

Contents

Chairmans Review	2	Tub Gurnard	27
Introduction, New Records	3	Haddock	28
Special Awards Categories		John Dory, Ling.....	29
10 Species Award	5	Megrim	30
50 Specimens Award	5	Grey Mullet, Golden Grey Mullet	31
10 Specimens Award	5	Red Mullet, Plaice, Pollack.....	32
Dr. A.E.J. Went Award	6	Blonde Ray	33
The Ministers Award	6	Homelyn Ray, Painted Ray,	
Specimen Fish Claims ratified in 2004		Sting Ray	34
Freshwater Fish Listings 2004		Three Bearded Rockling, Scad,	
<i>Coarse Fish and Pike</i>		Twaite Shad	35
Bream	7	Smooth Hound, Stone Basse	36
Carp	8	Topo	37
Dace.....	8	Torsk, Trigger Fish	38
Perch.....	9	Whiting, Ballan Wrasse	39
Pike (Lake).....	10	Cuckoo Wrasse	40
Pike (River).....	10		
Roach.....	11	Special Notices	
Roach/Bream Hybrid.....	12	Amendments to ISFC Rules	41
Rudd	13	Establishing a new specimen fish	
Rudd/Bream Hybrid.....	13	category	41
Tench	14	Specimen weight revision	42
<i>Game Fish</i>		Important points regarding claims	42
Salmon	15	Big game fish	43
Brown Trout (Lake)	15	Important points about weighing	
Brown Trout (River).....	17	of fish.....	43
Sea Trout	18	List of Regional Verification Centres	
Marine Fish Listings 2004		(Weighing Scale Certification).....	44
Bass	19	Presentation of 2003 Awards,	
Coalfish	20	Acknowledgements	45
Cod	23	Retirements from Committee	45
Conger Eel.....	23	Distribution of Specimen Awards	46
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	24	Accounts/Donations	48
Greater Spotted Dogfish	24	Continuing the Went tradition	49
Spur Dogfish	25		
Flounder, Garfish, Grey Gurnard,		Irish Record Fish	
Red Gurnard	26	Freshwater Species, Marine Species... 50	
		Schedule of Specimen Weights	52
		ISFC Rules	54
		The Ten Steps by Bill Ryan	57

Chairmans Review



I am writing this review of 2004 in our new accommodation in the Swords Business Campus. Anglers are requested to check our address details provided in this report.

The endeavours of the Fisheries Boards and others, at major international and national game fairs and exhibitions, sustain a continuing high interest in all facets of Irish angling. This is reflected in the numbers of visiting anglers particularly from the UK, Holland and Belgium, many of whom feature in the specimen lists for sea angling and game fish categories. The overall impression for 2004 is that, in general, fishing was good. However, in the latter half of the season many sea angling days were lost due to windy weather. It was one of the worst years for Blue Shark since 1970 with less than 100 fish caught and no specimens claimed.

In 2004 the Committee ratified 518 specimens (521 in 2003). Courtmacsherry was especially rewarding for sea anglers, while the River Barrow produced a wide variety of freshwater specimens. However, claim forms were received from throughout the island of Ireland and most localities are well represented in the specimen listings.

New records were established for Ling (55 lbs) and Blonde Ray (37 lbs) while records were also created in two new categories, the Golden Grey Mullet and the Red Mullet. The appearance of these mullets on the Irish shoreline is a manifestation of warmer water temperatures. The range of exotic species available to anglers is increasing, a gilt-head sea bream (*Sparus aurata* L.) was presented for examination and no doubt others will follow.

Many of you will be familiar with our website which is proving highly successful. Details of Irish angling are now available instantaneously worldwide and we are continuing to develop this aspect of our activities.

The Committee introduced further refinements to the rules during the year. Anglers are requested to study these carefully; they relate to the period of validity of a claim: rounding weights downwards to the nearest division in some cases, and the provision of bodies for Red Mullet and Golden Grey Mullet. Accurate recording of specimen fish data is important for many different reasons. Several claims are being queried to identify the exact location where a fish was caught as is required in the claim form. The Committee insists on this information being submitted and this is rigorously enforced.

Two long-standing, highly active members retired from the Committee during 2004, Mr. Brian Geraghty and Mr. Paddy Byrne. Paddy was the longest serving member of the ISFC having completed 27 years; he was fortunate to have worked with such luminaries as Dr. Arthur Went and Dr. Michael Kennedy. Likewise, Brian provided over 20 years stalwart service. He was instrumental in steering the Committee to include photographs in the report in the late 1980s (the value of which can be appreciated from this current issue) and he was especially successful in sourcing much needed funding for the ISFC. We look forward to honouring their retirement at the annual awards presentation in March.

I take this opportunity to again thank Mr. David Went for his generosity. Thanks to all the committee members who gave generously of their time during 2004. The commitment exhibited by Dr. William Roche is exemplary. On behalf of all specimen anglers, thank you and Ms. Bridie Fleming, for your trojan efforts.

Once again the continued support of our principal sponsors, the Central Fisheries Board, the Marine Institute, Fáilte Ireland and the Electricity Supply Board is gratefully acknowledged. Anglers donations and sponsorship from a new sponsor, Eddie Rowe (Mikes Bikes, Dun Laoghaire), are also much appreciated.

Trevor Champ

Chairman



Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2004

INTRODUCTION

In 2004 the ISFC received 568 claims. 518 were ratified, including 4 new Irish records. A total of 20 was rejected for non-compliance with the rules and a further 30 are being queried. Details of the new records, other special awards and the specimen awards 2004 are listed below:

NEW RECORDS (Specially commissioned engraved silver medal)

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

Ling – 55 lbs taken by Ailbhe O’Sullivan, Greenhill, Fermoy, Co. Cork fishing out of Cork Harbour on 3rd January 2004.



The New Irish Record Ling of 55 lbs taken by Ailbhe O’Sullivan (right) on January 3rd. Skipper Charlie Robinson looks pleased with his Ling of 40lbs 11ozs and Coalfish of 22 lbs 8 ozs.

Golden Grey Mullet - 2 lbs 8 ozs taken by Noel Lane, 65 Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork in Cork Harbour on 11th July 2003.

Red Mullet – 1.26 lbs taken by Eamon Hayes, Weamstown, Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford fishing out of Kilmore Quay on 30th September 2004.



Charter skipper Eamon Hayes set the Irish Record of 1.26 lbs for Red Mullet fishing out of Kilmore Quay

Blonde Ray – 37 lbs taken by Paul Tennant, 2 Rushbrooke Manor, Cobh, Co. Cork fishing out of Cobh on 10th October 2004.



37 lbs is the New Irish Record weight for Blonde Ray set by Paul Tennant

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

Awarded to anglers who have caught 10 different species of specimen fish

John Millerick, 21 Birchdale Park, Kinsealy, Co. Dublin – Ballan Wrasse (2004), Bream (1992), Flounder (1991), Grey Mullet (2004), Perch (2003), Pike (River) (1993), Rudd (2004), Rudd/Bream Hybrid (2004), Smooth Hound (2004) and Twaite Shad (1992).

50 SPECIMENS AWARD (Gold badge)

Awarded to anglers who have caught 50 specimens

David Craig, 9 Seskin Avenue, Straid, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim since 1993 including: 2 Bream, 4 Cuckoo Wrasse, 4 Lesser Spotted Dogfish, 1 Pike (River), 3 Pollack, 3 Roach, 22 Roach/Bream Hybrid, 12 Spur Dogfish and 2 Torsk.

Ian Mulligan, 65 Woodview Heights, Lucan, Co. Dublin since 1996 including: 9 Ballan Wrasse, 11 Bream, 3 Carp, 1 Dace, 3 Painted Ray, 1 Perch, 1 Pike (Lake), 5 Pike (River), 1 Red Gurnard, 4 Roach/Bream Hybrid, 2 Rudd/Bream Hybrid, 3 Smoothhound, 5 Tench and 9 Twaite Shad.

10 SPECIMENS AWARD (Sterling silver tie pin)

Awarded to anglers who have caught 10 or more specimen fish

Pat Condon, 22 Marian Park, Pouladuff Road, Cork.

Oliver Doyle, 32 Sherwood, Pollerton Road, Carlow.

Brian Foster, 12 Ashbourne, Castledawson, Co. Derry.

Dominique Grenier, 146 Rue Faidherbe, Boulogne S/Mer 62200, France.

Mark Healy, 102 Wesbury, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.

William F. McLaughlin, 27 Castle Gardens, Limavady, Co. Londonderry.

John Millerick, 21 Birchdale Park, Kinsealy, Co. Dublin.

Charles Robinson, Avondale, Boycestown, Carrigaline, Co. Cork.

Jim Sloan, 7 Shane Park, Lurgan, Co. Armagh.



Christy Lane with a nice Ballan Wrasse of 4 lbs 13 ozs taken in September

DR. A.E.J. WENT – YOUNG SPECIMEN ANGLER AWARD
(Award & 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 2004.

The 2004 award goes to: **Simon Baer, Schlossbergstrasse 21, 8702 Zollikon, Switzerland**, for a Brown Trout of 6.5 kilos taken while fishing on Lough Corrib on the 11th April, 2004.

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 2004 award goes to: **Mark Robinson, 77 Wrenneville, Carrigaline, Co. Cork** for a Pollack of 18 lbs 9.5 ozs taken while fishing out of Cork Harbour on the 5th September 2004.

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2004

(Date of capture 2004 unless otherwise stated; overseas anglers and juvenile (J) anglers are flagged)

FRESHWATER FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2004
Coarse Fish and Pike

BREAM

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

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
8	14	Ballyhoe Lake	23-Oct	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
8	8	Ballyhoe Lake	6-Nov	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
8	3	Lough Derry	3-Oct	Ian Mulligan	Lobworm
8.1		Paddy Mac's Lake	28-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Boilie
8		Royal Canal, Lucan	18-Aug-03	Liam Tully	Sweetcorn
8		Lough Derry	19-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Lobworm
7	14.5	Ballycullinan Lake	27-Jul-03	Nick Parry	Sweetcorn
7.8		Paddy Mac's Lake	28-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Boilie
7	12	Monalty Lake	7-May	Alan Kilroy	Sweetcorn
7.7		Paddy Mac's Lake	28-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Boilie
7	9	Ballycullinan Lake	28-May	Nick Parry	Corn



Three specimen Bream from Paddy Mac's Lake for Stephen O'Neill from Clare

CARP

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

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
13	4	Gorteen Lake	6-Jun	Denis Curtin	Maize

DACE

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

13		River Barrow, St. Mullins	12-May	Ian Mulligan	Casters
12.5		River Barrow	29-Jun	Gary Doyle	Maggots



Alan Kilroy admires his 8 lb 8 oz Bream from Ballyhoe Lake

PERCH

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
3 7.5	River Barrow, Athy	3-Apr	Gerry Farrell	Worm
3 4	River Barrow, Carlow	6-Jan	Oliver Doyle	Lobworm
3.1	Roshin Lake	26-Sep	Brendan Connolly	Worm
3 1	River Barrow, Carlow	6-Jan	Gary Doyle	Lobworm
3	River Barrow, Carlow	17-Apr	Oliver Doyle	Lobworm
3	River Barrow, Athy	14-Mar	Dan Smith	Lobworm
2 15	River Barrow, Carlow	4-Apr	Gary Doyle	Worm
2 15	River Barrow, Carlow	24-Jan	Oliver Doyle	Maggots
2 15	River Barrow, Carlow	28-Jan	Ken Garry	Lobworm
1.26 kg	River Barrow, Athy	3-Apr	Jim Sloan	Worm
2 11.5	River Barrow, Carlow	4-Apr-03	Nick Parry	Lobworm
2 10.5	River Barrow, Carlow	1-Jan	Gary Doyle	Lobworm



A fine Perch of 3 lbs 4 ozs from the Barrow for Oliver Doyle

PIKE (LAKE)

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
32 4	Lough Derravaragh	24-Oct	Larry Kelly	Lure
31 8	Lough Derravaragh	24-Jan	Ian Mulligan	Trout
30 6	Lough Ennell	3-Mar	Michael Flanagan	Lure

PIKE (RIVER)

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

12 kg	River Inny, Legan	7-Nov	Liam Kane	Roach
11.75 kg	River Inny, Legan	28-Nov	Liam Kane	Whiting
21 12	River Barrow, Bagnalstown	21-Mar	Brian Cooke	Sardines



Michael Flanagan caught this 30 lbs 6 oz Pike in Lough Ennell in March

PIKE (RIVER) Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
21	6	River Suck, Derrycahill	21-Feb	Mattie Foley	Herring
21.35		River Inny, Legan	4-Apr	Arvid Johnansen (N)	Mackerel
20.85		River Inny, Legan	7-Dec-03	Shane McDonnell	Hybrid
20	12	River Suck	22-Nov-03	Jim Murray	Smelt
20	12	River Shannon, Athlone	20-Aug	Stephen Gibbons	Roach
20	11	River Shannon, Athlone	14-Nov	Stephen Gibbons	Roach
20	8	River Suck, Ballinasloe	14-Feb	Christy Lane	Herring
20	3	River Barrow	18-Jan	Jason Dingle	Herring
20		River Suck, Ballinasloe	15-Feb	Noel Lane	Herring

ROACH

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

1.375 kg	Magherarney Lough	25-Apr	Terry Jackson	Maggots	
1.25 kg	Magherarney Lough	25-Apr	Terry Jackson	Maggots	
1.2 kg	Magherarney Lough	25-Apr	David Craig	Maggots	
1.125 kg	Magherarney Lough	25-Apr	Terry Jackson	Maggots	
2	7	River Barrow, St. Mullins	7-Apr-02	Adrian Browne	Maggots
2	1	River Barrow, St. Mullins	28-Mar	Paddy Keating	Maggots
2	1	River Barrow, St. Mullins	1-Apr	Pat Dalton	Maggots



Norwegian Arvid Johnansen took this 21.35 lbs Pike in the River Inny in April

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

Record, 7 lbs; Specimen Weight, 3.528 lbs (1.6 kg)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
5	4	Lough Derravaragh	1-Sep-03	Philip Connolly	Maggots
5	4	River Bann, Toome	27-Apr	Kenneth Crooks	Worm/Corn
5	3	River Bann, Toome	26-Apr	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots/Corn
5	2	River Bann, Toome	22-Apr	Nick Parry	Bread
5	1	River Bann, Toome	22-Apr	Kenneth Crooks	Maggots/Worm
5	1	River Bann, Toome	22-Apr	Nick Parry	Bread
4	10	Lough Derravaragh	28-Jun-03	Philip Connolly	Maggots
4	10	Lough Derravaragh	3-Sep-03	Christopher Regan	Maggots
4	10	River Bann, Toome	22-Apr	Nick Parry	Bread
2 kg		River Bann, Newferry	2-May	David Craig	Maggots
1.96 kg		River Bann, Toome	14-Mar	Jim Sloan	Worm/Maggots
4	5	River Bann, Toome	3-Apr	Norma Warick	Worm
1.95 kg		River Bann, Toome	4-Apr	Terry Jackson	Maggots
4	4	Lough Derravaragh	28-Jun-03	Philip Connolly	Maggots
4	4	Lough Derravaragh	29-Jun-03	Christopher Regan	Maggots
4	4	River Bann, Toome	3-Apr	Norma Warick	Worm/Maggots
1.9 kg		River Bann, Toome	4-Apr	Terry Jackson	Maggots
4	2	River Bann, Toome	3-Apr	Norma Warick	Worm
1.85 kg		River Bann, Portglenone	24-May	Chris Craig (J)	Maggots/Caster
1.85 kg		River Bann, Toome	4-Apr	Terry Jackson	Maggots
1.825 kg		River Bann, Newferry	2-May	David Craig	Maggots



Jim Sloan is happy with his 1.96 kg Roach Bream Hybrid from the Bann at Toome in March

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
1.825 kg	River Bann, Portglenone	24-May	Chris Craig (J)	Maggots/Caster
4	Lough Derravaragh	3-Sep-03	Liam Tully	Maggots
4	Lough Derravaragh	29-Jun-03	Liam Tully	Maggots
4	Lough Derravaragh	4-Sep-03	Liam Tully	Maggots
4	Lough Derravaragh	1-Sep-03	Aliex Connolly (J)	Maggots
4	Lough Derravaragh	28-Jun-03	Christopher Regan	Maggots
1.78 kg	River Bann, Toome	13-Mar	Jim Sloan	Worm/Maggots
1.76 kg	River Bann, Toome	11-Apr	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
1.74 kg	River Bann, Toome	11-Apr	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
1.74 kg	River Bann, Toome	11-Apr	Garnett Coulter	Maggots
1.725 kg	River Bann, Newferry	2-May	David Craig	Caster
3 12	River Barrow, Carlow	10-Jul	Mattie Foley	Sweetcorn
1.66 kg	River Bann, Toome	14-Mar	Jim Sloan	Worm/Maggots
3 10	Lough Derravaragh	3-Sep-03	Stephen Regan	Maggots
3 10	River Bann, Toome	27-Apr	Ian Crooks (J)	Worm
3 9	River Barrow, Carlow	17-Jul	Christy Lane	Sweetcorn

RUDD

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

2 10	River Fergus, Ruan	12-Jul	Nick Parry	Bread
2 7	River Fergus, Ruan	12-Jul	Nick Parry	Bread
2 6	River Barrow	11-Apr	Brian Davis	Maggots
2 5.5	River Fergus, Ruan	12-Jul	Nick Parry	Bread
2 4	River Barrow, Athy	24-Apr	John Millerick	Maggots

RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

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

3 14	River Barrow, Carlow	10-Jul	Mattie Foley	Sweetcorn
3 12	River Barrow, Athy	17-Apr	John Millerick	Maggots
1.62 kg	River Barrow, Athy	27-Mar	Jim Sloan	Maggots/Worm
1.49 kg	River Barrow, Athy	6-Mar	Jim Sloan	Maggots/Worm
1.46 kg	River Barrow, Athy	27-Mar	Jim Sloan	Maggots/Worm
3	River Barrow, Athy	24-Apr	John Millerick	Maggots

TENCH

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
6 14	Ballyhoe Lake	27-May	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
6 10	Ballyhoe Lake	28-May	Mark Byrne	Boilie
6 10	Ballyhoe Lake	16-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Boilie
6.5	Ballyhoe Lake	19-May	James Plummer	Lobworm
6 8	Ballyhoe Lake	27-May	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
6 8	Ballyhoe Lake	22-May	Tom Sneyd	Boilie
6 6.5	Ballyhoe Lake	28-May	Mark Byrne	Boilie
6 6	Black Lake	23-Jun	Nick Parry	Corn/Maggots
6 5	Black Lake	7-Jul-03	Nick Parry	Maggots
6 4.5	Ballyhoe Lake	28-May	Ray Bannerman	Boilie
6 4	Ballyhoe Lake	27-May	Alan Kilroy	Boilie
6 4	Ballyhoe Lake	22-May	Tom Sneyd	Boilie
6 4	Ballyhoe Lake	16-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Boilie
6 3	Ballyeighter Lough	16-Jun	Nick Parry	Corn/Maggots
6 1.5	Ballyhoe Lake	26-May	Tom Sneyd	Sweetcorn
6 1	Lough Gar	13-Jun	Danny Hanson	Crab/Mussel/ Boilie
6	Ballyhoe Lake	4-Jun	Philip Brennan	Boilie



A specimen Tench from Black Lake for well-known specimen hunter Nick Parry

Game Fish
SALMON

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

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs ozs				
24 1.8	Clare River	26-Apr	Hugh Nolan	Flying C
24	Lough Currane	18-Mar	Nigel Bird (UK)	Rapala
21.18	River Blackwater	2-Sep	Leonora Carney	Shrimp
20 12	Cong River	15-Apr	Stephen Lydon	Lure
9.28 kg	Owenduff River	22-Mar	Stephen Browne	Fly

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

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

16 8	Lough Corrib	30-Mar	Paul Davis (UK)	Roach
16.01	Lough Corrib	13-Jun	John Gibbons	Roach
14.81	Lough Corrib	8-Aug	Patsy Griffin	Fly
6.5 kg	Lough Corrib	11-Apr	Simon Baer (CH)	Rapala



Lough Corrib produced this 11.33 lbs Brown Trout for Michael Flanagan in June

BROWN TROUT (LAKE) Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs ozs				
14	Lough Corrib	26-Jun	John Gibbons	Roach
13 13	Lough Corrib	10-May	Frank Reilly	Fly
13.7	Lough Corrib	9-May	Lucy Kirkham (UK)	Roach
6.1 kg	Lough Leane	8-Jun	Darren O'Donovan	Rapala
5.965 kg	Lough Corrib	25-Sep	Michael McGrath	Roach
11.67	Lough Corrib	13-May	John Smyth	Rapala
5.23 kg	Lough Corrib, Kilbeg Pier	23-Mar	Louis Falke	Lane Minnow
11.33	Lough Corrib	7-Jun	Michael Flanagan	Dead bait
10.5	Lough Corrib	24-Apr	Claus Georg Bach (D)	Wobbler
10 8	Lough Mask	17-Aug	John Burke	Rapala
10.43	Lough Corrib	7-Jun	Con Hope	Dead bait



This 6.5 kg Brown Trout was caught by young Simon Baer from Switzerland in April in Lough Corrib

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
12.5	Cong River	21-Sep	Dorrie Gibbons	Worm
6.5	Cong River	21-Apr	Jean-Claude Bercetche (F)	Minnow
2.67 kg	River Clare	4-Sep	Robert J. Lawlor	Fly
5.75	River Clare	2-Jul	Danny Goldrick	Wetfly
2.586 kg	Cong River	6-May	Mark Ryan	Lure
2.44 kg	River Clare	30-Aug	Robert J. Lawlor	Fly
5 5	Cong Canal	31-Mar	Anthony Byrne	Worms

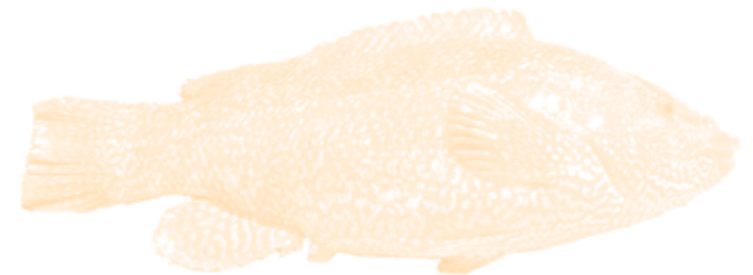


Corrib was the venue for Frank Reilly's 13 lbs 13 oz Brown Trout taken on fly

SEA TROUT

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
9	Lough Currane	26-Jun-03	Dr. Thomas O'Callaghan	Toby
9	Lough Currane	28-May	Jeffrey Revell (UK)	Fly
3.886 kg	Lough Currane	17-Apr	Gerard O'Sullivan	Rapala
3.856 kg	Lough Currane	2-Jul	Marcel Guillou (UK)	Fly
8 4	Lough Currane	27-Mar	Edi Grzonka (D)	Rapala
8 4	Lough Currane	22-May	Graham John Howarth (UK)	Fly
3.38 kg	Lough Currane	12-Jun	Myles Costello	Claret Bumble
7 4	Lough Currane	18-Apr	John Baller (UK)	Lure
3.232 kg	Lough Currane	1-Sep	Peter Whitmore	Fly
3.146 kg	Lough Currane	12-Jun	Brendan O'Farrell (UK)	Fly
3.064 kg	Lough Currane	1-Aug	Brendan Spillane	Fly
6 10	Lough Currane	10-Jul	Noel Lowry	Wetfly
6 10	Lough Derriana	12-Aug	Lytton Scott (I)	Fly
2.94 kg	Lough Currane	13-Jul	Robert Wilson (UK)	Fly
2.918 kg	Lough Currane	24-Aug	John Young (UK)	Fly
2.862 kg	Lough Currane	29-May	Paul Trubridge (UK)	Fly
2.856 kg	Lough Currane	17-May	John Pike	Rapala
6 4	Cloonaghlin Lake	14-Sep	Patrick Seigne	Fly
2.816 kg	Cloonaghlin Lake	20-Aug	Arthur Gardin	Fly
2.755 kg	Lough Currane	25-Jun	Kevin McCall	Fly
2.754 kg	Lough Currane	29-Jun	Marcel Guillou (UK)	Fly
2.748 kg	Lough Currane	3-Jun	David Herring (UK)	Fly



MARINE FISH SPECIMEN LISTINGS 2004

BASS

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> lbs ozs	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
5.6 kg	Inch	12-Feb	Sean Looney	Toby
5.6 kg	Saleens, Tramore	7-Aug	Thomas O'Mahony	Crab/Lugworm
11 7	Saleens	7-Jan	Liam Griffith	Lugworm
11 2	Cahore	20-Aug	Paul A. Nolan	Rapala
10 12.5	Causeway Coast	1-Oct	Gavin Martin	Rapala
4.87 kg	Roches Point	20-Jul	Michael Barrett	Rapala
4.76 kg	Rogerstown Est.	24-Sep	John Sherry	Ragworm
4.675 kg	Cork Harbour	3-May	Christopher Lipinski	Sandeel/ Lugworm
10.16	Portmarnock	22-Aug	Frank Lawlor	Ragworm
10 2	Inch Bay	6-Oct	Joe Muir	Crab
10 0.5	Timoleague Estuary	6-Aug	Leslie Payne	Peeler Crab



Joe Muir from Cork had this 10 lbs 2 oz Bass from Inch Bay in October

COALFISH

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

<u>WEIGHT</u> lbs ozs	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
31	Courtmacsherry	28-Aug	Aart Middelkoop (NL)	Pirk
29.6	Kinsale	25-Aug	Pat Condon	Lure
29.4	Kinsale	25-Aug	Pat Condon	Lure
29.4	Cork Harbour	31-Oct	Robert Creber	Shad
28.2	Kinsale	28-Aug	John O'Sullivan	Shad
28 3	Kinsale	28-Aug	James Walsh	Shad
27.6	Kinsale	12-Oct	Philip Horgan	Shad
12.5 kg	Kinsale	2-Sep	Willem Jan van Dijk	Worm
27.5	Courtmacsherry	7-Oct	Jan van den Brock (NL)	Lure
26.9	Kinsale	12-Oct	Philip Horgan	Shad
26.7	Cork Harbour	31-Oct	Robert Creber	Shad



A fine Coalfish of 12.5 kg for Kinsale based charter skipper Willem Jan van Dijk

COALFISH Contd.

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs				
26.5		Courtmacsherry	6-Nov	Alan Browne	Pirk
26	6	Kinsale	28-Aug	James Walsh	Shad
26.3		Kinsale	28-Aug	John O'Sullivan	Shad
26		Courtmacsherry	7-Oct	Mike Kollaard (NL)	Pirk/ Rubber Eel
26		Courtmacsherry	6-Nov	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
25.7		Courtmacsherry	4-Sep	Lex Van Dijk (NL)	Shad
25.5		Courtmacsherry	7-Oct	Jean-Claude Woillez (F)	Baited Pirk
25.5		Courtmacsherry	7-Oct	Marco Hage (NL)	Shad
25.5		Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Josef Wouters (B)	Shad
25.2		Kinsale	28-Aug	John O'Sullivan	Shad
24	12	Cork Harbour	31-Aug	Mark Robinson	Shad
24.7		Courtmacsherry	17-Aug	Mark J. Gannon	Pirk
24.5		Courtmacsherry	7-Oct	Mike Kollaard (NL)	Shad
24.5		Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Jozef Menten (B)	Shad
24.35		Courtmacsherry	28-Aug	Gerard Van Vliet (NL)	Pirk
24		Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Jozef Wouters (B)	Shad
24		Courtmacsherry	7-Nov	Adrian Finn	Mackerel
23.95		Kinsale	27-Jul	James Guerin	Shad
23	13	Cork Harbour	31-Aug	Robert Lynch	Shad
10.8 kg		Kinsale	31-Aug	Cor Haagen (NL)	Shad
23	12	Kinsale	31-Jul	James Walsh	Shad
23.5		Courtmacsherry	16-Jul	Mattie Foley	Shad
23	8	Cork Harbour	31-Aug	Mark Robinson	Shad
23.4		Kinsale	12-Oct	Philip Horgan	Shad
23.3		Courtmacsherry	17-Aug	Kees De Graaf (NL)	Mackerel Strip
23.25		Kinsale	27-Jul	Sean Clohessy	Shad
23		Courtmacsherry	6-Nov	Stuart Murphy	Shad
10.3 kg		Kinsale	2-Sep	Simon Rem (NL)	Shad
22	8	Cork Harbour	3-Jan	Charles Robinson	Shad
22.4		Courtmacsherry	28-Jul	Mark J. Gannon	Pirk
22.35		Kinsale	27-Jul	Jim Clohessy	Shad
22.3		Cobh	16-Jul	Billy Keating	Feathers
22.3		Courtmacsherry	4-Sep	Mark J. Gannon	Pirk
21.7		Kinsale	6-Nov	Jim Duggan	Shad
21	11	Cork Harbour	31-Aug	Mark Robinson	Shad
21.5		Courtmacsherry	10-Sep	Stefan Soetewey (B)	Mackerel
21.35		Courtmacsherry	14-Jun	Remco Noorlander (NL)	Baited Muppet

COALFISH Contd.

WEIGHT		PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs					
21.3		Cork Harbour	31-Oct	Robert Creber	Shad
21		Courtmacsherry	7-Oct	Marco Hage (NL)	Shad
20.6		Courtmacsherry	16-Jul	Niall O'Sullivan	Shad
20		Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Jozef Menten (B)	Shad
9 kg		Kinsale	2-Sep	Wim Landinga (NL)	Mackerel
19.6		Courtmacsherry	28-Jul	Pat Condon	Mackerel
19.5		Kinsale	6-Jul	Jim Clohessy	Shad
19.5		Courtmacsherry	7-Oct	Dominique Grenier (F)	Pirk
19.4		Kinsale	27-Mar	Jim Clohessy	Shad
19.1		Courtmacsherry	4-Sep	Lex Van Dijk (NL)	Shad
18	12	Cork Harbour	2-Jan-03	Mark Robinson	Shad
18.3		Courtmacsherry	13-Jun	Rinus Hage (NL)	Pirk
18.2		Kinsale	27-Mar	Sean Clohessy	Shad
18.1		Kinsale	27-Mar	Sean Clohessy	Shad
18		Courtmacsherry	15-Sep	Jozef Wouters (B)	Shad
17	6	Cork Harbour	2-Jan	Ian Robinson	Shad
15	14.5	Cork Harbour	2-Jan	Ian Robinson	Shad



Another Courtmacsherry Coalfish for Mark J.Gannon

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
31.8		16-Jul	Pat Condon	Pirk
28		27-Jul	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Muppet/ Mackerel Fillet
27.4		10-Sep	Frank Fitzgerald	Pirk
12.2	kg	15-Aug	Richard Walsh	Baited Pirk
26.7		17-Aug	Dirk Kruijskamp (NL)	Mackerel
26.5		27-Jul	Jeremy Power	Shad
26.3		6-Jul	Sean Clohessy	Shad
25	8	31-Oct	Donal O'Mahony	Shad
24	3	5-Sep	Mattie Foley	Shad
23.6		31-Jul	Brian Dunne	Shad
23.55		29-Sep	John O'Connor	Muppet
23.3		9-Jul	Tom Fullam	Mackerel Strip
23		6-Jul	Sean Clohessy	Shad
22	15	5-Sep	Mattie Foley	Shad
22.6		24-Oct	Philip Horgan	Shad
22	9	31-Aug	Robert Lynch	Shad
10.2	kg	31-Aug	Simon Rem (NL)	Worm
20.9		6-Jul	Jim Clohessy	Shad
9.4	kg	31-Aug	Cor Haagen (NL)	Worm
20.1		16-Jul	Hugh Maguire	Mackerel Strip
9.1	kg	31-Aug	Theo Buddingh (NL)	Yellow Worm

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

62	Courtmacsherry	7-Nov	James Guerin	Mackerel
54	Courtmacsherry	13-Jun	Jonckheere Ghislain (B)	Mackerel Strip
54	Courtmacsherry	29-Mar	John Cronin	Mackerel
54	Courtmacsherry	28-Jul	Pat Condon	Mackerel
53	Courtmacsherry	7-Nov	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel Flapper
51	Courtmacsherry	14-Jun	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel
50	Courtmacsherry	14-Jun	Rinus Hage (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
46	Courtmacsherry	14-Jun	Aart Noorlander (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
45	Cork Harbour	6-Jul-03	Sean McCarthy	Mackerel

CONGER EEL Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs				
45	Courtmacsherry	28-Jul	John Dennehy	Mackerel
44	Courtmacsherry	14-Jun	Daan J. Oprea (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
42	Courtmacsherry	7-Oct	Dominique Grenier (F)	Mackerel
41	Courtmacsherry	13-Jun	Rinus Hage (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
41	Courtmacsherry	6-Nov	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel Flapper
40.5	Courtmacsherry	13-Jun	Ronald Noorlander (NL)	Mackerel Flapper

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

1.725	kg	Ballycastle	19-Dec-03	Sam Oliver	Mackerel
1.595	kg	St. John's Point	16-Aug-03	Sean Harte	Mackerel Strip
1.55	kg	Ballycastle	19-Dec-03	David Craig	Sandeel/Squid
1.55	kg	Ballycastle	15-Feb	Liam Longmore	Mackerel/ Squid Cocktail
3.38		Downings	3-Aug	Piet v/d Post (NL)	Mackerel Strip
1.5	kg	Ballycastle	14-Feb	David Craig	Mackerel

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

21	4	Kenmare Bay	25-Jul	Barry van Kooten (NL)	Mackerel Strip
21	4	Kenmare Bay	25-Jul	Barry van Kooten (NL)	Mackerel
18		Red Bay	10-Oct	Arthur Thurrat	Mackerel Fillet
7.75	kg	Kenmare Bay	10-Aug	Peter Vogt (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
16.7		Kenmare Bay	7-Jun	Rudy Schepans (B)	Mackerel
7.5	kg	Kenmare Bay	12-Aug	Phil Russell (NL)	Mackerel
16.14		Caherciveen	23-Jul	John Thackray (UK)	Mackerel Strip

SPUR DOGFISH

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
8.25 kg	Red Bay	9-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Fillet
7.5 kg	Red Bay	10-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
16 8	Red Bay	4-Sep	Paul Wolfe	Mackerel Fillet
7.3 kg	Kenmare Bay	24-Jun	Jan Arno Dijk (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
16	Ballycastle	29-May	Brian Foster	Mackerel Fillet
16	Ballycastle	15-May	Brian Foster	Mackerel Fillet
7.25 kg	Red Bay	10-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
15 8	Ballycastle	28-Aug	Brian Foster	Mackerel
15	Red Bay	4-Sep	Hamish Currie	Mackerel Fillet
14 7	Kenmare Bay	25-May	Piet Doff (NL)	Mackerel Fillet
14 4	Red Bay	29-Oct	Robert Clifford	Mackerel Fillet
6.45 kg	Ballycastle	29-Feb	William F. McLaughlin	Mackerel
6.25 kg	Ballycastle	23-Oct	Sam Oliver	Mackerel/Trout
6.16 kg	Brandon Bay	20-Jul	Brian Ciepierski (USA)	Mackerel
13 8	Ballycastle	29-Feb	Noel McFetridge	Mackerel Fillet
6.1 kg	Ballycastle	28-Dec-03	Terry Kelly	Mackerel
6.05 kg	Ballycastle	10-Nov-03	Sam Oliver	Mackerel
13 5	Red Bay	5-Sep	Shane Moore	Mackerel Fillet
6 kg	Ballycastle	23-Oct	William F. McLaughlin	Mackerel Flapper
6 kg	Ballycastle	23-Oct	Sam Oliver	Mackerel/Trout
5.95 kg	Ballycastle	28-Dec-03	Robert Killen	Mackerel
5.85 kg	Ballycastle	11-Feb	David Craig	Mackerel
5.8 kg	Ballycastle	28-Dec-03	Jim Gilmour	Mackerel
5.8 kg	Ballycastle	10-Nov-03	Sam Oliver	Mackerel
5.75 kg	Ballycastle	11-Feb	David Craig	Mackerel
12 10	Ballycastle	24-Oct	Noel McFetridge	Mackerel Fillet
5.7 kg	Ballycastle	30-Jan	David Craig	Mackerel
12 8	Red Bay	4-Sep	David McMullen	Mackerel Fillet
5.65 kg	Ballycastle	10-Jan	Mark Todd	Mackerel
5.6 kg	Ballycastle	28-Dec-03	David McNeilly	Mackerel
5.6 kg	Ballycastle	15-Feb	Liam Longmore	Mackerel/Squid Cocktail
5.55 kg	Ballycastle	15-Sep-03	Sam Oliver	Mackerel
5.5 kg	Ballycastle	23-Oct	William F. McLaughlin	Mackerel/Trout

FLOUNDER

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
1.475 kg	Blackhall Strand, Co. Wexford	17-Oct-03	Kevin Dunphy (J)	Lugworm

GARFISH (*B. belone*)

Record, 3 lbs 10.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 2.25 lbs (1.021 kg)

1.48 kg	Valentia	2-Sep	Harry Schoo (NL)	Mackerel Strip
2.25	Crosshaven	8-Sep	Jos Kuit (NL)	Feathers

GREY GURNARD

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

0.7 kg	Culdaff	15-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip
1.51	Rathmullan	12-Jun	Angela Crerand	Mackerel

RED GURNARD

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

2.36	Downings	10-Aug	Sean Greene (J)	Mackerel Strip
2 5	Cork Harbour	16-May	Charles Robinson	Mackerel/Squid
2.19	Lough Swilly	17-Jul	Arthur Gent	Pouting Fillet
2.15	Dunmore East	16-Oct	Gerry Kelly	Mackerel
2 1	Cork Harbour	15-May	John Fitzgerald	Mackerel Strip
2 1	Cork Harbour	16-May	Charles Robinson	Mackerel/Squid
2.01	Downings	25-Aug	Orla Ryder	Mackerel strip
2	Culdaff Bay	27-Jun	Donald Johnston	Pirk
0.72 kg	Teelin	10-Sep	Brian Smith	Ragworm/ Mackerel

TUB GURNARD

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

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs ozs				
11 2	Brandon Bay	30-Aug-03	George Dyland	Mackerel Strip
8.8	Brandon Bay	8-Sep	Mike Thrussell (UK)	Mackerel baited Muppet
8	Brandon Bay	27-Sep-03	John Boyle	Mackerel Strip
7.27	Achill	21-Jun	Chris Callaghan	Mackerel Strip
6.5	Downings	15-Sep	Douglas Barr (UK)	Mackerel Strip
2.9 kg	Brandon	11-Aug-03	Cees De Graaf (NL)	Mackerel Strip
6.38	Achill	20-Jun	Joseph Minogue	Mackerel Strip
6.33	Downings	29-May-03	Piet de Kramer (NL)	Mackerel Strip
5	15 Brandon	5-Jul	Jim Dooley	Mackerel Strip
5.8	Brandon Bay	8-Sep	Mike Thrussell (UK)	Mackerel baited Muppet



Downings produced this nice Tub Gurnard for Dessie Young in September 2003

TUB GURNARD Contd.

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
lbs ozs				
2.508 kg	Belmullet	24-Aug-03	Joe Kirwan	Mackerel Strip/Hokkai
5.39	Achill	17-Aug	Sam Fitzpatrick (UK)	Mackerel Strip
5.18	Downings	7-Aug	Johan Bosmans (B)	Mackerel Strip
2.275 kg	Downings	03-Aug-03	Dessie Young	Baited Feathers

HADDOCK

Record, 10 lbs 13.5 ozs; Specimen Weight, 7 lbs (3.175 kg)

3.228 kg	Cork Harbour	8-Nov	Ray O'Sullivan	Mackerel/Hokkai
7 0.5	Castletownbere	10-Jul	John Dennehy	Mackerel Strip



A fine Haddock for John Dennehy fishing out of Castletownbere in August

JOHN DORY

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD	
lbs	ozs				
4	3	Maharees	10-Jul	Sean Murphy	Mackerel /Feathers

LING

New Irish Record, 55 lbs; Specimen Weight, 25 lbs (11.34 kg)

55	Cork Harbour	3-Jan	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel Flapper
47	Courtmacsherry	13-Jun	Hans Dijke (NL)	Pirk
43.9	Cork Harbour	6-Feb	Gary Robinson	Mackerel Flapper
42.5	Courtmacsherry	11-Apr	Billy Broughal	Mackerel
41	Courtmacsherry	9-Jul	Jan Den Houdijker (NL)	Mackerel
40	11 Cork Harbour	3-Jan	Charles Robinson	Mackerel Strip
39	Cork Harbour	5-Sep	Brian Dunne	Shad
36	Courtmacsherry	11-Apr	Ian Murphy	Shad
34	10 Cork Harbour	24-Sep	Ian Robinson	Mackerel Strip
34.5	Cork Harbour	31-Jul	William J. Robinson	Mackerel Cocktail
34	Courtmacsherry	28-Jul	John Dennehy	Mackerel
33	12 Castletownbere	2-Aug	John Angles	Mackerel
33	8 Kinsale	19-Oct	Pat Condon	Mackerel
31	8 Courtmacsherry	11-Apr	Pat Condon	Pirk
30	8 Kinsale	19-Oct	Pat Condon	Mackerel
29	8 Cork Harbour	24-Sep	Mark Robinson	Mackerel Strip
29	1 Cork Harbour	24-Sep	Charles Robinson	Mackerel Strip
13 kg	Kenmare Bay	30-Jul	Hendrick Faber (NL)	Mackerel
27	8 Castletownbere	12-Oct	Michael Hennessy	Mackerel/Pollack Cocktail
26	10 Cork Harbour	24-Sep	Gary Robinson	Mackerel Flapper/Pirk
26	8 Courtmacsherry	30-Dec-03	John Fitzgerald	Pirk
26	Castletownbere	12-Oct	John Angles	Baited Pirk
25.9	Kinsale	13-Nov	Brian Foley	Shad
25.6	Courtmacsherry	27-Jul	Eoghan O'Sullivan	Mackerel Fillet
25.56	Baltimore	5-Sep	Paul Wallis (UK)	Mackerel
25.5	Courtmacsherry	3-Jan	Jack Johnson	Pirk
25.42	Baltimore	23-May	William Davidson	Mackerel Strip/Muppet

LING Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
25.03	Baltimore	5-Sep	Paul Wallis (UK)	Mackerel
25	Courtmacsherry	30-Dec-03	John Dennehy	Pirk
25	Courtmacsherry	11-Apr	Niall O'Sullivan	Mackerel Flapper

MEGRIM

Record, 1.85 kg; Specimen Weight, 1.75 lbs (0.794 kg)

0.8 kg	East Ferry	24-May	Paul Dalton	Mackerel
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A nice Megrime for Paul Dalton fishing out of East Ferry

GREY MULLET

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
7 14	Lough Furnace	09-Aug-03	Robbie Williamson (UK)	Fly
6	Kilcoole	2-Oct	Jason Dingle	Bread
6	Ring, Clonakilty	1-Jul	Alan O'Dowling	Bread Flake
5 9	Dingle Harbour	25-Sep	John Millerick	Mackerel
5 5	River Liffey	18-Jul	Pat Foster	Bread
5 2	Argideen Estuary	18-Aug	Christy Lane	Bread Flake
2.28 kg	Killybegs	14-Aug-03	John Cunningham	Mackerel



John Millerick caught several different specimens in 2004 including this Grey Mullet

GOLDEN GREY MULLET

New Irish Record, 2 lbs 8 ozs; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs (0.68 kg)

2	8	Cork Harbour	11-Jul-03	Noel Lane	Ragworm
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RED MULLET (*M. surmuletus*)

New Irish Record, 1.26 lbs; Specimen Weight, 1 lb (0.454 kg)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
1.26	Kilmore Quay	30-Sep	Eamon Hayes	Squid

PLAICE

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

2.405 kg	Waterfoot Pier	31-Jul	Tony O'Neill	Ragworm
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POLLACK

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

18	9.5	Cork Harbour	5-Sep	Mark Robinson	Shad
18	7	Enniscrone	25-Oct-03	Joseph Halligan	Mackerel
17.4		Kinsale	1-Nov	Michael Dennehy	Jellyworm
16	5	Castletownbere	6-Sep	Darren McLoughlin	Eddystone Eel
16		Cobh	24-Jun	John Quentin Williams (UK)	Lure
14	14.4	Cork Harbour	15-Feb	William J. Robinson	Shad
14	14	Cork Harbour	24-Sep	Mark Robinson	Shad
14	7	Cobh	5-Jun	Patrick Doody	Mackerel
14.35		Courtmacsherry	3-Jan	Thomas Johnson	Pirk
14	5	Beara Peninsula	13-Jun	Gary Marian	Mackerel/Muppet
13.8		Courtmacsherry	7-Mar	John Dennehy	Shad
13.69		Crosshaven	11-Jul	Peter Schenk (NL)	Feathers
13.62		Baltimore	23-Aug	Cliff Martin (UK)	Shad
13.5		Downings	27-Jul	John Fleming (UK)	Shad
13.5		Kinsale	6-Nov	Jim Duggan	Shad
13	8	Red Bay	6-Aug	Hamish Currie	Mackerel
13	8	Kinsale	13-Nov	James Walsh	Shad
13	6	Castletownbere	12-Oct	John Angles	Mackerel
13.18		Clifden	6-Dec-03	Philip Nolan	Mackerel Strip/Squid

POLLACK Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
13		28-Sep	Frank Prendergast	Redgill
13		7-Nov	Mervyn Kane	Shad
12.63		23-Aug	Ron Meijer (NL)	Leadhead/ Twister
12	9.6	15-Feb	William J. Robinson	Shad
12.5		10-Apr	Charles Robinson	Shad
12	8	19-Jul	Michael Keogh (J)	Jellyworm
12	6	13-Nov	James Walsh	Shad
12.36		24-Sep	Peter Smith (UK)	Ragworm/ Mackerel
5.6 kg		4-Aug	Gary Feehely	Mackerel
12	4	2-Aug	John Fitzgerald	Shad
5.5 kg		25-Jul	Richard Sillipp	Shad
12		24-Jul	Rene Beenhouwer (NL)	Twister

BLONDE RAY**New Irish Record, 37 lbs; Specimen Weight, 25 lbs (11.34 kg)**

37		10-Oct	Paul Tennant	Squid
36		19-Sep	Ger van de Riet (NL)	Squid
34	9	22-Sep	Andrew Mannell (UK)	Mackerel Strip
34		24-Oct	Ian Merrigan	Mackerel Fillet/Squid
33		24-Oct	Ian Merrigan	Mackerel Fillet/Squid
32	3	21-Sep	Stephen Coombs (UK)	Mackerel Strip
30.1		19-Dec-03	Sean Clohessy	Squid
30		17-Jun	Robert Smith (UK)	Squid
30		23-Oct	Ian Merrigan	Mackerel Fillet/Squid
29	10	20-Sep	Edwin Oole (NL)	Mackerel
29		24-Oct	Jeremy Ward	Mackerel/Squid
28	14	3-Jan	Jim Clohessy	Mackerel

BLONDE RAY Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs	ozs			
28	7	3-Jan	Jim Clohessy	Squid
28	2	21-Nov	John Dennehy	Squid
27	8	23-Oct	Kevin Daly	Mackerel/Squid
27	3	20-Sep	Ger van de Riet (NL)	Mackerel
27		31-May	Jeff Forrest (UK)	Mackerel/Squid
26	9	20-Sep	Edwin Oole (NL)	Squid
26		23-Oct	Ian Daly	Mackerel/Squid
11.75 kg		10-Sep	Fred Roe (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
25	8	20-Sep	Peter Jacobs (NL)	Squid
25	5	22-Sep	Dave Haworth (UK)	Squid

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

2.4 kg	Ballycastle	11-Jul	Brian Foster	Mackerel Strip
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PAINTED RAY**Record, 17.21lbs; Specimen Weight, 10 lbs (4.536 kg)**

10	12	28-Sep-02	Brian O'Neill	Mackerel
10	4	27-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Sandeel

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

14.1 kg	Fenit	8-May	Thomas O'Mahony	Mackerel/Squid Cocktail
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THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
1.75	Moneypoint	22-Aug	Peter Teijmant (NL)	Mackerel

SCAD

Record, 1.97 lbs; Specimen Weight, 1.5 lbs (0.680 kg)

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
kg				
0.78 kg	Valentia	3-Sep	Horst Friedmann (D)	Ragworm/ Mackerel



The Barrow at St. Mullins was the venue for Fintan Ryan's Twaite Shad of 2.7 lbs

TWAITE SHAD

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
kg				
3.22	River Barrow, St. Mullins	13-May	Pat Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
3.19	River Barrow	12-May	Fintan Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
1.415 kg	River Barrow	14-May	Peter Bolger	Tasmanian Devil

TWAITE SHAD Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
1.28 kg	River Barrow	23-May	Liam Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
1.275 kg	River Barrow	10-May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
1.26 kg	River Barrow	19-May	Eric Gosnell	Tasmanian Devil
1.25 kg	River Barrow	11-May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
1.25 kg	River Barrow	10-May	Terry Jackson	Tasmanian Devil
1.24 kg	River Barrow	16-May	Craig Murphy (J)	Tasmanian Devil
2.73	River Barrow	18-May	Bill Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
2.7	River Barrow	12-May	Fintan Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
1.22 kg	River Barrow	14-May	Peter Bolger	Tasmanian Devil
2 9	River Barrow	2-May	Noel Lane	Spinner
1.16 kg	River Barrow	16-May	Jim Sloan	Tasmanian Devil
2.47	River Barrow	12-May	Ian Mulrennan	Tasmanian Devil
1.12 kg	River Barrow	6-May	Neil Tyrrell	Tasmanian Devil
2 7	River Barrow	5-May	Peter O'Hara	Tasmanian Devil
2 7	River Barrow	2-May	Noel Lane	Spinner
2 7	River Barrow	10-May	Russell Taylor	Tasmanian Devil

SMOOTH HOUND

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
7 2	Cahore	30-May	John Millerick	Crab

STONE BASSE

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
8 3	Power Head	31-Oct	Donal O'Mahony	Mackerel

TOPE

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
25.2 kg	Carlingford Lough	11-Aug	Garnett Coulter	Mackerel
25 kg	Carlingford Lough	11-Aug	Garnett Coulter	Mackerel
45	Dundalk Bay	10-Aug-03	Malachy Mills	Mackerel Fillet
44	Dundalk Bay	6-Jun	Malachy Mills	Mackerel Flapper
19 kg	Culdaff	15-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
41	Dundalk Bay	12-Jul	John Flynn	Mackerel Flapper
18.25 kg	Cahore	11-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
40	Dundalk Bay	03-Sep-03	Malachy Mills	Mackerel Fillet



Arie de Koning from the Netherlands has been coming to Ireland for 30 years and had a fine Torsk off Downings in August

TORSK

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
9.55	Downings	27-Jul	John Beswick (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
9.2	Downings	27-Jul	David Burke (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
9.17	Downings	6-Apr	David Craig	Mackerel
6.33	Downings	6-Jun	David Craig	Mackerel
6.32	Downings	27-Jul	Kenneth Forrest (UK)	Mackerel Flapper
6.23	Downings	13-Aug	Arie de Koning (NL)	Mackerel Fillet

TRIGGER FISH

Record, 4.83 lbs; Specimen Weight, 3.25 lbs (1.474 kg)

4	2	Waterville	8-Sep	Bill McCrorie (UK)	Mackerel Strip
3.28		Kilbaha	8-Sep	Bill Ryan	Limpet



Bill McCrorie from England caught this Trigger Fish of 4 lbs 2 ozs in the Waterville area in September

WHITING

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

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
3.1	Courtmacsherry	10-Apr	Patrick Craven	Mackerel
3.05	Guileen	4-Jul	Donal Domoney	Mackerel

BALLAN WRASSE

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

6 12	Kerry Head	27-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Crab
2.982 kg	Kilmore Quay	12-Aug	Willie Kelly	Artificial Eel
6 5	Carne	23-Sep	David Woods (UK)	Crab
6 2	Kerry Head	7-Jul	Philip O'Sullivan	Crab



Ballyreen in Co. Clare produced a specimen Ballan Wrasse for Jane Reeves

BALLAN WRASSE Contd.

WEIGHT	PLACE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
lbs ozs				
5 10	Smerwick Harbour, Dingle	25-Sep	John Millerick	Crab
5.59	Killybegs	30-Aug	John Cunningham	Crab
2.476 kg	Doonbeg	28-Sep	Bill Ryan	Crab
2.432 kg	Doonbeg	29-Jun	Bill Ryan	Crab
5.31	Killybegs	1-Sep	Paul Cunningham (J)	Crab
5.3	Killybegs	1-Sep	Paul Cunningham (J)	Crab
5 4	Dingle	26-Sep	Noel Lane	Ragworm
2.34 kg	Ballyreen, Co. Clare	20-Sep	Mike Flannery	Crab
2.272 kg	Doonbeg	14-Jun	Bill Ryan	Crab
5	Kerry Head	25-Aug	Shay McLoughlin	Peeler Crab
5	Kerry Head	27-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
4 14	Ballyreen, Co. Clare	10-Oct	Jane Reeves	Crab
4 14	Kerry Head	27-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
4 13	Dingle Bay	30-Sep	Christy Lane	Crab
4 13	Kerry Head	26-Jun	Stephen M. O'Sullivan	Peeler Crab
4 12	Dingle Bay	1-Oct	Christy Lane	Crab

CUCKOO WRASSE

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

0.8 kg	Causeway Coast	25-May-03	Tom Wilson	Ragworm
1.65	Downings	6-Aug	Michael Stewart	Mackerel Strip
1 9	Caherciveen	19-Sep	Colm McDauid	Ragworm
0.65 kg	Ballycastle	7-Aug	William F. McLaughlin	Mackerel/ Ragworm
0.6 kg	Ballycastle	29-Jul	Brian Foster	Ragworm
1.26	Loop Head	15-Aug	David Wardley (UK)	Mackerel
1.25	Loop Head	15-Aug	David Wardley (UK)	Mackerel
1 4	Castletownbere	28-Aug	Donal O'Mahony	Mackerel

Special Notices

AMENDMENTS TO ISFC RULES:

From 2005 onwards the following revisions will apply:

Addition to **Rule (1)** Irish Specimen Fish Committee: Except in exceptional circumstances claims will remain valid for a period of one year following the year of capture.

Addition to **Rule (3)** Weighing: Where weights are in large divisions (e.g. 1 lb/1kg divisions) the weight of a fish must be rounded **down** to the nearest actual division.

Addition to **Rule (4)** Identification: The **ACTUAL BODY** must be forwarded ... Golden Grey and Red Mullet.

ESTABLISHING A NEW SPECIMEN FISH CATEGORY

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

Golden grey mullet *Liza aurata* (Risso) have been added to the list of eligible species. Since 2003 the Committee has received several claims for the species. Positive identifications were confirmed in consultation with Dr. Michael Kennedy, a mullet expert, and one of the founder members of the ISFC.



Grey Mullet (top) and Golden Grey Mullet comparison; note arrow-like head shape, smaller lip size, longer pectoral fin length and golden spot on gill cover in the Golden Grey Mullet.

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

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

The following species, which are not on the ISFC listings, were submitted to ISFC in 2004:

Species	Location	Date of capture	Angler
Red band fish	Mc Swines Bay, Donegal	14 July 2004	Michael Lowney
Gilt-head bream	Kilmore Quay	Summer 2004	Eamon Hayes

SPECIMEN WEIGHT REVISION

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

The specimen weight for Golden Grey Mullet is 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs) from January 1st 2005.

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.

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 manufacturers certificate of accuracy will not suffice. Weights from scales which are not certified at the time of weighing or certified in retrospect will not be accepted.

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

Weighing Scale Certification

LIST OF REGIONAL VERIFICATION CENTRES

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

Region & Area	Contact	Telephone No.
Cork Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Rossa Ave., Bishopstown, Cork 4. Ph: 021 - 434 6256 Fax: 021 - 434 6679	James Stapleton	Mobile 087 - 224 5533
Dublin Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Poppintree Ind. Estate, Poppintree, Dublin 11. Ph: 01 - 864 3848 Fax: 01 - 864 3880	Ronán O'Doherty	01 - 864 3848
Limerick Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Plassey Technological Park, Castletroy, Limerick. Ph: 061 - 330 708 Fax: 061 - 330 698	Denis Corkery	Mobile 087 - 223 1053
Sligo Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Finiskillen Industrial Est., Sligo. Ph: 071 - 507 38 Fax: 071 - 507 39	Tony Marren	Mobile 087 - 223 1058
Waterford Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Northern Industrial Est., Waterford. Ph: 051 - 358 020 Fax: 051 - 358 021	Paul Moore	Mobile 087 - 917 7333
Dundalk Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, IDA Small Business Park, Coes Rd., Dundalk, Co. Louth. Ph: 042 - 933 2758 Fax: 042 - 933 2791	Kieran Finlay	Mobile 087 - 223 1079
Galway Regional Verification Centre NSAI, Legal Metrology Service, Ballybrit Ind. Est., Ballybane, Galway. Ph: 091 - 771 943 Fax: 091 - 758 932	Dave Conneely	Mobile 087 - 223 1051
Dublin HQ Legal Metrology Service, NSAI, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 Ph: 01 - 807 3807 Fax: 01 - 807 3808	Pat Farragher	01 - 807 3807

PRESENTATION OF 2003 AWARDS

The ISFC is very grateful to Mr. Brian Geraghty, Failte Eireann, who made the Annual Presentation of Awards to anglers whose claims were accepted during 2003 at the Doyle Burlington Hotel, Dublin on 28th February, 2004.

At the VISMA angling exhibition held in Rotterdam, Holland in March 2004, Dutch and Belgian anglers were presented with their awards by the Central Fisheries Board Angling Section, in association with Fáilte Ireland and Peter Dohmen, the well known Dutch angling journalist. Anglers from the UK were presented with their awards by the CFB Angling Section and Fáilte Ireland UK at the Irish Tourist Board stand at the NEC exhibition held in Birmingham in February.

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 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, Terry Jackson, Nick Parry, Bill Ryan and John Millerick.

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.

The Central Fisheries Board provides administrative support and services to the ISFC and is sincerely acknowledged.

Retirements from ISFC

Two long-serving ISFC members Paddy Byrne and Brian Geraghty retired from the Committee earlier this year. Both had served over twenty years. Paddy, who represented game angling interests, was a valuable contributor to the ISFC given his many years of involvement and his angling experience. Brian worked in angling for many years in Bord Failte contributed to the development of the ISFC within the angling marketing area. The ISFC wishes to thank Paddy and Brian for their excellent contributions over the years and looks forward to honouring both at the Awards Day in March 2005.

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
2004	412	38	48	3	9	4	4	518

n/d = not determined



A nice Cod of 10.2 kg for Simon Rem from the Netherlands taken while fishing out of Kinsale in August

Awards Presentation

The Annual Presentation of Awards
to anglers whose claims were accepted during 2004
will be held in the
Doyle Burlington Hotel,
Sussex Road, Dublin
at 2.30 p.m. sharp on
Saturday 5th March, 2005

All Irish anglers who are due awards are invited to attend

ACCOUNTS/DONATIONS

Accounts: Pressure of time prevented the ISFC Expenditure and Revenue Accounts for 2003 being prepared in time for publication. The 2003 and 2004 accounts will be published in the 2005 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 2004 were:

Central Fisheries Board, Marine Institute, Electricity Supply Board, Cork Sea Angling Club, Delphi Fishery Ltd., Dolphin Richview SAC, Mike's Bikes/Rowe Outdoor Pursuits, 107 Patrick Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin., **John O. H. Baller**, Waters Edge, 45 Meadow Hill Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8DF, England; **Michael Barret**, 6 High Range, Lower Aghada, Middleton, Co. Cork; **Finbarr & John Barry**, Cork Harbour Boats, 3 Glenbrook Terrace, Glenbrook, Co. Cork; **M. Baxter**, 13 Church Street, Stapleford, Nottingham, NG9 8GA, England; **Peter Bolger**, 70 Ferrycarrig Road, Coolock, Dublin 17; **Martin Brennan**, Fort House, Cappa, Kiltrush, Co. Clare; **John Brittain**, Blue Water Fishing, Sharamore House, Streamstown, Clifden, Co. Galway; **FHE Buller**, Holly Tree, Woodlands, South Heath, Gr. 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; **Padraic Conlon** Angling Charters, Rossmoney, Westport, Co. Mayo; **Garnett Coulter**, 24 Kilmore Park, Kilmore, Co. Armagh, BT61 8NT; **William E. Crompton**, "The Beeches", Tomloskan, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim; **Pat Delaney**, 112 Wellpark Grove, Galway; **Nick Dent**, Fastnet Charters, Castletownshend, Co. Cork; **Jim Dooley**, 6 Bawnleigh Court, Banduff, Cork; **E. Duggan**, No. 25 The Drive, Broadale, Douglas, Cork City; **James Farrell**, 137 Leinster Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6; **Oliver Finnegan**, 25 Chestnut Grove, Newry, Co. Down, BT34 1JT; **Mattie Foley**, 18 Upper Lotabeg Road, Mayfield, Cork; **Neil Gallagher**, Loinnir Na Mara Teoranta, Annagry, Co. Donegal; **Mark Gannon**, Courtmacsherry Angling Centre, Woodpoint Guesthouse, Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork; **John Gibbons**, Glengowla, Oughterard, Co. Galway; **Siegy Grabher**, Angling Charters, Ballyhearney West, The Mill, Valentia Island, Co. Kerry; **James Guerin**, 22 Alden Grove, Douglas, Cork; **A. J. Hall**, 12 Helmsdale Road, Rise Park, Romford, Essex, RM1 4DW, England; **Richard Hancox**, 30 Greenfield Avenue, Northampton, England; **George Higgins**, 201 Lower Braniel Road, Belfast, BT5 7NP; **John Johnson**, Angling Charters, Doega, Achill Sound, Co. Mayo; **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; **Peter Manning**, Ballycotton Sea Angling Centre, Church Road, Ballycotton, Cork; **Derek J. Miller**, 35 Greenmeadows Road, Madeley, Crewe, Cheshire, CW3 9EY, England; **Des Mills**, Bunagee Pier, Culfadda, Co. Donegal; **D. R. Morgan**, 20 Burjen Way, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 3TP, England; **Rev. Francis Murphy**, Liscard House, Oughterard, Co. Galway; **Ken McAuley**, 55 Hunters Buoy, Larne, Co. Antrim, BT40 2HH; **Neil McCarthy**, C/o Mark Gannon, Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork; **Nicholas McEvoy**, 6 Francis Crescent, Grange Heights, Waterford City; **Bert McGregor**, 34 Rivermead Park, St. Margarets, Co. Dublin; **W. F. McLaughlin**, 27 Castle Gardens, Limavady, Co. Derry, BT49 0SD; **Michael McVeigh**, Baile an Iascaire, Dooley, Atlantic Drive, Downings, Donegal; **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**, Vally View, Kilmore, Innishannon, Co. Cork; **John O'Shea**, 6 Raphoe Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12. **B. Oxley**, 43 Old Wortley Road, Rotherham, South Yorks, England S61 1NQ; **Nick Parry**, Fiddane, Tubber, Co. Galway; **Lawrence Peile**, 71 Mullurg Road, Marlacoomore, Portadown, Co. Armagh, BT62 3TE; **G. D. C. Pitcher**, The Old Lamb, 29 New Street, Cawston, Norfolk, England, NR10 4AN; **Martin Prosser**, 5 Coppice Drive, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9RQ, England; **Trevor Ryder**, Gortamore, Downings, Co. Donegal; **John Sherry**, Main Street, Lusk, Co. Dublin; **Jan Stroes**, Perenlaan 4, NL 4484 TE Kortaeene, Holland; **Philip Tanham**, 5 Church Grove, Aylesbury, Tallaght, Dublin 24; **Mike (Dingle) Tudor**, Lomondside Cottage, Falkland, Cupar, Fife, KY15 7BD, Scotland; **Willem Jan Van Dijk**, Killoney, Old Head, Kinsale, Co. Cork; **John Warner**, 26 Barrymore Avenue, Cobh, Co. Cork. **David Went**, Rathmichael, Co. Dublin.

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 was 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	Shimna River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus

MARINE SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs.	ozs.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Angler Fish	42.985 kg		3.11.1985	Belfast Lough	Sean Neill
Bass	17	13	21.10.2000	Doughmore Strand	Emmet Naughton
Black Sole	6.32 lbs		28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Bluemouth	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 lbs.	ozs.	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Garfish (<i>B. bellone</i>)	3	10.25	16.9.1967	Kinsale	Evan Bazzard
Garfish (<i>B. svetovidovi</i>)	1.11		5.8.1994	Courtmacsherry	Eric Leijten
Tub Gurnard	12	3.5	8.8.1973	Bullsmouth, Achill	Robert Seaman
Grey Gurnard	3	1	21.9.1967	Rosslare Bay	Brendan Walsh
Red Gurnard	3	9.5	17.7.1968	Belmullet	James Prescott
Haddock	10	13.5	15.7.1964	Kinsale	F.A.E. Bull
Hake	25	5.5	28.4.1962	Belfast Lough	H. W. Steele
Halibut	156	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	55		3.1.2004	Cork Harbour	Aibhe O'Sullivan
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
Golden Grey Mullet	2	8	11.7.2003	Cork Harbour	Noel Lane
Red Mullet	1.26		30.9.2004	Kilmore Quay	Eamon Hayes
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	37		10.10.2004	Cobh	Paul Tennant
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
Twaite Shad	1.54 kg		7.5.1999	St. Mullins	Michael O'Leary
Porbeagle Shark	365 lbs		1932	Keem Bay, Achill	Dr. O'Donel Brown
Blue Shark	206 lbs		7.10.1959	Achill Head	J. McMonagle
Six Gilled Shark	154 lbs		28.8.1968	Kinsale	Andrew Bull
Common Skate	221 lbs		1913	Ballycotton	T. Tucker
White Skate	165 lbs		7.8.1966	Clew Bay	Jack Stack
Scad	1.97 lbs		6.9.1986	Clonakilty	Master R. McCarthy
Smooth Hound	16.58 lbs		25.9.2000	Carne	Keith Gray
Stone Basse	10	13	2.8.1989	Kinsale	Stefano D'Amico
Three Bearded Rockling	3	1	1.5.1990	Arklow	Maurice Laurent
Tope	66	8	15.7.1979	Carlingford Lough	Cyril Young
Torsk	10	11	17.9.1995	Port-na-Blagh	Liam Brennan
Trigger Fish	4.83		30.9.1995	Ballydavid	Nicholas Ward
Turbot	34		9.6.1982	Cork Harbour	Frank Fleming
Tuna - Albacore	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

	IRISH RECORD		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		
	lbs	ozs	lbs	ozs	kg
FRESHWATER FISH					
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
SEA FISH					
Angler Fish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	42.985 kg		40		18.144
Bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	17	13	10		4.536
Black Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>)	6.32		2		0.907
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>)	55		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
Mullet-Golden Grey (<i>Liza auratus</i>)	2	8	1.5		0.68

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS Contd.

	IRISH RECORD		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		
	lbs	ozs	lbs	ozs	kg
SEA FISH (Contd.)					
Mullet-Red (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)	1.26		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>)	37		25		11.34
- 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 bergyllta</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. Except in exceptional circumstances claims will remain valid for a period of one year following the year of capture.
- (2) **FAIR ANGLING:** "Fair Angling" means any legitimate method of angling with rod and reel which is recognised as a fair and sporting method. A fish must be hooked in or in the immediate vicinity of the mouth when it has taken the bait or lure; fish which have been foul-hooked, even accidentally, are not eligible. A fish in respect of which a claim is made must be hooked, played and brought to gaff or net by the angler **UNAIDED**, though the fish may be gaffed or netted by another, and it is permissible for the person using the gaff to take hold of the trace or doubled line (in the case of big game fishing) to steady the fish when it has been played out and brought within reach. 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. Where weights are in large divisions (e.g. 1 lb/1 kg divisions) the

weight of a fish must be rounded **DOWN** to the nearest actual division. **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.

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, GOLDEN GREY AND RED 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).

(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.

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: info@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 claims. Only one merit badge will be awarded to any angler per annum even where multiple claims are received. Special badges are awarded to anglers who have caught specimens of ten or more species and a special badge is issued each year for fish of exceptional merit though not of record size.

IMPORTANT – Completed claim forms should be sent to: The Irish Specimen Fish Committee, Unit 4, Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin, Rep. of Ireland (Tel. 00-353-1-884 2600) before 30th November each year. Where required for identification purposes (see Rule 4) fish should be sent to the same address.

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

The Ten Steps

In 1976 The Irish Specimen Fish Committee decided to recognise the achievement of an angler who has authenticated specimen claims for 10 different species of fish. **Bill Ryan**, who describes himself as an 'ordinary angler', tells us how he achieved this specimen angling milestone.

I am an ordinary angler who has had extraordinarily good fortune. Any angler who puts some thought and time into the sport will succeed! Most of the information one needs is in the Irish Specimen Fish Committee Reports which contain a mine of information. I have had many great adventures on my quest and the journey has been an enjoyable one. I hope you have as much fun in your angling endeavours as I have had so far and always be mindful of the words of Izaak Walton, "Tis not all of fishing to fish".

1958 – the beginnings

Growing up by the sea in Kilkee, West Clare I was destined to be bitten by the sea angling bug. After all the Atlantic was outside the hall door and sometimes in winter, inside as well! As a young lad growing up in the sixties I watched as the fishermen in summer returned with their currachs laden with mackerel which they had caught on hand lines and mackerel spinners – no Ugly Sticks, multiplier reels and feathers then! Great shoals of mackerel would boil in the bay in summer and my late father would take us fishing with mackerel spinners, light spinning rods and fixed spool reels. I still get the same thrill catching mackerel today on light gear as I did then.

One day, my father, who was a very successful salmon angler, mentioned salmon bass! When the salmon were not running he fished for bass on the local beach in Kilkee. Eight years of age, armed with a hand line, and lugworm mounted on hooks dangling from a brass paternoster I threw it into the surf at the east end of Kilkee and caught a 5 lbs. Bass! My father helped me land it and he was rewarded by being spiked by the bass! That was the start of my great adventure!

July 1978

I caught many bass from the West Clare beaches of Kilkee, Doughmore and The White Strand during the sixties before I heard of a specimen bass and the magic weight of 10lbs. By 1968 I had moved to Dublin to work, but for the next ten years I dragged my wife Jacinta to Castlegregory in Kerry every autumn, to fish the storm beaches for bass. I had heard of the great bass fishing exploits of Inland Fisheries Trust staff, namely the late Des Brennan and his angling

partner, the late Kevin Linnane, and was determined to get some of the action! Though I caught many good bass in Kerry and my wife had read a library of books, the ten pounder eluded me! Then in the summer of 1978 Jacinta announced that we were going to Kerry in the summer for a change.

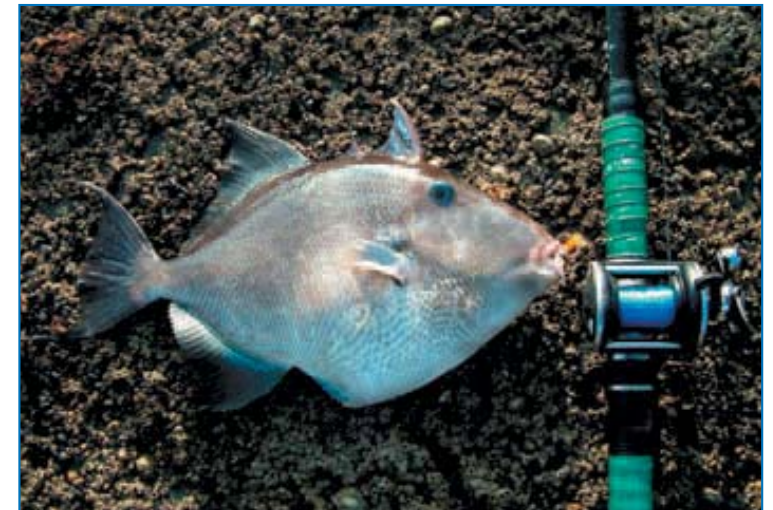
On the first day of this summer holiday in Kerry, the sun was shining, Brandon Bay was flat from The Magharees to Brandon Pier and I despaired. Sometime during the day I managed to dig lug and when the question was asked that evening, "would you like to go fishing for a while?" I jumped at the opportunity. More in hope than anything else I tried opposite the Grotto at the Fahamore end of Brandon Bay. Putting eight lug on a 6/0 hook I cast out and waited.

I could see the bottom for yards out and there wasn't a hint of a wave. "Autumn surf where are you now?" I thought. Suddenly the rod buckled and I was into a good fish.

After a decent scrap I beached my best bass ever which I estimated to be about 9 lbs. An angler fishing nearby thought it was bigger and told me to get it weighed quickly. I went to a shop in Castlegregory and had the weighed confirmed at 10lbs 1 oz. My first specimen, a Bass, out of the blue!

Specimen Species Count: 1

Lesson 1: – Specimen fish can be caught in all the wrong conditions!



Specimen trigger fish of 3.28 lbs taken by Bill Ryan in September 2004

October 1978

Flounder fishing can be very good at the western end of Kilkee Bay in September and October. It was the day after a wedding and I was suffering badly! My younger brothers borrowed my fishing gear and my bait and went fishing. Later in the day I decided to see how they were doing. They had a few nice flounder. "Have a cast yourself", one of them offered. I did not feel too good but had a go anyway. It was not long before the rod tip nodded vigorously and the line dropped before tightening up again. I struck and was into a good flounder which planed its way along the bottom in zig zag fashion before being beached! It looked good and weighed in at 2 lbs 10.75 ozs. Specimen number two and two in one year!

Specimen Species Count: 2

Lesson 2: Never pass up a chance to fish!

July 1979

Doughmore Beach lies just north of Doonbeg, Co. Clare. It is a great storm beach and produces many good bass and where the current Irish Record Bass of 17 lbs 13 ozs was caught by Emmet Naughton in October 2000. My brother Emmet caught a bass here in March 1998 weighing 13.12 lbs.

I had been catching bass, turbot, flounder, lesser spotted dogfish and bull huss by day from Doughmore, but decided to try it at night in summer using fresh mackerel as by now I had an ambition to catch a ray from the shore. I had caught good thornback ray from boats in Killala and wondered about catching one from the shore. First we went to the Blue Pool for mackerel and then to Doughmore. It was early July, calm and very humid. There was not a ripple on the water and the tide was on the last hour of the ebb.

The line keeps dropping every time I tighten up and then moves off sideways. I strike and seem stuck to the bottom. I can only move it by walking backwards up the beach. This tug of war goes on for ages. I send a younger brother down the line with a torch as by now I am up in the sand dunes in the dark and whatever I have caught must be ashore!

A voice shouts back in the dark, "you have a huge flounder!" This I have got to see! I have a ray so far up the beach there is a miniature sand dune in front of its nose! It is not a thornback but has white marks like they were painted parallel to the wings. I am not sure what it is, but know it is not a thornback. Later it proved to be a painted ray and a specimen at 11lbs 8 ozs.

A few nights later I returned to the same mark and took another painted ray. The record at the time was 13lbs and my ray pulled an old spring balance to 15lbs I knew the scales were not accurate and later the ray was weighed on certified scales at 14.06 lbs and became the new Irish Record painted ray. My fourth specimen and an Irish Record! Later that summer my brother Pearse then

only 12 years old, caught a specimen painted ray weighing 11 lbs 6 ozs. This won him the Dr. Went award for the best specimen caught by a junior angler.

Specimen Species Count: 3

Lesson 3: Set targets and experiment.

January 1981

Winter sea fishing was unheard of in Kilkee when I was growing up and when I came to Dublin in 1968 I left all my fishing gear at home in Clare. I was then introduced to winter Cod fishing and my fishing season was extended to cover the whole year! Back to Clare late January I decided to fish Doughmore in winter.

Frozen mackerel was all I had and again out of the blue I catch a lesser spotted dogfish which looks a bit bigger than usual. It weighed in at 3.26 lbs. Specimen number five.

Specimen Species Count: 4

Lesson 4: Fish never look at a calendar!

August 1981

The late Kevin Linnane once told me a story about some German anglers who had caught some big ballan wrasse near The Blue Pool near Doonbeg in County Clare. Unfortunately when these fish arrived by post for identification they were in liquid form and could not be processed. Kevin was disappointed that such good fish could not be recorded and asked me to check the mark out. He did not have an exact location and informed me I would have to explore. My brother and I headed out late August 1981 with a bucket of fresh lugworm. Our rucksacks were stuffed with sandwiches, minerals and a ton of lead weights. We started south of the Blue Pool, fishing any likely marks, and headed north on a sweltering hot day. We caught many wrasse but nothing exceptional. As we headed north we were confronted by high cliffs at Baltard but in the distance we saw a deep gully low down and we searched for a way down to it. What seemed impossible proved easy after a long detour and we arrived on a safe ledge 6 feet over the gully which screamed of wrasse.

Was this the mark? First drop I had a wrasse of 4.84 lbs - a specimen. Second drop another bigger fish of 5.42 lbs another specimen. This must be the mark! A few days later I caught another one of 4.51 lbs. Now I was clocking up the specimens!

Wrasse were so plentiful at this mark that we imposed a limit of 25 fish each and stopped fishing.

Specimen Species Count: 5

Lesson 5: Follow up good tips and be prepared to explore!



Ballan Wrasse of 5 lbs taken in 2002 by the 'ordinary angler'

April 1984

Fishing has taken me all over the country to beautiful places where sometimes I leave down the rod and soak in the atmosphere. From the great storm beaches of Kerry to the magnificent rock ledges of West Clare but none is more beautiful than St. Mullins on the River Barrow. What a place to fish and not catch a fish! Meeting the ISFC Secretary Des Brennan at the Awards presentation he told me about the twaite shad and the thrill of catching them. Land 4 from 10 hooked is a good average he told me! They will jump into the air, shaking their heads to throw the lure. Yes! They are a sea fish! They arrive in May and ascend the River Barrow as far as at St. Mullins.

It was late April and the unseasonable warm weather put me thinking of the shad. Was it too early? I decided to give it a go! Opposite the old Mill, Des had said. I arrived at St. Mullins with not an angler in sight! Ten fish later and nothing on the bank I was going to throw the rod in the river in desperation. What was going on? A good strong grab of the lure, a mad dash around the river and then nothing! 4 from 10 and here I was 0 from 10! Finally I landed a beautiful herring-like fish - my first twaite shad. Now I had the knack and later that day I landed 2 specimens - one of 2lbs and one of 1.94 lbs. I hooked over a 100 shad that day and landed about 30. Twenty years later I still get shad fever in early May

when the weather starts to get warm and the spring tides are building. This year my brother Pat caught a magnificent shad of 3.22 lbs and other brother, Fintan his first shad at 3.19 lbs. My brothers now suffer shad fever just like me!

Specimen Species Count: 6

Lesson 6: Rest up sometimes and soak in the scenery!

June 1984

Getting a tip from Central Fisheries Board Sea Angling Adviser Norman Dunlop about a good run of smoothhound at Tinnebearna in Wexford I decided to give it a go. Best baits soft or peeler Crab. Part of the enjoyment of fishing is collecting your own bait. I gather enough at the South Bull Wall at low water. High tide was about 9 p.m. at Tinnebearna. I arrive 2 hours before high tide. Some anglers have already landed specimen smoothhound. I can't match some anglers for distance so I opt for a very big crab bait in close. It works! After a good battle I land a specimen Smoothhound of 8.27 lbs.

Specimen Species Count: 7

Lesson 7: If you are not a distance caster, a big bait in close sometimes works!

July 1985

My friends and I had taken a number of good thornback ray from the shore at Killougher Co. Wicklow. One night I had a ray which looked different! I had it checked out at the Central Fisheries Board by biologist Dr. Paddy Fitzmaurice and it turned out to be a specimen Homelyn Ray of 5 lbs 9 ozs.

Specimen Species Count: 8

Lesson 8: Learn to identify your fish – if it looks odd, consult an expert!

August 1995

It was a beautiful warm summer day and I was back at The Bridges of Ross, Co. Clare fishing from the low ledges for wrasse. I had taken a specimen wrasse in the morning of 5.41 lbs. It was early afternoon and I had missed a few bites when on retrieving I noticed a strange tropical looking fish following my crab to the surface. I dropped my bait back to the bottom and started to slowly retrieve. Again I noticed this fish in the clear water follow my bait up. I stopped the bait just under the surface when the fish struck. It scuttled all over the place before I brought it to the surface and netted it. It was my first trigger fish and a specimen of 4.23 lbs. I then noticed a shoal of these fish just under the surface and as I threw crab to them they fed like a pack of terriers! I took a few more triggers before the shoal moved off. This was my ninth different specimen fish. It was to be another nine years before I caught a specimen trigger fish again!

Specimen Species Count: 9

Lesson 9: You never know what might turn up – be alert!

August 1996

How I tried and tried to catch a specimen grey mullet! I have chased this fish all over the country from Clare to Lough Furnace in Co. Mayo, to Cork and Kerry and finally caught it at a train station in Dublin!

I had to bring my daughter Jennifer into Dublin one day and, like all anglers, as I neared Heuston Station, I just had to check the Liffey! There, under the wall, were two huge grey mullet cruising idly by. As I travelled everywhere with the mullet gear and fresh white bread I was armed in a minute! I placed some bread on the surface ahead of my target and tackled up. As the mullet were feeding on my offerings I introduced my bread with the sting and one got stung! What a fight! It tried to go under the bridge and when I turned it, it skimmed the Liffey wall where line snagging weeds and briars were growing out. Finally I had it on the surface and ready for the drop net. I got my daughter to hold the drop net just under the surface as I steered the mullet over it. "Pull", I shouted to be heard all over the city and we had it safely in the net! A specimen grey mullet at 5.06 lbs.

Ten different specimens after an 18-year quest.

Specimen Species Count: 10

Lesson 10: Perseverance pays off!

In achieving my goal of ten different Specimen Species I acknowledge the support and patience of my family and friends and a special thanks to the staff of the Central Fisheries Board for all their help, advice and tips and the Irish Specimen Fish Committee for setting targets for us anglers!

My next target 50 specimens. I have 5 to go!

Bill Ryan, Thursday, 9th December, 2004.

Notes:

