

R E P O R T

of

THE IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

FOR 1955-1956

The Committee was established in April 1955 after consultations between a number of groups interested in angling in Ireland. It is composed of the following:-

Chairman : A. E. J. Went, D.Sc., (Fisheries Branch, Department of Agriculture).  
Honorary Secretary : Mr. Seamus Davin, (Bord Failte Eireann).

with representatives of: -

Inland Fisheries Trust (Inc): Mr. Michael Kennedy.  
Irish Federation of Sea Anglers. : Captain C. P. O'Toole.  
National Salmon Anglers' Federation of Ireland. : Mr. R. Rice.  
Trout Anglers' Federation of Eire. : Mr. J. F. McCarthy. (Substitute - Mr. W. G. Mellon).  
The Editor for the time being of Stream and Field in Ireland. : Mr. G. H. Burrows.

The Committee held several meetings during the period under review.

As a preliminary to its work the Committee drew up a list of minimum weights of the various species of fishes which it was intended to record and also sets of rules of procedure for the verification of claims. These lists or rules were published in Stream and Field in Ireland (Vol. 7. No. 3. January 1956. p.p. 23-24) and circulated to interested parties. The Committee then examined the existing records of specimen fish and a list of verified records was drawn up, which was subsequently published in several numbers of Stream and Field in Ireland (Vol. 7. No. 3-6, January-April, 1956). In this list, reference was made to a rudd weighing 6½ lbs. said to have been taken in Lough Cowma in July 1951. The Committee considers that this fish was probably a rudd/bream hybrid, and therefore should not have been included in the records for rudd.

The main work of the Committee subsequently, was the recording of recent captures of specimen fishes taken by fair angling in Irish waters. The following records were accepted by the Committee:-

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

Weight in lbs.	Lake	Date	Name of Angler	Method
18½	L. Mask	13/8/1950	Mr. W. A. T. Cobbe.	
17½	L. Mask	26/8/1956	Mrs. W. A. T. Cobbe.	Trolling on a minnow.
16 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	L. Corrib	22/8/1956	Mr. M. O'Donnell.	Fly.
13 <sup>19</sup> / <sub>32</sub>	L. Corrib (Creave Bay)	10/7/1956	Mr. D. O'Dea.	Spinning.
12½	L. Corrib	22/5/1952	Mr. H. F. Yardley.	Trolling.
11 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	L. Mask	17/3/1956	Mr. John Finlay.	Trolling.
11½	L. Mask	28/9/1955	Mr. B. Scarratt.	Trolling - bait.
11	L. Mask	August, 1956	Miss Joan Clarke.	Trolling.
10½	L. Erne Lr.	7/3/1956	Mr. W. Roberts.	Spinning.
10 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	L. Corrib	24/5/1955	Mr. J. A. Dickinson.	Trolling.
10½	L. Erne Lr.	March, 1956	Mr. J. V. Courtney.	Bait.
10½	L. Corrib	March, 1954	Mr. Francis Leigh.	Trolling.
8½	L. Mask	August, 1956	Miss H. O'Connell.	Trolling.
8½	Caragh Lake	11/6/1938	Dr. Basil Brooke.	Trolling.

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

Weight in lbs.	River	Date	Name of Angler	Method
13	R. Arney	August, 1956	Mr. W. J. Maxwell.	
5½	R. Suir	July, 1955	Mr. Michael Farrell.	



PIKE

Weight in lbs.	River or Lake	Date	Name of Angler	Method
32½	L. Ree	19/4/1955	Mr. Peter Egan.	

SEA FISHES

Weight in lbs.	Place of Capture.	Date	Name of Angler
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SKATE

205	Kinsale	26/8/1956	Mr. Alexander W. Bowie.
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HAKE

15 lbs. 2¾ ozs.	Bangor, Co. Down.	13/7/1956	Mr. John McKay (Jnr.) *
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HADDOCK

5	Kinsale	25/8/1956	Mr. Jack Lyons. (Bait Fishing).
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RED BREEM

4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	Kinsale	20/8/1955	Mr. H. Armitage.
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POURING

3 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Kinsale	20/8/1955	Mr. H. Armitage.
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COD

26½	Greystones	23/10/1955	Captain C. P. O'Toole.
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TURBOT

23½	Kinsale	20/8/1955	Captain J. P. Saul.
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MACKEREL

2 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	Lough Eyno.	23/6/1956	Professor Fergus J. O'Rourke.
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\* (Note: This is the record for its species caught in Irish waters).  
Further records relating to various species await verification.

As anglers are aware, there has been considerable discussion as to the identity of sharks which formerly were believed to be porbeagle sharks. Mr. Michael Kennedy has now produced evidence from which Dr. O'Connell Browne's 365 lb. shark taken off Achill in 1932 can definitely be identified as a porbeagle shark. A paper on the occurrence of the porbeagle shark in Irish waters by Mr. Kennedy has been accepted for publication by the Irish Naturalists' Journal and will appear early in 1957.

The Committee are instrumental in arranging for the setting up of the fine skate weighing 205 lbs. taken by Mr. Alexander W. Bowie at Kinsale on 26th August, 1956, and wishes to express its appreciation of the offer of the Director of the National Museum, Dublin, to display this specimen when its mounting is completed. The thanks of the Committee are due to Bord Fáilte Éireann which has kindly agreed to meet the expense of mounting this specimen.

FEBRUARY, 1957.

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