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Chairmans Review



2002 was another great year for specimen angling with many notable fish being taken. The expansion of interest and activity centring on Bluefin Tuna continued unabated in 2002. This was reflected by an increase in the number of specimen Bluefin taken compared to 2001 but the record remained intact. As flagged in last years report the ISFC has amended its rules governing angling for big game fish for the 2003 season onwards. The amendment is incorporated into Rule No. 2 governing "fair angling". On a broader front, fair angling covers all legitimate methods of angling (for all species) and the Committee can only accept claims from anglers where fish have been captured within the letter of the angling laws and bye laws.

Eight new records were established in 2002. This is the greatest number of records broken in any one year in recent times. Records broken included those for infrequently recorded species – bluemouth and electric ray – and the dab record also went by the board. New records were also established for roach, lake pike, roach/bream hybrid, coalfish and spurdog. Other notable fish included a new local record brown trout for Lough Corrib and a specimen river pike taken on fly. It will be extremely interesting to monitor specimen and record fish catches in the future given that global warming with associated rising temperature may already be impacting on the availability of "exotic" fish species in our coastal waters and on the growth and ultimately specimen weights of coarse fish in fresh water. Targeted research into the impacts of warming on fish species will be required over the coming years.

Anglers should be aware of an important piece of European legislation - The Water Framework Directive - introduced in December 2000. This Directive, amongst other things, aims to prevent any further deterioration in water quality and to protect and conserve aquatic ecosystems. It follows that there will be very positive benefits for fish and ultimately for angling. The Directive covers all surface water, groundwater, estuaries and inshore coastal areas. Data will be required on the abundance and distribution of fish species and the validated records of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee, which extend back for almost 50 years, will provide important baseline and historical information on the variety and distribution of fish in Irish waters.

Many Irish lakes and rivers contain unique assemblages of plants and animals and it is incumbent on anglers to protect these natural biological communities. I am appealing to anglers to continue to prevent fish species being relocated to waters in which they do not already occur; likewise non-native fish must not be introduced. These illegal activities have the potential to destroy aquatic communities which have existed in our waters since the last Ice Age 10,000+ years ago. Many of these biological assemblages are unique to Ireland and some are peculiar to the waters in which this occur. Anglers will be invited to participate in various ways towards the implementation of the new Directive and I would urge you to do so through your Fisheries Boards and local clubs and associations.

The ISFC has worked closely with Bord Failte for many years and I am delighted that Bord Failte has recently agreed to substantially increase its annual grant to ISFC. However, the Committee is facing a difficult future because of the perilous state of our finances. We are facing a situation where we may have to curtail some of our activities. New initiatives to further angling and collect valuable data in this country through specimen fish will have to be shelved unless we find a regular source of income. This is in spite of the generosity of our other principal sponsors, the Central Fisheries Board and the Marine Institute.

This is my first full year as Chairperson and I want to thank the Committee for all their help in 2002. This voluntary effort is very much appreciated.

Trevor Champ

Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2002

INTRODUCTION

Up to early December 2002 the ISFC received 622 claims and ratified 559, including 8 new records. A total of 39 was rejected for non-compliance with the rules and a further 24 are being queried. Details of the new records, other special awards and the specimen awards 2002 are listed below:

NEW RECORDS (Specially commissioned engraved silver medal)

Awarded to anglers for catching fish exceeding the existing Irish record weight

ROACH – 1.425 kg taken by Terry Jackson, Kilcubbin, Co. Down in Drumacritten Lake on 6th October 2002 (pictured below).



PIKE (LAKE) – 41 lbs taken by Ian Wortley, Kilkeel, Co. Down in Lough Ross, Crossmaglen on 17th February 2002.



The New Irish record Pike of 41 lbs from Lough Ross for Ian Wortley

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID – 7 lbs taken by Roy Gretton, Macroom, Co. Cork in the River Bann at Toome on 24th April 2002.



Roy Gretton with his New Irish Record Roach/Bream of 7 lbs

BLUEMOUTH – 2.4 lbs taken by Hugh Maguire, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry fishing out of Caherciveen on 26th June 2002.



Hugh Maguire with his new Irish record Bluemouth

COALFISH – 31.45 lbs taken by Rob Stott, Leap, Co. Cork on a wreck off Galley Head on 18th August 2002 (pictured right).

DAB – 2 lbs 5.5 ozs taken by Mick Duff, Wirral, England, in Cork Harbour on 2nd October 2002 (pictured below).



SPUR DOGFISH – 21.25 lbs taken by Charlie Robinson, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow off Dun Laoghaire on 10th August 2001

ELECTRIC RAY – 40 kg taken by Shay Boylan, Blackpits, Dublin off Achill on 24th August 2002



The New Irish record Coalfish of 31.45 lbs for Rob Stott

SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES

10 SPECIES AWARD (Engraved bronze medal)

This award recognises the angling prowess of anglers who have caught 10 different species of specimen fish. The following qualified in 2001:

Peter Bolger, 70 Ferrycarrig Road, Coolock, Dublin 17 - Ballan Wrasse (2002), Bass (1995), Dace (2002), Flounder (1983), Grey Mullet (1997) Pike River (1998), Pollack (2002), Roach/Bream Hybrid (2002), Spur Dogfish (2002), Twaite Shad (1992).

Ian Mulligan, 65 Woodview Heights, Lucan, Co. Dublin - Ballan Wrasse (2002), Bream (2000), Carp (2002), Painted Ray (2002), Perch (2002), Pike (River) (2002), Roach/Bream Hybrid (2000), Rudd/Bream Hybrid (2002), Smooth Hound (2000), Twaite Shad (1996).

Des O'Connell, "Mount Eagle", Mountain Road, Kilmoney, Carrigaline, Co. Cork - Carp (1990), Greater Spotted Dogfish (1984), Grey Gurnard (1986), Hake (2002), Lesser Spotted Dogfish (1981), Ling (1984), Pouting (1991), Spur Dogfish (1985), Tope (1990), Twaite Shad (1985).

50 SPECIMENS AWARD (Gold)

Awarded to anglers who have caught 50 specimens

None awarded this year.

10 SPECIMENS AWARD (Specially commissioned sterling silver tie-pin)

Awarded to anglers who have caught ten or more specimen fish

Damian Blackwell, 30 Dromawling Road, Beaumont, Dublin 9

Sean Clohessy, Castlehyde, Richmond, Glanmire, Co. Cork

Michael Dennehy, 71 Alderbrook, Frankfield, Douglas, Cork

Garry Doyle, 32 Sherwood, Pollerton Road, Carlow

Gerry Jervis, 66 Moatview Courts, Priorswood, Coolock, Dublin 17

Alan Kilroy, 82 Priory Avenue, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin

Ross Macklin, 9 Summerhill South, Turners Cross, Cork

Colm McDaid, 3 Dawson's Terrace, Upper Rock Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Robbie Winters, 110 Ballycolman Estate, Strabane, Co. Tyrone, BT82 9A

DR. A.E.J. WENT YOUNG ANGLER AWARD (€65 Book token)

The late Dr. Arthur Went, a noted fisheries biologist, donated funds to service this award which is for the best specimen taken by an angler aged 13 years or younger on 31st December 2000. The 2002 award goes to: **Bill Brazier**, Clashduff, Broadford, Co. Clare for a Carp of 21 lbs 10 ozs taken in The Lough, Cork on the 1st July, 2001.

The MINISTER'S AWARD (Mounted bronze medal)

Inaugurated by the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, this "fish of a lifetime" award is for the best specimen fish of the year (other than a new record), and is presented to the angler who catches a fish which represents the highest percentage weight of the existing record. The 2002 award goes to: **Damian Blackwell**, 30 Dromawling Road, Beaumont, Dublin 9 for a Twaite Shad of 1.54 kg taken on the 11th May on the River Barrow at St. Mullins. This fish equals the existing Irish record.



Niall Walker from Tipperary had this 12 lb 4 oz Carp from Gorteen Lake

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2002

FRESHWATER FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2002**Coarse Fish and Pike****BREAM**

Record, 12 lbs. 3 ozs; Specimen Weight, 7.5 lbs (3.402 kg)

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>	
lbs	ozs				
8	13	Ballyhoe Lake	6th September	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
8	8	River Barrow, Clashganny	23rd October	Ian Mulligan	Worm
8	6	Ballyhoe Lake	15th June	Fred Foster	Sweetcorn
8	6	Lough Derry	20th September	Ian Mulligan	Worm/Caster
8	4	Monalty Lake	9th September '01	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
8	4	Ballyhoe Lake	6th September	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
8	3	Monalty Lake	7th October '01	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
8	3	Lough Derry	20th September	Ian Mulligan	Worm/Caster
8	2	River Shannon, Lanesboro	23rd April	Ashley Banham	Maggots
8		Ballyhoe Lake	6th September	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
7	14	Ballycullinan Lake	3rd August	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
7	13	Ballycullinan Lake	20th May	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
7	12	River Bann, Toome	24th April	Roy Gretton	Maggots/Corn
7	10	Ballycullinan Lake	4th August '01	Roy Gretton	Sweetcorn
7.55		Lough Kinale	7th July	Shay McDonnell	Maggots
7	8	Ballycullinan Lake	4th August '01	Roy Gretton	Sweetcorn
7	8	River Barrow, Maganey	23rd September	Ken Garry	Worm

CARP

Record, 29 lbs. 13 ozs; Specimen Weight, 12 lbs (5.443 kg)

25	10	The Lough, Cork	19th March	Ross Macklin	Boilie
24	8	The Lough, Cork	4th May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
24	6	The Lough, Cork	15th April	Tony Cotter	Boilie
24	6	The Lough, Cork	15th April	Sidney Kennedy	Sweetcorn

CARP Contd.

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
23	10	The Lough, Cork	1st July '01	Robin Brazier	Boilie
22	10	The Lough, Cork	22nd April	Ross Macklin	Boilie
22	10	The Lough, Cork	1st May	John Healy	Boilie
22		The Lough, Cork	19th July '01	Robin Brazier	Boilie
21	10	The Lough, Cork	1st July '01	Master Bill Brazier	Boilie
21	4	The Lough, Cork	22nd April	Ross Macklin	Boilie
21	4	Ballinafid Lake	28th June	Brendan Doran	Boilie
20	10	The Lough, Cork	28th January	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
18	15	The Lough, Cork	1st July '01	Robin Brazier	Boilie
17	8	Gorteen Lake	28th March	Master Bill Brazier	Maize
17	2	Decoy Lake	14th July	Ian Mulligan	Sweetcorn
16	4	The Lough, Cork	4th May	Kristofer Im	Sweetcorn
15	4	Ballinafid Lake	28th July	Brendan Doran	Boilie
14	13	Ballinafid Lake	28th June	Brendan Doran	Boilie
13	12	Ballinafid Lake	23rd March	Fred Foster	Boilie
13	6	Ballinafid Lake	28th June '01	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
13	3	Decoy Lake	15th July	Ian Mulligan	Boilie
12	14	Ballinafid Lake	31st July	Ian Mulligan	Boilie
12	12	Ballinafid Lake	29th March	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
12	11.5	Ballincollig Pond	17th March	Master Bill Brazier	Boilie
12	5	Ballinafid Lake	27th July	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
12	4	Gorteen Lake	17th July	Niall Walker	Corn/Boilie
12	4	Ballinafid Lake	17th March	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie



Terry Jackson is very pleased with his 0.362 kg Dace from the River Nore taken in August

DACE

Record, 1 lb. 2 ozs; Specimen Weight, 0.772 lbs (0.35 kg)

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
0.38	kg	River Barrow, St. Mullins	17th August	Terry Jackson	Maggots
0.362	kg	River Nore, Inistioge	13th August	Terry Jackson	Maggots
0.355	kg	River Barrow, St. Mullins	12th August	Terry Jackson	Maggots
0.35	kg	River Nore, Inistioge	1st September	Peter Bolger	Maggots



The River Lee was the venue for Dirk Mueller's 1.7 kg eel in August

EEL

Record, 6 lbs. 15 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs (1.361 kg)

4		The Lough, Cork	2nd May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
3	13	Ballinafid Lake	5th July	Brendan Doran	Worm
3	12	Calloughs Lake	11th July '01	Desmond McIntyre	Worm
1.7	kg	River Lee	26th August	Dirk Mueller (D)	Worm

EEL Contd.

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
3	7	Ballinafid Lake	17th May	Brendan Doran	Worm
3	6	Lough Nabreac	24th June '01	Pat Conefrey	Worm
1.495	kg	River Lee	23rd August	Dirk Mueller(D)	Worm



A brace of excellent Perch for Dan Smith from the River Barrow in September

PERCH

Record, 5 lbs. 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 2.646 lbs (1.2 kg)

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
3	10	River Shannon, Lanesboro	3rd May	Andrew Tabiner (UK)	Worm
3	8.5	River Barrow, Maganey	28th September	Dan Smith	Worm
1.58	kg	River Barrow	29th December '01	Oliver Doyle	Lobworm
3	3	Rive Barrow, Maganey	28th September	Dan Smith	Worm
2	14	River Barrow, Leighlinbridge	30th June	Ian Mulligan	Lobworm
2.706		Lough Leane	4th September	John Lyne	Mepps
2	10.5	River Barrow, Carlow	24th November	Dan Smith	Lobworm

PIKE (LAKE)

New Record, 41 lbs; Specimen Weight, 30 lbs (13.608 kg)

41		Lough Ross, Crossmaglen	17th February	Ian Wortley	Roach
39	14	Lough Ross, Crossmaglen	16th December '01	Ian Wortley	Bream
34	9.5	Lakefield Lake	30th September	Pierce Moran, Snr.	Perch
32	8	Lough Egish, Monaghan	28th June	Andrew Calvert	Plug
30	4	Poulaphouca Reservoir	8th May	Kevin McCrea	Roach



The River Suck at Castlestrange produced this 26 lb 14 oz Pike for 11-year-old James Farrell in late March

PIKE (RIVER)**Record, 42 lbs; Specimen Weight, 20 lbs (9.072 kg)**

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
36	8	River Clare	9th August	Eugene McCarthy	Dead bait
31	9	R. Shannon, O'Brien's Bridge	3rd June	Bracke Erwin (B)	Roach
31		River Suck, Ballyforan	5th January	Anthony Kearney	Herring
29	8	River Suck	28th March	Ian Mulligan	Sardine
27	8	River Suck, Ballyforan	29th March	Nicholas Ward	Herring
27.25		River Suck, Athleague	8th May	John Moffat	Dace
26	15	River Suck, Derrycahill	28th April	Noel Lane	Herring
26	14	River Suck, Castlestrange	31st March	Master James Farrell	Mackerel
24	9	River Bann, Newferry	11th January	Nick Parry	Dace
24	4	River Bann, Toome	23rd January	Peter O'Neill	Rapala/Squid
24	4	River Suck, Ballyforan	29th September	Paul Robinson	Mackerel
24.05		R. Shannon, Shannonbridge	10th December '01	Patrick Murray	Roach
10.65 kg		River Bann	23rd December '01	Martin McNeilly	Herring
10.15 kg		Lower River Bann	10th November	David Craig	Trout
22	6	River Shannon, Roosky	16th December '01	Pierce Moran	Roach
21	14	River Bann, Toome	5th January	Peter O'Neill	Fly
9.89 kg		River Bann, Toome	17th November	Terry Jackson	Herring
21	12	River Suck, Ballyforan	18th March	Gerry Connolly	Perch
21	12	River Bann, Toome	29th December '01	Gregory Dunseath	Rapala/Roach
21	4	River Bann, Newferry	21st January	Roy Gretton	Skimmer
21	4	River Bann, Toome	20th December '01	Gregory Dunseath	Abu Terminator
20	14	R. Shannon, Shannonbridge	18th November '01	Jimmy Thompson	Smelt
20	8	River Shannon, Castleconnell	13th October	John McMullan	Trout
20	6	River Inny	13th March	Ian Mulligan	Whiting
9.2 kg		Lower River Bann	10th November	Terry Jackson	Trout
20	4	River Bann, Toome	28th December '01	Kenneth Crooks	Rapala/Roach
20	3	River Suck, Derrycahill	28th April,	Christy Lane	Mackerel
20.15		River Inny	22nd September	Shay McDonnell	Mackerel
20	2	River Bann, Toome	11th January	Nick Parry	Dace
20	1	River Suck, Derrycahill	28th April	Christy Lane	Mackerel
20.04		River Bann, Toome	25th January	Peter O'Neill	Terminator
20		River Bann, Newferry	23rd January	Roy Gretton	Skimmer

ROACH**New Record, 1.425 kg; Specimen Weight, 2 lbs (0.907 kg)**

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
1.425 kg		Drumacritten Lough	6th October	Terry Jackson	Maggots
1.325 kg		Drumacritten Lough	6th October	Terry Jackson	Maggots
1.3 kg		Drumacritten Lough	6th October	Terry Jackson	Maggots

*A 5 lbs 14 oz Roach/Bream Hybrid for Kenneth Crooks in April***ROACH/BREAM HYBRID****New Record, 7 lbs; Specimen Weight, 3.528 lbs (1.6 kg)**

7		River Bann, Toome	24th April	Roy Gretton	Maggots/Corn
5	14	River Bann, Toome	12th April	Kenneth Crooks	Sweetcorn/Maggots
5	13	River Bann, Toome	12th April	Kenneth Crooks	Sweetcorn /Maggots
5	13	River Bann, Toome	20th April	Nick Parry	Maggots
5	10	River Bann, Toome	12th April	Kenneth Crooks	Sweetcorn/Maggots

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID Contd.

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
5	7	River Bann, Toome	20th April	Nick Parry	Maggots
5	6	River Bann, Toome	13th April	Barry Smith(UK)	Maggots
5	6	River Bann, Newferry	21st Sept. '01	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots/Worm
5	5	River Bann, Newferry	21st Sept. '01	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots/Worm
5	4.5	River Bann, Toome	20th April	Nick Parry	Maggots
5	4	River Bann, Toome	24th April	Roy Gretton	Maggots
5	4	Lough Beg	11th August	Master Ian Crooks	Maggots/Sweetcorn
2.305 kg		River Bann, Toome	7th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
5	1	Lough Kinale	4th August	Jason Dingle	Maggots
5	1	Lough Beg	11th August	Master Ian Crooks	Maggots/Worm
2.285 kg		River Bann, Toome	7th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
2.25 kg		Lough Beg	26th May	Terry Jackson	Maggots
2.235 kg		River Bann, Toome	7th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
2.2 kg		Lough Beg	26th May	Terry Jackson	Maggots
4	13	Lough Derravaragh	29th Sept.	Gerry Singleton	Maggot/ Caster Cocktail
4	12	River Bann, Toome	12th April	Barry Smith (UK)	Maggots
2.15 kg		River Bann, Newferry	1st July	David Craig	Maggots
2.05 kg		Lough Beg	26th May	Terry Jackson	Maggots
4	8	Lough Beg, River Bann	13th April '01	Roy Gretton	Caster
4	8	River Bann, Toome	24th April	Roy Gretton	Maggots/Corn
4	6.5	Lough Beg, River Bann	13th April '01	Roy Gretton	Caster
4	5	Lough Beg	11th August	Master Ian Crooks	Maggots/Worm
4	4	Lough Beg, River Bann	13th April '01	Roy Gretton	Caster
1.925 kg		River Bann, Newferry	1st July	David Craig	Maggots
4	3	Lough Kinale	4th August	Jason Dingle	Maggots
4	2	Lough Kinale	4th August	Jason Dingle	Maggots
1.825 kg		Lough Beg	26th May	Philip Oliver	Maggots
1.8 kg		River Bann, Newferry	1st July	David Craig	Maggots
1.775 kg		Lough Beg	26th May	Philip Oliver	Maggots
1.7 kg		Lough Beg	26th May	Philip Oliver	Maggots

RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

Record, 7 lbs. 10 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs (1.361 kg)

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
4	1	River Barrow,			
		Leighlinbridge	26th October	Ian Mulligan	Worm/Caster
3	9	River Barrow	15th February	Gary Doyle	Worm
3	8	River Barrow, Clashganny	6th November	Ian Mulligan	Worm/Caster
1.58 kg		River Barrow	6th January	Gary Doyle	Lobworm
3	5	River Barrow, Clashganny	6th November	John Mulligan	Worm/Caster
3	1	River Barrow	15th February	Gary Doyle	Worm

TENCH

Record, 8.15 lbs; Specimen Weight, 6 lbs (2.721 kg)

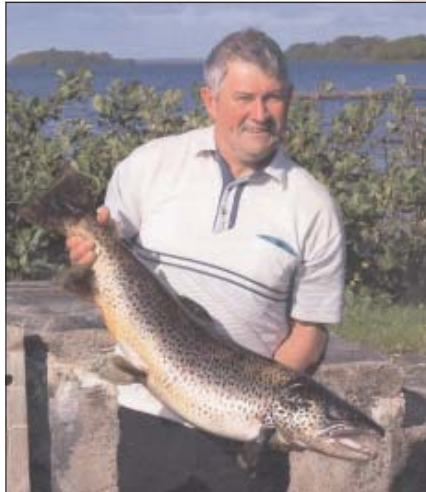
7	11	Lakyle Lake	2nd June '01	Mark Jones	Maggots
7	6	Lakyle Lake	21st May '01	Robin Brazier	Sweetcorn
7	5	Ballyhoe Lake	22nd June	Brendan Doran	Boilie
7	3.5	Lakyle Lake	13th July	Mark Healy	Sweetcorn
7	2	Ballyhoe Lake	26th June	David McNamee	Worm/Maggots
7	1	Lakyle Lake	2nd June '01	Mark Healy	Maggots
7		Ballyhoe Lake	27th June	Brendan Doran	Boilie
6	13	Ballyeigher Lake	23rd June '01	Mark Jones	Maggots
6	13	Ballyhoe Lake	23rd June	David Matthews	Boilie
6	13	Ballyhoe Lake	16th June	Brendan Doran	Boilie
6	12	R. Shannon, Shannonbridge	22nd June	Mark Healy	Sweetcorn
6	11.5	Lakyle Lake	24th July	Mark Healy	Sweetcorn
6	11	Ballyhoe Lake	5th July	David McNamee	Boilie
6	10	Ballyhoe Lake	27th June	Gerry Singleton	Boilie
6	7	Lakyle Lake	7th July '01	Mark Healy	Maggots
6	6	Templebannagh L.	12th July	Roderick Fitzgibbon	Maggots
6	5	Ballyhoe Lake	23rd June	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
6	4	Ballyhoe Lake	14th June	Fred Foster	Sweetcorn
2.81 kg		R. Shannon, Shannonbridge	10th June '01	Gerard Casey	Sweetcorn
6	3	Ballycullinan Lake	29th June	Nick Parry	Cockles
6	2.5	Ballyhoe Lake	25th June	David McNamee	Worm/Maggots

TENCH Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
6	2	Ballyhoe Lake	22nd May	Dan Smith	Sweetcorn
6	2	Ballyeigher Lake	24th June	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
6	1	Lakyle Lake	7th July '01	Kevin Durkan	Maggots/Corn
6	1	Ballyeigher Lake	16th June	Nick Parry	Cockles
6		Royal Canal, Mullingar	31st May	Rinus de Bruin	Worm

GAME FISH**SALMON****Record, 57 lbs; Specimen Weight, 20 lbs (9.072 kg)**

11.407 kg	Cork Blackwater, Cappelquin	25th September	Harry Robinson	Shrimp
21	Cork Blackwater, Cappelquin	30th September	Kenneth Barry	Lure
20	River Laune	31st May	Bernie Boyle	Fly
20	Owenmore River	21st May	Peter Varian	Fly



A 19.25 lbs Lough Corrib Brown Trout for John Gibbons

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)**Record, 26 lbs. 2 ozs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs (4.536 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
21.47		Lough Corrib	19th September	Marian McDonnell	Rapala
19	4	Lough Corrib	11th July	John Gibbons	Roach
18.5		Lough Corrib	4th September '01	Paddy O'Farrell	Roach
18	8	Lough Corrib	6th July	John Gibbons	Roach
18		Lough Corrib	18th August	Rev. Francis Murphy	Roach
16	8	Lough Corrib	16th September	Noel Carter	Roach
16	8	Lough Corrib	18th August	Barry Farrell	Tasmanian Devil
15.5		Lough Corrib	15th June	Stephen McManus	Rapala
15	8	Lough Corrib	23rd April	Aidan Garvey	Tasmanian Devil
15	8	Lough Corrib	3rd August	Kenneth Ferguson	Roach
14	12	Lough Corrib	5th May	Master Joseph Brennan	Perch
14	8	Lough Corrib	21st July	John Gibbons	Roach
14	9	Lr. Lough Erne	31st March	John Stewart	Rapala
14	4	Lough Corrib	25th August	Rev. Francis Murphy	Roach
14		Lough Corrib	15th May	Anthony Doolan	Rapala
13	12	Lough Corrib	27th June	Master Paul McCarthy	Rapala
13	11	Lough Corrib	6th May	Percy Hewitt	Rapala
13	8	Lough Corrib	29th March	Dennis McGloin	Mepps
12	8	Lough Corrib	3rd July	Tommy Summerville	Toby
12.25		Lough Corrib	18th August	Robin Syme	Fly
12		Lough Corrib	20th July	Rev. Francis Murphy	Roach
11	8	Lough Corrib	17th May	Roger Aston (UK)	Perch
5.166 kg		Lough Corrib	15th February	Alan Hough	Rapala
10.33		Lough Mask	18th July	Sean Sweeney	Rapala
10.04		Lough Conn	10th April	John Gallagher	Kynock Killer

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)**Record, 20 lbs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs (2.268 kg)**

10	6	Cong Canal	26th September	Christopher Kinsella (UK)	Fly
10	4	Cong Canal	1st March	Anthony McMahon	Flying C
8	12	Cong Canal	1st March '01	Victor Young	Plug
8.30		Robe River	17th March	Martin Ferrick	Fly
7	8	River Moyola	15th October '01	Thomas Maguire	Mepps

BROWN TROUT (RIVER) Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
6.07	River Liffey	10th July	Nicholas Moore	Fly
5.96	River Liffey	25th July	Nicholas Moore	Fly
5	12 River Clare	2nd September	Joseph Danaher (USA)	Dryfly
2.594 kg	River Nore, Thomastown	10th August	Andrew Farrelly	Flying C

SEA TROUT

Record, 16 lbs. 6 ozs; Specimen Weight, 6 lbs (2.721 kg)

9	8	Lough Currane	29th June	Vincent O'Sullivan	Fly
9	2	Lough Currane	26th June '01	Sean Bric	Fly
8	15	Lough Currane	29th June	Peter Keenan	Fly
8	4	Lough Currane	19th April	Robert Miachon (F)	Fly
3.708 kg		Lough Currane	23rd July	Oliver Foote (UK)	Fly
8		River Dargle	5th August	John Chaney	Fly
7	14	Lough Currane	23rd June	Robert Priestley	Fly
7	8	Lough Currane	17th May	Stuart Harris (UK)	Fly
7	4	Lough Currane	5th June	Allan Phillips (UK)	Fly
7	4	Lough Currane	23rd July	Diarmuid Linehan	Fly
3.202 kg		Lough Currane	29th June	Humphrey O'Brien	Fly
7		Lough Currane	25th April	Bob Priestley	Fly
3.168 kg		Lough Currane	18th June	Dr. Jan Terhorst (D)	Toby
6.94		Lough Currane	9th July	Finbar O'Donovan	Fly
6	12	Lough Currane	26th May '01	Carsten Arbeiter (D)	Fly
6	12	Lough Currane	30th June	Paddy Hickey	Fly
6	9	Lough Currane	4th July	David Herring (UK)	Fly
6	8	Lough Currane	17th May	Dennis Murphy (UK)	Zukki Spoon
6	8	Lough Currane	28th June	Gerard F Kenny	Fly
6	6.5	Lough Currane	13th August	Richard Aherne	Fly
6	4	Lough Currane	26th July	Kenneth Nash	Fly
6	3	Boyne Estuary, Mornington	18th May	Pierce Moran	Minnow
6	3	Lough Currane	11th May	Bruno Jannes (B)	Fly
6	3	Lough Currane	11th May	John Clark (UK)	Fly
6	3	Lough Currane	9th September	Michael O'Neill (UK)	Fly

SEATROUT Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
6	2.5	Lough Currane	5th May	Arthur White (UK)	Fly
6	2	Lough Currane	4th May	James Sayers	Fly
6	2	Lough Currane	19th June	Freddy Robberechts(B)	Fly
6	2	Lough Currane	10th September	Allan Foster (UAE)	Fly
6	1.5	Lough Currane	23rd April	Selena Wynn (Aus)	Rapala
6		Lough Currane	25th April	Bryan Hamson	Fly
6		Lough Currane	11th May	Fridolin Schreiner (A)	Fly

MARINE FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2002**BASS**

Record, 17 lbs 13 ozs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs (4.536 kg)

13.62	Cork Harbour	24th October '01	John Hall	Lure
10	13 Portstewart	4th October	Brian O'Neill	Jensen
4.88 kg	Tramore	13th August	Thomas O'Mahony	Crab/Lugworm
4.788 kg	Tramore	11th October	Master John Power	Razorfish
10	7 Ballylongford	27th September	Richard Rutland	Mackerel Strip
10	3 Tramore	21st September	Thomas O'Mahony	Sandeel
10	3 Cork Harbour	3rd October	Mike Roberts	Rapala
4.546 kg	Causeway Coast	12th April	Bert Anderson	Peeler Crab
4.54 kg	East Ferry	22nd September	Kenneth Warne	Ragworm

BLUEMOUTH

New Record, 2.4 lbs; Specimen Weight, 1.9845 lbs (0.9 kg)

2.4	Caherciveen	26th June	Hugh Maguire	Feathers
2.1	Caherciveen	11th July	Hugh Maguire	Jelly Worm



Donal O'Mahony with a nice Coalfish taken off the south coast

COALFISH

New Record, 31.45 lbs; Specimen Weight, 15 lbs (6.804 kg)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
31.45		18th August	Rob Stott	Baited Pirk	
24		20th August	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad	
23	5	Cork Harbour	5th October	Michael Dennehy	Redgill
23	1	Kinsale	3rd September	Jim Clohessy	Shad
22		Kinsale	3rd September	Jim Clohessy	Shad
20	7	Kinsale	19th October	Sean Clohessy	Shad
20	1	Cork Harbour	3rd September	Donal O'Mahony	Shad
20		Cork Harbour	3rd September	Michael Dennehy	Shad
19	9	Cork Harbour	1st September	Michael Dennehy	Shad
19	8	Cork Harbour	3rd September	Donal O'Mahony	Shad
19		Courtmacsherry	2nd August	Mark Gannon	Shad
18		Courtmacsherry	27th August	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
17	8	Courtmacsherry	2nd August	Mark Gannon	Shad
17	5	Cork Harbour	3rd September	Michael Dennehy	Shad
17	4	Cork Harbour	19th October	John O'Sullivan	Redgill

COALFISH Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
17		Courtmacsherry	16th September	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
17		Courtmacsherry	2nd September	Marcel Audenaert(B)	Shad
7.5 kg		Ling Rocks	22nd September	Berend de Grootte (NL)	Shad
16	8	Courtmacsherry	5th August	John Barnes (UK)	Shad
16	5	Cork Harbour	5th October	John Dennehy	Shad
16	5	Cork Harbour	19th October	John O'Sullivan	Redgill
16	4	Kinsale	3rd September	Jim Clohessy	Shad
16	3.5	Cork Harbour	3rd September	Donal O'Mahony	Shad
16	1	Cork Harbour	5th October	John Dennehy	Shad
15	7	Kinsale	19th October	Sean Clohessy	Shad



A fine 20 lb 14.5 oz Cod for John Dennehy fishing out of Cork Harbour

COD

Record, 42 lbs; Specimen Weight, 20 lbs (9.072 kg)

35		Courtmacsherry	20th August	Rini Anemaet (NL)	Shad
30	6	Cork Harbour	17th July	Michael Dennehy	Shad
23	8	Ballycastle	20th July '01	Brian Foster	Pirk
23	7	Kinsale	17th July	Sean Clohessy	Mackerel
22	8	Cork Harbour	1st September	Michael Dennehy	Shad
20	14.5	Cork Harbour	17th November	John Dennehy	Lure
20.63		Schull	10th September '01	Thomas Strobel (D)	Mackerel Strip

COD Contd.

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
20	5	Kinsale	21st September	Sean Clohessy	Shad
20		Courtmacsherry	16th September	Eddy Weytem (B)	Mackerel



This 42 lb 5 oz Conger fell to Aidan Manning fishing out of Cobh in July

CONGER EEL

Record, 72 lbs; Specimen Weight, 40 lbs (18.144 kg)

52	5	Guileen	10th July	Sean Clohessy	Mackerel
23.1		Valentia	6th June	Erich Elit (D)	Coley
44	3	Crosshaven	24th March	Charles Robinson	Mackerel
42	5	Cork Harbour	21st July	Aidan Manning	Mackerel
41		East Ferry	20th June	Robert Acors (UK)	Mackerel

DAB

New Record, 2 lbs 5.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs (0.680 kg)

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
2	5.5	Cork Harbour	2nd October	Mick Duff (UK)	Crab
0.765		Clifden	29th July	Eric Bedford (UK)	Worm
0.695		Clifden	23rd July	Jean Luc Bart (B)	Mackerel Strip
0.692		Clifden	29th July	David Bateman (UK)	Mackerel strip



A specimen Spur Dog of 12.4 lbs for Shaun Wembridge fom Bristol taken in September 2002

SPUR DOGFISH

New Record, 21.25 lbs; Specimen Weight, 12 lbs (5.443 kg)

21	4	Dun Laoghaire	10th August '01	Charles Robinson	Mackerel
21	1	Dun Laoghaire	10th August '01	Charles Robinson	Mackerel
20	12	Dun Laoghaire	16th September '01	Eric Byrne	Mackerel Flapper
20		Dun Laoghaire	10th August '01	Charles Robinson	Flagworm baited Feathers
19		Dun Laoghaire	5th October	Colm Reid	Mackerel Flapper

SPUR DOGFISH Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
18	1	Ballycastle	18th November '01	Liam Longmore	Mackerel Strip
16	8	Dun Laoghaire	28th July '01	Dennis Pedersen	Mackerel
16	8	Dun Laoghaire	1st June	Griffin Craven	Mackerel Flapper
16	8	Dun Laoghaire	1st June	Sean Kneafsey	Mackerel Strip
7.4	kg	Ballycastle	5th August	Ken Arnold	Mackerel baited Muppet
16		Dun Laoghaire	16th September '01	Eric Byrne	Mackerel
16		Dun Laoghaire	2nd September '01	Joseph Rigter	Mackerel
15	12	Dun Laoghaire	28th July '01	Dennis Pedersen	Mackerel
15	8	Dun Laoghaire	1st June	Patrick Denagher	Mackerel Flapper
15	8	Dun Laoghaire	1st June	Neill Whelan	Mackerel Flapper
15	8	Dun Laoghaire	4th August	James Magrane	Mackerel Strip
15		Dun Laoghaire	23rd September '01	Ian Atkinson	Mackerel
15		Dun Laoghaire	11th August	Peter Bolger	Mackerel Flapper
15		Dun Laoghaire	4th August	Ian Fox	Mackerel Strip
14	8	Dun Laoghaire	23rd September '01	Dennis Pedersen	Mackerel
14	8	Dun Laoghaire	1st June	Christy Kennedy	Mackerel Flapper
6.55	kg	Ballycastle	21st September	Brian Foster	Trout Fillet
14	4	Dun Laoghaire	25th September	Colette Boylan	Mackerel Flapper
6.45	kg	Ballycastle	5th August	David Craig	Mackerel
14		Ballycastle	18th November '01	Graeme Blair	Sprat
14		Dun Laoghaire	27th September	Dennis Pedersen	Mackerel
14		Dun Laoghaire	28th September	Gintaras Vaitkus	Mackerel Strip
14		Dun Laoghaire	18th August	Patrick Byrne	Mackerel Flapper
6.25	kg	Ballycastle	5th August	David Craig	Mackerel
6.135	kg	Ballycastle	21st September	Brian Foster	Trout Fillet
13	8	Dun Laoghaire	14th July	Dennis Nauntoft	Ragworm
13	8	Dun Laoghaire	25th August '01	Russell Lalor	Mackerel Flapper
13	8	Dun Laoghaire	18th August	Paul Hanney	Mackerel Flapper
6.05	kg	Ballycastle	5th August	David Craig	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	23rd September '01	John Whelan	Mackerel
13		Dun Laoghaire	21st October '01	Tony Byrne	Baited Feathers
13		Dun Laoghaire	23rd September '01	John Whelan	Mackerel baited Feathers
13		Dun Laoghaire	6th October	Dennis Pedersen	Whiting
13		Dun Laoghaire	23rd August	Joe Lawrence	Mackerel Flapper
12	12	Ballycastle	1st January	Liam Longmore	Mackerel Strip
12	12	Dun Laoghaire	25th August '01	Colin Bell	Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
12	12	Dun Laoghaire	15th September	Mark Sheeran	Mackerel Fillet
5.75	kg	Ballycastle	2nd June	Robin Boyd	Mackerel
12	10	Greystones	3rd August	Derek Kilbey	Mackerel
5.67	kg	Ballycastle	15th September	Brian Foster	Mackerel Flapper
12.5		Dun Laoghaire	6th October	Eric Byrne	Mackerel Flapper
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	5th October	Terry Kedney	Mackerel Flapper
12	8	Dun Laoghaire	15th September	Conor Devine	Mackerel Strip
12.4		Downings	18th September	Shaun Wembridge (UK)	Mackerel
12	5	Ballycastle Bay	2nd September '01	John Winton	Ragworm/Mackerel
5.465	kg	Portrush	25th October	David Vance	Mackerel/Squid Cocktail
12		Ballycastle	18th November '01	Liam Longmore	Mackerel Strip
12		Dun Laoghaire	21st October '01	Gerry Jervis	Baited Feathers
12		Dun Laoghaire	28th July '01	Dennis Nauntoft	Mackerel Flapper
12		Dun Laoghaire	6th October	Gerry Edwards	Mackerel Flapper
12		Dun Laoghaire	5th October	Master Joseph Connolly	Mackerel Strip

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH**Record, 23 lbs. 12 ozs; Specimen Weight, 16 lbs (7.257 kg)**

16	8	East Ferry	7th September	Patrick Kearns	Baited Pirk
16		Dun Laoghaire	28th July '01	Jens Martin Pedersen (DK)	Mackerel

LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH**Record, 4 lbs. 4 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3.25 lbs (1.4737 kg)**

1.54	kg	Ballycastle	17th February	David Craig	Mackerel/Muppet
3.31		Downings	5th September	Frans Brouwer (NL)	Mackerel
3	4	Ballycastle	17th December '01	David Craig	Mackerel

FLOUNDER**Record, 4.91 lbs. Specimen Weight, 3 lbs (1.361 kg)**

3.30		Cullenstown	25th November '01	Paul Hutchinson	Crab
3.10		Pilmore	27th October '01	Master Patrick Coakley	Crab

GARFISH (BELONE BELLONE)

Record, 3 lbs. 10.25 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs (1.361 kg)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
3.21	Crosshaven	18th September	Jan Daman (NL)	Baited feathers
2.80	Cork Harbour	1st October	Tony Tait (UK)	Mackerel
1.2 kg	Kinsale	8th September	Christopher Eyres (UK)	Sandeel
2.6	Courtmacsherry	4th October	Dominique Grenier (F)	Mackerel Strip
1.115 kg	Brownstown Head, Co. Waterford	26th August '01	Brian O'Neill	Mackerel Strip

GREY GURNARD

Record, 3 lbs. 1 oz; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs; (0.680 kg)

1.75	Dun Laoghaire	28th October '01	Dennis Pedersen	Ragworm/Mackerel
1 12	Dun Laoghaire	25th July '01	Thomas Nauntoft (DK)	Ragworm baited feathers
1 12	Dun Laoghaire	26th August '01	Charles Robinson	Mackerel
1 11	Downings	22nd July	John Beswick (UK)	Mackerel
1.54	Downings	19th July	Master Darryl Campbell	Mackerel Strip
1 8.25	Port na Blagh	12th September	Bennie Bots (NL)	Mackerel
1.5	Downings	22nd July	James Barrett (UK)	Mackerel Strip
1.5	Dun Laoghaire	26th August '01	Gavin Tobin	Baited Feathers
1 8	Dun Laoghaire	26th August '01	Des Daly	Mackerel baited feathers
1 8	Dun Laoghaire	25th July '01	Thomas Nauntoft (DK)	Ragworm baited feathers



Jim Clohessy is very happy with this Red Gurnard of 2 lbs 8 ozs

RED GURNARD

Record, 3 lbs 9.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 2 lbs; (0.907 kg)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
1.28 kg	Port na Blagh	20th October '01	Stephen McGowan	Mackerel Strip
2 8	Brandon	3rd August	Jim Clohessy	Mackerel Strip
2.44	Culdaff Bay	22nd September	Mark O'Connor	Hokkai
2.4	Downings	14th September	Shirley Reilly	Mackerel Strip
2.3	Downings	13th October	Mark Porter	Baited Feathers
1.036 kg	Clare Island	15th September	Gerry Lundy	Redgill
2.25	Downings	21st September	Trevor Ryder	Mackerel Strip
1.02 kg	Clifden	15th September	Sean Ormond	Baited Feathers
2.16	Downings	19th August	Puk Van Gaalen (NL)	Baited Feathers
2.1	Downings	27th September	Gerald Kelly	Mackerel Strip
2.05	Downings	4th August	J. W. Stoop (NL)	Mackerel
2.03	Achill	20th September	John Baldie (UK)	Mackerel Strip



Robert Morgan from Co. Down with his specimen Tub Gurnard of 5.5 lbs taken off Downings



TUB GURNARD**Record, 12 lbs 3.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs (2.268 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
9	14	Achill	14th September	David Langford	Mackerel Strip
7.20		Downings	2nd October	Declan Power	Mackerel Strip
7.2		Downings	13th October	Robbie Winters	Baited Feathers
2.98 kg		Port na Blagh	16th June	Nigel Clarke	Mackerel Strip
6	8	Wexford	22nd April	William Broaders	Peeler Crab/Rag Cocktail
6.33		Downings	22nd August	Joop Van Der Meer (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
6.25		Downings	2nd October	Richard Walsh	Mackerel baited Hokkai
5.65		Downings	2nd October	Ultan O'Brien	Mackerel Strip
5.5		Downings	30th September	Robert Morgan	Mackerel Flapper
5.40		Achill	26th September	Joe Redmond	Mackerel Strip
5.32		Killala Bay	17th July	Vincent Gallagher	Mackerel Strip
5.3		Downings	14th September	John Munnely	Mackerel
5.3		Downings	13th October	Robbie Winters	Baited Feathers
5	2	Brandon Bay	26th August	Liam Griffin	Mackerel/Hokkai

HAKE**Record, 25 lbs 5.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs (4.536 kg)**

4.571 kg	East Ferry	25th August	Des O'Connell	Baited Gremlins
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JOHN DORY**Record, 7 lbs 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 4 lbs (1.814 kg)**

4.59 kg	Brandon Bay	10th July	Derek E Harvey (UK)	Cod Feathers
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LING**Record, 48 lbs 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 25 lbs (11.340 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
42	12	Cork Harbour	18th July	Michael Dennehy	Mackerel
30.71		Baltimore	16th July	Charles Boettger (UK)	Coalie Flapper
29	12	Valentia	23rd June	Gareth Broom (UK)	Mackerel
29.35		Baltimore	2nd September	Ian Latham	Pirk
28.13		Baltimore	16th July	Charles Boettger (UK)	Mackerel
28		Valentia	24th September '01	Stephen Casey	Mackerel
27.91		Baltimore	16th July	Raymond Lilley (UK)	Mackerel
27.84		Baltimore	31st August	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel
27	8	Courtmacsherry	23rd April	Peter Honsbeek (NL)	Mackerel/ Squid/Muppet
27.15		Baltimore	2nd September	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel
26.58		Baltimore	16th July	Barry Wood (UK)	Mackerel Fillet
26		Youghal	28th August	Mark Lee	Mackerel
25.6		Valentia	20th August	Hans Ligtuoet (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
25	2	Kinsale	26th August	Jim Clohessy	Shad
25		Kinsale	11th June '01	Roy van der Hoff (NL)	Mackerel Strip

MONKFISH**Record, 73 lbs; Specimen Weight, 50 lbs (22.68 kg)**

55	8	Tralee Bay	6th June	Philip O'Sullivan	Mackerel Fillet
54		Tralee Bay	23rd June	Philip O'Sullivan	Mackerel Fillet



Michael Dennehy had this 42 lb 12 oz Ling fishing out of Cork Harbour in July (left)



Frank Lynn took this 5.5 lb Grey Mullet from the Broadmeadow River

GREY MULLET**Record, 9.10 lbs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs (2.268 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
6.32		29th August	Stephen Blake	Mackerel Strip
6	2	18th September	Brian Cooke	Mackerel Strip
2.7 kg		15th September	John Brittain	Bread
2.462 kg		25th July	Frank Lynn	Fly
5.31		23rd July	Andrew White	Bread
2.4 kg		2nd September	John Brittain	Bread
5	2	15th September	Gerry Singleton	Bread
5	2	6th August	Colm McDaid	Mackerel Strip
5.12		5th July	Gerry Jervis	Bread
5.01		12th July	Guy Pitcher (UK)	Bread
5		5th July	Gerry Jervis	Bread

PLAICE**Record, 8.23 lbs; Specimen Weight, 4 lbs (1.814 kg)**

2.38 kg	Cork Harbour	2nd December '01	Michael Dennehy	Razorfish
4	10	16th November	Jim Clohessy	Ragworm
1.895 kg	Causeway Coast	15th September	Ivan Seeds	Ragworm

POLLACK**Record, 19 lbs. 3 ozs; Specimen Weight, 12 lbs (5.443 kg)**

14	14	5th October	Michael Dennehy	Shad
6.695 kg		7th August	Peter Manning	Redgill
6.47 kg		15th September	Sam Oliver	Jellyworm
6.3 kg		16th September	Fred Roe (UK)	Jellyworm
6.16 kg		14th July	Raymond Fox	Eel
13	2	28th October '01	Geoffrey Cupples	Sandeel
13		3rd August	Hans Zanden v/d (NL)	Shad
5.675 kg		16th September	David Craig	Mackerel Flapper

POLLACK Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
12	7	20th August '01	J. M de Vries (NL)	Jellyworm
5.635 kg		21st September	Des Mills	Redgill
12.4		20th September	Dermot McCalmont	Leadhead
12.25		24th August	Master Sean Dillon	Lure
12	4	4th May	Peter Bolger	Jellyworm
12	1	12th October	Liam Dennehy	Jellyworm
12		1st September	Ron McKie (UK)	Redgill
12		6th August	Tom van Lohuizen (NL)	Mackerel Strip
12		30th June	Paul Mehrer (UK)	Baited Feathers
12		29th July	Frank Bisschops (NL)	Twister

POUTING**Record, 4 lbs. 13.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs (1.361 kg)**

3.72	Courtmacsherry	11th July	Richard Ottevanger (NL)	Mackerel Strip
3	11	7th June	Edward Howard	Mackerel Strip
1.575 kg	Kinsale	2nd August	David Clavin	Ragworm
3.47	Ballydavid	22nd August	Bob de Heus (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
3.43	Courtmacsherry	28th July	Pat Higgins	Baited Hokkai
3.2	Courtmacsherry	24th September	Rob Kerskes (NL)	Mackerel Strip
3.11	Baltimore	14th September	Frederick Wallace (UK)	Mackerel Fillet



*Tony Tait from England
with a fine Blonde Ray
of 28 lbs 12 ozs from
Cork Harbour*

BLONDE RAY**Record, 36 lbs. 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 25 lbs (11.34 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
28	12	Cork Harbour	9th July	Tony Tait (UK)	Mackerel
26	7	Cork Harbour	9th May	Tom McCrossan	Mackerel Strip
26	6	Cork Harbour	8th September	Michael Dennehy	Mackerel/Ragworm
26		East Ferry	28th September	Glen Symes (UK)	Mackerel Strip
25		East Ferry	28th September	Peter Price (UK)	Mackerel/Squid



A 59 lb Stingray for Michael Wall in Tralee Bay before being returned alive

PAINTED RAY**Record, 17.21 lbs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs (4.536 kg)**

5.8 kg	Tramore Bay	20th September	Master Simon Noonan	Mackerel	
11	8	Tramore Bay	25th September	Joe Hennessy	Mackerel Strip
11	4	Tralee Bay	15th August '01	Michael Hurley	Mackerel
11	3	Castlegregory	21st August	Ian Mulligan	Sandeel

PAINTED RAY Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
10	9	Gowlaine Strand, Co. Kerry	14th October '01	Stephen Shields	Sandeel
10	6	Castlegregory	23rd August	Ian Mulligan	Sandeel
10	4	Tralee Bay	12th May	Jimmy O'Sullivan	Mackerel/Crab
10	2	Tramore	28th September	Thomas O'Mahony	Mackerel

STING RAY**Record, 33.2 kg; Specimen Weight, 30 lbs (13.608 kg)**

59	Tralee Bay	25th April	Michael Wall	Mackerel Strip
58	Tralee Bay	24th May '01	Michael Wall	Mackerel
50	Tralee Bay	14th April	John Martin O'Sullivan	Mackerel
45	Tralee Bay	24th May '01	Michael Wall	Mackerel
43	Tralee Bay	14th July	John Twomey	Peeler Crab
42	Tralee Bay	24th May '01	Michael Wall	Mackerel
31	Tralee Bay	23rd June	Master Stephen O'Sullivan	Mackerel

UNDULATE RAY**Record, 18 lbs; Specimen Weight, 14 lbs (6.35 kg)**

14	7	Tralee Bay	28th July	Liam Griffin	Mackerel
14	2	Tralee Bay	25th July	Colm McDaid	Mackerel

HOMELYN RAY**Record, 8.28 lbs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs (2.268 kg)**

5	8	Tralee Bay	23rd June	Colm McDaid	Mackerel/Squid Cocktail
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ELECTRIC RAY**New Record, 40 kg; Specimen Weight, 20 lbs (9.072kg)**

40 kg	Achill	24th August	Shay Boylan	Mackerel
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TWAITE SHAD**Record, 1.54 kg; Specimen Weight, 2.4255 lbs (1.1 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
1.54 kg	River Barrow, St. Mullins	11th May	Damien Blackwell	Tasmanian Devil
3.25	St. Mullins	11th May	Noel Lane	Tasmanian Devil
3 2.5	St. Mullins	8th May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
3 2	St. Mullins	8th May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.34 kg	St. Mullins	11th May	Damian Blackwell	Tasmanian Devil
2 15	St. Mullins	11th May	Tom Fullam	Tasmanian Devil
2 14	St. Mullins	10th May	Nicholas Ward	Tasmanian Devil
1.28 kg	St. Mullins	16th May	Roy Gretton	Lure
1.28 kg	St. Mullins	16th May	Roy Gretton	Lure
2 12.5	St. Mullins	11th May	Roy Gretton	Lure
2 12	St. Mullins	12th May	Chris Bremner	Tasmanian Devil
1.235 kg	St. Mullins	7th May	Brian O'Neill	Tasmanian Devil
2 11	St. Mullins	11th May	Margaret Cook	Tasmanian Devil
2 10.5	St. Mullins	8th May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
2 10	St. Mullins	8th May	John Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
2 10	St. Mullins	11th May	Master Pierce Moran	Rapala
2.62	St. Mullins	8th May	Pat Foster	Tasmanian Devil
1.18 kg	St. Mullins	12th May	Noel Lane	Tasmanian Devil
1.165 kg	St. Mullins	12th May	Gerry Jervis	Tasmanian Devil
1.165 kg	St. Mullins	12th May	Peter Bolger	Tasmanian Devil
2 9	St. Mullins	12th May	Oliver Doyle	Tasmanian Devil
2.55	St. Mullins	8th May	Pat Foster	Tasmanian Devil
1.14 kg	St. Mullins	8th May	Michael Ennis	Tasmanian Devil
2.51	St. Mullins	9th May	Pat Foster	Tasmanian Devil
2.51	St. Mullins	9th May	Bill Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
2.5	St. Mullins	16th May	Gerry Jervis	Tasmanian Devil
2 8	St. Mullins	9th May	John Bermingham	Lure
2.47	St. Mullins	9th May	Bill Ryan	Tasmanian Devil

BLUE SHARK**Record, 206 lbs; Specimen Weight, 100 lbs (45.359 kg)**

140	Kinsale	26th August	Les Hanlon	Mackerel
125	Youghal	5th August	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
121	Kinsale	18th July	Les Hanlon	Mackerel
48.7 kg	Clonakilty	18th July	Mark Thomas (UK)	Mackerel
107	Dunmore East	16th August	Joe Hennessy	Mackerel

THREE BEARDED ROCKLING**Record, 3 lbs 1 oz; Specimen Weight, 1.75 lbs (0.794 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
0.99 kg	Cobh	20th October	Christy Barrett McEvoy	Mackerel Strip
0.9 kg	Valentia	8th September	Kevin O'Keefe	Crab/Ragworm
1.9	Moneypoint	15th May	Bert Smit (NL)	Mackerel
1.85	Moneypoint	15th May	Bert Smit (NL)	Mackerel
0.81 kg	Cobh	23rd November '01	Stephen Hallissey	Mackerel/Squid
0.805 kg	Dunmore East	12th May	Noel O'Sullivan	Crab

TOPE**Record, 66 lbs 8ozs; Specimen Weight, 40 lbs (18.144 kg)**

20.95 kg	Greystones	18th August	Master Aaron Baugh	Mackerel Flapper
20.05 kg	Greystones	6th October	Master Oisín Baugh	Mackerel Flapper
19.50 kg	Greystones	6th October	Philip Baugh	Mackerel Flapper
42	Tralee Bay	1st June	Liam Griffin	Mackerel Flapper

TORSK**Record, 10 lbs 11 ozs; Specimen Weight, 6 lbs (2.721 kg)**

7.96	Downings	21st July	Stephen Farrell (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
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BLUEFIN TUNA**Record, 440 kg; Specimen Weight, 330.75 lbs (150 kg)**

870.2	Donegal Bay	18th September	Marco Whittle Power	Squid /Stinger
708	Clifden	7th October	Martin O'Malley	Squid
285 kg	Rossan Point, Donegal	8th October	Kieran Rice	Artificial Squid
270 kg	Donegal Bay	16th August	Stephen Black	Artificial Squid
466	Clifden	18th October	Raymond Lawlor	Squid
387	Clifden	19th September	Jan Jaspers (NL)	Plug

TURBOT**Record, 34 lbs; Specimen Weight, 18 lbs (8.165 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
8.350	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	1st September	Peter McAuley	Mackerel Strip

BALLAN WRASSE**Record, 4.3 kg; Specimen Weight, 4.75 lbs (2.154 kg)**

2.9 kg	Kerry Head	23rd August	Peter Bolger	Crab
5 8	Kerry Head	8th September	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
5 7	Kerry Head	2nd September	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
2.45 kg	Clifden	28th July	John Elms (UK)	Launce
2.448 kg	Kilmore Quay	28th August	Paddy McSteen	Ragworm
5 4	Kerry Head	31st August	Michael Hennessy	Peeler Crab
5 4	Kerry Head	31st August	Michael Hennessy	Peeler Crab
5 4	Kerry Head	8th September	Michael Hennessy	Peeler Crab
5 4	Kerry Head	8th September	Eamon Power	Peeler Crab
2.345 kg	Clifden	29th October	Erwin Stengele (D)	Feathers
5 2	Kerry Head	8th September	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
5	Bridges of Ross	21st August	Bill Ryan	Crab
2.25 kg	Kerry Head	23rd August	Peter Bolger	Crab
4 14	St. John's Point, Donegal	9th June	Robbie Winters	Crab
4 13	Kerry Head	8th September	Eamon Power	Peeler Crab
2.165 kg	Kerry Head	22nd August	Peter Bolger	Crab
2.16 kg	Hook Head	8th August	David Roche	Ragworm

CUCKOO WRASSE**Record, 2 lbs 7 ozs; Specimen Weight, 1.25 lbs (0.567 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs oz				
0.768 kg	Kilmore Quay	7th July	Paul Sweeney	Sandeel
0.72 kg	Ballycastle	21st September	Sam Oliver	Baited Feathers
0.718 kg	Clonakilty	3rd September	Cris Lane	Mackerel
0.716 kg	Clew Bay	28th September	Martin Carey	Ragworm
0.708 kg	Port na Blagh	22nd September '01	Martien Bots (NL)	Mackerel baited Hokkai
0.7 kg	Clifden	9th September	Harry Van Rijjt (NL)	Baited Feathers
0.66 kg	Portrush	7th July '01	Stuart Langridge	Ragworm
0.64 kg	Portrush	27th September '01	H Colgan	Mackerel Strip
0.61 kg	Ballycastle	27th August	Lyle Miller	Mackerel
0.595 kg	Dunmore East	4th August	Tom Butler	Baited Feathers
0.58 kg	Pullen, Beara	28th August	Richard Taylor (UK)	Mackerel
0.572 kg	Clifden	3rd September	Mark McCaughan	Baited Feathers



*Ramore Head in July
was the venue for Stuart
Langridge's Cuckoo
Wrasse*

Special Notices

ESTABLISHING A NEW SPECIMEN FISH CATEGORY

An important function of the ISFC is to act as a focal point for data collection on the occurrence of notable, rare or unusual species taken on rod and line in Irish waters. In some instances this has led to species previously regarded as "unusual" being added to the list of eligible species. Examples from recent years include smooth hound (*Mustelus asterias*) and three bearded rockling (*Gaidropsarus vulgaris*), (from 1983), garfish (*Bellone svetovidovi*) (from 1986), torsk (*Brosme brosme*) (from 1988), trigger fish (*Balistes carolinensis*) (from 1992), Bluemouth (*Helicolenus dactylopterus*) (from 2002) and Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) (from 2002).

The decision to establish a new specimen fish category is taken with due consideration of the information available to the Committee. One of the principle criteria is that the species should be captured in the ordinary course of angling. Other important factors include the numbers of the species taken over a given period, the distribution of the species and the weight of individual fish in comparison to their likely maximum achievable weight.

To begin the process of attempting to establish a new specimen fish category anglers **are requested to submit a completed claim form** for each fish captured. This is particularly important as it will establish a database on that species and enable further investigation and comparison of future claims. With most species the body will have to be forwarded for positive identification. Other arrangements would apply for large fish. The availability of the body is essential to allow the Committee to verify positive identification of the species. The claim form will allow monitoring of numbers and weights of the species. This facilitates assessment of the likelihood of capture, the likely specimen weight and the availability and seasonality of the species. It is difficult to legislate for every situation that may arise but it must be stated that the final decision will rest with the Committee and will be based on a balanced review of the information available. While this process is progressing some details of interesting fish captured will be reported in the annual report as necessary.

IMPORTANT POINTS REGARDING CLAIMS

Place of capture: all claims must include the name of the water in which the fish was caught (e.g., Monalty Lake) and in the case of the larger systems, the area (e.g., River Shannon - Rooskey).

Closed seasons: Closed seasons apply to several species (e.g. bass, brown trout, salmon etc). Any fish taken in the closed season for that species will not be ratified.

Maximum number of claims per species: 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 (stocked fish and Common Skate):

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.

In 1976 the Committee, in the interests of conservation of the species, 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 10 Species, 50 Specimen and 10 Specimen Awards, captors are advised to inform the Committee of any changes in their addresses.

BIG GAME FISH

Since 2000 the ISFC has adopted a watching brief with regard to the rules governing the capture of big game fish. Based on the deliberations of an ISFC sub-committee appointed in 2002 revised rules derived from relevant sections from the International Game fish Association (IGFA) rules have been incorporated into the existing ISFC rules (see Rule 2).

IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT WEIGHING OF FISH

Weighing instruments and certification: 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 officers of the Legal Metrology Service (National Standards Authority of Ireland) and are acceptable for weighing specimen and record fish. Club or personalised (i.e. scales not normally certified by the Weights and Measures Authority for trade purposes) can be certified for accuracy by this agency. *A full listing of Legal Metrology Centres throughout the country where scales can be independently certified are presented on Page 42.* Such scales if certified in advance are acceptable to the Committee for weighing purposes. Certification will be valid for one year from the date of issue of the certificate of accuracy. The manufacturers certificate of accuracy will not suffice. Weights from scales which are not certified at the time of weighing or certified in retrospect will not be accepted.

Metrification: Since 1978, the schedule of specimen weights on the Specimen Fish Claim Form has been presented in the Imperial (lbs and ozs) and Metric (kilograms and grams) systems. Claims will be accepted under either system until E.U. legislation dictates otherwise. Weights are also acceptable as decimal of lbs (e.g. 2.25 lbs = 2lbs 4 ozs).

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	Mobile 087 - 224 5533
Dublin Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Poppintree Ind. Estate, Ballymun, D 11. Ph: 01 - 864 3848 Fax: 01 - 864 3880	Ronán O'Doherty	01 - 864 3848
Limerick Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Plassey 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	William Keogh	Mobile 087 - 224 7121
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	Kieran Finlay	Mobile 087 - 223 1079
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 (Administration) Legal Metrology Service, NSAI, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 Ph: 01 - 807 3807 Fax: 01 - 807 3808	Pat Farragher	01 - 807 3807

PRESENTATION OF 2001 AWARDS

The ISFC is very grateful to Mr. Michael Guilfoyle, Asst. Secretary General, Dept. of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources who made the Annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims were accepted during 2001 at the Doyle Burlington Hotel, Dublin on 23rd February, 2002.

At the VISMA angling exhibition held in Rotterdam Holland on 20th March 2002, Dutch and Belgian anglers were presented with their awards in association with the Central Fisheries Board Angling Section and Bord Failte.

Acknowledgements

Photographs: The majority of photographs in this report are taken by anglers. Good quality photographs have enhanced the report considerably over the past decade and anglers are encouraged to send good quality photographs of specimen fish catches to the Committee. All will be considered for publication. The Committee is extremely grateful to anglers, staff, charter skippers and other supporters who submitted photographs this year or assisted in photograph processing particularly Mark Gannon, Danny Goldrick, Marian Klunder, Colm Barnes, Dan Smith, Jim Clohessy, John Brittain, Peter Green, Garry Hannon, Paul Bourke and Mick McVeigh.

Special acknowledgements: Charter skippers, club members, guesthouse owners, tackle dealers and staffs from the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards who follow up claims and ensure that the necessary paperwork is attended to are gratefully acknowledged.

Two sections of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI) continue to provide an excellent fish identification service for anglers in Northern Ireland and the ISFC is indebted to staff in both. Special thanks are due to the extremely cooperative staff of the Legal Metrology Service NSAI for certification of scales.

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:

Year Ireland Britain Holland Germany Belgium France Other
TOTAL

(UK) (NL) (D) (B) (F) -

1980	355	77	54	13	9	2	n/d	510
1981	390	111	31	19	6	2	n/d	559
1982	404	104	61	18	4	4	n/d	595
1983	532	116	31	15	2	4	n/d	700

Maximum of three specimen fish of any one species per angler rule introduced in 1984

1984	442	131	29	17	5	2	n/d	626
1985	443	90	25	15	3	2	n/d	578
1986	349	93	21	16	3	7	n/d	489
1987	300	59	36	8	1	4	n/d	408
1988	259	60	14	5	4	4	n/d	346
1989	261	48	18	10	0	0	n/d	337
1990	286	45	21	23	4	1	n/d	380
1991	332	46	30	19	1	3	n/d	431
1992	336	56	32	9	1	3	n/d	437
1993	352	45	30	16	3	4	n/d	450
1994	282	39	33	13	1	2	n/d	370
1995	295	55	35	18	7	1	n/d	411
1996	307	69	27	6	4	2	n/d	415
1997	449	57	28	9	5	4	n/d	552
1998	344	53	46	6	5	4	n/d	458
1999	310	35	33	3	1	1	1	384
2000	403	48	41	13	1	0	2	508
2001	427	37	28	5	4	3	4	508
2002	471	43	23	7	6	2	7	559

Donal O'Mahony, 16 Island Way, Muskery Estate, Ballincollig, Co. Cork; **Brian O'Neill**, No.9 The Hermitage, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford; **John A.O'Shea**, 6 Raphoe Road, Crumlin., Dublin 12; **Charles Robinson**, Stella Maris, Churchill, Wicklow; **Bill Ryan**; 3 Raheen Avenue, Tallaght, Dublin 24; **Trevor Ryder**, Gortamore, Downings, Co. Donegal; **Werner Sammann**, Bootsbaumeister, Steenflage 3, 49406 Barnstorf, Germany; **Gerry Singleton**, Marlinstown, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath; **Mike Dingle Tudor**, Lomondside Cottage, The Loan, Falkland, Fife KY158BD, Scotland; **Robert Williams**, "The Brig", Fennells Bay, Myrtleville, Co. Cork.



A 35 lb Cod for Dutchman Rini Anemaet out of Courtmacsherry in late August

IRISH RECORD FISH **FRESHWATER SPECIES**

Species	Weight lbs. ozs.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Bream	12 3	22.5.1997	Bolganard Lake	Paul Mathers
Carp	29 13	5.7.1998	The Lough, Cork.	Sidney Kennedy
Dace	1 2	8. 8.1966	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	John T. Henry
Eel	6 15	12. 6.1979	L. Droumenisa, Bantry	J. Murnane
Perch	5 8	1946	Lough Erne	S. Drum
Pike (Lake)	41	17. 2.2002	Lough Ross, Crossmaglen	Ian Wortley
Pike (River)	42 0	22. 3.1964	River Barrow	M. Watkins
Roach	1.425 kg	6.10.2002	Drumacritten Lake	Terry Jackson
Roach/Bream Hybrid	7	24.4.2002	River Bann, Toome	Roy Gretton
Rudd	4 8	5.9.1996	Coney Lake	Hugh Gough
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7 10	19.10.1996	Monalty Lake	Brendan Doran
Tench	8.15 lbs	20.6.1995	Ballyeigher Lake	Nick Parry
Salmon	57 0	1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Brown Trout (Lake)	26 2	15. 7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Brown Trout (River)	20 0	22. 2.1957	River Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place
Sea Trout	16 6	29.10.1983	Shimna River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus

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 13	21. 10.2000	Doughmore Strand	Emmet Naughton
Black Sole	6.32 lbs	28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Bluemouth	2.4 lbs	26.06.2002	Caherciveen	Hugh Maguire
Brill	9 8	8. 9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	31.45	18.07.2002	Galley Head	Rob Stott
Cod	42 0	1921	Ballycotton	I.L. Stewart
Conger Eel	72 0	June, 1914	Valentia	J. Green
Dab	2 5.5	2.10.2002	Cork Harbour	Mick Duff
Spur Dogfish	21.25	10.8.2001	Dun Laoghaire	Charlie Robinson
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 lbs	2.10.1993	Ballyteigue Co. Wexford	Brian Russell

MARINE SPECIES (Contd.)

Species	Weight		Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
	lbs.	ozs.			
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	0	23. 7.1972	Belmullet	Frank Brogan
Herring	0.425 kg		11. 7.1986	Rathlin Island	Wm. McMath
John Dory	7	8	12. 8.1984	Killala Bay	Cleona Walkin
Ling	48	8	29. 5.2000	Courtmacsherry	Tony Sol
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 lbs		26. 9.1993	Cork Harbour	Cay Heerwagen
Plaice	8.23 lbs		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	33.2 kg		19. 5.1999	Tralee Bay	Michael Wall
Cuckoo Ray	5	11	3. 8.1975	Causeway Coast	V. Morrison
Undulate Ray	18	0	11. 6.1977	Fenit	Ann-Mari Liedecke
Homelyn Ray	8.28 lbs		28. 9.1983	Cork Harbour	Edmund Cull
Painted Ray	17.21 lbs		29. 8.1994	Garryvoe, Co. Cork	Edmund Cull
Electric Ray	40 kg		24. 8.2002	Achill	Shay Boylan
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	1.54 kg		7. 5.1999	St. Mullins	Michael O'Leary
Porbeagle Shark	365 lbs		1932	Keem Bay, Achill	Dr. O'Donel Brown
Blue Shark	206 lbs		7.10.1959	Achill Head	J. McMonagle
Six Gilled Shark	154 lbs		28. 8.1968	Kinsale	Andrew Bull
Common Skate	221 lbs		1913	Ballycotton	T. Tucker
White Skate	165 lbs		7. 8.1966	Clew Bay	Jack Stack
Scad	1.97 lbs		6. 9.1986	Clonakilty	Master R. McCarthy
Smooth Hound	16.58 lbs		25. 9.2000	Carne	Keith Gray
Stone Basse	10	13	2. 8.1989	Kinsale	Stefano D'Amico
Three Bearded Rockling	3	1	1. 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
Tuna - Albacore - Bluefin	440 kg		5.10.2001	Donegal Bay	Adrian Molloy
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	7	15. 9.1998	Causeway Coast	Brian McLoughlin

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS

FRESHWATER FISH	IRISH RECORD		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		
	lbs	ozs	lbs	ozs	kg
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	0.772		0.35
Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	6	15	3		1.361
Perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)	5	8	2.646		1.2
Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (Lake)	41	0	30		13.608
Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (River)	42	0	20		9.072
Roach (<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>)	1.425 kg		2		0.907
Roach/Bream Hybrid	7	0	3.528		1.6
Rudd (<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>)	4	8	2.25		1.021
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7	10	3		1.361
Tench (<i>Tinca tinca</i>)	8.15		6		2.722
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	57	0	20		9.072
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (Lake)	26	2	10		4.536
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (River)	20	0	5		2.268
Sea Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	16	6	6		2.722
Slob Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)			10		4.536
SEA FISH					
Angler Fish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	42.985 kg		40		18.144
Bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	17	13	10		4.536
Black Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>)	6.32		2		0.907
Bluemouth (<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>)	2.4		1.9845		0.9
Brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)	9	8	5		2.268
Coalfish (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	31.45		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	5.5	1.5		0.680
Dogfish - Spur (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	21.25		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>)	1.11		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		0.68
- 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		22.68
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)	0.425 kg		0.75		0.34
John Dory (<i>Zeus taber</i>)	7	8	4		1.814
Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>)	48	8	25		11.34
Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	4	2	2.5		1.134
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)	1.85 kg		1.75		0.794
Monkfish (<i>Squatina squatina</i>)	73	0	50		22.680
Mullet - Grey, thick lipped (<i>Crenimugil labrosus</i>)	9.1		5		2.268
- Red (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)	-		1		0.454

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS Contd.

	IRISH RECORD		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		
	lbs	ozs	lbs	ozs	kg
SEA FISH (Contd.)					
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>)	40 kg		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>)	33.2 kg		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>)	1.54 kg		2.4255		1.1
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>)	16.58		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
Tuna - Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	-		26.46		12
- Bluefin (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>)	240 kg		330.75		150
Turbot (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>)	34	0	18		8.165
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)	4	14.5	3		1.361
Wrasse Ballan (<i>Labrus bergylta</i>)	4.3 kg		4.75		2.154
Wrasse Cuckoo (<i>Labrus mixtus</i>)	2	7	1.25		0.567

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE RULES

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- (1) **IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE:** This Committee consists of representatives of the Irish Angling Federations and the Government Departments and official organisations interested in angling. Its 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. If a fixed rod holder is in use while boat fishing, and a fish strikes, the rod must be removed from the holder as quickly as possible. This is to ensure that the angler hooks and plays the fish with rod in hand. Where a fighting chair is employed, it must not have any mechanically driven device which aids the angler in playing a fish. Body harnesses (which attach the rod to the body) are permissible but must not be fixed to the chair. Gimbals must be free swinging including those which move in the vertical plane. Gimbals which permit the angler to rest or reduce strain while playing a fish are prohibited. 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 in this report). Claims cannot be accepted in respect of fish weighed on scales inappropriate to the size of the fish, e.g., fish in the 1 to 3 kg range weighed on balances weighing up to 50 kg 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: All club and personal scales MUST be certified annually by an independent agency. 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.

FISH 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 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, BLUEMOUTH, MONKFISH, POLLACK, COALFISH, BALLAN WRASSE, TRIGGER FISH and ALBACORE

If necessary, the fish should be hung up for photographs. 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 – 8842600; Fax: 01-8360060. E.Mail: bridie.fleming@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: 01-8842600). 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. Richard Briggs, Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Division, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX, Ph: 028 90 255503, e-mail: richard.briggs@dardni.gov.uk. In the case of freshwater species send to Dr. Walter Crozier, Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, River Bush Salmon Station, 21 Church Street, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8QJ, Ph: 028 207 31435, e-mail: walter.crozier@dardni.gov.uk

THE "IMPOSSIBLE DREAM"

Blue-fin Tuna in Irish Waters - The Story So Far

NORMAN DUNLOP, Sea Angling Advisor with the Central Fisheries Board charts the tuna story and the seminal role played by the late Kevin Linnane in realizing the angling potential of these mighty creatures of the sea.

It all started in the early seventies when the late Kevin Linnane, then a sea angling officer with the Inland Fisheries Trust (later part of the Central Fisheries Board), discovered that Spanish and French commercial fleets fishing off the south west and west coasts of Ireland were taking significant numbers of albacore and blue-fin tuna. The methods employed by these commercial fleets, including long-lines and baited hooks, led him to believe that it must be possible to catch these big game fish on rod and line.



So, began a dream that some day these giants of the deep, would be taken by anglers, heralding the arrival of Ireland as the sea angling capital of Europe. At times Kevin must have thought it was an impossible dream particularly after many fruitless missions, including one voyage in 1979 of over 100 miles into the Atlantic to fish over the Porcupine Bank. Kevin's paper file on tuna expanded annually as increasing numbers of reports continued to come in. Each report was meticulously followed up and every minute detail of information was extracted.

Kevin retired from the Central Fisheries Board due to ill health in 1997, and it appeared that his vision would not be fulfilled. His efforts, however, had fired the imagination of many anglers and skippers up and down the country, many of whom now shared the dream.

In the 1999 ISFC Report, "Irish Times" angling columnist Derek Evans, having spent a fruitless search for tuna while on holiday in the Canary Islands, wrote about the possibilities of blue-fin tuna on rod and line in Irish waters and urged budding tuna anglers to stay at home and try our own waters. To say that Derek was "right on the money" would be something of an understatement because the very next season on 25th September 2000 in Donegal Bay, Alan Glanville caught the first two Irish tuna.

Many people thought it was a flash in the pan that would never be repeated. The following season proved the sceptics wrong however, when Adrian Molloy smashed the year old Irish Record with a massive fish of 440kgs, some 200kgs above the



West Coast specimen Bluefin taken off Clifden in 2002

previous figure. This is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, fish ever taken on rod and line in European waters.

As readers of this years report can see, a further six fish were captured in 2002 and to date it would appear that no specimens have been caught outside the west coast counties of Galway and Donegal. This is a little misleading, however, due to the fact that at least one and possibly all the Galway specimens came from the waters west of Clare Island across the border in Co. Mayo. These fish were landed and weighed at the port of departure, which was Clifden in Co. Galway. The skipper, John Brittain, has quite rightly ensured, that this was stated by the captors, on the specimen claim forms.

At the time of writing, no claim has been received for two other possible specimens known to have been captured in the same general area, while at least as many fish as have been recorded have been lost due to under-gunned tackle and lack of experience.

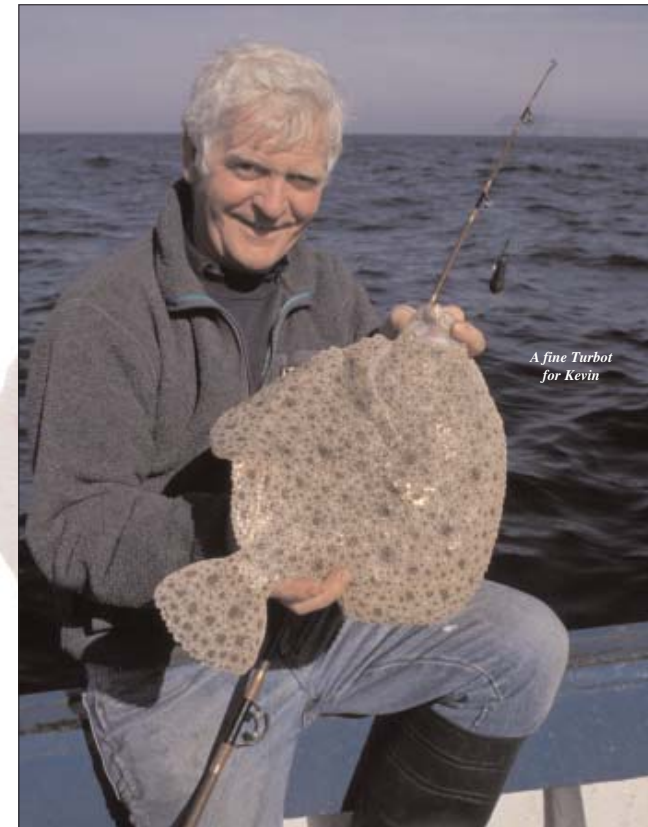
There was a mass of activity, west of Clare Island, during September and October 2002 with large pods of tuna, turning the sea to foam, in one feeding frenzy after another. Some of the pods were estimated to contain over 100 individual fish. The epicentre of all the commotion was around the Bills Rocks, which lie roughly half way between Clare Island and Achill Head. Angling boats from as far away as Wexford, Kerry and Donegal were lured into the area and this is where I had my one and only encounter with a bluefin.

Fishing with Francis Clarke on board his fully equipped boat "Gleneagle" we had towed a teaser bar full of multicoloured squid in and around the Bills for some two hours when Francis spotted fish on the surface about a mile off. Turning in a large arc to keep the teasers working, we had no sooner come around on the new bearing, when the outrigger (a converted boat rod) working the teaser bar bent almost double. There was a loud crack, followed by a huge splash behind the boat, and the whole lot was gone! Obviously the 300lbs monofilament was too light for whatever took our lures. It was unfortunate that the fish had hit the teaser bar in this way because we were also towing two large squid on 500lbs mono from two large Penn International reels, which would have coped much better.

Kevin died in December 2001, having survived long enough to see his dream fulfilled, but oh how I wish he could have seen those acres of bluefin crashing on the surface west of Clare Island.

KEVIN LINNANE (1942 - 2001)

Last year, the Irish Specimen Fish Committee Report had gone to press when we got the news of the untimely death of Kevin Linnane R.I.P.



In 1966 he joined the Inland Fisheries Trust (IFT) as an accomplished sea angler with a vast amount of experience. Indeed he had already experienced one of the ultimate angling thrills having caught Porbeagle shark from the rocks of Clare under the tuition of the late Jack Shine. He brought to the IFT an infectious enthusiasm which seemed to be passed on to all who worked with him and to a vast number of anglers who came in contact with him all around Ireland and further afield.

His angling prowess was not confined solely to sea angling. He was an all round angler. Not many people know that Kevin won the prestigious "Golden Maggot" international species angling competition fished in Britain and the Artic Circle in the early 1970's. The trophy, which is one of the smallest presented to the winner of a competition, consists of a gold maggot set on a hook. The winner has to catch the most species of fish (freshwater and marine) over a set period of time. His greatest love was sea angling and he went about his work with total commitment surveying new angling locations, publishing the results and promoting the product. It gave him immense satisfaction when sea anglers successfully fished these locations and sampled a unique angling experience. Belmullet is one of these areas and it is still highly regarded as one of the best "species" venues to this day.

Kevin was very competitive when fishing; he along with the late Des Brennan pioneered the Irish bass-tagging programme. That was in the days when vast shoals of bass were to be seen and caught in places like Dungarvan, Youghal, the Splaugh Rock and on the Kerry beaches. The aim was to tag as many bass as possible whilst the fish were feeding. In order to put a competitive edge to the tagging there were side bets, usually for a half-crown, on who would get the most fish tagged, the biggest fish or the first fish.

Kevin had a passion and vision for the development of angling in Ireland. In the early 1970's he pursued the scientific literature, talked to foreign fishermen, fished on French trawlers and even went to France in order to find out about Tunny migrations off the Irish coast. He knew if he could establish their migration patterns then it would open up a new dimension for Irish sea angling. He was so close to the solution 30 years ago and he lived to see his dream finally come alive in the last few years.

Kevin had many other talents and he excelled in each of them. The films he scripted and produced on the subjects of fishing and pollution will be long remembered for their dramatic impacts. Their quality was such that they were shown worldwide. He was also an accomplished journalist producing many fine articles and a number of well regarded sea angling books.



Kevin in a familiar pose in the latter stages of his career

He had an abiding love of the sea and as a member of Clontarf Yacht Club he spent some considerable time sailing. Quite a number of years ago he took up model making and concentrated on building exceptionally complicated models of three-masted sailing ships. Anyone who has seen the finished models can only be impressed with the meticulous detail down to the miniature dead eyes.

Kevin was Secretary of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee for ten years until he resigned at the end of 1997. The enthusiasm he generated, his dedication and absolute commitment made the ISFC annual report one of the most desirable pieces of information for anglers at home and abroad. So knowledgeable was he that even in his retirement he was consulted regularly by his colleagues and anglers alike on all shades of angling matters and also in relation to D.I.Y. activities. His passing has left a void in the lives of his many friends and colleagues.

To Maeve, his wife, and to his sons Barry and Louis the Irish Specimen Fish Committee tenders its sincerest sympathies.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Phillip Oliver with his 1.825 kg Roach/Bream Hybrid from Lough Beg in May

Notes:



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