



Large Common Skate are making a comeback in Kenmare Bay. This one was returned alive by Jack O'Shea from Sneem.



REPORT FOR YEAR 1996



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Cover Picture: Ricky Rourke from Bushmills with a fine 5 lb. specimen Ballan Wrasse caught off Burtonport.

REPORT OF IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1996

During 1996, the Committee was composed of P. Fitzmaurice, Chairman and K. Linnane, Secretary, M. O'Grady (Central Fisheries Board); B. Geraghty (Bord Fáilte Éireann); 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 458 claims and ratified 417.

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 1996 (Dates of capture 1996 unless otherwise stated)

SEA TROUT

Record, 16 lbs. 6 ozs. Specimen Weight, 6 lbs; 2.721 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9 7	Lough Currane	29th April	John O. H. Baller (GB)	Rapala
9 4	Lough Currane	30th July	Karin Matzka (A)	Rapala
8.95	Lough Currane	2nd April	Walter Rusch (CH)	Rapala
8	Lough Currane	22nd June	Kieran O'Keefe	Fly
7 12	Lough Currane	14th May	Michael Clifford (GB)	Toby
7 10.5	Lough Currane	6th May	Paddy Hickey	Fly
7 8	Lough Currane	3rd June	Stuart Earl (GB)	Fly
7	Lough Currane	23rd September	Dr. T. H. Foley (GB)	Fly
6 10	Lough Currane	19th August	Michael Donnelly	Bog Fly
6.39	Lough Currane	9th May	Karl-Heinz Glindel (D)	Rapala
2.828 kilos	Lough Currane	7th August	Susan Byrne	Fly
6 1.5	Lough Currane	24th September	Terry Beale (GB)	Bibio

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13 5	Lough Mask	5th April	Noel Malone	Rapala
13 2	Lough Mask	18th July	Rudi Rothenpieler (D)	Rapala
12 13	Lough Mask	22nd June	Sean Kenny	Rapala
12 1	Lough Mask	13th April	Sean Kenny	Rapala
11 14.5	Lough Mask	13th April	Sean Kenny	Rapala
11 9	Gentle Owens	9th May	Martin Spackman	Worm
11.49	Lough Corrib	22nd September	Owen Egan	Rapala



BROWN TROUT (LAKE) (Continued)

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11 5.5	Lough Mask	13th April	Sean Kenny	Rapala
11	Lough Corrib	5th March	Jim McQuinn	Minnow
10.68 lbs.	Lough Corrib	21st May	David Campbell (GB)	Mayfly
10 10	Lough Mask	23rd June	Jan Smits	Rapala
10.45	Lough Derg	14th August	Peter Cagney	Rapala

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

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

WEIGHT lb ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
15 8	River Shannon, Athlone.	13th June	Francis McKinley	Lane Minnow
10.52	Cong Canal	27th March	Christy Emmett	Mepps
3.8	River Shannon, Ballantra, Drumshanbo	4th April	Volker Vosgerau (D)	Artificial Lure
3.53	Cong Canal	27th March	Christy Emmett	Mepps
3 4	Cong Canal	2nd March	Brian Newman	Worm
7 8	Cong Canal	1st March	Mary Gibbons	Worm
7.22	Cong Canal	1st March	Ray Bannerman	Worm
3 5	River Boyne	12th June	Paul Reynolds	Tazmanian Devil
3 14	Inniscarra Fisheries	22nd May, '95	Mark Dinneen	Bream
5.5	River Liffey, Clane	21st June	Tony Doherty	Fly
5 1	River Lee	23rd May, '95	Sean Cremin	Bream Fry

BREAM

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

WEIGHT lbs ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10 8	Monalty Lake	13th August	Paul Johnson (GB)	Maggots
10 2	Monalty Lake	14th August	Paul Johnson (GB)	Maggots
9 12	Monalty Lake	15th August	Simon Housley (GB)	Maggots
9 12	Monalty Lake	14th November	James McMahon	Maggots
9 10.5	Monalty Lake	14th November	Colm Crean	Maggots
9 10	Drumlaheen Lake	9th July	David Wesley (GB)	Maggots
9 10	Monalty Lake	14th August	Paul Johnson (GB)	Maggots
9 8	Monalty Lake	15th August	Kenneth Stonestreet (GB)	Maggots
9 8	Ballycullinan Lake	24th May	Ray McElhinney	Corn/Maggots
9 8	Drumlaheen Lake	11th July	Richard Collins (GB)	Maggots
9 7	Monalty Lake	15th November	Colm Crean	Maggots
9 6	Drumlaheen Lake	9th July	David Wesley (GB)	Maggots

BREAM (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9 6	Monalty Lake	14th November	Colm Crean	Maggots
9 6	Monalty Lake	15th October	James McMahon	Maggots
9 6	Monalty Lake	12th October	Brendan Doran	Maggots
9 4	Drumlaheen Lake	11th July	David Wesley (GB)	Maggots
9 4	Monalty Lake	26th October	Fred Foster	Maggots
9 2	Monalty Lake	15th October	James McMahon	Maggots
9 1	Monalty Lake	22nd April	Liam Tully	Maggots
9 1	Drumlaheen Lake	8th July	Peter Oakley (GB)	Maggot
9	Monalty Lake	12th October	Brendan Doran	Maggots
9	Ballycullinan Lake	25th May	Paul Bourke	Worm/Maggots
8 15	Ballycullinan Lake	10th June	Nick Parry	Lobworm
8 14	Monalty Lake	12th October	Brendan Doran	Maggots
8 14	Monalty Lake	15th August	Simon Housley (GB)	Maggots
8 13	Monalty Lake	17th August	Kenneth Stonestreet (GB)	Maggots
8 13	Drumlaheen Lake	11th July	Peter Oakley (GB)	Maggots
8 13	Drumlaheen Lake	11th July	Richard Collins (GB)	Maggots
8 12	Drumlaheen Lake	11th July	Peter Oakley (GB)	Maggots
8 12	Monalty Lake	5th September	R. W. Mabbutt (GB)	Maggots
8 12	Ballycullinan Lake	25th May	Paul Bourke	Worm/Maggots
8 9	Monalty Lake	16th August	Simon Housley (GB)	Maggots
8 9	Monalty Lake	26th April	Fred Foster	Maggots
8 8	Ballycullinan Lake	24th May	Peter Gilbert (GB)	Worm/Sweetcorn
8 8	Monalty Lake	18th March	Fred Foster	Maggots
8 6	Ballycullinan Lake	22nd June	Christy Lane	Maggots
8 6	Ballycullinan Lake	24th May	Paul Bourke	Sweetcorn/Maggots
8 6	Ballycullinan Lake	2nd June	Nick Parry	Lobworm
8 5	River Shannon, Lanesboro	9th April	Paul Mathews	Maggots/Bread
8 4	Monalty Lake	15th August	Kenneth Stonestreet (GB)	Maggots
8 4	Ballycullinan Lake	24th May	Ray McElhinney	Corn/Maggots
8 4	Ballycullinan Lake	26th May	Liam Kane	Corn/Maggots
8 4	Ballycullinan Lake	24th May	Peter Gilbert (GB)	Sweetcorn/Worm
8 4	Ballycullinan Lake	2nd June	Nick Parry	Lobworm
8 2	Drumlaheen Lake	11th July	Richard Collins (GB)	Maggots
8	Ballycullinan Lake	18th June	Tom Sneyd	Worms
8	Ballycullinan Lake	24th May	Peter Gilbert (GB)	Worm/Sweetcorn
7 13	Ballycullinan Lake	8th May	Noel Lane	Maggots
7 13	Ballycullinan Lake	6th July	Christy Lane	Worm/Sweetcorn
7 11	Ballycullinan Lake	22nd June	Christy Lane	Maggots
7.63	River Barrow, Leighlinbridge	21st May	Daniel Murphy	Maggots
7 10	Ballycullinan Lake	6th July	Noel Lane	Sweetcorn
7 10	Ballycullinan Lake	24th May	Liam Kane	Corn/Maggots
7 8	Ballycullinan Lake	24th May	Liam Kane	Corn/Maggots
7 8	Ballycullinan Lake	22nd June	Christy Lane	Maggots



CARP

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
25	The Lough, Cork	14th October	Gregory Matthews	Tiger Nuts
19 12	The Lough	27th September	Gerry Heapes	Boilie
18 6	Ballinafid Lake	17th September	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
17 14	Ballinafid Lake	23rd May	Brendan Doran	Boilie
16 11	Ballinafid Lake	17th September	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
16	Ballinafid Lake	16th September	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
15 11	Ballinafid Lake	17th August	Brendan Doran	Boilie
15 8	The Lough	20th October	Gerry Heapes	Boilie
15 2	Ballinafid Lake	8th May	Brendan Doran	Boilie
14	The Lough	14th October	Gregory Matthews	Voilie
13	The Lough	20th October	Gregory Matthews	Tiger Nuts
11 4	Gaulmoylestown L.	9th April	Rinus de Bruin	Boilie

EEL

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 5	Ballinafid Lake	29th June	Brendan Doran	Norm
1.02	Inniscarra Res.	26th September	Jay Heerwagen (D)	Dead Gudgeon

PIKE (LAKE)

Record, 39 lbs 3 oz; Specimen Weight, 30 lbs; 13.608 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
38	Lough Mask	29th April	Anthony Dekker (NL)	Trolling
36 6	Lough Beg, Nr. Bellaghy	9th November	Ronald O'Neill	Wackerel
34 8	Lough Mask	3rd May	Roland Litz (D)	Rapalla
32 9	Lough Corrib	22nd November	Bob Anderson (GB)	Terring
31 8	Glasslough	21st April	Harry Clinton	Wackerel
30 14	Glasslough	3rd November	Eddie St. Ledger	Roach

PIKE



Eddie St. Leger with a 30 lbs. 14 oz.
Pike from Glasslough

PIKE (RIVER)

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
37 12	River Shannon, Plassey	24th April	Eugene Hennigar	Smelt
33 6	River Barrow, Athy	2nd October	Jimmy Conway	Dead bait
30	River Suck, Ballinasloe	21st April	Paul Nolan	Dead Roach

PIKE (RIVER) (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
28 6	River Shannon, Long Island	20th March	Godfrey Donohue	Pollack
28 4	River Suck, Ballinasloe	17th January	Rory McAllorum	Smelt
27 8	River Suck, Coreen	8th April	Noel O'Connor	Mackerel
27 4	River Inny, Multyfarnham	18th November	Aidan Carroll	Herring
25.5	River Blackwater, Ballyduff	6th May	Seamus Quirke	Flying C
25 2	River Bann, Portadown	28th September	Tony Jones	Herring
25	River Suck	31st Dec., '95	Noel O'Connor	Dead Roach
24 10	River Shannon, Athlone.	19th May	Martin Dempsey	Roach
23 8	River Barrow	12th May	Declan McAllorum	Plug
23	River Barrow	22nd February	Daniel Murphy	Dead Rudd
22.5	River Barrow	18th January	Daniel Murphy	Dead Rudd
22.5	River Barrow	15th February	Paul Doyle	Dead Roach
22.35	Grand Canal, Monasterevin	16th February	Thomas P. Keogh	Spratt & Mackerel
21.85	Cong Canal	10th March	Stephen Lydon (Jnr.)	Minnow
20.9	River Barrow	29th February	Daniel Murphy	Dead Rudd
20.5	River Barrow	13th January	Oliver Doyle	Mackerel
20 7	River Suck, Bellagill	14th April	Damian Flanagan	Mackerel
20.13	River Barrow	13th January	Master Gary Doyle	Mackerel
20 1	River Bann, Ballymoney	30th September	Ron Patterson	Dead Roach

ROACH

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 6	Lough Derravaragh	19th May	Brendan Doran	Sweetcorn

RUDD

New Record, 4 lbs. 8 ozs. Specimen Weight, 2.25 lbs; 1.021 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4 8	Lough Coney, Tulsk	5th September	Hugh Gough	Maggots
4 4	Lough Coney	5th September	Hugh Gough	Maggots
4	Lough Coney	5th September	Hugh Gough	Maggots
2.73	Black Lake, Fergus System	13th July	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn



RUDD

*Hugh Gough broke his own
Rudd Record with this fish of 4
lbs. 8 ozs. taken in Coney Lake.*

RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

New Record 7 lbs. 10 ozs. Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10	Monalty Lake	19th October	Brendan Doran	Maggots
10	Monalty Lake	4th April	Fred Foster	Maggots
10	Inniscarra Res.	14th May	Noel Lane	Worm/Maggot Cocktail
8	River Barrow, Athy.	1st August	Tony Byrne	Cocktail Maggots/Worm
1	Inniscarra Res.	15th May	Christy Lane	Worm/Maggots

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

New Record, 5 lbs. Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5	Galloncurra Lake	14th August	Ray McElhinney	Corn
5	Galloncurra Lake	15th July	Paul Bourke	Corn/Maggots
4 12.15	Galloncurra Lake	15th July	Paul Bourke	Corn/Maggots
4 12	Lower River Bann	23rd April	Gerard McLaughlin	Maggots
4 11	Galloncurra Lake	15th July	Paul Bourke	Corn/Maggots



ROACH/ BREAM HYBRID

Paul Bourke of the Central Fisheries Board with his shared Record Roach/Bream Hybrid of 5 lbs. from Galloncurra Lake.

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4 10.5	Lough Beg	28th April	Ronald O'Neill	Corn/Maggots
4 10	Galloncurra Lake	23rd August	Tony Byrne	Sweetcorn
4 4	River Bann, Toome	3rd May	Alan O'Hagan	Maggots
4 3	Lough Beg	28th April	Ronald O'Neill	Corn/Maggots
4 2	Lower River Bann	3rd May	Alan O'Hagan	Maggots
4	River Bann	3rd May	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots
3 15	Lough Beg	28th April	Ronald O'Neill	Corn/Maggots
3 14	River Barin	3rd May	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
3 14	Lower River Bann, Portglenone	14th July	Terry Jackson	Maggots
3 12.5	Lough Beg	28th April	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots/Sweetcorn
1,650 kilos	Galloncurra Lake	27th August	John Cherry	Sweetcorn
3.6	Newferry	8th April	David Craig	Maggots
3 9	River Bann	3rd May	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
3 6	River Bann	3rd May	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
3 6	Lower River Bann	14th July	Terry Jackson	Maggots
3 6	Lough Beg	28th April	Alan O'Hagan	Maggots

RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

A new Record Rudd/Bream Hybrid of 7 lbs. 10 ozs. caught in Monalty Lake by Brendan Doran.



ROACH/BREAM HYBRID (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 4	Lower River Bann	3rd March	Terry Jackson	Maggots
3.22	River Barrow Bagnalstown	9th June	Brian Cooke	Maggots
3.2	Newferry	8th April	David Craig	Maggots
3.12	Lough Ramor, Virginia	14th July	Nollaig Bourke	Sweetcorn/ Maggots
3.1	Newferry	8th April	David Craig	Maggots
3 0.5	River Bann	3rd May	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots/ Sweetcorn

TENCH

Record, 8.15 lbs; Specimen Weight, 6 lbs; 2.721 lbs.

WEIGHT lbs ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 7	Black Lake	7th July	Nick Parry	Paste
7 2	Black Lake	4th July	Nick Parry	Paste
6 13.5	Black Lake	7th July	Nick Parry	Lobworm
3.050 kilos	River Shannon, Shannonsbridge	6th June, '95	William Ross (GB)	Caster
6 3	Ballycullinan Lake	10th June	Roy Parry	Sweetcorn
6 1	Ballycullinan Lake	7th July	Noel Lane	Cocktail
6 1	Ballycullinan Lake	10th June	Roy Parry	Sweetcorn
6	Grantstown Lake	8th June	Tom Sneyd	Sweetcorn
6	Ballycullinan Lake	23rd May	Peter Gilbert (GB)	Sweetcorn



TENCH

UK angler Peter Gilbert with a 6 lb. Tench from Ballycullinan Lake.

BASS

Record, 17 lbs. 1.25 ozs. Specimen Weight, 10 lbs; 4.536 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
15 7.5	Ballybrannigan	2nd November '95	Eddie Cull	Peeler Crab
15	Ballyvaughan	30th September	Michael O'Donoghue	Lugworm
12 8	Inchadoney, Clonakilty	18th August	Anto T. Kerins	Kilty Lure
12.05	Dollymount	22nd August	Master David Toolan	Ragworm
11.88	Brandon Bay	27th October	Bridget McCarthy	Lugworm
11.84	Cahore	2nd August	Paddy Macken	Rapalla Plug
11.56	Kilmore	16th June	Thomas O'Neill	Crab
11 8	Saleens	21st October	Michael Kennedy	Peeler Crab
11	Clonakilty	12th September	Donal Collins	Kilty

BLACK SOLE

Record, 6.32 lbs. Specimen Weight, 2 lbs. .907 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 7	Roundstone	11th February	Duncan Brown	Lugworm/Squid

BRILL

Record, 9 lbs. 8 ozs. Specimen Weight, 5 lbs. 2.268 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 6	Wicklow	24th August	Charlie Robinson	Mackerel/Feathers
5 2	Causeway Coast	3rd August, '95	Davy Bailie	Mackerel Strip



BASS

14 years old David Toolan with a fine Bass of 12.05 lbs. caught at Dollymount.

COALFISH

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8.6 kilos	Cork Harbour	7th July	Tom Hanlon	Baited feathers
16 9	Port na Blagh	22nd September	Ronald Nicholson (GB)	Mackerel

COD

Record, 42 lbs. Specimen Weight, 25 lbs; 11.340 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
26	Courtmacsherry	12th September	H. Van der Ree (NL)	Mackerel/Squid
25.5	Caherciveen	30th July	John R. Shoesmith (GB)	Mackerel Strip

CONGER EEL

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
20.05 kilos	Kinsale	24th June	Gidi Ciggaar (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
43.5	Caherciveen	23rd July	Clive Couzens (GB)	Mackerel Strip
43 4	Valentia	7th July	Gerald Sugrue	Mackerel
19.6 kilos	Kinsale	12th September	Stephen M. Gee (GB)	Mackerel Flapper
42 8	Baltimore	24th June	Mark Langley (GB)	Mackerel Strip
41 6	Baltimore	16th August	Harrison Powell	Mackerel Fillet

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
19.2	Caherciveen	19th August	Hugh Maguire	Mackerel Strip
17	Kenmare Bay	22nd August	Bertus Schotte (NL).	Mackerel Fillet
17	Kenmare Bay	28th August	J. T. C. Dunmay (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.300 kilos	Schull	27th May	A. C. Palmer (GB)	Mackerel

LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 10	Red Bay	24th August	John B. Scullion	Mackerel
3.53	Courtmacsherry	26th June	Brian Don (GB)	Mackerel Strip



**SPUR
DOGFISH**

*J.N.A. Boon with the New
Record Spur Dogfish of
19 lbs 9 ozs. caught in
Kenmare Bay.*

SPUR DOGFISH

New Record, 19 lbs. 9 ozs. Specimen Weight, 12 lbs; 5.443 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
19 9	Kenmare Bay	29th June	J. N. A. Boon (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
16 12	Dun Laoghaire	10th November	Charles Robinson	Mackerel Feathers
16 8	Kenmare Bay	16th March	Darren Gallagher	Mackerel
16 4	Kenmare Bay	7th September	J. H. Heijdelberger (NL)	Mackerel
16	Kenmare Bay	16th March	John Agusta	Mackerel
16	Carlingford Lough	11th September	Jeffery Prince	Mackerel
15 8	Kish Bank	13th September	Charles Robinson	Mackerel
15 6	Dun Laoghaire	2nd November	David Worth	Mackerel feathers
15	Kish Bank	22nd September	Liam Mulligan	Mackerel/Feathers
15	Kish Bank	25th August	Charles Robinson	Mackerel/Feathers
14 8	Dun Laoghaire	2nd November	Stan Worth	Mackerel Feathers
14 2	Dun Laoghaire	2nd November	Liam Connolly	Mackerel Feathers
14 1	Carlingford Lough	4th September	Eamon Price	Mackerel
14	Kenmare Bay	16th March	John Agusta	Mackerel
14	Kenmare Bay	12th July	O.H.I.J. Koop (NL)	Mackerel
13 8	Sneem	7th September	Gijs Logman (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
13 8	Kenmare Bay	16th March	Brendan Grogan	Mackerel
13 8	Dun Laoghaire	10th November	E. Byrne	Mackerel Feathers
6 kilos	Kish Bank	16th August	Alan Redmond	Mackerel Strip
13 2	Kenmare Bay	16th March	Robert Brennan	Mackerel
13 2	Dun Laoghaire	2nd November	John McGrath	Mackerel feathers
13	Kenmare Bay	11th July	George J. van Rijswijk (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
13	Kenmare Bay	11th July	F.A.J.J. Koop (NL)	Mackerel Strip
13	Kenmare Bay	12th April	Danny Renders (B)	Mackerel Fillet
5.896 kilos	Cape Clear	4th August	Gerald Quinlan	Mackerel Feathers
5.847 kilos	Kish Bank	14th July	Darren Gallagher	Mackerel
12 8	Kenmare Bay	16th March	Dominic Delaney	Mackerel
12 8	Kenmare Bay	12th April	Danny Renders (B)	Mackerel Fillet
12 8	Kenmare Bay	16th March	Patrick Coughlan	Mackerel
12 8	Kenmare Bay	28th June	J.N.A. Boon (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
12.19	Rosslare	25th September	Stephen Mills (GB)	Mackerel
5.5 kilos	Howth	14th July	Gerry Clarke	Mackerel
12	Courtmacsherry	26th June	Brian Don (GB)	Mackerel Strip

FLOUNDER

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 7.75	Youghal	16th January	Michael Maher	Crab
3.21	Lacken	3rd November	John Busher	Crab
3 3	Bannow Bay	24th November	Master Nathan Reinhardt	Lugworm
	Bannow Bay	3rd November	Derek Reinhardt	Lugworm/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
2.43	Crosshaven	27th July	John Wildon	Mackerel Strip
2.41	Courtmacsherry	9th September	Eric Good (GB)	Mackerel Strip
2.37	Courtmacsherry	29th August	Kerkhof John (NL)	Mackerel Strip

GREY GURNARD

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2	3 Killala Bay	26th May	John Munneely	Mackerel
1	9.75 Port na Blagh	5th August	Pat Robinson	Mackerel Strip
1	9 Killala Bay	16th June	John Munneely	Rag/Mackerel
1.55	Kenmare Bay	12th May	B. van Diemen (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
1	8 Port na Blagh	4th August	Stephen McHale	Mackerel Strip

RED GURNARD

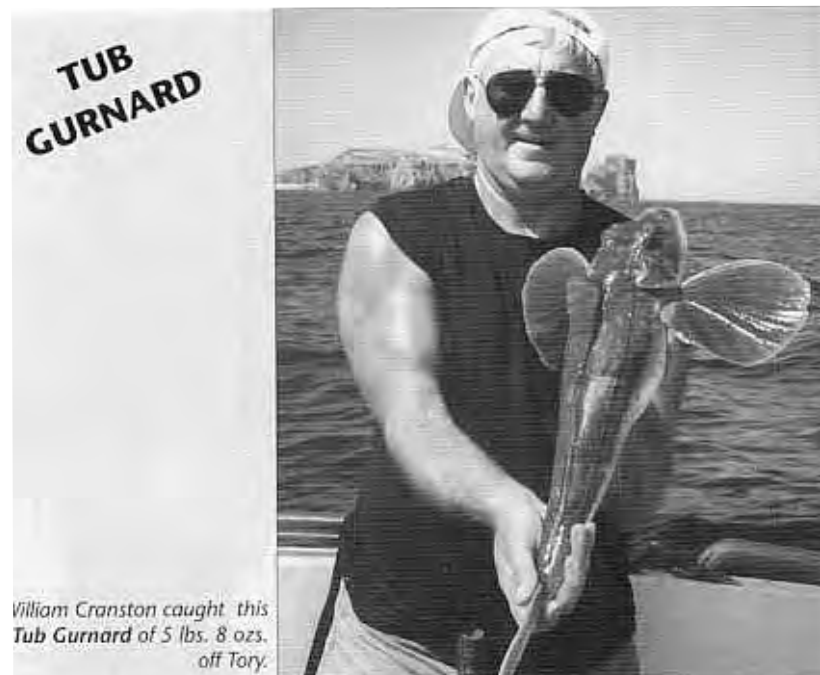
Record, 3 lbs. 9.5 ozs. Specimen Weight, 2 lbs; .907 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2	14 Cudliff Bay	13th August, '95	J.E. Timmins (GB)	Red Muppet
2	13 East Ferry	1st September	Walter Gavin	Baited feathers
2.34	Belmullet	30th August	John Fleming (GB)	Mackerel
2.33	Belmullet	28th August	Wayne Scholey (GB)	Mackerel
2	3 Port na Blagh	31st August	Dave Hanson	Mackerel Strip
2	2 Killala Bay	26th May	John Munneely	Hokkai/Mackerel
2	2 Valentia	22nd September	Pat Foster	Mackerel Fillet
2.10	Sheephaven Bay	19th July	Michael H. Golden (GB)	Mackerel Strip
2.08	Sheephaven	25th September	Nico Van Rijsbergen (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2	1 Sheephaven	9th September	Eamon Murphy	Mackerel

TUB GURNARD

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.55	Porturlin	1st September	Sylvy Sweeney	Mackerel
3.45	Porturlin	1st September	Sylvy Sweeney	Mackerel
3.33	Broadhaven	22nd September	James Tierney	Baited Pirk
3.57	Kilrush	4th June, '95	Noel Humpreys	Redgill
3	3 Port na Blagh	15th June	William Cranston	Mackerel
3.38	Sheephaven	7th September	John Geary	Mackerel Feathers
3	5 Port na Blagh	12th August	Paul Meehan (GB)	Mackerel
3.05	Port na Blagh	15th June	Stephen Forsythe	Mackerel baited Feathers



JOHN DORY

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4	8.75 Port na Blagh	23rd September	Ronald Nicholson, Jnr. (GB)	Mackerel Strip
4.28	Killybegs	25th August	Terry Stewart	Twister Worm

LING

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
32	8 Fastnet Rock	25th July	Kevin Padden (GB)	Mackerel
32	8 East Ferry	31st August	Damian Tyrrell	Mackerel Strip
14.34 kilos	East Ferry	3rd August	David Shepherd	Mackerel Strip
12.95 kilos	Valentia	22nd September	Tim Horgan	Mackerel
12.9 kilos	Kinsale	14th July	Patrick Buckley	Mackerel
28	East Ferry	12th September	Ken Robinson (GB)	Mackerel
27	10 Crosshaven	11th May	J.R. Wildon	Mackerel
27	Courtmacsherry	11th September	Mark Gannon	Octopus
25.65	Kinsale	15th July	Gregory S. Glenn	Mackerel
25	6 Belfast Lough	8th September	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip
11.50 kilos	East Ferry	3rd August	Trevor Hylands	Mackerel Fillet
25	4 East Ferry	12th September	Brian Fawcett (GB)	Mackerel
11.40 kilos	East Ferry	3rd August	Kevin Cunningham	Mackerel



JOHN DORY

Ronald Nicholson of Cumbria with a John Dory caught off Tory Island.

MEGRIM

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1	Sheephaven	21st August	L. G. van Raalte (NL)	Mackerel Strip
77	East Ferry	6th July	Peter Lewis (GB)	Baited Hookeva

GREY MULLET

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

WEIGHTPLACE		DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs. ozs.				
8.25	Lough Furnace	26th July	Markus Muller	Fly
7	1 River Dodder	19th August	Alan Kiernan	Bread
6.51	Lough Furnace	8th August	Declan Cooke	Fly
5.87	River Liffey	15th September	Liam Kane	Bread
5.68	Lough Furnace	30th July,'95	Dr. D. Carruthers (GB)	Fly
5.66	River Dodder	21st August	Des Frazer	Bread
5.38	Lough Furnace	7th August,'95	Peter Hughes	Bread Paste
5.21	River Liffey, Kingsbridge	17th August	Thomas P. Keogh	Bread Paste
5.18	Lough Furnace	20th August	Ger Rogan	Fly
5	2 River Corrib, O'Brien's Bridge	17th July	Michael Flannery	Bread Flake
5.06	River Liffey, Heuston Station	5th August	Bill Ryan	Bread



Three specimen Ling and a near miss at East Ferry for Dublin anglers, Trevor Hylands, Kevin Cunningham and David Shepherd.



**GREY
MULLET**

Markus Muller with his 8.25 lbs. **Thick Lipped Grey Mullet** caught on the fly at Burrishoole.

POLLACK

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
18	East Ferry	31st August	David Morris	Mackerel Strip/ Feathers
15.5	Ballydavid	20th September	H. Keevel (NL)	Mackerel
15	Ballydavid	15th August	Tony Spridgeon (GB)	Rubber Eel
3.765 kilos	Donegal Bay	7th September	Emyr Roberts	Artificial Worm
14.67	Tory Island	22nd September	Terry McDonnell	Rubber Eel
3.4 kilos	Kinsale	10th July	Jaap Putjes (NL)	Artificial Eel
14	Sheephaven	27th February	Trevor Ryder	Rubber Eel
13.93	East Ferry	25th July	D. Boudesteijn (NL)	Rubber Twister
13 8	Port na Blagh	20th March	Pat Robinson	Redgill
13 7.75	Port na Blagh	20th March	Pat Robinson	Redgill
13 3	Kinsale	26th August	Ian Cowell (GB)	Lure
12 15.75	Port na Blagh	3rd March	Patrick J. O'Donnell	Redgill
12.90	Port na Blagh	24th March	Patrick J. O'Donnell	Redgill
12.90	Ballydavid	3rd July	Michael Dennehy	Sandeel
12.88	Killybegs	21st July	James Clifford Potts	Pirk



POLLACK

A fine Killybegs Pollack of 12.88 lbs. caught by James Clifford Potts.

POLLACK (Continued)

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12.8	Killybegs	21st September, '95	Brian Whitelaw	Mackerel Strip
12.79	Killybegs	10th August	Edward Kenny	Twister
12.76	Shèephaven	8th September	Robert Fisher	Artificial Lure
12 11.75	Port na Blagh	3rd March	Robert Winters	Eddystone Eel
12.69	Ballycotton	7th June	Peter Manning	Redgill
12 9.75	Port na Blagh	3rd March	Patrick J. O'Donnell	Redgill
12.61	Culdaff	25th June	David Craig	Rubber Eel
12.5	Killybegs	22nd May	Franns Hofmann (A)	Twister Worm
5.660 kilos	Guileen	13th September	Fergus Wall	White feathers
12.43	Crosshaven	7th July	Ian Foster (GB)	Redgill
12.34	Crosshaven	6th July	Jean C. Quierant (F)	Rubber Worm
12 5	Portrush	4th August	Samuel Burns	Twister/Ragworm
12.15	Ballydavid	16th August	Colin Searles (GB)	Artificial Eel
12 2	Clifden	14th July	Peter Joyce (GB)	Mackerel baited Feathers
12.02	Crosshaven	18th July	Alphons Kok (NL)	Baited feathers
12	Sheephaven	8th September	William Beggs	Artificial Lure

POUTING

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.57	Courtmacsherry	15th June	Joe Coghlan	Mackerel baited Feathers
3.53	Courtmacsherry	5th July	Master Stephen Blake	Mackerel Strip
3 8	Guilleen	8th September	Edward Howard	Mackerel Strip
3.33	Courtmacsherry	23rd June	Mark Gannon	Mackerel
3.24	Courtmacsherry	24th June	Edward Don (GB)	Mackerel Strip
3.16	Conningnor Rock	9th July	Michael Kunz	Sandeel
3.09	Kinsale	26th July	David Foster (GB)	Mackerel Strip
1.372 kilos	Carnsore Point	14th July	Cecil Barron	Mackerel Strip
3	Courtmacsherry	1st August	Dan Stubberud (NL)	Mackerel Strip
3	Courtmacsherry	7th September	H. Otto (NL)	Mackerel Strip
3	Kinsale	6th June	Stephen Fryer (GB)	Mackerel feathers

PAINTED RAY

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12 2	Brandon	31st August	Mark O'Brien	Mackerel Strip
5.008 kilos	Garryvoe	2nd November	Tony O'Leary	Crab/Lug/Cocktail
10 0	Garryvoe	2nd November	Gerard Mansfield	Lug/Herring

UNDULATE RAY

Record, 18 lbs. Specimen Weight, 14 lbs; 6.350 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14 8	Tralee Bay	25th May	Richard Kelter	Mackerel Strip

THORNBACK RAY

Record, 37 lbs. Specimen Weight, 20 lbs. 9.072 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
23 8	Greystones	23rd June	Dermot Mahon	Mackerel

HOMELYN RAY

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 10	Causeway Coast	22nd September	John Campbell	Mackerel

THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
.2 kilos	Ballycastle	18th August	William Wilson	Mackerel
2 5	Brownstown Head	18th July	John Halley	Mackerel Strip
1 kilos	Courtmacsherry	14th September '95	Mollie's Guy (F)	Mackerel Strip
2	Brownstown Head	23rd July	John Halley	Mackerel Strip
.89	Hook Head	1st June	Sean Furlong	Mackerel
.75	Moneypoint	25th June	Desmond E. Savory (GB)	Mackerel
12	Hook Head	26th August	Neil Tyrrell	Mackerel

TWAITE SHAD

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 6.75	River Barrow, St. Mullins	9th May	Christopher McMahon	Tasmanian Devil
2.50	St. Mullins	1st May	Ray Bannerman	Jensen
1.119 kilos	St. Mullins	17th May	Kevin Conlan	Tasmanian Devil
2.370	St. Mullins	18th May	Peter Bolger	Tasmanian Devil
2.36	St. Mullins	29th May	Bill Ryan	Toby
2.34	St. Mullins	15th May	Noel O'Sullivan	Tasmanian Devil
2.21	St. Mullins	16th May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
2 3.5	St. Mullins	18th May	Denis Butler	Tasmanian Devil
2 3	St. Mullins	16th May	Nicholas McEvoy	Toby
2.17	St. Mullins	10th May	Paul Doyle	Tasmanian Devil
2.16	St. Mullins	16th May	Noel O'Sullivan	Zzinger
2 2	St. Mullins	18th May	Christopher McMahon	Tasmanian Devil

BLUE SHARK

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
62.5 kilos	Kinsale	4th September	Les Hanlon	Mackerel
112	Sheephaven	26th August	Jack v.d. Pol (NL)	Mackerel
109	Courtmacsherry	5th September	W.P. vd. Broek (NL)	Mackerel
105	Sheephaven	26th August	Robert McMillan	Mackerel Flapper



A Dutch party with a 112 lbs. Blue Shark in Sheephaven Bay.

TOPE

Record, 66 lbs. 8 ozs. Specimen Weight, 40 lbs; 18.144 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
42 8	Ardfry Point, Co. Galway	7th July	Michael Flannery	Mackerel
42	Greystones	11th August	Andy Reddy	Mackerel

TORSK

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10.53	Caherciveen	19th May	Joe Hardy	Baited Muppets
9.55	Killybegs	17th July	Anthony Doherty	Mackerel baited Pirk
9.22	Killybegs	21st July	Keith Hicks	Baited Pirk
8	8 Port na Blagh	23rd June	Thomas Conroy	Mackerel Strip
8.47	Killybegs	17th July	Anthony Doherty	Baited pirk/Mackerel
8.10	Killybegs	5th September	Norman McFetridge	Baited Pirk/Mackerel
6	8 Port na Blagh	23rd June	Robert Winters	Baited Spoon
6.24	Port na Blagh	23rd June	Patrick O'Donnell	Baited Spoon



A Tope of 42 lbs. 8 ozs. caught from the shore in Galway Bay by Michael Flannery.

TRIGGER FISH

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 5	Causeway Coast	13th August, '95	J. Watson	Ragworm
3 4	Causeway Coast	10th September, '95	Mrs. Elaine Gee	Ragworm

WHITING

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.83	East Ferry	23rd June	David O'Callaghan	Mackerel
3.74	Kinsale	22nd June	Denis O'Shea	Mackerel Strip
3.45	Crosshaven	24th July	Mike Marshall (GB)	Baited feathers
3.36	Ballycotton	24th June	Gilson Rowe (GB)	Mackerel
3.26	Dungarvan	30th August	Tom Quinn (GB)	Mackerel
3.26	Crosshaven	27th June	Fabian Bernard (B)	Baited feathers
3.14	Helvick Head	10th June	Bep Van Leeuwen (NL)	Mackerel
3.12	Helvick Head	10th June	G. Van Leeuwen (NL)	Mackerel
3.11	Helvick Head	10th June	Bep Van Leeuwen (NL)	Mackerel
3.09	Helvick Head	10th June	G. Van Leeuwen (NL)	Mackerel
1.395 kilos	Cobh	15th September	Joseph Gibson	Baited feathers
1.372 kilos	Cork Harbour	14th January	David Jolly	Herring
3.01	Helvick Head	10th June	Cormac Walsh	Mackerel baited feathers

BALLAN WRASSE

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs. 2.75 kilos	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.64	Kilmore Quay	22nd June	Peter Jackson	Crab
	Burtonport	11th August	Richard Rouke	Mackerel baited Hokeye
3	Ballintoy	11th September	A.A.M. Erskine	Ragworm
5.94	Kilmore Quay	25th September	William Dupuy	Mackerel/Ragworm
5	14 Causeway Coast	10th September	R. Dove (GB)	Ragworm
5	11 Causeway Coast	18th August	John Black	Ragworm
2.35 kilos	Causeway Coast	7th September	Malcolm Todd (GB)	Ragworm
4.95	Kilmore Quay	12th June	Stanley Dickinson (GB)	Baited lure
4	14 Dunmore East	14th July	Jimmy Burns	Ragworm
4.86	Helvick	29th June	Pat Purcell	Mackerel baited Feathers
4	13 Portrush	11th September	Derek McLeister	Ragworm
4	13 Ballyreen, Co. Clare	28th July	Michael Flannery	Crab

CUCKOO WRASSE

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
889 kilos	Tuskar Rock	7th August	Cecil Barron	Mackerel Strip/ Feathers
10	Rathlin, Ballycastle	11th August	Gary Dickson	Rag/Squid
1.62	Mullaghmore	5th May	John Loftus	Baited feathers
1.59	Belmullet	4th August	James Mangan	Mackerel Strip
8	Causeway Coast	15th September	Rodney Simpson	Baited Feathers
1.43	Loop Head, Kilrush	25th July	Van Herp Walter (B)	Mackerel Strip
338 kilos	Carnsore Point	28th July	Joe Ffrench	Mackerel baited Feathers
1.37	Broadhaven Bay	17th August	David B. Gray	Ragworm
610 kilos	Larne	17th September, '95	Thomas McConaghie	Ragworm
1	5 Belfast Lough	22nd September	Andrew Jackson	Mackerel/Rag
1	4 Belfast Lough	22nd September	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip
1	4 Belfast Lough	22nd September	Colin Martin	Rag/Mackerel



NEW RECORDS

Four New Records were established in 1996.

A RUDD of 4 lbs. 8 ozs. was taken by Hugh Gough, 5 Cathedral Road, Cavan, in Coney Lake, Tulsk, on September 5th, 1996, beating his own record by 8 ounces.

A RUDD/BREAM HYBRID of 7 lbs. 10 ozs. was taken by Brendan Doran, 69 Clonmore Heights, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, in Monalty Lake, Carrickmacross, on October 19th, 1996.

Two **ROACH/BREAM HYBRIDS** of 5 lbs were caught creating Joint Record Holders. They were caught in Galloncurra Lake, Co. Cavan, by Paul Bourke of 294 Castletown, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, on July 15th and Ray McElhinney, 4 Brookside, Bettystown, Co. Meath, on August 14th, 1996.

A SPUR DOGFISH of 19 lbs. 9 ozs. was taken by J.N.A. Boon, Kerkweg 2, 1606 AR Venhuizen, Netherlands, in Kenmare Bay on June 29th, 1996.

TEN PIN AWARDS

The following qualified in 1996 for the special award made to anglers who have ten or more specimen fish:

Cay Heerwagen, Distelweg 7, 23730 Merkendorf/OH, W. Germany.

Tony Byrne, 18 Newbrook Avenue, Donaghmede, Dublin 13.

Paul Bourke, 249 Castletown, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.

David Craig, 9 Seskin Ave., Straid, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim BT39 9LG.

Alan O'Hagan, 1 Beechland Drive, Magharafelt, Co. Londonderry BT45 6BH.

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, 1996. The award goes to: Stephen Blake, 23 Greenmount Road, Terenure, Dublin 6, for a Pouting of 3.53 lbs. taken at Courtmacsherry on July 5th, 1996.

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 23 of these awards have been made to-date. During 1996, Christy Lane, 10 Harringtons Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; Noel Lane, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield Cork; Liam Tully, 9 Coolatree Road, Beaumont, Dublin 9; Cecil Barron, 223 Ashley Rise, Portmarnock, Co. Dublin, Brendan Doran, 69 Clonmore Heights, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, Thomas P. Keogh, 9 St. Mary's Road, East Wall, Dublin 3, Bill Ryan, 3 Raheen Avenue, Tallaght, Dublin 24, qualified.

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 Gerard McLaughlin, 4 Fairymore Park, Belfast, BT36, 7NZ, for a Roach/Bream Hybrid of 4 lbs. 12 ozs. taken in the Lower River Bann on April 23rd, 1996.

REVISED SPECIMEN WEIGHT

The Committee has decided to reduce the specimen weight for Cod (*Gadus Morhua*) from 25 lbs. to 20 lbs. from January 1st, 1997. This will be revised at the end of 1997.

SPECIAL NOTICE

From January 1st, 1994, all claims must include the name of the water in which the fish was caught (eg., 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
1974	170	117	36	16	6	9
1975	204	132	27	46	3	6
1976	214	123	36	40	2	5
1977	272	135	47	35	4	4
1978	281	126	86	19	7	1
1979	235	126	52	18	6	5
1980	355	77	54	13	9	2
1981	390	111	31	19	6	2
1982	404	104	61	18	4	4
1983	532	116	31	15	2	4
1984	442	131	29	17	5	2
1985	443	90	25	15	3	2
1986	349	93	21	16	3	7
1987	300	59	36	8	1	4
1988	259	60	14	5	4	4
1989	261	48	18	10	0	0
1990	286	45	21	23	4	1
1991	332	46	30	19	1	3
1992	336	56	32	9	1	3
1993	352	45	30	16	3	4
1994	282	39	33	13	1	2
1995	295	55	35	18	7	1
1996	307	69	27	6	4	2

FUND RAISING

The Committee are indebted to the generosity of the Central Fisheries Board, the Department of the Marine and Bord Failte for their continuing financial support over the years. Also the Regional Fisheries Boards, Federations, Clubs and individuals without whom the committee could not function.

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, David Gray 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.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

In Ireland

The Annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims were accepted during 1995 was made at the Garda Club, Dublin. The Presentation for the 1996 Awards will take place at the Garda Club, Harrington Street, Dublin, at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday, 22nd February, 1997.

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 1995 in Belfast and Rotterdam. Our grateful thanks are due to Bord Fáilte for making these Presentations possible.

ACCOUNTS

A statement of the Committee's accounts for the calendar year 1995 is given in this Report. The 1996 accounts will only be available in 1997 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; Marine Institute; North Western Regional Fisheries Board; Western Regional Fisheries Board; Shannon Regional Fisheries Board; National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland; Aghada S.A.C.; Delphi Fishery; Dolphin Richview S.A.C.; E.S.B. Shoreliners S.A.C.; Glengormley & District A.C.; Rush Sea Angling Festival; Waterville Anglers; Fred Buller, "Holly Tree", Woodlands, South Heath, Gt. Middenden, Bucks, England.; Sam Burns, The

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IRISH RECORD FISH

FRESHWATER SPECIES

Species	Weight bs. 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	3.8.1966	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 8	5.9.1996	Coney Lake	Hugh Gough
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7 10	19.10.1996	Monalty Lake	Brendan Doran
Roach/Bream Hybrid	5 0	15.7.1996	Galloncurra Lake	Paul Bourke
Roach/Bream Hybrid	5 0	14.8.1996	Galloncurra Lake	Ray McElhinney
Tench	8.15	20.6.1995	Ballyeigher Lake	Nick Parry
River Eel	6 15	12.6.1979	L. Droumenisa, Bantry	J. Murnane

MARINE SPECIES

Species	Weight bs. 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	3.32 lbs	28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Brill	3 8	3.9.1984	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
Gab	2.02	28.1.1989	Dunmore East	Paul Beglin
Spur Dogfish	19 9	29.6.1996	Kenmare Bay	J.N.A. Boon
Greater Spotted Dogfish	23 12	29.5.1983	Valentia	Tony Outmayjer
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	4 4	26.7.1982	Valentia	Don 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
Barfish (<i>B. Bellone</i>)	3 10.25	16.9.1967	Kinsale	Evan Bazzard
Barfish (<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	19.8.1933	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-Blagh	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 12	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 8	2.25	1.021
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7 10	3	1.361
Roach/Bream Hybrid	5	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	20	9.072
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>)	19 9	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>Aspitrigla 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	2.5	1.134

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS(REVISED) (Continued)

SEA 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	2.125	.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.

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

Expenditure and Revenue Account – 1st January – 31st December, 1995

1994	Expenditure	1995	1994	Revenue	1995
	Post	£168.62		Balance B/F	£2,914.58
£1,087.00	Printing	£2,874.42		Grants	
£1,610.00	Medals	—	£1,500.00	Central Fisheries Board	£1,500.00
£708.75	Travel	£1,567.41	—	Bord Failte	£1,000.00
£25.00	Late Dr. Went's Prize	£25.00	£500.00	Department of Marine	£500.00
£212.89	Miscellaneous	£300.00		Subscriptions	
	Presentation Expenses	£438.00	£1,786.20	Clubs, Federations &	
£350.00	Bank Charges	£26.07		Individuals	£992.58
£21.10	Total	£5,399.52	£2.01	E.B.S. Interest	—
	Balance c/d	£1,507.64	Balance b/d		
		£6,907.16			£6,907.16
					£1,507.64

We have examined all documents, record books, lodgements and cheque books and certify that the accounts are correct.

SIGNED: Des Brennan
Christopher P. O'Toole

RULES

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE:** This Committee consists of representatives of the Irish Angling Federations and the Government Departments and official organisations interested in angling. Its objective is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large fish on rod and line in Irish waters. A list of Specimen Fish is published annually by the Committee. Only fish which can be fully vouched for as to weight and species can be accepted and listed by the Committee.
- FAIR ANGLING:** "Fair Angling" means any legitimate method of angling with rod and reel which is recognised as a fair and sporting method. A fish must be hooked in or in the immediate vicinity of the mouth when it has taken the bait or lure; fish which have been foul-hooked, even accidentally, are not eligible. A fish in respect of which a claim is made must be hooked, played and brought to gaff or net by the angler **UNAIDED**, though the fish may be gaffed or netted by another, and it is permissible for the person using the gaff to take hold of the trace or doubled line (in the case of big game fishing) to steady the fish when it has been played out and brought within reach. 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.
- 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 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 lbs or over and graduated in large divisions. Claims cannot be accepted in the case of fish which have been weighed on board a boat.
Please note: Weighing scales must be covered by a Certificate of Accuracy at the time of weighing. They cannot be certified in retrospect, i.e. after the fish has been weighed.
- 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 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:

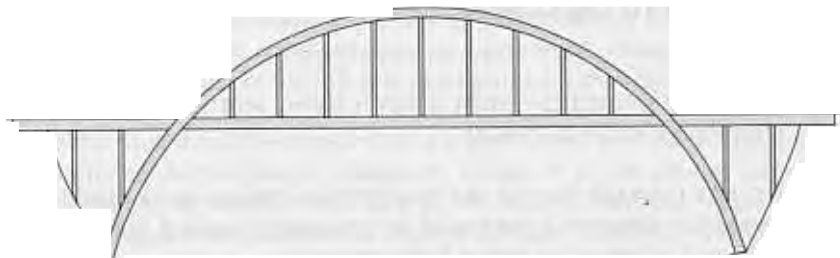
Please

- (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 Lane, Belfast, BT9 5PX (0232 661166). In the case of Freshwater species sent to Dr. Walter Crozier, D.A.N.I., River Bush Salmon Station, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8QJ, (02657 31435).





Water under the Bridge

BY HUGH GOUGH

IN THE EARLY YEARS, the clean waters of the River Erne flowed between the two lakes at Killykeen in Lough Oughter. With little access to that location in the forest, there was no bridge. It was there that we caught big slimy bream to 7 lbs and we learned to use the crust of our precious sandwiches for the lovely rudd around 2 lbs, which fed in the weedy stretch.

When we launched into the development and promotion of coarse angling tourism in the 1950's, we were to learn that our waters abounded in stocks of quality coarse fish. In those days,

the lovely fish with the red fins were known as "roach" to us, but years later the true roach was to appear up the Erne waters from Northern Ireland. I well remember receiving my first reports and claim forms from the Specimen Fish Committee and observing with interest the Irish Record Fish List and when compared with the record list of English coarse fish, was greatly surprised to note that our fish were much lighter.

It was indeed no surprise when the Specimen Fish "hunters" flocked over here to discover our waters. Ireland was then a treasure of unfished waters which held vast stocks of big fish. The early influx of English anglers helped greatly to

introduce techniques of coarse fishing to Ireland and especially to promote coarse fishing tourism.

I recall rendezvousing with big prison officer, Eddie Hawksworth at the reasonable hour of 6.00 a.m. at Bun Lake to find that he had already 23 specimen rudd/bream hybrids in his net! His lesson was simple. To catch specimen fish, you must be prepared to fish long and hard hours.

It was when the Power Station at Lanesboro began to emit hot water into the River Shannon that the stretch at the town bridge became the mecca for specimen fish anglers. In those early years, the best

results came only to night fishing and the fish responded mostly to bread flake as hook bait. Visiting the water during the days of April/May you would find the bankside quiet, while the bleary eyed, unshaven anglers lazed around at their camps, further along the bank. It was essential to keep one eye on the smoke emission from the Power Station chimneys and should that stop, then all hell would break loose. The temperature of the water outflow dropped, sending a signal to the big fish out in Lough Ree to stop their approach to the river stretch. While

protests were being made to the staff in the Power Station to bring that critical hot water on again, many anglers would come to me seeking information on other "big fish waters".

Trips to Lough Ree, Inny Bay were laid on and I became the Pied Piper, leading convoys to Monalty Lake where I had taken great big rudd in the past. Ray Webb followed in his old van which was his home for years, the John Mills and others followed to enjoy the

great sport with rudd/bream hybrids in that rich, weedy water, which then produced good tench.

Ray Webb packed up his job and came over to Ireland to haunt our waters.

I enjoyed many expeditions with him, including some hazardous ones in his collapsible marine-ply boat, aptly called "Tinca". I joined him one night at Stone's Lake and brought him some news from the outside world, that a man had landed on the moon or some other item of interest but his only response to me was that he had seen some tench move in the lilies to the right! Like so many others, he was totally obsessed with fishing and sadly this was the demise of a truly great character whose name is recorded in many Specimen Fish Reports.

The explosion of the tench





NOTES

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NOTES

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