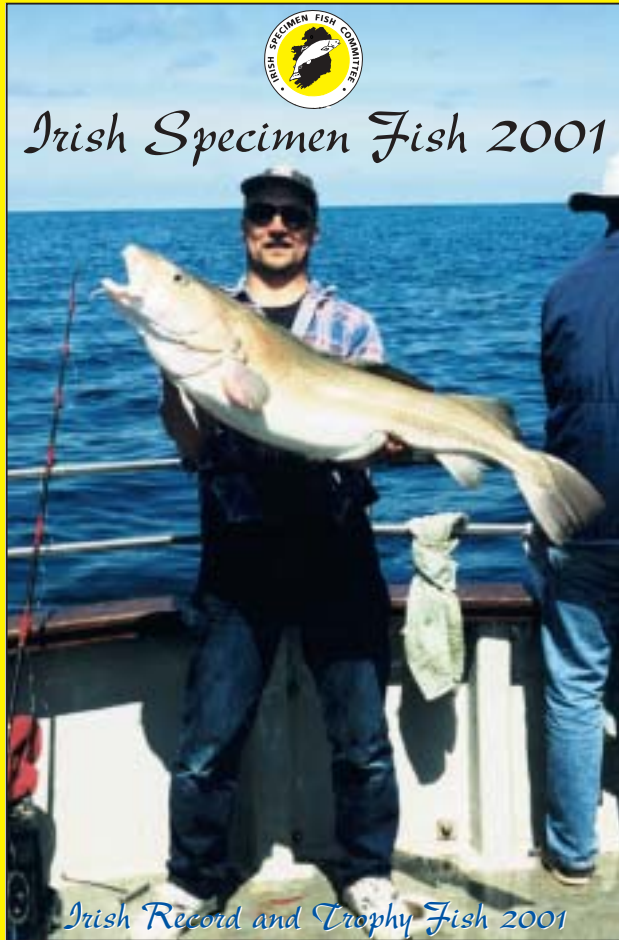




# Irish Specimen Fish 2001



*Irish Record and Trophy Fish 2001*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

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## Chairmans Review



It is with a heavy heart that I write this review having just learned of the passing of my great friend and former Secretary of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee, Kevin Linnane. Although he had been seriously ill for quite some time he maintained a remarkable spirit right up to his passing which typified his character throughout his life. We will miss him greatly for his rapier-like contributions, his common sense, his absolute commitment to his work and particularly the ISFC, but above all, his loyalty to family and friends. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.

Specimen angling has been very good this year despite the Foot and Mouth crisis which really did not impact on the overall number of specimens recorded, despite the loss of angling time earlier in the year. Records fell yet again with the roach and roach/bream hybrid records going by the board. Both of these records were broken in waters in Northern Ireland. On the marine side, the bluefin tuna record established in 2000 was smashed by an enormous fish of 440 kg taken by Adrian Molloy off the Donegal coast during the summer. Large numbers of specimen coalfish, including an excellent new record, were taken during the year. Weight revisions and the addition of two new species to the listings, albacore and bluemouth, were also attended to during the year.

I am exceptionally pleased with our full colour report. It shows Irish angling in a very good light and highlights all that is good about the quality of the product in the country in a very professional manner. Other projects including the specimen fish database and the ISFC website are being progressed. Such improvements and developments demand funding. As a voluntary organization we cannot deliver without sufficient funds and I am extremely concerned about our financial position. Outgoings are increasing consistently but our income is not keeping pace and the Committee will find itself in financial difficulty in the short-term based on current trends despite the generosity of all of our current sponsors. I want to particularly thank our main sponsor, The Central Fisheries Board, not alone for funding the ISFC, but also for the full support of its administrative services.

This review is my last official function as Chairman of the ISFC. After 26 years on the Committee and 15 of those as Chairman I have decided to retire from the ISFC. Over this time I have seen many changes in angling throughout the country and within the ISFC itself. Many new records, changes in Committee personnel, changes in administrative practices, new species being introduced to our listings, all manner of problems with weights and procedures, new awards, conservation measures being introduced to mention but a few. The work was always challenging. The glue that held it all together was the fantastic interest in specimen angling by all those involved - anglers, Committee members, Fisheries Board staff, accommodation providers and skippers etc. The reward comes from the extraordinarily positive feedback from all quarters on Awards Day when we gather to acknowledge the feats of those anglers many of whom have spent years trying to catch one "specimen". I am proud to have worked with such a dedicated body of people.

I want to thank the current Committee and previous committees for their contributions and support over the years and I wish the incoming Chairman, Trevor Champ all the very best for the years ahead. I trust that the ISFC will go from strength to strength.

Dr. Paddy Fitzmaurice

## Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2001

### INTRODUCTION

In 2001 the ISFC received 555 claims and ratified 508, including 4 new records. A total of 33 was rejected for non-compliance with the rules and a further 14 are being queried. Details of the new records, other special awards and the specimen awards 2001 are listed below:

### NEW RECORDS (Specially commissioned engraved silver medal)

**Roach – 3 lbs taken by Terry Jackson, Kilcubbin, Co. Down in the Lagan Canal on 5th May 2001.**

**Roach/Bream Hybrid – 6 lbs taken by David Craig, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim, in the Lagan Canal on 29th April 2001 (pictured below).**





**Coalfish - 29 lbs taken by Charlie Robinson, Carrigaline, Co. Cork, fishing out of Courtmacsharry on 24th November 2001 (pictured above).**

**Bluefin Tuna – 440 kg taken by Adrian Molloy, Kilcar, Co. Donegal, in Donegal Bay on 5th October 2001 (pictured on back cover).**

#### SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES

##### **10 SPECIES AWARD** (Engraved bronze medal)

**Mattie Foley, 18 Upper Lotabeg Road, Mayfield, Cork** – Bass (1994), Blonde Ray (1985), Eel (1995), Flounder (1994), Homelyn Ray (1981), Plaice (1985), Painted Ray (1992), Red Gurnard (1999), Rudd/Bream Hybrid (2001), Twaite Shad (1993).

**Dan Smith, 11 Kilmashogue Grove, Greenpark, Walkinstown, Dublin 12** – Bream (1998), Carp (1999), Greater Spotted Dogfish (1990), Grey Mullet (2001), Pike (River) (2001), Roach/ Bream Hybrid (1998), Rudd/Bream Hybrid (2000), Smooth Hound (1992), , Tench (1998), Twaite Shad (1985).

##### **50 SPECIMENS AWARD** (Gold)

Awarded to anglers who have caught 50 specimens

**Terry Jackson** from Kircubbin, Co. Down who has caught 50 specimens since 1992 including 4 Bream, 1 Ballan Wrasse, 2 Cuckoo Wrasse, 1 Pike (Lake), 7 Pike (River) 1 Plaice, 1 Ling, 12 Roach, 14 Roach/Bream Hybrids, 3 Rudd, 1 Rudd/Bream Hybrid, 3 Twaite Shad.

**Nick Parry** from Tubber, Co. Galway who has caught 55 specimens since 1994 including 13 Bream, 2 Carp, 3 Pike (River), 9 Roach/Bream Hybrids, 3 Rudd, 7 Rudd/Bream Hybrids, 18 Tench.

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

Awarded to anglers who have caught ten or more specimen fish

**Denis Butler**, 13 Dublin Road, Sutton, Dublin 13

**David Finnegan**, 13 Westway Lawn, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

**Mark E. Gannon**, Woodpoint, Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork

**Ken Garry**, 28 Balrothery Estate, Tallaght, Dublin 24

**John Healy**, 73 Pearse Road, Ballyphehane, Cork City

**Michael Hennessy**, 7 Factory Houses, Scarteen Park, Kenmare, Co. Kerry

**Jack Lacey**, Derrymore East, Tralee, Co. Kerry

**Patrick Murray**, Ashroe, Murroe, Co. Limerick

**Michael Norton**, 65 Forest Walk, River Valley, Swords, Co. Dublin

**Pat Robinson**, Ballyboe, Falcarragh, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

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

The late Dr. Arthur Went, a noted fisheries biologist, donated funds to service this award which is for the best specimen taken by an angler aged 13 years or younger on 31st December 2000. The 2001 award goes to:

**Nicholas Mc Cleery**, 74 Old Westland Road, Belfast, for a Roach/Bream Hybrid of 4 lbs 8 ozs taken in the River Bann, on 10th August, 2001.

**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 2001 award goes to: **Mark Gannon**, (pictured below) Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork for a Pollack of 19 lbs taken while fishing off Courtmacsherry on 10th November 2001.



## SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2001

### FRESHWATER FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2001 Coarse Fish and Pike

#### BREAM

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

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
8	7	Lough Derravaragh	30th June	James Dignam	Worm
8	3	Monalty Lake	20th October	Fred Foster	Bread
8	1	Ballinafid Lake	14th July	Brendan Doran	Maggots
8		River Bann, Toome	16th September	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
8		River Bann, Toome	29th April	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
8		Ballycullinan Lake	7th July	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
7	15	Lough Derravaragh	15th September	James Dignam	Worm
7	14	Lough Derravaragh	30th June	James Dignam	Worm
7	14	River Bann, Toome	16th September	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
7	12	River Bann, Toome	29th April	Gary Brown	Maggots
7	12	Monalty Lake	29th July	David Finnegan	Worm/Corn
7	10.5	Ballycullinan Lake	22nd September	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn



*Two fine two-tone Bream for James Dignam  
taken in June in Lough Derravaragh*

**BREAM (Contd.)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7 10	Ballinafid Lake	14th July	Brendan Doran	Maggots
7 10	Lower River Bann	29th April	David Craig	Maggots
7 9	Ballinafid Lake	15th June	Brendan Doran	Maggots
7 9	Ballyhoe Lake	24th June	Dan Smith	Corn/Maggots

**CARP**

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

24	The Lough, Cork	6th June '00	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
23 9	The Lough, Cork	29th September	Tony Cotter	Boilie
23 8	The Lough, Cork	9th May '00	Sidney Kenne	Maggots/Swtcm
23 8	The Lough, Cork	20th May '00	Sidney Kennedy	Chick Peas
22 8	The Lough, Cork	5th July	Tony Cotter	Boilie
22 8	The Lough, Cork	5th July	Master Derick O'Brien	Boilie
22 5	The Lough, Cork	18th August	Ross Macklin	Boilie
21 6	The Lough, Cork	21st July	Bill Collins	Bread Flake
21 4	The Lough, Cork	5th June	Ken Horgan	Sweetcorn
20 4	The Lough, Cork	10th May '00	John Feeney	Boilie
20 2	The Lough, Cork	3rd April	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie



Ross Macklin with a 17 lb 4 oz Carp from the Lough in Cork

**CARP (Contd.)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
19		The Lough, Cork	7th May	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
18 8		The Lough, Cork	18th November '00	Eamonn Lyons	Lobworm
17 8		The Lough, Cork	8th April '00	John Healy	Maggots
17 6		The Lough, Cork	21st July	Ross Macklin	Boilie
17 4		The Lough, Cork	11th June	John Healy	Boilie
17 4		The Lough, Cork	27th July	Ross Macklin	Boilie
16 6		The Lough, Cork	21st July	Bill Collins	Bread Flake
16 4		The Lough, Cork	12th May	Bill Collins	Bread Flake
16 2		The Lough, Cork	3rd April	Tony Cotter	Boilie
16		The Lough, Cork	11th June	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
15 8		The Lough, Cork	7th August	John Healy	Boilie
15 5		Decoy Lake	14th September	Roy Gretton	Boilie
14 8		The Lough, Cork	10th May '00	John Feeney	Boilie
14 8		The Lough, Cork	8th June '00	Master Derick O'Brien	Maggots
14 8		The Lough, Cork	11th September	John Healy	Boilie
14		The Lough, Cork	5th July	Master Derick O'Brien	Maggots
13 6		Ballinafid Lake	15th July	Brendan Doran	Boilie
13 5		Decoy Lake	14th September	Nick Parry	Boilie
12 15		Ballinafid Lake	14th July	Brendan Doran	Boilie
12 14		Ballinafid Lake	18th May	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
12 12		Ballinafid Lake	2nd August	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
12 8		Ballinafid Lake	2nd August	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
12 3		Decoy Lake	13th September	Roy Gretton	Boilie
12 2		The Lough, Cork	8th June '00	Master Derick O'Brien	Maggots
12 1		Ballinafid Lake	21st July	Brendan Doran	Boilie
12		The Lough, Cork	11th December '00	John Healy	Boilie

**EEL**

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

2.608 kg	Calloughs Lake	18th May	Des McIntyre	Worms
5 4	The Lough, Cork	9th May	John Healy	Worm
4 8	The Lough, Cork	11th May '00	John Feeney	Worm
4 6	Newry Canal	1st July	John Crudden	Roach
4 6	The Lough, Cork	11th May '00	John Healy	Boilie
4 4	The Lough, Cork	25th June	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots

**EEL (Contd.)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
4		The Lough, Cork	27th June	Sidney Kennedy	Worm/Maggots
3	14	The Lough, Cork	22nd July	Master Derick O'Brien	Worm/Maggots
3		The Lough, Cork	11th June	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
3		The Lough, Cork	22nd July	Master Derick O'Brien	Worm/Maggots

**PERCH**

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

3	2.5	River Shannon, Roosky	3th May	Pierce Moran	Worm
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**PIKE (LAKE)**

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

30	12	Lough Beg, Toomebridge	28th January	Terry Jackson	Herring
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*Terry Jackson's 30 lbs 12 oz Pike from Lough Beg*

**PIKE (RIVER)**

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
35.30		Grand Canal, Levistown	4th February	Thomas Stynes	Mackerel
33		Rvr Suck, Ballygar	25th February	Stephen O'Connor	Herring
32	2	Rvr Suck, Athleague	24th February,	Sean Coughlan	Perch
31	8	Rvr Clare	14th October	Joe Trill	Roach
29		Rvr Suck, Mountalbot	18th February	Aidan Coyne	Perch
27	8	Lower Rvr Bann, Toome	7th January	Terry Jackson	Trout
26	1	Rvr Suck, Donamon	28th August	Master Patrick Boggins	Roach
26		Rvr Barrow, Leightbridge	27th December '00	Dan Smith	Smelt
26		Rvr Clare	14th October	Joe Trill	Roach
25	6	Rvr Barrow, Carlow	20th January,	James Geoghegan	Rudd
25	6	Rvr Barrow	13th January	Ken Garry	Dace
25	4	Rvr Bann, Newferry	3rd January	Roy Gretton	Rapala
24.75		Rvr Barrow, Bagnalstown	21st February	Master Gary Doyle	Frog
24	12	Rvr Suck, Ballyforan	27th January	Stephen O'Connor	Perch
24	7	Woodford Rvr	24th February	Patrick Rodgers	Roach
24	3	Rvr Suck, Athleague	7th January	Noel O'Connor	Roach
23	12	Rvr Suck, Derrycahill	24th September	Dan Smith	Smelt
22.5		Rvr Suck, Donamon	13th May	Brian Jackson	Smelt
22.09		Rvr Shannon, O'Brien's Bridge	20th November	Patrick Murray	Roach
22.07		Rvr Shannon, Killaloe	16th November	Patrick Murray	Perch
22.02		Rvr Shannon, Killaloe	19th February '00	Patrick Murray	Perch
22		Rvr Suck, Ballyforan	4th November	Jerry Broderick	Herring
21	12	Rvr Suck, Ballyforan	17th June	Jimmy Farrell	Roach
21	4	Rvr Suck, Athleague	2nd September '00	Kevin McCrea	Roach
21	1	Lower Rvr Bann, Toome	6th February	Terry Jackson	Fly
21		Rvr Suck, Coreen	18th February	Stephen O'Connor	Herring
20	10	Rvr Shannon, Killaloe	29th November	Patrick Murray	Roach
20	9	Rvr Bann, Toome	16th November	Nick Parry	Dace
20.5		Victoria Lock, Omeath	6th August	Alan McCormack	Sausage
20	8	Rvr Bann, Newferry	3rd January	Nick Parry	Zalt Jerk bait
20	6	Rvr Suck, Ballymoe	4th February	Noel O'Connor	Roach
20	5	Rvr Bann, Toome	16th November	Roy Gretton	Dace
20		Rvr Suck, Athleague	2nd September '00	Kevin McCrea	Roach



The River Barrow at Leighlinbridge yielded this 26 lb Pike for Dan Smith on 27th December 2000

### ROACH

New Record, 3 lbs; Specimen Weight, 2 lbs (0.907 kg)

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
3		Lagan Canal	5th May	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
2	13	Lagan Canal	8th July	Gary Brown	Maggots
2	13	Lagan Canal	8th July	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
2	12	Lagan Canal	8th July	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
2	7	Lagan Canal	21st September	David Craig	Maggots
2	1	Lough Derravaragh	24th February	Brendan Doran	Maggots

### ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

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

6		Lower Rvr Bann	29th April	David Craig	Maggots
5	8	Galloncurra Lake	29th September	Jason Daly	Maggots/Sweetcorn
5	8	Rvr Bann, Toome	16th September	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
5	4.5	Lough Kinale	8th September	Jason Dingle	Maggots
5	4	Rvr Bann, Toome	16th September	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
5	4	Lough Beg	13th April	Nick Parry	Caster
5	2	Galloncurra Lake	21st August	Philip Connolly	Maggots
5	2	Galloncurra Lake	21st August	Liam Tully	Worm/Maggot

### ROACH/BREAM HYBRID Contd.

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
5	2	Galloncurra Lake	29th September	Jason Daly	Maggots/Worm
5		Rvr Bann, Toome	16th September	Terry Jackson	Maggots/Caster
4	12	Galloncurra Lake	14th October	Jason Daly	Maggots/Worm
4	12	Galloncurra Lake	29th September	David Finnegan	Maggots/Worm
4	12	Galloncurra Lake	30th September	David Finnegan	Maggots
4	11	Lough Beg, R. Bann	13th April	Nick Parry	Caster
4	11	Lough Beg	13th April	Nick Parry	Caster
4	10	Galloncurra Lake	30th September	David Finnegan	Worm/Maggot
4	10	Galloncurra Lake	29th September	Owen Finnegan	Maggots
4	10	Rvr Bann, Newferry	4th May	David Craig	Maggots
4	9	Lough Kinale	8th September	Jason Dingle	Maggots
4	8	Rvr Bann, Newferry	4th May	David Craig	Maggots
4	8	Rvr Bann, Newferry	10th August	Master Nicholas McCleary	Sweetcorn
4	6.5	Lough Kinale	8th September	Jason Dingle	Maggots
4	6	Rvr Barrow, St. Mullins	16th April	Eamon Lyons	Maggots
4	4	Rvr Bann, Toome	29th April	Gary Nichol	Maggots
4	2	Galloncurra Lake	9th October	Liam Tully	Worm/Maggot
4		Galloncurra Lake	30th September	Owen Finnegan	Maggots
3	12	Galloncurra Lake	9th October	Philip Connolly	Maggots
3	8	Rvr Shannon, O'Brien's Bridge	26th May	Brian Buckley	Maggot/Sweetcorn
3	6	Lough Derravaragh	23rd February	Brendan Doran	Maggots
3	6	Rvr Shannon, O'Brien's Bridge	26th May	Nicholas Ward	Corn/Maggot
3	5	Galloncurra Lake	23rd July	Noel Lane	Sweetcorn
3	4	Rvr Barrow, St. Mullins	27th April	Peter Bolger	Maggots
3.15		Galloncurra Lake	26th August	Christy Lane	Corn



Roach of 2 lbs 12 ozs and 2 lbs 13 ozs for Terry Jackson from the Lagan Canal

**RUDD**

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

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
2	6	Glastry Clay Pits, Portavogie	20th August	Terry Jackson	Crust

**RUDD/BREAM HYBRID**

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
4	4	Lisnashannagh Lake	2nd September	Jason Dingle	Sweetcorn
4		Ballycullinan Lake	7th July	Nick Parry	Maggots/Caster
3		Innischarra Reservoir	24th June	Mattie Foley	Sweetcorn/Maggots

**TENCH**

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
7	8.5	Ballyhoe Lake	19th June	Tom Sneyd	Sweetcorn
7	3	Ballyhoe Lake	20th June	Dan Smith	Sweetcorn
7	1	Ballyhoe Lake	17th June	Ken Garry	Sweetcorn
3.18 kg		Rvr Shannon, Shannonbridge	2nd June	Gerard Casey	Sweetcorn
3.18 kg		Rvr Shannon, Shannonbridge	1st June	Graham Mogg	Sweetcorn
6.80		Royal Canal, Mullingar	23rd July	Rinus de Bruin	Worm



*Dubliner Tom Sneyd landed this fine 7 lb 8.5 oz Tench in Ballyhoe Lake in June*

**TENCH(Contd.)**

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
3.012	kg	Lough Gar	24th August	Stephen O'Neill	Maggots
6	10	Black Lake	2nd July	Nick Parry	Caster
2.98	kg	Rvr Shannon, Shannonbridge	26th May	Philip Casey	Sweetcorn
6	9	Ballyhoe Lake	20th June	Dan Smith	Sweetcorn
6	6	Rahan's Lough	13th June	Tom Sneyd	Sweetcorn
6	5	Lough na Glack	15th July	Gerry Connolly	Maggot/Sweetcorn
6	5	Ballyhoe Lake	17th June	Ken Garry	Sweetcorn
2.86	kg	Rvr Shannon, Shannonbridge	4th June	Gerard Casey	Sweetcorn
2.815	kg	Rvr Shannon, Shannonbridge	13th June	Norman Reeves (UK)	Sweetcorn
6.20		Royal Canal, Mullingar	28th May	Rinus de Bruin	Worm
6	3	Ballyeighter Lough	2nd June	Nick Parry	Maggots
6	3	Black Lake	24th June	Nick Parry	Lobworm
6	2	Rvr Shannon, Lanesboro	11th August	David Finnegan	Maggots/Worm
6	1	Lakyle Lough	1st July	Ross Macklin	Boilie
6	1	Maidenstown L. Drunconrath	3rd June	Chris O'Neill	Sweetcorn
6		Royal Canal, Mullingar	30th June	Rinus de Bruin	Worm

**GAME FISH**

**BROWN TROUT (LAKE)**

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

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
18	8	Lough Corrib	15th July	Helena Celia Dietzel (D)	Roach
17	8	Lough Corrib	15th August	Toby Bradshaw	Roach
17		Lough Corrib	20th August '00	Kevin O'Toole	Roach
17		Lough Corrib	15th July	John Gibbons	Roach
16	8	Lough Corrib	5th May	Paul Geraghty	Roach
16		Lough Corrib	17th June	John Carrig	Roach
14		Lough Corrib	4th August '00	Matthew Tierney	Roach
14		Lough Corrib	9th May	Guy Edwards (MO)	Rapala
13	7.5	Lough Ree	8th April	Donal Flanagan	Abu Lure
13	5	Lower Lough Erne	19th August	Victor McLoughlin	Toby
13	4	Lough Corrib	10th May	Guy Edwards (MO)	Rapala
13	3	Lough Corrib	20th July '00	Anthony Clarke	Herring
13.04		Lough Corrib	8th July	Rev. Francis Murphy	Roach



**BROWN TROUT (LAKE) Contd.**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
13		Lough Corrib	21st May	Douglas Wright (UK) Roach
13		Lough Corrib	15th July	John Gibbons Roach
12	8	Lough Corrib	30th July '00	Eugene Nolan Roach
12.36		Lough Corrib	23rd September	Rev. Francis Murphy Roach
11	12	Lough Corrib	19th September	Bernard O'Halloran Roach
11.60		Lough Corrib	7th May	Roderick O'Sullivan (UK) Roach
11	9	Lough Mask	29th September '00	Tony Doolan Rapala
11.4		Lough Corrib	15th July	Eugene McMahon Rudd
11.26		Lough Corrib	29th May	Rev. Francis Murphy Roach
5.05 kg		Lough Corrib	5th June	Vincent O'Reilly Fly
11.02		Lough Corrib	15th July	John Gibbons Roach
10	8	Lower Lake, Killarney	11th April '00	Bob O'Connor Artificial Minnow
4.738 kg		Lower Lough Corrib	15th February	David Walshe Minnow
10.43		Lough Corrib	7th May	Master Seamus McMahon Rudd
10	1	Lower Lake, Killarney	11th April '00	Bob O'Connor Minnow



*Christy McCormack with  
a 7.39 lbs Brown Trout  
from the River Inny at  
Ballymahon*

**BROWN TROUT (RIVER)**

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
15	4	Rvr Shannon, Athlone	23rd July	Emmet Bolger Perch
13	3	Cong Canal	8th April	Brian Newman Worms
13	2	Rvr Suir, Clonmel	22nd April	John Paul Webster Flying C
12	6	Rvr Shannon, Athlone	10th June	Barry Golden Roach
12	4	Rvr Inny	25th July	Neil Cooney Minnow
11.88		Rvr Corrib	24th May	Jan Tinnemans (NL) Toby
9	12	Lower Rvr Bann	9th May	Philip Thomas Bowman Mepps Spinner
8	5	Rvr Shannon, Killaloe	25th March	Gerard Hickey Lane Minnow
7.39		Rvr Inny, Ballymahon	29th May	Christy McCormack Worm
6	8	Rvr Corrib	21st May	Debora Tinnemans (NL) Roach
6		Rvr Liffey, Sallins	10th June	Joseph Winder Fly
2.7 kg		Cong Canal	1st March	Master Kevin McCartin Worm
5.75		Rvr Clare	26th June	Robert Lawlor Dry Fly
5.54		Rvr Liffey, Millicent	26th June	Kevin Somers Fly
2.482 kg		Rvr Liffey, Leinster Aqueduct	23rd May	Patrick Noone Dry Fly
2.445 kg		Rvr Clare	17th June	Robert Lawlor Dry Fly
2.414 kg		Cong Canal	14th July '00	Joseph Bright Minnow
5	2	Cong Canal	2nd June	Brian Newman Worm
5.12		Rvr Clare	14th August	Patrick Keogh Fly

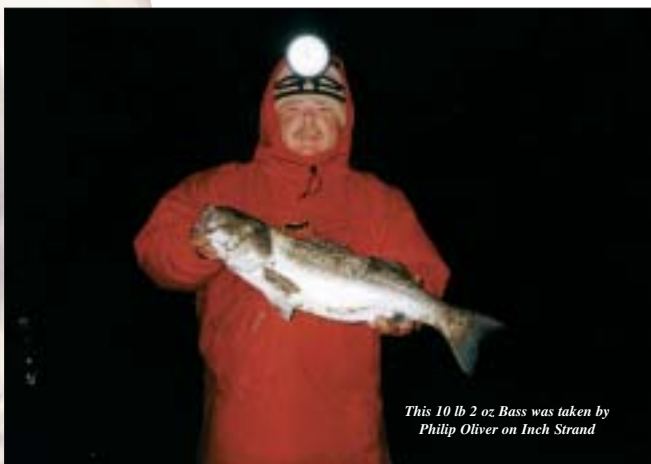
**SEA TROUT**

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

9	1	Lough Currane	2nd May	Robert Miachon (F) Fly
8	8	Lough Currane	7th July	Neville Howard Fly
8	7	Lough Currane	10th June	David Herring (UK) Fly
8.27		Lough Currane	19th June	Martin Fitzpatrick Fly
8		Lough Currane	17th May	Daniel Baggenstos (CH) Fly
7	12	Lough Currane	11th August	Peter O'Mahony Fly
7	8	Lough Currane	9th June	Peter O'Mahony Fly
7	8	Lough Currane	11th May	John Reeve Toby
7	8	Lough Currane	11th June	Ken Towner (UK) Fly
3.345 kg		Lough Currane	1st April	Dan McAuliffe Fly
3.334 kg		Lough Currane	15th June	M.Brand (UK) Fly

**Sea Trout (Cont.)**

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
7	4	Lough Currane	10th June	Rory Maher (UK)	Fly
7.19		Lough Currane	25th March	Edi Grzonka (D)	Rapala
7		Lough Currane	19th May	Robert Priestley	Fly
7		Lough Currane	29th May	Dara Tuohy	Fly
6.88		Lough Currane	24th April	Gerry Dooley	Fly
6	10	Lough Currane	25th April	Tony Van de Goor (NL)	Rapala
3 kg		Lough Currane	18th June	Martin Fitzpatrick	Fly
6	8	Lough Currane	29th May	Carsten Arreder (D)	Fly
6	8	Lough Currane	23rd June	Denis O'Leary	Fly
6	8	Lough Currane	27th March	Terence Wharton Jnr.	Fly
6	8	Lough Currane	24th March	Liam Buckley	Fly
6	7	Lough Currane	25th April	Robert Miachon (F)	Fly
2.9 kg		Lough Currane	24th March	John Lanigan	Fly
2.86 kg		Lough Currane	1st June	Christopher Cole (UK)	Wetfly
6	4	Lough Currane	15th June	Joseph Tufo (UK)	Fly
2.8 kg		Lough Currane	24th March	John Lanigan	Fly

**MARINE FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2001****BASS****Record, 17 lbs 13 ozs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs (4.536 kg)**

14	6	Bannow Bay	26th September '00	Thomas Cushen	Peeler Crab
13		Courtmacsherry	20th October	Michael Quinlan	Redgill
13		Tramore	8th August '00	Kevin Flynn	Lugworm
12	12	Tramore	8th September	Val Atkins	Kilty Catcher lure
5.32 kg		Inch Strand	26th April	John Hall	Lure
11	10	Cork Harbour	3rd October	Owen Gilmartin (UK)	Mackerel/Squid
4.96 kg		Guileen	22nd August	Tom Murphy	Killyfish
4.64 kg		Cork Harbour	3rd October	Alan Ebbrell (UK)	Sandeel/Squid
10	2	Dingle	9th October	Philip Oliver	Peeler Crab
10	2	Laytown	30th September	Darren Bentley	Ragworm
10	2	Roches Point	19th August '00	Barry Hegarty	Crab
10		Dunmore East	12th August	Eamon Culbert	Kilty Lure

**COALFISH****New Record, 29 lbs; Specimen Weight, 15 lbs (6.804 kg)**

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
29		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Charlie Robinson	Jelly Worm
26		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Steve Edwards	Baited Hokkai
25	8	Courtmacsherry	24th November	John Dennehy	Shad
25		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
24	8	Courtmacsherry	24th November	David Jolly	Shad
24		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Willie Robinson	Jelly Worm
23		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Michael Dennehy	Redgill
22	8	Courtmacsherry	24th November	David Jolly	Eddy Jelly
21	8	Courtmacsherry	24th November	Ken Hegarty	Jelly Worm
21		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Noel Humphreys	Shad
21		Courtmacsherry	24th November	John Dennehy	Shad
21		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Steve Edwards	Baited Hokkai
19	8	Courtmacsherry	24th November	Willie Robinson	Jelly Worm
19		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Michael Dennehy	Redgill
19		Courtmacsherry	12th October	Michael Hennessy	Jelly Worm
8.6 kg		N. of Valentia Island	20th October	Tony Rackham (UK)	Mackerel Strip
18	8	Courtmacsherry	27th October	Michael Dennehy	Hokkai
18		Courtmacsherry	19th May	Mark E Gannon	Shad

**COALFISH Contd.**

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
18		Courtmacsherry	10th June	Mark E Gannon	Shad
18		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Ken Hegarty	Jelly Worm
18		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Michael Madden	Shad
17	8	Courtmacsherry	24th November	Charlie Robinson	Jelly Worm
7.92	kg	Guileen	22nd September	Jim Clohessy	Mackerel Strip
17		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
17		East Ferry	28th July	Kenneth Kilbey	Mackerel
16		Courtmacsherry	17th June	Isi Van Tendeloo (B)	Feathers
16		Courtmacsherry	13th October	James Walsh	Hokkai
16		Courtmacsherry	19th May	Ivor Burns (UK)	Feathers
16		Courtmacsherry	19th May	Joff Thompson (NL)	Shad lure
16		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Charlie Robinson	Jelly Worm
15	8	Courtmacsherry	15th August	Daan Oprea (NL)	Shad
15	8	Courtmacsherry	24th November	Ken Hegarty	Jelly Worm
15	8	Courtmacsherry	25th September	Michael Hennessy	Jellyworm
15.47		Baltimore	17th August	Keith Walker (UK)	Rubber Shad
15		Courtmacsherry	25th September	Dominique Grenier (F)	Mackerel



*Jim Clohessy's 7.9 kg Coalfish taken in September*

**COD**

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

33	Courtmacsherry	4th June	John Twomey	Mackerel Flapper
29	Courtmacsherry	27th October	Pat Condon	Mackerel
10.845	kg	Guileen	15th August 01	Jim Clohessy
22	Dingle	17th June	Gerd Koch (D)	Baited Feathers
21	Courtmacsherry	29th August	Michael Hennessy	Mackerel

**CONGER EEL**

**Record, 72 lbs; Specimen Weight, 40 lbs (18.144 kg)**

56	Courtmacsherry	13th June	Joe Knowles	Mackerel Flapper
48	Courtmacsherry	3rd June	Joe Scully	Mackerel
44	Baltimore	31st August	Robert Eccles (UK)	Mackerel
44	Baltimore	3rd July	David Kirby (UK)	Mackerel
43	Cork Harbour	4th June '99	G. J. Swinkels (NL)	Mackerel
42	Kenmare Bay	8th August	Peter Van Veen (NL)	Mackerel

**GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH**

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

19	Kenmare Bay	14th September	J. Schoofs (NL)	Mackerel
17	Kenmare Bay	29th September	Carl Versluis (NL)	Mackerel Fillet

**LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH**

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

3	10	Tralee Bay	1st September	Colm McDaid	Mackerel
3.35		Monkstown	26th April	Noel Lane	Crab

**SPUR DOGFISH**

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

20.75	Ballyteigue	1st August	Ultan Cousins	Muppet
20	Kenmare Bay	1st June	Mees Kraaijeveld (NL)	Mackerel
20	Kenmare Bay	2nd June	Mario Stock (B)	Mackerel
20	Kenmare Bay	2nd June	Arsene Criel (B)	Mackerel

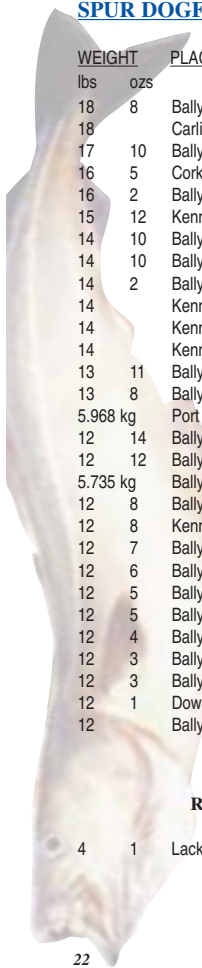
**SPUR DOGFISH (Contd.)**

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
18	8	Ballycastle	22nd September	Shane McNicholl	Muppets
18		Carlingford Lough	3rd July	Hugh Doyle	Jigs
17	10	Ballycastle	2nd September	Philip McIlvenna	Ammo Sprat
16	5	Cork Harbour	22nd September	Gearoid O'Brien	Baited Feathers
16	2	Ballycastle	22nd September	Noel McFetridge	Mackerel
15	12	Kenmare Bay	10th September	J. Schoofs (NL)	Mackerel
14	10	Ballycastle	23rd October	Robin Boyd	Mackerel
14	10	Ballycastle	22nd September	Sam Oliver	Baited Feathers
14	2	Ballycastle	22nd September	Shane McNicholl	Muppets
14		Kenmare Bay	7th June	Arsene Criel (B)	Mackerel
14		Kenmare Bay	27th July	H. Arnhard (NL)	Mackerel
14		Kenmare Bay	27th July	John Dunford	Mackerel Fillet
13	11	Ballycastle	22nd September	Noel McFetridge	Mackerel
13	8	Ballycastle	22nd September	Brian Foster	Mackerel
5.968	kg	Port na Blagh	24th September	Pat Robinson	Mackerel Strip
12	14	Ballycastle	7th October	Joe McBride	Mackerel
12	12	Ballycastle Bay	1st September	James Deer	Mackerel Strip
5.735	kg	Ballycastle	2nd September	George Kernohan	Mackerel/Worm
12	8	Ballycastle	23rd October	Kenneth Arnold	Mackerel
12	8	Kenmare Bay	13th July	Reginald Gilbert Hamens (NL)	Mackerel
12	7	Ballycastle	23rd September	Jackie Allen	Mackerel Strip
12	6	Ballycastle	22nd September	Frankie McNicholl	Mackerel Strip
12	5	Ballycastle	23rd October	Dennis McAuley	Mackerel
12	5	Ballycastle	23rd October	David Craig	Mackerel
12	4	Ballycastle	7th October	Frankie McNicholl	Mackerel
12	3	Ballycastle	4th September	Shane McNicholl	Baited Feathers
12	3	Ballycastle	23rd October	David Craig	Mackerel
12	1	Downings	22nd September	Jim Gilmour	Ammo Squid
12		Ballycastle	23rd October	David Craig	Mackerel

**FLOUNDER**

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

4	1	Lacken, Co. Wexford	19th November '00	Robert Staples	Crab
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**GARFISH (BELONE BELLONE)**

**Record, 3 lbs. 10.25 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs (1.361 kg)**

2.67	Courtmacsherry	1st September	A. Oversteegen (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.48	Courtmacsherry	10th August	Vincenzo Ferrucci (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.27	Dunmore East	8th September	Martin Poltawski (UK)	Mackerel Strip

**GREY GURNARD**

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

1.93	Downings	24th September	Sylvester Hiemstra	Mackerel baited Feathers
1.93	Downings	24th September	Sylvester Hiemstra	Mackerel baited Feathers
1	11.5	Downings	Graham Oakes (UK)	Mackerel Strip
0.786	kg	Port na Blagh	Ad Groot (NL)	Mackerel Strip
1.66	Downings	26th July	Dermot Beatty	Mackerel
0.74	kg	Port na Blagh	Piet Groot (NL)	Mackerel Strip
1.58	Downings	12th October	Acker Rowlandson (UK)	Mackerel baited Feathers



*A fine 10.845 kg Cod for Jim Clohessy fishing out of Guileen*



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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2 4.5	Port na Blagh	14th August	Pat Robinson	Hokkai/Mackerel Strip
2 4	Brandon Point	1st October	Colm McDaid	Mackerel
2.09	Downings	22nd September	Stephen Courage	Mackerel Strip
2.09	Lough Swilly	29th July	Pat McGinty	Hokkai
2	Loop Head	25th August	Albert de Gier (NL)	Baited Feathers

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.8	Killala Bay	15th July	Donal Kennedy	Mackerel Strip
6.70	Belmullet	19th August	Alan Smallwood	Baited Spoon
6.23	Belmullet	1st September	Pat Condon	Baited Spoon
5.93	Downings	3rd September	Ben Vreenegoor (NL)	Mackerel

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs oz				
5.28	Achill	9th August	Tom Kenny	Mackerel Strip
4.06	Dunmore East	14th September	Brian Walsh	Hokeye

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
39 8	Baltimore	3rd July	Raymond Connier (UK)	Mackerel Fillet
34 8	Baltimore	10th September	Malcolm McConnell (UK)	Muppet/Mackerel
33	Courtmacsherry	30th July	Peter G. Honsbeek (NL)	Mackerel/Muppet
32	Baltimore	10th September	Malcolm McConnell (UK)	Muppet/Mackerel
31.27	Dunmore East	9th September	Richard Walsh	Baited Muppet
30	East Ferry	24th September	Edward Howard	Mackerel Strip

**LING (Contd.)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
29.95	Baltimore	30th July	Ian Latham	Mackerel
13.4 kg	Guileen	22nd September	Sean Clohessy	Mackerel Strip
29	Courtmacsherry	16th August	Kees Koppel (NL)	Mackerel Strip
28 8	Baltimore	10th September	Frederick Wallace (UK)	Baited Muppet
27.86	Baltimore	26th July	Kevin McDonald (UK)	Mackerel
27 8	Killala Bay	25th August	John Dunford	Mackerel Fillet
26.73	Baltimore	30th July	Michael Latham	Mackerel Fillet
26.54	Baltimore	30th July	Neil Thompson	Mackerel Fillet
26.43	Baltimore	30th July	David Murdock	Mackerel Flapper
26.41	Baltimore	17th August	Ian William Herbert (UK)	Coalfish
26.08	Baltimore	26th July	A. Luff (UK)	Mackerel Strip
26	Courtmacsherry	5th August	Steven Guest	Mackerel Strip
26	Baltimore	10th September	Steve Rowlands (UK)	Baited Redgill
26	Courtmacsherry	19th May	Pat McCarthy	Octopus
26	East Ferry	15th July	Ken Salmon (UK)	Mackerel Strip
25.87	Baltimore	3rd July	Kenneth Pope (UK)	Mackerel
25 8	Courtmacsherry	29th April	Jim Dooley	Mackerel



*Dutchman Peter Honsbeek had this 33 lb Ling fishing out of Courtmacsherry in July*

**GREY MULLET**

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
6	9	Rvr Liffey, Heuston Station	19th September	Pat Foster	Bread
6	6	Cork Harbour	11th July	Ross Macklin	Mackerel
6	3	Cork Harbour	13th July	Ross Macklin	Mackerel
2.64	kg	Lough Furnace	26th August	Garnett Coulter	Bread Flake
2.57	kg	St. John's Point, Co. Donegal	12th August	Sean Harte	Ragworm
5.62		Courtmacsherry	30th August	John Case (UK)	Pollack
5	7	Rvr Liffey	29th July	Pat Foster	Bread Flake
5	4	Dodder Rvr	22nd August	Dan Smith	Bread Flake
5	4	Clifden	29th July	John Brittain	Bread/Pellet
5	3	Barrow, Tralee	16th September	Richard Kelter	Lugworm
5	3	Cork Harbour	15th July	Ross Macklin	Mackerel
5	2	Rosscarbery	11th September	Guy Pitcher (UK)	Mackerel



*Sean Harte with a 2.57 kg  
Mullet from St. John's Point in  
August*

**PLAICE**

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

2.22	kg	Cork Harbour	19th July	Joe Higgins	Lugworm
4	8	Cork Harbour	22nd September	Martin Perryman	Lugworm/Mackerel

**POLLACK**

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

19		Courtmacsherry	10th November	Mark E. Gannon	Joey
15	2	Ballycastle	11th September	John Hamilton	Artificial Eel
15		Courtmacsherry	24th November	Noel Humphreys	Shad
6.4	kg	Kinsale	10th August	Chris Wright (UK)	Lure/Jelly Worm
13.68		Ballydavid	11th September	Daniel Burke (UK)	Mackerel
13.30		Baltimore	6th September	Eddie Corry	Rubber Eel
13		Courtmacsherry	27th October	Mark E. Gannon	Redgill
13		Cobh	4th September	Nicky Waller (UK)	Jelly Worm
5.895	kg	Brandon Bay	11th August	Jack Lacey	Lugworm/Mackerel
12.80		Ballydavid	31st August	Rob Meijer (NL)	Twister
12.73		Cork Harbour	30th May '00	Bal Adrie (NL)	Mackerel
12.65		Killybegs	11th September	Jrma Jsenegger (CH)	Twister
12.54		Baltimore	25th August	Paul Kavanagh	Mackerel
12	8	Killala Bay	25th August	Mick Hogan	Mackerel Strip
12	8	Courtmacsherry	25th September	Mark E. Gannon	Shad
12.44		Baltimore	10th August	Ken Lockey (UK)	Rubber Eel
5.6	kg	Kinsale	10th August	W. v Dijk (NL)	Leadhead Shad
12	5	Shamrock Pinnacles	13th May	Noel McFetridge	Jelly Worm
12	4	Brandon Point	28th October	Colm McDaid	Jig
12.24		Ballydavid	31st August	Erwin Klok (NL)	Twister
12	3	Tralee Bay	23rd September	Liam Griffin	Mackerel baited Hokkai
12	3	Cobh	4th September	Lee Atkin (UK)	Mackerel Strip
5.5	kg	Kinsale	4th August	Jan Lokhorst (D)	Leadhead Shad
12	1	East Ferry	18th June	Nicholas Ward	Mr. Twister Worm



*W. van Dijk from  
Holland with a  
Kinsale Pollack  
of 5.6 kg*

**POUTING**

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

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
3	14.5	Union Hall	27th May	P. J. Coleman	Baited Feathers
1.64	kg	Ballycotton	2nd September	John Higgins	Mackerel
1.63	kg	Kinsale	4th June	James Holohan	Mackerel Fillet
3	3	Cork Harbour	5th May	John O'Sullivan	Hockeye lures
1.416	kg	East Ferry	4th June	Brian Byrne	Mackerel



*P. J. Coleman from Dublin with a 3 lb 14.5 oz Pouting taken while fishing out of Union Hall*



*Cheryl Byrne with her 25 lb Blonde Ray from East Ferry*

**BLONDE RAY**

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

28	8	Cork Harbour	11th May	Michael Dennehy	Squid
28		East Ferry	7th October	Howard Leatherdale (UK)	Mackerel
12.12	kg	Guileen	4th November	Sean Clohessy	Ragworm/Mackerel
25	6	Cork Harbour	6th May	Michael Dennehy	Squid
25		East Ferry	24th October	Cheryl Byrne	Squid/Mackerel

**PAINTED RAY**

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

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
11.15		Brandon Bay	16th October '00	Bob Moss	Sandeel



*An 11.15 lbs Painted Ray for Bob Moss taken at Brandon Bay*

**STING RAY**

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

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	oz				
57		Tralee Bay	8th June	Jack Lacey	Mackerel/Squid
43	4	Tralee Bay	17th July	Philip O'Sullivan	Mackerel
33		Tralee Bay	20th May	Colm McDaid	Mackerel

**UNDULATE RAY**

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

15	7	Tralee Bay	20th May	Philip O'Sullivan	Mackerel
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**THREE BEARDED ROCKLING****Record, 3 lbs 1 oz; Specimen Weight, 1.75 lbs (0.794 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
2.45	Kilmore Quay	23rd September	Michael Roberts	Mackerel
1.80	Moneypoint	20th August	Carlo de Gier (NL)	Mackerel
1.77	Moneypoint	10th May	Mike Uijen (NL)	Mackerel
0.8 kg	Portrush	8th September	Jim Gregg	Ragworm/Mackerel

**SCAD****Record, 1.97 lbs; Specimen Weight, 1. 5 lbs (0.68 kg)**

0.76 kg	Union Hall	19th August	Heinz Peters	Baited Feathers
1	Brandon Bay	1st October	Michael Hurley	Hokkai

**TWAITE SHAD****Record, 1.54 kg; Specimen Weight, 2.4255 lbs (1.1 kg)**

1.42 kg	Rvr Barrow, St. Mullins	7th May	David Roche	Tasmanian Devil
1.4 kg	St. Mullins	12th May	Peter Bolger	Minnow
1.32 kg	St. Mullins	20th May	David Lynch	Silver Spinner
2	13 St. Mullins	20th May	Damian Blackwell	Tasmanian Devil
2	11 St. Mullins	6th May	Brian Buckley	Tasmanian Devil
1.2 kg	St. Mullins	7th May	David Roche	Tasmanian Devil
2	10 St. Mullins	3rd May	John Moffat	Tasmanian Devil
2	10 St. Mullins	19th May	Pierce Moran	Minnow
2	9 St. Mullins	18th May	Damian Blackwell	Tasmanian Devil
2	9 St. Mullins	19th May	Pierce Moran	Tasmanian Devil
2	9 St. Mullins	4th May	Fergal Scully	Tasmanian Devil
1.15 kg	St. Mullins	13th May	Maurice McIlwaine	Tasmanian Devil
1.15 kg	St. Mullins	13th May	Maurice McIlwaine	Tasmanian Devil
1.15 kg	St. Mullins	9th May	Pat Foster	Tasmanian Devil
1.14 kg	St. Mullins	5th May	David Roche	Tasmanian Devil
2	8 St. Mullins	15th May	Nicholas Ward	Tasmanian Devil
1.128 kg	St. Mullins	21st May	Joseph Marsella	Jensen
1.1 kg	St. Mullins	8th May	Eric Goshnell	Tasmanian Devil
1.1 kg	St. Mullins	20th May	Jim Sloan	Tasmanian Devil
2	6 St. Mullins	21st May	David McNamee	Tasmanian Devil
2	4 St. Mullins	23rd May	Eamon Lyons	Tasmanian Devil
1 kg	St. Mullins	13th May '00	Philip Connolly	Tasmanian Devil

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

115	Port na Blagh	11th September	H.J.M. Kelfkens (NL)	Mackerel
101	Youghal	9th October	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel

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

7	8 Cahore	9th July	Denis Butler	Crab
7	2 Ballinoulart	7th July	Darren Anderson	Crab/Ragworm

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

63	Carlingford Lough	5th August	Joe Mulholland	Mackerel
58	Carlingford Lough	28th July	Benn Campbell	Mackerel Flapper
55	Carlingford Lough	14th July	Robert McGleenan	Mackerel
53	Carlingford Lough	25th August	Jackie Dickson	Mackerel Flapper
50	Carlingford Lough	29th July	David Russell	Mackerel Flapper
48	Carlingford Lough	29th July	Jonathon Russell	Mackerel Flapper
47	Carlingford Lough	9th August	Malcolm Black	Mackerel Flapper
46	Carlingford Lough	6th August	Master Ryan Leonard	Mackerel Flapper
45	Carlingford Lough	6th August	Darren Brown	Mackerel Flapper
45	Carlingford Lough	5th September	Joe Mulholland	Mackerel
45	Carlingford Lough	26th July	Robert McGleenan	Mackerel
45	Carlingford Lough	27th July	Aidan Cregan	Mackerel Flapper
45	Carlingford Lough	14th July	Sean Hone	Mackerel Flapper
45	Carlingford Lough	28th June	Hugh Doyle	Mackerel Flapper
44	Carlingford Lough	5th August	Kieran Nugent	Mackerel Flapper
44	Carlingford Lough	22nd September	John McCarthy	Mackerel Flapper
43	Carlingford Lough	25th August	Jackie Dickson	Mackerel Flapper
43	Carlingford Lough	6th August	Jim Slevin	Mackerel Flapper
43	Carlingford Lough	26th August	Jonathon Russell	Mackerel Flapper
43	Carlingford Lough	14th July	Jim Slevin	Mackerel Flapper
42	Carlingford Lough	14th July	Master Raymond Leonard	Mackerel Flapper
41	8 Tralee Bay	20th May	Colm McDaid	Mackerel
41	Carlingford Lough	29th July	William James Russell	Mackerel Flapper
41	Carlingford Lough	14th July	Jim Slevin	Mackerel Flapper
40	8 Tralee Bay	20th May	Colm McDaid	Mackerel Strip



**BLUEFIN TUNA****New Record, 440 kg; Specimen Weight, 100 lbs (45.359 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs oz				
440 kg	Rathlin O'Beime, Donegal Bay	5th October	Adrian Molloy	Artificial Squid

**TORSK****Record, 10 lbs 11 ozs; Specimen Weight, 6 lbs (2.721 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs oz				
6 8	Port na Blagh	14th July	Robbie Winters	Baited Muppet

**WHITING****Record, 4 lbs 14.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs (1.361 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs oz				
1.465 kg	Kinsale	23rd June	Anthony Thompson	Baited Feathers
1.365 kg	Guileen	19th May	Jim Clohessy	Mackerel Strip

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

3.22 kg	The Hook, Co. Wexford	19th August	Master Mark Dunphy	Lugworm
5.67	Ross, Co. Clare	31st July	Bill Ryan	Crab
5.35	Kilmore Quay	4th September	Gary Long	Ragworm
5.35	Kilmore Quay	22nd July	James Foley	Ragworm
2.4 kg	Killybegs	21st May	Iris Burke	Mustad Hokeye
2.352 kg	St. John's Point, Co. Donegal	12th August	Sean Harte	Crab
2.255 kg	Downings	30th September	Sean Harte	Crab
4 15	Lambay Island	25th August	David McLean	Ragworm
2.2 kg	Guileen	12th May	Aidan O'Connell	Mackerel Strip

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs oz				
0.901 kg	Portrush	18th July '99	Sam Stirling	Ragworm/Peeler Crab
1 9	Ballycastle	18th August	Michael Davidson	Mackerel Strip
1 7	Ballycastle	18th August	Leo Goan	Mackerel Strip
1 6	Lambay Island	25th August	David McLean	Ragworm
1 5.8	Kilmore Quay	1st November	Philip Tanham	Mackerel baited Hokkai
0.568 kg	Dingle Bay	25th August	Gerald Evans	Mackerel Strip/Shrimp



*UK angler Chris Wright had this 6.4 kg Pollack fishing out of Kinsale in August*

## Special Notices

### SPECIMEN WEIGHT REVISIONS

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

**Dace** reduced from 400 g to 350g (0.772 lbs)

**Perch** reduced from 3lbs to 1.2 kg (2.646 lbs)

**Roach/Bream Hybrid** raised from 3 lbs to 1.6 kg (3.528 lbs)

**Bluefin Tuna** raised from 100 lbs to 150 kg (330.75 lbs)

### NEW SPECIES ADDED TO SPECIMEN FISH LISTINGS

Following due consideration of the data the following species were added to the existing specimen fish listings:

**Bluemouth (*Helicolenus dactylopterus* Delaroche)** – qualifying specimen weight of 900g (1.9845 lbs)

**Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga* (Bonnaterre, 1788))** – qualifying specimen weight of 12 kg (26.46 lbs)

### ESTABLISHING A NEW SPECIMEN FISH CATEGORY

An important function of the ISFC is to act as a focal point for data collection on the occurrence of notable, rare or unusual species taken on rod and line in Irish waters. In some instances this has led to species previously regarded as "unusual" being added to the list of eligible species. Examples from recent years include smooth hound (*Mustelus asterias*) and three bearded rockling (*Gaidropsarus vulgaris*), (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 as necessary.

From 2002 onwards bluemouth (*Helicolenus dactylopterus* Delaroche) and albacore or longfin tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) (pictured below) have been incorporated into the specimen fish listings. The qualifying weights for both were set with due reference to the evidence from specimen claims submitted to the Committee. Depending on the claims experience these weights may be adjusted in the future.



One factor which contributed to placing albacore on the listings was the returns from an intrepid party of anglers led by Alan Glanville. On 16th August 2001 fishing some 55 miles out of Castletownbere Alan's party landed three albacore ranging from 8.63 to 11.525 kg in weight. Two fish fell to Alan, who had the distinction of landing the first bluefin ever taken on rod-and-line in Irish waters last year, while Mrs Shirley Pattinson from Worcester (pictured right playing her fish attached to the boat by a safety rope) now has the distinction of being the first lady angler to land an albacore in Irish waters. Both tuna species - bluefin and albacore - have taken a long time to appear in the ISFC report but it is hoped that they will appear reasonably regularly in the annual report over the coming years.



Despite the fact that several pollan (*Coregonus pollan*) were taken by anglers fly-fishing in the River Bann in 2000 pollan have not been added the listings because of their unknown and/or possible "vulnerable" conservation status in other Irish fisheries. Placement on the list could expose the species to additional pressure in the latter waters.

A number of interesting claims for cyprinid hybrids were received in 2001 and these will be reviewed by the ISFC committee in 2002.

#### **IMPLICATIONS OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) FOR THE ISFC**

The ISFC operates within the legislation governing all matters relating to angling. Arising from concerns about the possible spread of Foot and Mouth Disease the Minister of the Marine and Natural Resources Mr. Frank Fahey T.D. enacted the Control of Angling (Emergency) Bye-Law No. CS27S 2001 which prohibited "angling with rod and line"....."in all fishery districts during the period commencing 3 March,

2001, and ending on 20 April, 2001". Following the recommendations of the Expert Group on FMD Controls the nationwide prohibition was lifted with effect from 23rd March 2001. Accordingly, the ISFC decided to reject any claims relating to fish taken between 3rd and 23rd March 2001 in waters covered by the bye-law.

In Northern Ireland waters, the situation was more complicated. Several different bodies regulate angling and the FMD control regulations which operated were dependent on the ownership status of the water (i.e. private, regional authorities etc.). Investigation of the status of the relevant waters indicated that none of the claims for specimen fish received over the critical period came from waters where an angling ban was in place.

In summary, no claims were rejected by the ISFC in 2001 for transgressions of the FMD control regulations in any part of Ireland.

#### **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. Additional bluefin were captured in 2001 and these developments point to a very exciting time for sea angling in Ireland. The ISFC rules were not specifically constituted to address big game fishing and, as this form of fishing is in its infancy in this country, the Committee has decided to continue its 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.

**Metriification:** 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.

<b>Region &amp; Area</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Telephone No.</b>
<b>Cork Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Rossa Ave., Bishopstown, Cork 4. <b>Ph: 021 - 346 256 Fax: 021 - 326 999</b>	James Stapleton	Mobile 087 - 224 5533
<b>Dublin Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Poppintree Ind. Estate, Ballymun, D 11. <b>Ph: 01 - 864 3848 Fax: 01 - 864 3880</b>	-	01 - 864 3848
<b>Limerick Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Plassey Technological Park, Castletroy, Limerick. <b>Ph: 061 - 330 708 Fax: 061 - 330 698</b>	Denis Corkery	Mobile 087 - 223 1053
<b>Sligo Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Finiskillen Industrial Est., Sligo. <b>Ph: 071 - 507 38 Fax: 071 - 507 39</b>	Tony Marren	Mobile 087 - 223 1058
<b>Waterford Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Northern Industrial Est., Waterford. <b>Ph: 051 - 358 020 Fax: 051 - 358 021</b>	William Keogh	Mobile 087 - 224 7121
<b>Dundalk Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, IDA Small Business Park, Coes Rd., Dundalk, Co. Louth. <b>Ph: 042 - 933 2758 Fax: 042 - 933 2791</b>	Mel Barry	Mobile 087 - 223 1074
<b>Galway Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Ballybrit Ind. Est., Ballybane, Galway. <b>Ph: 091 - 771 943 Fax: 091 - 758 932</b>	Dave Conneely	Mobile 087 - 223 1051
<b>Dublin HQ (Administration)</b> Legal Metrology Service, NSAI, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 <b>Ph: 01 - 807 3807 Fax: 01 - 807 3808</b>	Pat Farragher	01 - 807 3807

### **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS 2000**

MR JOHN O'CONNOR, CEO, Central Fisheries Board made the Annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims were accepted during 2000 at the Doyle Burlington Hotel, Dublin on 10th November 2001. The Awards Presentation was postponed from the original date in March due to the Foot and Mouth crisis.

At a major angling exhibition held in Holland on 7th October 2001, Dutch and Belgian anglers were presented with their awards by the ISFC in association with Bord Failte.

## *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 Mark Gannon, Robin Hemming, Alan Glanville and Bob Church.

**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. The ISFC is particularly grateful to Bob Church who kindly contributed an article for this report.

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.

### **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
2001	427	37	28	5	4	3	4	508

n/d = not determined



IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE			
Expenditure and Revenue Account - 1st January to 31st December 2000		1999	2000
<b>Expenditure</b>			
1999			
£3,520.40	Printing	£3,587.25	
£2,203.88	Medals	£587.00	
£555.65	Travel (Overseas Presentation)	£767.78	
£25.00	Late Dr. Werrit's Prize	£25.00	
£10.00	Miscellaneous	£275.00	
£0.00	Equipment	£0.00	
£655.48	Presentation Expenses	£1,649.81	
£14.90	Bank charges	£15.14	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,906.96</b>	
	<b>Balance c/d</b>	<b>£3,018.59</b>	
		<b>£9,925.57</b>	
		<b>Balance b/d</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>			
	Balance b/f		£2,623.26
	Grants		£3,500.00
	Central Fisheries Board	£2,000.00	
	Marine Institute	£1,500.00	
	ESB		£500.00
	Bord Failte	£1,000.00	
	Donations		£802.31
	Clubs, Feds. & individuals	£614.43	
	Regional Fishery Bds	£750.00	
			£0.00
			£7,302.31
			<b>£9,925.57</b>
			<b>£3,018.59</b>

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)

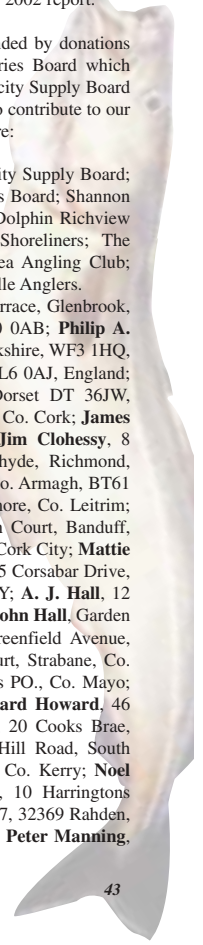
**ACCOUNTS/DONATIONS**

**Accounts:** A statement of the Committee's accounts for the year ending December 31st 2000 is presented above. The 2001 accounts will be published in the 2002 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 £4,000 in 2001, the Marine Institute, Bord Failte, the Electricity Supply Board (Fisheries Section) and some Regional Fisheries Boards. Anglers also contribute to our funds. The ISFC is extremely grateful to all. Benefactors in 2001 were:

The Central Fisheries Board; Marine Institute; Bord Failte; Electricity Supply Board; Eastern Regional Fisheries Board; North Western Regional Fisheries Board; Shannon Regional Fisheries Board; Aghada Angling Club; Delphi Fishery; Dolphin Richview S.A.C.; Dun Laoghaire Motor Yacht Club - Angling Section; ESB Shoreliners; The Federation of Irish Specimen Hunters; Glengormley & District Sea Angling Club; National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland; Saltee SAC; Waterville Anglers.

**Finbarr & John Barry**, Cork Harbour Boats Ltd., 3 Glenbrook Terrace, Glenbrook, Co. Cork; **Gerard Bell**, 84A Upper Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT10 0AB; **Philip A. Blakey**, 12 Redhill Crescent, West Ardsley, Nr. Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF3 1HQ, England; **P.H. Butler**, 22 Mornington, Digswell, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 0AJ, England; **Malcolm Brindle**, 2 Budmouth Avenue, Preston, Weymouth, Dorset DT 36JW, England; **Brian Byrne**, Loughcarrig House, Ballinacurra, Middleton, Co. Cork; **James Carson**, 14 Ballyregan Drive, Dundonald, Belfast, BT16 1JN; **Jim Clohessy**, 8 Glyntown Heights, Glanmire, Co. Cork; **Sean Clohessy**, Castlehyde, Richmond, Glanmire, Co. Cork; **Garnett Coulter**, 24 Kilmore Park, Kilmore, Co. Armagh, BT61 8NT; **William E. Crompton**, "The Beeches", Tomloskan, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim; **Pat Dalton**, Cannon Street, Waterford; **Jim Dooley**, 6 Bawnleigh Court, Banduff, Mayfield, Cork; **E. Duggan**, No. 25 The Drive, Broadale, Douglas, Cork City; **Mattie Foley**, 18 Upper Lotabeg Road, Mayfield, Cork; **Carol Girdwood**, 5 Corsabar Drive, Paisley, Scotland; **Jim Gregg**, 20 The Meadow, Antrim, BT41 1EY; **A. J. Hall**, 12 Helmsdale Road, Rise Park, Romford, Essex, RM1 4DW, England; **John Hall**, Garden Flat, 3 The Crescent, Cobh, Co. Cork; **Richard Hancox**, 30 Greenfield Avenue, Northampton, NN3 2AA, England; **Sean Harte**, 15 Jefferson Court, Strabane, Co. Tyrone, BT82 9RW; **Burkhard Hobler**, Inish Macatreer, c/o Cross PO., Co. Mayo; **Philip Hodgins**, 194 Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin 16; **Edward Howard**, 46 Rosehill West, Ballinacurra, Middleton, Co. Cork; **Terry Jackson**, 20 Cooks Brae, Kircubbin, Co. Down, BT22 2SQ; **Paul Keen**, 56 South Park, Hill Road, South Croyden, Surrey, England; **Richard Kelter**, 25 Shanakill, Tralee, Co. Kerry; **Noel Lane**, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork; **Christy Lane**, 10 Harringtons Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; **Wilfrid Lange**, Varler Schulweg 7, 32369 Rahden, Germany; **Christopher Locke**, Mount Ailbe, Emly, Co. Tipperary; **Peter Manning**,



Church Road, Ballycotton, Co. Cork; **Ken McAuley**, 30 Coast Road, Larne, Co. Antrim; **Peter McCartin**, 5 Bawnville Drive, Tallaght, Dublin 24; **John McDermot**, 1 Clarke Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork; **Ray McEvoy**, 4 Marian Terrace, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary; **W.F. McLaughlin**, 27 Castle Gardens, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, BT49 0SD; **Chris Neill**, 7 Glencraig Road, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, BT36 5WJ; **Noel O'Connor**, 13 St. Brendan's Terrace, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway; **Sean O'Connor**, Ballydavid Angling Centre, Ballydavid, Dingle Peninsula, Tralee, Co. Kerry; **Karl O'Leary**, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; **E. J. Reaill**, Harmony House, Sussex Lane, Spencers Wood, Berks, RG7 1BY, England; **Hughie Reid**, Institute of Technology, Athlone, Co. Westmeath; Charles Robinson, Ballincolla, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow; **Brendan Rooney**, 6 Oakwoods, Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry; **Trevor Ryder**, Gortamore, Downings, Co. Donegal; **Dan Smith**, 11 Kilmashogue Grove, Greenpark, Walkinstown, Dublin; **Tony Sol**, Osdorkerwee 112, 1066EN Amsterdam, Holland; **Mike "Dingle" Tudor**, Lomondside Cottage, The Loan, Falkland, Fife, KY15 7BD, Scotland; **Alan Tweedale**, 31 Passmonds Crescent, Rochdale, OL11 5AW, England; **Robert Williams**, "The Brig", Fennells Bay, Myrtleville, Co. Cork.



### **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	3	5.5.2001	Lagan Canal	Terry Jackson
Roach/Bream Hybrid	6	29.4.2001	Lower River Bann	David Craig
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	Shimna River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus

### **MARINE SPECIES**

Species	Weight lbs. ozs.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Angler Fish	42.985 kg	3.11.1985	Belfast Lough	Sean Neill
Bass	17 13	21. 10.2000	Doughmore Strand	Emmet Naughton
Black Sole	6.32 lbs	28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Bluemouth	-	-	-	-
Brill	9 8	8. 9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	29	24.11.2001	Courtmacsherry	Charlie Robinson
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	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 lbs	2.10.1993	Ballyteigue Co. Wexford	Brian Russell

**MARINE SPECIES (Contd.)**

Species	Weight		Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
	lbs.	ozs.			
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	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. 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	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	72.5lbs		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	1. 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
Tuna - Albacore	-		-	-	-
- Bluefin	440 kg		5.10.2001	Donegal Bay	Adrian Molloy
Whiting	4	14.5	19. 3.1981	Kenmare Bay	Comdt.M.J. O'Connor
Ballan Wrasse	4.3 kg		20. 8.1983	Clogher Head	Bertrand Kron
Cuckoo Wrasse	2	7	15. 9.1998	Causeway Coast	Brian McLoughlin

**SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS (2002 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	<b>0.772</b>		<b>0.35</b>
Eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	6	15	3		1.361
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	5	8	<b>2.646</b>		<b>1.2</b>
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> )	<b>3</b>		2		0.907
Roach/Bream Hybrid	<b>6</b>		<b>3.528</b>		<b>1.6</b>
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
<b>SEA FISH</b>					
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
Bluemouth ( <i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i> )	-		<b>1.9845</b>		<b>0.9</b>
Brill ( <i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i> )	9	8	5		2.268
Coalfish ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )	<b>29</b>		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		0.68
- 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.

	IRISH RECORD		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		
	lbs	ozs	lbs	ozs	kg
<b>SEA FISH (Contd.)</b>					
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
- Twaitte ( <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 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> )	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
Tuna - Albacore ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )	-		<b>26.46</b>		<b>12</b>
- Bluefin ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> )	<b>240 kg</b>		<b>330.75</b>		<b>150</b>
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 and ALBACORE TUNA.

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.

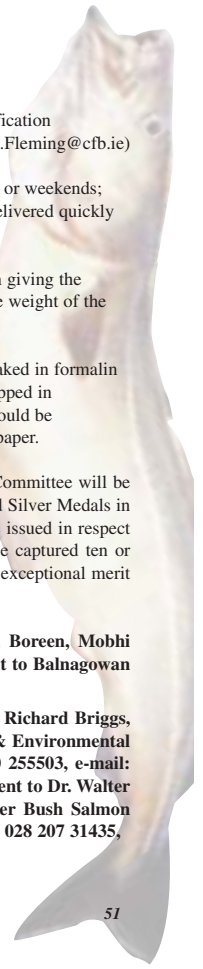
(6) **SENDING FISH TO THE COMMITTEE:**

*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**



## HERE'S WHY IT'S THE WEST OF IRELAND FOR ME

By *Bob Church*

I have fished my way around the world, both ways, taking in all the exotic game fishing mecca's on the way. However, I have to admit, I would sooner go to my beloved west of Ireland than any of these other lovely places. This is how much I value what the west has to offer.

Last season on a day of baking heat and flat calm windless situation, I tried something new. It was late June and the salmon were not in Kylemore Abbey Lake and we could not wet-fly fish on Corrib in such conditions. While the rest of the party refused, I took up super young ghillie, Stephen Greaney's offer for a days trolling after Ferox on Corrib.

My Corribside stay at Basil Shields guest house meant it was straight out of the breakfast room and onto one of his fleet of boats. Stephen is his number one ghillie and as we motored out, I was very impressed with his enthusiasm and knowledge. Oh yes, and he made me leave my fly kit on shore so I couldn't be tempted to change my mind from the trolling experience.

We were going to troll using a dead nine inch roach as bait. This was set on a barbless hook two treble mount and the exact amount of weight to fish at a constant 25 feet down. I used my own 10-foot spinning rod and a multiplier reel with 15 lbs breaking strain line. Stephen instructed me to be ready and let out some 100 yards of line, this I did and we were fishing. While we waited for a bite we exchanged big fish stories of the past and I told him my best brown was 8 lbs 2 ozs. He confidently said, "You will beat that today, these conditions are perfect"

After 1½ hours of trolling the rod arched round and I was into a very powerful fish, but after ten anxious minutes Stephen netted my first ever-double figure brown trout, a truly wild Ferox of 10½ lbs. I was over the moon; a few quick photographs and we returned this magnificent fish to the depths of his home. There is no reason to kill such a beautiful wild creature. A 5½ pounder followed, then it was on to one of Corrib's 365 islands for lunch and a brew up.

Some anglers say that trolling is boring, but let me tell you, once you have tasted the success of catching one of these big boys, the anticipation is incredible – it certainly is far from boring.

It was now 6.25 p.m. and we were to pack up at 7 p.m. and once more the familiar tap-

tap-tap on my rod tip, 25 feet down a giant Ferox trout was head butting my roach deadbait to try and knock it off its course. I sat ready and as it engulfed the roach deadbait, I lifted the rod at just the right moment, about 100 yards or more behind the boat the huge fish surfaced and the long battle began.

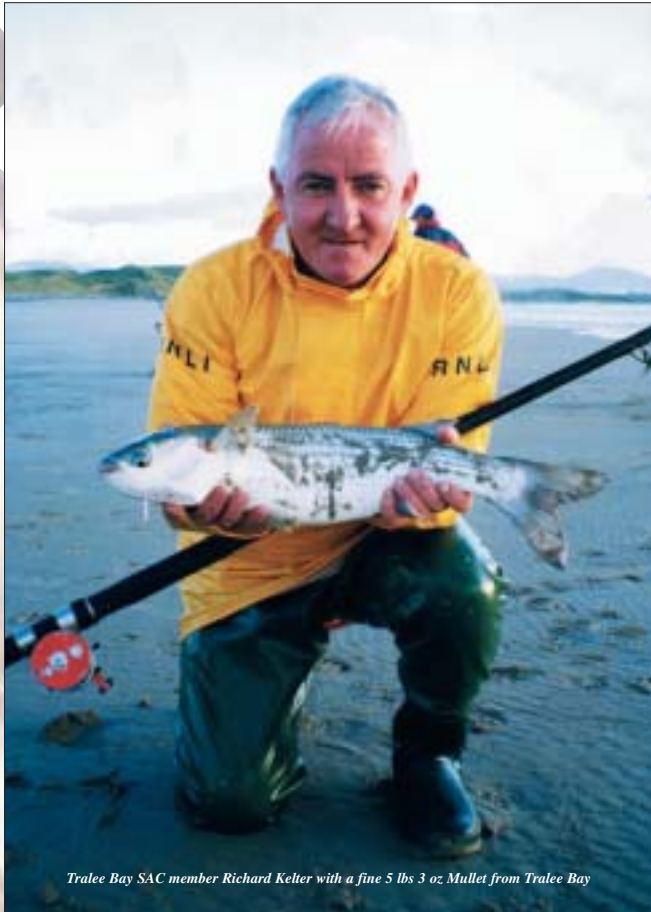
First it dived and ran off a couple of times making the reels clutch sing. Then I was reeling in with no resistance at all, "Its off" I said to Stephen and reeled in about 90 yards of line. But this big old fish was clever, it had slack lined me at terrific speed swimming straight back towards the boat.

Fortunately the barbless hook held and I re-engaged the fight, some twenty minutes went by with just steady strong pressure being applied and now it was close to the boats side. In the gin clear water we could see it was hooked by just one hook of one of the trebles. So with heart in my mouth, I took great care in playing this obvious once in a lifetime fish for the next few minutes when Stephen slid the net under her.

It was now 7.10 p.m. I was on such a shot of adrenaline because we could both see the fish was not only massive but a most perfect conditioned specimen. We let it rest in the deep landing net giving it time to recover. Then the weighing and the photographing and away back to the depths – oh yes the weight 17 lbs 3 ozs! I had gone over 40 years without catching a double brown and now I had a brace of them in one day. The west of Ireland can make your fishing ambitions come true alright.



*Bob Church with  
his 17 lbs 3 oz  
Ferox trout*



*Tralee Bay SAC member Richard Kelter with a fine 5 lbs 3 oz Mullet from Tralee Bay*

Notes:



Notes:

