



**Garnett Coulter of Kilmore, Co. Armagh with a magnificent 3.86 lb. Rudd from Annaghmore Lake, Strokestown. This fish, which held the Rudd record for just 11 days in May, was the 17th different species which Mr. Coulter has recorded over specimen weight.**

# **REPORT FOR YEAR 1995**





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Mr. Eamon Gilmore I.D., Minister of State to the Department of Marine at the 1995 Award Presentations where (left to right), Eddie Cull, Nick Parry and John O'Shaughnessy received record medals and certificates.

## REPORT OF IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1995

During 1995, the Committee was composed of P. Fitzmaurice, Chairman and K. Linnane, Secretary, M. O'Grady (Central Fisheries Board); B. Geraghty (Bord Failte Eireann); C.P. O'Toole (Irish Federation of Sea Anglers); N. O'Farrell (National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland); M. Donnelly (Irish Trout Fly Fishing Association); P. Byrne (National Anglers Representation Association); M. McEnroe (Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland); K. Powels (Northern Ireland Tourist Board); E. Twomey and D. Brennan.

During the year the Committee received 456 claims and ratified 424.

### SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 1995 (Dates of capture 1995 unless otherwise stated)

#### SALMON

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs.	ozs.				
23	9	River Laune	18th July	Francis O'Sullivan	Lane Minnow
22.5		River Slaney	29th March	Vincent Duigan	Fly
		Tullow			
10.1	kilos	Galway Fishery	2nd May	Prof. B. McNicholl	Devon
22		Galway Fishery	5th May	Phil Deegan	Flying C

#### SEA TROUT

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs.	ozs.				
11	1	Lough Currane	31st May	Sean Brick	Fly
10		Lough Currane	16th March	Jeremiah O'Sullivan	Fly
9.75		Lough Currane	13th April	Hans Gerken (D)	Rapala
9	5	Lough Currane	25th April	Ondruska Leonard (D)	Rapala
8.67		Lough Currane	20th May	Gerard Whelan	Fly
8	10	Lough Currane	26th April	James M. Morrell (USA)	Lukki
8	9.5	Lough Currane	13th July	Michael Latchford	Fly
8	8	Lough Currane	8th July	Willem J. Muller (NL)	Trolling
8	6	Lough Currane	17th June	Paddy Wharton	Fly
8	4	Lough Currane	30th April	Mick Cooper (GB)	Fly
8	3	Lough Currane	15th June	Robert J. Kavanagh	Fly
8		Lough Currane	3rd May	Hans Gerken (D)	Rapala
7	14	Lough Currane	8th June	David Mears	Fly
7.83		Lough Currane	15th April	Hans Gerken (D)	Rapala
7	13	Lough Currane	29th April	Dieter Wallmann (D)	Rapala



## SEA TROUT (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 12	Lough Currane	25th April	Zur Brugge Axel (D)	Rapala
7 12	Lough Currane	20th May	Ruary Rudd	Fly
7 8	Lough Currane	7th March	Khemraj Joory (GB)	Rapala
7 8	Lough Currane	28th April	Bernd Rall (D)	Fly
7 7	Lough Currane	23rd May	Robert A. Priestley	Fly
7 4	Lough Currane	14th March	G. Fitzgerald	Rapala
7 1	Lough Currane	17th April	Donal Dwyer	Rapala
6.92	Lough Currane	17th June	Rory O'Neill	Fly
6.81	Lough Currane	6th June	Walter Rusch (CH)	Rapala
6 10	Lough Currane	16th September	Dr. P.A. O'Meara	Fly
6 9.5	Lough Currane	10th April	David J. Vaughan (GB)	Fly
6.58	Lough Currane	11th April	Robert Clemen (D)	Fly
3.57	Lough Currane	16th May	Pieters Gerard (B)	Fly
3 8	Lough Currane	18th April	Michael Clifford (GB)	Rapalla
3 8	Lough Currane	9th June	John Sheehan	Fly
3 5	Lough Currane	17th May	Ludwig Scheer (D)	Lure
3.26	Lough Currane	18th June	Patrick F. Byrne	Fly
3 4	Lough Currane	24th April	Oddie Lucey	Devon
3 2	Lough Currane	18th March	Heinrich Langenbach (D)	Rapala
3 2	Lough Currane	30th August	Fr. Perry Gildea	Fly
3 2	Lough Currane	19th June	Neil O'Shea	Fly
3 1	Lough Currane	22nd May	Don Moore (GB)	Fly



## BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

**Record, 26 lbs. 2 ozs. Specimen Weight, 10 lbs; 4.536 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
20	Lough Corrib	9th July	John Gibbons	Dead Roach
18 7	Lough Corrib	2nd August	Colin Finlay	Spinner
15 6	Lough Corrib	7th July	Gerry Fahy	Toby
15	Lough Corrib	9th July	John Gibbons	Dead Roach
14.75	Lough Corrib	24th July	Kevin Molloy	Wetfly
12 12	Lough Corrib	25th May	T.F.C. Dik (NL)	Dead Eel
12 6	Poulaphuca Res.	5th March	Joe McBride	Mackerel
5.232 kilos	Lough Corrib	18th September, '94	Rory Brown	Fly
10 15	Lough Corrib	30th July	Paddy O'Toole	Dead Roach
10 13.5	Lough Mask	16th April	Sean Kenny	Rapala
10 12	Lough Corrib	31st July	Colin Finlay	Spinner
10 6	Lough Derg	30th April	Eddie Hynes	Spoon

## BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

**Record, 20 lbs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs; 2.268 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11.02	Cong Canal	14th April	David Healy	Spinner
3 3.5	River Barrow, Leighlinbridge	7th June	James Murphy	Fly
3 4	River Moyola	6th July	Francis Loane	Fly
3.04	Clare River	30th July	R. J. Lawlor	Dry Fly
5.63	River Suir	17th April	Eoghan Power	Mackerel Strip
5 10	Scramogue River	16th March	Bernard Carberry	Spoon
5.33	River Suir, Ballycamus	11th April	Philip Maher	Fly
5.13	River Boyne, Ardmulchan	27th June	Noel P. O'Connor	Fly
2	Cong River	1st March	James Connolly	Worm

## BREAM

**Record, 11 lbs. 12 ozs. Specimen Weight, 7.5 lbs; 3.402 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10 13.5	Monalty Lake	12th September	Colm Crean	Maggots
10 6	Monalty Lake	14th April	Fred Foster	Maggots
10 2	Monalty Lake	28th October	Brendan Doran	Corn/Maggots
10 1	Monalty Lake	23rd September	Brendan Doran	Maggots
10 1	Monalty Lake	10th September	Albert Bedford (GB)	Sweetcorn



Mr. Peter Carvosso of The Evening Herald with a 9.27 lb. Bream from Ballycullinan Lake, Co. Clare.

## BREAM (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10 1	Lough na Glack	1st November	Ron Patterson	Vaggots/Corn
10 0.5	Monalty Lake	12th September	Colm Crean	Vaggots
9 15	Monalty Lake	12th September	Colm Crean	Vaggots
9 14	Monalty Lake	9th September	Albert Bedford (GB)	Sweetcorn
9 13	Monalty Lake	10th September	Ray Mabbutt (GB)	Sweetcorn
9 12	Monalty Lake	16th March	Brendan Doran	Vaggots
9 12	Monalty Lake	12th June	J. McMahon	Vaggots
9 12	Monalty Lake	13th April	Fred Foster	Vaggots
9 11.5	Monalty Lake	9th April	John O'Shaughnessy	3read
9 11	Monalty Lake	30th March	Peter Thornton	Vaggots
9 11	Monalty Lake	9th September	Ray Mabbutt (GB)	Sweetcorn
9 10	Monalty Lake	14th April	Fred Foster	Vaggots
9 10	Monalty Lake	9th September	Ray Mabbutt (GB)	Sweetcorn
9 10	Monalty Lake	9th September	Albert Bedford (GB)	Sweetcorn
9 8	Monalty Lake	15th March	John O'Shaughnessy	Vaggots
9 8	Monalty Lake	13th August	J. McMahon	Vaggots
9.46	Ballycullinan Lake	24th May	Nick Parry	Corn/Maggots
9 7	Monalty Lake	31st March	Peter Thornton	Vaggots
9 6	Monalty Lake	16th March	John O'Shaughnessy	Vaggots
9.27	Ballycullinan Lake	15th June	Peter Carvosso	Vaggots
9 4	Monalty Lake	4th June	J. McMahon	Vaggots
9 1.5	Monalty Lake	30th March	Peter Thornton	Vaggots
8 12	Monalty Lake	19th September	Tony O'Toole	Vaggots
8.77	Ballycullinan Lake	30th May	Cyril Woodgate (GB)	Vaggots
8.47	Ballycullinan Lake	11th April	Nick Parry	Corn/Maggots
8.34	Ballycullinan Lake	30th May	Cyril Woodgate (GB)	Vaggots
8 5	Monalty Lake	18th October	Michael Connell	3read
8 2	Monalty Lake	17th October	Michael Connell	3read
8 1	Lower Bann	12th May	Paul Mathews	Vaggots
8	Ballycullinan Lake	16th June	Ben Carvosso	Vaggots
8	Lanesboro	19th April	James Moloney	Corn/Casters
8	Ballycullinan Lake	30th May	Cyril Woodgate (GB)	Vaggots
7 12	Ballycullinan Lake	31st August	Joseph Caffrey	Vaggots
7 12	Monalty Lake	19th October	Michael Connell	3read
7 11	Lanesboro	8th April	James Moloney	Vaggots
7 11	Lower Bann	17th May	Alan O'Hagan	Vaggots/Worm
7.62	Ballycullinan Lake	31st March	Nick Parry	Corn/Maggots
7 9	Lanesboro	8th April	James Moloney	Corn
7 8	Corcrin Lake	15th July	Declan O'Carroll	3read

## CARP

**Record, 27.78 lbs. Specimen Weight, 10 lbs; 4.536 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
18 6	Ballinafid Lake	6th August	John O'Shaughnessy	Sweetcorn
18 1	Ballincollig Pond	12th May	James Carson	Boile
17 7	Ballinafid Lake	17th April	John O'Shaughnessy	Sweetcorn



A Carp of 18 lbs. 1. oz. taken by James Carson of Belfast from the Ballincollig Reservoir, Co. Cork.

## CARP (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
17 4	Ballincollig Pond	7th May	James Carson	Boilie
17	Ballinafid Lake	19th August	John O'Shaughnessy	Sweetcorn
15 12	Ballinafid Lake	22nd April	Brendan Doran	Boilie
14 6	Ballinafid Lake	22nd April	Brendan Doran	Boilie
14 4	Ballincollig Pond	13th June	Noel Lane	Bread Crust
13 4	Ballinafid Lake	16th May	Neil Barrie	Boilie
12.40	Ballincollig Pond	6th June	Noel Lane	Peanuts
12 4	Ballinafid Lake	6th August	Jimmy Bennett	Sweetcorn/Boilie
12 4	Ballincollig Pond	1st May	Peter Thornton	Boilie
12	Ballincollig Pond	26th May	Christy Lane	Peanuts
11 14	Gaulmoyestown L.	17th August	Georgie Bell	Boilie
11 7	Ballinafid Lake	21st April	Brendan Doran	Boilie
10 2	Ballinafid Lake	5th September	James Carson	Boilie
10	Ballincollig Pond	25th May	Noel Lane	Peanuts

## EEL

**Record, 6 lbs. 15 ozs. Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 7	Ballylagan Lake	26th May	David Markey	Nymph
	Inniscarra Res.	15th August	Christy Lane	Gudgeon
14	River Barrow	17th October	Liam Tully	Maggots
10	River Barrow	17th October	David Finnegan	Maggots

## EEL (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3	8 Inniscarra Res.	15th August	Mattie Foley	Dead Gudgeon
3	8 River Barrow	17th October	Cecil Barron	Maggots
3	7 Inniscarra Res.	15th August	Voel Lane	Gudgeon
3	6 River Barrow	17th October	Liam Tully	Maggots
3.31	Inniscarra Res.	7th September	Jay Heerwagen (D)	Worm
3.25	Inniscarra Res.	10th August	Voel Lane	Dead Rudd
3.03	Inniscarra Res.	23rd September	Master Gary Hartnett	Worm



Angling journalist  
David Gray with a  
30 lb. 4 oz. Pike  
from Poulaphuca.

## PIKE (LAKE)

Record, 39 lbs. 3 ozs. Specimen Weight, 30 lbs; 13.608 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
32	4 Lough Derravaragh	30th October	Liam Gilsean	Dead Herring
32	White Lake	15th March	James Lowthe	Flying C
30	4 Poulaphuca Res.	21st February	David B. Gray	Dead bait
30	2 Poulaphuca Res.	19th February	Richard Johnston	Dead bait

## PIKE (RIVER)

Record, 42 lbs. Specimen Weight, 20 lbs; 9.072 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
32	8 River Shannon, Clonmacnoise	25th June	Dominic Conway	Abu hi-low
31	8 River Shannon, Killaloe Br.	2nd April	Michael Conroy	Rapalla
28	8 River Suck	12th January	Noel O'Connor	Mackerel
28	8 River Shannon, Meelick.	24th September	Martin Hickey	Dead Roach
27	8 River Barrow	15th February	Stephen Deere	Dead bait
25.9	Clare River	14th October	David A. O'Connell	Herring
23.22	River Barrow	20th December, '94	Daniel Murphy	Dead Rudd
22	4 Royal Canal, Kilcock	12th February	Dermot Quirke	Dead Roach
21	8 River Bann, Portadown	9th April	Stephen P. Orr	Bream
21	8 River Suck, Ballyforan	5th January	Graham R. Peake	Mackerel
20	9 Royal Canal, Kilcock	28th January	Richard Johnston	Dead roach
20.5	River Barrow	7th February	John Murphy	Dead Roach
20	8 Abbert River,	12th March	Cyril A. McNamara	Artificial Sprat
20	2 River Bann	9th April	Jackie Gilliland	Roach

## ROACH

Record 2 lbs. 13.5 ozs. Specimen Weight, 2 lbs; .907 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2	3 Monalty Lake	7th October	Brendan Doran	Maggots.



*Mr. Hugh Gough of Cavan with a magnificent catch of 3 Rudd of 4 lbs. (the new record), 3lbs. 6 oz. and 3 lb. 4 oz. taken from Coney Lake, Co. Roscommon.*

## RUDD

New Record, 4 lbs. Specimen Weight, 2.25 lbs; 1.021 kilos				
WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
bs. ozs.				
4	Coney Lake	31st May	Hugh Gough	Maggots
3.86	Annaghmore Lake, Strokestown	20th May	Garnett Coulter	Bread Flake
3	Coney Lake	31st May	Hugh Gough	Maggots
3.26	Annaghmore Lake	20th May	Kenneth Crooks	Bread Flake
3	Coney Lake	31st May	Hugh Gough	Maggots
3	Lough Patrick, Tusk	12th August	Eric King	Maggots/Worm
2.84	Annaghmore Lake	20th May	Kenneth Crooks	Bread Flake

## RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

Record, 6 lbs. 12 ozs. Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kilos				
WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
bs. ozs.				
4.91	Ballycullinan Lake	31st August	Nick Parry	Flake
3 9	L. Patrick, Tusk	31st August	Hugh Gough	Bread
3 7	Ballycullinan Lake	1st September	Stephen Black	Maggots
3.46	L. Baile Cuilleanáin	1 Meánfomhair	Maitiú Ó Nualláin	Dranchaidí

## ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

Record, 2.065 kilos. Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kilos				
WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
bs. ozs.				
4 7.5	River Bann	13th May	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots
3 13.5	Lower Bann	24th April	David Craig	Maggots
3 11.75	River Bann	13th May	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots
3 6.5	Toome	24th April	David Craig	Maggots
3 5	Toome	24th April	David Craig	Maggots

## TENCH

New Record, 8.15 lbs; Specimen Weight, 6 lbs; 2.721 kilos				
WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
bs. ozs.				
8.15	Ballyeigher Lough	20th June	Nick Parry	Corn/Maggots
6 9.5	Bridget Lough	1st June	Ron Patterson	Sweetcorn
6.38	Ballyeigher Lough	31st May	Nick Parry	Corn/Maggots
6.27	Ballycullinan Lake	30th May	Nick Parry	Cheese spread/ham
2.8 Kg	R. Barrow, Carlow	11th June	John Murphy	Worm/Sweetcorn
6 2	Monalty Lake	8th April	Brendan Doran	Maggots
6 1	Ballycullinan Lake	17th July	Tom Sneyd	Corn/Maggots

## BASS

Record, 17 lbs. 1.25 ozs. Specimen Weight, 10 lbs; 4.536 kilos				
WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
bs. ozs.				
15.60	Waterford	7th August	Val Atkins	German Sprat
13 12.75	Enniscrone	7th September '94	Kieran Kilcawley	Lugworm
12 12	Cork Harbour	25th September	Richard Looney	Ragworm
12.68	Courtmacsherry	13th September	Peter Wolstenholme	Redgill/Sandeel
5.7 kilos	Gleesk, Co. Kerry	28th October	John Brown	Plug
12 8	Banna	10th April	Anthony Herlihy	Sandeel
12.32	Kilmore Quay	17th November	Andrew Roche	Mackerel strip
12 5	Fanore	14th August	Paul Conroy	Lugworm
5.442 Kg	Tramore	1st August	Tony Caulfield	Mackerel
11 4.7	Castlegregory	22nd April	Stephen Holloway (GB)	Lugworm
11.05	Ballyteigue	1st October	Martin Kennedy	Peeler Crab
10 7	Cullenstown	1st May	Peter Bolger	Crab





John Brown of Fairview, Dublin  
with a Bass of 5.7 kgs. caught  
at Gleesk, Co. Kerry.

## BASS (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.7 kilos	Kilcoole	14th October	Derek Reinhardt	Vussel
10.35	Bonmahon	23rd October	Hughie Young	Peeler Crab

## COALFISH

**Record, 12.5 kilos; Specimen Weight 15 lbs; 6.804 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
18.44	Loop Head	9th August	Rab Beggs (GB)	Mackerel
18.42	Baltimore	29th June	Michael Kirby (GB)	Mackerel Strip
16.58	Baltimore	5th July	Graham Sparshott (GB)	Fish bait

## CONGER

**Record, 72 lbs. Specimen Weight, 40 lbs; 18.144 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
19.278 kilos	Kells Bay	11th June	James P. Lynch	Mackerel Flapper
41	Killybegs	30th July	Gregory Creaney	Mackerel Fillet
40.9	Tramore	12th June	Christopher McMahon	Mackerel
40	Crosshaven	5th September	E. Paalvast (NL)	Mackerel

## GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

**Record, 23 lbs. 12 ozs. Specimen Weight, 16 lbs; 7.257 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
17	8 Dingle Peninsula	11th September	Philip J. Dangerfield (GB)	Mackerel
16	10 Rush	9th July	Peter Gaffey	Mackerel Strip
16	8 Kenmare Bay	15th April	Patrick Coughlan	Mackerel Strip
16	8 Kenmare Bay	15th August	Arnold Moeke (NL)	Mackerel Fillet

## LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

**Record, 4 lbs. 4 ozs. Specimen Weight, 3.5 lbs; 1.587 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.11	Caherciveen	20th September	Nigel Derbe (GB)	Mackerel Strip
3.69	Courtmacsherry	21st September	Brian Don (GB)	Mackerel Strip
3.62	Courtmacsherry	10th September	H. van de Ree (NL)	Mackerel Strip

## SPUR DOGFISH

**Record, 18 lbs. 12 ozs. Specimen Weight, 12 lbs; 5.443 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
16	8 Kenmare Bay	15th April	E. L. Van Wilgen (NL)	Mackerel Strip
16	Kenmare Bay	21st August	A.R. Moeke (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
15	Kenmare Bay	11th September	M.J. de Jong Kok (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
15	Kenmare Bay	30th September	Laoise Egan	Mackerel
15	Kenmare Bay	27th July	Declan McCarthy	Mackerel



Graham Sparshott of Cardiff took  
this 16.5 lb. Coalfish while fishing  
at Baltimore.



## SPUR DOGFISH (Continued)

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14 8	Kenmare Bay	1st June	A. Visser (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
14 6	Kenmare Bay	18th March	Darren Gallagher	Mackerel/Squid
13 12	Kish Bank	2nd September, '94	Adrian Hanley	Mackerel
13 12	Kish Bank	2nd September, '94	Liam Tully	Mackerel
13 8	Kenmare Bay	21st July	Diels Karel (B)	Mackerel Fillet
13.49	Bray	30th July	Liam Kane	Mackerel
13 6	Cahore	7th May	Christy Cloak	Mackerel
13 4	Kish Bank	2nd September, '94	Adrian Hanley	Mackerel
13	Kenmare Bay	9th May	Fred Kroezen (NL)	Mackerel
13	Kish Bank	2nd September, '94	Liam Tully	Mackerel
13	Kenmare Bay	20th September	C.H. van Boxtel (NL)	Mackerel
12 14	Cahore	7th May	David Cherry	Mackerel
12 12	Kenmare Bay	21st July	Diels Karel (B)	Mackerel Fillet
12.64	Rosses Point	7th October	David Loughney	Mackerel
12 8	Blackwater	20th September	Cecil Barron	Mackerel
12 8	Kenmare Bay	19th September	J. Th. De Jong (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
12 8	Kenmare Bay	11th September	M. J. de Jong Kok (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
12 8	Kenmare Bay	25th May	Gerrit Smits (NL)	Mackerel
12 8	Kenmare Bay	1st June	J. Visser (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
12 8	Kenmare Bay	20th September	Cees Franse (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
12 8	Kenmare Bay	18th April	E. L. Van Wilgen (NL)	Mackerel Strip
12 6	Kenmare Bay	3rd June	Darren Gallagher	Mackerel
12 4	Kenmare Bay	20th September	Simon de Wis (NL)	Mackerel
12 3	Inishtahull Island	7th August	M. A. Cordingley (GB)	Mackerel
12	Kish Bank	2nd September, '94	Liam Tully	Mackerel

## FLOUNDER

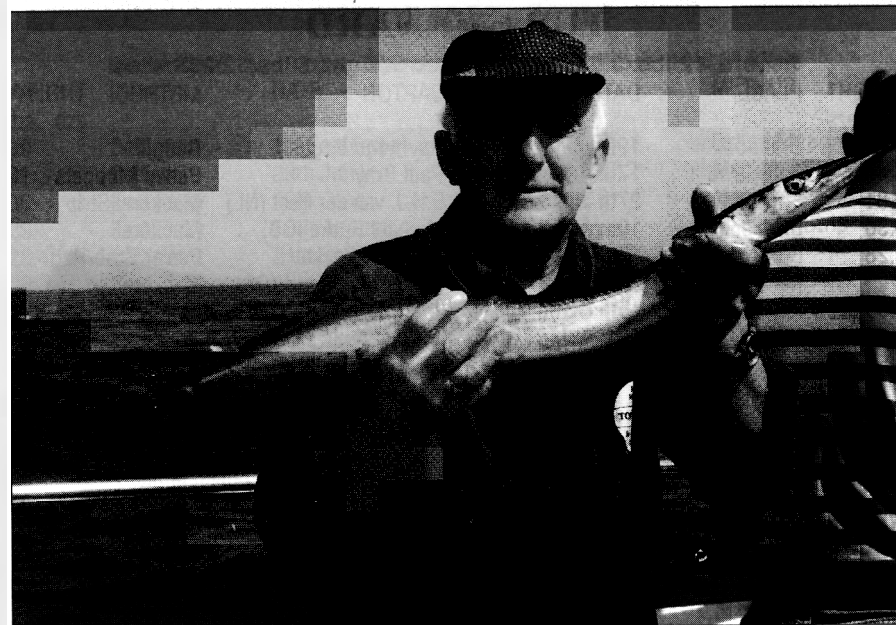
**Record, 4.91 lbs. Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.09	Smerwick	20th December, '94	Bob Moss	Mackerel Strip
1	Bannow Bay	31st October	Nicholas McEvoy	Peeler Crab
3.78	Brandon	1st October	Thomas P. Keogh	Crab
3.37	Smerwick	18th December, '94	Bob Moss	Mackerel Strip
3.35	Ferrypoint	21st October	Eddie Birmingham	Peeler Crab
3.33	Waterford Est.	31st December, '94	Walter Flynn	Peeler Crab
3	Ballyteigue	17th February	Graham R. Peake	Peeler Crab
3.08	Bannow Bay	1st October	Richard Dowling	Peeler Crab

## GARFISH (Belone Bellone)

**Record, 3 lbs. 10.25 ozs. Specimen Weight, 2.25 lbs; 1.021 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.80	Dingle Bay	17th August	Bert Lunn (GB)	Spinner
2.55	East Ferry	30th August	J. L. Veerbeek (NL)	Mackerel Strip



*Mr. Bert Lunn of Bury, Lancs, with a 2.8 lb. Garfish from Dingle Bay.*

## GREY GURNARD

**Record, 3 lbs. 1 oz. Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs; .680 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.60	Sheephaven	15th October	Trevor Ryder	Mackerel Strip
1.59	Valentia	20th September	Derrick McKenna	Mackerel
1.55	Sheephaven	15th October	Johnny McCormack	Eddystone Eel
8.75	Causeway Coast	17th August	Neale Clarke	Mackerel

## RED GURNARD

**Record, 3 lbs. 9.5 ozs. Specimen Weight, 2 lbs; .907 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.2 Kg	Loop Head	30th August	Rudi Heylen (B)	Baited Feathers
2.50	Killala Bay	17th September	John Kinhart	Sandeel
2	4 Sheephaven	13th August	Seamus Doherty	Mackerel Strip
2.21	Killala Bay	7th August	Master Kieran Nugent	Mini baits
2.19	Killybegs	11th June	Georg Ohler (A)	Mackerel
2.19	Rathmullan	21st October	Niall A. Doherty	Mackerel Strip
2.17	Ballydavid	9th August	Shaun Cox (GB)	Mackerel Strip
.95 Kg	Loop Head	30th August	Alfons Vanthillo (B)	Feathers
2.09	East Ferry	17th July	Derrick A. Garwood (GB)	Mackerel Strip
2.08	East Ferry	22nd September	Adrian J. Pease (GB)	Baited Feathers
2.04	Killala Bay	17th September	John Fitzpatrick	Mackerel
2.03	Rathmullan	28th October	Kevin Matthews	Mackerel

## TUB GURNARD

**Record, 12 lbs. 3.5 ozs. Specimen Weight, 5 lbs; 2.268 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10 5.5	Brandon	19th August	Raymond Beggs	Redgill
8.46	Ballydavid	17th August	Paul Bray	Baited Muppets
6.81	Sheephaven	27th July	B.H.J. van der Post (NL)	Mackerel Strip
6.36	Blacksod	10th August	Michael Burke (GB)	Mackerel
6.28	Broadhaven Bay	19th August	Marshall Beckett	Peeler Crab/Rag
6 4	Killala Bay	28th June	Stephen Jackson (GB)	Mackerel
2.63 kilos	Killala Bay	15th October	John Behan	Mackerel
5.65	Clew Bay	18th August	Marcus A. Sweeney (GB)	Baited Feathers
5.51	Killala Bay	29th August	Mike Kessler (D)	Mackerel Strip

## HADDOCK

**Record, 10 lbs. 13.5 ozs. Specimen Weight 7 lbs; 3.175 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 9	Portrush	21st May	Arthur Thurrat	Rag/Razor fish

## JOHN DORY

**Record, 7 lbs. 8 ozs. Specimen Weight, 4 lbs; 1.814 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.13	Achill	20th August	Tom Gillespie	Feathers
5.82	Achill	12th June	Tom Black	Mackerel Strip



Tom Gillespie, Castlebar,  
Co. Mayo, with a 6.13 lb. John  
Dory which he caught off Achill.

## LING

**Record, 46 lbs. 8 ozs. Specimen Weight, 25 lbs; 11.340 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
39	Baltimore	1st September	Ian Ansell (GB)	Baited Muppet
31	Baltimore	29th June	B. E. Wood (GB)	Mackerel Strip
30	East Ferry	29th June	Gerry Carr (GB)	Mackerel
29	East Ferry	18th August	John Dennehy	Mackerel Strip
28.46	Baltimore	21st September	Ted Browne	Mackerel
28	East Ferry	19th July	Geoffrey R. Wing (GB)	Mackerel Strip
27	Courtmacsherry	10th August	Max Brouwer (NL)	Mackerel Strip
27	Baltimore	1st September	John R. Musson (GB)	Mackerel Strip
26.8	Valentia	6th September	Roger L. Hart (GB)	Mackerel
26 8	East Ferry	1st August	Peter Nicholl	Mackerel Strip
26 2	Horn Head	17th August	Geoffrey Harper	Mackerel
26.1	Caherciveen	21st August	Hugh Maguire	Mackerel Strip
26.1	Valentia Island	4th August	Shay McDonnell	Baited Pirk
26	East Ferry	19th July	Peter Lewis (GB)	Mackerel
26	East Ferry	20th August	Jim Sloan	Mackerel Strip
26	Courtmacsherry	24th June	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel
25.91	Ballydavid	28th October	Richard Hurley	Mackerel
25.8	Caherciveen	16th September	Hugh Maguire	Mackerel Strip
25 4	Skelligs Rock	23rd August	Jean P. Menard (F)	Baited feather jig
25	East Ferry	31st July	Terence Jenner (GB)	Mackerel Strip

## MEGRIM

**Record, 1.85 kilos. Specimen Weight, 1.75 lbs; .794 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 9	Portrush	30th July	Chris McEleavy	Mackerel
1.88	East Ferry	23rd August	Leopold Oberaver(D)	Mackerel
1 12	Sheephaven Bay	21st May	Garry Bunney	Ragworm/Mackerel

## MONKFISH

**Record, 73 lbs. Specimen Weight, 50 lbs; 22.680 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
52	Tralee Bay	16th August	Rien Flage (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
50 8	Tralee Bay	4th June, '94	Thomas Sweetman	Mackerel Flapper



## GREY MULLET

**Record, 9.10 lbs. Specimen Weight, 5 lbs; 2.268 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 5.25	River Corrib,	3rd August	Michael Flannery	Bread
5 15.5	River Corrib,	5th August	John O'Toole	Bread Crust
5 12	River Liffey	23rd July	Peter McCartin	Bread
5.53	River Liffey	15th October	John Cherry	Maggots
5 8	River Liffey,	7th August	John Sherry	Paste
5.32	River Liffey,	21st August	Liam Kane	Bread/Maggots
2.354 kilos	Dun Laoghaire	1st September	Brian Cooke	Mackerel Strip
5 2	River Inny, Waterville	13th April	E. Nicholas Park (GB)	Fly
5 2	Skerries	1st August	Liam Tully	Mackerel
5	Portstewart	8th October, '94	Garnett Coulter	Mackerel Strip
5	Causeway Coast	13th July	Garnett Coulter	Mackerel Strip
5	Causeway Coast	16th July	Garnett Coulter	Coalfish Strip

## POLLACK

**Record, 19 lbs. 3 ozs. Specimen Weight, 12 lbs; 5.443 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
15.69	Ballydavid	21st September	Sean B. O'Conchuir	Mr. Twister Worm
14.40	Killybegs	16th September	Cormac Burke	Mr. Twister



*A Brandon Bay Pollack of 14 lb. 3 oz. caught by Rolf Marschalek of Suffolk, England.*

## POLLACK (Continued)

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14 3	Brandon	20th September	Rolf Marschalek (GB)	Redgill
14	Union Hall	17th September	Martin Lordan	Sandeel
13.9	Dingle	8th September	J. P. Kloos (NL)	Mr. Twister
6.3 kilos	Kinsale	1st August	G. van Zon (B)	Baited Mr. Twister
13.74	Culdaff Bay	25th June	Gearld McGowan	Lure
13 5	Brandon	20th September	Ian True (GB)	Redgill
13 2	Killybegs	30th July	Ian Kelly	Mackerel Strip
13 1	Ballycastle	6th August	Joseph M. Barrie	Redgill
13	Killybegs	8th August	Anthony Doherty	Mr. Twister Worm
12.95	Ballydavid	5th September	Stephen K. Howell (GB)	Worm
12.9	Dingle	10th September	John Draper (GB)	Redgill
12.75	Killybegs	25th July	Wilfried Risse (D)	Sandeel
12.7	Kish Bank	8th April	Donal Kennedy	Black Gill
12.7	Donegal Bay	8th September	Gerhard Reichert (D)	Mackerel
12 11	Port na Blagh	17th September	Sean Harte	Baited Pirk
12 8	Crosshaven	23rd August	Michael Killen (GB)	Baited Feathers
12 8	Sneem	20th September	R. van der Fange (NL)	Rubber Eel
12.35	Rosses Point	22nd April	Raymond Fox	Mackerel Strip
12.19	Achill	14th June	Tom Honeyman	Feathers
12.17	Dingle	18th August	Steve Outram	Mr. Twister
5.50 kilos	Dingle	6th June	Donald Bird (GB)	Redgill
12 1	Union Hall	17th September	Pio Enright	Redgill

## POUTING

**Record, 4 lbs. 13.5 ozs. Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 2	Ballinskelligs Bay	23rd August	Olive McGinnity	Baited Feather Jig

## CUCKOO RAY

**Record, 5 lbs. 11 ozs. Specimen Weight, 4.5 lbs; 2.041 kilos**

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 4.25	Causeway Coast	5th September	Derek McLeister	Mackerel baited Spoon

## PAINTED RAY

**Record, 17.21 lbs. Specimen Weight, 10 lbs; 4.536 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12 2	Garryvoe	7th October	Patrick O'Donovan	Sandeel
10 13.25	Tralee Bay	25th June	Richard Kelter	Sandeel



A Cuckoo Ray from the Causeway Coast,  
taken by Derek McLeister of Coleraine,  
Co. Derry.

## HOMELYN RAY

**Record, 8.28 lbs. Specimen Weight, 5 lbs; 2.268 kilos**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
bs. ozs.				
2.460 kilos	Five Mile Point	29th April	Greg Boyne	Crab

## THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

**Record, 3 lbs. 1 oz. Specimen Weight, 1.75 lbs; .794 kilos**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
bs. ozs.				
.960 kilos	Monkstown, Co. Cork.	8th January	George Vickery	Mackerel Strip
.900 kilos	Hook Head	5th June	William McCreary	Crab
.802	Hook Head	27th July	Kevin Laffan	Lugworm/Mackerel

## SCAD

**Record, 1.97 lbs. Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs. .680 kilos**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
bs. ozs.				
1.57	East Ferry	20th September	Eddie Bond (GB)	Baited Feathers



Richard Kelter of Tralee with a Painted  
Ray of 10 lb. 13.25 ozs. from Tralee Bay.

## TWAITE SHAD

**Record, 2.87 lbs. Specimen Weight, 2 lbs. 2 ozs.; .964 kilos**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
bs. ozs.				
2.61	River Barrow, St. Mullins	17th May	Nicholas McEvoy	Tamanian Devil
2.54	St. Mullins	4th May	John Murphy	Tasmanian Devil
2.35	St. Mullins	9th May	Ray Bannerman	Jensen
2.34	St. Mullins	14th May	Ray Bannerman	Jensen
2.28	St. Mullins	6th May	Bill Ryan	Tamanian Devil
2.22	St. Mullins	6th May	Christopher McMahon	Tasmanian Devil
2	St. Mullins	7th May	Liam Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
2.15	St. Mullins	4th May	Christopher McMahon	Tasmanian Devil

## BLUE SHARK

**Record, 206 lbs. Specimen Weight, 100 lbs; 45.359 kilos**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
bs. ozs.				
59 kilos	Mullaghmore	20th September	Klaus Glatz (A)	Mackerel
58.2 kilos	Kinsale	10th August	Stephen L. McRae (D)	Mackerel
117	8 Sheephaven	10th August	S. Kromsigt (NL)	Mackerel



## BLUE SHARK (Continued)

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
114.75	Sheephaven	1st September	Orla Ryder	Mackerel
110	Helvic	28th June	Josef Van Miert (B)	Mackerel
110	Rosses Point	13th August	Raymond Fox	Mackerel Flapper
107	Sheephaven	1st September	Bob van Kolfschoten (NL)	Mackerel
107	Sheephaven	29th August	Hans Prinsen (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
107	Rosses Point	9th August	Raymond Fox	Mackerel Flapper
48.120 kilos	Donegal Bay	12th September	M. A. Risby (GB)	Mackerel
102	Kinsale	7th August	J. L. Franken (NL)	Mackerel
102	Sneem	17th August	Dennis Moeke (NL)	Mackerel
102	Rosses Point	19th August	Tony Dillon	Mackerel Flapper
101	2 Sheephaven	24th July	Hans Ligtroet (NL)	Mackerel
101	Kenmare Bay	16th August	M.T.A.P. van Deutsen (NL)	Mackerel



A 102 lb. Blue Shark taken by Dennis Moeke of Holland while fishing out of Sneem, Co. Kerry



Stone Basse are occasional visitors to our waters. This one was 10.5 lbs. and was taken by M. Carter of Kent while fishing at Dungarvan.

## SMOOTH HOUND

Record, 13.75 lbs. Specimen Weight, 7 lbs; 3.175 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3	4 Cahore	9th April	Anthony Byrne	Peeler Crab
3	Cahore	9th April	Michael Elliott	Peeler Crab
7	2 Cahore	18th June	Darren Gallagher	Peeler Crab

## STONE BASSE

Record, 10 lbs. 13 ozs. Specimen Weight, 8 lbs; 3.628 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10	8 Dungarvan	6th September	M. Carter (GB)	Mackerel
9.67	Crosshaven	5th August	W. Jobse (NL)	Feathers
4.3 kilos	Kinsale	28th July	T.G. Koster (NL)	Mackerel
4.298 kilos	Schull	27th July	Allen Crawley (GB)	Mackerel
9.12	Cobh	1st August	Mark Welson (GB)	Mackerel Strip
3.9 kilos	Kinsale	5th August	George Burrowes	Mackerel

## TORSK

New Record, 10 lbs. 11 ozs. Specimen Weight, 6 lbs; 2.721 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10	11 Port-na-Blagh	17th September	Liam Brennan	Mackerel baited Pirk
7	8.5 Port-na-Blagh	17th September	Robert Winters	Mackerel baited Muppet
3.16	Port-na-Blagh	16th July	Aiden Crawford	Mackerel Strip

## TRIGGER FISH

**New Record, 4.83 lbs. Specimen Weight, 3.25 lbs; 1.474 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.83	Ballydavid, Co. Kerry	30th September	Nicholas Ward	Baited Lure
4	4 Valentia Island	25th September	John O'Shaughnessy	Mackerel Strip
4.25	Rosses Point	20th August	Ciaran Henderson	Mackerel
4.23	Ross, Kilkee	20th August	Bill Ryan	Crab
4	2 Causeway Coast	7th July	Alan Walls	Ragworm
3	14 Kells Bay, Dingle	17th August	Liam Griffin	Peeler Crab
3	13 Kells Bay	9th August	Matthew Hopper (GB)	Peeler Crab
3	12 Causeway Coast	2nd August	Louise Hamilton	Ragworm
3	12 Kells Bay	9th August	Liam Griffin	Mackerel Strip
3.67	Killybegs	7th October	Anthony Doherty	Mackerel
3	9 Kells Bay	9th August	Master Andrew Keegan (GB)	Mackerel Strip
3	9 Kells Bay	9th August	Liam Griffin	Peeler Crab
3	9 Kells Bay	17th August	Master Philip Griffin	Mackerel Strip
3.47	Killybegs	19th August	James Cooley	Mackerel Strip
3.45	Ross, Kilkee.	20th August	Bill Ryan	Crab
3	7 Causeway Coast	10th September	N. Kinnear	Ragworm
3	6 Causeway Coast	28th August	Geoff Moore	Ragworm
3	6 Portrush	5th August	Master Jason Lynch	Ragworm
3	5 Barrow	20th August	Michael Corridan	Mackerel Strip
3.27	Achill	9th September	Alan Jones (GB)	Peeler Crab

## WHITING

**Record, 4 lbs. 14.5 ozs. Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.70	Cork Harbour	6th August	Sean Roche	Baited Lure
3	4 Crosshaven	8th June	G.A. Knevel (NL)	Baited Feathers
3.08	Courtmacsherry	13th August	Koos Blaazer (NL)	Mackerel Strip
3.01	East Ferry	1st June	Simon Acors (GB)	Hokkai lures

## BALLAN WRASSE

**Record, 4.3 kilos Specimen Weight, 4.75 lbs; 2.154 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.80 kilos	Dingle	15th August	John Birkett (GB)	Fly/Mackerel
5.61	Killybegs	12th August	David Cherry	Mackerel
2.500 kilos	Cloghan	19th August	Paul Brierley	Lugworm
2.500 kilos	Kinsale	20th August	Tom Smyth	Lugworm/Ragworm
5.57	Mullaghmore	19th September	Pfengle Uwe (D)	Baited Feathers
5.41	Ross, Kilkee	20th August	Bill Ryan	Crab



*The new record Trigger Fish of 4.83 lbs. caught by Nicholas Ward of Dublin at Ballydavid, Co. Kerry.*

## BALLAN WRASSE (Continued)

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.380 kilos	Kinsale	20th August	Tom Smyth	Lugworm/Ragworm
5.17	Dingle	29th September	Mick Dixon	Crab
5	Hook Head	30th July	Ann-Marie Rowe	Lugworm
4.96	Hook Head	26th June	Yvonne Larkin	Ragworm
4.93	Carna	30th June	Duncan Brown	Mussel/Lugworm
4	14 Causeway Coast	10th September	William Cromwell	Rag/Mackerel
4.76	Mullaghmore	19th September	Peter Gehrlein (D)	Baited Feathers
4.76	Rosses Point	7th October	Noel Gerrity	Hokkai
4.68	Kilmore Quay	29th July	Les James Dunne	Ragworm

## CUCKOO WRASSE

**Record, 2.01 lbs. Specimen Weight, 1.25 lbs; .567 kilos**

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 9.5	Ballycastle	29th July	Kevin Cunningham	Mackerel Strip
0.65 kilos	Carnsore Point	13th August	Cecil Barron	Mackerel
1 6.25	Rathlin Island	31st July	John A. Morton	Baited Hokkai
1 6	Red Bay	6th August	David Allen	Mackerel Strip
1.26	Dungarvan	15th May	Cormac Walsh	Mackerel
1 4	Causeway Coast	17th September	Ken Murray	Mackerel

## NEW RECORDS

Four New Records were established in 1995.

**A RUDD** of 4 lbs was taken by Hugh Gough, Cathedral Road, Cavan, in Coney Lake, Tulsk, Co. Roscommon, on the 31st May, 1995.

**A TENCH** of 8.15 lbs was taken by Nick Parry, Fiddane, Tubber, Co. Galway, in Ballyeigher Lough on the 20th June, 1995.

**A TRIGGER FISH** of 4.83 lbs was taken by Nicholas Ward, 22 St. Conleths Road, Greenhills, Dublin 12, at Ballydavid, on 30th September, 1995.

**A TORSK** of 10 lbs. 11 ozs. was taken by Liam Brennan, 24 Olympic Drive, Strabane, Co. Tyrone, at Port na Blagh on 17th September, 1995.

## TEN PIN AWARDS

The following qualified in 1995 for the special award made to anglers who have ten or more specimen fish:

Tony Byrne, 22 Glenhill Drive, Finglas Road, Dublin 11.

Bob Moss, Ballydavid, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Derrick McKenna, Mount Rivers, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry.

Nick Parry, Fiddane, Tubber, Co. Galway.

## SPECIAL AWARD FOR JUVENILES

Dr. A.E.J. Went donated a special award for the best specimen taken by a juvenile who has not reached his or her fourteenth birthday on 31st December, 1995. The award goes to: Louise Hamilton, 14 Carneybaun Drive, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 3JA, for a Trigger Fish of 3 lbs. 12 ozs. taken on the Causeway Coast on the 2nd August, 1995.

## TEN SPECIES AWARD

In 1976 the Committee decided to recognise the angling prowess of those anglers who have authenticated claims for specimens of 10 separate species of fish. Only 22 of these awards have been made to-date. During 1995, one angler qualified. Mr. Gerald Fitzgerald, 13 Marian Place, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry.

## THE MINISTER'S AWARD

In 1993, the Minister for the Marine sponsored an award for the best specimen fish of the year. The largest fish in each of the 80 categories (other than a new record) is compared to the existing record and expressed as a percentage of that record. The highest percentage value indicates the winner.

This year the award goes to Garnett Coulter, 24 Kilmore Park, Kilmore, Co. Armagh., for a Rudd of 3.86 lbs taken at Annaghmore Lake on the 20th May, 1994.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

From January 1st, 1994, all claims must include the name of the water in which the fish was caught (e.g., Monalty Lake) and in the case of the larger systems, the area (eg., River Shannon – Rooskey).

## LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF CLAIMS

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

## EXCLUSION FROM SPECIMEN STATUS

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

## WEIGHING OF FISH

The Committee insists that all fish be weighed on scales which are verified for accuracy. Shop scales normally used in trade are checked regularly by the Department of Weights and Measures and are acceptable for weighing specimen and record fish. Some scales not normally certified by the Weights and Measures Authority for trade can be certified by them for accuracy. Such scales if certified in advance are acceptable to the Committee for weighing purposes and the certification will be valid for one year from the date of issue of the certificate of accuracy. Scales which are not certified at the time of weighing will not be accepted nor will certification in retrospect for such scales.

## METRIFICATION

As and from 1978, the schedule of specimen weights on the Specimen Fish Claims Forms 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. As many weighing scales also weigh in decimal instead of lbs. and ozs., claims are also accepted in lbs. and decimal of lb.

## 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 and not to consider any claims whatsoever, except for a possible new record (i.e., a fish weighing in excess of 221 lbs.) 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 1980 and it was decided to extend the ban until further notice. 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.

## CAPTORS ADDRESSES

Because of difficulties in establishing eligibility for the Ten Specimen and Ten Species Awards, captors are advised to inform the Committee of any changes in their addresses.

## 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:

Year	Ireland	Britain	Netherlands	Germany	Belgium	France
1972	169	126	23	29	7	2
1973	235	91	40	23	9	5

117

5

5

7

## FUND RAISING

The Committee are indebted to the generosity of the Central Fisheries Board and the Department of the Marine who contributed £1,500 and £500 respectively.

## OUR THANKS

The Committee is most appreciative of the photographs used to enhance the Annual Reports over the last number of years – friends like Richard Kelter, Mick McVeigh, Liam Kane and Mattie Nolan. We would also wish to thank the people who frequently go to a lot of trouble to chase up anglers and help them fill in the forms – club members, guesthouse owners, tackle shops and staff of the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards. Thanks to the generosity of Bord na Gaeilge, an Irish Version of the Claim Form is now available, on request.

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

### In Ireland

The Annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims were accepted during 1994 was made at the Garda Club, Dublin. The Presentation for the 1995 Awards will take place at the Garda Club, Harrington Street, Dublin, at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday, 24th February, 1996.

All Irish anglers who are due awards are cordially invited to attend.

### N. Ireland, U.K. and Holland

Presentations were held for visiting anglers who were due Awards for 1994 in Belfast, Birmingham and Rotterdam. Our grateful thanks are due to Bord Failte for making these Presentations possible.

## ACCOUNTS

A statement of the Committee's accounts for the calendar year 1994 is given in this Report. The 1995 accounts will only be available in 1996 and will be published in the next Report.

## 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: The Central Fisheries Board; Bord Failte; Department of Marine; Federation of Irish Specimen Hunters; Aghada S.A.C.; Cork S.A.C.; Donaghadee S.A.C.; Garda A.C.; Glengormley S.A.C.; Kilmore S.A.C.; Saltee S.A.C.; Terry Bewes, 8 Moorview Close, Woolbrook, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 1UP, England; Chris Coates, 18 Ballykeigle Road, Comber, Newtownards, N. Ireland; Garnett Coulter, 24 Kilmore Park, Kilmore, Co. Armagh, BT61 8NT, N. Ireland; Alex Crowley, The Avenue, New Street, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry; Robert Donaldson, 20 Townhall Street, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh; Edward Duggan, 25 The Drive, Broadale, Douglas, Co. Cork.; Mattie Foley, 18 Upper Lotabeg Road, Mayfield, Cork; Fred Foster, 6 Palmerstown Green, Kennelsfort Road, Dublin 20; Peter Gaffey, 277 Howth Road, Killester, Dublin 5; R.C. Green, Foxcovers, Foxcovert Lane, Lower Peover, Nr. Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 9QX, England; Philip Hodgins, 194 Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin 16; Billy Holland, 33 Tedburn Park, Belfast, 14 8AQ, N. Ireland; William Jones, 20 Rossmore Park, Templeogue, Dublin 6.W; N. Kinnear, Hazel Wood Crescent, Craigyarren, Ballymena, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland; Christy Lane, 10 Harrington's Square, Dillons Cross, Cork; J. Leonard, Skahana, Union Hall, Co. Cork; Joe McDermot, 1 Clarke Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork; Joe McEvoy, 22 Pinewood Ave., Hillview, Waterford; Nicholas McEvoy, 6 Francis Crescent, Grange Heights, Waterford; Ray McEvoy, 4 Marian Tce., Clonmel, Co. Tipperary; Christopher McMahon, 15 Water St., Waterford; Michael McVeigh, 7 Sharmon Park, Stranmills, Belfast, BT95, N. Ireland; Peter Manning, Church Road, Ballycotton, Co. Cork; Joe Mullan, Main Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland; Karl O'Leary, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; Ron Patterson, 214 Ravenhill Avenue, Belfast, BT6 8LL, N. Ireland; Werner Sammann, Steenflage 3, D49046 Barnstorf, Germany; Melvin Percy, 35 Sandringham, Gifford Road, Portadown, Armagh, N. Ireland; Colm Quinn, 79 Knockmoyle, Tralee, Co. Kerry; Brenda M. Sarney, 4 Clifftown Parade, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 1DP, England; Leeson Treacy, Ballyduff, Cloyne, Co. Cork; Desmond Watts, Dunamase, Rathcline Road, Lanesboro, Co. Longford; John Wildon, The Stone Lodge, Knocknagore, Crosshaven, Co. Cork; Robert Williams, "The Brig", Fennells Bay, Myrtleville, Cork.



# IRISH RECORD FISH

## FRESHWATER SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs. ozs.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Salmon	57 0	1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Sea Trout	16 6	29.10.1983	Shimna River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus
Brown Trout (River)	20 0	22.2.1957	River Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place
Brown Trout (Lake)	26 2	15.7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Bream	11 12	1882	River Blackwater (Monaghan)	A. Pike
Carp	27.78	17.6.1993	The Lough, Cork.	Robert Coleman
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)	39 3	11.4.1993	Lough Key	Michael Egan
Roach	2 13.5	11.8.1970	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	Lawrie Robinson
Rudd	4 0	31.5.1995	Coney Lake	Hugh Gough
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	6 12	20.9.1994	Monalty Lake	John O'Shaughnessy
Roach/Bream Hybrid	2.065 Kg.	2.7.1989	Drumreask L.	Philip Arthur
Tench	8.15 Kg.	20.6.1995	Ballyeigher Lake	Nick Parry
River Eel	6 15	12.6.1979	L. Droumenisa, Bantry	J. Murnane

## MARINE SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs. ozs.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Angler Fish	42.985 Kg.	3.11.1985	Belfast Lough	Sean Neill
Bass	17 1.25	27.4.1977	Whiting Bay, Ardmore	Malcolm Tucker
Black Sole	6.32	28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Brill	9 8	8.9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	12.5 Kg.	21.9.1983	Kinsale	E. Masheijer
Cod	42 0	1921	Ballycotton	I.L. Stewart
Conger	72 0	June, 1914	Valentia	J. Green
Dab	2.02	28.1.1989	Dunmore East	Paul Beglin
Spur Dogfish	18 12	10.9.1977	Bantry	John Murnane
Greater Spotted Dogfish	23 12	29.5.1983	Valentia	Tony Outmayjer
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	4 4	26.7.1982	Valentia	Cor Heinis
Flounder	4.91	2.10.1993	Ballyteigue Co. Wexford	Brian Russell

## MARINE SPECIES (Continued)

Species	Weight lbs. ozs.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Garfish ( <i>B. Bellone</i> )	3 10.25	16.9.1967	Kinsale	Evan Bazzard
Garfish ( <i>B. svetovidovi</i> )	1.11	5.8.1994	Courtmacsherry	Eric Leijten
Tub Gurnard	12 3.5	8.8.1973	Bullsmouth, Achill	Robert Seaman
Grey Gurnard	3 1	21.9.1967	Rosslare Bay	Brendan Walsh
Red Gurnard	3 9.5	17.7.1968	Belmullet	James Prescott
Haddock	10 13.5	15.7.1964	Kinsale	F.A.E. Bull
Hake	25 5.5	28.4.1962	Belfast Lough	H. W. Steele
Halibut	156	23.7.1972	Belmullet	Frank Brogan
Herring	.425 Kg	11.7.1986	Rathlin Island	Wm. McMath
John Dory	7 8	12.8.1984	Killala Bay	Cleona Walkin
Ling	46 8	26.7.1965	Kinsale	A. J. C. Bull
Mackerel	4 2	18.9.1979	Ballycotton	Ulrich Plassmann
Megrim	1.85 Kg.	26.7.1987	Killala	Paul Hennigan
Monkfish	73 0	1.6.1980	Fenit, Co. Kerry	James Boyd
Grey Mullet	9.10	26.9.1993	Cork Harbour	Cay Heerwagen
Plaice	8.23	23.1.1982	Ballycotton Pier	Edmund Cull
Pollack	19 3	1904	Ballycotton	J.N. Hearne
Pouting	4 13.5	2.4.1983	Kilmore Quay	John Devereaux
Thornback Ray	37 0	28.5.1961	Ling Rocks, Kinsale	M. J. Fitzgerald
Blonde Ray	36 8	9.9.1964	Cork Harbour	D. Minchin
Sting Ray	64 0	6.6.1993	Tralee Bay	Michael Wall
Cuckoo Ray	5 11	3.8.1975	Causeway Coast	V. Morrison
Undulate Ray	18	11.6.1977	Fenit	Ann-Mari Liedecke
Homelyn Ray	8.28	28.9.1983	Cork Harbour	Edmund Cull
Painted Ray	17.21	29.8.1994	Garryvoe, Co. Cork	Edmund Cull
Electric Ray	72.5	19.8.1993	Crosshaven	D. A. Lefranc
Ray's Bream	6 4.25	26.8.1979	Valentia	Martin Sarney
Red Sea Bream	9 6	24.8.1963	Valentia	P. Maguire
Twaite Shad	2.87	5.5.1985	St. Mullins	Peter McCartin
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	28.8.1968	Kinsale	Andrew Bull
Common Skate	221	1913	Ballycotton	T. Tucker
White Skate	165	7.8.1966	Clew Bay	Jack Stack
Scad	1.97	6.9.1986	Clonakilty	Master R. McCarthy
Smooth Hound	13.75	27.6.1991	Five Mile Point	Peter Mooney
Stone Basse	10 13	2.8.1989	Kinsale	Stefano D'Amico
Three Bearded Rockling	3 1	11.5.1990	Arklow	Maurice Laurent
Tope	66 8	15.7.1979	Carlingford Lough	Cyril Young
Torsk	10 11	17.9.1995	Port-na-Blath	Liam Brennan
Trigger Fish	4.83	30.9.1995	Ballydavid	Nicholas Ward
Turbot	34	9.6.1982	Cork Harbour	Frank Fleming
Whiting	4 14.5	19.3.1981	Kenmare Bay	Comdt. M.J. O'Connor
Ballan Wrasse	4.3 Kg.	20.8.1983	Clogher Head	Bertrand Kron
Cuckoo Wrasse	2.01	9.8.1992	Carnsore Point	John J. Tanner

# SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS(REVISED)

FRESHWATER FISH	IRISH RECORD lbs. ozs.	SPECIMEN lbs.	WEIGHT kilos
Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	57 0	20	9.072
Sea Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	16 6	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 1	7.5	3.402
Carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> )	27.78	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)	39 3	30	13.608
Pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> ) (River)	42 0	20	9.072
Roach ( <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> )	2 13.5	2	.907
Rudd ( <i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i> )	4 0	2.25	1.021
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	6 12	3	1.361
Roach/Bream Hybrid	2.065 kilos	3	1.361
Tench ( <i>Tinca tinca</i> )	8.15	6	2.721
Eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	6 15	3	1.361

## SEA FISH

Angler Fish ( <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> )	42.985 kilos	40	18.144
Bass ( <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> )	17 1.25	10	4.536
Black Sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> )	6.32	2	.907
Brill ( <i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i> )	9 8	5	2.268
Coalfish ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )	12.5 kilos	15	6.804
Cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> )	42 0	25	11.340
Conger ( <i>Conger conger</i> )	72 0	40	18.144
Dab ( <i>Limanda limanda</i> )	2.02	1.5	.680
Dogfish - Spur ( <i>Squalus acanthias</i> )	18 12	12	5.443
- Lesser Spotted ( <i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i> )	4 4	3.5	1.587
- Greater Spotted ( <i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i> )	23 12	16	7.257
Flounder ( <i>Platichthys flesus</i> )	4.91	3	1.361
Garfish ( <i>Belone bellone</i> )	3 10.5	2.25	1.021
( <i>Belone svetovidovi</i> )	1.11	14 ozs.	.355
Gurnard - Tub ( <i>Trigla lucerna</i> )	12 3.5	5	2.268
- Grey ( <i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i> )	3 1	1.5	.680
- Red ( <i>Aspitigla cuculus</i> )	3 9.5	2	.907
Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> )	10 13.5	7	3.175
Hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> )	25 5.5	10	4.536
Halibut ( <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i> )	156 0	50	22.680
Herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> )	.425 kilos	.75	.340
John Dory ( <i>Zeus faber</i> )	7 8	4	1.814
Ling ( <i>Molva molva</i> )	46 8	25	11.340
Mackerel ( <i>Scomber scombrus</i> )	4 2	.52	1.134

# SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS(REVISED) (Continued)

FRESHWATER FISH	IRISH RECORD lbs. ozs.	SPECIMEN lbs.	WEIGHT kilos
Megrim ( <i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i> )	1.85 kilos	1.75	.794
Monkfish ( <i>Squatina squatina</i> )	73 0	50	22.680
Mullet - Grey, thick lipped ( <i>Crenimugil labrosus</i> )	9.10	5	2.268
Mullet - Red ( <i>Mullus surmuletus</i> )	- -	1	.454
Plaice ( <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> )	8.23	4	1.814
Pollack ( <i>Pollachius pollachius</i> )	19 3	12	5.443
Pouting ( <i>Trisopterus luscus</i> )	4 13.5	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	4.5	2.041
- Electric ( <i>Torpedo nobiliana</i> )	72.5	20	9.072
- Homelyn ( <i>Raja montagui</i> )	8.28	5	2.268
- Undulate ( <i>Raja undulata</i> )	18	14	6.350
- Painted ( <i>Raja microcellata</i> )	17.21	10	4.536
- Sting ( <i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i> )	64	30	13.608
Ray's Bream ( <i>Brama brama</i> )	6 4.25	5	2.268
Red Sea Bream ( <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> )	9 6	4.5	2.041
Rockling, Three Bearded ( <i>Gaidropsarus vulgaris</i> )	3 1	1.75	.794
Scad ( <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> )	1.97	1.5	.680
Shad - Allis ( <i>Alosa alosa</i> )	-	4	1.814
- Twaite ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> )	2.87	2 2 ozs.	.964
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
Smooth Hound ( <i>Mustelus asterias</i> )	13.75	7	3.175
Stone Basse ( <i>Polyprion americanus</i> )	10 13	8	3.628
Tope ( <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> )	66 8	40	18.144
Torsk ( <i>Brosme brosme</i> )	10 11	6	2.721
Trigger Fish ( <i>Balistes carolinensis</i> )	4.83	3.25	1.474
Tunny ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> )	- -	100	45.359
Turbot ( <i>Scophthalmus maximus</i> )	34 0	18	8.165
Whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> )	4 14.5	3	1.361
Wrasse Ballan ( <i>Labrus bergylta</i> )	4.3 kilos	4.75	2.154
Wrasse Cuckoo ( <i>Labrus mixtus</i> )	2.01	1.25	.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.



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 Boreen, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, in the case of fish taken in the Republic of Ireland. In the case of fish taken in Northern Ireland to Dr. R. Briggs, Aquatic Environmental Science Division, D.A.N.I., Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX. Phone: 0232 661166. In the case of freshwater species send to Dr. Walter Crozier, D.A.N.I., River Bush Salmon Station, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8QJ. Phone: 02657 31435.

The actual body must be forwarded for identification in the case of the following species:- DACE, RUDD, RUDD/BREAM HYBRID, ROACH, ROACH/BREAM HYBRID, MACKEREL, SCAD, HERRING, SHAD, FLOUNDER, DAB, BRILL, MEGRIM, GURNARDS, GREY MULLET, ANGLER FISH, LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH, THREE BEARDED ROCKLING, SMOOTH HOUND, RAYS BREAM, CUCKOO WRASSE, TORSK, "RIVER" EELS taken in tidal waters and GARFISH (head and gills only).

**CLEAR, SHARP, CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHS**, showing the entire fish with its fins and other features easily seen, and not fore-shortened or obscured by shadows or bystanders must be provided in the case of TOPE, SHARKS, SKATE, RAYS, MONKFISH, POLLACK, COALFISH, BALLAN WRASSE, TRIGGER FISH.

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 coloration 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 and teeth exposed.

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

(6) **SENDING FISH TO THE COMMITTEE:**

**Please**

- (1) Notify the Committee when a fish is being sent in for identification (Telephone Dublin 8379206).

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

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

- (4) Fish (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 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 specimen fish, special medals to anglers who have captured ten or more species and special badges are issued each year for fish of exceptional merit though not of record size.

**IMPORTANT** – Correspondence to Balnagowan House, Mobhi Boreen, Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 (Phone 8379206). Fish should be sent to Balnagowan House, Mobhi Boreen, Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9.

In the case of fish taken in Northern Ireland to Dr. R. Briggs, Aquatic Environmental Science Division, D.A.N.I., Newforge, Belfast, BT9 5PX (0232 661166). In the case of Freshwater species send to Dr. Walter Crozier, D.A.N.I., River Bush Salmon Station, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8QJ, (02657 31435).





# "40 Years A Growing"

By Des Brennan

THE IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE which during 1995 entered its 40th year was the "brain child" of Dr. A.E.J. Went (Chief Scientific Officer, Fisheries Branch, Department of Agriculture) and Dr. Michael Kennedy, (Chief Officer, Inland Fisheries Trust Inc.). They were gravely concerned at the time that there was no machinery in existence whereby the capture of record or notable fish taken by angling could be authenticated and recorded and knowledge of them was being lost to posterity.

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 were to be decided for each species. As a result, the Irish Specimen Fish Committee came into being in April, 1955.

The first Committee was: Chairman, A.E.J. Went, D.Sc., Hon. Sec., Seamus Davin (Bord Failte) with representatives of the I.F.T., (Dr. Michael 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 & Field in Ireland (George Burrows). Later the Angling Council of Ireland, the National Coarse Fish Federation of Ireland and the Irish Trout Fly Fishers Association were invited to participate. Capt. C.P. O'Toole is the only member of that first committee who is still involved.

The drawing up of a list of "specimen weights" was not an easy task. On the freshwater side, a River Brown Trout of 5 lbs and on the Saltwater side, a Bass of 10 lbs were regarded as notable fish. Other species were not so easy as there was not enough data available on which to base definitive specimen weights. However, it did not take long for things to settle down and for the Committee's weights to become the standard that anglers sought to achieve.

The next task was to examine the existing records of exceptional rod caught fish and a list of verified Records was drawn up. Of the 71 existing Irish Records, only 9 were taken prior to the Committee's inception. Some like the 57 lbs salmon taken by M. Maher on the River Suir in 1874 may never be beaten as the days of big spring salmon are long gone. When I first served on the Committee, the specimen weight was 40 lbs but as the number of big spring salmon declined, the specimen weight over the years came down by 5 lbs increments to its present weight of 20 lbs.

The first Report covered 1955 and 1956. A total of 25 specimen fish (17 freshwater and 8 sea fish) were listed and included one new Irish Record – a Hake weighing 15 lbs. 2.75 ozs. The report for the following year showed 23 specimens listed including another record, a Brown Trout (River) weighing 20 lbs taken on the River Shannon by Major Hugh Place.

During the summer of 1958, I became Hon. Secretary and the work of the Committee became centred in the offices of the Inland Fisheries Trust Inc. where it remained until that organisation was subsumed into the Central Fisheries Board where it now resides. The number of claims began to increase rapidly as the work of the Committee became known and the solid silver record medals and specimen fish certificate and badges became highly sought after.

The Presentation of Awards in Dublin became an annual event to which anglers travelled from the far ends of Ireland. The late Ben Barkin, Angling Adviser to Bord Failte in Britain,

organised presentations in London and Birmingham or Manchester for British anglers who were due awards. An invitation to one of these presentations was highly prized and were always well attended. As the events were also well attended by the angling press, Irish angling received tremendous publicity.

Annual Presentations were also held in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium with the assistance of Bord Failte and in Belfast with the assistance of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. During the 1980's, due to budgetary restraints, it was not always possible to arrange an annual event in the U.K. and on the Continent, but I am delighted to see that in the last few years, overseas presentations are again being arranged.

As the Committee's work became better known, the number of claims received each year increased dramatically. From the mere 25 fish listed in the first Report, the list expanded to no less than 690 accepted claims in 1968. Indeed, by the time the Committee came of age in 1975, it had dealt with a total of 7,334 claims and by 1995 it has reached 17,841.

A by-product of such a volume of claims was a lot of data of scientific value and important information on the distribution of big fish of different species throughout the country. This resulted in papers being published by Dr. A.E.J. Went, Dr. Michael Kennedy, Dr. Patrick Fitzmaurice and Eileen Twomey on a variety of species including Brown Trout, Sea Trout, Coarse fishes, Bass, Skates and Rays, Cod, Haddock and Cartilaginous fishes. These papers were included in various Annual Reports over the years.

The Committee exists for the purpose of authenticating rod and line captures of big fish. It would defeat the purpose of its existence if claims were accepted which were not fully authenticated. It is not a question of the veracity or otherwise of the claimant but of furnishing proof of the details in a claim which is acceptable not only to the Committee but to anyone who now or in the future may wish to examine or perhaps challenge the records of the Committee. For this purpose, the Committee retains in its archives all details of every claim received from its inception in 1955. In any claim, three things must be established:-

- (1) that the fish was caught and landed by fair angling;
- (2) that the weight of the fish was as claimed;
- (3) that the species of fish was as claimed.

The first requirement rarely presents problems. The second requirement sometimes creates difficulties even though it must be obvious that this point is a critical one. If the weight entered in the records is to mean anything, it must be accurate. The only guarantee of accuracy of weight is an attested scales – a scale such as a shop scales (or any other scale) which is covered by a certificate of accuracy from the Weights & Measures Officer. When the Committee refuses to accept a claim weighed on other than an attested scale, they are doing so because there is no proof that the real weight is as claimed and it cannot therefore be entered in the official records.

The third requirement which covers identification also causes problems. Many anglers, probably most, are quite competent to identify the fish they catch. However, Red Gurnards have proved to be Tub Gurnards and Rudd have been proven to be Hybrids so many times that in the case of specimen fish, there must be a strong presumption of misidentification until the contrary is established. The former Irish Record "Brown Trout" – the famous "Peppers Ghost" caught last century – proved to be a salmon when the Committee finally tracked down and examined the stuffed fish. The present Irish Record River Trout when caught was believed to be a salmon and was sold as such, but luckily was brought to expert notice. A previous Irish Record Sea Trout was claimed as a brown trout and there are other examples, too numerous to mention.

The Committee has no choice but to demand proof of identity of any fish which may be misidentified. Clear sharp photographs may be satisfactory evidence for some species – though such photographs must obviously show clearly the features which are of diagnostic importance in the species. In other instances – the various forms of trout for example – set of scales must be provided since scale examination affords the most reliable evidence of identity. In other species, again the actual fish must be forwarded for scientific examination.

Even in the Committee's very early days, there were anglers who did not wish to kill their catch. Today the feeling is even stronger and more widespread and covers all types of angling. Many coarse fishermen are understandably reluctant to kill their fish and ask "why can't the Committee accept a photograph or some scales from the fish?" With this, the Committee can sympathise but unfortunately the suggestion is not practicable. Many cyprinids – rudd, roach, bream and their allies – hybridise freely. Some of the hybrids may be fertile, at least to some degree, so there is the possibility of second generation hybrids and of back crosses with the parent species. Moreover, roach/bream hybrids are superficially like rudd/bream hybrids and even the sharpest of professional photographers will not permit of making the fin ray and scale counts essential for accurate identification. Furthermore, it may be necessary to examine the pharyngeal teeth, so for some species, the actual fish must be produced if the claim is to be ratified.

Fisheries biologists attached to the C.F.B. in Dublin and to the Fisheries Laboratory at the Cutts in Coleraine identify the fish. Fish arrived by all methods. Some arrived in good condition but others had to be collected from freight depots, bus stations and postal sorting offices as postmen refused to deliver the revolting packages. There was a tendency to parcel fish in polythene bags or kitchen foil and the parcels when opened often displayed two eyes in a odoriferous sludge. The pleas from the long suffering biologists were finally heeded after many years and the printed advice on the claim forms on how to parcel the fish were followed.

During 1966, the Committee decided to introduce two new awards, namely a special pin to recognise the prowess of anglers who had caught 10 or more specimen fish and a special Fish of a Lifetime Badge for an exceptionally good fish of below the record weight. Ten years later, another special award was introduced. This was the special medal awarded to anglers who had specimen fish authenticated in 10 different species. The first anglers to qualify for this medal were two Kerry men – the late J.B. Healy and Patrick Maguire, both from Caherciveen, Co. Kerry. In 1992, a further category of award was introduced. The Minister for the Marine sponsors an award for the best specimen based on a percentage of the record weight.

The Committee is a voluntary body which depends for funds on subscriptions from well wishers. It is fortunate to receive funding from the Central Fisheries Board, Bord Fáilte, the Department of the Marine and is also supported by the Angling Federations and a large number of angling clubs and individual anglers. These have supported us very generously over the 40 years. A special word of thanks is due to the Central Fisheries Board who permits us the use of its offices and facilities as well as their staff.

I retired from the position of Hon. Secretary during 1988 and was succeeded by Kevin Linnane – a new broom – who has already made his mark on the Committee, as is evidenced by the brighter, more colourful and expanded Annual Reports. I know that he is in for a long stint in the engine room for while Chairmen may change, the poor Hon. Secretary will have his nose kept stuck to the grindstone. I know that the Committee will prosper from his work and will still be "growing" strong after another 40 years.

# You like to Fish

## But why Ireland?

Ireland is the finest angling holiday resort in Europe.

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