

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH 2021



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



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland



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Coiste Éisc Mór na hÉirinn

The Irish Specimen Fish Committee

Founded in 1955, the ISFC is an independent voluntary body, representative of angling interests in Ireland, whose principal function is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large (i.e. specimen) fish caught on rod and line by anglers in Ireland, both in freshwater and marine waters. The Committee also ratifies Irish record rod caught fish. The ISFC coordinates and administers the unique specimen awards scheme which is designed to 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 2021. Almost 32,000 claims have been received by the ISFC over the past 66 years. This dataset is one of the longest time-series of its type.

Irish Specimen Fish Committee Members 2021

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

Awards Presentation

*Anglers due awards for 2021 are
invited to attend the Presentation of
Specimen Awards at the Clayton Hotel
Leopardstown, Dublin
at 2.30 pm on 5th November 2022*



Irish Specimen Fish Committee



In Association with
Iascach Intire Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Cover: Specimen Rudd for David Flynn

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Several Blue Whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*), a gadoid species, were taken by anglers fishing out of Baltimore in summer 2021.

Left: Couch's Bream from Baltimore in 2021

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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ISFC Chairman's Report 2021



Welcome to the Irish Specimen Fish Committee report for 2021. The Committee has continued to meet online and looks forward to meeting face to face. Five virtual committee meetings were held during the year, to discuss the 2020 report, which was published in April, and prepare for the 2021 report. We were pleased to welcome Glenda Powell to the ISFC in 2021. More than ever during Covid restrictions, the committee has relied on a small group of IFI staff and volunteers from other angling interests. The screening and processing of claims in particular was done by a group of committee members led by Secretary and Treasurer in the Dublin area able to distribute and check forms.

Thankfully, even during the continuing restrictions on normal human contact and activity, many anglers were able to go out and fish, at whatever distance from home the prevailing guidance of the time specified. Whether a specimen hunt or just a valuable escape to fresh air, going fishing remains a great benefit to all, not to say an obsession for some. There are far more dangerous obsessions...

Among the 475 claims ratified in 2021 there was one new record approved, for a Stone Basse of 6.07 kg caught by Jim Clohessy fishing out of Cork Harbour in October.

The ISFC committee is increasingly finding itself dealing with interactions between the angler's view of fish as a recreational resource and that of others who see fish as an element of our fauna, with some species under protection also by non-fisheries legislation. Until recently, fish have generally been protected by specific fisheries legislation, separately from wildlife and conservation law, but this is changing. The two viewpoints are not necessarily conflicting, and it can only be a good thing for wider groups to take an interest in fish conservation. ISFC, having long standing data on many species generated by angling, is in a strong position to show that angling, where practised with due care, can be an ongoing part of data provision and the conservation of fish diversity. Moves to encourage catch and release practice where species are threatened, while still maintaining recording schemes, are a case in point. It is also clear that stopping reporting of specimen fish of conservation listed species can be counter-productive, and that fish, being far less visible than other wildlife, can easily disappear to an "out of sight, out of mind" scenario where further decline can continue unnoticed. There is a clear paradox where the trend analysis leading to non-fishing interests taking an interest almost invariably comes from commercial and recreational fishery data, and simply stopping fishing risks losing the information altogether. In maintaining the data series, angling is also very different from commercial fishing in that most angled fish can, with careful handling, be released alive.

Where legal instruments are in force, ISFC has no choice but to suspend specimen reporting where angling is not permitted, and it remains our policy not to accept claims for fish which have not been captured within the law. This applies even if the capture is accidental and the fish released unharmed. If we are in doubt we will take advice on fisheries law relevant from authorities where we need clarification.

Other committee work continues on ongoing themes, such as registering new species which are spreading to our waters and widening the opportunities for recording specimens with addition of smaller species and more length based specimens. We have also continued to review the thresholds for specimen lengths and weights, notably last year increasing the twaite shad length threshold to 50 cm, after we clearly set the initial length bar a bit too low. Equally the exploratory length for Corkwing Wrasse in 2021 was too low and had to be raised following our claims review. Juggling length and weight thresholds to maintain a good return of specimen claims across a wide range of species, and not being inundated by too many claims for any one species, is an ongoing challenge for the committee. On the other side of this coin there is the value of the specimen reporting to record genuine changes in stocks, thus only moving the goalposts when scoring becomes very significantly easier or harder. When published later this year, the Specimen Fish Atlas will provide some insight into long term trends. The shad threw us another curve ball this year, with the genetic typing advice now calling into question whether we have one species or two, and for the next round we will continue to ask anglers to supply scales, for more research, while grouping shad in to one (presumed Twaite) species.

All this, and particularly the interaction with the angling public, is what makes the work of ISFC and my role as Chairperson enjoyable and an interesting diversion from some of the other day jobs. To secure that public interaction, we hope, even if later than usual, that 2021 Awards will be presented in person after two years of remote working. We are very grateful for the support of IFI and DAERA, anglers and other sponsors who make it possible, by providing the working funds and, more importantly, permitting the fisheries professionals in the ISFC staff group to participate.

So once again commending and recommending the report, read and enjoy, and carry-on fishing. The next one might be a record.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "R. Rosell". The signature is stylized, with a large, flowing 'R' and a cursive 'Rosell'.

Dr Robert Rosell, Chairman ISFC

April, 2022

Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2021

In 2021 the ISFC processed 580 claims. A total of 86 were 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 2021.

New Irish Record

for fish exceeding the current Irish record weight



Stone Basse 6.07 kg, Outer Cork Harbour, 12 October 2021, Jim Clohessy, Cork

SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES 2021

20 SPECIES AWARD

KENNETH MURPHY, CO.CORK

2004	Ray - Blonde	2012	Rudd x Bream Hybrid
2005	Garfish (B. belone)	2013	Carp
2006	Coalfish (Saithe)	2013	Twaite Shad
2007	Megrim	2016	Skate - Common
2007	Pollack	2018	Brown Trout (River)
2009	Lesser Spotted Dogfish	2019	Conger Eel
2009	Cod	2020	Spurdog
2010	Pike (River)	2020	Shark - Blue
2010	Haddock	2020	Ling
2010	Gurnard - Red	2020	Ballan Wrasse

STEPHEN O'NEILL, CORK

1999	Conger Eel	2013	Mullet - Golden Grey
2007	Ray - Blonde	2013	Scad
2007	Garfish (B. belone)	2014	Twaite Shad
2007	European Seabass	2015	Gurnard - Grey
2008	Flounder	2018	Hake
2008	Cod	2019	Stone Basse
2010	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	2020	Spurdog
2011	Lesser Spotted Dogfish	2020	Dab
2012	Plaice	2020	Smooth-hound
2012	Gurnard - Red	2020	Painted Ray

NICHOLAS WARD, CO. WICKLOW

1995	Trigger Fish	2012	Tope
1999	Twaite Shad	2012	Perch
2000	Brown Trout (River)	2013	Spurdog
2000	Roach x Bream Hybrid	2013	Mullet - Golden Grey
2000	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	2013	Gilthead Bream
2001	Pollack	2014	Bream
2002	Pike (River)	2018	Skate - Common

NICHOLAS WARD, CO. WICKLOW CONTINUED

2011	Tench	2021	Rudd
2011	Brown Trout (Lake)	2021	Pouting
2012	Carp	2021	Sting Ray
2012	Rudd x Bream Hybrid	2021	Undulate Ray
2012	Smooth-hound	2021	Common Skate
ANDREW WOLSEY, CO. DOWN			
2009	Carp	2014	Tench
2009	Roach x Rudd Hybrid	2014	Bull Huss
2012	Spurdog	2014	Tope
2012	Ray - Painted	2015	Twaite Shad
2013	Bream	2015	Mullet - Golden Grey
2013	Roach x Bream Hybrid	2015	Cuckoo Wrasse
2013	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	2016	Ray - Sting
2013	Gilthead Bream	2016	Blackmouthed Dogfish
2013	Three-Bearded Rockling	2019	Perch
2013	Pike (River)	2021	Bass

10 SPECIES AWARD**DAVID JOLLY, CORK**

1991	Flounder	2017	Mullet - Golden Grey
1996	Whiting	2019	Ray - Homelyn
2001	Coalfish (Saithe)	2021	Twaite Shad
2006	Ray - Blonde	2021	Bluemouth
2009	Garfish (B. belone)	2021	Sting Ray

JOHN BOYLE, CO. KERRY

1992	Sea Trout	2005	Cuckoo Wrasse
1993	Ray - Sting	2010	Pouting
1998	Angler Fish	2015	Pollack
1999	Gurnard - Red	2016	Spurdog
2000	Shark - Blue	2020	Smooth-hound
2003	Gurnard - Tub		

50 SPECIMENS AWARD

AMY O'BRIEN, CORK

2015 - 2018	Carp	12	2018, 2019	Smooth-hound	2
2015 - 2019	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	10	2019, 2021	Ray - Sting	2
2017, 2021	Roach x Bream Hybrid	3	2019	Skate - Common	1
2017	Bream	2	2020, 2021	Ballan Wrasse	4
2017 -2021	Mullet - Golden Grey	7	2021	Tench	1
2017	Ray - Painted	1	2021	Bluemouth	1
2018, 2019	Ray - Undulate	2	2021	Spurdog	3
2018 - 2021	Twaite shad	6	2021	Tope	1

STEPHEN O'NEILL, CORK

1999	Conger Eel	1	2013 - 2021	Mullet - Golden Grey	20
2007	Ray - Blonde	1	2013	Scad	1
2007	Garfish (B. belone)	1	2014	Twaite Shad	1
2007, 2018	European Seabass	2	2015	Gurnard - Grey	1
2008, 2009	Flounder	2	2018	Hake	1
2008	Cod	1	2019	Stone Basse	1
2010 - 2019	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	10	2020	Spurdog	1
2011	Lesser Spotted Dogfish	1	2020	Dab	1
2012	Plaice	1	2020	Smooth-hound	1
2012, 2013	Gurnard - Red	2	2020	Ray - Painted	1

JOSEPH MARSELLA, KILKENNY

1998 - 2000	Pike (River)	6	2014, 2015	Dace	2
2001 - 2021	Twaite Shad	21	2014, 2015	Mullet - Golden Grey	4
2010, 2013	Gurnard - Red	2	2014	Flounder	1
2010	Garfish (B. belone)	1	2015	Roach x Bream Hybrid	1
2011	Perch	1	2015	Carp	1
2013 - 2018	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	11	2016	Smooth-hound	1

10 SPECIMENS AWARD			
Harold Bailey, Dublin	1979 - 2021	Brian McDonnell, Dublin	1994 - 2021
Martin Kennedy, Dublin	1983 - 2021	Sean Byrne, Dublin	1997 - 2021
David Jolly, Cork	1991 - 2021	Paul Twomey, Cork	2015 - 2021



*Best Corkwing Wrasse
of 2021 caught by
Craig Murphy at
Teelin*



*1.02 kg Rudd for
Nick Ward*

DR MICHAEL KENNEDY AWARD MULLET OF THE YEAR

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

Ian Mulligan, Dublin

1.19 kg **Golden Grey Mullet** at Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, 26 June 2021

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 or length) taken by an angler aged 13 years or younger.

Amy O'Brien, Cork

2.78 kg **Ballan Wrasse** at Sleah Head, Co. Kerry, 29 August 2021

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.

Ben Horgan, Cork

5.16 kg **Stone Basse**, off Baltimore, Co. Cork, 11 Oct 2021

BEST LENGTH SPECIMEN AWARD

Length specimens are commonly recorded by anglers since originally introduced by ISFC in 2011 and this award is for the longest length based specimen in 2021 (% of the threshold length).

Anthony Lennon, Dublin

119 cm **Sting Ray**, Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry 2 May 2021

BEST INTERNATIONAL FISH AWARD

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

Peter Vanderschaeghe, Belgium

14.97 kg **Ling**, Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork, 29 September 2021

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2021

FRESHWATER FISH 2021

Coarse Fish & Pike 2021

BREAM

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.86	8.5	—	L. Erne	S	08-Apr	James Bourke	Maggots
3.49	7.69	63.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	02-Jun	David Flynn	Worm



**Bream for
James Bourke**

**Noel Kenna's
Inniscarra Carp**

Year of capture is 2021 unless otherwise stated.

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

S = Shore & **B** = Boat

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

(J) after surname denotes juvenile angler.



CARP

Record 14.24 kg; Specimen Weight 5.9 kg (13 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.71	17	71	Inniscarra Dam	S	05-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
6.58	14.5	—	Inniscarra Res.	S	19-Jun	Noel Kenna	Boilie
6.58	14.5	66.5	Inniscarra Res.	S	15-Aug	David Flynn	Boilie



6.58 kg Carp for David Flynn



Terry Jackson's 15.5 cm Gudgeon

GUDGEON

Record; Specimen Weight 0.035 kg (1.23 ozs)
Length specimen (L-S) ≥ 14 cm FL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.04	0.087	15.5	Lr. Bann, Movanager	S	31-Oct	Terry Jackson	Pinkies
0.04	0.078	14	Lr. Bann, Movanager	S	31-Oct	Terry Jackson	Double pinky
L-S	—	14	Lr. Bann, Movanager	S	31-Oct	Terry Jackson	Double pinky

PIKE (RIVER)

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

Length specimen (L-S) ≥100 cm FL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10.2	22.5	107	Lr. Bann, Newferry	B	18-Feb	Terry Jackson	Pike fly
L-S	—	104	R. Shannon, Portumna	S	06-Dec-20	Oisín MacDomhnaill	Pollan
L-S	—	103	R. Shannon, Jamestown	S	12-Dec-20	John Millerick	Sardine
L-S	—	102	R. Shannon, Rooskey	S	03-Oct	Derek Greene	Sardine
L-S	—	101	R. Shannon, Jamestown	S	13-Dec-20	John Millerick	Sardine



John Millerick's 103 cm Pike

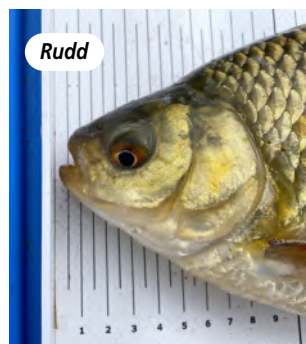


Roach/Bream Hybrid

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.28	5.03	47	Belturbet, R Erne	S	24-Sep	Francis McNeilly	Maggot/corn
2.04	4.5	50	Arden Lake	S	02-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
1.98	4.37	45	Belturbet, R Erne	S	28-Aug	Francis McNeilly	Maggot/corn
1.7	—	44.5	Lr Lough Erne	B	12-Jul-19	Richard Kennedy	Maggots
1.7	3.75	46	Belturbet, R Erne	S	09-Aug	Francis McNeilly	Maggot/corn
1.645	—	47	R Barrow, Athy	S	15-Mar-20	Brian Cooke	Sweetcorn
1.64	3.62	46	Belturbet, R Erne	S	01-May	Anthony Kelly	Corn
1.615	—	44	R Barrow, Athy	S	19-Feb-20	Brian Cooke	Sweetcorn



Roach bream of 2.04 kg for Sidney Kennedy

RUDD

Record 4 lbs 8 ozs; Specimen Weight 0.8 kg (1.76lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.02	2.25	37	Coney Lake	S	18-Sep	Nicholas Ward	Sweetcorn
0.88	1.94	34.5	Coney Lake	B	22-Aug	David Flynn	Bread
0.85	1.87	34	Coney Lake	B	02-Oct	David Flynn	Bread
0.82	1.81	35.5	Coney Lake	S	25-Sep	David Flynn	Bread



Rudd specimen showing main external features



Clyde McElwaine with the heaviest specimen Tench of 2021

TENCH

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

Length specimen (L-S) ≥ 52 cm FL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.35	7.38	54	Drumbad L	S	29-May	Clyde McElwaine	Bolt rig
2.95	6.5	—	Rahans L	S	21-May	James Bourke	Artificial corn/worms
2.78	6.13	—	Drumbad L	S	29-May	Clyde McElwaine	Bolt rig
2.75	6.06	51.5	Arden Lake	S	02-Jun	Amy O'Brien (J)	Maggots
2.74	6.05	51	Clooncraft Lough	S	20-May	Oisín MacDomhnaill	DNA bait

TENCH CONTINUED...

L-S	–	57	Broadwater	S	16-Jun	Terry Jackson	Worm/maggot
L-S	–	53	Drumbad L	S	29-May	Clyde McElwaine	Bolt rig
L-S	–	52	Arden Lake	S	02-Jun	Noel Darcy	Maggot/corn
L-S	–	52	Rahans L	B	08-Sep	Jessica McBride	Castors



2.74 kg Tench for
Oisin McDomhnaill



Noel Darcy



Terry Jackson



Rahans
Tench for
James
Bourke

Game Fish 2021

SALMON

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

Length –specimen (L-S) \geq 90 cm FL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9.1	20.06	91	R Drowes	S	22-Feb	Seamus O'Neill	Flying C



Corrib Brown Trout for Nichola Ward

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

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

Length –specimen (L-S) threshold \geq 75 cm FL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.12	13.5	80	L. Corrib	B	20-Mar-20	Nichola Ward	Roach

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)							
Record 20 lbs (9.071 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs) Length –specimen (L-S) threshold ≥57 cm FL							
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.34	16.19	82	R. Shannon, Killaloe	B	04-Jul	Gerard McKeogh	Trolled Roach
6.4	14.11	73	Six Mile Water	S	13-Sep	Derek Bell	Fly
4.45	9.8	69.5	R. Shannon, Carrick-on-Shannon	S	24-Mar	Luca Marsella	Deadbait
4.08	8.99	68	Six Mile Water	S	25-Aug	Jim Gregg	Fly
2.9	6.39	60	Six Mile Water	S	18-Aug	Jim Gregg	Fly
2.86	6.31	60	Six Mile Water	S	10-Jul	Neal Hewitt	Bann Special Fly
2.34	5.16	56	Six Mile Water	S	29-Sep	Jim Gregg	Fly
L-S	—	61	Six Mile Water	B	05-Aug-20	Glenn Allen	Fly



The River Shannon at Killaloe produced the heaviest River Brown Trout of 2021 for Gerard McKeogh

Marine Fish 2021

ANGEL SHARK

Record 73 lbs (kg); Specimen Weight kg – NA

Length –specimen (L-S) \geq 125 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	135	Tralee Bay	B	26-May	David Lordan	Mackerel



David Lordan's Tralee Bay Angel Shark. First specimen since this species was relisted as a length specimen only by ISFC in 2017, solely to record their distribution

BASS

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

Length – specimen (L-S) ≥ 75 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.14	11.34	79	Kilcolgan, Shannon Est	S	09-Oct	Glen Wightman	Komono
4.85	10.7	80	Killiney	S	25-May	David Healy	Rapala
L-S	–	75	Cork Harbour	S	14-Oct	Peter Halpin	Soft Plastic Lure
L-S	–	75	Clonakilty	S	08-Sep	Andrew Wolsey	Sandeel



75cm Bass Andrew Wolsey at Clonakilty



Black Bream for charter skipper Kit Dunne

BLACK BREAM

Record 1.46 kg; Specimen Weight 0.79 kg (1.75 lbs)

Length – specimen (L-S) ≥ 36 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	38.5	Kilmore Quay	B	05-Oct-20	Martin Kennedy	Ragworm
L-S	–	37.5	Wicklow	B	17-Jun	Kit Dunne	Squid
L-S	–	37	Wicklow	B	17-Jun	John Millerick	Mackerel



38.5 cm Black Bream for Martin Kennedy



Wicklow Black Bream for John Millerick

BLUEMOUTH

Record 1.32 kg (2.91 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.9 kg (1.98 lbs)

Length –specimen (L-S) ≥38 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.08	2.37	41	Caherciveen	B	04-Sep	Kristofor Im	Baited Kilmore Killers
0.96	2.12	38	Caherciveen	B	04-Sep	Amy O'Brien (J)	Mackerel
0.93	2.05	38.5	Caherciveen	B	24-Jul	Sue Tait	Mackerel
0.92	2.03	38.5	Caherciveen	B	24-Jul	Sue Tait	Mackerel
0.92	2.03	38.5	Caherciveen	B	24-Jul	Tony Tait	Mackerel
0.92	2.03	38.5	Caherciveen	B	24-Jul	Tony Tait	Mackerel
0.92	2.03	37	Caherciveen	B	24-Jul	Donie O'Mahony	Mackerel
0.90	1.98	38	Caherciveen	B	24-Jul	Donie O'Mahony	Mackerel
0.90	1.98	37	Caherciveen	B	24-Jul	Donie O'Mahony	Mackerel
0.90	1.98	37	W of Blasket Islands	B	09-Sep	Philip Barry	Baited Hokkai
L-S	—	40.5	Caherciveen	B	08-Sep	John Higgins	Mackerel

BLUEMOUTH CONTINUED...

L-S	—	40	Valentia Island	B	23-Aug	Donal Domenev	Mackerel
L-S	—	38	Caherciveen	B	04-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
L-S	—	38	Valentia	B	16-Aug-20	Mick O'Callaghan	Baited feathers
L-S	—	38	Valentia	B	16-Aug-20	Mick O'Callaghan	Baited feathers
L-S	—	38	Valentia	B	16-Aug-20	Mick O'Callaghan	Baited feathers
L-S	—	38	Caherciveen	B	03-Sep	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-S	—	38	Caherciveen	B	03-Sep	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-S	—	38	Caherciveen	B	03-Sep	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-S	—	38	Caherciveen	B	04-Sep	David Jolly	Mackerel

***Largest Bluemouth of 2021 for Kristofor Im******40.5 cm Bluemouth for John Higgins******A happy Terry Jackson***

CONGER EEL

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

Length –specimen (L-S) ≥165 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	181	Downings	B	26-Jul	Johannes Dijke (NL)	Mackerel
L-S	–	176	Courtmacsherry	B	02-Jul	Sean Maxwell	Mackerel head
L-S	–	175	Courtmacsherry	B	02-Jul	Mark John Gannon	Mackerel
L-S	–	170	Crosshaven	B	26-Aug	Evan McGovern	Herring
L-S	–	169	Outer Cork Harbour	B	23-Jun	Dan Lynch	Mackerel

BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH

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

Length – specimen (L-S) ≥67 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	68	Islandmagee	B	16-Jul	Peter Ross	Mackerel
L-S	–	68	Islandmagee	B	12-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel
L-S	–	68	Islandmagee	B	29-Aug	David Craig	Mackerel

LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.59	3.5	70	Cork Harbour	B	13-Oct	Paul Twomey	Mackerel
1.59	3.5	76.5	Cork Harbour	B	17-Mar	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
1.5	3.31	76.5	Cork Harbour	B	21-Mar	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
1.47	3.25	77	Outer Cork Harbour	B	13-Oct	Terry Jackson	Mackerel

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record 23.813 lbs (10.8 kg); Specimen Weight 7.257 kg (16lbs)

Length – specimen (L-S) ≥ 115 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	120.5	Islandmagee	B	03-Nov-20	David Craig	Squid/mackerel



Spurdog for Gary Blake



Sidney Kennedy with one of his three Spurdog

SPUR DOGFISH

Record 11.06 kg; Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs)

Length – specimen (L-S) ≥ 105 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8.45	18.63	117	Kerry Head	B	29-Jun	Philip Barry	Mackerel
7.8	17.2	112	Kerry Head	B	28-Jun	Philip Barry	Mackerel
7.3	16.1	115	Wicklow	B	26-Nov-20	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
6.85	15.1	115	Ballyheigue	B	17-Jul	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel
6.85	15.1	106.5	Tralee Bay	B	17-Jul	Robert Vaughan	Mackerel
6.71	14.8	107	Ballyheigue	B	17-Jul	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel
6.69	14.75	114.5	Brandon Bay	B	01-Jul	Amy O'Brien (J)	Mackerel
6.58	14.5	110	Wicklow	B	12-Jun	Amy O'Brien (J)	Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...

6.26	13.8	103	Cork Harbour	B	29-Jun	Jamie Lambe	Mackerel
6.1	13.45	106	Kerry Head	B	19-Jul	Joe Donnelly	Mackerel
5.94	13.1	111.5	Tralee Bay	B	17-Jul	Robert Vaughan	Mackerel
L-S	—	118.5	Kerry Head	B	19-Jul	Joe Donnelly	Mackerel
L-S	—	118.5	Kilmore Quay	B	05-Jun	Martin Kennedy	Mackerel
L-S	—	117.5	Cork Harbour	B	23-Jun	Robert Vaughan	Mackerel
L-S	—	117	Wicklow	B	29-Oct	John McLoughlin	Mackerel
L-S	—	116	Islandmagee	B	12-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel
L-S	—	115	Brandon Bay	B	01-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-S	—	115	Islandmagee	B	18-Aug	Peter Ross	Mackerel
L-S	—	115	Islandmagee	B	03-Aug	David Craig	Mackerel
L-S	—	113	Wicklow	B	03-Nov-19	Liam Markey	Mackerel
L-S	—	112	Brandon Bay	B	01-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-S	—	111	Islandmagee	B	03-Aug	Peter Ross	Mackerel
L-S	—	110	Brandon Bay	B	01-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
L-S	—	110	Wicklow	B	21-Feb	Thomas Lynch	Mackerel
L-S	—	110	Cork Harbour	B	13-Jun	Jason Phillips	Mackerel

**Robert Vaughan, 106 cm Spurdog****Cork Spurdog for Ailbhe O'Sullivan**

SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...

L-S	—	110	Wicklow	B	22-Dec-20	John Millerick	Mackerel
L-S	—	110	Brandon Bay	B	01-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-S	—	110	Islandmagee	B	18-Aug	Peter Ross	Mackerel
L-S	—	110	Islandmagee	B	21-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel
L-S	—	110	Dunmore East	B	15-Aug-20	Adam O'Neill	Crab
L-S	—	109.5	Dunmore East	S	06-Jun	Brian O'Neill	Mackerel
L-S	—	109	Kerry Head	B	26-Jun	Philip Barry	Mackerel
L-S	—	109	Dunmore East	B	15-Aug-20	Brian O'Neill	Mackerel
L-S	—	108	Wicklow	B	12-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
L-S	—	108	Islandmagee	B	03-Aug	Mark Todd	Mackerel
L-S	—	107.5	Wicklow	B	12-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
L-S	—	107	Wicklow	B	26-Nov-20	Gary Blake	Mackerel
L-S	—	107	Islandmagee	B	10-Jul	Mark Todd	Mackerel
L-S	—	107	Islandmagee	B	03-Aug	Mark Todd	Mackerel
L-S	—	106.5	Downings	B	06-Sep	Ramon Vader (NL)	Mackerel
L-S	—	106	Wicklow	B	26-Nov-20	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
L-S	—	106	Brandon Bay	B	01-Jul	Amy O'Brien (J)	Mackerel
L-S	—	106	Rosses Point	B	19-Sep	John Cunningham	Mackerel
L-S	—	106	Crosshaven	B	01-May	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel baited killers
L-S	—	105.5	Kerry Head	B	28-Jun	Joe Donnelly	Mackerel
L-S	—	105	Wicklow	B	21-Feb	Thomas Lynch	Herring



Flounders for Ben Delaney Healy and Charlie Murphy

FLOUNDER

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

Length –specimen (L-S) \geq 45 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.18	2.6	46	Culdaff East	S	10-Oct	Jim Gregg	Ragworm/ Mackerel
1.18	2.6	45	Culdaff	S	15-Oct	David Craig	Ragworm
1.12	2.46	46.5	Clonakilty Bay	S	05-Jul	Duncan Cole	Lugworm
1.1	2.42	44.5	Ballyteigue	S	11-Jun	Brian Cooke	Crab
L-S	–	45	Youghal	B	06-Nov-20	Ben Delaney Healy (J)	Ragworm
L-S	–	45	Tramore Bay	B	25-Apr	Charlie Murphy (J)	Crab

GILTHEAD BREAM

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

Length –specimen (L-S) \geq 42 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.35	7.37	57	Clonakilty Bay	S	07-Jul	Jason Convery	Lugworm
3.29	7.25	59	Clonakilty Bay	S	29-Jun	Jason Convery	Lugworm
3.23	7.12	58	Clonakilty Bay	S	14-Jul-20	Duncan Cole	Lugworm
3.23	7.12	57	Clonakilty Bay	S	09-Jul	Jason Convery	Lugworm
2.82	6.25	57	Clonakilty Bay	S	30-May	Patrick Lombard	Lugworm/ ragworm
2.72	6	58	Clonakilty Bay	S	16-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Lugworm



Clonakilty Gilthead for Andrew Wolsey



Christy Lane, 50 cm Gilthead Bream



Jason Convery with the best Gilthead of 2021



Noel Cashman

GILTHEAD BREAM CONTINUED...

2.69	5.94	56	Clonakilty Bay	S	03-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
2.4	5.3	54	Clonakilty Bay	S	23-Jul	Gino Marsella	Ragworm
1.9	4.19	49	Rosscarbery	S	13-Jul	Andrew Wolsey	Sandeel
1.69	3.72	46.5	Clonakilty Bay	S	04-Jul	Duncan Cole	Lugworm
L-S	–	50	Clonakilty Bay	S	25-Apr	Christy Lane	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	47	Moloney's Strand	S	24-Apr	Noel Cashman	lugworm
L-S	–	46	Clonakilty Bay	S	02-May	Tom Collins	Lugworm
L-S	–	45	Clonakilty Bay	S	02-May	Tom Collins	Lugworm
L-S	–	42	Clonakilty Bay	S	02-May	Evan Collins	Lugworm

LING

Record 55 lbs (24.95 kg); Specimen Weight 11.34 kg (25 lbs)
Length –specimen (L-S) ≥125 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
17.46	38.5	141	Courtmacsherry	B	02-Aug	Joe Cooney	Mackerel



Courtmacsherry Ling for Dan Lynch, Evan McGovern and Joe Cooney

LING CONTINUED...

16.61	36.62	141	Courtmacsherry	B	14-Jun	David Coleman	Squid
15.11	33.31	136	Courtmacsherry	B	14-Jun	Bert McGregor	Mackerel
14.97	33	135	Courtmacsherry	B	29-Sep	Peter Vanderschaeghe (B)	Mackerel
14.06	31	141	Courtmacsherry	B	29-Aug	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
13.06	28.8	132	Crosshaven	B	15-Jul	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel
12.16	26.8	–	Courtmacsherry	B	02-Aug	Danny Sweeney	Mackerel
11.45	25.25	–	Courtmacsherry	B	02-Aug	Joe Cooney	Mackerel
L-S	–	128	Courtmacsherry	B	29-Aug	Dan Lynch	Mackerel



Peter Vanderschaeghe from Belgium with his 14.97 kg Ling



Jason Convery with the best Thick Lipped Mullet of 2021

THICK LIPPED MULLET

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.09	6.81	64	Rosscarbery	S	08-Sep	Jason Convery	Bread
3.01	6.62	61	Rosscarbery	S	11-Sep	Christy Lane	Bread
3.01	6.63	58	Rosscarbery	S	26-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Bread flake



Joshua Higginson, 2.43 kg Rosscarbery



Duncan Cole, 2.63 kg Rosscarbery

THICK LIPPED MULLET CONTINUED...

2.95	6.5	57	Malahide Estuary	S	22-Aug	Des Chew	Bread flake
2.83	6.25	57	Rosscarbery	S	01-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Bread flake
2.81	6.2	60	Rosscarbery	S	05-Sep	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.78	6.12	58	Rosscarbery	S	10-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Bread flake
2.75	6.06	64	Rosscarbery	S	07-Jul	Jason Convery	Bread
2.66	5.86	59.5	Rosscarbery	S	07-Sep	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.66	5.87	59	Rosscarbery	S	07-Jun	Jason Convery	Bread
2.65	5.85	59	Rosscarbery	S	09-Sep-20	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.63	5.8	58	Rosscarbery	S	04-Sep	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.54	5.6	58	Rosscarbery	S	16-Oct	Des Frazer	Bread
2.49	5.5	55	Malahide Estuary	S	17-Oct	Des Chew	Bread flake
2.45	5.4	55	Malahide Estuary	S	22-Aug	Des Chew	Bread flake
2.43	5.36	58	Rosscarbery	S	07-Sep	Joshua Higginson	Bread
2.35	5.19	52	R Nanny	S	02-Aug	Anthony Lennon	Bread flake
2.28	5.03	58	Rosscarbery	S	12-Jul-20	Duncan Cole	Bread

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	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.19	2.63	39.5	Rosscarbery	S	26-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
1.02	2.25	39.5	Rosscarbery	S	26-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
0.91	2	—	Rosscarbery	S	26-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
0.79	1.75	43	Rosscarbery	S	31-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.71	1.56	41	Rosscarbery	S	01-Aug	Amy O'Brien (J)	Ragworm
0.71	1.56	41	Rosscarbery	S	01-Aug	Amy O'Brien (J)	Ragworm



Amy O'Brien's Golden Grey Mullet of 0.71 kg from Rosscarbery

GOLDEN GREY MULLET CONTINUED...

0.71	1.56	40.5	Rosscarbery	S	01-May	Amy O'Brien (J)	Ragworm
0.7	1.55	41	Cork Harbour	S	26-Aug	Stephen O'Neill	Ragworm
0.68	1.5	40.5	Rosscarbery	S	31-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm



Best Golden Grey Mullet of 2021 for Ian Mulligan, and Dr Kennedy Mullet Award winner 2021

POLLACK

Record 19.186 lbs (8.7 kg); Specimen Weight 5 kg (11.02 lbs)

Length –specimen (L-S) ≥80 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.12	11.29	82.5	Outer Cork Harbour	B	27-Jul	Philip Barry	Shad
5.08	11.2	79.5	Wicklow	B	15-Sep	Anne Hooijenga (NL)	Muppets

POUTING

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.36	3	43	Wild Bank, Sleah Head	B	30-Jun	Nicholas Ward	Mackerel

PAINTED RAY							
Record 17.21 lbs (7.806 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs)							
Length –specimen (L-S) ≥80 cm TL							
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	87	Cork Harbour	B	11-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
L-S	–	84.5	Cork Harbour	B	20-Sep	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
L-S	–	84	Cork Harbour	B	28-Jun	Evan McGovern	Scad
L-S	–	82	Ballycotton Pier	S	20-Dec-20	Stephen O'Neill	Mackerel
L-S	–	81.5	Cork Harbour	B	11-Sep	Paul Twomey	Mackerel
L-S	–	81	Tramore Bay	B	28-Aug	Elaine O'Neill	Sandeel



Anthony Lennon with the best Stingray of 2021



Evan McGovern with 84 cm Painted Ray



Terry Jackson's Stingray

STING RAY

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

Length –specimen (L-S) ≥90 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	119	Tralee Bay	S	28-May	Anthony Lennon	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	111.5	Tralee Bay	B	26-May	David Lordan	Mackerel
L-S	–	107	Tralee Bay	B	27-May	Micheal Hennessy	Mackerel
L-S	–	102	Fenit	B	05-Jun	David Jolly	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	100	Fenit	B	27-May	Nicholas Ward	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	100	Fenit	B	01-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel/crab
L-S	–	97	Fenit	B	27-May	Nicholas Ward	Mackerel
L-S	–	95	Fenit	B	01-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel/crab
L-S	–	94.5	Fenit	B	06-Jun	Jason Phillips	Mackerel
L-S	–	91	Tralee Bay	S	28-Jun	Darren Ryan	Mackerel
L-S	–	90	Fenit	B	02-Jul	Amy O'Brien (J)	Mackerel

UNDULATE RAY

Record 18 lbs; Specimen Weight N/A

Length –specimen (L-S) ≥85 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	88	Spa, Co. Kerry	S	14-Jun	Philip Barry	Sandeel
L-S	–	87.5	Fenit	B	02-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
L-S	–	87	Tralee Bay	S	13-May	Darren Ryan	Sandeel
L-S	–	85	Fenit	B	28-May	Nicholas Ward	Mackerel/Crab
L-S	–	85	Fenit Pier	S	21-Apr	Colm McDaid	Mackerel/Squid



*Undulate Ray before
release by Darren Ryan*

**87.5 cm Fenit Undulate
for Sidney Kennedy**

UNDULATE RAY CONTINUED...

—	—	85	Tralee Bay	B	28-May	Micheal Hennessy	Mackerel
—	—	85	Fenit	S	06-May	Nicky McEvoy	Sandeel/Crab

THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.82	1.8	42	Dun Laoghaire	S	21-Feb	John Hughes	Mackerel

SHORE ROCKLING

Record - ; Specimen Weight -
Length –specimen (L-S) ≥30 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.21	0.47	31	Dun Laoghaire	S	28-Jan	John Hughes	Mackerel
0.24	0.53	30.5	Dun Laoghaire	S	17-Mar	John Hughes	Mackerel

TWAITE SHAD

Record 1.64 kg; Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.65 lbs)

Length –specimen (L-S) ≥48 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.39	3.06	50.5	R. Barrow, St. Mullins	S	09-May	Amy O'Brien (J)	King Cobra
1.36	3	49	St Mullins	S	12-May	Des Chew	Lure
1.3	2.87	50	St Mullins	S	10-May	Thomas Lynch	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	–	54	St. Mullins	S	09-May	Dan Lynch	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	–	53	St. Mullins	S	13-May	Eoin Leonard	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	–	52.5	St Mullins	S	12-May	Eimear Ni Shuileabhain	Lure
L-S	–	52.5	St Mullins	S	15-May	Derek Greene	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	–	52.5	St Mullins	S	12-May	Barry Murphy	Lure
L-S	–	52	St Mullins	S	14-May-20	Thomas Lynch	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	–	52	St Mullins	S	12-May	Eric Gosnell	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	–	52	St Mullins	S	18-May	Harold Bailey	Sprat lure
L-S	–	52	St Mullins	S	09-May	Anthony Kelly	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	–	52	St Mullins	S	15-May	Anthony Kelly	Tasmanian Devil



Oisín McDhonnail



Terry Jackson



Eoin Leonard



Noel Darcy with his 51 cm Twaite Shad

TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED...

L-S	—	52	St Mullins	S	28-May	Brian Cooke	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	52	St. Mullins	S	13-May	Oisin MacDomhnaill	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	52	St. Mullins	S	09-May	Dan Lynch	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	51.5	St Mullins	S	09-May	Sidney Kennedy	King Cobra
L-S	—	51.5	St Mullins	S	13-May	Mark Gargan	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	51.5	St. Mullins	S	02-May	Brian Lowth	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	51.5	St. Mullins	S	27-May	Terry Jackson	Metal spoon
L-S	—	51.5	St. Mullins	S	27-May	Terry Jackson	Metal bar spinner
L-S	—	51.5	St. Mullins	S	09-May	Dan Lynch	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	51	St. Mullins	S	11-May-20	Eddie Butler	Spinner
L-S	—	51	St Mullins	S	28-May	Ronan Doherty	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	51	St Mullins	S	02-Jun	Eddie Butler	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	51	St Mullins	S	13-May	Philip Connolly	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	51	St Mullins	S	22-May	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	51	St Mullins	S	22-May	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	51	St Mullins	S	19-May-20	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	51	St. Mullins	S	11-May	Paul Twomey	Tasmanian Devil

TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED...

L-S	—	51	St. Mullins	S	13-May	Oisín MacDomhnaill	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	51	St. Mullins	S	13-May	Oisín MacDomhnaill	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	51	St. Mullins	S	10-May	Joseph Marsella	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50.5	St Mullins	S	02-Jun	Eddie Butler	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50.5	St. Mullins	S	13-May	John Millerick	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St. Mullins	S	11-May-20	Eddie Butler	Spinner
L-S	—	50	St. Mullins	S	11-May-20	Eddie Butler	Spinner
L-S	—	50	St Mullins	S	13-May-19	Barry Murphy	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St Mullins	S	19-May-20	Joseph Marsella	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St Mullins	S	15-May	Mark Lennon	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St Mullins	S	14-May	Mark Lennon	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St Mullins	S	28-May	Ronan Doherty	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St Mullins	S	18-May	Des Chew	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St Mullins	S	09-May	Stephanie Hartnett	Spinner
L-S	—	50	St Mullins	S	05-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	King Cobra



Nicky McEvoy and John Millerick with specimen Twaite Shad

TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED...

L-S	—	50	St Mullins	S	16-May	Anthony Kelly	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St Mullins	S	02-Jun	Eddie Butler	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St Mullins	S	12-May	Barry Murphy	Lure
L-S	—	50	St. Mullins	S	20-May	Paul Twomey	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St. Mullins	S	11-May	Robert Reid	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St. Mullins	S	09-May	Martin Kennedy	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St. Mullins	S	25-Apr	Niall O'Rourke	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St. Mullins	S	10-May	Joseph Marsella	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	50	St. Mullins	S	11-May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49.5	St Mullins	S	06-May-20	John Millerick	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49.5	St Mullins	S	19-May-20	Sofia Marsella	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49.5	St Mullins	S	14-May	Derek Greene	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49.5	St Mullins	S	18-May	Brian Cooke	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49.5	St Mullins	S	10-May	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49.5	St Mullins	S	19-May-20	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49.5	St Mullins	S	12-May	Barry Murphy	Lure
L-S	—	49.5	St. Mullins	S	02-May	Brian Lowth	Tasmanian Devil

**Brian Lowth****Anthony Kelly**



52.5 cm Shad for Derek Greene

TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED...

L-S	—	49.5	St. Mullins	S	13-May	John Millerick	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St Mullins	S	14-May-20	Sidney Kennedy	Spinner
L-S	—	49	R Barrow, St Mullins	S	06-May-20	John Millerick	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St Mullins	S	12-May	Des Frazer	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St Mullins	S	12-May	Jessica McBride	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St Mullins	S	24-May	Eoin Walsh	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St Mullins	S	11-May	Duncan Cole	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St Mullins	S	11-May	Duncan Cole	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St Mullins	S	09-May	Sidney Kennedy	Cobra Lure
L-S	—	49	St Mullins	S	15-May	Cian McCormack	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St Mullins	S	10-May	Philip Connolly	Tasmanian Devil



Des Frazer



Sheila Riolo



Eimear Ni Shuilleabhain

TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED...

L-S	—	49	St Mullins	S	10-May	Thomas Lynch	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St Mullins	S	25-May-20	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St. Mullins	S	11-May	Paul Twomey	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St. Mullins	S	13-May	John Millerick	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St. Mullins	S	11-May	Craig Murphy	Lure
L-S	—	49	St. Mullins	S	13-May	Eoin Leonard	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49	St. Mullins	S	10-May	Joseph Marsella	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48.5	St. Mullins	S	02-May-20	Derek Greene	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48.5	St. Mullins	S	02-May-20	Derek Greene	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48.5	St Mullins	S	14-May	Mark Lennon	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48.5	St Mullins	S	13-May	Derek Greene	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48.5	St Mullins	S	09-May	Amy O'Brien (J)	King Cobra
L-S	—	48.5	St Mullins	S	18-May	Brian Cooke	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St. Mullins	S	02-May-20	Derek Greene	Tasmanian Devil

TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED...

L-S	—	48	St Mullins	S	06-May-20	John Millerick	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	49.5	St Mullins	S	18-May	Harold Bailey	Sprat lure
L-S	—	48	St Mullins	S	14-May-20	Thomas Lynch	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St Mullins	S	14-May-20	Thomas Lynch	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St Mullins	S	18-May	Harold Bailey	Sprat lure
L-S	—	48	St Mullins	S	28-May	Ronan Doherty	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St Mullins	S	06-Jun	Des Chew	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St Mullins	S	09-May	Derick O'Brien	King Cobra
L-S	—	48	St Mullins	S	09-May	Derick O'Brien	King Cobra
L-S	—	48	St Mullins	S	09-May	Amy O'Brien (J)	King Cobra
L-S	—	48	St Mullins	S	09-May	Derick O'Brien	King Cobra
L-S	—	48	St Mullins	S	10-May	Sheila Riolo	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St Mullins	S	10-May	Aaron Darcy	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St. Mullins	S	16-May	Brian Lowth	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St. Mullins	S	14-May	Nicky McEvoy	Krill Lure
L-S	—	48	St. Mullins	S	27-May	Terry Jackson	Metal bar spinner
L-S	—	48	St. Mullins	S	13-May	Eoin Leonard	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St. Mullins	S	11-May	Robert Reid	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St. Mullins	S	11-May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St. Mullins	S	10-May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St. Mullins	S	10-May	Clare Maurer	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	48	St. Mullins	S	10-May	Liam Tully	Tasmanian Devil
L-S	—	46	St. Mullins	S	13-May-19	David Jolly	Savage gear jig

BLUE SHARK

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

Length – based specimen (L-S) \geq 185 cm FL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	205	Courtmacsherry	B	03-Aug	Joe Cooney	Mackerel
L-S	–	192	32 km S of Courtmacsherry	B	27-Nov-20	Joe Cooney	Mackerel
L-S	–	190.5	Outer Cork Harbour	B	13-Oct	Martin Kennedy	Mackerel
L-S	–	188	Outer Cork Harbour	B	30-Jun	Dan Lynch	Mackerel

COMMON SKATE

Record 221 lbs (100.24 kg); Specimen Weight NA

Length –specimen (L-S) \geq 180 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	219	Union Hall	B	14-Jun	Nicholas Ward	Pollack
L-S	–	203	Islandmagee	B	07-Mar	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-S	–	200	Islandmagee	B	02-May	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-S	–	196	Islandmagee	B	21-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel
L-S	–	193	Islandmagee	B	03-Apr	Peter Ross	Coalfish



**A nice LSD
for Dan Lynch**

COMMON SKATE CONTINUED...

L-S	–	193	Islandmagee	B	03-Aug	David Craig	Mackerel
L-S	–	191	Islandmagee	B	03-Apr	Mark Todd	Coalfish
L-S	–	191	Crosshaven	B	22-May	Ailbhe O’Sullivan	Mackerel
L-S	–	184	Belfast Lough	B	21-Sep-20	Michael Gaw	Mackerel
L-S	–	182	Islandmagee	B	07-Mar	Mark Todd	Coalfish

SMOOTH-HOUND**Record 12.02 kg (26.5 lbs); Specimen Weight 4.5 kg (9.92 lbs)****Length – specimen (L-S) ≥103 cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.78	12.75	109	Fenit	B	12-May	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
L-S	–	124	Wicklow	B	02-Jul	Calum Flynn	Mackerel

**Smooth Hound for Calum Flynn****A 113 cm Wicklow Smooth hound for Rob McClean****Stephen Brien****Brian Cooke with a 119 cm smoothie, one of the largest in 2021**

SMOOTH HOUND CONTINUED...

L-S	–	119	Wicklow	B	04-Jul	Brian Cooke	Crab
L-S	–	116	Wicklow	B	13-Jun	Aaron O'Rourke	Crab
L-S	–	115	Wicklow	B	17-Jun	Paul Lowry	Crab
L-S	–	113	Wicklow	B	08-Jul	Rob McClean	Crab
L-S	–	112	Wicklow	B	15-May	Gerard Allen	Mackerel
L-S	–	110	Greystones	B	24-Jul-20	Alex Holfeld	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	110	Wicklow	B	06-Jun	Rob McClean	Crab
L-S	–	110	Wicklow	B	25-Sep	Stephen Brien	Mackerel
L-S	–	109	Wicklow	B	17-Jul	Derek Greene	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	109	Wicklow	B	16-Jul-20	Gavin Moran	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	108	Wicklow	B	24-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Crab
L-S	–	108	Wicklow	B	22-Jun	Carl Owens	Crab
L-S	–	106	Rossnowlagh Beach	S	27-Aug	Cormac Burke	Crab

**Aaron O'Rourke with his Wicklow Smooth hound****Gavin Moran****Carl Owens****Gerard Allen**

SMOOTH HOUND CONTINUED...

L-S	—	105	Wicklow	B	04-Jul	Brian Cooke	Crab
L-S	—	104	Wicklow	B	24-Jun	Stan Ryan	Crab
L-S	—	104	Wicklow	B	24-Jun	Brian Cooke	Crab
L-S	—	103.5	Greystones	B	19-Jun	Evan McGovern	Crab
L-S	—	103.5	Wicklow	B	21-Jul-20	Gavin Moran	Peeler Crab
L-S	—	103	Greystones	B	19-Jun	Fran Duffy	Crab
L-S	—	103	Ballyhealy	S	12-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Crab

STONE BASSE

New Record 6.07 kg (13.38 lbs) ; Specimen Weight 3.628 kg (8 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.07	13.38	66.5	Paddy's Point	B	12-Oct	Jim Clohessy	Mackerel
5.16	11.38	58.5	off Baltimore	B	11-Oct	Ben Horgan	Mackerel



Fish of a Lifetime Award went to Ben Horgan for his 5.16 kg Stone Basse



Tope for Dan Finlay

TOPE

Record 34.019 kg (75 lbs); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)

Length - specimen (L-S) ≥ 155 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
22.0	48	163	Kilmore Quay	B	10-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
21.77	48	156	Kilmore Quay	B	10-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
19.5	43	151	Greystones	B	12-Aug	David Flynn	Mackerel
19.05	42	153.5	Kilmore Quay	B	10-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
L-S	—	173	Wicklow	B	10-Oct	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
L-S	—	171	Greystones	B	25-Oct	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
L-S	—	171	Greystones	B	14-Aug	Clyde McElwaine	Mackerel
L-S	—	170	Greystones	B	26-Aug	Clyde McElwaine	Mackerel
L-S	—	169.5	Greystones	B	14-Aug	Sean Byrne	Mackerel



Super 151 cm Tope for David Flynn



155 cm Greystones Tope for Nicholas Ward



Dun Laoghaire Tope for John Hughes



Craig Murphy

TOPE GALLERY



***Sidney Kennedy cradles his 153.5 cm
Kilmore Quay Tope***



Stephen Hanway



George Gaffney



Padraig Clear



Darren Clarke



Carl Owens



Amy O'Brien (J)



Terry Jackson

TOPE CONTINUED...

L-S	—	165.5	Greystones	B	07-Jul	Sean Byrne	Mackerel
L-S	—	165	Wicklow	B	18-Jun-20	Shane Flynn	Mackerel
L-S	—	164.5	Greystones	B	01-Aug	Ciaran O'Toole	Mackerel
L-S	—	164	Dunmore East	B	15-Aug-20	Brian O'Neill	Mackerel
L-S	—	164	Howth	B	04-Jul	Ronan Doherty	Mackerel
L-S	—	164	Newcastle Beach	S	29-Sep	Cian Driver	Mackerel
L-S	—	164	Wicklow	B	10-Oct	Sijd Sebastian	Mackerel
L-S	—	163.5	Dunmore East	B	09-Aug	Barry Murphy	Mackerel
L-S	—	163	Wicklow	B	02-Jun	Darren Clarke	Mackerel
L-S	—	162	Greystones	B	25-Oct	Brian McDonnell	Mackerel
L-S	—	162	Greystones	B	15-Aug	Padraig Clear	Mackerel
L-S	—	162	Wicklow	B	12-Jul	Maura McMahon	Mackerel
L-S	—	161	Greystones	B	12-Aug	Jonathan McCarthy	Mackerel
L-S	—	161	Bray Head	B	14-Jun-20	Alex Holfeld	Mackerel
L-S	—	161	Greystones	B	24-Aug	Ciaran O'Toole	Mackerel
L-S	—	161	Greystones	B	30-Oct	Clyde McElwaine	Mackerel
L-S	—	160	Wicklow	B	30-Jun	Jim Walsh	Mackerel
L-S	—	160	Howth	B	02-Aug	John Smith	Mackerel
L-S	—	160	Greystones	B	18-Sep	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
L-S	—	158	Greystones	B	19-Jul	Declan Mortimer	Mackerel
L-S	—	158	Greystones	B	30-Oct	Gary Blake	Mackerel
L-S	—	158	Greystones	B	16-Oct	Ronan Doherty	Herring
L-S	—	158	Kilmore Quay	B	10-Oct	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-S	—	158	Kilmore Quay	B	10-Oct	Martin Kennedy	Mackerel
L-S	—	158	Wicklow	B	10-Jul	Glen Cummins	Mackerel



Maura McMahon's Tope and Kit Dunne



Kevin Burke



Tope for Killian Hanrahan



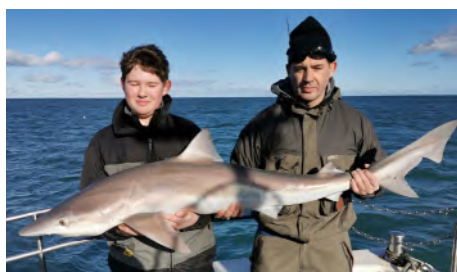
Sijid Sebastian

TOPE CONTINUED...

L-S	—	158	Wicklow	B	21-Jul	George Gaffney	Mackerel
L-S	—	158	Wicklow	B	18-Sep	Dan Finlay	Mackerel
L-S	—	157.5	Dun Laoghaire	B	17-Oct	John Hughes	Mackerel
L-S	—	157	Wicklow Bay	B	16-Jun	Francis McNeilly	Mackerel
L-S	—	157	Greystones	B	06-Jun	Craig Murphy	Mackerel
L-S	—	157	Greystones	B	07-Jul	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
L-S	—	156.5	Greystones	B	19-Jul	Sean Byrne	Mackerel
L-S	—	156	Kilcoole	B	23-Aug	Ciaran O'Toole	Mackerel
L-S	—	156	Wicklow	B	06-Jun	Rob McClean	Crab
L-S	—	156	Greystones	B	03-Oct	Padraig Clear	Mackerel
L-S	—	156	Wicklow	B	30-May	Muhammed Delic	Mackerel

TOPE CONTINUED...

L-S	—	156	Wicklow	B	30-May	Muhamed Delic	Mackerel
L-S	—	156	Wicklow	B	13-Aug	Kevin Burke	Mackerel
L-S	—	156	Wicklow	B	30-Oct	Ryan Maxwell	Mackerel
L-S	—	155.5	Wicklow	B	06-Jun	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
L-S	—	155.5	Wicklow	B	19-Jun	Carl Owens	Mackerel
L-S	—	155.5	Wicklow	B	15-Aug	Killian Hanrahan	Mackerel
L-S	—	155	Greystones	B	10-Sep	Nicholas Ward	Mackerel
L-S	—	155	Wicklow	B	12-Jun	Amy O'Brien (J)	Mackerel
L-S	—	155	Dun Laoghaire	B	13-Oct	David Cullen	Mackerel
L-S	—	155	Greystones	B	30-Oct	Padraig Clear	Mackerel

**Ryan Maxwell****Brian McDonnell****Ronan Doherty****Jim Walsh**



Trigger Fish by Ian Mulligan



Trigger Fish for Micheal Hennessy

TRIGGER FISH							
Record 2.54 kg; Specimen Weight 1.474 kg (3.25 lbs)							
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.27	5	53	Castletownbere	S	24-Sep	Micheal Hennessy	Mackerel
2.04	4.5	50	Adrigole	S	13-Sep	Derek Greene	Sandeel
2.04	4.5	43	Eyeries	S	17-Sep	John Millerick	Mackerel
2.04	4.5	44.5	Allihies	S	16-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
1.93	4.25	52.75	Castletownbere	S	24-Sep	Micheal Hennessy	Mackerel
1.93	4.25	48.5	Allihies	S	16-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab



Ian Mulligan



1.81 kg Trigger Fish for Derek Greene

TRIGGER FISH CONTINUED...

1.87	4.13		Allihies	S	16-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
1.81	4	45.5	Adrigole	S	17-Sep	Derek Greene	Ragworm
1.81	4	41	Eyeries	S	14-Sep	John Millerick	Sandeel
1.59	3.5	40	Eyeries	S	16-Sep	John Millerick	Mackerel
1.56	3.44	48	Castletownbere	S	17-Sep	Patrick Lombard	Crab

BALLAN WRASSE

Record 4.3 kg; Specimen Weight 2.154 kg (4.75 lbs)
Length –specimen (L-S) ≥48 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.78	6.12	52	Slea Head	S	29-Aug	Amy O'Brien (J)	Ragworm
2.27	5	49	Allihies	S	12-Oct	Patrick Lombard	Crab
2.21	4.87	48.5	Allihies	S	16-Sep	Patrick Lombard	Crab
2.18	4.81	46	Adrigole	S	11-Oct	Derek Greene	Ragworm
L-S	–	52.5	Kilmore Quay	B	04-Jul	Shay McDonnell	Ragworm
L-S	–	50	Eyeries	S	12-Sep	John Millerick	Ragworm
L-S	–	49.5	Slea Head	S	29-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Crab



Stunning Ballan Wrasse for Shay McDonnell fishing out of Kilmore Quay



Ballan Wrasse, Patrick Lombard



48 cm Ballan Wrasse for Padraig Clear fishing at Dalkey in Dublin

BALLAN WRASSE CONTINUED...

L-S	–	49	Slea Head	S	16-Sep	Ronan Doherty	Ragworm
L-S	–	49	Slea Head	S	29-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
L-S	–	49	Slea Head	S	28-Aug	Terry Jackson	Crab
L-S	–	49	Dun Laoghaire	B	02-Aug	John Hughes	Crab
L-S	–	49	Allihies	S	13-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	48.5	Slea Head	S	23-Sep	Ronan Doherty	Ragworm
L-S	–	48.5	Eyeries	S	16-Sep	Brian Lowth	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	48.5	Slea Head	S	28-Aug	Terry Jackson	Crab
L-S	–	48.5	Caherciveen	S	31-Aug	Eoin Leonard	Crab
L-S	–	48	Kilmore Quay	B	29-Jun	Joe Curran	Baited feathers



Best Ballan Wrasse of 2021 to Amy O'Brien (J)



2.21 kg Allihies Ballan Wrasse for Patrick Lombard

BALLAN WRASSE CONTINUED...

L-S	–	48	Kinsale	S	03-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
L-S	–	48	Slea Head	S	29-Aug	Amy O'Brien (J)	Crab
L-S	–	48	Slea Head	S	29-Aug	Amy O'Brien (J)	Crab
L-S	–	48	Eyeries	S	13-Sep	Brian Lowth	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	48	Slea Head	S	03-Jul	Terry Jackson	Crab
L-S	–	48	Dalkey	B	06-Jul	Padraig Clear	Ragworm
L-S	–	48	Fanad Head	S	16-Oct	Joshua Higginson	Lugworm



Brian Lowth



Terry Jackson

CORKWING WRASSE

Record -; Specimen Weight -
Length – based specimen (L-S) ≥ 24 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.25	0.55	26.5	Teelin	S	28-Aug	Craig Murphy	Crab
0.24	0.53	25.5	Cork Harbour	S	31-Jul	Donal Domeney	Maddies
L-S	–	26	Slea Head	S	24-Sep	Ronan Doherty	Ragworm
L-S	–	25	Fanad Head	S	26-Sep	Joshua Higginson	Lugworm
L-S	–	24.5	Aghada	B	21-Sep	Evan McGovern	Ragworm
L-S	–	24.5	Adrigole	S	14-Sep	Derek Greene	Ragworm
L-S	–	24.5	Slea Head	S	20-Sep	Ronan Doherty	Ragworm
L-S	–	24.5	Slea Head	S	28-Aug	Terry Jackson	Crab leg
L-S	–	24.5	Allihies	S	13-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Ragworm



24.5 cm Corkwing Wrasse, Evan McGovern



**25 cm Corkwing Wrasse for Joshua Higginson.
Ballan Wrasse underneath for comparison**

CORKWING WRASSE CONTINUED...

L-S	–	24	Kinsale	S	13-Sep	Evan McGovern	Ragworm
L-S	–	24	Adrigole	S	14-Sep	Derek Greene	Ragworm
L-S	–	24	Slea Head	S	15-Sep	Ronan Doherty	Ragworm
L-S	–	24	Slea Head	S	29-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
L-S	–	24	Slea Head	S	21-Aug	Gary Blake	Ragworm
L-S	–	24	Eyeries	S	13-Sep	John Millerick	Ragworm

CUCKOO WRASSE

Record 2.438 lbs (1.105 kg); Specimen Weight 0.567 kg (1.25 lbs)
Length –specimen (L-S) threshold ≥35 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	38	Islandmagee	B	10-Jul	Mark Todd	Mackerel
L-S	–	35.5	Crosshaven	B	06-Jun	Ailbhe O’Sullivan	Mackerel
L-S	–	35	Islandmagee	B	10-Jul	Mark Todd	Mackerel



Slea Head Corkwing Wrasse for Terry Jackson

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 (only Cyprinids) submitted for genetic analysis.

Shad scales: ongoing research into shad speciation indicates substantial inter-species complexity. For this reason genetic analysis of shad scales will not be undertaken for positive identification from 2022 onwards. Anglers are required to collect a scale sample which will be used for further research

NEW SPECIES, SPECIMEN WEIGHT & LENGTH REVISIONS

All species listed below were reviewed in 2021 - details of changes for 2022 in table below. FL refers to Fork Length; TL refers to Total Length.

Species	Current Threshold	Revised	2022 Status
Perch	≥ 1.2 kg	≥ 40 cm FL	Added length specimen
Grey Gurnard	≥ 0.68 kg	≥ 0.60 kg ≥ 40 cm TL	Reduced weight & added length specimen option
Twaite Shad	≥ 48 cm TL ≥ 1.2 kg	≥ 50 cm TL No weight-based claim category	Length based specimen only
Corkwing Wrasse	≥ 20 cm TL 150 g	≥ 24 cm TL 200 g	Full specimen status

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.**

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

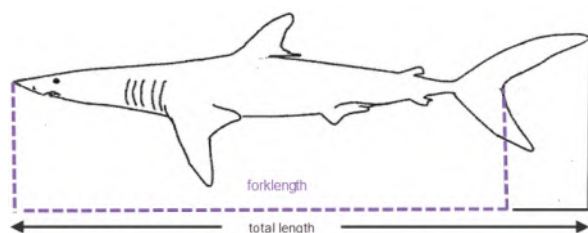
Fish must be measured on a recognised measuring device with an end stop and suitable graduations.

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:

- 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.
- 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.

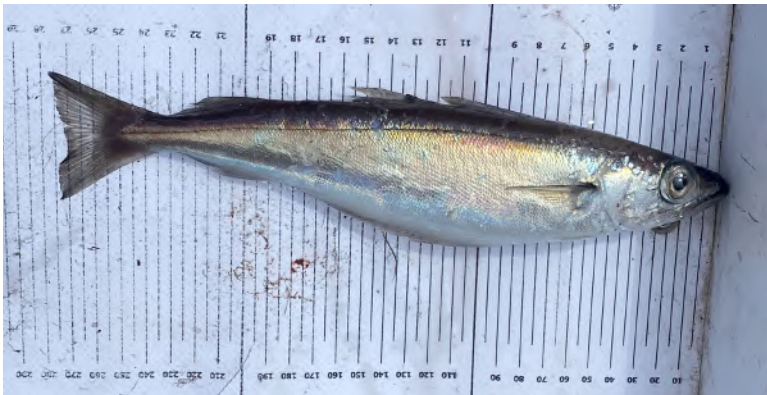
Photographic evidence for new records: A series of clear photographs must accompany all **record** fish claims, except in the few cases where a body (or presentation of the fish) is required for species identification. Photographs must show the whole fish lying on a flat surface and include a measure 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: To support claims for Roach, Rudd and their hybrids, 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).

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



Marc Doyle's Blue Whiting caught when fishing out of Baltimore

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	Features to photograph (a) the whole body (lateral view) must be photographed for all species AND (b) the specific features detailed below
All cyprinids (Dace, Roach, Roach/Bream, 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

Species	Features to photograph
	(a) the whole body (lateral view) must be photographed for all species AND (b) the specific features detailed below
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.

Metriification: 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. 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 2021

Species	Biometric measurements	Capture Details	Notes
Common skate (<i>Raja batis</i>)	248 cm TL & 197 cm wingspan; female; likely > 100 kg	Caught & released by Martin Daly, Cork in Clew Bay, 11 Aug 2020	Skipper Mary Gavin Hughes
Couch's Sea Bream (<i>Pagrus pagrus</i>)	2.63 kg & 54 cm TL	Caught by Andrew Harrison, England off Baltimore, 24 Sep 2021	Not on ISFC list of eligible species; Skipper Kieran Collins
Thresher shark (<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>)	Ca. 400 cm; 210 cm FL plus 190 cm caudal fin (tail)	Caught & released by Dan Lynch, Cork off Cork Harbour, 25 Aug 2021	



Couch's Bream for Andrew Harrison



13.06 kg Ling for Ailbhe O'Sullivan fishing out of Crosshaven

PRESENTATION OF 2020 AWARDS

Due to restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, no ISFC Awards Day Presentation was held in 2021.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special acknowledgements: Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) continues to support and provide other services to the ISFC and is sincerely acknowledged. Sincere thanks to Myles Kelly and Shane O'Reilly, IFI, who manage the ISFC website, and ISFC auditor Michael Martin (IFI). ISFC Chairman, Dr Robert Rosell and Dr Steven Beggs (both AFB I) provide a specimen fish identification service for anglers in the northern part of Ireland and are thanked for their efforts. Bridie Fleming's (formerly IFI) support of ISFC activity is very much appreciated. Thanks to Eoin Leonard (IFI) for his time also.

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 Dr. Nettan Carlsson at UCD, has significantly advanced ISFC fish identification procedures for some species.

Photographs: Many photographs in this report are taken by anglers. They, along with charter skippers, fisheries staff and journalists, are acknowledged for these.



Shore Rockling is a new species on ISFC listings from 2021 onwards



3 Bearded Rockling

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)		
2000	403	41	48	13	1	0	2	508
2001	427	28	37	5	4	3	4	508
2002	471	23	43	7	6	2	7	559
2003	384	63	41	11	13	4	5	521
2004	412	48	38	3	9	4	4	518
2005	432	62	52	10	7	4	1	568
2006	351	44	42	2	10	0	2	449
2007	424	56	28	6	12	2	2	530
2008	429	46	23	1	3	0	0	502
2009	470	39	15	5	0	0	2	531
2010	521	45	26	6	5	1	3	607
2011	519	50	14	0	3	0	1	587
2012	578	40	18	2	1	0	1	640
2013	536	41	11	5	1	0	1	595
2014	476	23	15	1	7	2	2	526
2015	422	12	8	0	4	0	1	447
2016	416	45	10	2	9	0	3	485
2017	346	22	8	—	2	—	4	382
2018	374	10	6	1	—	1	1	393
2019	480	22	6	4	—	—	1	513
2020	307	—	—	—	—	—	—	307
2021	471	3	—	—	1	—	—	475

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS

2019	Expenditure	2020	2019	Revenue		2020
€		€	€		€	€
				Balance b/f from 2019		19793.69
				Grants		
741.5	Awards Day Expenses	873				
38.63	Bank Fees & Stamp Duty	29.9	4500	IFI Donation	4500.00	
4000	DNA	0	2299.22	DAERA Grant	4631.75	
1127.91	Medals & Awards	200		TAFI	200	
142.8	Meeting Expenses	0	440	Payments		
141.85	Miscellaneous	700		DNA Payment (PayPal)	475.65	
3383.12	Printing	3635.87		DNA Payment (Cash/ Chk)	40	
			635.56	Donations		
				Angler Donations (PayPal)	479.5	
				Angler Donations (Cash/Chk)	1130	
				PayPal Correction	3.55	
	Total Expenditure 2020	5438.77		Total Revenue 2020		11469.34
	Balance c/d	25824.26				
		31263.03				31263.03
				Balance b/d		25824.26

"The ISFC has prepared a revenue and expenditure account for 12 months ended 31st December 2020 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 (Auditor)

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 2021 were:

Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA); Delphi Fishery; **Harold Bailey**, Woodville Park Est, Dublin; **Leigh Barnwall**, Invernesshire, UK; **Jason Convery**, Clonakilty, Co. Cork; **Noel Darcy**, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny; **Donal Domeney**, Cork City; **Kit Dunne**, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow; **Eric Gosnell**, Blackrock, Cork; **Evan McGovern**, Shanakiel, Cork; **Jim Gregg**, Antrim, Co. Antrim; **Christy Lane**, Dillons Cross, Cork; **Noel Lane**, Mayfield, Cork; **Dan Lynch**, Ballinacorney, Co. Cork; **Joe Marsella**, Kilkenny; **Bert McGregor**, St. Margarets, Co. Dublin; **Patrick Murray**, Limerick, Co. Limerick; **Stephen O'Neill**, Carrigaline, Co. Cork; **Noel O'Shea**, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath; **Melvin Percy**, Co. Armagh; **Jason Phillips**, Whitegate, Co. Cork; **Anthony Tait**, Middleton, Co. Cork; **Nicky Ward**, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.



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.)

Species	Weight		Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
	lbs	ozs			
Tub Gurnard	12	3.5	8.8.1973	Bullsmouth, Achill	Robert Seaman
Grey Gurnard	3	1	21.9.1967	Rosslare Bay	Brendan Walsh
Red Gurnard	3	9.5	17.7.1968	Belmullet	James Prescott
Haddock	5.39	kg	21.2.2010	Union Hall	Tony Santry
Hake	25	5.5	28.4.1962	Belfast Lough	H. W. Steele
Halibut	156		23.7.1972	Belmullet	Frank Brogan
Herring	0.48	kg	17.9.2011	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Hamish Currie
John Dory	7	8	12.8.1984	Killala Bay	Cleona Walkin
Ling	55		3.1.2004	Cork Harbour	Ailbhe O'Sullivan
Mackerel	4	2	18.9.1979	Ballycotton	Ulrich Plassmann (D)
Megrim	1.85	kg	26.7.1987	Killala	Paul Hennigan
Angel Shark (Monkfish)	73		1.6.1980	Fenit, Co. Kerry	James Boyd
Grey Mullet	9.10		26.9.1993	Cork Harbour	Cay Heerwagen (D)
Golden Grey Mullet	1.52		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	12.02	kg	25.7.2020	Wicklow	John Hughes
Stone Basse	6.07	kg	12.10.2021	Outer Cork Harbour	Jim Clohessy
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 2022 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			
Gudgeon (<i>Gobio gobio</i>)			35g	1.23 ozs	≥14cm Fork Length	Photograph on mat
Perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)	5	8	1.2	2.646	≥40 cm Fork Length	Photograph on mat
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	≥52cm Fork Length	—
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 (<i>aka Monkfish</i>) (<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>Spondyllosoma 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	—

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		LENGTH BASED SPECIMEN	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs		
Conger eel (<i>Conger conger</i>)	72		18.144	40	≥165cm Total Length	–
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	≥115cm 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	≥42cm Total Length	Photo (whole body, head shot showing mouth & eyes)
Gurnard – Grey (<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>)	3	1	0.6	1.32	≥40cm Total Length	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	≥125cm Total Length	–
Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	4	2	1.0	2.205		Body†
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)	1.85 kg		0.794	1.75	≥49cm Total Length	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	5.0	11.02	≥80cm 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

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		LENGTH BASED SPECIMEN	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs		
Ray – Electric (<i>Torpedo nobiliana</i>)	40 kg		9.072	20		Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Homelyn (<i>Raja montagui</i>)	8.28		2.268	5	≥65 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Painted (<i>Raja microcellata</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		–
Short-spined Sea Scorpion (<i>Myoxocephalus scorpius</i>)	260g				≥25cm Total Length	Claims invited to set specimen thresholds
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	≥44cm Total Length	Body [†]
Shad – Allis (<i>Alosa alosa</i>)	–		1.814	4		Scales
Shad – Twaite (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	1.64 kg				No Specimen Weight ≥50 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
Shore Rockling (<i>Gaidropsarus mediterraneus</i>)	No weight				≥30cm Total Length	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>)	12.02 kg		4.5	9.92	≥103cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Stone Basse (<i>Polyprion 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, Corkwing (<i>Symphodus melops</i>)			200 g		≥24 cm TL	Photo on measuring mat & head shots
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 landed 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 for genetic identification. Genetic identification is subject to a charge of €10 per claim to cover the analysis, and payment can be made on the ISFC website.

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).

WHERE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE OF SUFFICIENT QUALITY TO PROVIDE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE (i.e. key identification features clearly visible) to identify the following species: **ANGLER FISH, BRILL, DAB, LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH, FLOUNDER, GREY & RED GURNARDS, HERRING, MEGRIM, MACKEREL, GREY MULLET, GOLDEN GREY MULLET, THIN-LIPPED MULLET and RED MULLET, RAYS BREAM, THREE BEARDED ROCKLING, SCAD, TORSK, CUCKOO WRASSE and BLACK BREAM**, the body is not required. If the angler is in doubt about image quality the body can be presented. Body (head and gills only) required for **GARFISH**.

> 99.5% of specimens 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.

(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

(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), Best Length Specimen 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

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

Looking to the future

Sea angling continues to be the fastest growing participation sport in Europe and here in Ireland we are blessed to have some of the richest waters in Western Europe which hold an abundance of fish with upwards on 100 different species on offer.

Despite poor management of the commercial fishing industry by the European Commission over recent years which has seen Irish fishing vessels now only possess approximately 15% of the quota in Irish waters, whilst other EU member states, in particular France and Spain, seem to be able to increase fishing pressure on stocks in Irish waters, the marine leisure fishing sector has been performing well – mainly due to Irish anglers and angling clubs increasingly employing a ‘catch & release’ strategy.

This, and the continued encouragement of junior anglers, are the foundations on which the future of sea angling in Ireland is being built.

Personally, I have had some beautiful fish from the shore in 2021 – including a 60 cm sea trout (July, Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo) and a specimen 107 cm smooth-hound (September, Rosstown, Co. Donegal) and it gave me great pleasure to see these fish swim away unharmed after a few photos were taken.

Having recorded 36 different species (boat & shore) in both 2020 and 2021, I’m happy to be able to report that every single one of these fish were returned (except for an occasional few whiting which I’m partial to for a dinner).

By adopting a system of length-based specimen entries, the Irish Specimen Fish Committee has reduced angler’s concerns about potentially damaging a fish (or worse) due to a requirement for weighing – this is a welcome move as many anglers who would have liked to have entered a catch did not bother as they did not want to risk harming a fine fish. An angler not logging a specimen obviously impacts on ISFC long-term data recording aspect of different species, but the length option available for many species now offers great scope for all anglers to record their specimens.

Sustainability

Whilst it is understandable that sea fishing on boats working in deeper waters does not always lend itself to catch & release as the fish taken from big depths may not survive anyway, most responsible charter skippers and anglers will at least attempt to ensure that in such circumstances these catches will go for human consumption and therefore are not just ‘wasted’.

But in all other cases, there is absolutely no reason that fish cannot be handled with care, unhooked using a light disgorging, measured & photographed, and returned alive – and live to fight another day (and hopefully reproduce), and give you or some other angler some fun at some point in the future.

As Chairman of the highly active Killybegs Mariners SAC, I have noticed that the anglers who were juniors during the time we began to encourage catch & release some years ago, are now senior club members who have combined their passion for angling with a strong belief in the need for conservation, and they in turn are now passing this attitude down to the next generation of young anglers.

In general, no one objects to any angler keeping a fish or two for the freezer, and they are perfectly entitled to do so, but at the core of the future of this wonderful sport that brings us all so much pleasure is 'looking after' our resource to guarantee healthy and varied fish stocks for generations to come.

Tight lines to all for 2022

Cormac Burke



A fine bass is returned alive to the Donegal Bay waters after being measured and photographed

About the author:

Cormac Burke is an ex commercial trawlerman of 16 years who later went on to become the editor of the *Irish Skipper*, *Fishing News* and *Fishing News International*. He is currently the Chairman of the commercial fishing industry lobby group Irish Fishing & Seafood Alliance (IFSA).

Coming from Killybegs, Co. Donegal, Cormac has been an avid sea angler all of his life, both on boat and shore and is a member of the Irish Federation of Sea Anglers (IFSA) and the European Federation of Sea Anglers (EFSA).



Even the 'mini' species such as this Tompot Blenny are quite sturdy out of water and, if handled carefully and returned, will live to fight another day



Tiny flatfish hiding in the mud is a good sign of stock recruitment and that conservation angling is working



48 cm Twaiite Shad for Derick O'Brien