



William Patterson with a 13 lb. 8.25 oz. Pollack taken off Port na Blagh.

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE
REPORT FOR YEAR 1997



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Cover Picture: Van As Wouter of Amsterdam with a 6.2 lbs Tub Gurnard caught in Sheephaven Bay.





David Savage with a 36 lb. 12 oz. Pike from the Lower Bann.

REPORT OF IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1997

During 1997, 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 565 claims and ratified 550.

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 1997

(Dates of capture 1997 unless otherwise stated)

SALMON

Record, 57 lbs. Specimen Weight, 20 lbs; 9.072 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
23.2	River Shannon, Parteen	5th September	Seany Quinlivan	Spinner
23	River Barrow, St. Mullins	15th June	Joe Nolan	Spinner
21 12	Lough Currane	16th March	Thorsten Schneider	Fly
21	River Lennan	8th May	Dominic Doherty	Buch Special
9.5 kgs.	Galway Weir	6th May	James Carney	Spinner
20.5	Mulcair River	16th July	Michael O'Doherty	Fly

SEA TROUT

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11 6	Rogerstown Est., Portrane	14th May	Alan O'Neill	Ragworm
8 14	Lough Currane	16th May	Robert Miachon (F)	Fly
8 8	Lough Currane	19th April	Abe Huggard	Toby
8	Lough Currane	9th September	Dr. John Corry	Fly
7.90	Lough Currane	25th June	Pat McCarthy	Fly
7.63	Belmullet	3rd July	Joe Tracey	Mackerel
7 4	Lough Currane	27th May, '96	Michael Hennessy	Fly
7 2	Lough Currane	18th April	Manfred Frauzmann (D)	Lukki
7	Lough Currane	14th June	Ramon O'Reilly	Fly
6 12.5	Lough Currane	27th April	Helmut Rall (D)	Spoon
5 10	Lough Currane	2nd September	Peter Clifton	Fly

SEA TROUT (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.53	Lough Currane	11th September	Patrick Browne	Fly
6.36	Lough Currane	9th April	Thorsten Schneider	Spoon
6 4.5	Lough Currane	23rd September	Alan Tweedale (GB)	Fly
6 4	Lough Currane	10th June	Stephen Wall (GB)	Fly
6	Lough Currane	13th September	Ruary Rudd	Fly

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
17	Lough Corrib	12th July	Brian Noonan	Rudd
14 2	Killaloe	12th June	Wayne Bowers	Rapala
14	Lough Corrib	23rd June, '96	John Gibbons	Roach
13.22	Lough Leane	6th August	Eamon Lynch	Fly
12 8	Lough Corrib	9th March	Michael Madden	Rapala
12 4	Lough Corrib	30th May	Tim Molloy	Rapala
12 2	Lough Corrib	26th September	John Keegan	Mepps
11.82	Lough Sheelin	17th May	Gerald MacSeain	Royal Wolf
4.75 kgs.	Lough Corrib	28th September	Pat Fitzgerald	Fly
10 6	Lough Corrib	21st May	Frank Close	Toby
10 1	Lough Lein	15th July	Denis O'Leary	Lure
10.04	Lough Mask	18th April	Marcel Dorbeau (F)	Rapala

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.36	Kells Blackwater	15th May	Adrian McGrane	Worms
3.325 kgs	Inniscarra Fishery	7th September	Sean Nason	Worms
3	River Shannon, O'Brien's Bridge	18th March	Patrick Murray	Roach
5 9	Bumlin River, Strokestown	7th April	Raymond Curley	Rapala
5 8	Cong Canal	10th March	Master David Slattery	Spinner
5.5	Cong River	2nd April	Mary Gibbons	Rapala
5.02	Cong River	15th March	Thomas Cox	Spinner

BREAM

New Record, 12 lbs. 3 ozs. Specimen Weight, 7.5 lbs; 3.402 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12 3	Bolganard Lake	22nd May	Paul Mathers (GB)	Maggots
10 12	Monalty Lake	14th September	Colm Crean	Maggots
10 9	Monalty Lake	14th September	Colm Crean	Maggots
10 9	Monalty Lake	16th September	Brendan Doran	Maggots

BREAM (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10 8	Monalty Lake	1st April	Brendan Doran	Maggots
10 6	Monalty Lake	3rd September	Albert Bedford (GB)	Corn/Maggots
10 5.5	Monalty Lake	16th November	Colm Crean	Maggots
10 5	Monalty Lake	8th September	Albert Bedford (GB)	Corn
10 4	Monalty Lake	4th September	Albert Bedford (GB)	Maggots
9 4	Monalty Lake	11th September	Ray Mabbutt (GB)	Corn
10 2	Monalty Lake	21st September	James McMahon	Maggots
9 15	Monalty Lake	29th March	John O'Shaughnessy	Bread
9 14	Monalty Lake	2nd April	Brendan Doran	Maggots
9 12	Monalty Lake	14th September	James McMahon	Maggots
9 10	Monalty Lake	27th March	John O'Shaughnessy	Bread
9 2	Ballycullinan Lake	7th June	Tony Ellis	Maggots/Corn
9 1.5	Drumlaheen Lake	29th March	Michael Connell	Sweetcorn
9	Drumlaheen Lake	25th April	Fred Foster	Maggots
9	Monalty Lake	30th March	John O'Shaughnessy	Bread
9 13	Ballycullinan Lake	28th June	Duncan Brown	Worm
9 12	Monalty Lake	14th September	Jimmy Brown	Maggots
3.945 kilos	Lanesboro	19th April	B. Lister (GB)	Bread
9 11	Monalty Lake	1st April	Fred Foster	Bread Flake
9 10	Monalty Lake	30th March	Fred Foster	Maggots
9 10	Ballycullinan Lake	29th June	Conor Healy	Sweetcorn
9 10	Monalty Lake	14th September	Jimmy Brown	Maggots
9 8	Ballycullinan Lake	29th June	Conor Healy	Sweetcorn
9 8	Ballycullinan Lake	27th June	Duncan Brown	Worm
9 3	Ballycullinan Lake	7th June	Tony Ellis	Maggots/Corn
9 3	Ballycullinan Lake	28th June	David A. Spokes	Worm/Maggot
9 3	Ballycullinan Lake	30th June	Conor Healy	Sweetcorn
9 2	Lough Derry	11th September	Kenneth W. Stonestreet (GB)	Corn
9 0.5	Drumlaheen Lake	30th March	Michael Connell	Bread
7 14	Ballycullinan Lake	13th September	Bill Collins	Corn
7 14	Monalty Lake	14th September	Jimmy Brown	Maggots
7 13	Lough Derry	11th September	Kenneth W. Stonestreet (GB)	Corn
7 13	Lough Derry	11th September	Kenneth W. Stonestreet (GB)	Corn
7 12	Ballycullinan Lake	13th September	Bill Collins	Corn
7 11	Ballycullinan Lake	8th June	Tony Ellis	Maggots/Corn
7 11	Lough Derry	17th September	William E. Crompton	Corn
7 10	Drumlaheen Lake	30th March	Ron Patterson	Corn/Maggots
7 10	Lough Derry	26th August	Brian Cooke	Sweetcorn
7 8	Lough Derry	17th September	William E. Crompton	Corn

CARP

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
25 4	The Lough, Cork	25th October	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
17 4	The Lough	5th October	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie



A 25 lb. 4 oz. Carp caught by Sidney Kennedy at the Lough, Cork.

CARP (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
15 15	Ballincollig Pond	6th October, '96	Pat Finnerty	Boilie
15 10	Ballinafid Lake	25th May	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
15 6	Ballincollig Pond	21st February	Christy Lane	Peanuts
13 8	Ballincollig Pond	12th September	James Carson	Boilie
13 2	Ballincollig Pond	21st June, '96	Mark Kelly	Boilie
13	Ballincollig Pond	30th May	James Carson	Boilie
12 4	Ballinafid Lake	18th May	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
12	Ballincollig Pond	21st February	Christy Lane	Peanuts
11 8	Ballinafid Lake	17th March	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
11 2	Ballincollig Pond	6th October, '96	Mark Kelly	Boilie
10 14	Ballincollig Pond	21st August	Joanne Young	Boilie
10 12	Ballincollig Pond	22nd August	Joanne Young	Boilie
10 10	Ballincollig Pond	1st March	Christy Lane	Boilie
10 9	Ballincollig Pond	20th June, '96	Mark Kelly	Boilie
10 8	Ballincollig Pond	21st August	James Carson	Boilie
10 8	Ballinafid Lake	8th June	Brendan Doran	Boilie
10 6	Ballyshoneen Res.	12th March	Noel Lane	Boilie
10 1	Ballyshoneen Res.	23rd February	Noel Lane	Peanuts

EEL

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 13	L Derravaragh	13th July	Tony O'Toole	Perch
3 2	Inniscarra L	31st August	Bill Collins	Gudgeon

PIKE (LAKE)

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
36 12	Lough Beg	23rd November, '96	Ronald O'Neill	Mackerel
36 1	Lough Beg	16th November, '96	Ronald O'Neill	Herring
35 2	Lough Bracken	16th November	Henry Keating	Mackerel
34 6	Lough Beg	1st November	Alan O'Hagan	Herring
30 9	Lough Mask	20th June	Ronan Cusack	Fly
30.4	Lough Mask	20th September	Peadar Jennings	Dead bait



George Dillon with a magnificent 38 lb. 2 oz. Pike from the River Suck.

PIKE (RIVER)

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
38 2	River Suck, Athleague	29th December, '96	George Dillon	Herring
36 12	Lower River Bann	22nd March	David Savage	Pollan
31 1	River Shannon	12th January	Michael Costello	Plug bait
28 14	River Inny, Ballinalack	28th March	Leo Farrell	Roach
28 6	River Shannon, Limerick	16th March	William Lonergan	Smelt
27 12	River Suck, Athleague	31st March	Martin Hickey	Herring
27.25	River Barrow	18th January	Daniel Murphy	Rudd
25	River Barrow	31st October	Master Gary Doyle	Rudd
24	River Barrow	16th March	Oliver Doyle	Rudd
23 12	River Suck, Ballinasloe	6th April	Richard Gilbey	Roach

PIKE (RIVER) (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
23.43	River Barrow	11th January	Master Gary Doyle	Herring
22	Clare River	29th October	John Griffin	Plug
21 12	River Barrow, Graiguenamanagh	27th December, '96	Declan Dempsey	Smelt
21	4 River Barrow, Goresbridge	26th February	Peter McCartin	Trout
20	8 River Suck, Ballyforan	5th April	Master Ronan Broderick	Roach

RUDD

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 4	River Fergus	28th June	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
2 12	Ballyherly, Portaferry	21st August	Terry Jackson	Bread crust
2 8	Ballyherly	21st August	Terry Jackson	Bread crust

RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

Record, 7 lbs. 10 ozs. Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.261 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4 8	Patrick Lake, Roscommon	22nd May	Tony Ellis	Maggots
4	Patrick Lake	22nd May	Tony Ellis	Maggots

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

New Record, 5 lbs. 1.125 oz. Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 1½	Lough Aleen, Co. Fermanagh	12th February	Paul Gormley	Maggots
4.9	Galloncurra Lake	15th September	Michael Norton	Sweetcorn
4 12.5	River Bann	13th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
4 12	River Bann	17th April	David Craig	Maggots
4 7.5	River Bann	13th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
2 kilos	Galloncurra Lake	2nd June	Ray McElhinney	Maggots/Corn
1.925 kilos	Galloncurra Lake	2nd June	Liam Kane	Maggots/Corn
1.900 kilos	Galloncurra Lake	2nd June	Ray McElhinney	Maggots/Corn
4 2.5	River Bann	13th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
3 12	River Bann	14th April	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots
3 10	River Bann	17th April	David Craig	Maggots
3 9	Monalty Lake	28th March	John O'Shaughnessy	Maggots/Corn
3 9	River Bann	13th April	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots



David Savage of Newtownards with a 5 lb. 14 oz. Tench from Rectory Lough, Ballybay.

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 7.5	River Bann	13th April	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots
3 6	River Bann	17th April	David Craig	Maggots
3 5	River Bann	15th April	Master Ian Crooks	Maggots
1.5 kilos	Inny Bay, L. Ree	23rd April	Ray McElhinney	Maggots

TENCH

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 8	Holly Island L, Co. Clare	26th May	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
7 0	Holly Island L	26th May	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
6 14	Rectory L, Ballybay	31st May	David Savage	Corn/Caster
6 10	Holly Island L,	26th May	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
6 9.5	Ballycullinan Lake	12th June	Paul Burke	Maggots
6 8	Lough Fin, Strokestown	5th June	Conor Healy	Sweetcorn
6 7	Grantstown Lake	26th July	Duncan Brown	Worm
6 6	Black Lake, Clare	1st June	Tom Sneyd	Sweetcorn
6 5	Shannonbridge	20th May	Tony Ellis	Sweetcorn
6 5	Ballycullinan Lake	9th June	Tony Ellis	Maggots/Corn
2.85 kilos	Lekyle L, Clare	21st September	David A. Spokes	Worm/Maggots
6 4	Black Lake	1st June	Tom Sneyd	Sweetcorn
6 3	Lough Bridget	21st June	Garnett Coulter	Maggots/Corn
6 2.5	Ballycullinan Lake	10th June	Tony Ellis	Maggots/Corn
6 2	Black Lake	2nd June	Tom Sneyd	Maggots/Corn
6 2	Ballycullinan Lake	30th June	Conor Healy	Sweetcorn
6 1	Lough Finn	4th June	Conor Healy	Sweetcorn/Maggots



An 11.34 lb. Bass caught at Dunmore East, Co. Waterford by Jim Atkins.

BASS

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
16. 8	Waterford Est.	26th September	Michael Kennedy	Peeler Crab
6.4 kilos	Brownstown	25th September	John Brown	Mackerel
13.07	Cork Harbour	16th September	Robert Williams	Crab
5.8 kilos	Woodstown, Co. Waterford	10th August	John Brown	Crab/Squid
12.62	Carnsore	25th April	Chris Busher	Crab/Lug
12.17	Annstown	24th March	Joe Kenny	Peeler Crab
5.4 kilos	Woodstown	10th August	Henry Lynam	Plug
11.87	Ardmore Strand	4th May	Derek Kenny	Peeler Crab
11 12	Ballyheigue	11th November	Michael C. Griffin	Lugworm
5.3 kilos	Brownstown	24th August	Henry Lynam	Plug
11.57	Saleens	28th April	Paul Beglin	Peeler Crab
11.57	Doolin	26th September	Andreas Schefzig	Sandeel/Squid
11.34	Dunmore East	29th June	Jim Atkins	German Sprat
11	4 Barrow Harbour	22nd July	Wilfried Lange (D)	Sandeel
10.8	Courtmacsherry	27th April	Patrick Quinlan	Crab
10.61	Dunmore East	29th June, '96	Val Atkins	German Sprat
10	8 Cahore	12th August	James Crowe	Spinner
13.07	Cork Harbour	16th September	Robert Williams	Crab
10	6 Tramore	27th April	Thomas O'Keefe	Lugworm
10.19	Morriscastle	5th May	Brendan Hayden	Squid
10 2.25	Fenor, Tramore	20th March	Seamus Griffin	Lugworm
10	2 Ardmore	5th October	Cathal Forde	Peeler Crab
10.05	Kilmore Quay	1st September	Anthony Murphy	Silver Toby
10 0.5	Ballyteigue Estuary	17th May	David Byrne	Peeler Crab

COALFISH

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
19.11	Baltimore	17th July	David Ling (GB)	Baited Pirk
19.04	Baltimore	17th July	Mike Kirby (GB)	Baited Pirk
18.19	Schull	12th September	Martin Blackwell (GB)	Baited feathers
17.5	Caherciveen	27th July	John O'Connor	Mackerel Fillet
15.53	Baltimore	17th July	Jack Bibby (GB)	Baited Pirk

COD

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
28.8	Caherciveen	7th September	Gerald Evans	Mackerel Fillet
24.9	Caherciveen	27th July	John O'Connor	Mackerel Fillet
11.21 kilos	Courtmacsherry	5th October	Andre Coombs (GB)	Mackerel Flapper
10.270 kilos	Kinsale	31st July	W. M. v/d Berk (NL)	Mackerel Fillet



John O'Connor (left) caught these two specimens off Valentia – a Cod of 24.9 lbs. and a Coalfish of 17.5 lbs.

CONGER EEL

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
50	Valentia	4th August, '96	Adrian Hanley	Mackerel Fillet
21.90 kilos	Valentia	6th September	Tom Smyth	Pirk/Mackerel
41	Dungarvan	4th July	Glenn Carr (GB)	Mackerel Fillet
18.3 kilos	Valentia	23rd September	Marcel Van Acker (B)	Mackerel

DAB

Record, 2.02 lbs; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs; .680 kilos

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs. ozs.				
1.5	Blacksod	28th August	Philip Holding (GB)	Mackerel
.680 kilos	Monkstown, Cork Harbour	8th December, '96	Pat Coakley	Lugworm

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs. ozs.				
20	8 Roscarbery	21st June	Denis Reen	Mackerel Strip
18	8 Kenmare Bay	18th August	N. Van Der Plank (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
18	Kenmare Bay	18th August	C. P. Janse (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
17.2	Caherciveen	7th September	Johnny Griffin	Mackerel Fillet
7.8 kilos	Valentia	6th September	Bill Emery, Jnr.	Mackerel
7.7 kilos	Kish Bank	6th July	Damien Christie	Mackerel
16.6	Valentia	26th July, '96	Ulrich Fischer (D)	Mackerel Strip
16.5	Valentia	26th July, '96	Ulrich Fischer (D)	Mackerel Strip
16	8 Kenmare Bay	10th August	Davina Dickson (GB)	Mackerel Fillet
16	8 Kenmare Bay	25th August	Ney Karin (D)	Mackerel Fillet
16.3	Caherciveen	20th April	Jack Farrell	Mackerel Fillet
16	4 Valentia	14th June	Adrian Hanley	Mackerel Strip
16	Kenmare Bay	2nd August	Peter O'Toole	Mackerel Fillet

SPUR DOGFISH

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs. ozs.				
18	Dun Laoghaire	9th August	Charles Robinson	Mackerel
17	8 Kenmare Bay	7th September	John Dunford	Mackerel
17	8 Dun Laoghaire	17th May	Charles Robinson	Mackerel
17	Dun Laoghaire	25th October	Darren Gray	Mackerel
17	Kenmare Bay	7th September	T. de Jong (NL)	Mackerel
17	Dun Laoghaire	29th June	Charles Robinson	Mackerel
16	8 Dun Laoghaire	19th October	Paul Sainsbury	Mackerel
16	4 Dun Laoghaire	12th July	Stan Worth	Mackerel
16	Dun Laoghaire	24th September	Brian Hickey	Mackerel
16	Dun Laoghaire	18th October	Frank McNamara	Mackerel
16	Dun Laoghaire	19th October	Kevin Matthews	Mackerel
15	8 Dun Laoghaire	24th September	Richard Caffrey	Mackerel
15	8 Dun Laoghaire	17th May	Dave Dagnhill (GB)	Mackerel
15	8 Dun Laoghaire	20th September	Dermot Bennett	Mackerel
15	8 Dun Laoghaire	9th August	Eileen Wickham	Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH (Continued)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs. ozs.				
15	8 Kenmare Bay	11th August	Rolf Gerritsen (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
15	Kenmare Bay	11th August	J.J.C. Dumay (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
15	Dun Laoghaire	5th October	Stephen Coady	Mackerel
15	Kenmare Bay	5th September	U. Martens (NL)	Mackerel
15	Dun Laoghaire	21st September	Paul Sainsbury	Mackerel
15	Dun Laoghaire	3th September	William Garland	Mackerel
15	Carne	22nd September	Richard Addison (GB)	Mackerel
15	Dun Laoghaire	14th June	Al Ryan	Mackerel
15	Dun Laoghaire	14th June	Brendan Sweetman	Mackerel
15	Dun Laoghaire	14th June	George Donovan	Mackerel
15	Dun Laoghaire	14th June	Henry O'Brien	Mackerel
15	Dun Laoghaire	5th September	Remi Coussens (USA)	Mackerel
14.5	Dun Laoghaire	14th June	John Fitzsimons	Mackerel
14	8 Dun Laoghaire	21st September	Paul Sainsbury	Mackerel
14	8 Dun Laoghaire	29th June	Gerry Flynn	Mackerel
14	8 Dun Laoghaire	18th October	Gerard Price	Mackerel
14	8 Dun Laoghaire	9th August	Leatha Petruzectora (Czh)	Mackerel
14	8 Kenmare Bay	7th September	E.F. van der Burgh (NL)	Mackerel
14	8 Kenmare Bay	22nd August	G. Janse (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
14	6 Dun Laoghaire	24th May	John McGrath	Mackerel
14	Dun Laoghaire	6th September	Emma Ratcliffe	Mackerel
14	Dun Laoghaire	18th October	John Kenny	Mackerel
14	Dun Laoghaire	21st September	William Byrne	Mackerel
14	Dun Laoghaire	21st September	William Byrne	Mackerel
14	Dun Laoghaire	17th May	Gary Lambert (GB)	Mackerel
14	Kenmare Bay	21st August	J.J.C. Dumay (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
14	Kenmare Bay	7th May	Heimeriks (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
14	Kenmare Bay	7th September	E.F. van der Burgh (NL)	Mackerel
14	Kenmare Bay	21st August	Gijs Toeset (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
14	Dun Laoghaire	9th November	David O'Reilly	Mackerel
14	Dun Laoghaire	4th July	Thomas Brerton	Mackerel
14	Dun Laoghaire	4th July	David Cash	Mackerel
14	Dun Laoghaire	14th June	George Donovan	Mackerel
14	Dun Laoghaire	14th June	Henry O'Brien	Mackerel
14	Dun Laoghaire	19th October	Raymond Greene	Mackerel
14	Dun Laoghaire	21st September	Kevin Matthews	Mackerel
14	Dun Laoghaire	24th August	Ramsey McGrory (USA)	Mackerel
6.250 kilos	Rush	17th August	Alan Redmond	Mackerel
13	8 Dun Laoghaire	14th June	Brendan Sweetman	Mackerel
13	8 Dun Laoghaire	5th October	Thomas Molloy	Mackerel
13	8 Dun Laoghaire	4th July	Andrew Edwards	Mackerel
13	8 Dun Laoghaire	14th June	Al Ryan	Mackerel
13	8 Dun Laoghaire	18th October	John Kenny	Mackerel
13	8 Dun Laoghaire	4th October	Justin Ivory	Mackerel
13	8 Dun Laoghaire	9th August	Cora McDonagh	Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13	8	Dun Laoghaire	Kevin Garland	Mackerel
13.5		Dun Laoghaire	Eric Byrne	Mackerel
13	8	Kenmare Bay	A.R. Moeke (NL)	Mackerel
13.5		Kenmare Bay	J.J.C. Dumay (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
13	4	Dun Laoghaire	Michael O'Sullivan	Mackerel
13	2	Dun Laoghaire	Barry Reynolds	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	Paddy Meyler	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	Chris Van Egeraat	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	James Dixon	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	Joe Mercer	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	Chris Dunlop (GB)	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	Gerry Dunne	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	John Braham (GB)	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	Gary Lambert (GB)	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	Mark Turner (GB)	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	William Byrne	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	Tom Malone	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	Patrick Murray	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	Patrick F. Timmins	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	Eugene McGrattan	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	Jeremy Lamb	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	T. de Jong (NL)	Mackerel
13		Kenmare Bay	Andrew Edwards	Mackerel
12	12	Dun Laoghaire	Kevin Hanlon	Mackerel
12	12	Dun Laoghaire	Stephen Neylon	Mackerel
12	10	Dun Laoghaire	Rory Riordan	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	Michael Kunz	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	Barney Brack	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	Eoin Kirwan	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	Brian Nesbitt	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	Kieran Browning	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	A. R. Moeke (NL)	Mackerel
12	8	Kenmare Bay	A. R. Moeke (NL)	Mackerel
12	8	Kenmare Bay	G.H. Van Asten (NL)	Mackerel
12	8	Kenmare Bay	Nay Karin (D)	Mackerel
12	8	Kenmare Bay	Eric Moloney	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	John Judd	Mackerel
12.5		Dun Laoghaire	Ronald Matthews (GB)	Mackerel
12.5		Dun Laoghaire	Dermot Bennett	Mackerel
12.5		Dun Laoghaire	Michael Ryan	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	Willie O'Reilly	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	Willie O'Reilly	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	Darren Gray	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	Eileen Wickham	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	Conor Nolan	Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	Remi Coussens (USA)	Mackerel
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	Dermot Bennett	Mackerel
12	8	Dublin Bay	Paul O'Brien	Mackerel
12	7	Dun Laoghaire	Paul Hanlon	Mackerel
12.42		Baltimore	Roger K. Downey (GB)	Baited Feathers
12	6	Dun Laoghaire	Stephen Neylon	Mackerel
12	4	Dun Laoghaire	Rory O'Connor	Mackerel
12	4	Kish Bank	Liam Tully	Mackerel
5.5 kilos		Rush	Tom Redmond	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Barry Reynolds	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Richard Caffrey	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Tom Malone	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Patrick F. Timmins	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	E.F. van der Burgh (NL)	Mackerel
12		Kenmare Bay	T. de Jong (NL)	Mackerel
12		Kenmare Bay	John Dunford	Mackerel
12		Kenmare Bay	Bobby Toal	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Peter Knuttel	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	John Judd	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Martin McKenna	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Bernard O'Connell	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Ross Dunne	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Ross Dunne	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Frank McNamara	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Frank McNamara	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Gerard Price	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Darren Gray	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Brian Callanan	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Brian Canavan	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	David Cooke	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Jeremy Lamb	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	G. Toulouse (GB)	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Emma Ratcliffe	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Matthew Murphy	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Kevin Garland	Mackerel
12		Dun Laoghaire	Geoff Hammond	Cod feathers

FLOUNDER

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3	8	Youghal	Michael Maher	Crab
1.53 kilos		Lacken, Waterford	Thomas O'Mahony	Crab
1.448 kilos		Youghal	17th November '96 Christopher O'Flynn	Peeler Crab
1.432 kilos		Cloghane	12th November Eddie Bermingham	Peeler Crab



Gerald Fitzgerald and Hugh Maguire show off two fine Ling from Caherciveen weighing in at 31.4 lbs. and 28.6 lbs.

MACKEREL

Record, 4 lbs. 2 ozs.; Specimen Weight, 2.5 lbs; 1.134 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.70	Killala Bay	1st June	John Paul Rogan	Hawkeye lures

MONKFISH

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
56	Tralee Bay	22nd June	Richard Kelter	Mackerel

GREY MULLET

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6	9 Courtmacsherry	15th September	John Case (GB)	Mackerel
2.910 kilos	River Liffey	18th August	Liam Kane	Bread Crust
6	5 Courtmacsherry	17th September	David Clark (GB)	Mackerel
6	3 Courtmacsherry	17th September	John Case (GB)	Mackerel
6	3 River Corrib	15th September	Michael Flannery	Popcorn

GREY MULLET *(continued)*

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.17	River Liffey	30th August	Peter Bolger	Bread
6	Causeway Coast	31st August, '96	Garnett Coulter	Coalfish Strip
6	River Corrib	14th September	Michael Flannery	Popcorn
5.72	River Corrib	13th July	Michael Flannery	Popcorn
5.64	Islandbridge	20th August	Anthony Byrne	Bread
5	8 Skerries	20th July	Robert Tully	Mackerel
5	8 River Boyne	23rd September	Darren Gallagher	Bread
2.590 kilos	Greystones	28th September	P.J. Coleman	Mackerel Strip
5.49	River Liffey	27th September	Paul McDonnell	Bread
5.49	River Liffey	26th September	Bill Malone	Bread
2.488 kilos	River Liffey	20th September	Peter Bolger	Bread
2.480 kilos	River Liffey	27th September	Paul McDonnell	Bread
2.465 kilos	Boat Strand	8th September	Pat Dalton	Mackerel
2.274 kilos	River Liffey	12th September	Peter Bolger	Bread
2.268 kilos	River Liffey	10th September	Paul McDonnell	Bread



Richard Kelter of Tralee with a 56 lb. Fenit Monkfish.

PLAICE

Record, 8.23 lbs. Specimen Weight, 4 lbs; 1.814 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5	Cork Harbour	23rd September	Mattie Foley	Lugworm
4	Cork Harbour	6th April	Gerry Brady	Peeler Crab
4	Causeway Coast	20th August	Keith Scott	Mackerel

POLLACK

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
16 5	Port na Blagh	5th July	Ronald Davidson	Fish tail
15.28	Baltimore	17th July	David Woolf (GB)	Pirk & Muppet
14 5	Port na Blagh	9th March	Pat Robinson	Redgill
14 3	Sheephaven Bay	30th January	Pat Robinson	Redgill
14.13	Baltimore	27th July	Kevin Lysaght	Redgill
14	East Ferry	18th August	Martin Dagger	Mackerel Fillet
13.94	Baltimore	17th July	David Ling (GB)	Baited Pirk
13.88	Baltimore	21st June	G. D. Upperdine (GB)	Blackgill
13.81	Port na Blagh	22nd October	Pat Robinson	Mr. Twister
13.80	Caherciveen	3rd September	Jeff Panis (B)	Mackerel Fillet
13.73	Sheephaven, Port na Blagh	22nd October	Trevor Ryder	Mr. Twister
13.56	Port na Blagh	23rd September	Chris McEleavy	Latex Shad
13 8.75	Port na Blagh	13th April	Paddy McVey	Redgill
13 8.75	Port na Blagh	3rd June	William Patterson	Redgill
13 8.25	Port na Blagh	3rd June	William Patterson	Redgill
13 8	Courtmacsherry	19th July	Herman Van Der Hoff (NL)	Lugworm



Ronald Davidson caught his 16 lbs. 5 oz. Pollack at Port na Blagh.

POLLACK (continued)

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13 4	Port na Blagh	20th September	Kenneth Crooks	Redgill Eel
13	Caherciveen	17th April	Hugh Maguire	Muppets
12.97	Port na Blagh	23rd September	P. J. Nash	Mackerel
12.84	Port na Blagh	23rd September	Chris McEleavy	Latex Shad
12.66	Fastnet Rock	2nd August	Paul Read (GB)	Baited Pirk
12.51	Port na Blagh	26th October	Robbie Winters	Redgill
12.39	Dungarvan	20th April	Cormac Walsh	Hokkai
12 6	Port na Blagh	9th September	Stephen Clark (GB)	Redgill
12.36	Innishtrahull Is.	18th August	Des Mills	Redgill
12 3	Port na Blagh	20th April	Liam Brennan	Black Eel
12.18	Port na Blagh	26th September	Thomas G. Kirkpatrick	Redgill
12.17	Port na Blagh	16th March	Angela Crerand	Mr. Twister
12.15	Culdaff Bay	4th June	Des Mills	Redgill
12.14	Port na Blagh	23rd September	P. Robinson	Redgill
12 1	Port na Blagh	17th May	Master Justin Graham	Mr. Twister
12	Rosscarbery	10th September	Finbarr Eyre	Mackerel
12	Courtmacsherry	7th August	J.A.H. Koelen (NL)	Twister

POUTING

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.47	Kinsale	23rd June	Robin Hall (GB)	Mackerel
3 1	Kilmore Quay	15th May	Jack Higginbotham	Feathers

BLONDE RAY

Record, 36 lbs. 8 ozs. Specimen Weight, 25 lbs; 11.340 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
25 4	Cork Harbour	24th August	Martin Fay (GB)	Mackerel Strip

PAINTED RAY

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13 12	Garryvoe	21st September	John Warner	Mackerel
12 4	Garryvoe	21st September	Dominic Rooney	Mackerel
4.96 kilos	Ballycotton Bay	8th November	Donal Domeney	Crab
10 12	Banna Strand, Fenit	16th July	W. B. Clarke	Sandeel



A 25.25 lb. Blonde Ray taken from Cork Harbour by Martin Fay of Berkshire, U.K.

THORNBACK RAY

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
20.25	Wicklow Bay	5th July	Alan Flahive	Mackerel

HOMELYN RAY

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.60 kilos	Killybegs	4th May	Cormac Burke	Mackerel

THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.91	Slade	2nd June	Sean Furlong	Mackerel
1.11 Kilos	Port Bradden	7th November, '96	Brian Borland	Mackerel
2	Kish Lighthouse	20th April	Rory Galvin	Hokki Lures
1.86	Sandycove, Dun Laoghaire	8th June	John Hughes	Lugworm
1.80	Slade	2nd June	Sean Furlong	Mackerel
1.80	Moneypoint	16th June	Michael Condon	Mackerel
1.75	Moneypoint	6th August	Gerry Doyle	Mackerel Strip



A Homelyn Ray of 2.60 kgs. from Killybegs, caught by Cormac Burke.



John McCleary of Magherafelt with a 7 lb. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. Torsk from Port na Blagh.

TWAITE SHAD

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.53	River Barrow, St. Mullins	16th May	Peter Bolger	Jensen Tobis
2.40	St. Mullins	16th May	Gerry Jervis	Jensen Tobis
2.29	St. Mullins	16th May	Peter Bolger	Jensen Tobis
2.26	St. Mullins	7th May	Gerard Doyle	Tasmanian Devil
1.01 kilos	St. Mullins	3th May	Christopher McMahon	Tasmanian Devil
2.21	St. Mullins	7th May	Michael C. Byrne	Tasmanian Devil
2.13	St. Mullins	5th May	Stephen Black	Tasmanian Devil

BLUE SHARK

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
51 kilos	Mullaghmore	15th August	Kieran Mullen	Mackerel
109 8	Downings	19th July	Master Gareth Miller	Mackerel

SMOOTH HOUND

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8 10	Cahore	31st May	George McCullough	Crab
7 12	Cahore	11th May	Anthony Byrne	Crab
7.070	Ennerriley	17th May	Tony Gaffney	Mackerel
7	Rush	17th August	James Foley	Squid

TOPE

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
40.20	Coningmore Rock	10th September	Christy Cassells	Mackerel

TORSK

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10.36	Killybegs	15th June	Anthony Doherty	Baited Muppet
9 2.5	Port na Blagh	21st September	Condy Ashfield	Mackerel
8.30	Port na Blagh	27th July	Chris McEleavy	Mackerel
7 10	Port na Blagh	21st September	John McCleary	Mackerel
6.78	Malin Head	18th July	Kevin McGhee	Mackerel Strip
6.4	Caherciveen	23rd August	Paul A. Keen (GB)	Mackerel
6 5	Port na Blagh	6th August	John Dunseath	Mackerel Strip
6.29	Killybegs	15th June	Georg Oehler (A)	Baited Muppet

TURBOT

Record, 34 lbs. Specimen Weight, 18 lbs; 8.165 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
22 7	Baltimore	31st July	Daren West (GB)	Mackerel Fillet
18 4	Portstewart	13th October, '96	Hugh Stuart	Ragworm



A 3.85 lb. Dungarvan Whiting caught by William Taylor of Cleveland, U.K.

WHITING

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.85	Dungarvan	9th April	William Taylor (GB)	Mackerel Fillet
3.45	Kinsale	24th June	Len Skilton (GB)	Mackerel Strip
3.21	Dungarvan	23rd July	Lorna Murphy	Mackerel

BALLAN WRASSE

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.22 kilos	Guileen	1st October	Alun Wynne Parry (GB)	Ragworm
5.84	Black Head	27th September	Liam Garvey	Crab
5.80	Ballydavid	30th August	Bob de Helis (NL)	Mackerel
2.438 kilos	Inver Bay	20th September	Sean Martin	Mackerel
5.33	Kilmore Quay	18th May	Master Steven Scallan	Hawkeye
5.27	Hook Head	14th June	Chris Busher	Crab
4.85	Kilmore Quay	26th September	Bob White (GB)	Crab

CUCKOO WRASSE

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 8	Causeway Coast	27th July	Noel Kinnear	Mackerel
1 6	Causeway Coast	13th July	Noel Kinnear	Mackerel
1 5.75	Causeway Coast	20th April	William Cromwell	Baited feathers
1.3	Caherciveen	7th August	Joseph Hardy	Mackerel/Feathers
.58 kilos	Killybegs	19th July	Robert Nolan	Mackerel
.578 kilos	Clifden	5th July	Sean Torpey	Mackerel/Feathers
1 4	Causeway Coast	10th August	Sean Higgins	Mackerel
1 4	Rush	15th August	Alan Redmond	Ragworm
1 2	Causeway Coast	13th July	Brian Smallwood	Mackerel



*Alun Wynne Parry
of Wales with a
3.22 kg. Ballan
Wrasse from
Guileen, Co. Cork.*

NEW RECORDS

Two New Records were established in 1997

A **BREAM** of 12 lbs. 3 ozs. was taken by Paul Mathers, Flat 6, Block 20, Long-fellow Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham, England, in Bolganard Lake on 22nd May, 1997.

A **ROACH/BREAM HYBRID** of 5 lbs. 1.125 ozs. was taken by Paul Gormley, 28 Main Street, Drumquin, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, in Lough Aleen, Co. Fermanagh, on the 12th February, 1997.

TEN PIN AWARDS

The following qualified in 1997 for the special award made to anglers who have ten or more specimen fish:

Albert Bedford, Fen Cottage, Brandon Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 7JD, England.

Peter Bolger, 70 Ferrycarrig Road, Coolock, Dublin 17.

Kenneth Crooks, 6 Oaklands Road, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, BT80 9ED.

Ray McElhinney, 4 Brookside Estate, Bettystown, Co. Meath.

Tom Sneyd, 32 Lorcan Avenue, Santry, Dublin 9.

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, 1997. The award goes to: Garry Doyle, 23 Sherwood, Pollerton Road, Carlow for a Pike of 25 lbs. caught on the River Barrow on 31st October, 1997.

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. No angler achieved ten different species in 1996.

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 Anthony Doherty, The Braes, Fintra, Killybegs, Co. Donegal for a Torsk of 10.36 lbs. taken at Killybegs on 15th June, 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
					9	5
						5
	1					
	2					
						3

FUND RAISING

The Committee are indebted to the generosity of the Central Fisheries Board and the Department of the Marine who contributed £2,000 and £1,500 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.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

In Ireland

The Annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims were accepted during 1996 was made at the Garda Club, Dublin. The Presentation for the 1997 Awards will take place at the Garda Club, Harrington Street, Dublin, at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday, 28th February, 1998.

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

Holland

Presentations were held for visiting anglers who were due Awards for 1996 in 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 1996 is given in this Report. The 1997 accounts will only be available in 1998 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; Marine Institute, North Western, South Western and Northern Regional Fisheries Boards, Aghada S.A.C.; Ballinasloe A.C.; Causeway Coast S.A.C.; Cork S.A.C.; Donaghadee S.A.C.; Dun Laoghaire M.Y.C.A.S.; E.S.B. Shoreliners S.A.C.; Glengormley & District S.A.C.; Riptide S.A.C.; Val Atkins, Bellvue, Ferrybank, Waterford; Paul Bourke, 294 Castletown, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.; Ray Beggs, 17 Baberton Mains Wood, Edinburgh, Scotland; Philip A. Blakey, 12 Redhill Crescent, West Ardsley, Nr. Wakefield, W. Yorks, England; Gerry Brady, 2 O'Rahilly Street, Coby, Co. Cork; Duncan Brown, Mweenish, Carna, Co. Galway; Ian Brown, 11 Dillons Court, Whiteabbey, Co. Antrim, BT3 70SY, N. Ireland; George Burgum, 28 Cedar Avenue, Northbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset BH10 7EF, England; Peter and Shirley

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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	12 3	22.5.1997	Bolganard Lake	Paul Mathers
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 3	5.9.1996	Coney Lake	Hugh Gough
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7 10	19.10.1996	Monalty Lake	Brendan Doran
Roach/Bream Hybrid	5 1.5	12. 2.1997	Lough Aleen (Co. Fermanagh)	Paul Gormley
Tench	9.15	20.6.1995	Ballyeigher Lake	Nick Parry
River Eel	3 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 lbs	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	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	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	19.8.1933	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>)	12 3	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 1.5	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
Nrasse Ballan (<i>Labrus bergylta</i>)	4.3 kilos	4.75	2.154
Nrasse 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, 1996

1995	Expenditure	1996	1995	Revenue	1996
168.62	Post	£173.00		Balance B/F	£1,507.64
£2,487.42	Printing	£3,215.00		Grants	
—	Medals	200.00	£1,500.00	Central Fisheries Board	£1,750.00
£1,567.41	Travel	£545.94	1,000.00	Bord Failte	£2,750.00
£25.00	Late Dr. Went's Prize	£25.00	£500.00	Department of Marine	£1,000.00
£300.00	Miscellaneous	£579.23		Subscriptions	
	Presentation Expenses	£462.50	£992.58	Clubs, Federations &	
£438.00	Bank Charges	£35.51		Individuals & R. F. Bds.	£1,859.38
£26.07	Total	£5,236.18		E.B.S. Interest	—
	Balance c/d	£3,630.84			£8,867.02
		£8,867.02	Balance b/d		£3,630.84

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).



DOWN MEMORY LANE

by Clive Gammon

"Update me, Kevin", I said to Linnane on the phone.

I was talking about my specimen fish scoreline, which, I knew, stopped short, datewise, when I went to live in the U.S.A, back in 1975.

I was confident, though, that I had nine and that I needed just one more specimen to bring me up to the coveted total of 10.

A few days later, my list of big fish captures came in the post.

I called Kevin again. "There's been a computer error", I told him confidently. "You've only got seven listed here."

"No error", he said. "And actually your score is six. Because you are doublet up on coalfish. You caught two specimen coalies at Belmullet. I was with you at the time, if you recall".

"Yes, I remember", I said. "It was the time we were jigging lounce barks through thirty fathoms and the big coalies could hit anywhere from the bottom to



within a few feet of the surface, so it was the most physically demanding sea fishing I've ever done. Sort of saltwater, er, coal mining. Get it".

"I get it all right", said Kevin. "When I tried to climb out of

the car when I reached Dublin, I'd totally seized up. I had to be lifted out of the driving seat and me still in the sitting position."

Yes, I remembered – and Kevin's brought back other memories

also. Not always, though. There's a red bream from "Ginsale listed that I can't distinguish from the mass of the scarlet-and-silver little rascals we used to catch so many of, back in the super Sixties.

But yes, absolutely, I do recall . . . well a 129 lbs skate I caught off Ballycotton in 1961. The size itself was unremarkable, I suppose, it's the memory of the actual day at sea that stays with me.

That was because, for me, it meant revisiting history. Ballycotton was where serious,

heavy duty sea angling started, and I'd walked into Fawcett's Hotel there almost reverentially. Later I'd meet the O'Sullivan brothers, by then in their 80's, who recalled for me how they'd get up at 5. a.m. every fishing morning to walk to Saleen to collect mussels for bait – at that time, feathering for mackerel was unknown.

But it was Michael Lynch who, as they say, made my day. I challenged him to show me the best of Ballycotton – and he did. First off we went sort of basic bottom fishing on mixed ground, picked up cod, ling and finally a big pouting, which Michael commandeered and rigged as a skate bait.

A half hour later, I had my first specimen, the 129 pounder – and there was still a lot of the day left. So I challenged again – "Let's pick up a shark before we go in".

Which, of course, is just what we did.

But I wasn't always sea fishing,

and back in 1969, fired by the tales I'd heard of the big brownies of Lough Mask, I went there with the intention of trolling the lake until I caught one.

Which I did. But it was hard work. In the B & B every evening, other anglers would come in with the nice basket of "ordinary" brown trout they'd caught on the wet fly, while I'd have nothing to show.

And then, early in the morning of my last day, the big fella hit and proved just over specimen weight at 10 lbs. 4 ozs.

On the list Kevin sent to me also was the only Irish record fish I ever caught – a 10 lbs 8 oz. tub gurnard that took my bait off Erris Head in Co. Mayo, which I thought was a cod all the time I was fighting it until its beautiful, brilliant, blue pectoral fins spread out butterfly style broke surface.

All the same, though, in spite of the memories, I'm still well short of that 10 plus mark, species-wise.



BREAM

*Conor Healy
with a bream of
8 lbs. 10 ozs.
caught in
Ballycullinan
Lake, Co. Clare.*



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NOTES

EILEEN TWOMEY R.I.P.

Eileen's Twomey's cheerful face and enthusiasm for meeting and chatting to everybody involved in fishing will be sadly missed from future meetings of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee and its annual award ceremonies in Dublin. She died suddenly on 7th June after a heart attack. The day before she collapsed, she had returned to Dublin at the end of a bird-watching holiday in Norfolk: she had succeeded in enjoying good company and the joys of the open air to the very end.



Born and brought up on a large family farm in Macroom, Eileen had studied natural science at University College, Cork, and after graduating, stayed on to do research for her M.Sc. degree. After a few years as a science teacher in England, she came to Dublin in 1953 to take up an appointment as Naturalist in the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Agriculture. She remained with Fisheries until her retirement, having been appointed Inspector of Fisheries in 1966, following the tragic death of Ned Toner.

Before her promotion she had worked, mainly under the direction of Arthur Went, on the study of salmon populations by scale reading and by tagging. She was also an expert on shad and char and very well informed on trout and the other freshwater fish. With Ned Toner and Ann Hewetson, she carried out important baseline studies on the arterial drainage of the Moy. In later years, she became deeply involved in water pollution problems and played a major part in making various officials and government departments aware of the risks posed by silage and eutrophication.

Her abilities were fully recognised both inside and outside Ireland. Eileen served terms as Board Member of the Salmon Research Trust, Chairman of the Foyle Fisheries Commission and a member of the Science Committee of the RDS, as Chairman of the Anadromous and Catadromous Committee of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and a Fellow of the Institute of Fisheries Management. She was a member of the first judging panel of the Aer Lingus Young Scientists' Exhibition.

Those were the public honours. Privately she had a wonderful circle of friends and acquaintances. Her generous spirit and enthusiasm for her work made her available to everybody who wanted help and advice on fisheries. A government minister requiring an expert opinion – perhaps the expert opinion – a wealthy fishery owner wanting to improve his property, a poor fisherman looking for help, a school child wanting to know "everything about fish". All were treated as equals and Eileen's office phone was seldom off the hook. Within that office, the welfare of her staff was another matter of the highest importance.

In her retirement, she was very happy to have the opportunity to keep her hand in fisheries afforded by her work for the Specimen Fish Committee and also for the Irish National Branch of the Institute of Fisheries Management. But it also gave her more time for bird-watching and for her social work, particularly amongst Alzheimer's patients. She was a happy person and shared her happiness with all kinds of people, but especially with those, like herself, whose first and over-riding interests were fish, fishing and fisheries.