



# Irish Specimen Fish 2008



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

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Coiste Éisc Mór na hÉirinn

# The Irish Specimen Fish Committee

Founded in 1955, the ISFC is an independent voluntary body, representative of angling interests in Ireland, whose principal function is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large (i.e. specimen) fish caught on rod and line by anglers in Ireland, both in freshwater and marine waters. The Committee also ratifies Irish record rod caught fish. The ISFC coordinates and administers the unique specimen awards scheme which is designed to recognize any angler who catches a specimen fish and to publicise the angling venue. Successful anglers are awarded a certificate and a commemorative badge. Specially commissioned silver medals are presented to captors of record fish and special awards are also made to captors of multiple specimen fish (on a cumulative basis). This report is a detailed listing of all particulars relating to specimen and record fish captures in Irish waters in 2008.

## Irish Specimen Fish Committee Members 2008

Trevor Champ, Chairman, Dr. William Roche, Secretary, and Norman Dunlop (all Central Fisheries Board); Alan McGurdy, Stewart McGrane (Game Angling), Orla Woods (Fáilte Ireland), Dr. Edward Fahy (Marine Institute), Dr. Patrick Boylan (Loughs Agency), Ned O'Farrell/Dave Egan (Coarse Angling), Dr. Robert Rosell (AFBI) and Hugh O'Rorke (Sea Angling).

### Awards Presentation

The Annual Presentation of Awards  
to anglers whose claims were accepted during 2008

will be held in

Red Cow Morans Hotel

Naas Road, Duólin 22

on Saturday 21st February 2009

All Irish anglers who are due awards are invited to attend



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[www.failteireland.ie](http://www.failteireland.ie)



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Cover photo: A beautiful Tench for Derek Greene from Derreen Lake in Co. Leitrim  
in June

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## ISFC Chairman's Review 2008



The past year will probably be best remembered as the second consecutive unusually wet and windy summer across most of the country. However, specimen claims received remained high and 502 were ratified. Four new records were established – spurdog, bluemouth, herring and blackmouthed dogfish. A further record might have been created but Jack van Rooyen preferred to release what was obviously a very large six-gilled shark which he captured off the Clare coast. This epic encounter is described in the body of this report. Spurdog dominate the specimen catches with Red Bay very productive for this species. This year's winner of the best international specimen award is Cedric Boston from London for a large brown trout taken in the Cong River.

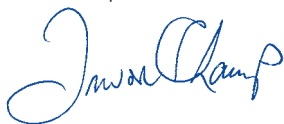
Mr. Ned O'Farrell retired from the Committee in November after fourteen years service. I avail of this opportunity to publicly thank Ned, on behalf of the ISFC, for his most valued contribution over the years when he represented the coarse fish sector. I welcome Mr. David Egan who has been nominated by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (NCFFI) as the new coarse fish representative. The Committee is also grateful to Dr. Walter Crozier for his help with identification of specimens captured in Northern Ireland over many years. Dr. Crozier retired from ISFC duty during the year and his replacement is Dr. Robert Rosell of the Agri-Food and BioSciences Institute Northern Ireland (AFBINI), who has also joined the Committee.

The ISFC is delighted to report the successful use of genetic fingerprinting to identify certain coarse fish and their hybrids. This has proved to be a highly rewarding joint venture with researchers in University College Dublin. The technique has also been used successfully to distinguish twaite and allis shad and smooth-hound this year. Shad are a protected species under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The Committee is particularly pleased that the genetic profile from a small sample of scales (or tissue for smooth-hound) will be sufficient to positively identify these species thereby allowing anglers to return their specimen alive. From 2009 onwards claims for these species will only require scales or tissue and some photographs. Also on the topic of conservation, the Committee is further investigating the possibility of adopting length as the key criterion for establishing specimens for certain marine species. This would relieve charter angling boat skippers of the need to return to shore for weighing of specimens which is necessary as on-board weighing is totally inaccurate. Information on blue shark and tope length-weight relationships are currently being collated to review the possibilities regarding the use of length. There are several potential difficulties associated with this approach – males and females in many species grow at different rates and the problem of measuring length of large fish accurately. If these investigations prove satisfactory a new category "conservation specimen" might be introduced.

As I write this review it has just been announced that sea anglers may have to report their catches to the EU under the Common Fisheries Policy. The proposal is currently in draft form and anglers should appraise themselves of the new proposal.

Without the generous financial and administrative support of the Central Fisheries Board and the funding from Marine Institute, Fáilte Ireland, the Loughs Agency and the Eastern and South-Western Regional Fisheries Boards, and anglers, the work of the Committee would not be possible. Thank you to all for your continuing support.

Trevor Champ

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trevor Champ".

Chairman

18th December, 2008

# Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2008

## Introduction

In 2008 the ISFC received 535 claims. 502 were ratified, including four new records. A total of 6 was rejected for non-compliance with the rules and a further 27 are being queried. Details of the new records, other special awards and the specimen awards 2008 are listed below:

### NEW IRISH RECORDS

(Engraved silver medal)

For fish exceeding the current Irish record weight



***BLUEMOUTH** – Sue Tait from Cork with her new record of 1.32 kg taken off Caherciveen on 28th July 2008*

***BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH** – Hamish Currie from Cushendall with his new record of 1.276 kg taken in Red Bay on 19th January 2008*







*SPUR DOGFISH – Arie de Koning from Arkel, Holland with his new record of 10.319 kg taken in Red Bay on 15th July 2008*



*HERRING – Hamish Currie from Cushendall with his new record of 0.454 kg taken in Red Bay on 5th June 2008*

## SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES

### 20 SPECIES AWARD (Engraved plaque)

**Ian Mulligan, Portarlington, Co. Laois:**

- 1996 Twaite Shad  
 2000 Smooth Hound, Bream, Roach/Bream Hybrid  
 2002 Ballan Wrasse, Rudd/Bream Hybrid, Carp, Painted Ray, River Pike, Perch  
 2003 Red Gurnard, Tench

- 2004 Dace, Lake Pike  
 2005 Coalfish  
 2006 River Brown Trout, Spur Dogfish  
 2007 Ling  
 2008 Bass, Grey Mullet

### 10 SPECIES AWARD (Engraved bronze medal)

**Hamish Currie, Cushendall, Co. Antrim:**

- 2004 Spur Dogfish, Pollack  
 2005 Cuckoo Wrasse  
 2006 Blonde Ray, Lesser Spotted Dogfish

- 2007 Greater Spotted Dogfish, Tope  
 2008 Herring, Conger Eel, Blackmouthed Dogfish

**Pat Dalton, Cannon Street, Waterford:**

- 1987 Flounder  
 1989 Carp, Ballan Wrasse  
 1992 Twaite Shad  
 1993 Three Bearded Rockling  
 1997 Grey Mullet

- 1999 Rudd/Bream Hybrid  
 2004 Roach  
 2007 Roach/Bream Hybrid  
 2008 Rudd

**Pierce Moran, Ayrfield, Dublin 13:**

- 1990 Spur Dogfish  
 1992 Pouting  
 2000 Twaite Shad  
 2001 Perch

- 2002 River Pike, Lake Pike, Sea Trout  
 2005 Tench, Cuckoo Wrasse  
 2008 Greater Spotted Dogfish

### 50 SPECIMENS AWARD (Gold badge)

**Ray Bannerman, Castleknock, Dublin 15, has caught 50 specimen fish up to 2008 including:**

- Thornback Ray - 1976  
 Plaice - 1978  
 Lesser Spotted Dogfish - 1982  
 2 Flounder - 1983 & 1994  
 Greater Spotted Dogfish - 1984  
 6 Smooth Hound - 1984 to 1992  
 20 Twaite Shad - 1984 to 2008  
 2 Bream - 1985  
 Tope - 1986

- 2 River Pike - 1992 & 2005  
 Grey Mullet - 1993  
 River Brown Trout - 1996  
 3 Roach/Bream Hybrid - 1999 to 2000  
 Rudd/Bream - 1999  
 Ling - 2000  
 3 Tench - 2004 to 2006  
 2 Carp, Eel, Ballan Wrasse - 2008

### 10 SPECIMENS AWARD (Silver tie-pin)

- Mark Byrne, Kilmessan, Co. Meath**  
**Robert Creber, Passage West, Cork**  
**Tony Cotter, Farranree, Cork**  
**Eric Gosnell, Blackrock, Cork**  
**Philip Horgan, Mahon, Cork**  
**Nicholas McAlorum, Bangor, Co. Down**  
**Robert McFarland, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim**

- Colin O'Dowling, Frankfield, Cork**  
**Thomas O'Mahony, Butlerstown, Co. Waterford**  
**Pat O'Shea, Bellvue, Cobh, Co. Cork**  
**Martyn Rayner, Annestown, Co. Waterford**  
**Liam Ryan, Ferrybank, Waterford**  
**Tony Tait, Midleton, Co. Cork**

**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. This award, the Kennedy Award, is for the best specimen mullet of the year (either species) and is based on the highest percentage of the current record.

The 2008 award goes to

**Paul Harris**, Adrigole, Co. Cork for his THICK LIPPED MULLET of 3.175 kg taken at Adrigole, Beara Peninsula on 6th September 2008.

**DR. A.E.J. WENT AWARD** (Engraved plaque and 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.

The 2008 award goes to

**Ronan O'Sullivan**, Timoleague, Co. Cork for a COALFISH of 10.977 kg fishing out of Courtmacsherry on 8th August 2008

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

Inaugurated by the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, this "fish of a lifetime" award is for the best specimen fish of the year (other than a new record), and is presented to the angler who catches a fish which represents the highest percentage of the existing record.

The 2008 award goes to

**Peter Ireland**, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim for a Spur Dogfish of 10.092 kg in Red Bay on 26th July 2008

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

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

The 2008 award goes to

**Cedric Boston**, 48 Thistlewaite Road, London, ES 0QQ for a Brown Trout (River) of 5.02 kg taken in the Cong River on 3rd July 2008.



**SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2008**

Date of capture 2008 unless otherwise stated  
(Overseas anglers and juvenile anglers (J) are flagged)

**FRESHWATER FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2008****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>
4.808	Corgar Lake	12-May	Keith Mooney	Worm
4.026	River Barrow, Carlow	28-Jun	Oliver Doyle	Worm
3.969	River Barrow, Carlow	02-Jun	Gary Doyle	Worm
3.95	Garadice Lough	25-Jun	Christopher Moore (UK)	Worm/Maggots
3.856	Ballycullinan Lake	17-May	Nick Parry	Bread
3.827	Lough Ree	30-May	Ross Macklin	Corn
3.714	Lough Ree	01-Jul	Nick Parry	Maggots
3.572	Lough Ree	30-May	Ross Macklin	Corn
3.459	Lough Kinale	05-May	David Jaggars	Maggots



*Keith Mooney with his excellent specimen Bream from Corgar Lake*

**CARP****Record 29 lbs 13 ozs (13.53 kg); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>M E T H O D</u>
12.19	The Lough, Cork	23-Apr	Tony Cotter	Boilie
10.263	The Lough	03-May	Mark Byrne	Boilie
10.16	The Lough	10-Oct	Keith Mooney	Boilie
8.817	The Lough	04-May	Mark Byrne	Boilie
8.618	The Lough	19-Oct	Keith Aherne	Boilie
8.618	The Lough	15-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
8.618	The Lough	24-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
8.505	The Lough	06-Sep	Robert Elliott	Boilie
8.335	The Lough	04-May	Mark Byrne	Boilie
8.165	The Lough	22-Aug	Tony Cotter	Boilie
7.938	The Lough	07-Sep	Derick O'Brien (J)	Boilie
7.847	The Lough	10-Oct	Keith Mooney	Boilie
7.824	The Lough	22-Aug	Tony Cotter	Boilie
7.8	The Lough	19-Oct	Terry Jackson	Boilie
7.768	The Lough	03-Sep	Ross Macklin	Boilie/Corn
7.711	The Lough	11-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
7.575	The Lough	05-Mar	Ray Bannerman	Boilie
7.575	The Lough	28-Apr	Ray Bannerman	Boilie
7.484	The Lough	10-Oct	Derick O'Brien	Boilie
7.484	The Lough	03-Sep	Ross Macklin	Boilie/Corn
7.399	The Lough	23-Apr	Con Cronin	Boilie
7.371	The Lough	11-Sep	Jonathan Murray	Maggots
7.314	The Lough	03-Sep	Ross Macklin	Boilie/Corn
7.257	The Lough	26-Oct	Derick O'Brien	Boilie
7.257	The Lough	26-Oct	Keith Aherne	Boilie
7.25	The Lough	19-Oct	Terry Jackson	Maize
7.031	The Lough	22-Feb	Dan Lynch	Boilie
7.031	The Lough	07-Sep	Robert Elliott	Boilie
6.894	The Lough	10-Oct	Keith Mooney	Boilie
6.889	The Lough	22-Feb	Dan Lynch	Boilie
6.804	The Lough	17-Oct	Keith Aherne	Sweetcorn
6.591	Grand Canal, Portobello	29-May	Owen McGuinness	Boilie
6.577	The Lough	11-Sep	Jonathan Murray	Sweetcorn
6.492	The Lough	23-Apr	Eric Gosnell	Boilie
6.294	The Lough	01-May	Eric Gosnell	Boilie
6.25	The Lough	19-Oct	Terry Jackson	Corn
6.237	The Lough	10-Oct	Mandy O'Brien	Boilie
6.237	The Lough	07-Sep	Robert Elliott	Boilie



*Mandy O'Brien with a Common Carp  
taken in October*



*Specimen Carp for  
Derek O'Brien and  
Keith Aherne*



*Belvelly Lake in  
Cobh yielded two  
specimen Carp for  
Gary Robinson in  
2008*

*Eric Gosnell with a  
Common Carp from  
the Lough in May*



**CARP – continued**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.237	The Lough, Cork	17-Sep	Colin O'Dowling	Boilie
6.152	Belvelly Lake, Cobh	12-Sep	Gary Robinson	Boilie
6.123	The Lough	28-Feb	Michael Hennessy	Boilie
6.123	The Lough	22-Feb	Dan Lynch	Boilie
6.081	G.Canal, Harolds Cross Br.	13-Jul	Owen McGuinness	Dog biscuits
5.953	The Lough	13-Apr	Ciaran Barry	Boilie
5.925	The Lough	28-Feb	Pat Condon	Boilie
5.727	Belvelly Lake	26-Aug	Gary Robinson	Dog biscuits
5.642	The Lough	25-May	Eric Gosnell	Boilie

**EEL**

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

2.126	The Lough, Cork	27-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Rudd
1.588	The Lough	27-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Meat
1.361	The Lough	06-Mar	Ray Bannerman	Boilie/Worm



*The Lough  
produced this Eel  
for Sidney Kennedy*

## 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>
1.247	River Barrow, Athy	10-Mar	Pierce Moran, Snr	Worms

## PIKE (LAKE)

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

13.721	Lough Allen	24-Mar	David Jagers	Mackerel
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## PIKE (RIVER)

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

12.927	R. Suck, Ballyforan	12-Jan	John Millerick	Mackerel
12.077	R. Inny, Inny Bridge	25-Mar	Ian Mulligan	Sardines
11.623	R. Shannon, Rooskey	02-Jan	Derek Greene	Sardine
11.113	R. Barrow, Athy	06-Jul	Derek O'Bryan	Roach



*The Nore produced this specimen  
for David Walsh*

*Owen McGuinness with a 9.355 kg Pike  
from the River Barrow in mid January*

**PIKE (RIVER) – continued**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
10.546	R. Shannon, Rooskey	05-Jan	Derek Greene	Sardine
10.177	R. Barrow, Athy	10-Sep	Derek O'Bryan	Roach
10.0	R. Blackwater, Moy	30-Nov	Terry Jackson	Dead bait
9.979	R. Suck, Ballyforan	23-Dec-07	Daniel O'Callaghan	Roach
9.979	R. Barrow, Monasterevin	21-Oct	Chris Barror	Roach
9.866	R. Suck, Ballinasloe	19-Apr	Emmet Bolger	Pollan
9.752	R. Barrow, Bagenalstown	29-Jan	Owen McGuinness	Smelt
9.667	R. Barrow, Monasterevin	30-Jun	Derek O'Bryan	Roach
9.639	R. Shannon, Newtownforbes	08-Nov	Gerry Maguire	Trout
9.384	R. Barrow, Bagenalstown	26-Oct	Padraig Nolan	Joey Mackerel
9.355	R. Inny, Ballinalack	18-Mar	Ian Mulligan	Trout
9.355	R. Barrow, Bagenalstown	18-Jan	Owen McGuinness	Mackerel
9.299	R. Shannon, Athlone	30-Aug	Emmet Bolger	Replicant lure
9.299	R. Suck, Ballyforan	09-Sep	Clyde McElwaine	Roach
9.242	Lower R. Bann, Newferry	18-Dec-07	Garry Gregg	Mackerel
9.185	R. Barrow, Bagenalstown	26-Jan	Owen McGuinness	Smelt
9.072	R. Nore, Durrow	02-Mar	David Walsh	Smelt



*Terry Jackson took  
his specimen Pike  
on 30th November in  
the River Blackwater*

**ROACH**

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

0.96	River Barrow, St. Mullins	03-May	Jim Sloan	Maggots
0.907	River Barrow, Borris	23-Mar	Brian Cooke	Maggots
0.907	River Barrow, Borris	09-Feb	Jim Murray	Maggots





*Jim Sloan had the heaviest specimen Roach in 2008*

## ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.062	Lough Derravaragh	29-May-07	Ian Mulligan	Worm
3.005	Lough Derravaragh	23-Apr-07	John Millerick	Maggots
2.906	Lough Ree	26-Apr	Nick Parry	Maggots
2.863	Lough Ree	24-Apr	Nick Parry	Maggots
2.835	Lough Derravaragh	23-Apr-07	John Millerick	Maggots
2.722	Lough Ree	08-May	Nick Parry	Maggots
2.551	Lough Derravaragh	29-May-07	Ian Mulligan	Worm
1.814	Galloncurra Lake	04-May	James Bourke	Worm/Maggots
1.786	R. Barrow, Graiguenamanagh	27-May-07	Ross Macklin	Maggots/Corn
1.74	Lr. River Bann - Toome	03-Jun	Jim Sloan	Maggots/Worm
1.66	R. Barrow, St. Mullins	19-Feb	Der Casey	Caster
1.62	R. Barrow, St. Mullins	30-Mar-07	Der Casey	Maggots/Corn

## RUDD

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

1.106	Carrigadrohid Res.	12-Jun	Pat Dalton	Maggots
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## RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

**Record 7 lbs 10 ozs (3.458 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg**

1.65	River Barrow, Athy	26-Oct	Liam Kane	Lobworm/Maggots
1.644	River Barrow, Carlow	19-Jul	Oliver Doyle	Sweetcorn
1.474	River Barrow, Carlow	19-Jul	Oliver Doyle	Sweetcorn



*Liam Kane had one of the few  
Rudd/Bream specimens*

## TENCH

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.402	Rahan's Lake	24-May	Ian Mulligan	Boilie
3.402	Rahan's Lake	01-Jun	Ross Macklin	Boilie/Corn
3.23	Ballyhoe Lake	04-Jun	Philip Connolly	Boilie
3.005	Rahan's Lake	25-May	Ian Mulligan	Boilie
2.977	Lough Kinale	05-May	David Jagers	Maggots
2.96	Monalty Lake	14-Jun	Bernard Murray	Maggots/Sweetcorn
2.95	Ballyhoe Lake	05-Jun	Philip Connolly	Boilie
2.948	Rahan's Lake	02-May	John Millerick	Maggots
2.948	Drumgorman Lake	06-Jul	Keith Mooney	Corn
2.92	Ballyhoe Lake	24-May	Niall Mallin	Fake Maggots
2.892	Rahan's Lake	01-Jun	Ross Macklin	Boilie
2.812	Drumgorman Lake	05-Jul	Keith Mooney	Maggots
2.792	Derreen Lough	14-Jun	Derek Greene	Sweetcorn
2.778	Derreen Lough	14-Jun	Derek Greene	Sweetcorn
2.778	Rahan's Lake	01-Jun	Ross Macklin	Boilie/Corn
2.778	Lough Rynn	01-Jun	Clyde McElwaine	Worm
2.75	Derreen Lough	14-Jun	Glenn Greene	Sweetcorn

*Dubliner Keith Mooney  
admires his specimen  
Tench from  
Drumgorman Lake*



## 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>
9.295	River Corrib	29-Apr	Willie Brown	Flying C

### BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

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

6.065	Lough Corrib	13-Jun	Donal Monahan	Roach
5.756	Lough Mask	04-Jun	Alan Marshall	Rapala
5.674	Lough Corrib	12-Sep	Robin Syme	Wetfly
5.534	Lough Corrib	08-Jun	Bobby Geraghty (J)	Roach
5.46	Lough Corrib	06-Jun	Donal Monahan	Roach
5.125	Lough Corrib	05-Aug	Paul Delaney	Roach
5.103	Lough Mask	29-Apr	Martin Reuter (D)	Spinner
5.058	Lough Leane	28-Feb	Bob O'Connor	Minnow
5.0	Lough Corrib	24-Sep	Ian Garratt	Roach
4.876	Lough Derg, Killaloe	21-Sep	Gerard McKeogh	Roach
4.8	Lough Corrib	15-May	S.D.M. Watson (UK)	Frenzy
4.72	Lough Derg, Killaloe	14-Sep	Gerard McKeogh	Roach
4.686	Lough Corrib	24-Jun	Brendan Kineavy	Toby
4.678	Lough Derg	28-May	Gerard McKeogh	Roach

### BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

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

5.983	Cong River	08-Mar	David Campbell	Worm
5.02	Cong River	03-Jul	Cedric Boston (UK)	Shrimp
4.19	Cavan River	21-Apr	Patrick Quinn	Mepps
3.896	River Clare	02-Jul	Shane Flaherty	Fly
3.629	River Lee	13-Sep	Richard Barry	Fly
3.352	Cong River	04-Aug	Enda Scahill	Worm
3.09	Cong River	03-Jul-07	Russell Taylor	Lure
3.06	River Clare	09-May	Jan Tinnemans (NL)	Roach
2.948	River Flesk	25-Jun	Frank O'Sullivan	Copper Toby



*The Cong River produced a specimen trout for Russell Taylor in July 2007*

### **BROWN TROUT (RIVER) – continued**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.814	River Clare	16-Jul	Pat O'Farrell	Fly
2.5	Cong Canal	18-Jun	Enda Scahill	Worm
2.466	River Boyne	28-May	Eamon Ward	Fly

### **SEA TROUT**

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

4.804	Lough Currane	08-May	Gary Humphrey (UK)	Fly
4.72	Lough Currane	13-Jul	John Andrew	Fly
4.186	Lough Currane	31-Aug	Roy Williams (UK)	Fly
4.16	Lough Currane	30-May	Martin Evans (UK)	Fly
4.018	Lough Currane	22-May	Mark Maley (UK)	Fly
3.962	Lough Currane	07-May	David Eccleston (UK)	Fly
3.48	Lough Currane	04-Apr	P. J. Keating	Peter Ross
3.454	Lough Currane	22-Apr-07	David O'Hagan	Lukki

SEA TROUT – continued

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.418	Lough Currane	13-May	Vincent Appleby	Trout Rapala
3.364	Lough Currane	24-Jul	Brendan Spillane	Fly
3.222	Lough Currane	28-May	Jim Sayers	Fly
3.192	Lough Currane	26-Jun	Michael Murphy	Fly
3.175	Lough Currane	20-Apr	Sean M. Smith (UK)	Fly
3.138	Lough Currane	02-Aug	John Young	Fly
3.118	Lough Currane	13-Sep	Willem Timmermans (NL)	Toby
3.116	Lough Currane	08-May	Toby Mutschler	Fly
2.94	Lough Currane	16-Sep	Toby Mutschler	Fly
2.784	Lough Currane	25-May	Peter Maxey (UK)	Fly
2.762	Lough Currane	01-May	John Griffin	Rapala
2.758	Lough Currane	09-Jun	Alistair Martin (UK)	Fly



*A bemused specimen Three Bearded Rockling, caught by Philip Fox, before its release*

## MARINE FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2008

BASS

Record 17 lbs 13 ozs (8.08 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.0	Laytown	12-Oct	Tommy Duffy	Razorfish
5.969	Rossbeigh Strand	09-Feb	Jason O'Sullivan	Squid
5.755	Saleens, Tramore	13-Sep	Nicky McEvoy	Sandeel
5.252	Dunanny Beach	29-Jul	James Condra	Lugworm/Mussel
5.075	Ballyteigue Bay	06-Nov	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
5.014	Kilmore Quay	28-Sep	Stephen Kelly	Rapala
4.99	Tramore	10-Aug-07	Patrick Byrne	Lugworm
4.9	Brandon Bay	24-Apr	Michael Walsh	Lugworm
4.82	East Ferry	20-Jun	Denis Foley	Flying C
4.763	Saleens, Tramore	13-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Sandeel
4.678	Ballybrannigan	27-Nov	Pat O'Shea	Lugworm

*Saleens was the venue for Nicky McEvoy's specimen Bass in September*



## BLUEMOUTH

### New Record 1.32 kg; Specimen Weight 0.9 kg

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.32	Caherciveen	28-Jul	Sue Tait	Mackerel
1.04	Caherciveen	08-Aug	Ken Hegarty	Mackerel
1.04	Caherciveen	07-Jun	Denis O'Shea	Mackerel Strip
0.97	Caherciveen	08-Aug	Denis O'Shea	Mackerel
0.96	Caherciveen	28-Jul	Tony Tait	Mackerel
0.92	Caherciveen	28-Jul	Martyn Rayner	Mackerel Strip

## COALFISH

### Record 15.1 kg; Specimen Weight 6.804 kg

11.385	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	Michael Doody (UK)	Shad
11.158	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	Theo Speet (NL)	Pilker
10.977	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	Ronan O'Sullivan (J)	Pirk
10.705	Courtmacsherry	02-Jun	Martin Langeveld (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
10.251	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	Niall O'Sullivan	Pirk
9.435	Courtmacsherry	14-Aug	Daan Oprea (NL)	Shad
9.242	Courtmacsherry	10-Jun	Dan Lynch	Side winder
9.208	Courtmacsherry	14-Aug	Rini Anemaet (NL)	Sandeel
8.936	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	Michael Doody (UK)	Shad
8.89	Courtmacsherry	14-Aug	Rinus Hage (NL)	Shad
8.528	Courtmacsherry	14-Aug	Rinus Hage (NL)	Shad
8.278	Courtmacsherry	10-Jun	Dan Lynch	Side winder
8.165	Courtmacsherry	14-Aug	Rinus Hage (NL)	Shad
8.051	Courtmacsherry	15-Jun	James Walsh	Shad
7.711	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	Jaap Noordermeer (NL)	Pilker
7.394	Courtmacsherry	02-Jun	Martin Kok (NL)	Pilker
7.348	Courtmacsherry	13-Jun	Ben Kraayvanger (NL)	Lure
7.121	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	Sander Plooster (NL)	Pilker
6.895	Courtmacsherry	13-Jun	Niall O'Sullivan	Pirk
6.861	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	John Barnes (UK)	Shad
6.804	Kinsale	09-Jun	Jim Clohessy	Shad



*Mike Doody took his specimen Coalfish fishing out of Courtmacsherry*

## 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>
14.12	Guileen	26-Sep	Edward Howard	Mackerel Strip
10.614	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	Peter Van Marion (NL)	Shad
9.752	Reen	27-Aug	Ray O'Sullivan	Shad
9.214	Union Hall	28-Jul-07	Denis McCarthy	Shad



*One of the few specimen Cod taken in 2008 fell to Peter van Marion from the Netherlands*

## 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>
22.283	Red Bay	26-Aug	David Cherry	Mackerel/Herring
21.404	Red Bay	29-Jun	Steven McCrindle	Mackerel
20.979	Red Bay	16-Feb	Connor McNeill	Coalfish
19.76	Red Bay	15-Feb	Hamish Currie	Coalfish
19.59	Red Bay	17-Feb	Peter McFarland	Coalfish Flapper
19.164	Red Bay	30-Jan	Nigel Bell	Herring
19.108	Red Bay	08-Oct	Pieter W. Kleijn (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
18.796	Red Bay	07-Sep	David Cherry	Mackerel
18.484	Red Bay	30-Jan	Hamish Currie	Herring

## BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH

**New Record 1.276 kg; Specimen Weight 1.0 kg**

1.276	Red Bay	19-Jan	Hamish Currie	Herring
1.162	Red Bay	23-Sep	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel Fillet
1.134	Red Bay	10-Oct	Pieter W. Kleijn (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
1.106	Red Bay	06-Jan	Mark Woodside	Mackerel
1.106	Red Bay	07-Sep	Trevor George	Mackerel
1.077	Red Bay	29-Jun	Richard Barr	Mackerel
1.077	Red Bay	07-Sep	Hugo McSorley	Mackerel
1.077	Red Bay	08-Sep	Robert McFarland	Mackerel
1.077	Red Bay	23-Sep	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel Fillet
1.077	Red Bay	08-Oct	Paul Dijkman (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
1.049	Red Bay	11-Jul	Arie de Koning (NL)	Mackerel
1.049	Red Bay	27-Sep	Piet Roest (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
1.025	Carnlough	05-Aug-07	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
1.025	Carnlough	05-Aug-07	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
1.025	Carnlough	31-Jul-07	David Craig	Mackerel
1.021	Red Bay	14-Mar	Paul McCullough	Mackerel
1.021	Red Bay	17-Feb	Gary Morrow	Mackerel
1.021	Red Bay	31-Mar	Richard McAlorum	Mackerel
1.0	Carnlough	06-Jan	Michael McGympsey	Squid



*Red Bay was prolific for several species including Blackmouthed Dogfish, a new species to the ISFC listings in 2008. Paul Dijkman had this specimen in October.*



*David Craig had his specimen fishing out of Carnlough*

## LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.71	Cork Harbour	17-Sep	Tony Tait	Mackerel
1.6	Cork Harbour	19-Jul	Ken Hegarty	Mackerel
1.588	Cork Harbour	03-Aug	Philip Horgan	Mackerel
1.559	Kenmare Bay	14-Sep	John Fitzgerald	Mackerel
1.531	Red Bay	09-Nov	George Leslie	Baited Feathers
1.525	Ballintoy	13-Jul	Dessy Young	Mackerel Strip
1.525	Ballycastle	10-Aug	Dessy Young	Mackerel Strip
1.52	Cork Harbour	07-Sep	Sue Tait	Mackerel



*Lesser Spotted Dogfish are appearing more frequently on the specimen listings –  
David McCormick had this one when fishing out of Ballycastle*

### LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH – *continued*

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.503	Ballycastle	10-Mar	David McCormick	Mackerel/Squid
1.503	Ballycastle	16-Nov	Ronald Surgenor	Squid
1.497	Larne	06-Nov	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel/Squid
1.49	Caherciveen	26-Jul	Donal O'Mahony	Mackerel Strip
1.488	Cork Harbour	28-Sep	David McCormick	Mackerel
1.474	Ballycastle	17-Feb	David McCormick	Mackerel/Squid

### GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

10.492	Kenmare Bay	14-Oct-07	Gerrit Noordkamp	Mackerel Strip
8.958	Red Bay	13-Oct	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel
8.675	Red Bay	15-Jun	Hamish Currie	Coalfish
8.505	Red Bay	07-Jun	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
8.448	Red Bay	20-Jul	Louis Anidjah (J)	Mackerel baited feathers

**GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH – continued**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
8.391	Kenmare Bay	07-Sep	Johan Verschuren (NL)	Mackerel
8.346	Kenmare Bay	28-Jun	David Sambrook	Mackerel
8.306	Red Bay	11-Oct	Scott Quee	Mackerel Flapper
8.023	Red Bay	07-Jun	Chris Hanna	Mackerel
7.87	Howth	20-Aug	Pierce Moran	Mackerel
7.796	Red Bay	09-Oct	Hans Dijkman (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
7.768	Red Bay	13-Oct	Richard McAlorum	Mackerel
7.768	Kenmare Bay	28-Jun	Barry Turner	Mackerel
7.711	Red Bay	01-Jun	Paul McAllister	Mackerel
7.711	Red Bay	13-Sep	Ian Jones	Mackerel
7.575	Kenmare Bay	20-Jul	Willem Van Leeuwen (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.541	Red Bay	07-Oct	David V. Nieuwenhuizen (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
7.52	Kenmare Bay	07-Sep	Matthias De Muynck (B)	Mackerel Fillet
7.439	Kenmare Bay	07-Aug	Christiaan Pluim (NL)	Mackerel
7.428	Red Bay	07-Jun	Gareth Devine	Mackerel
7.314	Red Bay	07-Jun	Gareth Devine	Mackerel

**SPUR DOGFISH****New Record 10.319 kg; Specimen Weight 5.443 kg**

10.319	Red Bay	15-Jul	Arie de Koning (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
10.092	Red Bay	26-Jul	Peter Ireland	Mackerel
10.007	Red Bay	29-Jun	Richard Barr	Mackerel
9.979	Red Bay	26-Jul	Peter Ireland	Mackerel
9.525	Red Bay	20-Jan	Robert McFarland	Mackerel
9.525	Red Bay	14-Aug	James Perkins	Mackerel Flapper
9.214	Red Bay	26-Jul	Tony Tierney	Mackerel
9.157	Red Bay	28-Aug	Hamish Currie	Mackerel Flapper
8.817	Red Bay	09-Aug	Eamon McErlean	Mackerel
8.76	Red Bay	09-Jun	Thomas Ainsworth (UK)	Mackerel
8.754	Kenmare Bay	12-Jul	Gerard van der Knijff (NL)	Mackerel
8.25	Red Bay	15-Jul	Arian Huijbregts (NL)	Mackerel
8.023	Red Bay	11-May	Arron Gracey	Mackerel
7.938	Red Bay	11-May	Darren Guy	Mackerel
7.881	Red Bay	11-May	Gary Morrow	Mackerel
7.853	Red Bay	13-Sep	Connor McNeill	Mackerel
7.853	Red Bay	09-Oct	Pieter W Kleijn (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
7.847	Kenmare Bay	12-Jul	Gerard van der Knijff (NL)	Mackerel





*Spurdog dominated the 2008 specimen listings – Christy Lane had his specimen fishing Kenmare Bay in May*

### SPUR DOGFISH – continued

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
7.824	Red Bay	11-May	Steven McCrindle	Mackerel
7.824	Red Bay	09-Aug	Eamon McErlean	Mackerel
7.802	Kenmare Bay	13-May	Erik Van Hecke (B)	Mackerel Flapper
7.8	Ballycastle	03-Aug	Philip Oliver	Mackerel Fillet
7.796	Red Bay	14-Sep	Martin McClure	Mackerel Flapper
7.768	Red Bay	17-Jul	Kieran Murray	Mackerel Flapper
7.711	Red Bay	14-Mar	Paul McCullough	Herring
7.513	Red Bay	16-Jul	Hamish Currie	Mackerel Flapper
7.456	Red Bay	07-Oct	Paul Dijkman (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
7.399	Red Bay	11-Aug	Peter Ireland	Mackerel
7.343	Red Bay	11-May	Peter McFarland	Mackerel
7.286	Red Bay	28-Feb	Nigel McKinstrey	Coalfish Fillet
7.286	Ballycastle	13-Jul	David McCormick	Mackerel
7.144	Red Bay	11-Jun	Thomas Foster (UK)	Mackerel
7.087	Red Bay	14-Jun	Trevor George	Mackerel
7.031	Red Bay	09-Jun	Tom Carlile (UK)	Mackerel
7.031	Red Bay	28-Jun	John Ryan	Mackerel
7.0	Ballycastle	29-Jun	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Fillet
6.974	Red Bay	11-May	Darren Guy	Mackerel

**SPUR DOGFISH – *continued***

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.895	Kenmare Bay	11-May	Michael Hennessy	Mackerel
6.832	Red Bay	20-Jan	Robert McFarland	Mackerel
6.832	Red Bay	16-Feb	Tommy Preston	Mackerel
6.832	Red Bay	16-Jul	Hamish Currie	Mackerel Flapper
6.7	Ballycastle	13-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Fillet
6.622	Kenmare Bay	21-Jul	Gijs Janse (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
6.577	Ballycastle	20-Jul	David Shilliday	Mackerel Strip
6.549	Kenmare Bay	08-Aug	Ko de Nood (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
6.407	Red Bay	20-Jan	Nigel Bell	Herring
6.407	Red Bay	15-Jul	Ad Koekkoek (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
6.4	Ballycastle	13-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Fillet
6.379	Red Bay	08-Aug	David Rea	Mackerel Flapper
6.379	Red Bay	10-Aug	Nigel Bell	Mackerel Flapper
6.35	Red Bay	11-May	Peter McFarland	Mackerel
6.35	Ballycastle	17-Jul	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel Fillet
6.294	Kenmare Bay	24-May	Christy Lane	Mackerel
6.265	Ballycastle	14-Sep	Brian Foster	Mackerel Strip
6.24	Ballycastle	29-Jun	Andrew Galloway	Mackerel
6.2	Ballycastle	14-Jul	William F McLaughlin	Mackerel
6.18	Ballycastle	20-Jul	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel Flapper
6.152	Ballycastle	05-Feb	David McCormick	Mackerel/Squid
6.095	Red Bay	08-Aug	Joe McBride	Mackerel Fillet
6.078	Kenmare Bay	11-May-07	Michael Hennessy	Mackerel
6.038	Red Bay	28-Apr	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel
6.038	Red Bay	26-Jul	Peter McFarland	Mackerel
6.01	Kenmare Bay	04-Jun-07	Michael Hennessy	Mackerel
6.01	Red Bay	27-Jul	Hugo McSorley	Mackerel
6.01	Red Bay	08-Aug	William Watson	Mackerel Fillet
5.982	Red Bay	16-Feb	Killian Farrelly	Mackerel
5.953	Red Bay	14-Mar	Paul McCullough	Herring
5.953	Ballycastle	17-Jul	Steven Hill	Mackerel Fillet
5.953	Ballycastle	17-Jul	Neil Thompson	Mackerel
5.95	Carnlough	10-Aug	David Craig	Mackerel
5.925	Red Bay	11-May	Robert McFarland	Mackerel
5.925	Red Bay	11-Aug	David Cherry	Mackerel Flapper
5.925	Red Bay	27-Aug	Richard McAlorum	Mackerel Flapper
5.84	Red Bay	26-Jul	David Cherry	Mackerel
5.806	Brandon Bay	21-Aug	Robert McClean	Mackerel
5.8	Ballycastle	13-Jul	Michael McGympsey	Mackerel Fillet

**SPUR DOGFISH – *continued***

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
5.8	Ballycastle	03-Aug	Michael McGympsey	Mackerel Fillet
5.783	Red Bay	14-Jul	Arian Huijbregts (NL)	Mackerel
5.727	Red Bay	07-Sep	David McMullen	Mackerel
5.727	Ballycastle	17-Jul	Neil Thompson	Mackerel Fillet
5.698	Red Bay	27-Jul	Eamon McErlean	Mackerel
5.698	Red Bay	17-Sep	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel
5.698	Red Bay	28-Sep	Piet Roest (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
5.67	Ballycastle	14-Sep	David Shilliday	Mackerel Strip
5.642	Ballycastle	13-Jul	David McCormick	Mackerel
5.613	Red Bay	11-May	Steven McCrindle	Mackerel
5.613	Ballycastle	13-Jul	Ronald Surgenor	Mackerel Fillet
5.588	Belfast Lough	12-Jan	Thomas Anyon	Mackerel/Squid
5.585	Red Bay	14-Jun	Brian Menary	Mackerel
5.557	Red Bay	11-May	Arron Gracey	Mackerel
5.557	Red Bay	14-Jul	Antonius de Jongh (NL)	Mackerel
5.557	Red Bay	27-Jul	David Cherry	Mackerel
5.5	Red Bay	11-May	Darren Guy	Mackerel
5.5	Red Bay	29-Jun	Tony Tierney	Mackerel

**FLOUNDER****Record 4.91 lbs (2.229 kg); Specimen Weight 1.1 kg**

1.446	Youghal	18-Nov	Bob Creber	Crab
1.28	Cork Harbour	16-Jul	Martyn Rayner	Peeler Crab
1.276	Youghal	14-Oct-07	Kevin McGowan	Crab
1.22	Youghal	02-Jan	Alan O'Dowling	Peeler Crab
1.219	Youghal	25-Oct	Philip Horgan	Crab
1.178	Youghal	09-Nov	Ciarán Geary (J)	Peeler Crab
1.14	Inch Bay	16-Apr	Stephen O'Neill	Crab
1.14	Youghal	11-Nov	Philip Horgan	Mussel
1.134	Youghal	15-Oct	Eric Gosnell	Peeler Crab
1.134	Cork Harbour	12-Jan	Dan Lynch	Lugworm
1.134	Argideen Estuary	26-Oct	Noel Lane	Crab
1.134	Courtmacsherry	25-Oct	Alan O'Dowling	Peeler Crab
1.134	Youghal	12-Nov	Colin O'Dowling	Crab
1.106	Youghal	29-Sep	Eric Gosnell	Crab
1.106	Courtmacsherry	25-Oct	Alan O'Dowling	Peeler Crab
1.1	Youghal	11-Nov	Philip Horgan	Crab



*The Flounder specimen weight was reduced to 1.1 kg for 2008 and the numbers of specimens increased.*

*Alan O'Dowling had this 1.22 kg fish in early January*

## GARFISH (*B. belone*)

Record 1.729 kg; Specimen Weight 1.021 kg

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.048	Courtmacsherry	08-Sep	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel Strip

## GREY GURNARD

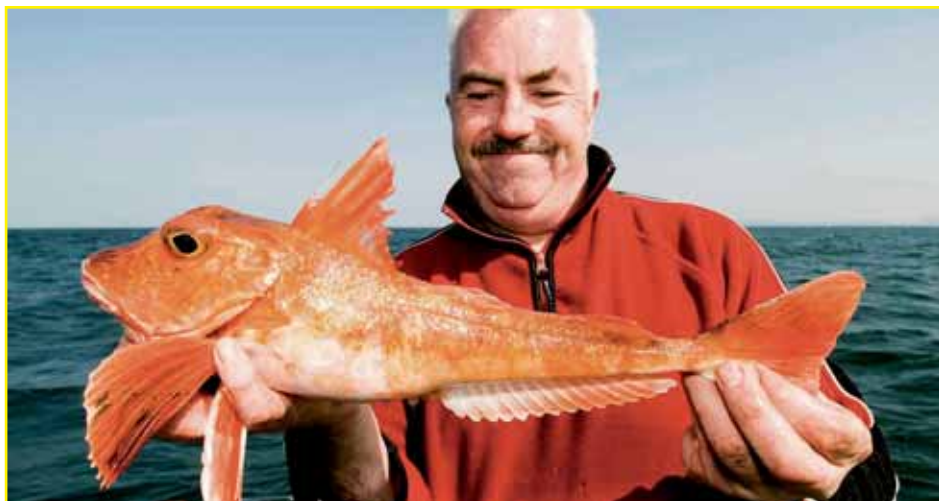
Record 3 lbs 1oz (1.389 kg); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg

0.7	Ballycotton	06-Apr	Philip Barry	Baited Muppet
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## RED GURNARD

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

1.098	Downings	19-Sep	Desmond Carson	Mackerel Strip
1.02	Cobh	19-Aug	Philip Lustig (UK)	Mackerel
0.962	Downings	24-May	Raymond Mills	Mackerel Strip
0.96	Cork Harbour	21-Sep	Tony Tait	Razorfish
0.95	Cork Harbour	21-Sep	Donal Domeney	Mackerel



*A Red Gurnard for Raymond Mills*

## 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>
3.012	Youghal	14-Aug-07	Damien Coulthard	Mackerel
2.313	Downings	30-Jul	Jeannette van den Berg (NL)	Mackerel Feathers



*Downings was the venue for Jeannette van den Berg's Tub Gurnard*

## HERRING

New Record 0.454 kg; Specimen Weight 0.34 kg

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.454	Red Bay	05-Jun	Hamish Currie	Shrimp rig
0.397	Red Bay	05-Jun	Hamish Currie	Shrimp rig
0.369	Red Bay	05-Jun	Hamish Currie	Shrimp rig



*The only specimen  
John Dory of 2008  
fell to Steve Allen*

## JOHN DORY

Record 7 lbs 8 ozs (3.4 kg); Specimen Weight 1.814 kg

1.845	Carrigaholt	10-Jun	Steve Allen (UK)	Mackerel
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## LING

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
19.448	Union Hall	18-May	Philip Horgan	Mackerel/Squid
17.35	Union Hall	18-May	Christy Barrett	Mackerel
14.742	Ballycotton	17-Feb	Donal O'Mahony	Mackerel Strip
12.474	Courtmacsherry	27-Jul	Kees Marteijs (NL)	Pilker
11.884	Castletownbere	04-Nov	Michael Hennessy	Mackerel/Squid
11.68	Courtmacsherry	30-Jul	Hans Drexler (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
11.48	Cork Harbour	17-Feb	Philip Horgan	Mackerel/Squid



*Philip Horgan had many specimens in 2008 including the heaviest specimen Ling*

## 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>
0.8	Cork Harbour	02-Nov	Philip Horgan	Crab/Mackerel

## THICK-LIPPED MULLET

**Record 9.1 lbs (4.128 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg**

3.175	Adrigole	06-Sep	Paul Harris	Mackerel
2.948	Wicklow Harbour	20-Jul	Des Chew	Bread
2.892	Broadmeadow River	09-Jul	John Millerick	Bread
2.75	Cork Harbour	03-Jul	Philip Horgan	Bread
2.654	Dundrum Bay	11-Oct	David Murdoch	Bread



*Des Chew had the second heaviest specimen mullet of 2008*

**THICK-LIPPED MULLET – *continued***

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.637	Vartry River	29-Jun	Padraic Clear	Bread
2.58	Rosscarbery	22-Jul	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.58	Rosscarbery	15-Jul	David Magee	Bread Flake
2.551	Cobh - Cork Harbour	08-Jun	Chris Hayes	Bread
2.523	Dingle	07-May	Noel Lane	Bread Crust
2.523	Wicklow Harbour	15-Sep	Des Chew	Bread
2.495	Cork Harbour	20-Jul	Christy Lane	Bread Flake
2.495	Wicklow Harbour	07-Jul	Brian Cooke	Bread Flake
2.472	Dundrum Bay	27-Sep	David Murdoch	Bread
2.427	Strangford Lough, Comber	28-Jul	David Murdoch	Bread Fly
2.381	Galway Docks	04-Aug	Jim Murray	Bread
2.325	Courtown Harbour	28-Sep	Evan Millerick (J)	Bread
2.325	Cork Harbour	22-Oct	Philip Horgan	Bread
2.325	Kilmore Quay	10-Oct	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.325	Rosscarbery	17-Jul	Cal Magee	Bread Flake
2.308	Rosscarbery	12-Oct	Chris Hayes	Bread
2.296	Wicklow Harbour	27-May	Des Chew	Bread
2.268	Wicklow Harbour	10-Jul	Brian Cooke	Bread Flake

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

0.82	Cork Harbour	20-Apr	Martyn Rayner	Ragworm
0.72	Cork Harbour	20-Apr	Martyn Rayner	Ragworm
0.709	Cork Harbour	15-May	Dan Lynch	Maddie

**RED MULLET****Record 0.71 kg; Specimen Weight 0.454 kg**

0.476	Dunmore	04-Sep	Jimmy Kelly	Crab
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*Mattie Foley with his specimen Pollack taken in November fishing out of Castletownbere*

## POLLACK

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.532	Castletownbere	04-Nov	Michael Hennessy	Artificial Eel
6.441	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	Michael Doody (UK)	Shad
6.214	Cork Harbour	18-Aug-07	Denis McCarthy	Shad
6.123	Crosshaven	20-Feb	Kenneth Murphy	Shad
6.0	Cobh	08-Jun	Alfons van den Berg (NL)	Shad
5.987	Castletownbere	04-Nov	Mattie Foley	Lure
5.755	Red Bay	22-Jun	David Cherry	Mackerel
5.715	Downings	21-Aug	Melvin Mertens (B) (J)	Leadhead
5.67	Courtmacsherry	19-Sep	Stephen de Fonbert	Mackerel
5.557	Red Bay	18-Sep	Hamish Currie	Shad
5.528	Courtmacsherry	08-Aug	Philip Barry	Storm Shad
5.5	Castletownbere	25-Sep	John Angles	Shad



*Red Bay yielded a specimen Pollack for David Cherry*

## HOMELYN RAY

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.359	Castletownbere	11-Oct	Derek O'Sullivan	Mackerel/Squid

## PAINTED RAY

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

5.302	Garryvoe	26-Oct	Pat O'Shea	Mackerel
5.103	Garryvoe	26-Sep	Michael Roche	Sandeel
4.593	Tralee Bay	26-Sep	Shay McLoughlin	Peeler Crab

## STING RAY

**Record 33.2 kg; Specimen Weight 13.608 kg**

26.5	Tralee Bay	22-May	Bert McGregor	Mackerel Strip
20.8	Tralee Bay	24-May	Bert McGregor	Mackerel Strip



*Garryvoe produced a Painted Ray  
for Pat O'Shea in October*



*A Homelyn Ray for  
Derek O'Sullivan*



*Bert McGregor had two  
specimen Sting Ray in 2008*



## THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.825	Arklow	24-Apr	Philip Fox	Mackerel
0.808	Ballycastle	06-Aug	Brenda McCormick	Mackerel

## SCAD

**Record 1.97 lbs (0.893 kg); Specimen Weight 0.67 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.72	Carrigaholt	26-Sep	Adrian Rahill	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>
1.304	R.Barrow, St. Mullins	11-May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.28	St. Mullins	06-May	Liam Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
1.276	St. Mullins	11-May	John Millerick	Tasmanian Devil
1.18	St. Mullins	10-May	Ray Bannerman	Tasmanian Devil



*The only specimen Scad for 2008 fell to Adrian Rahill*

**TWAITE SHAD – continued**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.162	St. Mullins	09-May	John Millerick	Tasmanian Devil
1.162	St. Mullins	17-May	Sidney Kennedy	Spinner
1.16	St. Mullins	04-May	Duncan Cole	Tasmanian Devil
1.14	St. Mullins	06-May	Liam Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
1.106	St. Mullins	09-May	John Millerick	Tasmanian Devil
1.106	St. Mullins	18-May	Brian Cooke	Tasmanian Devil
1.1	St. Mullins	06-May	Martyn Rayner	Tasmanian Devil
1.1	St. Mullins	05-May	Ronald Surgenor	Tasmanian Devil



*St. Mullins provided Ronald Surgenor with a specimen Twaité Shad in May*



*June on Ennereilly Beach produced a Starry Smooth-hound for James Walsh*

**SMOOTH-HOUND (*Mustelas asterias*)**

**Record 16.58 lbs (7.519 kg); Specimen Weight 3.175 kg**

6.01	Greystones	12-Jul	Patrick Byrne	Baited Hokkai
4.24	Rosslare	11-Sep-07	Gordon Henry Thornes (UK)	Crab
3.311	Ennereilly	25-Jun	James Walsh	Ragworm

## TOPE

**Record 66 lbs 8 ozs (30.159 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
24.04	Red Bay	02-Dec-07	Gary Morrow	Mackerel
21.829	Red Bay	08-Oct	Pieter W. Kleijn (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
21.376	Red Bay	19-Sep	Mark Woodside	Mackerel Flapper
20.95	Red Bay	18-Sep	Hamish Currie	Mackerel Fillet
20.95	Red Bay	07-Oct	Paul Dijkman (NL)	Mackerel
20.468	Red Bay	16-Sep	Richard McAlorum	Mackerel
20.44	Red Bay	31-Oct	Paul Woodside	Whiting
20.27	Red Bay	21-Sep	Darren Guy	Mackerel
20.043	Red Bay	25-Sep	Hans Maas (NL)	Mackerel
19.051	Culdaff	27-Jul	David McCormick	Mackerel Flapper
18.682	Red Bay	30-Jan	Nicholas McAlorum	Herring
18.6	Howth	15-Jun	Liam Tully	Mackerel

## WHITING

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

1.644	Castletownbere	23-Sep	Audrius Karosas	Mackerel
1.64	Carrigaholt	17-Oct	Martin O'Gorman	Mackerel
1.62	Carrigaholt	06-Aug	Marco Lagas (NL)	Rubber Eel
1.52	Carrigaholt	14-Jun	Declan Ryan	Mackerel
1.51	Carrigaholt	08-Sep	Lammert v. Lotten (NL)	Mackerel Strip
1.42	Carrigaholt	20-Sep	Ger Zanthoer (NL)	Mackerel



*Marco Lagas had a specimen Whiting fishing out of Carrigaholt*

## BALLAN WRASSE

**Record 4.3 kg; Specimen Weight 2.154 kg**

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.551	Kerry Head	25-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
2.495	Bridges of Ross, Co. Clare	16-Aug	David Ryan	Crab
2.495	Bealeice, Doonbeg	31-Aug	John Campbell (UK)	Crab
2.41	Carrigaholt	27-Apr	John Waldron	Baited Muppet
2.4	St. John's Point, Donegal	19-Jul	Garry Gregg	Ragworm
2.39	Crosshaven	12-Oct	Fergus Ward	Ragworm
2.345	Ballydavid	17-Aug	Nollaig Butler (J)	Crab
2.325	Kerry Head	25-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
2.313	Brandon Bay	09-Oct	Ray Bannerman	Crab
2.268	Bridges of Ross	14-Aug	Bill Ryan	Crab
2.155	Bridges of Ross	24-Sep	Edmond Dantes	Crab



*The rugged Clare coast was the venue for this Ballan Wrasse for Edmond Dantes*

## CUCKOO WRASSE

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.69	Kilmore Quay	20-Oct-07	Francis Hopkins	Hokkai/Mackerel
0.68	Ballycastle	09-Aug	David McCormick	Mackerel
0.671	Belmullet	03-Aug	Pat Ruddy	Mackerel Strip
0.667	Downings	17-Sep	Chris Spence (UK)	Mackerel Strip
0.65	Inis Oirr, Galway	17-Sep	Liam Kane	Peeler Crab
0.595	Ballycastle	09-Aug	David McCormick	Mackerel
0.595	Ballycastle	09-Aug	David McCormick	Mackerel
0.575	Ballycastle	20-Sep	Mark Baird	Mackerel Strip
0.57	Crosshaven	20-Oct	John O'Sullivan	Mackerel Strip



*A lovely Cuckoo Wrasse for  
Liam Kane from the waters  
off the Aran Islands*



*Ballycastle was the venue for  
Mark Baird's Cuckoo Wrasse*

## Special Notices

### IMPLICATIONS OF COARSE FISH BYE-LAW FOR ISFC and ANGLERS

In July 2006 the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources introduced a bye law titled CONSERVATION OF AND PROHIBITION ON SALE OF COARSE FISH BYE-LAW NO. 806, 2006 which provided 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 meant that the ISFC could not accept bodies of any coarse fish (dace, roach, rudd or any hybrids > 25 cm) 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 recognised 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 continue to claim specimen cyprinids. Arising from ongoing research into the dynamics of selected cyprinid species in some 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 cyprinid specimens commenced in 2007.

To support a claim, anglers were requested to submit a small sample of scales (3 scales) in a dry envelope (not in a plastic bag or tin foil) and good quality colour photographs. 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 required for each fish claimed.

Analysis continued in 2008 for all cyprinids requiring identification. Results showed clear differentiation and identifications have been made using a combination of these results and all photographic evidence received. Several fish were not as claimed which demonstrated the scope of the technique. Because of the success of this feasibility study, the Committee has decided that genetic fingerprinting will be the standard approach to identification of roach, rudd and their hybrids from 2009.

Several rudd/roach hybrids ( $\geq 1$  kg weight) were submitted during 2008. Three were claimed as roach but the analysis revealed a rudd component in each fish. The genetic fingerprinting technique presents an opportunity to include rudd/roach hybrids on ISFC listings and the Committee invites anglers to continue to submit claims for potential rudd/roach specimens  $\geq 1$  kg in weight.

### GENETIC FINGERPRINTING OF SHAD AND SMOOTH-HOUND

The success of ongoing collaborations between the ISFC, the Central Fisheries Board and the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin on shad (*Alosa* spp.) and smooth-hound (*Mustelas* spp.) means that shad and smooth-hounds will be identified by genetic



fingerprinting from 2009 onwards. This will eliminate the requirement for a body to be presented for both groups of fish.

For shad 3 scales are required. Scale storage and photographic requirements are described below.

For smooth-hounds, where two species (*M. asterias* and *M. mustelas*) need to be separated, a small piece of tissue (1cm x 1cm), from the trailing edge of the second dorsal fin, stored in an envelope and allowed to dry, will provide sufficient DNA for analysis.

Sample requirements for genetic analysis of selected cyprinids, smooth-hounds and shads for species/hybrid determination			
Species	Sample required	Storage	Additional information
Roach, Rudd and their hybrids	3 scales	In an envelope with fish details and date	Good quality photographs required
Smooth-hound species	1cm x 1cm of tissue from the trailing edge of second dorsal fin	In an envelope with fish details and date	Good quality photographs required
Shad species	3 scales	In an envelope with fish details and date	Ensure fish is retained in water as much as is feasible
<b>Notes:</b> As all fish can be returned alive please handle carefully. Allow envelope to dry out to preserve the sample. Do not store scales or tissue in plastic as sample will degrade.			

### 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 gillthead bream (*Sparus aurata* L.) (2007). Blackmouthed dogfish (*Galeus melastomus*) was added to the list in 2008.

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.

In 2008 data supporting the inclusion of black bream (*Spondyllosoma cantharus*) on the listings was submitted. The Committee will review this species in 2009.

#### **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, for the few species where a body is normally required, photographs may be sufficient **if they provide conclusive evidence of the identity of the fish**. To assist anglers, a list of 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



*Roach Bream Hybrid photographs from Oliver Doyle*

are required for many features and these photographs should fill the entire frame. Retain the fish if unsure of photograph quality.

Species	Features to photograph (a) the whole body (lateral view) must be photographed for all species AND (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 ( <i>B. belone</i> )	Gill rakers count - body required
Garfish ( <i>B. svetovidovi</i> )	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
Smooth-hound	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

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



*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, eel etc). Any fish taken in the closed season 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, if an angler achieves this target and subsequently captures a larger fish, this fish can be claimed. However, the final number of awards for any species in a single year will not be more than three. By including this provision, it ensures 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** from 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. Available data for both species from 2006 - 2008 will be reviewed in 2009 which means that the moratorium will continue for 2009.

**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 in this report.* Such scales, if certified in advance are acceptable to the Committee for weighing purposes. Certification will be valid for one year from the date of issue of the certificate of accuracy. The manufacturers certificate of accuracy will not suffice. Weights from scales which are not certified at the time of weighing or certified in retrospect will not be accepted.

**Metrification:** Since 2006, fish weights have been presented in kilograms in the Annual Report, reflecting modern requirements for information reporting. Claims will, however, be accepted under either system unless 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 an assessment of the existing specimen weights based on the species' current status can be made. 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.

To assist the Committee in developing sex-specific length-weight relationships for Blue Shark and Tope, anglers and charter skippers are requested to ensure that length and sex, in addition to weight, are included on claims submitted for both species.

## **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), Santry, Dublin 9.

Region & Area	Region & Area
<b>Headquarters</b> <b>Legal Metrology Service</b> NSAI, 1 Swift Square Northwood, Santry, Dublin 9 Ireland Tel: +353 1 8073807 Fax: +353 1 8073808	<b>Limerick</b> <b>Legal Metrology Service</b> Plessey Technology Park Castletroy Limerick Tel: + 353 61 330 708 Fax: + 353 61 330 698
<b>Cork</b> <b>Legal Metrology Service</b> Rossa Avenue Bishopstown Cork Tel: + 353 21 4346 256 Fax: + 353 21 4346 679	<b>Waterford</b> <b>Legal Metrology Service</b> Northern Industrial Estate Cork Road Waterford Tel: + 353 51 358 020 Fax: + 353 51 358 021
<b>Dundalk</b> <b>Legal Metrology Service</b> IDA Small Business Park Coe's Road Dundalk Co Louth Tel: + 353 42 933 2758 Fax: + 353 42 933 2751	<b>Sligo</b> <b>Legal Metrology Service</b> Finisklin Industrial Estate Sligo Tel: + 353 71 9150738 Fax: + 353 71 9150739
<b>Galway</b> <b>Legal Metrology Service</b> Ballybrit Industrial Estate Ballybane Galway Tel: + 353 91 771 943 Fax: + 353 91 758 932	<b>Dublin</b> <b>Legal Metrology Service</b> Poppintree Industrial Estate Ballymun Dublin 11 Tel: + 353 1 864 3848 Fax: + 353 1 864 3880

## PRESENTATION OF 2007 AWARDS

Tom McSweeney, RTE's Marine Correspondent and presenter of Seascapes on RTE Radio 1, made the Annual Presentation of Awards to 2007 award winners at the Clontarf Castle Hotel, Dublin on 1st March 2008.

On March 15th at the Tourism Ireland stand at Go Fishing, NEC, Birmingham, Trevor Champ, Chairman of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee and Orla Woods, Fáilte Ireland, presented awards to the UK winners. *(Picture page 70).*

Later in March Dutch and Belgian winners were presented with their awards by Shane O'Reilly, Central Fisheries Board and Peter Dohmen, angling journalist at VISMA, Rotterdam, in association with Tourism Ireland.

## *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 2008.

Special thanks to Ed Farrell and Luke Aston for their articles.

AFBINI continues to provide an excellent fish identification service for anglers in the northern part of Ireland and the ISFC is indebted to those staff. Dr. Robert Rosell is taking over the identification of freshwater 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 genetic fingerprinting work of Dr. Stefano Mariani and Brian Hayden of UCD has significantly advanced ISFC identification procedures and the Committee is very grateful to both.

The Central Fisheries Board provides unstinting 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
2008	429	23	46	1	3	0	0	502

n/d = not determined



*Dan Lynch had several specimens in 2008 including a Golden Grey Mullet*

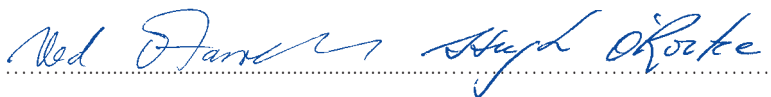
## Irish Specimen Fish Committee

Expenditure and Revenue Account - 1st January to 31st December 2007

2006 €	Expenditure	2007 €	2006 €	Revenue	2007 €
				<b>Balance b/f</b>	12098.48
				<b>Grants</b>	
9214.70	Printing	7886.61	5500.00	CFB	5500.00
12136.85	Awards	1447.44	800	RFBs (SRFB, SWRFB-06 & 07)	150.00
686.69	Miscellaneous	112.47		Marine Institute	3000.00
2707.12	Award Day costs	3045.31	3000.00	Failte Ireland (06 & 07)	5000.00
12.99	Bank charges	9.13	2500.00	Loughs Agency	0.00
			2000.00	Charter skippers	0.00
			229.50		
				<b>Donations</b>	
			1247.19	Clubs, Feds & indiv.	792.85
			1100.00	David Went	0.00
			0.00	Southside Angling	500.00
	Total	12500.96			27041.33
	Balance c/d	14540.37			27041.33
		27041.33			14540.37
				<b>Balance b/d</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 2008 were:**

**Central Fisheries Board; Marine Institute; Fáilte Ireland; Eastern Regional Fisheries Board; South Western Regional Fisheries Board; RTE Seascapes; Delphi Fishery Ltd; Dolphin Richview SAC.**

**Val Atkins**, 4 Abbey Park, Ferrybank, Waterford; **Ray Bannerman**, 24 Park Avenue, Castleknock, Dublin; **FHE Buller**, Holy Tree, Woodlands, South Heath, Gr. Middledon, Bucks, England; **Jim Clohessy**, 8 Glyntown Heights, Glanmire, Co. Cork; **William E. Crompton**, "The Beeches", Tomloskan, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim; **Donal Domeney**, 20 Courtown Drive, Cork City; **Jim Dooley**, 6 Bawnleigh Court, Banduff, Cork; **Oliver Finnegan**, 25 Chestnut Grove, Newry, Co. Down, BT34 1GT; **Ciarán Geary**, 13 Kiltegan Lawn, Rochestown Road, Cork; **Eric Gosnell**, 52 Marian Park, Church Road, Blackrock, Cork; **Garry Gregg**, 8 Plantation Way, Old Mossley, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim; **Philip Hodgins**, 104 Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin 16; **Edward Howard**, 46 Rosehill West, Ballinacurra, Middleton, Co. Cork; **Christy Lane**, 10 Harringtons Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; **Noel Lane**, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork; **Nicholas McEvoy**, 6 Francis Crescent, Grange Heights, Waterford; **Bert McGregor**, 34 Rivermead Park, St. Margarets, Co. Dublin; **Gerard McKeogh**, Drumarra, Drumbane, Ballina, Killaloe Co. Clare; **Vincent McKernan**, 19 Drummaul Park, Randalstown, Co. Armagh, BT41 3AR; **W. F. McLaughlin**, 27 Castle Gardens, Limavady, Co. Derry, BT49 0SD. **Michael Magee**, Journey's End, Nun's Walk, off Pouladuff Road, Cork; **Derek J. Miller**, 35 Greenmeadows Road, Madeley, Crewe, Cheshire, CW3 9 EY, England; **Jim Newell**, 129 Haypark Avenue, Belfast, BT7 3FG; **Karl O'Leary**, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; **Donal O'Mahony**, Valley View, Kilmore, Innishannon, Co. Cork; **Jim Sloan**, 7 Shane Park, Lurgan, Co. Armagh, BT66 7HD; **Sue & Tony Tait**, Aghada Hall Lodge, Lower Aghada, Middleton, Co. Cork; **Mike (Dingle) Tudor**, Lomondside Cottage, Falkland, Fife, KY15 7BD, Scotland.



## IRISH RECORD FISH

### FRESHWATER SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs	ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Bream	12	3	22.5.1997	Bolganard Lake	Paul Mathers
Carp	29	13	5.7.1998	The Lough, Cork	Sidney Kennedy
Dace	1	2	8.8.1966	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	John T. Henry
Eel	6	15	12.6.1979	Lough Droumenisa, Bantry	J. Murnane
Perch	5	8	1946	Lough Erne	S. Drum
Pike (Lake)	42	12	25.9.2005	White Lake	Larry Kelly
Pike (River)	42		22.3.1964	River Barrow	M. Watkins
Roach	1.425 kg		6.10.2002	Drumacritten Lake	Terry Jackson
Roach/Bream Hybrid	7		24.4.2002	River Bann, Toome	Roy Gretton
Rudd	4	8	5.9.1996	Coney Lake	Hugh Gough
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7	10	19.10.1996	Monalty Lake	Brendan Doran
Tench	8.15		20.6.1995	Ballyeigher Lake	Nick Parry
Salmon	57		1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Brown Trout (Lake)	26	2	15.7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Brown Trout (River)	20		22.2.1957	River Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place
Sea Trout	16	6	29.10.1983	Shimna River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus

### MARINE SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs	ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Angler Fish	42.985 kg		3.11.1985	Belfast Lough	Sean Neill
Bass	17	13	21.10.2000	Doughmore Strand	Emmet Naughton
Black Sole	6.32		28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Bluemouth	1.32 kg		28.7.2008	Caherciveen	Sue Tait
Brill	9	8	8.9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	15.1 kg		30.8.2003	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
Blackmouthed Dogfish	1.276 kg		19.1.2008	Red Bay	Hamish Currie
Spur Dogfish	10.319 kg		15.7.2008	Red Bay	Arie de Koning
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	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
Gillthead Bream	3.24 kg		10.9.2007	Cork Harbour	Robert McClean

**MARINE SPECIES (Contd.)**

Species	Weight lbs    ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Tub Gurnard	12    3.5	8.8.1973	Bullsmouth, Achill	Robert Seaman
Grey Gurnard	3       1	21.9.1967	Rosslare Bay	Brendan Walsh
Red Gurnard	3       9.5	17.7.1968	Belmullet	James Prescott
Haddock	10    13.5	15.7.1964	Kinsale	F.A.E. Bull
Hake	25    5.5	28.4.1962	Belfast Lough	H. W. Steele
Halibut	156	23.7.1972	Belmullet	Frank Brogan
Herring	0.454 kg	5.6.2008	Red Bay	Hamish Currie
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	Rosguill	Jan de Bakker
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
<b>FRESHWATER FISH</b>	<b>lbs</b>	<b>ozs</b>	<b>kg</b>	<b>lbs</b>	
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					
<b>SEA FISH</b>					
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> )	1.32	kg	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> )	1.276	kg	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> )	10.319	kg	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> )	0.454	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	Scales
Shad - Twaite ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> )	1.54	kg	1.1	2.4255	Scales
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	Tissue sample
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	7	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), RUDD, ROACH, and their hybrids, and SHAD. 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 10 scales scraped from one shoulder of the salmonid should be sent with the claim.

**THE ACTUAL BODY** must be forwarded for identification in the case of the following species:- MACKEREL, SCAD, HERRING, FLOUNDER, DAB, BRILL, MEGRIM, GREY & RED GURNARDS, GREY MULLET, GOLDEN GREY AND RED MULLET, ANGLER FISH, LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH, THREE BEARDED ROCKLING, 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. For SMOOTH-FOUNTAIN a 1cm x 1cm tissue sample from the trailing edge of the second dorsal fin is required.

**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
- (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 rapid decomposition. Specimens 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.

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

## THE SIXER!

*Charter skipper Luke Aston describes how Dutch angler Jack van Rooyen tamed a reef leviathan and returned the "fish of a lifetime" to the deeps off the Clare coast in 2008.*

Jack was the newbie in a crew of five Dutch anglers who were fishing for a week in August 2008 aboard a charter boat out of Carrigaholt, County Clare. 2007 had thrown up a fine skate of 55 kg for this crew and they were keen to try their luck for more big fish in 2008. Day 1 went well with many animals including tope, bullhuss, ray and dogs being boated on a windy day in the shelter of the Shannon estuary.



Day 2 was fine so it was decided to try the quality mixed reef fishing available some 15 km west of Loop Head. The productive mark, a big rocky reef surrounded by some patchy ground of stones and sand, had produced good skate in recent years, given the correct weather and tide conditions. It often has good mixed whitefish which draws the big skate into the area. The group set up for different species. Some were fishing wire ledgers for congers, some used rubber eels on flying collar rigs for pollack and cod, and two wanted to bottom fish for skate. Both were using Penn Millennium 35 kg heavy boat rods, equipped with Penn GLD30 2 speed reels loaded with 35 kg braid. Jack was using a trace which I had made up for skate – 3 metres of 55 kg mono running through a heavy sliding boom and a biting leader of a metre of 130 kg mono to a 10/0 hook – baited with one mackerel cut into chunks and pushed up the trace above the hook and a big mackerel flapper on the hook. A tempting skate bait with plenty of meat and lots of scent!

As usual on this mark, fishing was going well with a good mix of fish coming to the boat. Then Jack got his first take and had a heavy fish on for about 5 minutes. After much huffing and puffing, a groan went up as the line went slack – fish lost. When he retrieved the trace the heavy 130 kg mono was severed. I made up the same trace with new line and Jack had another take within the hour. The battle started again but this time the fight was even shorter. While putting strain on the fish, the 35 kg rod bent like an s-hook but all went slack, the fish was lost and on retrieval it was obvious that the line had been cut clean! The rest of the crew were catching a steady stream of fish but there were occasions when just after a bite, their line seemed to get stuck fast and then just go slack with all bottom tackle lost. Some speculated about line damage from the sharp reef, but I had not experienced that here before. This was becoming a battle of wits; could a marauding shark be on the loose?



Then Jack baited up a newly beefed-up wire trace and as the afternoon wore on he once again got a heavy take. He wound the rod tip to the water and struck into the fish. The rod tip bent and then stopped as the 10/0 struck home. After an exhausting 10 minute fight, with the fish doing a lot

of steady moving but no running, the line again went slack and on retrieval the wire had been shredded! Next up was a pre-made shark trace, made up with a 120 kg wire to a 12/0 hook but the mystery fish was not interested. Returning to base that evening, the crew speculated on the likely big fish – skate was the popular conclusion. With a knowing glint in his eye, Jack said “we are going to hunt it down”. I winked and nodded back - we would have to try again.



Two more productive days followed and Day 5 saw us back at the mark again. Jack was using the “lucky trace”. Fishing was noticeably quieter than earlier in the week with only a few fish caught after two hours. We were sitting around having a cup of coffee when Jack got a screamer of a run. This first run was a much more violent than anything I had ever seen before, especially considering how heavy the tackle was. After this, the line went slack and, with Jack reeling furiously, I thought he had lost the fish. But no! As soon as he reeled in the slack he came up

solid! We got him rigged up with a shoulder harness and a butt pad, and the tug-of-war went on for about 25 minutes. Slowly Jack was gaining line when the fish went on another screamer of a run. With the lever drag set in the fully locked position the fish took at least 50 m of line. The 35 kg rod was bent like a banana. Jack settled down to getting the line back on the reel and about 40 minutes after the first take, we saw the fish for the first time. It was huge - almost 3.5 meters long and 2.2 meters in girth! At the surface it was quite lazy and with just a little rolling, the fish was as tired as Jack! I was fairly sure it was a six gilled shark as I took out my fish ID book to confirm. The fish was well over the ISFC specimen weight of 45 kg and also well over the current Irish record of almost 70 kg! I estimated its weight at more than 140 kg which is twice the current Irish record!

As soon as the shark was at the surface, the discussion began about whether we should try to get it into the boat for measuring. I had it gaffed in the mouth with a 12mm solid metal gaff and lashed it to the boat. Some of the crew wanted to cut it free and I was not sure if it was possible to get the beast on board. I have handled heavy skate and even porbeagle shark up to 160 kg in my previous career as a commercial fisherman, but this was in another league! I was concerned about its possible demise if we tried to get this magnificent animal into the boat. After taking photographs, Jack released the Sixer and with a slow flick of its tail it returned to the deep. I am not sure that this six gilled shark was the same fish that had cleaned us out on the previous session at this mark. There were no signs of other hooks in its mouth. It was very sporting of Jack to release a fish of a lifetime. He has memories and pictures that will never fade and his fish still cruises the deep reefs off Loop Head.

Luke Aston  
Carrigaholt,  
Co. Clare  
September 2008



## IN SEARCH OF SMOOTH-HOUNDS

*Ed Farrell is a postgraduate student at UCD and a keen sea angler. He has combined his academic and leisure interests and is currently researching the biology and ecology of the smooth-hound for his Ph.D. His project will significantly advance knowledge of the smooth-hounds in Ireland and his work on their genetics will allow the ISFC to offer genetic fingerprinting for discrimination of smooth-hound species from 2009 onwards. He is also tagging smooth-hounds for the Central Fisheries Board's National Marine Sportsfish Tagging Programme.*

When it comes to sport fishing in Ireland, smooth-hounds are sometimes overlooked in favour of their cousin, the tope. However, in fighting terms, a smooth-hound taken on light tackle can be an equally rewarding target. Averaging 2.5 kg from the beaches on the south-east coast, these are usually male fish which hunt in packs and their arrival can make for an exciting night's fishing, mainly because their large pectoral fins make them incredibly manoeuvrable in shallow water. Boat anglers are likely to encounter large females at offshore locations where the specimens and records lie in wait.

The areas frequented by large females in Ireland are currently not well-known or explored. However, three specimens were recorded in 2008, including a 6 kg starry by Paddy Byrne. Across the water in Wales, the movements of these big smooth-hounds are well-known and Holyhead charter skipper, Gethyn Owen, is the local expert. The current Welsh record of 11.5 kg was caught from his boat 'My Way' and large fish (> 5 kg) dominate catches on most days. The possibility of finding fish like these on this side of the Irish Sea is an



*A typical 3 kg starry smooth-hound caught off Cahore.  
The Central Fisheries Board tag is visible on the dorsal fin*



*A small pup starry smooth-hound typically encountered during spring on the Wexford beaches.*

attractive prospect and many anglers are now specifically targeting smooth-hounds in the hope of landing "the big one".

The main question which arises when talking about smooth-hounds is: what species is it? There are many species of smooth-hound around the world but in European waters there are only three: the starry smooth-hound (*Mustelus asterias*), the common smooth-hound (*Mustelus mustelus*) and the blackspotted smooth-hound (*Mustelus punctulatus*). The blackspotted smooth-hound only occurs in the Mediterranean Sea. The starry smooth-hound occurs in the Northern European waters, the Mediterranean Sea and as far south as North Africa. The common smooth-hound is believed to have the same distribution except that it also occurs in South African waters.

Both starry and common smooth-hounds are relatively small, bottom dwelling sharks that feed primarily on crustaceans, such as crabs and prawns. The differences between these species are difficult to interpret because they are similar in overall appearance and the 'stars' of starry smooth-hounds vary greatly and may be vivid, faint and sometimes even absent (see pictures next page). This variable spotting results in misidentification of starry smooth-hounds as common smooth-hounds lack these white spots. The use of the appearance of the 'stars' should therefore not be used for identification. There are other differences in external body shape but these are ambiguous and difficult to interpret.

Despite the similarities in appearance of starry and common smooth-hounds, the two species are actually quite different in terms of their reproductive biology. Both are viviparous which means that they give birth to free swimming pups, unlike the lesser

*Vivid**Faint**Absent*

*The variations in appearance of the 'stars' on starry smooth-hounds are clearly seen in these images.*

spotted dogfish which lays egg cases (commonly called mermaids purses). However, common smooth-hounds have a placental connection through an umbilical cord to the pups which transports nutrients from mother to pups whereas starry smooth-hounds lack this connection and get their nutrition from a yolk sac attached to their umbilical cord. This may seem like a subtle difference, but in biological terms, it is highly significant. It means that the two species are unlikely to interbreed and also that the life-history characteristics, such as growth rate, age at maturity, reproductive capacity and longevity are likely to be very different both. For this reason, it is important to be able to distinguish between the two species so that appropriate measures can be taken to ensure their conservation and future as a recreational species.

Despite popular belief, smooth-hounds are a commercially valuable species and face significant fishing pressure. In northern European waters, smooth-hounds are regularly taken as bycatch in mixed demersal fisheries and are usually discarded. However, in France, Belgium and increasingly in the UK, they are landed for the continental market where their flesh is highly valued. Landings of smooth-hounds have been steadily increasing in France and are currently in the region of 2,400 tonnes per year. This may be a gross underestimate as the difficulties in species identification prevent reliable landings data to be collated. Local extirpations of both starry and common smooth-hounds have occurred in the Mediterranean, southern Bay of Biscay and in Portuguese waters as a direct result of overfishing. This is due to a lack of management controls which is a result of the lack of information available about their basic biological characteristics and also the inability to distinguish between the two species.

This situation is currently being addressed and a thorough investigation of smooth-hounds in the North-east Atlantic Ocean is being conducted. The full results of this study will be available next year. Preliminary results have been very intriguing. Of particular interest was the development of a reliable genetic method for the discrimination of the two smooth-hound species occurring in Irish waters. The sole requirement for identification is a small piece of fin (approximately 1cm<sup>2</sup>) from the specimen which is taken from the trailing edge of the second dorsal fin and causes no long-term harm to the fish. Fin clips



should be stored in a clean envelope and dried, or retained in a sample tube with ethanol. The extensive application of this DNA test to smooth-hounds from all around Ireland has shown that a large proportion of starry smooth-hounds have extremely faint stars or no stars at all. This demonstrates the problems with identification and poses some questions about reports of common smooth-hounds. It is hoped that further application of this test, along with additional biological information, will enhance our knowledge of the distribution and movements of these species and ensure that appropriate conservation measures can be implemented.

Caution is advised when handling smooth-hounds, as they are a delicate shark, particularly the pregnant females. The body, particularly the stomach area, should be well supported whilst the fish is out of the water. The fish should never be suspended by the tail. When returning to the water, allow the fish a few minutes to recover holding upright, until they are capable of swimming unaided. By taking care of smooth-hounds you can help to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy this fascinating and valuable angling species.

Further information can be found on the project website:  
[http://www.ucd.ie/marbee/edward\\_farrell.html](http://www.ucd.ie/marbee/edward_farrell.html)

Edward Farrell  
2008

## SPECIMEN GALLERY



*A lovely specimen Bream for Nick Parry*



*A nice Coalfish from Courtmacsherry for Dutch angler Martin Langeveld*

## SPECIMEN GALLERY



*Declan Ryan with a Carrigaholt Whiting*



*John Millerick and a specimen Twaite shad from the River Barrow in May*



*Trevor Champ, Chairman ISFC, after presenting a specimen certificate for a gilthead bream to Phil Simpson (centre) with Orla Woods, ISFC member, at Go Fishing 2008 in Birmingham (Story page 51)*

### Notes:

[illegible]

### Notes:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal 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.





*Specimen Ballan Wrasse for John Waldron*

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## IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

### *Some important points for claiming specimen fish:*

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

*Back Cover: (clockwise from top left)*

*Young specimen anglers Ronan O'Sullivan with his Coalfish, Bobby Geraghty with a Corrib Brown Trout, and a Thick-Lipped Mullet for Evan Millerick*

