

# IRISH SPECIMEN FISH 2014



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

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Coiste Éisc Mór na hÉirinn

# The Irish Specimen Fish Committee

Founded in 1955, the ISFC is an independent voluntary body, representative of angling interests in Ireland, whose principal function is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large (i.e. specimen) fish caught on rod and line by anglers in Ireland, both in freshwater and marine waters. The Committee also ratifies Irish record rod caught fish. The ISFC coordinates and administers the unique specimen awards scheme which is designed to recognize any angler who catches a specimen fish and to publicise the angling venue. Successful anglers are awarded a certificate and a commemorative badge. Specially commissioned silver medals are presented to captors of record fish and special awards are also made to captors of multiple specimen fish (on a cumulative basis). This report is a detailed listing of all particulars relating to specimen and record fish captures in Irish waters in 2014. Over 28,000 claims have been received by the ISFC over the past 59 years. This dataset is one of the most valuable and long-running time-series of its type.

## Irish Specimen Fish Committee Members 2014

Dr. Robert Rosell (*AFBI*), Chairman, Dr. William Roche, Secretary, Shane O'Reilly and Micheál Hennessy (*Inland Fisheries Ireland*), Alan McGurdy, Stewart McGrane (*Game Angling*), Dr. Edward Fahy, Dr. Patrick Boylan (*Loughs Agency*), Der Casey (*Coarse Angling*) and Brian Cooke (*Sea Angling*).

### Awards Presentation

The Annual Presentation of Awards  
to anglers whose claims were accepted during 2014

will be held in

**Bewleys Airport Hotel**

Swords, Co. Dublin at 2.30pm sharp

**on Saturday 21st February 2015**

Irish anglers who are due awards are invited to attend

This report was  
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from:



Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland



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

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**Cover: Stephen Brennan with a December Flounder from Cullenstown**

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# ISFC Chairman's Review 2014



It has been my first full year as Chairman, and I must, without embarrassing anyone in particular, acknowledge the work put in by the committee who give time to review all claims and further the business of the committee. ISFC is a voluntary body and members have 'day jobs' and other lives to lead. Notwithstanding that some also need time to actually go fishing. Some even catch specimen fish!

Remarkably, there have been four new records ratified this year: the largest ever recorded Irish rod caught carp, thin lipped and golden grey mullet, and spur dogfish. One new record would make a year – to report four is remarkable. It's been another good year for the number of claims and the long hot summer was productive for sea anglers while anglers in freshwater struggled at times. Painted Ray and Thick Lipped Mullet dominated claims this year.

In response to reduced numbers of claims for some species, it has been necessary to reduce some specimen weights to encourage anglers to target these species. This has been done with careful deliberation; not least because of the potential workload should we get it wrong and set the specimen weight too low! While a specimen award should primarily recognise a significant fish which is a challenge to locate and catch, it is also important to investigate the reason for a lack of specimens: be it fishing pressure on stocks, or change in growth rate, climate, distribution, or angling practice. Reducing a threshold to increase claim numbers may provide information on the factors affecting individual species.

The committee does its absolute best to verify that all claims are genuine and accurate. This is impossible without specific rules, and a high level of honesty from anglers. Making sure that rules are sufficiently rigorous to ensure good levels of recording accuracy, but not too onerous for reporting, is a constant theme in committee deliberations. Some needs are obvious; for example, witnesses to capture and weighing of fish. Others are more difficult and require effort by claimants; for example, the use of certified weighing instruments. There have been lengthy deliberations in committee on the levels of weighing scale accuracy required, with particular focus on the minimum fish size which can be weighed. This is dependent on the weighing scale interval (or division) and a revised rule, based on an EU standard, has been developed to address this.

ISFC is also moving, where possible, towards more 'length based' specimens. Tope were first on the list; Spur dogfish and Smoothound followed in 2014. From 2015 Blue Shark will be added to this list. Weight based specimens will remain for these species also. The process of opening a length based class for specimens is somewhat more complex than anglers might appreciate, and sufficient weight at length data must be sourced to set the appropriate threshold length. The break in a long term time-series also matters to the records of the committee. Unfortunately, as records to date are all set by weight, the length based system will not allow an Irish record claim. With some species, measurement at sea is the best that can currently be achieved where release of the fish is desired, and the committee has noted the capture of some noteworthy fish recorded this way in 2014. Where it is illegal to target some species for conservation reasons (currently European eel and Bluefin Tuna) these species will remain closed to claims and length based claims are not under consideration.

The welcome trend among anglers to release specimens, even where the species can be legally taken, creates difficulties where specific features require to be checked for species verification. It is now possible to identify some species from high quality photographs and others from provision of scale samples for DNA based identification. Cyprinid fishes are a prime example –indeed these currently have maximum legal retention landing sizes, below specimen size, in all jurisdictions in Ireland.

Anglers must carefully read the requirements for submitting a claim in order to be sure of having it accepted. High quality photographs of fish and particularly the salient listed features required to identify species, are essential for many. By all means take that classic view of the fish being held forward to camera, but an additional clear sharply focussed photograph, on a delineated measuring mat, makes the fish more credible. Mats are available commercially and from IFI. From 2016 onwards all claims for elasmobranchs (shark, skates and ray) must be accompanied by a photograph of the fish on a recognised measuring device. Apart from providing additional information to support the claim it will be a precursor to the likely introduction of length-based specimens for all elasmobranchs in the future.

This year some salmonid claims were submitted without scale samples - this can make it impossible to verify species and investigate life history. As a case in point, one specimen 'sea trout' turned out on scale reading to be something more unusual - a large river trout without history of marine growth - still a 'specimen' but not of what it was first thought to be. Without a scale reading, a sea trout will not be ratified if there is any potential confusion with salmon. Wherever there is doubt over the veracity of a claim, the committee's decision is final.

Finally staff time given by our employers to ISFC business is much appreciated. ISFC cannot function without sponsorship. Contributions from Inland Fisheries Ireland, the Loughs Agency, fishery owners, angling clubs and individuals are gratefully acknowledged.

Tight lines in 2015!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Rosell'.

Robert Rosell, Chairman

16th December, 2014



## Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2014

In 2014 the ISFC processed 578 claims; 526 were ratified, including four new records. A total of 17 were rejected for non-compliance with ISFC rules and a further 35 will be queried further. Details of new records, other special awards and specimen awards 2014 are listed below:

### **NEW IRISH RECORDS** (Engraved Silver Medal)

For fish exceeding the current Irish record weight



***NEW RECORD Carp***  
***14.24 kg, Loughgall, Co. Armagh, 26th October 2014 – Aaron Cummins***



**NEW RECORD**  
**Golden Grey Mullet**  
**1.2 kg, Cork Harbour, Co. Cork,**  
**16th July 2014 – Stephen O'Neill**

**NEW RECORD**  
**Thin-lipped Mullet 2.86 kg,**  
**Clonakilty, Co. Cork,**  
**23rd August 2014**  
**– Ian Mulligan**

**NEW RECORD*****Spur Dogfish***

***11.06 kg, Red Bay, Co. Antrim, 3rd June 2013 – Tom Walsh***

## SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES 2014

### 20 SPECIES AWARD (Engraved Plaque)

#### **John Millerick, Kinsealy, Co. Dublin**

<b>1991</b>	Flounder (1)
<b>1992</b>	Bream, Twaite Shad (2)
<b>1993</b>	Pike (River) (1)
<b>2003</b>	Perch (1)
<b>2004</b>	Ballan Wrasse, Rudd, Rudd/Bream Hybrid, Smooth Hound, Thick-Lipped Mullet (5)
<b>2005</b>	Roach/Bream Hybrid, Tench (2)
<b>2006</b>	Tope (1)
<b>2007</b>	Carp, Spur Dogfish (2)
<b>2010</b>	Gilthead Bream, Haddock (2)
<b>2012</b>	Golden Grey Mullet (1)
<b>2013</b>	Cuckoo Wrasse (1)
<b>2014</b>	Roach/Rudd Hybrid (1)

**10 SPECIES AWARD** (Engraved Bronze Medal)**Thomas Lynch, Rush, Co. Dublin**

<b>2012</b>	Flounder, Twaite Shad
<b>2013</b>	Gilthead Bream, Rudd/Bream Hybrid, Smooth Hound, Thin Lipped Mullet, Tope,
<b>2014</b>	Brown Trout (River), Golden Grey Mullet, Thick-Lipped Mullet

**Joseph Marsella, Danesfort, Co. Kilkenny**

<b>1998</b>	Pike (River)
<b>2001</b>	Twaite Shad
<b>2010</b>	Garfish, Red Gurnard
<b>2011</b>	Perch, Shad Hybrid
<b>2013</b>	Thick Lipped Mullet
<b>2014</b>	Dace, Flounder, Golden Grey Mullet

**Robert McClean, Kilpedder, Co. Wicklow**

<b>2007</b>	Gilthead Bream
<b>2008</b>	Spur Dogfish, Coalfish
<b>2009</b>	Tope
<b>2010</b>	Lesser Spotted Dogfish
<b>2012</b>	Smooth Hound, Twaite Shad
<b>2013</b>	Red Gurnard
<b>2014</b>	Thick Lipped Mullet, Painted Ray, Flounder

**Bert McGregor, St. Margaret's, Co. Dublin**

<b>1970</b>	Thornback Ray
<b>2003</b>	Ballan Wrasse
<b>2008</b>	Sting Ray
<b>2010</b>	Cuckoo Wrasse
<b>2011</b>	Greater Spotted Dogfish
<b>2012</b>	Flounder
<b>2013</b>	Smooth Hound, Lesser Spotted Dogfish, Tope
<b>2014</b>	Rudd/Bream Hybrid

**Andrew Wolsey, Dromore, Co. Down**

<b>2009</b>	Roach/Rudd Hybrid
<b>2012</b>	Painted Ray, Spur Dogfish
<b>2013</b>	Bream, Gilthead Bream, Roach/Bream Hybrid, Thick-Lipped Mullet, Pike (River)
<b>2014</b>	Tench, Tope



**50 SPECIMENS AWARD** (Gold Specimen Badge)**Des Chew, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14**

<b>2008-2014</b>	Thick Lipped Mullet (20)
<b>2009-2013</b>	Flounder (10)
<b>2010</b>	Bream (2)
<b>2010</b>	Pike (River) (1)
<b>2010</b>	Ballan Wrasse (1)
<b>2012-2014</b>	Rudd/Bream Hybrid (8)
<b>2012-2014</b>	Smooth Hound (7)
<b>2012-2014</b>	Roach/Rudd Hybrid (2)
<b>2012-2014</b>	Painted Ray (2)
<b>2013</b>	Tench (1)
<b>2014</b>	Roach/Bream Hybrid (1)

**Brian Cooke, Killiney, Co. Dublin**

<b>1981-2014</b>	Flounder (5)
<b>1994</b>	Homelyn Ray (1)
<b>1995-2014</b>	Thick-lipped Mullet (16)
<b>1996-2006</b>	Roach/Bream Hybrid (2)
<b>1997</b>	Bream (2)
<b>2002-2005</b>	Tope (2)
<b>2003-2014</b>	Smooth Hound (7)
<b>2003-2012</b>	Rudd/Bream Hybrid (4)
<b>2004</b>	Pike (River) (1)
<b>2005-2006</b>	Perch (5)
<b>2007</b>	Tench (2)
<b>2007</b>	Spur Dogfish (1)
<b>2008-2012</b>	Twaite Shad (4)
<b>2008</b>	Roach (1)
<b>2012</b>	Golden Grey Mullet (1)
<b>2014</b>	Cuckoo Wrasse (1)

**10 SPECIMENS AWARD** (Silver Pin)

<b>Stephen Brennan</b> , Dartry, Dublin 6	2013-2014
<b>Eddie Butler</b> , Danesfort, Co. Kilkenny	2009-2014
<b>Noel Darcy</b> , Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny	2012-2014
<b>Sarah Lynch (J)</b> , Ballinhassig, Co. Cork	2011-2014
<b>Josie Mahon</b> , Artane, Dublin 5	2010-2014
<b>Sue Tait</b> , Midleton, Co. Cork	1998-2014
<b>Mike Thrussell</b> , Gwynedd, Wales	2004-2014
<b>Dara Tuohy</b> , Celbridge, Co. Kildare	2001-2013
<b>Conor Ward</b> , Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow	2013-2014

**DR. MICHAEL KENNEDY AWARD** (Engraved Plaque)**MULLET OF THE YEAR**

Dr. Michael Kennedy, a pioneering fisheries biologist and one of the founders of the ISFC, had a lifelong research interest in mullet species. The Kennedy Award is for the best specimen (highest percentage of the record) and/or a new record of any of the three mullet species for that year.

The 2014 award winner is:

**Ian Mulligan**, Dublin - 2.86 kg **Thin Lipped Mullet** at Rosscarbery, 23rd August, 2014

**DR. A.E.J. WENT AWARD** (Engraved Plaque & Token)**YOUNG SPECIMEN ANGLER OF THE YEAR**

Dr. Arthur Went, a 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 2014 award winner is:

**Conor Ward**, Co. Wicklow – 2.608kg **Roach/Bream Hybrid** at Lough Na Blahy, 5th October, 2014.

**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 2014 award winner is:

**George Kennedy**, Co. Meath – 14.12 kg **Carp** at Loughgall, 14th Sept 2014.

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

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

The 2014 award winner is:

**Philip Dawson**, Lincolnshire, UK – 0.8 kg **Red Mullet** at Kilmore Quay, 9th September, 2014.

## SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2014

## FRESHWATER FISH 2014

## Coarse Fish and Pike

**BREAM****Record 6.07 kg; Specimen Weight, 3.402 kg (7.5 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
4.37	9.63	62.0	Lough Na Blahy	04-Oct	Nicholas Ward	Maggots
4.28	9.44	–	Lough Ree	23-Apr	James Dignam	Maggots
3.91	8.63	54.0	Lough Ree	23-Apr	Luke Canavan-Dignam (J)	Corn
3.86	8.50	–	Lough Ree	23-Apr	Luke Canavan-Dignam (J)	Maggots
3.80	8.38	–	Lough Ree	23-Apr	James Dignam	Maggots
3.52	7.75	60.0	Lough Na Blahy	07-Jun	Conor Ward (J)	Worm/Maggots
3.46	7.63	57.0	Lough Na Blahy	05-Oct	Nicholas Ward	Maggots

**Consistent Bream angler James Dignam****Paddy Higginson with a 6.12 kg Carp from the Lough****Year of capture** is 2014 unless otherwise stated.**Length (L)** assumed to be forklength (cm) for freshwater species and bass, total length for all other marine species.**Country of residence** of international angler denoted by relevant letter after surname.**(J)** after surname denotes juvenile angler.



***George Kennedy  
with his 14.12 kg  
Loughgall Carp***

## **CARP**

### **NEW RECORD 14.24 kg; Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
14.24	31.40	–	Loughgall	26-Oct	Aaron Cummins	Boilie
14.12	31.13	79.0	Loughgall	14-Sep	George Kennedy	Boilie
13.72	30.25	–	Loughgall	26-Oct	George Kennedy	Boilie
11.11	24.50	–	Loughgall	21-Sep	George Kennedy	Boilie
10.66	23.50	–	Loughgall	19-Oct	Aaron Cummins	Boilie
7.99	17.63	66.0	The Lough, Cork	11-May	Terry Jackson	Boilie/Corn
7.94	17.50	71.0	The Lough	02-May	Nicholas Ward	Boilie
7.57	16.70	71.0	The Lough	18-May	Aidan Cox	Artificial Corn
7.48	16.50	–	The Lough	03-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Boilies
7.29	16.06	–	The Lough	03-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Boilies
7.14	15.75	69.0	The Lough	09-May	Kenneth Murphy	Boilie
7.07	15.59	70.0	The Lough	07-May	Patrick Lombard	Boilie
7.03	15.50	–	The Lough	01-Jan	Sidney Kennedy	Boilies
6.92	15.25	–	The Lough	02-Apr	Sarah Lynch (J)	Boilie
6.80	15.00	–	The Lough	05-Apr	Conor Ward (J)	Boilie
6.80	15.00	67.0	The Lough	11-May	Terry Jackson	Boilie
6.58	14.50	67.0	The Lough	05-Apr	David Flynn	Boilie
6.58	14.50	66.0	The Lough	11-May	Terry Jackson	Boilie
6.34	13.97	67.0	The Lough	23-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Boilie
6.12	13.50	67.5	The Lough	26-Jun	Paddy Higginson	Boilie
6.12	13.50	–	The Lough	02-Mar	Derick O'Brien	Boilies
6.01	13.25	–	The Lough	02-Apr	Dan Lynch	Boilie



**CARP – continued**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.01	13.25	66.0	The Lough	25-Jul	Kenneth Murphy	Boilie
5.95	13.13	70.0	The Lough	19-Mar	Jerry O'Connor	Boilie/Corn
5.84	12.88	65.0	The Lough	26-Jun	Paddy Higginson	Boilie
5.81	12.81	70.0	The Lough	24-Jan	Jerry O'Connor	Boilie
5.81	12.81	66.0	The Lough	09-May	Kenneth Murphy	Boilie
5.78	12.75	–	The Lough	02-Apr	Dan Lynch	Boilie
5.78	12.75	71.0	The Lough	19-Mar	Jerry O'Connor	Boilie/Corn
5.67	12.50	–	The Lough	18-Feb	Conor Hennessy (J)	Boilie
5.61	12.38	–	The Lough	13-Apr	Dan Lynch	Boilie
5.47	12.06	67.0	The Lough	08-May	Patrick Lombard	Boilie

***Nicholas Ward with a May Carp******The Lough in October produced a double shot for Sidney Kennedy******David Flynn with a Lough Carp of 6.58 kg***



*One of three specimen Dace for Noel Darcy from the River Nore*



*Liam Kane with a Barrow Dace*

## DACE

**Record 1 lbs 2ozs (0.51 kg); Specimen Weight 0.3 kg (0.66 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.32	0.71	27.9	R Nore, Thomastown	30-Mar	Noel Darcy	Bread Flake
0.32	0.71	30.0	Thomastown	14-Apr	Joseph Marsella	Maggots
0.30	0.66	29.2	Thomastown	28-Jul	Noel Darcy	Bread Flake
0.30	0.66	–	Thomastown	20-Mar	Noel Darcy	Bread Flake
0.30	0.66	–	R Barrow, St. Mullins	13-Aug	Liam Kane	Maggots



*Erne Perch for Terry Jackson*

## PERCH

**Record 5 lbs 8 ozs (2.494 kg); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.646 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.22	2.70	–	Lough Ramor	13-May	Noel Shiels	Fly
1.20	2.65	40.0	Lough Erne	07-Apr-13	Terry Jackson	Rudd



*Lough Ramor produced the heaviest specimen Perch of 2014 for Noel Shiels*



*River Pike for Andrew Wolsey in December 2013*

## PIKE (RIVER)

**Record 42 lbs (19.051 kg); Specimen Weight 9.072 kg (20 lbs)**

12.45	27.44	106	R Shannon, Rooskey	22-Feb	Kevin Lyons	Roach
10.97	24.19	109	R Shannon, Rooskey	23-Feb	Kevin Lyons	Roach
10.90	24.00	106	R Blackwater, NI	08-Dec-13	Andrew Wolsey	Roach
9.33	20.56	–	R Shannon, Jamestown	04-Jan	Glenn Greene	Sardine
9.07	20.00	–	R Barrow, Bagenalstown	23-Feb	Dan Smith	Smelt

## ROACH

**Record 1.425 kg (3.14 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.907 kg (2 lbs)**

1.13	2.50	34.0	Lough Na Blahy	05-Oct	Conor Ward (J)	Maggots
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*Lough Ree Roach/Bream  
for Luke Canavan-Dignam*

## ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

**Record 3.37 kg (7lbs 7 ozs); Specimen Weight 1.6 kg (3.528 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.89	6.38	51.0	Lough Key	29-Aug	Nicholas Ward	Maggots
2.83	6.25	53.0	Keenkeen Lough	17-Sep-13	James Dignam	Corn
2.81	6.19	50.0	Lough Derravaragh	30-Apr-13	John Millerick	Maggots
2.75	6.06	52.0	Keenkeen Lough	17-Sep-13	James Dignam	Corn
2.72	6.00	53.0	Lough Ree	23-Apr	James Dignam	Maggots
2.69	5.94	—	Lough Ree	07-Jun	James Dignam	Maggots
2.61	5.75	48.0	Lough Na Blahy	05-Oct	Conor Ward (J)	Maggots
2.52	5.56	—	Lough Ree	06-Jun	James Dignam	Corn
2.34	5.16	—	Inniscarra Res.	27-Apr	Des Chew	Corn/Maggot
2.30	5.06	51.0	Lough Ree	06-Jun	Luke Canavan-Dignam (J)	Corn
2.24	4.94	48.0	Carrigadrohid Reservoir	01-May	Nicholas Ward	Caster/Corn
2.10	4.63	—	Lough Ree	23-Apr	Luke Canavan-Dignam (J)	Maggots
2.04	4.50	—	Lough Ree	06-Jun	Luke Canavan-Dignam (J)	Corn
1.70	3.75	43.0	Lough Derravaragh	28-Jul	Kim Tully	Maggots
1.65	3.64	42.0	Lough Derravaragh	29-Jul	Zoe Tully	Maggots
1.60	3.53	47.0	Lough Derravaragh	28-Jul	Liam Tully	Maggots

*A May Day Roach/Rudd  
for David Flynn*







***Conor Ward with Roach/Rudd Hybrid  
from Carrigadrohid Reservoir***

***The heaviest Roach/Rudd  
of 2014 fell to Terry Jackson***



## **ROACH/RUDD HYBRID**

**Record 2.1 kg (4.63 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.9 kg (1.98 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.42	3.13	40.0	Lough Oony	01-Jun	Terry Jackson	Maggots/ Casters
1.22	2.69	37.5	Inniscarra Res.	03-May	John Millerick	Maggots
1.22	2.69	–	Inniscarra Res.	15-Apr	Sarah Lynch (J)	Maggots
1.08	2.38	–	Carrigadrohid Res	05-May	Ian Mulligan	Sweetcorn
1.05	2.31	–	Lee Reservoir	14-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
1.05	2.31	40.0	River Lagan, u/s Stranmillis	02-May	Andrew Wolsey	Maggots
1.02	2.25	–	Carrigadrohid Res.	01-May	Conor Ward (J)	Maggots
1.02	2.25	39.0	River Lagan, u/s Stranmillis	15-May	Terry Jackson	Maggot/ Caster
1.00	2.20	–	Inniscarra Res.	20-May	Des Chew	Sweetcorn/ Maggot

**ROACH/RUDD HYBRID – continued**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.99	2.19	–	Lee Reservoir	14-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
0.95	2.09	40.0	River Lagan, u/s Stranmillis	02-May	Andrew Wolsey	Maggots
0.94	2.06	38.0	River Lagan, u/s Stranmillis	02-May	Andrew Wolsey	Maggots
0.91	2.00	35.0	Lee Reservoir	01-May	David Flynn	Maggots
0.91	2.00	–	Inniscarra Res.	27-Apr	John Patrick Chew (J)	Sweetcorn/ Maggot
0.91	2.00	–	Inniscarra Res.	15-Apr	Sarah Lynch (J)	Maggots

**RUDD/BREAM HYBRID**

**Record 7 lbs 10 ozs (3.458 kg); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.64 lbs)**

2.30	5.07	–	Inniscarra Res.	20-May	Des Chew	Sweetcorn/ Maggot
2.27	5.00	–	Lee Reservoir	10-May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
2.22	4.90	46.0	Inniscarra Res.	03-May	John Millerick	Maggots
1.70	3.75	–	Lee Reservoir	15-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
1.64	3.63	42.0	Carrigadrohid Res.	05-May	Ian Mulligan	Maggots



***John Patrick Chew with his specimen Rudd/Bream***

**RUDD/BREAM HYBRID – continued**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.59	3.50	42.0	Lee Reservoir	10-May	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
1.50	3.30	–	Inniscarra Res.	07-May	Josie Mahon	Sweetcorn/ Maggot
1.47	3.25	47.0	Inniscarra Res.	07-Apr	Jerry O'Connor	Sweetcorn/ Maggot
1.47	3.25	44.5	Inniscarra Res.	26-Aug	Christopher McGregor	Sweetcorn
1.42	3.13	42.0	Lee Reservoir	09-May	Terry Jackson	Maggots
1.38	3.04	42.0	Inniscarra Res.	03-May	John Millerick	Maggots
1.36	3.00	–	Inniscarra Res.	08-Apr	Micheál Hennessy	Maggots
1.36	3.00	–	Inniscarra Res.	06-May	Des Chew	Sweetcorn/ Maggot
1.36	3.00	–	Inniscarra Res.	07-May	Josie Mahon	Sweetcorn/ Maggot
1.36	3.00	–	Inniscarra Res.	26-Aug	John Patrick Chew (J)	Sweetcorn/ Maggot
1.36	3.00	–	Inniscarra Res.	15-Apr	Sarah Lynch (J)	Maggots
1.36	3.00	44.5	Inniscarra Res.	07-Apr	Jerry O'Connor	Sweetcorn/ Maggot



***Ballyhoe Lake was the venue for a 2.75 kg Tench for Owen McGuinness***

**RUDD/BREAM HYBRID – continued**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.36	3.00	41.0	Lee Reservoir	08-May	Terry Jackson	Maggots
1.33	2.94	45.0	Inniscarra Res.	07-Apr	Jerry O'Connor	Sweetcorn
1.33	2.94	42.0	Inniscarra Res.	27-Apr	Bert McGregor	Sweetcorn/ Maggots
1.26	2.78	–	Inniscarra Res.	07-May	Josie Mahon	Sweetcorn/ Maggot
1.25	2.75	–	Inniscarra Res.	08-Apr	Micheál Hennessy	Maggots
1.20	2.65	40.0	Inniscarra Res.	03-May	Evan Millerick (J)	Maggots

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

2.95	6.50	56.0	Lough Ree	06-Jun	Nicholas Ward	Maggot/Worm Cocktail
2.92	6.44	52.0	Rahan's Lake	28-Jun	Andrew Wolsey	Worm
2.86	6.31	52.0	Blackies Lough	24-May	Terry Jackson	Worms/ Artificial Corn
2.83	6.25	50.0	Blackies Lough	24-May	Terry Jackson	Maggots/ Artificial Corn
2.78	6.13	–	Ballyhoe Lake	26-Jun	Owen McGuinness	Maggots
2.75	6.06	51.0	Blackies Lough	24-May	Terry Jackson	Corn
2.75	6.06	–	Ballyhoe Lake	27-Jun	Owen McGuinness	Maggots

**3.93 kg Currane Sea Trout for Gerard O'Sullivan**



## Game Fish

### SALMON

**Record 57 lbs (25.855 kg); Specimen Weight 9.072 kg (20 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
9.75	21.50	94.0	Waterville Lake	12-Jun	Michael Daly	Rapala
9.40	20.73	–	River Bandon	30-Aug	David Forde	Cascade Fly



***A 9.75 kg Salmon from Lough Currane for Michael Daly***



***Dara Tuohy with his Lough Mask Brown Trout***



*Cong Canal on St. Patrick's Day produced this Brown Trout for Thomas Lynch*

*Lough Corrib was very productive for Daniel Paris in May*

## **BROWN TROUT (LAKE)**

**Record 26 lbs 2 ozs (11.85 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.35	14.00	80.0	Lough Corrib	29-May	Daniel Paris (F)	Lure
5.58	12.31	—	Lough Mask	02-Jun-13	Dara Tuohy	Salmo Whitefish
5.50	12.13	81.0	Lough Corrib	20-May	Daniel Gillen	Toby
5.45	12.01	78.0	Lough Mask	14-May	Tom Sweeney	Fly
5.44	12.00	80.0	Lough Derg, Nr Killaloe	30-Mar	Liam Floyd	Roach
5.21	11.50	75.0	Lower Lough Erne	09-Mar	Brian Maxwell	Tasmanian Devil

## **BROWN TROUT (RIVER)**

**Record 20 lbs (9.072 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)**

4.38	9.65	—	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Brian Newman	Worm
3.29	7.25	—	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Sidney Kennedy	Worm
3.28	7.23	—	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Brian Newman	Worm
3.24	7.14	64.0	Six Mile Water, Co. Antrim	18-Aug	Jim Gregg	Nymph Fly
3.24	7.14	68.6	Cong River	11-Aug	Oisin Faul	Worm
3.02	6.65	—	River Bandon	12-Jul	David Forde	Fly



***Currane Sea Trout for Paul Eustace in May***



***UK angler John Allen with a Currane Sea Trout taken in March***

**BROWN TROUT (RIVER) – continued**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.70	5.95	60.3	River Corrib	14-Mar	Paddy O'Toole	Toby
2.61	5.75	71.0	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Thomas Lynch	Rapala
2.32	5.12	56.0	Kells Water, Ballymena	23-Sep	Jim Gregg	Fly
2.30	5.06	56.5	Black River	12-Apr	Conor McGaugh (J)	Dead bait

**SEA TROUT**

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

5.23	11.54	82.0	Lough Currane	06-Apr	Tim Van Der Laan (NL)	Rapala
5.01	11.05	78.7	Lough Currane	05-Apr	Peter Thornton	Rapala
4.50	9.91	–	Whitewater River	25-Aug	Alan Watts	Conehead Fly
4.07	8.97	73.0	Lough Currane	23-Mar	John Allen (UK)	Rapala
4.01	8.83	68.6	Lough Currane	10-Apr	Eric Jouen	Rapala
3.93	8.66	72.0	Lough Currane	08-May	Paul Eustace	Rapala
3.84	8.47	72.4	Lough Currane	25-Apr	Gerard O'Sullivan	Rapala
3.66	8.06	72.0	Lough Currane	15-Aug	Tom O'Shea	Fly
3.36	7.42	68.6	Lough Currane	23-May	Michel Allonsius (F)	Fly
3.26	7.18	67.3	Lough Currane	01-May	Graham Walker	Rapala
3.16	6.96	68.0	Lough Currane	29-Apr	Joseph Whelan	Rapala
3.06	6.75	64.0	Lough Currane	24-May	Sean Michael Smith (UK)	Fly
2.83	6.23	66.7	Lough Currane	26-May	Dermot Wynne	Fly



***Image of a scale from  
Peter Thornton's 5.01 kg  
Currane Sea Trout***



## MARINE FISH 2014

**BASS****Record 17 lbs 13 ozs (8.08 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
5.63	12.41	76.7	Cloghane	05-Nov	Carl Walshe	Lugworm
5.31	11.70	73.0	Wicklow	10-Oct	Keith Marsella	Crab
5.08	11.20	77.0	Cork Harbour	19-Apr	Gavin O'Connor	Plug
4.81	10.60	78.0	Cork Harbour	14-Jul	Jim Clohessy	Minnow
4.79	10.55	—	Cromane	06-Jul	David Golden	Eel Lure
4.76	10.50	78.0	Cobh	07-Sep	Kevin Murphy	Lure
4.59	10.13	75.6	Cork Harbour	08-Nov	Pat O'Shea	Crab

***A Cork Harbour Bass  
for Jim Clohessy***



***Keith Marsella with a  
Wicklow Bass taken on crab***





*Eddie Butler with the only specimen Black Bream of 2014*

## BLACK BREAM

**Record - ; Specimen Weight 1.00 kg (2.205 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.00	2.21	–	Kilmore Quay	08-Sep	Eddie Butler	Crab

## COD

**Record 42 lbs (19.051 kg); Specimen Weight 9.072 kg (20 lbs)**

11.00	24.26	96.5	Ballycotton	18-Aug	Noel Ryan	Baited Feathers
9.53	21.00	125.0	Courtmacsherry	21-Jun	Steven Turner (UK)	Mackerel



***Steven Turner with his Courtmacsherry Cod***

## CONGER EEL

**Record 72 lbs (32.659 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
20.64	45.50	167.0	Red Bay	10-Jan	Nicholas McAlorum	Coalfish

## DAB

**Record 2 lbs 5.5 ozs (1.06 kg); Specimen Weight 0.6 kg (1.32 lbs)**

0.71	1.56	–	Beara Peninsula	11-Oct	Chris Blewett (UK)	Lugworm/ Mackerel
0.70	1.55	40.0	Cork Harbour	29-Dec-13	Ken Hegarty	Lugworm
0.64	1.41	37.0	Clonakilty	20-Aug	Don Whelton	Ragworm/ Mackerel
0.64	1.41	–	Beara Peninsula	12-Oct	Chris Blewett (UK)	Crab
0.60	1.32	–	Beara Peninsula	09-Oct	Roy Arnold (UK)	Black Lugworm



*Blackmouthed Dogfish for Steve Carson*

## **BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH**

**Record 1.33 kg (2.94 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.0 kg (2.205 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.16	2.56	67.0	Red Bay	11-May	Steve Carson	Squid
1.11	2.45	70.0	Islandmagee	16-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel
1.08	2.39	69.0	Islandmagee	31-Aug	David Craig	Mackerel/Squid
1.02	2.25	68.0	Islandmagee	02-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel
1.00	2.21	66.0	Red Bay	06-Jul	Terry Jackson	Squid/Mackerel Cocktail

## **LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH**

**Record 4 lbs 4ozs (1.928 kg); Specimen Weight 1.47 kg (3.25 lbs)**

1.60	3.53	78.7	Islandmagee	09-Mar	David Craig	Squid
1.47	3.25	72.0	Red Bay	12-Mar	Nicholas McAlorum	Squid



*Spur Dogfish of 110 cm for Trevor Shannon*

## **GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH**

**Record 23 lbs 13 ozs (10.801 kg); Specimen Weight 7.257 kg (16 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
8.35	18.40	102.0	Kenmare Bay	06-Sep	Ramon Boone (NL)	Mackerel
7.89	17.40	102.0	Kenmare Bay	18-Sep	Sebastiaan Van Drunen (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.85	17.30	102.0	Kenmare Bay	12-Sep	Freddy Hollebosch (B)	Mackerel Flapper
7.85	17.30	–	Kenmare Bay	19-Sep-13	Jan Visser (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.80	17.20	102.0	Kenmare Bay	21-Sep	Johan Oosterling (NL)	Mackerel Strip
7.67	16.90	118.0	Kenmare Bay	11-Sep-13	Edwin De Boer (NL)	Mackerel
7.62	16.80	118.0	Cork Harbour	17-Jul	Twan van Neijenhof (NL) (J)	Mackerel
7.52	16.58	122.0	Cork Harbour	08-Sep	Per Norgard Carlsen (DK)	Mackerel Strip
7.48	16.50	101.0	Kenmare Bay	14-Sep	Marnix Van Den Brande (B)	Mackerel Flapper

**GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH – continued**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
7.45	16.43	115.0	Kenmare Bay	12-Sep	Philip Verschelden (B)	Mackerel
7.44	16.40	101.0	Kenmare Bay	14-Sep	Johan De Greve (B)	Mackerel Flapper
7.31	16.13	119.0	Ballycastle	04-Sep	Andrew Wolsey	Mackerel
7.26	16.00	101.0	Kenmare Bay	28-Sep	Ronald Tol (NL)	Mackerel Fillet

**SPUR DOGFISH****NEW Record 11.06 kg (24.38 lbs); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs)****Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 105 cm**

11.06	24.38	127.0	Red Bay	03-Jun-13	Tom Walsh	Mackerel
10.18	22.44	107.0	Red Bay	03-Sep-13	Ton Van Schaik (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
8.76	19.31	111.8	Islandmagee	04-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel/Squid
8.65	19.06	107.0	Red Bay	11-Jan	George Leslie	Mackerel
8.30	18.30	103.0	Kenmare Bay	26-Sep	Rutger de Graaf (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
7.85	17.31	105.0	Red Bay	10-Jan	Richard McAlorum	Squid
7.65	16.87	121.9	Islandmagee	17-Jan	David Craig	Mackerel
7.40	16.32	106.0	Ballycastle	10-Aug	William F McLaughlin	Mackerel
7.37	16.25	106.0	Ballycastle	10-Aug	Brian Foster	Mackerel
7.00	15.44	105.0	Ballycastle	10-Aug	William F McLaughlin	Mackerel
6.92	15.25	105.0	Ballycastle	10-Aug	Brian Foster	Mackerel
6.90	15.21	109.2	Islandmagee	09-Mar	David Craig	Mackerel
6.63	14.63	104.0	Ballycastle	10-Aug	Brian Foster	Mackerel
6.61	14.56	94.0	Red Bay	24-Feb	Nicholas McAlorum	Squid
6.12	13.50	–	Killybegs	23-Jul	Michael JH Callaghan	Mackerel
6.04	13.31	92.0	Red Bay	12-Mar	Nicholas McAlorum	Squid
5.99	13.20	–	Killybegs	23-Jul	Michael JH Callaghan	Mackerel
5.95	13.13	93.0	Red Bay	22-Feb	William Watson	Squid
5.94	13.09	103.5	Downings	21-Jun	Rinus Hage (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
5.93	13.06	94.0	Red Bay	09-Mar	Tony Tierney	Squid
5.84	12.88	93.0	Red Bay	12-Mar	Richard McAlorum	Squid
5.73	12.63	92.0	Red Bay	24-Feb	Richard McAlorum	Squid
5.73	12.63	95.0	Red Bay	09-Mar	Stephen Higham	Squid
5.68	12.52	–	Killybegs	23-Jul	Michael B Callaghan	Mackerel
5.64	12.44	92.0	Red Bay	09-Mar	Steven Carson	Squid
5.64	12.43	99.0	Downings	24-Jun	Gordon Oliver (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
5.58	12.29	103.0	Downings	21-Jun	Rini Anemaet (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
5.49	12.09	–	Killybegs	23-Jul	Michael B Callaghan	Mackerel
L-BS	–	118.0	Wicklow	16-May	Paddy Swan	Mackerel



**SPUR DOGFISH – *continued***

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
L-BS	–	110.0	Wicklow	31-May	Trevor Shannon	Mackerel
L-BS	–	110.0	Ballycastle	10-Aug	William F McLaughlin	Mackerel
L-BS	–	109.0	Wicklow	31-May	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
L-BS	–	108.0	Downings	21-Jun	Daan Oprea (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	–	108.0	Downings	21-Jun	Rini Anemaet (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	–	105.5	Wicklow	31-May	Michael Hamill	Mackerel



***Gavin O'Connor with a Youghal Flounder taken in November***

## FLOUNDER

**Record 4.91 lbs (2.229 kg); Specimen Weight 1.1 kg (2.436 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.50	3.31	47.0	Waterford Estuary	29-Oct	Joseph Marsella	Crab
1.40	3.09	46.0	Youghal	25-Oct	Joe Muir	Crab
1.30	2.88	—	Youghal	02-Nov	Dan Lynch	Crab
1.28	2.81	49.0	Cullenstown	21-Apr	Brian Cooke	Crab
1.27	2.80	48.0	Cullenstown	05-Oct	Robert McClean	Peeler Crab
1.22	2.69	46.0	Youghal	11-Nov	Martyn Rayner	Peeler Crab
1.20	2.65	42.0	Wicklow	07-Oct	Stephen Gibson	Crab
1.20	2.65	44.0	East Ferry Estuary	25-Oct	Kevin McGowan	Crab
1.19	2.63	44.0	Youghal	08-Nov	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
1.19	2.63	44.0	Youghal	09-Nov	Gavin O'Connor	Peeler Crab
1.18	2.60	43.0	Cullenstown	15-Dec-13	Stephen Brennan	Crab
1.18	2.60	46.0	Cullenstown	15-Dec-13	Stephen Brennan	Crab
1.17	2.58	45.0	Youghal	08-Nov	Kevin McGowan	Crab
1.16	2.56	43.2	Youghal	24-Nov-13	Noel Lane	Crab
1.16	2.56	42.0	Tralee Bay	10-Nov	Jerry O'Connor	Crab
1.15	2.54	50.0	Youghal	06-Apr	Ken Hegarty	Peeler Crab
1.13	2.50	46.5	Youghal	09-Nov	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
1.13	2.50	43.0	Cullenstown	15-Dec-13	Stephen Brennan	Crab



***Garfish of 1.09 kg for Patrick Foster from the Netherlands***

## **GARFISH** (*B. bellone*)

**Record 4.91 lbs (2.229 kg); Specimen Weight 1.0 kg (2.205 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.09	2.40	88.5	Courtmacsherry	27-Sep	Patrick Foster (NL)	Mackerel Strip



***Gilthead Bream from Clonakilty  
in May for Patrick Lombard***



***Gearoid McCarthy with a Ring  
specimen taken in August***



***Rosscarbery produced for  
Derick O'Brien in June***



*Stephen Brennan with August Gilthead*

## GILTHEAD BREAM

**Record 3.505 kg; Specimen Weight 1.4 kg (3.08 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.72	6.00	52.5	Rosscarbery	30-Jul	Terry Jackson	Lugworm
2.44	5.38	53.0	Ring	04-Aug	Gearoid McCarthy	Lugworm
2.35	5.19	52.0	Clonakilty Bay	03-Aug	Stephen Brennan	Lugworm
2.10	4.63	–	Clonakilty	07-May	Ross Macklin	Lugworm
1.98	4.38	49.0	Clonakilty Bay	29-Jul	Andrew Wolsey	Lugworm
1.93	4.25	–	Clonakilty Bay	02-Jun	Dan Lynch	Lugworm
1.90	4.19	–	Clonakilty	26-Jul	Mike Thrussell (UK)	Lugworm
1.77	3.90	49.0	Clonakilty	20-May	Patrick Lombard	Crab
1.54	3.40	47.0	Kilmore	05-Jul	Stephen Brennan	Crab
1.50	3.31	–	Rosscarbery	26-Jun	Derick O'Brien	Lugworm
1.47	3.25	46.0	Kilmore	04-May	Stephen Brennan	Ragworm
1.47	3.25	–	Red Strand	02-Jun	Dan Lynch	Lugworm

## GREY GURNARD

**Record 3 lbs 1 ozs (1.389 kg); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)**

0.70	1.54	45.0	Cork Harbour	05-Nov	Jeremy Power	Mackerel
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## RED GURNARD

**Record 3 lbs 9.5 ozs (1.63 kg); Specimen Weight 0.907 kg (2 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.08	2.38	49.0	Ling Rocks	02-Aug	Martyn Rayner	Mackerel Strip/ Ragworm
0.96	2.13	–	Cork Harbour	12-Oct	Dan Lynch	Mackerel

## TUB GURNARD

**Record 12 lbs 3.5 ozs (5.54 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
2.90	6.39	61.0	Downings	09-Jun	Gys Knevel (NL)	Mackerel Strip



***Specimen Mackerel are relatively uncommon. Dunmore East produced a 1.1 kg fish for Ricardo Coelho***



## LING

**Record 55 lbs (24.95 kg); Specimen Weight 11.34 kg (25 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
14.51	32.00	137.0	Courtmacsherry	25-Jul	Nicky Van Ench (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
12.70	28.00	167.0	Courtmacsherry	12-Jun	Daan Oprea (NL)	Mackerel Strip
11.79	26.00	165.0	Courtmacsherry	22-Jul	Vladimir Tomasevski	Mackerel Strip

## MACKEREL

**Record 4 lbs 2ozs (1.87 kg); Specimen Weight 1.00 kg (2.205 lbs)**

1.10	2.42	47	Dunmore East	06-Sep	Ricardo Coelho	Feathers
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***Thick Lipped Mullet for Robert McClean***



***Craig Murphy's  
Thick Lipped  
Mullet was the  
second heaviest  
of 2014***

## **THICK-LIPPED MULLET**

**Record 9.1 lbs (4.128 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
3.95	8.72	–	Cork Harbour	18-Jun	Joseph Marsella	Bread Flake
3.27	7.20	62.0	Arklow	31-Jul	Craig Murphy	Bread Flake
3.12	6.88	61.5	Cork Harbour	22-Jun	Jim Dooley	Bread
3.12	6.88	62.0	Rosscarbery	16-Jul	Micheál Hennessy	Bread
2.93	6.46	62.0	Rosscarbery	16-Oct	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.86	6.30	58.0	Arklow	31-Jul	Michael Cooney	Bread Flake
2.74	6.05	56.5	Arklow	19-Jun	Craig Murphy	Bread
2.72	6.00	–	Vartry Estuary	01-Jun	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.72	6.00	–	Rosscarbery	22-Apr	Dan Lynch	Bread
2.72	6.00	60.0	Rosscarbery	25-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.68	5.90	59.5	Rosscarbery	02-Aug	Robert McClean	Bread
2.66	5.88	58.0	Rosscarbery	25-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.65	5.85	61.0	Clonakilty Bay	23-Jun	Stephen Brennan	Bread
2.64	5.81	59.5	Rosscarbery	26-Jul	Micheál Hennessy	Bread
2.63	5.80	59.5	Wicklow	19-Aug	Craig Murphy	Bread Flake
2.61	5.75	–	Cork Harbour	18-Jun	Joseph Marsella	Bread Flake
2.61	5.75	–	Cork Harbour	03-Sep	Joseph Marsella	Bread Flake
2.61	5.75	63.0	Dun Laoghaire	23-Jun	Brian Cooke	Bread
2.59	5.70	60.0	Wicklow	07-Aug	Michael Cooney	Bread Flake
2.59	5.70	58.0	Belfast Lough	19-Sep	David Murdoch	Bread
2.57	5.66	63.0	Rosscarbery	14-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Bread

**THICK-LIPPED MULLET – *continued***

WT (kg)	WT (lbs)	L (cm)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.55	5.63	–	Rosscarbery	01-Jul-13	Dara Tuohy	Bread
2.55	5.63	58.0	Rosscarbery	20-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.54	5.59	61.0	Rosscarbery	13-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.52	5.56	55.9	Rosscarbery	13-Jul	Noel Lane	Bread Crust
2.52	5.56	59.0	Rosscarbery	10-Jul	David Lordan	Bread
2.51	5.53	58.0	Rosscarbery	08-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.49	5.50	–	Vartry Estuary	29-Jul	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.49	5.50	–	Rosscarbery	02-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.49	5.50	–	Rostellan	20-May	Dan Lynch	Bread
2.49	5.50	57.0	Dundrum Bay	05-Sep	David Murdoch	Bread
2.47	5.45	62.0	Rosscarbery	18-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Bread Flake
2.47	5.45	60.0	Clonakilty Bay	17-Jul	Stephen Brennan	Bread
2.47	5.45	59.0	Strangford Lough	26-Jun	David Murdoch	Bread
2.45	5.40	59.0	Rosscarbery	18-Jun	Peter Lynch	Bread Flake
2.41	5.31	–	Rosscarbery	28-May	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.38	5.25	–	Rosscarbery	07-May	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.38	5.25	–	Rosscarbery	23-Apr	Dan Lynch	Bread
2.38	5.25	53.5	Wicklow	20-Aug	Aidan Cox	Bread
2.37	5.23	58.0	Rosscarbery	16-Oct	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.36	5.20	58.0	Rosscarbery	02-Aug	Robert McClean	Bread
2.35	5.19	–	Vartry Estuary	16-May	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.32	5.13	–	Rosscarbery	01-Jun	Derick O'Brien	Bread
2.32	5.13	56.0	Strangford Lough	02-Oct	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.31	5.10	–	Rosscarbery	03-Aug	Gavin Moran	Bread
2.31	5.10	58.0	Rosscarbery	19-Jun	Peter Lynch	Bread Flake
2.30	5.06	–	Rosscarbery	11-Jul	Christy Lane	Bread
2.30	5.06	54.5	Strangford Lough	10-Jul	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.30	5.06	61.0	Wicklow	02-Jun	Brian Cooke	Bread
2.29	5.05	62.0	Rosscarbery	21-Jun	Jerry O'Connor	Bread
2.29	5.05	56.5	Rosscarbery	16-Oct	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.27	5.00	52.1	Rosscarbery	31-May	Noel Lane	Bread Crust
2.27	5.00	55.9	Rosscarbery	13-Sep	Noel Lane	Bread Crust
2.27	5.00	–	Rosscarbery	01-Jun	Derick O'Brien	Bread
2.27	5.00	54.0	Strangford Lough	10-Jul	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.27	5.00	56.0	Clonakilty Bay	17-Jul	Stephen Brennan	Bread



***A 0.93 kg  
Golden Grey Mullet  
for David Murdoch***

## **GOLDEN GREY MULLET**

**NEW Record 1.2 kg (2.65 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.20	2.65	48.5	Cork Harbour	16-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.99	2.19	41.9	Rosscarbery	10-Jul	Christy Lane	Ragworm
0.99	2.18	48.0	Clonakilty Bay	20-Jul	Stephen Brennan	Ragworm
0.96	2.13	–	Rosscarbery	20-Jul	Micheál Hennessy	Maddies
0.93	2.05	47.0	Rosscarbery	28-Jul	David Murdoch	Maddies
0.91	2.00	–	Cork Harbour	06-Jul	Christy Lane	Ragworm
0.91	2.00	43.0	Clonakilty	18-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
0.91	2.00	44.0	Clonakilty	18-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
0.91	2.00	42.0	Rosscarbery	29-Aug-13	Conor Ward (J)	Maddies
0.86	1.90	43.0	Cork Harbour	25-Jun	Stephen O'Neill	Maddie
0.85	1.88	46.5	Rosscarbery	30-Jul	David Murdoch	Maddies
0.85	1.88	–	Rosscarbery	22-Jul	Micheál Hennessy	Maddies
0.85	1.88	39.0	Clonakilty	19-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
0.85	1.88	44.0	Rosscarbery	24-Jul	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
0.82	1.80	–	Cork Harbour	25-Jun	Joseph Marsella	Maddies
0.82	1.80	44.0	Clonakilty Bay	23-Jun	Stephen Brennan	Ragworm
0.79	1.75	–	Cork Harbour	25-Jun	Joseph Marsella	Maddies
0.79	1.75	–	Rosscarbery	22-Jul	Micheál Hennessy	Maddies

**GOLDEN GREY MULLET – *continued***

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.79	1.75	41.0	Rosscarbery	27-Aug-13	Nicholas Ward	Maddies
0.79	1.75	40.0	Rosscarbery	27-Aug-13	Bernadette McKenna	Maddies
0.75	1.65	41.0	Cork Harbour	25-Jun	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.74	1.63	43.2	Rosscarbery	29-Jun	Terry Jackson	Ragworm
0.74	1.63	–	Clonakilty	22-Aug-13	Ken McCarthy	Maddies
0.73	1.60	36.8	Cork Harbour	25-Jun	Joseph Marsella	Maddies
0.71	1.56	39.4	Rosscarbery	10-Jul	Christy Lane	Ragworm
0.71	1.56	40.0	Rosscarbery	19-Jul	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
0.70	1.55	42.0	Clonakilty Bay	20-Jul	Stephen Brennan	Ragworm
0.68	1.50	38.1	Rosscarbery	29-Jun	Terry Jackson	Ragworm
0.68	1.50	43.0	Rosscarbery	17-Sep	Thomas Lynch	Maddies



***Thin Lipped Mullet  
are becoming more  
common.***

***Liam Millerick with  
his 1.52 kg fish***

**THIN LIPPED MULLET**

**NEW Record 2.86 kg (6.3125 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.5 kg (3.31 lbs)**

2.86	6.31	61.0	Clonakilty	23-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
1.96	4.31	55.9	Rosscarbery	23-Jul	Noel Lane	Ragworm
1.67	3.69	50.8	Rosscarbery	03-Aug	Noel Lane	Ragworm
1.64	3.63	51.0	Clonakilty	07-Sep	Thomas Lynch	Maddies
1.52	3.35	55.5	Clonakilty	07-Jul	Liam Millerick (J)	Ragworm





*One Red Mullet specimen was recorded in 2014. It was caught off Kilmore Quay in September by Philip Dawson*

## RED MULLET

**Record 0.82 kg (1.808 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.454 kg (1 lb)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.80	1.76	–	Kilmore Quay	09-Sep	Philip Dawson (UK)	Ragworm



*Philip Bolton with a Valentia Pollack*



*Courtmacsherry charter skipper Mark Gannon had the heaviest Pollack of 2014*

## POLLACK

**Record 19 lbs 3 ozs (8.703 kg); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
5.67	12.50	98.0	Courtmacsherry	05-Jul	Mark Gannon	Shad
5.56	12.25	82.0	Valentia	24-Aug	Leo Bolton	Mackerel
5.53	12.20	87.0	Kilmore Quay	12-Sep	Gavin Parker (UK)	Mackerel
5.50	12.13	81.0	Cork Harbour	29-Jun	Sue Tait	Mackerel Strip



***Pouting of 1.7 kg for  
Paul Beelaert from Belgium***

## POUTING

**Record 4 lbs 13.5ozs (2.197 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg (3 lbs)**

1.70	3.75	68.6	Courtmacsherry	18-Jul	Paul Beelaert (B)	Mackerel
1.37	3.01	46.0	Killala Bay	05-Apr	Emmett Hope	Mackerel Strip

***A Youghal Painted Ray  
for Des Chew***





***Large numbers of specimen Painted Ray were ratified in 2014. This 5.5 kg fish fell to Jordan Muir in mid October.***



***Martin Corr with a Painted Ray from Ardmore***

## **PAINTED RAY**

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

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
6.80	15.00	86.4	Youghal	30-Oct	Jonathan Leahy	Crab
6.57	14.48	89.0	Youghal	10-Nov	Eric Gosnell	Crab
6.44	14.19	—	Youghal	03-Nov	Ross Macklin	Sandeel
6.29	13.88	87.0	Youghal	26-Oct	Terry Jackson	Sandeel
6.23	13.74	—	Youghal	15-Nov-13	Francis McNeilly	Sandeel
6.17	13.60	88.9	Youghal	15-Oct	Alan Hobbs	Peeler Crab
6.12	13.50	—	Ballycotton	09-Nov	Sidney Kennedy	Sandeel
5.92	13.05	87.0	Youghal	11-Nov	Kevin McGowan	Crab
5.78	12.75	85.5	Youghal	25-Oct	Andrew Wolsey	Sandeel
5.73	12.63	86.0	Youghal	25-Oct	Terry Jackson	Sandeel/Crab Cocktail
5.73	12.63	87.0	Youghal	25-Oct	Terry Jackson	Sandeel
5.73	12.63	88.0	Youghal	19-Oct	Dan Lynch	Sandeel
5.72	12.60	—	Youghal	16-Nov	Des Chew	Crab
5.67	12.50	—	Ballycotton	06-Nov	Sidney Kennedy	Peeler Crab
5.63	12.41	84.0	Youghal	11-Oct	Alan O'Dowling	Crab
5.60	12.35	87.0	Youghal	14-Sep	Adam Crowe	Crab

**PAINTED RAY – *continued***

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
5.50	12.13	85.0	Youghal	15-Oct	Jordan Muir	Mackerel
5.50	12.13	–	Youghal	19-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Sandeel
5.44	12.00	–	Youghal	21-Oct	Jonathan Leahy	Crab
5.44	12.00	86.0	Youghal	09-Nov	Robert McClean	Crab
5.44	12.00	–	Youghal	20-Oct	Dan Lynch	Sandeel
5.40	11.91	83.0	Youghal	15-Oct	Jordan Muir	Mackerel
5.39	11.88	85.0	Youghal	11-Oct	Alan O'Dowling	Crab
5.39	11.88	85.0	Youghal	19-Oct	Dan Lynch	Sandeel
5.37	11.84	92.0	Youghal	13-Oct	Francis McNeilly	Sandeel
5.35	11.79	81.0	Youghal	11-Nov	Kevin McGowan	Sandeel
5.31	11.70	85.0	Youghal	17-Sep	John Owens	Crab
5.30	11.69	88.0	Youghal	05-Nov	Micheál Hennessy	Sandeel/Crab Cocktail
5.27	11.63	84.0	Youghal	24-Oct	Andrew Wolsey	Sandeel
5.24	11.56	85.1	Youghal	09-Nov	James Walsh	Peeler Crab
5.24	11.56	84.0	Youghal	11-Nov	Kevin McGowan	Crab
5.22	11.50	86.0	Youghal	13-Oct	Christy O'Sullivan	Crab
5.16	11.38	75.0	Youghal	09-Nov	Peter McCartin	Sandeel
5.10	11.25	85.0	Youghal	14-Sep	John Owens	Crab
5.07	11.19	84.0	Youghal	24-Oct	Andrew Wolsey	Sandeel
5.06	11.15	83.0	Youghal	17-Sep	Joe Muir	Crab
5.05	11.14	84.0	Youghal	28-Oct	George Ruxton	Crab
4.99	11.00	80.0	Castlegregory	04-Nov	Jerry O'Connor	Sandeel/Crab
4.96	10.94	86.4	Youghal	11-Nov	Christy Lane	Sandeel
4.90	10.80	81.0	Youghal	27-Oct	Joe Muir	Crab
4.86	10.72	84.0	Tralee Bay	03-Sep	Noel Hegarty	Lugworm
4.85	10.69	81.3	Youghal	13-Oct	Noel Lane	Peeler Crab
4.85	10.69	82.0	Youghal	29-Oct	Tony Tait	Peeler Crab
4.80	10.58	82.0	Youghal	16-Oct	Jordon Muir	Mackerel
4.80	10.58	80.0	Castlegregory	04-Nov	Micheál Hennessy	Sandeel/Crab Cocktail
4.79	10.56	–	Youghal	02-Nov	Joe White	Crab
4.79	10.56	–	Youghal	13-Oct	Eric Gosnell	Crab
4.79	10.55	–	Youghal	12-Oct	Eric Gosnell	Crab
4.76	10.50	–	Brandon Bay	23-Oct	Denis Butler	Sandeel
4.75	10.47	–	Youghal	13-Oct	Eric Gosnell	Crab
4.75	10.47	80.0	Ballyquin, Ardmore	09-Nov	Martin Corr	Crab
4.70	10.36	81.0	Youghal	05-Nov	William Roche	Sandeel/Crab
4.62	10.19	–	Youghal	02-Nov	Joe White	Peeler Crab

**PAINTED RAY – *continued***

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
4.60	10.14	78.0	Youghal	29-Oct	John Owens	Crab
4.59	10.13	81.0	Youghal	27-Oct	Jonathan Leahy	Crab
4.55	10.03	80.0	Castlegregory	17-Oct	Micheál Hennessy	Sandeel/Crab Cocktail



*Three Bearded Rockling from  
Wicklow for Craig Murphy*

*Luke Murphy O'Sullivan  
with his Sting Ray*

**STING RAY**

**Record 33.2 kg (73.19 lbs); Specimen Weight 13.608 kg (30 lbs)**

20.41	45.00	91.0	Tralee Bay	04-May	Luke Murphy O'Sullivan	Crab
19.50	43.00	123.0	Tralee Bay	21-May	Jerry O'Connor	Crab

**THREE BEARDED ROCKLING**

**Record 3 lbs 1 oz (1.389 kg); Specimen Weight 0.794 kg (1.75 lbs)**

1.25	2.75	49.0	Ardglass	04-Dec-13	Andrew Wolsey	Sprat
1.20	2.66	48.0	Ardglass	04-Dec-13	Andrew Wolsey	Sprat
0.84	1.85	45.0	Ballycotton	02-Nov	Gary Blake	Mackerel



**THREE BEARDED ROCKLING – *continued***

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
0.82	1.81	44.0	Kilmore Quay	19-Jan	Martyn Rayner	Mackerel Strip
0.82	1.80	43.0	North Wicklow	22-Jan	Craig Murphy	Mackerel Strip
0.81	1.79	42.0	Kerry Head North	11-Sep	Philip Barry	Crab



***A Barrow Shad for Tony Gosnell***

***A good Shad of 1.32 kg for Francis McNeilly***

***Sarah Lynch with her Shad***



## TWAITE SHAD

**Record 1.54 kg (3.4 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.1 kg (2.4255 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.45	3.19	–	R Barrow, St. Mullins	06-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Cobra
1.38	3.04	49.0	St. Mullins	28-Apr	Eddie Butler	Tasmanian Devil
1.37	3.02	51.0	St. Mullins	02-May	Craig Murphy	Tasmanian Devil
1.36	3.00	–	St. Mullins	06-Apr	Derick O'Brien	Cobra
1.36	3.00	48.0	St. Mullins	04-May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
1.36	3.00	46.0	St. Mullins	04-May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
1.36	3.00	47.0	St. Mullins	19-May	Joseph Marsella	Tasmanian Devil
1.35	2.98	52.0	St. Mullins	04-May	Duncan Cole	Tasmanian Devil
1.32	2.91	47.0	St. Mullins	14-May	Francis McNeilly	Tasmanian Devil
1.32	2.91	47.0	St. Mullins	30-Apr	Stephen O'Neill	Tasmanian Devil
1.31	2.89	49.0	St. Mullins	20-May	Francis McNeilly	Tasmanian Devil
1.28	2.82	44.0	St. Mullins	28-Apr	Eddie Butler	Tasmanian Devil
1.28	2.81	–	St. Mullins	04-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Cobra
1.26	2.77	48.0	St. Mullins	16-May	Tony Gosnell	Tasmanian Devil
1.25	2.75	44.0	St. Mullins	03-May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
1.24	2.73	44.0	St. Mullins	01-May	Joseph Marsella	Tasmanian Devil
1.22	2.70	52.0	St. Mullins	18-May	James Blake	Sprat
1.22	2.69	–	St. Mullins	05-May	Sarah Lynch (J)	Tasmanian Devil
1.22	2.69	44.0	St. Mullins	18-May	Bill Ryan	Tasmanian Devil



***Twaite Shad of 1.18 kg  
for Mark Lennon***

**TWAITE SHAD – *continued***

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.22	2.69	45.0	St. Mullins	28-Apr	Eddie Butler	Tasmanian Devil
1.22	2.69	45.0	St. Mullins	30-Apr	Sofia Marsella (J)	Tasmanian Devil
1.22	2.69	46.0	St. Mullins	30-Apr	Joseph Marsella	Tasmanian Devil
1.22	2.69	–	St. Mullins	06-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Cobra
1.20	2.65	49.0	St. Mullins	10-May	Joshua Higginson	Tasmanian Devil
1.20	2.65	48.5	St. Mullins	18-May	James Blake	Sprat
1.20	2.65	–	St. Mullins	10-May	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
1.20	2.65	–	St. Mullins	04-May	Johnny Dunne	Tasmanian Devil
1.18	2.60	54.0	St. Mullins	15-May	Martin Burke	Tasmanian Devil
1.18	2.60	48.5	St. Mullins	18-May	Michael Cooney	Tasmanian Devil
1.18	2.60	50.0	St. Mullins	18-May	Mark Lennon	Tasmanian Devil
1.18	2.60	48.0	St. Mullins	02-May	Michael Cooney	Tasmanian Devil
1.16	2.56	48.0	St. Mullins	04-May	Stephen Brennan	Tasmanian Devil
1.15	2.53	46.4	St. Mullins	15-May	Christy Lane	Lane Minnow
1.13	2.49	43.5	St. Mullins	20-May	Bill Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
1.12	2.47	–	St. Mullins	20-May	Ronan Doherty	Tasmanian Devil
1.12	2.47	51.0	St. Mullins	18-May	Gary Blake	Sprat
1.12	2.46	51.0	St. Mullins	16-May	Martin Burke	Tasmanian Devil



***Twaité Shad of  
1.35 kg for  
Duncan Cole***





*Keith Marsella with a 3 kg male Smooth Hound from Dublin Bay in June*

**BLUE SHARK**

**Record 206 lbs (93.44 kg); Specimen Weight 45.359 kg (100 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
45.36	100.00	226.1	Union Hall	06-Sep	Christopher McGregor	Mackerel

**SMOOTH-HOUND**

**Record 16.58 lbs (7.52 kg); Specimen Weight 3 kg (6.62 lbs)**

**Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 100 cm**

6.92	15.25	114.0	Wicklow	22-Jun	Patrick O'Hanlon	Squid Strip
6.80	15.00	115.0	Wicklow	24-Jun	Des Chew	Crab
5.67	12.50	111.0	Wicklow	20-Jun	John Ryan	Peeler Crab
5.61	12.38	105.5	Arklow South	09-Jun	Michael Cooney	Peeler Crab
5.44	12.00	106.0	Wicklow	24-Jun	Glen McCrave	Peeler Crab

***Wicklow Smooth Hound  
for Glen McCrave***



***Jaco Walmarans with a  
108 cm Smooth Hound***



***A 105 cm male Smooth  
Hound for Jim Walsh***



***Shore caught Smooth  
Hound of 5.61 kg for  
Michael Cooney, one of  
the heaviest of 2014***



**SMOOTH-HOUND – continued**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
5.08	11.20	97.0	Wicklow	22-Jul	Allard van Dijk (NL)	Peeler Crab
4.11	9.05	105.0	Arklow South	10-Jun	Craig Murphy	Peeler Crab
3.99	8.80	97.0	Wicklow	18-Jun	Keith James	Peeler Crab
3.86	8.50	97.0	Wicklow	28-Jun	Richard James (UK)	Peeler Crab
3.60	7.94	99.0	Howth Head	31-Aug	Bert McGregor	Crab
3.58	7.90	101.0	Wicklow	10-Jul	Jim Walsh	Peeler Crab
3.49	7.70	99.5	Wicklow	07-Jun	Geoff Hammond	Peeler Crab
3.45	7.60	91.0	Wicklow	02-Aug	Michal Mocik	Peeler Crab
3.29	7.25	102.0	Wicklow	30-Jul	Brian Cooke	Crab
3.20	7.06	94.0	Arklow Bank	26-Jul	James Dignam	Peeler Crab
3.20	7.06	98.0	Wicklow	23-Jul	Luke Walsh	Peeler Crab
3.18	7.00	98.0	Greystones	03-Sep	Thomas Lynch	Feathers
3.06	6.75	97.0	Arklow	14-Jul	Brian Cooke	Crab
3.01	6.63	–	Arklow	23-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
3.01	6.63	–	Dublin Bay	24-Jun	Keith Marsella	Crab
L-BS	–	111.0	Dublin Bay	18-Jun	Tom Sneyd	Crab
L-BS	–	110.0	Wicklow	22-Jun	Danny McDevitt	Mackerel
L-BS	–	108.0	Wicklow	20-Jun	Jaco Wolmarans	Peeler Crab
L-BS	–	105.0	Wicklow	05-Jul	Martin Wilson	Peeler Crab

***Smooth Hound for James Dignam******Stone Basse for Mike Thrussell***

## STONE BASSE

**Record 11.72 lbs (5.32 kg); Specimen Weight 3.628 kg (8 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
4.08	9.00	–	Union Hall	23-Jul	Mike Thrussell (UK)	Mackerel
3.74	8.24	58.0	Cork Harbour	07-Sep	Ray Donnelly	Mackerel Strip

## TOPE

**Record 66 lbs 8 ozs (30.159 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)**

**Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 160 cm**

29.03	64.00	170.0	Greystones	05-Jul	Pat Kirwan	Mackerel
25.63	56.50	169.0	Greystones	04-Aug	Bert McGregor	Mackerel
24.95	55.00	162.0	Greystones	14-Aug	Philip Browne	Mackerel
24.49	54.00	163.0	Wicklow	21-Sep	Geoff Murphy (UK)	Mackerel

*Tope for Geoff Murphy*



*Heaviest Tope of 2014  
for Pat Kirwan*

**TOPE – continued**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
23.93	52.75	168.0	Greystones	05-Aug	Bert McGregor	Mackerel
23.59	52.00	157.0	Greystones	21-Sep	Thomas Lynch	Mackerel
23.59	52.00	167.0	Greystones	06-Sep	James Hendricken	Mackerel
20.18	44.50	158.0	Howth	21-Jul	Bert McGregor	Launce
19.96	44.00	153.0	Greystones	20-Sep	Derek Kilbey	Mackerel
19.47	42.88	152.0	Greystones	20-Jul	Gavin Moran	Mackerel
19.35	42.67	157.5	Islandmagee	19-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel Flapper
19.05	42.00	151.0	Ballycastle	04-Sep	Andrew Wolsey	Mackerel
18.14	40.00	151.0	Greystones	28-Sep	Gary McGee	Mackerel
L-BS	–	171.0	Greystones	20-Jul	Robert McClean	Mackerel
L-BS	–	163.0	Downings	17-Jun	Rini Anemaet (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	161.0	Greystones	19-Jul	Robert McClean	Mackerel

*Triggerfish by Bill Ryan***TRIGGER FISH****Record 2.54 kg (5.6 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.474 kg (3.25 lbs)**

1.63	3.60	46.5	Coonanna Hbr	05-Sep	Craig Murphy	Mackerel Strip
1.58	3.48	45.7	Killybegs	18-Sep	Joachim Schaller (D)	Leadhead

## ALBACORE TUNA

**Record 29.96 kg (66.05 lbs); Specimen Weight 12 kg (26.46 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
28.58	63.00	—	Kinsale	28-Sep	Michael Dennehy	Tuna Feather
22.34	49.25	106.7	Kinsale	28-Sep	James Walsh	Lure
20.64	45.50	104.1	Kinsale	28-Sep	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Tuna Feather
17.00	37.49	94.0	Kinsale	24-Aug	Michael Dennehy	Tuna Feather
12.93	28.50	35.0	Kinsale	02-Sep	Robert Vaughan	Titan Lure
12.81	28.25	88.9	Kinsale	02-Sep	Robert Vaughan	Zuker Lure
12.13	26.75	87.6	Kinsale	02-Sep	Robert Vaughan	Titan Lure



***12.13 kg Albacore for  
Robert Vaughan (left)  
with Ailbhe O'Sullivan***

***The second  
heaviest Albacore  
of 2014 was caught  
by James Walsh***



## WHITING

**Record 4 lbs 14.5 oz (2.225 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg (3 lbs)**

<u>WT</u> (kg)	<u>WT</u> (lbs)	<u>L</u> (cm)	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
1.62	3.56	–	Cork Harbour	16-Mar	Christy Lane	Mackerel
1.41	3.10	66.0	Kinsale	28-May	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel
1.37	3.03	54.0	Courtmacsherry	22-Jun	Patrick McKeon	Mackerel



***Courtmacsherry Whiting of 1.372 kg  
for Patrick McKeon***

## BALLAN WRASSE

**Record 4.3 kg (9.47 lbs); Specimen Weight 2.154 kg (4.75 lbs)**

3.20	7.06	–	Kenmare Bay	23-Jun-13	Piet Vullers (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
3.00	6.62	–	Kenmare Bay	09-Sep-13	Paul de la Riviere (B)	Shrimps
2.50	5.51	–	Kenmare Bay	13-Sep	Martin De Vos (B)	Mackerel
2.40	5.29	–	Kenmare Bay	21-Sep	Johan Oosterling (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.36	5.20	50.0	Bridges of Ross, Kilbaha	04-Sep	Bill Ryan	Crab
2.36	5.20	48.5	Beara Peninsula	06-Sep	Joe White	Crab
2.35	5.18	49.0	Kerry Head	18-Sep	Philip Barry	Crab
2.30	5.07	52.0	Kilmore Quay	07-Sep	David Jones (UK)	Ragworm
2.26	4.98	–	Inis Oirr	10-Sep	Liam Kane	Ragworm





*Joe White with a Beara Peninsula Ballan Wrasse*

*Kenmare Bay Ballan Wrasse for Belgian angler Paul de la Riviere*



**CUCKOO WRASSE**

**Record 2 lbs 7 ozs (1.106 kg); Specimen Weight 0.567 kg (1.25 lbs)**

0.77	1.70	39.0	Rathlin Island	21-Sep	Sam Oliver	Mackerel
0.63	1.38	37.0	Nr. Ballintoy	11-Oct	William F McLaughlin	Ragworm
0.62	1.38	–	Courtmacsherry	21-Jul	Mike Thrussell (UK)	Mackerel
0.60	1.32	34.0	Downings	24-Jun	John Vrees (NL)	Ragworm
0.60	1.32	–	Sligo Bay	30-Sep	John Dunleavy	Mackerel
						Feathers
0.60	1.31	–	Cork Harbour	01-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
0.60	1.31	37.0	Portrush	18-Jun	David McCormick	Mackerel
0.60	1.31	36.0	Red Bay	19-Sep-13	Nicholas McAlorum	Ragworm
0.57	1.25	34.5	Kilmore Quay	21-Jun	Brian Cooke	Ragworm



*Examples of  
photographs required  
for Mullet species  
identification*



# Special Notices

## SPECIMEN WEIGHT REVISION

The specimen weight for Twaite Shad is 1.2 kg for 2015.

## GEOGRAPHICAL LIMIT FOR MARINE SPECIES CLAIMS

The geographical limit for claiming marine specimen fish is defined as the marine waters bound by the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland sectors of the European Economic Zone (EEZ), and on the north east coast by the midpoint between NI and the remainder of the United Kingdom landmass.

## 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 by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI).

This bye-law means that the ISFC cannot 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 research into the dynamics of selected cyprinid species in some Irish lakes, carried out by researchers in the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin and funded by IFI, genetic fingerprinting of cyprinid specimens commenced in 2007.

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 were added to the list of eligible species from 2010.

To support a claim, anglers are 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 with, the dorsal and anal fins fully splayed, and close up photographs of the head (side on) are required for each fish claimed.

## GENETIC FINGERPRINTING OF SHAD AND SMOOTH-HOUND

The success of ongoing collaborations between the ISFC, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin on shad (*Alosa* spp.) and smooth-hound

(*Mustelas* spp.) meant these species could be identified by genetic fingerprinting from 2009 onwards. This eliminated the requirement for a body to be presented for both groups of fish. An extensive study of smooth-hound carried out by Dr. Edward Farrell, formerly UCD, found no evidence of *M. mustelas* (Common smooth-hound) in Irish waters despite extensive sampling. Therefore ISFC no longer require a tissue sample for genetic analysis to support a claim for a smooth-hound.

### Sample requirements for genetic analysis of selected cyprinids 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
Shad species	3 scales	In an envelope with fish details and date	Ensure fish is retained in water as much as is feasible
<b>Notes:</b> As all fish can be returned alive please handle carefully. Allow envelope to dry out to preserve the sample. Do not store scales or tissue in plastic as sample will degrade.			

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

As genetic analysis of scales requires considerable time to process samples anglers are requested to submit scale samples as soon as is feasible and before 15th October.

## SHAD HYBRIDS

Considerable numbers of hybrid shad which were identified by genetic analysis were caught by anglers in 2011. The Committee decided to add this Allis/Twaite hybrid to the listing of eligible fish in 2012 because of the numbers of claims submitted. Following a review no statistically significant difference in mean weight of specimens was determined between Twaite and Hybrid Shad and the Committee set the qualifying weight at 1.2 kg for the Hybrid also. No hybrids have been claimed since 2011. Only three claims may be submitted for any combination of Shad (i.e. Shad or Shad Hybrids).

## ESTABLISHING A NEW SPECIMEN FISH CATEGORY

An important function of the ISFC is to act as a focal point for data collection on the occurrence of notable, rare or unusual species taken on rod and line in Irish waters. In some instances this has led to species previously regarded as “unusual” being added to the list of eligible species. Examples from recent years include smooth-hound (*Mustelas asterias*) and three bearded rockling (*Gaidropsarus vulgaris*), (from 1983), garfish (*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), blackmouthed dogfish (*Galeus melastomus*) (from 2008), Black Bream (*Spondyllosoma cantharus*) (from 2009), and thin lipped mullet (*Liza ramada*) from 2011.

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. Claims for 10 fish of that species must be submitted for it to be considered for possible inclusion on the listings. The specimen weight will be set from this dataset and other relevant data. The record fish will be ratified after 5 fish exceeding specimen weight are ratified.



With some species a body may have to be forwarded for positive identification. Other arrangements would apply for larger fish. The availability of a body will allow the Committee to verify positive identification of the species and the claims 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.

## **GUIDANCE FOR 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.

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 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.





Species	<b>Features to photograph</b> <b>(a) the whole body (lateral view) must be photographed for all species AND</b> <b>(b) the specific features detailed below</b>
All cyprinids (Dace, Roach, Roach/Bream, Roach/Rudd, Rudd, Rudd/Bream)	Body with fins extended and close ups of: (a) mouth - closed (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 lateral line scales close to head
Garfish ( <i>B. belone</i> )	Gill rakers count - body required
Garfish ( <i>B. svetovidovi</i> )	Gill rakers count - body required
Golden Grey Mullet Thin-Lipped 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
All Gurnards	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 & Hybrid	Three scales to be taken

Species	<b>Features to photograph:</b> <b>(a) the whole body (lateral view) must be photographed for all species AND</b> <b>(b) the specific features detailed below</b>
Smooth-hound	Close ups of: (a) tail fin (b) underside of head showing mouth (c) back in region of dorsal fin
Three Bearded Rockling	Close up of head and chin area, and close up of area in front of dorsal fin
Torsk	Close up of skin, and dorsal and tail fin area

## IMPORTANT POINTS REGARDING CLAIMS

**Photographic evidence for new records:** Except in the few cases where a body or presentation of the fish is required for species identification, a series of clear photographs must accompany all **record** fish claims. The photograph(s) must show the full fish lying on a flat surface and include a measure of scale (measurement mat, ruler, mobile phone, etc.). Preferably it should be photographed on a measuring mat or similar. Supplementary photographs showing the fish being weighed and the recorded weight would assist in further substantiating the claim.

**Length measurements on claim form:** A length measurement provides informative data about the species being claimed and additional claim verification information, and is requested for all species. Lengths (cm) as submitted on each claim form, have been presented in this report since 2009. 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 January 2016 onwards all elasmobranch (shark and ray) specimens **must** be measured on a recognised measuring device (with an end stop) and simultaneously photographed. This photograph must accompany each claim especially weight-based claims.

**Place of capture:** For freshwater species 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). For marine species taken by boat angling the port of origin, and the place of capture (examples: Burford Bank, 5 km West of Stags Head or Smiths) should be stated.

**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 in either freshwater or marine are also excluded.

**Exclusion from specimen status – Common Skate, Undulate Ray, Monkfish (Angel Shark), Porbeagle, Eel and Bluefin Tuna:** Sharks and rays (elasmobranchs) are a group of fishes requiring special consideration. In terms of conservation status, Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) are deemed as vulnerable, Undulate Ray (*Raja undulata*) are deemed as endangered while Common Skate (*Raja Batis*) and Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) are deemed as critically endangered (IUCN, 2008 & 2012). 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 Angelshark were suspended 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 decided that the moratorium on all three species would continue until 2012. The ISFC has decided to maintain this precautionary approach for these species (and include Porbeagle) until they are reviewed in 2015.

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. Eel will remain as an excluded species for specimen angling from 2014 onwards.

In the absence of a quota and due to its poor conservation status, Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) has been suspended from ISFC listings from 2014 onwards.

Freshwater Eel and Bluefin Tuna will remain suspended for the foreseeable future but the ISFC will consider relisting Undulate Ray, Angel Shark, Porbeagle Shark and Common Skate as length-based specimens from 2016 onwards. Available length-weight data for each species will be reviewed to determine appropriate threshold lengths and a final decision on relisting will be made in 2015.

**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. Such scales, if certified in advance by a reputable agency/company 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.

Since 2012 the National Metrology Laboratory (NML), on request from ISFC, has provided a service to calibrate mechanical and digital fish scales (personal/club) based on EN 45501, from 0 – 100kg. The NML is the national metrology institute for Ireland and is responsible for establishing, maintaining and developing the national measurement standards for physical quantities and their dissemination to Irish users. NML operates as a division of NSAI (The National Standards Authority of Ireland).

Contact details:

NSAI National Metrology Laboratory (Rory Hanrahan)

Griffith Avenue Extension

Glasnevin

Dublin 9

Tel: 01 8082609

<http://www.nsai.ie/Our-Services/Measurement/Calibration-Services/Fish-Scale-Calibration.aspx>

**Weighing scales and minimum weight:** Scales must be appropriate to the size of fish being weighed. From 2015 onwards ISFC will apply a definitive minimum weight rule to ensure that fish are weighed on appropriate scales. The minimum weight will be 10 times the scale interval (or weighing division). This means that for scales with a 50g interval (or scale division) fish being weighed have to exceed 500g (1lb 2 ozs) in weight. For a 2 oz interval a minimum weight of 20 ozs applies. The interval or scale division in the majority of scales used by specimen anglers tend to be 10g or 20g and anglers should ensure that their scales is suited to the sizes of fish being targeted.

**Metriification:** Since 2006, fish weights have been presented in kilograms in the Annual Report. Many anglers continue to use imperial measurements for fish and, recognising this, the ISFC decided to report in both metric (SI) and imperial metric systems since 2010. Claims will be accepted under either system unless legislation dictates otherwise.

**Weight conversion figures:** The ISFC decided to use the metric system (kg) for reporting from 2006 onwards, although some older record fish will be reported in the imperial system until a new record is set.



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

#### Kilogrammes to pounds

X kg divided by 0.454 = Y metric pounds

#### Pounds to kilogrammes

X lbs divided by 2.205 = Y kg

## REVIEW OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS

The first systematic review of specimen weights was carried out in 2009-2010 when specimen weights were reduced for three of the eighteen fish categories in freshwater (16.7%) and 15 of 69 marine species (21.7%). The Committee decided to review weights again in 2014. The 2014 review focussed on species where < 5 specimens had been ratified since 2009. Sixteen weights were reduced from the 36 species reviewed.

The complete list of species reviewed and specimen weight changes is shown below:

Species	Current specimen weight kg	Revised weight kg
Pike (Lake)	13.608	No change
Roach	0.907	No change
Angler fish	12.0	10.0
Black bream	1.0	0.9
Black sole	0.8	0.7
Brill	2.0	1.75
Cod	9.072	No change
<i>B. svetovidovi</i>	0.355	0.3
Grey gurnard	0.68	No change
Haddock	3.175	3.0
Hake	3.5	3.0
Halibut	15.0	12.0
John Dory	1.814	No change
Mackerel	1.0	No change
Red Mullet	0.454	0.4
Plaice	1.5	1.4
Cuckoo Ray	1.8	1.6
Electric Ray	9.072	No change

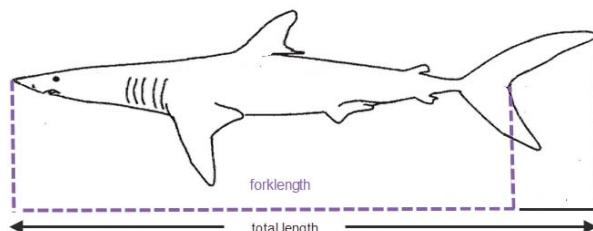
Species	Current specimen weight kg	Revised weight kg
Sting ray	13.608	13.0
Thornback Ray	8.0	7.0
Ray's Bream	2.0	No change
Red Sea Bream	1.8	1.0
Scad	0.68	No change
Allis Shad	1.814	No change
Shad hybrids	1.2	No change
Blue Shark	45.359	No change
Mako shark	90.718	No change
Six-gilled shark	45.359	No change
Thresher shark	54.431	No change
Long-nosed skate	36.287	No change
White skate	54.431	No change
Stone basse	3.628	No change
Torsk	2.721	2.5
Trigger fish	1.474	No change
Tuna-Albacore	12.0	No change
Turbot	7.0	6.0

## LENGTH-BASED SPECIMENS (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. This would allow 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.

A length-based specimen award commenced on a pilot basis for Tope for 2011 with a threshold length of 1.6 m or 160 cm. Claims to be made on the existing claim form and the angler will specify that length only is being measured. On board weighing of fish is not acceptable (except where a

certified motion compensated balance is used). Except for Blue Shark, all length data to be given as total length; this is the measurement most often used as an independent variable and is the standard measurement in scientific shark literature (e.g. Campagno, 1984). The fish has to be placed belly down on the measuring device with its dorsal caudal lobe depressed into line with its body axis and total length measured as a point to point distance (not over the curve of the body) from the snout tip to the tip of the dorsal caudal lobe. The snout tip must be placed against a perpendicular front bar or plate to index the 0 cm measurement accurately.



The following evidence must accompany each length-based specimen claim:

- Photograph(s) showing fish placed belly down on properly extended measuring device with snout against perpendicular bar or plate with the actual recorded length (cm) visible and
- the sex of the fish. 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.

Fish must be measured on a recognised measuring device with an end stop and suitable graduations. Suitable devices (measuring mats) are available from IFI, IGFA or tackle manufacturers.

## LENGTH-BASED SPECIMEN THRESHOLDS

From 2015 onwards four species Tope (since 2011), Spur Dogfish, Smooth-Hound and Blue Shark can be claimed as length-based specimens. **The threshold length for Blue Shark is 190 cm and this is a forklength value** (based on length-weight data from Mejuto et al., 2008). Weight-based specimens will be accepted for these species but only three claims for any one species will be allowed. Anglers are encouraged to operate on a catch-and-release basis where feasible. Other species may be considered for inclusion as length-based specimens in the future.

### Length (cm) threshold values for Spur Dogfish, Smooth Hound, Tope and Blue Shark

Spur Dogfish	Smooth-Hound	Tope	Blue Shark
105 cm	100 cm	160 cm	190 cm forklength

Species	Measurement (cm) required	Technique
<b>ALL Marine species</b> except Bass & Blue Shark	<b>Total length</b>	Place fish on top of measuring device and measure in a straight line from tip of snout to end of tail
<b>ALL Marine species</b> (except ray and skate)	<b>Girth</b>	Measure greatest girth using tape measure – usually in front of dorsal fin
<b>Ray and skate</b>	<b>Wingspan</b>	Place fish on top of measuring device and measure from wingtip to wingtip
<b>ALL Freshwater species</b> <b>AND Bass and Blue Shark</b>	<b>Forklength</b>	Place fish on top of measuring device and measure from tip of snout to middle rays of tail
<b>ALL Sharks, Rays and Skates</b>	<b>Sex – state on claim form if fish is male or female</b>	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 DVD, CD and email. For greater efficiency please tag all photographs, DVDs, CDs and emailed photographs with relevant details. DVDs and 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, weight and date.

## NOTABLE FISH

One large Blue Shark was returned to the water unweighed during 2014.

Species	Angler	Venue	Date	Total length	Wingspan	Girth
<b>Blue Shark</b>	Gerard Rodgers	Union Hall	6/9/2014	226 cm	N/A	81 cm



*Roach/Bream being measured on IFI Fish Conservation Mat (courtesy of Darragh Long)*



*Tope being measured on IGFA measuring mat*

## **PRESENTATION OF 2013 AWARDS**

Minister Fergus O'Dowd, Dept. of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and Derek Davis, Chairman of the National Inland Fisheries Forum, broadcaster and angler, made the Annual Presentation of Awards to successful anglers at Bewleys Airport Hotel on 15 February 2014.

In late March 2014, Dutch and Belgian anglers were presented with their awards by Peter Dohmen, renowned angling journalist and Micheál Hennessy, Inland Fisheries Ireland, 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 15 years and anglers are encouraged to submit photographs.

All will be considered for publication. The Committee is extremely grateful to anglers, staff, charter skippers and other supporters who submitted photographs.

Special acknowledgements: Charter skippers, club members, guesthouse owners, tackle dealers and the many staff from Inland Fisheries Ireland who follow up claims and ensure that the necessary paperwork is attended to are gratefully acknowledged.

Sincere thanks to Myles Kelly, IFI and ISFC webmaster, for his input throughout 2014 and to Micheál Hennessy for his article published in the 2014 report.

AFBINI continues to provide an excellent fish identification service for anglers in the northern part of Ireland and the ISFC is indebted to Dr Steven Beggs and Dr Robert Rosell.

Special thanks are due to the extremely cooperative staff of the National Metrology Laboratory NSAI for certification of anglers' scales. The genetic fingerprinting work undertaken by Dr. Stefano Mariani (up to 2011) and Dr. Jens Carlsson and their team at UCD has significantly advanced ISFC fish identification procedures and the Committee is very grateful to everyone involved in this important activity.

Mike Thrussell (World Sea Fishing) is acknowledged for presenting his pictorial tour of great fish he has caught in Irish waters over the past 20 years at the 2013 Awards Day.

Inland Fisheries Ireland continues to provide unstinting administrative support and other services to the ISFC and is sincerely acknowledged. Bridie Fleming supports all activity in the ISFC and is a vital part of the continued success of the Committee.



## DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIMEN AWARDS

Nationalities of anglers whose claims were ratified:

Year	Ireland	Netherlands (NL)	United Kingdom (UK)	Germany (D)	Belgium (B)	France (F)	Other	TOTAL
1985	443	25	90	15	3	2	n/d	578
1986	349	21	93	16	3	7	n/d	489
1987	300	36	59	8	1	4	n/d	408
1988	259	14	60	5	4	4	n/d	346
1989	261	18	48	10	0	0	n/d	337
1990	286	21	45	23	4	1	n/d	380
1991	332	30	46	19	1	3	n/d	431
1992	336	32	56	9	1	3	n/d	437
1993	352	30	45	16	3	4	n/d	450
1994	282	33	39	13	1	2	n/d	370
1995	295	35	55	18	7	1	n/d	411
1996	307	27	69	6	4	2	n/d	415
1997	449	28	57	9	5	4	n/d	552
1998	344	46	53	6	5	4	n/d	458
1999	310	33	35	3	1	1	1	384
2000	403	41	48	13	1	0	2	508
2001	427	28	37	5	4	3	4	508
2002	471	23	43	7	6	2	7	559
2003	384	63	41	11	13	4	5	521
2004	412	48	38	3	9	4	4	518
2005	432	62	52	10	7	4	1	568
2006	351	44	42	2	10	0	2	449
2007	424	56	28	6	12	2	2	530
2008	429	46	23	1	3	0	0	502
2009	470	39	15	5	0	0	2	531
2010	521	45	26	6	5	1	3	607
2011	519	50	14	0	3	0	1	587
2012	578	40	18	2	1	0	1	640
2013	536	41	11	5	1	0	1	595
2014	476	23	15	1	7	2	2	526

n/d = not determined

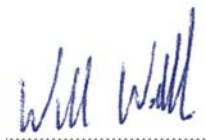
## Irish Specimen Fish Committee

Expenditure and Revenue Accounts - 1st January to 31st December 2013

2012	Expenditure	2013	2012	Revenue	2013
€		€	€		€
				<b>Balance b/f</b>	24308.43
				<b>Grants</b>	
4668.41	Printing	5924.04	4500.00	IFI	4500.00
596.35	Award Medals / Trophies	4154.96	–	Loughs Agency	4678.46
350.00	Miscellaneous / Postage	786.15	5000.00	Faillte Ireland	1000.00
–	ISFC meeting expenses	–	–	TAFI	200
1018.35	Awards Day costs	513.85	108.89	ICSA/Clubs	108.89
13.27	Bank charges	24.75			
4000.00	Genetic identification	–		<b>Donations</b>	
			407.48	Anglers	584.26
	<b>Total</b>	11403.75			11071.61
	<b>Balance c/d</b>	23976.29			
		35380.04			24308.43
				<b>Balance b/d</b>	23976.29

“The ISFC has prepared a revenue and expenditure account for 12 months ending 31st December 2013 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 of its activities are funded by donations from diverse sources. The ISFC is extremely grateful to all donors.

**Benefactors in 2014 were:**

**Inland Fisheries Ireland, Loughs Agency; Irish Charters Skippers Association; Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland; Delphi Fishery Ltd. Val Atkins**, 4 Abbeypark, Ferrybank, Waterford; **Jim Dooley**, 6 Bawnleigh Court, Banduff, Cork; **Eric Gosnell**, 52 Marian Park, Church Road, Blackrock, Cork; **Halfway Angling Centre (Dan Lynch)**, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork; **Bob Healeas**, 13 Trelawney Road, Chacewater, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 8JR, England; **Burkhard Hobler**, Inishmacatreer, Cross, Co. Mayo; **Christy Lane**, 10 Harrington's Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; **Noel Lane**, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork; **Robert McClean**, Sequoia, Foxes Meadow, Kilpedder, Co. Wicklow; **Nicholas McEvoy**, 6 Francis Crescent, Grange Heights, Waterford City; **Bert McGregor**, 34 Rivermead Park, St. Margaret's, Co. Dublin; **Vincent McKernan**, 19 Drummaul Park, Randalstown, Co. Armagh, BT41 3AR; **W. F. McLaughlin**, 27 Castle Gardens, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, BT49 0SD; **Derek J. Miller**, 35 Greenmeadows Road, Madeley, Crewe, Cheshire, CW3 9EY, England; **Jim Newell**, 129 Haypark Avenue, Belfast, BT7 3FG; **Karl O'Leary**, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; **Stephen O'Neill**, 35 Ferndale, Carrigaline, Co. Cork; **Frank Prendergast**, Avoca, Caheriveen, Co. Kerry; **Bill Ryan**, Ribbontail Lane, Longwood, Co. Meath; **Wicklow Boat Charters (Kit Dunne)**, 10C Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.

*Johnny Dunne with specimen Shad*



*Andrew Wolsey's  
Three Bearded Rockling*



***5.8 kg Carp for Kenneth Murphy***



***Fishing out of Enniscrone in April Emmet Hope from Mullingar caught this 1.37 kg Pouting***



## IRISH RECORD FISH

**FRESHWATER SPECIES**

Species	Weight lbs    ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Bream	6.07 kg	24.6.2012	Ballywillan Lough Fishery, Co. Down	Bryan Robinson
Carp	14.24 kg	26.10.2014	Loughgall, Armagh	Aaron Cummins
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	3.376 kg	3.5.2013	Monalty Lake, Co. Monaghan	Jason Dingle
Roach/Rudd Hybrid	2.1 kg	5.5.2009	River Lagan, Co. Antrim	Terry Jackson
Rudd	4      8	5.9.1996	Coney Lake	Hugh Gough
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7      10	19.10.1996	Monalty Lake	Brendan Doran
Tench	8.15	20.6.1995	Ballyeigher Lake	Nick Parry
Salmon	57	1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Brown Trout (Lake)	26     2	15.7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Brown Trout (River)	20	22.2.1957	River Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place
Sea Trout	16     6	29.10.1983	Shimna River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus

**MARINE SPECIES**

Species	Weight lbs    ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Angler Fish	42.985 kg	3.11.1985	Belfast Lough	Sean Neill
Bass	17    13	21.10.2000	Doughmore Strand	Emmet Naughton
Black Sole	6.32	28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Bluemouth	1.32 kg	28.7.2008	Caherciveen	Sue Tait
Brill	9      8	8.9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	15.1 kg	30.8.2003	Castletownshend	Roger Barham (UK)
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 (UK)
Blackmouthed Dogfish	1.33 kg	10.8.2011	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Jan Vrieswijk (NL)
Spur Dogfish	11.06 kg	3.6.2013	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Tom Walsh
Greater Spotted Dogfish	23    13	17.09.2003	Kenmare Bay	Perry Dumay (NL)
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	4      4	26.7.1982	Valentia	Cor Heinis (NL)
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 (NL)
Gilthead Bream	3.505 kg	17.8.2013	Dingle, Co. Kerry	Jeremy Coleman (UK)

**MARINE SPECIES (Contd.)**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Weight lbs ozs</b>	<b>Date of Capture</b>	<b>Place of Capture</b>	<b>Captor</b>
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	5.39 kg	21.2.2010	Union Hall	Tony Santry
Hake	25 5.5	28.4.1962	Belfast Lough	H. W. Steele
Halibut	156	23.7.1972	Belmullet	Frank Brogan
Herring	0.48 kg	17.9.2011	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	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 (D)
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 (D)
Golden Grey Mullet	1.2 kg	16.7.2014	Cork Harbour	Stephen O'Neill
Thin Lipped Mullet	2.86 kg	23.8.2014	Clonakilty, Cork	Ian Mulligan
Red Mullet	0.82 kg	20.9.2010	Kilmore Quay	Sue Tait
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 (DK)
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 (UK)
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 (UK)
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 (NL)
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 (F)
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> )	6.07	kg	3.402	7.5	—
Carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> )	14.24	kg	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	3.376	kg	1.6	3.528	Scales* & photos*
Roach/Rudd Hybrid	2.1	kg	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					
SEA FISH					
Angler Fish ( <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> )	42.985	kg	10.0	22.046	Body
Bass ( <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> )	17	13	4.536	10	—
Black Sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> )	6.32		0.7	1.54	—
Black Bream ( <i>Spondylusoma cantharus</i> )	—		0.9	1.98	Body
Bluemouth ( <i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i> )	1.32	kg	0.9	1.9845	Photo
Brill ( <i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i> )	9	8	1.75	3.75	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> )	1.31	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> )	11.06	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		0.3	0.66	Head and gills
Gilthead bream ( <i>Sparus aurata</i> )	3.505	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)
Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> )	5.39	kg	3.0	6.61	—

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS – *contd.*

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs	
Hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> )	25	5.5	3.0	6.61	–
Halibut ( <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i> )	156		12	26.46	–
Herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> )	0.48 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	1.0	2.205	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> )	1.2 kg		0.68	1.5	Body
Mullet - Thin Lipped ( <i>Liza ramada</i> )	2.86 kg		1.5	3.31	Body
Mullet - Red ( <i>Mullus surmuletus</i> )	0.82 kg		0.4	0.88	Body
Plaice ( <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> )	8.23		1.4	3.086	–
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	1.6	3.53	Photo
Ray - Electric ( <i>Torpedo nobiliana</i> )	40 kg		9.072	20	Photo
Ray - Homelyn ( <i>Raja montagui</i> )	8.28		2.268	5	Photo
Ray - Painted ( <i>Raja microocellata</i> )	17.21		4.536	10	Photo
Ray - Sting ( <i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i> )	33.2 kg		13.0	28.66	Photo
Ray - Thornback ( <i>Raja clavata</i> )	37		7.0	15.43	Photo
Ray - Undulate ( <i>Raja undulata</i> )	18		suspended from listings		
Ray's Bream ( <i>Brama brama</i> )	6	4.25	2.0	4.41	Body
Red Sea Bream ( <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> )	9	6	1.0	2.205	–
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		1.2	2.65	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		suspended from listings		
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 ( <i>Mustelas asterias</i> )	16.58		3.0	6.62	Photo
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		2.5	5.51	Body
Trigger Fish ( <i>Balistes carpriscus</i> )	2.54 kg		1.474	3.25	Photo
Tuna - Albacore ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )	29.96 kg		12.0	26.46	Photo
Tuna - Bluefin ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> )	440 kg		suspended from listings		
Turbot ( <i>Scophthalmus maximus</i> )	34		6.0	13.23	–
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

**N.B.** Where species identification states body required, high quality photographs (see Rule 4) may suffice.



## 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 calibration certificate from an appropriate service provider (e.g. NML). A weighing scales must be appropriate to the size of fish being weighed. **From 2015 onwards the minimum weight will be 10 times the scale interval (or weighing division).** 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, UNLESS WEIGHED ON A CERTIFIED MOTION-COMPENSATED BALANCE.**

**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, THIN-LIPPED 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.

**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, RAYS, BLUEMOUTH, 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**.

**RECORD FISH:** Claim must be supported by a series of clear photographs showing relevant features for positive identification and an indication of fish length (preferably a ruler/fish measurement mat). Records will be weight based only.

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). Detailed photographs 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@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:info@fisheriesireland.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. Specially commissioned awards are made to anglers for cumulative specimen fish captures of 20 species, 10 species, 50 specimens or 10 specimens. Other special awards are the Dr. Micheál Kennedy Award (Mullet of the year), the Dr. Arthur Went Award (Young Specimen Angler of the Year), the Minister's Award (Fish of a Lifetime) and the Failte Ireland's Best International Specimen Fish Award (for the best overseas angler specimen).

**IMPORTANT – Completed claim forms should be sent to: The Irish Specimen Fish Committee, Inland Fisheries Ireland, 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, Rep. of Ireland (Tel. 00-353-1-884 2600) before 15th November each year. Where required for identification purposes (see Rule 4) fish should be sent to the same address. Scales from shad and cyprinid hybrids for genetic analysis must be forwarded to ISFC before 15th October.**

For marine fish taken in Northern Ireland contact Dr. Steven Beggs, AFBINI, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX, Ph: +44 (0) 28 9025 5503.  
Email: [steven.beggs@afbini.gov.uk](mailto:steven.beggs@afbini.gov.uk)

For freshwater fish taken in Northern Ireland contact Dr. Robert Rosell, AFBINI, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX. Tel: +44 (0) 28 9025 5236,  
Fax: +44 (0) 28 9025 5004.  
Email: [robert.rosell@afbini.gov.uk](mailto:robert.rosell@afbini.gov.uk)



***Josie Mahon's Inniscarra  
Rudd/Bream***



***Joshua Higginson with  
a 1.2 kg Barrow Shad***

## **BAND OF BROTHERS**

*Specimen-hunter Micheál Hennessy relates the buzz of catching a big fish, the value of recording it properly and where the ISFC fits into the equation. The specimen hunting 'Band of Brothers' (and many sisters) is dedicated to the pursuit of the big one just as Micheál has been doing for over 20 years.*

Recently I was reading an autobiography about a guy who was obsessed with horse-racing and would regularly bet on races, anywhere in the world, just to get that feeling of elation, that rush to the brain, that emotional overload. Eminent scientists have identified it as a rush of dopamine to the brain; I recognise that feeling and have had the rush every time I have caught a specimen fish, so yes, I am a fish addict. I have often sat and wondered what drives me so much to catch fish, to spend much of my free time either thinking, planning, talking, researching or living all things 'fish'. Perhaps I was a Cormorant, an Otter or a Seal in a past life and the one thing I would wholeheartedly agree with my better half about is that I am totally obsessed with 'fish' and all species of same. Is it the shape, colour, species, touch, smell, movement or habitat of these fascinating members of the animal kingdom? Is it the chase, the stalking, the environment or just pitting my wits against my quarry? I really don't know and I have pretty much resigned myself to the fact that I will never really know and that's ok too. I think anglers all over the world are the same to a certain extent and all are really only different in their degree of obsession, in their focus on their quarry and in their approach to their sport.



***Specimen Golden Grey for Micheál***

One thing we anglers have in common is our infatuation with size; it was X lbs in weight, I caught X number of fish or they were Y cm in length. These statistics fill conversations at pub counters, blogs, and in Twitter and Facebook entries and makes us feel important for a moment. What would Sigmund Freud have said about this obsession? Would he have come up with a sexual

reasoning for our fish infatuation? One of his quotes that I am particularly drawn to is:

"Being entirely honest with oneself is a good exercise."

How big was it? How long was it? How long was the fight? How many times did it attack the lure before taking it? We tend to exaggerate the story to enhance the fish or the fishing



experience; this is what all anglers the world over do and have done for millennia. The facts of the matter are that a fish without statistics is just another fish story but add length and weight and it suddenly leaps out of the imagination and becomes reality.

David James Duncan put this obsession into perfect context in his novel *"The River Why."*

"The adoration of statistics is a trait so deeply embedded in their nature that even those rarefied anglers the disciples of Jesus couldn't resist backing their yarns with arithmetic: when the resurrected Christ appears on the morning shore of the Sea of Galilee and directs his forlorn and skunked disciples to the famous catch of John 21, we learn that the net contained not "a boatload" of fish, nor "about a hundred and a half," nor "over a gross," but precisely "an hundred and fifty and three." This is, it seems to me, one of the most remarkable statistics ever computed. Consider the circumstances: this is after the Crucifixion and the Resurrection; Jesus is standing on the beach newly risen from the dead, and it is only the third time the disciples have seen him since the nightmare of Calvary. And yet we learn that in the net there were "great fishes" numbering precisely "an hundred and fifty and three." How was this digit discovered? Mustn't it have happened thus: upon hauling the net to shore, the disciples squatted down by that immense, writhing fish pile and started tossing them into a second pile, painstakingly counting "one, two, three, four, five, six, seven..." all the way to an hundred and fifty and three, while the newly risen Lord of Creation, the Sustainer of their beings, He who died for them and for Whom they would gladly die, stood waiting, ignored, till the heap of fish was quantified. Such is the fisherman's compulsion toward rudimentary mathematics!"

This brings the IFSC into the equation; by adding rules for ratification including providing supporting information like fish weight, length, photographs and witnessing signatures an angler enters the realms of a club recognised and respected by this group of likeminded anglers – the band of brothers. The rules for ratification are relatively straight forward and are listed in the annual report, on the claim form and on the ISFC website [www.irish-trophy-fish.com](http://www.irish-trophy-fish.com). An angler does NOT have to kill a fish to claim a specimen; if the angler follows the photographic procedure then this should provide sufficient information to claim the specimen; however, when photographs are unclear, poorly lit or blurred this is where problems begin to occur. The ISFC has many roles and periodically requires bodies of certain species for research purposes especially where new species are being recorded. The Twaite/Allis shad hybrid of recent years is a good example of this. Once the species becomes established as an accepted specimen then verification photographs and/or scale samples will suffice.

The IFSC will only ratify specimen fish weighed on independently certified scales. For smaller fish the fish must weigh more than 10 times the scale increment. What exactly does this

mean? Where a scale rises in 1oz increments the smallest possible fish accepted by the committee will be 10 ozs and if the scales rises in 2oz increments it will be 20ozs and so on. The problems occur when claims for smaller species (e.g. Cuckoo Wrasse, Dace) are submitted and the fish has been weighed on scales which measures in 4oz increments or higher; the minimum accepted weight by the IFSC will be 40ozs (2lbs 8ozs) or 1lb 4ozs over the specimen weight for Cuckoo Wrasse.



### ***Specimen or not?***

For the purposes of claiming most of the smaller species such as Cuckoo Wrasse, Dace, Dab, Grey Gurnard, Red Mullet or Scad it is essential to check what is the smallest species you can weigh on your weighing scales. This may necessitate purchasing a smaller scales for the species up to the 2lbs mark, a medium scales for medium sized species and a large one for bigger fish that swim around our coast. In my case I fish with a friend who owns a large scales and a medium scales. I purchased a small scales for the smaller species and between us we are able to cover all eventualities. Within the Band of Brothers and using modern day communications it is possible to share scales within the group you fish with thus cutting down on expense.

So why do I and many others submit claims for any big fish we catch to be ratified by the

ISFC? We want verification of the specimen by an independent organisation which provides species identification, and documented evidence of its weight and all other particulars. The IFSC verifies the species by photographic, DNA or scale evidence. The certified weighing scales used must have appropriate certification (for accuracy) and the fish capture and weighing must be witnessed thus providing independent declarations that the angler captured the fish and weighed it properly. Further information can be provided to the angler such as the age of the fish (where scales are provided) or, for Salmon or Sea Trout, the number of times it has spawned. There is also a benefit to the IFSC in that accurate statistics are available for researchers generally regarding population trends in larger fish and even fluctuations in weights of individuals within these populations over the years. Plaice is a good example – the specimen weight was 5lbs for many years. This has been reduced in recent years as very few fish over this threshold weight were being caught; the threshold was reduced to 3.31lbs in 2010 and will reduce further in 2015 to 3.01 lbs.

The ISFC has moved in recent years towards length based specimens especially in the cases of certain elasmobranchs such as Tope, Spurdog and Smoothounds and in 2015 will include Blue Shark in this category. Measuring mats are available from commercial outlets and IFI and these will accurately measure these species. Anglers who fish for these species are encouraged to use these mats when making claims as the ISFC cannot verify species measured in any other way.

About 600 claims forms are submitted by specimen hunters every year. The ISFC operates on an honour based system and the committee has to be fair to all applicants. Scrutiny of all claims, with strict adherence to the rules, is a very important committee function. Claims are rejected each year because the rules are not applied – this is unfortunate for the angler who has caught a significant specimen but necessary to ensure that standards are maintained. To avoid disappointment please fill out the forms correctly and ensure your scales are certified properly and up to date. Where required send in clear photographs, on a measuring mat if possible, to ensure the best possible outcome for your claim.

In an article published in the ISFC report in 1999, the late Des Brennan, angler extraordinaire and former Secretary of the ISFC, strongly recommended that specimen hunters should ‘Read It Carefully’, in reference to the rules on the claim form. Those cautionary words still apply and will continue to do so as long as the ISFC continues to operate.

To current and future specimen hunters I wish you, the collective, “we few, we happy few, we Band of Brothers” a fish-filled 2015 and beyond.....

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

[illegible]





***Wicklow Smooth Hound for Luke Walsh***

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## **IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE**

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

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

***Back Cover: Inis Oirr Ballan Wrasse for Liam Kane***



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