



Irish Specimen Fish Committee

c/o Inland Fisheries Ireland, 3044 Lake Drive,
Citywest Business Campus, D24CK66
www.specimenfish.ie

Claim No:

CLAIM FORM 2025

CLAIMANT MUST COMPLETE SECTIONS 1-7 (and 8, if necessary)

1. Capture Details: Species: Weight (See Rule4): kg lbs

Where Caught: Date of Capture:

Port of Origin:

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).

Name of Skipper/Ghillie: Shore Boat

Length of fish: cm in Girth/Wingspread of fish: Male Female

For all species ≤ 1 kg or ≤ 40 cm TL or FL, claims must be made using measurements in grammes or centimetres/millimeters

Length based specimen claim Specific photos required, see back page for details*

Note: To measure length, fish must be placed on measuring device & measured: from tip of nose to end of middle rays of tail fin (Fork Length) for freshwater species and porbeagle/blue shark OR from tip of nose to end of tail fin (Total Length) for all other marine species. Greatest girth - in front of dorsal fin. Wingspread (rays and skate) from wingtip to wingtip.*Photos to show fish belly down **ON** measuring device showing actual fish length (cm) - tip of snout (placed against bar) to end of tail fin lobe.

2. Name of Claimant: First Name: Surname:

Address (Block Letters):

Postcode/Eircode: Country: Phone no:

E-Mail Address: I am happy to receive occasional ISFC updates via email YES

Date of Birth (if 14 years or under):

Angler category when specimen fish caught (Tick one box only) Specimen Hunter Regular Angler Occasional/Holiday Angler

3. Witnesses To Capture: I/We, the undersigned certify that I/we were witness(es) to the capture by fair angling of the fish described in this claim, and confirm that the captor's weighing scale certificate is valid (if fish weighed).

(If there are no witnesses to the capture the Statutory Declaration on page 2 must be completed)

Signed: Email:

Address: Eircode:

4. Weighing: Make & type of weighing machine (see Rule 3):

Max. weighing capacity: Divisions:

Where scales located (if retail outlet): Scale certificate number:

or Personal Club State Club Name:

N.B.: The weighing scales must be covered by a certificate of accuracy at the time the fish is weighed (Rule 3).

5. Witnesses To Measuring and/or Weighing: I/We, the undersigned hereby certify that I/we were witness(es) to weighing and/or measuring of the fish described herein, and that the weight and measurements given are correct.

Signed: Email:

Address: Eircode:

6. Declaration: (Must be signed by angler making claim)

I certify that the fish details of which are set out above, was taken by me by fair angling with single rod and line.

Signed: Date:

7. Tackle (Type of rod and reel):

Type of, and breaking strain of line:

Nature of terminal tackle (In case of trolling or bottom gear):
.....

(In case of sea fishing, state whether paternoster, leger, etc.; number of hooks; whether wire trace used, and if so, length and breaking strain).

Bait or Lure:

Important Note:

Many claims are rejected because the following rules are not strictly adhered to:

- (1) Rule 3 Weighing of the fish.
- (2) Rule 4 Identification of the fish.

Please read both of these Rules carefully (see below)

8. Statutory Declaration (Section in Heavy Type only, to be completed by angler, in the presence of a Peace Commissioner, if no witnesses to capture of fish).

I, (PC) of (Address)
do solemnly and sincerely declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the particulars given in this claim form as to the capture of the fish described herein are correct. I make this solemn declaration solemnly and conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Statutory Declaration Act 1938.

Declared before me by: (Claimant) of (Address)
who (a) is personally known to me or (b) who has been introduced to me

by (Third party) of (Address)
who (third party) is personally known to me (*strike out (a) or (b) whichever does not apply*)

this day of 20.....

Signature of P.C. (Peace Commissioner)

RULES (Please Read Carefully)

- 1. IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE:** This Committee consists of representatives of the Irish Angling Federations and the Government Departments and official organisations interested in angling. Its objective is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large fish on rod and line in Irish waters. A list of Specimen Fish is published annually by the Committee. Only fish which can be fully vouched for as to weight and species can be accepted and listed by the Committee. Except in exceptional circumstances claims will remain valid for a period of one year following the year of capture (up to 31st Dec of the year).
- 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. Fish must be taken in accordance with national and local legislation pertaining to any species.
- 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 or personal scales which has been independently certified by a registered calibration agency (e.g. NML or commercial company). Claims cannot be accepted in respect of fish weighed on uncertified scales. Scales must be appropriate to the size of the fish being weighed. The minimum weight is 10 times the scale interval/ weighing division (e.g. for scales with a 50g interval/division the fish will have to exceed 500g in weight). Where weights are in large divisions (e.g. 0.25kg 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 has been weighed on board a boat unless weighed on a certified motion - compensated balance.**
 - Weighing Scale Certification:** 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.
 - Length Based Specimens:** Many species are eligible as both length and weight based specimens (see list overleaf). The following species are eligible as length based specimens only: Twaite Shad, Common Skate, White Skate, Porbeagle Shark, Undulate Ray and Angel Shark (aka Monkfish). Elasmobranchs & flat fish must be measured belly down, other species measured side down. Some species require fork length measurement and some require total length, see overleaf. Measure must be point to point, from the nose to end point/fork of the tail and not over curve of body, on a suitable measuring device. Nose to be touching front plate and full extent of fish being measured to be photographed and submitted with claim. Wingspan length also required for Common Skate & Undulate Ray (fish to be measured on mat/tape NOT over curve of body).
To aid conservation, Porbeagle must now be measured in water alongside vessel with 180 cm mark on measuring device visible in accompanying photo/s. All porbeagle specimens will be awarded as ≥180 cm regardless of the actual size of the fish.
- Elasmobranch Claims:** All claims (including weight based claims) for elasmobranch species (all ray, skate, shark and dogfish) must be accompanied by photograph(s) showing the fish on a measuring mat (or equivalent) with its total length clearly visible.

- 4. IDENTIFICATION:** The identification of a fish must be fully documented where there is a possibility of confusion with any other (and particularly larger) species. For this reason, for some species (details below), scales, photographs or the actual body is required for verification.
- **FISH SCALES:** Scale samples must be submitted in respect of claims for SALMON, SEA TROUT, BROWN TROUT (including SLOB TROUT), RUDD, ROACH, and their hybrids, SHAD and DACE. 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. Scales should be gently removed from one shoulder of the fish.
 - > Five scales should be sent with each salmonid claim.
 - > Three scales are required from Dace, Roach and Rudd and their hybrids
Genetic identification for the above species is subject to a charge of €10 per claim to cover the analysis, and payment can be made on the ISFC website.
 - > Two scales should be submitted for each Shad claimed (for the purpose of ongoing scientific studies (no charge applies))
 - **PHOTOGRAPHS:** Clear, sharp, close-up photographs, showing the entire fish with its fins and other features easily seen, and not fore-shortened or obscured by shadows or bystanders must be provided in the case of ALL CYPRINIDS, ALL SHARKS, SKATES & RAYS, POLLACK, BALLAN WRASSE, TRIGGERFISH, COALFISH, ALBACORE, TUB GURNARD (pectoral fins of gurnard must be fully expanded), & GILT HEAD BREAM (whole body and head shot showing mouth and eyes).
 - > **Presenting a body is not required** 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. 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 fish requiring supporting material for identification are identified by scales, genetics or photographic evidence.
 - **RECORD FISH:** 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.
- New records for established species will continue to be weight based; however, for newly listed species, or species without a record weight, the committee will accept length-based record claims.**
- 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. Claims for additional heavier/longer fish captured can be submitted for review subsequently but only three awards will be made. Only 3 claims for shad (irrespective of species) to be submitted by an individual angler in any year.
- 6. SENDING FISH TO THE COMMITTEE:**
Identification is mainly based on scale or photographic evidence but in the few cases where a body is forwarded please:
- (1) Notify the Committee when a fish is being sent in for identification. (Telephone 00-353-1- 8842600; Email: isfc@fisheriesireland.ie).
 - (2) Do not forward fish before Bank Holidays or weekends; (keep in a cold store 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. Specimen fish should be wrapped in greaseproof paper and then in newspaper and brown paper.
- 4. 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).

***IMPORTANT – Completed claim forms should be sent to: Irish Specimen Fish Committee, c/o Inland Fisheries Ireland, 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, D24 Y265, Rep. of Ireland (Tel: 00-353-1-8842600) before 31st October each year. Where required for identification purposes (see Rule 4) fish should be sent to the same address. Scales from shad and cyprinid hybrids for genetic analysis must be forwarded to ISFC before 15th October.**

**For marine fish taken in Northern Ireland contact/send to: Dr. Steven Beggs, AFBI, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX.
Tel: +44 (0) 28 90 9025 5503; Email: steven.beggs@afbini.gov.uk**

For freshwater fish taken in Northern Ireland contact/send to: Richard Kennedy, AFBI, River Bush Salmon Station, 21 Church Street, Bushmills, Co. Antrim. Email: richard.kennedy@afbini.gov.uk

SCHEDULE OF IRISH RECORD & SPECIMEN WEIGHTS

	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	≥27.5cm Fork Length	Scales & photos
Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	6	15	suspended from ISFC listing			
Gudgeon (<i>Gobio gobio</i>)	51.02g		0.35	0.772	≥14cm Fork Length	Photo on measuring mat
Perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)	5	8	1.2	2.646	≥40cm Fork Length	Photo on measuring 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 (aka Monkfish) (<i>Squatina squatina</i>)	73		No Specimen Weight		≥125cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Angler Fish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	42.985 kg		8.0	17.64		Photos or 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>Spondylosoma cantharus</i>)	1.46 kg		0.79	1.75	≥36cm Total Length	Photos or Body
Bluemouth (<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>)	1.32 kg		0.9	1.98	≥38cm Total Length	Photo
Brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)	9	8	1.6	3.53		Photos or Body
Coalfish (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	15.1 kg		6.0	13.23	≥86cm Total Length	Photo
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	42		7.0	15.43	≥88cm Total Length	-
Conger eel (<i>Conger conger</i>)	72		18.144	40	≥165cm Total Length	-
Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	2	5.5	0.6	1.32	≥37cm Total Length	Photos or 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	Photos or 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
Gillthead bream (<i>Sparus aurata</i>)	4.37 kg		1.4	3.08	≥42cm Total Length	Photo (whole body, head shot showing mouth & eyes)
Gurnard – Grey (<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>)	3	1	0.60	1.32	≥40cm Total Length	Photos or Body
Gurnard – Red (<i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i>)	3	9.5	0.907	2	≥45cm Total Length	Photos or Body
Gurnard – Tub (<i>Trigla lucerna</i>)	12	3.5	1.9	4.19	≥58cm Total Length	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	-
Hallibut (<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>)	156		12.0	26.46		-
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)	0.48 kg		0.34	0.75		Photos or Body
John Dory (<i>Zeus faber</i>)	7	8	1.4	3.086	≥45cm Total Length	-
Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>)	55		11.34	25	≥125cm Total Length	-
Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	4	2	1.0	2.205	≥44cm Total Length	Photos or Body
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)	1.85 kg		0.794	1.75	≥49cm Total Length	Photos or Body
Mullet – Grey, thick lipped (<i>Chelon labrosus</i>)	9.1		2.268	5	≥55cm Total Length	Photos or Body
Mullet – Golden Grey (<i>Chelon auratus</i>)	1.52 kg		0.68	1.5		Photos or Body
Mullet – Thin Lipped (<i>Chelon ramada</i>)	2.95 kg		1.5	3.31		Photos or Body
Mullet – Red (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)	0.82 kg		0.4	0.88	≥30cm Total Length	Photos or 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	≥48cm Total Length	-
Ray – Blonde (<i>Raja brachyura</i>)	37		11.34	25	≥100cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Cuckoo (<i>Leucoraja naevus</i>)	5	11	1.6	3.53	≥63cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Electric (<i>Tetranarce nobiliana</i>)	40 kg		9.072	20		Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Homelyn (<i>Raja montagui</i>)	8.28		2.268	5	≥65cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Painted (<i>Raja microcellata</i>)	17.21		4.536	10	≥80cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Sting (<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>)	33.2 kg		13.0	28.66	≥90cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Thornback (<i>Raja clavata</i>)	37		7.0	15.43	≥100cm 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		Photos or Body
Red Sea Bream (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>)	9	6	1.0	2.205		-
Short Spined Sea Scorpion (<i>Myoxocephalus scorpius</i>) [†]			0.26	.573	≥25cm Total Length [†]	Photo on measuring mat
Shore Rockling (<i>Gaidropsarus mediterraneus</i>)	38 cm TL				≥32cm Total Length [†]	Photo on measuring mat
Rockling – Three Bearded (<i>Gaidropsarus vulgaris</i>)	3	1	0.794	1.75	≥40cm Total Length	Photos or Body
Scad (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)	1.97		0.680	1.5	≥44cm Total Length	Photos or Body
Shad – Allis (<i>Alosa alosa</i>)	-		1.814	4		Scales
Shad – Twaite (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	1.64 kg		No Specimen Weight		≥50cm Total Length	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 in water (as per Rule 3)
Shark – Six-Gilled (<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>)	480 kg		45.359	100		Photo on measuring mat
Shark – Thresher (<i>Alopius vulpinus</i>)	-		54.431	120		Photo on measuring mat
Skate – Flapper skate (<i>Dipturus intermedius</i>)	221		No Specimen Weight		≥180cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Skate – Long Nosed (<i>Dipturus oxyrinchus</i>)	-		36.287	80		Photo on measuring mat
Skate – White (<i>Rostroraja alba</i>)	165		No Specimen Weight		≥180cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Smooth-Hound (<i>Mustelus asterias</i>)	12.02kg		4.5	9.92	≥103cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Stone Basse (<i>Polyprion americanus</i>)	6.07kg		3.628	8	≥58cm Total Length	-
Tope (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	34.02 kg		18.144	40	≥158cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Torsk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>)	4.858 kg		2.0	4.409	≥40cm Total Length	Photos or Body
Trigger Fish (<i>Balistes capricus</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	≥54cm Total Length	-
Wrasse – Ballan (<i>Labrus bergylta</i>)	4.3 kg		2.154	4.75	≥48cm Total Length	Photo
Wrasse – Corkwing (<i>Symphodus melops</i>) [†]	-		0.20	0.440	≥24cm Total Length [†]	Photo
Wrasse – Cuckoo (<i>Labrus mixtus</i>)	2	7	0.567	1.25	≥35cm Total Length	Photo

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

[†] Claims are invited for these species (Corkwing Wrasse, Shore Rockling & Short Spined Sea Scorpion) in order to set specimen thresholds.