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ISFC Chairman's Review 2009



It is sad to report that Irish angling lost three champions during the past year. Ned O'Farrell represented the coarse fishing fraternity on the ISFC for fourteen years. Throughout his life he worked tirelessly for anglers, tourist angling around Prosperous and his beloved Grand Canal. Hugh Gough, retired Coarse Angling Officer with the Central Fisheries Board, was extremely well-known in angling circles throughout Ireland, passed away in November. Holder of the current Irish record for rudd, Hugh surveyed numerous fisheries throughout Ireland and was a major force in establishing Ireland as a premier coarse angling destination. Dr Michael Kennedy, who passed away in October, was a founder member of the ISFC, a committed angler this unassuming gentlemanly scholar obtained his PhD from UCC for his publication *The Sea Anglers Fishes*. He served for many years as the Manager of the Inland Fisheries Trust and, as Senior Scientist, he initiated research into the biology of many of Ireland's fresh and saltwater fish species. His long list of publications, many in association with former ISFC Chairman Dr. Paddy Fitzmaurice, is a testament to his pursuit of knowledge and understanding of the biology of the fish species on this island and their aquatic ecosystems. His publications are, and will remain for many generations, an inspiration to all fisheries scientists in this country and others beyond our shores.

The past year has probably surpassed both previous years with regard to wet summers and 2009 closed with exceptional rainfall in November that established new records at most locations around the country. Short term weather patterns, whether wet/dull/cold or dry/sunny/hot, greatly influence angling conditions for different species and affect the variety and numbers of specimen claims submitted annually. Despite the poor summer it is good to report an increase in claims this year with one new record established.

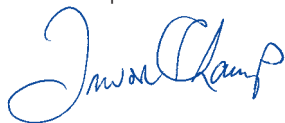
For the first time fish length is being reported here together with weight. Length is recorded by most anglers but not on certified measures. The examination of weight/length relationships for sharks and rays was a primary focus for the ISFC in 2009 in order to attempt to develop robust systems to record these species. However, the replacement of weight as the main criterion to define a specimen is just not possible at this time but the ISFC will continue to further explore all possibilities in this regard. Regardless of the eventual outcome of these deliberations, record fish will always be reported by weight which is the universal currency of angling reporting but the 'Conservation Species' length-based specimen award is a likely inclusion from 2011 onwards.

The Committee began a comprehensive review of specimen weights for all species in 2009. Specimen weights for several species have been reduced; these will apply from next year. Genetic fingerprinting of certain specimen fish species, which began in 2007, has enabled the Committee to include Roach x Rudd hybrids on the specimen fish listings from 2010 onwards. I gratefully acknowledge this fruitful deliverable from our association with scientists in UCD. Black Bream has also been added to the specimen list.

I have referred in previous reviews to unauthorised stocking of non-native fish species to new waters. There may have been a time when people did not understand the consequences of such introductions but sufficient biological evidence is now available which shows how native communities have been devastated in Irish waters post stocking. It is my belief that to persist with such irresponsible action, apart from contravening EU (the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive) and national legislation, constitutes environmental vandalism of the worst kind. Nothing can be done to reverse the actions of our predecessors. Be assured that the ISFC does not in any way condone the misguided actions of some individuals or groups who continue to expand the geographical spread, either through the importation or translocation, of non-native and/or exotic fish species.

I am glad to welcome Mr Der Casey as the coarse fish representative and I thank Mr David Egan for his assistance in this role. The financial climate is impacting adversely on everybody in all spheres of life. We are, therefore, especially grateful to the various organisations and individuals who continue to provide financial support to the ISFC, in particular the Central Fisheries Board, the Marine Institute, Fáilte Ireland, the Loughs Agency, the Eastern, Southwestern, Shannon and Northwestern Regional Fisheries Boards. Without this support the ISFC could not function. I am especially grateful to the Committee members for their help during the year. Thanks to all of the boat skippers and anglers for your interaction during the year.

Trevor Champ

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Trevor Champ'. The signature is stylized with a large, flowing 'T' and 'C'.

Chairman
18th December, 2009

Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2009

INTRODUCTION

In 2009 the ISFC received 617 claims. 531 were ratified, including one new record. A total of 12 were rejected for non-compliance with the rules and a further 74 are being queried. Details of the new record, other special awards and the specimen awards 2009 are listed below:

NEW IRISH RECORD (Engraved silver medal)

For fish exceeding the current Irish record weight



Six-Gilled Shark – Joe Waldis from Switzerland with his new record of 480 kg taken off Carrigaholt, Co. Clare on 16th June 2009

SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES

20 SPECIES AWARD (Engraved plaque)

Ray Bannerman, Castleknock, Dublin 15:

1976 Thornback Ray	1993 Grey Mullet
1978 Plaice	1996 River Brown Trout
1982 Lesser Spotted Dogfish	1999 Roach/Bream Hybrid, Rudd/Bream Hybrid
1983 Flounder	2000 Ling
1984 Greater Spotted Dogfish, Smooth Hound, Twaite Shad	2004 Tench
1985 Bream	2008 Ballan Wrasse, Carp, Eel
1986 Tope	2009 Perch
1992 River Pike	

10 SPECIES AWARD (Engraved bronze medal)

Philip Barry, Ballyvolane, Cork:

2005 Coalfish	2008 Grey Gurnard, Pollack
2006 Cod, Cuckoo Wrasse	2009 Ballan Wrasse, Golden Grey Mullet, Gilthead Bream
2007 Painted Ray, Red Gurnard, Spur Dogfish, Thick Lipped Mullet	

Michael Dennehy, Douglas, Co. Cork:

1996 Pollack
2001 Blonde Ray, Coalfish, Plaice
2002 Cod, Ling
2006 Haddock
2009 Gilthead Bream, Red Gurnard, Whiting

Donal Domenehy, Knocknaheeney, Cork:

1985 Monkfish
1993 Bass
1997 Painted Ray
2003 Pouting
2004 Whiting
2005 Megrim
2006 Blonde Ray, Coalfish, Red Gurnard
2009 Cuckoo Wrasse, Flounder

Dan Lynch, Halfway, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork:

2006 Bass, Blonde Ray, Coalfish, Greater Spotted Dogfish, Ling	2008 Flounder
2007 Carp, Golden Grey Mullet, Lesser Spotted Dogfish	2009 Cod, Gilthead Bream

Ross Macklin, Summerhill South, Cork:

2001 Carp, Grey Mullet, Tench	2008 Roach/Bream Hybrid, Rudd,
2007 Blonde Ray, Bream, Eel, Twaite Shad	2009 Cuckoo Wrasse, Golden Grey Mullet, Rudd, Rudd/Bream Hybrid



Cork Harbour produced a Gilthead Bream for Michael Dennehy

William F. McLaughlin, Limavady, Co. Derry

1976 Red Gurnard
1978 Homelyn Ray, Turbot
1980 Cuckoo Wrasse, Lesser Spotted Dogfish
1985 Plaice
1986 Haddock
2005 Bass, Spur Dogfish
2009 Pollack

Tony Tait, Lower Aghada, Midleton, Co. Cork:

2002 Blonde Ray, Garfish
2005 Coalfish, Dab
2006 Ballan Wrasse, Cuckoo Wrasse, Gilthead Bream
2008 Bluemouth, Lesser Spotted Dogfish, Red Gurnard



*Inniscarra Reservoir was the venue
for Ross Macklin's Rudd/Bream
Hybrid in June*

50 SPECIMENS AWARD (Gold badge)

Hamish Currie, Cushendall, Co. Antrim has caught 50 specimen fish up to 2009 including:

16 Spurdog - 2004 to 2009
10 Pollack - 2004 to 2008
5 Cuckoo Wrasse - 2006 & 2009
6 Blonde Ray - 2006 to 2009
1 Lesser Spotted Dogfish - 2006
8 Greater Spotted Dogfish - 2007 to 2009
4 Tope - 2007 to 2009
3 Herring - 2008
3 Blackmouthed Dogfish - 2008 & 2009
3 Conger Eel - 2008 & 2009

Sidney Kennedy, Ballypheane, Cork has caught 50 specimen fish up to 2009 including:

26 Carp - 1997 to 2009
12 Eel - 1998 to 2009
2 Blue Shark - 2001 & 2002
1 Lesser Spotted Dogfish - 2007
1 Twait Shad - 2008
3 Tench - 2009
1 Rudd - 2009
3 Rudd/Bream Hybrid - 2009
1 Golden Grey Mullet - 2009



*Red Bay charter skipper Hamish
Currie with one of his 2009 specimen
Cuckoo Wrasse*

10 SPECIMENS AWARD (Silver pin)

David Cherry , 22 Grangevalley Drive, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim	2005-2009
Richard McAlorum , Fairfield Road, Bangor, Co. Down	2007-2009
Owen McGuinness , Drimnagh, Dublin 12	2007-2009
Conor McNeill , Portadown, Co. Armagh	2005-2009
Ian Murphy , 125 Dun Eoin, Carrigaline, Co. Cork	2004-2009
Derek O'Bryan , Brownstown, The Curragh, Co. Kildare	2006-2009
Alan O'Dowling , Blackrock Road, Cork	2004-2009
Jeremy Power , Glenconnor, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	2003-2009

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, had 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 2009 award goes to:

Keith Aherne, Ballyphehane, Cork for his **Golden Grey Mullet** of 1.08 kg taken in Cork Harbour on 7th May 2009.

DR. A.E.J. WENT AWARD (Engraved Plaque & 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 2009 award goes to:

Derick O'Brien, Ballyphehane, Cork for his **Carp** of 9.98 kg taken in The Lough, Cork on the 31st January 2009.

The MINISTER'S AWARD (Mounted bronze medal)

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

The 2009 award goes to:

Ray McElhinney, Bettystown, Co. Meath for his **Tench** of 3.685 kg taken in Rahan's Lake on 10th June 2009.

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 2009 award goes to:

Heinz Stratmann, Gelsenkirchen, Germany for his **Sea Trout** of 5.66 kg taken in Lough Currane on 16th May 2009.

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2009

FRESHWATER FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2009

Coarse Fish and Pike

BREAM

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

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
5.33	68.6	Drumlaheen Lake	21-May	Jason Dingle	Boilie
5.05	-	Drumlaheen Lake	21-May	Jason Dingle	Sweetcorn
4.90	-	Drumlaheen Lake	12-May	Keith Mooney	Worm
4.73	-	Bolganard Lake	14-May	Michael O'Doherty	Sweetcorn
4.68	-	Drumlaheen Lake	21-May	Jason Dingle	Sweetcorn
4.45	-	Drumlaheen Lake	23-Apr	Keith Mooney	Maggots
4.25	-	Ballyhoe Lake	24-Jul	Owen McGuinness	Boilie
4.17	-	Drumlaheen Lake	12-May	Keith Mooney	Maggots
3.98	58.0	Bolganard Lake	06-Sep	Ronald Martin	Bread Flake
3.66	-	Ballyhoe Lake	21-Aug	Owen McGuinness	Boilie
3.49	-	Garadice Lake	10-Jun	David Bell	Maggots
3.44	56.0	Monalty Lake	16-Aug	Colin Martin	Bread Flake
3.42	51.4	Lough Neagh	21-May	Jim Sloan	Maggots/Worm



Year of capture is 2009 unless otherwise stated

Length (LT) assumed to be total length (cm) as recorded by angler on uncertified measuring device

Country of residence of international angler denoted by relevant letter after surname

(J) after surname denotes juvenile angler

CARP

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

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
11.57	-	The Lough, Cork	15-Jun	Keith Aherne	Boilie
9.98	-	The Lough, Cork	31-Jan	Derick O'Brien (J)	Boilie
9.81	-	The Lough, Cork	04-Aug	Derick O'Brien (J)	Boilie
9.30	-	The Lough, Cork	01-Aug	Derick O'Brien (J)	Boilie
9.24	-	The Lough, Cork	15-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
8.73	-	The Lough, Cork	03-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie



Keith Aherne had the heaviest carp of 2009

CARP – continued

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
8.62	-	The Lough, Cork	17-Oct	Jerry O'Connor	Boilie
8.60	78.7	The Lough, Cork	27-Feb	Terry Jackson	Boilie
8.22	-	The Lough, Cork	01-Aug	Colin Gemmell (J)	Boilie
8.16	-	The Lough, Cork	05-May	Keith Aherne	Boilie
8.16	-	The Lough, Cork	17-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
7.85	-	The Lough, Cork	01-Apr	Mark Byrne	Boilie
7.70	69.9	The Lough, Cork	25-Feb	Terry Jackson	Boilie
7.57	-	The Lough, Cork	02-Apr	Ray Bannerman	Boilie
7.30	68.6	The Lough, Cork	27-Feb	Terry Jackson	Boilie
6.97	-	The Lough, Cork	21-Jul	Colin Gemmell (J)	Boilie
6.89	-	Lisaniske Lake	30-May	Owen McGuinness	Dog Biscuit
6.80	69.9	The Lough, Cork	27-Feb	Andrew Wolsey	Boilie
6.66	60.0	The Lough, Cork	11-May	Pat Dalton	Boilie
6.58	-	The Lough, Cork	03-Feb	Ross Macklin	Boilie
6.49	-	The Lough, Cork	17-Oct	Jerry O'Connor	Boilie
6.49	-	Lisaniske Lake	20-May	Greg Kelly	Dog Biscuit
6.12	-	The Lough, Cork	03-Feb	Ross Macklin	Boilie
6.01	59.0	The Lough, Cork	16-Apr	Dan Lynch	Boilie
6.01	-	The Lough, Cork	08-May	Colin Gemmell (J)	Boilie
6.01	-	The Lough, Cork	16-Mar	Robert Kennedy	Maggots
6.01	-	The Lough, Cork	12-May	Keith Aherne	Boilie
5.61	-	The Lough, Cork	03-Feb	Ross Macklin	Boilie
5.50	-	The Lough, Cork	05-May	Alan Coleman	Boilie
5.50	-	The Lough, Cork	17-Oct	Jerry O'Connor	Boilie

EEL

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

1.42	-	The Lough, Cork	17-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
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PERCH

Record 5 lbs 8 ozs (2.495 kg); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg

1.56	-	River Barrow, Athy	22-Mar	Ray Bannerman	Shad
1.30	-	River Barrow, Athy	17-Oct	Michael Norton	Shad

PIKE (LAKE)

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

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
13.81	46.8	Lough Key	27-Feb	Dennis Diggins	Bulldog Lure

PIKE (RIVER)

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

12.70	-	River Suck, Ballinasloe	24-Sep	Sean Delahunty	Lamprey Eel
12.43	106.7	River Barrow, Borris	08-Feb	Oliver Doyle	Roach
12.02	-	River Suck, Derrycabill	02-Jan	William Quigley	Mackerel
11.79	-	River Barrow, Athy	24-Oct	Derek O'Bryan	Roach
11.23	-	River Shannon, Rooskey	31-Jan	Derek O'Bryan	Smelt
10.55	-	River Inny, Ballinalack	28-Mar	Pierce Moran, Snr	Sardine
10.55	-	River Shannon, Athlone	13-Oct	Martin Byrne	Roach
10.26	-	River Shannon, Newtownforbes	01-Feb	Derek Greene	Sardine



January delivered a River Pike for Robert Dempsey

The second heaviest River Pike of 2009 fell to Oliver Doyle (left)

PIKE (RIVER) – continued

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
10.21	-	River Suck, Ballyforan	28-Feb	Jason Dingle	Brown Trout
10.21	-	Rivert Suck, Derrycahill	02-Jan	Clyde McElwaine	Roach
10.15	-	River Suck, Daly's Grove	22-Sep	Ronan Mullen	Roach
10.09	-	River Shannon, Newtownforbes	01-Feb	Derek Greene	Sardine
10.04	-	River Barrow, Athy	22-Mar	Derek O'Bryan	Mackerel
9.98	-	River Inny, Inny Bridge	05-Mar	Ian Mulligan	Trout
9.81	-	River Suck, Ballyforan	04-Jan	Jason Dingle	Trout
9.50	-	River Shannon, Newtownforbes	24-Oct	Derek Greene	Sardine
9.41	-	River Suck, Ballyforan	10-Jan	Robert Dempsey	Mackerel
9.30	-	River Inny, Ballinalack	28-Mar	Pierce Moran, Snr	Sardine
9.27	-	River Suck, Ballyforan	04-Jan	Jason Dingle	Sardine
9.24	-	River Suck, Derrycahill	04-Jan	Daniel O'Callaghan	Roach
9.16	-	River Shannon, Shannonbridge	30-Apr	Joe Donnelly	Roach
9.13	-	River Shannon, Athlone	27-May	Martin Byrne	Trout



*The Shannon at
Shannonbridge
produced a River
Pike for Joe
Donnelly*



High quality Roach/Bream Hybrid identification images from Dubliner Philip Brennan

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

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

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.89	-	Lough Derravaragh	25-Apr-08	Evan Millerick (J)	Maggots
2.49	-	Galloncurra Lake	25-May-08	Ross Macklin	Boilie
2.49	-	Galloncurra Lake	25-May-08	Ross Macklin	Boilie
2.00	48.3	Ballyhoe Lake	04-Jun-08	Liam Tully	Maggots
1.90	-	River Inny	16-Mar	Philip Brennan	Maggots
1.81	-	River Barrow, Bagenalstown	19-Jun	Oliver Doyle	Maggots
1.73	-	River Barrow, Bagenalstown	06-Jun	Oliver Doyle	Maggots
1.73	-	River Barrow, Bagenalstown	19-Jun	Oliver Doyle	Maggots
1.73	-	River Barrow, Bagenalstown	06-Jun	Gary Doyle	Maggots
1.64	-	River Barrow, Bagenalstown	30-Jun	Gary Doyle	Maggots
1.63	-	River Barrow, St. Mullins	04-Aug-08	Michael Norton	Sweetcorn
1.62	-	River Barrow, Bagenalstown	06-Jun	Gary Doyle	Maggots

RUDD

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

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.13	-	Carrigadrohid Reservoir	05-Jun	Ross Macklin	Maggots
1.05	34.3	Carrigadrohid Reservoir	19-May-08	Conor Healy	Sweetcorn
1.02	-	Carrigadrohid Reservoir	05-Jun	Ross Macklin	Maggots
1.02	-	Carrigadrohid Reservoir	14-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots



*Carrigadrohid Reservoir
produced all of the 2009
specimen Rudd including
this one for Cork specimen
hunter Sidney Kennedy*

RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

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

2.72	-	Inniscarra Reservoir	14-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
2.49	-	Lough Ree	26-Apr	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
2.27	-	Inniscarra Reservoir	15-Jun	Derick O'Brien (J)	Maggots
2.10	-	Inniscarra Reservoir	15-Jun	Ross Macklin	Maggots
2.04	-	Inniscarra Reservoir	15-Jun	Derick O'Brien (J)	Maggots
1.63	41.9	River Barrow, Athy	22-Apr	Jim Sloan	Maggots/Worm
1.62	-	Inniscarra Reservoir	15-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
1.42	-	Inniscarra Reservoir	15-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
1.42	-	Inniscarra Reservoir	15-Jun	Ross Macklin	Maggots
1.36	-	Inniscarra Reservoir	15-Jun	Ross Macklin	Maggots
1.36	-	Inniscarra Reservoir	15-Jun	Keith Aherne	Sweetcorn



Derick O'Brien with his two specimen Rudd/Bream Hybrids from Inniscarra Reservoir in June

TENCH

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

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
3.69	-	Rahan's Lake	10-Jun	Ray McElhinney	Boilie
3.26	-	Ballyhoe Lake	20-May	Ross Macklin	Maggots/Corn
3.18	-	Lough Kinale	26-Sep	Derek O'Bryan	Corn
3.08	-	Derreen Lough	30-May	Glenn Greene	Artificial Sweetcorn
3.06	-	Ballyhoe Lake	25-Apr	Jason Dingle	Maggots
2.97	48.3	Rahan's Lake	16-Jun	Jim Sloan	Boilie
2.95	-	Bridget Lough	15-May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
2.86	-	Ballyhoe Lake	10-Jun	Greg Kelly	Boilie /Corn
2.84	60.0	Ballyhoe Lake	02-Aug	Ronald Martin	Sweetcorn
2.83	-	Bridget Lough	15-May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
2.81	-	Lough Kinale	26-Sep	Derek O'Bryan	Corn
2.78	-	Ballyhoe Lake	20-May	Ross Macklin	Maggots/Corn
2.78	-	Bridget Lough	15-May	Ross Macklin	Maggots/Corn
2.78	-	Bridget Lough	15-May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
2.74	-	Drumbad Lake	14-May	Clyde McElwaine	Worm



Rahan's Lake produced two specimen Tench in 2009 including this one for Jim Sloan

Game Fish

SALMON

Record 57 lbs (25.855 kg); Specimen Weight 9.072 kg

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
10.40	-	Cong River	16-May	Nigel O'Neill	Prawn

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

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

6.97	-	Lough Mask	15-Feb	Ian Mulligan	Rapala
6.21	77.5	Lough Corrib	14-Jun	Peter Norman	Rapala
4.94	73.7	Lough Melvin	12-Aug	Eddie McFadden	Fly

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

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

4.99	71.1	River Laune	29-Aug	James Radford	Worm
3.85	74.0	River Corrib	02-Jun	Jan Tinnemans (NL)	Roach
3.63	61.0	Cong Canal	01-Jun	Roman Buczynski (UK)	Fly
3.40	87.0	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Andrew Newman	Worm
3.10	68.0	Cong River	10-Apr	Robert Conneely (J)	Lure
2.98	55.9	River Dodder	24-Jun	Gerry Heaslip	Fly
2.89	-	River Inny, Legan	15-Apr	Richard Grogan	Smelt

Dutch angler Jan Tinnemans and sons with another specimen from the River Corrib. Jan has had many specimen trout from the Corrib over the past decade





Shane McDonnell with a River Inny specimen Brown Trout

BROWN TROUT (RIVER) – continued

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.89	-	River Nore, Ballyragget	08-Apr	Ian Mulligan	Mepps
2.83	-	River Inny, Legan	08-Mar	Shane McDonnell	Mackerel
2.76	62.0	Cong Canal	15-Mar-08	Przemyslaw Powala	Tazmanian Devil
2.56	63.5	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Enda Scahill	Worm
2.52	-	Clare River	08-Jun	Pat O'Farrell	Fly
2.48	-	River Inny, Multyfarnham	02-Mar	Derek Kennedy	Roach
2.38	55.9	River Suck, Ballymoe	23-Jun-08	Matt Foley	Fly

SEA TROUT

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

5.66	80.6	Lough Currane	16-May	Heinz Stratmann (D)	Minney
4.63	74.9	Lough Currane	05-May	David Eccleston (UK)	Fly
4.54	71.8	Lough Currane	17-May	Bob MacDonald (UK)	Fly
4.47	74.3	Lough Currane	23-Apr	Martin Clancy	Rapala
4.40	71.1	Lough Currane	17-Jun	Kevin Brain	Worm
4.04	72.4	Lough Currane	26-May	Alfie Hughes	Fly
4.02	71.1	Lough Currane	19-May	Jim Matthews (UK)	Rapala
3.94	72.4	Lough Currane	06-Sep	Pat O'Mahony	Fly

SEA TROUT – continued

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
3.86	68.6	Lough Currane	23-Mar	David Eccleston (UK)	Fly
3.80	72.4	Lough Currane	13-May	Ken Towner (UK)	Fly
3.77	73.7	Lough Currane	19-Sep	Jacques Bronkhorst	Fly
3.75	73.0	Lough Na Mona	15-Jul	John Jermyn	Fly
3.66	73.5	Lough Currane	25-Sep	Donal O'Shea	Fly
3.52	71.1	Lough Currane	17-Jul	Toby Gibbons	Fly
3.47	68.5	Lough Currane	04-Jun	Dr. Reinhard Biniek (D)	Rapala
3.45	71.1	Lough Currane	24-May	Pat O'Mahony	Fly
3.40	66.7	Lough Currane	17-Apr	Bernd Rall (D)	Fly
3.37	68.6	Lough Currane	12-May	Tom Barry	Fly
3.33	67.9	Lough Currane	15-May	Peter Keenan	Fly
3.26	66.0	Lough Currane	04-Aug	John Shiel	Fly
2.98	70.0	Cummeragh River	12-Jul	Anthony Buckley	Worm
2.96	64.8	Lough Currane	03-May	Pat O'Mahony	Fly
2.88	64.8	Lough Currane	13-Apr	Bernd Rall (D)	Fly
2.84	64.8	Lough Currane	27-May	Marcel Guillou	Fly
2.83	66.0	Lough Currane	15-Aug	Billy Guilfoyle	Fly
2.78	62.0	Lough Currane	06-Aug	Toby Mutschler	Fly



The Currane system produced all twenty six specimen Sea Trout in 2009. Local angling guide Kevin Brain (above) and Martin Clancy were two of the successful anglers

MARINE FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2009

BASS

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

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
6.67	76.2	Youghal	14-Jan	Maurice Tobin	Peeler Crab
5.75	81.9	Galway Bay, Poll na Mhuc	25-Jul	John Comerford	Sandeel
5.74	80.0	Cork Harbour	19-Aug	Pat O'Shea	Mackerel
5.58	79.4	Inch Strand	27-Sep	Jerome Quirke	Lugworm
5.56	80.0	Cork Harbour	18-Oct	Pat O'Shea	Mackerel
5.10	78.7	Cork Harbour	11-Nov	Noel Hegarty	Crab
5.01	—	Ring, Clonakilty	15-Aug	Micheal Hennessy	Powercatcher Lure
4.91	77.0	Ballinskelligs	04-May	Diarmuid Murphy (J)	Crab
4.73	71.1	Tramore	20-Jun	Thomas McEvoy	Sandeel
4.70	73.0	Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Damien Sheridan	Mackerel
4.69	76.0	Youghal	23-Apr	John Curtin	Crab
4.68	80.0	Cork Harbour	02-Oct	Jim Clohessy	Crab
4.65	82.0	Cork Harbour	18-Jun	Pat O'Shea	Mackerel
4.63	86.0	Cork Harbour	22-Sep	Phil Simpson (UK)	Peeler Crab



Cork Harbour produced over 40% of all specimen Bass claimed in 2009 including fish for Phil Simpson (left), Jim Clohessy (right) and Pat O'Shea



BLUEMOUTH

Record 1.32 kg; Specimen Weight 0.9 kg

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.00	38.1	Caherciveen	14-Sep	Paddy Loftus	Mackerel
0.99	43.2	Caherciveen	12-Sep	John Riordan	Mackerel
0.95	38.1	Caherciveen	14-Sep	Paddy Loftus	Mackerel
0.94	39.4	Caherciveen	10-Sep	Christy Lane	Mackerel
0.93	37.0	Caherciveen	01-Jul	Des O'Connell	Mackerel
0.91	37.0	Caherciveen	01-Jul	Des O'Connell	Mackerel
0.91	39.4	Caherciveen	10-Sep	John Griffin	Hokkai
0.90	36.8	Caherciveen	14-Sep	Paddy Loftus	Mackerel
0.90	36.8	Caherciveen	14-Sep	Liam Tully	Mackerel

COALFISH

Record 15.1 kg; Specimen Weight 6.804 kg

11.23	100.0	Crosshaven	03-Jan	Kenneth Murphy	Shad
10.43	-	Union Hall	21-Jun	Gerry Palmer	Shad
9.98	-	Union Hall	21-Jun	Ronald Kenny	Shad
9.53	99.1	Courtmacsherry	24-Aug-08	Denis McCarthy	Jellyworm
9.36	104.1	Cork Harbour	11-Dec-08	James Walsh	Lure
9.27	101.0	Courtmacsherry	25-Jun	Ian Murphy	Shad
8.85	96.5	Courtmacsherry	24-Aug-08	Denis McCarthy	Jellyworm
8.75	103.0	Courtmacsherry	01-Jun	Andrew Mesas	Pirk
8.31	97.8	Cork Harbour	04-Jan	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Shad
7.14	91.4	Castlehaven	07-Dec-08	Noel Lane	Twin Tail
6.92	-	Courtmacsherry	02-Apr	Eric Kleiborn (NL)	Shad



A pensive Ailbhe O'Sullivan with his specimen Coalfish from Cork Harbour

COD

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

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
15.88	114.3	Courtmacsherry	09-Jul	James Walsh	Rubber Twin Tail
14.00	108.0	Courtmacsherry	26-Jul	Michael Dennehy	Intruder
13.21	106.0	Courtmacsherry	27-Jun	James Walsh	Rubber Twin Tail
12.81	101.6	Courtmacsherry	23-Jul	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Jelly lure
12.75	106.7	Cork Harbour	25-Jun	Pat Condon	Shad
12.70	109.2	Cork Harbour	25-Jun	Pat Condon	Shad
12.36	104.1	Courtmacsherry	11-Dec-08	Michael Dennehy	Intruder
12.19	104.1	Cork Harbour	11-Dec-08	James Walsh	Shad
11.79	-	Union Hall	21-Jun	Robert Reid	Shad
11.68	104.0	Courtmacsherry	25-Jul	Ian Murphy	Shad
10.98	101.6	Courtmacsherry	27-Jun	Jeremy Power	Shad
10.77	97.8	Courtmacsherry	23-Jul	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Jelly lure
10.73	94.0	Cork Harbour	25-Jun	Pat Condon	Shad
10.57	101.0	Courtmacsherry	25-Jul	Kenneth Murphy	Shad
10.55	97.8	Courtmacsherry	23-Jul	Jeremy Power	Jelly lure



Robbie Reid and Dara Tuohy were very happy with their specimen Cod from Union Hall in June

COD – continued

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
10.55	99.0	Courtmacsherry	25-Jun	Ian Murphy	Shad
10.48	100.3	Courtmacsherry	09-Jul	Jeremy Power	Shad
10.46	-	Union Hall	21-Jun	Dara Tuohy	Shad
10.36	97.5	Courtmacsherry	09-Sep	Philip Barry	Shad
10.21	95.3	Courtmacsherry	24-Aug-08	Denis McCarthy	Jellyworm
10.21	90.0	Courtmacsherry	25-Jul	Kenneth Murphy	Shad
10.04	-	Union Hall	21-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Shad
9.89	-	Courtmacsherry	16-Jul	Dan Lynch	Shad
9.75	-	Union Hall	21-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Shad
9.53	96.5	Union Hall	07-Dec-08	Stephen O'Neill	Jellyworm
9.50	98.0	Courtmacsherry	25-Jul	Kenneth Murphy	Shad
9.14	98.0	Courtmacsherry	20-Jun	Robert Porter	Shad

CONGER EEL

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

25.60	178.0	Red Bay	27-Aug	Richard McAlorum	Coalfish
20.41	-	Union Hall	22-Jun	Des Frazer	Squid
20.04	167.0	Red Bay	31-Aug	Billy Downey	Coalfish
19.73	164.0	Red Bay	15-Aug	George Leslie	Mackerel
19.19	165.0	Red Bay	29-May	Hamish Currie	Coalfish
18.68	164.0	Red Bay	28-Nov	Connor McNeill	Mackerel/Herring

BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH

Record 1.276 kg; Specimen Weight 1.0 kg

1.22	69.0	Red Bay	24-Sep	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
1.19	66.0	Red Bay	18-Feb	Nick Lieuense	Mackerel
1.19	67.0	Red Bay	13-Sep	John Tierney	Mackerel
1.11	67.0	Red Bay	19-Apr	William Watson	Mackerel
1.11	67.0	Red Bay	04-Feb	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel
1.11	67.0	Red Bay	18-Feb	James Perkins	Mackerel
1.11	67.0	Red Bay	29-Aug	Connor McNeill	Mackerel
1.08	66.5	Red Bay	18-Feb	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
1.08	70.0	Red Bay	14-Sep	Piet Roest (NL)	Mackerel
1.08	68.0	Red Bay	14-Oct	Tom Carlile (UK)	Mackerel
1.05	66.0	Red Bay	04-Feb	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel



John Tierney and his specimen Blackmouthed Dogfish from Red Bay

BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH – continued

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.05	66.0	Red Bay	17-Feb	Richard McAlorum	Mackerel
1.05	66.0	Red Bay	27-Aug	Richard McAlorum	Mackerel Fillet
1.02	65.0	Red Bay	04-Feb	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel

LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

1.70	78.0	Crosshaven	31-Mar	Kenneth Murphy	Mackerel Strip
1.64	73.7	Cork Harbour	17-Oct	Noel Lane	Ragworm/Squid Cocktail
1.53	78.7	Donaghadee	21-May	David McCormick	Mackerel/Squid
1.50	76.2	Cork Harbour	11-Apr	Philip Horgan	Mackerel
1.50	77.5	Carnlough	26-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Fillet
1.50	80.0	Cork Harbour	18-Oct	Luke Hegarty (J)	Mackerel
1.50	67.3	Courtmacsherry	18-Aug	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel Strip
1.49	76.2	Donaghadee	21-May	David McCormick	Mackerel/Squid
1.47	76.2	Maidens, Larne	26-Oct	David McCormick	Mackerel



Six-year-old Luke Hegarty with his Lesser Spotted Dogfish from Cork Harbour

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
9.21	135.5	Red Bay	19-Jun	Paul Cunningham	Mackerel
8.73	135.0	Red Bay	11-Jun	Hamish Currie	Coalfish
8.42	134.0	Red Bay	10-Jun	Hamish Currie	Coalfish
8.26	130.0	Kenmare Bay	20-Jun	John Munnik (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
8.22	132.0	Red Bay	18-Jun	Richard McAlorum	Mackerel
8.07	130.0	Kenmare Bay	02-Aug	Peter L'Amie (NL)	Mackerel Strip
7.97	132.0	Red Bay	03-Jul	David Cherry	Mackerel
7.97	-	Howth	01-Aug	Pierce Moran Snr	Squid/Mackerel
7.80	107.0	Kenmare Bay	31-Aug	Fred Las Van Bennekom (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.80	131.0	Red Bay	18-Jun	Nicholas McAlorum	Mackerel
7.71	130.0	Red Bay	29-Sep	Odmar Dijkman (NL)	Mackerel
7.65	130.0	Red Bay	21-Apr	Hamish Currie	Coalfish
7.54	129.0	Red Bay	04-Apr	Robert McFarland	Coalfish
7.40	127.0	Red Bay	05-Dec-08	Richard McAlorum	Mackerel
7.39	102.0	Kenmare Bay	20-Jul	Karel Bodry (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.37	-	Howth	01-Aug	Pierce Moran, Snr	Squid/Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
10.15	109.0	Red Bay	13-Jul	Plomp Cornelis (NL)	Mackerel
9.36	108.0	Red Bay	05-Jul	Joe McBride	Mackerel
8.70	107.0	Red Bay	05-Jul	Joe McBride	Mackerel
8.50	105.0	Red Bay	19-Jul	Darren Guy	Mackerel
8.48	106.0	Red Bay	25-Sep	Hamish Currie	Coalfish Fillet
8.31	105.0	Red Bay	13-Jul	Arian Huijbregts (NL)	Mackerel
8.22	104.0	Red Bay	02-Aug	William Watson	Mackerel Flapper
8.02	104.0	Red Bay	05-Jul	Joe McBride	Mackerel
7.97	100.0	Red Bay	16-Jul	Antonius de Jongh (NL)	Mackerel
7.91	-	Red Bay	02-Aug	Tony Tierney	Mackerel Flapper
7.85	104.0	Red Bay	13-Jun	George Leslie	Mackerel
7.85	103.5	Red Bay	05-Jul	Mark Woodside	Mackerel Flapper
7.77	103.0	Red Bay	10-Jun	Hamish Currie	Coalfish Fillet
7.77	105.0	Red Bay	28-Sep	Hans J. J. Dijkman (NL)	Mackerel
7.74	103.5	Red Bay	04-Feb	Nicholas McAlorum	Herring
7.74	104.0	Red Bay	14-May	Richard McAlorum	Coalfish
7.71	115.0	Kenmare Bay	11-Jun	Bart Boeve (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.67	102	Kenmare Bay	02-Aug	John Beljaars (NL)	Mackerel



Andre de Nooijer from Holland with a Ballan Wrasse from Kenmare Bay

SPUR DOGFISH – continued

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
7.48	104.0	Red Bay	04-Feb	Nicholas McAlorum	Herring
7.37	103.0	Red Bay	03-Jul	David Cherry	Mackerel
7.34	102.0	Red Bay	14-Jul	Arian Huijbregts (NL)	Mackerel
7.31	102.0	Red Bay	15-Aug	Hugo McSorley	Mackerel
7.26	109.0	Kenmare Bay	11-Jun	Jan Laurens van der Put (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.26	104.0	Kenmare Bay	11-Jun	Jos van Bussel (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.12	101.0	Red Bay	14-Jul	Arian Huijbregts (NL)	Mackerel
7.09	95.5	Red Bay	17-Mar	Brian Menary	Mackerel
7.00	95.0	Red Bay	17-Mar	Tony Tierney	Herring
6.97	100.0	Red Bay	04-Apr	Paul Woodside	Mackerel
6.92	160.0	Red Bay	14-Jul	Antonius de Jongh (NL)	Mackerel
6.89	96.0	Red Bay	14-May	Richard McAlorum	Coalfish
6.89	96.0	Red Bay	01-Jun	James Perkins	Coalfish
6.83	100.0	Red Bay	18-Jul	David Cherry	Mackerel
6.80	95.0	Red Bay	04-Jul	Colin McNeill (Aus)	Mackerel
6.75	95.0	Red Bay	05-Jul	William Watson	Mackerel Fillet
6.69	95.0	Red Bay	02-Aug	William Watson	Mackerel Flapper
6.63	94.5	Red Bay	01-Sep	Hamish Currie	Mackerel Flapper
6.49	93.5	Red Bay	04-Feb	Nicholas McAlorum	Herring
6.46	93.5	Red Bay	16-Jul	Plomp Cornelis (NL)	Mackerel
6.46	93.5	Red Bay	15-Aug	Hugh McSorley	Mackerel
6.46	106.7	Ballycastle	21-Jun	David McCormick	Mackerel/Squid
6.44	95.0	Red Bay	17-Mar	Nigel Bell	Mackerel
6.38	94.5	Red Bay	04-Apr	Steven McCrindle	Mackerel
6.35	106.0	Kenmare Bay	11-Jun	Arie Heek (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
6.32	95.0	Red Bay	17-Mar	Brian Menary	Mackerel
6.29	94.0	Red Bay	15-Aug	Peter Ireland	Mackerel
6.24	92.0	Red Bay	19-Jul	Robert McFarland	Mackerel Fillet
6.21	94.0	Red Bay	13-Jun	Connor McNeill	Mackerel
6.12	104.1	Ballycastle	11-May-08	Noel McFetridge	Mackerel Fillet
6.10	94.0	Red Bay	04-Jul	David Cherry	Mackerel
6.10	94.0	Red Bay	30-Aug	John Love	Mackerel
5.98	93.5	Red Bay	17-Mar	Nigel Bell	Mackerel
5.98	91.5	Red Bay	19-Jul	Peter McFarland	Mackerel Fillet
5.93	92.0	Red Bay	16-Feb	Connor McNeil	Coalfish Fillet
5.93	96.2	Red Bay	04-Jul	Connor McNeill	Mackerel
5.90	93.0	Downings	28-Jun	Cees de Graaf (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
5.90	104.1	Ballycastle	10-May	David McCormick	Mackerel/Squid

SPUR DOGFISH – continued

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
5.80	99.1	Howth	16-Sep	Liam Tully	Mackerel
5.80	101.6	Ballycastle	12-Sep	Terry Jackson	Squid
5.75	91.0	Red Bay	19-Jul	Robert McFarland	Mackerel Fillet
5.73	92.0	Red Bay	19-Apr	Robert McFarland	Mackerel
5.73	92.0	Red Bay	17-Mar	Nigel Bell	Mackerel
5.73	92.0	Red Bay	02-May	Peter Ireland	Mackerel
5.70	92.0	Red Bay	14-May	Richard McAlorum	Coalfish
5.70	92.5	Red Bay	15-Jul	Plomp Cornelis (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
5.67	101.6	Ballycastle	27-Sep-08	Noel McFetridge	Squid
5.61	91.5	Red Bay	17-Mar	Brian Menary	Mackerel
5.61	92.0	Red Bay	15-Jul	Antonius de Jongh (NL)	Mackerel
5.50	97.8	Ballycastle	28-Nov	David McCormick	Mackerel/Squid



Ian Mulligan had many specimens in 2009 including a Flounder from Cork Harbour

FLOUNDER

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> kg		<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.81	-	Bannow Bay	08-Nov	Dara Tuohy	Peeler Crab
1.67	49.0	Bannow Estuary	14-Nov	Eric Gosnell	Crab
1.49	47.0	Lacken	09-Nov	Cormac Walsh	Peeler Crab
1.47	47.0	Youghal	02-Nov-08	Noel Lane	Crab
1.30	47.0	Youghal	05-Apr	Con Cronin	Peeler Crab
1.27	46.4	Courtmacsherry	14-Sep	John Twomey	Peeler Crab
1.22	48.5	Youghal	26-Mar	Stephen O'Neill	Crab
1.14	46.0	Pilmore	05-Apr	Donal Domeney	Crab
1.13	44.0	Youghal	20-Oct	Cormac McCarthy	Crab
1.13	-	Cork Harbour	28-Oct	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab

GARFISH (*B. belone*)

Record 1.729 kg; Specimen Weight 1.021 kg

1.11	90.2	Courtmacsherry	24-Jul	Evin O'Sullivan (J)	Mackerel Strip
1.08	79.8	Crosshaven	13-Sep	David Jolly	Mackerel Strip
1.04	88.9	Courtmacsherry	24-Jul	Ronan O'Sullivan	Mackerel Strip

Dan Lynch from Cork achieved a 10 Species Award in 2009 and this Gilthead Bream, taken in April, contributed to his tally



GILTHEAD BREAM

Record 3.24 kg; Specimen Weight 1.4 kg

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.10	46.0	Cork Harbour	10-May	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Lugworm
1.96	53.0	Cork Harbour	11-Jun	Pat Condon	Crab
1.91	48.2	Cork Harbour	28-May	Michael Dennehy	Crab
1.86	48.0	Cork Harbour	10-May	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Lugworm
1.81	49.0	Cork Harbour	11-Jun	Pat Condon	Crab
1.59	46.0	Cork Harbour	10-May	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Lugworm
1.52	47.0	Cork Harbour	15-May	Michael Dennehy	Crab
1.50	43.2	Bannow Bay	16-Jun	William Teeling	Crab
1.47	44.0	Cork Harbour	11-Jun	Pat Condon	Crab
1.45	41.0	Bannow Island	29-Aug	Paul Meleady	Lugworm
1.45	46.0	Cork Harbour	07-Jun	Philip Barry	Lugworm
1.42	43.2	Courtmacsherry	17-Aug	John Twomey	Peeler Crab
1.40	43.0	Portstewart	21-Oct	Reza Hemati	Ragworm
1.40	48.3	Cork Harbour	30-Apr	Dan Lynch	Crab

RED GURNARD

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

1.39	50.2	Cork Harbour	08-Jul	Philip Horgan	Mackerel baited Hokkai
1.18	48.0	Cork Harbour	16-Oct	Martyn Rayner	Mackerel Strip
1.11	-	Cork Harbour	26-Sep	Martin Fitzgerald	Mackerel
1.03	47.0	Cork Harbour	30-Jun	Donal Domeney	Mackerel
1.02	46.0	Carrigaholt	15-Sep	Thomas Beran (D)	Mackerel
1.00	45.5	Carrigaholt	05-Oct	Jan Hagens (NL)	Mackerel
0.98	47.0	Carrigaholt	07-Sep	Simot de Wit (NL)	Shad
0.98	50.8	Cork Harbour	08-Jul	Sean McShane	Mackerel Strip
0.95	42.5	Cork Harbour	01-Dec-08	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel/Squid Cocktail
0.95	45.0	Cork Harbour	10-Nov	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel
0.95	-	Ling Rocks	28-Sep-08	Harold Siddall (UK)	Mackerel
0.94	47.6	Kinsale	21-Jun	John Dennehy	Mackerel Strip
0.94	-	Carrigaholt	29-Aug	Karoly-Levente Gyorfi	Mackerel Strip
0.94	46.4	Cork Harbour	14-Jun	Philip Horgan	Mackerel Hokkai
0.92	45.7	Culdaff	13-Sep	David McCormick	Mackerel
0.91	45.0	Crosshaven	01-Oct	Michael Dennehy	Mackerel



Carrigaholt produced a specimen Red Gurnard for Karoly Gyorfi in August



Martyn Rayner had the second heaviest Red Gurnard of 2009

TUB GURNARD

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

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
2.70	60.0	Downings	02-Jul	Arie Arts (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.52	57.0	Downings	03-Jul	Daan Oprea (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
2.36	-	Dun Laoghaire	28-Jun	John Hughes	Crab

JOHN DORY

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

2.81	-	Hook Head	27-Jun	Frankie Walsh	Mackerel baited feather
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LING

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

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
20.87	158.8	Cork Harbour	12-Sep	Declan Gaffney	Mackerel Flapper
19.78	113.0	Guileen	16-Jul	Joe O'Dowd	Mackerel Strip
19.19	144.8	Courtmacsherry	09-Aug	James Walsh	Mackerel
17.40	98.0	Guileen	16-Jul	Joe O'Dowd	Mackerel Strip
13.49	128.0	Kinsale	09-Aug	Jim Clohessy	Mackerel
11.74	127.0	Courtmacsherry	09-Aug	James Walsh	Mackerel



Courtmacsherry was the venue for this Ling for James Walsh

MEGRIM

Record 1.85 kg; Specimen Weight 0.794 kg

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
1.07	50.0	Guileen	22-Jun	Ger Sweetman	Mackerel

THICK-LIPPED MULLET

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

3.26	-	Rosscarbery	02-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
3.12	-	Rosscarbery	22-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.99	-	Broadmeadow River	26-Jun	Andrew White	Bread
2.92	-	Dublin Bay	22-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.90	-	Laytown	13-Oct	Liam Kane	Bread
2.79	61.0	Strangford Lough	14-Jun	Ronald Surgenor	Bread
2.78	-	Wicklow	01-Sep	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.72	-	Beara Peninsula	29-Sep	Dawn Escott (UK)	Mackerel Strip
2.72	-	Rosscarbery	13-Jun	Eamon Power	Bread
2.72	-	Wicklow	03-Jul	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.70	56.0	Rosscarbery	12-Apr	Brian Lombard (J)	Bread
2.63	59.0	Strangford Lough	30-Sep	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.58	-	Strangford Lough	11-Sep	Duncan Cole	Bread



Claims for Thick-Lipped Mullet have increased substantially in recent years as anglers embraced the use of high quality photographs for species identification. Brian Lombard (left) had two specimens including this 2.47 kg fish.



*Des Chew with one of his
three specimen Mullet*

THICK-LIPPED MULLET – continued

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.55	-	Rosscarbery	26-Aug	Michael Patton	Bread
2.52	55.0	Strangford Lough	22-Sep	David Murdoch	Bread
2.49	-	Castletownbere	26-Aug-08	Ken Merrett (UK)	Mackerel Strip
2.49	55.0	Strangford Lough	10-Jun	Ronald Surgenor	Bread
2.47	58.0	Rosscarbery	30-May	Brian Lombard (J)	Bread
2.47	-	Wicklow	21-Sep	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.45	58.0	Strangford Lough	24-Sep	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.44	-	Rosscarbery	22-Aug	Shay McLoughlin	Bread Flake
2.44	-	River Corrib, Galway City	13-Sep	Jim Murray	Bread
2.43	56.0	Rosscarbery	22-May	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.41	-	Rosscarbery	22-Aug	John Millerick	Bread
2.40	57.0	Strangford Lough	05-Oct	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.38	-	Wicklow	30-Jul	Christopher McGregor	Bread Flake
2.35	54.6	Rosscarbery	03-Aug	Mattie Foley	Bread
2.35	-	Laytown	01-Nov	John Cherry	Bread
2.32	54.6	Rosscarbery	01-Mar	Christy Lane	Bread Crust
2.32	-	Rosscarbery	25-Jul	Patrick Lombard	Bread

THICK-LIPPED MULLET – continued

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.32	-	Reen Pier	08-Sep	John Millerick	Mackerel
2.32	-	Rosscarbery	12-Aug	Micheal Hennessy	Bread
2.32	-	Rosscarbery	08-Jul	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.30	-	River Nanny	13-Sep	John Millerick	Bread
2.30	-	Rosscarbery	29-Sep	Micheal Hennessy	Bread
2.30	-	Vartry Estuary	24-May	Brian Cooke	Bread
2.30	-	Rosscarbery	23-Aug	Brian Cooke	Bread
2.29	-	River Dodder	28-Jun	Peter McCartin	Bread
2.27	55.9	Rosscarbery	30-Aug	Noel Lane	Bread Crust
2.27	-	River Corrib	20-Sep	Jim Murray	Bread
2.27	-	Avoca River	21-Jun	Jim Murray	Bread



*A good Mullet for
Ken Merret from the
Isle of Wight*

GOLDEN GREY MULLET

Record 1.191 kg; Specimen Weight 0.68 kg

1.08	-	Cork Harbour	07-May	Keith Aherne	Spinner
1.03	49.5	Cork Harbour	23-Apr	Dan Lynch	Maddie
1.02	43.0	Cork Harbour	24-Apr	Eddie Butler	Ragworm

GOLDEN GREY MULLET – continued

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.98	48.0	Cork Harbour	25-Apr	Siert Schuls	Maddies
0.94	48.3	Cork Harbour	23-Apr	Dan Lynch	Maddie
0.91	45.0	Cork Harbour	07-Jun	Philip Barry	Ragworm
0.91	45.0	Cork Harbour	08-Jun	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Ragworm
0.88	-	Moneypoint	19-Jul	Bill Ryan	Mepps
0.85	45.7	Cork Harbour	23-Apr	Dan Lynch	Maddie
0.82	41.3	Cork Harbour	29-Jun	Noel Lane	Ragworm
0.82	45.0	Cork Harbour	07-Jun	Philip Barry	Ragworm
0.80	42.0	Cork Harbour	25-Apr	Martyn Rayner	Maddies
0.79	46.0	Cork Harbour	28-Apr	Jim Clohessy	Ragworm
0.75	46.0	Cork Harbour	28-Apr	Jim Clohessy	Ragworm
0.74	38.5	Cork Harbour	17-Jun	Alan O'Dowling	Ragworm
0.73	43.0	Cork Harbour	07-Jun	Philip Barry	Ragworm
0.72	40.0	Cork Harbour	25-Apr	Martyn Rayner	Maddies
0.71	-	Cork Harbour	20-May	Ross Macklin	Ragworm
0.71	39.0	Cork Harbour	17-Jun	Alan O'Dowling	Ragworm
0.71	-	Cork Harbour	07-May	Sidney Kennedy	Spinner
0.70	45.0	Cork Harbour	28-Apr	Jim Clohessy	Ragworm
0.68	42.5	Cork Harbour	08-Jun	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Ragworm
0.68	-	Cork Harbour	20-May	Ross Macklin	Ragworm



Introduced to the specimen list in 2005 Golden Grey Mullet are being taken more frequently. Dan Lynch caught his in April

POLLACK

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

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
5.95	86.0	Culdaff	18-Jul	Michael Latham	Mackerel Flapper
5.76	82.0	Donegal Bay	26-Jun	John Hederman	Jellyworm
5.70	86.0	Wreck off Cork	07-Jan	Donal O'Mahony	Shad
5.67	-	Castletownbere	07-Jan	Ian Mulligan	Shad
5.63	83.5	Cork Harbour	11-Jun	Rene Jansen (NL)	Shad
5.60	85.0	Ling Rocks, Kinsale	16-Oct	Martyn Rayner	Jellyworms
5.57	-	Castletownbere	07-Jan	Micheal Hennessy	Mackerel baited Hokkai
5.55	83.8	Ballycastle	14-Oct	William F. McLaughlin	Artificial Sandeel
5.53	81.3	Cork Harbour	11-Dec-08	James Walsh	Shad
5.53	-	Castletownbere	07-Jan	Ian Mulligan	Baited Hokkai

BLONDE RAY

Record 37 lbs (16.78 kg); Specimen Weight 11.34 kg

11.82	94.0	Red Bay	27-Sep	Mark Kirkwood	Launce
11.68	98.0	Red Bay	01-Oct	David van Nieuwenhuizen (NL)	Launce
11.59	97.0	Red Bay	14-Aug	Hamish Currie	Launce

HOMELYN RAY

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

2.81	71.8	Castletownbere	10-Apr	Mattie Foley	Mackerel/Squid
2.44	-	Castletownbere	28-Jul	Dan Rabbitt (UK)	Mackerel
2.38	71.1	Castletownbere	25-Aug	Kathy O'Malley	Mackerel
2.35	67.3	Castletownbere	27-Jun	John Angles	Sandeel



*Fishing out of
Castletownbere Kathy
O'Malley from Co.
Mayo had one of four
specimen Homelyn
Ray taken in 2009*

PAINTED RAY

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

<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
5.67	82.0	Garryvoe	17-Aug	Micheal Hennessy	Mackerel

SIX-GILLED SHARK

New Record 480 kg; Specimen Weight 45.36 kg

480.0	390.0	Carrigaholt	16-Jun	Joe Waldis (CH)	Mackerel Flapper
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THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

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

1.08	50.0	Poolbeg	12-Aug	Andrew Boyce	Mackerel
1.04	48.5	Kilmore Quay	24-Jun	Martyn Rayner	Mackerel Strip
0.91	-	Adrigole	01-Sep	Gary Loveless (UK)	Mackerel Strip



Andrew Boyce from Dublin had this Rockling from Poolbeg in August

TOPE

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

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
23.73	175.0	Red Bay	28-Sep	Pieter W Kleijn (NL)	Mackerel
22.20	147.3	Greystones	21-Jun	Philip Fox	Mackerel
21.50	144.8	Greystones	21-Jun	Jonathan Standing	Mackerel
21.38	175.0	Red Bay	19-Jul	Gary Morrow	Mackerel Flapper
21.01	174.0	Red Bay	02-Aug	Alan Nelson	Mackerel
20.41	-	Howth	09-Oct	John Millerick	Mackerel
19.70	172.0	Red Bay	15-Jul	Plomp Cornelis (NL)	Mackerel
19.65	173.0	Red Bay	24-Sep	James Buick	Mackerel
19.56	-	Red Bay	30-Sep	Pieter W Kleijn (NL)	Mackerel
19.51	165.1	Greystones	10-Jul	Robert McClean	Mackerel Flapper
19.31	172.5	Red Bay	27-Sep	Robert McFarland	Launce
18.80	170.0	Red Bay	16-Sep	Rinus Stokkermans (NL)	Mackerel
18.65	172.0	Red Bay	22-Jul	Hamish Currie	Mackerel

TORSK

Record 4.858 kg; Specimen Weight 2.721 kg

3.10	67.3	Downings	31-May	Piet Van Dorp (NL)	Mackerel
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TRIGGER FISH

Record 2.54 kg; Specimen Weight 1.474 kg

2.01	47.0	Kenmare Bay	08-Oct	Gerrit Noordkamp	Mackerel Strip
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A Greystones Tope for Philip Fox

WHITING

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

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.54	54.5	Carrigaholt	04-Oct	Luke Aston	Mackerel
1.39	50.8	Crosshaven	01-Nov	Michael Dennehy	Mackerel
1.37	55.0	Carrigaholt	29-Aug	Karoly-Levente Gyorfi	Mackerel Strip
1.36	55.0	Carrigaholt	25-Jul	Andrew Boyce	Mackerel

BALLAN WRASSE

Record 4.3 kg; Specimen Weight 2.154 kg

2.56	-	Kilmore Quay	15-Mar	Patrick F Timmins	Muppet/Pirk
2.50	-	Kilmore Quay	17-Sep	Alasdair Watt	Crabs
2.45	52.0	Kilmore Quay	26-Sep	Jeremy Power	Ragworm
2.40	54.0	Brownstown Head	11-Jun	Johnny Arrigan	Ragworm
2.40	49.5	Cork Harbour	04-Oct	Tony Tait	Crab
2.30	-	Kilmore Quay	18-Sep	John Holmes (UK)	Crab



The heaviest Whiting of 2009 fell to charter skipper Luke Aston out of Carrigaholt

BALLAN WRASSE – continued

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.30	48.0	Red Bay	25-Oct	Gary Morrow	Ragworm
2.27	50.0	Red Bay	09-Nov	Richard McAlorum	Ragworm
2.27	49.3	Kerry Head	13-Sep	Philip Barry	Crab
2.24	-	Skerries	15-Sep	Pierce Moran, Snr	Ragworm
2.24	50.0	Red Bay	23-Oct	Richard McAlorum	Ragworm
2.19	-	Kenmare Bay	31-Aug	Andre de Nooijer (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.18	48.0	Kerry Head	12-Sep	Philip Barry	Crab
2.15	-	Kenmare Bay	25-Oct	Tony Togher	Shrimp



Tony Tait from Cork with a Ballan Wrasse from Cork Harbour

CUCKOO WRASSE

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

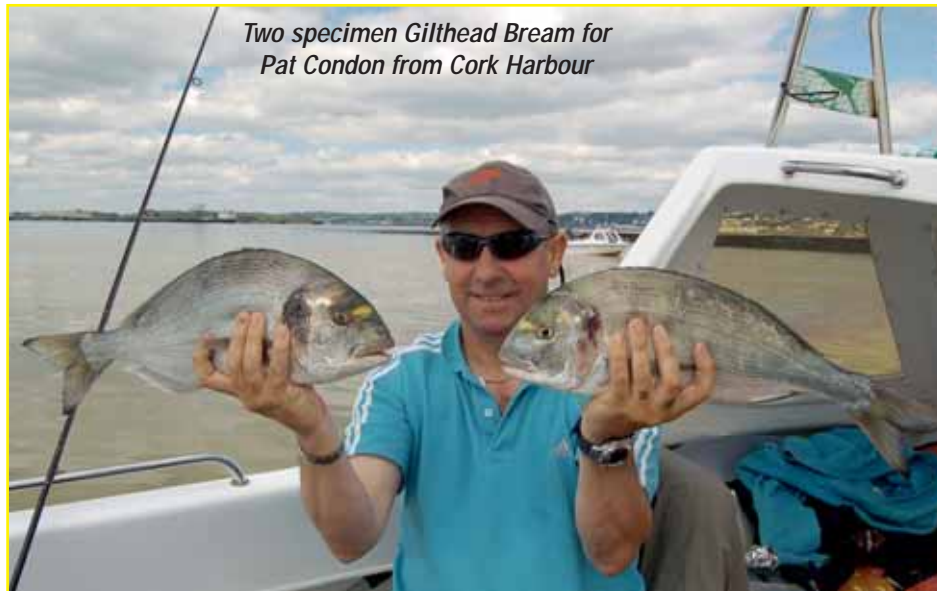
<u>WT</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
kg	cm				
0.82	40.0	Maidens, Larne	20-Oct	David McCormick	Mackerel
0.79	37.0	Red Bay	03-Oct	Pieter W Kleijn (NL)	Crab
0.79	–	Ballycastle	16-Aug	Ross Macklin	Prawn
0.74	38.0	Red Bay	12-Oct	Alan Metcalfe (UK)	Mackerel Strip
0.74	36.8	Maidens, Larne	26-Oct	David McCormick	Mackerel
0.73	36.0	Youghal	08-Jul	Donal Domeney	Ragworm
0.71	37.5	Red Bay	11-Jul	Hamish Currie	Ragworm
0.68	36.0	Red Bay	09-Nov	Nicholas McAlorum	Ragworm
0.65	37.0	Red Bay	12-Jul	Plomp Cornelis (NL)	Mackerel
0.65	37.0	Red Bay	08-Aug	Billy Hall	Ragworm
0.65	37.0	Red Bay	03-Oct	Hans J.J. Dijkman (NL)	Crab
0.65	37.0	Red Bay	17-Oct	Eugene McKee	Ragworm

CUCKOO WRASSE – continued

<u>WT</u> kg	<u>LT</u> cm	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.63	35.5	Ballycastle	09-Aug	Dessy Young	Baited Feathers
0.63	35.0	Ballycastle	09-Aug	Terry Jackson	Baited Feathers
0.63	34.0	Ballycastle	09-Aug	Terry Jackson	Baited Feathers
0.62	36.5	Red Bay	13-Jul	Hamish Currie	Crab
0.62	36.5	Red Bay	09-Aug	Hamish Currie	Crab
0.62	36.5	Red Bay	01-Sep	Colin Davison	Mackerel
0.62	37.0	Red Bay	25-Oct	Peter McFarland	Ragworm
0.60	32.5	Ballycastle	09-Aug	Dessy Young	Baited Feathers
0.60	36.0	Ballycastle	09-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel baited feathers
0.60	36.8	Maidens, Larne	13-Oct	David Craig	Ragworm
0.60	36.0	Red Bay	09-Aug	James Buick	Ragworm
0.60	36.0	Red Bay	28-Aug	Richard McAlorum	Peeler Crab
0.60	36.8	Maidens, Larne	26-Oct	Frederick Mills	Mackerel
0.59	34.8	Caherciveen	24-Oct	Des O'Connell	Mackerel
0.58	35.6	Maidens, Larne	14-Oct	David McCormick	Mackerel
0.57	38.0	Red Bay	11-Oct	Ian Jones	Ragworm
0.57	–	Ballycastle	16-Aug	Ross Macklin	Prawn



*Pieter Kleijn
with a Red Bay
Cuckoo Wrasse*



Well-known specimen hunter Terry Jackson with one of his three specimen 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.

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. Since 2009 this technology has been adopted by the ISFC as the standard approach to cyprinid identification. Arising from the capacity to distinguish between hybrids rudd/roach hybrids have been added to the list of eligible species from 2010.

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 could 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.

For technical reasons analysis of all shad (25 samples of scales) and smoothhound (2 fin clips) had to be postponed until 2010.

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
Notes: 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 (*Mustelus asterias*) and three bearded rockling (*Gaidropsarus vulgaris*), (from 1983), garfish (*Belone 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), gilthead bream (*Sparus aurata* L.) (from 2007) and blackmouthed dogfish (*Galeus melastomus*) (from 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.

NEW SPECIES ADDED TO SPECIMEN LISTINGS

Roach/Rudd Hybrids

Claims for this hybrid have been submitted periodically and the ISFC decided to include it in the specimen listings from 2010. The specimen threshold weight is 0.9 kg.

Black Bream

Following the submission of a number of claims for Black Bream (*Spondylusoma cantharus*) this species has been included on the specimen listings from 2010 onwards. The specimen threshold weight is 1 kg.

The record weight for Roach/Rudd and Black Bream will remain open until the end of 2010 and claims submitted for both in 2009 will be eligible for specimen and record purposes.

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



Roach Bream Hybrid photographs from Oliver Doyle

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 Three scales to be taken
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	Three scales to be taken
Smooth-hound	Close ups (a) tail fin (b) underside of head showing mouth (c) back in region of dorsal fin Tissue sample to be taken
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

Many anglers have submitted high quality photographs capturing the important characteristics required for positive identification. 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, Monkfish and Eel: Sharks and rays (elasmobranchs) are a group of fishes requiring special consideration. In terms of conservation status, Undulate Ray (*Raja undulata*) are deemed as endangered while Common Skate (*Raja Batis*) and Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) are deemed as critically endangered (IUCN, 2008). In 2009, the Common Skate received protection from the European Council in ICES boxes IIa, IIIa, IV, VIIa-k, VIII and IX (which include all Irish coastal fisheries) which means that the species cannot be retained by commercial fishermen if captured. Undulate Ray and Angelshark (or Monkfish) also received full protection in 2009 from the European Council in ICES boxes VIa-b, VIIa-k, VIII and IX, meaning that neither species can be retained or landed if caught. Fishing mortality is likely to be substantially reduced due to this mandatory release order.

In 1976, the ISFC, in the interests of conservation, decided to remove the Common Skate 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)).

Undulate Ray and Monkfish were removed from the list of eligible species in 2006. Claims for a new record in either species will be considered provided that the fish is weighed on shore, photographed and returned alive. In 2006 as the ISFC wanted to ensure no mortalities arising from specimen angling both were suspended from the listings for a period of three years. Based on a review of all available data for both species in 2009, which showed a decline in the numbers of Angelshark being caught and released by anglers, and no major change in Undulate Ray catches, the ISFC has decided that the moratorium on all three species will continue until 2012 when it will be reviewed again.

Freshwater eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) has been suspended from the specimen listings since mid May 2009 because of the introduction of Bye-law No C.S. 303, 2009 which prohibits angling for eel. This bye-law was introduced to assist in the recovery of eel stocks which have virtually collapsed throughout its natural range in Europe. In keeping with the bye-law the situation will be reviewed in 2012 when the impacts of various measures on eel stock recovery, including the cessation of the commercial eel fishery in Ireland, will be assessed.

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

$X \text{ kg divided by } 0.454 = Y \text{ metric pounds}$

Pounds to kilogrammes

$X \text{ lbs divided by } 2.205 = Y \text{ kg}$

REVIEW OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS

In 2009 the ISFC began 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).

Following the review of freshwater species and some marine species (as listed up to Garfish (*B. belone*)) the following specimen weights have been revised effective from 2010 onwards:

Rudd: reduced to 0.9 kg
Rudd/Bream: reduced to 1.2 kg
Dace: reduced to 0.3 kg
Anglerfish: reduced to 12 kg
Black sole: reduced to 0.8 kg
Brill: reduced to 2 kg
Dab: reduced to 0.6 kg
Garfish: reduced to 1 kg

Factors taken into account included the number of specimens taken per annum, the geographical distribution of specimens around Ireland and trends in the numbers taken over different periods. The remaining species will be reviewed in 2010.

CONSERVATION SPECIMENS

Anglers are increasingly conservation orientated and submissions have been received by the ISFC from anglers and others in recent years regarding the desirability of using length as a proxy for weight thus allowing fish (particularly elasmobranchs) to be returned alive to the water without the requirement for measuring weight on land, as is required under the existing ISFC rules. The ISFC undertook to examine the possibility of a "Conservation Specimen" category in 2009, for two species Tope and Blue Shark, which would be based on fish length. Progress on this complex issue was achieved in 2009. Length data for both species and some other elasmobranchs was retrieved and some length-weight relationships were reviewed. However, the quality of available data was somewhat limited and often the relationships displayed significant variability depending on time of year, sex of the fish and location of capture. The ISFC will investigate this issue further in 2010 with a view to developing length thresholds for some elasmobranchs for 2011 for this alternative specimen award. Particular challenges to ensure this type of award is addressed properly include selection and certification of length measurement instruments and ensuring the measurements are taken accurately.

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.

Lengths (cm) as submitted on each claim form are presented in this report for the first time for all species this year. Ideally lengths should be recorded on all claims submitted. Significant length variation is evident for most species. This is due to natural variability (time of year, sex, location, feeding etc) but it is likely that fish length measurement techniques were inconsistent also. From 2010 onwards, in addition to weight, the ISFC requests that all fish are measured as described in the table overleaf.

Species	Measurement (cm) required	Technique
ALL Marine species except Bass	Total length	Place fish on top of measuring device and measure in a straight line from tip of snout to end of tail
ALL Marine species (except ray and skate)	Girth	Measure greatest girth using tape measure – usually in front of dorsal fin
Ray and skate	Wingspan	Place fish on top of measuring device and measure from wingtip to wingtip
ALL Freshwater species AND Bass	Forklength	Place fish on top of measuring device and measure from tip of snout to middle rays of tail
ALL Sharks, Rays and Skates	Sex – state on claim form if fish is male or female	Males can be identified by their claspers (modified pelvic fins) which are thin elongated paired fins situated behind the pelvic fins. Females do not have claspers but have an opening between the pelvic fins.

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.



James Walsh with a fine Cod

Weighing Scale Certification

LIST OF REGIONAL VERIFICATION CENTRES

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

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

PRESENTATION OF 2008 AWARDS

Tom McSweeney, RTE's Marine Correspondent and presenter of Seascapes on RTE Radio 1, made the Annual Presentation of Awards to 2008 award winners at the Red Cow Morans Hotel, Dublin on 21st February 2009.

In March 2009 at the Tourism Ireland stand at the Big One Angling Show, Ashley Hayden, Eastern Regional Fisheries Board and Fáilte Ireland, presented awards to UK winners.

Later in March, Dutch and Belgian winners were presented with their awards by Micheal Hennessy, Southwestern Regional 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, particularly Mike Thrussel, 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 2009.

Special thanks to Bill Ryan for his shad article.

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.

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 Dr. 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
2009	470	15	39	5	0	0	2	531

n/d = not determined



*Gary Morrow with a
Red Bay Ballan
Wrasse*

Irish Specimen Fish Committee

Expenditure and Revenue Account - 1st January to 31st December 2008

2007	Expenditure	2008	2007	Revenue	2008
€		€	€		€
				Balance b/f	14540.37
				Grants	
7886.61	Printing	7934.01	5500.00	CFB	5500.00
1447.44	Award medals/trophies	4514.18	150.00	SWRFB	150.00
112.47	Miscellaneous	442.16	0.00	ERFB	4000.00
3045.31	Award Day costs 08	3935.00	3000.00	MI	3000.00
0.00	Award Day deposit for 09	500.00	5000.00	Failte Ireland	2500.00
9.13	Bank charges	17.24	0.00	RTE	300.00
				Donations	
	Total	17342.59	792.85	Clubs, Feds	1096.12
			500.00	& individuals	
				Southside Angling	0.00
	Balance c/d	13743.90			31086.49
		31086.49			31086.49
				Balance b/d	13743.90

The ISFC has prepared a revenue and expenditure account for 12 months ended 31st December 2008 based on the movements in the bank. Upon review of the financial records provided we are satisfied that this income and expenditure account accurately reflects the underlying transactions.

Signed:




W. Walsh & 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 2009 were:

Central Fisheries Board; Fáilte Ireland; Loughs Agency; Marine Institute; Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland; The Irish Charters Skippers Association; Cork Sea Angling Club; Waterford & District Coarse Angling Club; Eastern Regional Fisheries Board; Southwestern Regional Fisheries Board. Shannon Regional Fisheries Board; Northwestern Regional Fisheries Board;.

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; **Mattie Foley**, 18 Upper Lotabeg Road, Mayfield, Cork; **Eric Gosnell**, 52 Marian Park, Church Road, Blackrock, Cork; **Richard Hancox**, 30 Greenfield Avenue, Northampton, NN3 2AA, England; **Philip Hodgins**, 194 Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin 16; **Christy Lane**, 10 Harringtons Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; **Noel Lane**, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork; **Robert McClean**, 321 Charlesland Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow; **Nicholas McEvoy**, 6 Francis Crescent, Grange Heights, Waterford; **Bert McGregor**, 34 Rivermead Park, St. Margarets, Co. Dublin; **Vincent McKernan**, 19 Drummahaul Park, Randalstown, Co. Armagh, BT41 3AR; **W. F. McLaughlin**, 27 Castle Gardens, Limavady, Co. Derry, BT49 0SD. **Derek J. Miller**, 35 Greenmeadows Road, Madeley, Crewe, Cheshire, CW3 9 EY, England; **Jim Newell**, 129 Haypark Avenue, Belfast, BT7 3FG; **Joseph O'Dowd**, "St. Andrews", Trabolgan, Whitegate, Co. Cork; **Karl O'Leary**, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; **Donal O'Mahony**, Vally View, Kilmore Innishannon, Co. Cork; **Pat O'Shea**, Carriglen, Bellvue, Cobh, Co. Cork; **B. Oxley**, 43 Old Wortley Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S61 1NQ, England; **Jim Sloan**, 7 Shane Park, Lurgan, Co. Armagh, BT66 7HD; **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	Ballyeighter Lake	Nick Parry
Salmon	57		1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Brown Trout (Lake)	26	2	15.7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Brown Trout (River)	20		22.2.1957	River Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place
Sea Trout	16	6	29.10.1983	Shimna River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus

MARINE SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs	ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Angler Fish	42.985	kg	3.11.1985	Belfast Lough	Sean Neill
Bass	17	13	21.10.2000	Doughmore Strand	Emmet Naughton
Black Sole	6.32		28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Bluemouth	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. belone</i>)	1.729		28.5.2007	Cork Harbour	Stephen O'Neill
Garfish (<i>B. svetovidovi</i>)	1.11		5.8.1994	Courtmacsherry	Eric Leijten
Gilthead Bream	3.24	kg	10.9.2007	Cork Harbour	Robert McClean

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	7.10.59	Achill Head	J. McMonagle
Six Gilled Shark	480 kg	16.6.09	Carrigaholt	Joe Waldis
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
FRESHWATER FISH	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs	
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	0.3	0.66	Scales* & photos*
Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	6	15	suspended from listings		
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*
Roach/Rudd Hybrid	-		0.9	1.98	Scales* & photos*
Rudd (<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>)	4	8	0.9	1.98	Scales* & photos*
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7	10	1.2	2.64	Scales* & photos*
Tench (<i>Tinca tinca</i>)	8.15		2.722	6	-
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	57		9.072	20	Scales
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (Lake)	26	2	4.536	10	Scales
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (River)	20		2.268	5	Scales
Sea Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	16	6	2.722	6	Scales
Slob Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	-		4.536	10	Scales
* for genetic fingerprinting feasibility study					
SEA FISH					
Angler Fish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	42.985	kg	12.0	26.43	Body
Bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	17	13	4.536	10	-
Black Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>)	6.32		0.8	1.76	-
Black Bream (<i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</i>)	-		1.0	2.205	Body
Bluemouth (<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>)	1.32	kg	0.9	1.9845	Photo
Brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)	9	8	2.0	4.4	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	0.6	1.32	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 belone</i>)	1.729	kg	1.0	2.205	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 microcellata</i>)	17.21		4.536	10	Photo
Ray - Sting (<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>)	33.2 kg		13.608	30	Photo
Ray - Thornback (<i>Raja clavata</i>)	37		9.072	20	Photo
Ray - Undulate (<i>Raja undulata</i>)	18		suspended from listings		
Ray's Bream (<i>Brama brama</i>)	6	4.25	2.268	5	Body
Red Sea Bream (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>)	9	6	2.041	4.5	-
Rockling, Three Bearded (<i>Gaidropsarus vulgaris</i>)	3	1	0.794	1.75	Body
Scad (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)	1.97		0.680	1.5	Body
Shad - Allis (<i>Alosa alosa</i>)	-		1.814	4	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>)	480 kg		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, BLACK BREAM, 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-HOUND 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

ARE THE SHAD IN?

Bill Ryan lives in Querrin near Kilkee, Co. Clare and has fished the West Clare area since childhood. He has provided guided sea angling tours in the West Clare area for many years. One of his passions is the annual shad angling trips to the River Barrow in May every year

Fishing has taken me all over the country to beautiful places where sometimes I leave down the rod and soak in the atmosphere. From the great storm beaches of Kerry to the magnificent rock ledges of West Clare but none is more beautiful than St. Mullins on the River Barrow. What a place to fish and not catch a fish! Many years ago the famous Des Brennan, angler extraordinaire and previous ISFC Secretary, told me about the Twaite Shad and the thrill of catching them. Landing four from ten hooked fish is a good average he said! They will jump into the air, shaking their heads to throw the lure. Yes! I know this sounds incredible but the shad is a sea fish! It arrives in shoals in May and ascends the River Barrow as far as the magical St. Mullins.

It was late April 1984 and the unseasonably warm weather had me thinking of shad.

Was it too early? I decided to give it a go!

Opposite the old Mill, Des had said.

I arrived at St. Mullins with no angler in sight!

Ten fish later and nothing on the bank I was going to throw the rod in the river in desperation. What was going on? A good strong grab of the lure, a mad dash around the river and then nothing! Four from ten and here I was with none from ten! Finally I landed a beautiful herring-like fish; my first Twaite Shad.

Now I had the knack and later that day I landed two specimens; one of 2lbs and one of 1.94 lbs I hooked over one hundred Twaite Shad that day and landed about thirty. Now over twenty years later I still get shad fever in early May as the weather starts to get warm and the spring tides are building.

In 2004 my brother Pat caught a magnificent shad of 3.22 lbs, the fifth heaviest on the specimen listings, and my brother Fintan had his first shad at 3.19 lbs (pictured below). In 2006 another brother Mike caught his first specimen shad of 1.15 kg. My brothers now suffer shad fever just like me and make the long journey overnight from Co. Clare to arrive at first light at St. Mullins. Until 2005 I lived in Dublin so I had a short trip but now I live in Co. Clare and I also make the long overnight journey too!

"Bad news fish", to quote Ernest Hemingway from *The Old Man and the Sea*, the Ryans are back!

My typical shad fishing expedition - rise at 3 am, and having watched the alarm clock most of the night, I am eager to get going.

Weather has been exceptionally warm all week with building spring tides so conditions *should* be perfect! Half finished breakfast is abandoned. Shad gear has been packed, checked and double checked from the day before. I check it again!

It is still dark outside but hopefully the good weather will hold.

Heading south from Dublin I pass Blessington Lakes at sunrise. The sky is a blaze of gold over the Wicklow Mountains which are vividly reflected in the lakes. Between Baltinglass and Castledermot I check for scarce yellowhammers which return from Africa, feeding on grain spilled from lorries along the road edge. I spot two yellowhammers before they disappear over a ditch. I also check the sand pit along this road for Sand Martins. Have they returned from Africa yet? This is part of the annual shad trip ritual.



I get my first view of the Barrow between Leighlinbridge and Bagenalstown. How inviting it looks! Near Borris I see the Blackstairs rolling south to St. Mullins. Above Clashganny Lock I pull in to take in the beautiful view. Bluebells grow in wild profusion along the shaded banks. Near Glynn I see Brandon Hill standing guard over the Barrow at lovely Graiguenamanagh. A light breeze is swirling the last wisps of early morning fog off the mountain.

Arriving in St. Mullins I pass the old graveyard and the great mound of the Norman Motte and Bailey and head down to the river. The early morning sun is burning the ghostly swirling mist off the Barrow. The echoing calls of the woodland birds welcome me back. The early morning tide is filling.

The total catches of specimens recorded by the Specimen Fish Committee since shad were first put on to the listings has fluctuated with a number of very good years. In years when the Committee raised the qualifying specimen weight catches fell and then rose again gradually showing that anglers responded to the challenge set down by the new weight. The Ryan Clan catches also fluctuated over the years but were out of step with years in which large numbers of actual specimens were taken. The two graphs are not directly comparable but they show that we often caught many shad under the specimen weight in years when the total catch of specimens was low and vice versa (see graphs). The exception is 2009 when both graphs show similar increases.

Are the shad in? The Ryan clan are gathering! Every year I say to myself as I walk briskly up to take my first cast of the shad angling season: "We'll soon find out if the shad are in!"

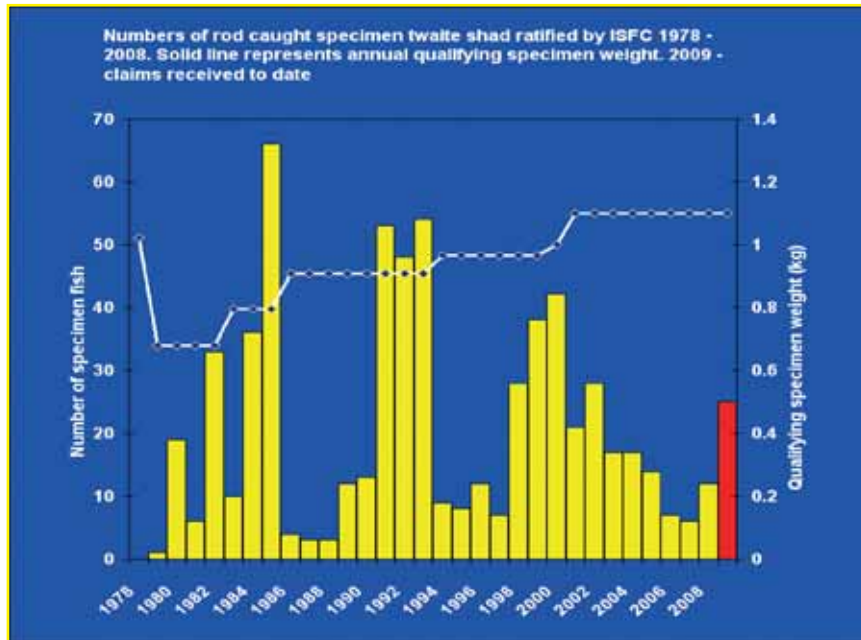
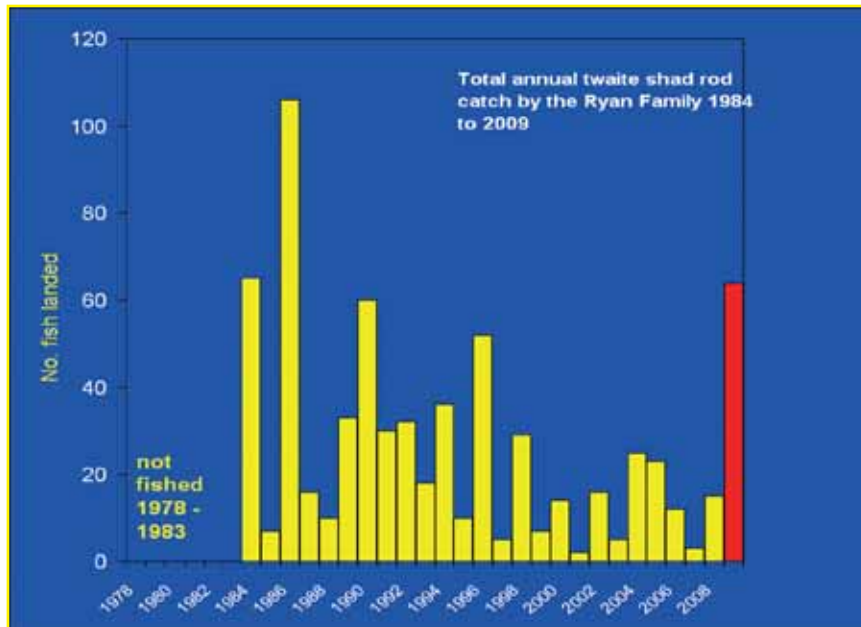
GENETIC IDENTIFICATION OF SHAD

Like many anglers I am very conservation orientated and make every effort to return all fish alive. Although I understood the necessity for proper species identification to claim a specimen, I was always uncomfortable about having to present each specimen to a Central Fisheries Board biologist for species identification. I was aware that Twaite Shad and Allis Shad are very similar in physical appearance, although Allis Shad can reach much larger sizes and also the importance of recording all species information accurately. I knew that specimens presented were used for scientific purposes as angling was often one of the only ways of collecting samples.

One of the most interesting and valuable developments in the scientific fisheries work began in 2007. Through a partnership with Dr. Stefano Mariani and his research group in the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin, work began on genetic fingerprinting of several fish species including specimen and other non-specimen shad, for species identification and other research purposes. In 2008, this work delivered a technique which, from 2009 onwards, allowed anglers to enjoy their specimen hunting, return shad alive and also satisfy ISFC specimen identification requirements. Taking a sample (some scales) was sufficient for genetic analysis. The results of this research work have been very interesting and the numbers of claims submitted for shad increased in 2009 to 25 – an increase in the run of shad this year and the fact that specimen shad can be returned alive undoubtedly helped to grow the numbers claimed (see graphs).

Despite being a voluntary body with limited funds, I believe that the ISFC has made great strides in progressing the use of this type of high end scientific work. Working with UCD, genetic identification of cyprinids and their hybrids, and smoothound species, is now being offered by the ISFC for positive species identification.

Bill Ryan, November 2009





ISFC Awards Day in the 1960s with (right to left) Dr. Michael Kennedy (with pipe), Des Brennan, Capt. Christy O'Toole and Dr. Arthur Went.

OBITUARY

Dr. Michael Kennedy

1922 – 2009

The Irish Specimen Fish Committee was the brainchild of Dr. Michael Kennedy and his colleague, the late Dr. Arthur Went. Being aware that documentation of rod caught large or specimen fish in Irish waters was, at best, 'haphazard' they, together with representatives of other national organizations, established the ISFC in 1955 to promote angling development and particularly accurate recording of rod-caught big fish in Ireland. Over the past fifty-five years their foresight has contributed handsomely to many facets of Irish fisheries and the angling tourism industry.

Fisheries science is relatively young in Ireland and in the 1960s Michael was very much a visionary, with a deep understanding of fisheries ecology in both freshwater and the coastal marine environment. He began to investigate the complexities of fish in Irish ecosystems, systematically researching the biology of many species. Nowadays the so-called "ecosystem approach" underpins the national and international approach to fisheries science and fish stock management.

His principal career path stemmed from his angling experience. Growing up in Limerick in the 1920s and 30s he developed a huge interest in freshwater angling. Time spent sea angling in Youghal over that period fostered his interest in marine fish. This led to a passion

to understand fish and their habitats in Ireland. Michael specialized in trout and mullet angling and years later his understanding and the notes he had kept on his catches were used to publish valuable papers on both species. Recognizing Michael's passion for angling and his immense interest in mullet, the Irish Specimen Fish Committee introduced the 'Dr. Michael Kennedy Award' in 2005 for the angler who catches the best specimen mullet of the year.

In the late 1940s Michael was working as a civil servant in the Land Commission in Dublin and much of his leisure time was spent angling and collecting fish data in different waters, mainly on the east and south coast. Writing for one of the early Irish angling magazines "Angling", Michael was becoming well-known in angling circles. In 1951 he was headhunted to act as the first Secretary/General Manager of the fledgling Inland Fisheries Trust (IFT) and much of his professional life was spent working in the organisation as a fisheries biologist. In 1958 the IFT embraced the development of coarse and sea angling and under his guidance the development of sport fishing as a national recreation and tourist attraction began to flourish. Fundamental to this was a research programme to understand the biology of fish species in Irish waters. The early manifestation of this work was a manuscript titled 'The biology of coarse fish in Ireland', co-researched with the late Dessie McCarthy. Many of the core papers on freshwater fish biology in Ireland were produced under Michael's stewardship during this period.

His passion for sea angling was the stimulus for 'The Sea Angler's Fishes', a most informative and instructive tome. At 508 pages, this book, originally published in 1954, is one of the definitive works on sea fish in the UK and Ireland from an angler's perspective, with a wealth of information, collected over many years, about marine fish life history and feeding habits. Apart from the quality of the information presented, the book is impressively illustrated by Michael, with finely detailed images of all of the fish species described and merits the status of a classic. The pen drawings and coloured illustrations capture a vibrancy which would escape an artist lacking his supreme knowledge of the subject matter. The technical detail, factual information and academic thoroughness of the book captured the admiration of academia and University College Cork duly awarded Michael a published work PhD in 1959.

Over his 23 year career with the IFT, Michael had many scientific papers published. "The" brown trout paper (Kennedy and Fitzmaurice, 1971) is a masterpiece and is still widely quoted. Modern scientific papers tend to be somewhat cryptic to accommodate the demands on space in scientific journals but the trout paper is written in a style that demands to be read and remains a superb contribution to our understanding of brown trout ecology. His papers on bream, rudd, tench, gudgeon, bass, mullet and many more were penned in the same captivating manner.

Michael departed the Inland Fisheries Trust (IFT) in 1974 but remained active in fisheries research up to his passing. His extensive knowledge of Irish fisheries and freshwater ecology was highly regarded and his inputs were always extremely informative and valuable. His recall of articles, publications and quotes from various sources was legendary and it was this encyclopedic knowledge that further enhanced Michael's standing in the sector.

Fisheries science is developing rapidly in Ireland and Michael Kennedy, an eminent man with a brilliant mind, was a true pioneer who deserves huge credit for contributing so much to fisheries science in Ireland, and further afield, for at least half a century.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

OBITUARY

Ned O'Farrell

1922 – 2009

The River Shannon provided the training ground for a long angling 'career' for the young Ned O'Farrell. Using basic tackle, including a pin which made an effective hook, Ned angled for many summers with his Uncle Liam. Later in life he liked to fish the Shannon at Clondra with his good friend Joe Ward but it was the Grand Canal at Prosperous that became a particularly convenient favourite 'hotspot' for Ned.

Prosperous in Co. Kildare was where he set down family roots and for 55 years he contributed immensely to the area and particularly angling. A founder member of the Prosperous Angling Club in 1956, he served as Chairman for the following 29 years. Over his angling career he represented Ireland abroad at many coarse angling competitions. He captained the Irish team on one occasion and managed on two other occasions. Even in his latter years he remained very active and held the office of NCFFI President up to his passing in July 2009. One of his greatest achievements was organising the first major coarse fishing festival on the Grand Canal in 1974 when 250 anglers competed. This competition runs to this day.

Ned was a loyal member of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee representing coarse fish angling for 14 years up to his retirement in 2008. His experience and wise counsel over his term of office within the ISFC was invaluable when a debate was heading for stalemate. He often had the final word when he usually adopted a pragmatic approach to resolving a potentially contentious issue. Ned also functioned as Honorary Auditor for many years ensuring that ISFC accounts were scrupulously accurate. He particularly enjoyed the Annual ISFC Awards Day and the Committee was delighted to mark his retirement at the Awards Day in February 2009 for his contribution over the years.

For his dedication to voluntary causes, for his encouraging words and support for the ISFC, for his promotion of angling and for his cheery good humour, he will be sadly missed.

Ned (on left) receiving his retirement award from ISFC Chairman Trevor Champ at Awards Day 2009.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.



SPECIMEN GALLERY



A specimen Mullet for Duncan Cole



One of Dessy Young's specimen Cuckoo Wrasse