

# Irish Specimen Fish Committee



c/o Inland Fisheries Ireland, Swords Business Campus, Swords, Co. Dublin.  
www.irish-trophy-fish.com

## CLAIM FORM 2013

Claim No. ....

**CLAIMANT MUST COMPLETE SECTIONS 1-6 and 8 (and 9, if necessary)**

1. **Species of Fish** ..... **Weight** .....  
(See Rule 4)  
**Where Caught** .....

**Date of Capture** ..... **Port of Origin** .....

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).

**Name of Charter Skipper or Gillie** ..... **Shore**  **Boat**

**Length of fish** ..... **Girth/Wingspread of fish** .....

**Male**  **Female**  ..... **Length based specimen claim**  *Specific photos required\**

**Note: Length - all fish must be placed on measuring device & measured from tip of nose to end of middle rays of tail fin (forklength) OR for marine species (except bass) to end of tail fin. Greatest girth - in front of dorsal fin. Wingspread (rays and skate) from wingtip to wingtip.**

\*Photos to show fish belly down ON measuring device showing actual fish length (cm) - tip of snout (placed against bar) to end of tail fin lobe.

2. **NAME OF CLAIMANT** **First Name** ..... **Surname** .....  
(Block Letters)  
**ADDRESS** .....

**COUNTRY** ..... **DATE OF BIRTH (if 14 years or under)** .....

**PHONE NO** ..... **E-MAIL ADDRESS** .....

**Angler category when specimen fish caught (Tick one box only)**

**Specimen Hunter**  **Regular Angler**  **Occasional/Holiday Angler**

3. **WITNESSES TO CAPTURE**  
I/We, the undersigned certify that I/we were witness(es) to the capture by fair angling of the fish described in this claim, and confirm that the captor's certificate is correct. (If there are no witnesses to the capture the Statutory Declaration on page 2 must be completed).

Signed..... Address.....  
.....

4. **WEIGHING:** Details of make and type of weighing machine (see Rule 3) .....

**Max. weighing capacity** ..... **Divisions** .....

**Where scales located** (if retail outlet) .....

**or Personal**  **Club**  **State Club Name** .....

**N.B.:** The weighing scales must be covered by a certificate of accuracy at the time the fish is weighed (Rule 3).

5. **WITNESSES TO WEIGHING AND MEASURING**  
I/We, the undersigned hereby certify that I/we were witness(es) to the weighing and measuring of the fish described herein, and that the weight and measurements given are correct.

Signed ..... Address .....

6. **I certify that the fish details of which are set out above, was taken by me by fair angling with single rod and line. (To be completed by angler making claim)**

Signed ..... Date.....

7. **FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY** GIS Ref..... Date .....  
Fish/Photograph received/examined  
Identified ..... Signature.....

8. **Tackle** (Type of rod and reel).....  
Type of, and breaking strain of line.....  
Nature of terminal tackle (*In case of trolling or bottom gear*)  
.....  
.....

(In case of sea fishing, state whether paternoster, leger, etc.; number of hooks; whether wire trace used, and if so, length and breaking strain).

Bait or Lure.....

**Important Note:**

Many claims are rejected because the following rules are not strictly adhered to:

- (1) Rule 3 Weighing of the fish.
- (2) Rule 4 Identification of the fish.

**Please read both of these Rules carefully** (*see below*)

9. **STATUTORY DECLARATION (Section in Heavy Type only, to be completed by angler, in the presence of a Peace Commissioner, if no witnesses to capture of fish).**

I ..... (PC) of ..... (Address)  
do solemnly and sincerely declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the particulars given in this claim form as to the capture of the fish described herein are correct. I make this solemn declaration solemnly and conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Statutory Declaration Act 1938.

**Declared before me by** ..... (**Claimant**) of ..... (**Address**)  
who (a) is personally known to me or (b) who has been introduced to me

by ..... (Third party) of ..... (Address)  
who (third party) is personally known to me (*strike out (a) or (b) whichever does not apply*)

this..... day of ..... 20.....

*Signature of P.C.*..... (*Peace Commissioner*)

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## 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. Breakeage 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 local Weights and Measures Officer (eg. NML). Claims cannot be accepted in respect of fish weighed on uncertified scales, e.g., anglers spring balances or 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. Best guidance regarding minimum weights recommends that fish being weighed should exceed 20 times the scales weighing interval (eg. 20 x 20g = 400g). Where weights are in large divisions (e.g. 0.25kg 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 has been weighed on board a boat unless weighted on a certified motion - compensated balance.**

**Please note: All club and personal scales MUST be certified annually by an independent agency. Weighing scales must be covered by a Certificate of Accuracy at the time of weighing. They cannot be certified in retrospect, i.e. after the fish has been weighed.**

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

**FISH SCALES** must be submitted in respect of claims for **SALMON, SEA TROUT, BROWN TROUT (including SLOB TROUT) RUDD, ROACH, and their hybrids, DACE and SHAD**. 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 10 scales gently removed from one shoulder of the fish should be sent with each salmonid claim. 3 Scales required from each cyprinid.

**THE ACTUAL BODY** must be forwarded for identification in the case of the following species: **ANGLER FISH, BRILL, DAB, GARFISH (head and gills only), LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH, FLOUNDER, GREY & RED GURNARDS, HERRING, MEGRIM, MACKEREL, GREY MULLET, GOLDEN GREY MULLET and RED MULLET, RAYS BREAM, THREE BEARDED ROCKLING, SCAD, TORSK, CUCKOO WRASSE and BLACK BREAM**.

**NB - Claims may be ratified where a photograph is of sufficient quality to provide conclusive evidence (i.e. key identification features clearly visible) to identify a fish, to the satisfaction of the Committee.**

**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 **ALL CYPRINIDS, TOPE, SHARKS, SMOOTH-HOUND, SKATE, RAYS, BLUEMOUTH, MONKFISH, POLLACK, BALLAN WRASSE, TRIGGERFISH, COALFISH, ALBACORE, TUB GURNARD (pectoral fins of gurnard must be fully expanded), GILTHEAD BREAM (whole body and head shot showing mouth and eyes) and BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH**.

**RECORD FISH:** Claim must be supported by a series of clear photographs showing relevant features for positive identification and a clear indication of fish length (preferably a ruler/fish measurement mat). Records will be weight based only.

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). Detailed photographs of the teeth should be furnished in the case of 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. Make specific arrangements (by telephone) with the Committee if bringing live fish for identification. (Telephone 00-353-1- 8842600; Fax: 00-353-1-8360060; Email: [bridie.fleming@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:bridie.fleming@fisheriesireland.ie)).
  - (2) Do not forward fish before Bank Holidays or weekends; (keep in a cold store 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. Specially commissioned awards are made to anglers for cumulative specimen fish captures of 20 species, 10 species, 50 specimens or 10 specimens. Other special awards are the Dr. Micheal Kennedy Award (Mullet of the year), the Dr. Arthur Went Award (Young Specimen Angler of the Year), the Minister's Award (Fish of a Lifetime) and the Faillte Ireland's Best International Specimen Fish Award (for the best overseas angler specimen).

**\*IMPORTANT – Completed claim forms should be sent to: Irish Specimen Fish Committee, c/o Inland Fisheries Ireland, Swords Business Campus, Swords, Co. Dublin, Rep. of Ireland (Tel: 00-353-1-8842600) before 15th November each year. Where required for identification purposes (see Rule 4) fish should be sent to the same address. Scales from shad and cyprinid hybrids for genetic analysis must be forwarded to ISFC before 15th October.**

**For marine fish taken in Northern Ireland contact/send to Dr. Steven Beggs, AFBINI, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX. Tel:+44 (0) 28 90 9025 5503; Email: [steven.beggs@afbini.gov.uk](mailto:steven.beggs@afbini.gov.uk)**

**For freshwater fish taken in Northern Ireland contact/send to Dr. Robert Rosell, AFBINI, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX. Tel: +44 (0) 28 9025 5236, Fax: +44 (0) 28 9025 5004; Email: [robert.rosell@afbini.gov.uk](mailto:robert.rosell@afbini.gov.uk)**

# SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs	
<b>FRESHWATER FISH</b>					
Bream ( <i>Abramis brama</i> )	6.07kg		3.402	7.5	-
Carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> )	29	13	5.443	12	-
Dace ( <i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i> )	1	2	0.3	0.66	Scales* & photos*
Eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	6	15	suspended from listings		-
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	5	8	1.2	2.646	-
Pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> ) (Lake)	42	12	13.608	30	-
Pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> ) (River)	42		9.072	20	-
Roach ( <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> )	1.425 kg		0.907	2	Scales* & photos*
Roach/Bream Hybrid	7		1.6	3.528	Scales* & photos*
Roach/Rudd Hybrid	-		0.9	1.98	Scales* & photos*
Rudd ( <i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i> )	4	8	0.9	1.98	Scales* & photos*
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7	10	1.2	2.64	Scales* & photos*
Tench ( <i>Tinca tinca</i> )	8.15		2.722	6	-
Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	57		9.072	20	Scales
Brown Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	26	2	4.536	10	Scales
Brown Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> ) (River)	20		2.268	5	Scales
Sea Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	16	6	2.722	6	Scales
Slob Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> ) * for genetic fingerprinting	-		4.536	10	Scales
<b>SEA FISH</b>					
Angler Fish ( <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> )	42.985 kg		12.0	26.43	Body
Bass ( <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> )	17	13	4.536	10	-
Black Sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> )	6.32		0.8	1.76	-
Black Bream ( <i>Spondylosoma cantharus</i> )	-		1.0	2.205	Body
Bluemouth ( <i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i> )	1.32 kg		0.9	1.9845	Photo
Brill ( <i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i> )	9	8	2.0	4.4	Body
Coalfish ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )	15.1 kg		6.804	15	Photo
Cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> )	42		9.072	20	-
Conger eel ( <i>Conger conger</i> )	72		18.144	40	-
Dab ( <i>Limanda limanda</i> )	2	5.5	0.6	1.32	Body
Dogfish - Blackmouthed ( <i>Galeus melastomus</i> )	1.31 kg		1.0	2.205	Photo
Dogfish - Lesser Spotted ( <i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i> )	4	4	1.474	3.25	Body
Dogfish - Greater Spotted ( <i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i> )	20.6 kg	13	7.257	16	-
Dogfish - Spur ( <i>Squalus acanthias</i> )	10.6 kg		5.443	12	-
Flounder ( <i>Platichthys flesus</i> )	4.91		1.1	2.4255	Body
Garfish ( <i>Belone belone</i> )	1.729 kg		1.0	2.205	Head and gills
Garfish ( <i>Belone svetovidovi</i> )	1.11		0.355	0.875	Head and gills
Gilthead bream ( <i>Sparus aurata</i> )	3.24 kg		1.4	3.08	Photo (whole body, head shot showing mouth and eyes)
Gurnard - Grey ( <i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i> )	3	1	0.68	1.5	Body
Gurnard - Red ( <i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i> )	3	9.5	0.907	2	Body
Gurnard - Tub ( <i>Trigla lucerna</i> )	12	3.5	2.268	5	Photo (pectoral fins must be fully expanded)
Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> )	5.39 kg		3.175	7.0	-
Hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> )	25	5.5	2.5	7.72	-
Halibut ( <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i> )	156		15	33.08	-
Herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> )	0.48 kg		0.34	0.75	Body
John Dory ( <i>Zeus faber</i> )	7	8	1.814	4	-
Ling ( <i>Molva molva</i> )	55		11.34	25	-
Mackerel ( <i>Scomber scombrus</i> )	4	2	1.0	2.5	Body
Megrim ( <i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i> )	1.85 kg		0.794	1.75	Body
Monkfish ( <i>Squatina squatina</i> )	73		suspended from listings		-
Mullet - Grey, thick lipped ( <i>Chelon labrosus</i> )	9.1		2.268	5	Body
Mullet - Golden Grey ( <i>Liza aurata</i> )	1.191 kg		0.68	1.5	Body
Mullet - Thin Lipped ( <i>Liza ramada</i> )	2.83 kg		1.5	3.31	Body
Mullet - Red ( <i>Mullus surmuletus</i> )	0.82 kg		0.454	1.0	Body
Plaice ( <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> )	8.23		1.5	3.31	-
Pollack ( <i>Pollachius pollachius</i> )	19	3	5.443	12	Photo
Pouting ( <i>Trisopterus luscus</i> )	4	13.5	1.361	3	-
Ray - Blonde ( <i>Raja brachyura</i> )	37		11.34	25	Photo
Ray - Cuckoo ( <i>Raja naevus</i> )	5	11	1.8	4.0	Photo
Ray - Electric ( <i>Torpedo nobiliana</i> )	40 kg		9.072	20	Photo
Ray - Homelyn ( <i>Raja montagui</i> )	8.28		2.268	5	Photo
Ray - Painted ( <i>Raja microcellata</i> )	17.21		4.536	10	Photo
Ray - Sting ( <i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i> )	33.2 kg		13.608	30	Photo
Ray - Thornback ( <i>Raja clavata</i> )	37		8.0	17.64	Photo
Ray - Undulate ( <i>Raja undulata</i> )	18		suspended from listings		-
Ray's Bream ( <i>Brama brama</i> )	6	4.25	2.0	4.41	Body
Red Sea Bream ( <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> )	9	6	1.8	4.0	-
Rockling, Three Bearded ( <i>Gaidropsarus vulgaris</i> )	3	1	0.794	1.75	Body
Scad ( <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> )	1.97		0.680	1.5	Body
Shad - Allis ( <i>Alosa alosa</i> )	-		1.814	4	Scales
Shad - Twaite ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> )	1.54 kg		1.2	2.4255	Scales
Shark - Blue ( <i>Prionace glauca</i> )	206		45.359	100	Photo
Shark - Mako ( <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> )	-		90.718	200	Photo
Shark - Porbeagle ( <i>Lamna nasus</i> )	365		suspended from listings		-
Shark - Six-Gilled ( <i>Hexanchus griseus</i> )	480 kg		45.359	100	Photo
Shark - Thresher ( <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> )	-		54.431	120	Photo
Skate - Common ( <i>Raja batis</i> )	221		suspended from listings		-
Skate - Long Nosed ( <i>Raja oxyrinchus</i> )	-		36.287	80	Photo
Skate - White ( <i>Raja alba</i> )	165		54.431	120	Photo
Smooth-Hound ( <i>Mustelus asterias</i> )	16.58		3.0	6.62	Photo
Stone Basse ( <i>Polyprion americanus</i> )	11.72		3.628	8	-
Tope ( <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> )	66	8	18.144	40	Photo
Torsk ( <i>Brosme brosme</i> )	4.858 kg		2.721	6	Body
Trigger Fish ( <i>Balistes carolinensis</i> )	2.54 kg		1.474	3.25	Photo
Tuna - Albacore ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )	29.96 kg		12	26.46	Photo
Tuna - Bluefin ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> )	440 kg		250	551.88	-
Turbot ( <i>Scophthalmus maximus</i> )	34		7	15.44	-
Whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> )	4	14.5	1.361	3	-
Wrasse Ballan ( <i>Labrus bergylla</i> )	4.3 kg		2.154	4.75	Photo
Wrasse Cuckoo ( <i>Labrus mixtus</i> )	2	7	0.567	1.25	Body

**N.B.** Where species identification states body required, high quality photographs (see Rule 4) may suffice.