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ISFC Chairman's Review 2006



The Committee was greatly encouraged by the positive feedback received following the 50th Anniversary Awards day last year. A heartfelt thank you to the many callers who took the time to contact us. Thanks are also extended to the press who provided extensive coverage at the time.

The number of claims ratified (449) in 2006 is down on an excellent 2005 when 568 were ratified. A new coarse fish bye-law was introduced in July and from that date it was no longer possible for the Committee to receive bodies of cyprinids for species ratification. This, together with fewer carp, perch and river pike claims, has contributed to the reduction in 2006. On the marine side, spurdog, blonde ray and ballan wrasse claims increased in 2006. Congratulations to the anglers who established new Irish records in what might be termed "exotic" species, golden grey mullet, trigger fish, gilthead bream and torsk.

I have referred in previous reports to the possibility of fish identification using genetic fingerprinting. The Committee has recently obtained seed funding and we propose to commence a genetic fingerprinting pilot study for cyprinid fish in co-operation with the Zoology Department in UCD in 2007. This is a very exciting development and if fruitful, the technique may eventually prove useful across the full range of Irish freshwater and marine species. The benefits for conservation and ratification of specimen claims are to be welcomed. Until the genetic fingerprinting is refined the Committee must continue to rely on the existing rules. Many claimants now submit very high quality photographs as the pictures in this year's report again demonstrate. There are some situations, however, where photographs alone may not be sufficient to separate certain closely related species e.g. cyprinids, mullets and smooth hounds etc. For example, indistinct photographs of large mullet, probably thick lipped, were submitted in 2006 but the claims were rejected by the Committee as key distinguishing features were not discernable. In fact difficulties will continue to arise regarding separation of many species (e.g. golden grey from thin lipped mullet) and for these species it is best to continue to provide the body for ratification. The Committee proposes to investigate production of additional aids which will assist anglers when photographing the key external identification features of these fish.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to announce the introduction of two new awards. The Committee, following discussions with Dr. Michael Kennedy, has decided to present the "Kennedy Award" for best Specimen Mullet of the Year. This is an acknowledgement of Dr. Kennedy's dedicated research interest in the mullet species, his contribution to angling and to the Irish Specimen Fish Committee. The Committee is most grateful to Fáilte Ireland who have agreed to sponsor an award for the best specimen captured by an international angler in each year – "The Best International Specimen of the Year". The international aspect to specimen angling is important to the Committee.

I have been asked by the Committee to remind anglers that Undulate Ray and Monkfish (angel shark) remain suspended from the specimen list. However, it is acknowledged that individuals of these species may be captured and a new record in either category can be considered in certain circumstances.

Following much discussion the Committee announced last year that all future weights would be reported in metric (kilograms and grams). Readers will observe that the current report only uses the imperial measures (lbs and ounces) where previous records have been reported using this system. All future specimens and records will be reported in metric. Some anglers have already expressed concern at these proposals but it is incumbent on the Committee to adopt this approach in line with legislation.

I have referred, in previous reviews of the specimen year, to the dangers posed to fish and other biota by irresponsible people illegally importing live non-native species; some of these species, if introduced to the wild, and if capable of existing in Irish temperatures have serious potential to cause irreparable damage to native fish stocks and aquatic communities. I avail of this opportunity to thank the vigilant officers at Holyhead who intercepted live fish in the process of being smuggled from the United Kingdom to Ireland during 2006. Ireland is an island nation with a restricted diversity of native plant and animal species. It is important to protect this unique heritage. I believe we are entitled to expect visitors, whom we welcome, to respect it also. To draw attention to the potential dangers of non-native introductions, the Central Fisheries Board (CFB) and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), have published a calendar on "Alien Species" for 2007. Copies are available from the Central Fisheries Board at its Dublin office (www.cfb.ie).

The ISFC is extremely grateful to the Central Fisheries Board for its unstinting support in 2006 and to other sponsors particularly the Marine Institute, Fáilte Ireland, the Loughs Agency and the Southern and South Western Regional Fisheries Boards.

Trevor Champ

Chairman
18th December, 2006

Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2006

Introduction

In 2006 the ISFC received 489 claims. 449 were ratified, including four new Irish records. A total of 14 were rejected for non-compliance with the rules and a further 27 are being queried. Details of the new records, other special awards and the specimen awards 2006 are listed below:

NEW IRISH RECORDS

(Specially commissioned engraved silver medal)
For fish exceeding the current Irish record weight



Tony Tait, 18 Ashley Park Crescent, York, North Yorkshire, YO3 1HH, England, with his new Irish Record Gilthead Bream of 1.673 kg taken in Cork Harbour on 14th August 2006

Noel Lane, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork, with his new Irish Record Golden Grey Mullet of 1.191 kg taken in Cork Harbour on 24th June 2006



Jan de Baklaar, Van Lanschotstraat 61, 4885 JE Achtmaal, the Netherlands, with the new Irish Record Torsk of 4.858 kg taken out of Downings on 26th June 2006



Bob Moss, Ballydavid, Co. Kerry with the new Irish Record Trigger Fish of 2.54 kg taken off Sleah Head, Co. Kerry on 7th August 2006

SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES

20 SPECIES AWARD (Engraved plaque)

For 20 different species of specimen fish

Christy Lane, 10 Harrington Square, Dillons Cross, Cork - Flounder (1982), Cuckoo Wrasse (1983), Plaice (1984), Dab (1984), Homelyn Ray (1985), Twaite Shad (1993), Carp (1995), Eel (1996), Bream (1996), Rudd/Bream Hybrid (1996), Tench (1998), Roach/Bream Hybrid (2001), Pike (River) (2002), Thick Lipped Mullet (2003), Ballan Wrasse (2004), Coalfish (2005), Cod (2005), Pollack (2005), Golden Grey Mullet (2006), Ling (2006).

10 SPECIES AWARD (Engraved bronze medal)

For 10 different species of specimen fish

David Craig, 9 Seskin Ave, Straid, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim BT 39 9LG – Pollack (1993), Cuckoo Wrasse (1994), Roach/Bream Hybrid (1995), Bream (1998), Roach (1998), Spur Dogfish (2001), Lesser Spotted Dogfish (2002), Pike (River) (2002), Torsk (2004), Thick Lipped Mullet (2006).

50 SPECIMENS AWARD (Gold badge)

For 50 specimen fish

Bill Ryan, Querrin Shore, Querrin, Kilkee, Co. Clare who has caught 50 specimens (all from the shore) up to 2006 including Bass (1978), Flounder (1978), 2 Painted Ray (1979), Lesser Spotted Dogfish (1981), 13 Ballan Wrasse (1981 to 2006), 4 Smoothhound (1984 to 1991), 23 Twaite Shad (1984 to 2006), Homelyn Ray (1985), 3 Trigger Fish (1995 to 2004), Thick Lipped Mullet (1996).

10 SPECIMENS AWARD (Sterling silver tie-pin)

For ten or more specimen fish

Rini Anemaet, Beatrixlaan 38, 4694 EG Scherpenisse, Holland.

Philip Connolly, 32 Pinebrook Vale, Clonsilla, Dublin 15.

Hamish Currie, 9 Bellisk Drive, Cushendall, BT44 OAX, Co. Antrim.

Peter Florian, 49 Quaker Road, Cork City.

Rinus Hage, Lentestraat 18, 4694 CS Scherpenisse, Holland.

Hans Koelen, Mainelaan 30, 5627 VL Eindhoven, Holland.

Robert J. Lawlor, Turloughmore, Athenry, Co. Galway.

Chris Mc Eleavy, 1 Dornans Road, Ballinderry Lower, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

Ken Murphy, 21 The Glen, Greenvalley, Donnybrook, Douglas, Cork.

Ronald Surgenor, 8T Grange Manor, Grange Road, Bangor, Co. Down.

DR. MICHAEL KENNEDY AWARD SPECIMEN MULLET OF THE YEAR

Dr. Michael Kennedy, the pioneering fisheries biologist and one of the founders of the ISFC, has a lifelong research interest in mullet species. This new award, the Kennedy Award, is for the best specimen mullet of the year (either species) and is based on the highest percentage of the current record.

The 2006 award goes to:

Noel Lane, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork for the new Irish Record Golden Grey Mullet of 1.191 kg taken in Cork Harbour on 24th June 2006

DR. A.E.J. WENT AWARD (Award & token) YOUNG SPECIMEN ANGLER OF THE YEAR

The late Dr. Arthur Went, the noted fisheries biologist and one of the two founder members of the ISFC, nominated this award which is for the best specimen of the year (based on the highest percentage of the specimen weight) taken by an angler aged 13 years or younger when the fish was taken.

The 2006 award goes to:

Michael Conway, The Cottage, Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo for a Blue Shark of 59.874 kg taken West of Innismurray Island (Mullaghmore) on the 14th August 2005

The MINISTER'S AWARD (Mounted bronze medal)

Inaugurated by the Minister for Communications, 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 of the existing record.

The 2006 award goes to:

John Millerick, 21 Birchdale Park, Kinsealy, Co. Dublin for a Roach/Bream Hybrid of 3.09 kg taken in Lough Derravaragh on 18th May 2006

BEST INTERNATIONAL SPECIMEN FISH AWARD

Funded by Fáilte Ireland, this new award is for the best specimen fish (calculated as the highest percentage of the current specimen weight) taken by an overseas angler.

The 2006 award goes to:

Jan Tinnemans, Industrieweg 18, 6051ÀE Maasbracht, The Netherlands for a River Brown Trout of 4.5 kg taken in the River Corrib on the 31st May 2006

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2006

Date of capture 2006 unless otherwise stated
Overseas anglers and juvenile (J) anglers are flagged

FRESHWATER FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2006

Coarse Fish and Pike

BREAM

Record, 12 lbs 3 ozs (5.528 kg); Specimen Weight, 3.402 kg

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
4.508	Ballyhoe Lake	27-Apr	Mark Byrne	Boilie
4.309	Monalty Lake	26-May	Ian Mulligan	Boilie
4.167	Bolganard Lake	30-Apr	William F. Brown (UK)	Maggots
3.912	Corgar Lake	30-Apr	William F. Brown (UK)	Maggots
3.719	Ballyhoe Lake	31-May	Michael Norton	Boilie
3.629	Paddy Mac's Lake	18-Mar	Florian Peter	Boilie
3.520	Monalty Lake	14-May	John Millerick	Maggots
3.515	Ballycullinan Lake	22-Jul	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
3.515	Paddy Mac's Lake	19-Mar	Florian Peter	Boilie
3.473	Ballycullinan Lake	08-May	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
3.459	Monalty Lake	13-May	Brian Cooke	Boilie
3.430	Ballycullinan Lake	11-May	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn

*The heaviest
Bream of 2006
fell to Mark
Byrne in
Ballyhoe Lake
in April*



CARP

Record, 29 lbs 13 ozs (13.523 kg); Specimen Weight, 5.443 kg

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
7.484	The Lough, Cork	29-Jun	Florian Peter	Boilie
6.237	Gorteen Lake	01-Jul	Denis Curtin	Corn
5.613	The Lough, Cork	12-Aug	Rory McNamara	Boilie



*The Lough in Cork City produced this 7.484 kg Carp
for Florian Peter in July*

DACE

Record, 1 lbs 2 ozs (0.51 kg); Specimen Weight, 0.35 kg

0.370	River Barrow, St. Mullins	14-May	Ian Mulligan	Caster
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EEL

Record, 6 lbs 15 ozs (3.147 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg

2.44	Lough Lene	17-Jun	Michael Flanagan	Worm
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PERCH**Record, 5 lbs 8 ozs (2.495 kg); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.843	River Barrow, Athy	05-Jan	Jason McArdle	Worm
1.389	River Barrow, Athy	08-Apr	Damian Blackwell	Lobworm
1.361	River Barrow, Athy	02-Apr	Damian Blackwell	Lobworm
1.332	River Barrow, Athy	03-Jan	Gary Doyle	Worm
1.304	River Barrow, Athy	05-Apr	Pierce Moran	Worm
1.304	River Barrow, Athy	08-Apr	Oliver Doyle	Maggots
1.276	River Barrow, Athy	05-Mar	Oliver Doyle	Minnow
1.247	River Barrow, Carlow	08-Mar	Brian Cooke	Lobworm
1.247	River Barrow, Athy	08-Mar	Brian Cooke	Lobworm
1.243	River Barrow, Athy	08-Dec-05	Pierce Moran	Maggots
1.233	River Barrow, Athy	02-Apr	Pierce Moran	Worm/Maggots



Perch expert Oliver Doyle caught this Barrow fish at Athy in April

PIKE (LAKE)**Record, 42 lbs 12 ozs (19.391 kg); Specimen Weight 13.608 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
18.370	Oaks Fishery	03-May-05	Gerard Moreland	Rapala
15.600	Clay Lough	05-Feb	Andy Beattie (UK)	Joey Mackerel
14.515	Lough Bane	15-Jun	Fred Ireland	Rapala
14.175	Blessington Lake	29-Jan	Fintan Lawler	Roach
13.830	Lough Ree	18-Mar	Barry Darby	Mackerel

PIKE (RIVER)**Record, 42 lbs (19.051 kg); Specimen Weight 9.072 kg**

14.742	River Inny, Inny Bridge	19-Feb	Ian Mulligan	Roach
12.530	River Shannon, O'Brien's Bridge	05-Dec-05	Florian Peter	Roach
12.134	River Inny, Ballinalack	19-Mar	John Millerick	Roach
11.000	River Lung	08-Jan	Kenneth Sloan	Lure
10.716	River Inny, Inny Bridge	03-Mar	Ian Mulligan	Trout
10.177	River Inny, Ballinalack	28-Oct	Pierce Moran, Snr	Roach
10.149	River Inny, Ballinalack	12-Feb	Ian Mulligan	Trout
10.036	River Barrow, Athy	09-Sep	Derek O'Bryan	Roach
9.412	River Barrow, Athy	19-Apr	Derek O'Bryan	Roach
9.400	Portna Canal	07-Jan	Newton Moorehead	Lamprey
9.299	River Suck, Ballyforan	27-Apr	Brian McDonnell	Dace
9.214	River Liffey, Kilcullen	02-Apr	Chris Barror	Roach
9.100	River Suck, Ballyforan	04-Mar	Clyde McElwaine	Roach

ROACH**Record, 1.425 kg; Specimen Weight 0.907 kg**

0.910	River Barrow, St. Mullins	23-Apr	David McGee	Maggots
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Gerard Moreland caught this 18.37 kg Pike in the Oaks Fishery in May 2005 on a Rapala



John Millerick with a nice Bream from Monalty Lake

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

Record, 7 lbs (3.175 kg); Specimen Weight, 1.6 kg

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.090	Lough Derravaragh	18-May	John Millerick	Maggots
2.835	Lough Derravaragh	21-May	David McGee	Maggots
2.551	Lough Derravaragh	10-Jul	Kim Tully	Maggots
2.500	Lough Derravaragh	10-Jul	Christopher Regan	Maggots
2.381	Lough Derravaragh	21-May	Brian Cooke	Maggots
2.211	Lough Derravaragh	11-Jul	Zoe Tully	Maggots
2.155	Lough Derravaragh	10-Jul	Patrick Loftus	Maggots
1.984	Lough Derravaragh	10-Jul	Liam Tully	Maggots
1.984	Lough Derravaragh	11-Jul	Derek Smith	Maggots
1.871	Lough Derravaragh	11-Jul	Robert Tully	Maggots
1.814	Lough Derravaragh	11-Jul	Aliex Connolly (J)	Maggots
1.729	River Barrow, Leighlinbridge	09-Jul	Jason Dingle	Maggots



A happy Aliex Connolly with her specimen Roach/Bream Hybrid of 1.814 kg taken in July

TENCH**Record, 8.15 lbs (3.697 kg); Specimen Weight, 6 lbs (2.721 kg)**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.300	Glastry Lake	28-Jun	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
3.005	Rahan's Lake	15-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Maggots
2.977	Ballyhoe Lake	08-Jun	John Millerick	Boilie
2.906	Ballyeigher Lake	23-May	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
2.835	Rahan's Lake	15-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Maggots
2.821	Ballycullinan Lake	11-May	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
2.800	Rahan's Lake	19-Jun	Ray McElhinney	Sweetcorn
2.792	Ballyhoe Lake	16-May	Ray Bannerman	Boilie
2.778	Ballyhoe Lake	08-Jun	John Millerick	Boilie
2.778	Rahan's Lake	15-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Maggots
2.778	Lakyle Lake	17-Jun	Denis Curtin	Worm
2.764	Ballyhoe Lake	16-May	Ray Bannerman	Boilie
2.750	Rahan's Lake	18-Jun	Brian Cooke	Worm
2.722	Rahan's Lake	22-Jun	Liam Kane	Corn
2.722	Rahan's Lake	18-Jun	John Millerick	Maggots

*Rahan's Lake in June produced this Tench for Liam Kane***Game Fish****SALMON****Record, 57 lbs (25.855 kg); Specimen Weight 9.072 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
10.265	Lough Lein, Killarney	18-Apr	Timothy O'Sullivan	Minnow
9.415	River Moy, Foxford	23-Apr	Stephen Thorpe	Shrimp

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)**Record, 26 lbs 2 ozs (11.85 kg); Specimen Weight**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
8.850	Lough Corrib	08-Sep	Peder Saugstrup Hansen	Roach
6.804	Lough Corrib	19-Jun	Pat Lally	Rudd
6.760	Lough Conn	07-May	Jim McDonnell	Toby
6.690	Lough Corrib	07-Jun	Ceri Jones (UK)	Roach
6.605	Lough Corrib	05-Jan-05	Frankie Guilfoyle, Jr	Mepps
6.065	Lough Mask	15-Feb	Thomas Killion	Rapala

*Peder Saugstrup Hansen caught this Brown Trout, the heaviest of the year, in Lough Corrib in September*

BROWN TROUT LAKE Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg				
5.953	Lough Corrib	23-Sep	Kevin Prunty	Roach
5.897	Lough Mask	29-Apr	Noel McCaffrey	Tasmanian Devil
5.750	Lough Inagh	19-Apr	Brett Hughes (UK)	Fly
5.450	Lough Mask	29-Apr	Walter Bucher (Switz)	Rapala
5.450	Lough Inagh	23-Sep	Kieran Power	Fly
4.850	Lough Corrib	24-May	Steven Palmer (UK)	Mepps No. 5



Jan Tinnemans and crew from the Netherlands are delighted with this specimen Brown Trout taken in the River Corrib

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

Record, 20 lbs (9.072 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg				
4.500	River Corrib	31-May	Jan Tinnemans (NL)	Roach
3.400	River Clare	16-Jun	Lonan O'Farrell	Fly
3.317	River Liffey, Lucan	01-Apr	Michael Christian	Spinner
3.266	Cong River	12-Aug	David Campbell	Worm
2.722	Cong River	18-Aug	David Campbell	Rapala
2.551	Rive Inny, Ballymahon	21-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Worm
2.381	River Clare	05-Sep	Eoin Trill	Fly
2.315	River Clare	14-Jun	Robert J. Lawlor	Fly



The Liffey at Lucan produced this Brown Trout of 3.317 kg for Michael Christian

SEA TROUT**Record, 16 lbs 6 ozs (7.428 kg); Specimen Weight 2.721 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
5.124	Lough Currane	30-Apr	Stephen Bullock (UK)	Fly
4.966	Lough Currane	27-Aug	Peter Keenan	Fly
3.938	Lough Currane	19-Jun	Daniel Gluck (UK)	Fly
3.894	Lough Currane	15-Apr	Tadg Moylan	Rapala
3.856	Lough Currane	16-Apr	Paddy Barrett	Lukki Spoon
3.524	Lough Currane	02-Sep	John Holstead	Fly
3.470	Lough Currane	15-Apr	Rhys Smith (UK)	Lukki Lure
3.424	Lough Currane	25-Apr	John B. Lyne	Fly
3.360	Lough Currane	29-May	Brian Chatterton	Fly
3.326	Lough Currane	20-Jun	Denis Collins	Fly
3.218	Lough Currane	01-May	James Kearns	Fly
3.202	Lough Currane	14-May	Ed Nowacki (NL)	Rapala
3.138	Lough Currane	25-Apr	Deiters Otto (D)	Toby
3.136	Lough Currane	27-May	Thomas Murphy	Fly
3.124	Argideen River	28-Jun	David McCan	Fly
3.122	Lough Currane	29-Jun	David Lalor	Fly
3.012	Lough Currane	15-May	Jimmy Sayers	Fly
2.990	Lough Currane	05-Apr	John Bojtor (UK)	Rapala
2.970	Lough Currane	01-May	Dermot Flynn	Fly
2.968	Lough Currane	20-May	John B. Lyne	Wetfly
2.750	Lough Currane	19-Aug	Keith Francis (UK)	Fly



Lough Currane provided many specimen Sea Trout in 2006 including this 3.856 kg fish for Paddy Barrett

MARINE FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2006**BASS****Record, 17 lbs 13 ozs (8.08 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.123	Brandon Bay	30-Nov-05	Stuart Crossley (UK)	Sandeel
5.669	Castle Rock	28-Aug	Ivan Seeds	ABU Tormentor
5.528	Tramore	21-Dec-05	David Keating	Lugworm
5.500	East Ferry	04-Oct	Dan Lynch	Crab
5.484	Kilmore Quay	12-Nov	Jody Sinnott	Squid
5.352	St. Finians Bay	15-Jan	Denis O'Connor	Squid
4.990	Portrane	09-Oct	Damian Blackwell	Crab
4.990	St. Helens	06-Sep	Tony Murphy	Rapala
4.942	Enniscrone	07-Aug	Clement Hodson	Sandeel
4.876	Cork Harbour	21-Jun	Stephen O'Donovan	Razorfish
4.680	Ballybrannigan	18-Feb	Edward J. Howard	Ragworm
4.635	Clonakilty	17-Aug	Martin Lordan	Spoon
4.627	Tramore	29-Nov	Jaime O'Rourke	Lugworm
4.564	Cork Harbour	28-Sep	Mick Duff (UK)	Crab
4.559	Courtmacsherry	14-Oct	Michael McCabe	Mackerel



ISFC Committee member Norman Dunlop with a Bluemouth taken in August off Caherciveen

BLUEMOUTH**Record, 2.4 lbs (1.089 kg); Specimen Weight 0.9 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.043	Caherciveen	04-Aug	Hugh Maguire	Red Devil Rig
1.021	Caherciveen	04-Aug	Norman Dunlop	Mackerel
0.907	Caherciveen	04-Aug	Michael Hennessy	Mackerel Strip
0.907	Caherciveen	25-Sep	Barry Spink	Mackerel

COALFISH**Record, 15.1 kg; Specimen Weight 6.804 kg**

13.353	Union Hall	08-Jan	Philip Horgan	Shad
12.530	Kinsale	06-Dec-05	Noel Lane	Shad
11.963	Kinsale	16-Jul	Mattie Foley	Shad
11.907	Courtmacsherry	21-Jul	James Grant (UK)	Shad
11.861	Courtmacsherry	28-Jul	Robert Nobbe (NL)	Shad
11.408	Courtmacsherry	21-Jul	Farooq Shan (UK)	Storm Lure
11.311	Union Hall	08-Jan	Philip Horgan	Shad
11.226	Union Hall	08-Jan	Philip Horgan	Shad

*James Grant with a nice Coalfish from Courtmacsherry***COALFISH Contd.**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
11.158	Courtmacsherry	21-Aug	Alan Brown	Shad
11.158	Courtmacsherry	03-Oct	Niall McCarthy	Shad
10.977	Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Frank Lambrechts (B)	Pirk
10.977	Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Stefan Soetewey (B)	Shad
10.932	Courtmacsherry	19-Jul	Farooq Shan (UK)	Storm Lure
10.886	Courtmacsherry	03-Aug	Nicolaas Grippeling (NL)	Pirk
10.773	Courtmacsherry	05-Jul	Johan Schouw (NL)	Pirk
10.659	Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Dirk Cravwels (B)	Mackerel Flapper
10.455	Courtmacsherry	10-Apr	Mark E. Gannon	Shad
10.433	Union Hall	08-Jan	Colm Horgan	Shad
10.387	Courtmacsherry	03-Oct	Paul O'Connell (D)	Shad
10.348	Union Hall	08-Jan	Bob Creber	Shad
10.319	Courtmacsherry	19-Jul	John Barnes (UK)	Shad
10.251	Courtmacsherry	04-Oct	Alan Brown	Jellyworm
10.251	Courtmacsherry	19-Jul	James Grant (UK)	Shad
10.043	Courtmacsherry	27-Jun	Emile Beumkes (NL)	Shad
10.036	Union Hall	08-Jan	Colm Horgan	Shad
9.979	Courtmacsherry	03-Aug	Jan Harmelwaard (NL)	Shad
9.843	Courtmacsherry	03-Oct	Mike Kollaard (NL)	Shad
9.798	Courtmacsherry	06-Jun	Hans Dijke (NL)	Shad
9.752	Courtmacsherry	26-Jul	Piet van den Berg (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
9.752	Union Hall	08-Jan	Dan Lynch	Shad
9.730	Courtmacsherry	19-Jul	Christopher Goddard (UK)	Mackerel
9.662	Courtmacsherry	19-Jul	Michael Doddy (UK)	Shad
9.616	Courtmacsherry	02-Jul	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
9.616	Courtmacsherry	10-Apr	Gerry Boland	Mister Twister
9.525	Courtmacsherry	10-Apr	Mark E. Gannon	Shad
9.525	Courtmacsherry	02-Jul	Declan O'Shea	Shad
9.480	Courtmacsherry	26-Jul	Michael Flanagan	Shad
9.457	Courtmacsherry	04-Oct	Mike Kollaard (NL)	Shad
9.435	Kinsale	26-Oct	Philip Barry	Shad
9.435	Courtmacsherry	10-Apr	Gerry Boland	Mister Twister
9.367	Courtmacsherry	19-Jul	John Barnes (UK)	Shad
9.344	Courtmacsherry	02-Jul	Jeremy Power	Shad
9.344	Courtmacsherry	02-Jul	Jeremy Power	Shad
9.327	Union Hall	08-Jan	Bob Creber	Shad
9.299	Courtmacsherry	22-Jul	John Barnes (UK)	Shad
9.253	Kinsale	27-Jun	Sean Clohessy	Shad
9.242	Union Hall	08-Jan	John Fitzgerald	Shad
9.208	Courtmacsherry	05-Jul	Johan Schouw (NL)	Pirk
9.163	Courtmacsherry	02-Jul	Mike Considine	Shad
9.072	Courtmacsherry	04-Jun	Niall O'Sullivan	Pirk

COALFISH Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
8.890	Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Patrick Annaert (B)	Pirk
8.845	Courtmacsherry	04-Jun	Rini Anemaet (NL)	Shad
8.800	Courtmacsherry	02-Jun	Hans Dijke (NL)	Baited Pirk
8.618	Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Marcel Eelen (B)	Mackerel Flapper
8.596	Courtmacsherry	02-Jul	Declan O'Shea	Shad
8.596	Courtmacsherry	02-Jul	Declan O'Shea	Shad
8.528	Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Stefan Soetewey (B)	Shad
8.505	Union Hall	08-Jan	John Fitzgerald	Shad
8.500	Kinsale	31-May	Koen van Pelt (NL)	Mackerel
8.482	Courtmacsherry	28-Jul	Paul Rose	Shad
8.437	Courtmacsherry	03-Aug	Nicolaas Grippeling (NL)	Pirk
8.414	Courtmacsherry	21-Jul	Brian Barnes (UK)	Shad
8.391	Courtmacsherry	04-Oct	Peter van den Berg (NL)	Shad
8.233	Courtmacsherry	02-Jun	Mike Kollaard (NL)	Shad
8.165	Crosshaven	14-Apr	John O'Sullivan	Shad
7.847	Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Marc Hiketick (B)	Shad
7.768	Union Hall	08-Jan	John Fitzgerald	Shad
7.756	Kinsale	04-Nov	Jim Clohessy	Shad
7.711	Crosshaven	14-Apr	Ken Murphy	Shad
7.711	Courtmacsherry	13-Jul	Theo Boeters (NL)	Mackerel Strip
7.711	Courtmacsherry	04-Jun	Niall O'Sullivan	Pirk
7.620	Courtmacsherry	02-Jun	Mark J. Gannon	Pirk
7.575	Kinsale	27-Jun	Sean Clohessy	Shad
7.575	Courtmacsherry	19-Jul	Christopher Goddard (UK)	Shad
7.575	Courtmacsherry	19-Jul	Christopher Goddard (UK)	Redgill
7.513	Union Hall	08-Jan	Dan Lynch	Shad
7.416	Courtmacsherry	05-Jul	Kees Frijters (NL)	Pirk
7.371	Union Hall	08-Jan	Dan Lynch	Shad
7.371	Crosshaven	03-Jun	Ken Murphy	Shad
7.348	Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Patrick Annaert (B)	Pirk
7.303	Kinsale	04-Nov	Jim Clohessy	Shad
7.257	Crosshaven	03-Jun	Kevin Cotter	Shad
7.121	Courtmacsherry	26-Jul	Jeremy Power	Shad
7.121	Courtmacsherry	02-Jul	Alan Brown	Jellyworm
7.076	Courtmacsherry	19-Jul	James Grant (UK)	Storm Lure
7.031	Crosshaven	14-Apr	Ian Murphy	Shad
7.000	Kinsale	31-May	Willem Van Dijk (NL)	Shad
7.000	Kinsale	27-Jul	Arie Hoogendijk (NL)	Baited Feathers
6.940	Kinsale	04-Nov	Jim Clohessy	Shad
6.895	Courtmacsherry	05-Jul	Tom Moret (NL)	Pirk
6.889	Castletownshend	05-Nov	Colm Horgan	Mackerel Strip
6.804	Courtmacsherry	26-Jul	Piet van den Berg (NL)	Shad

COD**Record, 42 lbs (19.051 kg); Specimen Weight 9.072 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
15.377	Kinsale	06-Nov	Michael Dennehy	Shad
12.550	Kinsale	06-Nov	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Shad
10.342	Kinsale	26-Oct	Philip Barry	Shad
10.234	Kinsale	02-Oct	John O'Sullivan	French Tickler
10.160	Kinsale	27-Jun	Sean Clohessy	Shad
10.050	Kinsale	06-Nov	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Shad
9.800	Kinsale	05-Jun	Aidan Mannix	Mackerel
9.800	Kinsale	27-Jul	Pieter vd Mark (NL)	Mackerel
9.525	Courtmacsherry	04-Aug	Andre Vermeer (UK)	Pirk

CONGER EEL**Record, 72 lbs (32.659 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg**

18.600	Courtmacsherry	26-Jul	Gerard van der Veen (NL)	Mackerel
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Dutchman Andre Vermeer had this Cod of 9.53 kg fishing out of Courtmacsherry

DAB**Record, 2 lbs 5.5 ozs (1.063 kg); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.740	Courtmacsherry	27-Aug-05	Daniel Holland	Mackerel Strip
0.687	Portrush	02-Sep	Shaun Fleming	Lugworm

SPUR DOGFISH**Record, 21.25 lbs (9.639 kg); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg**

8.958	Red Bay	18-Aug	Liam Agnew	Mackerel
8.845	Red Bay	18-Aug	Connor McNeill	Mackerel
8.709	Kenmare Bay	24-May	Stef Veldkamp (NL)	Mackerel
8.278	Red Bay	18-Jul	David Granville	Mackerel
8.150	Ballycastle	30-Jul	Ryan Jones	Mackerel Strip
7.938	Red Bay	18-Aug	Liam Agnew	Mackerel
7.800	Ballycastle	06-Dec-05	David Craig	Mackerel
7.739	Ballycastle	02-Jul	David McCormick	Mackerel/ Squid
7.598	Red Bay	21-Jul	Chris McEleavy	Mackerel
7.394	Kenmare Bay	08-Sep	Ben Keijzer (NL)	Mackerel
7.394	Kenmare Bay	07-Sep	Makco Alblas (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.348	Kenmare Bay	24-May	Ton Verheij (NL)	Mackerel
7.087	Brandon Bay	05-Jun	Stephen Power	Squid
7.031	Red Bay	18-Aug	Campbell Currie (UK)	Mackerel
6.917	Red Bay	01-Jul	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
6.889	Red Bay	21-Jul	Chris McEleavy	Mackerel
6.889	Ballycastle	17-Jun	David McCormick	Mackerel/Squid
6.832	Ballycastle	17-Jun	David McCormick	Mackerel/Squid
6.804	Red Bay	18-Aug	Campbell Currie (UK)	Mackerel
6.747	Red Bay	08-Aug-05	Chris McEleavy	Mackerel
6.690	Red Bay	05-Aug	Dale McNeill	Mackerel
6.600	Red Bay	09-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip
6.577	Red Bay	18-Jul	Chris McEleavy	Mackerel
6.500	Red Bay	09-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip
6.486	Kenmare Bay	25-May	Freddy Hollebosch (B)	Mackerel
6.486	Kenmare Bay	07-Sep	Ron Alblas (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
6.382	Kenmare Bay	07-Sep	Gerrit Noordkamp	Mackerel Strip
6.350	Red Bay	03-Jun	Damien Devlon	Mackerel
6.350	Red Bay	05-Aug	Dale McNeill	Mackerel
6.175	Ballycastle	10-May	David Craig	Mackerel/Trout
6.123	Red Bay	03-Jun	David McMullan	Mackerel
6.067	Ballycastle	21-Jul	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.067	Brandon Bay	05-Jun	Eamon Power	Mackerel
6.010	Red Bay	05-Aug	Dale McNeill	Mackerel
6.010	Red Bay	05-Aug	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
6.010	Ballycastle	17-Jun	Robert Wilton	Mackerel/Muppet
6.000	Ballycastle	11-Apr	David Craig	Mackerel Fillet
6.000	Ballycastle	22-Mar	William F. McLaughlin	Mackerel/Squid
5.897	Red Bay	25-Jun	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
5.897	Ballycastle	29-Oct	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel
5.800	Red Bay	09-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip
5.761	Kenmare Bay	07-Sep	John Veen	Mackerel Strip
5.725	Ballycastle	20-Jan	David Craig	Mackerel Fillet
5.670	Red Bay	04-Jun	Peter McFarland	Mackerel
5.585	Brandon Bay	06-Jun	Robert Reid	Mackerel
5.585	Brandon Head	06-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Mackerel
5.557	Red Bay	18-Aug	Campbell Currie (UK)	Mackerel
5.557	Brandon Bay	05-Jun	Shay McLoughlin	Baited lure
5.500	Brandon Bay	05-Jun	Gerry Palmer	Mackerel

*Michael Dennehy had the heaviest Cod of 2006*

LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH**Record, 4 lbs 4ozs (1.928 kg); Specimen Weight 1.4737 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.625	Ballycastle	20-Jan	David Craig	Mackerel
1.606	Cork Harbour	24-Sep	Martyn Rayner	Mackerel
1.600	Ballycastle	11-Apr	David Craig	Mackerel
1.531	Red Bay	21-Oct	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
1.531	Caherciveen	11-Aug	Liam Tully	Mackerel
1.503	Ballycastle	03-Aug	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel/Squid
1.503	Ballycastle	29-Jul	David McCormick	Launce
1.494	Courtmacsherry	22-Aug	Rinus Hage (NL)	Mackerel Fillet

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH**Record, 23 lbs 13 ozs (10.801 kg); Specimen Weight 7.257 kg**

8.647	Red Bay	03-Jun	Joseph Gouldie	Mackerel
8.346	Kenmare Bay	28-Sep	Jankees v.d. Putte (UK)	Mackerel
7.893	Kenmare Bay	11-Jun	Bart Boeve (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.893	Kenmare Bay	12-Jun	Marko Roos (NL)	Shrimp
7.768	Schull	05-Nov	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
7.729	Kenmare Bay	06-Sep	Makco Alblas (NL)	Mackerel Fillet



A Greater Spotted Dogfish for Dan Lynch taken off Schull in November

FLOUNDER**Record, 4.91 lbs (2.227 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.400	Brandon Bay	06-Dec-05	John P. Donovan	Lugworm

GARFISH (*B. belone*)**Record, 3 lbs 10.5 ozs (1.658 kg); Specimen Weight 1.021 kg**

1.120	Crosshaven	12-Sep	Fred Visser (NL)	Jellyworm
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GILTHEAD BREAM**New Record, 1.673 kg; Specimen Weight 1.4 kg**

1.673	Cork Harbour	14-Aug	Tony Tait (UK)	Worm
1.588	Rosscarbery	07-Aug	Martin Lordan	Lugworm/ Crab Cocktail
1.550	Cork Harbour	26-Sep	Sean Clohessy	Crab
1.542	Cork Harbour	17-Oct	Pat Condon	Crab
1.530	Cork Harbour	02-Jul	Tony Tait (UK)	Razorfish
1.420	Cunnigar Beach, Dungarvan	07-Aug-05	David Power	Lugworm

TUB GURNARD**Record, 12 lbs 3.5 ozs (5.424 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg**

3.100	Achill	15-Aug	Isobel Nolan	Mackerel
2.700	Achill	15-Aug	Nathan Dempster (J)	Mackerel
2.322	Downings	14-Aug	Simon McLarnon	Hokkai/ Mackerel Strip

RED GURNARD**Record, 3 lbs 9.5 ozs (1.63 kg); Specimen Weight 0.907 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.179	Killala Bay	01-Oct	Gearoid O'Scolai	Baited Hokkai
1.039	Downings	12-Oct-05	Melvin Lomax (UK)	Mackerel Strip
1.021	Downings	27-Jul	Thomas Toner	Mackerel
1.021	Guileen	11-Jun-05	Jim Clohessy	Mackerel
0.992	Hook Head	30-Jul-05	Nicky McEvoy	Baited Hokkai
0.964	Guileen	11-Jun-05	Sean Clohessy	Mackerel
0.964	East Ferry	24-Aug	Chris Brooks (UK)	Mackerel
0.907	Cork Harbour	02-Jul	Bob Creber	Baited Hokkai

HADDOCK**Record, 10 lbs 13.5 ozs (4.919 kg); Specimen Weight 3.175 kg**

4.100	Kinsale	27-Jul	Pieter vd Mark (NL)	Mackerel
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*Sean Clohessy with a
Red Gurnard of
0.964 kg fishing out
of Guileen*

JOHN DORY**Record, 7 lbs 8 ozs (3.402 kg); Specimen Weight 1.814 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.340	Carrigaholt	04-Sep	Frits Klaassen (NL)	Baited Muppet
1.884	Carrigaholt	24-Jun	Michael Beville	Mackerel Strip

LING**Record, 55 lbs (24.948 kg); Specimen Weight 11.34 kg**

16.465	Castlehaven	05-Jun	Christy Lane	Mackerel
14.742	Courtmacsherry	10-Feb	Noel Lane	Mackerel
11.975	Courtmacsherry	05-Feb	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
11.521	Courtmacsherry	10-Feb	Noel Lane	Mackerel



Frits Klaassen had this John Dory fishing out of Carrigaholt

MACKEREL**Record, 4 lbs 2 ozs (1.871 kg); Specimen Weight 1.134 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.170	Downings	01-Sep	Wouter Bakblaar (NL)	Mackerel Feathers



*A Ling for Christy Lane fishing
out of Castlehaven in June*

THICK-LIPPED MULLET**Record, 9.1 lbs (4.128 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.005	River Nanny	02-Sep	John Millerick	Bread
2.680	Dundrum Bay	04-Sep	Ronald Surgenor	Bread
2.530	Castlerock	01-Oct	David Craig	Bread
2.438	Courtmacsherry	14-Apr	Christy Lane	Bread
2.400	Castlerock	1-Oct	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.353	Courtmacsherry	12-Mar	Noel Lane	Bread Crust
2.296	Cobh	28-May	Alan O'Dowling	Bread



Mackerel, an unusual specimen, taken by Wouter Bakblaar off Downings

GOLDEN GREY MULLET**New Record, 1.191 kg; Specimen Weight 0.68 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.191	Cork Harbour	24-Jun	Noel Lane	Ragworm
1.049	Cork Harbour	27-Jun	Christy Lane	Ragworm

PLAICE**Record, 8.23 lbs (3.733 kg); Specimen Weight 1.814 kg**

2.770	Cork Harbour	24-Sep	Gordon Thornes (UK)	Ragworm
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Ronald Surgenor had several specimens in 2006 including this Thick Lipped Mullet in Dundrum Bay, Co. Down

POLLACK**Record, 19 lbs 3 ozs (8.703 kg); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
7.711	Crosshaven	22-Jan	Colin Murphy	Shad
6.804	Red Bay	12-Feb	Hamish Currie	Leadhead/ Mackerel
6.804	Cobh	23-Aug	Declan Coughlan	Jellyworm
6.690	Red Bay	24-Jul	Killian Farrelly	Mackerel
6.520	Castlehaven Bay	15-Apr	Christy Lane	Perch
6.379	Red Bay	13-Feb	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
6.364	Ballycastle	01-Oct	David McCormick	Jellyworm
6.180	Union Hall	15-Apr	Alan O'Dowling	Pirk
6.038	Union Hall	19-Feb	Bob Creber	Shad
6.038	Red Bay	29-Oct	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
5.925	Red Bay	30-Oct	Jim Flannigan	Mackerel
5.897	Red Bay	07-Aug	Noel McFerran (Aus)	Mackerel
5.727	Red Bay	19-Jul	Philip Mailey	Mackerel
5.642	Red Bay	11-Feb	Killian Farrelly	Mackerel
5.613	Red Bay	11-Nov	Richard Barr	Mackerel
5.557	Castletownbere	11-Aug	John Angles	Redgill
5.500	Red Bay	06-Aug	Peter Regan	Mackerel



A Pollack for Killian Farrelly fishing the productive Red Bay in February

POUTING**Record, 4 lbs 13.5 ozs (2.197 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.533	Valentia	31-May-05	Gerald Evans	Shrimp
1.406	Courtmacsherry	22-May	Jeremy Power	Mackerel Strip

BLONDE RAY**Record, 37 lbs (16.783 kg); Specimen Weight 11.34 kg**

13.608	East Ferry	30-Aug	Peter Nicholl	Mackerel Fillet
13.608	East Ferry	01-Aug	Richard Fairhurst	Mackerel Fillet/Squid
13.239	Cork Harbour	04-Apr	Martyn Rayner	Squid
13.154	Cork Harbour	23-Oct	Ken Hegarty	Squid
13.154	Cork Harbour	04-Nov	Val Flannery	Squid
12.927	Cork Harbour	05-Nov	Michael Hennessy	Squid/ Mackerel Strip
12.587	Crosshaven	23-Oct	Ken Murphy	Mackerel
12.360	Red Bay	28-Oct	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
12.247	East Ferry	17-Aug	Joseph Hickey	Mackerel Strip
12.247	East Ferry	06-Sep	Paul Crossman (UK)	Sandeel
12.162	Cork Harbour	23-Oct	Bob Creber	Mackerel
12.020	Red Bay	21-Oct	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
11.935	Crosshaven	02-Nov	Ian Murphy	Mackerel/ Squid
11.907	Crosshaven	02-Nov	Ken Murphy	Mackerel/ Squid
11.793	East Ferry	07-Jul	Leslie Kelly (UK)	Squid
11.793	East Ferry	14-Jul	Colin Smith (UK)	Mackerel
11.793	East Ferry	16-Aug	Pat Kelly	Mackerel Strip
11.793	Red Bay	28-Oct	Jim Lutton	Mackerel
11.623	Crosshaven	02-Nov	Ken Murphy	Mackerel/ Squid
11.567	Cork Harbour	17-Oct	Patrick Curtin	Mackerel Strip
11.567	Red Bay	15-Oct	Michael McKenna	Mackerel
11.510	Red Bay	21-Oct	Robert McFarland	Mackerel
11.499	Cork Harbour	07-May	David Jolly	Squid
11.453	Red Bay	13-Oct	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
11.453	Cork Harbour	07-Nov	Dan Lynch	Squid
11.425	Cork Harbour	23-Oct	Ken Hegarty	Squid

CUCKOO RAY**Record, 5 lbs 11 ozs (2.58 kg); Specimen Weight 2.041 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.130	Red Bay	22-Oct	Robert Maxwell	Mackerel

PAINTED RAY**Record, 17.21 lbs (7.806 kg); Specimen Weight, 10 lbs (4.536 kg)**

5.720	Ballycotton	07-Sep	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel Strip/Hokkai
5.103	Achill	09-Sep-05	Francis Hanrahan	Mackerel Strip
4.660	Ballycotton	15-Jul	John Mortell	Mackerel
4.649	Garryvoe	13-Oct	Colin O'Dowling	Sandeel
4.550	Fenit	05-Oct	David Tilly	Mackerel/ Squid

STING RAY**Record, 33.2 kg; Specimen Weight 13.608 kg**

24.721	Tralee Bay	27-Jul-05	Martin Lordan	Crab
23.133	Tralee Bay	30-Apr	Colin O'Dowling	Crab



*A beautifully coloured Three Bearded Rockling for Ronald Surgenor
fishing off Bangor Pier in September*

THREE BEARDED ROCKLING**Record, 3 lbs 1 oz (1.389 kg); Specimen Weight 0.794 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.134	Bangor	10-Oct	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel
0.862	Bangor	27-Nov	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel
0.850	Bangor	30-Mar	David Murdoch	Sardine
0.794	Bangor	07-Sep	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel

SCAD**Record, 1.97 lbs (0.894 kg); Specimen Weight 0.680 kg**

0.730	Kilkee	28-Jul	Liam Longmore	Ragworm
0.758	Carrigaholt	31-Aug	Stuart Dickson (UK)	Feathers
0.730	Carrigaholt	15-Jul	Enda Power	Baited Feathers

TWAITE SHAD**Record, 1.54 kg; Specimen Weight 1.1 kg**

1.310	River Barrow, St. Mullins	31-May	Bill Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
1.191	River Barrow, St. Mullins	11-May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.162	River Barrow, St. Mullins	10-May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.111	River Barrow, St. Mullins	30-May	Michael Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
1.102	River Barrow, St. Mullins	13-May	Adrian Taylor Finlay	Tasmanian Devil
1.100	River Barrow, St. Mullins	16-May	Eric Gosnell	Tasmanian Devil
1.100	River Barrow, St. Mullins	11-May	Alan O'Dowling	Tasmanian Devil

BLUE SHARK**Record, 206 lbs (93.44 kg); Specimen Weight 45.359 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
59.874	Mullaghmore	14-Aug-05	Michael Conway (J)	Mackerel
52.720	Castletownbere	18-Jul	Colin Thornley	Mackerel Flapper
46.800	Castletownbere	12-Sep	Patrick Lenssens (B)	Mackerel

SMOOTH HOUND**Record, 16.58 lbs (7.521 kg); Specimen Weight, 7 lbs (3.175 kg)**

3.740	Malahide	14-Jul	John Millerick	Crab
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*Carrigaholt was the venue for Enda Power's Scad in 2006*

TOPE**Record, 66 lbs 8 ozs (30.164 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
24.948	Red Bay	15-Oct	Damian Devlon	Mackerel
19.958	Rush	23-Jul	John Millerick	Mackerel

TORSK**New Record, 4.858 kg; Specimen Weight 2.721 kg**

4.858	Downings	26-Jun	Jan de Bakelaar (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
4.686	Downings	20-Aug	Plomp Cornelis (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
4.173	Downings	31-Aug-05	Bob Schrauwen (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
3.402	Downings	05-Sep-05	Michael Burke (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
3.325	Downings	14-Jul	Michael Burke (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
2.758	Downings	26-Jun	Richard van Trijp (NL)	Mackerel

TRIGGER FISH**New Record, 2.54 kg; Specimen Weight 1.474 kg**

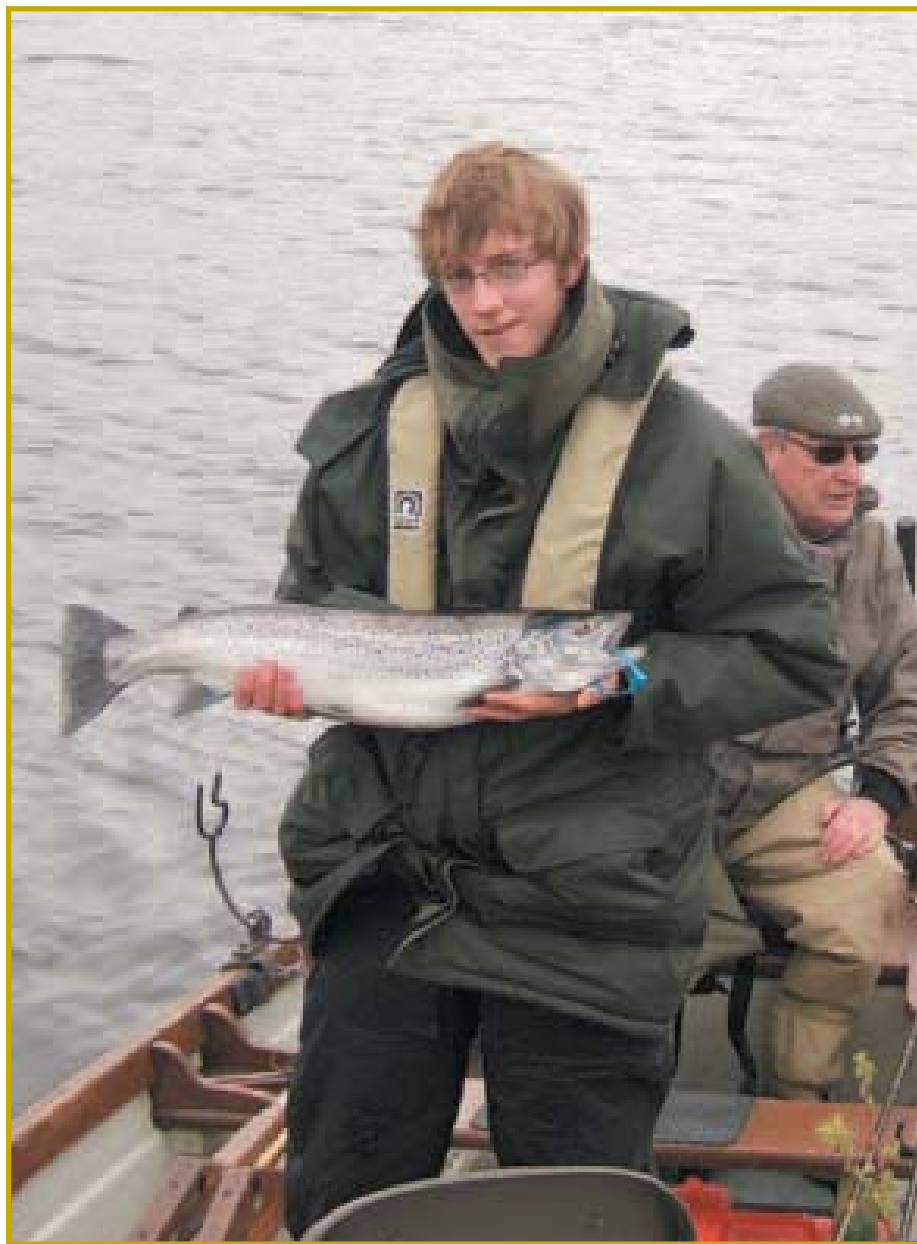
2.540	Slea Head	07-Sep	Bob Moss	Crab
1.696	Slea Head	07-Sep	Bob Moss	Crab
1.560	Slea Head	14-Aug	Bob Moss	Crab
1.520	Portrush	24-Sep	Jim Gregg	Lugworm/Squid

*A nice specimen Tope for specimen hunter John Millerick***BALLAN WRASSE****Record, 4.3 kg; Specimen Weight 2.154 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.405	Lough Swilly	26-Aug	Johnny McCormack	Crab
3.118	Kerry Head	20-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
3.062	Kerry Head	20-Aug	Gregory Matthews	Peeler Crab
2.722	Kerry Head	20-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
2.551	Kerry Head	20-Aug	Gregory Matthews	Peeler Crab
2.551	Kerry Head	26-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
2.445	Downings	29-Aug	Brian Smith	Crab
2.400	Doonbeg	09-Sep	Bill Ryan	Crab
2.390	Slea Head	07-Sep	Bob Moss	Crab
2.291	Slea Head	21-Aug	Bob Moss	Crab
2.268	Doolin	22-Jul	Peter Bolger	Crab
2.263	Kilmore Quay	04-Jun	Bob Reynolds	Baited Feathers
2.254	Slea Head	14-Jul	Denis Butler	Crab
2.245	Slea Head	14-Aug	Denis Butler	Crab
2.240	Courtmacsherry	06-Aug	David McCormick	Ragworm
2.223	Hook Head	08-Jul-05	Derek Keoghan	Ragworm
2.210	Killybegs	16-Oct	John Cunningham	Crab

CUCKOO WRASSE**Record, 2 lbs 7 ozs (1.106 kg); Specimen Weight 0.567 kg**

0.900	Ballycastle	17-Jun	Robert Wilton	Ragworm
0.624	Red Bay	03-Jul	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
0.615	Kilmore Quay	06-Aug	Paul Bray	Razorfish/Muppet
0.614	Clare Island	01-Oct	Paul Carroll	Baited Feathers
0.600	Ballycastle	01-Oct	Noel McFetridge	Ragworm
0.599	Castletownbere	24-Jun	Liam Farrell	Mackerel
0.595	Red Bay	29-Aug-05	Hamish Currie	Peeler Crab
0.590	Kinsale	12-Jul	Philip Barry	Mackerel Strip
0.578	Valentia	28-Jan	Michael O'Shea	Hokkai/Squid



Rhys Smith with a Currane Sea Trout taken in April

Special Notices

AMENDMENT TO ISFC RULES:

From 2006 onwards the following revision will apply:

Rule (4) Identification:

“DACE, RUDD, RUDD/BREAM HYBRID, ROACH, ROACH/BREAM HYBRID” to be deleted from the section relating to the provision of a body for identification. This change is necessary to comply with the new bye-law dealing with the conservation of and prohibition on sale of coarse fish.

IMPLICATIONS OF NEW COARSE FISH BYE-LAW FOR ISFC and GENETIC FINGERPRINTING

On 20th July 2006 the Minister for the Communications, Marine and Natural Resources introduced a new bye law titled CONSERVATION OF AND PROHIBITION ON SALE OF COARSE FISH BYE-LAW NO. 806, 2006 which provides for the following conservation measures:

- a bag limit of 4 coarse fish in any one day.
- prohibits the killing of any coarse fish greater than 25 cm in length.
- prohibits the sale of any coarse fish in Ireland (excluding NI), this provision will not apply to fishing tackle dealers and fish bait suppliers who have been granted an exemption from their respective Regional Fisheries Board.

This bye-law means that the ISFC cannot accept bodies of any coarse fish (dace, roach, rudd or any hybrids >25cm) from anglers for the purposes of claiming a specimen. Bodies were required to positively identify to species or hybrid level because of the similarity of their external features.

For many years the Committee has recognized that genetic fingerprinting of cyprinids was required to allow for consistent identification of fish, to enable fish to be returned alive to the water and, importantly, to allow anglers to claim specimen cyprinids. Arising from ongoing research into the dynamics of certain cyprinid species in selected Irish lakes, being carried out by researchers in the Zoology Department at University College Dublin, which is being funded by the Central Fisheries Board, Swords, Co. Dublin, **genetic fingerprinting of cyprinids is being undertaken. It has been agreed that this project will be extended to address the ISFC cyprinid identification issue.** The ISFC requests that, as part of the feasibility study commencing in 2007, anglers who catch specimens of these species or hybrids are asked to take a small sample of scales (5 to 10 scales) from the fish and to place them in a dry envelope (not in a plastic bag or tin foil). This sample, together with good quality colour photographs showing the entire fish on its side and fins well displayed, the dorsal and the anal fins (fully splayed), with additional close up photographs of the head (side on), should be forwarded with the claim for identification. It is hoped that positive identifications will emerge from this analysis. However, the Committee will have the final decision in relation to the application of the genetic analysis/technique or the ratification of any claim.

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), Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) (from 2002), golden grey mullet (*Liza aurata* (Risso)) (from 2005) and Gilthead Bream (*Sparus aurata* L.) has been added to the list of eligible species.

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 for the 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 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.



Michael Flanagan and friends with his specimen Eel of 2.44 kg from Lough Lene

Some anglers have requested that the blackmouthed dogfish (*Galeus melastomus*) is included on the list of eligible species. One claim was received in 2003 and although several captures were reported in 2004 and 2005 no claims were submitted. Information from anglers indicates that the species is a deep-water fish and captures to date have been confined to the Red Bay area off the Antrim coast. Claims received in December 2006 could not be considered by the ISFC but will be reviewed in 2007. The ISFC is considering the inclusion of this species on the listings but requests that additional formal claims are submitted to allow for informed assessment. The British record for this species is 2 lbs 13 ozs.



Blackmouthed dogfish



Black mouth!

SPECIMEN WEIGHT REVISIONS

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

The specimen weight for **Flounder** is being reduced from 1.361 kg to 1.2 kg from January 1st 2006.

The specimen weight for **Coalfish** was reviewed by the Committee in 2006 because of the large number of coalfish claims ratified in recent years. The data reviewed shows a decrease in the mean weight and numbers of coalfish being ratified in 2006 compared to 2005. This slight downturn had followed a period of regular increases in coalfish claims since 2000. Therefore, the Committee has decided to retain the existing specimen weight of 6.804 kg for 2007 and will review the species for 2008.

GUIDANCE NOTE TO ASSIST ANGLERS TAKING FISH PHOTOGRAPHS FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES

In 2005 the ISFC added a clause to Rule 4 which facilitated anglers who wished to present photographs for fish identification purposes instead of presenting a fish body. This means that where a body is normally required, a photograph (or photographs) may be sufficient **if it provides conclusive evidence of the identity of the fish**. To assist anglers a list of the some external identification features for these particular species are presented below. However, **the Committee cautions that a body, which will be examined by a biologist, is the only reliable means of ensuring a correct identification.**

Photographs should be taken as soon as possible after the fish is captured. The photograph must be in focus, clear and in colour, printed on good quality paper and show the relevant identification features. It should ideally include the name of the angler and date of capture. Close up photographs are required for many features and these photographs should fill the entire frame. Retain the fish if unsure of photograph quality.

Species	Features to photograph (a) the whole body (lateral view) must be photographed for all species (b) the specific features detailed below
All cyprinids (Dace, Roach, Roach/Bream, Rudd, Rudd/Bream)	Body with fins extended and close ups of: (a) mouth (b) dorsal fin (c) full lateral line (d) anal fin
Angler Fish	Head area showing head appendages upright
Brill	Close up of skin
Cuckoo Wrasse	Body – lateral view, close up of head
Dab	Close up of skin and lateral line
Flounder	Full body and close up of fin margins
Garfish (B. belone)	Gill rakers count - body required
Garfish (B. svetovidovi)	Gill rakers count - body required
Golden Grey Mullet	Close up of (a) head including pectoral fin (lying flat) (b) mouth showing upper lip (c) underside of head
Grey Gurnard	Close up of lateral line and head
Grey Mullet	Close up of head showing upper lip (head on), underside of head to back of gills
Herring	Keel of fish
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	Underside of head
Mackerel	Close up of stripes on back
Megrim	Head
Ray's Bream	Close up of head
Red Gurnard	Detail of lateral line, head with pectoral fin fully expanded

continued from page 43

Red Mullet	Close up of head
River Eel (in tidal water)	Fully extended body
Scad	Close up of entire lateral line
Shad - Allis & Twaite	Gill raker count - body required
Smoothhound	Close ups (a) tail fin (b) underside of head showing mouth (c) back in region of dorsal fin
Three Bearded Rockling dorsal fin	Close up of head and chin area, and close up of area in front of dorsal fin
Torsk	Close up of skin, and dorsal and tail fin area

IMPORTANT POINTS REGARDING CLAIMS

Photographic evidence for new records: except in cases where a body or presentation of the fish is required for species identification, a clear photograph must accompany all **record** fish 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):

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.

Exclusion from specimen status – Common Skate, Undulate Ray and Monkfish

Sharks and rays (elasmobranchs) are a group of fishes requiring special consideration.

In 1976 the Committee, in the interests of conservation, 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 100 kg (221 lbs)).

The plight of two further elasmobranch species has since become very serious: both the Undulate Ray (*Raja undulata*) and the Monkfish (*Squatina squatina*) are under serious threat due to commercial fishing pressure and the Committee is anxious that their situation should not be exacerbated by angling.

For this reason **Undulate Ray and Monkfish were removed from the list of eligible species** for 2006 onwards. Claims for a new record in either species will be considered provided that the fish is weighed on shore, photographed and returned alive. This moratorium will continue for two further years until December 2008 when the situation will be reviewed.

Handling fish

Rays and monkfish sharks are elasmobranchs with a flattened shape. Sharks have a more cylindrical form and many species are vulnerable because they mature slowly and produce small numbers of young. Female sharks are often larger than males, and the heaviest are likely to be pregnant when they achieve specimen size. Handle them gently and return them to the water as quickly as possible. The ISFC urges anglers to apply the same handling principles to all species particularly around spawning time.

Captors Addresses: Because of difficulties in establishing eligibility for the 20 Species, 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 46.* 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: From 2006 onwards fish weights will be presented in kilograms in the Annual Report, reflecting modern requirements for information reporting. Claims will, however, be accepted under either system until EU legislation dictates otherwise. Weights are also acceptable as decimal of lbs (e.g. 2.25 lbs = 2 lbs 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 - 4346 256 Fax: 021 - 4346 679	Seamus Moynihan	Mobile 087 - 284 8735
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 Legal Metrology Service, NSAI Regional Centre 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, Finisklin Business Park, Sligo. Ph: 071 - 91507 38 Fax: 071 - 91507 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	Paul Moore	Mobile 087 - 9177333
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 Legal Metrology Service, NSAI, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 Ph: 01 - 807 3807 Fax: 01 - 807 3808	Pat Farragher	

PRESENTATION OF 2005 AWARDS

Mel Russ, angler and editor of Sea Angler, one of the most popular sea angling magazines, made the Annual Presentation of Awards to 2005 award winners at the Doyle Burlington Hotel, Dublin on 25th February, 2006.

At the VISMA angling exhibition held in Rotterdam, Holland in March 2006, Dutch and Belgian anglers were presented with their awards by the Central Fisheries Board Angling Section, in association with Tourism Ireland and Peter Dohmen, the well known Dutch angling journalist. Tourism Ireland, in conjunction with the CFB Angling Section, also hosted an Awards Presentation for French anglers at a major angling tradeshow in Paris in April.

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 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 particularly Terry Jackson, Jim Clohessy, Brian Cooke and Vincent Appleby.

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. Sincere thanks to Myles Kelly CFB and ISFC webmaster for his input throughout 2006. The Committee is extremely grateful to Peter Green, recently retired Sea Angling Adviser with the Central Fisheries Board, who worked tirelessly for the ISFC in the course of his job.

Special thanks to: Nick Parry for his article in this report.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI) and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) continue to provide an excellent fish identification service for anglers in the northern part of 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.

The Central Fisheries Board provides administrative support and other services to the ISFC and is sincerely acknowledged.

DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIMEN AWARDS

The numbers of specimen fish taken by anglers of different nationalities are listed below:

Year	Ireland	Britain (UK)	Holland (NL)	Germany (D)	Belgium (B)	France (F)	Other -	TOTAL
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
2003	384	41	63	11	13	4	5	521
2004	412	38	48	3	9	4	4	518
2005	432	52	62	10	7	4	1	568
2006	351	42	44	2	10	0	2	449

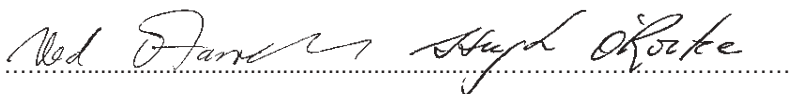
n/d = not determined

Irish Specimen Fish Committee

Expenditure and Revenue Account - 1st January to 31st December 2005

2004	Expenditure	2005		2004	Revenue	2005
€		€		€		€
					Balance b/f Grants	12203.07
7006.92	Printing	7195.97		5500.00	CFB	5500.00
0.00	Award Medals	4165.82		—	ERFB	500.00
65.00	Dr. Wents Prize	20.00		3000.00	MI	3000.00
332.10	Miscellaneous	78.00		2500.00	Faílte Ireland	2500.00
1710.41	Award Day costs	2024.60		500.00	ESB	0.00
15.65	Bank charges	14.15		200.00	Eddie Rowe (Mikes Bikes)	0.00
				229.50	Charter skippers	371.00
				967.93	Donations	1475.11
					Clubs, Feds & individuals	
	Total	13498.54		1100.00	David Went	0.00
	Balance c/d	12050.64				25549.18
		25549.18				25549.18
					Balance b/d	12050.64

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

Signed: 

N. O'Farrell & H. O'Rorke (Auditors)

DONATIONS

Donations: The ISFC is a voluntary body and all activities are funded by donations from diverse sources. Our principal donors are the Central Fisheries Board, the Marine Institute, the Loughs Agency and Fáilte Ireland. The ISFC is extremely grateful to all.

Benefactors in 2006 were:

Central Fisheries Board; Loughs Agency; Marine Institute; Southern Regional Fisheries Board; South Western Regional Fisheries Board; Delphi Fishery Ltd; Dolphin Richview SAC; Glengormley & District SAC; Paul Bates, Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford; **John Bojtor**, 9 Hill House Lane, Croxton, Thetford, Norfolk, England; **John Brittain**, Blue Water Fishing, Sharnmore House, Streamstown, Clifden, Co. Galway; **FHE Buller**, Holly Tree, Woodlands, South Heath, Gt. Middledon, Bucks., England; **Brian Byrne**, East Cork Angling, Loughcarrig House, Ballinacura, Midleton, Co. Cork; **Jim Clohessy**, 8 Glyntown Heights, Glanmire, Co. Cork; **Sean Clohessy**, Castlehyde, Richmond, Glanmire, Co. Cork; **William E. Crompton**, "The Beeches", Tomloskan, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim; **Michael Dennedy**, 4 Ardara Drive, Station Road, Blarney, Co. Cork; **Nick Dent**, 2 Castle Gardens, Castletownshend, Baltimore, Co. Cork; **Jim Dooley**, 6 Bawnleigh Court, Banduff, Cork; **James Farrell**, 137 Leinster Road, Dublin 6; **John Fitzgerald**, 59 Maryville, Ballintemple, Cork; **Mark Gannon**, Courtmacsherry Angling Centre, Woodpoint Guesthouse, Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork; **John Gibbons**, Glengowla, Oughterard, Co. Galway; **Alan Glanville**, Elsinore, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford; **J. Gregg**, 20 The Meadow, Antrim, Co. Antrim, BT41 1EY; **A.J. Hall**, 12 Helmsdale Road, Rise Park, Romford, Essex, RM1 4DW, England; **Richard Hancox**, 30 Greenfield Avenue, Northampton, NN3 2AA, England; **Eamon Hayes**, Neamstown, Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford; **Philip Hodgins**, 194 Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin 14; **Edward J. Howard**, 46 Rosehill West, Ballinacurra, Midleton, Co. Cork; **Derek Kilby**, 17 Hughes Road North, Walkinstown, Dublin 12; **Christy Lane**, 10 Harringtons Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; **Noel Lane**, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork; **Maurice Laurent**, Liskinfere, Gorey, Co. Wexford; **Derek J. Miller**, 35 Greenmeadows Road, Madeley, Crewe, Cheshire, CW3 9EY, England; **Niall McCarthy**, c/o Mark Gannon, Woodpoint Guesthouse, Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork; **Brian McGilloway**, Roshine Road, Killybegs, Co. Donegal; **Bert McGregor**, 34 Rivermead Park, St. Margaret's, Co. Dublin; **Vincent McKernan**, 19 Drummahill Park, Randalstown, Co. Antrim, BT41 3AR; **W. F. McLaughlin**, 27 Castle Gardens, Limavady, Co. Derry, BT49 0SD; **Peter Manning**, Angling Charters, Church Road, Ballycotton, Co. Cork; **Des Mills**, Bunagee Pier, Culdaff, Co. Donegal; **Joe Mulholland**, Feede Cross, Dundalk, Co. Louth; **Jim Newell**, 129 Haypark Avenue, Belfast BT7 3FG; **Jim Nowotynski**, Cashloura, Drinagh, Co. Cork; **Karl O'Leary**, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; **John A. O'Shea**, 6 Raphoe Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12; **John O'Sullivan**, 36 Evergreen Buildings, Off Barrack Street, Cork; **Pat Rankin**, Castletown Mount, Dundalk, Co. Louth; **Reg Roynan**, Angling Charters, Rossmoney, Westport, Co. Mayo; **Werner Sammann**, Bootsbaumeister, Steenflage 349406 Barnstorf, Germany; **John Sherry**, Main Street, Lusk, Co. Dublin; **Paul Sweeney**, 41 Fernhill Road, Manor Estate, Dublin 12; **Robert Williams**, 2 Willow Court, Cross Douglas Court, Cork

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	Lough Droumenisa, Bantry	J. Murnane
Perch	5	8	1946	Lough Erne	S. Drum
Pike (Lake)	42	12	25.9.2005	White Lake	Larry Kelly
Pike (River)	42		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		20.6.1995	Ballyeigher Lake	Nick Parry
Salmon	57		1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Brown Trout (Lake)	26	2	15.7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Brown Trout (River)	20		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		28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Bluemouth	2.4		26.06.2002	Caherciveen	Hugh Maguire
Brill	9	8	8.9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	15.1 kg		30.08.2003	Castletownshend	Roger Barham
Cod	42		1921	Ballycotton	I.L. Stewart
Conger Eel	72		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	13	17.09.2003	Kenmare Bay	Perry Dumay
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	4	4	26.7.1982	Valentia	Cor Heinis
Flounder	4.91		2.10.1993	Ballyteigue, Co. Wexford	Brian Russell
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
Gilthead Bream	1.68 kg		14.8.2006	Cork Harbour	Tony Tait
Tub Gurnard	12	3.5	8.8.1973	Bullsmouth, Achill	Robert Seaman

MARINE SPECIES (Contd.)

Species	Weight lbs	ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
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 kg		11.7.1986	Rathlin Island	Wm. McMath
John Dory	7	8	12.8.1984	Killala Bay	Cleona Walkin
Ling	55		3.1.2004	Cork Harbour	Ailbhe O'Sullivan
Mackerel	4	2	18.9.1979	Ballycotton	Ulrich Plassmann
Megrim	1.85 kg		26.7.1987	Killala	Paul Hennigan
Monkfish	73		1.6.1980	Fenit, Co. Kerry	James Boyd
Grey Mullet	9.10		26.9.1993	Cork Harbour	Cay Heerwagen
Golden Grey Mullet	1.191 kg		24.6.2006	Cork Harbour	Noel Lane
Red Mullet	1.26		30.9.2004	Kilmore Quay	Eamon Hayes
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		28.5.1961	Ling Rocks, Kinsale	M. J. Fitzgerald
Blonde Ray	37		10.10.2005	Cobh	Paul Tennant
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		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	40 kg		24.8.2002	Achill	Shay Boylan
Ray's Bream	6	4.25	26.8.1978	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		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	16.58		25.9.2000	Carne	Keith Gray
Stone Basse	11.72		14.7.2005	Baltimore	Tony Rainer
Three Bearded Rockling	3	1	1.5.1990	Arklow	Maurice Laurent
Tope	66	8	15.7.1979	Carlingford Lough	Cyril Young
Torsk	4.858 kg		26.6.2006	Downings	Jan de Bakglaan
Trigger Fish	2.54 kg		7.9.2006	Slea Head	Bob Moss
Turbot	34		9.6.1982	Cork Harbour	Frank Fleming
Tuna – Albacore	16.66 kg		28.9.2003	SW of Blasket Islands	Alan Glanville
– 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

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs	
FRESHWATER FISH					
Bream (<i>Abramis brama</i>)	12	3	3.402	7.5	-
Carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)	29	13	5.443	12	-
Dace (<i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>)	1	2	0.35	0.772	Scales* & photos*
Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	6	15	1.361	3	Body for any freshwater eel taken in tidal waters
Perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)	5	8	1.2	2.646	-
Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (Lake)	42	12	13.608	30	-
Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (River)	42		9.072	20	-
Roach (<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>)	1.425 kg		0.907	2	Scales* & photos*
Roach/Bream Hybrid	7		1.6	3.528	Scales* & photos*
Rudd (<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>)	4	8	1.021	2.25	Scales* & photos*
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7	10	1.361	3	Scales* & photos*
Tench (<i>Tinca tinca</i>)	8.15		2.722	6	-
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	57		9.072	20	Scales
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (Lake)	26	2	4.536	10	Scales
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (River)	20		2.268	5	Scales
Sea Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	16	6	2.722	6	Scales
Slob Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	-		4.536	10	Scales

* for genetic fingerprinting feasibility study

SEA FISH

Angler Fish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	42.985 kg		18.144	40	Body
Bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	17	13	4.536	10	-
Black Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>)	6.32		0.907	2	-
Bluemouth (<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>)	2.4	0.9	1.9845		Photo
Brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)	9	8	2.268	5	Body
Coalfish (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	15.1 kg		6.804	15	Photo
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	42		9.072	20	-
Conger eel (<i>Conger conger</i>)	72		18.144	40	-
Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	2	5.5	0.68	1.5	Body
Dogfish - Lesser Spotted (<i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i>)	4	4	1.474	3.25	Body
Dogfish - Greater Spotted (<i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i>)	23	13	7.257	16	-
Dogfish - Spur (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	21.25		5.443	12	-
Flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)	4.91		1.2	2.643	Body
Garfish (<i>Belone bellone</i>)	3	10.5	1.021	2.25	Head and gills
Garfish (<i>Belone svetovidovi</i>)	1.11		0.355	0.875	Head and gills
Gilthead bream (<i>Sparus aurata</i>)	1.673 kg		1.4	3.08	Photo (whole body, head shot showing mouth and eyes)
Gurnard - Grey (<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>)	3	1	0.68	1.5	Body
Gurnard - Red (<i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i>)	3	9.5	0.907	2	Body
Gurnard - Tub (<i>Trigla lucerna</i>)	12	3.5	2.268	5	Photo (pectoral fins must be fully expanded)

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS Contd.

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs	
Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)	10	13.5	3.175	7	-
Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)	25	5.5	4.536	10	-
Halibut (<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>)	156		22.68	50	-
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)	0.425 kg		0.34	0.75	Body
John Dory (<i>Zeus faber</i>)	7	8	1.814	4	-
Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>)	55		11.34	25	-
Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	4	2	1.134	2.5	Body
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)	1.85 kg		0.794	1.75	Body
Monkfish (<i>Squatina squatina</i>)	73		suspended from listings		
Mullet - Grey, thick lipped (<i>Chelon labrosus</i>)	9.1		2.268	5	Body
Mullet - Golden Grey (<i>Liza aurata</i>)	1.191 kg		0.68	1.5	Body
Mullet - Red (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)	1.26		0.454	1	Body
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	8.23		1.814	4	-
Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)	19	3	5.443	12	Photo
Pouting (<i>Trisopterus luscus</i>)	4	13.5	1.361	3	-
Ray - Blonde (<i>Raja brachyura</i>)	37		11.34	25	Photo
Ray - Cuckoo (<i>Raja naevus</i>)	5	11	2.041	4.5	Photo
Ray - Electric (<i>Torpedo nobiliana</i>)	40 kg		9.072	20	Photo
Ray - Homelyn (<i>Raja montagui</i>)	8.28		2.268	5	Photo
Ray - Painted (<i>Raja microcellata</i>)	17.21		4.536	10	Photo
Ray - Sting (<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>)	33.2 kg		13.608	30	Photo
Ray - Thornback (<i>Raja clavata</i>)	37		9.072	20	Photo
Ray - Undulate (<i>Raja undulata</i>)	18		suspended from listings		
Ray's Bream (<i>Brama brama</i>)	6	4.25	2.268	5	Body
Red Sea Bream (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>)	9	6	2.041	4.5	-
Rockling, Three Bearded (<i>Gaidropsarus vulgaris</i>)	3	1	0.794	1.75	Body
Scad (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)	1.97		0.680	1.5	Body
Shad - Allis (<i>Alosa alosa</i>)	-		1.814	4	Body
Shad - Twaite (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	1.54 kg		1.1	2.4255	Body
Shark - Blue (<i>Prionace glauca</i>)	206		45.359	100	Photo
Shark - Mako (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>)	-		90.718	200	Photo
Shark - Porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)	365		68.038	150	Photo
Shark - Six-Gilled (<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>)	154		45.359	100	Photo
Shark - Thresher (<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>)	-		54.431	120	Photo
Skate - Common (<i>Raja batis</i>)	221		suspended from listings		
Skate - Long Nosed (<i>Raja oxyrinchus</i>)	-		36.287	80	Photo
Skate - White (<i>Raja alba</i>)	165		54.431	120	Photo
Smooth Hound	16.58		3.175	7	Body
Stone Basse (<i>Polyprion americanus</i>)	11.72		3.628	8	-
Tope (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	66	8	18.144	40	Photo
Torsk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>)	4.858 kg		2.721	6	Body
Trigger Fish (<i>Balistes carolinensis</i>)	2.54 kg		1.474	3.25	Photo
Tuna - Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	16.66 kg		12	26.46	Photo
Tuna - Bluefin (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>)	440 kg		250	551.88	-
Turbot (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>)	34		8.165	18	-
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)	4	14.5	1.361	3	-
Wrasse Ballan (<i>Labrus bergylta</i>)	4.3 kg		2.154	4.75	Photo
Wrasse Cuckoo (<i>Labrus mixtus</i>)	2.01		0.567	1.25	Body

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. Except in exceptional circumstances claims will remain valid for a period of one year following the year of capture.

(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. Where weights are in large divisions (e.g. 1 lb/1 kg divisions) the weight of a fish must be rounded **DOWN** to the nearest actual division.

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:- MACKEREL, SCAD, HERRING, SHAD, FLOUNDER, DAB, BRILL, MEGRIM, GREY & RED GURNARDS, GREY MULLET, GOLDEN GREY AND RED 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). Claims may be ratified where a photograph is of sufficient quality to provide conclusive evidence (i.e. key identification features clearly visible) to identify a fish, to the satisfaction of the Committee. However, the onus to provide suitable evidence rests solely with the angler.

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, ALBACORE, TUB GURNARD (pectoral fins of gurnard must be fully expanded), GILTHEAD BREAM (whole body and head shot showing mouth and eyes).

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 01-884 2600; Fax: 01-836 0060. E-mail: info@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 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 claims. Only one merit badge will be awarded to any angler per annum even where multiple claims are received. Special badges are awarded to anglers who have caught specimens of ten or more species and a special badge is issued each year for fish of exceptional merit though not of record size.

IMPORTANT – Completed claim forms should be sent to: The Irish Specimen Fish Committee, Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin, Rep. of Ireland (Tel. 00-353-1-884 2600) before 30th November each year. Where required for identification purposes (see Rule 4) fish should be sent to the same address.

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 fish contact Dr. Walter Crozier, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL), Interpoint, 20-24 York Street, Belfast BT15 1AQ. Tel: +44 (0) 28 9025 8825, Fax: +44 (0) 28 9025 8906, Textphone: +44 (0) 9052 7668, email: dcal@dcalni.gov.uk

The Mighty Tench of Co. Clare

The lure of exploring tench waters in Ireland, particularly in Co. Clare brought Nick Parry from England to Ireland in the 1970s. Thirty years later, the angling journalist and one of the most successful specimen hunters in Ireland, reflects on that time and on how the mighty tench had an important role in settling him in the west of Ireland where he still enjoys angling as much as ever.

Tench became my very favourite species the moment I hooked one as a youngster from a park lake in the middle of Liverpool City. A few years later and tench had drawn me further afield, to the famous meres of Cheshire where, after a tough days work in a high pressure job, I would escape for a few hours in peace and solitude.

Being a keen tench angler it was inevitable that a certain book 'Fishing for Big Tench' by Rickards and Webb would find its way to my bedside table. Each night during the mid 70's I would read and re-read those words of wisdom which included many references to the wild and under-fished loughs of Ireland.

For a man seeking not only fish but also idyll, those magical waters sounded just the place for me. In the chapter 'Irish Tench' there is a mention about the River Fergus system around Corofin in County Clare. So, with a holiday due in late May, I booked a self-catering cottage in that village in Clare.

My first words to our reception committee on arrival with wife Margaret and toddler Louise as to the whereabouts of the tench were met with blank looks until someone came up with the suggestion that there may be 'trench' in the 'Black Hole'.



Nick's second Irish record Tench of 8 lbs 2½ ozs from June 1995

With directions written on an old envelope I headed off with a bucket of bread not knowing quite what to expect. What I found was the most gorgeous and beautiful little pond I had ever seen with gin clear water, dense reeds and lilies and littered with white limestone rocks. That pond is now well known as Rinroe though its true title is Parketeeragh.

That next morning I had my first Irish tench and the odour of stonewort and mint crushed underfoot still transports me to those magical days watching my little piece of quill fished classic lift style just a rod length out with bread flake on the hook.

Those visits to the 'Black Hole' increased to every long weekend I could eek out until the time came when pressure of work took its toll and I had to bale out and fast.

Living just 'down the road' I was able to fish the pond when ever the desire took me and it was only when the Fishery Board made 'improvements' – the building of a bridge, two stands and a little gravel pull in – resulting in other anglers being directed to the pond, that I had to move on.

By then I knew I had the technique to catch tench and suspected that if I took to the boat and the bigger Fergus lakes the method would be just as successful. It was, and my first session on a relatively huge water resulted in a tench of 6lb 6oz, a personal best.

Every summer morning would find me tucked in the rushes in my tiny little boat and each evening I would be out baiting that swim or looking at fresh lakes or swims. Every lake was an exciting challenge, would there be tench there? I put my boat on the Black Lake at Dromore, a water that had never been coarse fished since its formation in the Ice Age. On my second session there I caught 13 tench with seven over 6lb and two over 7lb along with huge rudd.

That little boat was abroad on countless of the Clare lakes around Corofin and Tubber and, although it was hard work those tench just kept on coming along with rudd to well over 3lb.

Then, around 1990 I discovered an incredible water – Ballycullinan – just outside Corofin.

I doubt that that lake had ever seen a coarse angler and it was stuffed with bream to more than 10lb, hybrids over 7lb and tench to around 7lb. It was possible, in a single session, to catch twenty or thirty assorted specimens with most of the bream over 8lb. A rudd bream hybrid weighing 7lb 10oz slid over my landing net rim.

A great fish but it was tench I was after. I slid her back. What a list I would have amassed had I submitted claim forms during those years, but I was a strictly a loner then and publicity was of little interest.

It was 1993 that I thought to submit a specimen claim, encouraged by local Fishery Officer Michael Cleary who was keen to promote tourism locally.

My technique was like a well oiled machine and the tench came thick and fast and my first claimed tench were at 6lb 14oz and 6lb 5oz, I think! It was inevitable that a big one would turn



A lovely 21lb 14oz Pike

up. It did, in 1994 on Ballyeigher Lough at 7lb 15.5oz and when she slid into the landing net I knew before I weighed her that the 23 year old record held by the inspirational Ray Webb had gone.

As I sat in the boat waiting for a respectable time to ring Michael Cleary the names of those early legends I had read about so often flashed through my mind. Ordoyno, Kershaw, Crawshaw, Hawksworth and Webb along with the venues Garnafailagh, Lanesborough, Coosan.



Nick with a big Bream

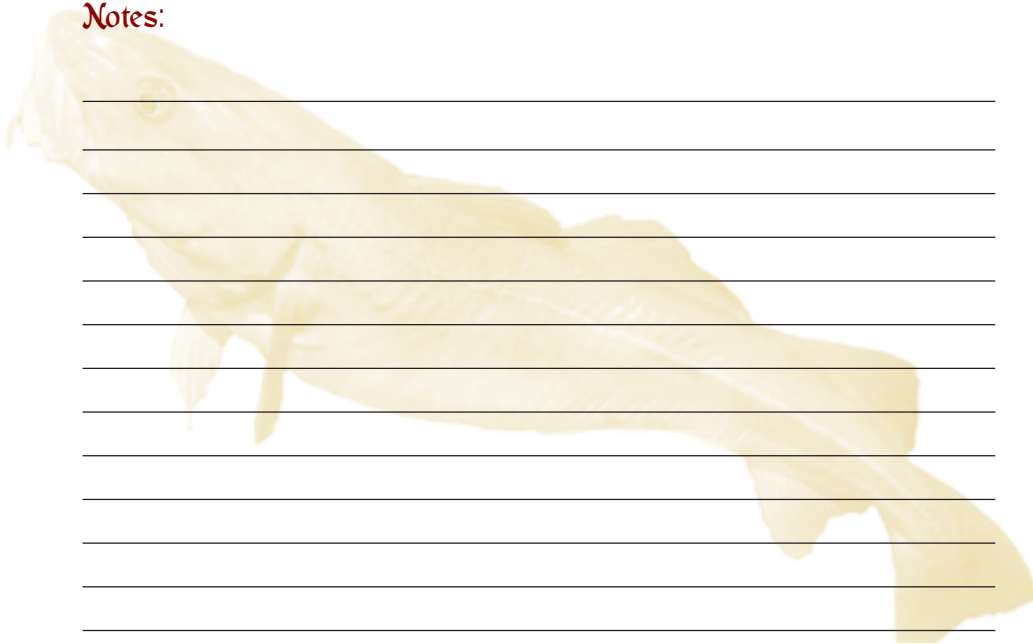
The following year I upped my personal best to 8lb 2.5oz and by that time with 9 over 7lb and around 100 over 6lb my desperate urge for tench began to wane. I went to the Bann to fish for roach bream hybrids with Kenny Crooks, I fished for pike with Alastair Rawlings and numerous other species mainly with the like minded Bill Collins and Roy Gretton.

Despite having fished throughout Ireland for all coarse species, the Fergus Loughs remain my favourite hunting ground. I love their hardness and wildness and beauty and solitude and that they can turn from a place of serenity and calm to a raging, howling horror battered by winds off the Atlantic in just a few seconds. Perhaps they frighten me? They certainly make my hair stand on end.

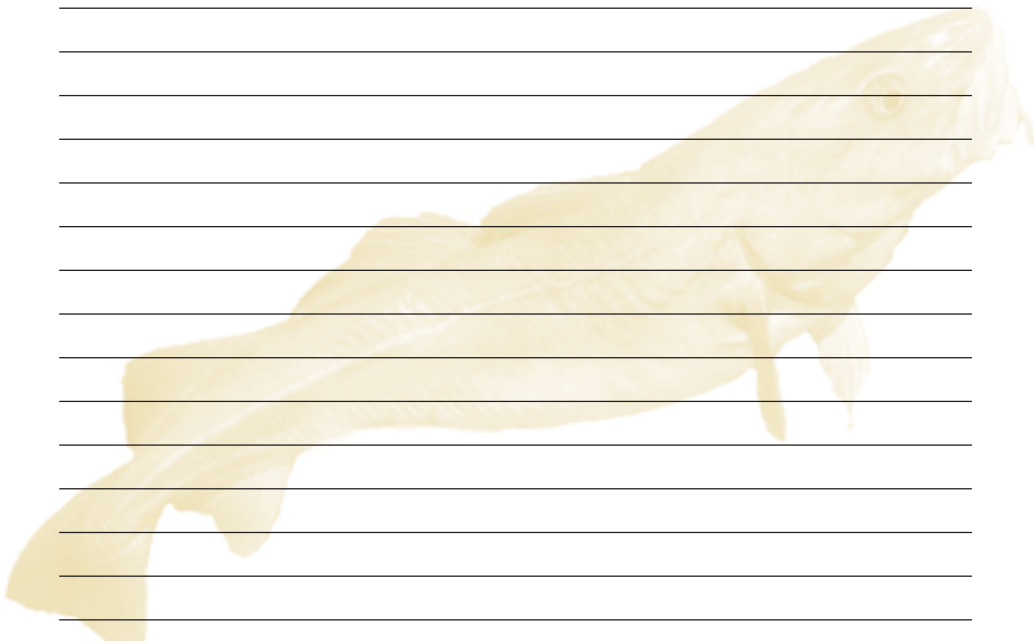
And now, as I type this in 2006 with an official century of recorded specimens behind me and quadruple that number that were not, I know there are much bigger fish to catch out there and what is better than the thrill of the chase, the preparation and anticipation? Surely there is nowhere in the world that is a better place to fish. If only I had a couple more lifetimes!

I look forward to my next session for that tingle in my stomach, a little fear in my heart, that smell of stonewort and water mint and those big black shapes moving just down the marginal slope.....

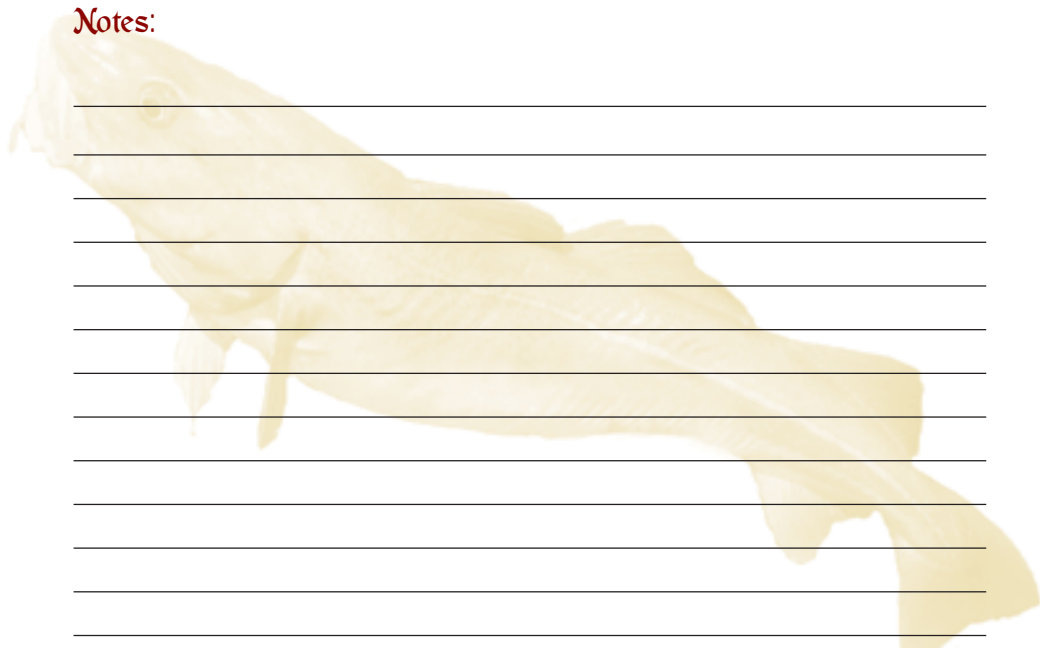
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