs. 15 ozs. caught by Jonn Murnane, 16 Bishop Lucy Place, Bantry, Co. Cork, in Droumenisa Lake, Bantry on 12th June 1979.
- (2) **DAB**, 1 lb. 13½ ozs. caught by Patrick Curtin, Ballydavid, Cloyne, Co. Cork, at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 20th October 1979.
- FLOUNDER**, 4 lbs. 6½ ozs. caught by David Gray, 170 Clonkeen Crescent, Kill O'the Grange, Co. Dublin, at Ballyteigue, Co. Wexford on 21st August 1979.
- MACKEREL**, 4 lbs. 2 ozs. caught by Ulrich Plassmann, Kurstrasse 10, 1 Berlin 20, West Germany, at Ballycotton, Co. Cork on 18th September 1979.
- i) **PAINTED RAY**, 14.06 lbs. caught by William Ryan, 3 Raheen Avenue, Tallaght, Co. Dublin, at Doughmore Beach, Co. Clare on 7th July 1979.
- 5) **TOPE**, 66 lbs. 8 ozs. caught by Cyril Young, 8 Cairnmore Drive, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, N.I. in Carlingford Lough on 15th July 1979.

**CUCKOO WRASSE**, 1 lb. 11½ ozs. caught by Graeme Denny, 6 Gromen's Bridge Park, Dundonald, Co. Down, N.I. at Ballylumford, Larne, N.I. on 23rd September 1979.

# TEN PIN AWARD WINNERS

The following qualified in 1979 for the special award made to anglers who have ten or more specimen fish:—

John Foy, 73 Crantock Drive, Heald Green, Cheshire, England.  
Harry Garvin, 739 Farransee Park, Macosquin, Coleraine, Co. Derry.  
R. C. Kershaw, 52 Crestway, Roehampton, London, S.W. 15, England.

# SPECIAL AWARD

In 1976 the Committee decided to recognise the angling prowess of those anglers who have had authenticated claims for specimens of ten separate species of fish. Only three of these awards have been made to-date and those who qualified during 1979 are:—

Derek McLeister, 19 Lambeth Way, Coleraine, Co. Derry.

# 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, 1980, was won by:—

Pearse Ryan, Bonnfe View House, Strand Line, Kilkee, Co. Clare. for a Painted Ray weighing 11.24 lbs. taken at Doughmore Beach, Co. Clare, on 19th July, 1979.

# REVISED SPECIMEN WEIGHTS

For the 1980 season onwards the Committee has decided to reduce the specimen weight of Roach (*Rutilus rutilus*) from 2¼ lbs. to 2 lbs.

## BLACK SEA BREAM

A Black Sea Bream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*) weighing 3 lbs. was caught by Fred Cooper, 169 Queen Street, Ballymena, Co. Antrim, N.I. in Carnlough Bay on 21st July 1979. This species has been considered rare in Irish waters and there is no Specimen Fish category for it. However, we have been advised that it is more frequently taken than is suspected and the Committee would welcome details of any Black Sea Bream caught by anglers with a view to opening up a category for the species.

## METRIFICATION

As and from 1978 the schedule of specimen weights on the Specimen Fish Claim Form has given the weight in lbs. and ozs. and also in kilos and grammes. Claims will be accepted under either system until we eventually go metric altogether.

## COMMON SKATE

In the interest of conservation of the species, the Committee during 1976 decided to remove the Common Skate (*Raja batis*) from the list of eligible fishes for three years, i.e. 1977/79, and not to consider any claims whatsoever, except a possible new record (i.e. a fish weighing in excess of 221 lbs.) during the three-year period. The Committee has been delighted with the response to its appeal and it is gratifying to know that in most angling centres throughout the country, common skate are returned unharmed to the water. The situation came up for review at the Committee's final meeting for the year and it was decided to extend the ban for a further three-year period at the end of which it is hoped that the position will have further improved. The Committee in the meantime will keep the situation under annual review and looks forward to the continued co-operation of anglers in the conservation of the species.

## "SETTING UP" CLASSES

The Committee would like to get together a national collection of exceptionally big fish, and so, in the case of fish of or above the weights listed below, if the angler so wishes, the Committee will accept the fish for setting up as part of such national collection. Where a fish of marketable species is accepted by the Committee for setting up, the market value of the fish will be paid to the donor, if requested. Freight charges will also be paid by the Committee.

The following is a list of species (with minimum weights) which the Committee would like to receive for "setting up" :-  
COD (40 lbs.); CONGER (70 lbs.); JOHN DORY (7 lbs.); GREY MULLET (8 lbs.); POLLACK (16 lbs.); POUTING (4 lbs.); RED SEA BREAM (7 lbs.); SHAD ALLIS (5 lbs.); SHAD TWAITE (3 lbs.); PORBEAGLE SHARK (300 lbs.); MAKO SHARK (200 lbs.); WHITING (4½ lbs.); BALLAN WRASSE (9 lbs.); CUCKOO WRASSE (1½ lbs.).

## 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, 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1979.

	IRELAND	BRITAIN	GERMANY	NETHERLANDS	BELGIUM	FRANCE
1972	169	126	29	23	7	2
1973	135	91	23	40	9	5
1974	170	117	16	36	6	9
1975	204	132	46	27	3	5
1976	214	123	40	36	2	5
1977	272	135	35	47	4	4
1978	281	126	19	86	7	1
1979	235	26	18	52	6	3

## 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 1978 was made at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. The presentation for the 1979 awards will take place at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin, on Saturday, 9th February, 1980, 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 1978 in London, Sheffield, Leicester and Birmingham. It is hoped that similar presentations will be held early in 1979 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 1979 and it is hoped to make presentations to Continental anglers at suitable centres during 1980.

Our grateful thanks are due to Bord Fáilte Éireann (Irish Tourist Board) for making these presentations possible and to Aer Lingus (Irish Airlines) for their assistance during the year.

## ACCOUNTS

A statement of the Committee's accounts for the calendar year 1978 is given in this Report. The 1979 accounts will be audited early in 1980 and will be published in the next Report.

## HON. AUDITOR'S REPORT

We wish to thank all those whose consistent and much appreciated financial support has enabled the Irish Specimen Fish Committee to continue to promote angling and the awards scheme to anglers who catch record and specimen fish in Irish waters. However, as the 1978 Audit clearly illustrates the Irish Specimen Fish Committee is now in quite serious financial trouble due to ever increasing costs of travel, printing and other functions within its remit. Indeed were it not for the generosity of Bord Fáilte and Aer Lingus Teo., who came to our rescue by making large contributions towards the costs of travel expenses, our overdraft in the Bank on the 31st December 1978 would place the Committee very much deeper in debt on that date.

An organisation such as the Irish Specimen Fish Committee, which is voluntary and by its effort promotes so much of the revenue coming to this country from practically all types of

rod fishing, is deserving of very much stronger financial support, not from our regular supporters, but from all those business interests, hotels, transport organisations and gear and tackle shops, who derive financial benefit from its activities. If we are to continue with the good work achieved to date we must draw your attention to our urgent request that as many organisations as possible contribute to our funds. It is not much by present day standards that we seek, after all the 1978 budget was still under £2000. However in terms of cash flow from this £2000 we must be one of the best investments in the country. Therefore we make a special appeal for increased funds in 1980 which will enable us to clear out debt and to go forward with an even better programme for the promotion of rod angling in Ireland.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The transfer of the Department of Fisheries Laboratory to Abbottstown, Co. Dublin and the fact that there are no Saturday postal deliveries in Dublin caused difficulties during the year with fish sent for identification. In future all fish for identification must be sent to the Committee at Balnagowan House, Mobhi Boreen, Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. (Phone 379206). All correspondence should also be sent to this address.

Fish taken in Northern Ireland should be sent as heretofore to the 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 captors name and address date and place of capture and the weight of the fish.

#### 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:

Inland Fisheries Trust Inc; Bord Fáilte Éireann, Aer Lingus Teo (Irish Airlines); Moorkens Fishing & Shooting, 11 Upper Abbey St., Dublin 1, Cantherella Motel, Sneem, Co. Kerry; Irish Trout Fly Fishing Assoc.; Waterville Anglers Assoc.; Lanesboro/Ballyleague Tourist Development Association; Finn Valley Sea Anglers Club; Aghada S.A.C.; Ardmore S.A.C.; Aer Lingus S.A.C.; Argonaut S.A.C.; Belgard and District S.A.C.; Causeway Coast S.A.C.; Cork S.A.C.; Dunlaoire S.A.C.; Gweedore S.A.C.; Hammond Lane S.A.C.; Howth S.A.C.; Inchicore S.A.C.; Knights of the Silver Hook S.A.C.; Old Head S.A.C.; P.O.E.T.S. S.A.C.; Saltee S.A.C.; Strabane Deep Sea Anglers; The Borough S.A.C.; R. G. Adams, 26, Shandon Park, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland; Vincent Baker, Pakenhamhall St., Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath; E. Barker, 9, Silvermore Drive, Ravenfield, Rotherham, Yorks, England; James Bennett, Green Rd., Multyfarnham, Co. Westmeath; Thomas Brennan, 2, St. Patrick's Ave., Clondalkin, Co. Dublin; F.H.E. Buller, "Holytree", Woodlane, South Heath, Gt. Middenden, Bucks, England; Mr. Colm Campbell, 132, Deramore Ave., Belfast 7, Northern Ireland; P. G. Carberry, 23, Castle Rd., Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland; Robert Creber, 6, Glenthorn Mews, Glenthorn Estate, Dublin Hill, Cork; Patrick Cullen, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford; William Cunningham, Saleen, Cloyne, Co. Cork; James D'Art, 4, Hardiman Rd., Drumcondra, Dublin 9; Jim Dinnen, 22, Laburnum Pl., Coleraine, Co. Derry, Northern Ireland; P. F. Dore, St. Annes", Freshford Rd., Kilkenny; Damien Dunne, 180, La Fanu Rd., Ballyfermot, Dublin 10; W.J.K. Eakin, 59, Roddens Crescent, Belfast, Northern Ireland; J. Farrell, 137, Leinster Rd., Rathmines, Dublin 6; Michael Fennelly, 7, Spruce Tce., Lisduggan Estate, Waterford; John Foy, 73, Crantock Drive, Herald Green, Cheshire, England; R. J. Gregg, Central Stores, Sprucefield, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland; E. Harrison, 8, Lime St., Bradford, W. Yorkshire; George Higgins, 201, Lr. Bramiel Rd., Belfast, N. Ireland, Liam Holmes, Spools Hill, Cork Rd., Mallow, Co. Cork; Robert Hooper, 14, Brookwood Ave., Artane, Dublin 5; W. W. Jones, 65, Drumtara, Ballee, Ballymena, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland; P. A. Keen, 195, Brighton Rd., South Croydon, Surrey, England; C. Leckey, 113, Pond Park Rd., Lisburn, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland; Sir G. G. M. Leeds, Roche Bois, Mont Es Tours St. Aubin, Jersey, C.I.; D. J. Lynch, 6, Seaview Tce., Donnybrook, Dublin 4; Anthony McEvoy, 10, New Houses, Ballytruckle, Waterford; W. P. McGaughey, 1, Glenariffe Rd., Foriff, Cushendall, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland; W. McGonagle, 26, Marian Crescent, Ballina, Co. Mayo; N. J. McKirgan, 153, Clewenden Rd., Kelvindale, Glasgow, Scotland; Peter McLoone, 16, Danesfort Crescent, Derry, Northern Ireland; R. McMullan, 21, Dabreda Pk., Cushendall, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland; J. S. Mullan, 74, Main St., Portrush, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland; Dermot O'Brien, Gurrane, Jamesbrook, Middleton, Co. Cork; Karl O'Leary, 49, Gouldavoher, Dooradoyle, Limerick; John O'Shea, 6, Raphoe Rd., Crumlin, Dublin 12; Charles O'Sullivan, 50, Cahergal Lawn, St. Lukes, Cork; Paul Regan, 23, Mullaghmore Park, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland; Jac. Rigter, Cantherella, Motel, Sneem, Co. Kerry; Danny Rooney, Brian Ave., Marino; W. Ryan, 3, Raheen Park, Tallaght, Co. Dublin; J. M. Sarney, 22, Ewanway, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, England; M. P. Sheridan, The Hibernian House, 3, Main Street, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan; Michael Sloane, Old Griffin Farm, Wemslow Rd., Cheadle, Cheshire, England; David Eaton Smith, 15, Peebles Close, Lindley Pk., Huddersfield, Yorks, England; R. M. Smith, 90, Mansfield Rd., Clipstone, Nr. Mansfield, Notts., England; D. A. Spokes, 3, Avondale Rd., Highfield Pk., Galway; D. H. Stodart, 24, Benhilton Gdns., Sutton, Surrey, England; A. M. Toms, "Greenways", Pownall Ave., Bromhall, Cheshire, England; Philip Wesson, 145, Daton Ave., Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, England; Thomas Wren, La-Mer, Coast Road, Fountainstown, Co. Cork; Rudolf Zach, D 6078 Neu-Isenburg, Schillerstrasse, 46, West Germany.

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

A. E. J. WENT, Chairman.  
D. BRENNAN, Hon. Secretary.  
1st January, 1980.

**IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE**  
**EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE ACCOUNT 1st JANUARY      DECEMBER 1978**

1977	EXPENDITURE	1978	1977	REVENUE	1978
£648.26	Printing	£796.80	£195.57	Incoming Balance	
527.57	Medallions	47.50	—	GRANTS	
515.33	Travel	786.59	500.00	Inland Fisheries Trust	£500.00
45.50	Postage	—	500.00	Bord Failte	500.00
42.78	Miscellaneous	40.00	—	Ditto Towards Expenses	266.80
6.23	Bank Charges	26.55	—	SUBSCRIPTIONS	
				Angling Clubs	127.69
			126.65	Individual Donations	127.79
			162.90	Tourist Associations	—
			40.00	Miscellaneous	4.00
	Bank Overdraft	255.08	5.47	Bank Overdraft 31/12/78	425.74
			255.08		
£1785.67		£1952.52	£1785.67		£1952.52

We have examined all dockets, record books, lodgement and cheque books and certify that the accounts are correct.  
Signed :— C. P. O'Toole, F. A. Gibson.

**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 specimens 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.

# SPECIMEN SEA TROUT IN IRISH WATERS

by Eileen Twomey

The Irish Specimen Fish Committee was established in 1955. Sea trout of 6 lbs. and over are classified as specimens and the captors are the recipients of an award at the end of each year. All fish submitted to the Committee have to be accompanied by a set of scales in order to establish their authenticity.

A report by Went (1973) records all authenticated specimen sea trout between 1924 and 1973. The present report covers the period from 1974 to 1979 inclusive.

The Irish record rod caught fish is 14 lbs. 3 oz. This fish was taken in Achill in June 1973 by Dr. E. Bresnihan. Table 1 gives the weight and some lengths of sea trout taken by rod and line for the period 1974 to 1979. The heaviest recorded was a fish of 10 lbs. 9½ ozs. This fish was taken in the Shimna River, Northern Ireland, in October 1977.

Based on the length weight relationship a condition coefficient (designated K) was calculated for each of the fish where lengths and weights were supplied in accordance with Nall's scale for the condition coefficient in sea trout (Nall 1931). Due to the absence of length data it was possible only to calculate a condition coefficient (K) for twelve out of twenty-one of the specimen fish and of these seven had a "K" of less than unity which would suggest that the majority of the specimen fish were in poor condition. This could be associated with the fact that the major portion of the fish had three spawning marks in their scales and from the scales it was evident they spawned in successive years. This could attribute to the poor condition of the fish.

The Cumeragh System (including L. Currane and Derriana Lake) has provided more specimen fish in the period 1974-1979 than any other system. This is due to a very large extent to the diligence of the Waterville Angling Club. Also it has been recognised for some time that the sea trout in this system are the largest in the country - Went and Barker (1943) and Went (1944).

The majority of the specimen sea trout spent 2 years in freshwater before migrating to the sea and they spent from one to three years feeding in the sea before returning to spawn for the first time. All of the fish could be described as multiple spawners with the exception of two which had only spawned twice. Four of the specimen sea trout had five spawning marks on their scales and these fish spawned in successive years.

It can be seen from Table 1 that there is a wide range of age relative to the weight of the fish. The largest fish recorded (10 lbs. 9½ oz.) and the smallest fish (6 lbs. ½ oz.) were both a little over 6 years old. The oldest fish which was taken in Doolough, Co. Mayo was 11 years and weighed 8 lbs.

## REFERENCES

Reports of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Nall, G. H. 1930                            | The Life of Sea Trout<br>Sully Service & Co. Ltd., London.  |
| Went, A.E.J. and<br>Sankey Barker T. (1943) | Salmon and Sea Trout of the Waterville<br>(Currane) River. Scient. Proc. R.D.S.<br>Vol. 23 No. 9. |
| Went, A.E.J. (1944)                         | Sea Trout of Waterville<br>(Currane) River, Scient. Proc. R.D.S.<br>Vol. 23 No. 20.               |

TABLE 1 Details of specimen sea trout taken on rod and line in Irish waters, (1974-79)  
(Arranged in order of weights downwards)

Where Caught	Weight lbs. ozs.	Length ins.	K	Date of Capture	Freshwater Years	Scale Reading Initial period in sea years	No. or spawning Marks	Age in years
Shimna River	10 9½	30.5	0.89	25/10/77	1	2	3	6
L. Currane	8 11			5/9/74	2	3	3	8
Tawnyard Lake	8 2			28/7/74	3	2	5	10
Doolough	8 0	25.25	1.16	25/8/77	3	3	5	11
L. Currane	7 14½			23/6/78	2	1	5	8
L. Currane	7 10½			9/4/79	2	2	3	7
Dun Laoghaire Pier	7 2	28.5	0.72	15/6/74	2	1	3	6
Tawnyard Lake	7 2	25.0	1.06	10/10/75	3	3	3	9
L. Currane	7 1	24.9	1.00	25/7/79	2	1	3	6
L. Currane	6 14½			2/6/79	3	2	3	8
L. Currane	6 13	25.0	1.03	2/6/78	2	2	3	7
L. Currane	6 12			2/9/79	3	1	5	9
L. Currane	6 11			2/7/78	2	2	3	8
L. Currane	6 9½	27.0	0.78	13/9/78	3	1	4	7
L. Currane	6 6½			6/3/79	2	2	3	7
L. Currane	6 4½	25.4	0.88	8/6/78	2	3	1	
Beach Achill	6 3	24	1.05	8/6/74	2	2		
L. Currane	6 2	24.6	0.98	9/8/78	2	2	4	8
L. Currane	6 2			30/5/79	2	2	3	7
Margy River	6 1	25.4	0.83	13/10/74	Replacement scales only			
L. Currane	6 ½	25.5	0.84	23/8/79				6



# TOPE, *Galeorhinus galeus* (L), MIGRATIONS FROM IRISH COASTAL WATERS AND NOTES ON IRISH SPECIMENS

by P. FITZMAURICE

## INTRODUCTION

Tope, unlike Blue, Porbeagle and Mako sharks, which are found on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, are confined to the eastern Atlantic. They are distributed from Iceland in the north to at least as far south as the Azores Islands and the Gran Canaria Islands. In other parts of the world, close relatives of *G. galeus* exist and occupy a similar ecological niche to that of the tope. Off the west coast of North America, *G. zyopterus*, the soupfin shark, is found ranging from British Columbia southwards to southern California (Lineaweaver and Backus 1970). In Australian waters, *G. australis*, the Australian school shark, was exploited as a food source and South African waters have another *Galeorhinus* sp., called locally soupfin shark or *Vaalhall* (Davies 1965) which is fairly common. In the opinion of some authors, a number of the *Galeorhinus* spp. are synonymous. (Bigelow, Farfante and Schroeder 1948).

## BIOLOGY

Wheeler (1969) states that tope are found over gravel and sand bottoms up to depths of 30 fathoms and that they are rather solitary shallow-water species, but occasionally they occur in small shoals. Davies (1969) states that *Galeorhinus* forms unisexual shoals. In Irish waters, they occur close inshore in depths as shallow as 1 metre and are commonly captured in the months of April to October inclusive. Wheeler (1969) suggested that in winter "there is evidence of an offshore migration, which may, however, be no more than a following of the shoals of food fish offshore".

The species and its close relatives appear to be long-lived and slow growing. *G. australis* can live to be at least 32 years old (Davies 1965). Lineaweaver and Backus (1970) say that the smallest mature female would be 10 years old. The growth rate for the species is sex differentiated; females are believed to grow to about 2 metres and weigh 100 lbs., whilst males grow to 1.85 metres and weigh 60 lbs.

The females are viviparous with 20—40 young being born (Jenkins 1958). The average number of pups is in the region of 28—30. The number of pups produced is dependant on the size and length of the female. The length of these pups at birth range from 11—14 inches (Lineaweaver and Backus 1970). So far, the smallest recorded tope in Irish waters measured 19 ins. It appears that the gestation period lasts for approximately one year and the female produces a brood every other year.

This means that only half the female population is capable of producing young every year.

According to Wheeler (1969) the food of tope is mainly fish. Species such as codling, whiting and pouting are eaten. Bottom living fish such as dabs, sole, flounder and dragonets are also taken and on occasion, crustaceans and echinoderms have been found in their stomachs.

## TAGGING

Tope are an important angling fish and over the past 10 to 15 years there has been ever increasing angling pressure on the species. Around the late 1960's, anglers were complaining that the numbers of tope being caught were declining and results from angling competitions seemed to bear this out. As a result of this information, the Inland Fisheries Trust initiated a research programme into the migration of tope around the Irish Coast.

From the beginning, tag selection and type was reckoned to be a very important factor in the whole operation. Davies and Joubert (1967) evaluated a range of tags, and from their evaluation, it was decided to use Jumbo Rototags. The major considerations which favoured this type of tag were:— (a) its large size and thus easier to see, (b) it was large enough to carry a full name and address and (c) its ease of application. It was gratifying to note that the correct decision was taken on tag selection judging by the results obtained by Holden and Harrod (1979) who compared Rototags with Petersen Discs. They found that returns of Rototags were far greater than those of Petersen Discs.

Little is known about tag loss or mortality of tope due to tagging. All fish which were tagged were caught on rod and line and brought to the boat as quickly as possible in order that the fish would not be completely exhausted. Only fish which were thought to have a 100% chance of survival were tagged and then released.

Davies and Joubert (1967) have noted tag shedding in dusky sharks (*Carcharhinus obscurus*) and they also state that set nets along the coast are inclined to foul the tags and rip them out of the fins.

TABLE 1 Number of tope tagged in any year

NO. OF TOPE TAGGED PER YEAR										
1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	TOTAL
8	3	37	43	41	36	4	7	56	81	316

TABLE 2 Length frequency distribution of tagged tope

16-20"	21-25"	26-30"	31-35"	36-40"	41-45"	46-50"	51-55"	56-60"	61-65"	66-70"
3	11	9	8	6	16	48	61	60	7	1

TABLE 3 List of tagging locations around the Irish coast with the number of tope tagged in each locality

Location	No.	Location	No.
Tralee Bay	173	Clare Coast	8
Killala Bay	32	Galway Bay	6
Donegal Bay	21	Clifden	6
Wexford Coast	12	North Donegal	4
Clew Bay	11	Belmullet	3
Cromane	10	Castletownshend	1

This could easily happen under Irish conditions where salmon netting is carried out. Davies (1965) further states that in tank experiments with *G. australis*, the tags were bitten off.

Tagging commenced in 1970 and to-date (November 1979) a total of 316 tope have been tagged covering a size range of 19—66 inches. The number of fish tagged per year and the length frequency distribution of tagged fish are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

The location of tagging stations together with the number of tope tagged are shown in Table 3.

Tagging was carried out mainly by the skippers of charter vessels and as a result the information collected was not always complete. Data on sexing of the fish is incomplete. However, out of 127 fish which were sexed, 94 were males and 33 were females.

## RESULTS OF TAGGING

Up until the end of November, 1979 a total of 19 recaptures have been recorded. One of these recaptures is a fish which had been recaptured twice. The movements of tope captured in or close to Irish coastal waters are shown in Figure 1, whilst long distance movements are shown in Figure 2. Details of the individual recaptures which includes place and date of tagging, recapture location, number of days at liberty, distance travelled and relevant observations are shown in Table 4. The fish number in Table 4 refers to the numbers shown in Figures 1 and 2.

On examination of the recapture details, it can be seen that from the long distance recaptures, there is a distinct pattern of southerly migration. However, some of the recaptures in Irish waters (Fish numbers 13, 14 and 18) show a northerly migration pattern.

A clear cut picture does not emerge from the migration patterns of the Irish tope. This may also be said of tope tagged off the British coasts (Holden and Harrod 1979).

Some Irish tope have been recaptured close to the point of release and up to two years after tagging. One of these (fish 10 and 17 in Table 4) was recaptured only 4 miles from the point of

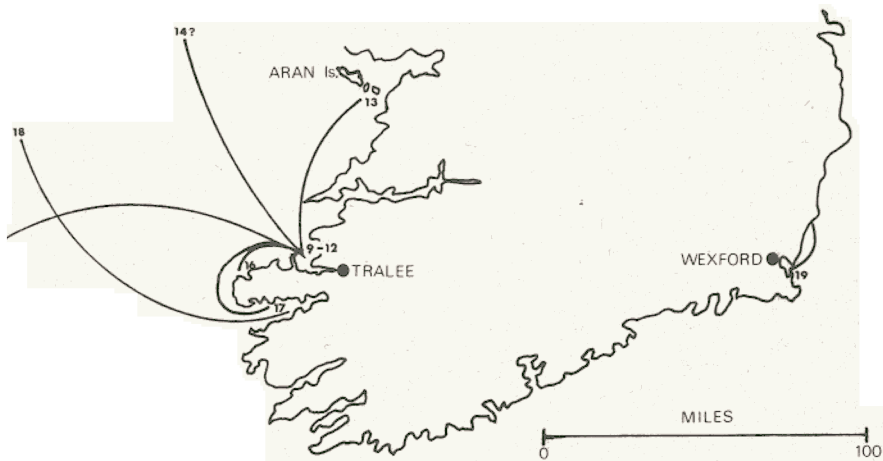


Fig. 1 Recaptures of tope taken near the Irish coast. Numbers on map refer to Table 4.

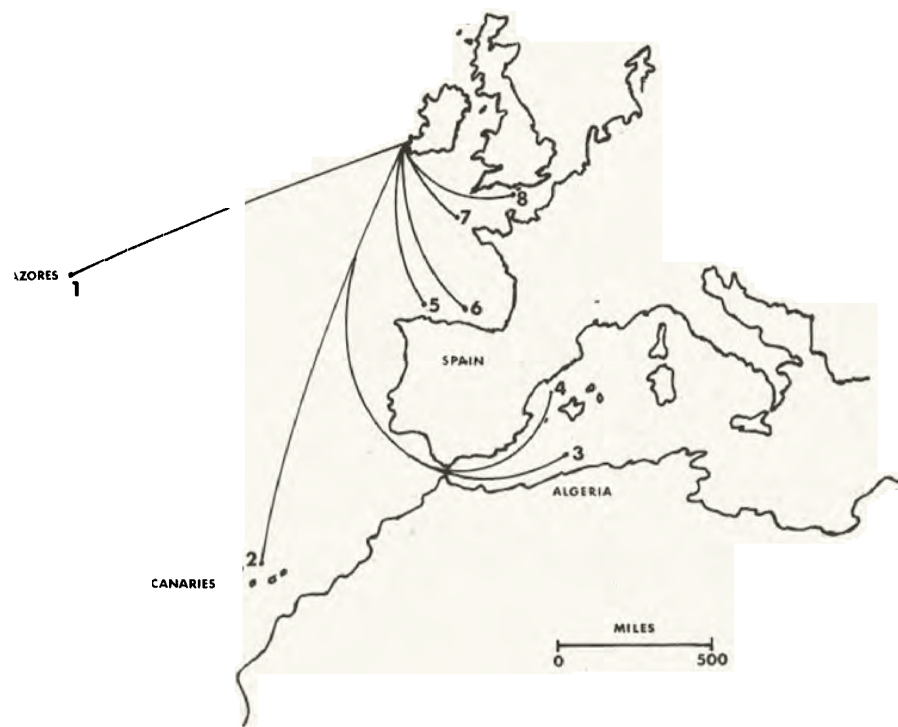


Fig. 2 Long distance recaptures of tope. Numbers on map refer to Table 4.

release after 405 days at liberty. It was re-released and caught 405 days later only 52 miles from the original place of tagging. This could mean that the fish stayed in Irish waters during the whole of that period or it could have migrated south and came back again twice during that period. Alternatively, tope when they reach a certain stage in their life history could migrate southwards and not return to our waters.

It would appear that the only solution to these suggestions would be a tagging operation similar to our own in areas such as the Spanish coasts (Atlantic and Mediterranean), the Gran Canaria Islands and the Azores Islands.

Tope tagged off the Irish coast have been recaptured off the Porcupine Bank, the Azores Islands, Gran Canaria Islands, the Algerian and Spanish coasts in the Mediterranean Sea, the north Spanish coast in the Bay of Biscay, off the north-west French coast and off the Isle of Wight. Foreign recaptures from fish tagged off the British coast were taken off the southwest of Ireland, the north and west coasts of France, north coast of Spain, off Portugal, the Atlantic coast of Morocco and the Gran Canaria Islands (Holden and Harrod 1979).

The greatest distance travelled by a tope (Fish No. 4) tagged in Irish water was approximately 1,900 miles. This fish was at liberty for 1,545 days. So far, one fish recaptured off Tenerife spent 1,825 days at liberty (Fish 2). This is the longest time that a tope has been at liberty. Holden and Harrod (1979) had a fish recaptured after 3,962 days, whilst Davies (1965) reported that for *G. australis*, an interval of 14 years has been reported.

### EXPLOITATION

To-date the percentage returns for Irish tope is 6%. This must be regarded as a minimum figure. The average period at liberty for Irish tope is 810 days and as we are currently tagging, the expected returns for the years to come could easily bring the percentages up to 12%. This figure appears to represent an extraordinarily high exploitation rate for a species which certainly in our waters is not commercially exploited. The proposed 12% could even be higher, because all tag losses and mortality due to tagging are not taken into account. There is also the possibility that some tags are not returned by the captors.

In the past, particularly during and immediately after World War II, *Galeorhinus* spp. were heavily exploited for food and for the Vitamin A content of their livers. However, with synthetic production of Vitamin A, pressure was taken off the fishery (Davies 1965). Lineaweaver and Backus (1970) state that in the mid 1940's *G. australis* was important as a food fish but that stocks were declining. Subsequent tagging operations produced only a 4% recapture rate. This indicates that the species is very susceptible to undue exploitation.

Davies (1965) shows categorically that in South Africa and Australia, it is possible to reduce the shark population drastically by netting beaches. There is a lesson here for our tope angling areas. We should be careful to return alive as many tope as possible. Thankfully, with the introduction of tagging, most angling centres are co-operating in the programme and are releasing the tope.

### SPECIMEN TOPE

Went (1974) gave details of Irish Specimen tope for the years 1959 to 1973 inclusive and it is opportune to bring this data up to date. Between 1959 and 1979 inclusive, 101 specimen tope have been accepted by the Irish Specimen Fish Committee. an average of 5 specimens per year. The actual numbers recorded per year are indicated in Figure 3. This shows that the numbers recorded each year fluctuates greatly. 1964, 1968 and 1975 with 12, 13 and 8 specimens respectively being recorded were well above average years for specimen tope. In 1960, 1974 and 1978, only 1 specimen each year was recorded.

The angling season for specimens ranges from April to November inclusive, with August and September being the best months (28 and 25 specimens being recorded respectively). Details of the breakdown by months of the specimens caught are indicated in Table 5.

TABLE 5 Number of specimen tope landed on a monthly basis

April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
2	9	12	18	28	25	5	2

The average weight of a specimen tope is 45 lbs. 3 ozs. Out of the 101 specimens recorded since 1959, details on sex are available for only 58 fish. Out of these 58 fish, 40 were females and 18 were males. The average weight of males was 42 lbs. 9 ozs. and of females, 47 lbs. 6 ozs. The average length of the males was 61½ inches and of the females 59½ inches, showing that the females weigh

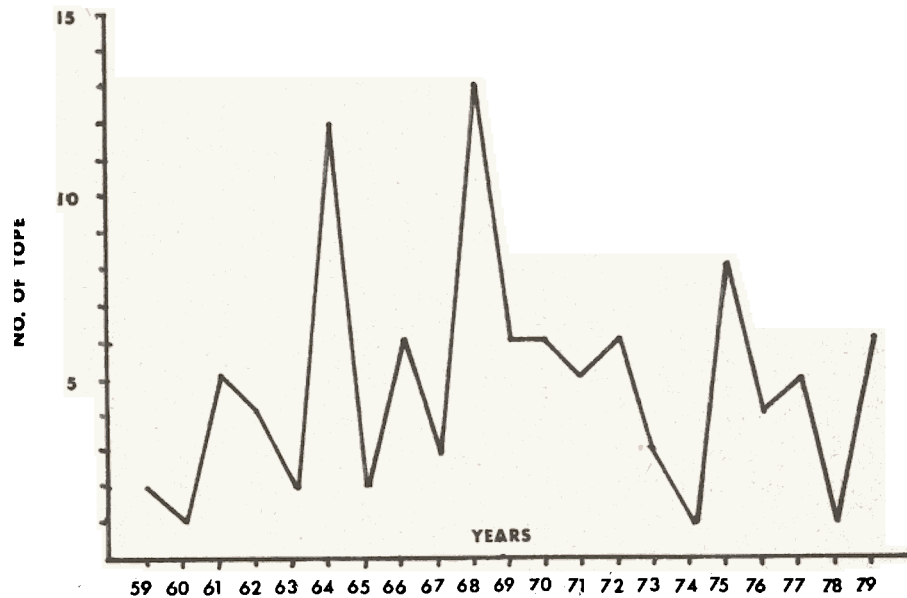
TABLE 4 Details of all recaptured tope.

Tope No.	Place Tagged	Date	Place Recaptured	Days at Liberty	Miles Travelled	Observations
1	N. W. Mutton Isl Co. Clare	7.8.70	3 Miles N. of Santa Maria, Azores	984	1,200	Female
2	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	29.7.72	Tenerife	1,825	1,600	Caught in gill net 85 metres deep put on 10.93 kilos approx.
3	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	18.8.74	Off coast of Algeria	294	1,750	
4	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	18.8.74	Gulf of Valencia	1,545	1,900	Put on 3.63 kilos approx.
5	N. W. Green Isl. Co. Clare	18.9.70	Off San Caprian N. W. Spain	814	700	Grew 32 cm.
6	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	20.6.75	Figueras, Asturias Bay of Biscay	1,460	630	
7	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	20.7.73	49° 47'N - 7° 40'W	499	280	Grew 10 cm female
8	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	19.6.79	11 miles S. of Isle of Wight	100	550	Trawled
9	1 Mile N. of Brandon, Co. Kerry	21.8.73	Fenit Island			Tag found on shore Dec. 1974
10	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	20.6.75	2½ Miles W.N.W. Fenit Lighthouse	405	4	Grew 7½ cm. Released again *
	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	1.7.72	Fenit Island			Tag found on shore 24.7.76 (female)
12	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	1.8.74	Derrymore Island			Tag found on shore 12.9.76
13	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	18.6.75	South of Inisheer	113	58	
14	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	29.7.72	West of Ireland	1,373		Caught in trawl
15	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	3.8.78	52° 15'N - 14° 13'W	216	210	Taken by Spanish trawler in 210 fathoms
16	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	1.8.75	Smerwick Harbour	768	22	
17	Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry	20.6.75		810	52	This is the second recapture *
18	Cromane, Co. Kerry	14.6.73	52° 40'N - 12° 37'W	1,405	150	Taken by Spanish trawler working in 220 fathoms
	Blackwater, Co. Wexford	25.7.75	Wexford Harbour	349	8	Caught in Salmon net

\* Indicates a tope which was recaptured twice.



#### DETAILS OF THE ANNUAL NUMBERS OF SPECIMEN TOPE



3 Details of annual number of Specimen tope recorded by the Irish Specimen Fish Committee.

heavier at a given length.

In 1955 an Irish Record tope of 56 lbs. was captured. This fish was caught before the Irish Specimen Fish Committee was formed. By 1961, the record rose to 60 lbs. and in 1968, this weight was pushed to 60 lbs. 12 ozs. This year (1979) a new record has been established at 66 lbs. 8 ozs.

The localities producing specimen tope are listed by Went (1974). To date, there has been no significant changes in the localities or in the proportion of specimens caught in these localities. Strangford Lough with 19 still leads the list, followed by Fenit 10; Carlingford Lough, Clew Bay, Greystones and Lough Swilly vie for third position with six specimens each.

#### LENGTH/WEIGHT RELATIONSHIP

Details of the relationship between length of fish in inches and weight in pounds for males and females are indicated in Figure 4. Unfortunately, there was insufficient data to process males and females separately but on the limited data available, males are longer for a specific weight than females. There is a paucity of information on tope of sub specimen size. However, there is ample data on fish above specimen size (40 lbs.).

At any given length, there is an enormous difference in weight, e.g. a tope 55 inches long can weigh as little as 20 lbs. and as much as 60 lbs. Put in terms of weight, a 40 lbs. tope could range in length between 51½ inches and 65 inches. Obviously the condition factor must be taken into account in the length versus weight relationship. In mature females, the presence of young (up to 40 pups) would make an enormous difference to the overall weight of a female. This in some cases would account for the large spread of weight for any particular length of fish as shown in Figure 4.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who co-operated in the tagging programme. Special thanks are due to Albert Locke of Fenit for the large numbers of tope tagged by him in that area. Thanks are also due to Jimmy Byrne of Enniscrone, Gus Mulligan, Cyril Conroy

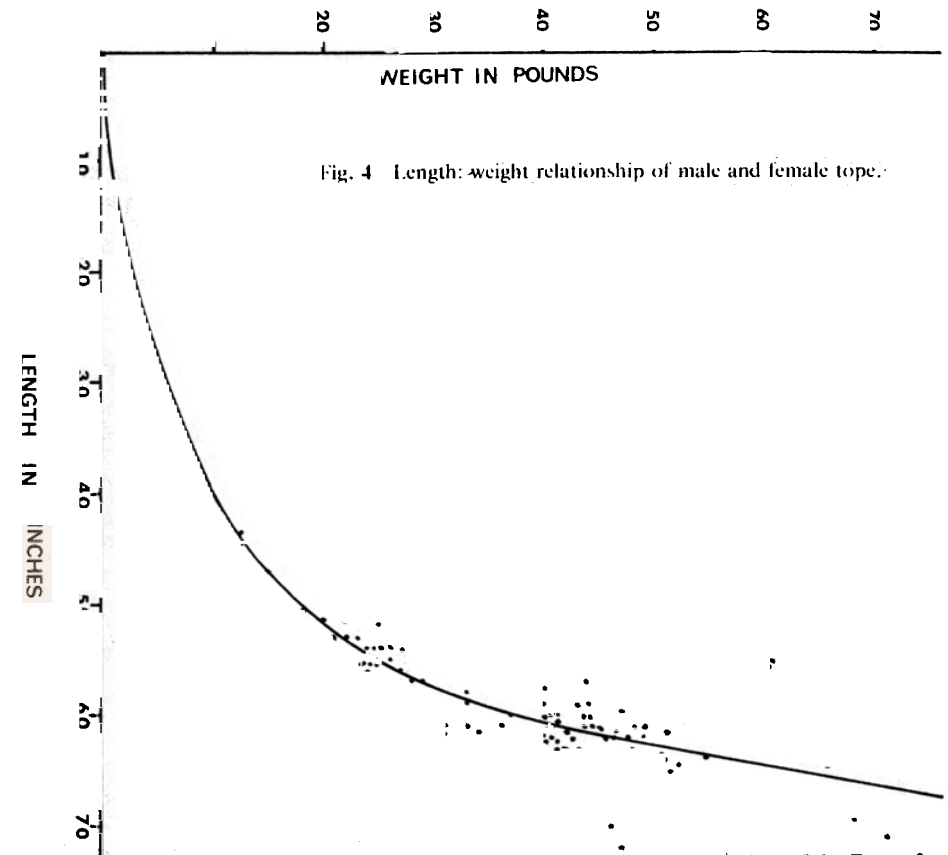


Fig. 4 Length: weight relationship of male and female tope.

and Carly Buchanan of Donegal; Patrick Nolan of Raheny; Paddy Farrell of Galway; John Ryan of Clifden; Westport S.A.C., and the staff of the Inland Fisheries Trust. The author's gratitude extends to those anglers who readily assisted in the tagging operations.

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# 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
Brown Trout (River)	20 0	22.2.1957	R. Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place
Brown Trout (Lake)	26 2	15.7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Meares
Bream	11 12	1882	River Blackwater (Monaghan)	A. Pike
Carp	18 12	6.6.1958	Abbey Lake	John Roberts
Dace	1 2	8.8.1966	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	John T. Henry
Perch	5 8	1946	Lough Erne	S. Drum
Pike (River)	42 0	22.3.1964	River Barrow	M. Watkins
Pike (Lake)	38 2	25.2.1973	Lough Corrib	Brendan Hardiman
Roach	2 13½	11.8.1970	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	Lawrie Robinson
Rudd	3 1	27.6.1959	Kilglass Lake	A. E. Biddlecombe
Rudd/Bream	5 13½	12.4.1975	R. Shannon, Lanesboro	P. J. Dighton
Hybrid				
Tench	7 13½	25.5.1971	R. Shannon, Lanesboro	Raymond Webb
River Eel	6 15	12.6.1979	L. Droumenisa, Bantry	J. Murnane

## Marine Species

Species	Weight lb. oz.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Angler Fish	71 8	5.7.1964	Cork Harbour	Ml. Fitzgerald
Bass	17 1½	27.4.1977	Whiting Bay, Ardmore	Malcolm Tucker
Black Sole	3 10	19.10.1970	Woodstown Strand, Waterford	R. W. Nicholson
Coalfish	24 7	26.8.1967	Kinsale	J. E. Hornibrook
Cod	42 0	1921	Ballycotton	I. L. Stewart
Conger	72 0	June 1914	Valentia	J. Green
Dab	1 13½	20.10.1979	Ballycotton	P. Curtin
Spur Dogfish	18 12	10.9.1977	Bantry	John Murnane
Greater Spotted Dogfish	21 4	13.9.1975	Malin, Co. Donegal	Drew Alexander
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	3 13	1.10.1978	Belfast Lough	Edward Reid
Flounder	4 6½	21.8.1979	Ballyteigue, Co. Wexford.	David Gray
Garfish	3 10½	16.9.1967	Kinsale	Evan Bazzard
Hub Gurnard	12 3½	8.8.1973	Bullsmouth, Achill	Robert Seaman
Grey Gurnard	3 1	21.9.1967	Rosslare Bay	Brendan Walsh
Red Gurnard	3 9½	17.7.1968	Belmullet	James Prescott
Haddock	10 13½	15.7.1964	Kinsale	F. A. E. Bull
Hake	25 5½	28.4.1962	Belfast Lough	H. W. Steele
Halibut	156	23.7.1972	Belmullet	Frank Brogan
Ling	46 8	26.7.1965	Kinsale	A. J. C. Bull
John Dory	7 1	5.9.1970	Tory Island, Donegal	Stanley Morrow
Mackerel	4 2	18.9.1979	Ballycotton	Ulrich Plassmann
Monkfish	59 0	1.7.1958	Co. Cork, Clew Bay, Westport	Michael Fuchs

Species	Weight lb. oz.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Grey Mullet	7 12	7.9.1975	Brittas Bay	Colm Quinn
Plaice	7 2½	27.5.1973	Youghal	Cecil Pratt
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
Blonde Ray	36 8	9.9.1964	Cork Harbour	D. Minchin
Sting Ray	51 0	8.8.1970	Fenit, Co. Kerry	John White
Cuckoo Ray	5 11	3.8.1975	Causeway Coast	V. Morrison
Undulate Ray	18	11.6.1977	Fenit	Ann-Mari Liedecke
Homelyn Ray	7 7½	7.7.1976	Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal	John Kerr
Painted Ray	14 06	7.7.1979	Doughmore Beach, Co. Clare	William Ryan
Ray's Bream	6 4½	26.8.78	Valentia	Martin Sarney
Red Sea Bream	9 6	24.8.1963	Valentia	P. Maguire
Porbeagle Shark	365	1932	Keem Bay, Achill	Dr. O'Donel Brown
Blue Shark	206	7.10.1959	Achill Head	J. McMonagle
Six Gilled Shark	154 0	28.8.1968	Kinsale	Andrew Bull
Common Skate	221	1913	Ballycotton	T. Tucker
White Skate	165	7.8.1966	Clew Bay, Westport	Jack Stack
Tope	66 8	15.7.1979	Carlingford Lough	Cyril Young
Turbot	26 8	1915	Valentia	J. F. Eldridge
Whiting	4 8½	4.8.1969	Kinsale	Eddie Boyle
Ballan Wrasse	7 8½	26.7.64	Killybegs	A. J. King
Cuckoo Wrasse	1 11½	23.9.1979	Larne	Graeme Denny

## SCHEDULE (1980)

### SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS (REVISED)

FRESHWATER FISH	IRISH RECORD lb. oz.	SPECIMEN lb.	WEIGHT kilos.
Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	57 0	25	11.339
Sea Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	14 3	6	2.721
Brown Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> ) (river)	20 0	5	2.268
Brown Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> ) (Lake)	26 2	10	4.536
Slob trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	—	10	4.536
Bream ( <i>Abramis brama</i> )	11 12	7½	3.402
Carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> )	18 12	10	4.536
Dace ( <i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i> )	1 2	1	.454
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	5 8	3	1.361
Pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> ) (Lake)	38 2	30	13.608
Pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> ) (River)	42 0	20	9.072
Roach ( <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> )	2 13½	2	1.021
Rudd ( <i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i> )	3 1	2½	1.021
Rudd Bream hybrid	5 13½	3	1.361
Roach/Bream hybrid	—	3	1.361
Tench ( <i>Tinca tinca</i> )	7 13½	6	2.721
Eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	6 15	3	1.361
SEA FISH			
Angler fish ( <i>Lopbuis piscatorius</i> )	71 8	40	18.144
Bass ( <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> )	17 1½	10	4.536
Black sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> )	3 10	2	.907
Brill ( <i>Scophthalmus Rhombus</i> )	—	8	3.629
Coalfish ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )	24 7	15	6.804
Cod ( <i>Gadus morbus</i> )	42 0	25	11.340
Conger ( <i>Conger conger</i> )	72 0	40	18.144
Dab ( <i>Limanda limanda</i> )	1 13½	1½	.680

	IRISH record	SPECIMEN	WEIGHT
	lb. oz.	lb.	kilos.
Dogfish—Spur ( <i>Squalus acanthias</i> )	18 0	12	5.443
—Lesser Spotted ( <i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i> )	3 13	3½	1.475
—Greater spotted ( <i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i> )	21 4	16	7.257
Flounder ( <i>Platichthys flesus</i> )	4 6½	2½	1.134
Garfish ( <i>Belone bellone</i> )	3 10½	2½	1.134
Gurnard — tub ( <i>Trigla lucerna</i> )	12 3½	5	2.268
— grey ( <i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i> )	3 1	1½	.680
— red ( <i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i> )	3 9½	2	.907
Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> )	10 13½	7	3.175
Hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> )	25 5½	10	4.536
Halibut ( <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i> )	156 0	50	22.680
Herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> )	—	¾	.340
John Dory ( <i>Zeus faber</i> )	7 1	4	1.814
Ling ( <i>Molva molva</i> )	46 8	25	11.340
Mackerel ( <i>Scomber scombrus</i> )	4 2	2½	1.134
Megrim ( <i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i> )	—	3	1.361
Monkfish ( <i>Squatina squatina</i> )	69 0	50	22.680
Mullet—Grey, thick lipped ( <i>Crenimugil labrosus</i> )	7 12	5	2.268
—Red ( <i>Mullus surmuletus</i> )	—	1	.454
Plaice—( <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> )	7 2½	4	1.814
Pollack—( <i>Pollachius pollachius</i> )	19 3	12	5.443
Pouting ( <i>Trisopterus luscus</i> )	4 10	3	1.361
Ray — Thornback ( <i>Raja clavata</i> )	37 0	20	9.072
— Blonde ( <i>Raja brachyura</i> )	36 8	25	11.340
— Cuckoo ( <i>Raja naevus</i> )	5 11	4½	2.041
— Electric ( <i>Torpedo nobiliana</i> )	—	20	9.072
— Homelyn ( <i>Raja montagui</i> )	7 7½	5	2.268
— Undulate ( <i>Raja undulata</i> )	18	14	6.350
— Painted ( <i>Raja microcellata</i> )	14 06	10	4.536
— Sting ( <i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i> )	51	30	13.608
Ray's Bream ( <i>Brama brama</i> )	6 0	5	2.268
Red Sea Bream ( <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> )	9 6	4½	2.041
Scad ( <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> )	—	2	.907
Shad — Allis ( <i>Alosa alosa</i> )	—	4	1.814
— Twaite ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> )	—	1½	.680
Shark — Porbeagle ( <i>Lamna nasus</i> )	365 0	150	68.038
— Blue ( <i>Prionace glauca</i> )	206 0	100	45.359
— Thresher ( <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> )	—	120	54.431
— Mako ( <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> )	—	200	90.718
— Six-Gilled ( <i>Hexanchus griseus</i> )	154	100	45.359
Skate — Common ( <i>Raja batis</i> )	221 0	suspended	
— White ( <i>Raja alba</i> )	165 0	120	54.431
— Long Nose ( <i>Raja oxyrinchus</i> )	—	80	36.287
Stone Basse ( <i>Polyprion americanus</i> )	—	8	3.628
Tope ( <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> )	66 8	40	18.144
Tunny ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> )	—	100	45.359
Turbot ( <i>Scophthalmus maximus</i> )	26 8	18	8.165
Whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> )	4 8½	3	1.361
Wrasse Ballan ( <i>Labrus bergylta</i> )	7 6	4½	2.041
Wrasse Cuckoo ( <i>Labrus mixtus</i> )	1 11½	1¼	.567

Scientific names in accordance with the "List of Irish Fishes (Third edition, 1976) 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).

## RULES

### PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- (1) IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE. This Committee consists of representatives of the Irish Angling Federations and the Government Departments and official organisations interested in angling. Its object is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large fish on rod and line in Irish waters. A list of Specimen Fish is published annually by the Committee. Only fish which can be fully vouched for as to weight and species can be accepted and listed by the Committee.
- (2) FAIR ANGLING. "Fair Angling" means any legitimate method of angling with rod and reel which is recognised as a fair and sporting method. A fish must be hooked in or in the immediate vicinity of the mouth when it has taken the bait or lure; fish which have been foul-hooked, even accidentally, are not eligible. A fish in respect of which a claim is made must be hooked, played and brought to gaff or net by the angler UN-AIDED, though the fish may be gaffed or netted by another, and it is permissible for the person using the gaff to take hold of the trace or doubled line (in the case of big game fishing) to steady the fish when it has been played out and brought within reach. Breakage of rod, reel or line, or alteration or substitution of tackle, while a fish is being played, disqualify it for claim or record purposes. A fish may not be shot, lanced, clubbed or harpooned before landing. Claims for fish caught during the statutory close season for the species (where this applies) cannot be accepted.
- (3) WEIGHING: Fish must be weighed in the presence of independent, reliable witnesses on a properly certified scales, e.g., a shop scales or an official club scales which is covered by a certificate from the local Weights and Measures Officer. Claims cannot be accepted in respect of fish weighed on uncertified scales, e.g., anglers' spring balances or in respect of fish weighed on scales inappropriate to the size of the fish, e.g., fish in the 2 to 5 lb. range weighed on balances weighing up to 100 lb. or over and graduated in large divisions. Claims cannot be accepted in the case of fish which have been weighed on board a boat.
- (4) IDENTIFICATION. The identification of a fish must be fully documented where there is a possibility of its confusion with any other (and particularly larger) species. For this reason the Committee in respect of some species insists on scales from the fish, close up photographs or the actual body as actual proof of identification before it will consider claims. Scales must be submitted in respect of claims for SALMON, SEA TROUT, BROWN TROUT (including SLOB TROUT). Any brown trout taken in tidal waters, i.e., in the sea or in an estuary below the freshwater boundary as defined for that river will be regarded for claim purposes as a slob trout. About 50 scales scraped from each shoulder of the fish should be sent with the claim.

The fish itself should be forwarded for identification to the Irish Specimen Fish Committee, Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, in the case of fish taken in the Republic of Ireland, and to the Fisheries Laboratory, The Cutts, Coleraine, N.I., in the case of fish taken in Northern Ireland.

The actual body must be forwarded for identification in the case of the following species — DACE, RUDD, ROACH, RUDD BREAM HYBRID, ROACH BREAM HYBRID, MACKEREL, WRASSE, SCAD, HERRING, SHAD, FLOUNDER, DAB, BRILL, MEGRIM, GURNARDS, GREY MULLET, ANGLER FISH, LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH, RAYS BREAM, and "RIVER" eels taken in tidal waters.

CLEAR, SHARP, CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHS, showing the entire fish with its fins and other features easily seen, and not fore-shortened or obscured by shadows or by-standers, must be provided in the case of:—

#### TOPE, SHARKS, SKATE, RAYS, MONKFISH, POLLACK, COALFISH.

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



- (5) "SETTING UP" CLASSES. The Committee would like to get together a national collection of exceptionally big fish, and so, in the case of fish of or above the weights listed below, if the angler so wishes, the Committee will accept the fish to setting up as part of such national collection. Where a fish of marketable species is accepted by the Committee for setting up, the market-value of the fish will be paid to the donor, if requested. Freight charges will also be paid by the Committee.

The following is a list of species (with minimum weights) which the Committee would like to receive for "setting up":—

COD (40 lbs.); CONGER (70 lbs.); JOHN DORY (7 lbs.); GREY MULLET (8 lbs.); POLLACK (16 lbs.); POUTING (4 lbs.); RED SEA BREAM (7 lbs.); ALLIS SHAD (5 lbs.); TWAITE SHAD (3 lbs.); PORBEAGLE SHARK (300 lbs.); MAKO SHARK (200 lbs.); WHITING (4½ lbs.); BALLAN WRASSE (9 lbs.); CUCKOO WRASSE (1½ lbs.)

- (6) SENDING FISH TO COMMITTEE:

- Please (1) Notify Committee when a fish is being sent in for identification or setting up (telephone Dublin 379206).  
(2) Do not send fish on their travels before Bank Holidays or week-ends; (keep in a cold store if fish cannot be delivered quickly on or before Friday afternoon).  
(3) Please attach a label to each fish forwarded for identification giving the captor's name and address, date and place of capture and the weight of the fish.  
(4) Fish (except small examples which have been previously soaked in formalin for at least 12 hours) should not be sent in polythene bags or wrapped in aluminium foil as this causes very rapid decomposition. They should be wrapped first in greaseproof paper and then in newspaper and brown paper.

- (7) AWARDS. Anglers whose claims have been accepted by the Committee will be awarded special 'Merit Badges' in the case of Specimen Fish, and Silver Medals in the case of Record Fish. Specimen Fish Certificates will also be issued in respect of all ratified claims. Special badges are also awarded to anglers who have captured ten or more specimen fish, special medals to anglers who have caught specimens of ten different species, and special badges are issued each year for fish of exceptional merit though not of record size.

**\*IMPORTANT** — Correspondence to Balnagown House, Mobhi Boreen, Mobhi Rd., Glasnevin Dublin 9 (phone 379206). FISH should be sent to Balnagown House, Mobhi Boreen, Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. In the case of fish taken in Northern Ireland to Fisheries Laboratory, The Cutts, Coleraine, N.I. (phone 4521).

## IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

Balnagowan House, Mobhi Boreen, Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9.

### CLAIM FORM 1980

Species of Fish ..... Weight .....  
(see Rule 4)

Where caught ..... Date of Capture .....

Length ..... Girth/Wingspread .....

(Note: Length measured in a straight line — not over curve of body — between tip of snout and end of middle rays of tail fin. Greatest girth, usually in front of dorsal fin.  
Wing spread, in case of rays and skate only — Horizontal distance — not over curve of body — from wingtip to wingtip).

NAME OF CLAIMANT (Block Letters) .....

ADDRESS .....

DATE OF BIRTH if 14 years or under .....

#### WITNESS TO CAPTURE

We the undersigned certify that we were witnesses to the capture by fair angling of the fish described in this claim, and confirm that the captor's certificate is correct. *(If there are no witnesses to the capture the Statutory Declaration on page 2 must be completed).*

Signed ..... Address ..... Occupation .....

WEIGHING: Details of type and make of weighing machine (see Rule 3) .....

WHERE LOCATED .

#### WITNESSES TO WEIGHING AND MEASURING

We, the undersigned hereby certify that we were witnesses to the weighing and measuring of the fish described herein, and that the weight and measurements given are correct.

Signed ..... Address ..... Occupation .....

*(To be completed by angler making claim)*

I certify that the fish details of which are set out above, was taken by me by fair angling with single rod and line.

Signed ..... Date .....

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	Date
Fish/Photograph received/examined	
Identified .....	Signature .....

Tackle (Type of rod and reel) .....

Type of breaking strain of line .....

Nature of terminal tackle (In case of trolling or bottom gear)

.....

(In case of sea fishing, state whether paternoster, leger, etc.; number of hooks; whether wire trace used, and if so, length and breaking strain).

Bait or Lure .....

**Important Note:**

Many claims are rejected because the following rules are not strictly adhered to:

- (1) Rule 3 Weighing of the fish.
- (2) Rule 4 Identification of the fish.

Please read both of these Rules carefully

**STATUTORY DECLARATION** (To be completed by angler if no witnesses to capture of fish. To be signed before Peace Commissioner).

I ..... of .....

do solemnly and sincerely declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the particulars given in this claim form as to the capture of the fish described herein are correct. I make this solemn declaration solemnly and conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Statutory Declaration Act 1938.

Declared before me by ..... of .....  
(Claimant)

who is personally known to me/who has been introduced to me

by ..... of .....

who is personally known to me (strike out whichever does not apply)

this ..... day of ..... 19.....

..... (Peace Commissioner)