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## Chairmans Review



2003 was another busy year for the Irish Specimen Fish Committee. The climatologists will probably report, in contrast to last year, a somewhat drier and warmer summer than normal. The "Indian Summer" extended the boat angling season at sea being especially productive for Courtmacsherry. A particularly notable feature of the specimen year 2003 was the record number of Dutch anglers that caught specimen fish.

Great news for anglers is the arrival of the ISFC website [www.irish-trophy-fish.com](http://www.irish-trophy-fish.com) which went on-line recently. We look forward to developing this side of our activities. The Committee wishes to thank Myles Kelly CFB Website Manager for a phenomenal voluntary contribution in the development of the website. This is a major advancement and Mr. Kelly is to be congratulated for his efforts. Our gratitude is also extended to the Central Fisheries Board for its assistance. Anglers and the angling tourism industry will benefit greatly from the website.

The Coalfish record established in 2002 was broken again in 2003. New records were also established for Bullhuss and Albacore. Claims were received for black-mouthed dogfish, golden grey mullet and roach/rudd hybrids and the status of these non-listed fish will be reviewed for incorporation into the specimen fish listings in the usual manner. Only three specimen claims were received for bluefin tuna during the past year. The Committee is investigating conservation-oriented recording measures for such species. Meanwhile, the specimen weight for bluefin has been increased to 250 kg.

Conscious of the need for conservation, the ISFC appreciates the dilemma our rules present for anglers wishing to register a specimen fish, especially where these rules require presentation of the fish for ratification of the claim. For this reason the ISFC is investigating genetic techniques, which, if satisfactory, will allow positive identification of certain fish without having to conduct internal examinations. However, the research and delivery of such techniques are extremely expensive in the context of the ISFC budget. In fact, budgetary constraints continue to impede the ISFC's development and further support of the angling industry.

Two important amendments to the rules are being introduced. It will no longer be necessary for claimants to forward the body of specimen tub gurnard. Good quality, sharply focused, colour photographs, showing clearly the upper surface of the pectoral fins which must be displayed fully open and the lateral line, will suffice. The body of most species is not required for authentication of a specimen claim. From 2003 onwards, anglers claiming a potential record fish, regardless of category, have to supply a clear sharp colour photograph with an indication of scale (fish size) showing the key identification features with the claim form.

I cautioned in my review of 2002 of the dangers posed by relocation and illegal introduction of non-native aquatic species. The Committee appeals to anglers to demonstrate maturity, responsibility and a sense of national pride if not common sense. Non-native species, tolerant of ambient Irish temperatures, have the potential to do irreversible ecological damage if released into Irish freshwaters. The recent importation of live fish from the Continent, allegedly without the proper veterinary clearance and their release into the wild, is a reprehensible act of vandalism akin to the illicit movement of sheep infected with foot and mouth. Such acts have the potential to do immeasurable damage to Irish biota and must be outlawed and dealt with severely.

The EU Water Framework Directive has been transposed into Irish legislation. Public participation is a significant element in the implementation of the WFD and anglers and clubs are encouraged to participate in this process.

My thanks to the Committee members for their support during 2003. I extend on your behalf our sincere thanks to Mr. David Went for his generous personal contribution which will greatly assist the continued delivery of the many benefits to the ISFC of which his father Dr. Arthur Went was a founder member and chairman. The continued support of our principal sponsors the Central Fisheries Board, the Marine Institute, Fáilte Ireland and the Electricity Supply Board is gratefully acknowledged.

Trevor Champ

## Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2003

### Introduction

Up to early December 2003 the ISFC received 582 claims and ratified 521 including 3 new Irish records. A total of 45 was rejected for non-compliance with the rules and a further 16 are being queried. Details of the new records, other special awards and the specimen awards 2003 are listed below:

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

Awarded to anglers for catching fish exceeding the existing Irish record weight

**Coalfish – 15.1 kg taken by Roger Barham, Blackfriars, Salisbury, SP1 2HE, England fishing out of Castletownshend on 30th August 2003.**



*The New Irish Record  
Coalfish of 15.1kg for Roger  
Barham (UK) taken off  
Castletownshend in August*

**Greater Spotted Dogfish – 23 lbs 13 ozs taken by Perry Dumay, Rembrandstraat 19, 2612 XL Delft, Holland fishing out of Sneem on 17th September 2003.**

**Albacore – 16.66 kg taken by Alan Glanville, Elsinore, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford fishing SW of the Blasket Islands on 28th September 2003.**



*Former Bluefin Tuna Irish Record holder Alan Glanville with his New Irish Record Albacore of 16.66kg taken in September SW of the Blasket Islands*

## 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. One angler qualified in 2003:

**Colm McDaid, 3 Dawsons Terrace, Upr Rock St., Tralee, Co. Kerry** - Bass (2003), Cuckoo Wrasse (2003), Grey Mullet (2002), Homelyn Ray (2002), LSD (2001), Pollack (2001), Red Gurnard (2001), Sting Ray (1994), Tope (2001) and Undulate Ray (2002).

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

Awarded to anglers who have caught 50 specimens

**Noel Lane, 65 Silver Heights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork** who has caught 51 specimens since 1982 including: 5 Bream, 5 Carp, 1 Dab, 2 Eel, 19 Flounder, 1 LSD, 1 Painted Ray, 2 Plaice, 3 River Pike, 3 Roach/Bream Hybrid, 1 Rudd/Bream Hybrid, 1 Sting Ray, 1 Tench, 1 Turbot and 5 Twaite Shad.

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

Awarded to anglers who have caught ten or more specimen fish

**Jim Clohessy, 8 Glyntown Heights, Glanmire, Co. Cork**

**Brian Cooke, 82 Watson Drive, Killiney, Co. Dublin**

**Eileen Coulter, 86 Union Street, Portadown, Co. Armagh**

**Ian Crooks, 6 Oaklands Road, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone**

**Rinus de Bruin, 2 Thomastown Road, Killiney, Co. Dublin**

**John Dennehy, 65 Woodlawn Estate, Tramore Road, Togher, Cork**

**Jason Dingle, 59 Woodvale Drive, Ballycullen View, Dublin 24**

**Liam Griffin, 52 Gallowsfield, Tralee, Co. Kerry**

**Richard Kelter, 25 Shanakill, Monavalley, Tralee, Co. Kerry**

**Liam Longmore, 55 Garron Crescent, Larne, Co. Antrim**

**Pierce Moran, Rock View, Lacken, Co. Wicklow**

**Rev. Francis Murphy, Liscard House, Oughterard, Co. Galway**

**David McNamee, 4 Ennel Park, Coolock, Dublin 5**

**Donal O'Mahony, 16 Island Way, Muskerry Estate, Ballincollig, Co. Cork**

**John O'Sullivan, 36 Evergreen Buildings, Barrack Street, Cork**

### **DR. A.E.J. WENT YOUNG ANGLER AWARD** (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 2003. The 2003 award goes to:

The 2003 award goes to **Peter Oversteegan, 3910, Heerfelt, Belgium** for a Coalfish of 20.5lbs fishing out of Courtmacsherry, on 2nd September, 2003.



*A Roach/Bream hybrid for Garnett Coulter from the River Bann in April 2003*

### **The MINISTER'S AWARD** (Mounted bronze medal)

Inaugurated by the Minister for Communications, 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 2003 award goes to:

**John Beswick, 15 Willow Drive, Wrea Green, Nr. Preston, Lancashire, England** for a Torsk of 10.54 lbs fishing out of Downings on 4th August 2003.

## SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2003

### FRESHWATER FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2003

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				
9	8	Monalty Lake	22nd May	David Jagers	Maggots
9	0.5	Lough Derg, Scarriff	17th May	Bill Brazier	Maize
9		R. Barrow, Graiguenamanagh	23rd May	Ken Garry	Worm
8	12	Monalty Lake	10th May	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
8	11	Monalty Lake	20th May	David Jagers	Sweetcorn/Maggots
8	8	Monalty Lake	22nd May	David Jagers	Maggots
8	8	R. Barrow, Graiguenamanagh	23rd May	Ken Garry	Worm
8	8	Lough Derry	20th September	Ian Mulligan	Lobworm
8	6	Ballyhoe Lake	24th May	Stephen Power	Worm/Sweetcorn/Maggots
7	14	Lough Derry	27th September	Ian Mulligan	Lobworm
7	12	Ballyhoe Lake	19th September	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
7	12	Ballycullinan Lake	18th August	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
7	12	Ballinafid Lake	25th August	Robin Brazier	Boilie
7	8	Ballyhoe Lake	24th May	Ian Mulligan	Lobworm



*A Bream of 8lbs 12 ozs from Monalty Lake for Alan Kilroy from Dublin*

## CARP

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

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
22		Decoy Lake	1st May	Aidan Burke	Boilie
18		The Lough, Cork	3rd July	Bill Brazier	Bread Flake
17	11	Gorteen Lake	1st March	Bill Brazier	Boilie
16	14	Gorteen Lake	31st July	Bill Brazier	Boilie
16	10	Decoy Lake	2nd May	Aidan Burke	Pellet
15	4	Decoy Lake	2nd May	Aidan Burke	Boilie
14	10	Gorteen Lake	2nd February	Robin Brazier	Boilie
13	5	Gaulmoylestown Pond	2nd August	Justin Kerigan	Boilie
13	2	Gaulmoylestown Pond	7th August	Joe Mead	Boilie
12.20		Decoy Lake	26th August	Rinus de Bruin	Boilie



*Decoy Lake produced this Carp of 22 lbs for Aidan Burke in MAY*





*A nice Eel of 1.575 kg for Herbert Friedrich from the River Lee*

**DACE**

**Record, 1 lb 2 ozs; Specimen Weight, 0.772 lbs (0.35 kg)**

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs    ozs				
0.375 kg	R.Barrow, St. Mullins	18th May	Terry Jackson	Maggots
0.36 kg	R.Barrow, St. Mullins	12th May	Mostafa Ghazovani	Maggots

**EEL**

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

1.7 kg	River Lee	3rd August	Gert Siefert (D)	Worm
1.575 kg	River Lee	5th September	Herbert Friedrich (D)	Lobworm
3.10	Royal Canal, Mullingar	10th June	Rinus de Bruin	Worm

**PERCH**

**Record, 5 lbs 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 2.646 lbs (1.2 kg)**

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs    ozs				
1.55 kg	R.Barrow, Athy	18th March	Liam Kane	Worms
3    6	R.Barrow, Carlow	19th February	Gary Doyle	Maggots
3    4	R.Barrow, Carlow	22nd Dec '02	Ken Garry	Lobworm
3    3	R.Barrow, Carlow	6th April	Gerry Farrell	Worm
3    1.5	R.Barrow, Carlow	6th April	Dan Smith	Worm
3    1	R.Barrow, Carlow	21st Dec '02	Gary Doyle	Lobworm
3    0.5	R.Barrow, Carlow	9th February	Ken Garry	Lobworm
3	R.Barrow, Carlow	29th April	Gerry Farrell	Worm
2    15	R.Barrow, Carlow	12th January	Oliver Doyle	Lobworm
2    14	R.Barrow, Carlow	6th March	Oliver Doyle	Lobworm
2    14	R.Barrow, Carlow	22nd March	Dan Smith	Lobworm
2    13	R.Barrow, Carlow	8th February	Gary Doyle	Lobworm
2    12	R.Barrow, Athy	20th February	John Millerick	Worm
2    12	R.Barrow, Carlow	9th February	Dan Smith	Lobworm
2    10.5	R.Barrow, Carlow	22nd Dec '02	Ken Garry	Lobworm



*The River Barrow produced many specimen Perch in 2003 including this one of 1.55 kg for Liam Kane*

**PIKE (LAKE)****Record, 41 lbs; Specimen Weight, 30 lbs (13.608 kg)**

(J) Juvenile Angler

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
38	8	Lough Erne	16th Dec '02	Noel Morton	Mackerel
33	7	Lough Egish	26th April	Gerry Duffy	Roach
14.975	kg	Lough Beg	19th January	Terry Jackson	Trout
33		Lough Erne	5th Dec '02	Dean Morton (J)	Mackerel
32	10	Lough Mask	9th November	Kenneth Sloan	Plug
32	6	Blessington Lakes	24th August	Pierce Moran	Rapala
14.4	kg	Lough Conn	25th June	Brian Clayton	Toby
14.15	kg	Lough Beg	1st Dec '02	Terry Jackson	Trout
31		Lough Corrib	12th June	Yves Rogerieux (F)	Copper/Silver Spoon



*Kenneth Sloan with a Pike of 32 lbs 10 ozs taken on a plug in November in Lough Mask*

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

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
34	8	R.Suck, Ballyforan	28th Dec '02	Noel O'Connor	Trout
30		R.Suck, Ballyforan	17th February	Anthony Kearney	Perch
29	8	River Bann	4th January	John Dunseath	Roach
26		Clare River	11th July	Mike Gray (UK)	Roach
25	4	R.Inny, Ballinalack	26th February	Ian Mulligan	Roach
24	10	R.Inny, Ballinalack	15th January	Ian Mulligan	Smelt
24.5		R.Inny, Legan	16th November	Shane McDonnell	Dace
24	6	River Bann	14th Dec '02	Kenneth Crooks	Trout
24	6	R.Shannon, Shannonbridge	2nd November	Dan Smith	Smelt
24	5	R.Suck, Dunamon	10th October	Ken Garry	Smelt
23	8	R.Barrow, Bagnelstown	25th January	Mostafa Ghazovani	Sardines
23		R.Suck, Ballinasloe	8th February	Noel Lane	Whiting
23		R.Suck, Ballyforan	30th March	Gerry Barry	Roach
22	3	R.Inny, Ballinalack	12th February	Ian Mulligan	Sardine
22		R.Inny, Legan	21st September	Shay McDonnell	Mackerel
21	12	R.Suck, Ballyforan	23rd November	Godfrey Donohue	Smelt
9.975	kg	River Bann, Toome	2nd February	Philip Oliver	Mackerel
9.85	kg	River Bann, Toome	5th January	Terry Jackson	Roach
21	10	R.Suck, Derrycahill	30th March	Noel Lane	Herring
9.8	kg	R.Suck, Shannonbridge	30th March	David Walsh	Mackerel
21.5		R.Inny, Legan	16th November	Shay McDonnell	Mackerel
21	3	R.Suck, Ballyforan	16th March	Tom Fullam	Roach
21.15		R.Inny, Legan	12th January	Shay McDonnell	Mackerel
20	12	R.Inny, Ballinalack	27th Nov '02	Paul Smyth	Roach
20.2		R.Inny, Inny Bridge	3rd May	John Smyth	Perch
20	2	R.Suck, Ballyforan	9th February	Brian Whelan	Trout

**ROACH****Record, 1.425 kg; Specimen Weight, 2 lbs (0.907 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
2.20	Royal Canal, Mullingar	8th May	Mark Byrne	Worm

**ROACH/BREAM HYBRID****Record, 7 lbs; Specimen Weight, 3.528 lbs (1.6 kg)**

5	8	Lough Derravaragh	23rd April	Ian Mulligan	Worm
5	8	River Bann, Toome	28th April	Kenneth Crooks	Worm
5	3	River Bann, Toome	13th April	Kenneth Crooks	Sweetcorn/ Maggots
5	3	River Bann, Toome	13th April	Kenneth Crooks	Sweetcorn/Worm
4	14	River Bann, Toome	26th April	Nicholas Ward	Maggots
2.2 kg		River Bann, Toome	11th May	Terry Jackson	Maggots
2.185 kg		River Bann, Toome	30th March	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
4	12	River Bann, Toome	13th April	Nick Parry	Worm
4	11.5	River Bann, Toome	12th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
4	11	River Bann, Toome	26th April	Nick Parry	Corn
4	10	River Bann, Toome	12th April	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
4	10	River Bann, Toome	13th April	Nick Parry	Worm
4	8	River Bann, Toome	26th April	Nicholas Ward	Maggots
2.035 kg		River Bann, Toome	30th March	Eileen Coulter	Maggots
4	7.5	River Bann, Toome	26th April	Nicholas Ward	Maggots
4	6	River Bann, Toome	26th April	Ian Crooks (J)	Corn/Worm
1.965 kg		River Bann, Toome	30th March	Eileen Coulter	Maggots
1.935 kg		River Bann, Toome	18th April	Jim Sloan	Sweetcorn/ Maggots
4	4	River Bann, Toome	26th April	Ian Crooks (J)	Corn/Worm
1.9 kg		River Bann, Toome	11th May	Terry Jackson	Maggots
1.9 kg		River Bann, Newferry	27th August	David Craig	Maggots
1.885 kg		River Bann, Toome	30th March	Eileen Coulter	Maggots
4	2	River Bann, Toome	26th April	Ian Crooks (J)	Corn/Worm
1.85 kg		River Bann, Toome	11th May	Philip Oliver	Maggots
1.85 kg		River Bann, Newferry	3rd September	David Craig	Sweetcorn/ Maggots
1.85 kg		River Bann, Newferry	3rd September	David Craig	Maggots

**ROACH/BREAM HYBRID Contd.**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
1.8 kg		River Bann, Toome	11th May	Terry Jackson	Maggots
3.9		R.Inny, Multyfarnham	16th April	Mark Byrne	Maggots
1.76 kg		River Bann, Toome	18th May	Maurice McIlwaine	Sweetcorn/ Maggots
1.715 kg		River Bann, Toome	18th April	Jim Sloan	Sweetcorn/ Maggots
3	11	River Barrow, Bahana	5th April	Noel Lane	Worm/Corn Cocktail
3	10.5	R.Barrow, Bagnetstown	20th July	Mark Byrne	Maggots
3	10.5	R.Barrow, Carlow	16th August	Christy Lane	Sweetcorn
1.65 kg		River Bann, Newferry	13th April	Jim Sloan	Sweetcorn/ Maggots
3	10	R.Barrow, Leighlinbridge	16th August	Noel Lane	Sweetcorn
3	10	R.Barrow, Leighlinbridge	19th July	Jason Dingle	Maggots
3	10	R.Barrow, Carlow	16th August	Christy Lane	Sweetcorn
3	10	R.Barrow, Carlow	30th August	Brian Foley	Sweetcorn
3	9	R.Inny, Inny Bridge	26th April	John Smyth	Sweetcorn



*10 Pin Award winner Eileen Coulter with one of her trio of Roach/Bream Hybrids from the River Bann in March 2003*

**RUDD/BREAM HYBRID****Record, 7 lbs 10 ozs; Specimen Weight, 3 lbs (1.361 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
1.965	kg	R.Barrow, Athy	5th April	Jim Sloan	Worm/Maggot Cocktail
4	4	R.Barrow, Maganey	22nd March	Jason Dingle	Maggots
3	11	R.Barrow, Carlow	25th March	David McNamee	Worm/Maggots
3	8	R.Barrow, Maganey	22nd March	Jason Dingle	Maggots
3	6	R.Barrow, Leighlinbridge	27th April	Brian Cooke	Maggots
3	5	River Barrow	23rd March	Nicky McEvoy	Maggots/ Sweetcorn

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

7	3	Ballyhoe Lake	31st May	Ian Mulligan	Lobworm
6	12	R.Shannon, Banagher	28th May	Nick Parry	Bread
6	12	Ballyhoe Lake	30th May	Ian Mulligan	Lobworm
6	10	Ballyhoe Lake	1st June	Ian Mulligan	Lobworm
6	8	Ballyhoe Lake	23rd June '02	John O'Shaughnessy	Boilie
6	6	Ballyeigher Lake	22nd June	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
6	4	Ballyhoe Lake	11th June	Tom Sneyd	Boilie
6	4	Lough Garr	20th June	Robin Brazier	Boilie
6	3.5	Lakyle Lake	10th July	Bill Brazier	Maggots
6	3	R.Shannon, Banagher	28th May	Ted Moten	Maggots
6	2	Ballyhoe Lake	30th April	Tom Sneyd	Sweetcorn
6	2	Lough Garr	22nd June	Robin Brazier	Boilie
6	1.5	Ballyhoe Lake	11th June	Tom Sneyd	Boilie
6	1	Ballyhoe Lake	7th June	Paul Smyth	Worm/Corn
6		Lough Garr	21st June	Robin Brazier	Boilie

**Game Fish  
SALMON****Record, 57 lbs; Specimen Weight, 20 lbs (9.072 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
21.93		River Slaney	7th May '02	Lawrence Kenny	Fly

**BROWN TROUT (LAKE)****Record, 26 lbs 2 ozs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs (4.536 kg)**

21.6		Lough Corrib	5th April	Paul O'Leary	Roach
19	8	Lough Corrib	24th May	Patrick Delapp	Roach
19.25		Lough Corrib	29th March	John Gibbons	Roach
19	4	Lough Corrib	31st May	Kenneth Glynn	Lure
16.56		Lough Corrib	20th April	John Gibbons	Roach
16.20		Lough Corrib	27th April	John Gibbons	Roach
16	1	Lough Corrib	9th August	Norman Black	Roach
15	8	Lough Corrib	16th March	Michael O'Sullivan	Minnow
15		Lough Corrib	10th April	Matthew Tierney	Roach
14	13	Lough Corrib	16th May '02	Peter Muesle (D)	Roach
14		Lough Corrib	26th May	Paul Bashford (UK)	Mepps
14		Lough Corrib	5th April	Anthony Kearney	Rapala
13.89		Lough Corrib	3rd August	Vincent O'Reilly	Hackled Mayfly
13	12	Lough Mask	23rd March	Martin McCaffrey	Rapala
13	12	Lough Corrib	18th September	Barry Foulis (UK)	Worm
6.2	kg	Lough Corrib	29th May	Hans Rudolf	
				Stammherr (CH)	Rapala
13.35		Lough Corrib	30th May	Vincent Hughes	Roach
13		Lough Corrib	10th April	Matthew Tierney	Roach
12	12	Lough Corrib	26th March	Damien O'Malley	Worm
12.52		Lough Corrib	20th April	David O'Toole (J)	Roach
12	8	Lough Corrib	1st July	Roy Quilligan	Lure
12	8	Lough Corrib	6th April	Rev. Francis Murphy	Roach
12		Lough Corrib	30th Sept '02	Ray Richardson	Rapala
11.74		Lough Corrib	21st February	Jean-Luc Morvan (F)	Lucky Craft
11	8	Lough Corrib	16th February	Rev. Francis Murphy	Minnow
11	8	Lough Corrib	6th April	David O'Toole (J)	Roach
11.26		Lough Corrib	26th September	Brian Mohally	Fly
10.87		Lough Corrib	29th May	Vincent Hughes	Perch



**BROWN TROUT (LAKE) Contd.**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
10	13	Lough Corrib	10th August	Stephen Black	Roach
10	12	Lough Corrib	13th May '02	Jens Hopf (D)	Roach
10.57		Lough Corrib	6th April	Vincent Hughes	Perch
10.26		Lough Sheelin	4th May	John Murphy	Dryfly
10	4	Lough Corrib	12th May '02	Peter Muesle (D)	Roach
10	4	Lough Corrib	23rd May	Michael Moore	Tasmanian Devil
10	4	Lough Corrib	19th August	George Healy	Rapala
10	2	Lough Corrib	17th May '02	Peter Muesle (D)	Roach
10	2	Lough Sheelin	18th September	Herbert Kretzschmar (D)	Mepps No. 3



*Matthew Tierney had this excellent brace of Lough Corrib Brown Trout on April 10th*

**BROWN TROUT (RIVER )**

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
10.05		Cong Canal	8th June	John Fahy	Lure
9	15	Cong Canal	1st March	Brian Buckley	Flying C
7	12	Cong Canal	8th September	Kevin McCrea	Worms
3.5 kg		Cong Canal	15th July	James Culbert	Dead bait
7	6	Cong Canal	3rd March	Ray McElhinney	Worm
7.32		Black River	2nd June	John Joe Langan	Worm
2.745 kg		Clare River	27th June	Robert Lawlor	Fly
6		Cong Canal	9th September	Kevin McCrea	Worms
2.65 kg		Cong Canal	1st July	Russell Taylor	Fly
5	12	R.Blackwater, Kells	4th May	Francis Devlin	Roach
5	8	Cong Canal	18th May	Brian Newman	Worm
5.3		Cong Canal	30th August	John Wilkinson	Nymph
5	2	Cong Canal	27th July '02	Eamonn Cleary	Worm
5	2	Cong Canal	6th August	Thomas Cox	Rapala

**SEA TROUT**

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
4.236 kg		Lough Derriana	12th May	John Allen	Toby
4.060 kg		Lough Currane	1st June	Alain Ludwig (F)	Fly
3.872 kg		Lough Currane	20th July	Niall Smyth	Fly
8	8	Lough Currane	11th June	William Shearer	Fly
8	2	Lough Currane	16th June	Mick O'Neill (UK)	Fly
7.996		Lough Currane	23rd June	Des McDonough	Plug
3.544 kg		Lough Currane	7th September	James Quinn	Fly
3.39 kg		Lough Currane	29th June	Michael Rieger (D)	Wobbler
7	6	Lough Currane	16th July	Michael Noble (UK)	Fly
3.27 kg		Lough Currane	17th September	Michael Osborne (UK)	Lure
3.246 kg		Lough Currane	18th May	Mark Dorman	Fly
7		Lough Currane	29th June '02	David O'Hagan	Fly
3.096 kg		Lough Currane	4th May	Tommy Moran	Toby
2.972 kg		Lough Currane	25th September	Allan J Forster (UAE)	Fly
6.5		Lough Currane	15th June	Edward John Koblin (UK)	Fly

**SEA TROUT Contd.**

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
6	8	Lough Currane	30th May '02	Colin Folan	Claret Bumble
2.866	kg	Lough Currane	16th May	Martin Lanigan-O'Keefe	Fly
6	4	Cloonlaghlin Lake	11th July	Vincent O'Sullivan	Fly
2.804	kg	Lough Currane	28th July	Brendan Spillane	Fly
6	2	Lough Currane	15th July	Jim Linehan	Fly
6	2	Lough Namona	2nd July	John Baller(UK)	Fly
6	2	River Mahon	14th August	Peter Stacey	Fly
6	1	Lough Currane	22nd May	Stuart Hoppe(UK)	Fly
6	1	Lough Currane	11th July	Robert Seaman	Fly
2.738	kg	Lough Derriana	10th May	John Allen	Fly
2.734	kg	Lough Currane	10th April	Hans Rudolf Ringger (CH)	Rapala



*Gary Doyle with a 3lb 6oz Perch from the River Barrow*

**MARINE FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2003****BASS**

**Record, 17 lbs 13 ozs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs (4.536 kg)**

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
14	9.5	White Bay, Whitegate	4th September	Eoin Scallan	Mackerel Strip
6.2	kg	Garryvoe	2nd March	John Domeney	Ragworm
12	12	Tramore	14th February	Dylan Butler (J)	Lugworm
11	8	Spanish Point	23rd November	John Boland	Sandeel
5.19	kg	Garryvoe	18th March	John McEvoy	Ragworm
4.92	kg	Ballycronin	12th October	Patrick O'Mahony	Squid
10.8		Tramore	5th February	Derek Keoghan	Lugworm
10	6	Tralee Bay	29th June	Colm McDaid	Mackerel/ Squid Cocktail
4.575	kg	Inch	13th October	Philip Oliver	Peeler Crab
10	1	Spanish Point	29th November	Conor McFadden	Sandeel
4.56	kg	Inch Bay	11th September	Edward Howard	Ragworm



*Inch in Co. Kerry was the venue for Philip Oliver's specimen Bass in October*



Hans Drexler from Germany had this lovely Coalfish of 20 lbs off Courtmacsherry in August

**COALFISH**

**New Record, 15.1 kg; Specimen Weight, 15 lbs (6.804 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
15.1 kg	Castletownshend	30th August	Roger Barham (UK)	Shad
27	5 Kinsale	12th July	Sean Clohessy	Shad
26	12 Ling Rocks	15th July	Michael Dennehy	Shad
26.5	Courtmacsherry	2nd September	Mark J. Gannon	Shad
26	1 Kinsale	23rd August	Jim Clohessy	Shad
26	Courtmacsherry	11th August	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
25	8 Courtmacsherry	12th August	Willy Maas (NL)	Mackerel
25	8 Courtmacsherry	6th August	Gerard van der Vegt (NL)	Pirk
25	3 Kinsale	23rd August	Sean Clohessy	Shad
25	Courtmacsherry	23rd September	Karin van der Broeck (B)	Shad
24	12 Ling Rocks	27th September	Liam Dennehy	Shad
24	Ling Rocks	16th June	Michael Dennehy	Shad
24	Courtmacsherry	9th August	Hans Koelen (NL)	Pirk
10.8 kg	Kinsale	3rd September	Michel Oomen (NL)	Shad

**COALFISH Contd.**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
23	7 Kinsale	23rd August	Sean Clohessy	Shad
10.6 kg	Kinsale	3rd September	Michel Oomen (NL)	Shad
23	1 Kinsale	12th July	Jim Clohessy	Shad
23	Ling Rocks	16th June	Michael Dennehy	Shad
23	Courtmacsherry	11th August	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
23	Courtmacsherry	1st September	Hans van der Heijden (NL)	Mackerel
22.2	Kinsale	2nd September	Ton van Hinte (NL)	Shad
22	3 Ling Rocks	16th June	John O'Sullivan	Shad
22	Courtmacsherry	6th August	Hans Koelen (NL)	Pirk
22	Courtmacsherry	6th August	Hans Koelen (NL)	Shad
22	Courtmacsherry	23rd September	John Vanderborght (B)	Shad
21	8 Courtmacsherry	6th August	Willy Maas (NL)	Shad
21	5 Kinsale	23rd August	Jim Clohessy	Shad
21.25	Courtmacsherry	11th October	Jonathan Roberts (UK)	Jellyworm
21	Kinsale	15th July	Donal O'Mahony	Shad
21	Courtmacsherry	2nd September	Mark J. Gannon	Shad
21	Courtmacsherry	6th August	Willy Maas (NL)	Shad
20.8	Kinsale	2nd September	Piet van den Heyden (NL)	Mackerel Strip
20.5	Courtmacsherry	2nd September	Peter Oversteegen (B)	Shad
20	8 Courtmacsherry	11th August	Frans Verstraeten (B)	Shad
20	8 Courtmacsherry	6th August	Philomene Gerritsen (NL)	Shad
20	5.5 Kinsale	15th July	Donal O'Mahony	Shad
20	Courtmacsherry	3rd September	Keith Linsley (J)	Shad
20	Courtmacsherry	11th August	Hans Drexler (NL)	Shad
20	Courtmacsherry	6th August	Gerard van der Vegt (NL)	Shad
9 kg	Kinsale	3rd September	Ton van Hinte (NL)	Mackerel Strip
19	7 Kinsale	15th July	Donal O'Mahony	Shad
19	Courtmacsherry	25th July	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
19	Courtmacsherry	3rd August	Gerard van der Vegt (NL)	Shad
18	8 Courtmacsherry	6th August	Philomene Gerritsen (NL)	Shad
18	8 Courtmacsherry	6th August	Philomene Gerritsen (NL)	Shad
18	Kinsale	2nd September	Cor v. Emmerik (NL)	Shad
18	Courtmacsherry	3rd September	Georges Rondeaux (B)	Mackerel Strip
17	8 Courtmacsherry	25th June	Mark Gannon	Shad
17	8 Courtmacsherry	11th January	Mark Gannon	Shad
16.5	Courtmacsherry	1st September	Gus Volgers (NL)	Mackerel Strip
16	Cork Harbour	5th July	Ian Robinson	Mackerel
16	Courtmacsherry	11th January	Billy Broughal	Redgill
15	12 Cork Harbour	5th July	Mark Robinson	Mackerel
15	8 Courtmacsherry	11th January	Mark Robinson	Shad
22				

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> lbs    ozs	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
30.5	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Hans Koelen (NL)	Pirk
29    12	Ling Rocks	16th June	Michael Dennehy	Shad
28    8	Courtmacsherry	25th June	Philip Bolton (UK)	Mackerel
25.5	Ling Rocks	16th June	Michael Dennehy	Shad
24    6	Ling Rocks	19th June	John O'Sullivan	Shad
10.91 kg	Guileen	28th September	Alan Williams (UK)	Mackerel
23    10	Ling Rocks	16th June	John O'Sullivan	Shad
23    8	Ling Rocks	16th June	Michael Dennehy	Shad
22    11	Ling Rocks	22nd June	Liam Dennehy	Shad
22    8	Ling Rocks	19th June	John O'Sullivan	Shad
22	Courtmacsherry	3rd July	Keith Wright (UK)	Mackerel Fillet
21.4	Kinsale	2nd September	Cor v. Emmerik (NL)	Shad
21.05	Caherciveen	4th September	Al Cas (NL)	Mackerel Strip
21	Courtmacsherry	14th July	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
21	Courtmacsherry	14th July	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
21	Courtmacsherry	6th August	Gerard van der Vegt (NL)	Shad
20    8	Courtmacsherry	19th August	Frans Verstraeten (B)	Mackerel
20    8	Courtmacsherry	11th August	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel Strip

*Al Cas from the Netherlands had this Cod of 21.05 lbs off Caherciveen**Belgian angler Karin van der Broeck, had this lovely Codfish in September***CONGER EEL****Record, 72 lbs; Specimen Weight, 40 lbs (18.144 kg)**

<u>WEIGHT</u> lbs    ozs	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
20.3 kg	Kinsale	3rd September	Frans Janssen (NL)	Mackerel
20 kg	Scarriff	5th September	Michael Fischer	Mackerel
42	Courtmacsherry	10th May	Paul McLean	Mackerel
41	Courtmacsherry	3rd October	Dominique Grenier (F)	Mackerel Strip
18.3 kg	Guileen	31st August	Jim Clohessy	Baited Muppet

**DAB****Record, 2 lbs 5.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs (0.68 kg)**

1.68	Dingle	20th October	Vincent McKernan	Sandeel
1.59	Downings	3rd October	Dennis Dubbelman (NL)	Mackerel Strip
1.52	Courtmacsherry	24th July	Hans Geeratz (NL)	Mackerel Fillet



**SPUR DOGFISH****Record, 21.25 lbs; Specimen Weight, 12 lbs (5.443 kg)**

WEIGHT lbs ozs	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
19.09	Kenmare Bay	19th September	Hans Dumay (NL)	Mackerel
8.175 kg	Red Bay	21st September	Darryl Aston	Mackerel
7.7 kg	Ballycastle	21st September	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
7.25 kg	Ballycastle	7th July	David Craig	Mackerel
15 8	Ballycastle	21st June	Brian Foster	Mackerel/Trout Cocktail
15 8	Ballycastle	11th May	Brian Foster	Mackerel Fillet
6.95 kg	Ballycastle	2nd October	Robin Boyd	Mackerel
15	Ballycastle	21st June	Brian Foster	Trout/Squid Cocktail
6.8 kg	Ballycastle	20th October '02	John Hamilton	Mackerel Squid
14.6	Kenmare Bay	23rd September	Nico van der Plank (NL)	Mackerel
6.2 kg	Ballycastle	20th September	Joe McBride	Mackerel
13 8.25	Port na Blagh	30th May	Terry Boyle	Mackerel
6.125 kg	Ballycastle	13th December '02	Robin Boyd	Mackerel
13 8	Ballycastle	20th September	Noel McFetridge	Mackerel baited feathers
6.12 kg	Ballycastle	20th October '02	John Hamilton	Mackerel Squid
6 kg	Ballycastle	21st June	David Craig	Muppet/Mackerel
5.8 kg	Ballycastle	7th March	Liam Longmore	Mackerel
5.78 kg	Ballycastle	20th October '02	John Hamilton	Mackerel Squid
5.65 kg	Ballycastle	12th February	David Craig	Mackerel
12.10	Brandon Bay	21st July	Norman Dunlop	Mackerel

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

1.54 kg	Ballycastle	17th May	Liam Longmore	Mackerel
1.52 kg	Ballycastle	22nd August	Liam Longmore	Ragworm/ Mackerel
1.5 kg	Ballycastle	4th January	Robin Boyd	Mackerel Strip
1.5 kg	Ballycastle	7th March	Liam Longmore	Mackerel/Squid

**GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH****New Record, 23 lbs 13 ozs; Specimen Weight, 16 lbs (7.257 kg)**

WEIGHT lbs ozs	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
23 13	Kenmare Bay	17th Sept	Perry Dumay (NL)	Mackerel
17.9	Kenmare Bay	7th Sept	Rudy Schepens (B)	Mackerel
7.514 kg	Kenmare Bay	26th August	Adrie Klaver (NL)	Mackerel

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

2.45	Courtmacsherry	30th Sept	C. M. Harteman (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.35	Courtmacsherry	30th Sept	C. M. Harteman (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.30	Courtmacsherry	30th Sept	H. R. Veemstra (NL)	Mackerel Strip
1.04 kg	Courtmacsherry	30th August	Raymond Verschoor (NL)	Garfish Strips

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

8.09	Brandon	3rd Sept	Fergal Creed	Baited Feathers
7.68	Achill	27th Sept	James Hesnan	Mackerel Strip
6.05	Downings	31st May	Robert Roberts	Ragworm/ Mackerel
5.45	Downings	17th July	Danny Brown	Mackerel baited feathers
5.39	Downings	15th Sept	Piet Groeneveld (NL)	Mackerel Strip

**GREY GURNARD****Record, 3 lbs 1 ozs; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs (0.68 kg)**

1.9	Downings	1st June	Bob King (UK)	Mackerel
1.74	Lough Swilly	21st June	Teddy Harrison	Mackerel baited feathers
1.57	Lough Swilly	22nd June	Angela Crerand	Mackerel



**RED GURNARD**

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs    ozs				
2.8	Downings	2nd July	Peter Snepvangers (NL)	Mackerel
2    8	Tralee Bay	1st September	Ian Mulligan	Ragworm/ Mackerel
1.125 kg	Dunmore East	15th June	Luke Nolan	Baited Hokkai
2.38	Downings	31st August	Simon de Wit (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.17	Culdaff Bay	28th July	Jim Scullion	Muppet
2.08	Achill	5th August	David McLean	Mackerel baited Hokkai
2.05	Downings	9th July	Joseph Beech (UK)	Mackerel
2.05	Downings	1st June	Marco Melluso (I)	Mackerel



The heaviest Red Gurnard of 2003 and a candidate for the Dutch European Record fell to Peter Snepvangers fishing off Downings in July

**JOHN DORY**

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs    ozs				
5    8	Tralee Bay	10th July	Stephen Dixon (UK)	Muppet
2.208 kg	Brandon Bay	30th July	John Norberg	Mackerel Strip
4.46	Killala Bay	20th July	Brendan Devers	Mackerel Strip
1.85 kg	Brandon Head	10th August	Rinus Hage (NL)	Hokkai

**LING**

Record, 48 lbs 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 25 lbs (11.34 kg)

43	Ling Rocks	17th March	Pat Condon	Baited Pirk
41	Courtmacsherry	6th August	Philomene Gerritsen (NL)	Mackerel
39.21	Courtmacsherry	23rd Sept	Patrick Annaert (B)	Mackerel
37	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Hans Koelen (NL)	Pirk
35    5	Cork Harbour	5th July	William Robinson	Mackerel
35	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Gerard van der Vegt (NL)	Mackerel
34    8	Courtmacsherry	3rd September	Paul v. d. Brolinde (B)	Mackerel Strip
33.5	Courtmacsherry	23rd Sept	Luke Moris (B)	Mackerel
33	Ling Rocks	23rd March	Michael Dennehy	Mackerel Flapper
33	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Willy Maas (NL)	Mackerel Strip
14.95 kg	Ballycastle	28th Sept	Darryl Aston	Mackerel
32.78	Crosshaven	9th July	Patrick Apers (B)	Mackerel
32    8	Ling Rocks	23rd March	Donal O'Mahony	Mackerel
32    5.5	Ling Rocks	23rd March	Donal O'Mahony	Mackerel
32	Courtmacsherry	2nd July	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel Strip
32	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Philomene Gerritsen (NL)	Mackerel
32	Courtmacsherry	23rd Sept	Dirk Cravwels (B)	Mackerel
30.48	Ling Rocks	17th March	Michael Dennehy	Mackerel head
30    7	Ling Rocks	22nd June	Liam Dennehy	Mackerel
30	Courtmacsherry	3rd July	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel/Squid
30	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Gerard van der Vegt (NL)	Mackerel
29    1	Guileen	14th June	Jim Clohessy	Mackerel
29	Courtmacsherry	3rd July	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel Strip
28.95	Courtmacsherry	3rd October	Martin Langeveld (NL)	Mackerel Strip
13 kg	Kinsale	3rd September	Lamber de Mol (NL)	Mackerel
28.5	Courtmacsherry	7th August	Hans Koelen (NL)	Pirk

**LING Contd.**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
28	4	Kinsale	12th July	Sean Clohessy	Mackerel
28.09		Baltimore	19th September	Duncan McConnell (UK)	Muppets
27	13.5	Ling Rocks	11th January	Donal O'Mahony	Mackerel
27		Courtmacsherry	25th June	Philip Bolton (UK)	Mackerel
12.15		Kinsale	15th Sept '02	Ulrich Feldmeier (D)	Mackerel Strip
26		Courtmacsherry	8th July	Michael Linsley	Mackerel Fillet
25	7	Clifden	25th August	Kevin Nally (UK)	Mackerel
25.25		Ling Rocks	17th March	Michael Dennehy	Mackerel
11.38	kg	Scarriff	7th September	Dieter Blumel (D)	Mackerel
25		Kinsale	2nd September	Piet van den Heyden (NL)	Mackerel Strip
25		Courtmacsherry	20th September	Christopher Smith (UK)	Mackerel Strip



*Darryl Aston from Belfast took this 14.95 kg Ling in September off Ballycastle*

**GREY MULLET**

**Record, 9.1 lbs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs (2.268 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
6	8	River Dargle, Bray	7th August	Tom Fullam	Bread Flake
5	14	River Liffey, Heuston Station	6th September	Damian Blackwell	Bread
5	14	River Liffey	16th July	Gerry Jervis	Bread
5.77		Broadmeadow River	2nd August	Andrew White	Bread
5	12	River Liffey	18th July	Pat Foster	Bread
5	8	Argideen Estuary	30th August	Christy Lane	Bread Flake
5	5	River Dodder	16th September	Fergal Scully	Bread Flake
5	4	River Liffey	26th July	Peter Bolger	Bread
5	3	Tralee Bay, Fenit	7th August	Ruairi MacNamara	Mackerel
5	2	River Liffey	26th July	Peter Bolger	Bread
5		Fermoyle	1st March	George Dyland	Lugworm
5		River Dodder	27th July	Brian Cooke	Bread Crust



*Fenit in Co. Kerry produced this Grey Mullet for Ruairi MacNamara in August*

## POLLACK

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

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
17	7	Ling Rocks	27th September	Michael Dennehy	Shad
16	8	Courtmacsherry	11th January	Ian Murphy	Shad
16		Courtmacsherry	9th February	John Dennehy	Shad
14	3.5	Ling Rocks	13th September	John O'Sullivan	Shad
13.70		Caherciveen	30th Dec '02	Sean Spencer (UK)	Jellyworm
13	11	Ling Rocks	13th September	Michael Dennehy	Jellyworm
13	8	Courtmacsherry	11th January	Jeremy Power	Shad
6.12 kg		Ballycastle	28th Sept '02	John Hamilton	Artificial Eel
13.2		Caherciveen	2nd October	Frank Prendergast	Delta Eel
13	2.5	Ling Rocks	13th September	Michael Dennehy	Shad
13		Donegal Bay	14th August	Dr. Mairon Scully	Jellyworm/ Mackerel Strip
13		Courtmacsherry	10th October	Jonathan Roberts (UK)	Shad
13		Courtmacsherry	8th August	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
12	15.5	Brandon	5th August	Jim Clohessy	Shad
12.75		Baltimore	3rd July	Blair Lawson (UK)	Redgill
12.7		Caherciveen	10th August	Martin Nieuwenhuizen (NL)	Jellyworm
12.6		Caherciveen	19th Sept	Frank Prendergast	Mackerel/ Jellyworm
12	9.5	Port na Blagh	19th Sept	Hendriks Kees (NL)	Mackerel
12	8	Courtmacsherry	8th August	Evin O'Sullivan (J)	Shad
12.42		Cobh	29th July	W. J. Blok (NL)	Jellyworm
12	5	Ling Rocks	10th October	Liam Dennehy	Shad
5.5 kg		Kinsale	19th August	Willem Jan van Dijk	Shad
5.5 kg		Kinsale	3rd October	Walter Loef (NL)	Shad
5.47 kg		St. John's Point	7th August	Rachel Cunningham	Twister
12		Courtmacsherry	29th March	John Fitzgerald	Shad
12		Courtmacsherry	9th February	Dick van der Horst (NL)	Shad
12		Courtmacsherry	11th January	Pat Condon	Shad
12		Courtmacsherry	11th January	John Fitzgerald	Shad



*Evin O'Sullivan with his  
Courtmacsherry Pollack of  
12½ lbs*

## POUTING

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

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
3.8		Baltimore	30th August	Gina Maguire	Mackerel Strip
1.72 kg		Courtmacsherry	4th September	Raymond Verschoor (NL)	Mackerel
3.62		Valentia	19th July	Liam McCallion	Ragworm
3	3	Cobh	25th May	Donal Domeney	Crab
1.385 kg		Kinsale	20th July	Stanley Ringer (UK)	Mackerel Fillet
3.03		Courtmacsherry	22nd June	Rinus Hage (NL)	Mackerel Strip
1.37 kg		Caherciveen	30th August	Joanna Hardy	Mackerel Strip
1.37 kg		Cobh	2nd July	Richard Porchliel (NL)	Mackerel

**THORNBACK RAY****Record, 37 lbs; Specimen Weight, 20 lbs (9.072 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
21.45		Kilmore Quay	23rd September	Martin Rayner (Brunei)	Mackerel

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

30		East Ferry	11th September	Karl Bowring (UK)	Squid
30		East Ferry	27th July	Martin Bishop (UK)	Mackerel
29		East Ferry	7th July	Eddie Eaton (UK)	Squid
26		East Ferry	7th July	Daniel Inkpin (UK)	Squid
25	3.5	Cork Harbour	1st July	Ken Hegarty	Mackerel

*Brian Cooke with his shore-caught Top of 40 lbs prior to release***CUCKOO RAY****Record, 5 lbs 11 ozs; Specimen Weight, 4.5 lbs (2.141 kg)**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
2.5		Ballycastle	22nd August	Liam Longmore	Ragworm/Mackerel
2.16		Ballycastle	17th May	Liam Longmore	Ragworm/Mackerel

**HOMELYN RAY****Record, 8.28 lbs; Specimen Weight, 5 lbs (2.268 kg)**

2.8		Tralee Bay	3rd May	Jack Lacey	Herring/Squid Cocktail
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**UNDULATE RAY****Record, 18 lbs; Specimen Weight, 14 lbs (6.35 kg)**

17		Tralee Bay	20th July	Robert O'Neill (J)	Mackerel Strip
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**PAINTED RAY****Record, 17.21lbs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs (4.536 kg)**

10.6		Kilmore Quay	25th September	Paul Backhouse (UK)	Mackerel
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**STING RAY****Record, 33.2 kg; Specimen Weight, 30 lbs (13.608 kg)**

44		Tralee Bay	5th May	Noel Lane	Peeler Crab
38		Tralee Bay	17th April	Richard Kelter	Mackerel Strip

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
0.995		25th November '02	Chloe Foley	Mackerel/Lugworm
1	15	4th March	Colm McDaid	Mackerel Strip
		Moneypoint, Co. Clare		

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

3.18	R.Barrow, St. Mullins	10th May	Bill Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
3	St. Mullins	3rd May	Pierce Moran	Tasmanian Devil
2	15 St. Mullins	16th May	Colin O'Dowling	Tasmanian Devil
2	13 St. Mullins	16th May	Colin O'Dowling	Tasmanian Devil
1.26 kg	St. Mullins	9th May '02	Colin Sinnott	Intrader
1.25 kg	St. Mullins	19th May	Pat Foster	Tasmanian Devil
2	12 St. Mullins	10th May	Jason Dingle	Tasmanian Devil
2	10.5 St. Mullins	20th May	Michael Flannery	Tasmanian Devil
1.2 kg	St. Mullins	10th May	Peter Bolger	Tasmanian Devil
1.16 kg	St. Mullins	12th May	Pierce Moran	Tasmanian Devil
1.14 kg	St. Mullins	12th May	Ray Bannerman	Tasmanian Devil
1.125 kg	St. Mullins	10th May	Peter Bolger	Tasmanian Devil
1.12 kg	St. Mullins	9th May '02	Joseph Marsella	Intrader
1.12 kg	St. Mullins	7th May	Michael O'Leary	Tasmanian Devil
1.12 kg	St. Mullins	15th May	Peter Wolstenholme	Tasmanian Devil
2	7.5 St. Mullins	10th May	Gerry Jervis	Lure
2	7.5 St. Mullins	16th May	Colin O'Dowling	Tasmanian Devil
2	7 St. Mullins	11th May	Noel Lane	Tasmanian Devil

**SIX GILLED SHARK****Record, 154 lbs; Specimen Weight, 100 lbs (45.359 kg)**

53.9 kg	Brandon	18th July	Stephen Mills (UK)	Mackerel
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*A Six-Gilled Shark of 53.9 lbs from Brandon Bay in July for Stephen Mills (UK)*

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
8	6	Cahore	14th June	Brian Cooke	Peeler Crab

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

47	4	Greystones	26th August	Oisín Baugh (J)	Mackerel Flapper
46	6	Port na Blagh	16th Sept	Hendriks Kees (NL)	Mackerel
46		Tralee Bay	12th July	Jim Dooley	Mackerel Flapper
40		Greystones	26th Nov	Brian Cooke	Whiting



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

WEIGHT lbs    ozs	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
10.54	Downings	4th August	John Beswick (UK)	Mackerel
10.03	Downings	28th June	Mark Smylie	Mackerel Flapper
8.89	Downings	4th August	Michael Burke (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
8.55	Downings	4th August	Stephen Farrell (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
8.28	Downings	4th August	David Burke (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
8.21	Downings	4th August	Kenneth Forrest (UK)	Mackerel
3.5 kg	Valentia	7th August	Thomas Vorndran (D)	Mackerel Strip
7.3	Downings	28th June	Michael Selfridge	Mackerel Flapper
7.26	Downings	4th August	Michael Burke (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
6.98	Downings	16th August	Arie de Ligt (NL)	Mackerel
6.87	Downings	4th August	Geoffrey Halliday (UK)	Pirk
6.6	Downings	4th August	David Burke (UK)	Mackerel Flapper



*Downings was the venue for this Torsk of 10.03 lbs taken by Mark Smylie from Belfast*

**ALBACORE****New Record, 16.66 kg; Specimen Weight, 12 kg (26.46 lbs)**

WEIGHT lbs    ozs	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
16.66 kg	S.W. of Basket Islands	28th Sept	Alan Glanville	Artificial Squid

**BLUEFIN TUNA****Record, 440 kg; Specimen Weight, 150 kg (330.75 lbs)**

507	Downings	20th September	Ben Smit (NL)	Squid
206 kg	Downings	14th October	Brian Stapleton	Artificial Squid
430	Killybegs	10th October '02	Martin Carter	Artificial Squid

**TURBOT****Record, 34 lbs; Specimen Weight, 18 lbs (8.165 kg)**

9.975 kg	Red Bay	27th September	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Fillet
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*A 9.975 kg Turbot for Terry Jackson from Red Bay*

**WHITING**

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
1.53	Dunmore East	27th July	Roy Low (UK)	Mackerel

**BALLAN WRASSE**

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

6	Kerry Head	14th Sept '02	Brian Buckley	Crab
2.7	Ballintoy	25th August	Robert Stewart	Hokkai
5	14 Kerry Head	14th Sept '02	Brian Buckley	Crab
2.65	Kerry Head	14th Sept	Michael Hennessy	Peeler Crab



*Kerry Head was the location for this Ballan Wrasse for Mike Hennessy in September*

**BALLAN WRASSE Contd.**

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
2.598	Kilmore Quay	12th April	Bert McGregor	Ragworm
5	7 Kerry Head	10th August	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
2.428	Kilmore Quay	12th April	Jason Colman	Ragworm
5.25	Dunmore East	13th July	Joe Hennessy	Ragworm
5	3 Brandon Bay	4th August	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
2.35	kg Cork Harbour	25th May	Ben Kraayvanger (NL)	Ragworm
5.15	Kilmore Quay	4th Sept	Colin Kuck (UK)	Mackerel baited feathers
5	2 Kerry Head	10th August	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
2.205	kg Fahamore, Kerry	19th Sept	Thomas P. Keogh	Crab
4.85	Slea Head	28th August	Denis Butler	Crab
4	13 Kerry Head	29th August	Martin Lordan	Crab
4.75	Kenmare Bay	26th Sept	Nico van der Plank (NL)	Shrimp

**CUCKOO WRASSE**

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

1.45	Downings	16th August	Arthur Mussche (B)	Mackerel
1	7 Caherciveen	11th October	Colm McDaid	Ragworm
1.40	Downings	22nd July	Danny Brown	Mackerel



## Special Notices

### SPECIMEN WEIGHT REVISION

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

The specimen weight for Bluefin Tuna has been raised from 150 kg to 250 kg from January 1st 2004.

### 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*), (from 1983), garfish (*Bellone svetovidovi*) (from 1986), torsk (*Brosme brosme*) (from 1988), trigger fish (*Balistes carolinensis*) (from 1992), Bluemouth (*Helicolenus dactylopterus*) (from 2002) and Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) (from 2002).

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



*Black-Mouthed  
Dogfish*

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.

During 2003 claims were received for three golden grey mullet *Liza aurata* (Risso). Two of these fish were taken in Cork Harbour in July and another at Inch in Co. Kerry in September. Another specimen was reported from the Shannon estuary during the summer. Anglers reported that they provide excellent sport. This species is probably the least abundant of northern European grey mullets and preliminary investigations suggest that there are no authentic records of golden grey mullet in Irish waters.

Well-known specimen hunter Terry Jackson submitted details of a 0.75 kg black-mouthed dogfish (*Galeus melastomus* Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1810) he caught off the Antrim coast in November 2003. This is the first record of this deepwater dogfish received by the ISFC and like other potential new species, placing on the ISFC eligible species list will be considered on the basis of information and claims presented in the future.

### IMPORTANT POINTS REGARDING CLAIMS

**Photographic evidence for new records:** except in cases where a body or presentation of the fish is required for species identification, a clear photograph must accompany all record fish 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).

**Closed seasons:** Closed seasons apply to several species (e.g. bass, brown trout, salmon etc). Any fish taken in the closed season for that species will not be ratified.

**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.



*Terry Jackson with a superb Common Skate prior to its return to the water in 2003*

**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**

Since 2000 the ISFC has adopted a watching brief with regard to the rules governing the capture of big game fish. Based on the deliberations of an ISFC sub-committee appointed in 2002, revised rules derived from relevant sections from the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) rules have been incorporated into the existing ISFC rules (see Rule 2).

#### **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 are presented on Page 44.* 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 manufacturer's 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 - 434 6256 Fax: 021 - 434 6679</b>	James Stapleton	Mobile 087 - 224 5533
<b>Dublin Regional Verification Centre</b> NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Poppintree Ind. Estate, Ballymun, Dublin 11. <b>Ph: 01 - 864 3848 Fax: 01 - 864 3880</b>	Ronán O'Doherty	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>	Paul Moore	Mobile 087 - 917 7333
<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>	Kieran Finlay	Mobile 087 - 223 1079
<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 Legal Metrology Service,</b> NSAI, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 <b>Ph: 01 - 807 3807 Fax: 01 - 807 3808</b>	Pat Farragher	01 - 807 3807

## PRESENTATION OF 2002 AWARDS

The ISFC is very grateful to Mr. John O'Connor, CEO, Central Fisheries Board, who made the Annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims were accepted during 2002 at the Doyle Burlington Hotel, Dublin on 1st March, 2003.

At the VISMA angling exhibition held in Rotterdam, Holland in March 2003, Dutch and Belgian anglers were presented with their awards in association with the Central Fisheries Board Angling Section and Fáilte Ireland.

## *Acknowledgements*

**Photographs:** The majority of photographs in this report are taken by anglers. Good quality photographs have enhanced the report considerably over the past decade and anglers are encouraged to send good quality 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 Michael McVeigh and Terry Jackson.

**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.

## DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIMEN AWARDS

The numbers of specimen fish taken by anglers of different nationalities are listed below:

Year	Ireland	Britain (UK)	Holland (NL)	Germany (D)	Belgium (B)	France (F)	Other -	TOTAL
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
2002	471	43	23	7	6	2	7	559
2003	384	41	63	11	13	4	5	521

n/d = not determined



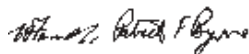
### Irish Specimen Fish Committee

#### Expenditure and Revenue Account - 1st January to 31st December 2002

2001 €	Expenditure	2002 €	2001 €	Revenue	2002 €
				<b>Balance b/f Grants</b>	5125.03 (IR£ 4036.29)
7291.28	Printing	7647.26	5078.80	CFB	6324.23
888.82	Award Medals	2381.62	2539.40	MI	2539.48
319.80	Travel	0.00	634.85	ESB	0.00
0.00	Dr. Wents Prize	128.50	1269.55	Bord Failte	0.00
653.92	Miscellaneous	530.00			
824.06	Equipment/consumables	57.14		<b>Donations</b>	
1592.12	Awards Day costs	2036.20	1756.53	Clubs, Feds & individuals	1274.18
				Regional Fish Boards	0.00
4.51	Bank charges	16.92	1587.13		
	<b>Total</b>	<u>12797.64</u>			
	<b>Balance c/d</b>	2465.28			15262.92
		<u>15262.92</u>			<u>15262.92</u>
			<b>Balance b/d</b>		2465.28

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

Signed:



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

### ACCOUNTS/DONATIONS

**Accounts:** A statement of the Committee's accounts for the year ending December 31st 2002 is presented above. The 2003 accounts will be published in the 2004 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, the Marine Institute and Fáilte Ireland. The ISFC is extremely grateful to all.

Benefactors in 2003 were:

Central Fisheries Board; Marine Institute; Bord Failte; Delphi Fishery Ltd.; Dolphin Richview SAC.

**Peter Atkins**, 69 Gort Na Glaise, Sandy Road, Galway; **Val Atkins**, Belle Vue, Ferrybank, Waterford; **Philip A. Blakey**, 12 Redhill Crescent, West Ardsley, Nr. Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF31 1HQ, England; **Peter Bolger**, 70 Ferrycarrig Road, Coolock, Dublin 17; **Finbarr Barry**, Cork Harbour Boats, 3 Glenbrook Terrace, Glenbrook, Co. Cork; **FHE Buller**, Holly Tree, Woodlands, South Heath, Gt. Middledon, Bucks, England; **Brian Byrne**, East Cork Angling, Loughcarrig House, Ballinacurra, Middleton, Co. Cork; **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; **Michael Dennehy**, 71 Alderbrook, Frankfield, Douglas, Cork; **Donal Doney**, 20 Courtown Drive, Knocknaheeny, Cork City; **Jim Dooley**, 6 Bawnleigh Court, Banduff, Cork; **P.F. Dore**, St. Annes, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny; **James Farrell**, 137 Leinster Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6; **Mattie Foley**, 18 Upper Lotabeg Road, Mayfield, Cork; **Colm Gallagher**, 155 Mount Marian, Milford, Co. Donegal; **John Gibbons**, Glengowla, Oughterard, Co. Galway; **A. J. Hall**, 12 Helmsdale Road, Rise Park, Romford, Essex, RM1 4DW, England; **Richard Hancox**, 30 Greenfield Avenue, Northampton, England; **Philip Hodgins**, 194 Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin 6; **Edward Howard**, 46 Rose Hill West, Ballinacurra, Middleton, Co. Cork; **Pat Kirwan**, 207 Bunting Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12; **Christy Lane**, 10 Harringtons Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; **Noel Lane**, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork; **John Leonard**, Skahana, Union Hall, Co. Cork; **Liam Longmore**, 55 Garron Crescent, Larne, Co. Antrim, BT40 2AT; **Peter Manning**, Ballycotton Sea Angling Centre, Church Road, Ballycotton, Co. Cork; **Joe Mulholland**, Feede Cross, Dundalk, Co. Louth; **Rev. Francis Murphy**, Liscard House, Oughterard, Co. Galway; **Kevin McCrea**, 4 The Walk, Millbrook Lawns, Tallaght, Dubin 24; **Colm McDaid**, Landers Leisure Lines, Courthouse Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry; **Raymond McEvoy**, 4 Marian Terrace, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary; **W. F. McLaughlin**, 27 Castle Gardens, Limavady, Co. Derry, BT49 0SD; **Chris Neill**, 7 Glenraig Road, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, BT36 5WJ; **Ciaran O'Carroll**, Derryconnell House, Derryconnell, Schull, Co. Cork; **Noel O'Connor**, 13 St. Brendan's Terrace, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway; **Karl O'Leary**, 33 Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; **Donal O'Mahony**, 16 Island Way, Muskerry Estate, Ballincollig, Co. Cork; **Patrick O'Mahony**, 6 Holly Road, Muskerry Estate, Ballincollig, Co. Cork; **Robert O'Neill**, Jeanies View, Tonavane, Blennerville, Co. Kerry; **John A. O'Shea**, 6 Raphoe Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12 **John O'Sullivan**, 36 Evergreen Buildings,

Cork; **Bill Ryan**, 3 Raheen Avenue, Dublin 24; **Trevor Ryder**, Gortamore, Downings, Co. Donegal; **Werner Sammann**, Bootsbaumeister, Steenflage 3, 49406 Barnstorf, Germany; **Mike (Dingle) Tudor**, Lomondside Cottage, Falkland, Fife, KY15 7BD, Scotland; **David Went**, Dublin; **Alan Williams**, 80 Perth Y Paen, Llangefn, Anglesey, Gwynedd, LL7 7EX, N. Wales; **Robert Williams**, "The Brig", Fennells Bay, Myrtleville, Co. Cork.

## Continuing the Went tradition

The late Dr. Arthur Went was associated with the Irish Specimen Fish Committee since it was founded in 1955. He, with Dr. Michael Kennedy of the Inland Fisheries Trust, was one of the founder members of the Committee and was a driving force with an immense interest in recording specimen fish in Ireland. Being aware that documentation of rod caught large or specimen fish in Irish waters was, at best, 'haphazard' he, in his role as Scientific Adviser and Chief Inspector with the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Agriculture, together with representatives of other bodies including the Inland Fisheries Trust and Bord Failte Eireann established the ISFC to help promote the development of angling in this country.

The ISFC recognised that proper documentation and recording of specimen fish data would provide an invaluable record for many different users but most particularly anglers. Over the past fifty years their foresight has contributed handsomely to many facets of Irish fisheries and the tourism industry. In those early pioneering days the ISFC began a process which has gone from strength to strength and continues to provide a valuable service today.

Dr. Went served as a distinguished and hardworking ISFC Chairman from 1955 up to his death in 1980. His work on fish ecology in Ireland, particularly on salmon fisheries, is very well regarded and his scientific papers on specimen and unusual fish, which had been presented to the Committee, contributed significantly to the compilation of the Irish fish fauna listing, which he co-authored with Dr. Kennedy. Documenting traditional commercial fishing methods was another important task he undertook to ensure that the social, cultural and heritage aspects of these techniques were understood and appreciated.

Dr. Went established the 'ISFC Young Specimen Angler of the Year Award' in 1973. This innovative award has been a milestone which has stimulated many of the current crop of well-known 'adult' anglers.

The Went family association with the ISFC is being strengthened from 2003 onwards. Mr David Went, son of Dr. Went, on being advised of the financial plight of the ISFC, has personally agreed to sponsor the awards medals and badges for a number of years. This exceptional generosity is very much appreciated by the Committee.

## 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)	41	17.2.2002	Lough Ross, Crossmaglen	Ian Wortley
Pike (River)	42 0	22.3.1964	River Barrow	M. Watkins
Roach	1.425 kg	6.10.2002	Drumacritten Lake	Terry Jackson
Roach/Bream Hybrid	7	24.4.2002	River Bann, Toome	Roy Gretton
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	Ballyeigher 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	Shinna 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	2.4 lbs	26.06.2002	Caherciveen	Hugh Maguire
Brill	9 8	8.9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	15.1kg	30.08.2003	Castletownshend	Roger Barham
Cod	42 0	1921	Ballycotton	I.L. Stewart
Conger Eel	72 0	June, 1914	Valentia	J. Green
Dab	2 5.5	2.10.2002	Cork Harbour	Mick Duff
Spur Dogfish	21.25	10.8.2001	Dun Laoghaire	Charlie Robinson
Greater Spotted Dogfish	23 13	17.09.2003	Kenmare Bay	Perry Dumay
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	40 kg			24.8.2002	Achill	Shay Boylan
Ray's Bream	6	4.25		26.8.1979	Valentia	Martin Sarney
Red Sea Bream	9	6		24.8.1963	Valentia	P. Maguire
Twaité 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	16.66kg			28.9.2003	SW of Blasket Islands	Alan Glanville
- 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**

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	0.772		0.35
Eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	6	15	3		1.361
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	5	8	2.646		1.2
Pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> ) (Lake)	41	0	30		13.608
Pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> ) (River)	42	0	20		9.072
Roach ( <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> )	1.425 kg		2		0.907
Roach/Bream Hybrid	7	0	3.528		1.6
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> )	2.4		1.9845		0.9
Brill ( <i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i> )	9	8	5		2.268
Coalfish ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )	15.1 kg		15		6.804
Cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> )	42	0	20		9.072
Conger ( <i>Conger conger</i> )	72	0	40		18.144
Dab ( <i>Limanda limanda</i> )	2	5.5	1.5		0.680
Dogfish - Spur ( <i>Squalus acanthias</i> )	21.25		12		5.443
- Lesser Spotted ( <i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i> )	4	4	3.25		1.474
- Greater Spotted ( <i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i> )	23	13	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	2.5		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

## SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS Contd.

	IRISH RECORD		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		
	lbs	ozs	lbs	ozs	kg
<b>SEA FISH (Contd.)</b>					
-Red ( <i>Mullus surmuletus</i> )	-		1		0.454
Plaice ( <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> )	8.23		4		1.814
Pollack ( <i>Pollachius pollachius</i> )	19	3	12		5.443
Pouting ( <i>Trisopterus luscus</i> )	4	13.5	3		1.361
Ray - Thornback ( <i>Raja clavata</i> )	37	0	20		9.072
- Blonde ( <i>Raja brachyura</i> )	36	8	25		11.340
- Cuckoo ( <i>Raja naevus</i> )	5	11	4.5		2.041
- Electric ( <i>Torpedo nobiliana</i> )	40 kg		20		9.072
- Homelyn ( <i>Raja montagui</i> )	8.28		5		2.268
- Undulate ( <i>Raja undulata</i> )	18		14		6.350
- Painted ( <i>Raja microcellata</i> )	17.21		10		4.536
- Sting ( <i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i> )	33.2 kg		30		13.608
Ray's Bream ( <i>Brama brama</i> )	6	4.25	5		2.268
Red Sea Bream ( <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> )	9	6	4.5		2.041
Rockling, Three Bearded ( <i>Gaidropsarus vulgaris</i> )	3	1	1.75		0.794
Scad ( <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> )	1.97		1.5		0.680
Shad - Allis ( <i>Alosa alosa</i> )	-		4		1.814
- Twaite ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> )	1.54 kg		2,4255		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> )	16.66 kg		26.46		12
- Bluefin ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> )	440 kg		551.88		250
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 UNASSISTED, though the fish may be gaffed or netted by another, and it is permissible for the person using the gaff to take hold of the trace or doubled line (in the case of big game fishing) to steady the fish when it has been played out and brought within reach. If a fixed rod holder is in use while boat fishing, and a fish strikes, the rod must be removed from the holder as quickly as possible. This is to ensure that the angler hooks and plays the fish with rod in hand. Where a fighting chair is employed, it must not have any mechanically driven device which aids the angler in playing a fish. Body harnesses (which attach the rod to the body) are permissible but must not be fixed to the chair. Gimbals must be free swinging including those which move in the vertical plane. Gimbals which permit the angler to rest or reduce strain while playing a fish are prohibited. Breakage of rod, reel or line, or alteration or substitution of tackle, while a fish is being played, disqualify it for claim or record purposes. A fish may not be shot, lanced, clubbed or harpooned before landing. Claims for fish caught during the statutory close season for the species (where this applies) cannot be accepted.
- (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 1 to 3 kg range weighed on balances weighing up to 50 kg 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:** All club and personal scales **MUST** be certified annually by an independent agency. Weighing scales must be covered by a Certificate of Accuracy at the time of weighing. They cannot be certified in retrospect, i.e. after the fish has been weighed.

- (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.

**FISH 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 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, GREY & RED 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, BLUEMOUTH, MONKFISH, POLLACK, COALFISH, BALLAN WRASSE, TRIGGER FISH, ALBACORE** and **TUB GURNARD** (pectoral fins of gurnard must be fully expanded).

If necessary, the fish should be hung up for photographs. 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 – 8842600; Fax: 01-8360060. E.Mail: isfc@cfb.ie)
- (2) Do not forward fish to the Committee before Bank Holidays or weekends; (keep in a cold store or preferably frozen if fish cannot be delivered quickly on or before Friday afternoon).
- (3) Please attach a label to each fish forwarded for identification giving the captor's name and address, date and place of capture and the weight of the fish.
- (4) Fish 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: 01-8842600). Fish should be sent to ISFC at 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 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**



## A bit of 'Dingle'

*Former Co-ordinator of Angling for Scottish Disability Sports, and Scotland resident, the honorary 'angling ambassador' to Dingle, Mike Tudor, or 'Dingle' as he is known, found that Ireland was a mecca for angling in the 1950's. He has returned every year since that first trip. Here he looks back at the past and speculates about the future for Irish angling.*

I set foot on Irish soil for the first time back in the 50's as a thirteen-year-old somewhere between Cork and Fermoy. Too much lemonade on the ferry necessitated a pit stop! I had arrived on the overnight ferry with my two aunts and uncle and he was going to take me on my first ever-fishing trip. Their plan was to go to the Beara Peninsula to fish for big pollack, dogfish and skate in Bantry Bay.

### The early years

My first-ever fish was a dace followed by two eels which I caught whilst breakfast was being made on the banks of the River Blackwater - a change to bread produced a few roach. I ended up watching my uncle trot the river beyond where I could cast and catch a net full of 1-2lb dace and roach. There was nothing significant about my catch, only that my fish was a dace indicating they were quite prolific which many subsequent visits proved correct. Like the roach, dace could only be caught in the River Blackwater back in the 50's and 60's. In fact only nine specimen dace have ever been recorded since the Irish Specimen Fish Committee began recording specimens in 1955 and four of those in 2002 in rivers that had never recorded a specimen dace before. Every specimen dace and roach recorded up to 1988 came from Cappoquin with the majority being caught on congealed pigs' blood at the bacon factory outlet. I could never bring myself to fish with the stuff let alone get used to the noise that Willhelmina and her friends were making as they waited to be turned into bacon.

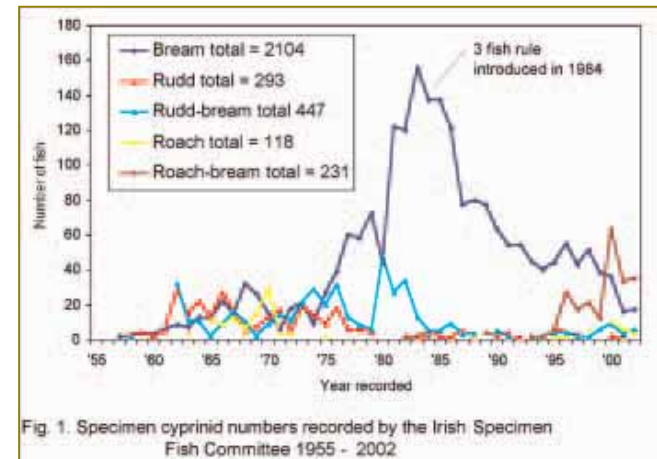
Now specimen roach come from the Lagan Canal and dace from the River Barrow on traditional baits like maggots and caster - how things have changed! If I am honest I wished the roach had not invaded (or should that be infected) so many rivers and loughs as we did not have to feed off so many small fish back in the early days. I know the roach has helped many a match angler out and provided sport when fishing is hard but due to their presence the specimen records are showing drastic downturns in rudd and rudd/bream hybrids numbers being caught. Apart from the few rudd recorded in between 1995 and 1997 and Hugh Gough's deserved rudd records in consecutive years there has been a fall

in their numbers since 1977 (Fig. 1). This past year was no exception; the best I could do was a fish of 2lbs my worst in forty years.

### IFT and ISFC

Like so many early visitors, I came to Ireland for tench and rudd, two species we had heard were so plentiful here compared to England. Let's hope that the self-contained waters stay free of roach and that the specialised rudd and tench waters can be protected and developed. I first became aware of the Inland Fisheries Trust (IFT) on my second visit to Ireland in 1959 (a family holiday in Killarney). It's thanks to the dedication, enthusiasm and tremendous hard work of the I.F.T. in those early days that we have so many quality fisheries today. The Central & Regional Fisheries Board along with many other duties continue the work of managing fishing in Ireland by providing access, sign posting, parking and platforms to so many fisheries - it was either a boat or waders back in the 60's with a number of places not being accessible. The number of anglers visiting Ireland today adding to a healthy tourist industry has rewarded their vision of improving fishing.

At this time I also learned about the work of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee, which was established in 1955. What would we do without our specimen fish report each year providing such valuable information especially to the overseas



visitors? I wonder how many of us stop to think of the many voluntary hours go into producing it. In the past five years alone 2661 claims were made and 2420 ratified as specimen fish. Each one is recorded, confirmed and each individual contacted. Then there is the presentation of awards each year in Ireland, England and Europe - none of which we pay for. It is a credit to their belief that all the time their heads are above water they will continue to rely solely on donations. I know from corresponding with the Committee that if suitable finance was available all of the specimen records since 1955 would go on to the imminent ISFC website. What a reference library that would make for those winter nights!

Back in the 50's,60's and 70's it was mainly English anglers who contributed to the coarse specimen list. Now it's mainly the Irish specimen hunters who make the headlines. I have to confess as not being much of a contributor to the specimen record list over the years having only claimed eight specimens in 45 years. I admire people who do get fish ratified especially those anglers who go to such great lengths to take care of the welfare of the fish, travelling miles to get it ratified and then returning it to where it was caught. I know the ISFC would like to develop and use a genetically based system to identify those species and hybrids where an identification problem arises but it is beyond their current budget to research and develop.

### The Garnafailagh years

I persuaded my life long fishing friend John Staples to come over and explore new areas with me in 1962. Garnafailagh House, Coosan Lough was the place being mentioned in the angling magazines. Our hosts Fred and Clare Carter made Garnafailagh a home from home, a truly wonderful place to stay. On arrival we were greeted with a cuppa, jam scones and cream and news that two days prior to Ted Kershaw had broken our arrival the Irish Tench record with a fish of 7lbs 6oz.

At the start of the second week there was some heated discussion with a very well to do guest as to why he and his son should fish from a white boat. He seemed disgusted with the idea of white being used for such a wary species as rudd and tench. John and I offered the boat we had been using the previous week and since we had solved the problem Fred gave us another small boat. I took the white one and having a boat gave us the option of keeping two swims each baited up. John and I were the first to fish a particular area of the L shaped bay and in subsequent years were always relieved there was no one fishing our favourite swims when we arrived.

Fishing was from 4am until breakfast sometimes beyond if the fish were feeding and again after breakfast until mid day. Lunch was followed by a scout around in the warm sheltered bays between the land and the reed beds looking for places to try for rudd in the afternoon. Stealth and accuracy were needed to cast a small piece of freeline crust. We had great fun tempting Rudd to over 2 lbs to the net. Fred Carter also taught me the art of fly fishing something that stood me in years to come. Evening meal was followed by a session until darkness fell which is when the big bream hybrids and rudd turned up in our swims.



*Dingle with an excellent bag of Coosan tench from a morning session in 1967*

Those first three years of Garnafailagh and Coosan Lough were to make angling history in Ireland; no fewer than 283 specimens out of the 348 total including tench, rudd, bream and hybrids came from its waters. 1963 and 1964 saw a tench explosion with 142 specimens being recorded there and many specimen fish returned unrecorded. So prolific were the specimen fish in Coosan, on one occasion John and I had four tench on at the same time, three being over 5lbs and the only male weighting 4lbs 8 ozs.

Allwyn Wheeler, of the Natural History Museum, London contacted the IFT who asked Fred Carter if a specimen bream, rudd and rudd/bream hybrid could be caught for setting up in the Museum. I was asked if I would take up the challenge. Fred took me across to bait up a swim for two days in a bay by Meehan Island where I had previously caught large hybrids. Once the weather was right for a night session Fred towed me across. Float tackle for fishing on the top plus a ledger rod were set up. Believe it or not all the fish were caught within two and a half hours. As requested, they were wrapped individually in very wet cloths and then in newspaper to prevent damage. I fished onto early morning and caught specimen-sized rudd, hybrid and (5) tench the only species I did not get a specimen weight in was a bream. I have to say it was easier back in the 60's when specimen weights were at 2lbs 3lbs and 5lbs respectively.

On one occasion moored at the top of the L shaped bay ready for a night session. I heard a commotion coming from John's boat. I looked up and saw his rod top pointing skywards as he tried to come to terms with a monstrous gull which had plucked a piece of floating crust from the air. It took him some 15 minutes to land the bird!! On our way back for breakfast he insisted that no one was to know about the incident, not because he had caught the gull, but because he had been stupid enough to put it in his tackle box due to the gull being waterlogged and not only had it ripped the inside to shreds but had made the foulest mess! By the end of breakfast everyone was pretending they were flying around - how did the story get out!!

On another occasion Fred had been to the corn chandlers to get us more ground bait and met up with a farmer who in conversation said that no one had fished the part of the River Suck which ran through his land. Fred arranged a trip for three of us. What a days fishing from unbaited swims! The others each caught a net full of Bream from 4-6lbs - the kind of bags you just have to turn upside down and not try to lift out. In my modest catch of 60 plus lbs I had an eel of 3lbs 11oz and a bream of 9lbs 6ozs which is still my biggest bream and one fish I wish I had got ratified as a specimen.

Why was Garnafailagh so successful? Well apart from a few copper spoons from local anglers it was an unfished water until 1962 when its potential became evident with 73 specimens being recorded. In the following few years, some very good and dedicated anglers, like the Northern Specimen Group and tench specialists from the south of England concentrated here and it produced a record number of specimen tench, unlikely to be equalled from one lough. Due to the huge number of specimen tench in '63 and '64 (172) the ISFC raised the specimen weight in 1965 from 5lbs to 6lbs hence the major drop in specimens recorded in '65.

From 1966 onwards the specific area of capture had to be provided when filling out a specimen form. Places such as Lanesboro were now being documented; here the warm water outflow from the power station provided an ideal holding area for a number of species resulting in it being next on the success list in 1966. Fish from Garnafailagh were now registered as Coosan Lough.

#### **Branching out**

Having heard about the fishing around Carrickmacross, we decided to go there in 1970. Loughs Na Glack and Monalty were the other prime specimen waters and as early as 1957 NaGlack showed it held big bream when a pike angler caught one of 10 lbs 11oz on a spinner. Although we had a lot of fish from Lough Derry in '70 and '71 it was not until 1972 that there was any evidence of big

bream when John caught six specimens on consecutive casts. In a quiet moment, a friend, Bob Blundell took John's rod and cast out a bit of flake in John's swim and promptly caught the biggest bream of the year (8lbs 13oz). John was not amused!!

During the late 70's and early 80's we had many wonderful holidays throughout Ireland. Memories spring to mind of the big bags of mixed fish from the mouth of the River Brosna, the beautiful condition of the rudd and tench from Shannon Harbour and the Grand Canal at Mullingar, the fighting quality of the wild brown trout of Carra on the Mayfly and the big tench and rudd from Kilglass, Fin and Clooneen in Roscommon to name but a few.

Over the years, various increases in specimen weights do not seem to have altered the overall number of fish being recorded apart from tench whose specimen weight increased from 4lbs in '58 to 5lbs in '59 and then to 6lbs in '64 resulting in a reduction in the number of specimens in '65. As no dace had been recorded since 1972, the ISFC reduced the specimen weight for 2002 to 12.32oz (0.35kg) resulting in 4 claims being recorded. 1984 also saw the introduction of the rule that only 3 specimens, per species, per person would receive awards.

More superb angling holidays followed in the 80's/90's from Lakeland House fishing the Erne and the great lakes around Belturbet. Since touring Clare in '61 and '62 I had longed to return to fish its special tench waters, so we met up in Corofin in '99 to fish the Clare Lakes. Due to conditions, not a great number of tench were caught, but we had great bags of bream, hybrids and rudd, enough to whet the appetite and return the following year. On this second trip the forecast for one particular day was for temperatures in high 80's, too hot in a boat even for mad Englishmen, so we spent the day touring the Clare coast. This very hot spell changed the fishing for the rest of our stay with most of the fish deciding to spawn with the sudden rise in water temperature. It was over a meal a few nights later that my pal John suggested we revisit our old haunts and start by going back to Lough Derry and Carrickmacross the following year. At the end of our stay in Corofin I said farewell to my friends at Shannon Airport, unaware that it would be the last trip with my lifelong friend John who sadly passed away the following year, the same week as great Bernard Venables. We still continue our trips but there is a strange emptiness with John not being there.

**Breakfasts and evening meals**

What does the future hold? Will the roach/rudd, or should that be rudd/roach, ever have a specimen weight of its own, like the other two hybrids? Will there ever be another specimen tench explosion as there was in '63/'64 from one single place like Coosan? Will the first 10lb tench come from a carp water and look like a pot bellied pig, having been artificially fed on high protein boilies? Will the Irish carp anglers give their fish names, which they do in England, which is nearly as daft as giving a pig a name like Willhelmina!! Will Lanesboro ever be so productive again? Are the big bream of Na Glack, Monalty and Ballycullinan losing weight and at the end of their specimen life? Only future trips will answer these questions.

Ireland is a magical place and full of fairy/fishy tales. There is magic in the many unfished waters Ireland still has to offer which is why we are drawn back year after year. As age is catching up on me and Irish breakfasts and leisurely evening meals become more important I am no longer as fanatical and catch fewer specimens. Irish hospitality is unique and there are so many wonderful hosts. During my 45 years of visiting I have had the privilege of meeting quite a few; the Carters at Garnafailagh and Renwicks of Carrickmacross in the early days, the Fitzpatricks through the eighties and of late the O'Briens and the Clearys. It is the Irish people that make a fishing holiday so memorable and as we leave we are already planning our next visit.

And if the very proper gentleman or his son who stayed at Garnafailagh happen to read this article, you can catch tench from a white boat - as my friend John said at the time, "When it's parked in the reeds its just like the arse of a swan" - a big one!!

Tight Lines!

**Notes:**