

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH 2017



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



lascach Iníre 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 2017. Over 29,000 claims have been received by the ISFC over the past 62 years. This dataset is one of the most valuable and long-running time-series of its type.

Irish Specimen Fish Committee Members 2017

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 2017

will be held in

Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport

Swords, Co. Dublin at 2.30pm sharp

on Saturday 17th February 2018

Irish anglers who are due awards are invited to attend

Cover: Sidney Kennedy with a Rosscarbery Golden Grey Mullet of 0.96 kg in August

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ISFC Chairman's Review 2017



Chairing the Irish Specimen Fish Committee is still a learning curve – I suspect it will remain so for many years to come. The 2017 angling season has witnessed another inclement summer. This genuinely is not just an angler's excuse – in my day job some summer surveys could not be completed for the first time in decades due to persistently wet weather.

Claims numbers were reduced in 2017 - over 420 specimen claims were processed, across a wide range of species, including a new record for Golden Grey Mullet. The surge in claims for Spurdog and Smooth-hounds continues, with large fish of these species still present as they were the year before. Carp, mullet (thick-lipped and golden grey) are prominent in the listings also.

In 2017 Committee discussions produced significant progress in some areas. Issues around weight recording were to the fore leading to further expert advice being provided by NSAI on the suitability of ISFC weighing scale certification requirements. A balance needs to be struck between the accuracy of claimed weights and the opportunity for as many captors of large fish to make a claim. While dedicated specimen hunters will buy or share access to high quality scales and pay to have these checked annually, there are always other anglers who catch an exceptional fish but are unprepared for specimen recording – ISFC clearly wants to be able to record these too.

Length based recording is one means of recording specimens and the introduction of additional length based species is a common request from anglers. A measuring mat does not go out of calibration and a good photograph on a clear scale is now a requirement for sharks, dogfishes and rays. Additional length based species are eligible from 2018 onwards; all new additions and length thresholds must be based on sound weight at length data over all size ranges. Offering length based specimens cannot circumvent the record fish problem – the long standing records are weight based fish, weighed on accurate scales on land. Nowadays, to return fish alive, anglers have to be inventive and well prepared to weigh potential boat-caught records or specimens on land.

It could be assumed that the species ISFC records and the sizes they achieve might remain constant over time, but not so. Hence the committee's ongoing review of specimen thresholds where species have disappeared off the claims radar for a number of years. This may occur where stocks of a marine species are reduced through commercial fishing, or where there is natural variability in recruitment. Other reasons may include change in angler practices, catch and release, or climate change moving cold water marine species north and bringing warm water replacements to our shores. Invasive species may also have an impact, a new fish taking a slice out of the pie available to existing ones. In order to monitor change and contribute to greater understanding of species status ISFC may attempt to increase claim numbers by conservatively dropping the specimen threshold or, as in recent years, add a length-based option. The latter approach also allows 'conservation species' to be captured, measured and returned safely thereby recording species presence, distribution and size data. Good handling is paramount for these species. We can't make it too easy – ISFC absolutely understands that catching a specimen has to be a challenge – the specimen hunter will have little satisfaction if it is too easy or the specimen weight is much lower than historically required. From 2018 onwards ISFC is offering length based options for pike, brown trout, bass, flounder and some rays, and reductions in specimen weights for rudd, angler fish, black bream, black sole, brill, cod, tub gurnard, haddock, hake, plaice and turbot. The latter species, high value fish, suggest impact by marine commercial fishing on the numbers of large older fish available. Weight increases have been applied to carp and smooth-hound.

Even the species themselves are not immutable - a relatively recent research focus on skate has shown that there may be a requirement to separate the Common skate (*Dipturus batis*) species-complex into two species, the flapper skate (*D. cf. intermedia*) from the slightly smaller blue skate (*D. cf. flossada*). The ISFC will examine this further in 2018.

This year few claims requiring DNA based identification – cyprinids, their hybrids and shads – were received. To reduce the considerable cost of processing these claims (20% of annual budget) ISFC has agreed with its DNA analyst that all 2017 claims will be processed in 2018, along with the 2018 claims. A small charge will be levied on anglers who claim these species to offset part of the cost.

ISFC funding levels are a major issue. While staff time for committee work is funded by IFI, AFBI/DAERA and other participating organisations, and given freely by anglers and other representatives, the ISFC remains on a downward trajectory of cash reserves to fund report production, award purchases etc. Core funding support is supplied by IFI, and DAERA (including marine and freshwater fisheries in Northern Ireland) has made a welcome contribution to the production of the report this year. Thanks are due for support from other long standing angler funders - and Mara Media have helped with venue funding. Put straight, unless the broad collective of stakeholders provide further support now and most particularly secure ongoing arrangements, there is only a cash reserve for perhaps three years life left in ISFC. The on-line donation facility on the ISFC website facilitates fuss-free donations and the Committee requests your support.

I must record that Bridie Fleming has taken well-earned retirement from IFI, but to the enormous relief of ISFC has kept on her meticulous claim checking work, with IFI technical support. This new arrangement has operated reasonably well and ISFC is truly grateful while it seeks a long term solution to ISFC administration support. One consequence of this change will be an earlier cut-off of end October for receipt of specimen claims in 2018.

Last but not least, congratulations to all who have had the skill, luck and pleasure of catching big fish in 2017. For another year, they can bask in the glory, enjoy the report and the pictures, continue to chase the even bigger ones that got away last time, and maybe even hope for that elusive record.

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, 2017

Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2017

In 2017 the ISFC processed 422 claims; 382 were ratified, including one new record. A total of 17 were rejected for non-compliance with the rules and a further 23 will be queried further. This report presents the new record, the special awards and ratified specimen fish for 2017.

New Irish Record

For fish exceeding the current Irish record weight



Golden Grey Mullet 1.29 kg, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, 4 July 2017 – Ian Mulligan



*Dr AEJ Went Award – Young Specimen Angler 2017,
Amy O'Brien with a Golden Grey Mullet of 0.94 kg*

SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES 2017

10 SPECIES AWARD

Francis McNeilly, Scaddy Road, Downpatrick BT30 9BS, Co. Down

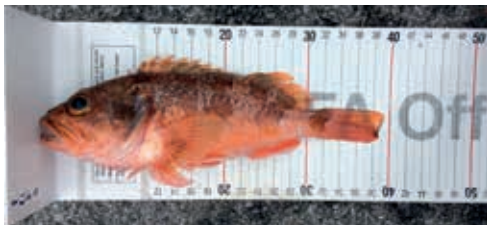
2012	Dab / Painted Ray / Twaite Shad	2015	Thick Lipped Mullet
2013	Smooth-hound	2016	Carp / Gilthead Bream / Spur Dogfish
2014	Flounder	2017	Ballan Wrasse / Golden Grey Mullet / Pike (River)

50 SPECIMENS AWARD

Patrick Lombard, Dunmore, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

Jerry O'Connor, Tonevane, Tralee, Co. Kerry

2008-2017	18	Carp	2009-2017	18	Carp
2010-2014	4	Gilthead Bream	2012-2014	3	Flounder
2011-2017	17	Golden Grey Mullet	2013	1	Gilthead Bream
2008-2017	26	Mullet - Thick-lipped	2017	3	Golden Grey Mullet
2012-2013	2	Rudd/Bream Hybrid	2012-2014	5	Painted Ray
			2012	3	Roach/Rudd Hybrid
			2011-2014	6	Rudd/Bream Hybrid
			2011	1	Shad Hybrid
			2012	2	Smooth-hound
			2012-2014	2	Sting Ray
			2010-2016	6	Thick Lipped Mullet
			2010	2	Twaite Shad



Bluemouth – Donie O'Mahony

10 SPECIMENS AWARD

Arie de Koning, Kersendreef 2, 4241 DS Arkel, The Netherlands	2004-2016
Paddy Higginson, Hartlands Avenue, Cork	2014-2017
Stephen Hurley, Keelbeg, Union Hall, Co. Cork	2011-2017
Pat Kirwan, Bunting Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12	1991-2017
Robert Reid, Claddagh Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10	2006-2017

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.

Ian Mulligan, Dublin – 1.29 kg **Golden Grey Mullet** at Rosscarbery, Cork, 4 July 2017.

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.

Amy O'Brien, Cork – 0.94 kg **Golden Grey Mullet** at Rosscarbery, Cork, 1 September 2017.

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.

Ian Mulligan, Dublin – 1.08 kg **Golden Grey Mullet** at Clonakilty, Cork, 22 June 2017.

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.

Eric Van Dijk, The Netherlands – 8.75 kg **Greater Spotted Dogfish** at Kenmare Bay, Co. Kerry, 5 June 2017.



Heaviest Smooth-hound of 2017 for Micheal McCarthy



Specimen Carp for Des Chew on 11th April 2017

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2017

FRESHWATER FISH 2017

Coarse Fish and Pike

BREAM

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.42	9.75	–	Lough Boderg	26-Apr	James Dignam	Maggots
4.31	9.50	–	Lough Boderg	26-Apr	James Dignam	Maggots
4.20	9.25	64.0	Bawn Lake	14-Aug	Noel Darcy	Maggots & Sweetcorn
3.91	8.62	–	Lough Boderg	26-Apr	Luke Canavan Dignam	Maggots
3.63	8.00	–	Drumlaheen Lough	30-Apr	James Dignam	Maggots
3.63	8.00	61.0	Ardan Lake	09-Jun	Dan Lynch	Maggots
3.52	7.75	63.0	Ardan Lake	08-Jun	Dan Lynch	Maggots



61 cm Bream for Dan Lynch

Year of capture is 2017 unless otherwise stated.

Length (L) assumed as forklength (FL) (cm) for freshwater species, bass and 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.

BREAM CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.52	7.75	–	Bawn Lake	14-Aug	Noel Darcy	Maggots & Sweetcorn
3.46	7.62	62.0	Ardan Lake	08-Jun	Dan Lynch	Maggots
3.46	7.62	62.5	Bawn Lake	23-Sep	Glenn McCormack	Maggots
3.46	7.62	61.0	Bawn Lake	26-Aug	Amy O'Brien (J)	Maggots
3.46	7.62	62.0	Bawn Lake	26-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
3.46	7.62	62.0	Bawn Lake	26-Aug	Mandy O'Brien	Maggots
3.40	7.50	60.0	Bawn Lake	26-Aug	Amy O'Brien (J)	Maggots



Specimen Bream for Sidney Kennedy, Amy and Mandy O'Brien



Double specimen Bream for James Dignam

CARP

Record 14.24 kg (32.4 lbs); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9.19	20.25	70.0	The Lough, Cork	06-May	Barry James	Boilie
9.13	20.12	75.0	The Lough, Cork	15-Aug	Kristofor Im	Boilie
8.85	19.50	75.0	The Lough, Cork	15-Apr	Paddy Higginson	Boilie
8.39	18.50	64.0	The Lough, Cork	01-May	Paddy Higginson	Boilie
8.33	18.37	66.0	The Lough, Cork	11-Sep	Barry James	Boilie
8.22	18.12	63.0	The Lough, Cork	08-Apr	Paddy Higginson	Boilie
8.16	18.00	–	The Lough, Cork	06-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
7.43	16.37	–	The Lough, Cork	03-Aug	Amy O'Brien (J)	Boilie
7.40	16.31	70.0	The Lough, Cork	02-May	Patrick Lombard	Boilie
7.37	16.25	69.0	The Lough, Cork	28-Jul	Terry Jackson	Boilie
7.35	16.20	–	The Lough, Cork	11-Apr	Des Chew	Boilie
6.69	14.75	66.0	The Lough, Cork	01-Oct	Jack McCarthy	Boilie
6.62	14.60	65.5	The Lough, Cork	27-Mar	Francis McNeilly	Boilie
6.58	14.50	72.5	The Lough, Cork	03-Aug	Amy O'Brien (J)	Boilie
6.58	14.50	76.0	The Lough, Cork	28-Jul	Terry Jackson	Boilie



Carp for Craig Murphy

CARP CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.49	14.31	74.5	The Lough, Cork	08-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
6.18	13.62	70.5	The Lough, Cork	25-May	Patrick Lombard	Boilie
6.15	13.56	70.5	The Lough, Cork	08-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
6.12	13.50	63.0	The Lough, Cork	27-Jul	Terry Jackson	Boilie
6.12	13.50	70.0	The Lough, Cork	22-Jun	Kenneth Murphy	Boilie
6.07	13.37	71.5	The Lough, Cork	02-Aug	Amy O'Brien (J)	Boilie
6.03	13.30	72.0	The Lough, Cork	10-Apr	Greg Forrest	Boilie
6.01	13.25	68.0	The Lough, Cork	27-Mar	Jerry O'Connor	Boilie
6.01	13.25	69.0	The Lough, Cork	12-Sep	Joanne Kenny	Boilie
6.01	13.25	66.0	The Lough, Cork	09-Apr	Kenneth Murphy	Boilie
5.98	13.19	70.0	The Lough, Cork	30-Mar	Jerry O'Connor	Boilie
5.84	12.87	70.0	The Lough, Cork	14-Mar	Kenneth Murphy	Boilie
5.82	12.82	58.0	The Lough, Cork	13-Jun	Francis McNeilly	Boilie
5.76	12.70	58.0	The Lough, Cork	24-Sep	Francis McNeilly	Boilie
5.75	12.69	66.0	The Lough, Cork	12-Sep	Damian Allchorne	Boilie
5.73	12.62	62.0	The Lough, Cork	16-Mar	Jerry O'Connor	Boilie
5.72	12.60	67.0	The Lough, Cork	10-Apr	Craig Murphy	Boilie
5.68	12.52	62.0	Horsetail Lake	07-Sep	Jim Gregg	Biscuit Fly
5.62	12.40	68.0	The Lough, Cork	10-Apr	Greg Forrest	Boilie
5.58	12.30	64.0	The Lough, Cork	10-Apr	Craig Murphy	Boilie
5.56	12.25	63.0	The Lough, Cork	21-May	Daniel James	Boilie
5.56	12.25	68.0	The Lough, Cork	30-May	Patrick Lombard	Boilie
5.53	12.19	59.0	The Lough, Cork	09-Apr	Barry James	Boilie



Greg Forrest with 5.62 kg Carp



Damien Allchorne & Joanne Kenny with their specimen Carp from the Lough

DACE

Record 1 lbs 2ozs (0.51 kg); Specimen Weight 0.3 kg (0.66 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.3	0.66	30.0	River Suir, Carrick on Suir	28-May	Nicholas McEvoy	Bread



Carp for Paddy Higginson



Barry James with a Lough special

PIKE (LAKE)

Record 42 lbs 12 ozs (19.391 kg); Specimen Weight 13.608 kg (30 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
14.17	31.25	114.0	Lough Allen	25-Jan	Annie Mullen	Trout



The only specimen Dace of 2017 fell to Nicholas McEvoy

PIKE (RIVER)

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11.07	24.40	103.0	River Blackwater, NI	30-Oct	Francis McNeilly	Pollan
10.98	24.20	104.0	River Blackwater, NI	01-Nov	Francis McNeilly	Pollan
10.69	23.56	115.0	River Suck, Ballyforan	05-Jan	Patrick Fagan	Mackerel
10.46	23.06	109.0	River Blackwater, NI	20-Dec-16	Andrew Wolsey	Roach
10.43	23.00	113.0	River Shannon, Athlone	10-Apr	Liam McDonnell (J)	Mackerel
9.19	20.25	–	River Shannon, Rooskey	22-Jan	Derek Greene	Sardine
9.19	20.25	106.0	River Shannon, Athlone	31-Jan	Shay McDonnell	Mackerel
9.10	20.06	–	River Suck, Athleague	29-Oct	Declan Dempsey	Whiting



Patrick Fagan with the third heaviest Pike of 2017



The River Suck provided a specimen for Declan Dempsey in October



Annie Mullen with a Lough Allen Pike



10.46 kg Pike for Andrew Wolsey in late 2016

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
2.78	6.12	53.0	Ardan Lake	08-Jun	Dan Lynch	Maggots



Dan Lynch with the only specimen Tench of 2017

Game Fish 2017

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
5.90	13.00	73.7	Lough Derg, Killaloe	23-Jul	Gerard McKeogh	Roach
5.82	12.84	73.0	Lower Lough Erne	10-Jul	Neville Maguire	Tasmanian Devil
5.57	12.27	84.0	Lough Leane	28-May	John Joe O'Brien	Lure
4.56	10.06	74.0	Lough Corrib	19-Mar	Patrick Sullivan	Minnow



Brown trout from the Maigue for Gary Naughton

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
3.56	7.85	68.0	Cong Canal	17-Mar	Mike Flannery	Tantalisa Lure
2.29	5.04	61.0	River Maigue	02-Mar	Gary Naughton	Lure

SEA TROUT

**Record 16 lbs 6 ozs (7.428 kg); Specimen Weight 2.722 kg (6 lbs)
Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 64 cm (FL)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.90	10.80	76.5	Tullan Strand, Bundoran	02-Apr	James Cummins	Sandeel
3.03	6.68	68.6	Lough Derrianna	07-Jul	James Sayers	Fly
2.80	6.17	69.9	Lough Currane	19-Apr	Andy Wishart	Rapala
2.75	6.06	71.0	Lough Currane	17-Jan	Dan Lynch	Rapala



*Currane sea trout for
Dan Lynch*



*James Cummins with his
specimen sea trout from
the sea at Bundoran*

Marine Fish 2017

BASS

Record 17 lbs 13 ozs (8.08 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.76	10.50	74.0	Rinboy, Fanad Head	06-Aug	Joshua Higginson	ABU Toby
4.65	10.25	77.0	Ballycotton	19-Sep	Pat O'Shea	Savage Gear
4.54	10.00	70.0	Youghal	14-Nov	Killian McCormack	Crab

BLACK BREAM

Record - ; Specimen Weight 0.9 kg (1.98 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.18	2.60	42.0	Kilmore Quay	08-Sep	Robert Shefford (UK)	Ragworm
1.04	2.30	40.0	Wicklow	17-Jun	Brendan Adams	Mackerel Strip



Black Bream for Brendan Adams at Wicklow



Killian McCormack with his Youghal Bass

BLUEMOUTH

Record 1.32 kg (2.91 lbs) ; Specimen Weight 0.9 kg (1.98 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.04	2.29	39.0	Caherciveen	05-Jul	Donal Domeneay	Mackerel
0.92	2.03	39.0	Caherciveen	05-Jul	Donie O'Mahony	Mackerel

COALFISH

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.94	17.50	99.0	Kinsale	25-Jul	Paul Ross	Shad
7.76	17.11	101.0	Kinsale	25-Jul	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Shad
7.60	16.76	106.0	Kinsale	25-Jul	Philip Barry	Shad
7.53	16.60	101.0	Kinsale	25-Jul	Paul Ross	Shad
6.87	15.15	95.0	Kinsale	24-May	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Shad
6.87	15.15	95.0	Kinsale	25-Jul	Kit Dunne	Rubber Shad



Kinsale Coalfish for Kit Dunne



*7.94 kg Coalfish
for Paul Ross*

DAB

Record 2 lbs 5.5 ozs (1.06 kg); Specimen Weight 0.6 kg (1.32 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.60	1.32	35.0	Dunmore East	02-Jun	Barry Murphy	Crab

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
1.08	2.38	68.0	Islandmagee	07-May	David Craig	Mackerel
1.04	2.29	69.0	Islandmagee	20-Aug	Mark Todd	Mackerel
1.04	2.29	71.0	Islandmagee	19-Apr	David Craig	Mackerel
1.00	2.20	71.0	Causeway Coast	20-Nov-16	Ross Macklin	Mackerel
1.00	2.20	67.0	Islandmagee	20-Aug	David Craig	Herring



2016 Blackmouthed Dogfish for Ross Macklin

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record 23 lbs 13 ozs (10.801 kg); Specimen Weight 7.257 kg (16 lbs)

Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 125 cm Total Length

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8.75	19.30	–	Kenmare Bay	05-Jun	Eric Van Dijk (NL)	Mackerel
8.40	18.52	–	Kenmare Bay	21-Sep	Ronald Witsel (NL)	Mackerel
8.03	17.70	–	Kenmare Bay	08-Sep	Jo Nieuwenhuijsen (NL)	Mackerel
8.00	17.64	–	Kenmare Bay	03-Oct	Bram De Wilde (NL)	Mackerel
7.98	17.60	–	Kenmare Bay	20-Sep	Pieter van den Berg (NL)	Mackerel Strip
7.94	17.50	120.0	Kenmare Bay	04-Aug	Mark Van Waayenburg (NL)	Mackerel
7.92	17.46	135.0	Kenmare Bay	12-Sep	Eric De Muynck (B)	Mackerel Flapper
7.85	17.30	–	Kenmare Bay	17-Sep	Peter van den Berg (NL)	Mackerel Strip
7.45	16.42	127.0	Kenmare Bay	13-Sep	Johan De Greve (B)	Mackerel

LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record 4 lbs 4ozs (1.928 kg); Specimen Weight 1.47 kg (3.25 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.62	3.56	73.0	Cork Harbour	02-Sep-16	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
1.61	3.55	74.0	Cork Harbour	11-Jun	Pat Condon	Mackerel
1.59	3.50	82.0	Cork Harbour	16-Jun	Alastair Kennedy	Herring
1.56	3.45	74.0	Cork Harbour	11-Jun	John Dennehy	Mackerel
1.56	3.44	81.0	Baltimore	19-Jul	Stephen Hurley	Mackerel Strip
1.52	3.35	73.0	Cork Harbour	24-Jul	Robert McClean	Ragworm & Mackerel
1.47	3.25	74.0	Cork Harbour	16-Jun	Ewan Kennedy	Herring



Lesser Spotted Dogfish for Alastair Kennedy

SPUR DOGFISH

**Record 11.058 kg (24.38 lbs); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs);
Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 105 cm Total Length**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8.28	18.25	118.0	Rathlin	12-Aug	Brian Foster	Mackerel
8.22	18.12	–	Wicklow	04-Apr	John Millerick	Mackerel
8.03	17.70	–	Wicklow	05-Apr	Peter Bolger	Mackerel
7.94	17.50	112.0	Kenmare Bay	08-Apr	Conor Hennessy	Mackerel
7.91	17.44	116.0	Wicklow	05-Apr	Peter Bolger	Mackerel
7.80	17.20	111.5	Wicklow	06-Mar	Pat Swan	Mackerel
7.33	16.15	115.0	Wicklow	06-Mar	Tom Burrell (USA)	Mackerel
7.17	15.80	110.0	Wicklow	05-Apr	Peter McCartin	Mackerel
7.05	15.55	114.0	Wicklow	06-Mar	Gordon Darker	Mackerel
7.03	15.50	115.0	Wicklow	06-Mar	Kit Dunne	Herring
7.03	15.50	113.0	Wicklow	04-Apr	Nicholas McEvoy	Mackerel
6.69	14.75	112.5	Wicklow	06-Mar	Gordon Darker	Mackerel
6.58	14.50	110.0	Rathlin	12-Aug	Brian Foster	Mackerel



Spurdog for Conor Ward



Tom Collins fishing out of Union Hall with a 106 cm Spurdog



John Millerick with a Wicklow Spurdog

SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.46	14.25	110.0	Rathlin	12-Aug	Brian Foster	Mackerel
6.26	13.80	105.5	Tralee Bay	21-Jun	Philip Barry	Mackerel Flapper
6.12	13.50	108.0	Wicklow	04-Apr	John Millerick	Mackerel
6.12	13.50	109.0	Wicklow	06-Mar	Gordon Darker	Mackerel
6.07	13.37	102.0	Kenmare Bay	08-Apr	Conor Ward (J)	Mackerel
6.01	13.25	106.0	Wicklow	20-Mar	Shayla Cobb (USA)	Mackerel
5.90	13.00	105.5	Ballycastle	4-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
5.67	12.50	101.0	Wicklow	11-Nov	Stan Ryan	Mackerel
5.65	12.46	101.5	Tralee Bay	27-Jul	Eoin Joyce	Mackerel Fillet
5.62	12.40	105.0	Wicklow	05-Apr	Nicholas McEvoy	Mackerel
5.49	12.10	–	Wicklow	04-Apr	John Millerick	Mackerel
L-BS	–	114.0	Red Bay	10-Jul-16	Arian Huijbregts (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	113.0	Islandmagee	17-Jul	Mark Todd	Mackerel
L-BS	–	112.0	Wicklow	06-Mar	Tom Burrell (USA)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	112.0	Islandmagee	05-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	–	113.0	Wicklow	20-Mar	Peter Bolger	Mackerel
L-BS	–	111.0	Red Bay	10-Jul-16	Arian Huijbregts (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	110.0	Wicklow	20-Mar	Peter Bolger	Mackerel
L-BS	–	110.0	Galway Bay	19-Jun	Owen Trill	Mackerel
L-BS	–	109.0	Red Bay	10-Jul-16	Arian Huijbregts (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	109.0	Wicklow	04-Apr	Des Chew	Mackerel
L-BS	–	109.0	Islandmagee	12-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	–	109.0	Wicklow	11-Nov	James Morris	Mackerel
L-BS	–	108.0	Wicklow	04-Apr	Christy Lane	Mackerel
L-BS	–	108.0	Wicklow	06-Mar	Kit Dunne	Herring

SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED....

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	108.0	Wicklow	20-Mar	Jeff Cobb (USA)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	108.0	Islandmagee	12-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	–	107.0	Downings	09-Jul	Robert McLurg	Mackerel Fillet & Squid
L-BS	–	106.5	Wicklow	06-Mar	Pat Swan	Mackerel
L-BS	–	106.5	Hook Head	19-Jun	Martyn Rayner	Mackerel
L-BS	–	106.5	Hook Head	19-Jun	Martyn Rayner	Mackerel
L-BS	–	106.5	Hook Head	19-Jun	Martyn Rayner	Mackerel
L-BS	–	106.0	Galway Bay	19-Jun	Dave Trill	Mackerel
L-BS	–	106.0	Union Hall	27-Oct	Tom Collins	Mackerel
L-BS	–	105.8	Downings	05-Jul	Seoirse Sweeney (UK)	Mackerel Strip
L-BS	–	105.0	Wicklow	06-Mar	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
L-BS	–	105.0	Galway Bay	19-Jun	Owen Trill	Mackerel



Arian Huijbregts from the Netherlands with a Red Bay Spurdog



Gordon Darker with a 114 cm Spurdog from Wicklow in March



Spurdog for Tom Burrell (USA)



Pat Swan with a Wicklow Spurdog

FLOUNDER

Record 4.91 lbs (2.229 kg); Specimen Weight 1.1 kg (2.425 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.36	3.00	45.0	Lacken	05-Nov	Ronan Doherty	Peeler Crab
1.30	2.87	44.0	Wicklow Estuary	08-Nov	Evan Ryan	Maddies
1.25	2.75	44.0	Wicklow Estuary	08-Nov	Darren Ryan	Peeler Crab
1.13	2.50	42.0	Youghal	21-Oct	Ronan Doherty	Peeler Crab
1.10	2.43	46.0	Cork Harbour	14-May	Donal Domoney	Crab



Youghal was the venue for Ronan Doherty's Flounder



Evan Ryan with his Wicklow Flounder

GILTHEAD BREAM

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.95	6.51	56.5	Clonakilty	28-Aug	Mike Flannery	Ragworm
2.78	6.12	58.0	Clonakilty Bay	30-May	Eric Gosnell	Lugworm
2.49	5.50	52.5	Clonakilty	13-Jul	Andrew Wolsey	Lugworm
2.30	5.06	53.0	Ballatrent	02-May	Fiachra Kenny	Lugworm
2.13	4.68	53.0	Clonakilty Bay	30-May	Brendan Sheridan	Lugworm
2.08	4.57	55.0	Clonakilty Bay	23-Apr	Noel Cashman	Peeler Crab
1.96	4.31	54.0	Ring, Co. Cork	20-Jun-16	Dara Tuohy	Lugworm
1.84	4.06	48.0	Clonakilty	14-May	Stephen Hurley	Lugworm
1.67	3.69	47.0	Clonakilty	10-Jul	Andrew Wolsey	Lugworm



Noel Cashman with his specimen Gilthead



Clonakilty Gilthead for Stephen Hurley



Gilthead for Brendan Sheridan



Eric Gosnell with the second heaviest Gilthead of 2017

GREY GURNARD

Record 3 lbs 1 ozs (1.39 kg); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.86	1.90	49.0	Cork Harbour	02-Sep	Pat Condon	Mackerel



Pat Condon from Cork with the only specimen Grey Gurnard of 2017



Griffin Anderson with his Courtmacsherry Ling

LING

Record 55 lbs (24.95 kg); Specimen Weight 11.34 kg (25 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
11.52	25.40	125.0	Courtmacsherry	04-Jul	Griffin Anderson	Mackerel
11.40	25.12	118.0	Cork Harbour	22-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel

MEGRIM

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.87	1.92	49.0	Aghada	05-Aug	Alan Mulcahy	Mackerel
0.79	1.75	46.0	Cork Harbour	21-Aug	Dan Lynch	Mackerel



Specimen Megrims for Alan Mulcahy



Desmond Frazer with his Golden Grey Mullet

GOLDEN GREY MULLET

New Record 1.29 kg (2.84 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.29	2.84	50.0	Rosscarbery	04-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
1.08	2.37	44.0	Clonakilty	22-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
1.06	2.34	—	Rosscarbery	02-Sep	Dan Smith	Maddies
1.05	2.31	48.0	Clonakilty Bay	19-Jun	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
0.96	2.12	48.0	Rosscarbery	01-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm

GOLDEN GREY MULLET CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.95	2.10	45.5	Cork Harbour	25-Jun	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.94	2.06	46.0	Rosscarbery	01-Sep	Amy O'Brien (J)	Ragworm
0.91	2.00	43.0	Clonakilty	05-Jul	Jerry O'Connor	Maddies
0.86	1.90	43.5	Cork Harbour	16-Jun	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.86	1.90	41.5	Clonakilty	16-Aug	Craig Newsome	Maddies
0.82	1.81	38.0	Clonakilty	03-Jul	Desmond Frazer	Ragworm baited spoon
0.82	1.81	43.0	Rosscarbery	25-Jul	Jerry O'Connor	Maddies
0.79	1.75	42.0	Rosscarbery	01-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.77	1.70	41.0	Cork Harbour	18-Jun	Dave Jolly	Maddies
0.75	1.66	41.5	Rosscarbery	03-Jul	Francis McNeilly	Maddies
0.74	1.62	44.0	Rosscarbery	12-Jul	Sarah Lynch	Maddies
0.74	1.62	41.0	Clonakilty Bay	18-May	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
0.74	1.62	40.5	Red Strand	24-Jul	Terry Jackson	Harbour Rag
0.73	1.60	40.0	Cork Harbour	16-Jun	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.72	1.59	42.0	Rosscarbery	04-Jul	Nicholas McEvoy	Maddies
0.71	1.56	39.0	Rosscarbery	25-Jul	Jerry O'Connor	Maddies
0.71	1.56	40.5	Rosscarbery	01-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.70	1.54	41.0	Rosscarbery	03-Jul	Francis McNeilly	Maddies
0.68	1.50	41.5	Clonakilty Bay	02-Jun	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
0.68	1.50	40.0	Cork Harbour	25-Jun	Dave Jolly	Maddies



Golden Grey Mullet for Sarah Lynch

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
3.18	7.00	64.0	Cork Harbour	27-Jul	Maurice Cott	Bread
3.12	6.87	60.0	Rosscarbery	18-May	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
3.08	6.80	60.0	Cork Harbour	04-Aug	Maurice Cott	Bread
3.06	6.75	57.0	Cork Harbour	18-Jul	Joseph Marsella	Bread
3.02	6.65	63.0	Rosscarbery	16-Aug	Craig Newsome	Bread

Thick Lipped Mullet for Maurice Cott



Izaak Bradley with 2.31 kg Thick Lipped Mullet

THICK LIPPED MULLET CONTINUED...**2.38 kg Thick Lipped Mullet for Craig Newsome**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.01	6.62	64.0	Rosscarbery	01-Sep	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread
2.95	6.50	56.0	Rosscarbery	18-May	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.81	6.20	65.0	Vartry Estuary	27-May	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.81	6.19	63.0	Rosscarbery	02-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.78	6.12	54.0	Rosscarbery	21-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.78	6.12	55.0	Rosscarbery	27-Sep	Stephen Hurley	Bread Flake
2.77	6.11	57.0	Strangford Lough	25-Sep	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.75	6.06	57.0	Strangford Lough	24-Sep	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.75	6.06	58.0	Clonakilty	10-Apr	Jason Convery	Bread
2.72	6.00	59.5	Rosscarbery	24-Jul	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.66	5.87	59.0	Rosscarbery	06-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Bread

THICK LIPPED MULLET CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.58	5.69	58.0	Rosscarbery	06-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.55	5.62	58.4	Rosscarbery	04-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.49	5.50	52.0	Union Hall	28-May	Stephen Hurley	Bread Flake
2.49	5.50	55.0	Rosscarbery	23-Jul	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.45	5.41	58.0	Rosscarbery	31-Mar	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.44	5.37	55.0	Rosscarbery	12-Sep	Robert Reid	Bread Flake
2.41	5.31	54.0	Rosscarbery	30-Sep	Ciaran Ennis	Bread Flake
2.39	5.27	56.0	Rosscarbery	16-Aug	Peter McCartin	Bread
2.38	5.25	59.5	Rosscarbery	05-Apr	Izaak Bradley	Bread Flake
2.38	5.25	60.0	Rosscarbery	02-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.38	5.25	55.0	Rosscarbery	04-Sep	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread
2.38	5.25	60.0	Rosscarbery	22-Jul	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
2.38	5.24	59.0	Rosscarbery	16-Aug	Craig Newsome	Bread
2.34	5.15	62.0	Cork Harbour	22-Aug	Ray Donnelly	Bread
2.32	5.12	59.0	Rosscarbery	07-Aug	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread
2.31	5.10	55.0	Rosscarbery	20-Apr	Izaak Bradley	Bread Flake
2.31	5.10	56.0	Vartry Estuary	25-Sep	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.31	5.09	55.5	Arklow	18-Jun	Craig Murphy	Bread
2.28	5.03	57.0	Rosscarbery	24-Jun	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.27	5.00	52.0	Rosscarbery	29-Sep	Brian Lowth	Bread Flake
2.27	5.00	55.0	Vartry Estuary	18-Oct	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.27	5.00	58.0	Cork Harbour	09-Jul	Maurice Cott	Bread



Duncan Cole



Amy O'Brien with her 2.32 kg Thick Lipped Mullet



Terry Jackson admires his Thick Lipped Mullet

POLLACK

Record 19 lbs 3 ozs (8.703 kg); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.95	15.31	94.0	Union Hall	03-Jun	Evan McGovern	Baited Pirk
5.67	12.50	83.0	Ballycastle	24-Sep	Brian Foster	Jelly Eel
5.50	12.13	81.0	Killybegs	30-Nov-16	Richard Kennedy	Baited Muppets



Evan McGovern with the largest Pollack of 2017

POUTING

Record 4 lbs 13.5 ozs (2.2 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg (3 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.47	3.25	44.0	Union Hall	27-Sep	Colin McCrindle (UK)	Mackerel
1.36	3.00	39.0	Union Hall	27-Sep	Don McGregor (UK)	Mackerel baited feathers

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
5.22	11.50	84.0	Cork Harbour	19-Sep	Maurice Cott	Sandeel



A Sting Ray for Deirdre Murphy O'Sullivan from Tralee Bay in April

STING RAY

Record 33.2 kg (73.19 lbs); Specimen Weight 13 kg (28.66 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13.95	30.75	110.5	Tralee Bay	29-Apr	Deirdre Murphy O'Sullivan	Crab
13.10	28.88	91.0	Tralee Bay	29-Apr	Philip O'Sullivan	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
0.82	1.81	41.0	Dunmore East	29-May	Tony Tait	Mackerel
0.80	1.76	45.0	Kilmore Quay	14-Sep	Richard Stead (UK)	Fish bait



Three Bearded Rockling for Tony Tait

SCAD

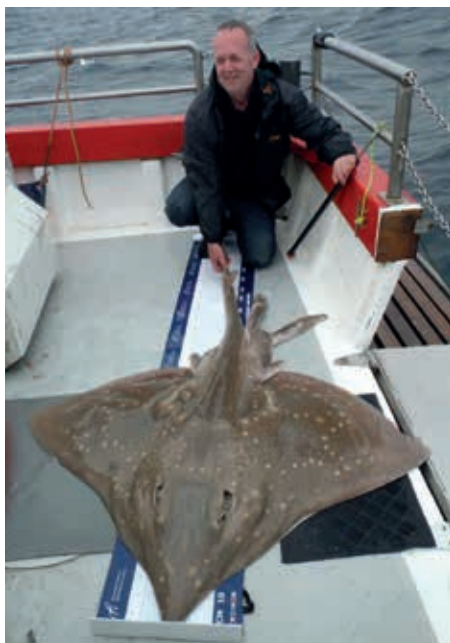
Record 0.894 kg (1.97 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.73	1.62	44.0	Ling Rocks, Kinsale	29-Nov-16	Martyn Rayner	Sabiki Hooks

COMMON SKATE

Record 221 lbs (100.24 kg); Specimen Weight - kg (- lbs)
Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 180 cm Total Length

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	217.0	Downings	09-Jun-16	Menno Dubbeld (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	–	209.0	Union Hall	23-Apr	Mike Sherwood	Mackerel
L-BS	–	208.0	Union Hall	23-Apr	Ben Horgan	Mackerel
L-BS	–	208.0	Union Hall	03-Jul	Robin van der Meer (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	207.0	Union Hall	26-May	Alan McEvoy	Mackerel & Launce Cocktail
L-BS	–	206.0	Union Hall	05-Nov	Tomasz Kujawa	Coalfish
L-BS	–	204.0	Union Hall	05-Nov	Mike Sherwood	Herring & Coalfish
L-BS	–	204.0	Union Hall	14-Aug	Simon Watson (UK)	Mackerel Flapper



Ab Kouwenhoven measures his 183 cm Skate



Berry Kist with his 184 cm Skate

COMMON SKATE CONTINUED...



Nicholas Wise - specimen Skate



Simon Watson - Skate



Michael Collins with a Union Hall Skate

COMMON SKATE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-BS	–	203.0	Downings	09-Jun-16	Piet Van Dorp (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	–	203.0	Islandmagee	12-Jul	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-BS	–	201.0*	Union Hall	19-Jun	Stephen O'Donovan	Mackerel & Launce Cocktail
L-BS	–	200.0*	Islandmagee	18-Jun	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	–	200.0	Union Hall	03-Jul	Robin van der Meer (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	198.0	Union Hall	04-Jul	Robin van der Meer (NL)	Mackerel baited feathers
L-BS	–	197.0	Union Hall	22-Apr	Jim Clohessy	Mackerel
L-BS	–	197.0	Courtmacsherry	10-Aug	Nicholas Wise (UK)	Mackerel Head
L-BS	–	193.0	Islandmagee	24-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel
L-BS	–	193.0	Union Hall	06-Jul	Stephen Hurley	Mackerel
L-BS	–	189.0	Islandmagee	21-Sep	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-BS	–	189.0	Union Hall	20-Jun	Michael Collins	Coalfish
L-BS	–	188.5	Union Hall	08-Jul	Stephen Hurley	Mackerel
L-BS	–	187.0	Islandmagee	05-Mar	Mark Todd	Mackerel
L-BS	–	187.0	Union Hall	20-Jun	Adam Smyth	Coalfish & Launce Cocktail
L-BS	–	184.0	Union Hall	03-Jul	Berry Kist (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	–	183.0	Union Hall	09-Jul	Ab Kouwenhoven (NL)	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	–	182.0	Union Hall	01-Jul	Ton van Schaik (NL)	Mackerel
L-BS	–	181.0	Islandmagee	05-Mar	Peter Ross	Coalfish

* tail foreshortened; total length estimated from wingspan

SMOOTH-HOUND

Record 11.27 kg (24.85 lbs); Specimen Weight 3.5 kg (7.72 lbs)

Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 100 cm Total Length

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
8.28	18.25	120.0	Wicklow	09-Jun	Michael McCarthy	Crab
7.80	17.20	93.0	Wicklow	08-Jul	Craig Murphy	Crab
6.33	13.95	120.0	Courtown	07-Aug	Patrick Fagan	Crab
5.90	13.00	112.0	Wicklow	16-Jun	Robert Reid	Peeler Crab
5.44	12.00	111.0	Wicklow	19-Jun	Kit Dunne	Crab
5.33	11.75	109.0	Wicklow	21-Jun	Keith Marsella	Peeler Crab
5.13	11.31	113.0	Brittas Bay	5-Jul	Paul Bray	Squid/Crab
5.20	11.46	–	Wicklow	09-Jul	Gavin Moran	Crab
5.10	11.25	110.0	Wicklow	05-Jul	Stan Ryan	Crab
4.99	11.00	103.0	Wicklow	13-Jun-16	John Millerick	Crab
4.99	11.00	112.0	Wicklow	30-Jul	David McCormick	Crab
4.88	10.75	103.0	Wicklow	16-Jul	John Millerick	Crab



Dublin Smooth-hound for Bert McGregor

SMOOTH-HOUND CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.76	10.50	96.0	Wicklow	19-Jun	John Patrick Chew (J)	Crab
4.76	10.50	107.0	Wicklow	05-Jul	Stephen Hurley	Crab
4.71	10.37	102.0	Wicklow	16-Jun	Robert Reid	Peeler Crab
4.63	10.20	101.5	Wicklow	08-Jul	Craig Murphy	Crab
4.54	10.00	96.0	Wicklow	10-Jul	Des Chew	Crab
4.45	9.80	100.0	Wicklow	08-Jul	Darren Clarke	Crab
4.45	9.80	102.0	Wicklow	03-Jul	Sean McShane	Peeler Crab
4.40	9.70	111.0	Courtown	29-Jul	James McMahon	Crab
4.31	9.50	103.0	Wicklow	16-Jul	John Millerick	Crab
4.25	9.37	102.0	Ballyhealy	14-Aug-16	Sean O'Shea	Crab
4.20	9.25	100.0	Wicklow	16-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
4.17	9.20	100.0	Wicklow	03-Jul	Gordon Darker	Crab
4.13	9.10	98.0	Wicklow	10-Jul	Dan Smith	Peeler Crab
4.13	9.10	97.0	Wicklow	08-Jul	Laurence Murphy	Crab
4.08	9.00	96.5	Wicklow	08-Jul	Noel Lane	Crab
4.08	9.00	100.0	Wicklow	16-Jul	Peter Lynch	Crab
4.08	9.00	102.0	Wicklow	16-Jul	John Millerick	Crab
4.08	9.00	101.0	Wicklow	08-Jul	Steven Tyrrell	Crab
4.04	8.90	100.0	Wicklow	19-Jun	Kit Dunne	Crab
3.97	8.75	97.0	Wicklow	24-Jun	Reg Plunkett	Peeler Crab
3.97	8.75	97.0	Wicklow	10-Jul	Josie Mahon	Crab
3.96	8.73	102.0	Ballymoney	24-Jun	Ronan Doherty	Peeler Crab
3.95	8.71	102.0	Wicklow	08-Jul	Robert McClean	Crab
3.86	8.50	102.0	Wicklow	28-Jun	Jim Walsh	Crab
3.86	8.50	95.0	Wicklow	16-Jul	Thomas Lynch	Crab
3.86	8.50	96.0	Wicklow	05-Jul	Evan McGovern	Peeler Crab
3.76	8.30	97.0	Wicklow	21-Jun	Glenn Greene	Peeler Crab
3.76	8.30	105.0	Wicklow	10-Jul	Maurice Carolan	Crab



Darren Clarke with his Wicklow Smooth-hound



John Hughes and 114 cm Smooth-hound



Jim Walsh with Smooth-hound on a wet day in June



Wicklow Smooth-hound for Josie Mahon



John Patrick Chew and 4.76 kg Smooth-hound



*4.45 kg
Smooth-hound
for
Sean McShane*



*Keith Marsella
with his 5.33 kg
Smooth-hound*



*Smooth-hound for
Dan Smith*

SMOOTH-HOUND CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.74	8.25	97.0	Wicklow	16-Jul	Peter Lynch	Crab
3.74	8.25	97.0	Wicklow	16-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
3.69	8.12	92.0	Wicklow	16-Jun	Nicholas McEvoy	Peeler Crab
3.67	8.10	97.0	Wicklow	08-Jul	Willie Digan	Crab
3.63	8.00	97.0	Wicklow	08-Jul	Christy Lane	Crab
3.58	7.90	–	Courtown	15-Aug	Gary Blake	Crab
3.54	7.81	95.0	Ballyhealy	14-Aug-16	Sean O'Shea	Crab
3.54	7.81	97.0	Howth	31-Aug	Philip Browne	Peeler Crab
3.52	7.75	98.0	Howth	31-Aug	Bert McGregor	Peeler Crab
3.29	7.25	103.0	Wicklow	12-Jun-16	John Millerick	Crab
L-BS	–	114.0	Dublin Bay	14-Jul	John Hughes	Crab
L-BS	–	103.0	Wicklow	12-Jun	John McLoughlin	Crab
L-BS	–	103.0	Wicklow	16-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
L-BS	–	102.0	Passage East	30-May	Nicholas McEvoy	Crab & Ragworm Cocktail
L-BS	–	102.0	Wicklow	10-Jul	Maurice Carolan	Crab
L-BS	–	102.0	Greystones	16-Jul	John Hughes	Crab
L-BS	–	102.0	Wicklow	02-Jun	David Farrelly	Squid
L-BS	–	101.0	Wicklow	22-Jul	Mark Fitzgerald	Crab
L-BS	–	100.5	Greystones	16-Jul	Darragh Hughes	Peeler Crab
L-BS	–	100.4	Howth	01-Sep	Bert McGregor	Crab
L-BS	–	100.1	Howth	26-Aug	Bert McGregor	Peeler Crab
L-BS	–	100.0	Greystones	16-Jul	John Hughes	Crab

STONE BASSE

Record 11.72 lbs (5.32 kg); Specimen Weight 3.628 kg (8 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.91	8.62	61.0	Union Hall	13-Aug	Stephen Hurley	Mackerel Strip

TOPE

Record 66 lbs 8 ozs (30.159 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)

Length-based specimen (L-BS) threshold 160 cm Total Length

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
25.40	56.00	166.0	Greystones	08-Oct	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
23.59	52.00	155.5	Greystones	10-Aug	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
21.77	48.00	164.5	Wicklow	06-Jul	Stephen Buckley	Mackerel
21.32	47.00	152.0	Wicklow	05-Jul	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
21.09	46.50	160.0	Greystones	05-Aug	Peter Bolger	Mackerel
21.01	46.31	159.0	Howth	04-Aug	Bert McGregor	Mackerel
20.87	46.00	155.0	Wicklow	03-Nov	Karl Roche	Mackerel
20.53	45.25	159.7	Howth	01-Sep	Bert McGregor	Mackerel Flapper
19.96	44.00	–	Wicklow	01-Jul	Frank Kool (NL)	Mackerel
19.73	43.50	161.0	Greystones	16-Jul	Rob McClean	Mackerel
19.50	43.00	162.0	Wicklow	30-Jul	Anne Hooijenga (NL)	Mackerel
18.82	41.50	156.0	Wicklow	16-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Mackerel
18.60	41.00	–	Wicklow	16-Jul	Gavin Moran	Mackerel
18.60	41.00	157.0	Wicklow	15-Jul	Declan Byrne	Mackerel
18.51	40.80	152.0	Wicklow	17-Jul	Jimmy O'Connor	Mackerel
18.28	40.30	148.0	Wicklow	17-Jul	Anthony Greene	Mackerel

TOPE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
18.14	40.00	163.0	Wicklow	06-Jul	Stephen Buckley	Mackerel
L-BS	–	169.0	Islandmagee	17-Jul	Mark Todd	Mackerel
L-BS	–	164.0	Greystones	30-Jun	Pat Kirwan	Mackerel
L-BS	–	161.0	Howth	27-Aug	Ronan Doherty	Mackerel Flapper
L-BS	–	161.0	Greystones	01-Jul	Pat Kirwan	Mackerel
L-BS	–	160.0	Dun Laoghaire	04-Sep	Hannah Thomas	Mackerel Fillets



20.87 kg Tope for Karl Roche

**Gavin Moran
with Wicklow
18.6 kg Tope
in July**





Rob McClean – 161 cm Tope from Greystones

WHITING

Record 4 lbs 14.5 oz (2.225 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg (3 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.70	3.75	59.0	Union Hall	14-Jul	Piet Verkade (NL)	Mackerel baited feathers
1.59	3.50	–	Union Hall	17-Jul	Micheál Hennessy	Mackerel
1.59	3.50	52.0	Union Hall	08-Oct	Mike Sherwood	Mackerel baited feathers
1.59	3.50	58.0	Union Hall	15-Sep	Stephen Hurley	Mackerel
1.45	3.19	53.0	Union Hall	25-Oct	Dan Lynch	Mackerel
1.36	3.00	55.0	Union Hall	17-Jul	Conor Hennessy	Mackerel

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
2.33	5.13	49.0	Bridges of Ross	17-Sep	Bill Ryan	Crab
2.32	5.12	50.0	Slea Head	29-Oct	Evan McGovern	Ragworm
2.30	5.07	52.5	Kilmore Quay	11-Sep	William Walker (UK)	Fish bait
2.23	4.92	50.0	Beara Peninsula	22-Aug	Francis McNeilly	Crab
2.22	4.90	47.0	Slea Head	18-Oct	Izaak Bradley	Crab
2.19	4.82	48.0	Bridges of Ross	16-Sep	Bill Ryan	Crab
2.18	4.81	48.5	Dingle	26-Sep	Craig Murphy	Crab



Evan McGovern and his Ballan Wrasse from Slea Head



Slea Head produced Izaak Bradley's Ballan Wrasse



Heaviest Ballan Wrasse of 2017 for Bill Ryan in Clare



Kerry scored for Ballan Wrasse for Craig Murphy

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
0.74	1.62	37.0	Belfast Lough	14-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel baited feathers
0.68	1.50	37.0	Belfast Lough	14-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel baited feathers
0.67	1.48	33.5	Cork Harbour	12-Jul	Philip Barry	Mackerel Strip
0.65	1.44	41.0	Ballycastle	27-Aug	Brian Foster	Ragworm
0.65	1.44	–	Kenmare Bay	04-Aug	Theo Kuijpers (NL)	Shrimp
0.62	1.37	35.0	Belfast Lough	14-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel baited feathers



Cuckoo Wrasse for Brian Foster

Special Notices for 2018

CLOSING DATE FOR SPECIMEN CLAIMS

Fully completed claims must be submitted by **31st October** each year. A charge of €10 will apply for each claim (Shad and Cyprinids) submitted for genetic analysis from 2018.

SPECIMEN WEIGHT & LENGTH REVISIONS

All listed species were reviewed in 2017 - details of changes for 2018 in table below. Weight or length based specimen options are available for several additional species from 2018 onwards. Further review will occur in 2018 when more data are available. FL refers to Fork Length; TL refers to Total Length (see Page 55)

Species	Current Threshold	Revised	Status
Carp	5.443 kg	5.9 kg	Increased
Pike (Lake)	-	115 cm FL	Length based specimen option
Pike (River)	-	100 cm FL	Length based specimen option
Rudd	0.9 kg	0.8 kg	Reduced
Brown Trout (Lake)	-	75 cm FL	Length based specimen option
Brown Trout (River)	-	57 cm FL	Length based specimen option
Angler fish	10 kg	8 kg	Reduced
Bass	-	75 cm TL	Length based specimen option
Black bream	0.9 kg	0.794 kg	Reduced
Black sole	0.7 kg	0.6 kg	Reduced
Brill	1.75 kg	1.6 kg	Reduced
Cod	9.072 kg	8 kg	Reduced
Spurdog	-	-	Review in 2018
Flounder	-	45 cm TL	Length based specimen option
Tub Gurnard	2.268 kg	2 kg	Reduced
Haddock	3 kg	2.5 kg	Reduced
Hake	3 kg	2.5 kg	Reduced
Plaice	1.4 kg	1.2 kg	Reduced
Ray - Blonde	-	110 cm TL	Length based specimen option
Ray - Undulate	-	85 cm TL	Length based specimen option only
Shark - Blue	190 cm FL	185 cm FL	Length based specimen option
Smoothound	3.5 kg	3.75 kg	Increased
Skate species	-	-	Photographs of total length AND measuring mat required for each fish
Turbot	6 kg	5 kg	Reduced

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.nsai.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 the existing claim form and angler to specify that length only is being measured. Eligible species for length based specimens are Pike (Lake & River), Brown Trout (Lake & River), Sea Trout, Angel Shark (*Squatina squatina*) (Monkfish), Bass, Flounder, Blue Shark, Common Skate (*Dipturus batis complex*), Greater Spotted Dogfish (Bullhuss), Porbeagle Shark (*Lamna nasus*), Smooth-Hound, Spur Dogfish, Tope, Blonde Ray, Undulate Ray (*Raja undulata*) and White Skate (*Rostroraja alba*).

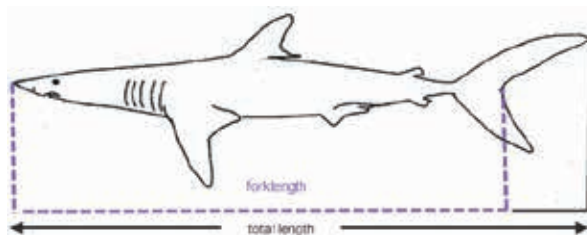
The following evidence must accompany each length-based specimen claim:

- (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 to be measured as Total Length, EXCEPT freshwater species, and Blue and Porbeagle Shark.

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 (2) 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
Megrim	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 (*Mustelas 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

A pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) measuring 51 cm and weighing 1.632 kg was caught by James Quinn on 27/06/2017 on the River Corrib at the Galway Salmon Weir Fishery. This fish is a non-native species and was retained for further biological examination.

PRESENTATION OF 2016 AWARDS

The late Dick Warner, environmentalist, writer and broadcaster made the Annual Presentation of Specimen Awards at the Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport on 18 February 2017.

In March 2017, 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.

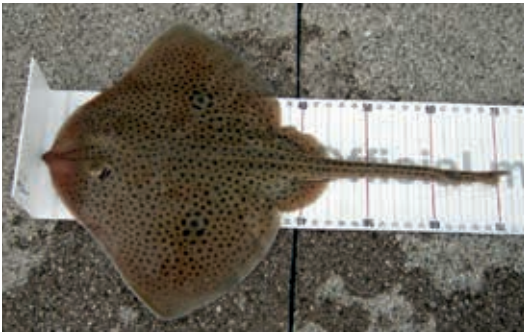
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special acknowledgements: Inland Fisheries Ireland continues to provide unstinting administrative support and other services to the ISFC and is sincerely acknowledged. Bridie Fleming, who retired from Inland Fisheries Ireland in 2017, continues to support all claims management activity within the ISFC and is a vital part of the continued success of the Committee. Sincere thanks to Myles Kelly, IFI and ISFC web manager, for his input throughout 2017. 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 the many staff from Inland Fisheries Ireland 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.

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)		
1995	295	35	55	18	7	1	n/d	411
1996	307	27	69	6	4	2	n/d	415
1997	449	28	57	9	5	4	n/d	552
1998	344	46	53	6	5	4	n/d	458
1999	310	33	35	3	1	1	1	384
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

n/d = not determined

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS

Expenditure and Revenue Accounts - 1st January to 31st December 2016

2015	Expenditure	2016	2015	Revenue	2016
€		€	€		€
				Balance b/f from 2016	14062.57
5464.39	Printing	3620.67		Grants	
1946.59	Awards Medals/Trophies	466.77		IFI	9000
	Miscellaneous/Postage		2554.59	Loughs Agency	
45	ISFC Meeting Expenses	106.5	200	TAFI	200
216.9	Awards Day Costs	195	8.89	Delphi	8.89
21.16	Bank Charges	26.63	100	ICSA	
2000	Genetic Identification	2500		Donations	
				Angler Donations	635.92
	Total	6915.57			9844.81
	Balance c/d	16991.81			
		23907.38			23907.38
				Balance b/d	16991.81

"The ISFC has prepared a revenue and expenditure account for 12 months ended 31st December 2016 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 2017 were:

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI); Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA); Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland; Delphi Fishery Ltd; Peter Bolger, Ferrycarrig Road, Coolock, Dublin 17; **Maurice Cott**, Aghada, Whitegate, Co. Cork; **Noel Darcy**, Cloughbroudy Heights, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny; **Donal Domoney**, Courtown Drive, Cork City; **Patrick Fagan**, St. Agnes Road, Cruclin, Dublin 12; **Eric Gosnell**, Marian Park, Church Road, Blackrock, Cork; **Jim Gregg**, The Meadow, Antrim, BT41 1EY; **Halfway Angling Centre (Dan Lynch)**, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork; **Myles Kelly**, IFI, Dublin; **Christy Lane**, Harrington's Square, Dillons Cross, Cork City; **Noel Lane**, Silverheights Avenue, Mayfield, Cork; **Patrick Lombard**, Dunmore, Clonakilty, Co. Cork; **Joseph Marsella**, Walkin Street, Kilkenny; **Nicholas McEvoy**, Francis Crescent, Grange Heights, Waterford City; **Bert McGregor**, Rivermead Park, St. Margaret's, Co. Dublin; **W. F. McLaughlin**, Castle Gardens, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, BT49 0SD; **Michael McVeigh**, Fisherman's Village Lodge, Downings, Co. Donegal; **Joe Mulholland**, Feede Cross, Dundalk, Co. Louth; **Karl O'Leary**, Meadowlawn, Raheen, Limerick; **Donal O'Mahony**, Kilmore, Innishannon, Co. Cork; **Joey O'Neill**; **Stephen O'Neill**, Ferndale, Carrigaline, Co. Cork; **Frank Prendergast**, Avoca, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry; **Andrew Wolsey**, Ballymacormick Road, Dromore, Co. Down, BT25 1QR

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	–	–	–	–
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	1.29	kg	4.7.2017	Rosscarbery	Ian Mulligan
Thin Lipped Mullet	2.86	kg	23.8.2014	Clonakilty, Cork	Ian Mulligan
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
Twaite 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	66	8	15.7.1979	Carlingford Lough	Cyril Young
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 2018 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		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 profilin						
SEA FISH						
Angel Shark (<i>aka Monkfish</i>) (<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>)	–		0.79	1.75		Body*
Bluemouth (<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>)	1.32 kg		0.9	1.98		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		–
Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	2	5.5	0.6	1.32		Body*

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		LENGTH BASED SPECIMEN	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs		
Dogfish – Blackmouthed (<i>Galeus melastomus</i>)	1.33 kg		1.0	2.205		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		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>)	1.29 kg		0.68	1.5		Body*
Mullet – Thin Lipped (<i>Liza ramada</i>)	2.86 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	≥110cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Cuckoo (<i>Raja naevus</i>)	5	11	1.6	3.53		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		Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Painted (<i>Raja microcellata</i>)	17.21		4.536	10		Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Sting (<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>)	33.2 kg		13.0	28.66		Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Thornback (<i>Raja clavata</i>)	37		7.0	15.43		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		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		3.75	8.27	≥100cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Stone Basse (<i>Polyprion americanus</i>)	11.72		3.628	8		–
Tope (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	66	8	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		Photo
Wrasse Cuckoo (<i>Labrus mixtus</i>)	2	7	0.567	1.25		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, TOPE, SHARKS, SMOOTH-HOUND, SKATE, RAYS, BLUEMOUTH, MONKFISH, POLLACK, BALLAN WRASSE, TRIGGERFISH, COALFISH, ALBACORE, TUB GURNARD (pectoral fins of gurnard must be fully expanded) GILTHEAD BREAM (whole body and head shot showing mouth and eyes) and BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH.

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 belly surfaces should be provided and particulars of the coloration given (with particular reference to the presence of dark or grey spots, or streaks or patches on the belly side). Detailed photographs of the teeth should be furnished in the case of 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



Liam McDonnell with his River Shannon Pike



Patrick Fagan with the third heaviest Smooth-hound of 2017



A Ballan Wrasse for Bill Ryan at the Bridges of Ross

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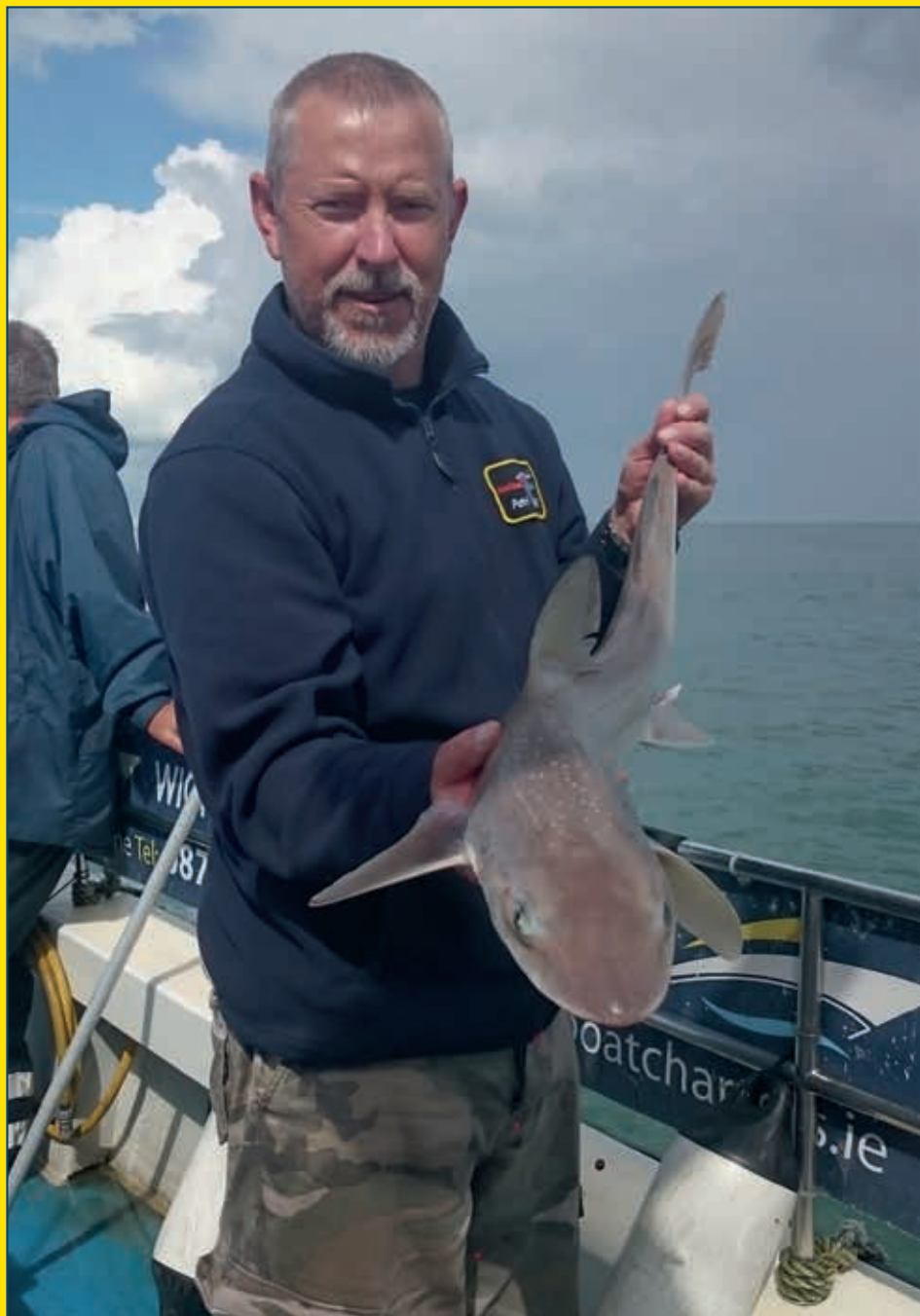
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IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE

Some important points for claiming specimen fish:

1. Use official ISFC claim form and complete **ALL** relevant sections fully.
2. **Print** your name, address (including country) and telephone number in block capitals in Section 2.
3. **Weighing:** Fish **MUST** be weighed (on land) on **CERTIFIED** club scales etc. or alternatively, on a shop scales. If in doubt, use a shop scales. Fish must not be weighed on board a boat.
4. **Scales must be certified annually** by a competent independent authority and the certificate of accuracy must be current at time of weighing. Certificate must accompany each claim.
5. **Fish scales, actual bodies or photographs** of some species are required (See Section 4 of the Rules for details).
6. You **MUST** sign and date Section 6 of the Claim Form. Ensure witnesses sign the Claim Form.

Back Cover: Smooth-hound for John Millerick



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