



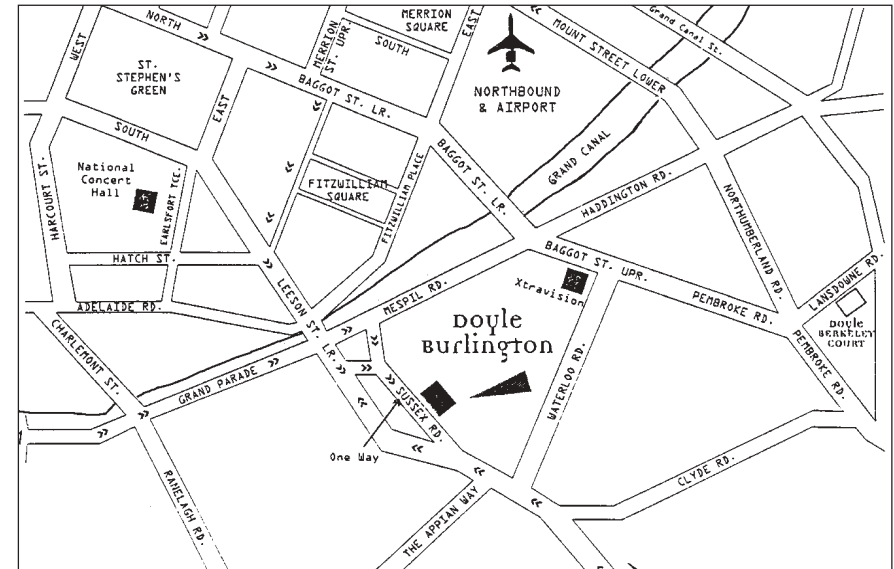
REPORT FOR YEAR
1999



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Location Map for Awards Presentation in Doyle Burlington



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REPORT OF IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1999

During 1999, the Committee was P. Fitzmaurice, Chairman and W. Roche, Secretary, T. Champ and N. Dunlop (Central Fisheries Board); B. Geraghty (Bord Fáilte Eireann); C.P. O'Toole (Irish Federation of Sea Anglers); N. O'Farrell (National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland); A. Murray (Irish Trout Fly Fishing Association); P. Byrne (National Anglers Representative Association); M. McEnroe (Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland); C. Moriarty (Marine Institute) and G. Gough (Electricity Supply Board).

During the year the Committee received 410 claims and ratified 384.

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 1999

(Dates of capture 1999 unless otherwise stated)

SALMON

Record, 57 lbs; Specimen Weight, 20 lbs; 9.072 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
26 0	River Corrib	12th July	Michael Murphy	Shrimp
25 4	River Bann, Carnroe	11th July	Ken McClean	Spinner
21.4	River Dargle	10th August	Stephen Sutton	Flying C

SEA TROUT

Record, 16 lbs. 6 ozs. Specimen Weight, 6 lbs; 2.721 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9.3	River Lee	12th June	Ciaran Cahalane	Spinner
9 3	Lough Currane	20th May	Tom Sweeney	Fly
8.16	Lough Currane	7th June	Barry Patterson (UK)	Fly
6 14	Lough Namona	26th September	Ashley Mathews	Fly
6 12	Lough Currane	22nd April	Vincent Appleby	Rapala
6 8	Lough Currane	30th April	Bob Priestley	Fly
6 4	Lough Currane	29th June	Bryan Hanson (UK)	Fly
6 4	Lough Currane	17th September	Michael Ryan	Fly
6 1	Lough Currane	19th May	Roy M. Freeman (UK)	Fly
6 1	Lough Currane	27th June	Eamon McEvoy	Fly
6 1	Lough Currane	19th September	Roger MacNaughton	Fly



Ciaran Cahalane from Cork with his 9.3 lb Sea Trout from the River Lee.

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

Record, 26 lbs 2 ozs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs; 4.536 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14 12	Lough Sheelin	24th April	James O'Reilly	Rapala
12.54	Lough Corrib	1st April	Christopher John Martin (UK)	Copper & Silver Spoon
12 8	Lough Corrib	18th July	John Gibbons	Roach
12 0	Lough Corrib	11th July	Fr. Francis Murphy	Roach
11 14	Lough Erne	4th April	Marius Breen	Fly
5.238 kg	Lough Corrib	5th September	Brian Duffy	Fly
11 8	Lough Corrib	4th July	John Gibbons	Roach
11 6	Lough Mask	26th September	Gerard Finn	Fly
11.28	Lough Corrib	8th August	Patrick Dunning	Plug
11 2	Lough Erne	19th March	Francis Noble	Tasmanian Devil
11 0	Lough Corrib	4th July	Fr. Francis Murphy	Roach
10.6	Lough Mask	24th April	Noel McCaffrey	Copper Spoon
10 8	Lough Corrib	10th July	John Gibbons	Roach
10.35	Lough Corrib	2nd August	Brian Noonan	Rudd
10 0	Lough Corrib	4th July	Daniel Paris (F)	Rapala
10 0	Lough Sheelin	7th October	Vaughan Ruckley (UK)	Fly



Marius Breen with an 11 lb 14 oz Brown Trout from Lough Erne.

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

Record, 20 lbs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs; 2.268 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
16 7	Cong Canal	30th September '98	Eddie Shanagher Jnr.	Worm
14 11	Cong Canal	30th September '98	Eddie Shanagher Jnr.	Worm
9.34	River Lung	31st May	John Corcoran	Fly
8.3	River Lung	4th June	John Corcoran	Fly
7 13	River Clare	16th September	Duncan Brown	Mepps No. 4
7.75	Cong Canal	1st March	Bobby Connolly	Worm
7 11	River Inny, Abbeylara	21th March	Philip Donoghue	Nymph
7 8	River Corrib	10th May	Jan Tinnemans (NL)	Dead Roach
6 15	Cong Canal	6th March	Christy Emmett	Mepps
6.59	River Suir, Ardfinnan	24th June	David Rylands	Fly
6 8	River Liffey, Millicent Br.	12th September	Ted O'Callaghan	Fly
6 5	River Liffey, Millicent Br.	1st August '98	Patrick Fennessy	Worm
6 4	River Suir, Ardfinnan	31st July	Philip Maher	Dry Fly
6.2	River Lung	3rd June	John Corcoran	Fly
6 2	River Liffey, Millicent Br.	2nd August '98	Patrick Fennessy	Worm

BROWN TROUT (RIVER) (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.77	Cong Canal	2nd March	Sean Morrin	Worm
5.61	River Liffey, Clane	23rd August	Jonathon Morrissey	Dry Fly
5.42	Cong Canal	26th June	John Wilkinson	Pheasant Tail Nymph
5 6	River Moyola	11th August	Joseph O'Neill	Fly
5.29	River Liffey, Newbridge	2nd September	Dermott McDermott	Wetfly
2.284 kg	Cong Canal	2nd March	Peter McCartin	Worm

BREAM

Record, 12 lbs. 3 ozs; Specimen Weight, 7.5 lbs; 3.402 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10 11	Lough Ree	6th June	Alastair Rawlings	Bread Flake
10 7	Monalty Lake	26th March	Fred Foster	Maggots
10 6.5	Monalty Lake	30th May	Colm Crean	Maggots
10 6	Lough Ree	6th June	Alastair Rawlings	Bread Flake
10 6	Monalty Lake	30th May	James McMahon	Maggots
10 3.5	Monalty Lake	30th May	Colm Crean	Maggots
10 2	Monalty Lake	14th July	Colm Crean	Maggots
10 1.5	Monalty Lake	31st January	James McMahon	Maggots
9 11	Monalty Lake	24th March	Fred Foster	Maggots
9 9	Monalty Lake	6th April	Brendan Doran	Bread
9 7	Monalty Lake	25th April	Fred Foster	Maggots
9 4	River Bann, Toome	2nd May	Colin Martin	Worm/Maggot
9 4	Lough Ree	6th August	Roy Gretton	Sweetcorn/Maggots
9 4	Monalty Lake	9th April	Brendan Doran	Bread
9 4	Monalty Lake	31st January	James McMahon	Maggots
9 3	Monalty Lake	6th September	Albert Bedford (UK)	Sweetcorn
9 1	Monalty Lake	8th September	Albert Bedford (UK)	Sweetcorn
8 15	Lough Ree	7th August	Roy Gretton	Sweetcorn/Maggots
8 12	Lough Ree	6th August	Roy Gretton	Sweetcorn/Maggots
8 10	Monalty Lake	8th September	Albert Bedford (UK)	Sweetcorn
8 7	Ballinacid Lake	23rd July	Brendan Doran	Worm
8 4.5	Ballycullinan Lake	1st May	Nick Parry	Corn
8 3.5	River Bann, Toome	30th July	Nick Parry	Worm
3.675 kg	River Shannon, Lanesboro	20th April	Barry Lister (UK)	Bread
8 1	Drumlaheen Lake	19th June	Ron Patterson	Maggots
7 15	Monalty Lake	10th September	R. W. Mabbutt (UK)	Maggots/Corn
7 14	Ballycullinan Lake	28th August	Christy Lane	Sweetcorn



A 7 lb 9 oz "two-tone" Bream taken by Ken Horgan in Ballycullinan Lake.

BREAM (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 14	River Bann, Toome	30th July	Kenneth Crooks	Worm
3.565 kg	River Shannon, Lanesboro	26th May	Barry Lister (UK)	Bread
7 12.5	Ballycullinan Lake	5th June	David A. Spokes	Worm
7 12	Ballycullinan Lake	13th June	Liam Kane	Maggots/Corn
7 12	Ballycullinan Lake	15th August	Conor Healy	Worm/Corn
7 11	Ballycullinan Lake	5th June	Duncan Brown	Worm/Sweetcorn
7 10	Ballycullinan Lake	28th August	Noel Lane	Sweetcorn
7 10	Ballycullinan Lake	14th August	Conor Healy	Worm/Corn
7 9	Ballycullinan Lake	19th July	Derek Sneyd	Worms
7 9	Ballycullinan Lake	15th August	Ken Horgan	Worm/Corn
7 8.5	River Bann, Toome	30th July	Kenneth Crooks	Worm



Two Bream (10 lbs 11 ozs and 10 lbs 6 ozs) taken in Lough Ree by Alastair Rawlings on June 6th.

PIKE (LAKE)

Record, 39 lbs. 3 ozs; Specimen Weight, 30 lbs; 13.608 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
36 4	Lough Ramor	20th April	Edward Tobin	Dead Roach
30 8	Lough Allua	21st November	Roy Gretton	Rapala
30 3	Lough Derg, Islandmor	17th March	William Gleeson	Rapala
30 2	Lough Allua	2nd November	Roy Gretton	Roach

PIKE (RIVER)

Record, 42 lbs; Specimen Weight, 20 lbs; 9.072 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
35 8	Ulster Blackwater River	7th June	Noel McGahan	Fish
31 9	Clare River	1st September	Michael McCabe	Perch
29 12	River Barrow, Goresbridge	6th February	Joseph Marsella	Herring
28 1	River Inny	8th March	Leo Farrell	Sandeel
27.5	Cong Canal	27th May	Toni Arendt (D)	Rapala
27 8	River Erne, Co. Fermanagh	17th November	Andy Nicholson (UK)	Roach
26 0	River Barrow, St. Mullins	13th March	Daniel Murphy	Herring



This 20 lb 2 oz Pike was taken by Alastair Rawlings in the River Suck at Ballyforan in February.

PIKE (RIVER) (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
23.8	River Barrow, St. Mullins	20th March	Daniel Murphy	Herring
10.75 kg	Philipstown River	14th February	Joe Tracey	Mackerel
23 10	River Erkina, Durrow	23rd February	Joseph Marcella	Smelt
22 11	Lower River Bann	25th May	Charlie O'Kane	Fly
22.25	River Barrow	30th January	Master Gary Doyle	Hybrid
22 3	River Barrow, Bagnelstown	21st November	Ken Garry	Roach
22 0	Clare River	16th October	David A. O'Connell	Herring
21 11	Clare River	31st August	Michael Canney	Perch
21.37	River Barrow, Leighlinbridge	14th March	Peter Bolger	Fish
20.75	River Barrow	30th January	Master Gary Doyle	Rudd
20 6	River Annalee	5th May	Stephen McEnroe	Toby
20 6	River Lung	26th January	Alastair Rawlings	Sardine
20 6	River Inny	4th July	Leo Farrell	Dead Roach
20 3	River Fergus, Ruan	25th October	Nick Parry	Dead Bait
20 2	River Suck, Ballyforan	17th February	Alastair Rawlings	Herring Tail



Eleven year-old Bill Brazier caught this 12 lb 6.5 oz Carp in Lake Gorteen.

CARP

Record, 29 lbs. 13 ozs; Specimen Weight, 12 lbs; 5.443 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
28 0	The Lough	11th September	John Healy	Maggots
24 4	The Lough	1st September	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
22 14	The Lough	9th September	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
22 12	The Lough	9th September	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
21 10	Ballinafid Lake	17th March	Fred Foster	Boilie
19 10	The Lough	20th September	John Healy	Boilie
18 8	The Lough	20th September	John Healy	Maggots
18 0	The Lough	14th September	John Feeney	Boilie
15 12	Ballinafid Lake	14th August	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
15 10	Ballinafid Lake	18th July	Brendan Doran	Boilie
15 8	Ballinafid Lake	23rd July	Brendan Doran	Boilie
15 5	Ballinafid Lake	23rd May	Brendan Doran	Boilie
14 12	Butler's Pond, Tipperary	13th July	Robin Brazier	Maize
14 10	Ballinafid Lake	26th August	Ron Patterson	Boilie
14 8	Butler's Pond	28th March	Robin Brazier	Boilie
14 6.5	Lake Gorteen	25th September	Robin Brazier	Dog Biscuit
14 5	The Lough	11th September	John Feeney	Boilie

CARP (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13 15	Ballinafid lake	19th March	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
12 12	Dysart Lake	8th August	Master Bill Brazier	Boilie
12 8	Ballinafid Lake	17th March	Fred Foster	Boilie
12 6.5	Lake Gorteen	26th September	Master Bill Brazier	Boilie
12 3	Lake Gorteen	30th January	Master Bill Brazier	Boilie
12 2	Royal Canal, Ashtown	29th April	Daniel Smith	Bread Crust

EEL

Record, 6 lbs. 15 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4 15.5	Lake Gorteen	26th September	Robin Brazier	Dog Biscuit
4 0	The Lough	2nd September	Sidney Kennedy	Maggot
3.81	Callows Lake, Carrigallen	26th May	Sean Cooke	Worms
3 12	Lough Lene	30th May	Patrick Taite	Worms
3 7	Lough Ree	15th July	Alastair Rawlings	Worm
3.38	Callows Lake	16th July	Bob O'Callaghan	Worm
3 0	The Lough	11th September	John Feeny	Worm
3 0	The Lough	11th September	Toney Cotter	Maggots

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

New Record, 5 lbs. 14.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 14.5	Lough Kinale	13th June	Daniel Smith	Maggots
5 4 ⁷ / ₈	River Bann	17th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
5 3	River Inny, Castlepollard	6th April	Michael Norton	Maggots
4 15.5	Lough Kinale	19th May	Daniel Smith	Sweetcorn
4 9.5	Lough Kinale	19th May	Ken Garry	Sweetcorn
4.51	Galloncurra Lake	8th July	David McNamee	Sweetcorn
4 5	Galloncurra Lake	27th May	Ray Bannerman	Maggots/Sweetcorn
4 4	Galloncurra Lake	16th August	Godfrey Donohue	Sweetcorn/Maggots
4 0.5	River Bann	17th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
4 0.125	River Bann	25th April	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots
3.75	Galloncurra Lake	8th July	David McNamee	Sweetcorn
3 10 ⁷ / ₈	River Bann	24th April	Eileen Coulter	Maggots



Dan Smith from Dublin with his record Roach/Bream Hybrid of 5 lbs. 14.5 ozs taken in Lough Kinale.

RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

Record, 7 lbs. 10 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4 3.5	Ballycullinan Lake	10th May	Nick Parry	Maggots
4 1	Ballycullinan Lake	6th June	Duncan Brown	Worm
4 0	River Inny	1st May	Ray Bannerman	Maggots
3 5.375	Ballycullinan Lake	1st May	Nick Parry	Corn/Maggots
3 1	River Barrow	11th June	Pat Dalton	Corn/Maggot Cocktail
3 1	River Barrow	1st October	Eamonn Lyons	Maggots

PERCH

Record, 5 lbs. 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.12	River Barrow	26th October	Daniel Murphy	Lobworm



Well known specimen hunter Bill Collins with a lovely Tench of 7 lbs 5 ozs from Lough Atedaun.

TENCH

Record, 8.15 lbs; Specimen Weight, 6 lbs; 2.721 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.5	Holly Island Lake	16th June	Nick Parry	Corn/Maggots
7	6 Lakyle Lake	6th October	Robin Brazier	Sweetcorn
7	5 Lough Atedaun	4th July	Bill Collins	Lobworm
7	2 R. Shannon, Shannonbridge	30th May	Fred Foster	Bread/Sweetcorn
6	12 Black Lake, Co. Clare	26th June	Tom Sneyd	Sweetcorn
3.040 kg	Black Lake, Co. Clare	16th June	Tobias Zick (D)	Sweetcorn/Maggots
6	11 Ballycullinan Lake	13th June	Liam Kane	Maggots/Corn
6	9.5 Lakyle Lake	27th July	Master Bill Brazier	Peanuts
6	8 Lough Atedaun	23rd May	Bill Collins	Bread Flake
6	8 Lakyle Lake	4th September	Robin Brazier	Maize/Worm
6	6.5 Lakyle Lake	12th June	Robin Brazier	Sweetcorn
6	6 Kilgory Lough	13th June	Alan Kilroy	Corn
6	6 Lakyle Lake	27th August	Fergus Dunne	Sweetcorn

TENCH (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6	5 Lough Ree	6th June	Bill Collins	Lobworm
6	5 Kilgory Lough	14th June	Alan Kilroy	Corn
6	5 Fin Lough	2nd June	Conor Healy	Corn/Caster
6	4 Holly Island Lake	25th June	Nick Parry	Corn
6	3.5 Kilgory Lough	14th June	Alan Kilroy	Corn
6.20	Royal Canal	30th May	Rinus de Bruin	Worm
6	3 Lakyle Lake	4th August	Martin Bennett	Maggots/ Sweetcorn
6	2.75 Farm Pond, Tubber	18th March	Nick Parry	Corn
6	2 Lough Ree	6th June	Alastair Rawlings	Worm
6	2 Lough Ree	3rd July	Roy Gretton	Sweetcorn
6	1.5 Lough Bridget	12th June	Garnett Coulter	Sweetcorn/ Maggots
6	1.5 Ballycullinan Lake	7th June	David A. Spokes	Worm/Sweetcorn
6	1 Lough Ree	7th June	Alastair Rawlings	Worm
6	0.5 Lakyle Lake	31st August	Master Bill Brazier	Sweetcorn
6	0.5 Lough Bridget	12th June	Garnett Coulter	Sweetcorn/ Maggots
6	0 Lakyle Lake	29th August	Master Bill Brazier	Sweetcorn

BASS

Record, 17 lbs. 1.25 ozs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs; 4.536 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.59 kg	Ballycotton	1st September	Jamie Hayes	Ragworm
12 0	Tralee Bay	1st August	Eugene Farrelly	Toby
5.37 kg	Inch, Co. Cork	7th May	Donal Domoney	Crab
11.80	Bannow Bay	2nd July	Declan Ratigan	Rapala
11.5	Cahore	16th August	Martin Foreman	Mackerel
5.2 kg	Hook Head, Co. Wexford	12th September	John Brown	Peeler Crab
5.034 kg	Tinnabearna	3rd April	Hugh Hayden	Peeler Crab
5 kg	Hook Head	25th October	John Brown	Peeler Crab
4.9 kg	Hook Head	25th October	Henry Lynam	Crab
10 8	Tramore	4th October	John O'Keefe	Lugworm
4.7 kg	Saleens, Waterford	20th June	Henry Lynam	Kilty Catcher
4.6 kg	Saleens, Waterford	20th June	John Brown	German Sprat
10 2	Tramore	16th October	Liam Doheny	Peeler Crab/Lugworm

COALFISH

Record, 12.5 kilos; Specimen Weight, 15 lbs; 6.804 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.45 kg	Kinsale	13th June	Andre de Groot (NL)	Baited Feather
16 0	Courtmacsherry	13th June	Louis Gevers (NL)	Mackerel Strip

COD

Record, 42 lbs; Specimen Weight, 20 lbs; 9.072 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
25.40	Baltimore	8th July	David Smith (UK)	Baited Pirk

CONGER EEL

Record, 72 lbs; Specimen Weight, 40 lbs; 18.144 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
20.5 kg	Valentia	22nd July	P. Rynsburger (NL)	Mackerel
43.6	Caherciveen	12th June	Frank Prendergast	Mackerel
43.6	Valentia	10th September	Johan De Vlieger (B)	Mackerel Flapper
42 0	Courtmacsherry	7th June	D. Kruykamp (NL)	Mackerel
18.44 kg	Ballycotton	29th November	Stephen O'Neill	Mackerel baited pirk

DAB

Record, 2.02 lbs; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs; 0.680 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.58	Courtmacsherry	14th September	Dave Clark (UK)	Peeler Crab/ Lugworm
1 9	Little Killary	8th November '98	Declan Horan	Lugworm

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record, 23 lbs. 12 ozs; Specimen Weight, 16 lbs; 7.257 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9.2 kg	Valentia	9th August	Dykstra Romke (NL)	Mackerel
8.31 kg	Schull	6th June	Bill Davidson	Sandeel
7.785 kg	Glenarm	9th October	William Kirkpatrick	Mackerel
7.6 kg	Valentia	23rd July	Stephan Vollenbroek (NL)	Mackerel
16 8	Kenmare Bay	12th August	J.J.C. Dumay (NL)	Mackerel
16 8	Kenmare Bay	27th August	Cees Toeset (NL)	Mackerel
16 0	Kenmare Bay	21st September	M.M. Jacques (NL)	Mackerel



Dutch angler Stephan Vollenbroek with a Greater Spotted Dogfish taken off Valentia in July

LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record, 4 lbs. 4 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3.25 lbs; 1.4737 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.5 kg	Cork Harbour	11th January	John Warner	Mackerel
1.495 kg	Glenarm, Co. Antrim	26th July	Stuart Landridge	Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH

New Record, 21 lbs; Specimen Weight, 12 lbs; 5.443 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
18 13	Kenmare Bay	1st September	Robert Smit (NL)	Mackerel
17 0	Kenmare Bay	23rd April	J.A. Vermeulen (NL)	Mackerel
17 0	Kenmare Bay	19th August	J.J.C. Dumay (NL)	Mackerel
15 0	Kenmare Bay	11th September	Alfons Van Kempen (NL)	Mackerel
15 0	Kenmare Bay	31st August	Bas Joeset (NL)	Mackerel
15 0	Kenmare Bay	23rd April	Richard Lich (NL)	Mackerel
14 0	Dun Laoghaire	6th May '98	Gerry Connolly	Mackerel
14 0	Kenmare Bay	11th September	Gerard Stouten (NL)	Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14 0	Kenmare Bay	14th September	Marc Van der Velden (NL)	Mackerel
13 4	Kenmare Bay	24th March	Liam Brennan	Mackerel Fillet
13 0	Kenmare Bay	13th May	Alex Streefland (NL)	Mackerel
12.5	Dun Laoghaire	7th May '98	Jonathan Boylan	Mackerel
12 0	Dun Laoghaire	26th April '98	Paul Sainsbury	Cod Feathers/ Mackerel Strip
12 0	Kenmare Bay	14th September	J.A. Vermeulen (NL)	Mackerel
12 0	Kenmare Bay	11th September	Vincent Van Oosten (NL)	Mackerel

FLOUNDER

Record, 4.91 lbs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.56 kg	Lacken	17th October	Desmond Boyle	Crab
1.52 kg	Castlerock	30th September '98	Richard Kennedy	Ragworm
3.04	Dingle	15th October	Terry Rothery (UK)	Crab

GARFISH (Belone bellone)

Record, 3 lbs. 10.25 ozs. Specimen Weight, 2.25 lbs; 1.021 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.53	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Ferry Minnaap (NL)	Mackerel Strip
1.124 kg	Kinsale	28th August	Michael Van Beest (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.32	Courtmacsherry	2nd September	A. Oversteegen (NL)	Mackerel Strip

GREY GURNARD

Record, 3 lbs. 1 oz; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs; 0.680 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1 10	Downings	1st September	Paul H. McConnell	Feathers
1.61	Sheephaven	21st August	Jan Sengers (NL)	Mackerel
1 9	Red Bay	25th July	Norman Lindsay	Mackerel

RED GURNARD

Record, 3 lbs. 9.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 2 lbs; 0.907 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 4	Port na Blagh	12th September	Jock Leslie	Mackerel
2 3.25	Rathmullan	5th September	Donal Kennedy	Mackerel Strip
2.19	Belmullet	13th June	Sylvy Sweeney	Mackerel Strip
0.965 kg	Inistrahull Island	26th September	Des Mills	Mackerel Strip
2 2	Brandon Bay	31st July	John Boyle	Mackerel
2.11	Rathmullan	5th September	Mattie Foley	Mackerel/Ragworm
2 1.625	Rathmullan	11th July	Niall A. Doherty	Mackerel
2.05	Sheephaven	1st August	Raymond Devlin	Baited Muppet

TUB GURNARD

Record, 12 lbs. 3.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs; 2.268 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.92	Belmullet	29th August	Brian Smallwood	Mackerel Strip
5.85	Downings	26th June	Terry Kane	Mackerel Strip/ Feathers
2.625 kg	Achill Island	15th August	Joe Cooney	Mackerel
5.46	Belmullet	18th July	Sylvy Sweeney	Mackerel Strip
5.11	Achill	23rd July	Gerard Sweeney	Muppet

LING

Record, 46 lbs. 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 25 lbs; 11.340 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
40 0	East Ferry	10th July	Rodney George Mitchell (UK)	Baited Muppet
38 0	East Ferry	10th July	David Mason (UK)	Baited Hokkai
33 8	East Ferry	4th September	Stephen A. Mason (UK)	Mackerel Fillet
30 8	Baltimore	8th July	John Victor Reynolds (UK)	Mackerel Strip
30 0	East Ferry	10th July	Brian MacDonald (UK)	Hokkai
30 0	East Ferry	4th September	Keith Wild (UK)	Mackerel Fillet
13.14 kg	Guileen	5th September	Sean Clohessy	Mackerel
13.1 kg	Kinsale	23rd July	Stefan Mieras (NL)	Mackerel
28.8	Baltimore	25th July	Tony Rainer (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
28.01	Baltimore	29th July	Kevin Padden (UK)	Mackerel Fillet
27.56	Baltimore	8th July	Charles Alfred Boetiger (UK)	Baited Pirk



A 13.14 kg Ling caught by Sean Clohessy out of Guileen.

LING (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
27.16	Baltimore	5th July	Barry Wood (UK)	Mackerel Strip
27 0	East Ferry	10th July	Kenneth R. Salmon (UK)	Baited Hokkai
26.52	Baltimore	20th August	Matt Holbrook (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
26.06	Baltimore	29th July	Tony Rainer (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
26 0	East Ferry	10th July	Brian MacDonald (UK)	Baited Hokkai
26 0	Courtmacsherry	8th July	Jan Bovendeur (NL)	Mackerel Strip
26 0	Courtmacsherry	23rd June	Mark Gannon	Mackerel
26 0	Courtmacsherry	30th May	Paul Cusack	Mackerel
25 1	Dunmore East	29th May	Thomas McCormack	Baited Feathers

MACKEREL

Record, 4 lbs 2 ozs; Specimen Weight, 2.5 lbs; 1.134 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.6	Downings	21st August	Ian McCrorie	Feathers



Niall O'Sullivan is delighted with the heaviest Pollack of the year (17 lbs) taken off Courtmacsherry

GREY MULLET

Record, 9.10 lbs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs; 2.268 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 6	River Liffey	2nd September	Peter Bolger	Bread Flake
5 5	River Liffey	9th July	Peter Bolger	Bread
5 4	Lough Furnace	29th September	Ger Rogan	Fly
5 3	River Dodder	26th July	Peter McCartin	Bread
2.294 kg	Courtmacsherry	20th August	Stephen Blake	Mackerel

PLAICE

Record, 8.23 lbs; Specimen Weight, 4 lbs; 1.814 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.29	Cork Harbour	27th October	Bill Emery	Crab/Herring
5 9	Cork Harbour	8th October	Colin Philpott	Lugworm
2.4 kg	Cork Harbour	27th September	I. J. Booth (UK)	Razor fish/Squid
2.08 kg	Causeway Coast	29th August	Jim Shoddy	Ragworm/Mackerel
2.08 kg	Guileen	30th September	Sean Clohessy	Crab
4 2	Cork Harbour	5th October	Christy O'Sullivan	Crab
4.08	Cork Harbour	24th September	Christy O'Sullivan	Lugworm



A Twister Tail tempted this 12.5 lb Pollack for Paul Taylor off Killybegs in April.

POLLACK

Record, 19 lbs. 3 ozs; Specimen Weight, 12 lbs; 5.443 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
17 0	Courtmacsherry	5th October	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel Strip
14 8	Ballydavid	2nd August	Patrick Donnelly	Sandeel
12.5	Killybegs	25th April	Paul Taylor	Twister Tail
12.43	Ballydavid	31st July	Brian Buckley	Jellyworm
12 6.5	Port na Blagh	24th October	Master Richard Alcorn	Lure
12.39	Crosshaven	21th June	J.L.A. Nieuwland (NL)	Mackerel Strip
12.28	Ballydavid	22nd June	John Bailey (UK)	Jellyworm
12.25	Skelligs Rock	21st September '98	Franz Diessner (D)	Lure
5.5 kg	Kinsale	22nd August '98	Tom Wagenaar (NL)	Mackerel Fillet

POUTING

Record, 4 lbs. 13.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs; 1.361 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3 13	Courtmacsherry	13th August	Rini Anemaet (NL)	Mackerel Strip/ Octopus
1.684 kg	Kinsale	2nd May	Peter Broek (NL)	Mackerel Strip
3 8	Caherciveen	31st July	Paul Keen	Mackerel Strip/Red Muppet
1.395 kg	Caherciveen	1st May	Brian Thomas	Mackerel
3 0	Courtmacsherry	19th June	Alex Brien	Mackerel Strip



Norman Dunlop (right), ISFC Committee member, with his 30 lb Blonde Ray taken while fishing out of East Ferry. Skipper Brian Byrne is on the left.

BLONDE RAY

Record, 36 lbs. 8 ozs. Specimen Weight, 25 lbs; 11.34 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
30	East Ferry	3rd September '99	Norman Dunlop	Mackerel Fillet
29	East Ferry	21st August '99	Tony Smyth	Mackerel Strip

HOMELYN RAY

Record, 8.28 lbs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs; 2.268 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5 10	Portrush	4th September	John McKay	Mackerel

PAINTED RAY

Record, 17.21 lbs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs; 4.536 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.19 kg	Garryvoe	3rd October	Brian Foley	Mackerel
10.22	Fermoyle	17th November	Christopher J. Dean (UK)	Sandeel
10 3	Tralee Bay	5th September	Liam Griffin	Mackerel Strip



Michael Wall from Tralee (and friends) with his record Sting Ray of 33.2 kg taken from the shore in Tralee Bay in May.

STING RAY

New Record, 33.2 kg; Specimen Weight, 30 lbs; 13.608 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
33.2 kg	Tralee Bay	19th May	Michael Wall	Mackerel Strip
31.36 kg	Tralee Bay	17th May	Michael Wall	Mackerel Strip
28.18 kg	Tralee Bay	30th May	Michael Wall	Mackerel Strip
59 0	Rossbeigh	14th August '98	Tony Santry	Sandeel
58 0	Tralee Bay	22nd September	Allen Griffin	Mackerel
22.27 kg	Tralee Bay	30th May	Noel Burke	Mackerel Strip
35 0	Tralee Bay	25th July	Michael Counihan	Mackerel
33 0	Tralee Bay	25th July	Richard Kelter	Mackerel Strip

THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

Record, 3 lbs. 1 oz; Specimen Weight, 1.75 lbs; 0.794 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 7	Belfast Lough	2nd September	Michael Latham	Mackerel Fillet
0.888 kg	Cork Harbour	21st November	Dan Coughlan	Mackerel Strip
1 14.5	Moneypoint	14th November	Jack Lacey	Crab/Herring
1.8	Moneypoint	25th October	Finbarr Stewart (UK)	Mackerel
1.8	Moneypoint	23rd August	Gareth Reed (NL)	Mackerel
0.805 kg	Dunmore	1st June	Peter McMahon	Crab
1.75	Moneypoint	27th April	P. Verschoor (NL)	Mackerel

TWAITE SHAD

New Record, 1.54 kg; Specimen Weight, 2.125 lbs.; 0.964 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.54 kg	River Barrow, St. Mullins	7th May	Michael O'Leary	Tasmanian Devil
3.22	St. Mullins	5th May	Nicholas Ward	Tasmanian Devil
3.01	St. Mullins	5th May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
3 0	St. Mullins	9th May	Ray Lennon	Tasmanian Devil
2.99	St. Mullins	2nd May	Liam Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
2.69	St. Mullins	12th May	Paddy Keating	Tasmanian Devil
2.65	St. Mullins	5th May	Thomas McCabe	Spinner
2 9	St. Mullins	12th May	Sean Byrne	Tasmanian Devil
2.54	St. Mullins	2nd May	Liam Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
2 8	St. Mullins	8th May	Gerard Whelan	Tasmanian Devil

TWAITE SHAD (Continued)

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.5	St. Mullins	20th May	John Bermingham	Tasmanian Devil
2.5	St. Mullins	3rd May	Michael O'Leary	Tasmanian Devil
2.48	St. Mullins	11th May	Gordon Darker	Tasmanian Devil
2.47	St. Mullins	12th May	Paddy Keating	Tasmanian Devil
2.45	St. Mullins	7th May	Ray Bannerman	Tasmanian Devil
2.44	St. Mullins	8th May	Paddy Keating	Tasmanian Devil
2	7 St. Mullins	7th May	Thomas P. Keogh	Jensen Pirk
2	7 St. Mullins	10th May	Brian Buckley	Tasmanian Devil
2.38	St. Mullins	12th May	John Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
2	6 St. Mullins	8th May	Damian Wilson	Tasmanian Devil
2	6 St. Mullins	15th May	Thomas Walsh	Lure
2.32	St. Mullins	15th May	Noel O'Sullivan	Tasmanian Devil
2	5 St. Mullins	4th May	Christy Lane	Tasmanian Devil
2	4.5 St. Mullins	9th May	Denis Butler	Tasmanian Devil
2.28	St. Mullins	6th May	Brian Buckley	Tasmanian Devil
2.25	St. Mullins	8th May	Ray Bannerman	Lure
2	4 St. Mullins	3rd May	Christy Lane	Tasmanian Devil
2.22	St. Mullins	12th May	Noel O'Sullivan	Tasmanian Devil
2.22	St. Mullins	12th May	Noel O'Sullivan	Tasmanian Devil
2.2	St. Mullins	11th May	John Bermingham	Tasmanian Devil
2	3 St. Mullins	1st May	Pat Coakley	Tasmanian Devil
2	3 St. Mullins	7th May	Frank Baxter	Jensen Tobis
2	3 St. Mullins	13th May	P. J. Coleman	Tasmanian Devil
2	3 St. Mullins	9th May	Ray Lennon	Tasmanian Devil
2	3 St. Mullins	9th May	Denis Butler	Tasmanian Devil
2	3 St. Mullins	16th May	Peter Bolger	Tasmanian Devil
2	3 St. Mullins	4th May	Noel Lane	Tasmanian Devil
2	2 St. Mullins	7th May	Michael Nolan	Tasmanian Devil

BLUE SHARK

Record, 206 lbs; Specimen Weight, 100 lbs; 45.359 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
54.4 kg	Kinsale	6th July	Anders Ebreblad (SW)	Mackerel

TOPE

Record, 66 lbs. 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 40 lbs; 18.144 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
41 0	Tralee Bay	22nd August	Liam Griffin	Mackerel Flapper

TORSK

Record, 10 lbs 11 ozs; Specimen Weight, 6 lbs; 2.721 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 0.25	Port na Blagh	14th November	Pat Robinson	Mackerel Fillet

BALLAN WRASSE

Record, 4.3 kilos; Specimen Weight, 4.75 lbs; 2.154 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.03	Dingle Peninsula	15th August	Bob Moss	Crab
5 0	Kilmore Quay	24th September	John A.N. Hook (UK)	Hokkai Lures
4 14	Kinsale	10th July	Pat Coakley	Crab
4.77	Kilmore Quay	24th September	N.J. Barnett (UK)	Ragworm

CUCKOO WRASSE

New Record, 2 lbs. 7 ozs; Specimen Weight, 1.25 lbs; 0.567 kg

WEIGHT lbs. ozs.	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 7	Causeway Coast	15th September '98	Brian McLaughlin	Mackerel strip
0.686 kg	Creevy, Donegal Bay	3rd July	Cormac Burke	Crab
1.43	Belmullet	29th August	Chris McEleavy	Mackerel
0.66 kg	Arranmore Bay	8th August	Master Ross Ward	Ragworm
1 7.625	Port na Blagh	4th August	Aaron Sterling	Mackerel Strip
1 5.5	Caherciveen	26th September	Gerald Evans	Shrimp
0.584 kg	Killybegs	31st July	John McGilloway	Mackerel Strip
0.582 kg	Kinsale	2nd September	Julian Smith	Mackerel baited Hokkai

NEW RECORDS

Four new records were ratified in 1999:

A **ROACH/BREAM HYBRID** of 5 lbs 14.5ozs was taken by Daniel Smith, 11 Kilmashoge Grove, Greenpark, Walkinstown, Dublin in Lough Kinale on 13th June 1999.

A **STING RAY** of 33.2 kg was taken by Michael Wall, Derrymore West, Tralee, Co. Kerry in Tralee Bay on the 19th May 1999.

A **TWAITE SHAD** of 1.54 kg was taken by Michael O'Leary, 7 Bahana St., St. Mullins, Co. Carlow at St. Mullins on the River Barrow on the 7th May 1999.

A **CUCKOO WRASSE** of 2 lbs 7ozs was taken by Brian McLaughlin, 2 Straham View, Dervock, Co. Antrim on the Causeway Coast on the 15th September 1998.

TEN SPECIES AWARD

In 1976 the Committee decided to recognise the angling prowess of those anglers who have authenticated specimen claims for 10 different species of fish. No angler qualified in 1999.

TEN PIN AWARDS

The following qualified in 1999 for the special award made to anglers who have ten or more specimen fish:

Bill Collins, "The Gables", Ballycunningham, Donoughmore, Co. Cork.

Mattie Foley, 18 Upper Lotabeg Road, Mayfield, Cork.

Sidney Kennedy, 145 Connolly Road, Ballyphehane, Cork.

Niall O'Sullivan, Ardmore Cottage, Timoleague, Co. Cork.

Noel O'Sullivan, 44 Saint John's Park, Waterford City.

Dan Smith, 11 Kilmashogue Grove, Green Park, Walkinstown, Dublin 12.

SPECIAL AWARD FOR JUVENILES

Dr. A.E.J. Went donated a special award for the best specimen taken by a juvenile angler (i.e. 13 years old or younger on 31st December 1999). The award goes to: Ross Ward, Burtonport, Co. Donegal, for a Cuckoo Wrasse of 0.66 kg caught in Arranmore Bay on 8th August 1999.

THE MINISTER'S AWARD

In 1993, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources inaugurated this award for the best specimen fish of the year (other than a new record). The award is presented to the angler who catches a fish which represents the highest percentage of an existing record. This year's award goes to:

Nicholas Ward, 22 St. Conleth's Road, Greenhills Est., Dublin 12 for a Twaite Shad of 3.22 lbs. taken at St. Mullins on 5/5/1999.

REVISED SPECIMEN WEIGHT/NEW CLASS

The Committee has decided to make the following alteration to the Schedule of Specimen Weights:

The specimen weight for Dace has been reduced from 1 lb to **400 g** and the specimen weight for Twaite Shad has been increased from 2 lbs 2 ozs to **1 kg (2.205 lbs)** from January 1st, 2000.

A small number of claims for roach/rudd hybrids was submitted for consideration in 1999. The Committee decided not to "set up" a new class for this hybrid but, in keeping with existing practise, the situation will be kept under review.

SPECIAL NOTICE

From January 1st, 1994, all claims must include the name of the water in which the fish was caught (eg., Monalty Lake) and in the case of the larger systems, the area (eg., River Shannon – Rooskey).

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. However, provision will be made that when the 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 be more than three awards. By including this latter provision, it will ensure that the anglers competitive spirit is kept up and higher achievements could still be sought.

EXCLUSION FROM SPECIMEN STATUS

Where species of fish are introduced to a fishery at or above existing specimen weights, those species from that particular fishery shall not be considered for specimen or record status. Escapees from fish farms either freshwater or marine are also excluded.

WEIGHING OF FISH

The Committee insists that all fish be weighed on scales which are verified for accuracy. Shop scales normally used in trade are checked regularly by the Department of Weights and Measures and are acceptable for weighing specimen and record fish. Some scales not normally certified by the Weights and Measures Authority for trade can be certified by them for accuracy. Such scales if certified in advance are acceptable to the Committee for weighing purposes and the certification will be valid for one year from the date of issue of the certificate of accuracy. Scales which are not certified at the time of weighing will not be accepted nor will retrospective certification.

METRIFICATION

As and from 1978, the schedule of specimen weights on the Specimen Fish Claims Forms has given the weight in lbs and ozs., and also in kilos and grammes. Claims will be accepted under either system until E.U. legislation dictates otherwise. As many weighing scales also weigh in decimal instead of lbs. and ozs., claims are also accepted in lbs. and decimal of lb.

COMMON SKATE

In 1976 the Committee, in the interest of conservation of the species, decided to remove the Common Skate (*Raja batis*) from the list of eligible fishes and not to consider any claims whatsoever, except for a possible new record (i.e., a fish weighing in excess of 221 lbs.) The Committee has been delighted with the response to its appeal. In most angling centres throughout the country, common skate are returned unharmed to the water. The situation came up for review at the Committee's final meeting for the year 1980 and it was decided to extend the ban until further notice. The Committee in the meantime will keep the situation under annual review and looks forward to the continued co-operation of anglers in this matter.

CAPTORS ADDRESSES

Because of difficulties in establishing eligibility for the Ten Specimen and Ten Species Awards, captors are advised to inform the Committee of any changes in their addresses.

DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIMEN AWARDS

The number of specimen fish taken by visiting anglers in recent years may be of interest for comparative purposes. The 1999 total is 384, and the breakdown is:-

Year	Ireland	Britain	Netherlands	Germany	Belgium	France	Other
1972	169	126	23	29	7	2	-
1973	235	91	40	23	9	5	-
1974	170	117	36	16	6	9	-
1975	204	132	27	46	3	6	-
1976	214	123	36	40	2	5	-
1977	272	135	47	35	4	4	-
1978	281	126	86	19	7	1	-
1979	235	126	52	18	6	5	-
1980	355	77	54	13	9	2	-
1981	390	111	31	19	6	2	-
1982	404	104	61	18	4	4	-
1983	532	116	31	15	2	4	-
1984	442	131	29	17	5	2	-
1985	443	90	25	15	3	2	-
1986	349	93	21	16	3	7	-
1987	300	59	36	8	1	4	-
1988	259	60	14	5	4	4	-
1989	261	48	18	10	0	0	-
1990	286	45	21	23	4	1	-
1991	332	46	30	19	1	3	-
1992	336	56	32	9	1	3	-
1993	352	45	30	16	3	4	-
1994	282	39	33	13	1	2	-
1995	295	55	35	18	7	1	-
1996	307	69	27	6	4	2	-
1997	449	57	28	9	5	4	-
1998	344	53	46	6	4	4	4
1999	310	35	33	3	1	1	1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee is extremely grateful to all anglers who submitted photographs this year, particularly Michael McVeigh. Good quality photographs of successful anglers are always welcome.

Club members, guesthouse owners, tackle dealers and staffs of the Central and Regional Boards who follow up claims and ensure all paperwork is attended to are also gratefully acknowledged.

Two sections of the Department of Agriculture Northern Ireland (DANI) continue to provide an excellent service for anglers in Northern Ireland and the ISFC is indebted to staff in both.

Special thanks are due to the staff of the Legal Metrology Service, NSAI for certification of scales.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS 1998

The Annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims were accepted during 1998 was made at the Garda Club, Dublin on 27th February, 1999 by Dr. Michael Woods, TD, Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources.

At the VISMA exhibition in Rotterdam on 27th March 1999, Dutch anglers were presented with their awards by the ISFC in association with Bord Failte.



A happy group of Dutch anglers who were presented with their specimen awards by ISFC Secretary William Roche at a ceremony held at the VISMA Exhibition in Rotterdam in March.

FUND RAISING

The Committee are indebted to the generosity of the Central Fisheries Board and the Department of the Marine who contributed £2,000 and £1,500 respectively.

ACCOUNTS

A statement of the Committee's accounts for the calendar year 1998 is given in this Report. The 1999 accounts will be published in the Report for 2000.

DONATIONS

The ISFC is a voluntary body representative of all angling interests in Ireland. Financially it depends on donations and the Committee gratefully acknowledges all benefactors in 1999 as detailed below:

Central Fisheries Board; Marine Institute; Bord Failte; Electricity Supply Board; Eastern Regional Fisheries Board; Northern Regional Fisheries Board; North Western Regional Fisheries Board; Crosshaven S.A.C.; Delphi Fishery Ltd; Dolphin Richview S.A.C.; Dun Laoghaire Motor Yacht Club – Angling Section; Glengormley & District S.A.C.; Shoreliners S.A.C.; Waterville Anglers; F.I.S.H. (Federation of Irish Specimen Hunters), c/o Ian Forde, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath; Val Atkins, Belle Vue, Ferrybank, Waterford; Philip A. Blakey, 12 Redhill Crescent, West Ardsley, Nr. Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF3 1HQ, England; Peter Bolger, 70 Ferrycarrig Road, Coolock, Dublin 17; Malcolm Bowden, Rossreagh, Ramelton, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal; Ian Brown, 1 Dillons Court, Whiteabbey, Co. Antrim, BT37 0SY; FHE Buller, "Holly Tree", Woodlands, South Heath, Gt. Middleden, Bucks., England; Peter Butler, The Old Farmhouse, Cullentra Lower, Lanesboro, Co. Longford; James Carson, 18 Irwin Crescent, Belfast, BT4 3AQ; Christy Cloak, 236 Belgard Heights, Tallaght, Dublin 24; Pat Coakley, 34 Ardmore Estate, Passage West, Co. Cork; William E. Compton, The Beeches", Tomloskan, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim; Joe Cooney, Tonragee, Achill, Co. Mayo; Garnett Coulter, 24 Kilmore Park, Kilmore, Co. Armagh BT 61 8 NT; Donal Domoney, 20 Courtown Drive, Knocknaheeney, Cork; P. F. Dore, St. Annes, Freshford Road, Co. Kilkenny; Edward Duggan, No. 25 The Drive, Broadale, Douglas, Cork; James Farrell, 137 Leinster Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6; Mattie Foley, 18 Upper Lotabeg Road, Mayfield, Cork; Fred Foster, 6 Palmerstown Green, Kennelsfort Road, Dublin 20; R. Hancox, 30 Greenfield Avenue, Northampton, NN3 2AA, England; Philip Hodgins, 194 Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin 16; William E. Jones, 20 Rossmore Park, Templeogue, Dubin 6W; Richard Kelter, 25 Shanakill, Tralee, Co. Kerry; William Kirkpatrick, 47 Carnany Park, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, BT53 7HO; Christy Lane, 10 Harringtons Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; Wilfrid Lange, Varl 300, 32369 Rahden, Germany; Peter Manning, Ballycotton Sea Angling Centre, Church Road, Ballycotton, Co. Cork; Paul Mc Connell, 11 Ivy Hill, Lisburn, Co. Antrim; Ken McAuley, 15 Cranbourne View, Killyglen Road, Larne, Co. Antrim, BT40 2PZ; John McDermott, 1 Clarke Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork; Des Mills, Bunagee, Culdaff, Co. Donegal; Bob Moss, Ballydavid, Dingle Peninsula, Tralee, Co. Kerry; Brian Nolan, Enagh, Kilkishen, Co. Clare; Norman O'Connor, Angling Charters, 2 Ashmount Tce., Dingle, Co. Kerry; Sean O'Connor, Ballydavid Angling Charter, Ballydavid, Dingle Peninsula, Tralee, Co. Kerry; Karl O'Leary, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; John A. O'Shea, 6 Raphoe Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12; Ron Patterson, 72 Castlemore Avenue, Belfast, BT6 9BG; Bill Ryan, 3 Raheen Avenue, Tallaght, Dublin 24; Trevor Ryder, Gortamore, Downings, Co. Donegal; John Sherry; Lusk, Co. Dublin; Brendan Sweeney; 39 Drumnaveil, Cootehill, Co. Cavan; A. Tweedale, 31 Passmonds Crescent, Rochdale, OL11 5AW, England; Robert Williams, "The Brig", Fennels Bay, Myrtleville, Co. Cork.

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE				
Expenditure and Revenue Account – 1st January – 31st December, 1998				
	1997	1998	1997	1998
Expenditure				
Post	£173.00	—		
Printing	£3,681.40	£3,354.03		
Medals	£890.00	£135.00	£2,000.00	
Travel	£541.25	£0.00	£1,500.00	
Late Dr. Went's Prize	£25.00	£25.00	—	
Miscellaneous	£200.00	£795.00		
Equipment	—	£309.00		
Presentation Expenses	£100.00	£100.00	£1,859.38	
Bank Charges	£22.91	£16.95	—	
TOTAL		£4,734.98		
Balance c/d		£3,744.15		
		£8,479.13	Balance b/d	
Revenue				
Balance b/f				
Grants				
Central Fisheries Board				£3,083.69
Marine Institute				£2,000.00
ESB				£1,500.00
				£500.00
Donations				
Clubs, Feds. & Individuals				£895.44
Regional Fishery Boards				£500.00
				£8,479.13
				£3,744.15

We have examined all documents, record books, lodgements and cheque books and certify that the accounts are correct.

SIGNED:  
N. O'Farrell & P. Byrne (Auditors)

IRISH RECORD FISH LISTING

FRESHWATER SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs. ozs.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Salmon	57 0	1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Sea Trout	16 6	29.10.1983	Shimna River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus
Brown Trout (River)	20 0	22.2.1957	River Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place
Brown Trout (Lake)	26 2	15.7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Bream	12 3	22.5.1997	Bolganard Lake	Paul Mathers
Carp	29 13	5.7.1998	The Lough, Cork	Sidney Kennedy
Dace	1 2	8.8.1966	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	John T. Henry
Perch	5 8	1946	Lough Erne	S. Drum
Pike (River)	42 0	22.3.1964	River Barrow	M. Watkins
Pike (Lake)	39 3	11.4.1993	Lough Key	Michael Egan
Roach	2 13.5	11.8.1970	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	Lawrie Robinson
Rudd	4 8	5.9.1996	Coney Lake	Hugh Gough
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7 10	19.10.1996	Monalty Lake	Brendan Doran
Roach/Bream Hybrid	5 14.5	13.6.1999	Lough Kinale	Daniel Smith
Tench	8.15	20.6.1995	Ballyeighter Lake	Nick Parry
River Eel	6 15	12.6.1979	L. Droumenisa, Bantry	J. Murnane

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 1.25	27.4.1977	Whiting Bay, Ardmore	Malcolm Tucker
Black Sole	6.32 lbs	28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Brill	9 8	8.9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	12.5 Kg.	21.9.1983	Kinsale	E. Masheijer
Cod	42 0	1921	Ballycotton	I.L. Stewart
Conger	72 0	June, 1914	Valentia	J. Green
Dab	2.02	28. 1.1989	Dunmore East	Paul Beglin
Spur Dogfish	21	14.3.1998	Kenmare Bay	John Augusta
Greater Spotted Dogfish	23 12	29.5.1983	Valentia	Tony Outmayjer
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	4 4	26.7.1982	Valentia	Cor Heinis
Flounder	4.91	2.10.1993	Ballyteigue Co. Wexford	Brian Russell

MARINE SPECIES (Continued)

Species	Weight lbs. ozs.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Garfish (<i>B. bellone</i>)	3 10.25	16.9.1967	Kinsale	Evan Bazzard
Garfish (<i>B. svetovidovi</i>)	1.11	5.8.1994	Courtmacsherry	Eric Leijten
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	10 13.5	15.7.1964	Kinsale	F.A.E. Bull
Hake	25 5.5	28.4.1962	Belfast Lough	H. W. Steele
Halibut	156	23.7.1972	Belmullet	Frank Brogan
Herring	0.425 kg	11.7.1986	Rathlin Island	Wm. McMath
John Dory	7 8	12.8.1984	Killala Bay	Cleona Walkin
Ling	46 8	26.7.1965	Kinsale	A. J. C. Bull
Mackerel	4 2	18.9.1979	Ballycotton	Ulrich Plassmann
Megrim	1.85 kg	26.7.1987	Killala	Paul Hennigan
Monkfish	73 0	1.6.1980	Fenit, Co. Kerry	James Boyd
Grey Mullet	9.10	26.9.1993	Cork Harbour	Cay Heerwagen
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 0	28.5.1961	Ling Rocks, Kinsale	M. J. Fitzgerald
Blonde Ray	36 8	9. 9.1964	Cork Harbour	D. Minchin
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
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	72.5	19.8.1933	Crosshaven	D. A. Lefranc
Ray's Bream	6 4.25	26.8.1979	Valentia	Martin Sarney
Red Sea Bream	9 6	24.8.1963	Valentia	P. Maguire
Twaite Shad	1.54 kg	7.5.1999	St. Mullins	Michael O'Leary
Porbeagle Shark	365	1932	Keem Bay, Achill	Dr. O'Donel Brown
Blue Shark	206	7.10.1959	Achill Head	J. McMonagle
Six Gilled Shark	154	28.8.1968	Kinsale	Andrew Bull
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	13.75	27.6.1991	Five Mile Point	Peter Mooney
Stone Basse	10 13	2.8.1989	Kinsale	Stefano D'Amico
Three Bearded Rockling	3 1	11.5.1990	Arklow	Maurice Laurent
Tope	66 8	15.7.1979	Carlingford Lough	Cyril Young
Torsk	10 11	17.9.1995	Port-na-Blagh	Liam Brennan
Trigger Fish	4.83	30.9.1995	Ballydavid	Nicholas Ward
Turbot	34	9.6.1982	Cork Harbour	Frank Fleming
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
Cuckoo Wrasse	2 7	15.9.1998	Causeway Coast	Brian McLoughlin

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS (REVISED) (2000 revision in bold type)

FRESHWATER FISH	IRISH RECORD		SPECIMEN lbs.	WEIGHT	
	lbs.	ozs.		kg	
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	57	0	20		9.072
Sea Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	16	6	6		2.721
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (River)	20	0	5		2.268
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (Lake)	26	2	10		4.536
Slob Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	–	–	10		4.536
Bream (<i>Abramis brama</i>)	12	3	7.5		3.402
Carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)	29	13	12		5.443
Dace (<i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>)	1	2	14.08 ozs		0.4
Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	6	15	3		1.361
Perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)	5	8	3		1.361
Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (Lake)	39	3	30		13.608
Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (River)	42	0	20		9.072
Roach (<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>)	2	13.5	2		0.907
Rudd (<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>)	4	8	2.25		1.021
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7	10	3		1.361
Roach/Bream Hybrid	5	14.5	3		1.361
Tench (<i>Tinca tinca</i>)	8.15		6		2.721
SEA FISH					
Angler Fish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	42.985	kg	40		18.144
Bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	17	1.25	10		4.536
Black Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>)	6.32		2		0.907
Brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)	9	8	5		2.268
Coalfish (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	12.5	kg	15		6.804
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	42	0	20		9.072
Conger (<i>Conger conger</i>)	72	0	40		18.144
Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	2.02		1.5		0.680
Dogfish - Spur (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	21		12		5.443
– Lesser Spotted (<i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i>)	4	4	3.25		1.474
– Greater Spotted (<i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i>)	23	12	16		7.257
Flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)	4.91		3		1.361
Garfish (<i>Belone bellone</i>)	3	10.5	2.25		1.021
(<i>Belone svetovidovi</i>)	1.11		14 ozs		0.355
Gurnard – Tub (<i>Trigla lucerna</i>)	12	3.5	5		2.268
– Grey (<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>)	3	1	1.5		0.680
– Red (<i>Aspitigla cuculus</i>)	3	9.5	2		0.907
Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)	10	13.5	7		3.175
Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)	25	5.5	10		4.536
Halibut (<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>)	156	0	50		22.680
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)	0.425	kg	0.75		0.340
John Dory (<i>Zeus faber</i>)	7	8	4		1.814
Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>)	46	8	25		11.340
Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	4	2	2.5		1.134

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS (REVISED) (Continued)

SEA FISH	IRISH RECORD		SPECIMEN lbs.	WEIGHT	
	lbs.	ozs.		kg	
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)	1.85	kg	1.75		0.794
Monkfish (<i>Squatina squatina</i>)	73	0	50		22.680
Mullet - Grey, thick lipped (<i>Crenimugil labrosus</i>)	9.10		5		2.268
Mullet – Red (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)	–	–	1		0.454
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	8.23		4		1.814
Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)	19	3	12		5.443
Pouting (<i>Trisopterus luscus</i>)	4	13.5	3		1.361
Ray – Thornback (<i>Raja clavata</i>)	37	0	20		9.072
– Blonde (<i>Raja brachyura</i>)	36	8	25		11.340
– Cuckoo (<i>Raja naevus</i>)	5	11	4.5		2.041
– Electric (<i>Torpedo nobiliana</i>)	72.5		20		9.072
– Homelyn (<i>Raja montagui</i>)	8.28		5		2.268
– Undulate (<i>Raja undulata</i>)	18		14		6.350
– Painted (<i>Raja microcellata</i>)	17.21		10		4.536
– Sting (<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>)	33.2	kg	30		13.608
Ray's Bream (<i>Brama brama</i>)	6	4.25	5		2.268
Red Sea Bream (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>)	9	6	4.5		2.041
Rockling, Three Bearded (<i>Gaidropsarus vulgaris</i>)	3	1	1.75		0.794
Scad (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)	1.97		1.5		0.680
Shad – Allis (<i>Alosa alosa</i>)	–		4		1.814
– Twaite (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	1.54	kg	2.205		1.0
Shark – Porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)	365	0	150		68.038
– Blue (<i>Prionace glauca</i>)	206	0	100		45.359
– Thresher (<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>)	–	–	120		54.431
– Mako (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>)	–	–	200		90.718
– Six-Gilled (<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>)	154		100		45.359
Skate – Common (<i>Raja batis</i>)	221	0			Suspended
– White (<i>Raja alba</i>)	165	0	120		54.431
– Long Nose (<i>Raja oxyrinchus</i>)	–	–	80		36.287
Smooth Hound (<i>Mustelus asterias</i>)	13.75		7		3.175
Stone Basse (<i>Polyprion americanus</i>)	10	13	8		3.628
Tope (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	66	8	40		18.144
Torsk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>)	10	11	6		2.721
Trigger Fish (<i>Balistes carolinensis</i>)	4.83		3.25		1.474
Tunny (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>)	–	–	100		45.359
Turbot (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>)	34	0	18		8.165
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)	4	14.5	3		1.361
Wrasse Ballan (<i>Labrus bergylta</i>)	4.3	kg	4.75		2.154
Wrasse Cuckoo (<i>Labrus mixtus</i>)	2	7	1.25		0.567

Scientific names in accordance with the "List of Irish Fishes" (Third edition, 1976) by A.E.J. Went, D.Sc., M.R.I.A., and M. Kennedy, Ph.D., Published by the Stationery Office for the National Museum.

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.
- (2) **FAIR ANGLING:** "Fair Angling" means any legitimate method of angling with rod and reel which is recognised as a fair and sporting method. A fish must be hooked in or in the immediate vicinity of the mouth when it has taken the bait or lure; fish which have been foul-hooked, even accidentally, are not eligible. A fish in respect of which a claim is made must be hooked, played and brought to gaff or net by the angler **UNAIDED**, though the fish may be gaffed or netted by another, and it is permissible for the person using the gaff to take hold of the trace or doubled line (in the case of big game fishing) to steady the fish when it has been played out and brought within reach. 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 certificate from the Weights and Measures Officer (see List of Weighing Scales Certification Centres on Page 40. Claims cannot be accepted in respect of fish weighed on scales inappropriate to the size of the fish, e.g., fish in the 2 to 5 lb range weighed on balances weighing up to 100 lbs or over and graduated in large divisions. Claims cannot be accepted in the case of fish which have been weighed on board a boat.

Please note: Weighing scales must be covered by a Certificate of Accuracy at the time of weighing. They cannot be certified in retrospect, i.e. after the fish has been weighed.

- (4) **IDENTIFICATION:** The identification of a fish must be fully documented where there is a possibility of its confusion with any other (and particularly larger) species. For this reason, the Committee, in respect of some species, insists that scales from the fish, close up photographs or the actual body must be forwarded as actual proof of identification, before it

will consider claims. Scales must be submitted in respect of claims for SALMON, SEA TROUT, BROWN TROUT (including SLOB TROUT). 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 50 scales scraped from each shoulder of the fish should be sent with the claim.

The fish itself should be forwarded for identification to the Irish Specimen Fish Committee, Mobhi Boreen, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, in the case of fish taken in the Republic of Ireland. In the case of marine fish taken in Northern Ireland, send to Dr. R. Briggs, Aquatic Systems Group, AESD, Department of Agriculture, Newforge Lane, Belfast, BT9 5PX. Tel: 0801-232-255503; Fax: 0801-232-382244. In the case of freshwater species send to Dr. Walter Crozier, D.A.N.I., River Bush Salmon Station, 21 Church Street, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8QJ. Tel: 0801-2657-31435; Fax: 0801-2657-32130.

The actual body must be forwarded for identification in the case of the following species:- DACE, RUDD, RUDD/BREAM HYBRID, ROACH, ROACH/BREAM HYBRID, MACKEREL, SCAD, HERRING, SHAD, FLOUNDER, DAB, BRILL, MEGRIM, GURNARDS, GREY MULLET, ANGLER FISH, LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH, THREE BEARDED ROCKLING, SMOOTH HOUND, RAYS BREAM, CUCKOO WRASSE, TORSK, "RIVER" EELS taken in tidal waters and GARFISH (head and gills only).

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 TOPE, SHARKS, SKATE, RAYS, MONKFISH, POLLACK, COALFISH, BALLAN WRASSE, TRIGGER FISH.

If necessary, the fish should be hung up. In the case of skates and rays, photographs of both back and belly surfaces should be provided and particulars of the coloration given (with particular reference to the presence of dark or grey spots, or streaks or patches on the belly side). Samples of the teeth should be furnished in the case of Porbeagle and Mako Sharks. In addition, there should be a clear close-up photograph showing the jaws and teeth exposed.

- (5) **LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF CLAIMS:** A maximum of three (3) awards will be made to any particular claimant for a single species in any one year. However, provision will be made that when 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 be more than three awards. 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:

Please

- (1) Notify the Committee when a fish is being sent in for identification (Telephone 01 – 8379206; Fax: 01-8360060).
E.Mail: isfc@cfb.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) Please 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) Fish (except small examples which have been previously soaked in formalin for at least 12 hours) should not be sent in polythene bags or wrapped in aluminium foil as this causes very rapid decomposition. They 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 specimen fish, special medals to anglers who have captured ten or more species and special badges are issued each year for fish of exceptional merit though not of record size.

IMPORTANT – Correspondence to Balnagowan House, Mobhi Boreen, Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 (Tel: 01-8379206). Fish should be sent to Balnagowan House, Mobhi Boreen, Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9.

In the case of marine fish taken in Northern Ireland send to Dr. R. Briggs, Aquatic Systems Group, AESD, Department of Agriculture, Newforge Lane, Belfast, BT9 5PX (Tel: 0801-232-255503; Fax: 0801-232-382244). In the case of freshwater species send to Dr. Walter Crozier, D.A.N.I., River Bush Salmon Station, 21 Church Street, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8QJ. (Tel: 0801-2657-31435; Fax: 0801-2657-32130).

WEIGHING SCALE CERTIFICATION LIST OF REGIONAL VERIFICATION CENTRES

Legal Metrology Service, National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), Glasnevin, Dublin 9.

Region & Area	Contact	Telephone No.
Cork Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Rossa Ave., Bishopstown, Cork 4. Ph: 021 - 346 256 Fax: 021 - 326 999	James Stapleton	Mobile 087 - 224 5533
Dublin Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Poppintree Ind. Estate, Ballymun, D 11. Ph: 01 - 864 3848 Fax: 01 - 864 3880	John Heery	Mobile 087 - 284 8735
Limerick Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Plessey Technological Park, Castletroy, Limerick. Ph: 061 - 330 708 Fax: 061 - 330 698	Denis Corkery	Mobile 087 - 223 1053
Sligo Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Finiskillen Industrial Est., Sligo. Ph: 071 - 507 38 Fax: 071 - 507 39	Tony Marren	Mobile 087 - 223 1058
Waterford Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Northern Industrial Est., Waterford. Ph: 051 - 358 020 Fax: 051 - 358 021	Garry O'Gorman	Mobile 087 - 223 1062
Dundalk Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, IDA Small Business Park, Coes Rd., Dundalk, Co. Louth. Ph: 042 - 933 2758 Fax: 042 - 933 2791	Brendan Connolly	Mobile 087 - 223 1078
Galway Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Ballybrit Ind. Est., Ballybane, Galway. Ph: 091 - 771 943 Fax: 091 - 758 932	Dave Conneely	Mobile 087 - 223 1051
Dublin HQ Legal Metrology Service, NSAI, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 Ph: 01 - 807 3811 Fax: 01 - 808 2030	Pat Farragher	01 - 807 3811



Sean Cloghessy caught this 2.08 kg Plaice on 30th September last.

“Read it Carefully”

By Des Brennan

This piece appeared in last year's report. The Committee makes no apology for publishing it again, particularly as the number of rejected claims was very low in 1999. It is reasonable to suggest that Des Brennan got his message across extremely effectively in 1998. Help us to help you and “READ IT CAREFULLY”.

Over its lifetime, the Committee has had its share of problems and indeed controversy in respect of its rules and regulations. Anglers, on occasion, have been critical of some of its procedures and have campaigned to have some aspects altered and some others set aside. If the Committee is to have any authenticity, then only fish which can be fully vouched for as to means of capture and weight and species can be accepted and listed by the Committee. The main requirements for accepting Record and Specimen Fish is that they should be caught by "Fair Angling", that they should be properly identified and weighed on a certified scales.

Any legitimate method of angling with rod and reel which is recognised as a fair and sporting method is generally well understood by anglers. The fish must be hooked and played by the angler unaided before being brought to the gaff or net. Assistance may be given by another person in gaffing or netting the fish which incidentally must be fair hooked in the mouth. Foul hooked fish are not eligible for listing and breakage of rod or reel and substitution of tackle while the fish is being played will also disqualify for claim or record purposes. Claims for fish caught during the statutory close season for the species (where this applies) CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

Fish must be weighed on a properly certified scales, e.g., a shop scales used in trade or an official Club scales which is covered by a certificate from the Weights & Measures Officer. It must be weighed in the presence of reliable witnesses. Claims for fish weighed on uncertified scales, e.g., anglers spring balances or for fish weighed on scales inappropriate to the size of the fish, e.g., small fish in the 2 lbs to 5 lbs range weighed on balances weighing up to 100 lbs and over and graduated in large divisions cannot be accepted. It must be noted that the scales must be covered by a Certificate of Accuracy at the time of weighing and that certification cannot be accepted in retrospect, i.e., after the fish has been weighed. Weighing a fish on board a boat is not acceptable.

When a certified weighing scales is not available at the waterside, then the fish must be brought to where there is one. This usually necessitates killing the fish and today many anglers, particularly coarse fishermen will not or do not want to kill their fish. This is well understood and appreciated by the Committee and the decision whether to claim or not rests with the angler. The Committee cannot relax its rules on weighing and retain credibility.

The question of identification is another one which creates problems. Many anglers feel they are fully capable of identifying species which may create problems for biologists and indeed some anglers. However, if we accept one angler's identification, then we must accept others as well. I remember well one angler who sent in a claim for a Record Lesser Spotted Dogfish which was rejected because on examination, it proved to be a Greater Spotted Dogfish, which grows to a much larger size. He could not be convinced that he was wrong and actually called to see me and demand that we accept his identification. His parting shot was that he knew that he was right as he had counted all the spots on the fish.

It is only in the case of species which may be confused with other (and often larger) species that full documentation as to identify as required. Scales from the body of the fish must be submitted in the case of three species and the actual body must be sent for identification in no less than 24 species. Clear, sharp, close-up photographs showing the entire fish with its fins, lateral line and other features easily seen are required in the case of 8 species. You would be surprised at the number of excellent photographs we receive showing the proud captor but so little of the actual fish as to be useless for identification purposes.

All the necessary information to enable the angler to submit a successful claim is given on the Claim form. Please **Read It Carefully** and avoid the disappointment of having your claim rejected.



Twenty-one anglers from the Howth Sea Angling Club in Dublin, including Derek Evans, the *Irish Times* angling correspondent, recently travelled to the Canary Islands for a one week angling expedition in search of tuna. Tuna fishing has a special attraction and even though anglers in other boats landed tuna up to 127 kg in weight, the Howth contingent was unsuccessful and had to be content with exotic species such as red snapper, puffer and bonito in addition to less exotic species including scad, spurdog, sting ray and eels. Despite the absence of tuna from their catches the party was well pleased with the "craic" in the Canaries! But why travel to foreign destinations when all the while tuna are virtually on our own doorstep?

Recently, Derek Noble proved the sceptics wrong. Setting out in a south-westerly direction off the Skelligs aboard his vessel *Nicolisa* out from Caherciveen, Co. Kerry he journeyed out about 60 miles and achieved a truly remarkable

feat.

Tackle comprised five rods, two attached to outriggers and three on the stern, each trailing American tango-type lures rigged in a "daisy chain" pattern. Rods were Penn 20-45 lb medium tuna class and Penn



Derek Noble stuck in a big one!

GLS 45 reels loaded with Dynon 3000 braid.

The first strike came at 11.20 am resulting in a fine 12-lb albacore tuna. Twenty minutes later another strike, this time a fish of 18 lb. The next strike came at 12.30 p.m. but was unfortunately lost. By 4.30 p.m. five tuna had been boated and before heading for home another fish hit one of the stern rods and 20 minutes later, a tuna of 25-lb was on board.

Derek is convinced the area holds sailfish and swordfish and has plans for more outings in 2000. Indeed a recent report prepared by

the Institute of Technology, Tralee for Central Fisheries Board and Bord Iascaigh Mhara recommends that big game fishing for tuna (albacore and possibly blue fin) and swordfish should be researched with a view to further enhancing this market.

Derek has shown that it can be done. The major challenge is the distances involved but recent developments point to exciting possibilities. Sightings of blue fin tuna, including "boiling water," in Donegal Bay in September 1999 were reported by several charter boat skippers. One even tried

trolling but with no success. In the same month up to twenty blue fin weighing up to 700 lbs. each were taken by commercial boats fishing for scad at night some eight miles north of Downings.

Although blue fin are listed on the Irish Specimen Fish Committee's marine list, the other species like tuna, sailfish and swordfish are not. Who will be the first angler to set up a new class?



The journey home with six tuna ranging from 12 to 25 lbs in weight

