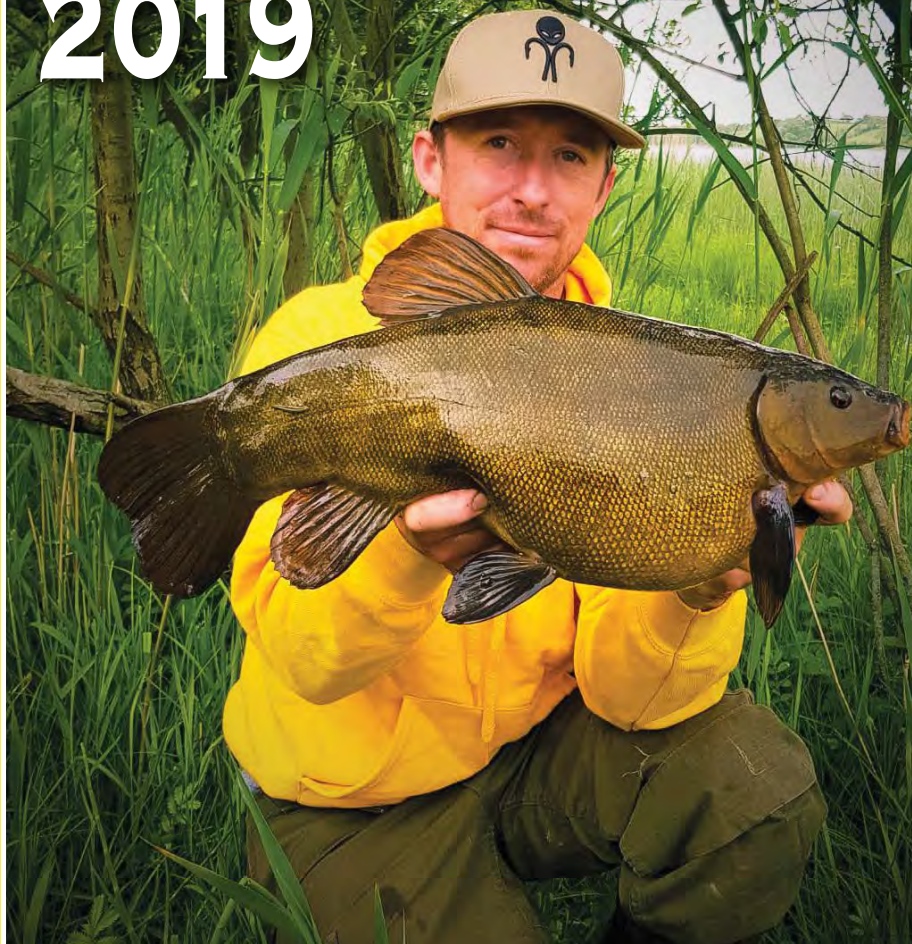


# IRISH SPECIMEN FISH 2019



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



Iascach Iníre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland



**DAERA**  
Department of Agriculture,  
Environment and Rural Affairs  
[www.daera.ie.gov.uk](http://www.daera.ie.gov.uk)

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 recognise 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 2019. Over 31,000 claims have been received by the ISFC over the past 64 years. This dataset is one of the most valuable and long-running time-series of its type.

## Irish Specimen Fish Committee Members 2019

Dr. Robert Rosell (AFBI), Chairman, Dr. William Roche, Secretary, Shane O'Reilly (Treasurer), Myles Kelly and Micheál Hennessy (Inland Fisheries Ireland), Alan McGurdy, Stewart McGrane (Game Angling), Dr. Edward Fahy, Dorrie Gibbons, Der Casey (Coarse Angling) and Brian Cooke (Sea Angling).

### *Awards Presentation*

*The Annual Presentation of Specimen Awards  
to anglers whose claims were accepted during 2019*

*will be held in*

*Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport  
Swords, Co. Dublin at 2.30pm sharp*

*on Saturday 15th February 2020*

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



**Irish Specimen Fish Committee**



**In Association with**  
**Iascach Intíre Éireann**  
**Inland Fisheries Ireland**

***Cover: Quality Tench for David Flynn in June***

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# ISFC Chairman's Review 2019



Welcome to the Irish Specimen Fish Committee Report for 2019. The committee held three meetings in 2019 to discuss ISFC business and review claims for the year. It's been a good specimen year with 578 claims received; 513 of these were ratified. No new records were established but there were a few near misses. Smoothound, Spurdog and Twaite Shad dominated claims and Common Skate were prominent also.

The stand-out message coming to me as Chair is that we are going through changing times, and having to adapt our approach as new issues emerge.

Changes in fish populations and distribution seem to be accelerating, in nature, driven by weather and climate, water quality, the water environment, or new and sometimes potentially invasive species arriving on our shores. There are also changes that do not have immediate and obvious causes, and science is constantly playing catch-up with events.

Trends in angling and human behavior also change (and yes, for the avoidance of doubt, we definitely count anglers as normal humans). Anglers, including those on the committee, are getting older. Angling groups need to find ways of enthusing younger folk to discover the benefits of fishing as a leisure pursuit, and the fun in recording specimens. Having an internet page is no longer enough, and among ideas under discussion is a Smartphone App which would serve as an instant one stop shop for fish photographing, claim recording and submission.

Human activity directly influences the fish we try to catch, particularly commercially important species. While these are managed in attempts to sustain maximum crops for food, protecting populations for optimum harvest does nothing to leave large individuals for anglers to catch. Science shows that under sustained commercial pressure some species are adopting a "live fast, breed early, and die young" strategy. This acts against the combination of faster than average growth coupled with longer than average life that make for the possibility of a record or specimen fish. To keep a flow of claims for some species, particularly commercially harvested species, we may need to reflect these biological changes in lower specimen thresholds, however small some modern specimens would have seemed to our grandfathers. Recent committee discussions have centred on adjusting thresholds to maintain an even a flow of recording over as broad a range of species as possible, with new length based measurement where data permits the addition of length. Getting length thresholds right is both science and art- for example, while congratulating those receiving length based specimen certificates for shad this year, we have increased the shad threshold length for 2020.

There is also change in the ISFC's own objectives. It all started as a means for scientists, offering recognition to anglers to obtain more data on fish at the upper end of size ranges and better knowledge of length and weight at age. Showcasing the specimens and advertising the resource available for local and tourism angling was and is also an important function. The current colourful report, in glossy print or internet access, clearly does this even better than ever. The growing list of locations of specimen captures feeds the specimen fish atlas, continuing towards publication, a database of biological recording in its own right.

The shift from weight to length based recording proceeds apace and is clearly popular. A fish photographed on a clear scale or measuring mat gets away from the need for calibrated scale certification, and can speed up the process of claim. We cannot solve, however, the problem of not being able to establish a new record for any species based on length. Just like people, the longest fish is not necessarily the heaviest, and vice versa. Fish condition changes with season, location, breeding cycle, competition with other species and many more factors. Specimen hunters have learnt to go to the right place at the right time for the largest and heaviest fish. We seek to introduce new species award categories based on accurately recorded lengths as opportunity arises, and for the foreseeable future weight, recorded and witnessed, on land with a calibrated and certified set of scales, remains the only way to establish a new record.

Committee finances remained stable in 2019. We do need to consider some re-building of funds to cover further initiatives and the costs of adapting to the use of new technology. Thanks are due to our IFI and DAERA government sponsors who provide the core of the funding and staff time for the committee, and to the increasing number of anglers who have taken up the donation option on the website. Thanks also to IFI for hosting the work of the committee, providing meeting space and staff time, and to AFBI and DAERA for permitting me to act as Chair.

I have to reiterate, on behalf of the committee, to all specimen claimants to pay attention to the detail of our requirements for accurate identification, evidence of weight and/or length, legibly filled in forms, and clear accurate and dependable photographs.

Thanks again to committee for hard work and making the chair's role fun, and to all the anglers, specimen hunting specialists and lucky punters alike, who make the whole exercise worthwhile.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Rosell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'R' and 'S'.

Dr Robert Rosell, Chairman ISFC

December, 2019



## Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2019

In 2019 the ISFC processed 578 claims. A total of 48 was rejected for non-compliance with ISFC rules and a further 17 will be queried further. This report presents details of special awards and ratified specimen fish for 2019.



*An evening Sting Ray from Tralee Bay for James Raymond*

## SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES 2019

### 10 SPECIES AWARD

#### EAMON POWER, DUBLIN

<b>1997:</b>	Gurnard - Grey	<b>2007:</b>	Tench, Ling, Pollack
<b>2002:</b>	Ballan Wrasse	<b>2009:</b>	Mullet - Thick-Lipped
<b>2005:</b>	Bass	<b>2012:</b>	Smooth-hound
<b>2006:</b>	Spurdog	<b>2019:</b>	Gilthead Bream

#### AMY O'BRIEN, CORK

<b>2015:</b>	Carp, Mullet - Thick-Lipped	<b>2018:</b>	Ray – Painted, Ray – Undulate, Twaite Shad, Smooth-hound
<b>2017:</b>	Roach x Bream Hybrid, Bream, Mullet - Golden Grey	<b>2019:</b>	Sting Ray, Common Skate

#### ROBERT REID, DUBLIN

<b>1991:</b>	Torsk	<b>2015:</b>	Brown Trout (River)
<b>2006:</b>	Spurdog	<b>2016:</b>	Mullet - Golden Grey
<b>2009:</b>	Coalfish (Saithe)	<b>2017:</b>	Mullet - Thick-Lipped
<b>2012:</b>	Smooth-hound, Gilthead Bream	<b>2018:</b>	Pike (River)
<b>2013:</b>	Roach x Rudd Hybrid, Flounder		

### 50 SPECIMENS AWARD

#### JAMES DIGNAM, CO. MEATH

<b>2001-2019</b>	Bream	25	<b>2015-2019</b>	Tench	5
<b>2011-2019</b>	Roach x Bream Hybrid	18	<b>2015</b>	Carp	1
<b>2012-2017</b>	Roach x Rudd Hybrid	2	<b>2015</b>	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	1
<b>2013-2015</b>	Rudd x Bream Hybrid	3	<b>2016</b>	Tope	1
<b>2014</b>	Smooth-hound	1			

#### THOMAS LYNCH, CO. DUBLIN

<b>1998</b>	Pike (River)	1	<b>2014</b>	Brown Trout (River)	1
<b>2012-2019</b>	Twaite Shad	7	<b>2014-2018</b>	Mullet - Golden Grey	6
<b>2013</b>	Gilthead Bream	1	<b>2014-2018</b>	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	6
<b>2013-2014</b>	Mullet - Thin-Lipped	2	<b>2017</b>	Rudd x Bream Hybrid	6
<b>2013-2014</b>	Tope	3	<b>2018</b>	Roach x Bream Hybrid	1
<b>2013-2019</b>	Flounder	5	<b>2018</b>	Tench	1
<b>2013-2019</b>	Smooth Hound	11	<b>2018-2019</b>	Spurdog	2

**50 SPECIMENS AWARD (continued)****FRANCIS MCNEILLY, CO. DOWN**

<b>2012</b>	Dab	3	<b>2016-2018</b>	Carp	9
<b>2012-2015</b>	Twaite Shad	5	<b>2017</b>	Mullet - Golden Grey	2
<b>2013-2015</b>	Smooth-hound	2	<b>2016</b>	Spurdog	2
<b>2012-2015</b>	Ray - Painted	4	<b>2017, 2018</b>	Ballan Wrasse	2
<b>2015</b>	Flounder	1	<b>2017-2019</b>	Pike (River)	6
<b>2015-2019</b>	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	11	<b>2019</b>	Rudd/Bream Hybrid	1
<b>2016-2019</b>	Gilthead Bream	4			

**DANIEL SMITH, DUBLIN**

<b>1985-2019</b>	Twaite Shad	3	<b>2000</b>	Rudd x Bream Hybrid	2
<b>1985-2005</b>	Tench	8	<b>2000-2014</b>	Pike (River)	4
<b>1990</b>	Bull Huss	1	<b>2001-2019</b>	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	5
<b>1992-2019</b>	Smooth-hound	8	<b>2002-2005</b>	Perch	9
<b>1998, 2001</b>	Bream	2	<b>2010</b>	Bass	1
<b>1998-1999</b>	Roach x Bream Hybrid	3	<b>2017</b>	Mullet - Golden Grey	1
<b>1999</b>	Carp	1	<b>2019</b>	Spurdog	3

**10 SPECIMENS AWARD**

Gerard McKeogh, Tipperary	<b>2000-2019</b>	Peter Ross, Antrim	<b>2017-2019</b>
Anthony Kelly, Dublin	<b>2015-2019</b>	Gavin Moran, Wicklow	<b>2012-2019</b>
Barry Murphy, Waterford	<b>1977-2019</b>	John Hughes, Dublin	<b>1997-2019</b>
John Smyth, Dublin	<b>2000-2019</b>		

## 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

3.63 kg **Thick Lipped Mullet** at Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, 24 April 2019

## 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.

**Evan Collins**, Cork

1.06 kg **Megrim** fishing out of Union Hall, Co. Cork, 13 October 2019

## THE MINISTER'S AWARD

Inaugurated by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action 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.

**James Dignam**, Meath

3.69 kg **Tench** at Lough Garadice, Co. Leitrim, 9 June 2019

## 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.

**Arthur Beechey**, Wales

0.54 kg **Red Mullet** fishing out of Kimore Quay, 3 September 2019.



## SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2019

## FRESHWATER FISH 2019

## 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
5.16	11.37	62	R Erne, Belturbet	06-May	David Flynn	Boilie
4.65	10.25	63	Lough Oughter	18-Aug	James Dignam	Maggots
4.48	9.87	—	Lough Oughter	11-Aug	Paul Lacey	Fake Corn
4.31	9.50	61.5	R Erne, Belturbet	11-May	Seamus Smith	Corn
4.17	9.20	—	Bawn Lake	23-Jul	Clyde McElwaine	Maggots
4.08	9.00	—	Bolganard Lough	19-Aug	James Dignam	Maggots
4.08	9.00	60	Lough Oughter	02-Oct	James Dignam	Corn/Caster
3.90	8.60	62	Tully Lough	12-Aug	Liam Tully	Maggots
3.83	8.44	—	Drumlaheen L	15-Jul-18	James Dignam	Maggots
3.74	8.25	62	R Erne, Belturbet	05-May	David Flynn	Corn



The heaviest Bream of 2019 fell to David Flynn



Conor McElwaine with one of his Bawn Lake Bream

**Year of capture** is 2019 unless otherwise stated.

**Length** (L) is forklength (FL) (cm) for freshwater species, blue and porbeagle shark. Total Length (TL) for all other marine species.

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

(J) after surname denotes juvenile angler.

**BREAM CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.72	8.20	—	Bawn Lake	23-Jul	Conor McElwaine	Maggots
3.72	8.20	—	Bawn Lake	23-Jul	Clyde McElwaine	Maggots
3.63	8.00	—	Drumlaheen L	15-Jul-18	James Dignam	Maggots
3.58	7.90	—	Bawn Lake	02-Jul	Conor McElwaine	Maggots
3.54	7.81	61	R Erne, Belturbet	18-May	David Flynn	Corn
3.54	7.81	—	Lough Oughter	11-Aug	Paul Lacey	Fake Corn
3.49	7.70	—	Bawn Lake	23-Jul	Conor McElwaine	Maggots
3.43	7.56	58	Lough Na Blahy	18-May	Nicholas Ward	Maggot
3.43	7.56	58	R. Erne, Belturbet	3-May	Anthony Kelly	Corn



**3.54 kg Lough Oughter Bream for Paul Lacey**



**James Dignam had the second heaviest Bream of 2019**



**4.31 kg Bream for Seamus Smith from the River Erne in May**

## PERCH

**Record 5 lbs 8 ozs (2.495 kg); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.646 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.25	2.75	46	Lough Erne	19-Apr	Andrew Wolsey	Shad



*The only specimen Perch of 2019 fell to Andrew Wolsey*



*John Flynn with his 9.3 kg Pike from the River Erne*

## PIKE (RIVER)

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

**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 100$  cm FL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10.70	23.60	108.5	R Suck, Athleague	12-Feb	Patrick Fagan	Mackerel
10.43	23.00	–	R Shannon, Rooskey	07-Jan	Derek Greene	Shadteez
9.53	21.00	–	R Shannon, Rooskey	09-Feb	Derek Greene	Sardine
9.30	20.50	106	R Erne, Belturbet	27-Dec-18	John Flynn	Mackerel
9.24	20.37	–	R Shannon, Lanesborough	12-Jan	John Millerick	Mackerel

PIKE (RIVER) CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9.19	20.25	97	Blackwater River, NI	27-Dec-18	Francis McNeilly	Pollan
9.16	20.20	106	River Inny, Ballycorkey	22-Feb	Des Chew	Dead roach
9.13	20.12	99	R Erne, Belturbet	28-Dec-18	David Flynn	Roach
L-BS	—	108	Blackwater River, NI	24-Dec-18	Francis McNeilly	Pollan
L-BS	—	104	R Shannon, Athlone	29-Nov-18	Oisín MacDomhnaill	Lamprey
L-BS	—	103	R Shannon, Athlone	27-Jan	Oisín MacDomhnaill	Mackerel
L-BS	—	101	R Shannon, Athlone	15-Nov-18	Oisín MacDomhnaill	Mackerel



10.7 kg Pike for Patrick Fagan from the River Suck



Des Chew with his Inny Pike



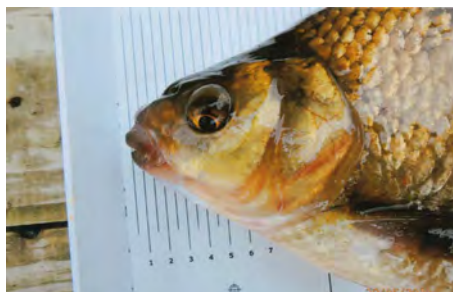
## ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

Record 3.376 kg; Specimen Weight 1.6 kg (3.528 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.23	7.12	55	Lough Oughter	11-Sep	James Dignam	Maggots
3.09	6.81	55	Drumlaheen L	23-Apr-18	James Dignam	Maggots
2.98	6.56	—	Lough Oughter	29-Sep	Paul Lacey	Corn/Maggots
2.50	5.51	53	L. Derravaragh - Mullingar	17-Jun-18	Kim Tully	Maggots
2.44	5.38	53	Lough Derravaragh	06-Jul	Philip Connolly	Maggots
2.30	5.06	52.5	R Erne, Belturbet	08-May	David Flynn	Corn
2.27	5.00	51	R Erne, Belturbet	11-May	Seamus Smith	Corn
2.20	4.85	53	L. Derravaragh - Mullingar	17-Jun-18	Liam Tully	Maggots
2.20	4.85	51	L. Derravaragh - Mullingar	16-Jun-18	Clare Maurer	Maggots
2.00	4.41	49	L. Derravaragh - Mullingar	16-Jun-18	Zoe Tully	Maggots
2.00	4.41	50	L. Derravaragh - Mullingar	17-Jun-18	Clare Maurer	Maggots



**Roach/Bream Hybrid**



**Rudd/Bream Hybrid**

1.93	4.25	47.5	R Erne, Belturbet	05-May	Anthony Kelly	Corn
1.87	4.12	47	Lough Na Blahy, Strokestown	18-May	Sean Ward (J)	Maggot/Castor
1.81	4.00	45.5	R Erne, Belturbet	14-Apr	Anthony Kelly	Corn
1.76	3.87	—	R Erne, Belturbet	19-May	David Flynn	Corn

**ROACH/BREAM HYBRID CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.70	3.75	47.5	R Erne, Belturbet	11-May	David Flynn	Corn
1.70	3.75	44	Lough Derravaragh	30-Jul	Zoe Tully	Maggots
1.63	3.60	44	R Barrow, Athy	15-Mar	Brian Cooke	Corn



Sean Ward with his Lough Na Blahy Hybrid



1.7 kg Roach/Bream for Zoe Tully

**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
1.62	3.58	41	Willan Lough	29-May	Francis McNeilly	Maggots/Corn





**Tench of 2.9 kg from Tully Lake for Philip Connolly**



**Near record equalling Tench for James Dignam in June**

## TENCH

**Record 8.15 lbs (3.697 kg); Specimen Weight 2.722 kg (6 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.69	8.12	—	Lough Garadice	09-Jun	James Dignam	Maggots
3.40	7.50	—	Lough Garadice	08-Jun	James Dignam	Maggots
3.32	7.31	—	Lough Garadice	02-Jun	James Dignam	Corn
3.26	7.19	—	Lough Garadice	09-Jun	Paul Lacey	Corn
3.20	7.06	—	Lough Garadice	09-Jun	Paul Lacey	Worm
3.09	6.81	—	Lough Garadice	08-Jun	Paul Lacey	Corn/Maggot
2.95	6.50	52.5	R Erne, Belturbet	02-Jun	David Flynn	Corn
2.95	6.50	52	R Erne, Belturbet	02-Jun	David Flynn	Corn
2.92	6.44	55	Bawn Lake	23-Jun-18	David Brennan	Corn
2.92	6.44	49	R Erne, Belturbet	01-Jun	David Flynn	Corn
2.90	6.40	—	R. Shannon, Lanesborough	10-Jun	Clyde McElwaine	Corn
2.90	6.39	52.5	Tully Lake	30-Jul	Philip Connolly	Corn
2.86	6.30	51	Drimmon Lough	08-Aug	Oisin MacDomhnaill	Red Pellet
2.78	6.12	54	R Erne, Belturbet	02-Jun	Anthony Kelly	Corn
2.72	6.00	—	Drimmon Lough	25-Jul	Oisin MacDomhnaill	Maggots

Game Fish 2019

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

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

Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold ≥75 cm FL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.00	15.43	88.9	Lough Corrib	20-Jul	Robin Syme	Fly
6.97	15.36	78	Lough Leane, Killarney	03-Aug	Werner Heinrich	Minnow
5.70	12.56	78.7	Lough Derg, Killaloe	31-Mar	Gerard McKeogh	Roach

Magnified image of scale from Robin Syme's Corrib Brown Trout



A 2.72 kg Brown Trout from Lanesborough for John Millerick

## BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

**Record 20 lbs (9.071 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)**

**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 57$  cm FL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.48	12.08	68.5	Six Mile Water	13-Jul	Glenn Allen	Fly
3.64	8.02	64.5	Six Mile Water	03-Sep	John Ashe	Apachis Fly
3.62	7.98	64	Six Mile Water	23-Aug	Glenn Allen	Fly
3.26	7.19	62.5	Six Mile Water	31-Jul	Michael Martin	Coco head Nymph
3.22	7.10	63	Six Mile Water	27-Aug	Jim Gregg	Fly
3.20	7.05	62	Six Mile Water	02-Sep	John Ashe	Apachis Fly
2.94	6.48	62.5	Six Mile Water	28-Jul	Jim Gregg	Fly
2.78	6.13	57	Six Mile Water	26-Sep	John Ashe	Archale Fly
2.76	6.08	58.5	Six Mile Water	04-Aug	Jim Gregg	Fly
2.72	6.00	61	R Shannon, Lanesborough	18-Mar	John Millerick	Mackerel

## SEA TROUT

**Record 16 lbs 6 ozs (7.427 kg); Specimen Weight 2.722 kg (6 lbs)**

**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 64$  cm FL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.06	6.74	67	Lough Currane	08-Apr	Eric Jouen	Rapala

Marine Fish 2019

BASS						
Record 17 lbs 13 ozs (8.08 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs) Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold ≥75 cm TL						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.76	10.50	87	Youghal Bay	19-Oct	Donal Domeneay	Crab
L-BS	–	85	Old Bawn Beach, Cahore	13-Jul	Andrew Dempsey	Mackerel Strip
L-BS	–	82	Garryvoe	10-Dec-18	James Raymond	Large Sandeel



Cahore Bass for Andrew Dempsey

BLUEMOUTH						
Record 1.32 kg (2.91 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.9 kg (1.98 lbs) Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold ≥38 cm TL						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.94	2.07	40	Cahersiveen	09-Jul	Tony Tait	Mackerel

## CONGER EEL

**Record 72 lbs (32.658 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)**

**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 165$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	169	Union Hall	08-Jun	Stephen Hurley	Baited Pirk
L-BS	–	168	Cork Harbour	04-Jul	Ken Murphy	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	–	166	Union Hall	08-Jun	Stephen Hurley	Baited Pirk

## BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH

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

**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 67$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	69	Islandmagee	27-Feb	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-BS	–	68	Ballylumford	29-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel

## LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

**Record 4 lbs 4 ozs (1.928 kg); Specimen Weight 1.474 kg (3.25 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.64	3.62	73	Crosshaven	14-Sep	Aidan Lyons (J)	Mackerel
1.47	3.25	77	Cork Harbour	06-Aug-18	Kenneth Murphy	Mackerel Strip



*Lesser Spotted Dogfish  
for Aidan Lyons*

## SPUR DOGFISH

**Record 11.06 kg; Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs)**  
**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 105$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10.42	22.97	122.5	Kerry Head	22-Jun	Philip Barry	Mackerel Fillet
8.85	19.50	120.5	Wicklow	23-Feb	Des Chew	Mackerel
7.89	17.40	116	Wicklow	28-Feb	Dan Smith	Mackerel/Squid
7.71	17.00	115	Galway Bay	06-May	Liam Millerick	Mackerel
7.71	17.00	105.5	Wicklow	30-Dec-18	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
6.99	15.40	111	Wicklow	28-Feb	Dan Smith	Mackerel/Squid
6.97	15.37	110	Kenmare Bay	23-Mar	Nicholas Ward	Mackerel
6.90	15.21	106	Tralee Bay	03-Jul	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel



**Dan Smith**



**Tom Lynch**



**Shore caught Spurdog for Chris O'Sullivan**



**112 cm Downings Spurdog for Joost Spreeuw from the Netherlands**



**SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.90	15.21	108	Tralee Bay	03-Jul	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel
6.86	15.12	107	Kenmare Bay	23-Mar	Nichola Ward (J)	Mackerel
6.80	14.99	110	Kerry Head	14-Jul	David O'Connor	Mackerel Strip
6.62	14.59	108	Tralee Bay	18-Jun	Philip Barry	Mackerel Fillet
6.53	14.40	111	Wicklow	28-Feb	Ken Garry	Mackerel
6.34	13.98	106	Tralee Bay	22-Jun	Joseph Donnelly	Mackerel
6.22	13.71	106	Tralee Bay	18-Jun	Phillip Barry	Mackerel Fillet
6.10	13.45	113.5	Tralee Bay	03-Jul	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel
5.90	13.00	106	Kenmare Bay	23-Mar	David Flynn	Squid
5.90	13.00	106	Wicklow	30-Dec-18	John Millerick	Mackerel
5.85	12.90	109	Wicklow	30-Dec-18	Mike Sherwood	Mackerel
5.67	12.50	108	Wicklow	28-Feb	Dan Smith	Mackerel/Squid
5.67	12.50	111	Wicklow	23-Feb	Des Chew	Mackerel
5.44	12.00	108	Wicklow	31-Dec-18	Niall Burke	Mackerel
L-BS	—	114	Galway Bay	05-Sep	Henk Theulings (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	113.5	Dunmore East	24-Jun	Paul Hoyle	Mackerel
L-BS	—	113.3	Hook Head	24-Jun	Trevor Hylands	Baited Muppet
L-BS	—	113	Dunmore East	24-Jun	Bill Coulter	Baited Feather
L-BS	—	113	Dunmore East	24-Jun	Dario Oliveira	Baited Feather
L-BS	—	113	Off Hook Head	07-Jul	John O'Connor	Baited Muppet
L-BS	—	112.5	Dunmore East	24-Jun	Paul Hoyle	Mackerel
L-BS	—	112	Downings	16-Jun	Joost Spreeuw (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	112	Islandmagee	08-Aug	David Craig	Coalfish
L-BS	—	112	Galway Bay	01-May	Nick Tinnemans (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	111	Galway Bay	06-May	Thomas Lynch	Mackerel

**SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	—	111	Kenmare Bay	12-Mar	Chris O'Sullivan	Mackerel
L-BS	—	110	Downings	22-Jun	Bernard McKeaveney	Mackerel
L-BS	—	110	Islandmagee	29-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	—	110	Islandmagee	27-Feb	David Craig	Coalfish
L-BS	—	110	Islandmagee	27-Feb	Mark Todd	Mackerel
L-BS	—	110	Galway Bay	20-Apr	Darren Kelly	Mackerel
L-BS	—	110	Wicklow	27-Mar	Anthony Kelly	Mackerel
L-BS	—	110	Wicklow	30-Dec-18	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
L-BS	—	110	Wicklow	23-Feb	Des Chew	Mackerel
L-BS	—	110	Wicklow	25-Mar-18	Rob Millard	Mackerel
L-BS	—	109.5	Dunmore East	26-Jun	Manuel Albrecht (D)	Baited Feather
L-BS	—	109	Dunmore East	24-Jun	Dario Oliveira	Baited Muppet
L-BS	—	109	Islandmagee	27-Feb	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-BS	—	109	Wicklow	27-Mar	Anthony Kelly	Mackerel
L-BS	—	109	Galway Bay	08-Jul	Rinus Hage (NL)	Mackerel/Squid
L-BS	—	109	South of Hook Head	05-Jul	Barry Murphy	Mackerel
L-BS	—	108.5	Downings	28-Jun	Hans Dijke (NL)	Mackerel



**105.5 cm Spurdog for Igor Chpak fishing out of Wicklow**



**Nichola Ward with her 6.86 kg Spurdog from Kenmare Bay**



**Galway Bay Spurdog for Rinus Hage**



**Spurdog of 106 cm for Gary Philips**

**SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	—	108.5	Waterford	05-Jul	Eddie Butler	Mackerel Strips
L-BS	—	108	Dunmore East	24-Jun	Cecil Kelly	Baited Feather
L-BS	—	108	Dunmore East	24-Jun	Eamon Deery	Baited Feather
L-BS	—	108	Downings	27-Jun	Robert McMillan	Mackerel Head
L-BS	—	108	Galway Bay	01-May	Nick Tinnemans (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	108	Wicklow	26-Mar	Johnny Foulis	Mackerel
L-BS	—	108	Galway Bay	05-Sep	Maikel Van der Meerakker (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	108	Ballycastle	30-Jun	Paul Smith	Mackerel
L-BS	—	107.5	Dunmore East	26-Jun	John O'Connor	Mackerel
L-BS	—	107.5	Dunmore East	26-Jun	Jakob Blosch (D)	Baited Feather
L-BS	—	107	Dunmore East	26-Jun	John O'Connor	Mackerel
L-BS	—	107	Brandon Bay	01-Aug	Denis Horgan	Mackerel Strip
L-BS	—	107	Galway Bay	01-May	Antoine Romeijnders (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	107	Galway Bay	01-May	Jules Welter (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	107	South of Hook Head	29-May	Barry Murphy	Mackerel
L-BS	—	107	South of Hook Head	05-Jul	Barry Murphy	Mackerel
L-BS	—	106.5	Dunmore East	24-Jun	Bill Coulter	Mackerel

**SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	—	106	Wicklow	30-Dec-18	Gary J Philips	Mackerel
L-BS	—	106	Achill	25-Aug	Danny Sweeney	Feathers
L-BS	—	105.5	Downings	16-Jun	Gert Simmons (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	105.5	Dunmore East	24-Jun	Trevor Hylands	Baited feather
L-BS	—	105.5	Downings	26-Jun	Hans Dijke (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	105.5	Wicklow	30-Dec-18	Igor Chpak	Mackerel
L-BS	—	105	Wicklow	14-Mar	Bert McGregor	Mackerel

**FLOUNDER**

**Record 4.91 lbs (2.227 kg); Specimen Weight 1.1 kg (2.426 lbs)**

**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold ≥45 cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.45	3.20	48	Ballyteigue	18-Nov-18	Sean Ivory	Crab
1.22	2.70	44	Ballyteigue	18-Nov-18	Sean Ivory	Crab
1.11	2.45	44	Youghal	28-Oct	Noel Lane	Crab
L-BS	—	47	Pilmore, Youghal	14-Apr	Eric Gosnell	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	46	Pilmore, Youghal	25-May	James Bryan	Crab
L-BS	—	46	Bannow Bay	15-Aug	Thomas Lynch	Peeler Crab



**Youghal Flounder for  
Noel Lane in late October**



**Albert Allan with his 3.17 kg  
Gilthead Bream from Clonakilty**



**Terry O'Donovan and his  
1.9 kg Gilthead Bream**



*A Clonakilty Bay Gilthead for Nicky McEvoy*



*Eamon Power had three specimen Gilthead Bream in 2018 including this 2.18 kg fish*

## GILTHEAD BREAM

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.17	6.98	46	Clonakilty Bay	25-May	Albert Allan	Lugworm
2.92	6.44	56	Clonakilty Bay	12-May	Jason Convery	Lugworm
2.83	6.25	55	Clonakilty Bay	12-May	Jason Convery	Lugworm
2.81	6.19	57	Clonakilty Bay	23-Jun	Jason Convery	Lugworm
2.72	6.00	55	Clonakilty Bay	02-Jul	Desmond Frazer	Lugworm
2.58	5.69	56	Clonakilty Bay	05-Jun-18	Eamon Power	Ragworm
2.57	5.66	54	Courtmacsherry	09-Jul	Francis McNeilly	Lugworm
2.55	5.62	53	Clonakilty Bay	15-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Lugworm
2.18	4.81	52	Clonakilty Bay	05-Jun-18	Eamon Power	Ragworm
1.90	4.18	48	Clonakilty Bay	09-Jul	Terry O'Donovan	Peeler Crab
1.79	3.94	50.5	Clonakilty Bay	05-Jun-18	Eamon Power	Ragworm
1.59	3.50	48	Clonakilty Bay	01-Jul	Nicky McEvoy	Lugworm



*Ken Murphy had the only specimen Red Gurnard in 2019*



*Downings was the venue for Menno Dubbeld's Tub Gurnard*

## 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
1.19	2.62	47.5	Cork Harbour	25-Jun	Ken Murphy	Mackerel Strip

## TUB GURNARD

Record 12 lbs 3.5 ozs (5.542 kg); Specimen Weight 2 kg (4.41 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.06	4.54	59	Downings	14-Jun	Menno Dubbeld (NL)	Mackerel Fillet

## HAKE

Record 25 lbs 5.5 ozs (11.495 kg); Specimen Weight 2.5 kg (5.51 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.33	9.55	86.4	Cork Harbour	01-Sep-18	Robert Melia	Mackerel



## MEGRIM

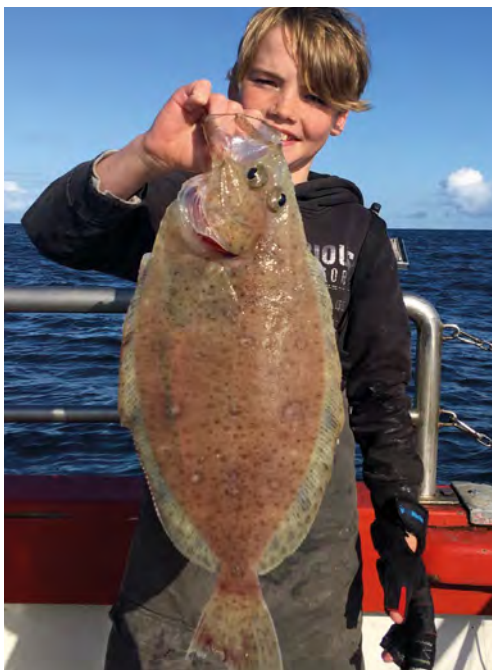
**Record 1.85 kg (4.078 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.794 kg (1.75 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.06	2.34	49	Union Hall	13-Oct	Evan Collins (J)	Mackerel

## 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
3.63	8.00	63	Rosscarbery	24-Apr	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
3.42	7.55	66	Cork Harbour	07-Aug	Jason Phillips	Bread Flake
3.36	7.40	65	Cork Harbour	01-Apr	Stephen O'Neill	Bread Flake



*The only specimen Megril of 2019 fell to Evan Collins*



*A cracking 2.27 kg Thick Lipped Mullet for Amy O'Brien*



*Thick Lipped Mullet for Derick O'Brien*

**THICK LIPPED MULLET 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>
3.33	7.35	61	Cork Harbour	30-Mar	Stephen O'Neill	Bread
3.26	7.19	67	Rosscarbery	26-Mar	Jason Convery	Bread
3.12	6.87	60	Rosscarbery	11-May	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
3.06	6.75	57	Rosscarbery	03-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.86	6.31	59	Rosscarbery	05-Jul	Jason Convery	Bread
2.70	5.95	63	Cork Harbour	18-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Bread Flake
2.61	5.75	61	Cork Harbour	04-Jul-18	Joseph Marsella	Bread Flake
2.59	5.72	61	Rosscarbery	22-Apr	Francis McNeilly	Bread
2.55	5.62	61	Rosscarbery	24-Mar	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.55	5.62	59	Rosscarbery	22-Feb	Jason Convery	Bread
2.53	5.58	58	Rosscarbery	20-Mar	Francis McNeilly	Bread
2.47	5.44	60.5	Rosscarbery	19-Sep	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.47	5.44	58.5	Rosscarbery	24-Mar	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.45	5.40	56	Vartry Estuary	14-Jul	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.39	5.28	55	Rosscarbery	27-Mar	Francis McNeilly	Bread
2.38	5.25	56.8	Rosscarbery	19-Sep	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.38	5.25	54	Kerry Head	17-Sep	Peter Bolger	Mackerel
2.32	5.12	56.5	Rosscarbery	24-Mar	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.32	5.12	58	Rosscarbery	30-Apr	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread
2.30	5.06	58	Rosscarbery	24-May	Gary Blake	Bread
2.30	5.06	55	Wicklow	21-Sep	Dan Smith	Floating Bread
2.29	5.05	57	Wicklow	15-Jul	Brian Cooke	Bread Flake
2.27	5.00	58.8	Rosscarbery	19-Sep	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.27	5.00	57.5	Rosscarbery	20-Sep	Derick O'Brien	Bread
2.27	5.00	59	Rosscarbery	21-Sep	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread



**41 cm Golden Grey Mullet  
for Sidney Kennedy**

## GOLDEN GREY MULLET

**Record 1.52 kg (3.351 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.79	1.75	42.5	Rosscarbery	24-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Maddies
0.71	1.56	41	Rosscarbery	24-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Maddies
0.71	1.56	40	Rosscarbery	24-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Maddies

## THIN LIPPED MULLET

**Record 2.95 kg (6.5 kg); Specimen Weight 1.5 kg (3.31 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.36	5.20	65.5	Cork Harbour	15-Sep	Jason Phillips	Maddies

## RED MULLET

**Record 0.82 kg (1.807 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.4 kg (0.88 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.54	1.19	–	Kilmore Quay	13-Sep	Arthur Beechey (UK)	Bait
0.40	0.88	31.5	Cobh	13-Oct	Shay McDonnell	Ragworm

## HOMELYN RAY

Record 8.28 lbs (3.756 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)

Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 65$  cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	68	Killybegs	19-Jul	David Jolly	Mackerel

## PAINTED RAY

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

Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 80$  cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.81	10.60	81	Ardmore	19-Oct	Peter Bolger	Crab
L-BS	–	81.5	Cork Harbour	27-Aug	Paul Twomey	Mackerel



*The largest Sting Ray in 2019 was caught by Sidney Kennedy*



*Undulate Ray*



*Dan Lynch with his Donegal Bay Scad*

## STING RAY

**Record 33.2 kg (73.19 lbs); Specimen Weight 13 kg (28.66 lbs)**

**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 90$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
22.79	50.25	131	Fenit	25-May	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
13.55	29.87	103	Fenit	20-May	Amy O'Brien (J)	Crab
L-BS	–	126	Tralee Bay	21-Apr	Gary Lowe	Crab
L-BS	–	122	Tralee Bay	15-Jun	James Raymond	Garfish
L-BS	–	102.5	Fenit	24-May	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
L-BS	–	102	Derrymore Strand, Tralee Bay	18-May	Peter Bolger	Crab
L-BS	–	90.5	Fenit	11-May	Sidney Kennedy	Crab

## THORNBACK RAY

**Record 37 lbs (16.782 kg); Specimen Weight 7 kg (15.43 lbs)**

**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 100$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.26	16.00	95	Cork Harbour	22-Oct	Evan McGovern	Mackerel

## UNDULATE RAY

**Record 18 lbs (8.165 kg); Specimen Weight: L-BS only**

**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 85$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	87.5	Fenit	26-May	Amy O'Brien (J)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	87	Fenit	26-May	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel

SCAD						
Record 1.97 lbs (0.894 kg); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.74	1.62	44	Killybegs	20-Jul	Dan Lynch	Feathers

TWAITE SHAD						
Record 1.64 kg; Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.65 lbs) Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold ≥46 cm TL						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.30	2.87	50	R. Barrow, St. Mullins	04-May	Amy O'Brien (J)	Spinner
1.30	2.87	49	St Mullins	02-May	Jim Gregg	Tasmanian Devil
1.28	2.82	50	St Mullins	04-May	Neal Hewitt	Tasmanian Devil
1.25	2.75	–	St Mullins	05-May	Stephehane Hartnett	Spinner
1.24	2.73	47	St Mullins	03-May	Jim Gregg	Tasmanian Devil
1.22	2.69	46	St Mullins	02-May	Neal Hewitt	Tasmanian Devil
1.22	2.69	47	St Mullins	04-May	Jim Gregg	Tasmanian Devil
1.20	2.65	48	St Mullins	02-May	Neal Hewitt	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	–	53	St Mullins	16-May	John Millerick	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	–	52.5	St Mullins	23-May	Oisín MacDomhnaill	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	–	52	St Mullins	12-May	Nicky McEvoy	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	–	51.5	St Mullins	06-May	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	–	49.5	St Mullins	06-May	Christy Lane	Lure
L-BS	–	49	St Mullins	04-May	Derek Greene	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	–	49	St Mullins	04-May	Derek Greene	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	–	49	St Mullins	25-May	John Smyth	Tasmanian Devil





**One of the heaviest Twaite Shad of 2019 fell to  
Stephane Hartnett**



**Derek Greene with his 49 cm Twaite Shad**

### **TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	—	49	St Mullins	21-May	Chris McEleavy	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	49	St Mullins	08-May	David Craig	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	49	St Mullins	17-May	Ken Murphy	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	49	St Mullins	18-May	Thomas Lynch	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	49	St Mullins	14-May	Liam Tully	Lure
L-BS	—	49	St Mullins	22-May	Eoin Leonard	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	48.5	St Mullins	06-May	Barry Murphy	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	48.5	St Mullins	20-May	Chris McEleavy	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	48.5	St Mullins	08-May	David Craig	Tasmanian Devil



**Twaite Shad for Christy Lane**



**Ronan Doherty and his Twaite Shad**

**TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	—	48.5	St Mullins	08-May	Philip Connolly	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	48.5	St Mullins	17-May	John O'Sullivan	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	48.5	St Mullins	17-May	Ken Murphy	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	48.5	St Mullins	18-May	Thomas Lynch	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	48.5	St Mullins	05-May	Sidney Kennedy	Spinner
L-BS	—	48	St Mullins	13-May	Harold Bailey	Sprat Lure
L-BS	—	48	St Mullins	22-Apr	Duncan Cole	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	48	St Mullins	25-May	Ronan Doherty	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	48	St Mullins	06-Apr	Eddie Butler	Lure
L-BS	—	48	St Mullins	17-May	Gavin McNeill	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	48	St Mullins	05-May	Derick O'Brien	Spinner
L-BS	—	48	St Mullins	16-May	Oisin MacDomhnaill	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	48	St Mullins	18-May	Sofia Marsella (J)	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	48	St Mullins	16-May	Joseph Marsella	Psycho Sprat
L-BS	—	47.5	St Mullins	21-May	Patrick Foster	Lure
L-BS	—	47.5	St Mullins	15-May	Philip Barry	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47.5	St Mullins	20-May	Eric Gosnell	Tasmanian Devil

**Harold Bailey****Shad for Eoin Leonard****Sofia Marsella with one of her two Shad in 2019**

**Ken Murphy****Oisín MacDomhnaill****John O'Sullivan****TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	—	47.5	St Mullins	20-May	Eric Gosnell	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47.5	St Mullins	16-May	Terry Jackson	Lure
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	06-May	Keith Buckley	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	06-May	Pat Foster	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	04-May	Derek Greene	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	20-May	Eric Gosnell	Lure
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	22-Apr	Duncan Cole	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	21-Apr	Duncan Cole	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	17-May	Colin Albert (UK)	Lure
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	20-May	Chris McEleavy	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	17-May	David Craig	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	17-May	Gavin McNeill	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	21-May	Brian Cooke	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	22-May	Philip Connolly	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	17-May	Ken Murphy	Tasmanian devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	04-May	John O'Donoghue	Spinner

TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	11-May	Derick O’Brien	Spinner
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	05-May	Amy O’Brien (J)	Spinner
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	03-May	Craig Murphy	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	22-May	Eoin Leonard	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	22-May	Oisín MacDomhnaill	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	22-May	Sofia Marsella (J)	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	47	St Mullins	16-May	Joseph Marsella	Psycho Sprat
L-BS	—	46.5	St Mullins	06-May	Barry Murphy	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	46.5	St Mullins	21-May	Dan Smith	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	46.5	St Mullins	04-Jun	Eddie Butler	Lure
L-BS	—	46.5	St Mullins	17-May	Gavin McNeill	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	46.5	St Mullins	21-May	Brian Cooke	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	46.5	St Mullins	13-May	Philip Connolly	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	46.5	St Mullins	17-May	John O’Sullivan	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	46.5	St Mullins	15-May	Thomas Lynch	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	46.5	St Mullins	22-May	Eoin Leonard	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	46	St Mullins	20-May	Harold Bailey	Sprat Lure
L-BS	—	46	St Mullins	14-May	Dan Smith	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	46	St Mullins	25-May	John Smyth	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	46	St Mullins	04-May	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	46	St Mullins	04-May	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
L-BS	—	46	St Mullins	05-May	Sidney Kennedy	Spinner
L-BS	—	46	St Mullins	05-May	Derick O’Brien	Spinner
L-BS	—	46	St Mullins	16-May	John Millerick	Tasmanian Devil



*Impressive south-east coast Porbeagle Shark for Gary Blake*

## BLUE SHARK

**Record 206 lbs (93.44 kg); Specimen Weight 45.359 kg (100 lbs)**  
**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 185$  cm FL**

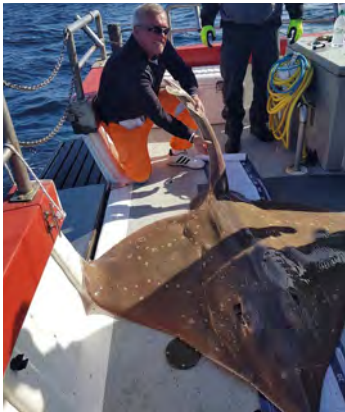
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	186	Galway Bay	07-Sep	John Ebbs	Mackerel
L-BS	–	190	Kilmore Quay - 20nm South	24-Aug	John Stevenson	Mackerel

## PORBEAGLE SHARK

**Record 365 lbs (93.44 kg); Specimen Weight: L-BS only**  
**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 180$  cm FL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	190.5	Union Hall	08-Sep	Gary Blake	Whiting





*Colin Benson with his 213 cm Common Skate fishing out of Union Hall*



*September Common Skate for Evan Collins*

COMMON SKATE

Record 221 lbs (100.24 kg); Specimen Weight: L-BS only  
Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold ≥180 cm TL

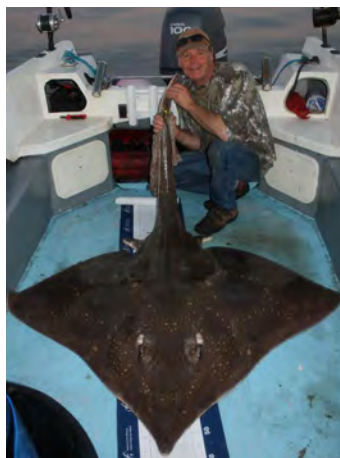
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	-	222.5	Baltimore	07-Jul	Amy O’Brien (J)	Mackerel
L-BS	-	216	Union Hall	24-May	Karl O’Donovan	Pollack
L-BS	-	215	Union Hall	21-Jun	David Flynn	Mackerel
L-BS	-	215	Islandmagee	14-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	-	214	Union Hall	01-Jun	Gary Blake	Mackerel
L-BS	-	214	Portrush	12-Sep	Carlo Driessen (NL)	Coalfish
L-BS	-	213	Union Hall	11-Sep	Colin Benson (UK)	Ling
L-BS	-	212	Union Hall	14-Jul	Ab Kouwenhoven (NL)	Coalfish
L-BS	-	210	Union Hall	07-Sep	Evan Collins (J)	Ling
L-BS	-	209	Portrush	27-Apr	Andy Knox	Whiting
L-BS	-	207	Union Hall	06-Jun	Matthew Gardiner	Ling
L-BS	-	204	Courtmacsherry	13-Jan	Rob Millard	Mackerel
L-BS	-	203.5	Belfast Lough	24-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip

**COMMON SKATE CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	-	202	Crosshaven	05-Jul-18	John O'Sullivan	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	-	201.5	Downings	28-Jun	Rinus Hage (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	-	200	Union Hall	26-Jul	Jason Convery	Mackerel Fillet
L-BS	-	198	Islandmagee	10-Jul	David Craig	Coalfish
L-BS	-	198	Belfast Lough	14-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel/Coalfish
L-BS	-	197	Union Hall	30-Jun	Raynor Van Schaill (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	-	196	Islandmagee	27-Feb	Mark Todd	Coalfish
L-BS	-	194	Union Hall	03-Jun	Evan Collins (J)	Pollack
L-BS	-	194	Cork Harbour	25-Aug	Paul Ross	Mackerel
L-BS	-	193.5	Cork Harbour	13-Sep	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel
L-BS	-	193	Cork Harbour	25-Aug	Robert Vaughan	Mackerel
L-BS	-	192	Union Hall	06-Jun	Cian Collins	Pollack
L-BS	-	192	Union Hall	20-Jun	Conor Ward	Mackerel
L-BS	-	190	Larne Lough	26-Aug	Derick O'Brien	Mackerel
L-BS	-	188	Union Hall	14-Jul	Evan McGovern	Mackerel



**Maurice Cott**  
and his Union  
Hall Common  
Skate



**Terry Jackson**  
had three  
specimen  
Common  
Skate from  
Belfast Lough

COMMON SKATE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	186	Islandmagee	10-Jun	Mark Todd	Mackerel
L-BS	–	186	Islandmagee	29-Jul	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-BS	–	186	North Channel	27-Feb	David McCormick	Mackerel
L-BS	–	185	Crosshaven	05-Jul-18	Kenneth Murphy	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	–	183	Islandmagee	27-Feb	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-BS	–	183	Union Hall	17-Jun	Maurice Cott	Mackerel/Pollack
L-BS	–	181	Union Hall	03-Jun	Clinton Rachman	Pollack
L-BS	–	180	Union Hall	17-Jun	Evan McGovern	Mackerel/Coalfish
L-BS	–	180	Union Hall	30-Jun	Robin Van der Meer (NL)	Pollack & Mackerel
L-BS	–	>180	Ballylumford	09-Jan	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-BS	–	>180	Islandmagee	14-Jul	David Craig	Coalfish
L-BS	–	>180	Islandmagee	12-May	Mark Todd	Coalfish
L-BS	–	>180	Belfast Lough	14-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-BS	–	>180	Portrush	22-Jun	Joanne Knox	Coalfish

SMOOTH-HOUND

Record 11.27 kg (24.846 kg); Specimen Weight 4 kg (8.82 lbs)  
Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold ≥100 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9.97	21.98	122	Wicklow	23-Jun	William Roche	Crab
8.79	19.37	118	Wicklow	13-Jul	Darren Kelly	Crab
8.16	18.00	128	Wicklow	30-Jun	Dan Smith	Crab
7.17	15.80	110	Wicklow	21-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Peeler Crab
7.17	15.80	106	Wicklow	22-Jun	Evan McGovern	Crab



**110 cm Smooth Hound for Robert Millard**



**6.27 kg Smooth Hound for Terry Jackson**

**SMOOTH-HOUND CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.03	15.50	113	Wicklow	01-Jun	Brian Cooke	Peeler Crab
6.99	15.40	116	Wicklow	21-Jun	Kit Dunne	Crab
6.58	14.50	105	Wicklow	20-Jul	Robert Reynolds	Crab
6.44	14.20	109	Wicklow	21-Jun	Des Chew	Crab
6.41	14.12	105.5	Wickow	04-Jul	Sean Byrne	Hardback Crab
6.35	14.00	106	Wicklow	22-Jun	Shane Flynn	Crab
6.27	13.81	107.5	Wicklow	04-Jul	Terry Jackson	Crab
6.17	13.60	110	Wicklow	24-Jun	John Millerick	Crab
6.01	13.25	109	Wicklow	21-Jun	Belinda Kennedy	Crab
5.84	12.87	110	Wicklow	23-Jun	Terry Jackson	Crab



**Samantha Savage with her 4.04 kg Smooth Hound**



**118 cm Smooth Hound for John Hughes from Dublin Bay**

**SMOOTH HOUND CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.67	12.50	104	Wicklow	06-Jun	Des Chew	Crab
5.67	12.50	105	Wicklow	07-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
5.62	12.40	107	Wicklow	08-Jul	Dan Smith	Crab
5.44	12.00	103	Wicklow	08-Jun	Fionn Doyle	Squid
5.44	12.00	105.5	Wicklow	21-Jun	Kit Dunne	Crab
5.44	11.99	102.5	Wicklow	19-Jun	Stephen Hanway	Crab
5.17	11.40	98	Wicklow	21-Jun	Kit Dunne	Crab
5.16	11.38	102	Wicklow	24-Jun	David Craig	Crab
5.08	11.20	107	Wicklow	21-Jun	Patrick Fagan	Crab
5.03	11.10	102	Wicklow	10-Jun	Mike Wheeler	Crab
5.00	11.02	103.5	Wicklow	21-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Peeler Crab
4.99	11.00	101.5	Wicklow	19-Jun	Stephen Hanway	Crab
4.76	10.50	103	Wicklow	07-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Crab
4.67	10.30	107	Wicklow	16-Jun	Collie Ennis	Peeler Crab
4.65	10.25	102	Wicklow	23-Jun	Terry Jackson	Crab
4.65	10.25	110	Wicklow	05-Jul	Derick O'Brien	Crab
4.63	10.20	100	Wicklow	08-Jul	Dan Smith	Crab
4.54	10.00	106	Wicklow	24-Jun	John Millerick	Crab
4.42	9.75	100	Wicklow	05-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Crab



**Jiri Bednar from the Czech Republic with a Wicklow Smooth Hound**



**Robbie Coughlan with a 101 cm Smooth Hound**





**Shane Callaghan**



**Gary Mulvaney - 101 cm Smooth Hound**



**Alan Buckley, Kit Dunne & Pat Shortt at Wicklow**



**4.31 kg Smooth Hound for Thomas Mc Eleron**



**Laurence Rogers with his 102 cm fish**



**Kevin McClean**



**9.97 kg Smooth Hound, just before release, for William Roche from Wicklow in June**



**Nigel Mc Bride with his 117 cm Smooth Hound**



Dubliner Alex Kelly with his 106 cm Smooth Hound      A 113 cm fish for Jessica McBride

SMOOTH HOUND CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.37	9.62	98	Wicklow	18-Jun	Robert Reid	Peeler Crab
4.31	9.50	102	Wicklow	24-Jun	John Millerick	Crab
4.31	9.50	95	Wicklow	16-Jun	Thomas McEleron	Crab
4.30	9.48	96	Wicklow	03-Jul	Philip Connolly	Crab
4.13	9.10	98	Wicklow	02-Jun	Brian Byrne	Peeler Crab
4.08	9.00	98	Wicklow	21-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Crab
4.08	9.00	94.5	Wicklow	21-Jun	Amy O'Brien (J)	Mackerel
4.08	9.00	96	Wicklow	10-Jun	Peter Schiffer (D)	Crab
4.06	8.95	98.5	Wicklow	07-Jun	Brian Cooke	Peeler Crab
4.04	8.90	93	Wicklow	24-Jun	Samantha Savage	Crab
4.01	8.85	97	Wicklow	07-Jun	Brian Cooke	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	128	Wicklow	23-Jun	Peter Flahive	Crab
L-BS	—	127	Wicklow	03-Jul	David Tully	Crab
L-BS	—	122	Tramore	04-May	Joe Aylward	Crab
L-BS	—	118	Greystones	08-Jun	John Hughes	Crab
L-BS	—	117	Wicklow	09-Jun	Nigel McBride	Crab
L-BS	—	115	Wicklow	09-Jun	Jessica McBride	Crab

**SMOOTH HOUND CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	—	114	Wicklow	09-Jun	Frank Hall	Hard Crab
L-BS	—	113	Wicklow	28-May	Craig Murphy	Crab
L-BS	—	113	Wicklow	15-Jun	Allard Van Dijk (NL)	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	113	Wicklow	09-Jun	Jessica McBride	Crab
L-BS	—	112.5	Wicklow	13-Jun	Craig Murphy	Crab
L-BS	—	112	Wicklow	09-Jun	Desmond Frazer	Crab
L-BS	—	111	Wicklow	13-Jun	Allard Van Dijk (NL)	Crab
L-BS	—	110	Greystones	09-Jun	Rob Millard	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	110	Wicklow	21-Jun	Bert McGregor	Crab
L-BS	—	110	Wicklow	08-Jun	J.J. Ryan	Squid
L-BS	—	110	Wicklow	08-Jun	Hughie Meehan	Crab
L-BS	—	106	Wicklow	25-Jun	David Craig	Crab
L-BS	—	106	Wicklow	24-Jun	Alex Kelly (J)	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	106	Greystones	29-Jun	David Flood	Mackerel
L-BS	—	106	Wicklow	08-Jun	Alan Buckley	Crab
L-BS	—	106	Wicklow	25-Jun	Desmond Frazer	Crab
L-BS	—	106	Wicklow	18-Jun	Eamon Power	Hard crab
L-BS	—	105	Wicklow	21-Jun	Bert McGregor	Crab
L-BS	—	105	Wicklow	09-Jun	Craig Murphy	Crab
L-BS	—	105	Tramore	04-Jun	Jimmy Kelly	Crab
L-BS	—	105	Wicklow	01-Jun	Jiri Bednar (CZ)	Crab
L-BS	—	105	Wicklow	08-Jun	Pat Shortt	Crab
L-BS	—	105	Wicklow	08-Jun	Pat Shortt	Crab
L-BS	—	105	Wicklow	18-Jun	Robert Reid	Crab
L-BS	—	105	Wicklow	23-Jun	Stephen Hurley	Crab

**SMOOTH HOUND CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	—	104	Wicklow	6-Jul	Rob McClean	Crab
L-BS	—	104	Wicklow	20-Jul	Peter Flahive	Crab
L-BS	—	104	Wicklow	01-Jun	Dave Cashen	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	103.5	Bray Head	08-Jun	John Hughes	Crab
L-BS	—	103.5	Wicklow	10-Jun	Allard Van Dijk (NL)	Crab
L-BS	—	103	Wicklow	24-Jun	Darren Kelly	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	103	Wicklow	22-Jun	Evan McGovern	Crab
L-BS	—	103	Wicklow	15-Jun	Gavin Moran	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	103	Wicklow	3-Jul	Rob McClean	Crab
L-BS	—	103	Wicklow	23-Jun	Kevin McClean	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	102.5	Wicklow	13-Jul	Gary McGee	Crab
L-BS	—	102.5	Bray Head	08-Jun	John Hughes	Crab
L-BS	—	102.5	Wicklow	06-Jul	Gavin Moran	Peeler Crab



*The second heaviest Smooth Hound of 2019 fell to Darren Kelly*

**SMOOTH HOUND CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	—	102	Wicklow	12-May	Rob McClean	Crab
L-BS	—	102	Tramore Bay	04-Jun	Jimmy Kelly	Crab
L-BS	—	102	Wicklow	05-Jun	Shane Callaghan	Crab
L-BS	—	102	Wicklow	10-Jun	Anne Hooijenga (NL)	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	102	Wicklow	23-Jun	Laurence Rogers	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	102	Wicklow	23-Jun	Kevin McClean	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	101	Greystones	15-Jun	Pat Kirwan	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	101	Wicklow	06-Jun	Bert McGregor	Crab
L-BS	—	101	Wicklow	01-Jun	Craig Dunne	Crab
L-BS	—	101	Wicklow	09-Jun	Robbie Coughlan	Crab
L-BS	—	101	Wicklow	05-Jun	Gary Mulvany	Crab
L-BS	—	101	Wicklow	22-Jun	Evan McGovern	Crab
L-BS	—	100.5	Wicklow	24-Jun	James Kelly	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	100.5	Wicklow	11-May	Robert Carcoba	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	100.5	Wicklow	03-Jul	Gavin Moran	Peeler Crab
L-BS	—	100.5	Wicklow	18-Jun	Desmond Frazer	Crab
L-BS	—	100	Wicklow	03-Jul	Liam Tully	Crab

**STONE BASSE****Record 11.72 lbs (5.316kg); Specimen Weight 3.628 kg (8 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.70	8.15	56	Cork Harbour	24-Sep	Stephen O'Neill	Mackerel





161 cm Tope from Wicklow for Mike Wheeler



Greystones Tope for Rob Millard

TOPE						
Record 34.019 kg (75 lbs); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs) Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold ≥160 cm TL						
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
23.59	52.00	167	Kilmore Quay	14-Jul	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
21.77	48.00	160	Greystones	25-Sep	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
20.41	45.00	156	Greystones	13-Sep	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
20.38	44.93	158	Islandmagee	01-Dec-18	David Craig	Coalfish
20.18	44.50	159	Greystones	25-Sep	Gerard Kelly	Mackerel
19.50	43.00	161	Greystones	08-Aug	Sean Byrne	Mackerel
19.32	42.59	156	Islandmagee	25-Sep	Peter Ross	Coalfish
19.05	42.00	156	Wicklow	12-Jul	Gary Blake	Mackerel
L-BS	–	166	Saltees Sound	24-Jun	Steve Adams (UK)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	166	Saltee Islands	25-Jul	Henk Theulings (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	166	Greystones	25-Sep	Pat Kirwan	Mackerel Fillet
L-BS	–	166	Greystones	29-Jun	Clyde McElwaine	Mackerel
L-BS	–	164	Greystones	07-Aug	Rob Millard	Mackerel

**TOPE CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	—	164	Greystones	15-Sep	Conor McElwaine	Mackerel
L-BS	—	163	Greystones	04-Jul	Pat Kirwan	Mackerel Fillet
L-BS	—	162	Bray	29-Jul	Basim Duval	Mackerel
L-BS	—	161	Greystones	06-Jul	Pat Kirwan	Mackerel Fillet
L-BS	—	161	Wicklow	14-Jun	Mike Wheeler (D)	Mackerel
L-BS	—	160	Howth	09-Jul	Shay McDonnell	Mackerel



*Basim Duval with his 162 cm Tope from Bray*



*1.62 kg Trigger Fish for Sarah Lynch in August*

## TRIGGER FISH

**Record 2.54 kg (5.6 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.474 kg (3.25 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.04	4.50	56	Bantry Bay	22-Aug	Dan Lynch	Crab
1.62	3.56	48	Bantry Bay	22-Aug	Sarah Lynch	Crab

# Ballan Wrasse Specimen Gallery



*Sidney Kennedy*



*Ronan Doherty*



*Gary Blake*



*Terry Jackson at Slea Head in September*



*John O'Sullivan at Kinsale*

## BALLAN WRASSE

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

**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 48$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.81	6.20	55	Slea Head, Dingle	06-Jul	Gary Blake	Crab
2.55	5.62	52	Slea Head	15-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
2.38	5.25	50	Slea Head	18-Sep	Terry Jackson	Crab
2.38	5.25	51	Slea Head	15-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
2.32	5.12	49	Slea Head	30-Jul	Ronan Doherty	Peeler Crab
2.18	4.81	48	Sligo Bay	06-Jul	Ronan Doherty	Peeler Crab
L-BS	–	50	Galway Bay	20-Oct	Ger Heenan	Ragworm
L-BS	–	49.5	Slea Head	01-Aug	Ronan Doherty	Peeler Crab
L-BS	–	48.5	Kinsale	28-Jul	John O’Sullivan	Crab
L-BS	–	48.5	Slea Head	15-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
L-BS	–	48	Kinsale	28-Jul	John O’Sullivan	Crab

## CUCKOO WRASSE

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

**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 35$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.74	1.62	37.5	Larne Lough	25-Aug	Derick O’Brien	Mackerel
L-BS	–	37	Islandmagee	08-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	–	37	Larne Lough	25-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip
L-BS	–	36.5	Larne Lough	25-Aug	Derick O’Brien	Mackerel
L-BS	–	36.4	Islandmagee	21-Oct	David Craig	Mackerel

CUCKOO WRASSE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	36	Larne Lough	25-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip
L-BS	–	36	Larne Lough	25-Aug	Derick O’Brien	Mackerel
L-BS	–	36	Islandmagee	21-Oct	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	–	36	Cork Harbour	15-Jun	Robert Vaughan	Mackerel
L-BS	–	35	Larne Lough	08-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip
L-BS	–	35	Larne Lough	25-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
L-BS	–	35	Larne Lough	25-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel



A 36cm Cuckoo Wrasse for Robert Vaughan



# Special Notices

## CLOSING DATE FOR SPECIMEN CLAIMS

Fully completed claims must be submitted by **31st October** each year. A charge of €10 applies for each claim (Shad and Cyprinids) submitted for genetic analysis.

## NEW AWARD

New Award from 2020 onwards – Best Length-based Specimen – for the fish which represents the greatest percentage of the threshold length for all eligible length-only species.

## SPECIMEN WEIGHT & LENGTH REVISIONS

All listed species were reviewed in 2019 - details of changes for 2020 in table below. FL refers to Fork Length; TL refers to Total Length.

Species	Current Threshold	Revised	Status
Coalfish	6.804 kg	6 kg ≥ 86 cm TL	Reduced weight & added length based option
Cod	8.0 kg	7 kg ≥ 88 cm TL	Reduced weight & added length based option
Dab	-	≥ 37 cm TL	Added length based option
Haddock	-	≥ 63 cm TL	Added length based option
Hake	2.5 kg	2.2 kg ≥ 68 cm TL	Reduced weight & added length based option
Plaice	-	≥ 48 cm TL	Added length based option
Pollack	-	≥ 82 cm TL	Added length based option
Smoothound	4.0 kg	4.5 kg ≥ 103 cm TL	Increased weight & threshold length
Tope	≥ 160 cm TL	≥ 155 cm TL	Reduced threshold length
Twaite Shad	≥ 46 cm TL	≥ 48 cm TL	Increased threshold length

## 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 (1 lb 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.

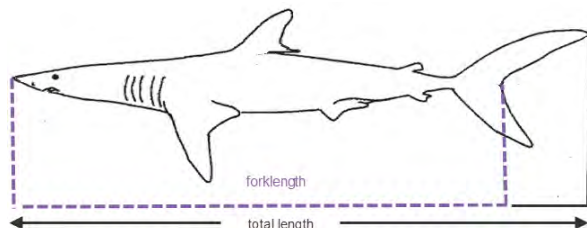
**Length-based claim procedure:** Claims must be made on current form and angler **MUST** specify if length-based.

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

- (a) Photograph(s) showing fish placed belly down (elasmobranchs) or side down (all other species) on a 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.

- (b) 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. All freshwater species should be measured to forklength (FL). All marine species must be given as total length (TL) except Blue and Porbeagle Shark (both FL).

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 (b) 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 is 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.

## 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 on the next page).

Only three claims may be submitted for any combination of Shad (i.e. Shad or suspected Shad Hybrids).

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.

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 (*Mustelus asterias*) and three bearded rockling (*Gaidropsarus vulgaris*) (from 1983), garfish (*Belone svetovidovi*) (from 1986), torsk (*Brosme brosme*) (from 1988), trigger fish (*Balistes carolinensis*) (from 1992), bluemouth (*Helicolenus dactylopterus*) (from 2002), albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) (from 2002), golden grey mullet (*Liza aurata* (Risso)) (from 2005), gilthead bream (*Sparus aurata* L.) (from 2007), 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

Streaked Gurnard *Chelidonichthys lastoviza* (Bonnaterre, 1788), measuring 34.6 cm (TL) and weighing 548 g captured by Joe Cooney on 20 September 2019 within the confines of Cork Harbour, near Roches Point, Co. Cork. Considered a rare species north of the English Channel (Maitland & Herdson, undated) this species has been recorded occasionally by anglers in recent years in Irish waters, particularly in the south-east. The current British record is 637 g (1971, L Goil, Scotland).



Reference: Maitland, P.S. & Herdson, D., Key to the Marine and Freshwater Fishes of Britain and Ireland: (480 pp, Environment Agency).



PRESENTATION OF 2018 AWARDS

Glenda Powell, one of the world’s leading fly casting instructors and a global angling guide based on the River Blackwater (Munster), made the Annual Presentation of Specimen Awards at the Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport on 16 February 2019.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Special acknowledgements:** Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) continues to support and provide other services to the ISFC and is sincerely acknowledged. Bridie Fleming, who has retired from IFI, continues to support ISFC activity and her contribution continues to be very valuable. Sincere thanks to Myles Kelly, IFI and ISFC web manager, for his input throughout 2019 and ISFC auditors Michael Martin (IFI) and Hugh O’Rorke. 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 IFI staff 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 team at UCD has significantly advanced ISFC fish identification procedures. Alan McGurdy kindly wrote an article for this report and is gratefully acknowledged for his contribution.

**Photographs:** The majority of photographs in this report are taken by anglers. Anglers, charter skippers, fisheries staff and journalists are acknowledged for their photographs.



Homelyn Ray Total Length



Smooth Hound on IFI measuring mat

**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)		
<b>2000</b>	403	41	48	13	1	0	2	508
<b>2001</b>	427	28	37	5	4	3	4	508
<b>2002</b>	471	23	43	7	6	2	7	559
<b>2003</b>	384	63	41	11	13	4	5	521
<b>2004</b>	412	48	38	3	9	4	4	518
<b>2005</b>	432	62	52	10	7	4	1	568
<b>2006</b>	351	44	42	2	10	0	2	449
<b>2007</b>	424	56	28	6	12	2	2	530
<b>2008</b>	429	46	23	1	3	0	0	502
<b>2009</b>	470	39	15	5	0	0	2	531
<b>2010</b>	521	45	26	6	5	1	3	607
<b>2011</b>	519	50	14	0	3	0	1	587
<b>2012</b>	578	40	18	2	1	0	1	640
<b>2013</b>	536	41	11	5	1	0	1	595
<b>2014</b>	476	23	15	1	7	2	2	526
<b>2015</b>	422	12	8	0	4	0	1	447
<b>2016</b>	416	45	10	2	9	0	3	485
<b>2017</b>	346	22	8	—	2	—	4	382
<b>2018</b>	374	10	6	1	—	1	1	393
<b>2019</b>	480	22	6	4	—	—	1	513

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS

ISFC Expenditure & Revenue Account 1/1/2018 – 31/12/2018

2017	Expenditure	2018	2017	Revenue		2018
€		€	€		€	€
				Balance b/f from 2017		18071.51
	Administration Cost	1400.00		Grants		
788.08	Awards	323.97	4500	IFI Donation	4500.00	
293.09	Awards Day Expenses	440.00		Government Contribution	3500.00	
34.71	Fees & Stamp Duty	34.18		Payments		
75.05	Meeting Expenses	92.00		DNA Payment	170.00	
	Miscellaneous	98.90		Donations		
3588.29	Printing	4655.68	875.77	Angler Donation	1223.37	
				Angler Donation (Paypal)	1074.57	
	Total	7044.73			10467.94	10467.94
	Balance c/d	21494.72				
		28539.45				28539.45
				Balance b/d		21494.72

"The ISFC has prepared a revenue and expenditure account for 12 months ended 31st December 2018 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:



M. Martin & 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 2019 were:

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI); Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA); Delphi Fishery; **Peter Bolger**, Coolock, Dublin 17; **Ronan Doherty**, Glenageary, Co. Dublin; **Donal Domeney**, Cork City; **Kit Dunne**, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow; **Patrick Fagan**, Crumlin, Dublin 12; **Eric Gosnell**, Blackrock, Cork; **Jim Gregg**, Antrim, BT41 1EY; **Edward Howard**, Ballinacurra, Co Cork; **Terry Jackson**, Kircubbin, BT22 2SQ, Co Down; **Christy Lane**, Dillons Cross, Cork City; **Noel Lane**, Mayfield, Cork; **Thomas Lynch**, Rush, Co. Dublin; **Nicholas McEvoy**, Waterford City; **Bert McGregor**, St. Margaret's, Co. Dublin; **W. F. McLaughlin**, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, BT49 OSD; **Francis McNeilly**, Downpatrick, Co. Down BT309BS; **Karl O'Leary**, Raheen, Limerick; **Joey O'Neill**, Maherafelt, Derry; **Stephen O'Neill**, Ferndale, Carrigaline, Co. Cork; **Jason Philips**, Whitegate, Co. Cork; **Paul Philips**, B 2811 Hombeek-Mechelen, Belgium; **Frank Prendergast**, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry; **Dan Smith**, Walkinstown, D12R8K6.



*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 Bream	1.46 kg	17.9.2008	Kilmore Quay	Gordon Thornes
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.)**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Weight</b>		<b>Date of Capture</b>	<b>Place of Capture</b>	<b>Captor</b>
	<b>lbs</b>	<b>ozs</b>			
Tub Gurnard	12	3.5	8.8.1973	Bullsmouth, Achill	Robert Seaman
Grey Gurnard	3	1	21.9.1967	Rosslare Bay	Brendan Walsh
Red Gurnard	3	9.5	17.7.1968	Belmullet	James Prescott
Haddock	5.39	kg	21.2.2010	Union Hall	Tony Santry
Hake	25	5.5	28.4.1962	Belfast Lough	H. W. Steele
Halibut	156		23.7.1972	Belmullet	Frank Brogan
Herring	0.48	kg	17.9.2011	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Hamish Currie
John Dory	7	8	12.8.1984	Killala Bay	Cleona Walkin
Ling	55		3.1.2004	Cork Harbour	Ailbhe O'Sullivan
Mackerel	4	2	18.9.1979	Ballycotton	Ulrich Plassmann (D)
Megrim	1.85	kg	26.7.1987	Killala	Paul Hennigan
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	1.52		15.8.2018	Cork Harbour	Stephen O'Neill
Thin Lipped Mullet	2.95		15.7.2018	Cork Harbour	Noel Lane
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	34.02		3.10.2018	Greystones	Stephen Hanway
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 AND LENGTHS**

(revisions for 2019 in bold)

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		LENGTH BASED SPECIMEN	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs		
FRESHWATER FISH						
Bream ( <i>Abramis brama</i> )	6.07 kg		3.402	7.5		—
Carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> )	14.24 kg		5.9	13		—
Dace ( <i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i> )	1	2	0.3	0.66		Scales & photos
Eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	6	15	suspended from ISFC listing			
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	5	8	1.2	2.646		—
Pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> ) (Lake)	42	12	13.608	30	≥115cm Fork Length	—
Pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> ) (River)	42		9.072	20	≥100cm Fork Length	—
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	0.8	1.76		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	≥90cm Fork Length	Scales
Brown Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> ) (Lake)	26	2	4.536	10	≥75cm Fork Length	Scales
Brown Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> ) (River)	20		2.268	5	≥57cm Fork Length	Scales
Sea Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	16	6	2.722	6	≥64cm Fork Length	Scales
Slob Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	—		4.536	10		Scales
* for genetic profiling						
SEA FISH						
Angel Shark (aka Monkfish) ( <i>Squatina squatina</i> )	73		No Specimen Weight		≥125cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Angler Fish ( <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> )	42.985 kg		8.0	17.64		Body†
Bass ( <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> )	17	13	4.536	10	≥75cm Total Length	—
Black Sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> )	6.32		0.6	1.32		—
Black Bream ( <i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</i> )	1.46 kg		0.79	1.75	≥36cm Total Length	Body†
Bluemouth ( <i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i> )	1.32 kg		0.9	1.98	≥38 m Total Length	Photo
Brill ( <i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i> )	9	8	1.6	3.53		Body†
Coalfish ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )	15.1 kg		6.0	13.23	≥86cm Total Length	Photo
Cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> )	42		7.0	15.43	≥88cm Total Length	—
Conger eel ( <i>Conger conger</i> )	72		18.144	40	≥165cm Total Length	—

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		LENGTH BASED SPECIMEN	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs		
Dab ( <i>Limanda limanda</i> )	2	5.5	0.6	1.32	≥37cm Total Length	Body†
Dogfish – Blackmouthed ( <i>Galeus melastomus</i> )	1.33 kg		1.0	2.205	≥67cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Dogfish – Lesser Spotted ( <i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i> )	4	4	1.474	3.25		Photo on measuring mat
Dogfish – Greater Spotted ( <i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i> )	23	13	7.257	16	≥125cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Dogfish – Spur ( <i>Squalus acanthias</i> )	11.06 kg		5.443	12	≥105cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Flounder ( <i>Platichthys flesus</i> )	4.91		1.1	2.426	≥45cm Total Length	Body†
Garfish ( <i>Belone belone</i> )	1.729 kg		1.0	2.205	≥89cm Total Length	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 & 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	2.0	4.41		Photo (pectoral fins must be fully expanded)
Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> )	5.39 kg		2.5	5.51	≥63cm Total Length	–
Hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> )	25	5.5	2.2	4.85	≥68cm Total Length	–
Halibut ( <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i> )	156		12.0	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†
Mullet – Grey, thick lipped ( <i>Chelon labrosus</i> )	9.1		2.268	5		Body†
Mullet – Golden Grey ( <i>Liza aurata</i> )	1.52 kg		0.68	1.5		Body†
Mullet – Thin Lipped ( <i>Liza ramada</i> )	2.95 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		1.2	2.65	≥48cm Total Length	–
Pollack ( <i>Pollachius pollachius</i> )	19	3	5.443	12	≥82cm Total Length	Photo
Pouting ( <i>Trisopterus luscus</i> )	4	13.5	1.361	3		–
Ray – Blonde ( <i>Raja brachyura</i> )	37		11.34	25	≥100cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Cuckoo ( <i>Raja naevus</i> )	5	11	1.6	3.53	≥63cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Electric ( <i>Torpedo nobiliana</i> )	40 kg		9.072	20		Photo on measuring mat

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		LENGTH BASED SPECIMEN	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs		
Ray – Homelyn ( <i>Raja montagui</i> )	8.28		2.268	5	≥65 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Painted ( <i>Raja microocellata</i> )	17.21		4.536	10	≥80 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Sting ( <i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i> )	33.2 kg		13.0	28.66	≥90 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Thornback ( <i>Raja clavata</i> )	37		7.0	15.43	≥100 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Undulate ( <i>Raja undulata</i> )	18		No Specimen Weight		≥85cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray's Bream ( <i>Brama brama</i> )	6	4.25	2.0	4.41		Body†
Red Sea Bream ( <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> )	9	6	1.0	2.205		–
Rockling, Three Bearded ( <i>Gaidropsarus vulgaris</i> )	3	1	0.794	1.75		Body†
Scad ( <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> )	1.97		0.680	1.5		Body†
Shad – Allis ( <i>Alosa alosa</i> )	–		1.814	4		Scales
Shad – Twaiter ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> )	1.64 kg		1.2	2.65	≥48 cm TL	Scales
Shark – Blue ( <i>Prionace glauca</i> )	206		45.359	100	≥185cm Fork Length	Photo on measuring mat
Shark – Mako ( <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> )	–		90.718	200		Photo on measuring mat
Shark – Porbeagle ( <i>Lamna nasus</i> )	365		No Specimen Weight		≥180cm Fork Length	Photo on measuring mat
Shark – Six-Gilled ( <i>Hexanchus griseus</i> )	480 kg		45.359	100		Photo on measuring mat
Shark – Thresher ( <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> )	–		54.431	120		Photo on measuring mat
Skate – Common ( <i>Raja batis</i> )	221		No Specimen Weight		≥180cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Skate – Long Nosed ( <i>Raja oxyrinchus</i> )	–		36.287	80		Photo on measuring mat
Skate – White ( <i>Raja alba</i> )	165		No Specimen Weight		≥180cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Smooth-Hound ( <i>Mustelas asterias</i> )	11.27 kg		4.5	9.92	≥103cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Stone Basse ( <i>Polyprior americanus</i> )	11.72		3.628	8		–
Tope ( <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> )	34.02 kg		18.144	40	≥155cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Torsk ( <i>Brosme brosme</i> )	4.858 kg		2.5	5.51		Body†
Trigger Fish ( <i>Balistes carolinensis</i> )	2.54 kg		1.474	3.25		Photo
Tuna – Albacore ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )	29.96 kg		12.0	26.46		Photo
Tuna – Bluefin ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> )	440 kg		suspended from ISFC listing			
Turbot ( <i>Scophthalmus maximus</i> )	34		5.0	11.02		–
Whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> )	4	14.5	1.361	3		–
Wrasse Ballan ( <i>Labrus bergylta</i> )	4.3 kg		2.154	4.75	≥48 cm TL	Photo
Wrasse Cuckoo ( <i>Labrus mixtus</i> )	2	7	0.567	1.25	≥35 cm TL	Photo

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

# IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE RULES

## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- (1) **IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE:** This Committee consists of representatives of the Irish Angling Federations and the Government Departments and official organisations interested in angling. Its objective is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large fish on rod and line in Irish waters. A list of Specimen Fish is published annually by the Committee. Only fish which can be fully vouched for as to weight and species can be accepted and listed by the Committee. Length-based specimens can be claimed for certain species (check listing). 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.**

**For a length based specimen a photograph of the fish on a measuring mat or similar device must accompany the claim.**



- (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.

**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, ALL ELASMOBRANCHS, BLUEMOUTH, ANGEL SHARK, 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).**

**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 ventral 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: [isfc@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:isfc@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 31st October every 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)



## Length Based Specimens

### Alan McGurdy

*Alan McGurdy, an ISFC member since 2005, has worked in the fisheries sector for over five decades, mainly in management. He retired as manager of the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board in 2005 but continues to contribute to the sector in an advisory capacity whenever he gets time. Angling is one of his many interests and he is an all-round angler with excellent fly-fishing, coarse and pike angling skills as well as being a very accomplished boat angler, and has several specimen fish to his name. Having witnessed many changes in angling since he started working in the sector he provides very considered and balanced views relating to specimen fish matters.*

### 65 years ago

The founding fathers of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee (Went, Kennedy and Brennan) aimed to provide an accredited list of specimen fish which would be valued by all. The committee was set up to be an independent and impartial body to record not only record fish but exceptional fish of each species taken by fair angling on the island of Ireland including its seas. They were charged with overseeing a recording process that ensured that a fish was properly identified, weighed, measured, fairly caught, and witnessed. It is unlikely that anglers would appreciate a system that did not have integrity at its core. One of their early tasks was to validate as far as possible the existing Irish record list. Some of the most notable adjustments to the list included the disqualification of the long standing brown trout record which had been the accepted Irish Record since 1861. Fortunately, the remains of this fish had come into the hands of the Natural History Museum and on examination it proved to be a salmon. In a later review the long standing 53 lb pike record was also removed from the record list.

The annual specimen fish list have become a barometer of fish stocks targeted by anglers. Global warming has assisted in adding a few new species to the list and the unplanned spread of certain freshwater species are also reflected in the report. Conversely, some once plentiful species have become scarce.

### The application and advantage of applying new technology

On many occasions anglers, who were both specimen hunters and conservationists, delivered live roach x bream hybrids (in an aerated barrel) for identification by the Inland Fisheries Trust scientists in Dublin. It has been a challenge to match a reliable verifiable system which is also convenient for the angler. Thankfully this is no longer necessary due to the advent of DNA analysis. Now the claimant takes 2-3 scales from the specimen and submits them with the claim form for analysis, for species including shad and bream x roach or bream x rudd or roach x rudd hybrids.

The advances in camera technology have resulted in anglers being able to submit high quality images capturing the required identification features necessary to positively identify fish to species level. This has been a significant advance on previous requirements to provide a fish body for identification.

## **A specimen fish is no less a fish when it is recorded by its length**

Traditionally anglers described exceptional fish in terms of weight. However, increasingly anglers are beginning to note their best fish by length and internationally this has been the approach for some time. In the angling press large fish are often defined by their length.

It is more convenient for the shore-based sea and freshwater angler to weigh their fish, particularly with the availability of a certified digital scales. Accurate certified weight has been the corner stone of the specimen fish list but it has always created a problem for those anglers fishing off shore especially when no one wishes to kill fish unnecessarily. The requirement to bring the fish on land for weighing has endangered the welfare of some species particularly the larger species such as sharks and rays although many anglers are well prepared to do this.

Up to 2019 the committee has introduced a specimen length for 15 species equivalent to the corresponding weight based specimens. Additional species are being added to the list of length based specimens for 2020 and this process will continue. There has been a significant uptake of this option by anglers and we expect it to increase.

The achievement of catching a specimen is not devalued by it being recorded by its measurement rather than its weight.

## **The measuring mat**

The importance of conserving fish species while preserving the integrity of the weighing process has been a challenge on the committee. In response, the committee, working with Inland Fisheries Ireland, contributed to developing a measuring mat for use on land or at sea. This mat features regularly in a specimen hunters kit and is the backdrop for thousands of fish photographs from Irish waters. In addition there is a range of commercially produced products which are also used. Dedicated anglers are anxious not to put the finest fish of a species at risk!

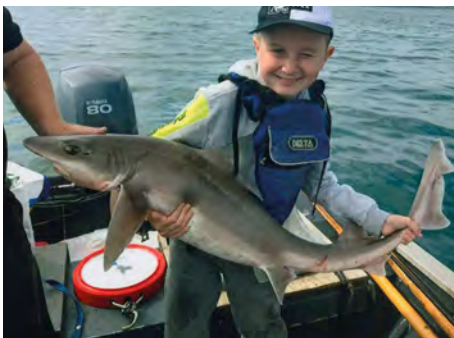
## **The future**

Smart technology creates the opportunity to streamline the recording of specimen fish. It is the aim of the ISFC to see this develop in the years ahead. It will be our intention to have a process available to the angler which allows them to electronically record the capture of a specimen fish, measure, photograph, provide the location, check the identity, complete an application, have it witnessed and submit it.

Conservation underpins all of this and the ISFC will continue to progress this key aspect of its function which is being achieved by documenting specimen fish and also by adopting conservation oriented recording processes.



*Terry Jackson admiring his specimen Thick Lipped Mullet from Rosscarbery*



*David Tully with his 127 Smooth hound*



*Twaite Shad for Noel Darcy*



*105 cm Smooth Hound for Bert McGregor*



***104 cm Smooth Hound for Rob McClean in July***

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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. **Tick box** to specify any length based claim.
3. **ALL** record fish, **ALL** length based claims and **ALL** skates, rays, sharks and dogfish **MUST** include a good quality photograph of the fish length (nose to tail) on a measuring mat or similar.
4. **Weighing:** Fish **MUST** be weighed (on land) on **CERTIFIED** scales or on a shop scales. Fish cannot be weighed on board a boat.
5. **Weighing scales must be certified annually** by a competent independent authority and the calibration certificate must be current at time of weighing.
6. **Check ISFC claim rules Section 4** for inclusions for some species (e.g. fish scales, additional photographs etc.
7. Claim form **MUST** be signed and witnessed.



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