

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH 2018



**ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE IRISH SPECIMEN
FISH COMMITTEE**



lascach Inntre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland



DAERA
Department of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs
www.dairea.gov.ie

Website: www.irish-trophy-fish.com

Coiste Éisc Mór na hÉirinn

The Irish Specimen Fish Committee

Founded in 1955, the ISFC is an independent voluntary body, representative of angling interests in Ireland, whose principal function is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large (i.e. specimen) fish caught on rod and line by anglers in Ireland, both in freshwater and marine waters. The Committee also ratifies Irish record rod caught fish. The ISFC coordinates and administers the unique specimen awards scheme which is designed to recognize any angler who catches a specimen fish and to publicise the angling venue. Successful anglers are awarded a certificate and a commemorative badge. Specially commissioned silver medals are presented to captors of record fish and special awards are also made to captors of multiple specimen fish (on a cumulative basis). This report is a detailed listing of all particulars relating to specimen and record fish captures in Irish waters in 2018. Over 30,000 claims have been received by the ISFC over the past 63 years. This dataset is one of the most valuable and long-running time-series of its type.

Irish Specimen Fish Committee Members 2018

Dr. Robert Rosell (*AFBI*), Chairman, Dr. William Roche, Secretary, Shane O'Reilly and Micheál Hennessy (*Inland Fisheries Ireland*), Alan McGurdy, Stewart McGrane (*Game Angling*), Dr. Edward Fahy, Dr. Patrick Boylan (*Loughs Agency*), Der Casey (*Coarse Angling*) and Brian Cooke (*Sea Angling*).

Awards Presentation

*The Annual Presentation of Specimen Awards
to anglers whose claims were accepted during 2018*

will be held in

*Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport
Swords, Co. Dublin at 2.30pm sharp*

on Saturday 16th February 2019

All anglers who are due awards are invited to attend



Irish Specimen Fish Committee



In Association with
**Iascach Iníre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

Cover: A Sleat Head Ballan Wrasse for Craig Murphy in October

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ISFC Chairman's Review 2018



Welcome to the Irish Specimen Fish Committee Report 2018. Following a very successful ISFC Awards Day in February, the committee met on several occasions in 2018 and significant progress was made on many issues.

The ISFC specimen atlas documenting over 60 years of specimen fish catches, including where and when fish have been caught, undertaken in partnership with Inland Fisheries Ireland, has been progressed significantly. Compilation work is ongoing and the final document will be a milestone in ISFC history and will contribute significantly to demonstrating change over the years of specimen reporting.

It was a very interesting angling year. The heatwave of the first half of the summer affected fish and angling in many ways. Freshwater fisheries suffered for a number of weeks and it was the first time in my working career of over 30 years where fish rescue exercises were triggered by a shortage of water in some salmonid streams.

Sea angling had a much better specimen season. Four new marine fish records were ratified during the year for Black Bream, Thin Lipped and Golden Grey Mullets, and Tope. Given the summer temperatures, it is unsurprising that the first three of these are species with a mainly southerly distribution. The Black Bream is awarded by committee under the 10 fish rule – the record fish dates from 2008 but ISFC has waited for 10 specimen Black Bream to be recorded before awarding the record to the largest fish captured to date. Another bream almost as large as the new record was caught in 2018. As with the other southerly species spreading north, for example the Gilthead Bream, this could be the start of more catches to come.

The option of submitting length based specimens has been met with some enthusiasm, and ISFC has received many claims under length based rules, particularly for Sharks, Skates and Rays. The greatest number of claims for a single species was for Smooth-Hound but it is good to report Undulate Ray back in the mix – and there were good number of Common Skate. Length based specimens clearly remove the issue of ISFC not accepting weights taken on board a boat. Other species recorded by length for the first time included Pike, Trout and Bass. For length-based claims, good clear sharp photographs of the whole fish on a measuring mat or other verified scale are absolutely essential, and, as in previous years, some very large fish have not been recorded accurately enough to ensure certainty in terms of actual length. Wherever possible the committee has done its best to ratify claims but unverifiable claims will be rejected. If your fish was one of those even when you know it is a large one then the problem is due to a lack of certifiable evidence.

The 2018 reporting round has processed genetic claims dating 2017 and 2018; this allowed for sensible economies of scale in our laboratory partner setting up and running the genetics, and ensuring value for money.

Committee finances have improved in 2018, at least in that the decline in reserves has been halted. Nevertheless ISFC needs to consider some re-building of funds to cover further initiatives and the potential costs of adapting to the use of new technology. Thanks again to our IFI and DAERA government sponsors who provide the core of the funding and staff time for the committee and to anglers and others who have taken up the donation option on the website. The minimal charge for claims requiring genetic verification partially subvented their genetic analysis. Thanks are also due to IFI for hosting the work of the committee, providing meeting space and staff time. Thanks also to AFBI and DAERA for permitting me to act as Chair.

Our thanks to anglers who co-operated with the earlier deadline for claim submission to facilitate processing of claims and ISFC's reduced administrative support. In this regard I would appeal, on behalf of the committee, to all claiming specimens to pay attention to accurate identification, evidence of weight and/or length, properly filled in forms, and clear accurate and dependable photographs. In the interests of conservation many anglers release the majority if not all of their fish alive. While not every angler sets out with an ISFC-proof armoury of recording equipment, when the fish of a lifetime shows up, a good clear measure and a phone or camera might just make all the difference to having it recorded as a specimen.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee for their patience and hard work and making the chair's role a pleasure. ISFC wishes all our anglers an even better year in 2019, and hopes that the report encourages all setting out to record more and bigger fish. May all need longer arms and bigger boats in 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Rosell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Robert Rosell, Chairman ISFC

December, 2018

Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2018

In 2018 the ISFC processed 420 claims; 393 were ratified, including four new records. A total of 11 were rejected for non-compliance with the rules and a further 16 will be queried further. This report presents the new records, the special awards and ratified specimen fish for 2018.

New Irish Records

For fish exceeding the current Irish record weight



Topie 34.02 kg, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, 03 October 2018 - Stephen Hanway, Dublin



Thin Lipped Mullet 2.95 kg, Cork Harbour, 15 July 2018 - Noel Lane, Cork



Golden Grey Mullet, 1.52 kg, Cork Harbour, 15 August 2018 - Stephen O'Neill, Cork



Black Sea Bream 1.46 kg, Kilmore Quay, 17 September 2008, Gordon Thornes, North Wales

SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES 2018

10 SPECIES AWARD					
GARY BLAKE, TALLAGHT, D24					
2014:	Three-Bearded Rockling, Twaite Shad	2016:	Ray - Sting, Skate - Common		
2015:	Flounder, Mullet - Thick-Lipped, Smooth-hound, Wrasse - Ballan	2018:	Ray - Undulate, Wrasse - Cuckoo		
NOEL DARCY, THOMASTOWN, CO. KILKENNY					
2012:	Dace, Twaite Shad	2017:	Bream		
2013:	Carp	2018:	Roach/Bream Hybrid, Rudd/Bream Hybrid		
2015:	Brown Trout (River), Gilthead Bream, Pike (River), Smooth-hound				
DAVID FLYNN, CLONDALKIN, D22					
2014:	Carp, Roach x Rudd Hybrid	2018:	Gilthead Bream, Ray - Homelyn, Spurdog, Tench		
2016:	Bream, Mullet - Thick-Lipped, Roach x Bream Hybrid, Smooth-hound, Tope, Twaite Shad				
JIM GREGG, THE MEADOW, ANTRIM					
1990:	Lesser Spotted Dogfish	2010:	Brown Trout (River)		
1993:	Wrasse - Ballan	2016:	Mullet - Thick-Lipped, Twaite Shad		
2001:	Three-Bearded Rockling	2017:	Carp		
2006:	Trigger Fish	2018:	Roach/Rudd Hybrid		
2007:	Pike (River)				
RINUS HAGE, 4694 CR SCHERPENISSE, THE NETHERLANDS					
1978:	Lesser Spotted Dogfish	2004:	Conger Eel		
1986:	Coalfish (Saithe)	2010:	Dab		
1995:	Angler Fish	2014:	Spurdog		
2000:	Ling	2016:	Smooth-hound		
2003:	Pouting, John Dory				

50 SPECIMENS AWARD					
CRAIG MURPHY, INCHICORE, DUBLIN 8					
2004-2015	Twaite Shad	4	2015	Flounder	1
2011-2018	Mullet, Thick-Lipped	13	2015	Mullet, Golden Grey	1
2011-2016	Tench	3	2015-2018	Ballan Wrasse	4
2012	Bream	2	2016-2017	Carp	3
2012-2016	Pike (River)	3	2016	Gilthead Bream	1
2014	Trigger Fish	1	2018	Black Sea Bream	1
2014-2015	Three-Bearded Rockling	2	2018	Perch	1
2014-2018	Smooth-hound	11			

10 SPECIMENS AWARD					
Clare Maurer, Sandyford, Dublin 18		2011-2018	Mark Todd, Islandmagee, Co. Antrim		1986-2018
Evan McGovern, Shanakiel, Cork		2016-2018	Maurice Cott, Rostellan, Co. Cork		2010-2018
Jason Convery, Clonakilty, Co. Cork		2016-2018	Patrick Fagan, Crumlin, Dublin 12		2015-2018

DR MICHAEL KENNEDY AWARD

MULLET OF THE YEAR

Dr Michael Kennedy, a pioneering fisheries biologist and one of the founders of the ISFC, had a lifelong research interest in mullet species. The Kennedy Award is for the best specimen (highest percentage of the record) and/or a new record of any of the three mullet species for that year.

Stephen O'Neill, Cork – 1.52 kg **Golden Grey Mullet** at Cork Harbour, 15 August 2018

DR AEJ WENT AWARD

YOUNG SPECIMEN ANGLER OF THE YEAR

Dr Arthur Went, a noted fisheries biologist and one of the two founder members of the ISFC, nominated this award which is for the best specimen of the year (based on the highest percentage of the specimen weight) taken by an angler aged 13 years or younger.

John Patrick Chew (J), Dublin – 5.9 kg **Smooth-hound** at Wicklow, 22 June 2018

THE MINISTER'S AWARD

Inaugurated by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, 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 of the existing record.

Paul Twomey, Cork – 1.42 kg **Black Bream** at Kilmore 30 June 2018

BEST INTERNATIONAL FISH AWARD

This award is for the best specimen fish, (calculated as the highest percentage of the current record weight), taken by an overseas angler.

Daudu Denis, France - 26.31 kg **Tope** at Wicklow, 2 October 2018

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2018

FRESHWATER FISH 2018

Coarse Fish and Pike

BREAM

Record 6.07kg (13.38 lbs); Specimen Weight, 3.402 kg (7.5 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.63	8.00	60.0	R. Erne, Belturbet	22-Sep	Micheál Hennessy	Worm
3.57	7.87	58.5	Bawn Lake	05-May	David Brennan	Corn
3.46	7.63	59.0	R. Erne, Belturbet	22-Sep	David Flynn	Corn
3.40	7.50	62.0	Bawn Lake	27-May	David Brennan	Maggots



A 3.4 kg Bream for David Brennan

Year of capture is 2018 unless otherwise stated.

Length (L) is forklength (FL) (cm) for freshwater species, blue and porbeagle shark. Total Length (TL) for all other marine species.

Country of residence of international angler denoted by relevant letter after surname.

(J) after surname denotes juvenile angler.

CARP

Record 14.24 kg (32.4 lbs); Specimen Weight 5.897 kg (13 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9.75	21.50	72.0	The Lough (Cork)	21-Apr	Paddy Higgisson	Yellow Pop Up
7.52	16.58	66.0	The Lough (Cork)	09-Apr	Francis McNeilly	Boilie
7.20	15.87	67.0	The Lough (Cork)	14-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
7.14	15.75	67.0	The Lough (Cork)	14-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
7.09	15.62	67.0	The Lough (Cork)	15-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
7.08	15.61	67.0	The Lough (Cork)	10-Apr	Francis McNeilly	Boilie
6.80	15.00	70.0	The Lough (Cork)	21-Apr	Barry James	Boilie
6.69	14.75	65.0	The Lough (Cork)	04-Apr	Sarah Lynch	Boilie
6.63	14.62	58.0	The Lough (Cork)	21-Apr	Paddy Higgisson	Yellow Pop Up
6.55	14.44	65.0	The Lough (Cork)	24-Mar	David Flynn	Boilie



Carp from Ballinafid Lake for David Flynn

CARP CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.49	14.31	70.5	The Lough (Cork)	11-Apr	Amy O'Brien (J)	Boilie
6.44	14.19	70.0	The Lough (Cork)	06-Apr	Amy O'Brien (J)	Boilie
6.38	14.06	66.0	The Lough (Cork)	21-Apr	Barry James	Sweetcorn
6.38	14.06	67.0	The Lough (Cork)	06-Apr	Amy O'Brien (J)	Boilie
6.35	14.00	65.0	Ballinafid Lake	15-Sep	David Flynn	Boilie
5.95	13.12	58.0	The Lough (Cork)	21-Apr	Barry James	Sweetcorn
5.94	13.10	66.0	The Lough (Cork)	20-Apr	Francis McNeilly	Boilie

PERCH

Record 5 lbs 8 ozs (2.495 kg); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.646 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.26	2.78	43.0	R. Barrow, Athy	18-Apr	Craig Murphy	Shadteez Lure



*Craig Murphy
with his
Barrow Perch*

PIKE (RIVER)

Record 42 lbs (19.051 kg); Specimen Weight 9.072 kg (20 lbs)

Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold 100 cm FL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11.32	24.96	108.0	R. Blackwater, NI	17-Oct-17	Francis McNeilly	Pollan
11.07	24.41	100.0	R. Blackwater, NI	29-Nov-17	Francis McNeilly	Pollan
10.60	23.37	–	R. Suck, Ballyforan	17-Mar	Clyde McElwaine	Roach
10.55	23.25	105.0	R Inny, Ballinalack	23-Feb	Robert Reid	Roach
10.21	22.50	104.0	R. Erne, Belturbet	03-Feb	David Brennan	Herring
10.21	22.50	100.5	R. Shannon, Rooskey	27-Jan	Sidney Kennedy	Roach
10.21	22.50	101.0	R. Shannon, Rooskey	27-Jan	Dan Lynch	Roach
9.95	21.94	–	R. Shannon, Rooskey	20-Mar	Ross Macklin	Mackerel
9.58	21.12	109.0	R. Shannon, Athlone	31-Dec-17	Eoin Leonard	Mackerel



River Erne Pike of 9.3 kg for Karl Roche

10.6 kg Pike for Clyde McElwaine from the River Suck at Ballyforan

PIKE (RIVER) CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9.47	20.87	–	R. Shannon, Rooskey	03-Jan	Derek Greene	Sardine
9.30	20.50	101.0	R. Erne, Belturbet	13-Apr	Karl Roche	Mackerel
9.13	20.12	102.0	R. Barrow, Athy	24-Feb	Anthony Kelly	Roach
L-BS	–	103.0	R. Shannon, Clonmacnoise	25-Oct	Oisin Mac Domhnaill	Mackerel
L-BS	–	102.0	R. Shannon, Clonmacnoise	23-Sep	Eoin Leonard	Mackerel
L-BS	–	100.5	R. Shannon, Rooskey	27-Jan	Sidney Kennedy	Roach
L-BS	–	100.0	R. Suck, Ballyforan	07-Apr	Sean Ward	Mackerel



Eoin Leonard with his New Year's Eve 2017 River Pike from Athlone



January River Pike for Sidney Kennedy



10.21 kg Pike for David Brennan

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

Record 3.376 kg (7.44 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.6 kg (3.528 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.72	6.00	50.0	L. Boderg	24-Jun-17	James Dignam	Maggots
2.66	5.87	51.0	L. Boderg	25-Jun-17	James Dignam	Maggots/Corn
2.55	5.62	51.0	L. Derravaragh	19-May-17	John Millerick	Corn
2.49	5.50	50.0	L. Derravaragh	20-Apr-17	John Millerick	Corn
2.49	5.50	50.0	L. Derravaragh	19-May-17	John Millerick	Corn
2.21	4.87	51.0	River Erne, Belturbet	15-Sep	Patrick Fagan	Worm
2.10	4.62	45.0	Bawn Lake	27-May	David Flynn	Corn
2.10	4.62	–	L. Derravaragh	20-Apr	John Millerick	Maggot/Corn
2.01	4.44	49.0	Bawn Lake	19-May	David Flynn	Corn
2.01	4.44	49.5	Bawn Lake	05-Jul-17	Amy O'Brien (J)	Maggots
1.93	4.25	47.5	Bawn Lake	28-May	David Flynn	Corn
1.76	3.87	–	R. Suck (Ballinasloe)	23-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Sweetcorn/Caster
1.76	3.87	49.0	River Erne, Belturbet	15-Sep	Patrick Fagan	Worm
1.70	3.75	47.5	Bawn Lake	19-May	David Flynn	Corn
1.70	3.75	–	L. Derravaragh	20-Apr	John Millerick	Maggot/Corn
1.70	3.75	48.0	Bawn Lake	05-Jul-17	Amy O'Brien (J)	Maggots
1.66	3.65	45.0	R. Barrow, St. Mullins	03-May	Noel Darcy	Maggot/Corn
1.62	3.56	50.5	River Erne, Belturbet	15-Sep	Patrick Fagan	Maggots



1.7 kg Roach/Bream for Amy O'Brien



A 1.76 kg Roach/Bream for Patrick Fagan from the River Erne

ROACH/RUDD HYBRID

Record 2.1 kg (4.63 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.9 kg (1.98 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.99	2.19	36.0	Finn Lough	11-Jun-17	James Dignam	Maggots
0.92	2.03	37.0	R. Lagan (Lisburn)	22-May	Jim Gregg	Maggots



James Dignam's Roach/Rudd

RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

Record 7 lbs 10 ozs (3.458 kg); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.64 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.27	5.00	53.0	Belle Lake	12-Aug	Thomas Lynch	Sweetcorn
2.27	5.00	—	Belle Lake	12-Aug	Liam Millerick	Corn
2.15	4.75	49.0	Belle Lake	25-Aug	Noel Darcy	Sweetcorn

RUDD/BREAM HYBRID CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.15	4.75	47.0	Belle Lake	27-Aug-17	Thomas Lynch	Corn
2.04	4.50	–	Belle Lake	11-Aug	John Millerick	Corn
2.04	4.50	48.0	Belle Lake	26-May	Noel Darcy	Sweetcorn
2.04	4.50	44.0	Belle Lake	27-Aug-17	Thomas Lynch	Corn
1.87	4.12	–	Belle Lake	11-Aug	John Millerick	Corn
1.84	4.06	50.0	Belle Lake	12-Aug	Thomas Lynch	Sweetcorn
1.81	4.00	46.0	Belle Lake	18-Jun-17	Thomas Lynch	Corn
1.70	3.75	47.0	Belle Lake	25-Aug	Noel Darcy	Sweetcorn
1.59	3.50	46.0	Lee Reservoir	30-Apr-17	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots



Liam Millerick with 2.27 kg Rudd/Bream, one of the heaviest in 2018



1.87 kg Rudd/Bream from Belle Lake for John Millerick

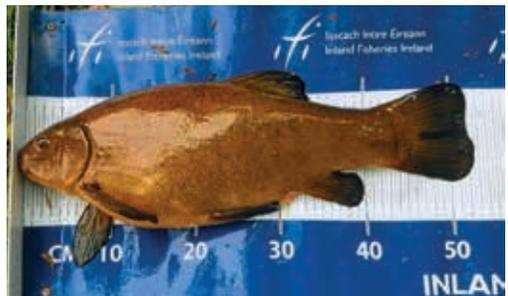
TENCH

Record 8.15 lbs (3.697 kg); Specimen Weight 2.722 kg (6 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.12	6.87	53.5	Bawn Lake	19-May	David Flynn	Corn
3.01	6.62	53.0	Clonfree Lake	16-Jul	John Millerick	Corn
2.95	6.50	55.5	Bawn Lake	20-May	Anthony Kelly	Corn
2.86	6.31	54.0	Bawn Lake	06-May	Anthony Kelly	Maggots
2.83	6.25	52.0	Bawn Lake	26-May	David Flynn	Corn
2.83	6.25	52.0	Clonfree Lake	16-Jul	John Millerick	Corn
2.81	6.19	53.0	Bawn Lake	27-May	David Brennan	Corn
2.78	6.12	51.5	Clonfree Lake	16-Jul	Thomas Lynch	Sweetcorn
2.72	6.00	54.0	Clonfree Lake	16-Jul	John Millerick	Corn



David Flynn with the heaviest Tench of 2018



Tench - John Millerick

Game Fish

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

Record 26 lbs 2 ozs (11.85 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.26	16.00	99.1	Lough Corrib	16-Feb	John Webb	Lure
6.07	13.37	80.0	Lough Corrib	04-May	Kevin Scannell	Lure
4.76	10.50	72.4	Lough Derg, Garrykennedy	26-Aug	John Bray	Lure



2.94 kg Brown Trout from Six Mile Water, one of three taken on fly by Derek Bell

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

Record 20 lbs (9.072 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.88	10.76	68.0	Six Mile Water	14-Oct	Derek Bell	Fly
4.20	9.25	72.0	R. Shannon, Rooskey	07-Apr	Kenneth Murphy	Roach
4.19	9.08	–	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Lauryn Newman	Worm
4.08	9.00	72.0	R. Shannon, Rooskey	22-Apr	Dan Lynch	Roach
2.94	6.48	63.5	Six Mile Water	07-Aug	Derek Bell	Fly
2.88	6.35	60.0	Six Mile Water	03-Sep	Derek Bell	Fly
2.74	6.04	59.0	Six Mile Water	06-Sep	Vel Sneazy (USA)	Nymph
2.48	5.47	58.0	Six Mile Water	16-Oct	Peter Heyburn	Fly
2.40	5.29	58.5	Six Mile Water	12-Aug	Jim Gregg	Maggots
2.32	5.11	56.0	Six Mile Water	11-Oct	Jim Gregg	Fly



Lough Derg specimen trout for John Bray



4.08 kg Brown Trout for Dan Lynch from the River Shannon

Marine Fish 2018

BASS

**Record 17 lbs 13 ozs (8.08 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs)
Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold 75 cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.54	10.00	73.0	Cork Harbour	01-Oct	Stephen O'Neill	Ragworm
L-BS	–	77.5	Cork Harbour	12-Jun	Richard Whitehouse	Surface Lure
L-BS	–	> 75	Ballymoney, Wexford	07-Jul	Philip O'Dwyer	Squid



2.78 kg Gilthead Bream for Andrew Boyce in early June

BLACK BREAM

New Record 1.46 kg (3.219 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.79 kg (1.75 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.46	3.22	–	Kilmore Quay	17-Sep-08	Gordon Thornes (UK)	Ragworm/Squid
1.42	3.13	42.5	Kilmore	30-Jun	Paul Twomey	Mackerel
1.06	2.34	38.7	Kilmore Quay	08-Jul	Eddie Butler	Mackerel
1.06	2.34	39.8	Kilmore Quay	08-Jul	Eddie Butler	Mackerel
1.00	2.00	40.0	Wicklow	26-Jun	Craig Murphy	Squid
0.88	1.94	37.0	Kilmore	08-Jul	Barry Murphy	Squid
0.84	1.85	35.5	Kilmore	30-Jun	Paul Twomey	Mackerel
0.82	1.81	35.7	Kilmore	08-Jul	Barry Murphy	Squid
0.79	1.74	35.0	Kilmore	30-Jun	Paul Twomey	Mackerel



Black Bream of 0.88 kg for Barry Murphy

BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH

Record 1.33 kg (2.94 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.0 kg (2.205 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.10	2.43	68.0	Carnlough	21-Jul	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
1.02	2.25	67.5	Islandmagee	24-Jun	Mark Todd	Mackerel
1.00	2.20	68.0	Islandmagee	24-Jun	David Craig	Mackerel
1.00	2.20	–	Carnlough	12-Apr	Michael Clinton	Mackerel



Michael Clinton with his specimen Blackmouthed Dogfish

LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record 4 lbs 4 ozs (1.928 kg); Specimen Weight 1.474 kg (3.25 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.64	3.62	78.0	Crosshaven	10-Aug	Luke McGreevy	Mackerel
1.56	3.44	71.0	Dunworley, Cork	03-Jun	Jason Convery	Mackerel



Crosshaven Lesser Spotted Dogfish for Luke McGreevy

SPUR DOGFISH

Record 11.06 kg (24.38 lbs); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs)
Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold 105 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.82	17.25	111.5	Kenmare Bay	28-Apr	Patrick Fagan	Mackerel
7.8	17.20	110.0	Tralee Bay	23-Jun	Philip Barry	Mackerel
7.20	15.87	114.0	Tralee Bay	13-Jul	Eoghan O'Sullivan	Mackerel
7.17	15.81	115.0	Kenmare Bay	29-Apr	Keith Marsella	Mackerel/Squid
7.03	15.50	110.0	Kenmare Bay	31-Mar	Conor Ward	Mackerel
6.80	15.00	106.0	Kenmare Bay	31-Mar	David Flynn	Mackerel
6.58	14.50	112.0	Wicklow	22-Apr	Kit Dunne	Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.46	14.25	107.0	Wicklow	07-Apr	Paul Smith	Mackerel
6.40	14.11	110.0	Tralee Bay	13-Jul	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Mackerel
6.34	14.00	109.0	Tralee Bay	24-Jun	Philip Barry	Mackerel
6.14	13.54	111.0	Tralee Bay	13-Jul	Eoghan O'Sullivan	Mackerel
6.07	13.37	110.0	Kenmare Bay	29-Apr	Patrick Fagan	Squid
6.01	13.25	106.0	Wicklow	24-Mar	Gary Blake	Squid/Mackerel
6.00	13.23	107.0	Tralee Bay	02-Jul	Joseph Donnelly	Mackerel
5.99	13.20	103.0	Wicklow	25-Apr	Thomas Lynch	Squid/Mackerel
5.90	13.00	106.0	Kenmare Bay	14-Apr	Sean Ward	Mackerel
5.78	12.74	105.0	Tralee Bay	13-Jul	Eoghan O'Sullivan	Mackerel
5.73	12.62	107.0	Kenmare Bay	31-Mar	Nicholas Ward	Mackerel
5.65	12.46	109.0	Tralee Bay	02-Jul	Philip Barry	Mackerel
5.62	12.39	103.0	Islandmagee	06-Jul	David Craig	Herring
L-BS	–	116.0	Galway Bay	31-Mar	John Fleming	Mackerel
L-BS	–	114.5	Galway Bay	31-Mar	Paddy O'Farrell	Mackerel
L-BS	–	113.0	Galway Bay	31-Mar	John Paul Kelly	Mackerel
L-BS	–	112.0	Kenmare Bay	14-Apr	Micheál Hennessy	Worm
L-BS	–	112.0	Galway Bay	31-Mar	John Paul Kelly	Mackerel
L-BS	–	112.0	Wicklow	07-Apr	Ken Garry	Mackerel



107 cm Spurdog for Suzanne McCrellis

SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	111.0	Galway Bay	31-Mar	John Fleming	Mackerel
L-BS	–	111.0	Galway Bay	31-Mar	Alan Kelly	Mackerel
L-BS	–	109.0	Wicklow	07-Apr	Stan Ryan	Squid/Mackerel
L-BS	–	109.0	Portrush	22-Jun	Ian Hewett (UK)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	109.0	Galway Bay	02-Sep	Joe Nolan	Mackerel
L-BS	–	108.0	Wicklow	07-Apr	Stan Ryan	Squid/Mackerel
L-BS	–	108.0	Portrush	22-Jun	Ian Hewett (UK)	Mackerel



*Wicklow Spurdog
of 6.46 kg for
Paul Smith in April*



*Spurdog for
Evan McGovern
fishing out of
Portrush in June*

SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	108.0	Galway Bay	31-Mar	Stuart Rogan	Mackerel
L-BS	–	107.0	Portrush	11-Jun	Suzanne McCrellis	Mackerel
L-BS	–	107.0	Portrush	10-Jun	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
L-BS	–	106.0	Downings	04-Jun	Gijs Knevel (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	106.0	Portrush	10-Jun	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
L-BS	–	106.0	Portrush	22-Jun	Ian Hewett (UK)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	106.0	Galway Bay	31-Mar	Alan Kelly	Mackerel
L-BS	–	106.0	Larne	11-Mar	David McCormick	Mackerel
L-BS	–	105.0	Portrush	10-Jun	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
L-BS	–	105.0	Galway Bay	31-Mar	Eoin Trill	Mackerel



**Keith Marsella
with a Kenmare Bay
Spurdog taken in
April**



**112 cm Spurdog for
Micheál Hennessy in Kenmare Bay**

FLOUNDER

**Record 4.91 lbs (2.227 kg); Specimen Weight 1.1 kg (2.425 lbs)
Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold 45 cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.25	2.75	45.0	Ballyteigue	29-Oct-17	David Noonan	Mackerel
1.20	2.65	44.0	Mulranny	29-Dec-17	Joe Cooney	Mackerel
L-BS	–	47.0	Cullinstown	22-Oct	Barry Murphy	Crab
L-BS	–	45.5	Youghal	07-Apr	Christy Lane	Crab



Heaviest Flounder for David Noonan



1.2 kg Flounder for Joe Cooney in Mayo

GILTHEAD BREAM

Record 3.505 kg (7.727 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.4 kg (3.08 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.18	7.00	55.5	Clonakilty Bay	11-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Ragworm
3.06	6.75	54.0	Clonakilty Bay	11-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Lugworm
3.01	6.62	55.0	Clonakilty Bay	04-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
3.00	6.61	57.0	Clonakilty Bay	09-Jul	Duncan Cole	Lugworm
3.00	6.61	57.0	Clonakilty Bay	15-Jun	Duncan Cole	Lugworm
2.90	6.39	54.0	Clonakilty Bay	09-Jul	Duncan Cole	Lugworm
2.86	6.31	56.5	Clonakilty Bay	29-Jun	Andrew Wolsey	Lugworm
2.83	6.25	56.0	Ring, Cork	02-Jun	Jason Convery	Lugworm
2.78	6.12	53.5	Clonakilty Bay	02-Jun	Andrew Boyce	Lugworm



Gerard Palmer with his Clonakilty Bay Gilthead



1.9 kg Gilthead - Francis McNeilly

GILTHEAD BREAM CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.72	6.00	55.0	Clonakilty Bay	04-Jun	Gerard Palmer	Ragworm
2.61	5.75	54.5	Clonakilty Bay	11-Jul	Andrew Wolsey	Lugworm
2.27	5.00	53.0	Clonakilty Bay	30-Jun-17	Alan O'Dowling	Lugworm
2.20	4.85	52.0	Clonakilty	05-Jun	Francis McNeilly	Lugworm
1.90	4.19	49.8	Clonakilty	09-Jun	Francis McNeilly	Lugworm
1.64	3.62	46.5	Clonakilty	08-Jun	David Flynn	Lugworm



2.61 kg Gilthead for Andrew Wolsey



Duncan Cole with his 2.9 kg Gilthead

TUB GURNARD

Record 12 lbs 3.5 ozs (5.542 kg); Specimen Weight 2 kg (4.41 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.46	5.41	56.0	Cleggan	03-Sep	Burkhard Hobler	Mackerel baited feathers



The only specimen Tub Gurnard of 2018



Stephen O'Neill with specimen Hake. An uncommon specimen – prior to 2018 the most recent specimen was recorded in 2002.

HAKE

Record 25 lbs 5.5 ozs (11.495 kg); Specimen Weight 2.5 kg (5.51 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.56	5.65	67.0	Cork Harbour	01-Sep	Stephen O'Neill	Mackerel

LING

Record 55 lbs (24.947 kg); Specimen Weight 11.34 kg (25 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13.90	30.64	137.0	Outside Cork Harbour	24-Jun	Siert Schuls	Mackerel

MACKEREL

Record 4 lbs 2 ozs (1.871 kg); Specimen Weight 1 kg (2.205 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.02	2.25	–	Poolbeg, Dublin	18-Aug	Dermot Jenkins	Lure

MEGRIM

Record 1.85 kg (4.079 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.794 kg (1.75 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.94	2.07	51.0	Cork Harbour	24-Jun	Tony Tait	Mackerel



Megrim for Tony Tait

GOLDEN GREY MULLET

New Record 1.52 kg (3.351 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.52	3.35	52.0	Cork Harbour	15-Aug	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.98	2.15	47.0	Cork Harbour	20-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.71	1.56	41.0	Rosscarbery	14-Sep	Thomas Lynch	Maddies

THICK LIPPED MULLET

Record 9.1 lbs (4.128 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.37	7.44	66.0	Cork Harbour	03-Aug	Maurice Cott	Bread
3.18	7.00	65.0	Cork Harbour	30-Jul	Maurice Cott	Bread
3.12	6.87	65.0	Cork Harbour	10-Aug	Maurice Cott	Bread
3.06	6.75	63.0	Rosscarbery	06-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Bread



2.86 kg Thick Lipped Mullet for Jason Convery at Rosscarbery



Duncan Cole with one of the heavier Thick Lipped Mullet claimed in 2018

THICK LIPPED MULLET CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.01	6.62	63.0	Rosscarbery	06-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Bread
2.91	6.42	60.0	Rosscarbery	15-Sep	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.89	6.37	61.0	Rosscarbery	03-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Bread
2.86	6.31	62.0	Rosscarbery	01-Jul	Jason Convery	Bread
2.82	6.22	61.5	Rosscarbery	28-Aug	Francis McNeilly	Bread
2.81	6.20	63.0	Vartry Estuary	20-Jul	Des Chew	Bread
2.72	6.00	57.5	Rosscarbery	01-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.72	6.00	58.5	Rosscarbery	05-Jun	John Millerick	Bread
2.70	5.95	60.0	Rosscarbery	17-Jun	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
2.66	5.87	–	Rosscarbery	01-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.64	5.81	60.0	Rosscarbery	02-Sep	Glenn McCormack	Bread
2.61	5.75	58.0	Rosscarbery	14-Sep	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.61	5.75	60.0	Rosscarbery	06-Aug	Jason Convery	Bread
2.55	5.62	57.0	Rosscarbery	05-Jun	John Millerick	Bread
2.52	5.56	61.5	Rosscarbery	01-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Bread



An August Thick Lipped Mullet for Des Chew



Bernadette McKenna Ward with a Rosscarbery Thick Lipped Mullet of 2.27 kg

THICK LIPPED MULLET CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.52	5.56	62.0	Rosscarbery	14-Oct	Jason Convery	Bread
2.45	5.40	61.0	Vartry Estuary	04-Aug	Des Chew	Bread
2.38	5.25	58.5	Rosscarbery	13-Sep	Thomas Lynch	Maddies
2.38	5.25	60.0	Bannow Bay	01-Nov	Patrick Fagan	Bread
2.32	5.12	59.5	Rosscarbery	25-Aug	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread
2.32	5.12	53.5	Strangford Lough	07-Aug	Terry Jackson	Bread
2.31	5.09	58.0	Rosscarbery	07-Aug	Francis McNeilly	Bread
2.30	5.06	56.0	Vartry Estuary	21-Oct	Brian Cooke	Bread
2.28	5.02	59.0	R. Vartry	09-Jul	Craig Murphy	Bread
2.27	5.00	56.0	Rosscarbery	12-Aug-17	Bernadette McKenna Ward	Bread
2.27	5.00	59.0	Rosscarbery	05-Jun	John Millerick	Bread
2.27	5.00	51.5	Strangford Lough	16-Jul	Terry Jackson	Bread

THIN LIPPED MULLET

New Record 2.95 kg (6.504 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.5 kg (3.31 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.95	6.50	67.0	Cork Harbour	15-Jul	Noel Lane	Ragworm



1.22 kg Plaice for Donal Domenev

PLAICE**Record 8.23 lbs (3.733 kg); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.65 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.22	2.69	48.0	Aghada	22-Jul	Donal Domenev	Mussel

HOMELYN RAY**Record 8.28 lbs (3.756 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.72	6.00	70.0	Kenmare Bay	05-Aug	David Flynn	Mackerel

PAINTED RAY**Record 17.21 lbs (7.806 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.44	12.00	83.0	Cork Harbour	28-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
5.22	11.50	82.0	Youghal Beach	29-Sep	Nicky McEvoy	Sandeel/Crab
5.22	11.50	83.0	Cork Harbour	28-Oct	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
5.03	11.10	86.0	Cork Harbour	07-Oct	Pat Condon	Mackerel
4.82	10.62	–	Youghal	22-Dec-17	Amy O'Brien (J)	Crab
4.65	10.25	80.0	Cork Harbour	28-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel

STING RAY**Record 33.2 kg (73.193 lbs); Specimen Weight 13 kg (28.66 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
18.26	40.25	122.0	Tralee Bay	26-May	Evan McGovern	Crab
14.97	33.00	108.0	Tralee Bay	01-Apr	Dan Lynch	Crab

THORNBACK RAY

Record 37 lbs (16.783 kg); Specimen Weight 7 kg (15.43 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.17	15.81	95.0	Cork Harbour	28-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel

UNDULATE RAY

**Record 18 lbs (8.165 kg); Specimen Weight - kg (-lbs)
Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold 85 cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	90.0	Fenit	13-May	Darren Ryan	Sandeel
L-BS	–	87.7	Fenit	29-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
L-BS	–	87.5	Fenit	21-Apr	Amy O’Brien (J)	Crab
L-BS	–	87.0	Tralee Bay	22-Apr	Ross Macklin	Mackerel
L-BS	–	85.5	Fenit	06-May	Terry Jackson	Crab
L-BS	–	85.0	Fenit	21-May	Jerry O’Connor	Sandeel
L-BS	–	85.0	Tralee Bay	26-May	Gary Blake	Mackerel
L-BS	–	85.0	Fenit	06-May	Terry Jackson	Crab

THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

Record 3 lbs 1 ozs (1.389 kg); Specimen Weight 0.794 kg (1.75 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.02	2.25	47.0	Bangor Harbour	01-Mar	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
0.90	1.98	44.2	Cork Harbour	10-Jul-17	Herman Sterk (NL)	Mackerel

SCAD

Record 1.97 lbs (0.894 kg); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.68	1.50	38.0	Fastnet Rock	06-Oct	Peter Bolger	Baited Feathers
0.68	1.50	38.0	Outside Cork Harbour	16-Sep	Rob McClean	Mackerel



Rob McClean's specimen Scad

TWAITE SHAD

Record 1.64 kg (3.616 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.65 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.54	3.40	52.0	R. Barrow, St. Mullins	17-May	Terry Jackson	Lure
1.42	3.12	49.0	St. Mullins	09-May-17	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.40	3.09	—	St Mullins	05-May	Eddie Butler	Tasmanian Devil
1.40	3.09	46.0	St. Mullins	06-May	Dermot Jenkins	Tasmanian Devil
1.36	3.00	55.0	St. Mullins	12-May-16	Damian Allchorne	Tasmanian Devil
1.32	2.91	50.0	St. Mullins	26-May	Noel Darcy	Tasmanian Devil

TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.30	2.87	45.0	St. Mullins	16-May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.28	2.81	52.0	St. Mullins	27-May-17	Sidney Kennedy	Tasmanian Devil
1.25	2.76	45.0	St. Mullins	06-May	Dermot Jenkins	Tasmanian Devil
1.25	2.75	49.5	St. Mullins	13-May	Amy O'Brien (J)	Tasmanian Devil
1.25	2.75	45.0	St. Mullins	16-May	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.25	2.75	44.0	St. Mullins	09-May-17	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil
1.24	2.73	47.5	St. Mullins	16-May	Terry Jackson	Lure
1.22	2.69	45.5	St. Mullins	15-May	Terry Jackson	Lure
1.21	2.67	43.0	St. Mullins	06-May	Eoin Walsh	Tasmanian Devil
1.20	2.65	47.0	St Mullins	16-May	Gavin McNeill	Tasmanian Devil
1.20	2.65	46.5	St. Mullins	10-May	Thomas Lynch	Tasmanian Devil



The heaviest Twaite Shad fell to Terry Jackson in May 2018

Twaite Shad for Eoin Walsh

TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.19	2.62	51.0	St. Mullins	14-May-17	Sidney Kennedy	Tasmanian Devil
1.19	2.62	49.5	St. Mullins	17-May-17	Sidney Kennedy	Tasmanian Devil
1.19	2.62	49.0	St. Mullins	09-May-17	Ian Mulligan	Tasmanian Devil



1.25 kg Twaite Shad for Ian Mulligan



Blue Shark for Daniel O’Kelly

BLUE SHARK

**Record 206 lbs (93.44 kg); Specimen Weight 45.359 kg (100 lbs)
Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold 185 cm FL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	190.0	St Georges Channel	25-Aug	Daniel O’Kelly	Mackerel
L-BS	–	186.0	Outside Cork Harbour	13-Jul	Jim Clohessy	Mackerel

COMMON SKATE

Record 221 lbs (100.24 kg); Specimen Weight - kg (- lbs)

Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold 180 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	225.0	Union Hall	21-Jun	Brian Buckley	Coalfish
L-BS	–	>220.0	Portrush	21-Jun	Hamish Currie	Bullhuss
L-BS	–	217.0	Portrush	20-Aug	Johan Machiels (NL)	Spurdog
L-BS	–	216.0	Union Hall	22-Oct	Tom Collins	Coalfish/Mackerel
L-BS	–	215.0	Kinsale	24-Jun	Patrick Mostyn	Mackerel
L-BS	–	214.0	Union Hall	04-Jun	Derek Kenrick	Coalfish
L-BS	–	213.0	Baltimore	29-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel



*Charter skipper
Hamish Currie with his
large Common Skate*

COMMON SKATE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	212.0	Union Hall	05-Jul	Berry Kist (NL)	Pollack
L-BS	–	211.0	Baltimore	23-Jul	Johnny Woodlock	Mackerel
L-BS	–	210.0	Union Hall	01-Jul	Mike Sherwood	Pollack
L-BS	–	210.0	Union Hall	05-Jul	Berry Kist (NL)	Pollack
L-BS	–	206.0	Union Hall	22-Jun	Nicholas Ward	Coalfish
L-BS	–	205.0	Portrush	24-Jun	Ian Hewett (UK)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	205.0	Union Hall	04-Jun	Paul Kirwan	Mackerel
L-BS	–	204.0	Islandmagee	24-May	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-BS	–	204.0	Union Hall	22-Oct	Derek Kenrick	Mackerel
L-BS	–	201.0	Union Hall	22-Oct	JP Molloy	Mackerel
L-BS	–	198.0	Islandmagee	24-Jun	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-BS	–	198.0	Islandmagee	19-Oct	David Craig	Coalfish
L-BS	–	197.0	Belfast Lough	07-Jul	Michael Savage	Mackerel
L-BS	–	196.0	Union Hall	21-Jun	Micheál Hennessy	Mackerel/Coalfish
L-BS	–	196.0	Union Hall	01-Jul	Michael O'Callaghan	Coalfish/Mackerel
L-BS	–	196.0	Union Hall	14-Aug	Alan Saunders (UK)	Pollack
L-BS	–	195.0	Islandmagee	20-Aug	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	–	195.0	Union Hall	29-Jul	Derek Kilbey	Mackerel
L-BS	–	194.0	Islandmagee	06-Jul	Mark Todd	Coalfish
L-BS	–	194.0	Union Hall	06-Jun	Gerard Barry	Mackerel
L-BS	–	193.0	Islandmagee	24-Jun	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-BS	–	192.0	Islandmagee	14-Oct	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	–	190.0	Islandmagee	14-Oct	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-BS	–	187.0	Baltimore	01-Sep	Glenn McCormack	Mackerel
L-BS	–	182.0	Portrush	10-Jun	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
L-BS	–	180.0	Baltimore	03-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel

SMOOTH-HOUND

**Record 11.27 kg (24.85 lbs); Specimen Weight 3.75 kg (8.27 lbs)
Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold 100 cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8.30	18.30	112.0	Wicklow	24-Jun	Evan McGovern	Crab
8.16	18.00	117.0	Wicklow	28-Jun	Bert McGregor	Crab
7.48	16.50	113.0	Wicklow	23-Jun	Shane McLave	Crab
7.26	16.00	112.0	Wicklow	07-Jul	Thomas Lynch	Crab
7.14	15.75	116.0	Wicklow	24-Jun	Jeff Nolan	Crab
6.35	14.00	111.0	Wicklow	25-Jun	John Millerick	Crab
5.99	13.20	107.0	Wicklow	23-Jun	Kevin McClean	Peeler crab
5.90	13.00	107.0	Wicklow	01-Jul	Hans Luken (NL)	Crab
5.90	13.00	107.0	Wicklow	22-Jun	John Patrick Chew (J)	Crab



The second heaviest Smooth-hound in 2018 taken by Bert McGregor



One of the heaviest Smooth-hound in 2018 was caught by Thomas Lynch



Darren Kelly with a Wicklow Smooth-hound of 3.86 kg in July

SMOOTH-HOUND CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.78	12.75	109.0	Wicklow	25-Jun	Darren Kelly	Crab
5.53	12.20	104.0	Wicklow	06-Jul	Dan Smith	Crab
5.26	11.60	103.0	Wicklow	23-Jun	Kevin McClean	Peeler crab
5.13	11.31	103.0	Wicklow	18-Jul	Gavin Moran	Squid
4.90	10.80	97.0	Wicklow	09-Jun	Liam Tully	Crab
4.88	10.75	103.0	Wicklow	07-Jul	John Millerick	Corn
4.88	10.75	103.0	Wicklow	25-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Peeler crab
4.76	10.50	103.0	Wicklow	23-Jun	Norman Dunlop	Crab
4.65	10.25	103.0	Wicklow	24-Jun	Craig Murphy	Peeler crab
4.54	10.00	98.0	Wicklow	04-Jun	Allard van Dijk (NL)	Crab
4.54	10.00	102.0	Wicklow	04-Jun	Anne Hooijenga (NL)	Crab
4.54	10.00	103.0	Wicklow	16-Jun	Dominic Molony	Peeler crab
4.54	10.00	100.0	Wicklow	07-Jul	Thomas Lynch	Crab
4.42	9.75	99.0	Wicklow	25-Jun	John Millerick	Crab
4.40	9.70	98.0	Wicklow	01-Jun	Liam Tully	Crab
4.40	9.70	101.5	Wicklow	26-Jun	Kit Dunne	Crab
4.31	9.50	102.0	Wicklow	04-Jun	Peter Schiffer (D)	Crab
4.31	9.50	98.0	Wicklow	07-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
4.26	9.40	95.0	Wicklow	25-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Crab
4.17	9.20	98.0	Wicklow	30-Jun	David Craig	Crab
4.17	9.20	102.0	Wicklow	20-Jun	George Gaffney	Crab
4.17	9.20	99.5	Wicklow	24-Jun	Craig Murphy	Crab
4.17	9.20	98.0	Wicklow	22-Jun	Des Chew	Crab
4.01	8.85	99.0	Wicklow	01-Jul	Piet Verkade (NL)	Crab
3.99	8.80	95.0	Wicklow	09-Jun-17	Alex Clarke	Crab
3.90	8.60	95.0	Wicklow	18-Jun	Alastair Smyth	Peeler Crab
3.90	8.60	99.0	Killoughter	25-Jun	Gary Blake	Crab
3.86	8.50	102.0	Wicklow	07-Jul	Darren Kelly	Crab
3.86	8.50	90.0	Wicklow	07-Jul	Gary Blake	Crab

SMOOTH-HOUND CONTINUED..

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.86	8.50	98.0	Wicklow	09-Jun-17	Oisin Cahill	Crab
3.83	8.45	101.0	Wicklow	03-Jun	Joe White	Crab
3.76	8.30	101.0	Wicklow	23-Jun	Kevin McClean	Peeler Crab
3.76	8.30	101.0	Wicklow	19-Jun-17	Kit Dunne	Crab
3.74	8.25	100.0	Wicklow	09-Jun-17	Oisin Cahill	Crab
3.67	8.10	100.0	Tralee Bay	13-May-17	Gary Blake	Crab
L-BS	–	113.0	Dublin Bay	10-Jun	John Hughes	Crab
L-BS	–	106.0	Wicklow	06-Jul	Rob McClean	Crab
L-BS	–	105.0	Wicklow	09-Jul	Darren Lynch	Peeler Crab
L-BS	–	105.0	Wicklow	04-Jul	David Tully (J)	Crab
L-BS	–	105.0	Wicklow	08-Jul	Kim Tully	Crab
L-BS	–	105.0	Wicklow	01-Jul	Clare Maurer	Crab
L-BS	–	104.5	Wicklow	04-Jul	Philip Connolly	Crab
L-BS	–	103.0	Wicklow	22-Jul	Rob McClean	Squid
L-BS	–	103.0	Killoughter	25-Jun	Melissa Birchall	Crab
L-BS	–	102.5	Dublin Bay	05-Sep	Michael Gaffney	Crab
L-BS	–	101.5	Wicklow	18-Jul	Jim Clohessy	Peeler crab
L-BS	–	102.0	Wicklow	06-Jul	Eric Brady	Crab
L-BS	–	102.0	Wicklow	28-Jun	Brian Cooke	Crab
L-BS	–	102.0	Dublin Bay	18-Oct	Padraig Walshe	Squid
L-BS	–	101.5	Wicklow	09-Jul	Darren Lynch	Peeler Crab
L-BS	–	101.0	Wicklow	04-Aug	Aidan Cox	Peeler Crab
L-BS	–	101.0	Wicklow	07-Jul	Rob McClean	Crab
L-BS	–	101.0	Wicklow	21-Jul	Gary Blake	Mackerel
L-BS	–	100.5	Wicklow	08-Jul	Amy O'Brien (J)	Crab
L-BS	–	100.3	Howth	09-Aug	Bert McGregor	Crab
L-BS	–	100.0	Tramore	10-Jun	Barry Murphy	Squid
L-BS	–	100.0	Wicklow	16-Jun	Darren Ryan	Crab
L-BS	–	100.0	Tramore	03-Aug	Nicky McEvoy	Crab/Ragworm
L-BS	–	100.0	Howth	05-Sep	Michael Gaffney	Crab
L-BS	–	100.0	Wicklow	27-Jun	Zoe Tully	Crab



102 cm for Brian Cooke



George Gaffney - 4.17 kg out of Wicklow



A 101 cm Smooth-hound for Rob McClean in July



3.83 kg Smooth-hound for Joe White in June



The third heaviest Smooth-hound in 2018 was taken by Shane McLave. Skipper Kit Dunne lending a helping hand.



John Hughes with the longest length-based specimen of 2018, at 113 cm, taken in Dublin Bay in June



Darren Ryan - 100 cm in June



Jeff Nolan - 7.14 kg in June



5.26 kg for Kevin McClean in June



Dan Smith with his 5.53 kg Smooth-hound off Wicklow in June



Shore caught Smooth-hound of 103 cm for Melissa Birchall off Killoughter in June



Dutch angler Piet Verkade with his Wicklow Smooth-hound taken in early July



Heaviest Smooth-hound of 2018 was caught by Evan McGovern off Wicklow in June



A 101 cm Smooth-hound for Aidan Cox in August

TOPE

**New Record 34.019 kg (75 lbs); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)
Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold 160 cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
34.02	75.00	195.0	Greystones	03-Oct	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
27.22	60.00	177.0	Greystones	30-Jun	Clyde McElwaine	Mackerel
26.31	58.00	165.0	Wicklow	02-Oct	Daudu Denis (F)	Coalfish
22.68	50.00	165.0	Wicklow	19-Jul	John Millerick	Mackerel
22.68	50.00	166.0	Greystones	04-Aug	Gerard Kelly	Mackerel
22.23	49.00	160.0	Greystones	21-Jul	Pat Kirwan	Mackerel
20.87	46.00	162.0	Greystones	04-Aug	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
20.41	45.00	160.0	Wicklow	20-Aug	Aidan Dunne	Mackerel



***161 cm Tope for Nicky McEvoy
in July out of Wicklow***



***Tope for Gerard Kelly
off Greystones***

TOPE CONTINUED..

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
20.40	44.97	152.0	Greystones	06-Oct	Conor Ward	Mackerel
19.96	44.00	154.0	Greystones	22-Sep	Pat Kirwan	Mackerel
19.50	43.00	160.0	Greystones	03-Oct	Sean Byrne	Mackerel
19.05	42.00	160.0	Greystones	24-Jul	Sean Byrne	Mackerel
18.60	41.00	153.0	Wicklow (The Breeches)	03-Nov-17	Conor Ward	Herring
18.60	41.00	148.0	Wicklow	03-Jul	Ed van Haagen (NL)	Mackerel
18.14	40.00	152.0	Fenit	07-Nov	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-BS	–	171.0	Kilmore Quay	06-Aug	Joseph Brady	Mackerel
L-BS	–	167.0	Tinnaberna, Wexford	05-Jun	Darren Ryan	Mackerel
L-BS	–	166.0	Greystones	04-Aug	Gerard Kelly	Mackerel
L-BS	–	165.0	Carlingford Lough	26-Aug-17	Shay Gormley	Mackerel
L-BS	–	162.0	Islandmagee	14-Oct	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	–	161.0	Wicklow	21-Jul	Nicky McEvoy	Mackerel
L-BS	–	161.0	Howth	15-Jul	Shay McDonnell	Mackerel
L-BS	–	161.0	Howth	04-Aug	Bert McGregor	Mackerel
L-BS	–	160.0	Wicklow	24-May	Frank Crowley	Mackerel
L-BS	–	160.0	Wicklow	19-Jul	John Millerick	Mackerel



Howth in July was the venue for Shay McDonnell's 161 cm Tope



Aidan Dunne cradles his August Tope taken off Wicklow



Daudu Denis (right) from France with his Tope taken in October with Kit Dunne

BALLAN WRASSE

Record 4.3 kg (9.47 lbs); Specimen Weight 2.154 kg (4.75 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.30	5.07	49.0	Slea Head	03-Oct	Craig Murphy	Crab
2.29	5.05	49.0	Kilmore Quay	02-Sep-17	Gary Blake	Ragworm
2.20	4.85	48.0	Slea Head	05-Oct	Craig Murphy	Crab
2.19	4.83	48.0	Beara Peninsula, Reenmore	22-Sep	Francis McNeilly	Bread

CUCKOO WRASSE

Record 2 lbs 7 ozs (1.106 kg); Specimen Weight 0.567 kg (1.25 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.71	1.56	35.0	6 km Sth of Baltimore	17-Sep	Mick O'Callaghan	Ragworm
0.62	1.37	36.5	Islandmagee	05-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel
0.59	1.30	34.0	Kilmore Quay	04-Nov	Gary Blake	Ragworm
0.58	1.28	35.0	Islandmagee	05-Sep	Peter Ross	Mackerel Baited Lure
0.58	1.28	35.0	Islandmagee	24-Jun	Mark Todd	Mackerel



John Patrick Chew, Young Specimen Angler of 2018, with his winning fish a 5.9 kg Smooth-hound caught off Wicklow in June

Special Notices

CLOSING DATE FOR SPECIMEN CLAIMS

Fully completed claims must be submitted by **31st October** each year. A charge of €10 applies for each claim (Shad and Cyprinids) submitted for genetic analysis.

SPECIMEN WEIGHT & LENGTH REVISIONS

All listed species were reviewed in 2018 - details of changes for 2019 in table below. FL refers to Forklength. TL refers to Total Length.

Species	Current	Revised	Status
Salmon	–	90 cm FL	Length based specimen option introduced
Black Bream	–	36 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced
Bluemouth	–	38 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced
Conger Eel	–	165 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced
Blackmouthed Dogfish	–	67.0 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced
Spurdog	–	105 cm TL	Reviewed & no change
Garfish (<i>B. bellone</i>)	–	89 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced; detailed photographs of head required for species identification
Blonde Ray	110 cm TL	100 cm TL	Reduced
Cuckoo Ray	–	63 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced
Homelyn Ray	–	65 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced
Painted Ray	–	80 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced
Sting Ray	–	90.0 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced
Thornback Ray	–	100 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced
Twaite Shad	–	46 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced
Smooth-hound	3.75 kg	4 kg	Increased weight
Ballan Wrasse	–	48 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced
Cuckoo Wrasse	–	35 cm TL	Length based specimen option introduced

GEOGRAPHICAL LIMIT FOR CLAIMS

The geographical limit for claiming marine specimen fish is defined as the marine waters bound by the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland sectors of the European Economic Zone (EEZ), and on the north east coast by the midpoint between NI and the remainder of the United Kingdom landmass.

WEIGHT BASED SPECIMENS

All fish must be weighed on scales which are verified for accuracy. **ALL elasmobranch (Dogfish, Sharks, Skates and Rays) claims (weight or length based) require submission of a photograph showing the whole fish, measured on a measuring mat (with an end stop) or equivalent, with its length clearly discernible.** Photographs of whole fish on a measure is likely to be a requirement for all claims in the future.

Weighing instruments and certification: Retail outlet scales are checked regularly by officers of the Legal Metrology Service (National Standards Authority of Ireland) or their equivalent 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. Such scales, if certified by a reputable agency/company, are acceptable to the Committee. Certification will be valid for one year from the date of issue of the certificate of accuracy. The manufacturer's certificate of accuracy will not suffice. Weights from scales which are not certified at the time of weighing or certified in retrospect will not be accepted. Claims cannot be accepted in the case of fish which have been weighed on board a boat, **UNLESS WEIGHED ON A CERTIFIED MOTION-COMPENSATED BALANCE.**

The National Metrology Laboratory (NML) has provided a service to calibrate mechanical and digital fish scales (personal/club) based on EN 45501, from 0 – 100kg. The NML is responsible for establishing, maintaining and developing the national measurement standards for physical quantities and their dissemination to Irish users. NML operates as a division of NSAI (The National Standards Authority of Ireland).

Contact details:

NSAI National Metrology Laboratory (Rory Hanrahan)
Griffith Avenue Extension
Glasnevin
Dublin 9
Tel: 01 8082609

<http://www.n sai.ie/Our-Services/Measurement/Calibration-Services/Fish-Scale-Calibration.aspx>

Weighing scales and minimum weight: Scales must be appropriate to the size of fish being weighed. **The minimum weight permitted is 10 times the scale interval (or weighing division) to ensure that fish are weighed on appropriate scales.** This means that for scales with a 50g interval (or scale division) fish being weighed have to exceed 500g (1 lb 2 ozs) in weight. For a 2 oz interval a minimum weight of 20 ozs applies.

LENGTH-BASED SPECIMENS

Fish must be measured on a recognised measuring device with an end stop and suitable graduations.

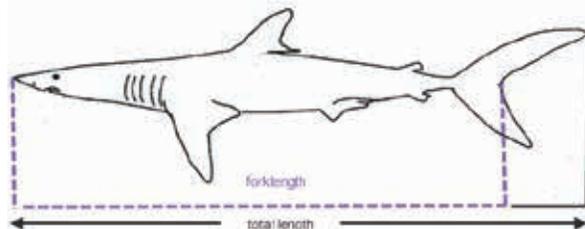
Length-based claim procedure: Claims must be made on current form and angler **MUST** specify if length-based.

The following evidence must accompany each length-based specimen claim:

- (a) Photograph(s) showing fish placed belly down on properly extended measuring device with snout against perpendicular bar or plate with the actual recorded length (cm) visible. The snout tip will index the 0 cm measurement accurately. Dorsal caudal lobe to be depressed into line with its body axis and total length measured as a point to point distance (not over the curve of the body) from the snout tip to the tip of the dorsal caudal lobe.

- (b) Sex of the fish. Males can be identified by their claspers (modified pelvic fins) which are thin elongated paired fins situated behind the pelvic fins. Females do not have claspers but have an opening between the pelvic fins.

Suitable devices (measuring mats) are available from IFI, IGFA or tackle manufacturers.



Threshold values for all length based specimens (and wingspan measurements for ray and skate) are shown. Wingspan to be measured by placing fish on measuring mat. All freshwater species should be measured to forklength (FL). All marine species must be given as total length (TL) except Blue and Porbeagle Shark (both FL).

Angel Shark, Common Skate, Porbeagle Shark, Undulate Ray and White Skate have been re-listed as length-based specimens only. The primary reasons for their re-listing are to (a) collect data on their distribution and status which is scientifically valuable and (b) to provide additional species for anglers to target as specimens. In re-listing these species, which have an exceptionally high conservation value, the ISFC requires that anglers handle them with the utmost care and that best practise is adopted for lifting and returning to the water. Fish slings or similar are recommended. Detail on exact capture locations (Latitude/Longitude) would contribute further to refining species distribution information but will not be published by ISFC.

NEW RECORD CLAIMS

Records will be weight based only.

Photographic evidence for new records: A series of clear photographs must accompany all **record** fish claims, except in the few cases where a body (or presentation of the fish) is required for species identification. Photographs must show the whole fish lying on a flat surface and include a measure of scale (measurement mat, ruler). Preferably it should be photographed on a measuring mat or similar. Supplementary photographs showing the fish being weighed and the recorded weight would assist in further claim substantiation.

FISH SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Genetic fingerprinting of certain cyprinids and Shad species: To support claims for Roach, Rudd and their hybrids, or any Shad species claim, anglers must submit 3 scales from a fish in a dry envelope (not in a plastic bag or tin foil) and good quality colour photographs. The entire fish on its side with, the dorsal and anal fins fully splayed, and close up photographs of the head (side on) are required for each fish claimed (full detail in table on the next page).

Only three claims may be submitted for any combination of Shad (i.e. Shad or suspected Shad Hybrids). No hybrids have been identified since 2011.

As genetic analysis of scales requires considerable time to process samples, anglers are requested to submit scale samples before 15th October.

Sample requirements for genetic analysis of selected cyprinids and shads for species/hybrid determination

Species	Sample required	Storage	Additional information
Roach, Rudd and their hybrids	3 scales	In an envelope with fish details and date	Good quality photographs required
Shad species	3 scales	In an envelope with fish details and date	Ensure fish is retained in water as much as is feasible when taking scale sample

Notes: As all fish can be returned alive please handle carefully. Allow envelope to dry out to preserve the sample. **Do not** store scales or tissue in plastic as sample will degrade.

Guidance for anglers taking photographs for fish identification purposes: Photographs are acceptable for claim verification **if they provide conclusive evidence of the identification of a fish species** (Rule 4). A list of some external identification features for particular species identification are presented below.

Photographs, which should be taken as soon as possible after the fish is captured, must be in focus, clear and in colour, printed on good quality paper and show the relevant identification features. Photographs should include the name of the angler and date of capture. Close up photographs are required for many features and these photographs should fill the entire frame.

Digital images submitted by DVD, CD or email must be tagged with angler name, fish species, weight, length and date of capture.

Species	Features to photograph (a) the whole body (lateral view) must be photographed for all species AND (b) the specific features detailed below
All cyprinids (Dace, Roach, Roach/Bream, Roach/Rudd, Rudd, Rudd/Bream)	Whole body; body with fins extended and close ups of: (a) mouth - closed (b) dorsal fin (c) full lateral line (d) anal fin Three scales to be taken
Angler Fish	Whole body; head area showing head appendages upright
Brill	Whole body; close up of skin
Cuckoo Wrasse	Whole body; lateral view, close up of head
Dab	Whole body; close up of skin and lateral line
Flounder	Whole body; close up of lateral line scales close to head
Golden Grey Mullet Thin-Lipped Mullet	Whole body and close ups of: (a) head including pectoral fin (lying flat) (b) mouth showing upper lip (c) underside of head
Grey Gurnard	Whole body; close up of lateral line and head
Thick Lipped Mullet	Whole body; close up of head showing upper lip (head-on), underside of head to back of gills
Herring	Whole body; keel of fish
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	Whole body; underside of head
Mackerel	Whole body; close up of stripes on back
Megrin	Whole body; head
Ray's Bream	Whole body; close up of head
All Gurnards	Whole body; detail of lateral line, head with pectoral fin fully expanded
Red Mullet	Whole body; close up of head
Scad	Whole body; close up of entire lateral line
Shad - Allis, Twaite & Hybrid	Whole body; three scales to be taken
Smooth-hound	Whole body and close ups of: (a) tail fin (b) underside of head showing mouth (c) back in region of dorsal fin
Three Bearded Rockling	Whole body; close up of head and lower jaw area, and close up of area in front of dorsal fin
Torsk	Whole body; close up of skin and dorsal and tail fin area

Additional details of important features are detailed in IFI's Fish Identification Guide
<http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Angling/angling-publications.html>



Examples of close-up images required for cyprinid identification. Photograph of fish on measuring mat (or similar) which show general shape, position of fins and other features also required.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Place of capture: For freshwater species 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). For marine species taken by boat angling the port of origin and the place of capture (examples: Burford Bank, 5 km West of Stags Head or Smiths) should be stated.

Metrification: Claims will be accepted under the metric and imperial systems unless legislation dictates otherwise. Since 2006, fish weights have been presented in kilogrammes in the Annual Report. Many anglers continue to use imperial measurements for fish and in 2010 ISFC decided to report in both metric (SI) and imperial metric systems.

Length measurements on claim form: A length measurement provides informative data about the species being claimed and additional verification information, and is requested for all species. Considerable length variation is evident for many species due to natural variability (time of year, sex, location, feeding etc) but it is likely that fish length measurement techniques are inconsistent also. Measurement mats are recommended to provide standardized measurements of specimen fish.

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

Maximum number of claims per species: A maximum of three (3) awards will be made to any particular claimant for any single species in any one year. If an angler achieves this target and subsequently captures a larger fish within the year, this fish can be claimed but the final number of awards for any species in a single year will not be more than three.

Exclusion from specimen status (stocked fish): Where species of fish are introduced to a fishery at or above the specimen weight, those species from that particular fishery will not be considered for specimen or record status. Escapees from fish farms in either freshwater or marine are also excluded.

ADMINISTRATION

Captors Addresses: Because of difficulties in establishing eligibility for the 20 Species, 10 Species, 50 Specimen and 10 Specimen Awards, anglers are requested to inform the Committee of any changes in their address.

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 (*Belone svetovidovi*) (from 1986), torsk (*Brosme brosme*) (from 1988), trigger fish (*Balistes carolinensis*) (from 1992), bluemouth (*Helicolenus dactylopterus*) (from 2002), albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) (from 2002), golden grey mullet (*Liza aurata* (Risso)) (from 2005), gilthead bream (*Sparus aurata* L.) (from 2007), blackmouthed dogfish (*Galeus melastomus*) (from 2008), Black Bream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*) (from 2009), and thin lipped mullet (*Liza ramada*) from 2011.

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 to establish a database for the species and enable further investigation and comparison of future claims. Claims for 10 fish of that species must be submitted for it to be considered for possible inclusion on the listings. The specimen weight will be set from this dataset and other relevant data. The record fish will be ratified after 5 fish exceeding specimen weight are ratified.

With some species a body may have to be forwarded for positive identification. Other arrangements would apply for larger fish. The availability of a body will allow the Committee to verify positive identification of the species and the claims 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 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.

NOTABLE FISH

Blue Runner *Caranx crysos* (Mitchill, 1815), measuring 51.5 cm (TL) and weighing 1.26 kg, captured by Jos Breugelmans (from Belgium) on 27 July 2018 from the shore at Brandon Bay, near Cloghane, Co. Kerry. This is the first record of this species in Irish waters and the fish exceeds the current UK rod caught record of 1.155 kg, captured in Cornwall in 2007 (https://www.fish-uk.com/uk_sea_fish_records.htm).

A schooling species, generally confined to inshore waters, its current known distribution includes the western coast of Africa, the western Mediterranean and the western Atlantic coast extending from Nova Scotia to Argentina, including the Caribbean (Froese, R. and D. Pauly. Editors. 2018. FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication. www.fishbase.org, (06/2018)



PRESENTATION OF 2017 AWARDS

Darryl Grimason, angler, TV reporter and presenter for BBC Northern Ireland made the Annual Presentation of Specimen Awards at the Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport on 17 February 2018.

In March 2018, Dutch and Belgian anglers were presented with their specimen awards by renowned angling journalist Peter Dohmen, editor of the top Dutch sea angling magazine Zee Hengelsport, and Shane O'Reilly, Inland Fisheries Ireland, at VISMA, Rotterdam. ISFC acknowledges and thanks Peter for his excellent contribution to promoting Ireland as an angling destination over many decades and wishes him well in his retirement.

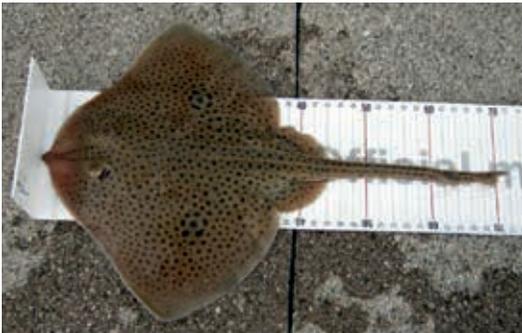
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special acknowledgements: Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) continues to provide unstinting administrative support and other services to the ISFC and is sincerely acknowledged. Bridie Fleming, who has retired from IFI, continues to support ISFC activity and her contribution continues to be very valuable. Sincere thanks to Myles Kelly, IFI and ISFC web manager, for his input throughout 2018. AFBINI continues to provide a specimen fish identification service for anglers in the northern part of Ireland and the ISFC is indebted to Dr Steven Beggs and ISFC Chairman, Dr Robert Rosell.

Charter skippers, club members, guesthouse owners, tackle dealers and IFI staff who follow up claims and ensure that the necessary paperwork is attended to are gratefully acknowledged.

Special thanks are due to the extremely cooperative staff of the National Metrology Laboratory NSAI for certification of anglers' scales. DNA analysis undertaken by Dr. Jens Carlsson and his team at UCD has significantly advanced ISFC fish identification procedures. Declan Quigley kindly wrote an article for this report and is gratefully acknowledged for his contribution.

Photographs: The majority of photographs in this report are taken by anglers. Anglers, charter skippers, fisheries staff and journalists are acknowledged for their photographs.



Homelyn Ray Total Length

Smooth Hound on IFI measuring mat



DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIMEN AWARDS

Nationalities of anglers whose claims were ratified:

Year	Ireland	The Netherlands	United Kingdom	Germany	Belgium	France	Other	TOTAL
		(NL)	(UK)	(D)	(B)	(F)		
2000	403	41	48	13	1	0	2	508
2001	427	28	37	5	4	3	4	508
2002	471	23	43	7	6	2	7	559
2003	384	63	41	11	13	4	5	521
2004	412	48	38	3	9	4	4	518
2005	432	62	52	10	7	4	1	568
2006	351	44	42	2	10	0	2	449
2007	424	56	28	6	12	2	2	530
2008	429	46	23	1	3	0	0	502
2009	470	39	15	5	0	0	2	531
2010	521	45	26	6	5	1	3	607
2011	519	50	14	0	3	0	1	587
2012	578	40	18	2	1	0	1	640
2013	536	41	11	5	1	0	1	595
2014	476	23	15	1	7	2	2	526
2015	422	12	8	0	4	0	1	447
2016	416	45	10	2	9	0	3	485
2017	346	22	8	–	2	–	4	382
2018	374	10	6	1	–	1	1	393

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS

Expenditure and Revenue Accounts - 1st January to 31st December 2017

2016	Expenditure	2017	2016	Revenue		2017
€		€	€		€	€
				Balance b/f from 2016		16991.81
				Grants		
466.77	Awards	788.08				
195.00	Awards Day Expenses	293.09	4500	IFI	4500	
26.63	Fees & Stamp Duty	34.71		DAERA	2274.26	
2500.00	Genetics	2000	200	TAFI	200	
106.50	Meeting Expenses	75.05	8.89	Delphi	8.89	
3620.67	Printing	3588.29				
				Donations		
			635.92	Angler Donations	875.77	
	Total	6779.22			7858.92	7858.92
	Balance c/d	18071.51				
		24850.73				24850.73
				Balance b/d		18071.51

"The ISFC has prepared a revenue and expenditure account for 12 months ended 31st December 2017 based on the movements in the bank. Upon review of the financial records provided we are satisfied that this income and expenditure account accurately reflects the underlying transactions"

Signed:

M. Martin & H. O'Rourke (Auditors)

DONATIONS

The ISFC is a voluntary body and all of its activities are funded by grants/donations from diverse sources. All funders are gratefully acknowledged.

Benefactors in 2018 were:

Inland Fisheries Ireland, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), TAFI, Delphi Fishery; **Philip Barry**, Ballyvolane, Cork; **Gary Blake**, Kilnamanagh, Dublin 24; **Paul Bray**, Gorey, Co. Wexford; **Duncan Cole**, Newtownards, Co. Down BT22 RQ; **Ciaran Collins**, Baltimore, Co. Cork; **Patrick Condon**, Pouladuff Road, Cork; **Maurice Cott**, Rostellan, Co. Cork; **Noel Darcy**, Thomastown Co. Kilkenny; **Declan Dempsey**, Drimnagh, Dublin 12; **Ronan Doherty**, Glenageary, Co. Dublin; **Donal Domeny**, 20 Courtown Drive, Cork City; **Kit Dunne**, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow; **Patrick Fagan**, Crumlin, Dublin 12; **Mike Flannery**, Ardrahan, Co. Galway; **Desmond Frazer**, Crumlin, Dublin 12; **Eric Gosnell**, Blackrock, Cork; **Jim Gregg**, Antrim, BT411EY; **Terry Jackson**, Kircubbin, Down; **Barry James**, Sth Douglas Rd, Cork; **David Jolly**, Crosshaven, Co. Cork; **Myles Kelly**, Cobh, Co. Cork; **Noel Lane**, Mayfield, Cork; **Christy Lane**, Dillons Cross, Cork; **Patrick Lombard**, Clonakilty, Co. Cork; **Thomas Lynch**, Rush, Co. Dublin; **Dan Lynch**, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork; **Ross Macklin**, Rochestown, Cork; **Seamus McDonnell**, Tallaght, Dublin 24; **Nicky McEvoy**, Grange Hts, Waterford City; **Evan McGovern**, Shanakiel, Cork; **Bert McGregor**, St. Margarets, Co. Dublin; **WF McLoughlin**, 27 Castle Gardens, Limavady, BT4905D; **Francis McNeilly**, Downpatrick, Down, BT309BS; **Joe Mulholland**, Dundalk, Co. Louth; **Jimmy O'Connor**, Walkinstown Dublin 12; **Karl O'Leary**, Raheen, Limerick; **Joey O'Neill**, Magherafelt, Derry; **Stephen O'Neill**, Carrigaline, Co. Cork; **Frank Prendergast**, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry; **Hughie Reid**, Athlone IT; **Crispin Rodwell**, South Circular Road, Dublin D08VW58; **Stan Ryan**, Killiney, Dublin; **Robert Shefford**, Tenby, Pembrokeshire SA70 7PE; **Daniel Smith**, Walkinstown, Dublin; **Anthony Tait**, Lower Aghada, Cork; **Nicky Ward**, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow; **Andrew Wolsey**, Dromore, Co. Down.



Measuring Rudd/Bream Hybrid

Measuring Homelyn Ray disc width

IRISH RECORD FISH

FRESHWATER SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Bream	6.07 kg	24.6.2012	Ballywillan Lough Fishery, Co. Down	Bryan Robinson
Carp	14.24 kg	26.10.2014	Loughgall, Armagh	Aaron Cummins
Dace	1 2	8.8.1966	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	John T. Henry
Eel	6 15	12.6.1979	Lough Droumenisa, Bantry	J. Murnane
Perch	5 8	1946	Lough Erne	S. Drum
Pike (Lake)	42 12	25.9.2005	White Lake	Larry Kelly
Pike (River)	42	22.3.1964	River Barrow	M. Watkins
Roach	1.425 kg	6.10.2002	Drumacritten Lake	Terry Jackson
Roach/Bream Hybrid	3.376 kg	3.5.2013	Monalty Lake, Co. Monaghan	Jason Dingle
Roach/Rudd Hybrid	2.1 kg	5.5.2009	River Lagan, Co. Antrim	Terry Jackson
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	20.6.1995	Ballyeighter Lake	Nick Parry
Salmon	57	1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Brown Trout (Lake)	26 2	15.7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Brown Trout (River)	20	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 Bream	1.46 kg	17.9.2008	Kilmore Quay	Gordon Thornes
Black Sole	6.32	28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Bluemouth	1.32 kg	28.7.2008	Caherciveen	Sue Tait
Brill	9 8	8.9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	15.1 kg	30.8.2003	Castletownshend	Roger Barham (UK)
Cod	42	1921	Ballycotton	I.L. Stewart
Conger Eel	72	June, 1914	Valentia	J. Green
Dab	2 5.5	2.10.2002	Cork Harbour	Mick Duff (UK)
Blackmouthed Dogfish	1.33 kg	10.8.2011	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Jan Vrieswijk (NL)
Spur Dogfish	11.06 kg	3.6.2013	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Tom Walsh
Greater Spotted Dogfish	23 13	17.09.2003	Kenmare Bay	Perry Dumay (NL)
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	4 4	26.7.1982	Valentia	Cor Heinis (NL)
Flounder	4.91	2.10.1993	Ballyteigue	Brian Russell
Garfish (B. belone)	1.729 kg	28.5.2007	Cork Harbour	Stephen O'Neill
Garfish (B. svetovidovi)	1.11	5.8.1994	Courtmacsherry	Eric Leijten (NL)
Gilthead Bream	3.505 kg	17.8.2013	Dingle, Co. Kerry	Jeremy Coleman (UK)

MARINE SPECIES (Contd.)

Species	Weight		Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
	lbs	ozs			
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	5.39	kg	21.2.2010	Union Hall	Tony Santry
Hake	25	5.5	28.4.1962	Belfast Lough	H. W. Steele
Halibut	156		23.7.1972	Belmullet	Frank Brogan
Herring	0.48	kg	17.9.2011	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Hamish Currie
John Dory	7	8	12.8.1984	Killala Bay	Cleona Walkin
Ling	55		3.1.2004	Cork Harbour	Ailbhe O'Sullivan
Mackerel	4	2	18.9.1979	Ballycotton	Ulrich Plassmann (D)
Megrim	1.85	kg	26.7.1987	Killala	Paul Hennigan
Angel Shark (Monkfish)	73		1.6.1980	Fenit, Co. Kerry	James Boyd
Grey Mullet	9.10		26.9.1993	Cork Harbour	Cay Heerwagen (D)
Golden Grey Mullet	1.52		15.8.2018	Cork Harbour	Stephen O'Neill
Thin Lipped Mullet	2.95		15.7.2018	Cork Harbour	Noel Lane
Red Mullet	0.82	kg	20.9.2010	Kilmore Quay	Sue Tait
Plaice	8.23		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		28.5.1961	Ling Rocks, Kinsale	M. J. Fitzgerald
Blonde Ray	37		10.10.2005	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		11.6.1977	Fenit	Ann-Mari Liedecke (DK)
Homelyn Ray	8.28		28.9.1983	Cork Harbour	Edmund Cull
Painted Ray	17.21		29.8.1994	Garryvoe, Co. Cork	Edmund Cull
Electric Ray	40	kg	24.8.2002	Achill	Shay Boylan
Ray's Bream	6	4.25	26.8.1978	Valentia	Martin Sarney (UK)
Red Sea Bream	9	6	24.8.1963	Valentia	P. Maguire
Twaiite Shad	1.64	kg	15.5.2015	St. Mullins	Thomas Lynch
Porbeagle Shark	365		1932	Keem Bay, Achill	Dr. O'Donel Brown
Blue Shark	206		7.10.59	Achill Head	J. McMonagle
Six Gilled Shark	480	kg	16.6.09	Carrigaholt	Joe Waldis
Common Skate	221		1913	Ballycotton	T. Tucker
White Skate	165		7.8.1966	Clew Bay	Jack Stack
Scad	1.97		6.9.1986	Clonakilty	Master R. McCarthy
Smooth-Hound	11.27	kg	10.6.2016	South Wexford	Dean Quigley
Stone Basse	11.72		14.7.2005	Baltimore	Tony Rainer (UK)
Three Bearded Rockling	3	1	1.5.1990	Arklow	Maurice Laurent
Tope	34.02		3.10.2018	Greystones	Stephen Hanway
Torsk	4.858	kg	26.6.2006	Rosguill	Jan de Bakker (NL)
Trigger Fish	2.54	kg	7.9.2006	Slea Head	Bob Moss
Turbot	34		9.6.1982	Cork Harbour	Frank Fleming
Tuna – Albacore	29.96	kg	5.9.2007	Caherciveen	Henry McAuley
– 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 (F)
Cuckoo Wrasse	2	7	15.9.1998	Causeway Coast	Brian McLoughlin

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS AND LENGTHS

(revisions for 2019 in bold)

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		LENGTH BASED SPECIMEN	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs		
FRESHWATER FISH						
Bream (<i>Abramis brama</i>)	6.07 kg		3.402	7.5		–
Carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)	14.24 kg		5.9	13		–
Dace (<i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>)	1	2	0.3	0.66		Scales & photos
Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	6	15	suspended from ISFC listing			
Perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)	5	8	1.2	2.646		–
Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (Lake)	42	12	13.608	30	≥115cm Fork Length	–
Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (River)	42		9.072	20	≥100cm Fork Length	–
Roach (<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>)	1.425 kg		0.907	2		Scales* & photos
Roach/Bream Hybrid	3.376 kg		1.6	3.528		Scales* & photos
Roach/Rudd Hybrid	2.1 kg		0.9	1.98		Scales* & photos
Rudd (<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>)	4	8	0.8	1.76		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	≥90 cm Fork Length	Scales
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (Lake)	26	2	4.536	10	≥75cm Fork Length	Scales
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (River)	20		2.268	5	≥57cm Fork Length	Scales
Sea Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	16	6	2.722	6	≥64cm Fork Length	Scales
Slob Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	–		4.536	10		Scales
* for genetic profiling						
SEA FISH						
Angel Shark (aka Monkfish) (<i>Squatina squatina</i>)	73		No Specimen Weight		≥125cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Angler Fish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	42.985 kg		8.0	17.64		Body†
Bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	17	13	4.536	10	≥75cm Total Length	–
Black Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>)	6.32		0.6	1.32		–
Black Bream (<i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</i>)	1.46 kg		0.79	1.75	≥36 cm Total Length	Body†
Bluemouth (<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>)	1.32 kg		0.9	1.98	≥38 cm Total Length	Photo
Brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)	9	8	1.6	3.53		Body†
Coalfish (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	15.1 kg		6.804	15		Photo
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	42		8.0	17.64		–
Conger eel (<i>Conger conger</i>)	72		18.144	40	≥165 cm Total Length	–

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		LENGTH BASED SPECIMEN	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs		
Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	2	5.5	0.6	1.32		Body†
Dogfish – Blackmouthed (<i>Galeus melastomus</i>)	1.33 kg		1.0	2.205	≥67 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Dogfish – Lesser Spotted (<i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i>)	4	4	1.474	3.25		Photo on measuring mat
Dogfish – Greater Spotted (<i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i>)	23	13	7.257	16	≥125cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Dogfish – Spur (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	11.06 kg		5.443	12	≥105cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)	4.91		1.1	2.426	≥45cm Total Length	Body†
Garfish (<i>Belone belone</i>)	1.729 kg		1.0	2.205	≥89 cm Total Length	Head and gills
Garfish (<i>Belone svetovidovi</i>)	1.11		0.3	0.66		Head and gills
Gilthead bream (<i>Sparus aurata</i>)	3.505 kg		1.4	3.08		Photo (whole body, head shot showing mouth & 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	2.0	4.41		Photo (pectoral fins must be fully expanded)
Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)	5.39 kg		2.5	5.51		–
Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)	25	5.5	2.5	5.51		–
Halibut (<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>)	156		12.0	26.46		–
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	2.205		Body†
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)	1.85 kg		0.794	1.75		Body†
Mullet – Grey, thick lipped (<i>Chelon labrosus</i>)	9.1		2.268	5		Body†
Mullet – Golden Grey (<i>Liza aurata</i>)	1.52 kg		0.68	1.5		Body†
Mullet – Thin Lipped (<i>Liza ramada</i>)	2.95 kg		1.5	3.31		Body†
Mullet – Red (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)	0.82 kg		0.4	0.88		Body†
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	8.23		1.2	2.65		–
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	≥100 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Cuckoo (<i>Raja naevus</i>)	5	11	1.6	3.53	≥63 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Electric (<i>Torpedo nobiliana</i>)	40 kg		9.072	20		Photo on measuring mat

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		LENGTH BASED SPECIMEN	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs		
Ray – Homelyn (<i>Raja montagui</i>)	8.28		2.268	5	≥65 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Painted (<i>Raja microocellata</i>)	17.21		4.536	10	≥80 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Sting (<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>)	33.2 kg		13.0	28.66	≥90 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Thornback (<i>Raja clavata</i>)	37		7.0	15.43	≥100 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Undulate (<i>Raja undulata</i>)	18		No Specimen Weight		≥85cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray's Bream (<i>Brama brama</i>)	6	4.25	2.0	4.41		Body†
Red Sea Bream (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>)	9	6	1.0	2.205		–
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 – Twaiter (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	1.64 kg		1.2	2.65	≥46 cm TL	Scales
Shark – Blue (<i>Prionace glauca</i>)	206		45.359	100	≥185cm Fork Length	Photo on measuring mat
Shark – Mako (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>)	–		90.718	200		Photo on measuring mat
Shark – Porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)	365		No Specimen Weight		≥180cm Fork Length	Photo on measuring mat
Shark – Six-Gilled (<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>)	480 kg		45.359	100		Photo on measuring mat
Shark – Thresher (<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>)	–		54.431	120		Photo on measuring mat
Skate – Common (<i>Raja batis</i>)	221		No Specimen Weight		≥180cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Skate – Long Nosed (<i>Raja oxyrinchus</i>)	–		36.287	80		Photo on measuring mat
Skate – White (<i>Raja alba</i>)	165		No Specimen Weight		≥180cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Smooth-Hound (<i>Mustelas asterias</i>)	11.27 kg		4	8.82	≥100cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Stone Basse (<i>Polyprion americanus</i>)	11.72		3.628	8		–
Tope (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	34.02 kg		18.144	40	≥160cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Torsk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>)	4.858 kg		2.5	5.51		Body†
Trigger Fish (<i>Balistes carolinensis</i>)	2.54 kg		1.474	3.25		Photo
Tuna – Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	29.96 kg		12.0	26.46		Photo
Tuna – Bluefin (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>)	440 kg		suspended from ISFC listing			
Turbot (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>)	34		5.0	11.02		–
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)	4	14.5	1.361	3		–
Wrasse Ballan (<i>Labrus bergylta</i>)	4.3 kg		2.154	4.75	≥48 cm TL	Photo
Wrasse Cuckoo (<i>Labrus mixtus</i>)	2	7	0.567	1.25	≥35 cm TL	Photo

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

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. Length-based specimens can be claimed for certain species (check listing). 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 calibration certificate from an appropriate service provider (e.g. NML). A weighing scales must be appropriate to the size of fish being weighed. **The minimum weight will be 10 times the scale interval (or weighing division).** 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, UNLESS WEIGHED 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 confusion with another (and particularly larger) species. For this reason scales from the fish, high quality photographs (incl. close ups) or the actual body must be forwarded as actual proof of identification.

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 are required from Roach and Rudd and their hybrids, and shad for genetic identification.

CLEAR, SHARP, CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHS, showing the entire fish with its fins and other features easily seen, and not foreshortened or obscured by shadows or bystanders must be provided in the case of ALL CYPRINIDS, ALL ELASMOBRANCHS, BLUEMOUTH, ANGEL SHARK, 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).

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 will 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.

>99.5% of fish requiring supporting material for identification are identified by scales, genetics or photographic evidence.

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 (i.e. whole fish on a measurement mat or similar). Record will be weight based only.

In the case of skates and rays, photographs of both back and ventral 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 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. If 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 exceed three. 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:

Identification is mainly based on scale or photographic evidence but if a body is being forwarded please

(1) notify the Committee when a fish is being sent in for identification.

Telephone: 01-884 2600.

E-mail: isfc@fisheriesireland.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) 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) do not send fish in polythene bags or wrapped in aluminium foil as this causes rapid decomposition. Specimens 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 Best International Specimen Fish Award (for the best overseas angler specimen).

CLAIM FORM SUBMISSION – Completed claim forms should be sent to: The Irish Specimen Fish Committee, Inland Fisheries Ireland, 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, Rep. of Ireland (Tel. 00-353-1-884 2600) before 31st October every 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 Dr. Steven Beggs, AFBINI, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX, Ph: +44 (0) 28 9025 5503.
Email: steven.beggs@afbini.gov.uk

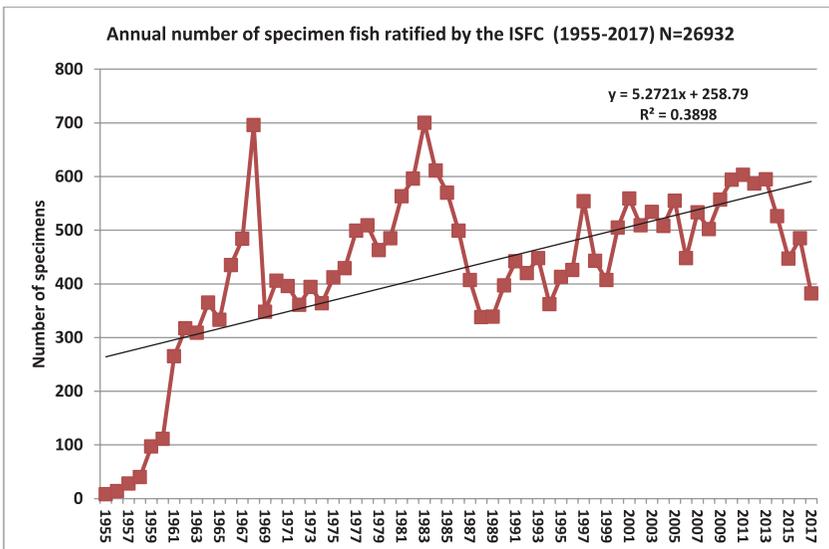
For freshwater fish taken in Northern Ireland contact Dr. Robert Rosell, AFBINI, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX. Tel: +44 (0) 28 9025 5236,
Fax: +44 (0) 28 9025 5004.
Email: robert.rosell@afbini.gov.uk

‘Citizen Scientists’ – the contribution of recreational anglers to Irish fisheries research

Declan T.G. Quigley

Although the term ‘*Citizen Scientist*’ first appeared in print during 1979, the concept was only recently defined in the *Oxford English Dictionary* during June 2014 as: ‘*scientific work undertaken by members of the general public, often in collaboration with or under the direction of professional scientists and scientific institutions.*’ However, ‘*Citizen Scientists*’ have clearly been around for a very long time, albeit under various other guises, but their valuable contribution to professional scientific research has rarely been acknowledged. Indeed, when it comes to fisheries research, recreational anglers, commercial fishers and even people with no specific interest in fish, have been assisting fisheries scientists for decades, either knowingly or unwittingly.

Ireland’s freshwater and marine resources are spatially immense. They include at least 4,000 lakes (>200,000 ha), >26,000 km of rivers, a maritime coastline of 7,524 km, and an EEZ sea area of 880,000 km², equivalent to more than 10 times the land mass of Ireland. Although only 24 species of freshwater fish are currently known to occur in Ireland, at least 567 marine fish species have been recorded to date. However, apart from a few species which are important both recreationally and/or commercially, relatively little is known about the basic biology of the vast majority of Ireland’s fish fauna. Considering that there are relatively few full-time professional scientists engaged in fisheries research in Ireland, the potential contribution of anglers as ‘*Citizen Scientists*’ becomes clear. *Citizen Science* offers a potential cost-effective way for researchers to obtain large data sets over large spatial scales.



Recreational Anglers as 'Citizen Scientists'

During 2004, it was estimated that 11.5% (c.743 million) of the world's total population (6.46 billion) participated in recreational angling and that they caught 47 billion fish. During 2012, it was estimated that 406,000 individuals took part in recreational angling in the Republic of Ireland (ROI), and that 252,000 (62%) of these were Irish adults. Based on ROI census data, the latter figure suggests that at least 7% of the Irish population regularly engage in recreational angling. Although recreational angler's catches clearly represent an enormous reservoir of potential 'Citizen Science' data, relatively little of it is recorded, and even less utilized. For example, only 1.3% of the 3.9 million biodiversity records on the *National Biodiversity Data Centre's (NBDC)* website relate to fish.

The Irish Specimen Fish Committee (ISFC) – An Angler's 'Citizen Science' Database

Since its establishment in 1955, the *Irish Specimen Fish Committee (ISFC)* has ratified a total of 26,932 exceptionally large trophy-size fish records submitted by recreational anglers over the last 63 years; an annual average of 427 specimens; c.74% captured by Irish anglers. ISFC's extensive database represents a unique and valuable national resource of 'Citizen Science' angling information. Apart from details on weight (and more recently, length), the ISFC data provides specifics on where, when, how and who caught each individual specimen. The data can be used, *inter alia*, to monitor long-term spatial and temporal trends for a wide range of both marine and freshwater fish species, and provides a reliable indication on both the upper range and maximum size that individual species can naturally attain. During the 1960s and 1970s, some former ISFC Board Members, including Arthur Went, Michael Kennedy, and Eileen Twomey, published detailed reviews on specific species which were included as appendices in the *ISFC Annual Reports*. Since the early 1980s, the current author has published many reviews on individual ISFC species.

The biological material (scales & tissue samples), including the morphological, meristic and metric data that recreational anglers provide in support of their ISFC claims has also contributed to detailed scientific studies on the biology of individual species, including some vulnerable species such as Shad. Anglers can also contribute important real-time information on the occurrence of non-native, and potentially invasive species, which facilitates a more rapid and effective eradication response.

Tagging for Inland Fisheries Ireland's Marine Sport Fish Tagging Programme is largely undertaken by individual anglers and charter vessel skippers, and continues to provide important information about the migratory habits and growth rates of a wide range of marine fish species. Since 1970, at least 40,000 fish have been tagged. The tagging and recapture data has been used in several detailed scientific studies on the spatial and temporal movements of various species, particularly sharks and rays.



**Sand Smelt (*Atherina presbyter*), 22g,
captured on rod & line by Cathal McNaughton
at Cushendall, Co Antrim**



Shortfin Mako Shark (Isurus oxyrinchus), c.53.3 kg, captured by Henry Kelly (centre) off the Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork, 15.07.2017

Over the years, anglers have also submitted some rarely recorded species. During the 1960s and 1970s, lists of these unusual records were published as appendices in the ISFC Annual Reports. Although generally not included in the ISFC's list of eligible species, these interesting records nevertheless provide valuable information about the distribution and biodiversity of Ireland's fish fauna. Recording the occurrence of unusual species is important as they may be indicative of long-term changing climatic and/or oceanographical conditions. For example, some species which were previously regarded as rare are now known to be not uncommon, and some have since been added to the ISFC's list of eligible species (e.g. Trigger Fish, Black Sea Bream, Gilthead Sea Bream, Albacore, and Bluemouth).

Every Fish Counts

All categories of anglers, whether specialists, specimen hunters, match anglers or leisure anglers, are in a unique position to contribute to fisheries research and development as 'Citizen Scientists'. The ISFC data and IFI's tagging data only represents a very small fraction of the total number of fish that are captured by anglers in Irish waters each year; the vast majority of fish are not officially recorded. However, data on every rod-caught fish, no matter what size, is equally important, especially in contributing to the current information gaps on the distribution of many species. Anglers are encouraged to submit these records to the NBDC or similar platforms.

Declan Quigley is a biologist, currently employed as Senior Port Office with the *Sea Fisheries Protection Authority* in Howth, Co Dublin. He is a founding Director of *Dingle Oceanworld*, Co Kerry, a Director of the *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, and a Board Member of the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*. Declan has published over 350 scientific papers on the fauna and flora of Ireland, including numerous articles on angling, many of them based on ISFC data (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Declan_Quigley). Over the years, Declan even managed to catch a few specimens, and received an ISFC 10-pin Badge, albeit many years ago!



Jim Clohessy with his 102 cm Smooth-hound from Wicklow in July

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IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

Some important points for claiming specimen fish:

1. Use official ISFC claim form and complete **ALL** relevant sections fully.
2. **Tick box** to specify any length based claim.
3. **ALL** record fish, **ALL** length based claims and **ALL** skates, rays, sharks and dogfish **MUST** include a good quality photograph of the fish length (nose to tail) on a measuring mat or similar.
4. **Weighing:** Fish **MUST** be weighed (on land) on **CERTIFIED** scales or on a shop scales. Fish cannot be weighed on board a boat.
5. **Weighing scales must be certified annually** by a competent independent authority and the calibration certificate must be current at time of weighing.
6. **Check ISFC claim rules Section 4** for inclusions for some species (e.g. fish scales, additional photographs etc.
7. Claim form **MUST** be signed and witnessed.

Back Cover: Glenn McCormack with his Common Skate from Baltimore



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