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## ISFC Chairman's Review 2007



The year 2007 has been another good year for Irish angling and the submission of (ratified) claims for specimen fish remains high and up on 2006. It is also gratifying to report that visiting anglers continue to feature prominently in the list of claimants. Congratulations to Let van den Berg, winner of the Best International Fish Award for 2007.

The need to balance the rigorous ratification requirements of the Specimen Fish Committee (ISFC) with its conservation obligations has ensured that these issues are at the forefront of committee discussions on a perennial basis. One aspect is the need for continuing review of specimen weights for species presenting in high numbers e.g. the coalfish. Claims for this species declined again in 2007; consequently the qualifying specimen weight remains unaltered for 2008.

Photographs submitted with claims were often of a very satisfactory quality. In order to facilitate the committee, claimants are requested to refer to the guidance provided in this report with regard to the important features that must be clearly shown for the species listed.

On a very positive note, the investigations conducted on the genetic fingerprinting of cyprinids is producing very satisfactory results allowing differentiation of species and hybrids. The committee is very pleased to be working with Dr. Stefano Mariani and Brian Hayden of the School of Biology and Environmental Science, UCD in this important and exciting research. It is envisaged that further application of the technique should now be possible and the ISFC and UCD alliance will continue to explore the potential of the technique, across a wider range of species, which should prove particularly beneficial to both parties. The new development allows anglers to continue to fish for cyprinid species confident that specimens can still be claimed and ratified on the basis of details in the claim form, good photographs and a small sample of scales. This is a major development. It is hoped that conservation species such as the Allis and Twaite shad may also be segregated using this technique obviating the need to provide bodies. The financial implications of this form of identification could present a challenge for the committee in future years.

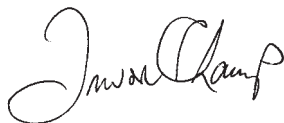
The past year produced four diverse new Irish records. The gilthead bream are increasing in numbers and their geographical range is continuing to expand. The record for this species increased significantly from 1.673kg last year to 3.24 kg. Records have also been established for Garfish, Albacore and Red Mullet.

The Committee, having received numerous claims in accordance with ISFC protocol, has added the Blackmouth dogfish (*Galeus melastomus*) to the specimen list.

I thank the Committee members who gave up their valuable time to attend at meetings during the year. Dr. William Roche continues to set standards of commitment and enthusiasm which future secretaries will find difficult to match. Thank you. Thanks also to Mr. Bridie Fleming for her continued contribution. Her attention to detail throughout the year helps ease the task of the Committee.

Without the generous support of the Central Fisheries Board, the Marine Institute, Fáilte Ireland and the Loughs Agency, the work of the committee would not be possible. These agencies and other individual donors are listed in the report - a sincere thank you to one and all.

Trevor Champ

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Trevor Champ'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chairman  
18th December, 2007

# Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2007

## Introduction

In 2007 the ISFC received 594 claims. 530 were ratified, including four new Irish records. A total of 13 was rejected for non-compliance with the rules and a further 51 are being queried. Details of the new records, other special awards and the specimen awards 2007 are listed below:

### NEW IRISH RECORDS

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



*GARFISH – Stephen O'Neill  
from Cork with his new record  
of 1.729 kg taken in Cork  
Harbour on 28th May 2007*

*GILTHEAD BREEM – Robert McClean from  
Dublin with his new record of 3.24 kg from  
Cork Harbour on 10th September 2007*





*RED MULLET – Joe Cooney from Achill with his new record of 0.71 kg taken at Achill Island on 30th August 2007*



*ALBACORE – Henry McAuley from Kerry (left) with his new record of 29.96 kg taken on 5th Sept. 2007 fishing out of Caherciveen with Tuna specialist Derek Noble*

## **SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES**

### **20 SPECIES AWARD (Engraved plaque)**

For 20 different species of specimen fish

**Noel Lane, Mayfield, Cork:** 1982 – Flounder, 1983 – Plaice, 1985 – Dab, Turbot, 1993 – Twaite Shad, 1995 – Carp, Eel, 1996 – Bream, Rudd/Bream Hybrid, Tench, 2000 – Painted Ray, 2001 – Roach/Bream Hybrid, LSD, 2002 – River Pike, 2003 – Sting Ray, Golden Grey Mullet, 2004 – Ballan Wrasse, 2005 – Bass, Grey Mullet, Coalfish, 2006 – Ling, 2007 – Pollack.

### **10 SPECIES AWARD (Engraved bronze medal)**

For 10 different species of specimen fish

**Jim Clohessy, Glanmire, Co. Cork:** 2001 – Cod, Coalfish, Whiting, 2002 – Ling, Plaice, Red Gurnard, 2003 – Pollack, Conger Eel, 2004 – Blonde Ray, 2007 – Gilthead Bream.

**Pat Condon, Pouladuff Road, Cork:** 2001 – Tub Gurnard, Cod, 2003 – Ling, Pollack, 2004 – Coalfish, Conger Eel, 2005 – Blonde Ray, 2006 – Gilthead Bream, 2007 – Lesser Spotted Dogfish, Garfish.

**William Cunningham, Cloyne, Co. Cork:** 1972 – Bass, 1977 – Lesser Spotted Dogfish, 1980 – Ling, Blonde Ray, 1982 – Flounder, Cuckoo Ray, 1984 – Homelyn Ray, 1984 – Ballan Wrasse, 1986 – Pollack, 2007 – Gilthead Bream.

**Nicky McEvoy, Waterford:** 1980 – Lesser Spotted Dogfish, 1982 – Ballan Wrasse, 1983 – Flounder, 1985 – Twaite Shad, 1986 – Smoothhound, Three Bearded Rockling, 1988 – Cuckoo Wrasse, 2003 – Rudd/Bream Hybrid, 2005 – Red Gurnard, 2007 – Painted Ray.

### **50 SPECIMENS AWARD (Gold badge)**

For 50 specimen fish

**Liam Tully, Clonsilla, Dublin 15** has caught 50 specimen fish up to 2007 including 23 spurdog (1978 to 2007), 2 LSD (1982 & 2006), three bearded rockling (1983), twaite shad (1985 to 1991), bullhuss (1985), dab (1985), 2 grey mullet (1991 & 1995), flounder (1992), 2 eel (1992 & 1995), 3 bream (1996 to 2003) and 8 roach/bream (2001 to 2007).

### **10 SPECIMENS AWARD (Sterling silver tie-pin)**

For ten or more specimen fish

**John Angles, Beara, Co. Cork.**

**Philip Barry, Ballvolane, Cork.**

**Ken Hegarty, Monkstown, Co. Cork**

**Edward Howard, Middleton, Co. Cork**

**Dan Lynch, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork.**

**Hugh Maguire, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry.**

**David McCormick, Donaghadee, Co. Down.**

**Noel McFetridge, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone.**

**Derick O'Brian, Ballyphehane, Co. Cork.**

**Eamon Power, Roebuck Road, Dublin 14.**

**Gerard van der Vegt, 5581 AK Waalre, Holland**

**DR. MICHAEL KENNEDY AWARD (Engraved plaque)**  
**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. 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 2007 award goes to:

**Dan Lynch**, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork for his GOLDEN GREY MULLET of 1.021 kg taken in Cork Harbour on 9th May 2007.

**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 caught.

The 2007 award goes to:

**Matthew McSorley**, Richill, Co. Armagh for a RIVER BROWN TROUT of 5.39 kg caught in the River Blackwater, Moy on 1st September 2007

**The MINISTER'S AWARD (Mounted bronze medal)**

Inaugurated by the Minister for Communications, Energy 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 for a fish which represents the highest percentage of the existing record.

The 2007 award goes to:

**Vincent Jackson**, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 for a TENCH of 3.572 kg taken at Ballyhoe Lake on the 16th June 2007

**BEST INTERNATIONAL SPECIMEN FISH AWARD (Engraved plaque)**

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

The 2007 award goes to:

**Let van den Berg**, 5665 UJ Geldrop, Holland for a COALFISH of 11.884 kg fishing out of Courtmacsherry on 14th July 2007

## SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2007

Date of capture 2007 unless otherwise stated  
(Overseas anglers and juvenile anglers (J) are flagged)

## FRESHWATER FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2007

## 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>
4.309	Ballyhoe Lake	20-Sep	Ross Macklin	Boilie
3.6	Lisgrea Lake	10-May	Liam Kane	Worm/Maggots
3.6	Lisgrea Lake	10-May	Liam Kane	Worms/Maggots



*Dan Lynch from Cork had the heaviest carp of the year*





*The Lough in Cork produced many great carp including Derick O'Brian's 7.456 kg specimen*

## 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>
9.639	The Lough, Cork	23-Apr	Dan Lynch	Boilie
9.129	The Lough, Cork	07-Feb	Alen Coleman	Boilie
9.015	The Lough, Cork	10-May	Sidney Kennedy	Sweetcorn
8.448	The Lough, Cork	15-May	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
8.391	The Lough, Cork	20-May	Ross Macklin	Boilie
8.25	The Lough, Cork	21-May	Ross Macklin	Boilie
8.165	The Lough, Cork	07-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
7.995	The Lough, Cork	08-Jun	Derick O'Brian (J)	Maggots
7.824	The Lough, Cork	21-Mar	Ross Macklin	Boilie
7.456	The Lough, Cork	15-Jun	Derick O'Brian (J)	Boilie
7.257	The Lough, Cork	17-Jun	Derick O'Brian (J)	Boilie
7.257	The Lough, Cork	07-Aug	Alen Coleman	Maggots
7.172	The Lough, Cork	10-May	Dan Lynch	Bread
6.82	The Lough, Cork	30-Dec-06	Terry Jackson	Boilie
6.804	The Lough, Cork	07-Aug	Alen Coleman	Sweetocrn
6.719	The Lough, Cork	18-Aug	Mattie Foley	Maggots
6.69	The Lough, Cork	07-Mar	Tony Cotter	Boilie
6.634	The Lough, Cork	02-Feb	Tony Cotter	Sweetcorn
6.634	The Lough, Cork	05-Jun	Kenneth Im	Boilie
6.577	The Lough, Cork	11-Apr	Tony Cotter	Boilie
6.379	Grand Canal, Portobello	19-Jul	Owen McGuinness	Dog biscuits



CARP Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.35	Grand Canal, Portobello	15-Sep	Owen McGuinness	Boilie
6.038	The Lough, Cork	22-Sep	Evan Millerick (J)	Boilie
6.01	The Lough, Cork	22-Sep	John Millerick	Boilie
5.982	The Lough, Cork	10-May	Dan Lynch	Boilie
5.8	The Lough, Cork	29-Dec-06	Terry Jackson	Boilie
5.642	The Lough, Cork	09-May	Kenneth Im	Sweetcorn
5.627	Grand Canal, Portobello	01-Aug	Owen McGuinness	Boilie
5.5	Corkagh Park Fishery	15-Jul	Alexandra Manic	Corn/pellet
5.5	Corkagh Park Fishery	16-Jun	Paul McBrien	Bread
5.443	Belvelly Lake, Cobh	26-May	Colin O'Dowling	Boilie

DACE

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

0.361	Cork Blackwater	18-Aug	Colm Horgan	Worm
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EEL

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

1.758	The Lough, Cork	09-May	Sidney Kennedy	Rudd
1.417	The Lough, Cork	09-May	Sidney Kennedy	Rudd
1.389	The Lough, Cork	09-May	Ross Macklin	Worms

## 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>
1.304	River Barrow, Athy	02-Feb-06	Greg Matthews	Worms
1.212	Lough Corrib. Ballindiff	14-Oct	Joe Trill	Lure
1.205	River Barrow, Athy	31-Oct	Gary Doyle	Worm

## PIKE (LAKE)

Record 42 lbs 12 ozs (19.391 kg); Specimen Weight 13.608 kg

14.09	Lough Ennell	28-Apr	Barry Darby	Herring
13.75	Lough Ennell	27-Jun	Barry Darby	Bass



*Barry Darby had the only two specimen lake pike in 2007 – both from Lough Ennell*

## PIKE (RIVER)

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

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg				
13.381	River Inny, Coolnagun	01-Jan	John Miggan	Shad
12.474	River Suck, Ballyforan	23-Feb	Neville O'Callaghan	Lamprey
11.226	River Inny, Ballinalack	03-Mar	Ian Mulligan	Trout
10.688	River Inny, Ballinalack	03-Mar	Ian Mulligan	Trout
10.659	River Suck, Ballinasloe	08-Apr	Niall Donohue	Dead Bait
10.206	River Suck, Ballyforan	31-Mar	Daniel O'Callaghan	Mackerel
10.177	River Suck, Ballyforan	22-Feb	Clyde McElwaine	Roach
10.121	River Inny, Coole	12-Mar	Derek O'Bryan	Trout
9.809	River Suck, Ballyforan	27-Oct	Daniel O'Callaghan	Roach
9.5	River Inny, Legan	30-Dec-06	Liam Kane	Skimmer bream
9.3	River Inny, Legan	07-Mar	Liam Kane	Roach
9.157	River Inny, Rathaspic	31-Mar	Pierce Moran, Jnr	Roach
9.157	River Bann, Portna Canal	18-Nov	Jim Gregg	Fly Lure



*The O'Callaghan brothers had specimen pike from the River Suck*

## ROACH

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.992	River Barrow, Borris	12-Aug	Jim Murray	Maggots

## ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

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

2.821	Cullaunyheeda Lake	22-Apr	Nick Parry	Maggots
1.814	River Barrow, Bagenalstown	20-Jan	Oliver Doyle	Lobworm
1.74	River Barrow, St. Mullins	08-Apr	Pat Dalton	Maggots
1.7	Lough Derravaragh	17-Jul	Aliex Connolly	Maggots
1.7	River Barrow, Maganey Bridge	14-Feb	Liam Tully	Worm
1.68	River Barrow, Bahana Wood	06-May	Der Casey	Caster/Corn
1.66	River Barrow, Leighlinbridge	08-Jul	Michael Norton	Maggots



*Jim Murray had the only specimen roach of 2007*

**RUDD****Record 4 lbs 8 ozs (2.041 kg); Specimen Weight 1.021 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.162	Carrigadrohid Reservoir	12-Jun	Conor Healy	Sweetcorn
1.021	Carrigadrohid Reservoir	13-Jun	Conor Healy	Sweetcorn

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

3.572	Ballyhoe Lake	16-Jun	Vincent Jackson	Boilie
3.289	Rahan's Lake	16-May	John Millerick	Maggots
3.203	Rahan's Lake	06-May	Ian Mulligan	Worm
3.175	Rahan's Lake	06-May	Ian Mulligan	Worm
3.175	Rahan's Lake	29-May	Eamon Power	Maggots
3.118	Rahan's Lake	06-May	Ian Mulligan	Worm
3.033	Rahan's Lake	29-May	Eamon Power	Worm
3.005	Rahan's Lake	15-May	John Millerick	Maggots

*The biggest roach/bream of 2007 fell  
to Nick Parry at Cullaunytheeda Lake*





TENCH Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.005	Rahan's Lake	29-May	Eamon Power	Maggots
2.92	Ballyhoe Lake	16-Jun	Niall Mallin	Boilie
2.835	Rahan's Lake	15-May	John Millerick	Maggots
2.778	Town Lake	02-May	David McNamee	Sweetcorn
2.778	Rahan's Lake	16-May	Brian Cooke	Maggots
2.767	Ballyhoe Lake	05-May	Mattie Foley	Boilie
2.75	Ballyhoe Lake	01-Jul	Niall Mallin	Fake Maggots
2.75	Ballyhoe Lake	01-Jul	Niall Mallin	Fake Maggots



*Conor Healy from Cork had this rudd of 1.162 kg from Carrigadrohid Reservoir*

*Ian Mulligan with one of his three specimen tench*



## 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>
9.39	Drowes River	31-Jul	George Matier	Shrimp

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

Record 26 lbs 2 ozs (11.85 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg

8.4	Lough Corrib	28-Oct	Paddy O'Toole	Roach
6.155	Lough Mask	08-Apr	Noel McElroy	Rapala
6.065	Lough Corrib	24-Jun	Michael Burke	Grasshopper
5.9	Lough Corrib	25-Jul	Peter Hoddinott (UK)	Roach
5.897	Lough Mask	05-Sep	James Tiernan	Fly
5.705	Lough Mask	14-Jul	Paddy Duffy	Rapala
5.131	Lough Corrib	25-May-06	Roy Black	Buzzer Nymph
5.103	Lough Corrib	18-Apr 06	Garnet Orange	Fly
5.1	Lough Corrib	31-Mar	Lawrence Peile	Roach
5.05	Lough Melvin	29-Aug	Noel McCaffrey	Fly
4.74	Lough Corrib	26-May	Christopher Bashford (UK)	Mepps
4.717	Lough Mask	17-Jun	Phyl Gaynor	Rapala

*Lough Mask produced this 5.9 kg trout for James Tiernan*



## BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
7.845	Cong River	05-Jul	Stephen Walkden	Fly
5.443	River Shannon, Killaloe	13-Apr	Jonathan Mowat	Rapala
5.39	River Blackwater, Moy	01-Sep	Matthew McSorley	Copper Spoon
4.99	Cong Canal	17-Mar	David Campbell	Worm
4.7	Cong River	02-Jul	Bernd Strauss	Mepps
4.194	Cong River	04-Aug	David Campbell	Worm
3.434	Glendalough River	30-Jun	Brian Regan	Fly
2.722	Cong Canal	01-Mar	Vincent Campbell	Worm
2.722	Cong Canal	01-Mar	David Campbell	Worm
2.682	Lower River Bann	08-Aug	Patrick Joseph Melia	Spinner
2.608	Aughrim River	15-Apr	Dylan Cullen	Minnow
2.523	River Barrow, Mountmellick	25-Aug	Denis Maher	Worm
2.404	Clare River	30-Aug	Michael Costello	Fly
2.38	Clare River	25-Jun	Lonan O'Farrell	Shrimp Fly
2.306	Clare River	26-Jul	Rory Cosgrove	Fly



*Stephen Walkden with his excellent brown trout from the Cong River*

## 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>
5.196	Lough Currane	15-Apr	Denis Bennett	
4.658	Lough Currane	19-Apr	Prof Rudolf Schweissthal (D)	Rapala
4.328	Lough Currane	16-May	Arthur White (UK)	Fly
4.172	Lough Currane	25-Mar	John Bojtor (UK)	Rapala
4.032	Lough Currane	27-Mar	A. S. Russell (UK)	Rapala
3.742	Lough Currane	11-Apr	Jorg Benecke (D)	Fly
3.73	Lough Currane	26-Mar	Norma Jane Biniek (D)	Rapala
3.706	Lough Currane	29-May	Paul De-Neef (D)	Fly
3.644	Lough Currane	10-May	Peter McNeil (UK)	Rapala
3.554	Lough Currane	18-Jun	Stephen Brush	Fly
3.468	Cummeragh River	04-Jun	Robert Porter	Worm
3.422	Lough Currane	21-Apr	Peter Keenan	Fly
3.266	Lough Currane	25-Aug	Ulick Cronin	Fly
3.228	Lough Currane	20-Jun	Marcus Brush	Fly
3.11	Lough Currane	28-May	Peter Maxey	Fly
2.982	Lough Currane	04-Aug	Pat O'Mahoney	Fly
2.863	Lough Currane	23-May	Michael Roden	Fly
2.818	Lough Currane	30-May	Paul De-Neef (B)	Fly
2.758	Lough Currane	25-Apr	Tom Nugent	Fly



*Arthur White caught this sea trout in May*

## MARINE FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2007

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>
7.285	Brandon	24-Mar	Robbie Maguire	Crab
5.622	Dungarvan Bay	26-Dec-06	Paul O'Callaghan	Crab
5.45	Kilcoole	27-Jul	Gerry Mitchell	Gravvel Preditor
5.36	Castle Rock	24-Jun	Gavin Martin	Ragworm/ Lugworm
5.103	Fenit	19-Aug	Bartholomew O'Brien	Sandeel
4.99	White Bay	11-Oct	Edward Howard	Lugworm/Crab Cocktail
4.902	Howth	08-Jul	Barry Toolan	Ragworm
4.888	Kilmore Quay	18-Aug	Gareth Kenna	Rapapa Magnum
4.852	Cork Harbour	13-Sep	Steve Ramsay (UK)	Launce
4.82	Benone Strand	22-Jun	Ivan Seeds	Ragworm

*A happy Damien Blackwell with a specimen bass from Arklow*

**BASS Contd.**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
4.819	Arklow	29-Sep	Damian Blackwell	Plug
4.763	White Bay	26-Jan	Edward Howard	Ragworm
4.763	Ballybranigan	02-Oct	Edward Howard	Ragworm
4.75	Clonea Beach	21-Jun	Fergal O'Carroll	Lugworm/ Razor fish
4.636	Fermoyle	09-Jul	Thomas Keogh, Jnr	Ragworm
4.631	Tramore	28-Sep	David McGuinness	Peeler Crab
4.6	Ballyteigue	13-Oct	Michael O'Connor	Mackerel
4.593	Cork Harbour	30-Aug	Stephen O'Neill	Mackerel

**BLUEMOUTH**

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

0.98	Caherciveen	01-Oct	Sue Tait	Mackerel
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*The only specimen bluemouth of 2007 was taken by Sue Tait*

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
12.701	35 miles south off Galley Head	08-Jan	Denis McCarthy	Shad
11.884	Courtmacsherry	14-Jul	Let van den Berg (NL)	Pilker
11.7	Kinsale	27-Jul	Michael Scott	Shad
11.34	Courtmacsherry	24-Aug	Niall O'Sullivan	Pirk
11.158	Courtmacsherry	31-Jul	Alan Browne	Lure
11.113	Courtmacsherry	30-Jul	Paul O'Callaghan	Shad
11.022	Courtmacsherry	24-Sep	Patrick Annaert (B)	Shad
10.795	Courtmacsherry	14-Jul	Hans Koelen (NL)	Dickpick
10.569	Courtmacsherry	30-Jul	Paul O'Callaghan	Shad
10.433	Courtmacsherry	26-Jan	Robert Porter	Shad
10.319	35 miles south of Galley Head	08-Jan	Denis McCarthy	Shad
9.979	Courtmacsherry	10-Aug	James Grant (UK)	Shad
9.888	Courtmacsherry	02-Oct	Hendrik Lansbergen (B)	Shad
9.752	Courtmacsherry	14-Jul	Willy Maas (NL)	Pilker
9.412	Courtmacsherry	18-Sep	Patrick Annaert (B)	Shad
9.344	Courtmacsherry	10-Aug	Michael Mitchell (UK)	Shad
9.253	Courtmacsherry	29-Aug	Franz Vleugels (NL)	Lure
9.208	Courtmacsherry	29-Aug	Loek Post (NL)	Lure
9.12	Courtmacsherry	18-Oct	Christopher Hayes	Shad
9.072	Courtmacsherry	28-Aug	Wijnand de Ruiter (NL)	Lure
9.015	Crosshaven	31-Jul	Ken Murphy	Shad
8.936	Courtmacsherry	10-Sep	Julian Smith	Squid
8.936	Courtmacsherry	06-Apr	Philip Barry	Jellyworm
8.8	Courtmacsherry	24-Aug	Bob de Heus (NL)	Pilker
8.788	Crosshaven	31-Jul	Ken Murphy	Shad
8.754	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	Colin Hill (UK)	Shad
8.664	Courtmacsherry	18-Sep	Dirk Cravwels (B)	Shad
8.618	Courtmacsherry	18-Sep	Dirk Cravwels (B)	Shad
8.562	35 miles south of Galley Head	08-Jan	Denis McCarthy	Shad
8.528	Courtmacsherry	02-Oct	Dominique Grenier (B)	Lure
8.528	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	Colin Hill (UK)	Lure
8.482	Courtmacsherry	30-Jul	Niall O'Sullivan	Pirk
8.391	Courtmacsherry	02-Oct	Mike Kollard (NL)	Shad



COALFISH Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg				
8.278	Crosshaven	31-Jul	Ken Murphy	Shad
8.278	Crosshaven	31-Jul	Denis O'Leary	Shad
8.165	Courtmacsherry	02-Oct	Michael Armstrong	Shad
8.165	Courtmacsherry	14-Jul	Let van den Berg (NL)	Pilker
8.119	Courtmacsherry	02-Oct	Mike Kollard (NL)	Shad
8.074	Courtmacsherry	10-Jul	Michael Armstrong	Shad
8.051	Courtmacsherry	20-Jul	Gerard van der Vegt (NL)	Shad
7.938	Courtmacsherry	16-Jul	Paul Lindley (UK)	Shad
7.893	Courtmacsherry	18-Jul	Let van den Berg (NL)	Pilker
7.847	Courtmacsherry	30-Jul	Piet Verkade (NL)	Lure
7.802	Courtmacsherry	29-Aug	Albert Viswat (NL)	Lure
7.575	Courtmacsherry	30-Jul	Niall O'Sullivan	Pirk
7.484	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	James Grant (UK)	Shad
7.484	Courtmacsherry	18-Jul	Hans Koelen (NL)	Dickpick
7.462	Baltimore	19-Jul	Ricky Woodham (UK)	Shad
7.416	Baltimore	19-Jul	Robert Eccles (UK)	Shad
7.4	Kinsale	27-Jul	Paul Drennan	Shad



*Dutch angler Willy Maas took his specimen coalfish in July off Courtmacsherry*

COALFISH Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
7.371	Crosshaven	31-Jul	Ian Murphy	Shad
7.303	Courtmacsherry	30-Jul	Hans Drexler (NL)	Shad
7.212	Courtmacsherry	18-Jul	Chris van Raak (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
7.212	Courtmacsherry	18-Jul	Willy Maas (NL)	Pilker
7.167	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	John Barnes (UK)	Shad
7.135	Courtmacsherry	18-Sep	Pierre Annaert (B)	Shad
7.121	Courtmacsherry	18-Jul	Willy Maas (NL)	Pilker
6.985	Cobh	30-Jul	Michael Hennessy	Mackerel Strip
6.985	Courtmacsherry	18-Jul	Gerard van der Vegt (NL)	Shad
6.963	Courtmacsherry	18-Sep	Donal O'Dwyer	Shad
6.94	Courtmacsherry	28-Aug	Loek Post (NL)	Lure
6.895	Courtmacsherry	02-Oct	Dominique Grenier (F)	Lure
6.872	Courtmacsherry	18-Jul	Chris van Raak (NL)	Pilker
6.804	Courtmacsherry	18-Jul	Gerard van der Vegt (NL)	Dickpick

*Another Courtmacsherry Coalfish!*



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>
17.01	Courtmacsherry	28-Jul	Michael Dennehy	Shad
16.511	Courtmacsherry	30-Jul	Michael Dennehy	Jelly lure
13.245	Courtmacsherry	15-Jul	Frank Bisschops (NL)	Squid
13.041	Cork Harbour	15-Jul	Mattie Foley	Shad
12.179	Courtmacsherry	10-Jul	Franz Verstraeten (B)	Shad
11.992	Baltimore	12-Nov	Ian Latham	Mackerel
11.113	Courtmacsherry	19-Aug	Gerard van der Veen (NL)	Mackerel
10.977	Courtmacsherry	15-Jul	Eddy Van Mechelen (B)	Shad
10.886	Union Hall	09-Sep	Derick O'Brian (J)	Shad
10.16	Courtmacsherry	20-Jul	Paul O'Connell	Squid
10.07	Courtmacsherry	15-Jul	Lukas Bialasinski (D)	Jelly lure
9.979	Courtmacsherry	15-Jul	Zoltan Timar (H)	Squid
9.934	Courtmacsherry	15-Jul	Stef Dortmans (NL)	Squid
9.866	Courtmacsherry	30-Jul	Philip Barry	Shad
9.707	Courtmacsherry	15-Jul	Frank Bisschops (NL)	Squid
9.389	Courtmacsherry	24-Aug	Gerrit Smit (NL)	Baited Octopus
9.299	Crosshaven	06-Sep	Ian Murphy	Shad



*Ian Latham had  
this fine cod off  
Baltimore in  
November*

## CONGER EEL

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
25.401	Courtmacsherry	14-Mar	Greg Matthews	Squid
22.952	Ballydavid	22-Aug	Denis Butler	Mackerel
19.958	Cobh	16-Jul	Richard Fortune	Mackerel

## DAB

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

0.755	Courtmacsherry	01-Sep	Daniel Holland	Mackerel Strip
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*Denis Butler caught this conger off the shore in August*



*Michael Dennehy had the heaviest cod of the year in 2006 and repeated this feat in 2007*

## LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

**Record 4 lbs 4ozs (1.928 kg); Specimen Weight 1.4737 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg				
1.75	Ballycastle	09-Jun	Noel McFetridge	Mackerel Strip
1.72	Ballycastle	16-Jan	David Craig	Mackerel
1.701	Cork Harbour	06-Mar	Pat Condon	Mackerel
1.6	Ballycastle	09-Jun	Noel McFetridge	Mackerel Strip
1.588	Union Hall	12-May	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
1.588	Courtmacsherry	16-Sep	James Walsh	Mackerel Strip
1.559	Red Bay	05-Oct	Peter Ireland	Mackerel
1.559	Ballycastle	07-Jan	David McCormick	Mackerel/Squid
1.52	Cork Harbour	06-Aug	Robert Creber	Mackerel
1.503	Cork Harbour	16-May	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
1.503	Ballycastle	18-Feb	David McCormick	Mackerel/Squid
1.5	Belfast Lough	13-Feb	Garry Gregg	Squid
1.49	Dunmore East	01-Jul	Robert Harris (UK)	Mackerel/Squid

## GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

**Record 23 lbs 13 ozs (10.801 kg); Specimen Weight 7.257 kg**

8.76	Red Bay	22-Sep	Richard Barr	Mackerel
7.938	Red Bay	20-Jun	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel
7.853	Red Bay	23-Sep	Hamish Currie	Herring
7.711	Red Bay	09-Jun	Ruud Troost (NL)	Mackerel
7.635	Schull	06-May	Bill Davidson	Mackerel Strip
7.569	Red Bay	26-Jun	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
7.513	Red Bay	19-Jun	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
7.456	Red Bay	04-Oct	Richard McAlorum	Mackerel
7.4	Carnlough	29-Jul	Terry Jackson	Squid
7.399	Red Bay	19-Sep	Hendrik Vos (NL)	Mackerel

## SPUR DOGFISH

Record 21.25 lbs (9.639 kg); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
9.242	Red Bay	23-Aug	Peter McFarland	Mackerel
9.185	Red Bay	17-Jun	Harry Ritchie	Mackerel
9.129	Red Bay	08-Aug	George Leslie	Mackerel
8.958	Red Bay	08-Aug	William Watson	Mackerel
8.936	Kenmare Bay	10-Sep	Luc Dunant (NL)	Mackerel
8.845	Kenmare Bay	10-Sep	Hans Arnhard (NL)	Mackerel
8.76	Red Bay	29-Aug	Connor McNeill	Mackerel
8.675	Red Bay	29-Aug	Richard McAlorum	Mackerel
8.562	Red Bay	08-Aug	George Leslie	Mackerel
8.505	Red Bay	10-Jun	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
8.482	Kenmare Bay	10-Sep	Sebastiaan Huijs (NL)	Mackerel
8.437	Kenmare Bay	10-Sep	Dylan Sipkema (NL)	Mackerel
8.165	Kenmare Bay	10-Sep	Sebastiaan Huijs (NL)	Mackerel
8.074	Kenmare Bay	13-May	Wilfried Mervielde (B)	Mackerel Flapper



*Jano-Paul Jakel from Germany  
caught his specimen spurdog in  
Kenmare Bay*

SPUR DOGFISH Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
7.938	Red Bay	09-Jun	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
7.938	Red Bay	17-Jun	Harry Ritchie	Mackerel
7.768	Red Bay	08-Aug	George Leslie	Mackerel
7.768	Red Bay	06-Oct	Hugo McSorley	Mackerel
7.711	Kenmare Bay	10-Sep	Olaf Jonkeren (NL)	Mackerel Strip
7.575	Kenmare Bay	10-Sep	Luc Dunant (NL)	Mackerel
7.541	Red Bay	29-Aug	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel
7.412	Kenmare Bay	29-Jul	Jano-Paul Jakel (D)(J)	Feather
7.4	Ballycastle	01-Jul	Fred Roe (UK)	Mackerel
7.314	Red Bay	10-Jun	Paul McAllister	Mackerel
7.286	Red Bay	10-Jun	Wesley Kidd	Mackerel
7.257	Brandon Bay	10-Sep	Adrian O'Gorman	Mackerel
7.031	Red Bay	09-Dec-06	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
7.0	Carnlough	08-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Fillet
6.985	Kenmare Bay	10-Sep	Willem Busman (NL)	Mackerel
6.832	Red Bay	24-Jun	Robert McFarland	Mackerel
6.804	Red Bay	08-Aug	Robert McFarland	Mackerel
6.804	Ballycastle	03-Jun	Ian Latham	Mackerel
6.804	Howth	04-Aug	Liam Tully	Mackerel
6.73	Kerry Head	04-Sep	Philip Barry	Mackerel Flapper



*Ken Hegarty had this specimen gurnard in August*

**SPUR DOGFISH Contd.**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.634	Red Bay	23-Jun	Damian Devlin	Mackerel
6.577	Red Bay	09-Dec-06	Tommy Preston	Mackerel
6.492	Ballycastle	11-Feb	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel
6.492	Red Bay	17-Jun	Nigel Ritchie	Mackerel
6.435	Red Bay	27-Jun	Jim Flannigan	Ragworm/ Lugworm
6.35	Red Bay	08-Jul	Rob Monince (NL)	Mackerel
6.35	Ballycastle	11-Mar	David McCormick	Squid
6.237	Brandon Bay	06-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Mackerel
6.18	Red Bay	29-Aug	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel
6.123	Kenmare Bay	10-Sep	Hans Arnhard (NL)	Mackerel
6.123	Brandon Bay	06-Jun	Brian Cooke	Mackerel
6.123	Brandon Bay	06-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Mackerel
6.038	Red Bay	27-Jun	Richard McAlorum	Mackerel
6.038	Red Bay	08-Jul	Maarten van Alfen (NL)	Mackerel
6.038	Red Bay	21-Oct	Gary Morrow	Mackerel
6.01	Red Bay	10-Jun	Robert Maxwell	Mackerel
6.01	Red Bay	17-Jun	John Love	Mackerel
6.0	Belfast Lough	04-Feb	Terry Jackson	Squid
5.982	Red Bay	20-Jun	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel
5.953	Red Bay	09-Jun	John Ryan	Mackerel
5.953	Red Bay	08-Sep	Eamon McErlean	Mackerel
5.897	Kenmare Bay	13-May	Carlo Vandevyver (B)	Mackerel Flapper
5.897	Dun Laoghaire	25-Aug	John Hughes	Mackerel
5.84	Ballycastle	11-Feb	David McCormick	Squid
5.8	Belfast Lough	13-Feb	Terry Jackson	Squid
5.783	Red Bay	17-Jun	Nigel Ritchie	Mackerel
5.727	Brandon Bay	06-Jun	John Millerick	Mackerel
5.727	Brandon Bay	06-Jun	Robert Reid	Mackerel
5.698	Red Bay	13-Feb	Connor McNeill	Mackerel
5.67	Red Bay	10-Mar	David Harris	Mackerel
5.67	Brandon Bay	10-Sep	Des Frazer	Mackerel Flapper
5.67	Brandon Bay	06-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Mackerel
5.67	Bandon Bay	06-Jun	Gerard Palmer	Mackerel
5.642	Red Bay	09-Dec-06	Connor McNeill	Mackerel
5.642	Red Bay	27-Jun	Richard McAlorum	Mackerel
5.62	Carnlough	16-Feb	David Craig	Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
5.613	Red Bay	10-Mar	Damian Devlin	Mackerel
5.613	Red Bay	08-Aug	David Kidd	Mackerel
5.585	Red Bay	10-Jun	Philip McAllister	Mackerel
5.585	Red Bay	24-Jun	Robert McFarland	Mackerel
5.557	Red Bay	09-Jun	John Ryan	Mackerel
5.557	Red Bay	29-Dec-06	Hugo McSorley	Mackerel
5.557	Red Bay	08-Jul	Rob Monince (NL)	Mackerel
5.557	Ballycastle	24-Feb	David McCormick	Squid
5.5	Kerry Head	04-Sep	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel
				Flapper
5.5	Red Bay	17-Jun	Ricky Fowler	Mackerel



*Gerard O'Flaherty had this  
1.66 kg flounder from Youghal  
in late November*



## FLOUNDER

**Record 4.91 lbs (2.229 kg); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.66	Youghal	25-Nov	Gerard O'Flaherty	Crab
1.361	Monatrea, Near Youghal	07-Oct	Eric Gosnell	Peeler Crab
1.22	Ring, Clonakilty	28-Nov	Ken Hegarty	Peeler Crab

## GARFISH (B. BELONE)

**New Record 1.729 kg, Specimen Weight 1.021 kg**

1.729	Cork Harbour	28-May	Stephen O'Neill	Mackerel
1.162	Baltimore	19-Aug	Michael Latham	Mackerel
1.13	Caherciveen	01-Oct	Sue Tait	Mackerel
1.066	Cork Harbour	11-Sep	Pat Condon	Mackerel

## GILTHEAD BREAM

**New Record 3.24 kg; Specimen Weight 1.4 kg**

3.24	Cork Harbour	10-Sep	Robert McClean	Crab
2.554	Ballyteigue Bay	11-Nov	Thomas Driver	Ragworm
2.24	Cork Harbour	04-May	Sean Clohessy	Crab
1.9	Cork Harbour	19-Aug	Sean Clohessy	Crab
1.8	Cork Harbour	21-Sep	Phil Simpson (UK)	Peeler Crab
1.8	Ballyteigue	16-Oct	Michael O'Connor	Lugworm
1.62	Cork Harbour	10-Sep	Chris Denvir	Crab
1.52	Cork Harbour	24-Aug	Philip Fox	Crab
1.48	Cork Harbour	12-Sep	Robert McClean	Crab
1.479	Ventry	25-Nov	David Himsworth (UK)	Lugworm
1.43	Cork Harbour	04-May	Jim Clohessy	Crab
1.422	Roches Point	10-Oct	William Cunningham	Lugworm
1.41	Cork Harbour	30-Jun	Sue Tait	Shrimp

## GREY GURNARD

**Record 3 lbs 1oz (1.389 kg); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.99	Valentia	09-Sep	David Donoghue	Mackerel Strip
0.72	Cork Harbour	12-Aug	Ken Hegarty	Mackerel
0.68	Valentia	26-Aug	Liam Walsh	Mackerel Strip

## RED GURNARD

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

0.993	Downings	03-Sep	Dick Pluijmers (NL)	Mackerel Strip
0.978	Kinsale	09-Sep	Donal O'Mahony	Mackerel Strip
0.966	Downings	08-Sep	Joe Nash	Mackerel Strip
0.953	Tralee Bay	27-Aug	Philip Barry	Baited Muppet
0.936	Lough Swilly	07-Jul	David McCormick	Mackerel/ Ragworm
0.934	Downings	18-Jul	Jeannette van den Berg (NL)	Mackerel Strip
0.93	Cork Harbour	10-Oct	Tony Tait	Mackerel
0.921	Kinsale	09-Sep	Donal O'Mahony	Mackerel Strip
0.92	Ling Rocks, Kinsale	15-Sep	Martyn Rayner	Ragworm
0.91	Ling Rocks	26-Sep	Martyn Rayner	Mackerel/Ragworm



*Lough Swilly produced this red gurnard for David McCormick in July*

## TUB GURNARD

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.703	Downings	12-Sep	Anthony Krijnse Locker (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.702	Hook Head	28-Jul	Tim Wrenn	Mackerel Strip
2.602	Clew Bay	27-Jun-06	Mark Redhead (UK)	Mackerel
2.413	Downings	19-Jun	Raymond Oliver (UK)	Mackerel
2.295	Downings	04-Sep	Joop Schothorst (NL)	Mackerel

## LING

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

19.504	Castletownbere	06-Oct	Eamon Power	Baited Muppet
15.422	Courtmacsherry	04-Sep	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
15.15	Courtmacsherry	19-Jul	Hans Koelen (NL)	Mackerel
				Flapper
14.713	Castletownbere	10-Aug	Patrick Buck	Baited Hokkai
14.572	Courtmacsherry	04-Sep	Michael Dennehy	Mackerel
13.466	Castletownbere	06-Jun	John Angles	Mackerel
12.882	Courtmacsherry	14-Jul	Gerard van der Vegt (NL)	Shad
12.871	Courtmacsherry	04-Sep	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
12.559	Castletownbere	06-Jun	David Wesley (UK)	Mackerel/
				Muppet
12.247	Castletownbere	06-Oct	Ian Mulligan	Mackerel
11.975	Courtmacsherry	16-Jul	Hans Koelen (NL)	Mackerel
				Flapper
11.793	Union Hall	07-Oct	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
11.397	Courtmacsherry	04-Sep	Michael Dennehy	Mackerel
11.385	Courtmacsherry	16-Jul	Let van den Berg (NL)	Mackerel
				Flapper



*Eamon Power struggles under the weight of his ling – the biggest of the year*



*Patrick Buck had this ling of 14.7 kg off Castletownbere in August*

**MEGRIM****Record 1.85 kg; Specimen Weight 0.794 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.0	Crosshaven	10-Jun	Ken Murphy	Mackerel Strip

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

3.064	Lough Furnace	04-Aug-06	Joe Cooney	Sweetcorn
2.92	Crookhaven	31-Jul	Paul O'Grady	Bread Flake
2.863	Wicklow	08-Jul	Brian Cooke	Bread
2.722	Rosscarbery	19-Jul	Guy Pitcher (UK)	Mackerel
2.722	Rosscarbery	14-Apr	Alan O'Dowling	Bread Flake
2.707	Strangford Lough	04-Sep	David Murdoch	Bread
2.585	Castletownbere	05-Sep	Mostafa Ghazouani	Bread
2.551	Dundrum Bay	23-Aug	Ronald Surgenor	Bread
2.523	Leitrim R, Wicklow	30-Jun	Jim Murray	Bread
2.495	Cobh	17-Sep	Pat O'Shea	Bread
2.404	Ballyheigue	02-Aug	Philip Barry	Bread



*Megril are seldom recorded as specimens but Ken Murphy was successful in 2007*

THICK-LIPPED MULLET Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.4	Balintoy	21-Oct	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.381	Rosscarbery	19-Jul	David Magee	Bread flake
2.381	River Nanny	01-Sep	John Millerick	Bread
2.353	River Liffey	07-Oct	Jim Murray	Bread
2.35	Killala Bay	17-Jul-06	Donal Kennedy	Mackerel
2.325	Clonakilty	14-May	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.325	Rosscarbery	23-Sep	Ross Macklin	Bread
2.325	Rosscarbery	19-Jul	David Magee	Bread Flake
2.3	Balintoy	21-Oct	Philip Oliver	Bread Flake
2.268	Strangford Lough	28-Aug	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.268	Ballyheigue	23-Aug	Philip Barry	Mackerel Flapper



*Grey mullet specimen numbers increased in 2007 - David Magee had this fish at Rosscarbery in July*

## GOLDEN GREY MULLET

**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>
1.021	Cork Harbour	09-May	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
0.992	Cork Harbour	11-Jul	Dan Lynch	Ragworm
0.86	Cork Harbour	14-Apr	Martyn Rayner	Ragworm
0.85	Cork Harbour	09-Jun	Noel Lane	Ragworm
0.82	Cork Harbour	14-Apr	Martyn Rayner	Ragworm
0.75	Cobh	14-Aug	Pat O'Shea	Ragworm baited Toby
0.74	Cork Harbour	14-Apr	Martyn Rayner	Ragworm
0.737	Cork Harbour	11-Jul	Dan Lynch	Ragworm

## RED MULLET

**New Record 0.71 kg; Specimen Weight 0.454 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.71	Achill	30-Aug	Joe Cooney	Ragworm

## PLAICE

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

2.041	Cork Harbour	12-Oct	Ian Rose	Ragworm
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## POLLACK

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

7.439	Courtmacsherry	14-Jul	Gerard van der Vegt (NL)	Lure
7.34	Castlehaven	06-Apr	Noel Lane	Jellyworm
7.1	Courtmacsherry	27-Jan	Shay McDonnell	Shad
6.645	Courtmacsherry	02-Feb	Mark E Gannon	Jelly Worm
6.634	Crosshaven	19-Jul	Ken Murphy	Shad
6.55	Killybegs	03-Aug	Aha Toni (D)	Mackerel Fillet
6.52	Ballycastle	08-Sep	Noel McFetridge	Redgill



POLLACK Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.123	Castletownbere	06-Oct	Michael Hennessy	Baited Hokkai
6.01	Castletownbere	10-Aug	Daniel Moore	Shad
5.897	Castletownbere	06-Oct	Eamon Power	Shad
5.892	Ferriter's Cove, Dingle	30-Jul	Gerry Byrne	Jellyworm
5.82	Castletownbere	23-Apr-06	John Angles	Orange Muppet
5.783	Red Bay	04-Aug	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
5.727	Red Bay	13-Oct	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
5.656	Culdaff	22-Aug	Ian Latham	Sandeel
5.65	Courtmacsherry	27-Jan	Sean O'Shaughnessy	Redgill
5.642	Red Bay	24-Sep	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel Fillet
5.557	Castletownbere	10-Aug	Daniel Moore	Shad
5.557	Red Bay	04-Aug	Jonathan Lavery	Mackerel
5.534	Courtmacsherry	12-Feb-06	Zoltan Timar (H)	Rubber Eel
5.52	Carrigaholt	26-Aug	Tomasz Paczkowski	Mackerel Strip
5.5	Castletownbere	10-Aug	John Angles	Shad



*Red Bay was very productive in 2007 and charter skipper Hamish Currie shows off a specimen pollack taken in August*

## 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>
1.389	Cork Harbour	03-May	Denis McCarthy	Mackerel

## BLONDE RAY

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

14.288	Crosshaven	26-Oct	John O'Sullivan (Jnr)	Mackerel/ Squid Cocktail
13.154	Crosshaven	29-Oct	John O'Sullivan (Jnr)	Mackerel/ Squid Cocktail
12.814	Crosshaven	23-Nov	Ken Murphy	Squid
12.53	Cork Harbour	28-Jan	Stephen O'Neill	Squid
12.247	Red Bay	02-Nov	Cathal McNaughton	Whole Joey
12.02	Cork Harbour	15-Jul	Edward Howard	Mackerel Strip
11.992	Red Bay	01-Nov	Hamish Currie	Mackerel Joey
11.91	Cork Harbour	23-Oct	Ken Hegarty	Squid
11.878	Red Bay	17-Oct	Hamish Currie	Mackerel Fillet
11.75	Cork Harbour	19-Sep	Jozef Joel Wolters (NL)	Shrimp
11.623	Cork Harbour	05-Jan	Ross Macklin	Mackerel



*A nice blonde ray for Edward Howard in  
Cork Harbour*



*Cathal McNaughton had this blonde ray  
in Red Bay*

## HOMELYN RAY

Record 8.28 lbs (3.756 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg				
2.32	Cork Harbour	19-Aug	Ken Hegarty	Mackerel



*A crew member watches over Ken Hegarty's homelyn ray*

## PAINTED RAY

**Record 17.21lbs (7.806 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
5.75	Ballycotton	31-Aug	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel/Lugworm
5.19	Ballycotton	12-Oct	Philip Barry	Mackerel Flapper
5.11	Ballycotton	31-Aug	John Higgins	Mackerel
5.06	Ballycotton	31-Aug	John Higgins	Mackerel
5.0	Tramore	08-Sep	Nicholas McEvoy	Mackerel
4.87	Ballycotton	12-Oct	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel Flapper
4.58	Ballycotton	12-Oct	Philip Barry	Mackerel Flapper

## THORNBACK RAY

**Record 37 lbs (16.783 kg); Specimen Weight 9.072 kg**

11.34	Cork Harbour	29-Sep	Evert Janssen Groesbeek (NL)	Mackerel Strip
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## THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

**Record 3 lbs 1 oz (1.389 kg); Specimen Weight 0.794 kg**

0.907	Bangor	07-Dec-06	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel
0.816	Bangor	19-Nov-06	Peter McGroary	Mackerel



*Specimen hunter Jim Sloan had this twaite shad in May*

0.794 Ballycastle 18-Feb David McCormick Mackerel

## TWAITE SHAD

Record 1.54 kg; Specimen Weight 1.1 kg

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.276	River Barrow, St. Mullins	06-May	Noel Lane	Spinner
1.191	St. Mullins	09-May	Des Frazer	Jensen Pirken
1.15	St. Mullins	13-May	Jim Sloan	Tasmanian Devil
1.134	St. Mullins	13-May	Ross Macklin	Tasmanian Devil
1.134	St. Mullins	13-May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
1.134	St. Mullins	10-May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil

## BLUE SHARK

Record 206 lbs (93.44 kg); Specimen Weight 45.359 kg

49.895 Brandon Bay 07-Sep George Dyland Mackerel



*Ross Macklin had this excellent twaite shad at St. Mullins on the River Barrow*

**TOPE****Record 66 lbs 8 ozs (30.19 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
27.726	Red Bay	11-Jul	Robert McFarland	Mackerel
27.471	Red Bay	24-Jul	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
25.94	Red Bay	30-Aug	Hamish Currie	Mackerel Fillet
25.543	Red Bay	22-Jul	Eamon McErlean	Mackerel
25.486	Red Bay	06-Oct	David McMullan	Mackerel
25.401	Red Bay	30-Dec-06	Robert McFarland	Mackerel
23.332	Red Bay	25-Aug	David McMullan	Mackerel
22.793	Red Bay	29-Jan	Jim Flannigan	Mackerel
22.736	Red Bay	04-Oct	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel Fillet
22.368	Red Bay	06-Jul	Jaap Overman (NL)	Mackerel
21.517	Red Bay	13-Feb	Connor McNeill	Mackerel
20.95	Red Bay	06-Jul	Maarten van Alfen (NL)	Mackerel
20.894	Red Bay	22-Jul	Damian Devlin	Mackerel
19.703	Red Bay	21-Jul	Trevor George	Mackerel
19.561	Red Bay	10-Jul	Peter McFarland	Mackerel
19.249	Red Bay	19-Jul	John Tierney	Mackerel
19.221	Culdaff	05-Aug	David McCormick	Mackerel
				Flapper
19.136	Red Bay	22-Jul	Trevor George	Mackerel
18.824	Culdaff	22-Jul	Terry Jackson	Whiting
18.711	Red Bay	19-Oct	John Stewart	Mackerel
18.55	Culdaff	22-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel
18.35	Culdaff	22-Jul	Joe Wilson	Mackerel
18.25	Culdaff	22-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel

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

2.735	Downings	29-May	Piet Van Dorp (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
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## TRIGGER FISH

**Record 2.54 kg; Specimen Weight 1.474 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg				
1.78	Caherciveen	28-Aug	Barry Spink	Mackerel
1.774	Caherciveen	03-Sep	Barry Spink	Mackerel
1.633	Killala Bay	07-Oct	John Donnellan	Mackerel Strip
1.588	Black Head	07-Sep	Eoin Trill	Mackerel
	Lighthouse			

## ALBACORE TUNA

**New Record 29.96 kg; Specimen Weight 12 kg**

29.96	Caherciveen	05-Sep	Henry MacAulay	Zuka Feathers
14.05	Caherciveen	08-Sep	Ian Mannix	Zuka Feathers



*Barry Spink had this trigger fish at Caherciveen in September*

## WHITING

Record 4 lbs 14.5 ozs (2.225 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.015	Kinsale	03-Jun	John Blood	Mackerel
1.588	Castletownbere	12-Sep	Matt Smith (UK)	Mackerel Strip

## BALLAN WRASSE

Record 4.3 kg; Specimen Weight 2.154 kg

2.523	Bridges of Ross, Kilbaha	19-Jul	Bill Ryan	Crab
2.495	Castletownbere	05-Jun	Gary Knowles (UK)	Crab
2.49	Carne	11-Nov	Mick Walsh	Peeler Crab
2.353	Kerry Head	17-Oct	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
2.296	Kerry Head	10-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
2.31	Doonbeg	14-Oct	Philip Fox	Crab



*Only two specimen whiting were taken in 2007 – John Blood had one of them*

**BALLAN WRASSE Contd.**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.288	Galway Bay	26-Aug	David Tully	Mackerel Fillet
2.268	Kerry Head	10-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
2.211	Bridges of Ross, Kilbaha	11-Sep	Bill Ryan	Crab
2.211	Slea Head	15-May	Terry Jackson	Mussel/Ragworm
2.155	Bridges of Ross, Kilbaha	21-Aug	Bill Ryan	Crab

**CUCKOO WRASSE**

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

0.737	Maidens, Larne	18-Nov	David McCormick	Mackerel
0.675	Ballycastle	09-Jun	Shane McNeill	Ragworm
0.662	Castletownbere	20-Jun	Leslie Payne	Mackerel



*A lovely ballan wrasse for Mick Walsh at Carne*

CUCKOO WRASSE Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.652	Maidens, Larne	12-Nov	David McCormick	Ragworm/ Mackerel
0.652	Maidens, Larne	18-Nov	David McCormick	Mackerel
0.635	Portrush	01-Sep-06	Alan Benson	Ragworm/ Mackerel
0.62	Ballycastle	09-Jun	Brian Foster	Ragworm
0.6	Ballycastle	22-Jul	Noel McFetridge	Ragworm
0.6	Portrush	7-Oct	David Craig	Ragworm
0.595	Valentia	26-Aug	Liam Walsh	Mackerel Strip
0.595	Maidens, Larne	10-Dec-06	David McCormick	Mackerel
0.58	Castletownbere	06-Aug	Tony Tait	Crab
0.567	Ling Rocks	16-Jul	Denis McCarthy	Mackerel



*Leslie Payne with a cuckoo wrasse*

## 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, Energy 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 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 selected cyprinid species in selected Irish lakes, being carried out by researchers in the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin and funded by the Central Fisheries Board, Swords, Co. Dublin, **genetic fingerprinting of cyprinids commenced in 2007**. The ISFC requested anglers who catch specimens of these species or hybrids would take a small sample of scales (5 to 10 scales) from the fish and 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) were forwarded with each claim form for identification.

Analysis commenced in late 2007 and the technique has been applied to classify about 40% of claims. The remainder will be processed in 2008 together with any new claims. Results show clear differentiation and identifications have been made using a combination of these results and all photographic evidence received. The outcome of some individual assignments has been very clear and the feasibility study will continue in 2008. Several fish were not as claimed which demonstrated the scope of the technique. The Committee has decided to ratify all fish analyzed to date.

**This ongoing study presents the possibility of positively identifying rudd/roach hybrids and the Committee invites anglers to submit claims for possible rudd/roach specimens exceeding 1 kg in weight.**

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 (*Mustelas 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.

Since 2004 anglers have been submitting claims for blackmouthed dogfish (*Galeus melastomus*). The ISFC has decided to include this species on the specimen fish listings. Details of specimen weight below.

#### **New Species added to ISFC listings**

Blackmouthed dogfish (*Galeus melastomus*) – specimen weight has been set at 1 kg. Claims must be accompanied by a photograph showing the lateral view of the fish.

### **SPECIMEN WEIGHT REVISIONS**

The specimen weight for **Flounder** is being reduced from 1.2 kg to 1.1 kg from January 1st 2008.

#### **COALFISH update**

The specimen weight for **Coalfish** was reviewed by the Committee in 2006 and 2007 because of the large number of coalfish claims ratified in recent years. The data reviewed showed a continued decrease in the numbers of coalfish ratified in successive years since the peak observed in 2005. This decrease 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 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. Table of features to be photographed overleaf.

Several anglers submitted quality photographs displaying the important characteristics required for positive identification. Examples of the quality required are shown below.



*Roach Bream Hybrid photographs from Oliver Doyle*

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

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	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



*Head on photograph of grey mullet showing lips*



*Underside of grey mullet head*

*Photographs taken by David Murdoch*

## **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 55.* 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).

**Weight conversion figures:** Some anglers have a preference for imperial measures (lbs) when referring to fish weight. The ISFC decided to use the metric system (kg) from 2006 onwards although some older record fish will be reported in the imperial system until a new record is set.

To aid anglers in the conversion between both systems conversion factors are provided below:

**Kilogrammes to pounds**

X kg divided by 0.454 = Y metric pounds

**Pounds to kilogrammes**

X lbs divided by 2.205 = Y kg

## **REVIEW OF WEIGHTS/CONSERVATION SPECIMENS**

Over the next five years the ISFC plans to systematically review all species and weights of specimen fish based on the data collated since the ISFC was established. This process aims to reflect current developments in specimen angling and other issues including conservation. This process was carried out for some species in recent years (e.g. Coalfish in 2006 and 2007).

The Committee requests that anglers submit information for infrequently recorded species such as Angler Fish, Brill etc on locations of capture, weights, lengths etc so that we can assess the existing specimen weights based on current data. The data should be of the standard forwarded in a normal claim to ISFC.

The Committee will examine the issue of "Conservation Specimens" over the next two years. It is envisaged that this specimen category would be based on fish length. Two species, Tope and Blue Shark, will be considered for this type of alternative specimen award. It is planned to examine the feasibility of using length measurements to establish a conservation specimen which will allow anglers to return fish to the water quickly without the current requirement to weigh on land. Many aspects of this proposed system including certification of measuring instruments, the types of measurement(s) required, threshold lengths etc remain to be discussed and the Committee would welcome written inputs from anglers and all interested parties.

## **TAGGING PHOTOGRAPHS**

The annual report is greatly enhanced by photographs. Many, particularly digital images, are sent by different means including CD and email. For greater efficiency please tag all photographs, CDs and emailed photographs with relevant details. CDs should have a list of the angler(s), the species, the weight and date(s) of capture printed on the disk. All emailed photographs should be tagged with abbreviated angler name, species and weight.



# 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.
<b>Cork Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Rossa Ave., Bishopstown, Cork 4. <b>Ph: 021 - 4346 256 Fax: 021 - 4346 679</b>	Seamus Moynihan	Mobile 087 - 284 8735
<b>Dublin Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Poppintree Ind. Estate, Ballymun, D 11. <b>Ph: 01 - 864 3848 Fax: 01 - 864 3880</b>	Ronán O'Doherty	01 - 864 3848
<b>Limerick Regional Verification Centre</b> Legal Metrology Service, NSAI Regional Centre Plessey Technological Park, Castletroy, Limerick. <b>Ph: 061 - 330 708 Fax: 061 - 330 698</b>	Denis Corkery	Mobile 087 - 223 1053
<b>Sligo Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Finisklin Business Park, Sligo. <b>Ph: 071 - 91507 38 Fax: 071 - 91507 39</b>	Tony Marren	Mobile 087 - 223 1058
<b>Waterford Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Northern Industrial Est., Waterford. <b>Ph: 051 - 358 020 Fax: 051 - 358 021</b>	Paul Moore	Mobile 087 - 9177333
<b>Dundalk Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, IDA Small Business Park, Coes Rd., Dundalk, Co. Louth. <b>Ph: 042 - 933 2758 Fax: 042 - 933 2791</b>	Kieran Finlay	Mobile 087 - 223 1079
<b>Galway Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Ballybrit Ind. Est., Ballybane, Galway. <b>Ph: 091 - 771 943 Fax: 091 - 758 932</b>	Dave Conneely	Mobile 087 - 223 1051
<b>Dublin HQ</b> Legal Metrology Service, NSAI, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 <b>Ph: 01 - 807 3807 Fax: 01 - 807 3808</b>	Pat Farragher	

## PRESENTATION OF 2006 AWARDS

Éamon de Búitleir, film maker and angler made the Annual Presentation of Awards to 2006 award winners at the Doyle Burlington Hotel, Dublin in March 2007.

At the VISMA angling exhibition held in Rotterdam, Holland in 2007, 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 UK anglers at the NEC angling tradeshow in Birmingham.

## *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.

**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 2007.

**Special thanks to:** Brian Cooke for his article in this report.

Dr Maurice Clarke of the Marine Institute for data on blackmouthed dogfish.

AFBINI continues to provide an excellent fish identification service for anglers in the northern part of Ireland and the ISFC is indebted to staff in both. Dr Robert Rosell is taking over the identification of fresh water fish from Dr Walter Crozier. 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
2007	424	28	56	6	12	2	2	530

n/d = not determined



*Some of the UK anglers who received specimen awards at the NEC in Birmingham at the Fáilte Ireland hosted ISFC presentation of awards*

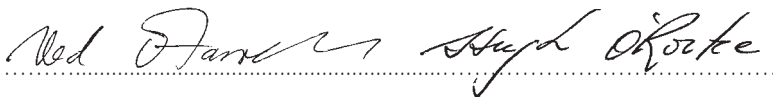
## Irish Specimen Fish Committee

Expenditure and Revenue Account - 1st January to 31st December 2006

2005	Expenditure	2006		2005	Revenue	2006
€		€		€		€
					<b>Balance b/f</b>	12050.64
					<b>Grants</b>	
7195.97	Printing	9214.70		5500.00	CFB	5500.00
4165.82	Award Medals	1236.85		500.00	ERFB	0.00
20.00	Dr. Wents Prize	0.00		0.00	SRFB	600.00
78.00	Miscellaneous	686.69		0.00	SWRFB	200.00
2024.60	Awards Day costs	2707.12		3000.00	MI	3000.00
14.15	Bank charges	12.99		2500.00	Fáilte Ireland	0.00
				0.00	Loughs Agency	2000.00
				371.00	Charter skippers	259.00
					<b>Donations</b>	
				1475.11	Clubs, Feds & individuals	1247.19
				0.00	David Went	1100.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13858.35</b>				
	<b>Balance c/d</b>	<b>12098.48</b>				<b>25956.83</b>
		<b>25956.83</b>				<b>25956.83</b>
					<b>Balance b/d</b>	<b>12098.48</b>

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

Signed:



N. O'Farrell & H. O'Rourke (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 2007 were:**

**Central Fisheries Board; Fáilte Ireland; Loughs Agency; Marine Institute; Southside Angling Ltd.; South Western Regional Fisheries Board; Cork Sea Angling Club; Delphi Fishery Ltd.; Dolphin Richview SAC.**

**Val Atkins**, 4 Abbey Park, Ferrybank, Waterford; **FHE Buller**, Holy Tree, Woodlands, South Heath, Gr. Middledon, Bucks, England; **Jim Clohessy**, 8 Glyntown Heights, Glanmire, Co. Cork; **Sean Clohessy**, Castlehyde, Richmond, Glanmire, Co. Cork; **William Cunningham**, Roches Point, Whitegate, Co. Cork; **Jim Dooley**, 6 Bawnleigh Court, Banduff, Cork; **James Farrell**, 137 Leinster Road, Dublin 6; **Mattie Foley**, 18 Upper Lotabeg Road, Mayfield, Cork; **Eric Gosnell**, 52 Marian Park, Church Road, Blackrock, Cork; **Jim 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, England; **Philip Hodgins**, 104 Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin 16; **Edward J. Howard**, 46 Rose Hill West, Ballinacurra, Midleton, Co. Cork; **Terry Jackson**, 20 Cook's Brae, Kircubbin, Co. Down, BT22 2SQ; **Christy Lane**, 10 Harrington's Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; **Noel Lane**, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork; **Bert McGregor**, 34 Rivermead Park, St. Margaret's, Co. Dublin. **Nicky McEvoy**, 6 Francis Crescent, Grange Heights, Waterford City; **Vincent McKernan**, 19 Drummaul Park, Randalstown, Co. Antrim, BT41 3AR; **W. McLaughlin**, 27 Castle Gardens, Limavaddy, Co. Derry, BT49 0SD; **David Magee**, Lissycroimin, Dunworley, Bandon, Co. Cork; **Derek J. Miller**, 35 Greenmeadows Road, Madeley, Crewe, Cheshire, CW3 9EY, England; **Chris Neill**, 7 Glencraig Road, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, BT36 5WJ; **Karl O'Leary**, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; **Stephen O'Neill**, 35 Ferndale, Carrigaline, Co. Cork; **John A. O'Shea**, 6 Raphoe Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12; **John Sherry**, Main Street, Lusk, Co. Dublin.

## 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	Ballyeighter 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> )	1.729		28.5.2007	Cork Harbour	Stephen O'Neill
Garfish ( <i>B. svetovidovi</i> )	1.11		5.8.1994	Courtmacsherry	Eric Leijten
Gilthead Bream	3.24 kg		10.9.2007	Cork Harbour	Robert McClean
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	0.71 kg		30.8.2007	Achill	Joe Cooney
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	29.96 kg		5.9.2007	Caherciveen	Henry McAuley
– 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 - Blackmouthed ( <i>Galeus melastomus</i> )			1.0	2.205	Photo
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		1.1	2.4255	Body
Garfish ( <i>Belone bellone</i> )	1.729 kg		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> )	3.24 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> )	0.71 kg		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 microocellata</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> )	29.96 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 20 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) and BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH.

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](mailto: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.

For marine fish taken in Northern Ireland send to Dr. Richard Briggs, AFBINI, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX, Ph: +44 (0) 28 9025 5503.

E-mail: [richard.briggs@afbini.gov.uk](mailto:richard.briggs@afbini.gov.uk).

For freshwater fish contact Dr. Robert Rosell, AFBINI, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX.  
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9025 5236, Fax: +44 (0) 28 9025 5004.

E-mail: [robert.rosell@afbini.gov.uk](mailto:robert.rosell@afbini.gov.uk)

# 11 steps to landing your first specimen...

*Brian Cooke is a well-known Dublin-based specimen hunter who has been angling for 35 years. Sea and coarse angling are his forte and in recent years he has started to fish for game fish. In his spare time he is the Press Officer for the Irish Federation of Sea Anglers, he writes a column for Irish Anglers Digest and he is also an angling tutor. Here he passes on some "interesting" advice to anglers who want to go and catch a specimen fish in one of the many excellent angling venues in Ireland.*

The following guide should prove beneficial to all budding specimen hunters in their search to land the big fish of the nation.

## 1. Location

Location is the number one factor in landing a specimen fish. Get your hands on all the back copies of the ISFC reports and a bunch of Ordnance Survey maps. Read up on the venues and research them through the internet and magazines.

Remember that waters in the same area can share the same natural characteristics and have similar potential. Look for waters with character. An abundance of bank-side vegetation, inaccessible areas where fry can shelter, and fluctuating depths: all of these natural conditions combine to provide an environment where big fish can flourish. There are many useful features on any water but a spot where you can hide your car is one of the best.

Talk to as many people as you can and filter the information received. Big fish anglers are not beyond throwing the occasional bum steer but if you are honest with them, in most cases, they will be honest with you. If all else fails, turn up at the ISFC Awards Day presentation which is held early in the season and fill the successful anglers full of drink.



**Low-water  
mullet**



## 2. Seasons

All species have their "in" season. Unfortunately, this always seems to happen in May and September. We could do with both of these months being two months longer such are the angling choices available.

The specimen angler's year revolves around targeting species at their optimum weight or intercepting the shoals on their seasonal movements. A rewarding alternative is to intercept the well-known anglers on their seasonal movements by following them or their vehicles.

## 3. Fishlore

An understanding of fish species and how they react in their natural environment is invaluable. This knowledge gives the specimen angler an insight into how his quarry may behave under particular circumstances or weather combinations - a knowledge that can be backed up by results on the bank.

One of the best books I have read on fish behaviour is A.F. Magri Mac Mahon's "Fishlore". Other recommended reads are Dr. Michael Kennedy's "A Sea Anglers Fishes" and any of the books by Des Brennan.

Angling is in many ways a sport of prediction, "reading the game" as it is called in ball sports. Some anglers seem to have a natural talent to do the right thing at the right time. Others, and in this batch I include myself, work hard using all the information available and keeping meticulous angling logs. By analysing such minute details such as water temperature, pH value, barometric pressure and wave turbulence, we seem to struggle to success eventually.

Of course, some anglers are just jammy!



## 4. Tactics

Tactics are constantly evolving and there is a wealth of literature dealing with the technical aspects of angling. Specimen hunters are always searching for the ultimate rig and bait combination. It is an absorbing element of the sport but again it should be remembered that the simpler the tactic, the less chance for it to go wrong. Or as my granddad instructed me, the simpler the angler, the simpler the tactic.

Tackle companies will always promote their latest product but for a lot of angling, the rods and reels lie inert on rests, far from the eyes of any fashion conscious fish. If an angler catches the biggest carp on a hard water it may well be a commendable achievement. But if this carper has spent 40 days and 40 nights on the water and blanked for 39 of them, I would question his tactics before rushing out to buy his successful rig and baits.

## 5. Bait

Bait is the vital stimulus to entice a fish to bite and a cult amongst big fish anglers. There is only one certainty in specimen hunting circles - you will never get a straight answer to a question about baits. Anglers use all kinds of nicknames when talking about successful baits just in case they are overheard. Ludicrous mixtures of flavours are experimented with to arrive at the super bait that will clean out a water.

The discharges from the proposed incinerator in Poolbeg are nothing in comparison to the fumes emanating from the kitchens of boillie makers across the country. In truth, these secret recipes can be reduced to a simple equation - loads of free offerings equals preoccupation equals fish feeding.

My tip is to pile in 50 kilos of ground-bait wherever you fish – the fish will be stopped in their tracks. They will either have to eat their way through it or turn back.

Or you try the once-popular tactic of using a natural bait like lobworms which the fish readily accept without being force fed.

## 6. Perseverance

Though we are all reluctant to admit it, perhaps the greatest trait a specimen hunter can possess is hard-headed, numb-skulled, perseverance. All the tactics, plans etc can reduce the waiting time but the truth is that the person who can fish most often, will eventually land their target. Remember our friend the carper on his days in the wilderness - it may have cost his marriage and his sanity but he got his fish eventually.

## 7. Be realistic

You can't catch fish that are not there. Nobody in Ireland will ever land a 20lb cod from the shore. Until that specimen weight is reviewed or there is separation between boat and shore, there is no point in spending your time chasing a fish that does not exist.

If, like me, you live and fish on the east coast, I reckon you can target about 16 of the 67 specimen sea species at their nominated weights. This includes fish such as bass where a 10 lb fish, the specimen weight, is probably a once in a lifetime catch. Unless regional averages are considered, there is no point going after the other 80% of species listed. You might be lucky and land an exceptionally large sea scorpion or topknot blenny but these cannot be considered real fish as they are not on the specimen list!

My advice is be realistic – move house immediately.

## 8. Experiment

Do not be afraid to try something different. On the 20th day and night of your 40 night carp stint, do not react angrily when someone suggests "Would you not think of trying an oul' lobworm?"

## 9. Enjoy the medium-sized fish

It is easy to become obsessed with big fish to the extent that a 9.5 lbs bass is greeted with less enthusiasm than a ten pounder. Specimen fish weights are not natural divisions. They provide a useful target to aim at but the enjoyment of all good sized fish should not be lost.

Some "important" tips for weighing medium sized fish:

- Ensure the scales is open to side winds and take the heaviest reading
- Always weigh the fish with the scale dial facing yourself
- Show concern for the fish by taking a quick really reading and adding on a kg
- Modern materials are so light, there's no need to deduct the weight of the net

## 10. Share the enjoyment - take a photo

Cheap digital cameras, disposable cameras and mobile phones mean that there is no excuse for an angler having a good photo. These modern devices however come at a price – there definitely seems to be less big fish about now that it has become so easy to capture them on film!

Some tips for good photographs are:

- The head of the angler is not important. In fact, some of the heads get so big, they obscure the fish
- Hold the fish properly to show off its dimensions, preferably not by the tail or held aloft in one hand while you point at it with the other
- Get something small to include in the photo for comparison purposes. A small bait box with 2 pints written on the side is appropriate

A real benefit from modern technology is that it can provide clear evidence for fish identification purposes. I would like to praise the ISFC for their movement in recent years towards accepting photographic evidence as sufficient proof for positive identification for many more species. Together with DNA profiling the future of our precious big fish is much improved.

## 11. Leave no trace

As anglers we are fortunate to witness the natural world in a way few people can. This is a privilege and one which we must ensure that we do not abuse whether by careless fish handling, leaving litter or obstructing others. As anglers, we need to be perceived as

beneficial to, and guardians of, the environment. Ireland's waters are there to be enjoyed by all its citizens - specimen anglers travel widely and often to distant waters and are obliged to leave them as they found them.

Finally, I will leave you with a conversation I overheard between two specimen hunters that epitomise the camaraderie of our sport:

"Caught anything?"

"No, not a bite"

"Are you here long?"

"Since dawn – I'm afraid this place has seen better days"

"Yeah it's not worth fishing any more"

"Did you catch anything when I saw you here last week and the week before?"

"A few bits that's all, hardly worth the effort"

"What bait are you using?"

"I've tried everything".

"I almost didn't see your car; you didn't park in the usual spot."

"I thought I'd leave it for you"

"No thanks – I wouldn't bother coming here. This place has seen better days."

"My thoughts exactly" .....

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.