

# IRISH SPECIMEN FISH 2016



Iascach Iníre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE**

Website: [www.irish-trophy-fish.com](http://www.irish-trophy-fish.com)

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 2016. Over 29,000 claims have been received by the ISFC over the past 61 years. This dataset is one of the most valuable and long-running time-series of its type.

## Irish Specimen Fish Committee Members 2016

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 Specimen Awards*

*to anglers whose claims were accepted during 2016*

*will be held in*

*Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport*

*Swords, Co. Dublin at 2.30pm sharp*

*on Saturday 18th February 2017*

*Irish anglers who are due awards are invited to attend*

***Cover: Gilthead Bream of 2.69 kg from Clonakilty for Stephen Brennan in May***

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# ISFC Chairman's Review 2016



It has clearly been another busy year for specimen hunters and committee alike. Despite spring and particularly summer conditions that were not always conducive to comfortable angling over 500 claims were submitted for 42 species, from a wide range of marine and freshwater venues around Ireland. Highlights include a new record Smooth-hound, caught from the shore, and a rare Scad specimen, which only missed being allocated a new record by a narrow margin of weighing scale tolerances. Compared to recent years tourist anglers claims increased in 2016 with Dutch anglers accounting for 9% of all claims.

Almost one-third of the 486 ratified claims were for Spurdog and Smooth-hound. Something in the distribution, size and maybe growth rate has clearly changed for these fish – just the kind of situation the ISFC was originally set up to record. Consequently the weight threshold for Smooth-hound has been increased to 3.5 kg and a watching brief will be maintained for Spurdog. The value of the long-term ISFC dataset was demonstrated by its use for the forthcoming IUCN Red List assessment of threatened cartilaginous fish. The restoration of Common Skate to

the ISFC list in 2016 (as a length based specimen) saw 12 specimens being claimed (and carefully returned alive) thereby documenting the distribution of one of the more vulnerable cartilaginous species. A rare White Skate (*Rostroraja alba*) capture (and live return) was also notified to the ISFC.

The intricate technicalities of weighing and measuring fish continue to dominate committee business, still focussing on the old chestnuts of facilitating claims and satisfying the demands of ISFC and specimen hunter accuracy while not totally closing down opportunities for the general angler who catches the fish of a lifetime. Last year we asked for more pictures of fish on measuring mats, mandatory for record fish but very useful for all claims, and anglers responded with some fine examples, but more of the same and some fine tuning is needed. The classic photograph of fish held out to camera is the lifetime record for the captor, but the photograph of the full length of the fish on a measuring mat, sharp enough to see the gradations, makes it easier to convince one's peers of a true perspective. Full length fish photographs in the report show that this can be achieved, even when faced with a 1.8m long skate on a smallish boat. We did come across situations where claimants needed longer mats; a fish on a mat ensures that the plane of measurement is flat, as opposed to a tape over the body of the fish, and affected by body curvature.

Many anglers are now forwarding high definition photographs on CD. While some of these are spectacular and may be published, we request that, from 2017, anglers would send in good quality prints to aid identification and photograph selection. Claimants are reminded to check instructions for photographing particular features for particular species, (e.g Mulletts and Dogfish) to ensure a definitive identification. If this is in doubt, we cannot make an award. Other technicalities, such as not providing scale samples for species like trout or salmon, can also rule out an otherwise good claim.

The issue of awarding specimen status based on length continues to arise and is now an option for many elasmobranchs. Sea trout will be added to the list of optional length based specimen claims for 2017 (at fork lengths  $\geq 64$ cm). This trial, the first length based specimen option for a non- elasmobranch and non-marine species, takes account of the growing scientific opinion on the particular value of large female spawners. The committee recognises the use of length based recording fish elsewhere in the world, but also has to cope with the elephant in the room: that length based recording cannot create new record maxima directly comparable to existing historical records.

The issue of declining funds necessarily occupied far too much committee time. We have been eating into reserves for the past three years with reductions in support from hard pressed State agencies. We continue to press those who benefit from ISFC activities for sufficient funding to keep the committee going, and have discussed many ideas to fill the funding gap. These include running competitions, seeking commercial sponsors, applying to specific funds for specific projects, and charging for some publications and services. In all of these, we have to remember that we are a voluntary committee with considerable demands on our time as it is. We recognise that commercial funding always comes with the need to meet the needs of a sponsor advertising particular companies, and is not always appropriate and consistent with ISFC aims and objectives.

We have reluctantly decided that we will have to begin charging for claims requiring genetic verification (Shads, Cyprinids and their hybrids), from 2018. The use of genetics continues to be the only definitive method to resolve potential identification issues while addressing conservation imperatives and also complying with angling regulations preventing killing of large coarse fish.

To those who continue to give us financial support, we are truly grateful, in particular to IFI, anglers as individuals or federations and charter skippers. We must also recognise that all agencies involved, particularly IFI and AFB, give generously in staff expertise in identification and for committee business.

The committee, all of whom have a passion for fish and fisheries, enjoys its work. We commend both the skilful and the lucky on big fish caught in 2016. We look forward to more in 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Rosell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dr Robert Rosell, Chairman ISFC

December, 2016

## Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2016

In 2016 the ISFC processed 518 claims; 485 were ratified, including one new record. A total of 14 were rejected for non-compliance with the rules and a further 19 will be queried further. This report presents the new record, the special awards and ratified specimen fish for 2016.

### NEW IRISH RECORD

For fish exceeding the current Irish record weight



*Smooth-hound 11.27 kg, Kilmore, Co. Wexford, 10 June 2016 – Dean Quigley*



*Dr AEJ Went Award – Young Specimen Angler 2016, Conor Ward with a Tope of 27.6 kg*

## SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES 2016

### 10 SPECIES AWARD

#### Andrew Boyce, Shankill, Co. Dublin

- 2009** Three Bearded Rockling, Twaite Shad, Whiting  
**2011** Tope, Shad Hybrid  
**2014** Dab  
**2015** Bass, Flounder, Smooth Hound  
**2016** Carp, Gilthead Bream, Painted Ray

#### Conor Ward, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow

- 2013** Brown Trout (River), Carp, Pike (River), Golden Grey Mullet, Thick Lipped Mullet  
**2014** Bream, Roach, Roach/Bream Hybrid, Roach/Rudd Hybrid  
**2016** Tope

### 50 SPECIMENS AWARD

#### Philip Barry, Ballyvolane, Cork

- 1984** Blonde Ray  
**1985** Plaice  
**2005-2007** 4 Coalfish  
**2006 - 2009** 3 Cod  
**2006** Cuckoo Wrasse  
**2007** 2 Painted Ray  
**2007-2012** 2 Red Gurnard  
**2007-2016** 8 Spur Dogfish  
**2007** 2 Thick Lipped Mullet  
**2008** Grey Gurnard, Pollack  
**2009-2014** 5 Ballan Wrasse  
**2009** Gilthead Bream, 3 Golden Grey Mullet  
**2010** Bluemouth  
**2011** Flounder  
**2012** 2 Megrim  
**2011-2012** 4 Twaite Shad  
**2012-2016** 4 Smooth hound  
**2013** Lesser Spotted Dogfish  
**2014** Three Bearded Rockling  
**2015** Sting Ray

#### Andrew Wolsey, Dromore Co. Down

- 2009-2013** 11 Roach/Rudd  
**2012-2014** 4 Painted Ray  
**2012-2015** 9 Spur Dogfish  
**2013-2014** 3 Gilthead Bream  
**2013** 3 Bream, Pike (River), 3 Roach/Bream, 2 Three Bearded Rockling  
**2013-2015** 3 Thick Lipped Mullet  
**2014** Greater Spotted Dogfish, Tench, Tope  
**2015** Cuckoo Wrasse, Golden Grey Mullet, 2 Twaite Shad  
**2016** 3 Blackmouthed Dogfish, Sting Ray

### 10 SPECIMENS AWARD

- |   |           |                                 |           |
|---|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Damian Allchorne, Ballyfermot, Dublin     | 2014-2016 | Kit Dunne, Wicklow              | 2012-2016 |
| Gary Blake, Kilnarnagh, Dublin            | 2014-2016 | David Flynn, Clondalkin, Dublin | 2014-2016 |
| John Boyle, Tralee, Co. Kerry             | 1993-2016 | Jim Gregg, Antrim               | 1989-2016 |
| Luke Canavan Dignam, Malahide, Co. Dublin | 2012-2016 | Brian Newman, Grenagh, Co. Cork | 2001-2016 |
| Ronan Doherty, Glenageary, Co. Dublin     | 2009-2016 | Joseph McEvoy, Waterford City   | 1985-2016 |
|   |           | Amy O'Brien, Ballyphehane, Cork | 2015-2016 |
|   |           | John Owens, Youghal, Co. Cork   | 2011-2016 |





*Fish of Lifetime Award for Peter Pöllmann for his 0.91 kg Scad*



*Mullet of the Year Award for Ian Mulligan for his 1.13 kg Golden Grey Mullet*

## DR MICHAEL KENNEDY AWARD

### 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.

**Ian Mulligan**, Dublin – 1.13 kg **Golden Grey Mullet** at Rosscarbery, 16 July 2016

## DR AEJ WENT AWARD

### 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.

**Conor Ward**, Wicklow – 27.6 kg **Tope** at Greystones, Wicklow, 23 July 2016

## THE MINISTER'S AWARD

Inaugurated by the Minister for Communications, Climate Change and Environment 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.

**Peter Pöllmann**, Austria – 0.91 kg **Scad** at Red Bay, Co. Antrim, 18 July 2016

## BEST INTERNATIONAL FISH AWARD

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

**Peter Pöllmann**, Austria – 0.91 kg **Scad** at Red Bay, Co. Antrim, 18 July 2016



## SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2016

## FRESHWATER FISH 2016

## Coarse Fish and Pike

## BREAM

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.28	9.44	—	Drumlaheen Lough	01-May	James Dignam	Maggots
4.20	9.25	56.0	Drumlaheen Lough	01-May	David Flynn	Maggots
4.20	9.25	—	Drumlaheen Lough	03-Sep	James Dignam	Maggots
4.20	9.25	58.0	Drumlaheen Lough	01-Aug	Luke Canavan Dignam	Maggots
4.14	9.12	64.0	Lough Na Blahy	08-May	Nicholas Ward	Worm
3.94	8.69	—	Drumlaheen Lough	03-Sep	James Dignam	Maggots
3.91	8.62	61.0	Lough Na Blahy	08-May	Sean Ward (J)	Maggots
3.54	7.81	—	Drumlaheen Lough	02-May	David Flynn	Maggots
3.54	7.81	—	Drumlaheen Lough	01-May	David Flynn	Maggots



*Lough na Blahy Bream for  
Sean Ward*



*One of the better Bream of 2016 for  
Luke Canavan-Dignam*

**Year of capture** is 2016 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.



*Carp featured strongly in 2016 including this 6.52 kg fish for Sarah Lynch*



*A new Dublin venue produced this 5.9 kg fish for Des Chew*



*An October Carp for Amy O'Brien*



*A Lough special for David Brennan*



*Anthony Kelly with a Lough Carp*



*Heaviest Carp of 2016 fell to David Flynn*

## CARP

**Record 14.24 kg (32.4 lbs); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12.36	27.25	73.0	The Lough, Cork	04-Sep	David Flynn	Boilie
8.76	19.31	69.5	The Lough	03-Jul	Andrew Boyce	Boilie
8.73	19.25	72.0	The Lough	01-May	Barry James	Boilie
8.67	19.12	72.0	The Lough	13-Mar	David Flynn	Boilie
8.67	19.12	69.0	The Lough	01-May	Barry James	Boilie
8.50	18.75	76.0	The Lough	03-Jan	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
7.94	17.50	73.0	The Lough	28-May	Barry James	Boilie
7.77	17.12	64.0	The Lough	20-Sep	Paddy Higgisson	Boilie
7.71	17.00	71.0	The Lough	03-Sep	David Brennan	Boilie
7.53	16.60	70.0	The Lough	24-Apr	John O'Sullivan	Boilie
7.48	16.50	64.5	The Lough	24-Apr	Paddy Higgisson	Boilie
7.46	16.44	69.5	The Lough	12-Mar	David Flynn	Boilie
7.37	16.25	69.0	The Lough	04-Jan	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
7.28	16.05	65.0	The Lough	21-Mar	Francis McNeilly	Boilie
7.03	15.50	66.0	The Lough	25-Sep	David Brennan	Boilie
6.95	15.31	72.5	The Lough	03-Jan	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
6.92	15.25	67.0	The Lough	10-Jul	Andrew Boyce	Boilie
6.92	15.25	68.0	The Lough	25-Sep	Anthony Kelly	Boilie
6.89	15.19	—	The Lough	01-Feb	Dan Lynch	Boilie
6.75	14.87	71.0	The Lough	30-Aug	Patrick Lombard	Boilie
6.72	14.81	68.0	The Lough	22-May	Patrick Lombard	Boilie
6.69	14.75	66.0	The Lough	27-May-15	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
6.69	14.75	—	The Lough	10-Sep-15	Damian Allchorne	Boilie
6.58	14.50	70.0	The Lough	23-Aug	Terry Jackson	Boilie
6.58	14.50	—	The Lough	10-Sep-15	Damian Allchorne	Boilie
6.58	14.50	70.0	The Lough	24-Apr	Kenneth Murphy	Boilie
6.52	14.37	—	The Lough	24-Jan	Sarah Lynch (J)	Boilie
6.46	14.25	64.0	The Lough	12-Mar	Joseph Beacom	Boilie
6.46	14.25	—	The Lough	12-Oct	Amy O'Brien (J)	Boilie
6.46	14.25	—	The Lough	10-Sep-15	Damian Allchorne	Boilie
6.18	13.62	72.0	The Lough	04-Sep	Anthony Kelly	Boilie
6.12	13.50	68.5	The Lough	11-Jun	Paddy Higgisson	Boilie

**CARP CONTINUED....**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.12	13.49	60.0	The Lough	05-Apr	Francis McNeilly	Boilie
6.07	13.37	64.5	The Lough	24-Aug	Terry Jackson	Boilie
6.01	13.25	—	The Lough	23-Jan	Dan Lynch	Boilie
5.95	13.12	68.0	The Lough	12-Mar	Joseph Beacom	Boilie
5.95	13.12	—	The Lough	30-Mar	Sarah Lynch (J)	Boilie
5.90	13.00	65.5	The Lough	24-Sep	David Brennan	Boilie
5.90	13.00	—	Blanchardstown Lake	09-May	Des Chew	Boilie
5.84	12.87	67.0	The Lough	25-Sep	Anthony Kelly	Boilie
5.84	12.87	71.0	The Lough	24-Aug	Terry Jackson	Boilie
5.78	12.75	—	The Lough	11-Oct	Amy O'Brien (J)	Boilie
5.70	12.56	—	The Lough	30-Mar	Sarah Lynch (J)	Boilie
5.67	12.50	69.0	The Lough	12-Mar	Joseph Beacom	Boilie
5.67	12.50	61.5	The Lough	07-Oct	Craig Murphy	Boilie
5.57	12.28	61.0	The Lough	05-Apr	Francis McNeilly	Boilie
5.50	12.12	68.0	The Lough	03-Jul	Andrew Boyce	Boilie
5.47	12.06	64.5	The Lough	25-Jan	Amy O'Brien (J)	Boilie
5.44	12.00	—	Blanchardstown Lake	09-May	Des Chew	Boilie



*A River Nore Dace for Sofia Marsella*

## DACE

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.34	0.75	31.0	R Suir, Carrick on Suir	27-Aug	Nicholas McEvoy	Sweetcorn
0.32	0.71	31.0	R Nore, Thomastown	20-Mar	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
0.31	0.69	31.0	Carrick on Suir	13-Sep	Pat Dalton	Bread Flake
0.31	0.69	31.0	Carrick on Suir	14-Sep	Joseph McEvoy	Bread
0.31	0.68	—	Thomastown	29-Mar	Sofia Marsella (J)	Bread
0.31	0.68	31.0	Carrick on Suir	14-Sep	Nicholas McEvoy	Bread
0.30	0.66	29.0	Carrick on Suir	30-Sep	Nicholas McEvoy	Sweetcorn
0.30	0.66	30.0	Thomastown	28-Mar	Aaron Darcy (J)	Bread
0.30	0.66	29.0	Thomastown	10-Jun	Noel Darcy	Bread Flake

## PERCH

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.42	3.12	43.5	Glastry Pits	23-Apr	Terry Jackson	Gotham Shad
1.36	3.00	44.0	Glastry Pits	27-Apr	Terry Jackson	Gotham Shad
1.30	2.87	41.0	Glastry Pits	29-Apr	Terry Jackson	Rudd



*Pike for Patrick Fagan from the Barrow at Athy*



## PIKE (RIVER)

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11.91	26.25	115.0	R Shannon, Rooskey	11-Feb	Terry Jackson	Luk Bait
10.07	22.20	—	R Suck, Ballyforan	15-Aug	Peter Lynch	Mackerel
9.81	21.62	106.0	R Barrow, Athy	10-Mar	Patrick Fagan	Roach
9.21	20.31	106.5	R Barrow, Athy	16-Feb	Craig Murphy	Lamprey
9.19	20.25	105.0	R Blackwater, Moy	03-Mar	Terry Jackson	Crank bait
9.16	20.19	—	R Shannon, Jamestown	02-Jan	Derek Greene	Sardine
9.13	20.12	109.0	Lr R Bann, Portglenone	14-Feb	Terry Jackson	Roach



*Roach/Bream specimens were uncommon in 2016 but Conor Ward managed one*



*Belle Lake in Waterford was a good venue for Rudd/Bream in 2016 for Nicholas McEvoy*

## ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.80	6.17	52.0	L Derravaragh	11-Jul	Zoe Tully	Maggots
2.38	5.25	52.0	L Na Blahy	07-May	David Flynn	Maggots
2.27	5.00	55.0	Drumlaheen Lough	02-Aug	James Dignam	Maggots
2.21	4.87	51.0	L Na Blahy	08-May	Conor Ward (J)	Sweetcorn/Caster
1.80	3.97	36.0	L Derravaragh	11-Jul	David Tully (J)	Maggots

## ROACH/RUDD HYBRID

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.99	2.19	38.0	Lee Reservoir	19-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
0.96	2.12	38.0	Lee Reservoir	19-May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots

## RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.04	4.50	51.0	Belle Lake	31-Aug	Nicholas McEvoy	Sweetcorn/Maggots
1.93	4.25	50.0	Belle Lake	02-Sep	Joseph McEvoy	Maggots
1.93	4.25	49.0	Belle Lake	10-Sep	Nicholas McEvoy	Sweetcorn/Maggots
1.87	4.12	50.0	Belle Lake	02-Sep	Joseph McEvoy	Maggots
1.81	4.00	47.0	Belle Lake	02-Sep	Joseph McEvoy	Maggots
1.45	3.19	45.5	Lee Reservoir	19-May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
1.39	3.06	45.0	Lee Reservoir	19-May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots



TENCH						
Record 8.15 lbs (3.697 kg); Specimen Weight 2.721 kg (6 lbs)						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.23	7.12	60.0	Lough Ennell	08-Jun	Craig Murphy	Maggots
2.83	6.25	—	R Shannon, Rooskey	04-Aug-15	Damian Allchorne	Corn/Worm
2.75	6.06	—	Lough Rinn	13-Jun	James Dignam	Maggots



*A Lough Rinn Tench for James Dignam*

## Game Fish 2016

### SALMON

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9.65	21.27	101.0	Galway Weir	23-Aug	JP Convery	Prawn
9.58	21.12	99.1	Bandon River	01-Jun	David Forde	Fly



*The Bandon produced this 9.58 kg Salmon for David Forde on fly*



*Salmon from the Corrib in Galway for JP Convery*

### BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.22	11.50	74.9	Lr Lough Erne	13-Apr	Brian Reid	Tasmanian Devil



*The only Lake Brown Trout of 2016 fell to Brian Reid in Lr Lough Erne in April*

## BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.72	10.41	73.7	Six Mile Water	29-Aug	Jim Gregg	Fly
4.59	10.12	81.0	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Sidney Kennedy	Rudd
4.59	10.12	81.0	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Derick O'Brien	Worm
4.58	10.10	83.0	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Duncan Cole	Worm
4.25	9.37	76.0	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Sidney Kennedy	Rudd
4.12	9.08	66.0	Six Mile Water	31-Jul	Jim Gregg	Fly
3.91	8.62	66.0	River Laune	31-Aug	Brian Hennessy	Worm
2.78	6.13	—	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Brian Newman	Worm
2.78	6.13	—	Cong Canal	18-Mar	Andrew Newman	Worm
2.31	5.08	57.4	Upr Munster Blackwater	13-Sep	Finbarr Corcoran	Flying C

## SEA TROUT

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.21	9.29	76.2	Lough Currane	12-Mar	Amulak Hitmiangsong	Rapala
3.01	6.62	66.0	Lough Currane	10-May	Alastair Dunbar (UK)	Fly
2.98	6.56	64.0	Lough Currane	19-Apr	Tom Murphy	Fly
2.95	6.50	58.0	Galway Bay Inner	16-Aug	Mike Flannery	Savage Gear Plug
2.83	6.25	67.0	Lough Currane	02-Sep	Liam McKnight	Fly

## Marine Fish 2016

### BASS

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.67	12.50	—	Tramore	20-Sep	Mike Norris	Lure
5.34	11.77	71.0	Clonakilty	04-Sep	Mike Flannery	Peeler Crab
5.19	11.44	80.0	Ballycotton	21-Oct	Pat O'Shea	Savage Gear Plug
5.14	11.32	78.0	Woodstown Strand	31-Oct	Vincent Walsh	Ragworm
4.99	11.00	76.0	Tramore	18-Oct	Mike Norris	Lure
4.85	10.69	73.5	Owenahinca	02-Jul	Stephen Gibson	Peeler Crab
4.76	10.50	75.0	Tramore	26-Oct	Mike Norris	Lure
4.68	10.31	74.0	Youghal	03-Oct	Brendan O'Driscoll	Plug

### DAB

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.65	1.44	—	Allihies	19-Nov-15	Mike Kempster (UK)	Lugworm/Mackerel
0.62	1.37	—	Allihies	17-Nov-15	Mike Kempster (UK)	Lugworm/Mackerel
0.60	1.32	—	Allihies	19-Nov-15	Mike Kempster (UK)	Lugworm



*A spectacular Blackmouthed Dogfish for Terry Jackson*

## BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.16	2.56	70.0	Islandmagee	26-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel
1.12	2.47	69.0	Islandmagee	26-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel
1.10	2.43	67.3	Carnlough	08-Oct	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Fillet
1.10	2.43	70.0	Carnlough	08-Oct	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Fillet
1.10	2.43	67.5	Carnlough	09-Oct	Andrew Wolsey	Mackerel
1.10	2.43	68.0	Carnlough	09-Oct	Andrew Wolsey	Mackerel
1.05	2.31	67.0	Carnlough	09-Oct	Andrew Wolsey	Mackerel
1.00	2.20	67.0	Islandmagee	26-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel

## GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8.12	17.90	130.0	Kenmare Bay	21-Jun	Michael Haaima (NL)	Mackerel
7.94	17.50	112.0	Kenmare Bay	02-Sep	Jordy Boone (NL)	Mackerel
7.85	17.30	120.0	Kenmare Bay	21-Jun	Bart Boeve (NL)	Mackerel
7.80	17.20	120.0	Kenmare Bay	08-Sep	Adrie Steenfland (NL)	Mackerel
7.80	17.20	103.0	Kenmare Bay	03-Sep	Duko van der Sluis (NL)	Mackerel
7.62	16.80	111.0	Kenmare Bay	27-Sep	Cornelis Intveld (NL)	Mackerel
7.62	16.80	120.0	Kenmare Bay	27-Aug	Marco van Noort (NL)	Mackerel
7.57	16.70	102.0	Kenmare Bay	18-Sep	Paul De la Riviere (B)	Mackerel
7.53	16.60	110.0	Kenmare Bay	30-Sep	Marko Roos (NL)	Mackerel
7.48	16.50	112.0	Baltimore	08-Oct	Dan Lynch	Mackerel

## LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.52	3.34	—	Valentia	16-Nov-15	Mike Kempster (UK)	Mackerel

## SPUR DOGFISH

**Record 11.6 kg (24.38 lbs); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs);  
Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 105 cm**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10.77	23.75	114.0	Red Bay	10-Jul	Arie De Koning (NL)	Mackerel
10.55	23.25	110.0	Red Bay	10-Jul	Arie De Koning (NL)	Mackerel
10.52	23.19	108.0	Red Bay	10-Jul	Wim Broere (NL)	Mackerel
10.04	22.12	108.0	Red Bay	10-Jul	Cornelis Plomp (NL)	Mackerel
8.96	19.75	116.0	Wicklow	22-Oct	Alan Ball	Mackerel



*Shore caught Spurdog from Kenmare Bay for William Roche*



*Wicklow Spurdog for Evan Ryan*



*Nice Spurdog for Roy Hamilton*



*Wicklow Spurdog for Dutch angler  
Bo Duivenvlurden*

**SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED....**

<b>WT (KG)</b>	<b>WT (LBS)</b>	<b>L (CM)</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>CAPTOR</b>	<b>METHOD</b>
8.48	18.70	105.0	Kenmare Bay	03-Sep	Minnaard Marinus (NL)	Mackerel
8.48	18.69	102.0	Red Bay	10-Jul	Wim Broere (NL)	Mackerel
8.44	18.61	114.0	Tralee Bay	18-Jul	Joseph Donnelly	Mackerel
8.20	18.08	110.0	Kenmare Bay	19-Sep	Erwin Hutsenband (B)	Mackerel
7.89	17.40	117.0	Wicklow	22-Oct	Jason Byrne	Mackerel
7.80	17.19	104.0	Red Bay	10-Jul	Cornelis Plomp (NL)	Mackerel
7.60	16.76	107.0	Kenmare Bay	19-Sep	Erwin Hutsenband (B)	Mackerel Flap
7.48	16.50	110.0	Wicklow	17-Mar	John McDonagh	Mackerel
7.48	16.50	113.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Anthony Hislop	Mackerel
7.48	16.50	112.0	Bangor	31-Jan	Darren Waggott	Mackerel
7.48	16.50	103.0	Red Bay	10-Jul	Arie De Koning (NL)	Mackerel
7.40	16.31	100.0	Red Bay	10-Jul	Wim Broere (NL)	Mackerel
7.39	16.30	112.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Cecil Kelly	Mackerel
7.23	15.94	107.0	Baltimore	21-Oct	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
7.03	15.50	109.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Roy Hamilton	Mackerel
7.03	15.50	111.0	Wicklow	22-Oct	John Stevenson	Mackerel/Squid
6.95	15.32	101.0	Kenmare Bay	19-Sep	Johan De Greve (B)	Mackerel
6.86	15.12	114.0	Brandon Bay	25-Oct	Anthony Carroll	Mackerel
6.85	15.10	109.0	Tralee Bay	18-Jul	Philip Barry	Peeler Crab
6.80	15.00	113.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Roy Hamilton	Mackerel
6.62	14.60	110.0	Wicklow	17-Mar	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
6.58	14.50	110.0	Brandon Bay	25-Oct	John Boyle	Mackerel
6.49	14.30	112.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Anthony Hislop	Mackerel
6.21	13.70	102.0	Kenmare Bay	03-Sep	Arno van der Sluis (NL)	Mackerel
5.94	13.10	105.0	Wicklow	22-Oct	Jason Byrne	Mackerel
5.93	13.07	101.0	Kenmare Bay	19-Sep	Philip Verschelden (B)	Mackerel Flap
5.90	13.00	114.0	Wicklow	17-Mar	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
5.81	12.80	112.0	Wicklow	17-Mar	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
5.81	12.80	108.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Evan Ryan (J)	Mackerel





*John McDonagh with a 7.48 kg Spurdog, one of the heaviest of 2016*



*Charter skipper Kit Dunne with a Wicklow Spurdog*



*Evan McGovern with a Spurdog*



*Alan Ball with an 8.96 kg Wicklow Spurdog*



*October Spurdog for Jason Byrne*



*John Stevenson and Spurdog*



*Baltimore Spurdog for Dan Lynch*



*Johan de Greve with a Kenmare Bay Spurdog*

**SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED....**

<b>WT (KG)</b>	<b>WT (LBS)</b>	<b>L (CM)</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>CAPTOR</b>	<b>METHOD</b>
5.61	12.37	105.0	Brandon Bay	13-Oct	John Boyle	Mackerel
5.53	12.20	102.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Evan Ryan (J)	Mackerel
5.53	12.20	109.0	Wicklow	17-Mar	Evan McGovern	Squid
5.44	12.00	104.0	Wicklow	17-Mar	Arthur Goonan	Mackerel
5.44	12.00	103.0	Wicklow	27-Oct	John Stevenson	Mackerel
L-BS	—	116.0	Kenmare Bay	16-Apr	William Roche	Sandeel
L-BS	—	114.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Eric Brady	Mackerel
L-BS	—	113.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Brian Menary	Squid
L-BS	—	112.0	Wicklow	13-Apr	Francis McNeilly	Mackerel
L-BS	—	110.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Darren Ryan	Mackerel
L-BS	—	110.0	Wicklow	13-Apr	Francis McNeilly	Mackerel
L-BS	—	109.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Brian Menary	Squid
L-BS	—	108.0	Malin Head	09-Jun	Menno Dubbeld (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	—	108.0	Wicklow	18-Mar	Peter Verkerk (NL)	Squid
L-BS	—	108.0	Downings	04-Jul	Niels Daes (B)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	—	108.0	Tralee Bay	18-Jul	Philip Barry	Mackerel
L-BS	—	108.0	Islandmagee	31-Oct	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	—	107.5	Downings	05-Jul	Ruben Daes (B)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	—	107.0	Malin Head	09-Jun	Piet Van Dorp (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	—	107.0	Malin Head	09-Jun	Gijs Knevel (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	—	107.0	Wicklow	18-Mar	Boupewyn Duivenlurden (NL)	Squid
L-BS	—	107.0	Wicklow	18-Mar	Cornelis Hogewoning (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	107.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Peter Walker	Mackerel
L-BS	—	107.0	Tralee Bay	18-Jul	Joseph Donnelly	Mackerel
L-BS	—	107.0	Islandmagee	25-Feb	David Craig	Mackerel

**SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED....**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	—	106.5	Malin Head	09-Jun	Jan Van Der Marel (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	—	106.5	Malin Head	09-Jun	Gijs Knevel (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	—	106.0	Malin Head	09-Jun	Gijsbertus Uithol (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	—	106.0	Malin Head	09-Jun	Henk Griffioen (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	—	106.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Eric Brady	Mackerel
L-BS	—	106.0	Downings	05-Jul	Rodney Mertens (B)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	106.0	Islandmagee	25-Feb	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	—	105.5	Wicklow	14-Apr	Anthony Hislop	Mackerel
L-BS	—	105.0	Wicklow	18-Mar	Peter Verkerk (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	105.0	Wicklow	31-Mar	Peter Walker	Mackerel



*Erwin Hutsenband with his September Spurdog from Kenmare*

FLOUNDER						
Record 4.91 lbs (2.229 kg); Specimen Weight 1.1 kg (2.436 lbs)						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.79	3.94	51.0	Clonakilty	04-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
1.41	3.10	46.0	Lacken, Wexford	02-Nov	Stephen Gibson	Crab
1.36	3.00	48.0	Clonakilty	08-May	Stephen Brennan	Lugworm
1.30	2.87	46.0	Bannow Bay	16-Nov	Andrew Boyce	Crab
1.28	2.81	44.0	Youghal	05-Jan	Damian Allchorne	Peeler Crab
1.22	2.69	40.0	Castlegregory	11-Mar	Stephen Brennan	Lugworm
1.20	2.65	45.0	Cullenstown	09-Oct	Gavin Moran	Peeler Crab
1.18	2.60	44.5	Cullenstown	09-Oct	Rob McClean	Crab
1.11	2.44	45.0	Muckross, Kilcar	06-Oct	David Matthews	Mackerel
1.10	2.43	43.5	Youghal	10-Feb	John Owens	Crab



*Flounder by  
Stephen Brennan*



*Cullenstown was the venue for  
Gavin Moran's Flounder*



***Youghal produced this 1.28 kg Flounder for Damien Allchorne***



***Rob McClean with a Cullenstown Flounder***



***Bannow Bay Flounder – Andrew Boyce***

## GILTHEAD BREAM

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.18	7.00	55.5	Inchydoney Strand	25-Aug	Terry Jackson	Lugworm
2.89	6.37	49.0	Rosscarbery	06-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
2.83	6.25	53.5	Clonakilty	13-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
2.69	5.94	54.0	Clonakilty	15-Jun	Andrew Boyce	Crab
2.69	5.94	57.0	Clonakilty	12-May	Stephen Brennan	Maddies
2.66	5.87	53.0	Clonakilty	13-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
2.63	5.80	54.0	Clonakilty	13-Aug	Patrick Fagan	Lugworm
2.38	5.25	54.0	Clonakilty Bay	12-May	Stephen Brennan	Maddies
2.32	5.12	—	Clonakilty	02-Aug	Jason Convery	Lugworm
2.13	4.70	50.5	Clonakilty	22-Jun	Craig Murphy	Crab
2.07	4.56	53.5	Rosscarbery	11-May	Patrick Wrenne	Crab
2.01	4.43	50.0	Rosscarbery	05-Jun	Alan O'Dowling	Crab
1.93	4.25	—	Clonakilty	20-Jun	Jason Convery	Lugworm
1.79	3.95	49.0	Rosscarbery	14-Jul	Francis McNeilly	Maddies
1.76	3.87	50.0	Rosscarbery	11-May	Patrick Wrenne	Crab
1.76	3.87	—	Clonakilty	14-May	Jason Convery	Maddies
1.75	3.86	50.0	Rosscarbery	05-Jun	Alan O'Dowling	Crab
1.70	3.75	49.0	Clonakilty	15-Jun	Andrew Boyce	Crab
1.51	3.33	46.0	Rosscarbery	05-Jun	Alan O'Dowling	Crab
1.45	3.20	46.5	Clonakilty	10-Jun	Stephen Gibson	Lugworm





*Gilthead from Clonakilty for  
Patrick Fagan*



*Ian Mulligan and Gilthead  
from Rosscarbery*



*Stephen Gibson with his Clonakilty Gilthead*



RED GURNARD						
Record 3 lbs 9.5 ozs (1.63 kg); Specimen Weight 0.907 kg (2 lbs)						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.04	2.30	47.0	Cork Harbour	14-Aug	John Dennehy	Mackerel
1.02	2.25	48.0	Cork Harbour	21-Aug	Val Flannery	Mackerel
0.98	2.15	49.0	Cork Harbour	14-Aug	Pat Condon	Mackerel
0.96	2.12	45.0	Kinsale	25-Oct	Cormac Gannon	Mackerel



*John Dennehy with his  
Cork Red Gurnard*



*Another Red Gurnard for Cork Harbour  
and Pat Condon*

## LING

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13.52	29.80	135.0	Kinsale	28-May	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Pouting
12.13	26.75	—	Kinsale	17-Jul	Victor Sullivan	Mackerel
11.79	26.00	120.0	Courtmacsherry	14-Jul	Michel Lebrun (B)	Mackerel
11.74	25.87	—	Kinsale	17-Jul	Pat Mostyn	Mackerel
11.34	25.00	122.0	Baltimore	08-Oct	Mick O'Callaghan	Mackerel



*Michel Lebrun from Belgium with a Courtmacsherry Ling*

## GOLDEN GREY MULLET

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.13	2.50	46.0	Rosscarbery	16-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
1.02	2.25	42.0	Rosscarbery	17-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
1.02	2.25	45.5	Rosscarbery	17-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
0.96	2.12	44.0	Rosscarbery	03-Aug	Robert Reid	Maddies
0.95	2.10	46.0	Cork Harbour	13-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.91	2.00	—	Clonakilty	01-Aug	Jason Convery	Maddies
0.85	1.87	42.0	Clonakilty	10-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.84	1.85	46.0	Cork Harbour	24-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.82	1.81	43.0	Clonakilty Bay	06-Jul	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
0.82	1.80	46.0	Cork Harbour	28-May	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.74	1.62	40.5	Clonakilty	10-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.74	1.62	42.0	Clonakilty	02-Jul	Thomas Lynch	Maddies
0.68	1.50	41.0	Clonakilty	10-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm



*Sidney Kennedy admires his  
0.74 kg Golden Grey Mullet*



*0.9 kg Golden Grey Mullet  
from Cork Harbour for Stephen O'Neill*

## THICK-LIPPED MULLET

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.03	6.69	63.0	Vartry Estuary	01-Jul	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.95	6.50	61.0	Vartry Estuary	19-Oct	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.89	6.37	62.5	Rosscarbery	22-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.89	6.37	55.0	Rosscarbery	04-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.83	6.25	—	Rosscarbery	30-Jul	Jason Convery	Bread
2.82	6.22	—	Wicklow	07-Sep	Dan Smith	Bread Flake
2.78	6.12	63.0	Clonakilty	13-May	Stephen Brennan	Bread
2.78	6.12	54.0	Rosscarbery	03-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.72	6.00	60.0	Vartry Estuary	07-Oct	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.72	6.00	53.5	Rosscarbery	03-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Bread
2.68	5.90	60.5	Cork Harbour	12-May	Stephen O'Neill	Bread
2.66	5.87	60.0	Rosscarbery	22-Jul	Thomas Lynch	Bread Flake
2.64	5.82	59.0	Rosscarbery	11-Aug	Francis McNeilly	Cat Food
2.52	5.56	61.0	Rosscarbery	16-Oct	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread
2.51	5.53	59.0	Rosscarbery	07-Oct	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.51	5.53	59.0	Rosscarbery	12-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.50	5.51	59.0	Rosscarbery	08-Oct	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.49	5.50	58.0	Clonakilty Bay	02-Oct	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.44	5.38	—	Rosscarbery	02-Aug	Francis McNeilly	Cat Food



*Rosscarbery produced many specimens in 2016.  
Michael O'Reilly had a 2.38 kg Thick Lipped Mullet in July.*

**THICK-LIPPED MULLET CONTINUED....**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.44	5.37	57.0	Rosscarbery	17-Jun	Jerry O'Connor	Bread
2.41	5.31	57.5	Rosscarbery	22-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.38	5.25	61.0	Rosscarbery	01-Sep	Christy Lane	Bread
2.38	5.25	59.0	Rosscarbery	10-Jul	Michael O'Reilly	Bread
2.38	5.25	54.0	Rosscarbery	15-Sep	Steve Hewitt	Bread
2.37	5.22	57.0	Rosscarbery	03-Oct	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.35	5.19	—	Clonakilty	01-Aug	Jason Convery	Bread
2.35	5.19	58.0	Wicklow	28-Jul	Craig Murphy	Bread Flake
2.35	5.19	56.5	Inler Estuary	23-Jul	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.35	5.19	56.5	Rosscarbery	22-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.32	5.12	57.0	Rosscarbery	22-Jul	Thomas Lynch	Bread Flake
2.32	5.12	56.0	Downings	06-Jul	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.32	5.12	52.0	Inler Estuary	23-Jul	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.31	5.10	60.0	Cork Harbour	12-May	Stephen O'Neill	Bread
2.31	5.09	57.0	Rosscarbery	23-Nov-15	Francis McNeilly	Cat Food
2.30	5.07	58.0	Wicklow	02-Sep	Craig Murphy	Bread
2.30	5.06	—	Rosscarbery	04-Apr	Jason Convery	Bread
2.30	5.06	57.5	Rosscarbery	04-Jun	David Flynn	Bread
2.28	5.03	56.0	Strangford Lough	22-Aug	David Murdoch	Bread
2.28	5.03	58.0	Rosscarbery	18-Jul	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.27	5.00	52.0	Rosscarbery	12-Sep	Jim Gregg	Bread
2.27	5.00	60.3	Rosscarbery	24-Aug	Christy Lane	Bread



*Thick Lipped Mullet for Sidney Kennedy*



## THIN LIPPED MULLET

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.98	4.37	58.4	Rosscarbery	29-May	Noel Lane	Ragworm
1.70	3.75	55.9	Rosscarbery	15-May	Noel Lane	Ragworm
1.53	3.37	20.8	Rosscarbery	07-Sep	Christy Lane	Ragworm
1.53	3.37	—	Rosscarbery	06-Aug	Noel Lane	Ragworm

## POLLACK

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.52	12.16	83.0	Caherciveen	03-Jun	Guido Schiefer (D)	Mackerel Strip

*1.7 kg Thin Lipped Mullet  
from Rosscarbery for  
Noel Lane in May*



*Guido Schiefer from  
Germany with the only  
specimen Pollack of 2016*

## PAINTED RAY

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.73	12.63	89.0	Youghal	19-Oct	John Owens	Crab
5.44	12.00	83.0	Stradbally	04-Nov	Andrew Boyce	Sandeel
4.88	10.75	80.0	Youghal	28-Nov-15	Peter Bolger	Sandeel
4.73	10.44	83.0	Stradbally	04-Nov	Andrew Boyce	Sandeel
4.54	10.00	78.0	Kilcummin Beach	03-Oct	Stephen Gibson	Sandeel

## STING RAY

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
19.96	44.00	104.0	Tralee Bay	08-May	Tom McAdam	Crab
18.60	41.00	—	Tralee Bay	06-May	Andrew Wolsey	Mackerel /Crab
18.20	40.12	—	Fenit	27-Apr	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
18.14	40.00	117.0	Tralee Bay	08-May	Evan McGovern	Peeler Crab
14.97	33.00	—	Fenit	27-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
13.61	30.00	104.5	Fenit	16-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
13.56	29.90	92.0	Tralee Bay	25-Jun	Gary Blake	Peeler Crab

## THORNBACK RAY

**Record 16.78kg (37.0 lbs); Specimen Weight 7.0 kg (15.43 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8.36	18.44	104.0	Red Bay	16-Jul	Nigel Ritchie	Mackerel
7.66	16.89	103.0	Islandmagee	14-Aug	David Craig	Mackerel

## THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.00	2.20	—	Kilmore Quay	13-Sep	Kevin Pannett (UK)	Crab
0.88	1.94	41.0	Portaferry	16-Jan	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip
0.86	1.90	44.0	Wicklow	07-Jan	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
0.86	1.90	43.0	Greystones	09-Mar	Ronan Doherty	Mackerel
0.82	1.81	45.0	Kilmore Quay	13-Sep	Jeff Major (UK)	Mackerel





*Tralee Bay/Fenit produced all of the specimen Sting Ray in 2016 including a 13.56 kg fish for Gary Blake*



*18.2 kg Sting Ray for Dan Lynch*



*Three Bearded Rockling for Kit Dunne*

SCAD						
Record 0.894 kg (1.97 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.91*	2.00	44.0	Red Bay	18-Jul	Peter Pöllmann (AUT)	Feathers
0.88	1.94	45.0	Red Bay	14-Jul	Cornelis Plomp (NL)	Feathers
0.74	1.62	43.0	Red Bay	14-Jul	Arie De Koning (NL)	Feathers

\* weighing scales specification inadequate to weigh as new record

TWAITE SHAD						
Record 1.64 kg (3.62 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.1 kg (2.4255 lbs)						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.50	3.31	53.0	R Barrow, St. Mullins	18-May	Brian Lombard	Tasmanian Devil
1.38	3.04	50.0	St. Mullins	05-May	Jim Gregg	Tasmanian Devil
1.36	3.00	49.5	St. Mullins	09-May	Karl Roche	Tasmanian Devil
1.33	2.92	55.0	St. Mullins	29-May	Dermot Jenkins	Tasmanian Devil
1.32	2.91	47.0	St. Mullins	09-May	Joseph Marsella	Tasmanian Devil
1.30	2.87	48.0	St. Mullins	20-May-15	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.30	2.87	—	St. Mullins	23-May-15	Brian Cooke	Tasmanian Devil
1.30	2.87	48.0	St. Mullins	05-May	Jim Gregg	Tasmanian Devil
1.28	2.82	51.0	St. Mullins	08-May	David Murdoch	Spinner
1.25	2.75	51.0	St. Mullins	05-May	Nicholas McEvoy	Spinner
1.24	2.73	51.0	St. Mullins	04-May	Jim Gregg	Tasmanian Devil
1.24	2.73	47.5	St. Mullins	05-May	Duncan Cole	Tasmanian Devil
1.22	2.69	45.0	St. Mullins	05-May	Steve Hewitt	Tasmanian Devil
1.21	2.67	48.0	St. Mullins	09-May	Matthew Gottschling (UK)	Tasmanian Devil
1.19	2.62	48.0	St. Mullins	19-May-15	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.19	2.62	48.0	St. Mullins	19-May-15	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.13	2.50	49.5	St. Mullins	14-May	David Flynn	Tasmanian Devil
1.13	2.50	48.5	St. Mullins	14-May	Joseph Beacom	Tasmanian Devil



*Twaite Shad for Joseph Beacom*



*Third heaviest Twaite Shad of 2016  
for Karl Roche*



*David Flynn had this Twaite Shad  
on 14 May*



*Twaite Shad for Dermot Jenkins*

COMMON SKATE						
Record 221 lbs (100.24 kg); Specimen Weight - kg (- lbs) Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold: 180cm Total length						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
LB-S	—	220.0	Carnlough	08-Oct	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Flapper
LB-S	—	219.0	Union Hall	18-Jun	Gary Blake	Mackerel Flapper
LB-S	—	216.0	Union Hall	11-Aug	Eugene Farrelly	Mackerel
LB-S	—	214.0	Red Bay	22-Jul	Peter Pöllmann (AUT)	Coalfish
LB-S	—	213.0	Union Hall	11-Jul	Robin Van Der Meer (NL)	Mackerel
LB-S	—	209.0	Union Hall	08-Oct	Daniel O’Callaghan	Mackerel
LB-S	—	209.0	Union Hall	03-Jul	Hans Nieuwkerk (NL)	Mackerel
LB-S	—	207.0	Red Bay	27-Feb	Liam Young	Coalfish
LB-S	—	200.0	Baltimore	21-Oct	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
LB-S	—	192.0	Baltimore	02-Sep	Kenneth Murphy	Coalfish
LB-S	—	192.0	Islandmagee	31-Oct	David Craig	Coalfish
LB-S	—	182.0	Red Bay	17-Jan	Jonathan McLoy	Coalfish



Common Skate for Daniel O’Callaghan fishing out of Union Hall





*Eugene Farrelly with his 216 cm Common Skate*



*Terry Jackson with the largest Common Skate of 2016*



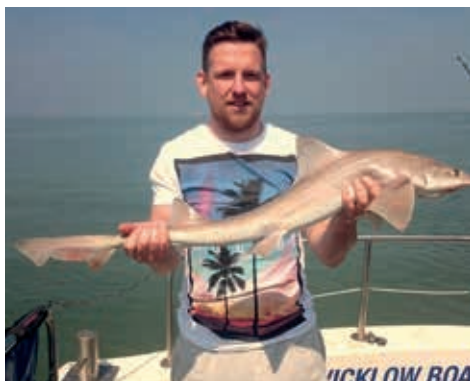
*October produced a Common Skate specimen for David Craig at Islandmagee*



*Red Bay Skate for Liam Young*

SMOOTH-HOUND						
New Record 11.27 kg (24.85 lbs); Specimen Weight 3 kg (6.62 lbs) Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 100 cm						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11.27	24.85	127.0	Kilmore	10-Jun	Dean Quigley	Peeler Crab
10.21	22.50	130.0	Ballyhealy	11-Jun	Philip Nolan	Crab
7.26	16.00	–	Wicklow	14-Jun	Brian Cooke	Crab
6.99	15.40	111.0	Wicklow	02-Jul	Kit Dunne	Crab
6.12	13.50	120.0	Fenit	04-Jun	Terry Jackson	Mackerel/Crab
5.90	13.00	108.0	Wicklow	14-Jun	Brian Cooke	Crab
5.53	12.20	101.0	Wicklow	19-Jun	Joseph Byrne	Peeler Crab
5.53	12.20	110.0	Wicklow	20-Jun	Rinus Hage (NL)	Crab
5.53	12.20	106.0	Wicklow	17-Jun	Glen McCrave	Peeler Crab
5.36	11.82	106.0	Wickow	16-Jun	Philip Barry	Crab
5.10	11.25	101.0	Wicklow	17-Jul	Robbie Reynolds	Crab
5.08	11.20	113.0	Wicklow	17-Jul	Patrick Swan	Crab
5.08	11.20	98.0	Wicklow	02-Jul	Kit Dunne	Crab
4.90	10.80	100.0	Wicklow	24-Jun	Rinus Hage (NL)	Peeler Crab
4.76	10.50	110.0	Ballyhealy	11-Jun	Craig Murphy	Crab
4.63	10.20	98.0	Wexford	10-Jun	Ronan Doherty	Peeler Crab
4.54	10.00	100.0	Wicklow	18-Jun	Ronny Davidson	Peeler Crab
4.49	9.90	104.0	Brittas Bay	11-Jun	Rob McClean	Crab
4.44	9.79	100.0	Wicklow	16-Jun	Philip Barry	Crab
4.42	9.75	103.0	Wicklow	14-Jun	Des Chew	Crab
4.31	9.50	103.0	Ballyhealy	11-Jun	Philip Nolan	Crab
4.31	9.50	98.0	Wicklow	14-Jun	Des Chew	Crab
4.08	9.00	104.0	Wicklow	06-Aug	Gary Blake	Crab
4.08	9.00	97.0	Wicklow	14-Jun	Joe Caffrey	Crab
3.97	8.75	100.0	Wicklow	26-Jun	Gary Blake	Crab
3.86	8.50	95.0	Wicklow	11-Jul	Anne Hooijenga (NL)	Crab





*Brendan Adams with a  
Wicklow Smooth-hound*



*Smooth-hound for  
Paddy Swan*



*Happy John Patrick Chew with  
his 3.4 kg Smooth-hound*



*Sixth heaviest Smooth-hound of 2016  
for Brian Cooke*



*Ronny Davidson and  
Smooth-hound*



*Dutch angler Rinus Hage with one of  
his three specimen Smooth-hound*



*Smooth-hound for  
Adrian O'Gorman*



*Robbie Reynolds with his  
Wicklow Smooth-hound*



*Specimen for Mike Sherwood*



*Myles Kelly and Smooth-hound*



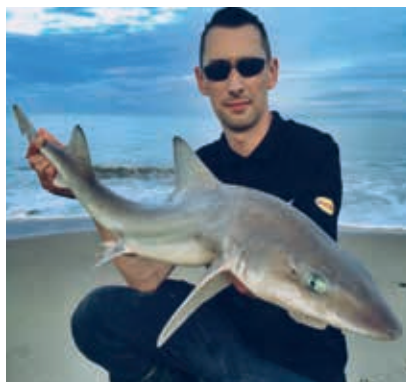
*Nice Smooth-hound for Maurice Carolan*



*Anne Hooijenga with Smooth-hound*



**Stephen Gibson with a  
Ballymoney 3.6 kg Smooth-hound**



**3.08 kg Smooth-hound for  
Craig Murphy**

**SMOOTH-HOUND CONTINUED....**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.86	8.50	103.0	Ballymoney	04-Jul	Craig Murphy	Peeler Crab
3.86	8.50	100.0	Wicklow	14-Jun	John Patrick Chew (J)	Crab
3.80	8.37	101.0	Ballymoney	18-Jun	Andrew Boyce	Crab
3.79	8.36	98.0	Wicklow	16-Jun	Philip Barry	Peeler Crab
3.76	8.30	95.0	Wicklow	20-Jun	Rinus Hage (NL)	Peeler Crab
3.74	8.25	96.0	Wicklow	03-Jul	Arthur Goonan	Crab
3.64	8.02	98.0	Kilmore Quay	14-Sep	Martin Rayner	Crab
3.63	8.00	93.0	Wicklow	10-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
3.63	8.00	101.5	Ballymoney	18-Jun	Stephen Gibson	Peeler Crab
3.50	7.72	100.0	Dublin Bay	30-Aug-15	Denis Butler	Crab
3.49	7.70	98.0	Wicklow	14-Jun	Joe Caffrey	Crab
3.49	7.69	—	Wicklow	10-Jun	Dan Lynch	Crab
3.46	7.63	93.5	Wicklow	15-Jun	William Roche	Crab
3.45	7.60	—	Dunmore East	26-May-15	Barry Murphy	Crab
3.40	7.50	96.0	Wicklow	03-Jul	Mike Sherwood	Peeler Crab
3.40	7.50	99.0	Passage East	30-Jun	Nicholas McEvoy	Peeler Crab
3.40	7.50	98.0	Passage East	12-Jul	Nicholas McEvoy	Peeler Crab
3.40	7.50	92.0	Wicklow	14-Jun	John Patrick Chew (J)	Crab

**SMOOTH-HOUND CONTINUED....**

<b>WT (KG)</b>	<b>WT (LBS)</b>	<b>L (CM)</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>CAPTOR</b>	<b>METHOD</b>
3.38	7.45	96.5	Wicklow	15-Jun	Myles Kelly	Peeler Crab
3.35	7.37	96.5	Wicklow	18-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
3.35	7.37	99.0	Arthurstown	10-Aug	Joseph Marsella	Crab
3.31	7.30	100.0	Wicklow	26-Jun	Gary Blake	Crab
3.29	7.25	97.5	R Suir, Passage East	20-Jun	Pat Dalton	Crab
3.29	7.25	93.0	Tinnabearna	12-Jun	Andrew Boyce	Crab
3.29	7.25	97.0	Passage East	29-Jun	Nicholas McEvoy	Ragworm/Crab
3.29	7.25	91.0	Wicklow	10-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
3.29	7.25	90.0	Wicklow	14-Jun	Joe Caffrey	Crab
3.27	7.20	94.0	Wicklow	27-Jun	Norman Dunlop	Crab
3.26	7.19	–	Wicklow	25-Aug	Damian Allchorne	Peeler Crab
3.23	7.12	93.0	Passage East	01-Jul	Jim Power	Peeler Crab
3.22	7.10	100.0	Wicklow	27-Jun	Norman Dunlop	Crab
3.22	7.10	98.0	Wicklow	24-Jun	Rini Anemaet (NL)	Crab/Squid
3.18	7.00	94.5	Arthurstown	12-Jul	Noel Darcy	Peeler Crab
3.18	7.00	94.0	Arklow	10-Jun	Michael O'Reilly	Crab
3.18	7.00	100.0	Clones Strand	27-May	Brian Cooke	Crab
3.13	6.90	–	Dunmore East	26-Jun-15	Barry Murphy	Crab
3.08	6.80	98.0	Ballymoney	04-Jul	Craig Murphy	Peeler Crab
3.08	6.80	97.0	Wicklow	14-Jun	Maurice Carolan	Crab
3.08	6.79	94.0	Kilmore Quay	15-Sep	Gavin Parker (UK)	Crab
3.08	6.79	96.0	Wicklow	16-Jun	Thomas O'Regan	Peeler Crab
3.06	6.75	96.0	Wexford	04-Jul	David Flynn	Crab
3.06	6.75	94.0	Wicklow	04-Aug	Adrian O'Gorman	Peeler Crab

**SMOOTH-HOUND CONTINUED....**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.06	6.75	92.5	Arthurstown	15-Jul	Noel Darcy	Peeler Crab
3.04	6.70	—	Wicklow	02-Jun	Shane Horan	Crab
3.02	6.65	—	Wicklow	02-Jun	Shane Horan	Crab
3.00	6.61	95.0	Poolbeg	04-Jun	Ronan Doherty	Peeler Crab
LB-S	—	107.0	Wicklow	15-Jun	William Roche	Crab
LB-S	—	106.0	Wicklow	17-Jul	Peter Bolger	Crab
LB-S	—	106.0	Howth	12-Jul	Bert McGregor	Crab
LB-S	—	104.0	Wicklow	10-Jun	Dan Lynch	Crab
LB-S	—	104.0	Howth	28-Aug	Philip Browne	Crab
LB-S	—	103.0	Howth	16-Jul	Bert McGregor	Crab
LB-S	—	103.0	Howth	28-Aug	Philip Browne	Crab
LB-S	—	102.0	Howth	28-Aug	Bert McGregor	Crab
LB-S	—	102.0	Cahore	18-Jun	Alex Holfeld	Peeler Crab
LB-S	—	101.0	Wicklow	28-May	Brendan Adams	Peeler Crab
LB-S	—	100.5	Wicklow	15-Jun	Brian Beckett	Crab
LB-S	—	100.0	Wicklow	15-Jun	Kit Dunne	Crab
LB-S	—	100.0	Wicklow	15-Jun	Shane O'Reilly	Crab

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.22	9.30	61.0	Cork Harbour	14-Aug	Denis McCarthy	Mackerel



## TOPE

**Record 66 lbs 8 ozs (30.159 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)**  
**Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 160 cm**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
27.60	60.85	165.0	Greystones	23-Jul	Conor Ward (J)	Mackerel
25.40	56.00	170.0	Greystones	27-Aug	Joe Clancy	Mackerel
24.40	53.79	161.0	Greystones	24-Aug	Nicholas Ward	Mackerel
22.23	49.00	160.0	Red Bay	22-Jul	Peter Pöllmann (AUT)	Mackerel
20.47	45.12	158.0	Greystones	14-Aug	Peter Bolger	Mackerel
20.41	45.00	153.0	Greystones	16-Jul	David Flynn	Mackerel
20.01	44.12	159.0	Howth	28-Aug	Philip Browne	Mackerel
20.00	44.09	154.0	Greystones	23-Jul	Nicholas Ward	Mackerel
19.80	43.65	152.0	Greystones	16-Jul	Conor Ward (J)	Mackerel
19.20	42.33	152.0	Greystones	16-Jul	Conor Ward (J)	Mackerel
19.16	42.25	158.5	Howth	16-Jun	Bert McGregor	Whiting
19.00	41.89	155.0	Greystones	17-Sep	Nicholas Ward	Mackerel
18.94	41.75	153.0	Greystones	24-Aug	David Flynn	Mackerel
18.60	41.00	152.0	Greystones	24-Aug	David Flynn	Mackerel
18.60	41.00	150.0	Greystones	25-Aug	Andrew Boyce	Mackerel
18.60	41.00	150.0	Greystones	27-Aug	Chris Boyce	Mackerel
18.14	40.00	163.0	Wicklow	14-Jul	Peter Schiffer (D)	Mackerel
LB-S	—	160.0	Saltee Islands	29-Jul	Rachel Croke	Mackerel



*David Flynn with one of his three specimen Tope*





*Bert McGregor with a Howth Tope*



*Howth Tope for Philip Browne*



*Second heaviest Tope of 2016 for Joe Clancy*



*Specimen Turbot for John O'Sullivan*

## TURBOT

**Record 34 lbs (15.42 kg); Specimen Weight 6.0 kg (13.23 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.20	13.67	69.0	Cork Harbour	30-Jul	John O'Sullivan	Sandeel

WHITING						
Record 4 lbs 14.5 oz (2.225 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg (3 lbs)						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.50	3.31	59.5	Courtmacsherry	16-Jun	Rini Anemaet (NL)	Mackerel Strip
1.46	3.22	59.4	Courtmacsherry	25-Jun	Keith Harrell	Mackerel Strip
1.43	3.15	57.0	Union Hall	28-Jun	Michael Collins	Mackerel
1.40	3.09	55.3	Courtmacsherry	16-Jun	Hans Dijke (NL)	Mackerel Strip



*Michael Collins with a Union Hall Whiting*

## BALLAN WRASSE

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.75	6.06	—	Kenmare Bay	07-Sep	Guns Stavenmiter (NL)	Mackerel/Feather
2.40	5.29	48.0	Ballyreen	14-Aug	Alanah Doherty (J)	Minnow
2.40	5.29	51.0	Courtmacsherry	27-Aug	Alan O'Dowling	Crab
2.40	5.29	52.0	Kilmore Quay	12-Sep	Ryan Andrews (UK)	Ragworm
2.30	5.06	51.0	Donegal Bay	31-Oct	Ronald Surgenor	Crab
2.21	4.87	52.0	Donegal Bay	03-Sep	Ronald Surgenor	Crab
2.21	4.87	—	Kenmare Bay	29-Sep	Marko Roos (NL)	Shrimp
2.19	4.83	—	Kenmare Bay	22-Aug	Karel Fijen (NL)	Mackerel
2.15	4.75	48.0	Donegal Bay	03-Sep	David Murdoch	Crab



*Ronald Surgenor with a Donegal Bay Ballan Wrasse*



*UK angler Ryan Andrews with a Kilmore Quay Ballan wrasse*

CUCKOO WRASSE

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.62	1.37	34.2	Goat Is., Whiting Bay	25-Jan	John Owens	Crab
0.59	1.30	34.0	Cork Harbour	03-Jun	Eddie Butler	Mackerel Strip
0.57	1.25	34.8	Larne	14-Oct	David McCormick	Mackerel



*Superbly coloured Cuckoo Wrasse for Eddie Butler*



*John Owens with the largest Cuckoo Wrasse of 2016*



*A Larne Cuckoo Wrasse for David McCormick*

# Special Notices

## SPECIMEN WEIGHT & LENGTH REVISIONS

**Smoothound** weight increased from 3 kg to 3.5 kg from 2017 onwards.

Wingspan of **Common Skate** (a supplementary measurement) reduced to 145 cm.

**Bullhuss** (>125 cm TL) and **Sea Trout** (>64 cm FL) are eligible as length-based specimens from 2017 onwards.

**White Skate** (>180 cm TL) eligible as length-based only.

## GEOGRAPHICAL LIMIT FOR 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.

## WEIGHT BASED SPECIMENS

All fish must be weighed on scales which are verified for accuracy. **ALL elasmobranch (Dogfish, Sharks, Skates and Rays) claims (weight or length based) require submission of a photograph showing the whole fish, measured on a measuring mat (with an end stop) or equivalent, with its length clearly discernible.** Photographs of whole fish on a measure is likely to be a requirement for all claims in the future.

**Weighing instruments and certification:** Retail outlet scales are checked regularly by officers of the Legal Metrology Service (National Standards Authority of Ireland) or their equivalent 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 by a reputable agency/company, are acceptable to the Committee. Certification will be valid for one year from the date of issue of the certificate of accuracy. The manufacturer's 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. 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.**

The National Metrology Laboratory (NML) has provided a service to calibrate mechanical and digital fish scales (personal/club) based on EN 45501, from 0 – 100kg. The NML 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. **The minimum weight permitted is 10 times the scale interval (or weighing division) to ensure that fish are weighed on appropriate scales.** 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.

## LENGTH-BASED SPECIMENS

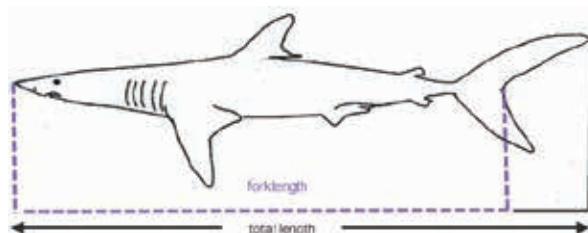
Fish must be measured on a recognised measuring device with an end stop and suitable graduations.

**Length-based claim procedure:** Claims must be made on the existing claim form and angler to specify that length only is being measured. Eligible species for length based specimens are Angel Shark (*Squatina squatina*) (Monkfish), Blue Shark, Common Skate (*Dipturus batis* complex), Greater Spotted Dogfish (Bullhuss), Porbeagle Shark (*Lamna nasus*), Sea Trout, Smooth-Hound, Spur Dogfish, Tope, Undulate Ray (*Raja undulata*) and White Skate (*Rostroraja alba*).

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. The snout tip will index the 0 cm measurement accurately. Dorsal caudal lobe to be 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.
- 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.

Suitable devices (measuring mats) are available from IFI, IGFA or tackle manufacturers.



Threshold values for all length based specimens (and wingspan measurements for ray and skate) are shown. Wingspan to be measured by placing fish on measuring mat. Except for Blue and Porbeagle Shark, and Sea Trout all length data must be given as total length (TL).

Angel Shark, Common Skate, Porbeagle Shark, Undulate Ray and White Skate have been re-listed as length-based specimens only. The primary reasons for their re-listing are to (a) collect data on their distribution and status which is scientifically valuable and (2) to provide additional species for anglers to target as specimens. In re-listing these species, which have an exceptionally high conservation value, the ISFC requires that anglers handle them with the utmost care and that best practise approaches are adopted for lifting and returning to the water. Fish slings or similar are recommended. Detail on exact capture locations (Latitude/Longitude) would contribute further to refining species distribution information but will not be published by ISFC.



Species	Threshold length (cm) TL = total length FL = fork length	Wingspan (cm) Secondary measurement	Weight-based specimen allowed
Bullhuss	125 cm TL		Yes
Dogfish, Spur	105 cm TL	—	Yes
Ray, Undulate	90 cm TL	59 cm	No
Sea Trout	64 cm FL		Yes
Shark, Angel (Monkfish)	125 cm TL	—	No
Shark, Blue	190 cm FL	—	Yes
Shark, Porbeagle	180 cm FL	—	No
Skate, Common	180 cm TL	145 cm	No
Skate, White	180 cm TL	145 cm	No
Smooth-Hound	100 cm TL	—	Yes
Tope	160 cm TL	—	Yes

## NEW RECORD CLAIMS

Records will be weight based only.

**Photographic evidence for new records:** A series of clear photographs must accompany all **record** fish claims, except in the few cases where a body (or presentation of the fish) is required for species identification. Photographs must show the whole fish lying on a flat surface and include a measure of scale (measurement mat, ruler). 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 claim substantiation.

## FISH SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

**Genetic fingerprinting of certain cyprinids and Shad species:** To support claims for Roach, Rudd and their hybrids, or any Shad species claim, anglers must submit 3 scales from a fish 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 (full detail in table below).

Only three claims may be submitted for any combination of Shad (i.e. Shad or suspected Shad Hybrids). No hybrids have been identified since 2011.

As genetic analysis of scales requires considerable time to process samples, anglers are requested to submit scale samples before 15th October.

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 when taking scale sample
<b>Notes:</b> As all fish can be returned alive please handle carefully. Allow envelope to dry out to preserve the sample. <b>Do not</b> store scales or tissue in plastic as sample will degrade.			

**Guidance for anglers taking photographs for fish identification purposes:** Photographs are acceptable for claim verification **if they provide conclusive evidence of the identification of a fish species** (Rule 4). A list of some external identification features for particular species identification are presented below.

Photographs, which should be taken as soon as possible after the fish is captured, must be in focus, clear and in colour, printed on good quality paper and show the relevant identification features. Photographs 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.

Digital images submitted by DVD, CD or email must be tagged with angler name, fish species, weight, length and date of capture.



*Cormac Gannon with his Red Gurnad*

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)	Whole body; 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	Whole body; head area showing head appendages upright
Brill	Whole body; close up of skin
Cuckoo Wrasse	Whole body; lateral view, close up of head
Dab	Whole body; close up of skin and lateral line
Flounder	Whole body; close up of lateral line scales close to head
Golden Grey Mullet Thin-Lipped Mullet	Whole body and close ups of: (a) head including pectoral fin (lying flat) (b) mouth showing upper lip (c) underside of head
Grey Gurnard	Whole body; close up of lateral line and head
Thick Lipped Mullet	Whole body; close up of head showing upper lip (head-on), underside of head to back of gills
Herring	Whole body; keel of fish
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	Whole body; underside of head
Mackerel	Whole body; close up of stripes on back
Megrim	Whole body; head
Ray's Bream	Whole body; close up of head
All Gurnards	Whole body; detail of lateral line, head with pectoral fin fully expanded
Red Mullet	Whole body; close up of head
Scad	Whole body; close up of entire lateral line
Shad - Allis, Twaite & Hybrid	Whole body; three scales to be taken
Smooth-hound	Whole body and close ups of: (a) tail fin (b) underside of head showing mouth (c) back in region of dorsal fin
Three Bearded Rockling	Whole body; close up of head and lower jaw area, and close up of area in front of dorsal fin
Torsk	Whole body; close up of skin and dorsal and tail fin area

Additional details of important features are detailed in IFI's Fish Identification Guide  
<http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Angling/angling-publications.html>



***Examples of close-up images required for cyprinid identification. Photograph of fish on measuring mat (or similar) which show general shape, position of fins and other features also required.***

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

**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.

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

**Length measurements on claim form:** A length measurement provides informative data about the species being claimed and additional verification information, and is requested **for all species**. Considerable length variation is evident for many species due to natural variability (time of year, sex, location, feeding etc) but it is likely that fish length measurement techniques are inconsistent also. Measurement mats are recommended to provide standardized measurements of specimen fish.

**Closed seasons:** Closed seasons apply to several species (e.g. bass, brown trout, salmon, 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 any single species in any one year. If an angler achieves this target and subsequently captures a larger fish within the year, this fish can be claimed but the final number of awards for any species in a single year will not be more than three.

**Exclusion from specimen status (stocked fish):** Where species of fish are introduced to a fishery at or above the specimen weight, those species from that particular fishery will not be considered for specimen or record status. Escapees from fish farms in either freshwater or marine are also excluded.

## ADMINISTRATION

**Captors Addresses:** Because of difficulties in establishing eligibility for the 20 Species, 10 Species, 50 Specimen and 10 Specimen Awards, anglers are requested to inform the Committee of any changes in their address.

## 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 (*Spondyliosoma 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 to 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.

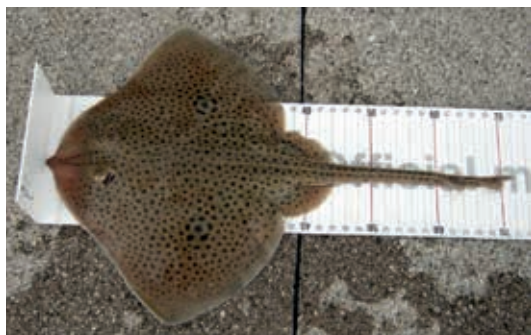
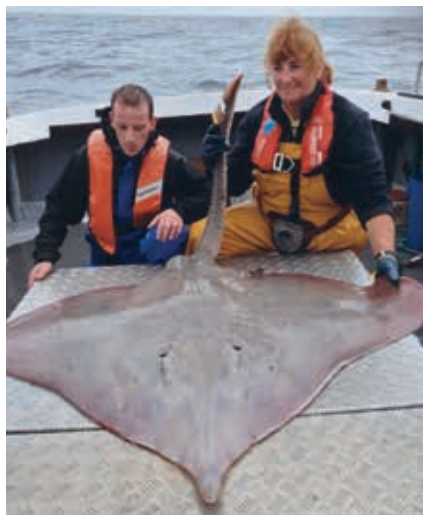
With some species a body may have to be forwarded for positive identification. Other arrangements would apply for larger fish. The availability of a body will allow the Committee to verify positive identification of the species and the claims will allow monitoring of numbers and weights of the species.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

## NOTABLE FISH

White skate (*Rostroraja alba* Lacepède, 1803) measuring 1.98 cm total length taken by Jonathan Gannon in Clew Bay on 09/08/2015. Classified as endangered (IUCN, 2006) this fish was carefully returned alive.

The white skate is characterised by a broad-based, abruptly narrow-tipped snout covered with small, sharp thorns. Adults are grey on dorsal side with numerous small white spots; underside is white with no black pores. Three rows of large thorns on tail.

***Jonathan Gannon and skipper  
Mary Gavin Hughes with White Skate***



***Homelyn Ray Total Length***

***Smooth Hound on  
IFI measuring mat***



## PRESENTATION OF 2015 AWARDS

Jim Clohessy, angler and editor of the on-line fishing magazine <http://www.topfisher.eu>, made the Annual Presentation of Specimen Awards at the Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport on 20 February 2016.

In March 2016, Dutch and Belgian anglers were presented with their specimen awards by renowned angling journalist Peter Dohmen editor of the top Dutch sea angling magazine Zee Hengelsport, and Shane O'Reilly, Inland Fisheries Ireland, at VISMA, Rotterdam.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Special acknowledgements:** 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. Sincere thanks to Myles Kelly, IFI and ISFC web manager, for his input throughout 2016 and to Norman Dunlop for his article published in this report. AFBINI continues to provide a specimen fish identification service for anglers in the northern part of Ireland and the ISFC is indebted to Dr Steven Beggs and ISFC Chairman, Dr Robert Rosell.

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.

Special thanks are due to the extremely cooperative staff of the National Metrology Laboratory NSAI for certification of anglers' scales. DNA analysis undertaken by Dr. Jens Carlsson and his teams at UCD has significantly advanced ISFC fish identification procedures.

**Photographs:** The majority of photographs in this report are taken by anglers. Anglers, charter skippers, fisheries staff and journalists are acknowledged for their photographs. Thanks to Mike Thrussell for photographs for Norman Dunlop's article.

## DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIMEN AWARDS

Nationalities of anglers whose claims were ratified:

Year	Ireland	the Netherlands	United Kingdom	Germany	Belgium	France	Other	TOTAL
		(NL)	(UK)	(D)	(B)	(F)		
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
2015	422	12	8	0	4	0	1	447
2016	416	45	10	2	9	0	3	485

n/d = not determined

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS

Expenditure and Revenue Accounts - 1st January to 31st December 2015

2014	Expenditure	2015	2014	Revenue	2015
€		€	€	€	€
				<b>Balance b/f</b>	<b>20615.71</b>
				<b>Grants</b>	
4649.75	Printing	5464.39	4500	IFI	
595.98	Awards Medals/Trophies	1946.59		Loughs Agency	2554.49
1438.56	Miscellaneous/Postage		200	TAFI	
45	ISFC Meeting Expenses	45	8.89	Delphi	8.89
249.12	Awards Day Costs	216.90	100	ICSA	100
27.72	Bank Charges	21.16		Failte Ireland	
2000	Genetic Identification	2000			
				<b>Donations</b>	
			584.26	Anglers	477.52
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9694.04</b>			<b>3140.90</b>
	<b>Balance c/d</b>	<b>14062.57</b>			
		<b>23756.61</b>			<b>23756.61</b>
				<b>Balance b/d</b>	<b>14062.57</b>

“The ISFC has prepared a revenue and expenditure account for 12 months ended 31st December 2015 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

The ISFC is a voluntary body and all of its activities are funded by grants/donations from diverse sources. All funders are gratefully acknowledged.

**Benefactors in 2016 were:**

**Inland Fisheries Ireland; Irish Charters Skippers Association; Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland; Delphi Fishery Ltd.**

**Peter Bolger**, 70 Ferrycarrig Road, Coolock, Dublin 17; **Donal Domenev**, 20 Courtown Drive, Cork City; **Patrick Fagan**, 54 St. Agnes Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12; **Jim Gregg**, 20 The Meadow, Antrim, Co. Antrim, BT41 1EY; **Halfway Angling Centre (Dan Lynch)**, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork; **Bob Healeas**, 13 Trelawney Road, Chacewater, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 8JR, England; **Christy Lane**, 10 Harrington's Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; **Noel Lane**, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork; **Joe Marsella**, 2 Walkin Street, Kilkenny; **Nicholas McEvoy**, 6 Francis Crescent, Grange Heights, Waterford City; **Bert McGregor**, 34 Rivermead Park, St. Margaret's, Co. Dublin; **W. F. McLaughlin**, 27 Castle Gardens, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, BT49 OSD; **Karl O'Leary**, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; **Stephen O'Neill**, 35 Ferndale, Carrigaline, Co. Cork; **Ray O'Sullivan**, Main Street, Kilworth, Co. Cork; **Frank Prendergast**, Avoca, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry, V23 HY60; **Wicklow Boat Charters (Kit Dunne)**, 10C Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.

*Measuring Rudd/Bream Hybrid*



*Measuring Homelyn Ray disc width*

# 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	Ballyeighter Lake	Nick Parry
Salmon	57	1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Brown Trout (Lake)	26 2	15.7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Brown Trout (River)	20	22.2.1957	River Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place
Sea Trout	16 6	29.10.1983	Shimna River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus

## MARINE SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Angler Fish	42.985 kg	3.11.1985	Belfast Lough	Sean Neill
Bass	17 13	21.10.2000	Doughmore Strand	Emmet Naughton
Black Sole	6.32	28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Bluemouth	1.32 kg	28.7.2008	Caherciveen	Sue Tait
Brill	9 8	8.9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	15.1 kg	30.8.2003	Castletownshend	Roger Barham (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 (B. belone)	1.729 kg	28.5.2007	Cork Harbour	Stephen O'Neill
Garfish (B. svetovidovi)	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.)**

Species	Weight		Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
	lbs	ozs			
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
Angel Shark (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	1.64	kg	15.5.2015	St. Mullins	Thomas Lynch
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	11.27	kg	10.6.2016	South Wexford	Dean Quigley
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
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs	
<b>FRESHWATER FISH</b>					
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					
<b>SEA FISH</b>					
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>Spondyliosoma 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> )	1.33 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
Angel Shark (Monkfish) ( <i>Squatina squatina</i> )	73		Length based specimen only - 125 cm TL threshold length		Photo
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		Length based specimen only - 90 cm TL threshold length		Photo
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		0.68	1.5	Body
Shad - Allis ( <i>Alosa alosa</i> )	–		1.814	4	Scales
Shad - Twaite ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> )	1.64 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		Length based specimen only - 180cm FL threshold length		Photo
Shark - Six-Gilled ( <i>Hexanchus griseus</i> )	480 kg		45.359	100	Photo
Shark - Thresher ( <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> )	–		54.431	120	Photo
Skate - Common ( <i>Raja batis</i> )	221		Length based specimen only - 180 cm TL threshold length		Photo
Skate - Long Nosed ( <i>Raja oxyrinchus</i> )	–		Length based specimen only - 180 cm TL threshold length		Photo
Skate - White ( <i>Raja alba</i> )	165		Length based specimen only - 180 cm TL threshold length		Photo

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs	
Smooth-Hound ( <i>Mustelas asterias</i> )	11.27	kg	3.5	7.72	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.



Stephen Gibson picture of close up of Gilthead Bream head

# 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. Length-based specimens can be claimed for certain elasmobranchs & sea trout. 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. **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 confusion with another (and particularly larger) species. For this reason scales from the fish, high quality photographs (incl. close ups) or the actual body must be forwarded as actual proof of identification, before it can consider a claim.

**FISH SCALES** must be submitted in respect of claims for SALMON, SEA TROUT, BROWN TROUT (including SLOB TROUT), RUDD, ROACH, and their hybrids, DACE 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 gently removed from one shoulder of the fish should be sent with each salmonid claim. 3 scales are required from Roach and Rudd and their hybrids, and shad for genetic identification.

**CLEAR, SHARP, CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHS**, showing the entire fish with its fins and other features easily seen, and not foreshortened or obscured by shadows or bystanders must be provided in the case of ALL CYPRINIDS, TOPE, SHARKS, SMOOTH-HOUND, SKATE, RAYS, BLUEMOUTH, MONKFISH, POLLACK, BALLAN WRASSE, TRIGGERFISH, COALFISH, 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.

**THE ACTUAL BODY** must be forwarded for identification in the case of the following species: ANGLER FISH, BRILL, DAB, GARFISH (head and gills only), LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH, FLOUNDER, GREY & RED GURNARDS, HERRING, MEGRIM, MACKEREL, GREY MULLET, GOLDEN GREY MULLET and RED MULLET, RAYS BREAM, THREE BEARDED ROCKLING, SCAD, TORSK, CUCKOO WRASSE and BLACK BREAM.

NB – Claims will 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.

>99.5% of fish requiring supporting material for identification are identified by scales, genetics or photographic evidence.

**RECORD FISH:** Claim must be supported by a series of clear photographs showing relevant features for positive identification and a clear indication of fish length (i.e. whole fish on a measurement mat or similar). Record 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. If 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 exceed three. 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:**

***Identification is mainly based on scale or photographic evidence but if a body is being forwarded please***

(1) notify the Committee when a fish is being sent in for identification.

Telephone: 01-884 2600.

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) 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) do not send fish 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. Micheal 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 Best International Specimen Fish Award (for the best overseas angler specimen).

**CLAIM FORM SUBMISSION** – 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)



**2.38 kg Ray's Bream,  
Porcupine Bank 1979**



**23.36 kg Angel Shark (Monkfish),  
Tralee Bay 1978**

## **Twenty Species of Specimens – No. 1 on My Bucket List**

**By Norman Dunlop**

former National Sea Angling Adviser with the  
Central Fisheries Board (now Inland Fisheries Ireland)

The Shimano 4000XT reel screamed as the “joey” mackerel was attacked on the edge of Sebber Bridge reef which runs between the Little and Greater Saltee Islands off Kilmore Quay in County Wexford.

As I grabbed the spinning rod from the holder and felt the power and weight of the fish, I knew that there was a very real possibility that this was the big bass I had longed to catch for virtually all of my fishing life. The fish dived straight at the underwater weed and rubble and I tried side pressure in an attempt to steer it clear, but it careered over the reef and I could feel the 10lbs flourocarbon sawing on the rocks beneath. Without warning the line parted and my fish was gone.

Knees trembling I reeled up the loose line and slumped into the seat by the wheelhouse, totally gutted! Over the years I have been near to catching a specimen bass so many times. This latest episode happened just a few months ago on the final day of the annual Rosslare Small Boats Festival. I was very disappointed at the time but I know that somewhere out there that bass is still swimming freely!

My earliest fishing memory was as a 6 year old, with my grandfather, a regular pleasure angler, on Tommy Simpson's boat out of Donaghadee. There I caught my first fish, a cod of about 5lbs, which was the biggest fish on board that day. Amidst admiring glances, I proudly struggled to carry it, tail dragging on the ground, tied with a bit of cord through it's gaping mouth, onto the bus taking us back to the family bungalow at Millisle.

My future as a sea angler was probably cemented that very day!



In the sixties my fishing pals and I didn't really know much about the existence of Irish Specimens and Records (and the ISFC) and as a result several good fish, went unrecorded. For instance, I can remember fishing in a large brackish pool at Islandmagee, on Larne Lough where we took numbers of very big flounder on slowly retrieved spoons baited with local ragworm. Having since seen many fine specimens from around the country (although only catching one myself) I can honestly say that the Irish Record flounder may have been threatened by some of the fish we caught that day.

It was some time before I caught my first "official" specimen fish. In fact it was July 1973 on Broadhaven Bay at Belmullet, when on holiday with a group of club-mates from Donaghadee Sea Angling Club. This was a whiting of 3lbs 13ozs which I believe is still a local record for the species in this top class species venue.

My interest in specimen fish was ignited and I became a keen observer of the tackle and techniques my fellow anglers employed, particularly when a good fish was captured. When I received my first copy of the Specimen Fish Report, I devoured its contents avidly, making notes on all the sea fish captures and although it did not carry any photographs this simple little black and white pamphlet was a goldmine!

I slowly built up my tally of specimen sea fish, targeting different species, and in 1984, I achieved the double with the "ISFC pin" for ten specimen fish and "ISFC medal" for 10 species of specimens. Along with the whiting my ten species included: Cuckoo Wrasse, Monkfish (Angel Shark), Ray's Bream, Red Gurnard, Flounder, Homelyn Ray, Twaiter Shad, Smooth Hound and Spur Dogfish.

My goal now is the 20 Species award and I have added Ballan Wrasse, Tub Gurnard, Blonde Ray, Pouting, Garfish and Bluemouth, leaving just four species to reach my target. I have also started to repeat fish and things have got tougher the older I get, but then, I am also the eternal optimist and tomorrow is another day.



**1.021 kg Bluemouth,  
Caherciveen 2006**



**1.46 kg Pouting,  
Kilmore Quay 2005**



**0.93 kg Red Gurnard,  
Westport 2005**

Photo: Mike Thrussell

Photo: Mike Thrussell

I have always tried to keep my rigs simple although I think attractor spoons on ledger tackle can work very well for various species when baited with worm. This approach also works in deeper water, and no fewer than 6 of my specimens, were caught this way e.g. whiting, red gurnard, tub gurnard, flounder, homelyn ray and blonde ray.

Recently I have become very interested in LRF (Light Rock Fishing) from both boat and shore, where smaller species are targeted on very light tackle and in many ways the simplicity of the rigs and fishing style employed, harks back to the fun, excitement and very essence of fishing which most of us experienced as small children on a local pier or river bank. Specialised rod and reel combinations are now available and LRF has become increasingly popular both in Ireland and in the UK, probably as a result of the many small exotic species, anglers encounter while on sun holidays in Mediterranean countries.



**6.35 kg Smooth-hound, Wicklow 2012**

In Ireland we are blessed with lots of mini-species including Topknot, Tompot Blenny, Black Goby, Shanny, Shore Rockling, Sea Scorpion, Rock Cook, Goldsinny Wrasse, Tadpole Fish, Dragonet and Sand Goby. This fishing, being mainly shore based, is very accessible and may encourage youngsters to periodically turn off their electronic gadgetry and target some of these species. For these young anglers and the not-so-young maybe we are approaching a time when the ISFC could consider introducing a Mini Species List? Adding more species to the specimen list increases ISFC costs but with funding support from anglers it might be feasible.

Thanks to the great work of the current Irish Specimen Fish Committee the Annual Specimen Fish Report has developed into a slick, well-produced booklet in whose pages every Irish and visiting angler has a wonderful source of information on where to look for a specimen fish, when to look for it and which bait or terminal tackle is most likely to prove successful.

Even a cursory glance of the report reveals a mix of regular anglers who catch a big one, occasional anglers who are in the right place at the right time and also a group of specimen fish hunters. These specimen hunters are a dedicated group of ultra-enthusiasts who concentrate on the pursuit of bigger and better fish. Where they get the time from is a puzzle to me, never mind the stamina and huge skill set required to catch so many different species.

Meanwhile I will continue to target my four other species – planning begins in January and the ISFC report will be one of my first reference points.

**Norman Dunlop**

Glasnevin, Dublin. 09-11-2016



*Brittas Bay Smooth-hound for Rob McClean*

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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: 2.15 kg Ballan Wrasse for David Murdoch from Donegal Bay*



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