



Conor Healy with a 6 lb. 7 oz. Tench from Fin Lough, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.



REPORT FOR YEAR 1998

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

Some important points for claiming specimen fish:

1. Use official ISFC claim form and complete **all** relevant sections fully.
2. **Print** your name, address (including country) and telephone number in block capitals in Section 2.
3. **Weighing:** Fish **must** be weighed (on land) on **certified** club scales etc. or alternatively, on a shop scales. Fish must not be weighed on board a boat.
4. **Scales must be certified annually** and the certificate of accuracy must be current at time of weighing. Certificate must accompany each claim.
5. **Fish scales, actual bodies** or **photographs** of some species are required (See Section 4 of the Rules for details).
6. You **must** sign and date Section 6 of the Claim Form.



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*Below: Christy Lane from
Cork with a 6 lb 2 oz
Tench from Ballycullinan
Lake.*



*Cover Picture: Well known angler Garnett Coulter with the new Irish Record
Roach/Bream Hybrid of 5 lb. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs. from the River Bann.*

Awards Presentation

The Annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims were accepted during 1998 will be held at the Garda Club, Harrington Street, Dublin at 2.30 pm on Saturday, February 27, 1999.

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

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REPORT OF IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1998

During 1998, the Committee was P. Fitzmaurice, Chairman and W. Roche, Secretary, T. Champ and N. Dunlop (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 Representative Association); M. McEnroe (Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland); C. Moriarty (Marine Institute) and G. Gough (Electricity Supply Board).

During the year the Committee received 515 claims and ratified 461.

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 1998

(Dates of capture 1998 unless otherwise stated)

SALMON

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
21.90	River Corrib	8th September	Henry Cosgrove	Fly
20	2 River Corrib	27th August	Pat Nolan	Shrimp
20.05	River Corrib	30th August	Pat Nolan	Shrimp

SEA TROUT

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3	12 Lough Currane	13th May	Rob Wesmuth (GB)	Fly
7.84	Cullenstown, Wexford	31st May	Martin McBride	Lure
7	12 Lough Currane	29th May	Willem Timmermans (NL)	Fly
7	4 Lough Currane	30th May	Diarmuid A. Linehan	Fly
7	4 Lough Currane	5th June	Kevin Edwards	Fly
7	1 Lough Currane	9th July	Master Jonathan Sutton (GB)	Fly
7	1 Lough Currane	13th June	Con Walsh	Fly
5	4 Cumberagh River	23rd July	Mark Dorman	Fly
3.86	Coppall Lake	22nd August	M. Lanigan-O'Keeffe	Fly
3.85	Lough Currane	21st September	Thomas Bateman	Fly
3	2 Lough Currane	13th May	Robert Miachon (F)	Fly
3	2 Lough Currane	24th September	Keith Williams (GB)	Fly

SEA TROUT (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.56	Lough Currane	22nd July	Harry Huggard	Fly
6	8 Lough Currane	26th April	Leo Ondruska (D)	Fly
6	4 Lough Currane	8th June, '97	Gordon Bloodworth (GB)	Fly
6	4 Lough Currane	26th May	Bernd Gallenmuller (A)	Lukki
6	4 Lough Currane	3rd August	C.M. Oakshott (GB)	Fly
6	4 Lough Currane	30th May	John White (GB)	Fly
6.13	Lough Currane	12th June	David Bockett	Fly
6	2 Lough Currane	20th June	Tom Long	Fly
6	2 Lough Currane	29th June	Dave Thomas (GB)	Fly
6	2 Lough Currane	7th June	James Linehane	Fly
6	2 Lough Currane	5th June	Jack Freeney	Fly
6	1 Lough Currane	7th June	Derry Ryan	Fly
6	1 Lough Currane	25th September	Keith Williams (GB)	Fly
3.02	Lough Currane	31st May	Michael P. Clancy	Fly



W. F. Wolter from the Netherlands caught this 13.92 lb Brown Trout in Lough Gowna.

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

Record, 26.2 lbs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs; 4.536 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13.92	Lough Gowna, Co. Cavan	20th April	W.F. Wolter (NL)	Rapala
13	7 Lough Derg	8th March	John P. Shinnars	Minnow
12.75	Lough Corrib	12th April	Alois Heinger (CH)	Rapala
10	Lough Corrib	13th September	Roy E. Peirce	Fly

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
16	5 River Shannon, O'Brien's Bridge	22nd February	Des Farrell	Roach
12.61	Cong Canal	20th September	Nicholas P. Lambert (GB)	Fly
12	5.5 River Shannon, Killaloe	15th February	J.J. Kennedy	Tasmanian Devil
10	3 River Inny	28th March	Master Clive Doyle	Worm
3.876 kilos	Finn River	26th June	Timothy Harron	Floater
3.02	Cong Canal	19th September	John Wilkinson	Fly
7	8 River Barrow, Milford	29th May	Kevin Walsh	Worm
6.53	Cong Canal	19th September	John Wilkinson	Fly
6.51	Abbert River	20th August	John Brett	Lure
6	8 River Shannon, Athlone	28th March	Christopher Grogan	Lane Minnow
5.67	River Clare, Cregmore	1st July	Paul Molloy	Lure
5	8 River Shannon, Drumshanbo	2nd June	Paul D. Gammon (GB)	Spinner
5.07	River Liffey, Clane	25th July	Paul Dunne	Fly

BREAM

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10	13.5 Monalty Lake	30th August	Colm Crean	Maggots
10	10 Bolganard Lake	9th May	David Savage	Worm
10	9 Monalty Lake	30th August	James McMahon	Maggots
10	6.5 Monalty Lake	8th November	Colm Crean	Maggots
10	2 Monalty Lake	12th September	Raymond Mabbutt (GB)	Sweetcorn
10	1 Monalty Lake	30th August	James McMahon	Maggots
10	Monalty Lake	16th August	James McMahon	Maggots
9	14 Monalty Lake	12th September	Raymond Mabbutt (GB)	Sweetcorn

BREAM (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9 12	Monalty Lake	30th August	Colm Crean	Maggots
9 6	Drumlaheen Lake	9th April	Brendan Doran	Maggots
9 4	Drumlaheen Lake	5th May	Ron Patterson	Sweetcorn
9	Drumlaheen Lake	5th May	Ron Patterson	Sweetcorn
9	Drumlaheen Lake	5th May	Ron Patterson	Sweetcorn
9	Drumlaheen Lake	11th April	Brendan Doran	Maggots
4.025 kilos	River Shannon, Lanesboro	5th May	B. Lister (GB)	Bread
8 13	Ballycullinan Lake	5th August	Conor Healy	Worm/Corn
8 12	Ballycullinan Lake	5th August	Conor Healy	Worm/Corn
8 12	Ballycullinan Lake	11th July	Bill Collins	Bread Flake
8 12	Monalty Lake	1st October	Liam Tully	Maggots
8 10	Ballycullinan Lake	19th July	Bill Collins	Bread Flake
8 10	Ballycullinan Lake	11th July	Roy Gretton	Sweetcorn
8 10	Ballycullinan Lake	20th June	Duncan Brown	Worm
8 10	Ballinafid Lake	3rd June	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
8 9	Ballycullinan Lake	5th August	Conor Healy	Worm/Corn
8 9	Monalty Lake	18th March	Fred Foster	Bread
8 7	Monalty Lake	7th September	Raymond Mabbutt (GB)	Maggots
8 7	Monalty Lake	16th March	John O'Shaughnessy	Bread
8 6.25	Ballycullinan Lake	7th June	David A. Spokes	Sweetcorn/Worm Cocktail
8 3	Ballycullinan Lake	11th July	Bill Collins	Worm
8 5	Monalty Lake	3rd May	Fred Foster	Maggots
8 5	Drumlaheen Lake	9th April	Brendan Doran	Maggots
8 4	Ballinafid Lake	17th July	Georgie Bell	Maggots
8 4	Ballycullinan Lake	11th July	Roy Gretton	Sweetcorn
8 3	Ballycullinan Lake	11th July	Roy Gretton	Sweetcorn
8 2	Ballycullinan Lake	5th June	John Kelly	Maggot/Worm
8 7.92	Ballycullinan Lake 21st June River Shannon, Lanesboro 28th April		Duncan Brown W.A. Lister (GB)	Worm Bread
7 14	Ballycullinan Lake	2nd June	Christy Lane	Worm/Corn Cocktail
7 14	Ballycullinan Lake	29th July	Daniel Smith	Worms
7 14	Lower River Bann	15th February	David Craig	Maggots
7 13.75	Ballycullinan Lake	30th June	David A. Spokes	Worm/Maggot Cocktail
7 13.5	Ballycullinan Lake	28th August	Master Adrian Spokes	Worm
7 12	Ballycullinan Lake	25th July	Christy Lane	Corn/Maggots
7 12	Lower River Bann	15th February	Terry Jackson	Corn/Maggots
7 12	Ballycullinan Lake	1st June	Christy Lane	Corn
3.550 kilos	Lanesboro	5th May	B. Lister (GB)	Bread
7.71	Lanesboro	23rd April	W.A. Lister (GB)	Bread

BREAM (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 11	Ballycullinan Lake	2nd June	Noel Lane	Sweetcorn
7 11	Ballycullinan Lake	26th June	Anthony Byrne	Bread
7 9.25	Ballyquirke Lake	30th October	David A. Spokes	Worm/Caster Cocktail
7 8	Ballycullinan Lake	21st June	Duncan Brown	Worm



A Bream of 10 lb 10 oz taken by David Savage from Bolganard Lake.

PIKE (LAKE)

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
34 4	Lough Bane	18th April	Joseph Rooney	Rapala Plug
30 4	Blessington Lake	4th January	Des Tobin	Roach
30 1	Lough Corrib	23rd May, '97	Roger Villeret (F)	Spoon

PIKE (RIVER)

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
37 6	River Barrow, Bagenalstown	3rd February	Joseph Marsella	Herring
34	River Shannon, O'Brien's Bridge	1st November	Tom Lynch	Rapala Plug

PIKE (RIVER) (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
27 12	River Suck, Creggan	14th December, '97	Martin Hickey	Herring
27.40	River Erne	17th September	Rolf Bucher (CH)	Fish
26 2	River Inny, Ballinalack	17th March	Leo Farrell	Roach
11.6 kilos	Philipstown River	19th February	Joseph Tracey	Plug
25.40	River Barrow, Carlow	24th January	Oliver Doyle	Rudd
25.09	River Barrow, Borris	11th January	Michael Norton	Smelt
24.9	Clare River	19th September	David A. O'Connell	Roach
24 8	O'Brien's Bridge	6th April	Patrick Murray	Roach
24	Inny River	22nd February	Master Nicholas O'Neill	Rudd
24	River Barrow	10th February	Daniel Murphy	Rudd
23 6	Lr. River Bann	1st March	Terry Jackson	Fish
22.25	River Barrow, St. Mullins	26th October	Oliver Doyle	Mackerel
21 8	River Suck, Ballyforan	8th February	Sean Coughlan	Herring
21.12	St. Mullins	21st November	Master Gary Doyle	Rudd



Joseph Rooney with a 34 lb 4 ozs Pike from Lough Bane.



Joseph Marsella with a magnificent 37 lb 6 oz Pike from the River Barrow at Bagnelstown.

PIKE (RIVER) (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
21.1	River Corrib	15th February	James T. Riddell	Minnow
21	Clare River	20th September	David A. O'Connell	Roach
21	O'Brien's Bridge	26th November	Charlie Lyons	Rapala
9.5 kilos	Philipstown River	5th December	Joseph Tracey	Mackerel
20 13	Clare River	22nd April	Duncan Brown	Mackerel
20 12	Ballyforan	22nd February	Aidan Moclair	Eel
20.59	River Barrow	15th February	Peter Bolger	Fish
20.5	River Barrow	4th February	Daniel Murphy	Roach
20.45	River Barrow	20th December, '97	Master Gary Doyle	Herring
20 5	Lower River Bann	15th March	Terry Jackson	Roach
20 4	O'Brien's Bridge	15th April	Patrick Murray	Roach
20 4	Lower River Bann	1st March	Terry Jackson	Fish
20.25	River Barrow	21st February	Daniel Murphy	Rudd
9.1 kilos	Kilcrow River, Ballyshrule	28th December, '97	Michael Norton	Smelt
20 2	Ballyforan	19th October	Ron Patterson	Mackerel

CARP

New Record, 29 lbs. 13 ozs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs; 4.536 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
29 13	The Lough, Cork	5th July	Sidney Kennedy	Bread Flake
26 2	The Lough	15th March	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
24 2	The Lough	3rd June	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
21 4	The Lough	30th January	John Healy	Boilie
18 8	The Lough	16th May	Mandy O'Brien	Maggots
17 10	The Lough	4th June	John Healy	Boilie
17 7	The Lough	10th May	John Healy	Boilie
17 4	Ballinafid Lake	10th May	Brendan Doran	Boilie
16 4	The Lough	1st June	Tony Cotter	Maggots
15 10	Ballinafid Lake	25th April	Brendan Doran	Boilie
15 4	Ballinafid Lake	5th July	Brendan Doran	Boilie
15	Ballinafid Lake	4th May	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
14 9	Ballinafid Lake	2nd June	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
14 1	Ballinafid Lake	11th July	Fred Foster	Chickpea
12 12	Ballinafid Lake	5th June	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
11 8	Ballinafid Lake	13th June	David Grimes	Boilie
11 2	Royal Canal	29th August	Desmond Howell	Sweetcorn
10.80	Gaulmoylestown Lake	18th September	Rinus de Bruin	Boilie

EEL

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 11.5	Lough Bawn	4th October	Master Ciaran Maxwell	Worms
4 15	River Lee, Inniscarra Res.	25th September	Bill Collins	Lobworm
4	The Lough, Cork	10th May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
3 11	Inniscarra Res.	25th September	Roy Gretton	Gudgeon
3 10	Clondanagh Lake	6th May	Patrick Murray	Smelt
3 10	The Lough	20th May	John Feeney	Worms
3 7	Inniscarra Res.	25th September	Roy Gretton	Gudgeon
3 5	Inniscarra Res.	25th September	Roy Gretton	Gudgeon
3 4	The Lough	13th May	John Healy	Boilie
3 3	The Lough	10th May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
3 1	The Lough	16th May	Mandy O'Brien	Maggots
3	The Lough	10th May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
3	The Lough	1st June	Tony Cotter	Maggots
3	The Lough	26th May	Conor Healy	Maggots

ROACH

Record, 2 lbs. 13.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 2 lbs; 0.907 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 8	Lagan Canal	5th April	Chris Ritchie	Maggots
2 5	Lagan Canal	9th May	Terry Jackson	Sweetcorn/Maggots
2 4	Lagan Canal	28th April	Terry Jackson	Maggots
2 3	Lagan Canal	4th May	Colin Martin	Maggots/Corn
2	Lagan Canal	29th March	Terry Jackson	Sweetcorn/Maggots

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

New Record, 5 lbs. 4 1/2 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 4 1/2	River Bann	19th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
5	Lower River Bann	1st March	Terry Jackson	Maggots
4 15.5	River Bann, Toome	25th April	Eileen Coulter	Maggots
4 12.5	Toome	25th April	Eileen Coulter	Maggots
4.75	Galloncurra Lake	7th August	Brian McDonnell	Sweetcorn
4 10	River Bann	18th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
4 9	Lough Kinale	29th August	Daniel Smith	Worm/Corn
4 8.5	River Bann	25th April	Eileen Coulter	Maggots
4 8	Galloncurra Lake	17th October	Gareth Purnell (GB)	Maggots
4 6.5	River Bann	18th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
4 6	Lower River Bann	15th February	Terry Jackson	Maggots
4.1	Galloncurra Lake	7th August	Shay McDonnell	Maggots
4.1	Galloncurra Lake	7th August	Shane McDonnell	Maggots
4	Lower River Bann	15th February	David Craig	Maggots
4	Monaity Lake	26th September	Alan Kilroy	Corn
1.8 kilos	River Inny, Castlepollard	5th April	Liam Kane	Maggots
3 14	Lower River Bann	15th February	David Craig	Maggots
3 7	River Bann	19th April	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots
3 4	Lower River Bann	19th April	Colin Martin	Maggots
3 4	Royal Canal, Blackshade Bridge	21st June	Alan Kilroy	Sweetcorn
3 2	Galloncurra Lake	2nd August	Alan Kilroy	Corn

RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4 8	Ballinafid Lake	17th July	Georgie Bell	Maggots

PERCH

Record, 5 lbs. 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.10	Jr. Lough Corrib	4th October	Paddy O'Toole	Spoon

TENCH

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8	1 Lakyle Lake	28th June	David Grimes	Boilie
8	Lakyle Lake	5th July	David Grimes	Boilie
7	13 Lakyle Lake	5th June	Mark Healy	Sweetcorn
7	12 Black Lake	25th May	Tom Sneyd	Corn/Maggots
7	9.5 Lakyle Lake	6th September	Master Bill Brazier	Lobworm
7	9 Lakyle Lake	15th July	Mark Healy	Maggots
7	5 Lakyle Lake	5th June	Mark Jones	Sweetcorn
7	4 Lakyle Lake	3rd June	Mark Jones	Bread Flake
7	1 Lakyle Lake	20th September	David A. Spokes	Maggots/Sweetcorn
7	Ballinafid Lake	13th June	David Grimes	Boilie
7	Lakyle Lough	24th July	Mark Healy	Maggots
6	14 Black Lake	27th July	Tom Sneyd	Maggots/Sweetcorn
6	12 Holly Island Lake	26th May	John Bent	Sweetcorn/Maggots
6	10 Holly Island Lake	26th May	Tom Sneyd	Worm/Sweetcorn
6	8 Ballycullinan Lake	7th June	David A. Spokes	Worm/Sweetcorn
6	7 Fin Lough, Strokestown	1st June	Conor Healy	Maggots/Corn
2.880 kilos	River Shannon, Shannonbridge	25th May	Chris Compton (GB)	Maggots
5	5 Ballycullinan Lake	19th July	Bill Collins	Sweetcorn
5	5 Lakyle Lake	25th July	Mark Jones	Maggots
2.840 kilos	Shannonbridge	27th May	Stuart Ross (GB)	Maggots
5	4 Black Lake	20th June	Duncan Brown	Sweetcorn
2.830 kilos	Shannonbridge	25th May	Chris Compton (GB)	Maggots
5	2 Monalty Lake	18th August	David Finnegan	Maggots/Sweetcorn
5	2 Ballycullinan Lake	25th July	Christy Lane	Corn/Maggots
5	1.25 Ballycullinan Lake	7th June	David A. Spokes	Worm/Sweetcorn
5	1 Lough Bridget	16th June	Patrick Murray	Sweetcorn
5	0.5 Holly Island Lake	11th July	Daniel Smith	Sweetcorn



Thomas O'Keeffe with a 10 lb 4 oz Bass from Tramore.

BASS

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.9 kilos	Dunmore East	25th July	John Brown	Peeler Crab
13.12	Doonbeg	8th March	Emmet Ryan	Lugworm
5.9 kilos	Whiting Bay, Waterford	11th October	Henry Lynam	Crab/Squid
11.34	Arklow	14th September,'97	Damian Blackwell	Rapala
5 kilos	Whiting Bay	11th October	John Brown	Peeler Crab
5 kilos	Donabate	16th August	Henry Lynam	Peeler Crab
4.83 kilos	Baginbun	29th August	Patrick F. Murphy	Smelt
4.6 kilos	Hook Head, Co. Wexford	26th July	Henry Lynam	Tasmanian Devil
4.55 kilos	Cork Harbour	10th September	Edward Howard	Crab
4.54 kilos	Bonmahon, Co. Waterford	18th August	Thomas O'Mahony	Mackerel
10	12 Tramore	5th September	Peter Atkins	Lugworm
10	7 Arthurstown, Co. Wexford	23rd May	Peter Bolger	Toby
10	6 Brandon	19th September	Eamon Murphy	Sandeel
10	4 Barrow Harbour	5th April	Gerard Bolger	Crab
10	4 Tramore	16th September	Thomas O'Keeffe	Lugworm
10.25	Courtmacsherry	13th September,'97	Pat Coakley	Crab

COALFISH

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
19	Courtmacsherry	6th July	Lesley Costine (GB)	Mackerel Strip
18.2	Caherciveen	22nd September	Ken Robinson (GB)	Mackerel/Pirk
15.31	Baltimore	18th August	Peter Cox	Mackerel Strip

COD

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
27.6	Baltimore	2nd July	B. Wood (GB)	Baited Feathers
23.31 lbs	Baltimore	2nd July	C. Boettger (GB)	Baited Hokkai
21 6	Killybegs	20th June	Brian McPherson	Mackerel
21.25	Caherciveen	24th July	Hugh Maguire	Feathers
20.63	Baltimore	5th August	Anthony Devoy	Baited Hokkai



Lesley Costine (Scotland) with a 19 lb Coalfish taken in Courtmacsherry Bay.



Charter skipper Hugh Maguire from Cahersiveen with a cod of 21.25 lbs.

CONGER EEL

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
55	Valentia	25th August	Tien Kreemers (NL)	Mackerel
49	Kenmare Bay	3rd July	L.J.M. Stroek (NL)	Mackerel
47	Dungarvan	28th August	John Crease (GB)	Mackerel
20.2 kilos	Kinsale	25th June	Stellan Dahmm (SW)	Mackerel Flapper
20 kilos	Valentia	18th July	Gerald Evans	Mackerel
18.60 kilos	Valentia	17th June	Horst Kaves (NL)	Mackerel
41	Cork Harbour	7th June	Peter Spierings (NL)	Mackerel

DAB

Record, 2.02 lbs; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs; 0.680 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 8	Causeway Coast	1st November, '97	George Steen	Ragworm



Tien Kreemers with a 55 lb Conger Eel taken off Valentia Island.

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10.75 kilos	Kenmare Bay	29th September	H.D. van Ulden (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
21 8	Rosscarbery	4th July	John McDermott	Baited Pirk
18	Rosscarbery	9th August	Finbarr Eyre	Mackerel
18	Rosscarbery	9th August	Denis Reen	Mackerel Strip
17.80	Caherciveen	2nd September	Harald Neumann (D)	Mackerel Fillet
17	Kenmare Bay	27th August	Bastiaan Toeset-Zwart (NL)	Mackerel
7.5 kilos	Kenmare Bay	22nd August	R. Gerritsen (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
16 5	Kenmare Bay	23rd July	Roland Totzck (D)	Mackerel
16.30	Caherciveen	22nd September	Steve Parsons (GB)	Mackerel
16.25	Schull	12th May	Jonathon P. Bayliss (GB)	Mackerel Strip



Harald Neumann from Germany with a 17.8 lb Bull Huss from Cahersiveen.

SPUR DOGFISH

New Record, 21 lbs; Specimen Weight, 12 lbs; 5.443 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
21	Kenmare Bay	14th March	John Agusta	Mackerel
9.5 kilos	Kenmare Bay	31st July	P.J.C. Schellingerhout (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
20	Kenmare Bay	14th March	Patrick Coughlan	Mackerel
19 8	Kenmare Bay	31st July	Roy Sic v.d. Hoff (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
19 8	Kenmare Bay	31st July	Roy Sic v.d. Hoff (NL)	Mackerel
19	Kenmare Bay	31st July	Roy Sic v.d. Hoff (NL)	Mackerel
18	Kenmare Bay	31st July	F. M. Etman (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
17	Kenmare Bay	26th May	Rico Bloemberg (NL)	Mackerel
17	Kenmare Bay	26th May	S. Gijsbers (NL)	Mackerel
17	Kenmare Bay	22nd May	J. Van Gastel (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.5 kilos	Kenmare Bay	16th September	H. Goedhart (NL)	Mackerel
16 8	Kenmare Bay	31st July	J. Luyken (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
16 8	Dun Laoghaire	10th May	D. Gray	Mackerel
16	Kenmare Bay	14th March	Dominic Delaney	Mackerel
16	Kenmare Bay	31st July	A. M. Etman (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
16	Kenmare Bay	26th May	J. v.d. Vorst (NL)	Mackerel
7 kilos	Kenmare Bay	3rd June	Hans Dubbeldam (NL)	Mackerel
15	Kenmare Bay	10th September	R. Kempe (NL)	Mackerel
15	Kenmare Bay	14th March	Patrick Coughlan	Mackerel
14 8	Dun Laoghaire	10th May	D. Gray	Mackerel
6.5 kilos	Kenmare Bay	3rd June	J. W. Kraaijeveld (NL)	Mackerel
14	Kenmare Bay	14th March	Dominic Delaney	Mackerel
14	Kenmare Bay	14th May	Patrick Coughlan	Mackerel
14	Kenmare Bay	4th August	J.J.C. Dumay (NL)	Mackerel Fillet

SPUR DOGFISH (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14	Kenmare Bay	14th March	John Agusta	Mackerel
14	Kenmare Bay	11th September	J. A. Vermeulen (NL)	Mackerel
6.25 kilos	Kenmare Bay	11th September	N. Kramer (NL)	Mackerel
13 9	Kenmare Bay	12th April	Darren Gallagher	Mackerel
13 6	Kenmare Bay	14th March	John Agusta	Mackerel
13	Kenmare Bay	14th March	Robert Brennan	Mackerel
12 8	Kenmare Bay	12th April	Tony Yeates	Mackerel
12 7	Kenmare Bay	12th April	Darren Gallagher	Mackerel
5.560 kilos	Schull	27th June	Ken Brady	Mackerel

FLOUNDER

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.4755 kilos	Youghal	28th June	Robert O'Brien	Crab/Lugworm Cocktail
386 kilos	Ballyteigue	18th October	Brian Buckley	Crab

GARFISH (Belone bellone)

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.79	Courtmacsherry	27th September	R.J.M. Huitema (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.50	Courtmacsherry	20th September	Dominique Grenier (F)	Mackerel
2.39	Cobh	17th May	Feargal O'Callaghan	Mackerel
2.36	Courtmacsherry	27th September	R.J.M. Huitema (NL)	Mackerel
2.31	Courtmacsherry	27th September	M. Dijkoha (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.30	Courtmacsherry	27th September	M. Dijkoha (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.27	Courtmacsherry	27th September	J. van der Horst Jansen (NL)	Mackerel Strip

GREY GURNARD

Record, 3 lbs. 1 oz; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs; 0.680 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.80	Rosslare	21st September	Malcolm Melvin	Ragworm
1.60	Downings	14th August	David Wilson	Mackerel
1 9 ⁵ / ₈	Dunfanaghy	25th June	Steve Souter (GB)	Beads



A 6.5 lb Tub Gurnard caught by Paul Mc Connell at Belmullet.

RED GURNARD

Record, 3 lbs. 9.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 2 lbs; 0.907 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 9	Belmullet	31st July	Padraic Sheeran	Redgill
2.31	Teelin	15th August '97	John Saunders (GB)	Baited Feathers
2.20	Downings	15th July	John Keilt	Baited Feathers
3.960 kilos	Belmullet	10th August	Rab Beggs (GB)	Mackerel baited spoon
2.01	Killybegs	23rd September	Geoffrey J. Cutler	Worm/Squid Strip
3.95 kilos	Dunmore	27th September	Thomas O'Mahony	Mackerel
3.910 kilos	Belmullet	10th August	Rab Beggs (GB)	Mackerel baited spoon

TUB GURNARD

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 8	Killala Bay	20th June	Charles Wilson	Mackerel Strip
7.88	Achill	9th August	Robert J. Farrelly	Baited Feathers
3.50	Belmullet	22nd August	Paul McConnell	Mackerel baited spoon
3.50	Sheephaven	1st September	Dick Pluijmers (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.745 kilos	Achill	28th July	Derek Mallock Batchelor (GB)	Mackerel Strip/Hokkai
5.36	Achill	28th September	Matthew Turner (GB)	Mackerel Strip
5.30	Achill	27th June	Daniel Ricketts	Mackerel Feathers



Mr Heijstra from the Netherlands with his 25.5 lb Ling taken off Cork Harbour.

LING

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
43 8	Ballycastle	13th August, '97	Nigel Turner	Mackerel
41	Baltimore	2nd July	C. Boettger (GB)	Baited Pirk
37	Baltimore	2nd July	Ken Shore (GB)	Pirk
15.50 kilos	Valentia	18th September	Steve Parsons (GB)	Mackerel
34	Baltimore	2nd July	R. Bowles (GB)	Baited Feathers
29.6	Caherciveen	29th August	Denis Bergin	Mackerel Fillet
29.41	Baltimore	2nd July	C. Boettger (GB)	Baited Pirk
13.4 kilos	Valentia	25th October, '97	Kevin O'Keeffe	Mackerel
26.79	Baltimore	2nd July	R. Bowles (GB)	Baited Feathers
26 10	Port na Blagh	15th November	Robert Winters	Mackerel
26	Courtmacsherry	20th May	J. van der Broek (NL)	Mackerel
26	Courtmacsherry	8th July	Jaap de Bruin (NL)	Mackerel
25.5	Cork Harbour	2nd September	W. Heijstra (NL)	Mackerel



A 3.4 kg Grey Mullet caught in Cork Harbour by Mark Dutton from Cheshire.

MONKFISH

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
53 8	Fenit	14th June	John Boyle	Mackerel

GREY MULLET

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8 1	Lough Furnace	27th August, '97	John Cogavin	Fly
3.41 kilos	Cork Harbour	29th September	Mark Dutton (GB)	Hokkai with Ragworm
7	Lough Furnace	30th July, '97	Christian Kelly	Fly
6 5	Lough Furnace	17th September, '97	Michael Davitt	Fish bait
6.14	River Corrib, Claddagh	14th September	Michael Flannery	Popcorn
5.8	River Boyne	11th July	Darren Gallagher	Bread
2.6 kilos	River Liffey	23rd August, '97	Liam Kane	Bread Crust
5 8	Lough Furnace	25th August, '97	Ger Rogan	Fly
5.44	River Boyne	11th July	Darren Gallagher	Bread
5 6	Lough Furnace	6th August, '97	Terry Gallagher	Fly
5 5	Bray	24th June	Jerry Jervis	Bread Flake
5 2	Lough Furnace	10th July, '97	Milton Matthews	Fly



English angler Rolf Marschalek caught this 3.23 kg Plaice in Cork Harbour.

PLAICE

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 8	Cork Harbour	1st October	Michael Fitzpatrick	Mussel
3.23 kilos	Cork Harbour	26th September	Rolf J.V. Marschalek (GB)	Lugworm/Squid
3.47	Cork Harbour	22nd July	Fred Vickery	Mackerel Strip
2.1 kilos	Cork Harbour	30th September	Mrs. Sue Tait (GB)	Lugworm
4 4	Causeway Coast	3rd June	Damian J. Rohdich	Ragworm/Mackerel
4.15	Cobh	16th August	Ernst Van Amersfoort (NL)	Mackerel Strip

POLLACK

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14.4	Valentia	26th September, '97	Mel Smith	Mr. Twister
6.2 kilos	Valentia	3rd October, '97	Mark Hindle (GB)	Mackerel
6.15 kilos	Valentia	21st September	Jackie Gevaert (B)	Jighead
13 6½	Port na Blagh	19th March	Peter Dixon (GB)	Redgill
6.05 kilos	Valentia	21st September	Jackie Gevaert (B)	Jighead
6 kilos	Valentia	7th August	Richard Quigley	Jighead
13.19	Killybegs	30th April	Michael McGettigan	Mackerel
13.16	Kinsale	2nd July	Richard Parker (GB)	Mackerel Fillet
13.16	Ballydavid	6th August	Rob Shattock (GB)	Sandeel
13 0½	Port na Blagh	27th September	Master Martin Coyle	Mr. Twister
13	Courtmacsherry	2nd September	Mark Gannon	Redgill
13	Courtmacsherry	26th September	Dominique Grenier (F)	Mr. Twister

POLLACK (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.8 kilos	Valentia	26th October, '97	Monty Barker	Mackerel
5.8 kilos	Valentia	21st September	Jackie Gevaert (B)	Jighead
12.75	Crosshaven	24th May	J. R. Wildon	Mr. Twister
12.75	Killybegs	27th May	Cormac Burke	Mr. Twister
12.69	Downings	29th August	Ronald Maddison	Yellow Bead Head
5.75 kilos	Valentia	25th October, '97	Master William Sullivan	Redgill
12.50	Ballydavid	3rd August	Rob Shattock (GB)	Redgill
12 8	Ballycastle	30th August	John Hamilton	Rubber Eel
5.664 kilos	Donegal Bay	15th November	Seamus McHugh	Mr. Twister
5.65 kilos	Valentia	6th July	Marc De Lange (NL)	Jighead
12.39	Baltimore	4th October	Heymans Bruno (B)	Feathers
12 4	Cork Harbour	18th July, '97	Dinant Poortman (NL)	Mr. Twister
12 4	Ballycastle	30th August	Steven Russell	Redgill
12.18	Ballydavid	29th August	Gerrit Smit (NL)	Spinner
12.17	Caherciveen	22nd March	Joanna Hardy	Mackerel Strip
12.16	Caherciveen	6th December	Joe Hardy	Mackerel Strip
12.16	Baltimore	18th August	Ian Latham	Baited Muppet
12.15	Crosshaven	18th July	F. D. Klok (NL)	Mr. Twister
5.5 kilos	Kinsale	27th July	Philip Whiteman	Mackerel Fillet
12.10	Ballydavid	13th June	Brian Buckley	Jellyworm
12.05	Baltimore	2nd September	Peter Murphy (GB)	Mackerel



A 13.16 lb Pollack from Kinsale caught by Richard Parker (right) from Bristol.

POUTING

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.42	Caherciveen	30th June	Hugh Maguire	Mackerel Strip
3	6 Valentia	25th October, '97	Paddy Loftus	Ragworm
3.23	Cork Harbour	4th September	Jai Walta (NL)	Mackerel Strip
1.440 kilos	Cork Harbour	4th September	Willu Silkanath (D)	Baited feathers
1.440 kilos	Cork Harbour	4th September	Uwe Krey (D)	Baited feathers
3.10	Cork Harbour	8th October	Cees Van Vliet (NL)	Mackerel
3.04	Dungarvan	14th June	Master Pdraig Crowley	Terminator Lure
3	Courtmacsherry	13th June	Mark E. Gannon	Baited Feathers

CUCKOO RAY

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 10.5	Camlough Bay	25th October '97	Wilfred Jones	Baited Spoon

HOMELYN RAY

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.5	Killoughter	25th April	Michael Quinn	Mackerel/Crab

PAINTED RAY

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.52 kilos	Garryvoe	11th October	Donal Buckley	Mackerel
3.24 kilos	Garryvoe	12th September	Pat Coakley	Mackerel
1.827 kilos	Garryvoe	18th July	Tony Santry	Sandeel

STING RAY

Record, 64 lbs; Specimen Weight, 30 lbs; 13.608 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10	Tralee Bay	1st June	Richard Kelter	Mackerel
32	Tralee Bay	1st August	Rini Anemaet (NL)	Mackerel

THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

Record, 3 lbs. 1 oz; Specimen Weight, 1.75 lbs; 0.794 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2	Monkstown	10th July	Liam Keohane	Mackerel
1.95	Ballygannon	27th September	Shay McLoughlin	Mussel
1.8	Moneypoint	14th September	Ferdinand Schachl (D)	Mackerel

TWAITE SHAD

Record, 2.87 lbs. Specimen Weight, 2 lbs. 2 ozs; 0.964 kilos

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.70	River Barrow, St. Mullins	16th May	Noel O'Sullivan	Tasmanian Devil
2.65	St. Mullins	10th May	Noel O'Sullivan	Tasmanian Devil
2.58	St. Mullins	6th May	Michael O'Leary	Tasmanian Devil
2	9 St. Mullins	16th May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
2	8 St. Mullins	13th May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
2.5	St. Mullins	9th May	Paul Daly	Tasmanian Devil
2.5	St. Mullins	8th May	Margaret Brazil	Tasmanian Devil
2	6 St. Mullins	16th May	John Moffat	Jensen
2.36	St. Mullins	15th May	Patrick Kiely	Tasmanian Devil
2.32	St. Mullins	6th May	Leonard Smith	Tasmanian Devil
2.31	St. Mullins	8th May	Margaret Brazil	Tasmanian Devil
2.31	St. Mullins	8th May	Kevin Cunningham	Tasmanian Devil
2	5 St. Mullins	16th May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
2.27	St. Mullins	10th May	Noel O'Sullivan	Zzinger
2.26	St. Mullins	17th May	Pat Keating	Zzinger
2	4 St. Mullins	17th May	Denis Butler	Tasmanian Devil
2	3.75 St. Mullins	16th May	Gerry Jervis	Tasmanian Devil
2.20	St. Mullins	10th May	Ray Bannerman	Jensen
2.20	St. Mullins	8th May	Margaret Brazil	Tasmanian Devil
2.20	St. Mullins	8th May	Kevin Cunningham	Tasmanian Devil
2.20	St. Mullins	8th May	Kevin Cunningham	Tasmanian Devil
2.2	St. Mullins	10th May	Michael O'Leary	Tasmanian Devil
2	3 St. Mullins	16th May	Robert Jervis	Tasmanian Devil
2	2.5 St. Mullins	16th May	Denis Butler	Tasmanian Devil
2.15	St. Mullins	20th May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
2.14	St. Mullins	15th May	Brendan Barry	Tasmanian Devil
2	2 St. Mullins	9th May	David Rooney	Tasmanian Devil
2	2 St. Mullins	16th May	Denis Butler	Tasmanian Devil

BLUE SHARK

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
127.7	Dungarvan	26th August	Master Sean Hackett	Mackerel
113	Tory Island	25th August	Norman Maddox	Mackerel
103	Kinsale	2nd August, '97	Timothy Lucey	Mackerel

SMOOTH HOUND

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.22	Carnsore Point	21st September	Richard Addison (GB)	Mackerel
3	Ireland's Eye	27th July	Michael Boland	Ragworm

TOPE

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
54.45	Tuskar Rock	19th May	Brian Readman	Mackerel Flapper
42	Tralee Bay	5th August	Arts-Arnold Johan Wouter (NL)	Mackerel Strip

WHITING

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

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
.620 kilos	Kinsale	19th May	K. L. Blower (GB)	Jellyworm

BALLAN WRASSE

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

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.69	Kilmore Quay	22nd September	Michael Woods (GB)	Ragworm
5.58	Dungarvan	20th April	Wayne Jacques	Mackerel Feathers
5	8 Kilmore	17th May	Milo Burke	Ragworm
5.30	Brandon Creek	3rd October, '97	Neil Tyrrell	Crab
5.10	Kilmore	3rd October	Brendan Doyle	Ragworm
5	1 Belmullet	22nd September	Ken Whelan	Rubber Eel
2.280 kilos	Portrush	21st June	George Steen	Ragworm
5	Ballycotton	7th June	Dick Bulman	Mackerel
4.96	Kilmore	29th August	David Ward	Sandeel
4.94	Kilmore	24th September	Richard Addison (GB)	Ragworm
2.20 kilos	Tramore	16th August	Thomas O'Mahony	Ragworm

CUCKOO WRASSE

Record, 2.01 lbs; Specimen Weight, 1.25 lbs; 0.567 kilos

WEIGHT bs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1	12 Ballycastle	30th June	Ernest McClay	Ragworm
1.71	Kilmore Quay	29th August	Capt. James O'Leary	Hokkai Lures
.680 kilos	Valentia	25th September, '97	Mel Smith	Mr. Twister
.666 kilos	Maidens	30th August	C. Greer	Baited Feathers
1.44	Cork Harbour	3rd October	Arnoud v/der Sluijs (NL)	Mackerel
.632 kilos	Sligo Bay	29th August	Thomas O'Mahony	Baited Hokkai
.62 kilos	Aranmore Bay	5th July	Neil Ward	Mackerel Strip
1	5 Rathlin Island	8th August	Gardiner Glenn	Cocktail
1.292	Dunmore East	26th September	John Clarke	Baited Hokkai
1	4 Maidens	29th August	Chris McEleavy	Mackerel
1	4 Belmullet	22nd September	Noel Lowry	Mackerel baited feathers
1.25	Kilmore	11th August	Master Stephen Farrington	Ragworm



*Ken Robinson from Somerset with a beautiful 18.2 lb Coalfish from Cahersiveen.
What's in that sandwich?*

NEW RECORDS

Three New Records were established in 1998:

A **CARP** of 29 lbs. 13 ozs was taken by Sidney Kennedy, 145 Connolly Road, Ballyphehane, Cork, in The Lough, Cork, on the 5th July, 1998.

A **ROACH/BREAM HYBRID** of 5 lbs. 4⁵/₈ ozs was taken by Garnett Coulter, 24 Kilmore Park, Kilmore, Co. Armagh, BT61 8NT, in the River Bann on the 19th April, 1998.

A **SPUR DOGFISH** of 21 lbs was taken by John Agusta, 22 Lein Road, Artane, Dublin 5, in Kenmare Bay on the 14th March, 1998.

TEN PIN AWARDS

The following qualified in 1998 for the special award made to anglers who have ten or more specimen fish:

John Brown, 38 Fairview Green, Marino, Dublin 3.

Duncan Brown, Mweenish, Carna, Co. Galway.

Michael Flannery, 18 Rockmount Road, Highfield Park, Galway.

Darren Gallagher, Rogerstown Lane, Lusk, Co. Dublin.

Terry Jackson, 20 Cookes Brae, Kircubbin, Co. Down, BT22 2SQ.

Henry Lynam, 18 Talbot Road, Malahide, Co. Dublin.

Ray Mabbut, 85 Gander Green Lane, Cheam, Surrey, SM1 2EP, England.

David A. Spokes, 24 The Rise, Knocknacarra, Salthill, Galway.

SPECIAL AWARD FOR JUVENILES

Dr. A.E.J. Went donated a special award for the best specimen taken by a juvenile who has not reached his or her fourteenth birthday on 31st December, 1998. The award goes to: Bill Brazier, Main Street, Broadford, Co. Clare, for a Tench of 7 lbs. 9.5 ozs caught in Lakyle Lake on the 6th September, 1998.

REVISED SPECIMEN WEIGHT

The Committee has decided to make the following alteration to the Schedule of Specimen Weights:

The specimen weight for Carp has been increased from 10 lbs to **12 lbs** and the specimen weight for Lesser Spotted Dogfish has been lowered from 3.5 lbs to **3.25 lbs** from January 1st, 1999.

TEN SPECIES AWARD

In 1976 the Committee decided to recognise the angling prowess of those anglers who have authenticated specimen claims for 10 different species of fish. No angler qualified in 1998.

THE MINISTER'S AWARD

In 1993, the Minister for the Marine inaugurated this award for the best specimen fish of the year (other than a new record). The award is presented to the angler who catches the fish which represents the highest percentage of the existing record. This year's award goes to:

P. J. C. Schellingerhout, Beukenstr. 8, 1943 KW Beverwijk, Holland for a Spurdog of 9.5 kg taken in Kenmare Bay on 31/7/1998.

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 retrospective certification.

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 E.U. legislation dictates otherwise. 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 batia*) 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 comparative purposes. The 1998 total is 461, and the breakdown is:-

Year	Ireland	Britain	Netherlands	Germany	Belgium	France	Other
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	-
1997	449	57	28	9	5	4	-
1998	344	53	46	6	4	4	4

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 anglers for the photographs used to enhance the Annual Reports over the last number of years - particularly 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 1997

The Annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims were accepted during 1997 was made at the Garda Club, Dublin. No overseas presentations were made due to financial constraints.

ACCOUNTS

A statement of the Committee's accounts for the calendar year 1997 is given in this Report. The 1998 accounts will only be available in 1999 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 donations of well wishers and the Committee conveys a sincere thanks to those who have already contributed namely:- The Central Fisheries Board; Marine Institute; Electricity Supply Board; Shannon Regional Fisheries Board; Western Regional Fisheries Board; Delphi Fishery; Dolphin Richview S.A.C.; Glengormley & District Sea Angling Club, 7 Glencraig Rd., Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, BT 36 SWJ.; Waterville Anglers; Anonymous; Condy Ashfield, 41 Windsor Crescent, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone. BT80 8EZ; Brendan Barry, 8 Hawthorn Walk, Hillview, Waterford; James Bennett, Green Road, Multyfarnham, Co. Westmeath; Duncan Brown, Mweenish, Carna, Co. Galway; John Browne, Park Lane, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Wexford; D.Buckley; Fred Buller, "Holly Tree", Woodlands, South Heath, Gt. Middleden, Bucks., England; Pat Coakley, 34 Ardmore East, Passage West, Co. Cork; Chris Coates, 18 Ballykeigle Road, Comber, Newtownards BT23 5SD, Co. Down; Garnett Coulter, 24 Killmore Park, Killmore, Co. Armagh; Jim Dooley, 6 Bawnleigh Court, Banduff, Cork; P.F. Dore, St. Annes, Freshford Rd., Kilkenny; James Farrell, 137 Leinster Rd., Rathmines, Dublin 6; Mattie Foley,

18 Upper Lotabeg Rd., Mayfield, Cork; Ian Forde, Monroe, Slanemore, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath; Jim Gilmour, 18 Ballyalbana Rd., Ballyclare, Co. Antrim BT39 9SP; J. Griffen; R.D. Hancox, 30 Greenfield Ave., Northampton NN3 2AA, England; Burkhard Hobler, The Lodge, Heynestown, Dundalk, Co. Louth; Philip Hodgins, 194 Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin 16; William Jones, 20 Rossmore Park, Templeogue, Dublin 6W; Liam Kane, 39 Rushbrooke Est., Blanchardstown, Dublin 15; Christy Lane, 10 Harringtons Sq., Dillons Cross, Cork; Peter Manning, Ballycotton Sea Angling Centre, Church Rd., Ballycotton, Co. Cork; John McDermott, 1 Clarke St., Clonakilty, Co. Cork; Ray Mc Evoy, 4 Marian Terrace, Clonmel; Norman O'Connor, Angling Charters, Commudlum Flats, Main St., Dingle, Co. Kerry; Sean O'Connor, Ballydavid Angling Charter, Ballydavid, Dingle Peninsula, Tralee, Co. Kerry; Carol O'Leary, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; John O'Neill, 52, Closegate, Waterford; John A. O'Shea, 6 Raphoe Rd., Crumlin, Dublin 12; Nick Parry, Fiddane, Tubber, Co. Galway; Ron Patterson, 72 Castlemore Ave., Belfast BT6 9RG; Melvin Percy, 35 Sandringham, Gilford Rd., Portadown, Co. Armagh, N.Ire., BT 63 5 BW; Pat Robinson, Sea Angling Charters, Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal; Bill Ryan, 3 Raheen Avenue, Tallaght, Dublin 24; Trevor Ryder, Gortamore, Downings, Co. Donegal; Tony Santry, 12 Bellvue Court, Passage West, Co. Cork; John Sherry, Main st., Lusk, Co. Dublin; Daniel Smith, 11 Kilmashogue Grove, Greenpark, Walkinstown, D. 12; M. C. Thorne, Bandalls Cottages, Cotes Rd., Cotes, Loughborough, Leicester. LE 12 JTF; Alan Tweedale, 31 Passmonds Crescent, Rochdale, OL11 5AW, England; John Warner, Aghada SAC, Ringacoltig, Rushbrooke, Cobh, Co. Cork; Robert Williams, The Brig, Fennells Bay, Myrtleville, Co. Cork.

IRISH RECORD FISH

FRESHWATER SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs. ozs.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Salmon	57 0	1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Sea Trout	16 6	29.10.1983	Shimna River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus
Brown Trout (River)	20 0	22.2.1957	River Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place
Brown Trout (Lake)	26 2	15.7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Bream	12 3	22.5.1997	Bolganard Lake	Paul Mathers
Carp	29 13	5.7.1998	The Lough, Cork	Sidney Kennedy
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 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	19. 4.1998	River Bann	Garnett Coulter
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 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	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
Dab	2.02	28. 1.1989	Dunmore East	Paul Beglin
Spur Dogfish	21	14.3.1998	Kenmare Bay	John Agusta
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	0.425 kilos	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 kilos	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 kilos	20.8.1983	Clogher Head	Bertrand Kron
Cuckoo Wrasse	2.01	9.8.1992	Carnsore Point	John J. Tanner

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS (REVISED) (1999 revision in bold type)

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>)	29 13	12	5.443
Dace (<i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>)	1 2	1	0.454
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	0.907
Rudd (<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>)	4 8	2.25	1.021
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7 10	3	1.361
Roach/Bream Hybrid	5 4½	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>)	3.32	2	0.907
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	0.680
Dogfish - Spur (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	21	12	5.443
– Lesser Spotted (<i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i>)	4 4	3.25	1.474
– 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	14 ozs	0.355
Gurnard – Tub (<i>Trigla lucerna</i>)	12 3.5	5	2.268
– Grey (<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>)	3 1	1.5	0.680
– Red (<i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i>)	3 9.5	2	0.907
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>)	0.425 kilos	0.75	0.340
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	0.794
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	0.454
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	0.794
Scad (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)	1.97	1.5	0.680
Shad - Allis (<i>Alosa alosa</i>)	-	4	1.814
- Twaite (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	2.87	2.125	0.964
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		
- 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 marlangus</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	0.567

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, 1997					
1996	Expenditure	1997	1996	Revenue	1997
£173.00	Post	-		Balance b/f	£3,630.84
£3,215.00	Printing	£3,681.40		Grants	
£200.00	Medals	£890.00	£1,750.00	Central Fisheries Board	£2,000.00
£545.94	Travel	£541.25	£2,750.00	Bord Failte	-
£25.00	Late Dr. Went's Prize	£25.00	£1,000.00	Marine Institute	£1,500.00
£579.23	Miscellaneous	£200.00		Donations	
				Clubs, Federations &	
£462.50	Presentation Expenses	£100.00	£1,859.38	Individuals & R. F. Bds.	£1,413.41
£35.51	Bank Charges	£22.91	-	E.B.S. Interest	-
	TOTAL	£5,460.56			
	Balance c/d	£3,083.69	Balance b/d		£8,544.25
		£8,544.25			£3,803.69

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

SIGNED: *P. Byrne & N. O'Farrell*
P. Byrne & N. O'Farrell (Auditors)

R U L E S

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- (1) **IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE:** This Committee consists of representatives of the Irish Angling Federations and the Government Departments and official organisations interested in angling. Its 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.
- (2) **FAIR ANGLING:** "Fair Angling" means any legitimate method of angling with rod and reel which is recognised as a fair and sporting method. A fish must be hooked in or in the immediate vicinity of the mouth when it has taken the bait or lure; fish which have been foul-hooked, even accidentally, are not eligible. A fish in respect of which a claim is made must be hooked, played and brought to gaff or net by the angler **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.
- (3) **WEIGHING:** Fish must be weighed in the presence of independent, reliable witnesses on a properly certified scales, e.g., a shop scales or an official club scales which is covered by a certificate from the Weights and Measures Officer (see List of Weighing Scales Certification Centres on Page 41. 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.

- (4) **IDENTIFICATION:** The identification of a fish must be fully documented where there is a possibility of its confusion with any other (and particularly larger) species. For this reason, the Committee, in respect of some species, insists that scales from the fish, close up photographs or the actual body must be forwarded 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 marine fish taken in Northern Ireland, send to Dr. R. Briggs, Aquatic Systems Group, AESD, Department of Agriculture, Newforge Lane, Belfast, BT9 5PX. Tel: 0801-232-255503; Fax: 0801-232-382244. In the case of freshwater species send to Dr. Walter Crozier, D.A.N.I., River Bush Salmon Station, 21 Church Street, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8QJ. Tel: 0801-2657-31435; Fax: 0801-2657-32130.

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 01 - 8379206; Fax: 01-8360060).
E.Mail: isfc@cfb.ie
- (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 (Tel: 01-8379206). Fish should be sent to Balnagowan House, Mobhi Boreen, Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9.

In the case of marine fish taken in Northern Ireland send to Dr. R. Briggs, Aquatic Systems Group, AESD, Department of Agriculture, Newforge Lane, Belfast, BT9 5PX (Tel: 0801-232-255503; Fax: 0801-232-382244). In the case of freshwater species send to Dr. Walter Crozier, D.A.N.I., River Bush Salmon Station, 21 Church Street, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8QJ. (Tel: 0801-2657-31435; Fax: 0801-2657-32130).

WEIGHING SCALE CERTIFICATION LIST OF REGIONAL VERIFICATION CENTRES

Legal Metrology Service, National Standards Authority of Ireland
(NSAI), Glasnevin, Dublin 9.

Region & Area	Contact	Telephone No.
Cork Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Rossa Ave., Bishopstown, Cork 4. Ph: 021 - 346 256 Fax: 021 - 326 999	James Stapleton	
Dublin Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Poppintree Ind. Estate, Ballymun, D 11. Ph: 021 - 864 3848 Fax: 021 - 864 3880	John Heery	Mobile 087 - 284 8735
Limerick Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Plessey Technological Park, Castletroy, Limerick. Ph: 061 - 330 708 Fax: 061 - 330 698	Denis Corkery	Mobile 087 - 223 1053
Sligo Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Finiskillen Industrial Est., Sligo. Ph: 071 - 507 38 Fax: 071 - 507 39	Tony Marren	Mobile 087 - 223 1058
Waterford Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Northern Industrial Est., Waterford. Ph: 051 - 358 020 Fax: 051 - 358 021	Garry O'Gorman	Mobile 087 - 223 1062
Dundalk Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, IDA Small Business Park, Coes Rd., Dundalk, Co. Louth. Ph: 042 - 933 2758 Fax: 042 - 933 2791	Brendan Connolly	Mobile 087 - 223 1078
Galway Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Ballybrit Ind. Est., Ballybane, Galway. Ph: 091 - 771 943 Fax: 091 - 758 932	Dave Conneely	Mobile 087 - 223 1051
Dublin HQ Legal Metrology Service, NSAI, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 Ph: 01 - 807 3811 Fax: 01 - 808 2030	Pat Farragher	01 - 807 3811

"Read it Carefully"

By Des Brennan

Over its lifetime, the Committee has had its share of problems and indeed controversy in respect of its rules and regulations. Anglers, on occasion, have been critical of some of its procedures and have campaigned to have some aspects altered and some others set aside. If the Committee is to have any authenticity, then only fish which can be fully vouched for as to means of capture and weight and species can be accepted and listed by the Committee. The main requirements for accepting Record and Specimen Fish is that they should be caught by "Fair Angling", that they should be properly identified and weighed on a certified scales.

Any legitimate method of angling with rod and reel which is recognised as a fair and sporting method is generally well understood by anglers. The fish must be hooked and played by the angler unaided before being brought to the gaff or net. Assistance may be given by another person in gaffing or netting the fish which incidentally must be fair hooked in the mouth. Foul hooked fish are not eligible for listing and breakage of rod or reel and substitution of tackle while the fish is being played will also disqualify for claim or record purposes. Claims for fish caught during the statutory close season for the species (where this applies) **CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Fish must be weighed on a properly certified scales, e.g., a shop scales used in trade or an official Club scales which is covered by a certificate from the Weights & Measures Officer. It must be weighed in the presence of reliable witnesses. Claims for fish weighed on uncertified scales, e.g., anglers spring balances or for fish weighed on scales inappropriate to the size of the fish, e.g., small fish in the 2 lbs to 5 lbs range weighed on balances weighing up to 100 lbs and over and graduated in large divisions cannot be accepted. It must be noted that the scales must be covered by a Certificate of Accuracy at the time of weighing and that certification cannot be accepted in retrospect, i.e., after the fish has been weighed. Weighing a fish on board a boat is not acceptable.

When a certified weighing scales is not available at the waterside, then the fish must be brought to where there is one. This usually necessitates killing the fish and today many anglers, particularly coarse fishermen will not or do not want to kill their fish. This is well understood and appreciated by the Committee and

the decision whether to claim or not rests with the angler. The Committee cannot relax its rules on weighing and retain credibility.

The question of identification is another one which creates problems. Many anglers feel they are fully capable of identifying species which may create problems for biologists and indeed some anglers. However, if we accept one angler's identification, then we must accept others as well. I remember well one angler who sent in a claim for a Record Lesser Spotted Dogfish which was rejected because on examination, it proved to be a Greater Spotted Dogfish, which grows to a much larger size. He could not be convinced that he was wrong and actually called to see me and demand that we accept his identification. His parting shot was that he knew that he was right as he had counted all the spots on the fish.

It is only in the case of species which may be confused with other (and often larger) species that full documentation as to identify as required. Scales from the body of the fish must be submitted in the case of three species and the actual body must be sent for identification in no less than 24 species. Clear, sharp, close-up photographs showing the entire fish with its fins, lateral line and other features easily seen are required in the case of 8 species. You would be surprised at the number of excellent photographs we receive showing the proud captor but so little of the actual fish as to be useless for identification purposes.

All the necessary information to enable the angler to submit a successful claim is given on the Claim form. Please **Read It Carefully** and avoid the disappointment of having your claim rejected.

JACK SHINE

An Extraordinary Angler

By Kevin Linnane

Early last year, the death took place in Lahinch, Co. Clare of Jack Shine – a true legend in the sport of sea angling. He is sadly missed by his family and friends. Jack was a gentle man and must have been the most innovative sea angler this country has ever seen.

In the early 1930's, Dr. O'Donel Brown took numerous porbeagle to 365 lbs from a small boat off Achill – a great achievement for his day. However, Jack decided to go a step further. He set out to land porbeagle from the shore.

In the early 1950's, when Jack, a Corkman, arrived as creamery manager to Moy near Lahinch, he enthusiastically joined the local anglers who fished from the rocky ledges at Black Head, Ballyreen and at Green Island on the south western tip of Liscannor Bay.

Traditionally, mackerel and pollack were fished for the pot. They were caught on a rod which most of today's anglers will never have heard of, and few will have seen. It was called a "Wattle". Down near Milltown Malbay at the foot of Mount Callan, was a bamboo grove. An annual pilgrimage to the grove yielded poles up to 15 ft. long. To the tip of the pole or "wattle" was attached 15 to 20 ft. of line, and the business end was a red and silver mackerel spinner on a length of gut, or a few home-made mackerel feather lures. The lures were normally made of feathers plucked from a white leghorn chicken or else goat's hair. The goat's white "smiggle" was always considered supreme. A rubber eel was used for pollack.

Gradually through the '50's, the equipment improved. Fixed spool reels appeared loaded with monofilament line and a variety of rods made of split cane, greenheart and finally the new wonder material, fibreglass.

Jack revelled in this new technology. He was also the envy of many as he had a motorbike and could travel to places like Ballyreen and Black Head, where he was continually probing and experimenting with casting techniques and catching methods.

By the early 60's, many well equipped anglers were fishing the ledges. Some could cast a string of feathers as much as 70 or 80 yards! This is short by today's standards but at that time, this was quite an achievement. Quite often, there was chaos on the rocks when, to the annoyance of everyone, a shark grabbed at either the feathers or a live mackerel being reeled in. Of course, it made smithereens of the gear and usually disappeared with the valuable string of feathers, much to the chagrin of the angler. These marauders were eventually identified as porbeagle shark which were feeding on shoals of mackerel close in to the rocks. After



John Cullinane admires Jack's 115 lbs Porbeagle taken at Ballyreen in 1964.

experiencing many such burst ups, Jack made up his mind and announced, to the amusement of his fellow anglers, his intention to hook and land a fish of 100 lbs or over from the rocks - a feat never before heard of in Europe.

In early 1962, he started the assault from the rocks at Green Island. His tackle was an 8 ft. solid glass rod, a Luxor fixed spool reel with over 400 yards of 19 lbs B.S. line and a short 7 ft. wire trace. Local anglers were using this equipment for ordinary shore fishing so many a wry comment was passed as Jack persisted in casting out the tail half of a mackerel about 60 yards and retrieving it slowly. The good humoured banter increased as Jack continued for 2 months without even the smell of a shark.

But the smiles disappeared when he landed a porbeagle of 77 lbs. There was further consternation towards the end of August the same year. He took two in one day – 75 lbs and 91 lbs. Things were looking up.

In May, 1963, after a hectic 45 minute battle during which the shark stripped off almost a quarter of a mile of the 19 lbs line, he lost a fish of about 120 lbs at the bottom of the rocks. Jack was now certain that the challenge was achievable but the tackle needed upgrading. He got a 12 ft. fibreglass beachcaster (test curve 6 lbs) and a 6½ inch Alvey side cast reel of Australian origin with a star drag which acted as a braking system. The reel had two spools – one held 400 yards of 31 lbs B.S. monofilament and the other 400 yards of 60 lbs. This allowed him to cast the bait 75 yards and the reel capacity allowed him to fight the shark at a distance rather than close to the inshore reefs and jagged rocks. He made up 12 ft. long gaffs from graded sewer sticks. He was now ready for that 100 pounder which he knew he could handle.



*Jack Shine's largest from the rocks, a porbeagle of 145 lbs. taken at Green Island.
Note the Alvey sidecast reel.*

In 1963, four of the porbeagle he landed were over 100 lbs including beauties of 130 and 138 lbs. Each year after that, he took 100 lbs plus porbeagle from the shore and he did so in several locations including Ballyreen.

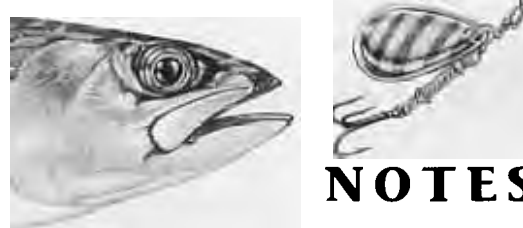
1967 proved to be a particularly interesting year. Through June and July, Jack was using the 31 lbs line on the Alvey and he landed shark of 140 and 145 lbs without any great difficulty, turning them in about 250 yards. He had an idea that there were bigger fish about in August, so he replaced the 31 lbs gear with the 60 lbs.

I was with Jack at Green Island that day in August when we actually saw a huge shark take the bait and move slowly out to sea. As was his practice, Jack allowed the shark plenty of time before striking but when he did, nothing registered with the shark - it kept moving slowly out to sea. At 200 yards, Jack decided to turn the shark so he applied pressure - but to no avail. This shark was not for turning. At 300 yards, the reel's drag was up to its maximum and Jack had to brace his feet against the rocks. The fish just kept going slowly in the same direction. At 375 yards, he called his son Gerrard to help him hold the spool to prevent it turning. But the end of the line was in sight and the shark continued until the spool was empty except for the knotted end. Then the 60 lbs line began to stretch - and stretch - until the fight became a simple tug-o-war between the slowly swimming shark heading for the Aran Islands and Jack and Gerrard braced on the rocks of Green Island. The shark won. It ended with a "ping" when the 60 lbs line broke at the reel.

Jack sat down and stared at his rod and empty reel.

It was the first and only time I ever saw Jack Shine perplexed.

Ar Deis Dé Go Raibh a Anam.



NOTES



NOTES

Michael Donnelly

1914-1998

We were deeply saddened by the sudden passing on September 17th last of our esteemed friend, angling enthusiast and activist Michael Donnelly R.I.P. He enjoyed 84 years of very active life, angling and shooting.

At the time of his passing he was President of the North Kildare Trout and Salmon Anglers; Chairman of the Federation of Liffey Anglers; member of the Leinster Committee Irish Trout Fly Fishers Association; member of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee; member of the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board and member of many clubs and associations.

His knowledge of the ecology of fishing waters was exhaustive. He kept himself up-to-date on pollution and eutrophication and the many problems threatening the enjoyment of anglers. He was one of the first people in Ireland to highlight the wild mink problem, and he became an expert in methods for their control, including the proposition to import their more exotic natural enemies.

He and Mary were keen caravan people. They could be seen parked from Ferrycarrig to Galway, Derravaragh, Bennetsbridge and other places whilst in pursuit of angling. Their hospitality knew no bounds and some of Mary's currant cake washed down with hot sweet tea or something stronger, in their nice warm caravan saved many an angler from the rigours of hypothermia.

Michael had a passion for salmon fishing and he travelled the length and breadth of Ireland in pursuit of his sport. He talked of the Kerry rivers and the Nore, the Moy and the Corrib and, of course, of his local beloved Slaney, where he fished consistently over all the years.

He was a Benjamin Franklin type innovator and inventor. As a young man he is reputed to have had the first electricity in Caragh from a wind generator he put together himself, and the first home grown tomatoes in the parish.

As an activist, he contributed greatly to the business of his local Club and Federation and, since 1980, to the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board, and in more recent years, since 1990, to the Irish Specimen Fish Committee. One organisation to which he made an enormous contribution was the Irish Trout Fly Fishing Association as former Chairman of the Leinster Committee. He also acted as timekeeper at all important competitions for many years and competitors were very familiar with his advice and advocations over the loud hailer at these events.

To Mary, his beloved wife, and his daughter Betty Hayes and son Paul, and their families, the ISFC extends its most sincere sympathy.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

