



Irish Specimen Fish 2000



Irish Record and Trophy Fish 2000

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

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Chairmans Review



2000 has been a very exciting year for specimen angling and for the ISFC. This new millennium heralds a special landmark as the ISFC has now processed over 20,000 claims since it was founded in 1955. This is a staggering statistic considering that only 25 fish were ratified in 1955! 2000 also sees a new full colour report. The last upgrade of the report was in 1989 when black and white photographs and a full colour cover was introduced. However, the central core of the report – full details on fish, capture dates, venues and baits - remains the same and still as essential as ever.

In the past year five new records were established, all in the rich marine waters off our coast. Pride of place goes to the new record bluefin tuna (see cover) taken by Alan Glanville fishing out of Killybegs in September. At 240 kg (529 lbs) this is the largest fish ever taken on rod and line in Irish waters and the first time that the species has been taken by an angler off the Irish coast. The ling, coalfish, smoothhound and bass records also went by the board. The number of claims received in 2000 is up on recent years with a reasonable variety of species although roach/bream hybrids, lake brown trout, ling and twaite shad were the dominant fish. The ISFC has introduced a new award in 2000. The 50 specimen fish award is introduced to recognise those extraordinary anglers who have caught enormous numbers of specimens over the years.

As ever we continue to strive to improve the service we offer. In addition to the above progress has also been made with regard to setting up a specimen fish database which will ultimately incorporate all specimen fish captured since 1955 and we hope to have made significant progress on this front next year. This development will help to rapidly propel the ISFC into the new millennium.

We are grateful to those that have contributed financially during the year particularly the Central Fisheries Board who also generously provide the administrative network required to undertake this worthwhile work. I wish to thank my fellow Committee members (all voluntary) for their commitment and interest during the year.

Finally, we were deeply saddened by the passing of one of the stalwarts of the Committee for many years Des Brennan who died in April. Des served on the Committee for 38 years and contributed handsomely to its development over that period. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.

Dr. Paddy Fitzmaurice

Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2000

INTRODUCTION

In 2000 the ISFC received 559 claims and ratified 508, including 5 new records. A total of 51 was rejected for non-compliance with the rules. Details of the new records, other special awards and the specimen awards 2000 are listed below:

NEW RECORDS (Specially commissioned engraved silver medal)

Bass – 17 lbs 13 ozs taken by Emmet Naughton, 5 Colmcille St., St. Mary's Park, Limerick, at Doughmore Strand, Co. Clare on 21st October 2000.

Coalfish – 27.61 lbs taken by Jan Tom, Steur 87, 2986 SK Ridderkerkerk, Holland, fishing out of Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork on 13th August 2000 (pictured below).



Jan Tom from the Netherlands with the new Irish record Coalfish of 27.61 lbs taken while fishing out of Courtmacsherry

NEW RECORDS contd.

Ling – 48 lbs 8 ozs taken by Tony Sol, Osdorperwee 112, 1066 EN Amsterdam, Holland, fishing out of Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork on 29th May 2000 (pictured below).

Smooth Hound – 16.58 lbs taken by Keith Gray, 6 Feltwell Road, Anfield, Liverpool, at Carne, Co. Wexford on 25th September 2000 (pictured below).

The new Irish record smooth hound of 16.58 lbs taken by U.K. angler Keith Gray at Carne, Co. Wexford



The new record ling (far right) with happy captor Tony Sol (NL) (2nd right) looking on and four other specimens for skipper Mark Gannon's (2nd left) party

NEW RECORDS contd.

Bluefin Tuna – 240 kg taken by Alan Glanville, Elsinore, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, fishing out of Killybegs, Co. Donegal on 25th September 2000 (front cover).

SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES**10 SPECIES AWARD** (Engraved bronze medal)

This award recognises the angling prowess of anglers who have caught 10 different species of specimen fish. The following qualified in 2000 (year of capture in brackets):

Brian Buckley, 8A Wellington Cottage, Templeogue, Dublin 6W – Bream (2000), Brown Trout (River) (2000), Flounder (1998), Grey Mullet (2000), L.S. Dogfish (1990), Ling (2000), Pollack (1998), Roach/Bream (2000), Rudd/Bream (2000), Tub Gurnard (1989) & Twaite Shad (1999).

Anthony Byrne, 18 Newbrook Avenue, Donaghmede, Dublin 13 – Bass (1989), Bream (1998), Carp (2000), Flounder (1991), Homelyn Ray (1988), Plaice (1986), Roach/Bream (1996), Rudd/Bream (1996), Smooth hound (1984), Spurdog (1990) & Twaite Shad (1984)

Terry Jackson, 20 Cooks Brae, Kilcubbin, Co. Down, BT22 2SQ – Ballan Wrasse (2000), Bream (1998), Cuckoo Wrasse (1992), Ling (1996), Pike (River) (1998), Plaice (1992), Roach (1998), Roach/Bream (1996), Rudd (1996), Rudd/Bream (2000) & Twaite Shad (1998).

50 SPECIMENS AWARD (new award – engraved medal)

Awarded to anglers who have caught 50 specimens

Barry Brill from Athlone who has caught 85 specimen fish since 1973 including: 20 Bream, 10 Rudd and 55 Rudd/Bream

Colin Crean from Belfast who has caught 99 specimen fish since 1981 including: 98 Bream and 1 Tench

Garnett Coulter from Armagh who has caught 65 specimen fish since 1979 including: 1 Ballan Wrasse, 12 Bream, 1 Brown Trout (Lake), 1 Cuckoo Wrasse, 1 Carp, 2 Eel, 1 Flounder, 10 Grey Mullet, 2 Lesser Spotted Dogfish, 4 Pike (River), 1 Plaice, 3 Roach, 15 Roach/Bream, 1 Rudd, 1 Rudd/Bream, 1 Smooth hound, 3 Tench, 2 Twaite Shad and 3 Tope

Brendan Doran from Mullingar who has caught 112 specimen fish since 1981 including: 57 Bream, 32 Carp, 1 Eel, 4 Pike (River), 2 Roach, 1 Roach/Bream, 1 Rudd, 4 Rudd/Bream, 4 Tench and 6 Twaite Shad

50 SPECIMENS AWARD Contd.

Fred Foster from Dublin who has caught 73 specimen fish since 1979 including: 53 Bream, 14 Carp, 1 Rudd/Bream and 5 Tench

Hugh Gough from Cavan who has caught 62 specimen fish since 1971 including: 1 Pike (Lake), 11 Rudd, 42 Rudd/Bream, 3 Tench and 5 Twaite Shad

John Mills from Manchester who has caught 83 specimen fish since 1979 including: 50 Bream, 10 Rudd/Bream and 23 Tench

James Mc Mahon from Carrickmacross who has caught 61 specimen fish since 1979 all of which were Bream

John O'Shaughnessy from Mullingar who has caught 59 specimen fish since 1979 including: 25 Bream, 26 Carp, 2 Eel, 4 Pike (River), 1 Roach/ Bream and 1 Rudd/Bream

10 SPECIMENS AWARD (Specially commissioned sterling silver tie-pin)

Awarded to anglers who have caught ten or more specimen fish

Master Bill Brazier, Clashduff, Broadford, Co. Clare

Robin Brazier, Clashduff, Broadford, Co. Clare

Brian Buckley, 8A Wellington Cottages, Templeogue, Dublin 6W

John Conlon, Ballymackney, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan

Pat Foster, 128 Palmerstown Avenue, Palmerstown, Dublin 20

Roy Gretton, Aharas East, Ballingearry, Macroom, Co. Cork

Ian Mulligan, 65 Woodview Heights, Lucan, Co. Dublin

John Sherry, Main Street, Lusk, Co. Dublin

Nicholas Ward, 22 St. Conleths Road, Greenhills Estate, Dublin 12.

Kenneth W. Stonestreet, 8 Studley Close, Heyside, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6SG, England.

DR. A.E.J. WENT YOUNG ANGLER AWARD (£50 Book token)

Dr. Went, the noted fisheries biologist, donated this award for the best specimen taken by an angler aged 13 years or younger on 31st December 2000. The 2000 award goes to: **Master Thomas Dunphy**, Raheenwarren, Newbaun, Co. Wexford for a Three Bearded Rockling of 1.16 kg taken off Hook Head on 15th October 2000.

The MINISTER'S AWARD (Mounted bronze medal)

Inaugurated by the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, this "fish of a lifetime" award is for the best specimen fish of the year (other than a new record), and is presented to the angler who catches a fish which represents the highest percentage weight of the existing record. The 2000 award goes to: **Liam Ryan**, 6 Lynnwood, Ashley Court, Waterford, for a Twaite Shad of 1.52 kg taken on the River Barrow at St. Mullins on 7th May 2000

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2000

(Date of capture 2000 unless otherwise stated)

FRESHWATER FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2000**Non-salmonids****BREAM**

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

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs	ozs			
9	15	Monalty Lake	John Conlon	Corn/Maggot
9	10	Monalty Lake	Fred Foster	Bread
9	2	Monalty Lake	Kenneth W. Stonestreet (UK)	Worm/Corn
9	2	Monalty Lake	John Conlon	Corn/Maggot
9	2	Monalty Lake	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
9	1	Monalty Lake	William E. Crompton	Sweetcorn
9	1	Monalty lake	Brendan Doran	Maggots
9		Lough Derry	Ian Mulligan	Sweetcorn/Worm
8	15	Monalty Lake	John Conlon	Corn/Maggot
4 kg		Ballycullinan Lake	Liam Kane	Worm/Maggots
8	13	Monalty Lake	William E. Crompton	Sweetcorn
8	13	Monalty Lake	Kenneth W. Stonestreet (UK)	Worm/Corn
8	13	Monalty Lake	Brendan Doran	Bread
8	12	Monalty Lake	William E. Crompton	Sweetcorn
8	12	Monalty Lake	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
8	12	Monalty Lake	John O'Shaughnessy	Bread
8	12	Monalty Lake	Colm Crean	Maggots
8	10	Ballycullinan Lake	John Kelly	Maggots/Worm
8	9	Monalty Lake	Fred Foster	Bread Flake
8	9	Monalty Lake	Fred Foster	Maggots
8	8	Monalty Lake	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
8	8	Monalty Lake	Colm Crean	Maggots
8	8	Monalty Lake	Colm Crean	Maggots
8	6	Monalty Lake	Kenneth W. Stonestreet (UK)	Worm/Corn
8	4	Ballycullinan Lake	Ray McElhinney	Maggots/Worm
8	1	Lough Derry	Ian Mulligan	Sweetcorn/Worm

BREAM (Contd.)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
8	1	Ballycullinan Lake	19th August	John Tierney	Worm/Maggot
7	14	Monalty Lake	25th March	Brendan Doran	Bread
7	14	Ballycullinan Lake	3rd June	Brian Buckley	Maggot/Caster Cocktail
7	12	Ballycullinan Lake	6th August	Conor Healy	Worm/Corn
7	12	River Bann, Toome	2nd May '99	Alexander Storey	Worm/Maggot
7.75		Ballycullinan Lake	8th July	Noel Lane	Sweetcorn
7	10	Ballycullinan Lake	7th May	Nick Parry	Corn
7	9.5	Ballycullinan Lake	3rd May	Nick Parry	Corn
7	9	Lough Derry	16th September	Ian Mulligan	Sweetcorn/Worm
7	9	Capragh Lake	25th October	Ron Patterson	Maggots/Sweetcorn
7	8.5	Ballycullinan Lake	19th August	David A.Spokes	Pellet/Sweetcorn /Maggot Cocktail



*A 7 lbs 12 oz bream
for Conor Healy from
Ballycullinan Lake*

CARP

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
22		Ballinafid lake	7th September	Noel Kiernan	Boilie
21	8	The Lough, Cork	17th August	Bill Collins	Bread Flake
16	13	The Lough, Cork	12th September	Bill Collins	Bread Flake
16		Gorteen Lake	21st October	Robin Brazier	Boilie
15	8	Gorteen Lake	22nd October	Robin Brazier	Maize
15	5	Gorteen Lake	24th March	Nick Parry	Boilie
14	15	Ballinafid Lake	20th May	Fred Foster	Boilie
14	10	Decoy Lake	24th June	Anthony Byrne	Boilie
13	6	Ballinafid Lake	4th June	Brendan Doran	Boilie
12	9	Ballinafid Lake	29th April	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
12	6	Ballinafid Lake	28th October	Brendan Doran	Boilie
12	6	Ballinafid Lake	3rd June	Brendan Doran	Boilie

EEL

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

2.172 kg	Golden Falls L.	23rd May	Mary Byrne	Worm	
4	4.5	Ballinderry River	1st October	Kenneth Crooks	Mackerel Strip/ Worm

PERCH

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

3.18	River Barrow	23rd February	Master Gary Doyle	Lobworm	
3	1	River Barrow, Athy	8th March	Ken Garry	Boilie

PIKE (LAKE)

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

31	4	Stoneham's Lake	26th February	Anthony Plant (UK)	Mackerel
30	13	Lough Bracken	5th December '99	Gerry Keenan	Perch

PIKE (RIVER)

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
32.07		River Barrow, Athy	23rd April	Jimmy Conway	Rudd
25	8	River Suck, Mt. Talbot	30th January	Jerry Broderick	Herring
25	8	River Blackwater	18th March	Thomas McCabe	Perch
25	3	River Barrow	12th November	Ken Garry	Smelt
25		Lower River Bann	20th February	Gary Brown	Rapala
24	4	Lower River Bann	15th January	Peter O'Neill	Rapala
24	4	Lower River Bann	12th March	Terry Jackson	Roach
24	3	R.Barrow, Fenniscourt	24th February	Joseph Marsella	Herring
23	10	River Barrow, Borris	5th February	Ken Garry	Smelt
23	8	Grand Canal, Vicarstown	10th December	Joe Fogarty	Herring
23	3	River Bann, Toome	9th January	Master J. O'Kane	Spoon
23	2.5	River Suck, Ballygar	19th March	Pat Gorman	Roach
22	8	Lower River Bann	4th January	Mark McMullan	Rapala
22	6	Inny River	22nd April	Bridie Keogh	Perch
22	2	R.Barrow, Goresbridge	12th November	Joseph Marsella	Jerk
21	4	River Bann	24th September	Mark McMullen	Spoon
9.5	kg	Philipstown River	30th January	Joe Tracey	Rudd
20	15	R.Shannon, Killaloe	8th December '99	Patrick Murray	Roach
20	8	River Bann, Toome	13th February	Kenneth Crooks	Roach
20	8	River Suck, Ballyforan	22nd October	Jerry Broderick	Perch
20	6	Lower River Bann	16th January	Terry Jackson	Trout
20	6	R.Barrow, Goresbridge	12th November	Joseph Marsella	Jerk

Ballygar on the River Suck was the venue for Pat Gorman's pike of 23 lbs 2.5 ozs



ROACH

Record, 2 lbs 13.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 2 lbs (0.907 kg)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
2	12	Lagan Canal	27th June '99	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
2	8	Lagan Canal	9th July	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
2	7	Lagan Canal	27th June '99	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
2	6	Lagan Canal	9th July	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
2	6	Lagan Canal	9th July	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
2	5	Lagan Canal	27th June '99	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
2	4	Lagan Canal	1st May '99	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
2	2	Lagan Canal	8th May '99	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
2	1	Lagan Canal	8th May '99	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
2		Lr. River Bann, Newferry	27th February	Gary Brown	Maggots



A 2 lbs 5 oz roach taken by Terry Jackson in the Lagan Canal



ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

Record, 5 lbs 14.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs (1.361 kg)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
5	8.5	River Bann, Toome	14th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
5	6	River Bann, Toome	21st May	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Worm
5	3	River Bann, Toome	14th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
2.335	kg	River Bann, Toome	25th March	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
5	2	River Bann, Toome	24th August '99	Terry Jackson	Maggots
5	2	Galloncurra Lake	5th May	Ian Mulligan	Maggots
5	1	River Bann, Toome	30th July '99	Nick Parry	Worm
4	14	River Bann, Toome	30th July '99	Nick Parry	Worm
4	13	River Bann, Toome	23rd July	Nick Parry	Worm
4	12	River Bann, Toome	30th July '99	Nick Parry	Worm
4	12	Galloncurra Lake	24th April	Ray Bannerman	Maggots
4	11.5	River Bann, Toome	14th April	Eileen Coulter	Maggots
4	11	Lr. River Bann, Newferry	28th August	Master Conor McCleery	Maggots/Sweetcorn
4	10	Galloncurra Lake	5th May	Ian Mulligan	Maggots
4	10	River Bann, Toome	1st April	Kenneth Crooks	Worm/Corn
4.60		Lough Kinale	25th June	Peter McCartin	Corn/Maggots
4	8	River Bann, Toome	1st April	Kenneth Crooks	Worm/Corn
4	8	River Bann, Toome	23rd July	Nick Parry	Worm
4	8	River Bann, Toome	14th April	Eileen Coulter	Maggots
4	7.5	Galloncurra Lake	21st April	Nicholas Ward	Caster/Maggots
4	6	River Bann, Toome	18th April '99	Terry Jackson	Maggots
4	5	River Bann, Toome	30th July '99	Kenneth Crooks	Worm
4	5	River Bann, Toome	30th July '99	Kenneth Crooks	Worm
4	5	River Bann, Toome	1st April	Kenneth Crooks	Worm/Corn
4	4	Galloncurra Lake	9th June	Peter Bolger	Corn
4	4	River Bann, Toome	23rd July	Nick Parry	Worm
4	4	River Bann, Toome	23rd September	Roy Gretton	Sweetcorn
1.9	kg	Galloncurra Lake	17th August	David Glass	Sweetcorn
4	3	Galloncurra Lake	2nd May	Ian Mulligan	Maggots
4	3	Galloncurra Lake	12th May	Brian Buckley	Maggot/Caster Cocktail
4	2.5	River Bann, Toome	23rd July	Norman Warwick	Worm
4.15		Lough Kinale	19th July	Michael Norton	Sweetcorn/Maggots

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID (Contd.)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
4	2	River Bann, Toome	18th April '99	Terry Jackson	Maggots
4	2	River Bann, Toome	30th July '99	Master Joseph O'Kane	Worm/Maggot
4	1.5	Galloncurra Lake	12th May	Brian Buckley	Maggot/Caster cocktail
4	1	Galloncurra Lake	12th May	Brian Buckley	Maggot/Caster Cocktail
4	1	River Bann, Toome	23rd July	Master Ian Crooks	Worm/Caster
4		Galloncurra Lake	9th June	Peter Bolger	Corn
4		Galloncurra Lake	9th June	Peter Bolger	Corn
4		Galloncurra Lake	30th June	David McNamee	Sweetcorn
4		River Bann, Toome	14th April	Eileen Coulter	Maggots



*Gary Nicholl
from
Newtownards
caught this 3lbs
6 oz roach
bream hybrid at
Toome on the
River Bann*

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID (Contd.)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
4		Lower River Bann	6th February	Gary Brown	Maggots
3	14	River Bann, Toome	23rd July	Master Ian Crooks	Worm/Caster
3	14	River Bann, Toome	26th March	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
3	12	River Bann, Toome	23rd July	Norman Warwick	Worm
3	10.5	Galloncurra Lake	16th April	John Smyth	Maggots
3	10	Galloncurra Lake	24th March	Ray Bannerman	Maggots
3	10	Galloncurra Lake	30th June	David McNamee	Sweetcorn
3	10	River Bann, Toome	26th March	Terry Jackson	Maggots
3	9	Galloncurra Lake	21st April	Peter McCartin	Maggots
3	8.5	Galloncurra Lake	24th April	John Smyth	Maggots
3.51		Parkers Lake, Bailieboro	27th July	David A. O'Connell	Maggots
3.5		Galloncurra Lake	24th March	Michael Norton	Corn
3	8	Galloncurra Lake	17th September	Godfrey Donoghue	Caster/Corn
3	6	River Bann, Toome	24th August '99	Gary Nicholl	Maggots
3	6	Keenheen Lake	5th June	John Moffat	Maggot/Caster
3	6	Galloncurra Lake	21st April	Nicholas Ward	Caster/Maggots
3	5	Galloncurra Lake	30th June	David McNamee	Sweetcorn
3	4	Galloncurra Lake	9th June	Gerard Jervis	Maggots
3	4	River Bann, Toome	23rd July	Master Ian Crooks	Worm/Caster
3	2	Galloncurra Lake	21st April	Nicholas Ward	Caster/Maggots
3.10		Lough Kinale	30th August	Michael Norton	Sweetcorn/Maggots
3		Galloncurra Lake	9th June	Gerard Jervis	Maggots
3		Galloncurra Lake	9th June	Gerard Jervis	Maggots

RUDD

Record, 4 lbs 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 2.25 lbs (1.021 kg)

2	8	River Fergus, Ruan	18th June	Nick Parry	Boilie
2.25		River Inny	30th July	Brian McDonnell	Sweetcorn

Rudd/Bream Hybrid

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
4	10	Blackies Lough	29th May '99	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Sweetcorn
4	8	R.Barrow, Leighlinbridge	30th October	Dan Smith	Worm
4	6.5	Ballycullinan Lake	6th May	Nick Parry	Chick Peas
3	8	R.Barrow, Leighlinbridge	30th October	Ken Garry	Worm
3	7	Ballycullinan Lake	6th May	Nick Parry	Chick Peas
3	5	River Barrow	28th November	Dan Smith	Worm
1.46 kg		River Barrow, St. Mullins	6th May	Noel O'Sullivan	Maggots
3	2	Lough na Blaghy	26th May	Brian Buckley	Sweetcorn
3	2	Ballycullinan Lake	1st May	Nick Parry	Paste



A 6 lb 9 oz tench for Dubliner Mark Healy from Lakyle Lake in June

TENCH

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
7	3	Lakyle Lough	3rd July '99	Mark Jones	Maggots
7	2	Lakyle Lake	5th July	Robin Brazier	Sweetcorn/Worm
6	15	Lakyle Lough	4th July '99	Mark Jones	Maggots
6	11	Lakyle Lough	4th July '99	Mark Jones	Maggots
6	10	Royal Canal, Mullingar	4th July	Rinus de Bruin	Worm
6	10	Lakyle Lough	4th July '99	John Paul Jones	Maggots
6	9	Lakyle Lough	3rd June	Mark Healy	Worm
2.851 kg		Templebannagh Lake	3rd June	Roderick Fitzgibbon	Sweetcorn/Maggot
6	4.5	Rahan's Lake	4th June	Derek Sneyd	Worm
6.25		Royal Canal, Mullingar	24th July	Rinus de Bruin	Worm
6	4	Lakyle Lake	5th July	Robin Brazier	Sweetcorn
6	3	Lakyle Lough	27th August	Mark Healy	Maggots
6	2.25	Rahan's Lake	4th June	Derek Sneyd	Worm
6	2	Lakyle Lake	3rd July	Master Bill Brazier	Sweetcorn
6	1.25	Rahan's Lake	4th June	Derek Sneyd	Worm
6		Lakyle Lake	1st July	Master Bill Brazier	Maggots/Sweetcorn
6		Lakyle Lake	4th July	Master Bill Brazier	Sweetcorn



John Gibbons from Galway with his remarkable bag of four specimen brown trout from Lough Corrib taken on 24th June

FRESHWATER FISH LISTING 2000 (contd.)

Salmonid Species

SALMON

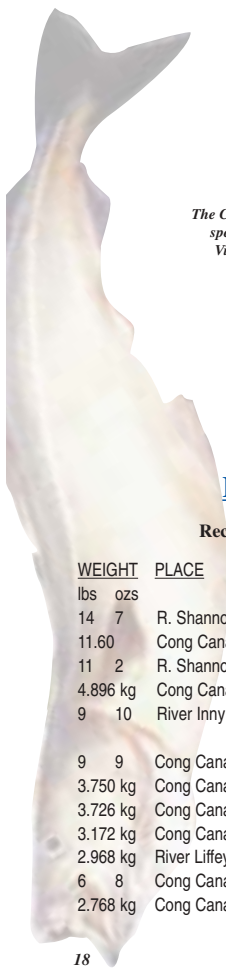
Record, 57 lbs; Specimen Weight, 20 lbs (9.072 kg)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
21	14	Lough Lein	23rd May	Paul Payne	Copper Spoon
21		River Laune	3rd August	Bernie Boyle	Fly
9.2		Galway Fishery	2nd May	Gary John Kilroy	Flying C

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

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

17.6		Lough Corrib	17th August	Michael Joyce	Spinner
17	6	Lough Corrib	12th August	Frank Rigney	Rudd
17		Lough Corrib	23rd July	Rev. Francis Murphy	Roach
16	12	Lough Corrib	19th August	Michael Burke	Rudd
16.71		Lough Corrib	24th June	John Gibbons	Roach
7.435 kg		Lough Corrib	2nd July	Patrick J. O'Connor	Mepps
16	4	Lough Corrib	4th June	Pat O'Halloran	Minnow
15	6	Lough Corrib	27th August	John Crowley	Dead Roach
5.32 kg		Lough Corrib	2nd July	Kevin Dillane	Rapalla (shad)
15		Lough Corrib	15th September	John Carrig	Roach
6.625 kg		Lough Corrib	20th August	Matt Hyland	Dead Bait
14	5	Lough Corrib	29th September	Shane Baker (Aus)	Rapala
14.20		Lough Corrib	28th May	Peter Barber (UK)	Mepps
12.86		Lough Corrib	26th September	Christopher P. Bashford (UK)	Mepps
12.75		Lough Corrib	12th September	James Foy	Tasmanian Devil
5.552 kg		Lough Corrib	2nd September	Sonya M. Curran	Perch
12		Lough Corrib	23rd July	Rev. Francis Murphy	Roach
11.74		Lough Corrib	24th June	John Gibbons	Roach
11.62		Lough Corrib	24th June	John Gibbons	Roach
11	8	Lough Derg, Killaloe	16th July	Master Brian Barry	Big S
11		Lough Corrib	15th July	Frank Rigney	Rudd
10.83		Lough Ree, Athlone	15th March	Donal Flanagan	Rapala
10	10	Lough Derg, Killaloe	25th June	Master Brian Barry	Big S
10	6	Lough Corrib	22nd July	Michael Burke	Rudd
10	4	Lough Corrib	1st May	Rev. Francis Murphy	Roach
10	1	Lough Corrib	27th June	Pat Falvey	Minnow



The Cong Canal yielded two specimen brown trout for Vincent Young in March



BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

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

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs ozs				
14 7	R. Shannon, Killaloe	16th April	Gerard McKeogh	Dead Bait
11.60	Cong Canal	1st March	Damian Blackwell	Plug
11 2	R. Shannon, Killaloe	6th April,	Gerard McKeogh	Dead Bait
4.896 kg	Cong Canal	4th March	Brian Buckley	Worm
9 10	River Inny	11th March	Neil Coney	Copper & Silver Spoon
9 9	Cong Canal	3rd March	Victor Young	Rapala Plug
3.750 kg	Cong Canal	11th March	Brian Buckley	Worm
3.726 kg	Cong Canal	11th March	Nicholas Ward	Worm
3.172 kg	Cong Canal	1st March	Peter McCartin	Worms
2.968 kg	River Liffey	2nd August	Patrick Fennessy	Fly
6 8	Cong Canal	3rd March	Victor Young	Rapala Plug
2.768 kg	Cong Canal	1st March	Eugene Dowling	Worms

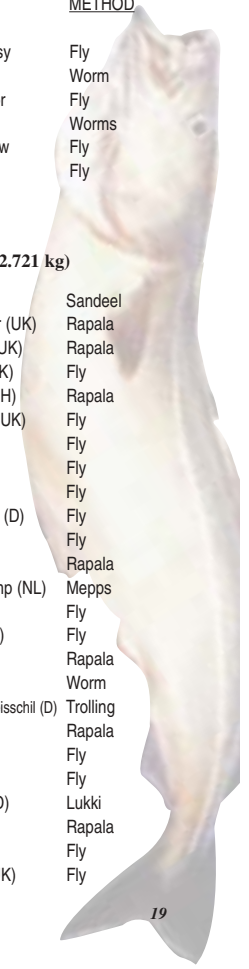
BROWN TROUT (RIVER) (Contd.)

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs ozs				
5 12	R. Liffey, Osberstown	29th July	Patrick Fennessy	Fly
2.598 kg	Cong Canal	11th March	Nicholas Ward	Worm
2.48 kg	River Clare	6th September	Robert J. Lawlor	Fly
2.474 kg	Cong Canal	1st March	Peter McCartin	Worms
5.40	River Unshin	26th June	Oliver McMorrow	Fly
5 2	River Liffey, Sallins	21st July	David Moloney	Fly

SEA TROUT

Record, 16 lbs 6 ozs; Specimen Weight, 6 lbs (2.721 kg)

10 8	Belmullet	4th June	Gerard Bell	Sandeel
8 4	Lough Currane	14th April	John O.H. Baller (UK)	Rapala
8	Lough Currane	5th May	Simon Chislett (UK)	Rapala
7 14	Lough Currane	1st July	Martin Evans (UK)	Fly
7 7.25	Lough Currane	16th March	Walter Rusch (CH)	Rapala
7 2	Lough Currane	17th May	Robert Skinner (UK)	Fly
7	Lough Currane	2nd June	Donal Eustace	Fly
3.14 kg	Lough Currane	30th April	Michael Nolan	Fly
6 14	Lough Currane	4th June	Martin Egan	Fly
6 12	Lough Currane	9th June	Carsten Arbeiter (D)	Fly
6 12	Lough Currane	10th September	David O'Hagan	Fly
6 9	Lough Currane	30th May	Jan Terhorst (D)	Rapala
6 9	Lough Currane	27th August	Paul Beukenkamp (NL)	Mepps
6 8	Lough Currane	21st May	Kevin Freil	Fly
6 8	Lough Currane	3rd June	Ian Scofield (UK)	Fly
6 8	Lough Currane	30th May	Jan Terhorst (D)	Rapala
6 8	Cummeragh River	21st June	Chris Blackham	Worm
6 8	Lough Currane	31st August	Prof. Rudolf Schweisschil (D)	Trolling
6 6	Lough Currane	4th April	Hermut Rall (D)	Rapala
6 6	Lough Currane	3rd June	Donal Eustace	Fly
2.852 kg	Lough Currane	16th July	Bryan O'Connell	Fly
6 4	Lough Currane	24th April	Dominik Hans (D)	Lukki
6 1	Lough Currane	3rd April	Hermut Rall (D)	Rapala
2.74 kg	Derriana Lough	3rd August	Tom Ahern	Fly
6.01	Lough Currane	8th June	Ralph Savery (UK)	Fly



MARINE FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2000**BASS****New Record, 17 lbs 13 ozs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs (4.536 kg)**

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs ozs				
17 13	Doughmore Strand, Co. Clare	21st October	Emmet Naughton	Sandeel
12.7	Ballyteigue	25th April	David Roche	Crab
5.65 kg	Youghal	5th December '99	Donal Domeney	Crab
12.36	Baginbun	1st September	Patrick Murphy	Cordell Redfin
5.52 kg	Dublin Bay	9th September	Kevin Hayden	Peeler Crab
12	Tralee Bay	28th August	Michael Wall	Lugworm
11.25	Garryvoe	9th September	Brian O'Neill	Sandeel
10 10	Courtmacsherry	4th April	Jamie Santry	Peeler Crab
10 8	Tramore	14th September	Paul Beglin	Peeler Crab
4.64 kg	Ballinoulart	12th August	Michael Lacey	Sandeel

COALFISH**New Record, 27.61 lbs; Specimen Weight, 15 lbs (6.804 kg)**

27.61	Courtmacsherry	13th August	Jan Tom (NL)	Mackerel
16.03	Baltimore	25th July	Mick Padden (UK)	Baited Feathers
15	Courtmacsherry	25th June	Finbarr McSweeney	Mackerel Strip

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

28.61	Baltimore	15th August	Martin Blackwell Lambert (UK)	Mackerel
27.5	Dunmore East	9th September	Martin Poltawski (UK)	Baited Feathers
27 8	Courtmacsherry	11th August	Kees De Graaf (NL)	Mackerel Strip

*Martin Blackwell Lambert from Essex with his 28.61 lbs cod taken out of Baltimore***CONGER EEL****Record, 72 lbs; Specimen Weight, 40 lbs (18.144 kg)**

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs ozs				
19.5 kg	Kinsale	11th September	James Hodgson (UK)	Mackerel Strip
41 8	Courtmacsherry	21st August	Jpaden Houdijker (NL)	Mackerel
40.55	Caherciveen	30th July	Rene Kleppe (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
18.15 kg	Kinsale	22nd September	Roelof Roberts	Mackerel Fillet

DAB**Record, 2.02 lbs; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs (0.680 kg)**

0.775 kg	Portrush	9th August	Andrew McAuley	Ragworm
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GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH**Record, 23 lbs 12 ozs; Specimen Weight, 16 lbs (7.257 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
19 4	Kenmare Bay	28th June	H. Hoetmer (NL)	Mackerel
19	Kenmare Bay	7th August	P van der Sterren (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
18.41	Baltimore	7th August	Barry Wood (UK)	Mackerel
17	Kenmare Bay	4th August	Fred Bosman (NL)	Mackerel
16.90	Baltimore	27th July	V. F. Hansford (UK)	Mackerel
16 8	Kenmare Bay	14th September	John Timmermans (NL)	Mackerel

LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH**Record, 4 lbs 4 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3.25 lbs (1.4737 kg)**

3.5	Killybegs	11th September	Uwe KIRSTEIN (D)	Mackerel
1.54 kg	Cobh	2nd October	Dommo Rooney	Mackerel
1.5 kg	Cobh	10th April	John Warner	Mackerel Strip
3.25	Roundstone	12th November	Duncan Brown	Sandeel

SPUR DOGFISH**Record, 21 lbs; Specimen Weight, 12 lbs (5.443 kg)**

16	Kenmare Bay	19th September	E. Spruit (NL)	Mackerel
13 14	Ballycastle Bay	7th October	Samuel J. Whitmarsh	Mackerel Strip
6.29 kg	Schull	17th June	Calum Davidson (UK)	Baited Hokkai
13 8	Ballycastle Bay	21st October	Sam Oliver	Mackerel Strip
13 4	Kenmare Bay	23rd August	J. Grootenboer (NL)	Mackerel
13 4	Ballycastle Bay	7th October	Samuel J. Whitmarsh	Mackerel Strip
13	Ballycastle Bay	6th August	Noel McFetridge	Ragworm /Mackerel
13	Greystones	1st July	Pat Kirwan	Mackerel Strip
12 6	Ballycastle Bay	21st October	Shane McNicoll	Mackerel Strip
12 2	Kenmare Bay	19th September	T. de Jong (NL)	Mackerel Strip

*An 11.48 kg blonde ray for Michelle Murphy in Cork Harbour***SPUR DOGFISH (Contd.)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
12 2	Kenmare Bay	19th September	F. Schrieken (NL)	Mackerel Strip
12 1	Kenmare Bay	30th September	G. H. v Asten (NL)	Mackerel

FLOUNDER**Record, 4.91 lbs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs (1.361 kg)**

3.61	Youghal	11th October	Patrick Kiely	Peeler Crab
3 5.5	Youghal	8th October	Brian Buckley	Crab
1.456 kg	Ballyteigue	18th November	Eugene O'Connor	Crab
1.368 kg	Ballyteigue	18th November	Eugene O'Connor	Crab

GARFISH (*BELONE BELLONE*)**Record, 3 lbs 10.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 2.25 lbs (1.021 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
2.59	Cobh	26th July	F. Meyners (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.48	Cork Harbour	16th October	Gary Robinson	Mackerel Strip

GREY GURNARD**Record, 3 lbs 1 oz; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs; (0.680 kg)**

1	14.75	Port na Blagh	3rd August	Robert McPherson (UK)	Mackerel
1.90	Downings	28th August	Stephen Bell (UK)	Mackerel	
1.89	Kenmare Bay, Castlecove	28th July	Quentin Ryder	Mackerel Strip	
1	14	Port na Blagh	30th September	Bill Ryan	Mackerel Strip
1.65	Downings	4th September	J. Hoogendorn (NL)	Mackerel	
1.60	Downings	30th August	Robert McMillan	Mackerel Strip	
1.60	Downings	30th August	Michael Thrussell, Jnr (UK)	Baited Feathers	
1.5	Downings	12th August	David Shepherd	Pirk	

RED GURNARD**Record, 3 lbs 9.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 2 lbs; (0.907 kg)**

2	14	Port na Blagh	30th August	Jane Sadhinoch (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.16	Downings Bay	16th October '99	Brian Edwards	Hokkai	
2.16	Rathmullan	3rd September	Charley Devlin	Mackerel Strip	
2.15	Sheephaven Bay	30th August	P.J. Nash	Mackerel	
2.15	Downings	29th August	Stephen Bell (UK)	Mackerel	
2.14	Loop Head	1st August	F. Lammers (NL)	Mackerel	
2	2	Brandon Bay	12th August	Jack Lacey	Mackerel /Lugworm
2	1	Brandon Bay	12th August	John Boyle	Mackerel
2	1	Port na Blagh	3rd August	Robert McPherson (UK)	Mackerel
2	1	Lough Swilly	24th September	Ryan Jones	Mackerel Strip

RED GURNARD (Contd.)

2.02	Belmullet	14th July	Steve Chubb (UK)	Mackerel Strip
2.02	Ballydavid	15th August	G. Smit (NL)	Redgill

TUB GURNARD**Record, 12 lbs 3.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs (2.268 kg)**

3.135 kg	Achill	29th July	Barry Gilbert (UK)	Baited Hokkai	
6	9.25	Port na Blagh	31st August	Mark Flood (NL)	Mackerel
6.30	Downings	27th August	Clive Stacey (UK)	Mackerel	
2.765 kg	Achill	27th June	John Oxenford (UK)	Baited Feathers	
2.715 kg	Achill	28th June	Ivan M. Harker (UK)	Baited Hokkai	
5	9.25	Port na Blagh	30th September	Jan v Oosterhout (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.47 kg	Achill	29th July	David McLean	Baited Hokkai	
5.25	Kilrush	24th July	Arjen Vos (NL)	Mackerel Strip	
5.2	Belmullet	19th August	Hans Peter Klein (D)	Mackerel	
5	1	Belmullet	29th August '99	Gary Dickson	Ragworm /Mackerel

*Déjà vu in 1999! Sean Clohessy with a 2.0 kg plaice from Cork Harbour in August 2000*

JOHN DORY**Record, 7 lbs 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 4 lbs (1.814 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
5.33	Killalua Bay	5th August	Malachy Mills	Baited Hokkai
5	Brandon Head	18th June	Peter Cook (UK)	Green Shad Lure
4.9	Killybegs	16th July	Darron Shovlin	Mackerel Strip

LING**New Record, 48 lbs 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 25 lbs (11.340 kg)**

48 8	Courtmacsherry	29th May	Tony Sol (NL)	Herring/Squid
39 8	Courtmacsherry	29th May	Tom Hofman (NL)	Herring/Squid
38	Courtmacsherry	29th May	Martin Langeveld (NL)	Muppet/Herring/ Squid
37	Courtmacsherry	29th May	Mark E. Gannon	Octopus
37	Courtmacsherry	11th August	Rinus Hage (NL)	Mackerel Strip
16.15 kg	Kinsale	10th August	Barry Couldwell (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
33.60	East Ferry	25th June	John Smyth	Mackerel
32 8	Courtmacsherry	30th May	Hans Verburg (NL)	Herring/Squid
32 8	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Chris Goddard UK	Mackerel/Squid
31.70	East Ferry	25th June	Ray Bannerman	Mackerel
31 8	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Jim Henley (UK)	Mackerel Strip
31.48	Baltimore	9th September	Anthony Kirwan	Mackerel
30 8	Courtmacsherry	30th May	Rinus Schouten (NL)	Herring/Squid
30.27	Baltimore	8th August	Denis O'Brien	Muppet
30	Courtmacsherry	11th August	Kees De Graaf (NL)	Mackerel Strip
30	Clifden	18th July	Gordon J.B. Winch (UK)	Sandeel
30	Courtmacsherry	29th May	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel
28 8	Courtmacsherry	18th July	Nicholas M. Wise (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
28	Courtmacsherry	29th May	Jaap Van Den broek(NL)	Herring/Squid
28	Courtmacsherry	29th May	Tony Sol (NL)	Herring/Squid
28	Courtmacsherry	17th July	Egon Hass (D)	Mackerel Flapper
28	Courtmacsherry	29th May	Martin Langeveld (NL)	Muppet/Herring/ Squid
27.75	East Ferry	25th June	John Brady	Mackerel
27 8	Courtmacsherry	17th July	Fernand Vervuurt (NL)	Mackerel Strip

LING (Contd.)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
27 8	Courtmacsherry	5th September	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel Flapper
12.46 kg	Guileen	3rd September	Sean Clohessy	Mackerel
27.12	East Ferry	7th August	John Crease (UK)	Mackerel
27	Courtmacsherry	10th August	Fernand Vervuurt (NL)	Mackerel/Squid
26.35	East Ferry	25th June	Brian Buckley	Mackerel
26.25	Dunmore East	10th September	Dave O'Neill	Baited Feathers
26	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Jim Henley (UK)	Mackerel Strip
26	Courtmacsherry	11th August	Rinus Hage (NL)	Mackerel/Squid Cocktail
25.5	Helvic Head	3rd September	David O'Donoghue	Mackerel baited feathers
25 8	Courtmacsherry	24th July	Mark J. Gannon	Mackerel/Octopus Cocktail
25 8	Courtmacsherry	29th May	Paul Cusack	Mackerel Strip
25 8	Courtmacsherry	13th August	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel Strip
25.5	East Ferry	30th July	Paul Dodrill	Squid/Mackerel Strip
25 4	Cobh	6th September	Glen Bannister (UK)	Mackerel
25	Courtmacsherry	5th September	Jozef Wouters (B)	Mackerel Strip
25	Courtmacsherry	29th May	Hans Verburg (NL)	Herring/Squid
25	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Peter Talbot (UK)	Mackerel Strip
25	Courtmacsherry	11th August	Arie Arts (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
25	East Ferry	30th July	Paul Dodrill	Squid/Mackerel Strip

GREY MULLET**Record, 9.10 lbs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs (2.268 kg)**

8 2	River Dargle, Bray	7th September	Brian Buckley	Bread
3.105 kg	Courtown	9th August	Alan McCartin	Bread
6.55	Lough Furnace	29th August	Kieran Kerley	Sweetcorn
6 6	Lough Furnace	26th August	Gerard Rogan	Corn
6 4	Laytown, Co. Meath	14th June	Peter Bolger	Bread Flake
6.25	Lough Furnace	29th August	Kieran Kerley	Sweetcorn
6	R. Barrow, St. Mullins	18th March	Peter Bolger	Fly
6	River Liffey	27th August	Gerry Jervis	Bread

GREY MULLET (Contd.)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
5.95	Courtmacsherry	9th July	John Case (UK)	Pollack Strip	
5	12	River Dargle, Bray	2nd July	Gerry Jervis	Bread
5	12	River Dargle, Bray	7th September	Brian Buckley	Bread
5	7.5	Mullaghmore	4th September '99	Garnett Coulter	Mackerel
5	7.5	River Liffey	9th August	Nicholas Ward	Bread
2.41	kg	Corrib Estuary	28th May	Mario Mittmannsgruber	Bread
5	4	River Liffey	2nd July	Pat Foster	Bread
5	4	River Dargle, Bray	2nd July	Gerry Jervis	Bread
5	3.5	River Liffey	7th August	Nicholas Ward	Bread
5	3	River Liffey	22nd August	Pat Foster	Bread
5	2	River Liffey	24th August	Pat Foster	Bread
5	2	River Liffey	28th August	Brendan Mulrennan	Bread
5	2	River Liffey	27th August	Peter Bolger	Bread

PLAICE**Record, 8.23 lbs; Specimen Weight, 4 lbs (1.814 kg)**

2.32	kg	Cork Harbour	2nd July	Donal O'Mahony	Mackerel
2.08	kg	Causeway Coast	30th July	Shaun Fleming	Lugworm/Squid
2.00	kg	Guileen	19th August	Sean Clohessy	Lugworm

*G.C. Roos from Holland with a 13.6 lb pollack out of Ballydavid***PLAICE (Contd.)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
4	4	Crosshaven	5th October	Christy O'Sullivan	Crab
4	5	Causeway Coast	24th July	Ian Latham	Ragworm/Mackerel
4	5	Cork Harbour	21st October	Martin Conroy	Crab/Squid

POLLACK**Record, 19 lbs 3 ozs; Specimen Weight, 12 lbs (5.443 kg)**

16	Cork Harbour	28th August	Uwe Krey (D)	Mackerel	
15.71	Ballydavid	26th August	Charles Witt (UK)	Jellyworm	
14	10	Ballycastle	10th September	Ivan Anderson	Redgill
14.58	Cork Harbour	7th August	Guert Boele (NL)	Jellyworm	
6.2	kg	Valentia island	24th October '99	Peter Manning	Lure
13.6	Ballydavid	19th August	G. C. Roos (NL)	Jellyworm	
6.1	kg	Valentia Island	16th October '99	Mel Smith	Eddystone Eel
5.9	kg	Portrush	28th August '99	Derek Tolan	Mackerel
12.8	Killybegs	26th August	John McGilloway	Mackerel Strip	
12	8	Ballycastle	11th August	Shane McNicholl	Jelly Eel
5.62	kg	Guileen	10th August	Edward Howard	Mackerel Strip
12.38	Ling Rocks, Cork	15th October	Kenneth Hegarty	Ragworm	
5.6	kg	Kinsale	20th August	A. W. Lokhorst (D)	Leadhead Shad
12.23	Ballydavid	8th September	Terry Pollard (UK)	Baited Hokkai	
12.15	Cork Harbour	3rd August	W.J. Blok (NL)	Mister Twister	
12.07	Culdaff	1st July	Pat Nolan	Lure	
12	1	Valentia Island	15th May '99	Mel Smith	Eddystone Eel
12	Killybegs	2nd July	Paul Maguire	Mister Twister	

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

4	5	Cork Harbour	17th September	David Ian Black (UK)	Mackerel
4	3	Cobh	6th September	Anthony Wilson (UK)	Mackerel
1.534	kg	Schull	23rd April	Gerald Quinlan	Baited Feathers



UK angler Martin Allen with a 12.4 kg blonde ray from Cork Harbour



BLONDE RAY

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

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs ozs				
12.40 kg	Cork Harbour	4th October	Martin Allen (UK)	Squid/Ragworm
11.48 kg	Cork Harbour	25th July	Michelle Murphy	Mackerel

PAINTED RAY

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

11.25	Garryvoe	20th September	Noel Lane	Crab
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STING RAY

Record, 33.2 kg; Specimen Weight, 30 lbs (13.608 kg)

46 4	Killadysart, Shannon Est.	23rd July	Gerard Doyle	Crab/Squid
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UNDULATE RAY

Record, 18 lbs; Specimen Weight, 14 lbs (6.35 kg)

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs ozs				
14 12	Tralee Bay	15th August	Liam Griffin	Mackerel

TWAITE SHAD

Record, 1.54 kg; Specimen Weight, 2.205 lbs (1.0 kg)

1.52 kg	R. Barrow, St. Mullins	7th May	Liam Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
3	St. Mullins	10th May	Pat Foster	Tasmanian Devil
2.98	St. Mullins	7th May	Paul Hutchinson	Tasmanian Devil
1.35 kg	St. Mullins	3rd May	Michael Hennessy	Tasmanian Devil
2.95	St. Mullins	13th May	Pierce Moran	Tasmanian Devil
2.92	St. Mullins	10th May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
2.90	St. Mullins	6th May	David Butler	Tasmanian Devil
1.312 kg	St. Mullins	7th May	Joseph Byrne	Tasmanian Devil
1.3 kg	St. Mullins	5th May	Dick Looney	Tasmanian Devil
2 13.5	St. Mullins	8th May	Patrick Walsh	Tasmanian Devil
1.22 kg	St. Mullins	3rd May	Michael Hennessy	Tasmanian Devil
2.66	St. Mullins	2nd May	Bill Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
1.2	St. Mullins	8th May	Stephen Neylon	Tasmanian Devil
1.18 kg	St. Mullins	3rd May	Patrick Kiely	Jensen
2 9.5	St. Mullins	8th May	John Moffat	Tasmanian Devil
2.56	St. Mullins	7th May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
2.56	St. Mullins	6th May	Master Adrian Glass	Tasmanian Devil
2.53	St. Mullins	6th May	Denis Butler	Tasmanian Devil
2.52	St. Mullins	13th May	Damian Blackwell	Minnow Rapala
2.47	St. Mullins	7th May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.12 kg	St. Mullins	3rd May	Sean Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.1 kg	St. Mullins	3rd May	Peter Bolger	Tasmanian Devil
1.1 kg	St. Mullins	3rd May	Michael Hennessy	Tasmanian Devil
1.1 kg	St. Mullins	3rd May	Tommy Keogh, Snr	Pirken
1.08 kg	St. Mullins	5th May	Liam Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
2.35	St. Mullins	3rd May	Nicholas Ward	Tasmanian Devil
2 5	St. Mullins	13th June	Michael Morgan	Tasmanian Devil



TWAITE SHAD (Contd.)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
2.3	St. Mullins	5th May	Brian McDonnell	Tasmanian Devil
1.03 kg	St. Mullins	5th May	David Roche	Tasmanian Devil
1.028 kg	St. Mullins	15th May	Richard Ford	Tasmanian Devil
2.25	St. Mullins	5th May	Shay McDonnell	Tasmanian Devil
2	4 St. Mullins	15th May	Robin Cook	Tasmanian Devil
1.02 kg	St. Mullins	3rd May	Peter Bolger	Tasmanian Devil
1.02 kg	St. Mullins	3rd May	Steven Wilson	Tasmanian Devil
2.22	St. Mullins	2nd May	Bill Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
2	3.5 St. Mullins	2nd May	John Moffat	Tasmanian Devil
2	3.5 St. Mullins	2nd May	Patrick Walsh	Tasmanian Devil
1.0 kg	St. Mullins	3rd May	Peter Bolger	Tasmanian Devil
1.0 kg	St. Mullins	4th May	Richard Murphy	Tasmanian Devil
1.0 kg	St. Mullins	4th May	Bill Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
1.0 kg	St. Mullins	5th May	Liam Ryan	Tasmanian Devil

BLUE SHARK**Record, 206 lbs; Specimen Weight, 100 lbs (45.359 kg)**

57 kg	Brandon Bay	26th August	John Boyle	Mackerel
54.15 kg	Ballydavid	3rd September '99	Roland Geraerts (D)	Mackerel
103	8 Downings	10th September	Alastair Smyth	Mackerel Flapper

SMOOTH HOUND**New Record, 16.58 lbs; Specimen Weight, 7 lbs (3.175 kg)**

16.58	Carne	25th September	Keith Gray (UK)	Lugworm
9	8 Clones Strand	24th June	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
8.82	Rush	13th August	John Sherry	Mackerel
8	6 Wexford, Roney Beach	5th June	Trevor Belling	Crab
8	6 Clones Strand	24th June	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
7	6 Clones Strand	24th June	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab

STONE BASSE**Record, 10 lbs 13 ozs; Specimen Weight, 8 lbs (3.628 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
8	15 Cork Harbour	10th August	James R. Waltham (UK)	Muppets

THREE BEARDED ROCKLING**Record, 3 lbs 1 oz; Specimen Weight, 1.75 lbs (0.794 kg)**

1.16 kg	Hook Head	15th October	Master Thomas Dunphy	Ragworm
2	2 Money Point	5th November	John Martin O'Sullivan	Mackerel
0.86 kg	Cobh	2nd October	Christy Barrett	Peeler Crab

TOPE**Record, 66 lbs 8ozs; Specimen Weight, 40 lbs (18.144 kg)**

62	Dundalk Bay	27th June	Joe Mulholland	Mackerel Fillet
58	Carlingford Lough	20th August	Jim Neill	Mackerel Flapper
53	Carlingford Lough	12th July	Pat Byrne	Mackerel Flapper
51	Carlingford Lough	5th August	Francis O'Hare	Mackerel Flapper
48	Carlingford Lough	3rd September	Paul McLoone	Mackerel Flapper
48	Carlingford Lough	3rd September	Oliver Finnegan	Mackerel Flapper
45	8 Carlingford Lough	3rd September	Enda Hoey	Mackerel Flapper
42	Carlingford Lough	5th August	Francis O'Hare	Mackerel Flapper
40	6 Greystones	12th August	Paul O'Brien	Mackerel Strip
40	Tralee Bay	15th August	Liam Griffin	Mackerel

BLUEFIN TUNA**New Record, 240kg; Specimen Weight, 100 lbs (45.359 kg)**

240 kg	Donegal Bay	25th September	Alan Glanville	Artificial Squid Lures
160 kg	Donegal Bay	24th September	Alan Glanville	Artificial Squid Lures

BALLAN WRASSE

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
6.40	Kilmore Quay	26th September	Alan Hilton (UK)	Lugworm/Ragworm Cocktail
5.74	Kilmore Quay	26th September	Terry O'Connor (UK)	Ragworm/Peeler Crab
5 5	Downings	2nd July	Johnny McCormack	Lugworm
2.39 kg	Kilmore	19th March	Kevin Laffan	Mackerel
5 4	Portaferry	10th September	Terry Jackson	Ragworm
4 13	Achill	31st July '99	Alexander Storey	Ragworm

CUCKOO WRASSE

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

1 8.25	Causeway Coast	26th August	John Winton	Ragworm
1.48	Belmullet	19th August	Thomas McGinty	Hokkai
1 7	Ballycastle	12th August	Noel McFetridge	Ragworm
0.606 kg	Belmullet	10th September	Brian Gallagher	Mackerel Strip
0.605 kg	Ballycastle	16th May	Liam Longmore	Lugworm/mackerel
0.58 kg	Downings	28th May	Cormac Burke	Ragworm
1 4	Belfast Lough	28th August	David Craig	Ragworm



A nice ballan wrasse for Terry Jackson out of Portaferry in September

Special Notices

SPECIMEN WEIGHT REVISION

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

The specimen weight for **Twaite Shad** has been increased from 1 kg (2.205 lbs) to **1.1 kg** (2.4255 lbs) from January 1st 2001.

ESTABLISHING A NEW SPECIMEN FISH CATEGORY

An important function of the ISFC is to act as a focal point for data collection on the occurrence of notable, rare or unusual species taken on rod and line in Irish waters. In some instances this has led to species previously regarded as "unusual" being added to the list of eligible species. Examples from recent years include smooth hound (*Mustelas asterias*) and three bearded rockling (*Gaidropsarus vulgaris*), (in 1982), garfish (*Bellone svetovidovi*) (in 1985), torsk (*Brosme brosme*) (in 1987) and trigger fish (*Balistes carolinensis*) (in 1991).

The decision to establish a new specimen fish category is taken with due consideration of the information available to the Committee. One of the principle criteria is that the species should be captured in the ordinary course of angling. Other important factors include the numbers of the species taken over a given period, the distribution of the species and the weight of individual fish in comparison to their likely maximum achievable weight.

To begin the process of attempting to establish a new specimen fish category anglers *are requested to submit a completed claim form* for each fish captured. This is particularly important as it will establish a database on that species and enable further investigation and comparison of future claims. With most species the body will have to be forwarded for positive identification. Other arrangements would apply for large fish. The availability of the body is essential to allow the Committee to verify positive identification of the species. The claim form will allow monitoring of numbers and weights of the species. This facilitates assessment of the likelihood of capture, the likely specimen weight and the availability and seasonality of the species. It is difficult to legislate for every situation that may arise but it must be stated that the final decision

will rest with the Committee and will be based on a balanced review of the information available. While this process is progressing some details of interesting fish captured will be reported in the annual report.

For example, during 2000 claims for seven bluemouths (*Helicolenus dactylopterus Delaroche*) were submitted to the Committee for consideration (Photo below). Six were caught on the 28th May in deep water off Burtonport, Co. Donegal while the other was caught on 30th August out of Fenit, Co. Kerry. The fish ranged in weight from 0.085 to 0.5 kg. Bluemouth have been taken in recent years on rod and line; two claims were submitted for fish caught on 5th May 1996 out of Caherciveen, Co. Kerry while four claims were submitted for the same venue for fish taken on dates in April 1997. The Committee has decided not to classify bluemouth as an eligible species for 2001. However, the situation will be reviewed in 2001 and if the species features more regularly in anglers' catches and lodging of claims substantiates this, fish submitted in 2000 may be eligible for consideration.



A bluemouth taken off Burtonport by one of skipper Neil Gallagher's party

In addition to the two bluefin tuna taken off Killybegs another was taken on rod and line in September also off the Donegal coast. Fishing out of Downings Michael Mc Veigh landed a bluefin 81 inches in length.

Other interesting claim forms submitted in 2000 included one for an albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) of 39 lbs taken some 50 miles off the Kerry coast on August 26th 2000. Claims were also received for 12 pollan (*Coregonus albula*) ranging from 4 to 6 ozs taken on artificial fly in the River Bann at Toome on 22nd and 23rd July 2000. Both species will be considered at the next meeting of the ISFC.

IMPORTANT POINTS REGARDING CLAIMS

Place of capture: 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).

Maximum number of claims per species: 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 (stocked fish and Common Skate):

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.

In 1976 the Committee, in the interests 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 and it is gratifying to know that 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 the conservation of the species.

Captors Addresses: Because of difficulties in establishing eligibility for the 10 Species, 50 Specimen and 10 Specimen Awards, captors are advised to inform the Committee of any changes in their addresses.

BIG GAME FISH

When the ISFC was originally set up in 1955 the Committee included Tunny or Bluefin Tuna on the list of eligible species. These farseeing individuals could not have forecast that it would take 45 years before the first ever Bluefin was landed on rod and line. One of the key criteria for claiming a specimen is that it is taken by fair angling. This is defined by the ISFC as "any legitimate method of angling with rod and reel which is recognised as a fair and sporting method". The capture of three large tuna on rod and line in 2000 was a remarkable achievement particularly as the boats in question were not specifically equipped for big game fishing. The ISFC rules were not specifically constituted to address big game fishing and, as this form of fishing is in its infancy in Ireland, the Committee has decided to adopt a watching brief and will give special attention to the issues that may arise in respect of catching these larger fish. Meanwhile, it is essential that charter skippers continue to ensure that sporting angling practices are employed in the capture of these and other large game fish.

IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT WEIGHING OF FISH

Weighing instruments and certification: 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 officers of the Legal Metrology Service (National Standards Authority of Ireland) and are acceptable for weighing specimen and record fish. Club or personalised (i.e. scales not normally certified by the Weights and Measures Authority for trade purposes) can be certified for accuracy by this agency. *A full listing of Legal Metrology Centres throughout the country where scales can be independently certified is presented in this report.* Such scales if certified in advance are acceptable to the Committee for weighing purposes. Certification will be valid for one year from the date of issue of the certificate of accuracy. The manufacturers certificate of accuracy will not suffice. Weights from scales which are not certified at the time of weighing or certified in retrospect will not be accepted.

Metrification: Since 1978, the schedule of specimen weights on the Specimen Fish Claim Form has been presented in the Imperial (lbs and ozs) and Metric (kilograms and grams) systems. Claims will be accepted under either system until E.U. legislation dictates otherwise. Weights are also acceptable as decimal of lbs (e.g. 2.25 lbs = 2lbs 4 ozs).

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, Plassey 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	William Keogh	Mobile 087 - 224 7121
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 (Administration) Legal Metrology Service, NSAI, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 Ph: 01 - 807 3807 Fax: 01 - 807 3808	Pat Farragher	01 - 807 3807

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS 1999

DR. HUGH BYRNE T.D. Minister of State for the Marine and Natural Resources made the Annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims were accepted during 1999 at the Doyle Burlington Hotel, Dublin on 26th February 2000.



Happy Tralee Bay SAC specimen award winners at the presentation in March 2000

At the VISMA angling exhibition held in Rotterdam, Holland on 25th March 2000, Dutch and Belgian anglers were presented with their awards in association with Bord Fáilte.

DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIMEN AWARDS

The numbers of specimen fish taken by visiting anglers since 1980 are listed below:

Year	Ireland	Britain (UK)	Holland (NL)	Germany (D)	Belgium (B)	France (F)	Other -	TOTAL
1980	355	77	54	13	9	2	n/d	510
1981	390	111	31	19	6	2	n/d	559
1982	404	104	61	18	4	4	n/d	595
1983	532	116	31	15	2	4	n/d	700
1984	442	131	29	17	5	2	n/d	626
1985	443	90	25	15	3	2	n/d	578
1986	349	93	21	16	3	7	n/d	489
1987	300	59	36	8	1	4	n/d	408
1988	259	60	14	5	4	4	n/d	346
1989	261	48	18	10	0	0	n/d	337
1990	286	45	21	23	4	1	n/d	380
1991	332	46	30	19	1	3	n/d	431
1992	336	56	32	9	1	3	n/d	437
1993	352	45	30	16	3	4	n/d	450
1994	282	39	33	13	1	2	n/d	370
1995	295	55	35	18	7	1	n/d	411
1996	307	69	27	6	4	2	n/d	415
1997	449	57	28	9	5	4	n/d	552
1998	344	53	46	6	5	4	n/d	458
1999	310	35	33	3	1	1	1	384
2000	403	48	41	13	1	0	2	508

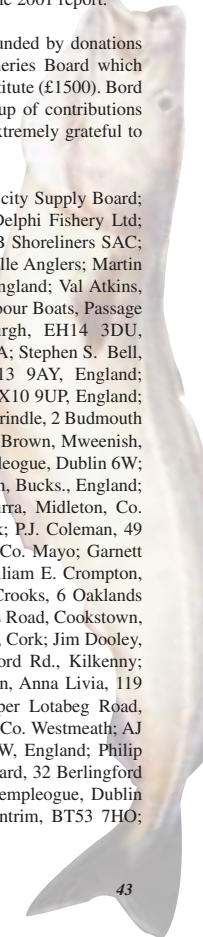
n/d = not determined



IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE				
Expenditure and Revenue Account - 1st January to 31st December 1999				
1998	Expenditure	1999	1998	1999
£3,354.03	Printing	£3,520.40		£3,744.15
£135.00	Medals	£2,203.88		£2,000.00
£0.00	Travel	£555.65	£2,000.00	£1,500.00
£25.00	Late Dr. Went's Prize	£25.00	£500.00	-
£795.00	Miscellaneous	£10.00		£1,000.00
£309.00	Equipment	£0.00		
£100.00	Presentation Expenses	£655.49		
£16.95	Bank charges	£14.90		
	TOTAL	£6,985.32	£895.44	£614.43
	Balance c/d	£2,623.26	£500.00	£750.00
		£9,608.58	Balance b/d	£5,864.43
				£9,608.58
				£2,623.26

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

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



ACCOUNTS/DONATIONS

Accounts: A statement of the Committee's accounts for the year ending December 31st 1999 is presented above. The 2000 accounts will be published in the 2001 report.

Donations: The ISFC is a voluntary body and all activities are funded by donations from diverse sources. Our principal donors are the Central Fisheries Board which donated £3,500 in 2000 (75% increase on 1999) and the Marine Institute (£1500). Bord Failte and the Electricity Supply Board. The remainder is made up of contributions from some Regional Fisheries Boards and anglers. The ISFC is extremely grateful to all. Benefactors in 2000 were:

The Central Fisheries Board; Marine Institute; Bord Failte; Electricity Supply Board; Aghada Angling Club; Carrickfergus & District Angling Club; Delphi Fishery Ltd; Dolphin Richview S.A.C.; Dun Laoghaire Motor Yacht Club; ESB Shoreliners SAC; Glengormley & District Sea Angling Club; Saltee S.A.C.; Waterville Anglers; Martin Allen, 107 Stemshaw Road, Stemshaw, Portsmouth, PO2 8LL, England; Val Atkins, Belle Vue, Ferrybank, Waterford; Finbarr & John Barry, Cork Harbour Boats, Passage West, Cork; Rab Beggs, 17 Baberton Mains Wood, Edinburgh, EH14 3DU, Scotland; Gerard Bell, 84A Upper Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT10 0BA; Stephen S. Bell, The Gables, The Crescent, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, ME13 9AY, England; T.R.Bewes, 8 Moor View Close, Woolbrook, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 9UP, England; Peter Bolger, 70 Ferrycarrig Road, Coolock, Dublin 17; Malcolm Brindle, 2 Budmouth Avenue, Preston, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 6JW, England; Duncan Brown, Mweenish, Carna, Co. Galway; Brian Buckley, 8A Wellington Cottages, Templeogue, Dublin 6W; FHE Buller, "Holly Tree", Woodlands, South Heath, Gt. Middleden, Bucks., England; Brian Byrne; East Cork Angling, Loughcarrig House, Ballinacurra, Middleton, Co. Cork; Sean Clohessy, Castlehyde, Richmond, Glanmire, Co. Cork; P.J. Coleman, 49 Clancy Road, Finglas, Dublin 11; Joe Cooney, Tonragee, Achill, Co. Mayo; Garnett Coulter, 24 Kilmore Park, Kilmore, Co. Armagh, BT61 8NT; William E. Crompton, "The Beeches", Tomloskan, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim; Kenneth Crooks, 6 Oaklands Road, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, BT80 9ED; Ian Crooks, 6 Oaklands Road, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone; Donal Doheney, 20 Courtown Drive, Knocknaheeney, Cork; Jim Dooley, 6 Bawnleigh Court, Banduff, Cork; PJ Dore, St. Annes, Freshford Rd., Kilkenny; James Farrell, 137 Leinster Rd., Rathmines, Dublin 6; Frank Folan, Anna Livia, 119 Culmore Road, Palmerstown, Dublin 20; Mattie Foley, 18 Upper Lotabeg Road, Mayfield, Cork; Ian Forde, FISH, Monroe, Slanemore, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath; AJ Hall, 12 Helmsdale Road, Rise Park, Romford, Essex, RM1 4DW, England; Philip Hodgins, 194 Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin 16; Edward Howard, 32 Berlingford Drive, Blackrock, Cork; William E. Jones, 20 Rossmore Park, Templeogue, Dublin 6W; William Kirkpatrick, 47 Carnary Park, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, BT53 7HO;

Christy Lane, 10 Harringtons Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; Peter Manning, Ballycotton Sea Angling Centre, Church Road, Ballycotton, Co. Cork; R. Mc Evoy, 4 Marian Terrace, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary; John McDermott, 1 Clarke Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork; Nicholas McEvoy, 6 Francis Crescent, Grange Heights, Waterford; Mark McMullan, 25 Broagh Road, Castledawson, Co. Derry; J.S. Mullan, Main Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim; Michelle, Murphy, 13 Silverheights Road, Cork; Brian Nolan, Enagh, Kilkishen, Co. Clare; Norman O'Connor, Angling Charters, 2 Ashmount Terrace, Dingle, Co. Kerry; Sean O'Connor, Ballydavid Angling Charter, Ballydavid, Dingle Peninsula, Tralee, Co. Kerry; Noel O'Connor, 13 St. Brendan's Terrace, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway; Charles O'Kane, 21 Highfield, Maherafelt, Co. Derry; Karl O'Leary, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; Donal O'Mahony, 16 Island Way, Muskerry Estate, Ballincollig, Co. Cork; John, O'Neill, 52 Closegate, Waterford City; Christopher O'Neill, St. Judes, Boyne Bank, Trim, Co. Meath; Brian O'Neill, 9 Hermitage, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford; Peter O'Neill, Greenvale Drive, Maherafelt, Co. Derry; John A O'Shea, 6 Raphoe Rd., Crumlin, Dublin 12; Ron Patterson, 72 Castlemore Avenue, Belfast, BT6 9BG; Charles, Robinson, Stella Maris, Churchill, Wicklow; Trevor Ryder, Gortamore, Downings, Co. Donegal; Werner Sammann, Steenflage 3, D49406 Barnstorf, Germany; John Sherry, Lusk, Co. Dublin; Kenneth W. Stonestreet, 8 Studley Close, Heyside, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6SG, England; M. Swaysland, 19 Rutland Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 2XJ, England; A. Tweedale, 31 Passmonds Crescent, Rochdale, OL11 5AW, England; Nicholas Ward, 22 St. Conleths Road, Greenhills Estate, Dublin 12; Robert Williams, "The Brig", Fennels Bay, Myrtleville, Co. Cork.

Acknowledgements

Photographs: Good quality photographs have enhanced the report considerably over the past decade. Anglers are encouraged to send photographs of specimen fish catches to the Committee. All will be considered for publication. The Committee is extremely grateful to anglers, staff, charter skippers and other supporters who submitted photographs this year particularly Matt Nolan, Peter Green, Phil Hallsworth, Tommy Byrne, Kenneth Crooks, Mark Gannon, Danny Goldrick, Betty Hayes, Kevin Linnane, Jimmy King and Neil Gallagher.

Special acknowledgements: Charter skippers, club members, guesthouse owners, tackle dealers and staffs from the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards who follow up claims and ensure that the necessary paperwork is attended to are gratefully acknowledged.

Two sections of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI) continue to provide an excellent fish identification service for anglers in Northern Ireland and the ISFC is indebted to staff in both. Special thanks are due to the extremely cooperative staff of the Legal Metrology Service NSAI for certification of scales.

IRISH RECORD FISH FRESHWATER SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs. ozs.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
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
Eel	6 15	12. 6.1979	L. Droumenisa, Bantry	J. Murnane
Perch	5 8	1946	Lough Erne	S. Drum
Pike (Lake)	39 3	11. 4.1993	Lough Key	Michael Egan
Pike (River)	42 0	22. 3.1964	River Barrow	M. Watkins
Roach	2 13.5	11.8.1970	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	Lawrie Robinson
Roach/Bream Hybrid	5 14.5	13.6.1999	L. Kinale	Daniel Smith
Rudd	4 8	5.9.1996	Coney Lake	Hugh Gough
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7 10	19.10.1996	Monalty Lake	Brendan Doran
Tench	8.15 lbs	20.6.1995	Ballyeighter Lake	Nick Parry
Salmon	57 0	1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Brown Trout (Lake)	26 2	15. 7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Brown Trout (River)	20 0	22. 2.1957	River Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place
Sea Trout	16 6	29.10.1983	Shirina River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus

MARINE SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs. ozs.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Angler Fish	42.985 kg	3.11.1985	Belfast Lough	Sean Neill
Bass	17 13	21. 10.2000	Doughmore Strand	Emmet Naughton
Black Sole	6.32 lbs	28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Brill	9 8	8. 9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	27.61 lbs	13. 8.2000	Courtmacsherry	Jan Tom
Cod	42 0	1921	Ballycotton	I.L. Stewart
Conger Eel	72 0	June, 1914	Valentia	J. Green
Dab	2.02 lbs	28. 1.1989	Dunmore East	Paul Beglin
Spur Dogfish	21 0	14.3.1998	Kenmare Bay	John Agustá
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 lbs	2.10.1993	Ballyteigue Co. Wexford	Brian Russell

MARINE SPECIES (Contd.)

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	Bulsmouth, 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 0	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	48 8	29. 5.2000	Courtmacsherry	Tony Sol
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 lbs	26. 9.1993	Cork Harbour	Cay Heerwagen
Plaice	8.23 lbs	23. 1.1982	Ballycotton Pier	Edmund Cull
Pollack	19 3	1904	Ballycotton	J.N. Heame
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 0	11. 6.1977	Fenit	Ann-Mari Liedecke
Homelyn Ray	8.28 lbs	28. 9.1983	Cork Harbour	Edmund Cull
Painted Ray	17.21 lbs	29. 8.1994	Garryvoe, Co. Cork	Edmund Cull
Electric Ray	72.5 lbs	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 lbs	1932	Keem Bay, Achill	Dr. O'Donel Brown
Blue Shark	206 lbs	7.10.1959	Achill Head	J. McMonagle
Six Gilled Shark	154 lbs	28. 8.1968	Kinsale	Andrew Bull
Common Skate	221 lbs	1913	Ballycotton	T. Tucker
White Skate	165 lbs	7. 8.1966	Clew Bay	Jack Stack
Scad	1.97 lbs	6. 9.1986	Clonakilty	Master R. McCarthy
Smooth Hound	16.58 lbs	25. 9.2000	Carne	Keith Gray
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
Tunny (Bluefin Tuna)	240 kg	25.9.2000	Donegal Bay	Alan Glanville
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 (2001 revisions in bold type)

FRESHWATER FISH	IRISH RECORD		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		
	lbs	ozs	lbs	ozs	kg
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	0	14.08	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
Roach/Bream Hybrid	5	14.5	3		1.361
Rudd (<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>)	4	8	2.25		1.021
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7	10	3		1.361
Tench (<i>Tinca tinca</i>)	8.15		6		2.722
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	57	0	20		9.072
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (Lake)	26	2	10		4.536
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (River)	20	0	5		2.268
Sea Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	16	6	6		2.722
Slob Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)			10		4.536
SEA FISH					
Angler Fish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	42.985 kg		40		18.144
Bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	17 13		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>)	27.61		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>Squalius 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		0.68
- Red (<i>Aspitrigla 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		22.68
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)	0.425 kg		0.75		0.34
John Dory (<i>Zeus faber</i>)	7 8		4		1.814
Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>)	48 8		25		11.34
Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	4 2		0.52		1.134
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>)	9.1		5		2.268
- Red (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)	-		1		0.454

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS (2001 revisions in bold type) Contd.

SEA FISH (Contd.)	IRISH RECORD		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		
	lbs	ozs	lbs	ozs	kg
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 allosa</i>)	-		4		1.814
- Twaite (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	1.54 kg		2.4255		1.1
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 batia</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>)	16.58		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>)	240 kg		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

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE RULES

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- (1) **IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE:** This Committee consists of representatives of the Irish Angling Federations and the Government Departments and official organisations interested in angling. Its objective is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large fish on rod and line in Irish waters. A list of Specimen Fish is published annually by the Committee. Only fish which can be fully vouched for as to weight and species can be accepted and listed by the Committee.
- (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 in this report). 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, Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Division, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX, Ph: 028 90 255503, e-mail : richard.briggs@dardni.gov.uk. In the case of freshwater species send to Dr. Walter Crozier, Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, River Bush Salmon Station, 21 Church Street, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8QJ, Ph: 028 207 31435, e-mail: walter.crozier@dardni.gov.uk

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: Bridie.Fleming@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. Richard Briggs, Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Division, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX, Ph: 028 90 255503, e-mail: richard.briggs@dardni.gov.uk. In the case of freshwater species sent to Dr. Walter Crozier, Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, River Bush Salmon Station, 21 Church Street, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8QJ, Ph: 028 207 31435, e-mail: walter.crozier@dardni.gov.uk

SPECIMEN PORK CHOPS

Year's end is a very busy time for the Irish Specimen Fish Committee with the finalisation of specimen fish claims and production of the annual report. PETER GREEN, Sea Angling Advisor with the Central Fisheries Board, relates how sea angling charter skippers contribute so much to the work of logging specimens, ongoing monitoring of fish migrations through a marine fish tagging programme and recording of specific information on deep sea angling effort for the season.

Some anglers may not be aware that the majority of specimen fish caught in salt water are taken on deep-sea charter vessels. Central to the process of successfully logging of specimens, particularly for our overseas visitors, is the charter skipper. Possessing a wealth of angling knowledge and experience the skipper is first on the boat to recognise a specimen fish when he/she sees one. Although UK international angler Steve Quinn didn't need any help in recognising his unusual catch the skipper was on hand to take the photo! After an angler has boated his specimen, his part has been completed apart from filling in his particulars on the claim form, a vital document which the skipper always has a supply on hand. The remainder of the process to complete and finalise the claim falls to the skipper.

This follow through is particularly important for many of our overseas anglers who may be on their first trip to Ireland and are totally dependant on the skipper to guide them to a successful outcome. For example this year, Mark Gannon's boats "Lady Louise" and "Lady Patricia" based in Courtmacsherry recorded 31 specimens and 2 Irish Records with the majority taken by Dutch anglers.

Apart from specimen fish, many skippers have, over the past 28 years, taken part in the Central Fisheries Board Marine Tagging Programme whereby all shark, tope, monkfish, common skate and ray are measured, tagged and released. This programme is executed on a voluntary basis and is an ongoing study of the migration patterns of these sport fish. A short paper presenting some of the results titled "Results from tagging of Blue Shark in Irish waters" by Paddy



Steve Quinn with an unusual "specimen"

Fitzmaurice and myself has just been published in The Irish Scientist 2000. Skippers also keep angling logbooks or diaries, which record such details as numbers of different species, average weights, nationality of anglers and all other relevant data which are useful indicators of angling market trends.

Part of my job entails visiting all of the angling centres from Wexford to Malin in North Donegal every autumn to collect the results of the year's charter boat activity. Tags, bags, boxes, papers, books and lots of stories are collected over this period. In addition, I also collect fish bodies which have been stored by the skippers and are required by the Specimen Fish Committee for positive species identification by their biologists. Identification is particularly important to ensure that the ISFC has an accurate account of species taken. I suppose I can count myself lucky that no one has presented me with an angler fish (specimen weight 40 lbs) yet! This system can have its very own drawbacks, as I will illustrate.

I go prepared with a few cooler boxes and hope not to have too many bodies on the first night as this entails a daily transfer of fish into and out of guesthouse freezers as I continue my journey around the coast. I have spent many a night in November in an outhouse or garage armed with a torch and knee deep in chickens and Sunday roasts looking for some unfortunate rockling which is at the bottom of the chest freezer, having been put there five months previously. Once I have received a fish from the skipper the onus is on me to deliver it safely to Dublin. In that context remembering to remove the fish from the freezer each morning is important!

This collecting job is not for someone who has a tendency to be car sick. Here's why - quite often fish are not frozen until after the decay process has started. Thawing out each day can create dreadful obnoxious odours which permeate the car and only serves to boost the sale of air fresheners. In one particular guesthouse, having convinced the landlady that the fish were not alive, she rebagged them in case they contaminated the contents of her freezer. She handed me the bag in the morning containing the five fish. On arrival in Dublin, I discovered to my horror that the cuckoo wrasse was missing and in its place I had three fine pork chops. Luckily, I was able to rectify the problem immediately and no one was any the wiser until now!

To-date, charter skippers have been responsible for tagging and releasing over 31,000 fish which includes 16,000 Blue Shark. A total of 74 skippers keep angling logbooks. The logbook programme is in its 23rd year and a national statistic sheet is produced each year.

Finally, none of these activities would be possible without the dedicated voluntary co-operation of the 80 charter skippers around the coastline. I know that the Central Fisheries Board and the Irish Specimen Fish Committee wish to express a deep and sincere word of gratitude for all their efforts.

DES BRENNAN (1926-2000)

Remembering Des is about the easiest job I'm ever likely to get: he was an unforgettable man and my oldest friend. The first time I met him was alongside the pier at Kilmore Quay. He'd been given the job by the then Inland Fisheries Trust of acting as my guide and mentor on a six-week-long trip I was making to research a book on saltwater fishing in Ireland which I'd been commissioned to write.

Within the hour, the pair of us were out over the Splaugh reef, hurling German Sprats in all directions out of John Ferguson's boat. This was in the glory days of the Splaugh. We caught, well, a very large number of bass and kept them all, as everyone did then. After that we racketed about the country together in Des's old Commer van, inured, after a while, to breathing in the effluvia from what had become a Mackerel Mausoleum, the scent of which had long ago blended in with that generations of lugworm that had lived and died in the back of it.



Des, Kevin and Clive at Belmullet enjoying one of their many angling trips

I remember some big scores we set up boatwise - at Ballycotton, we challenged Mikeen Lynch to lead us to a specimen pollack, a specimen blue shark and a specimen skate all in one day. He failed: the skate and the pollack specimens we got right enough, but the blue we caught came in 10 lbs under the specimen weight.

After that, Des and I fished, what, maybe three or four trips together each year through the '60's and early '70's (Somewhere along the way we recruited a young fellow name of Linnane who we trained up to, you know, carry stuff and dig worms). Sometimes we boat fished, but our real love was bass in the surf.

Can you imagine what it was like on the Dingle beaches in the early '60's? I'd cross on the Swansea/Cork ferry, Des would meet me when she got in around 7.00 a.m. and then the Commer would break all records to get us to Benner's Hotel where Miss Maloney would greet us with a half tumbler of whisky each, inform us that we were the only guests (this was long before Dingle made it tourism-wise) and told us that if we came back in the middle of the night, then we could go into the kitchen ourselves and fix our own fry-ups.

I remember well also the day on Brandon Bay we'd fished our favourite spot between the streams at Kilcummin and at the end of the day, we were loading up the Commer with bass, one or two of which come a whisker below the magic 10 lbs. And at that point, we looked at one another with a single thought. What the hell were we doing killing all these beautiful fish?

It was, I believe, the start of something big in our sport. Following this, Des and Kevin, with myself joining them when I could, began to work on a bass tagging programme that would end up with something that Ireland could be proud of - the first legislation in Europe that protected what could be argued was the most desirable of our sport fish. If it was just for this, Desmond Brennan deserves to be remembered.

For years, until the mid '70's, when I went to live and work in the U.S.A., Des, Kevin and I fished Ireland's beaches together and our favourite week of all was around the last in October when the bass, fat from summer feeding but wanting to feed up even more for the winter ahead, hit freely on Inch and Brandon, the great surf beaches to which anglers still flock.

Even when I'd gone to the States, we tried to keep up our autumn session when we could. Des came over and fished stripers with me on Nantucket Island and, another

year, for red drum (channel bass) in the Carolinas. I flew over to Shannon and we fished Kerry again (a great catch at St. Finians on the Ring I remember well).

Meanwhile, Des combined this with office work for the Trust (later the Central Fisheries Board) in Dublin (and, oh boy, did he ever grudge the time he had to spend at a desk). And, of course, for almost 30 years – from 1958 to 1987 – he was Secretary of the Specimen Fish Committee and, I believe, it was Des's own absolute integrity of character that gave the yearly List of Specimen Fish its reputation for strict probity, surpassing that, I am very willing to say, other similar national organisations. The mere breath of an irregularity and a claim went out through the door, even if it was merely the honest overlooking of a regulatory detail or two. It meant a lot to Des, his work on the Committee, even though every now and then his wife, Noreen, would be the appalled recipient at her front door of a parcel containing the long-dead remains of a pollack that an angler 200 miles away had hoped would bring him glory. When deep freezing came in, it meant the hell of a lot to the Brennan family.

Des and I weren't always out after bass. He was a fine fly fisherman as well, as you'd know if you'd watched him, as I did many times, casting a Spent Gnat to a cruising trout on his favourite Lough Ennell. He used to come over sometimes to share my sewin (white trout) fishing in Wales and he was just as good on the Towy as he was on a sea trout stream in Mayo.

And now Des has gone and I won't look upon his like again. I lost a great close friend. Ireland, I believe, has lot much more – a man who served her fisheries as no one else in his generation.

Clive Gammon