

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH 2023



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



Iascach Inntre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland



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

Website: www.specimenfish.ie

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 recognise 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 2023. Over 33,000 claims have been received by the ISFC over the past 68 years. This dataset is one of the longest time-series of its type.

Irish Specimen Fish Committee Members 2023

Dr. Robert Rosell (*AFBI*), Chairman, Dr. William Roche, Secretary, Shane O'Reilly, Treasurer, Myles Kelly and Micheál Hennessy (*Inland Fisheries Ireland*), Alan McGurdy, Glenda Powell, Stewart McGrane (*Game Angling*), Dr. Edward Fahy, Der Casey (*Coarse Angling*), Brian Cooke (*Sea Angling*) and Dr Richard Kennedy (*AFBI*).

Awards Presentation

*Anglers due awards for 2023
are invited to attend the
Presentation of Specimen Awards at the
Clayton Hotel Leopardstown, Dublin
at 2.30pm on 17th February 2024*



Irish Specimen Fish Committee



In Association with
Iascach Iníre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Contents

Chairperson’s Review 2023	2	Golden Grey Mullet.....	38
New Irish Records	3	Red Mullet.....	38
Special Awards Categories 2023		Pollack	38
20 Species Award.....	4	Pouting	39
10 Species Award.....	5	Painted Ray	39
50 Specimens Award.....	6	Sting Ray.....	40
10 Specimens Award.....	7	Undulate Ray.....	41
Dr. Michael Kennedy Award.....	8	Shore Rockling.....	41
Dr. A.E.J. Went Award	8	Three Bearded Rockling	42
The Minister’s Award.....	8	Scad.....	43
Best Length Specimen Award.....	8	Twaiite Shad	43
Best International Fish Award	8	Blue Shark	45
Specimen Fish Claims ratified in 2023	9	Flapper Skate	46
Coarse Fish and Pike 2023		Smooth Hound	47
Bream	9	Tope.....	49
Carp.....	10	Trigger Fish	55
Dace.....	10	Ballan Wrasse.....	56
Gudgeon	12	Corkwing Wrasse.....	58
Pike (Lake)	12	Cuckoo Wrasse.....	59
Pike (River)	13	Special Notices	
Roach.....	14	Closing Date for Specimen Claims	61
Roach/Bream Hybrid	15	New Species, Specimen Weight &	
Roach/Rudd Hybrid	15	Length Revisions.....	61
Rudd	17	Notable Fish	61
Rudd/Bream Hybrid.....	18	Geographical Limit for Claims	62
Tench	18	Weight Based Specimens	62
Game Fish 2023		Length-Based Specimens	62
Brown Trout (Lake).....	21	New Record Claims.....	63
Brown Trout (River).....	21	Fish Species Identification	63
Marine Fish 2023		Other Requirements.....	66
Bass	22	Administration.....	66
Coalfish.....	23	Establishing A New Specimen Fish	
Conger Eel.....	23	Category	66
Blackmouthed Dogfish	23	Presentation of 2022 Awards.....	67
Lesser Spotted Dogfish.....	24	Acknowledgements	67
Greater Spotted Dogfish	24	Distribution of Specimen Awards.....	68
Spur Dogfish.....	25	Irish Specimen Fish Committee Accounts.....	69
Flounder	30	Donations.....	70
Gilthead Bream	30	Irish Record Fish	
Ling.....	34	Freshwater Species, Marine Species	71
Megrim	34	Schedule of Specimen Weights.....	73
Thick Lipped Mullet	35	ISFC Rules.....	76

ISFC Chairman's Report 2023



The Irish Specimen Fish Committee has had a busy 2023, successfully emerging from the disruption of the previous three years. Activity has returned to a near normal schedule and ratified claim numbers are up to a decadal high.

Our discussions have covered familiar ground – recording and recognizing anglers captures of exceptionally large fish, freshwater and marine continues to fascinate. The ways of doing that and making reporting as easy as possible, while preserving the integrity of the data in an accurate time series of change, continue to evolve. An app to aid reporting, as an alternative to the traditional hard copy claim form, is in an advanced stage of development, and should be ready for testing soon. Submitting claims in this way is an obvious advancement – the challenge is accommodating verification and witnessing of capture, fish weight and/or length, and keeping existing and new procedures integrated and compatible.

The compilation and publication of almost 60 years of Irish specimen fish data into an atlas format, a long sought and strived for milestone, was realised in some style in 2023 by Colm Casserly and Willie Roche. The current print run, sold on the ISFC website, has sold out, but a reprint will be available in early 2024. I can wholeheartedly recommend this superbly presented book (cost €29, including postage). It is a novel type of benchmark of the state of many fish stocks, and is already being cited by fish researchers.

The submission of specimen fish claims based on their length, backed by a photograph on a measuring mat, now outnumbers the “traditional” claims based on weight. More species continue to be an added length-based option, as data on length – weight relationships becomes available and applicable in an Irish context. We are particularly pleased at the response of anglers submitting length-based specimen claims for newly specimen listed smaller, often readily accessible species. We now have sufficient accumulated claims for Shore Rockling and Corkwing Wrasse to award a record this year, and the newly established Gudgeon record has been beaten one year on. It is inevitable that records for newly listed species will rise for a time as anglers find new marks and larger fish, and will then stabilize as the bar rises.

Note that for all length-based reporting, just as for reporting weights, the length is rounded down to lowest point of the displayed measuring interval. For the smallest species a measure display showing millimetres is appropriate. For freshwater species, please also remember the required measure is snout to fork of tail (forklength), with measure to the tip of the tail in marine species (total length). We do not yet check the length accuracy of length measuring boards/rules, but may revisit this issue soon.

A much harder discussion continues – when to establish a “longest ever” record for species with a current weight record. This applies particularly where conservation rules enforce catch & release of marine boat caught species, preventing accurate weighing on land. If current rules continue, the new length data time series could be used to set a length record, potentially standing alongside the current maximum recorded weight. For this to happen, we will need to be sure that the fish merits record status, that we have clear and fair criteria for adding such records, and that due recognition is retained by the existing record weight fish.

The committee receives (albeit few) claims most years of very large fish which we cannot verify accurately. Examples include photos showing a very large fish but not on a mat, or use of “alternative” proxy measures. If the committee agrees the fish to be over specimen size, we have the option of recording as “at least of specimen length/weight”, or potentially recording it as a “notable fish” without accompanying detail.

My thanks as Chair, on behalf of the entirely voluntary committee, to all our supporters, who give time, staff time and the operating funds to run the ISFC, its awards and publications. These include IFI, who both host and fund the committee, AFBI and DAERA for Northern Ireland, angling bodies and individual anglers. Dr Richard Kennedy of AFBI has also joined the committee, thus ensuring employed professional representation as an ISFC contact point in Northern Ireland now that I have retired from public service science. The committee will benefit from Richard’s wide experience of fisheries science and angling. Particular thanks are also due to Bridie Fleming for her sterling work behind the scenes cataloguing claims and entering data into the database.

With best wishes to all specimen anglers for 2024... the next one could be a monster.

Dr Robert Rosell, Chair, ISFC

January, 2024

Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2023

In 2023 the ISFC processed 594 claims. A total of 17 were rejected for non-compliance with ISFC rules and a further 6 will be queried further. This report presents details of special awards and ratified specimen fish for 2023.

New Irish Record Fish 2023



Gudgeon 16 cm, Movanager Canal, 23 Oct 2023, Terry Jackson, Co. Down



Shore Rockling 34.5 cm, Dunabratton Bay, 26 March 22, David Flynn, Dublin



Corkwing Wrasse 26 cm, Fanad Head, 01 Oct 23, Duncan Cole, Co. Down

SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES 2023

20 SPECIES AWARD

NICHOLAS MCEVOY, WATERFORD

1980	Lesser Spotted Dogfish	2008	European Seabass
1982	Ballan Wrasse	2012	Mullet - Thick-Lipped
1983	Flounder	2012	Mullet - Golden Grey
1985	Twaite Shad	2013	Gilthead Bream
1985	Three-Bearded Rockling	2015	Carp
1986	Smooth-hound	2016	Dace
1988	Cuckoo Wrasse	2017	Spurdog
2003	Rudd x Bream Hybrid	2018	Tope
2005	Gurnard - Red	2021	Ray - Undulate
2007	Ray - Painted	2022	Corkwing Wrasse

FRANCIS MCNEILLY, CO. DOWN

2012	Twaite Shad	2017	Pike (River)
2012	Dab	2019	Rudd x Bream Hybrid
2012	Ray - Painted	2020	Brown Trout (River)
2013	Smooth-hound	2021	Roach x Bream Hybrid
2014	Flounder	2021	Tope
2015	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	2022	Bream
2016	Carp	2022	Gudgeon
2016	Spurdog	2022	Pike (Lake)
2016	Gilthead Bream	2023	Tench
2017	Mullet - Golden Grey	2023	Corkwing Wrasse
2017	Ballan Wrasse		

TONY TAIT, CORK

2002	Ray - Blonde	2010	Megrim
2002	Garfish (B. belone)	2010	European Seabass
2004	Dab	2010	Red Mullet

20 SPECIES AWARD

TONY TAIT, CORK CONTINUED...

2005	Coalfish (Saithe)	2012	Pollack
2005	Gurnard - Red	2012	Conger Eel
2006	Gilthead Bream	2014	Ray - Painted
2007	Cuckoo Wrasse	2015	Mullet - Thick-Lipped
2008	Bluemouth	2015	Mullet - Golden Grey
2008	Lesser Spotted Dogfish	2017	Three-Bearded Rockling
2009	Ballan Wrasse	2023	Smooth-hound

10 SPECIES AWARD

RONAN DOHERTY, DUBLIN

2009	Twaite Shad	2020	Skate - Flapper
2013	Flounder	2020	Ray - Sting
2015	Smooth-hound	2021	Corkwing Wrasse
2015	Ballan Wrasse	2023	Spurdog
2016	Three-Bearded Rockling	2023	Shore Rockling
2017	Tope		

DEREK GREENE, DUBLIN

2008	Pike (River)	2021	Ballan Wrasse
2008	Tench	2021	Corkwing Wrasse
2019	Twaite Shad	2022	Spurdog
2020	Smooth-hound	2023	Flounder
2020	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	2023	Gilthead Bream
2021	Trigger Fish		

BRIAN O'NEILL, WATERFORD

1986	Plaice	2021	Spurdog
2000	European Seabass	2020	Tope
2001	Garfish (B. belone)	2022	Bull Huss
2002	Twaite Shad	2022	Shark - Blue
2002	Ray - Painted	2023	Ling

10 SPECIES AWARD

PAT O'SHEA, CORK

1985	Ray - Blonde	2008	European Seabass
1986	Spurdog	2013	Lesser Spotted Dogfish
2007	Mullet - Golden Grey	2013	Flounder
2007	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	2022	Ray - Sting
2008	Ray - Painted	2023	Smooth-hound

SEAN WARD, CO. WICKLOW

2016	Bream	2022	Mullet - Golden Grey
2018	Pike (River)	2023	Roach
2018	Spurdog	2023	Roach x Rudd Hybrid
2019	Roach x Bream Hybrid	2023	Rudd x Bream Hybrid
2020	Tope	2023	Ray - Undulate
2022	Bluemouth	2023	Shore Rockling

50 SPECIMENS AWARD

DUNCAN COLE, CO. DOWN

2008-2023	Twaite Shad	17	2021	Flounder	1
2009-2023	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	24	2022	Pike (River)	1
2012, 2023	Ballan Wrasse	2	2023	Corkwing Wrasse	1
2015-2016	Brown Trout (River)	2	2023	Brown Trout (Lake)	1
2018-2021	Gilthead Bream	5			

RONAN DOHERTY, DUBLIN

2009-2021	Twaite Shad	8	2020	Ray - Sting	1
2013, 2017	Flounder	3	2020	Skate - Flapper	1
2015-2022	Ballan Wrasse	10	2021-2023	Corkwing Wrasse	9
2015-2023	Smooth-hound	5	2023	Shore Rockling	3
2016	Three-Bearded Rockling	1	2023	Spurdog	3
2017-2022	Tope	6			

DEREK GREENE, DUBLIN

2008-2023	Pike (River)	30	2021	Corkwing Wrasse	2
2008	Tench	2	2021	Trigger Fish	2
2019-2021	Twaite Shad	9	2022, 2023	Spurdog	2
2020, 2021	Smooth-hound	2	2023	Flounder	1
2020, 2023	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	3	2023	Gilthead Bream	3
2021	Ballan Wrasse	1			

50 SPECIMENS AWARD

EVAN MCGOVERN, CORK

2016-2023	Spurdog	9	2021, 2023	Corkwing Wrasse	3
2016-2023	Ray - Sting	3	2021	Ling	1
2017, 2022	Ballan Wrasse	2	2023	Gilthead Bream	1
2017	Pollack	1	2023	Lesser Spotted Dogfish	2
2017-2022	Smooth-hound	8	2023	Mullet - Golden Grey	1
2017, 2021	Tope	2	2023	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	3
2018 - 2023	Skate - Flapper	5	2023	Pouting	1
2019	Ray - Thornback	1	2023	Shore Rockling	1
2020, 2021	Ray - Painted	3	2023	Twaite Shad	1
2020, 2021	Conger Eel	2			



*Specimen Mullet of the Year winner,
Evan McGovern, with his 3.4 kg Thick Lipped
from Cork Harbour*



*Fish of a Lifetime Award Winner
Ben Horgan with his near-record
Gilthead Bream*

10 SPECIMENS AWARD

2016-2023	David Brennan, Co. Kildare	2016-2023	Darren Ryan, Co. Wicklow
2017-2023	Eoin Leonard, Co. Wicklow	2013-2023	Stan Ryan, Dublin
2009-2023	Brian Lowth, Co. Dublin	2016-2023	Sean Ward, Co. Wicklow

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.

Evan McGovern, Co. Cork

3.4 kg **Thick Lipped Mullet** at Cork Harbour, 8 April 2023

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 or length) taken by an angler aged 13 years or younger.

Sean Ward, Co. Wicklow

2.32 kg **Rudd/Bream Hybrid** from Belle Lake on 1 April 2023

THE MINISTER'S AWARD 2022 & 2023

Established by the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, 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 an outstanding fish (e.g. highest percentage of record)

2022 Award – **Sidney Kennedy**, Cork

Porbeagle (est forklength 249 cm) from North Donegal, 15 April 2022

2023 Award – **Ben Horgan**

3.74 kg **Gilthead Bream** from Clonakilty Bay, 30 May 2023

BEST LENGTH SPECIMEN

Length specimens were introduced by ISFC in 2011 and this award is for the longest length-based specimen of the year (% of the threshold length)

Ben Horgan, Cork

58.5 cm **Gilthead Bream** at Kinsale, 01 Jun 2023

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.

Maxime Renpenault, France

24.948 kg **Tope** taken at Wicklow, 22 Sep 2023

SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2023 FRESHWATER FISH 2023

Coarse Fish & Pike 2023

BREAM

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.39	11.87	62.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	21-Apr	David Flynn	Corn
4.90	10.81	61.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	28-Apr	David Flynn	Corn
4.37	9.62	56	L Oughter	S	03-Jun	Micheal Hennessy	Sweetcorn
3.80	8.37	56	L Oughter	S	03-Jun	Micheal Hennessy	Sweetcorn
3.74	8.25	56	L Oughter	S	03-Jun	Micheal Hennessy	Sweetcorn
3.74	8.25	57.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	05-Jun	Anthony Kelly	Maggots
3.57	7.87	55	R Erne, Belturbet	S	11-Jun	Anthony Kelly	Maggots
3.52	7.75	54.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	22-Apr	David Brennan	Corn
3.49	7.70	52	R Erne, Belturbet	S	27-May	Francis McNeilly	Worm
3.46	7.62	53	R Erne, Belturbet	S	10-Jun	Anthony Kelly	Maggots
3.40	7.50	55	R Erne, Belturbet	S	24-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots



David Flynn with the heaviest Bream of 2023



3.46 kg Bream for Anthony Kelly

Year of capture is 2023 unless otherwise stated. **Length (L)** is forklength (FL) (cm) for freshwater species, blue and porbeagle shark. Total Length (TL) for all other marine species. **S** = Shore & **B** = Boat. **Country of residence** of international angler denoted by relevant letter after surname. **(J)** after surname denotes juvenile angler.

CARP

Record 14.24 kg (31.39 lbs); Specimen Weight 5.9 kg (13 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.14	15.75	65	Lee Reservoir	S	17-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
7.08	15.61	66	Horsetail Lake	S	22-Apr	Jim Gregg	Fly
6.86	15.12	68	The Lough, Cork	S	20-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
6.75	14.87	65	Lee Reservoir	S	17-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Boilie
5.98	13.18	58	Horsetail Lake	S	22-Apr	Jim Gregg	Fly

DACE

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

WT (G)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
340	0.75	27.5	R Nore, Inistioge	S	04-Aug	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
330	0.72	28	R Nore, Thomastown	S	08-Jul	Leah Darcy (J)	Bread



28 cm Dace for Noel Darcy from the River Nore



Leah Darcy with her Dace

DACE CONTINUED...

WT (G)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
320	0.71	27.5	R Nore, Thomastown	S	09-Apr	Amy O'Brien (J)	Worm
320	0.70	28	R Nore, Thomastown	S	08-Apr	Noel Darcy	Worms
320	0.70	28	R Nore, Thomastown	S	08-Jul	Leah Darcy (J)	Bread
320	0.70	27	R Nore, Thomastown	S	02-Jun	Noel Darcy	Bread
310	0.69	27.5	R Nore, Inistioge	S	04-Aug	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
310	0.69	27.5	R Nore, Inistioge	S	04-Aug	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
310	0.68	27.5	R Nore, Thomastown	S	09-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Worm
310	0.68	27.5	R Nore, Thomastown	S	08-Apr	Noel Darcy	Worms
310	0.68	27.5	R Nore, Thomastown	S	09-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Worm
310	0.68	26.5	R Nore, Thomastown	S	09-Apr	Sidney Kennedy	Worm
310	0.66	26.5	R Nore, Thomastown	S	09-Apr	Amy O'Brien (J)	Worm
310	0.66	27.5	R Nore, Thomastown	S	09-Apr	Amy O'Brien (J)	Worm



Terry Jackson with the heaviest Dace of 2023

GUDGEON

New Record 16 cm; Specimen Weight 35 g (1.23 ozs)

Length specimen (L-S) ≥ 14 cm TL

WT (g)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	16	Movanagher Canal	S	23-Oct	Terry Jackson	Pinkies
–	–	14.5	Movanagher Canal	S	23-Oct	Terry Jackson	Pinkies
–	–	14.5	Movanagher Canal	S	23-Oct	Terry Jackson	Pinkies
–	–	14	Portna	S	26-Oct-22	David Craig	Maggot

PIKE (LAKE)

Record 42 lbs 12 ozs (19.39 kg); Specimen Weight 13.608 kg (30 lbs)

Length specimen (L-S) ≥ 115 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13.90	30.65	106	Emy L	B	04-Nov-22	Francis McNeilly	Bluey



102 cm River Pike for Carl Owens



River Suck Pike for Tom Lynch

PIKE (RIVER)

Record 42 lbs (19.051 kg); Specimen Weight 9.072 kg (20 lbs)
Length specimen (L-S) ≥100 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9.53	21.00	103	R Barrow, Athy	S	12-Mar	Anthony Kelly	Roach
9.24	20.37	99	R Barrow, Athy	S	27-Feb	Craig Murphy	Keitech Easy Shiner
–	–	109.5	R Barrow, Levitstown	S	17-Nov-22	Stan Ryan	Mackerel
–	–	104	R Lee	S	02-Dec-22	John O’Sullivan	Mackerel
–	–	103.5	R Suck, Ballinasloe	S	18-Feb	Thomas Lynch	Herring
–	–	103	R Inny, Coolnagun	S	13-Jan	Des Chew	Mackerel
–	–	103	R. Inny, Coolnagun	S	01-Dec-22	Josie Mahon	Herring
–	–	102	R Erne, Belturbet	S	11-Dec-22	Carl Owens	Roach

PIKE (RIVER) CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	101.5	R Inny, Coolnagun	S	27-Oct	Rory Keatinge	Smelt
–	–	101.5	R Shannon, Rooskey	B	26-May	Mark Lennon	Savage Gear
–	–	101	R Shannon, Jamestown	S	04-Feb	Derek Greene	Sardine
–	–	100.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	11-Dec-22	Carl Owens	Mackerel
–	–	100	R Shannon, Rooskey	S	04-Jan	Derek Greene	Sardine
–	–	100	R Inny, Coolnagun	S	02-Dec-22	Des Chew	Herring
–	–	100	R Suck, Ballinalsoe West	S	11-Feb	Thomas Lynch	Herring



*Rory Keatinge
with his
Inny Pike*

ROACH

Record 1.425 kg (3.14 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.907 kg (2 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.05	2.31	36	R Erne, Belturbet	S	14-Apr	Sean Ward (J)	Maggots
0.96	2.12	34	R Erne, Belturbet	S	09-Apr	David Flynn	Bread

ROACH/BREAM HYBRID

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.24	4.94	44.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	24-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
1.77	3.90	43	R Barrow, Athy	S	19-Apr	Des Chew	Sweetcorn/Maggot
1.75	3.85	42.5	R Barrow, Athy	S	26-Apr	Rory Keatinge	Sweetcorn/Maggot
1.75	3.85	41	R Barrow, Athy	S	02-Apr	Des Chew	Sweetcorn/Maggot
1.72	3.80	43.5	R Barrow, Athy	S	20-Apr	Carl Owens	Sweetcorn
1.66	3.65	42	R Barrow, Athy	S	09-Apr	Carl Owens	Sweetcorn
1.63	3.60	44.5	R Barrow, Athy	S	23-Mar	Des Chew	Sweetcorn/Maggot
1.63	3.60	41	R Barrow, Athy	S	20-Apr	Carl Owens	Sweetcorn
1.62	3.57	41	R Barrow, Athy	S	06-Mar	Brian Cooke	Sweetcorn

ROACH/RUDD HYBRID

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.41	3.10	38.5	R Barrow, Athy	S	17-Feb	Carl Owens	Sweetcorn
1.36	3.00	39	R Barrow, Athy	S	07-Mar	Des Chew	Sweetcorn/Maggot
1.19	2.62	38.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	15-Jun	Conor Ward	Bread
1.19	2.62	37	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	29-Jun	Anthony Kelly	Bread
1.13	2.50	38.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	10-Aug	Nichola Ward	Bread
1.13	2.50	38	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	16-Jun	Bernadette McKenna	Bread
1.13	2.50	38.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	15-Jun	Sean Ward (J)	Bread

ROACH/RUDD HYBRID CONTINUED...

ROACH/RUDD GALLERY



Anthony Kelly – 1.19 kg



David Brennan – 1.03 kg



David Flynn – 1.13 kg



Nicholas Ward – 1.08 kg



Nichola Ward – 1.13 kg



Sean Ward – 1.13 kg

ROACH/RUDD HYBRID CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.13	2.50	37	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	14-Jun	David Flynn	Corn
1.11	2.44	36.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	14-Jun	Nicholas Ward	Bread
1.08	2.37	36.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	10-Aug	Nichola Ward	Bread
1.08	2.37	37.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	14-Jun	Nicholas Ward	Bread
1.05	2.31	37.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	10-Aug	Bernadette McKenna	Bread
1.05	2.31	37.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	15-Jun	Sean Ward (J)	Bread
1.03	2.27	38	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	20-Jun	David Brennan	Bread
1.02	2.25	37.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	15-Jun	Conor Ward	Bread
1.02	2.25	37.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	15-Jun	Conor Ward	Bread
1.02	2.25	36.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	10-Aug	Nichola Ward	Bread
1.02	2.25	37	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	10-Aug	Bernadette McKenna	Bread
1.02	2.25	37	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	15-Jun	Sean Ward (J)	Bread
1.02	2.25	36.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	14-Jun	David Flynn	Maggots
1.02	2.25	38	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	29-Jun	Anthony Kelly	Bread
0.96	2.12	36	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	14-Jun	Nicholas Ward	Bread
0.96	2.12	36.5	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	14-Jun	David Flynn	Maggots
0.96	2.12	38	Royal Canal, Mullingar	S	29-Jun	Anthony Kelly	Bread

RUDD**Record 4lbs 8 ozs (2.041 kg); Specimen Weight 0.8 kg (1.76 lbs)**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.86	1.9	34	R Barrow, Athy	S	04-Apr	Des Chew	Sweetcorn/Maggot

RUDD/BREAM HYBRID

Record 7 lbs 10 ozs (3.46 kg); Specimen Weight 1.2 kg (2.64 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.49	5.50	50	Belle Lake	S	31-Mar	David Flynn	Corn
2.41	5.31	49.5	Belle Lake	S	02-Apr	Nicholas Ward	Maggots
2.38	5.25	49	Belle Lake	S	07-Apr	Conor Ward	Maggots
2.38	5.25	48.5	Belle Lake	S	31-Mar	David Flynn	Corn
2.32	5.12	48	Belle Lake	S	01-Apr	Sean Ward (J)	Maggots
2.32	5.12	47	Belle Lake	S	31-Mar	David Flynn	Corn

TENCH

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

Length specimen (L-S) ≥ 52 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.96	6.53	53	L Kinale	B	26-Jul	Robert Tully	Maggots
2.90	6.39	53	L Kinale	B	27-Jul	Philip Connolly	Maggots
2.89	6.37	52.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	03-Jun	David Flynn	Corn
2.84	6.26	53	R Erne, Belturbet	S	25-May	Francis McNeilly	Worm
2.78	6.12	53	L Oughter	S	03-Jun	Micheal Hennessy	Sweetcorn
2.78	6.12	53	R Erne, Belturbet	S	05-Jun	Anthony Kelly	Maggots
2.78	6.12	52	R Erne, Belturbet	S	26-May	Francis McNeilly	Worm
2.76	6.08	52	L Kinale	B	27-Jul	Philip Connolly	Maggots
2.72	6.00	52.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	04-Jun	Anthony Kelly	Maggots
2.72	6.00	52.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	05-Jun	Anthony Kelly	Maggots
–	–	56	Ballyhoe L	S	17-May	Pauline McDonnell	Wafter
–	–	55	Glastry	S	30-May	Terry Jackson	Corn/Maggot

TENCH CONTINUED...*Rudd/Bream for Nicholas Ward**2.89 kg Erne Tench for David Flynn*

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	54.5	Glastry	S	27-May	Terry Jackson	Krill Pellet
–	–	54	L Oughter	S	03-Jun	Micheal Hennessy	Sweetcorn
–	–	54	R Shannon, Lanesboro	S	31-May	Clyde McElwaine	Worm
–	–	54	Glastry	S	31-May	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake/Corn
–	–	53.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	24-Jun	Kenneth Murphy	Sweetcorn/ Maggots
–	–	53	L Kinale	B	27-Jul	Philip Connolly	Maggots
–	–	53	R Shannon, Lanesboro	S	31-May	Clyde McElwaine	Worm
–	–	52.5	Clooncraft L	S	07-May	Fionn MacDomhnaill	Maggots
–	–	52.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	03-Jun	David Flynn	Corn
–	–	52.5	R Shannon, Lanesboro	S	31-May	Clyde McElwaine	Worm
–	–	52.5	Ballyhoe L	S	25-Jun	Shay McDonnell	Wafter
–	–	52.5	Tully L	B	11-Jul	Liam Tully	Maggots

TENCH CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	52.5	Tully L	B	12-Jul	Zoe Tully	Maggots
–	–	52.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	24-Jun	Kenneth Murphy	Sweetcorn/ Maggots
–	–	52.5	R Erne, Belturbet	S	23-Jun	Kenneth Murphy	Maggots
–	–	52	Tully L	B	09-Jul	David Tully	Maggots
–	–	52	Tully L	B	12-Jul	David Tully	Maggots
–	–	52	Tully L	B	11-Jul	Liam Tully	Maggots
–	–	52	Tully L	B	10-Jul	Logan Tully (J)	Maggots
–	–	52	R Erne, Belturbet	S	24-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots
–	–	52	R Erne, Belturbet	S	24-Jun	Sidney Kennedy	Maggots



Fionn MacDomhnaill with his Clooncraft Lake fish



2.72 kg Erne Tench for Anthony Kelly



56 cm Ballyhoe Tench for Pauline McDonnell

Game Fish 2023

BROWN TROUT (LAKE)

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

Length - specimen (L-S) threshold ≥ 75 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.58	14.50	78	L Ree	B	03-Mar	Anthony Kelly	Herring
–	–	79	L Ree	B	04-Mar	Andrew Boyce	Roach
–	–	78	L Corrib	B	25-Mar	Duncan Cole	Trout lure
–	–	77.7	Lwr Lough Erne	B	22-Apr-22	Brian Reid	Rapalla lure

BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

Record 20 lbs (9.071 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)

Length - specimen (L-S) threshold ≥ 57 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.22	11.51	–	Six Mile Water	S	07-Aug	Sinead Courtney	Willie Gunn Fly
4.52	9.96	69	Six Mile Water	S	26-Jun	Jim Gregg	Fly
4.50	9.92	70	Six Mile Water	S	03-Jul	Jim Gregg	Fly
4.07	8.97	71.12	R Suir, Clonmel	S	23-Jul	Jordan Cooper	Rudd
3.86	8.50	65	R Shannon, Lanesboro	B	19-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Roach
3.74	8.25	78.5	R Barrow, Athy	S	28-Jun	David Brennan	Shad Lure
2.72	6.00	59	Six Mile Water	S	14-Sep	Jim Gregg	Fly
2.48	5.47	55	Six Mile Water	S	03-Oct	Peter Heyburn	Nymph



Lough Corrib Trout for Duncan Cole



Lough Ree was the venue for Anthony Kelly's Trout

Marine Fish 2023

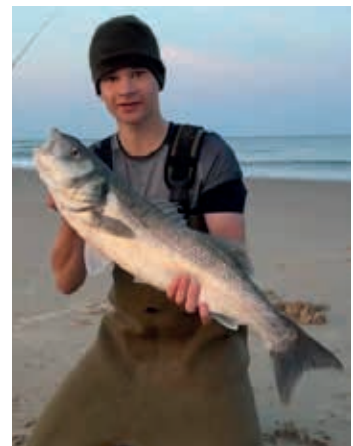
BASS

Record 17 lbs 13 ozs (8.08 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs)
Length – specimen (L-S) ≥75 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.54	12.22	77.5	Wicklow	S	01-Oct-22	Patrick Fagan	Deadly Dick Lure
4.71	10.37	76	Tralee Bay	S	18-Jun	Craig Murphy	Savage Gear
–	–	76	Dunany Beach	S	14-May	Noel O'Shea	Ragworm
–	–	75.5	Youghal	B	09-Dec-22	Decky Collins	Plastic lure
–	–	75.5	Dungarvan	B	17-Dec-22	Stephen Champion	Sandeel
–	–	75	Cork Harbour	S	14-Jun	Noel Lane	Peeler Crab
–	–	75	Magheramore Beach, Wicklow	S	08-Jun	John Chew	Sandeel



Stephen Champion with his Dungarvan Bass



John Chew with his 75 cm East Coast Bass



*Baltimore Coalfish for
Klaus Sinnhoffer*

COALFISH

Record 15.1 kg (33.29 lbs); Specimen Weight 6 kg (13.23 lbs)
Length – specimen (L-S) ≥ 86 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	91	Baltimore	B	18-Jul	Klaus Sinnhoffer	Baited Hokkai

CONGER EEL

Record 72 lbs (32.658 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)
Length – specimen (L-S) ≥ 165 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	167.5	Cork Harbour	B	27-May	Robert Vaughan	Mackerel

BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH

Record 1.33 kg (2.93 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.0 kg (2.205 lbs)
Length -specimen (L-S) ≥ 67 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.00	2.20	70	North Channel, Larne	B	09-Aug	Fintan Lawler	Mackerel

LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.59	3.50	75	West Cork	B	01-May	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
1.50	3.30	75.5	Cork Harbour	B	10-Oct-22	Paul Twomey	Mackerel
1.50	3.30	73	Courtmacsherry	B	12-Jun	Maurice Cott	Mackerel
1.47	3.25	72	Outer Cork Harbour	B	21-Jun	Evan McGovern	Mackerel



Best Dogfish of 2023 fell to Evan McGovern

GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

Record 23.813 lbs (10.8 kg); Specimen Weight 7.257 kg (16 lbs)

Length – specimen (L-S) ≥115 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	116	Wicklow	B	09-Aug	Anthony Kelly	Mackerel
–	–	116	Baltimore	B	27-Aug	Sean O’Keefe	Baited Pirk

SPUR DOGFISH

Record 11.06 kg (24.38 lbs); Specimen Weight 5.443 kg (12 lbs)

Length – specimen (L-S) ≥105 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.56	12.25	100	Wicklow	B	27-Mar	David Brennan	Mackerel
5.44	12.00	102	Kerry Head	B	04-Jun	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
5.44	12.00	106	Belfast Lough	B	02-Jan	Michael McGimpsey	Mackerel
–	–	117	Islandmagee	B	11-Jun	David Craig	Maggot
–	–	116	Clones Strand, Wexford	S	21-Feb	Ronan Doherty	Whiting/ Mackerel Cocktail



August Bullhuss for Anthony Kelly



Jason Perry with his 107 cm Wicklow Spur



Piet Verkade with his Spur from Clare



Ed van Haagen with his Clare Spur

SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	116	Wicklow	B	02-Apr	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
–	–	116	Wicklow	B	29-Jan	Jack Byrne	Mackerel
–	–	116	Wicklow	B	02-Jan	John Millerick	Mackerel
–	–	116	Islandmagee	B	11-Jun	David Craig	Mackerel
–	–	116	Islandmagee	B	11-Jun	David Craig	Mackerel
–	–	115	Wicklow	B	02-Apr	Joey Gough	Squid
–	–	114.5	North Channel, Larne	B	09-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
–	–	114	Clones Strand	S	21-Feb	Ronan Doherty	Whiting/ Herring Cocktail
–	–	114	Baltimore	B	02-Jul	Declan Horgan	Baited Muppet
–	–	114	North Channel, Larne	B	16-Aug	Glenn Drennan	Mackerel
–	–	113	Wicklow	B	28-Jan	Ian O'Connor	Mackerel
–	–	113	Wicklow	B	12-Feb	Tadhg Nealon	Mackerel
–	–	112.5	Clones Strand	S	11-Feb	Paul Bracken	Mackerel
–	–	112	Wicklow	B	02-Apr	Joseph Byrne	Mackerel
–	–	112	Downings	B	20-May	Rob Millard	Mackerel



Tadhg Nealon with his 113 cm Spur



Ger Allen with his 107 cm Wicklow Spur

SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...*Glenn Drennan with one of his Spurs**Joe Byrne with his Wicklow Spur**108 cm Spur for Warren Doyle*

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	112	Islandmagee	B	11-Jun	Peter Ross	Mackerel
–	–	111	North Channel, Larne	B	09-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
–	–	111	Wicklow	B	02-Apr	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
–	–	111	Wicklow	B	02-Apr	Warren Doyle	Mackerel
–	–	111	Wicklow	B	02-Jan	John Millerick	Mackerel
–	–	110	Wicklow	B	02-Apr	Luk Kavanagh (J) (D)	Mackerel
–	–	110	Kilgorman, Wexford	S	23-Feb	Brian Cooke	Whiting

SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	110	Courtmacsherry	B	12-Jun	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
–	–	110	Carrigaholt	B	20-Jul	Ed Van Haagen (NL)	Mackerel
–	–	110	Carrigaholt	B	20-Jul	Jacob Verkade (NL)	Mackerel
–	–	110	Kilgorman	S	11-Feb	John Hughes	Whiting
–	–	110	Islandmagee	B	11-Jun	Peter Ross	Mackerel
–	–	110	Islandmagee	B	13-Jul	David Bird	Mackerel
–	–	110	Larne	B	16-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
–	–	109	Wicklow	B	02-Apr	Kit Dunne	Squid
–	–	109	Wicklow	B	02-Apr	Joey Gough	Mackerel
–	–	109	Courtown	S	21-Feb	Darren Ryan	Mackerel
–	–	109	Wicklow	B	02-Jan	Pamela Byrne	Mackerel
–	–	109	Islandmagee	B	11-Jun	Mark Todd	Mackerel
–	–	109	North Channel, Larne	B	16-Aug	Glenn Drennan	Mackerel
–	–	108	Wicklow	B	28-Jan	Ian O'Connor	Mackerel
–	–	108	Clones Strand	S	21-Feb	Ronan Doherty	Whiting
–	–	108	Wicklow	B	02-Apr	Warren Doyle	Mackerel
–	–	108	Wicklow	B	29-Jan	Derek O'Keefe	Mackerel
–	–	108	Arklow	B	05-Mar	Philip Connolly	Mackerel
–	–	108	Wicklow	B	02-Jan	Adam Teehan (J)	Mackerel
–	–	107	Wexford	S	23-Feb	Martin O'Connor	Mackerel
–	–	107	Wicklow	B	02-Jan	Derek Greene	Mackerel
–	–	107	Wicklow	B	29-Jan	Ger Allen	Mackerel
–	–	107	Wicklow	B	29-Jan	Jason Perry	Mackerel

SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	107	Limeburner, Downings	B	06-Jun	Bert Uithol (NL)	Mackerel Strip
–	–	107	Islandmagee	B	11-Jun	Peter Ross	Mackerel
–	–	107	Islandmagee	B	13-Jul	Mark Todd	Mackerel
–	–	107	Islandmagee	B	13-Jul	David Bird	Mackerel
–	–	107	North Channel, Larne	B	16-Aug	Glenn Drennan	Mackerel
–	–	106	Carrigaholt	B	18-Jul	Piet Verkade (NL)	Mackerel
–	–	106	North Coast, Nr. Ballycastle	B	17-Jun	William F McLaughlin	Mackerel
–	–	106	Ballymoney	B	05-Mar	Clare Maurer	Mackerel
–	–	105.5	North Coast, Nr. Ballycastle	B	30-Sep	William F McLaughlin	Mackerel/ Muppet Cocktail
–	–	>105	Wicklow	B	02-Apr	Joey Gough	Mackerel
–	–	105	Wicklow	B	27-Jul	Henry Kelly	Mackerel
–	–	105	Courtmacsherry	B	12-Jun	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
–	–	105	North Coast, Nr. Ballycastle	B	17-Jun	William F McLaughlin	Mackerel
–	–	105	Islandmagee	B	13-Jul	Mark Todd	Mackerel
–	–	105	Islandmagee	B	13-Jul	David Bird	Mackerel
–	–	105	North Channel, Larne	B	09-Aug	Fintan Lawler	Mackerel



**108 cm Spur
in January off
Wicklow for
Derek O'Keefe**

FLOUNDER

Record 4.91 lbs (2.227 kg); Specimen Weight 1.1 kg (2.426 lbs)

Length – specimen (L-S) ≥45 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.23	2.71	43.5	Wicklow	S	08-Oct-22	Patrick Fagan	Peeler Crab
1.11	2.44	42	Youghal	S	08-Nov-22	Barry Healy	Peeler Crab
–	–	45	Rosscarbery	S	05-Jun	Derek Greene	Ragworm



44 cm Gilthead for Glenn McLoughlin



Luke Devereux with his Bannow Bay Gilthead Bream

GILTHEAD BREAM

Record 3.742 kg (8.25 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.4 kg (3.08 lbs)

Length – specimen (L-S) ≥42 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.74	8.25	61	Clonakilty Bay	S	30-May	Ben Horgan	Lugworm
3.29	7.25	57	Clonakilty Bay	S	22-Jun	Eoin Lombard	Lugworm
3.23	7.12	58	Rosscarbery	S	04-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Lugworm
3.01	6.62	56	Rosscarbery	S	22-Jul	Derek Greene	Ragworm
3.01	6.62	57.5	Rosscarbery	S	04-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Lugworm

GILTHEAD BREAM CONTINUED...**2.82 kg Gilthead for Patrick Lombard****2.59 kg Gilthead for Garrett Lombard****3.29 kg Gilthead for Eoin Lombard****1.59 kg Gilthead for Brian Lombard**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.98	6.56	57	Rosscarbery	S	04-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Lugworm
2.95	6.50	58.5	Rosscarbery	S	05-Jun	Derek Greene	Ragworm
2.95	6.50	60	Clonakilty Bay	S	17-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
2.82	6.22	56	Clonakilty Bay	S	16-May	Patrick Lombard	Lugworm
2.59	5.72	55	Clonakilty Bay	S	19-Apr	Garrett Lombard	Ragworm
2.55	5.62	58	Red Strand	S	05-Aug	John Millerick	Lugworm
2.54	5.59	56	Clonakilty Bay	S	20-Apr	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm

GILTHEAD BREAM CONTINUED...**1.76 kg Gilthead for Dan Smith****Derek Greene with his 2.95 kg Gilthead**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.49	5.50	54	Rosscarbery	S	05-Jun	Derek Greene	Ragworm
2.04	4.50	47.5	Clonakilty Bay	S	22-Jul	John Millerick	Lugworm
1.76	3.87	47.5	Bannow Bay	S	05-Sep	Dan Smith	Peeler Crab
1.73	3.81	47	Bannow Bay	S	05-Sep	Dan Smith	Ragworm
1.59	3.50	44.5	Clonakilty Bay	S	22-Jul	John Millerick	Lugworm
1.59	3.50	45	Clonakilty Bay	S	04-Sep	Brian Lombard	Lugworm
–	–	58.5	Kinsale	S	01-Jun	Ben Horgan	Lugworm
–	–	52.5	Kinsale	S	04-Jun	Ben Horgan	Lugworm
–	–	48	Bannow Bay	S	17-Jul	Stephen Gibson	Crab
–	–	46	Kilmore Quay	B	11-Sep	Kev Martland (UK)	Ragworm
–	–	45.5	Kilmore Quay	B	14-Sep	Ray Evers (UK)	Ragworm
–	–	45	Bannow Bay	S	17-May	Glenn McLoughlin	Peeler Crab
–	–	44	Bannow Bay	S	17-May	Glenn McLoughlin	Peeler Crab
–	–	44	Bannow Bay	S	02-Jun	Luke Devereux (J)	Peeler Crab
–	–	43.5	Bannow Bay	S	05-Jun	Craig Murphy	Lugworm
–	–	43.5	Bannow Bay	S	02-Jul	Dan Smith	Ragworm
–	–	43	Clonakilty Bay	S	22-Jun	Eoin Lombard	Lugworm
–	–	43	Bannow Bay	S	17-May	Glenn McLoughlin	Peeler Crab
–	–	43	Bannow Bay	S	30-Jun	Kevin Flynn	Lugworm

GILTHEAD BREAM CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	43	Kilmore Quay	B	14-Sep	Gareth Protheroe (UK)	Ragworm
–	–	43	Rosscarbery	S	02-Sep	Mick Hosey	Lugworm
–	–	42.5	Clonakilty Bay	S	14-May	Paul Cullinane	Lugworm
–	–	42.5	Rosscarbery	S	22-Jun	Brian Lowth	Maddies
–	–	42	Clonakilty Bay	S	15-May	Evan McGovern	Lugworm
–	–	42	Clonakilty Bay	S	29-Apr	Darren Ryan	Lugworm
–	–	42	Clonakilty Bay	S	29-Apr	Darren Ryan	Lugworm



Stephen Gibson – 48 cm from Bannow Bay



Evan McGovern – 42 cm



Darren Ryan – 42 cm



Craig Murphy – Bannow Bay 43.5 cm



Paul Cullinane – 42.5 cm



42.5 cm Gilthead for Brian Lowth

LING

Record 55 lbs (24.95 kg); Specimen Weight 11.34 kg (25 lbs)
Length – specimen (L-S) ≥125 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	FL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	139.5	Cork Harbour	B	13-May	Robert Vaughan	Herring
–	–	134.5	Cork Harbour	B	13-May	John Higgins	Mackerel
–	–	129	Courtmacsherry	B	27-May	Brian O’Neill	Mackerel

MEGRIM

Record 1.85kg (4.08 kg); Specimen Weight 794 g (1.75 lbs)
Length – specimen (L-S) ≥ 49 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	51	Cork Harbour	B	20-Jul	John Higgins	Mackerel
–	–	49.5	Cork Harbour	B	27-May	Ailbhe O’Sullivan	Lure
–	–	49.5	Baltimore	B	25-Jul	John Young (UK)	Lure



134.5 cm Ling for John Higgins



49.5 cm Megrin for Ailbhe O’Sullivan



Kevin Martland with his Gilthead Bream

THICK LIPPED MULLET

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

Length - specimen (L-S) \geq 55 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.40	7.50	65	Cork Harbour	S	08-Apr	Evan McGovern	Bread
3.26	7.19	65	Rosscarbery	S	06-Jun	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
3.18	7.00	63.5	Rosscarbery	S	02-Sep	Mick Hosey	Bread
3.12	6.87	63	Rosscarbery	S	05-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
3.06	6.75	60	Rosscarbery	S	12-Aug	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
3.03	6.69	64.5	Rosscarbery	S	06-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.95	6.50	59	Malahide Estuary	S	24-Jun	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.89	6.37	62	Rosscarbery	S	17-Jun	Mick Hosey	Bread
2.81	6.19	64	Rosscarbery	S	31-May	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
2.58	5.69	59.5	Rosscarbery	S	07-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Bread
2.49	5.50	62	Cork Harbour	S	08-Apr	Evan McGovern	Bread
2.49	5.48	58	Rosscarbery	S	09-Sep	Francis McNeilly	Bread
2.47	5.44	58.5	Rosscarbery	S	11-Feb	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread
2.44	5.37	56.5	Rosscarbery	S	18-Mar	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake



**63 cm Thick Lipped Mullet
for John Millerick**



**Mohamed Elfiky with
his 60 cm Mullet**



**Mick Hosey with one of
the year's best Mullet**

THICK LIPPED MULLET CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.39	5.28	58	Rosscarbery	S	09-Sep	Francis McNeilly	Bread
2.35	5.19	60.5	Rosscarbery	S	03-Jun	Derek Greene	Ragworm
2.32	5.12	57.5	Rosscarbery	S	07-Apr	Derek Greene	Bread
2.32	5.12	59	Rosscarbery	S	04-Apr	Francis McNeilly	Bread
2.32	5.11	55	Tralee Bay	S	20-Jun	Philip Barry	Ragworm
2.30	5.06	59.5	Rosscarbery	S	11-Feb	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
2.27	5.02	57	Rosscarbery	S	12-Jul	Duncan Cole	Bread
2.27	5.00	54	Donegal Bay	S	20-Aug	Des Chew	Bread Flake
–	–	63	Rosscarbery	S	06-Aug	John Millerick	Bread
–	–	62	Donegal Bay	S	19-Aug	Sean Ivory	Bread Flake
–	–	60	Rosscarbery	S	04-Jun	Mohamed Elfiky	Bread
–	–	58.5	Rosscarbery	S	06-Sep	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread
–	–	64.5	Rosscarbery	S	01-May	John O'Sullivan	Maddies
–	–	57.5	Rosscarbery	S	03-Sep	John Millerick	Bread
–	–	57	Rosscarbery	S	05-Mar	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake

**Donegal Thick Lipped Mullet for Sean Ivory****55 cm Mullet for Michele Beggs**

THICK LIPPED MULLET CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	56.5	Rosscarbery	S	04-Jun	John Millerick	Bread
–	–	56.5	Rosscarbery	S	26-Mar	Terry Jackson	Bread Flake
–	–	56	Ballyheigue Bay	S	22-Aug	Philip Barry	Ragworm
–	–	55.5	Cobh	S	09-Aug	Decky Collins	Bread
–	–	55.5	Rosscarbery	S	06-Sep	Amy O'Brien (J)	Bread
–	–	55	Rosscarbery	S	04-Jul	Evan McGovern	Maddies
–	–	55	Rosscarbery	S	28-Aug	Michele Beggs	Bread Flake
–	–	55	Rosscarbery	S	28-Aug	Michele Beggs	Bread Flake



3.12 kg Thick Lipped for Ian Mulligan



58.5 cm Thick Lipped Mullet for Amy O'Brien



Cork Harbour Thick Lipped for Declan Collins



Golden Grey Mullet for Sidney Kennedy

GOLDEN GREY MULLET

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.19	2.62	44	Rosscarbery	S	23-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
1.05	2.31	44	Rosscarbery	S	17-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
1.02	2.25	44.5	Rosscarbery	S	17-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Maddies
0.91	2.00	43	Rosscarbery	S	29-Jun	Evan McGovern	Maddies
0.91	2.00	44.5	Rosscarbery	S	04-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.74	1.62	41	Rosscarbery	S	12-Jul	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.68	1.50	40	Long Strand	S	02-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm

RED MULLET

Record 0.82 kg (1.808 lbs); Specimen Weight 0.4 kg (0.88 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.40	0.88	31	Kilmore Quay	B	09-Sep	David Cherry	Crab

POLLACK

Record 19.186 lbs (8.7 kg); Specimen Weight 5 kg (11.02 lbs)

Length – specimen (L-S) ≥ 80 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	86	North Coast, Nr. Ballycastle	B	10-Sep	William F McLaughlin	Mackerel/Muppet Cocktail

POUTING

Record 4 lbs 13.5 ozs (2.197 kg); Specimen Weight 1.361 kg (3 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.42	3.12	42	Outer Cork Harbour	B	14-Apr	Evan McGovern	Mackerel

PAINTED RAY

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

Length – specimen (L-BS) ≥80 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.76	10.50	83	Inch Beach	S	08-Oct	Barry Healy	Sandeel
–	–	86	Cork Harbour	B	22-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
–	–	85	Cork Harbour	B	22-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Sandeel
–	–	84	Garryvoe	S	06-Sep	Pat O'Shea	Sandeel
–	–	83.5	Cork Harbour	B	22-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
–	–	83	Garryvoe	S	15-Oct	Pat O'Shea	Mackerel
–	–	83	Ballinwilling Beach	S	22-Sep	Terry Flynn	Sandeel
–	–	82.5	Cork Harbour	B	01-Sep	Paul Twomey	Mackerel
–	–	82	Tramore Beach	S	31-Oct	Nicky McEvoy	Sandeel/ Crab Cocktail
–	–	82	Youghal	B	15-Oct	Kenneth Murphy	Crab/Sandeel Cocktail
–	–	81	Whiting Bay, Ardmore	S	12-Nov-22	Eric Gosnell	Mackerel
–	–	81	Ardmore	S	19-Aug	Stan Ryan	Sandeel
–	–	80.5	Ballinwilling Beach	S	07-Oct	Nicholas Ward	Sandeel

PAINTED RAY CONTINUED...

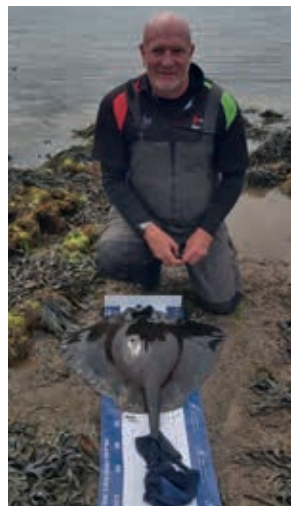
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	80.5	Garryvoe	S	26-Sep	Paul O'Leary	Sandeel
–	–	80.5	Garryvoe	S	07-Sep	Donal Domeneay	Crab



Cork Harbour Painted Ray for Paul Twomey



Sting Ray for Fiona Ryan



Darren Ryan and Sting Ray

STING RAY

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

Length – specimen (L-S) ≥90 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	116	Tralee Bay	S	20-May	Darren Ryan	Sandeel
–	–	103	Tralee Bay	B	03-Jun	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
–	–	101.5	Tralee Bay	S	24-Jul-22	Fiona Ryan	Mackerel
–	–	95	Tralee Bay	S	31-Mar	Darren Ryan	Mackerel
–	–	94	Fenit	S	13-Aug	Mark Gargan	Mackerel

UNDULATE RAY

Record 18 lbs (8.165 kg); Specimen Weight N/A
Length – specimen (L-S) ≥85 cm TL

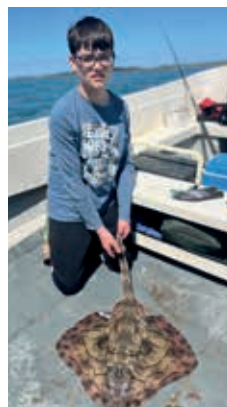
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	88	Tralee Bay	S	03-May	Donal Domoney	Launce
–	–	85	Fenit	S	04-May	Nicky McEvoy	Crab/Sandeel Cocktail
–	–	85	Tralee Bay	S	20-Mar-22	Darren Ryan	Sandeel
–	–	85	Fenit	B	27-May	Sean Ward (J)	Mackerel
–	–	85	Tralee Bay	B	03-Jun	Maurice Cott	Mackerel
–	–	85	Tralee Bay	S	22-Apr	Darren Ryan	Sandeel



*Best Undulate Ray of 2023
for Donal Domoney*



*Undulate Ray for
Maurice Cott*



*Fenit Undulate
for Sean Ward*

SHORE ROCKLING

New Record 34.5 cm; Specimen Weight N/A
Length – specimen (L-S) ≥30 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	34.5	Dalkey	S	08-Feb	Martin Kennedy	Crab
–	–	32.5	Cahore	S	05-Mar	Norman Dunlop	Lugworm
–	–	32	Bangor	S	12-Oct	Terry Jackson	Prawn
–	–	32	Ballycotton	S	06-Aug	Conor Ward	Mackerel

SHORE ROCKLING CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	32	Coliemore Harbour	S	05-Apr	John Pritchard	Ragworm
–	–	32	Ardmore	S	08-Mar	Paul Twomey	Mackerel
–	–	31	Ballycotton	S	06-Aug	Sean Ward (J)	Mackerel
–	–	31	Arklow	S	22-Apr	Ronan Doherty	Black Wraps
–	–	31	Power Head	S	07-Feb	Evan McGovern	Mackerel/Sandeel
–	–	31	Dalkey	S	28-Oct	John Pritchard	Ragworm
–	–	30.5	Ardmore	S	28-Feb	Paul Twomey	Mackerel
–	–	30.5	Dun Laoghaire	S	31-Oct-22	John Hughes	Mackerel
–	–	30	Arklow	S	22-Apr	Ronan Doherty	Black Wraps
–	–	30	Arklow	S	22-Apr	Ronan Doherty	Black Wraps
–	–	30	Ardmore	S	28-Feb	Paul Twomey	Mackerel
–	–	30	Dun Laoghaire	S	30-Oct-22	John Hughes	Mackerel
–	–	30	Dun Laoghaire	S	26-Oct	John Hughes	Mackerel
–	–	30	Coliemore Harbour	S	22-Oct	John Pritchard	Mackerel
–	–	30	Bray	S	18-Feb	Amy O'Brien (J)	Crab
–	–	30	Bray	S	18-Feb	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
–	–	30	Dalkey	S	17-Feb	Martin Kennedy	Mackerel Strip

THREE BEARDED ROCKLING

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

Length – specimen (L-S) threshold ≥ 40 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.99	2.19	45	Dun Laoghaire Pier	S	11-Nov-22	David Flynn	Mackerel
–	–	42.5	Wicklow Harbour	S	30-Oct	Noel O'Shea	Mackerel Baited Feathers
–	–	42	Kilmore Quay	B	09-Sep	Gareth Protheroe (UK)	Fish Bait
–	–	41.5	Baltimore	B	26-Jul	Andrew Harrison (UK)	Muppet/Mackerel



Shore Rockling for John Pritchard



Three Bearded Rockling for David Flynn



Shore Rockling for Sean Ward

SCAD

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

Length – specimen (L-S) threshold ≥ 44 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	44	Union Hall	B	02-Sep	Stan Ryan	Delta Eels



Longest Shad of 2023 taken by Eddie Dunne



Brian Lowth – 51 cm Shad on 14 May



51.5 cm Shad for Brian McManus

TWAITE SHAD

Record 1.64 kg (3.616 lbs); Specimen Weight, N/A

Length – specimen (L-S) threshold ≥ 50 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	56	R Barrow, St. Mullins	S	06-May	Eddie Dunne	Tasmanian Devil

TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	54	St. Mullins	S	03-May	Neal Hewitt	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	53.5	St. Mullins	S	05-May	Jim Gregg	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	52.5	St. Mullins	S	06-May	Sidney Kennedy	Lure
–	–	52.5	St. Mullins	S	22-May	Eoin Leonard	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	52	St. Mullins	S	07-May	Amy O'Brien (J)	Lure
–	–	51.5	St. Mullins	S	03-May	Jim Gregg	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	51.5	St. Mullins	S	18-May	Mark Lennon	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	51.5	St. Mullins	S	19-May	Alesha Hobbs (J)	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	51.5	St. Mullins	S	12-May	Eddie Butler	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	51.5	St. Mullins	S	07-May	Sidney Kennedy	Lure
–	–	51.5	St. Mullins	S	17-May	Brian McManus	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	51.5	St. Mullins	S	07-May	Craig Murphy	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	51.5	St. Mullins	S	07-May	Stephen Maughan	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	51	St. Mullins	S	06-May	Duncan Cole	Lure
–	–	51	St. Mullins	S	07-May	Amy O'Brien (J)	Lure
–	–	51	St. Mullins	S	14-May	Brian Lowth	Major Craft Jigpara
–	–	50.5	St. Mullins	S	21-Apr	Duncan Cole	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	50.5	St. Mullins	S	07-May	Derick O'Brien	Lure
–	–	50.5	St. Mullins	S	06-May	Amy O'Brien (J)	Lure
–	–	50.5	St. Mullins	S	07-May	Sidney Kennedy	Lure
–	–	50.5	St. Mullins	S	20-May	Robert Ryan	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	50	St. Mullins	S	03-May	Jim Gregg	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	50	St. Mullins	S	19-May	Eric Gosnell	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	50	St. Mullins	S	16-May	Ben Horgan	Toby Lure
–	–	50	St. Mullins	S	08-May	Des Chew	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	50	St. Mullins	S	12-May	Eddie Butler	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	50	St. Mullins	S	09-May	Sheila Riolo	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	50	St. Mullins	S	18-May	Evan McGovern	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	50	St. Mullins	S	05-May	Barry Murphy	Tasmanian Devil

TWAITE SHAD CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	50	St. Mullins	S	04-May	Eoin Leonard	Tasmanian Devil
–	–	50	St. Mullins	S	19-May	Terry Jackson	Abu Lure
–	–	50	St. Mullins	S	19-May	Terry Jackson	Abu Lure
–	–	50	St. Mullins	S	20-May	Terry Jackson	Abu Lure



Terry Jackson's 50 cm Shad



51.5 cm Shad for Craig Murphy



Mark Lennon with his 51.5 cm Shad



Blue Shark before release for Philip Barry

BLUE SHARK

Record 206 lbs (93.44 kg); Specimen Weight 45.359 kg (100 lbs)

Length – based specimen (L-S) ≥185 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	185	S of Cork Harbour	B	20-Jul	Philip Barry	Whiting

FLAPPER SKATE

Record 221 lbs (100.24 kg); Specimen Weight, N/A
Length – based specimen (L-S) ≥180 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	218	Malin Head, Downings	B	09-Jun	Jan van der Marel (NL)	Coalfish
–	–	213	Cork Harbour	B	16-Aug	Kenneth Murphy	Mackerel Flapper
–	–	210	West Cork	B	01-May	Maurice Cott	Mackerel
–	–	205	Cork Harbour	B	16-Aug	Kenneth Murphy	Mackerel Flapper
–	–	202	Courtmacsherry	B	12-Jun	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
–	–	202	Baltimore	B	15-Aug	Vic Manning (UK)	Mackerel
–	–	202	Baltimore	B	01-Sep	Derick O'Brien	Mackerel
–	–	195	Islandmagee	B	13-Jul	Peter Ross	Coalfish
–	–	194	Kinsale	B	13-Jul	Pat Mostyn	Mackerel
–	–	193	North Channel, Larne	B	19-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel/ Coalfish
–	–	193	Courtmacsherry	B	12-Jun	Clinton Rachman	Mackerel
–	–	191	Belfast Lough	B	02-Jan	Michael McGimpsey	Mackerel/ Coalfish
–	–	191	Baltimore	B	01-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
–	–	191	North Channel, Larne	B	02-Jan	Terry Jackson	Mackerel/ Coalfish
–	–	188	West Cork	B	01-May	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
–	–	186	North Channel, Larne	B	09-Aug	Fintan Lawler	Coalfish
–	–	185	Islandmagee	B	13-Jul	Peter Ross	Coalfish
–	–	184	Baltimore	B	01-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
–	–	182.5	Clew Bay	B	08-Aug	Mick Mangan	Coalie/Mackerel
–	–	182	Baltimore	B	15-Aug	Vic Manning (UK)	Mackerel



Flapper Skate for Terry Jackson



Adam Teehan with his 107 cm Wicklow Smooth Hound



Tralee Bay Smooth Hound for Noel Cashman



Adam Whelehan with his shore caught Smooth Hound

SMOOTH HOUND

Record 12.02 kg (26.89 lbs); Specimen Weight 4.5 kg (9.92 lbs)

Length – specimen (L-S) ≥103 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.94	13.09	112.5	Bannow Bay	S	02-Jul	Dan Smith	Ragworm
5.91	13.04	112	Tralee Bay	S	17-May	Noel Cashman	Peeler Crab
5.67	12.50	112	Bannow Bay	S	17-Jul	Stephen Gibson	Crab
–	–	119	Cork Harbour	S	16-Jul	Tony Tait	Peeler Crab
–	–	116	Clonakilty Bay	S	24-Sep	Peter Boland	Ragworm
–	–	115	Fenit	B	27-May	Conor Ward	Crab
–	–	113	Cork Harbour	S	01-Aug	Pat O’Shea	Ragworm

SMOOTH HOUND CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	110	Tralee Bay	S	17-May	Donal Domenev	Crab
–	–	109	Tralee Bay	S	03-May	Donal Domenev	Crab
–	–	107	Wicklow	B	24-Jun	Adam Teehan	Crab
–	–	107	Ennereilly	S	01-Aug	Glenn McLoughlin	Crab
–	–	106	Cork Harbour	S	05-Sep	Tom McGavran	Ragworm
–	–	104.5	Clones Strand	S	05-Aug	Adam Whelehan	Peeler Crab
–	–	104	Tralee Bay	S	03-May	Donal Domenev	Crab
–	–	104	Donabate	S	06-Jun	Martin Kennedy	Mackerel
–	–	> 103	Cork Harbour	S	06-Sep	Tom McGavran	Ragworm



Ennereilly Smooth Hound for Glenn McLoughlin



Bannow Bay produced this Smooth Hound for Stephen Gibson



Super 116 cm Smooth Hound for Peter Boland from Clonakilty Bay



Tralee Bay Smooth Hound for Donal Domenev

TOPE

Record 34.02 kg (75 lbs); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)

Length – specimen (L-S) \geq 155 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
24.49	54.00	164	Kilmore Quay	B	09-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
22.68	50.00	167	Kilmore Quay	B	09-Oct	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel
18.14	40.00	158	Wicklow	B	28-Jun	Lloyd Lynch	Mackerel
–	–	174	Greystones	B	04-Sep	Henry Kelly	Mackerel



Des Frazer – 159.5 cm Tope from the shore



Wicklow Tope for Darren Gray



Bert McGregor's 160 cm Tope from September



A 157 cm Tope from the shore for Eimear O'Sullivan



Adam Teehan with his 159 cm July Tope from Wicklow

TOPE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	169.5	Greystones	B	09-Sep	Clyde McElwaine	Mackerel
–	–	169	Wicklow	B	12-Oct	Felix Scholz	Mackerel
–	–	168.5	Greystones	B	05-Sep	Clyde McElwaine	Mackerel
–	–	168	Greystones	B	05-Jun	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
–	–	168	Greystones	B	03-Sep	Rob Millard	Mackerel
–	–	165.5	Wicklow	B	15-Oct	Henry Kelly	Mackerel
–	–	165.5	Greystones	B	07-Sep	Clyde McElwaine	Mackerel
–	–	165	Wicklow	B	21-May	Gary Walsh	Mackerel
–	–	165	Greystones	B	14-Sep	Henry Kelly	Mackerel
–	–	165	Wicklow	B	28-Jun	Dylan Condron	Mackerel
–	–	164.5	Greystones	B	27-Aug	Thomas Fanning	Mackerel
–	–	164	Greystones	B	16-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Mackerel
–	–	163.5	Greystones	B	13-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Mackerel
–	–	163	Dunmore East	B	16-Aug	Philip Connolly	Mackerel
–	–	163	Greystones	B	10-Jun	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
–	–	162	Kilmore Quay	B	09-Sep	Andrew Thomas (UK)	Mackerel
–	–	162	Wicklow	B	22-Sep	Maxime Renpenault (FR)	Mackerel
–	–	162	Wicklow	B	10-Jun	Alan Ball	Mackerel
–	–	162	Greystones	B	18-Jun	Rob McClean	Mackerel
–	–	161	Dunmore East	B	30-Aug	Philip Connolly	Mackerel
–	–	161	Wicklow	B	04-Oct	Anthonie Ton (NL)	Mackerel
–	–	161	Wicklow	B	12-Oct	David Brennan	Mackerel
–	–	161	Greystones	B	12-Oct	Thomas Fanning	Mackerel

TOPE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	161	Wicklow	B	12-Oct	Felix Scholz	Mackerel
–	–	161	L Foyle (Magiligan Strand)	S	08-Jul	Jim Gregg	Mackerel
–	–	161	Greystones	B	12-Oct	Craig Murphy	Mackerel
–	–	160.5	Greystones	B	03-Sep	Thomas Fanning	Mackerel
–	–	160	Greystones	B	14-Sep	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
–	–	160	Greystones	B	07-Sep	Bert McGregor	Mackerel
–	–	160	Wicklow	B	12-Oct	Luke Harman	Mackerel
–	–	160	Kilmore Quay	B	07-Aug	Martin Kennedy	Mackerel
–	–	160	Kilmore Quay	B	09-Oct	John Pritchard	Mackerel



Antonie Ton with his 161 cm Wicklow Tope



A 168 cm Tope for Rob Millard



Ed Dolphijn with his Wicklow Tope



October Tope for David Brennan

TOPE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	159.5	Five Mile Point	S	07-Oct	Des Frazer	Mackerel
–	–	159.5	Dunmore East	B	03-Sep	Clare Maurer	Mackerel
–	–	159	Greystones	B	04-Nov-22	Ronan Doherty	Mackerel Fillet
–	–	159	Greystones	B	03-Sep	Sean Byrne	Mackerel
–	–	159	Wicklow	B	04-Jul	Adam Teehan	Mackerel
–	–	159	Greystones	B	28-Oct	John Geoghegan	Mackerel
–	–	159	Downings	B	20-May	Rob Millard	Mackerel
–	–	158.5	Wicklow	B	06-Aug	Muhamed Delic	Mackerel
–	–	158.5	Wicklow	B	12-Oct	David Brennan	Mackerel
–	–	158	Wicklow	B	10-Aug	Brian Cooke	Mackerel
–	–	158	Greystones	B	15-Oct	Bert McGregor	Mackerel



John Hughes with his Tope from Greystones



Galway Bay Tope for Kurt Zimmert



Felix Scholz Tope 161 cm Wicklow



Lloyd Lynch Tope from Wicklow

TOPE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	158	Wicklow	B	07-Sep	Chris Higgins	Mackerel
–	–	158	Greystones	B	28-Oct	Anthony Holmes	Mackerel
–	–	158	Greystones	B	07-Oct	George Farrell	Mackerel
–	–	158	Wicklow	B	25-Oct	Darren Gray	Mackerel
–	–	157	Greystones	B	04-Nov-22	Ronan Doherty	Mackerel
–	–	157	Wicklow	B	08-Aug	Des Chew	Scad
–	–	157	Wicklow	B	11-Jul	Anne Hooijenga (NL)	Mackerel
–	–	157	Wicklow	B	28-Jun	Ed Dolphijn (NL)	Mackerel
–	–	157	Greystones	B	15-Jun	Sean Byrne	Mackerel

*Tope for Chris Higgins**Greystones Tope for Thomas Fanning**Tope for Robert Power**Dylan Condron and his Wicklow Tope*

TOPE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	157	Greystones	B	12-Oct	Sean Byrne	Mackerel
–	–	157	Galway Bay - Rosaveal	B	12-Jul	Kurt Zimmert (AUT)	Mackerel Flapper
–	–	157	Five Mile Point	S	07-Oct	Eimear O'Sullivan	Mackerel
–	–	157	Dunmore East	B	03-Sep	Liam Tully	Mackerel
–	–	156.5	Greystones	B	07-Oct	John Hughes	Mackerel
–	–	156	Greystones	B	04-Nov-22	John Smith	Mackerel Fillet
–	–	156	Wicklow	B	27-May	Eric O'Brien (AUS)	Mackerel
–	–	156	Wicklow	B	27-May	John O'Brien	Mackerel
–	–	156	Wicklow	B	11-Jun	Donal Johnston	Mackerel
–	–	156	Greystones	B	12-Oct	Anthony Kelly	Mackerel
–	–	156	Greystones	B	12-Oct	Anthony Kelly	Herring
–	–	155.5	Greystones	B	14-Aug	Ryan Glennon	Mackerel
–	–	155	Greystones	B	04-Nov-22	John Smith	Mackerel Fillet
–	–	155	Wicklow	B	03-Sep	Leroy McEvoy	Mackerel
–	–	155	Wicklow	B	28-Aug	Robert Power	Mackerel



John O'Brien with his 156 cm Tope



Wicklow Tope for Donal Johnston

TOPE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	155	Wicklow	B	16-Jun	Wim Theulings (NL)	Mackerel
–	–	155	Five Mile Point	S	07-Oct	Des Frazer	Mackerel
–	–	155	Five Mile Point	S	07-Oct	Eimear O’Sullivan	Mackerel
–	–	155	Greystones	B	07-Oct	George Farrell	Mackerel
–	–	155	Kilmore Quay	B	09-Oct	Martin Kennedy	Mackerel
–	–	>155	Wicklow	S	04-Oct	Des Chew	Mackerel



Galway Bay Trigger Fish for Nicholas Ward



Ian Mulligan Trigger Fish from the Beara Peninsula

TRIGGER FISH

Record 2.54 kg (5.6 lbs); Specimen Weight 1.474 kg (3.25 lbs)

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.93	4.25	48	Allihies	S	13-Oct	Ian Mulligan	Sandeel
1.87	4.12	45	Allihies	S	13-Oct	Ian Mulligan	Sandeel
1.85	4.08	47.5	Galway Bay	B	01-Sep	Nicholas Ward	Peeler Crab
1.81	4.00	44.5	Allihies	S	13-Oct	Ian Mulligan	Sandeel

BALLAN WRASSE

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

Length - specimen (L-S) ≥48 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.83	6.25	52	Caherciveen	B	12-Aug	Paul Butler	Ragworm
2.28	5.02	50	Fanad Head	S	01-Oct	Duncan Cole	Lugworm
2.27	5.00	49	Allihies	S	28-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Crab
2.18	4.81	49	North Donegal	S	09-Aug	Richard Kennedy	Ragworm
–	–	56	Cruit Island, Donegal	S	22-May	Nigel Burns	Crab
–	–	54.5	Clifden	S	06-Aug	Myles Kirby	Crab
–	–	50	Clifden	S	03-Jun	Myles Kirby	Crab
–	–	50	Crow Head, Beara Peninsula	S	30-Aug	Mark Noble	Crab



Richard Kennedy – 2.18 kg Ballan from Donegal



Ian Mulligan



Brian Lowth and Jack Lowth (R)

BALLAN WRASSE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	49.5	Kilmore Quay	B	21-Apr	Shay McDonnell	Ragworm
–	–	49	Ardgroom	S	29-Sep	Nicky McEvoy	Peeler Crab
–	–	49	Clifden	S	24-Jul	Rory Kirby (J)	Crab
–	–	49	Travara	S	28-Sep	Brian Lowth	Ragworm
–	–	49	Allihies	S	05-Oct	Ian Mulligan	Crab
–	–	48.5	Allihies	S	06-Oct	Ian Mulligan	Crab
–	–	48	Clifden	S	15-Aug	Rory Kirby (J)	Crab
–	–	48	Kilmore Quay	B	09-Sep	Ian Jenkins (UK)	Crab
–	–	48	Galway Bay	B	01-Sep	Nicholas Ward	Peeler Crab
–	–	48	Travara	S	28-Sep	Jack Lowth	Ragworm
–	–	48	Baltimore	B	18-Jun	Klaus Sinnhoffer	Baited Feathers
–	–	48	Mullaghmore	B	21-May	Dan Lynch	Ragworm

*Donegal Ballan for Nigel Burns*



Corkwing Wrasse for John Millerick (L) and Evan McGovern

CORKWING WRASSE

New Record 26 cm; Specimen Weight 200 g
Length – based specimen (L-S) \geq 24 cm TL

WT (G)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	26	Fanad Head	S	01-Oct	Duncan Cole	Lugworm
–	–	25.5	Slea Head	S	15-Sep	Ronan Doherty	Ragworm
–	–	25.5	Kinsale	S	09-Oct	Paul Twomey	Ragworm
–	–	25	Slea Head	S	15-Sep	Ronan Doherty	Ragworm
–	–	25	Kinsale	S	09-Oct	Evan McGovern	Ragworm
–	–	24.5	Donegal Bay	S	14-Aug	John Cunningham	Lugworm
–	–	24.5	Allihies	S	15-Oct	John Millerick	Ragworm
–	–	24.5	Smerwick Bay	S	18-Jul	Francis McNeilly	Ragworm
–	–	24	Cork Harbour	S	09-Sep	Donal Domoney	Crab
–	–	24	Slea Head	S	15-Sep	Ronan Doherty	Ragworm
–	–	24	Rosslare	B	13-Sep	Paul Twomey	Ragworm

CORKWING WRASSE CONTINUED...

WT (G)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	24	Kinsale	S	09-Oct	Paul Twomey	Ragworm
–	–	24	Allihies	S	15-Oct	John Millerick	Ragworm
–	–	24	Allihies	S	15-Oct	John Millerick	Ragworm
–	–	24	Kilmore Quay	B	09-Sep	Dave Godwin	Worm
–	–	24	Eyerics	B	16-Jul	Mark Noble	Crab
240	0.49	23.5	Kerry Head		29-Aug	Philip Barry	Lugworm
220	0.49	22.5	Kerry Head	S	16-Sep	Philip Barry	Lugworm
220	0.49	22	Kerry Head	S	16-Sep	Philip Barry	Lugworm

CUCKOO WRASSE

Record 2.438 lbs (1.105 kg); Specimen Weight 0.567 kg (1.25 lbs)
Length – specimen (L-S) threshold ≥ 35 cm TL

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.600	1.32	36	Cork Harbour	B	13-Sep	Didier Marest (F)	Mackerel
–	–	39.5	North Coast, Ballycastle	B	08-Oct	Noel McFetridge	Ragworm
–	–	35.5	North Coast, Nr. Ballycastle	B	16-Aug	William F McLaughlin	Launce
–	–	35.5	Islandmagee	B	10-Sep	Mark Todd	Mackerel
–	–	35.5	North Channel, Larne	B	16-Aug	Glenn Drennan	Mackerel Strip
–	–	35	Kilmore Quay	B	10-Sep	Martyn Rayner (UK)	Ragworm
–	–	35	North Coast, Nr. Ballycastle	B	16-Aug	William F McLaughlin	Launce
–	–	35	Cork Harbour	B	30-Aug	Ailbhe O'Sullivan	Baited Feathers
–	–	35	Durseys Sound	B	20-Jul	Mark Noble	Mackerel

CUCKOO WRASSE CONTINUED...

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	TL (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
–	–	35	Islandmagee	B	10-Sep	Peter Ross	Mackerel
–	–	35	Islandmagee	B	10-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel
–	–	35	North Channel, Larne	B	16-Aug	Glenn Drennan	Mackerel Strip
–	–	35	North Channel, Larne	B	16-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip
–	–	35	North Channel, Larne	B	16-Aug	Terry Jackson	Mackerel Strip
–	–	35	North Channel, Larne	B	16-Aug	Glenn Drennan	Mackerel Strip



Cuckoo Wrasse for Mark Noble and Ailbhe O'Sullivan (R)



Cuckoo Wrasse for Terry Jackson

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 (only Cyprinids) submitted for genetic analysis.

Shad scales: ongoing research into shad speciation indicates substantial inter-species complexity. For this reason genetic analysis of shad scales will not be undertaken for positive identification from 2022 onwards. Anglers are required to collect a scale sample which will be used for further research

NEW SPECIES, SPECIMEN WEIGHT & LENGTH REVISIONS

Rules/species listed below were reviewed in 2023 - details of changes for 2024 in table below. FL refers to Fork Length; TL refers to Total Length.

Rule/Species	Old rule	New rule (2024)	2024 Status
Best Length Specimen Award	For best length specimen of the year	This award is being retired as majority of fish now claimed as length specimens	All special awards will be reviewed in 2024 reflecting the increased numbers of length specimens

Species	Current Threshold	Revised	2024 Status
Dace	N/A	≥ 27.5 cm TL	added length specimen option
Blue Whiting	N/A	≥ 30 cm TL	inviting claims for fish ≥ 30 cm TL for species review
Tope	155 cm TL	≥ 158 cm TL	increased length specimen threshold
Spurdog	≥ 5.443 kg	≥ 105 cm TL	no change in thresholds in order to monitor effect on specimen numbers following re-opening of the commercial spurdog fishery

NOTABLE FISH



Shore-caught Tope taken by Des Chew, Dublin at Five Mile Point on 4/10/2023, with an estimated total length of 185 cm based on fishing rod landmarks.

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. Weigh and claim in grammes (g) and length in centimetres (m) for all smaller species (fish ≤ 1 kg or ≤ 40 cm FL or TL). **ALL elasmobranch (Dogfish, Sharks, Skates and Rays) claims (weight or length based), except Porbeagle 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. Porbeagle to be measured and photographed in water alongside vessel, with 180 cm mark clearly visible on measuring device in image presented.

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.**

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

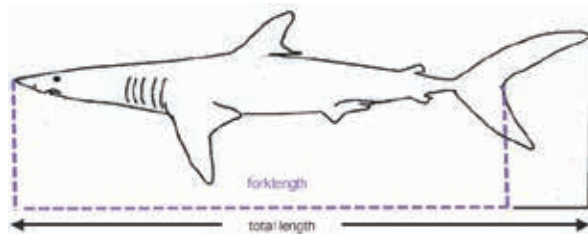
Fish must be measured on a recognised measuring device with an end stop and suitable graduations.

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 (elasmobranchs) or side down (all other species) on a 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, Flapper 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, but, for new species, or species without a record weight, can be length based.

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: To support claims for Roach, Rudd and their hybrids, 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).

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 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

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

Species	Features to photograph (a) the whole body (lateral view) must be photographed for all species AND (b) the specific features detailed below
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>



Rob McClean with his 162 cm Greystones Tope

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.

Metriification: Claims will be accepted under the metric and imperial systems unless legislation dictates otherwise. Importantly, from 2023 onwards, ALL SPECIES ≤ 1 kg or ≤ 40 cm TL or FL, should be weighed and claimed in grammes (g) and cm. Since 2006, fish weights have been presented in kilograms 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. 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.

PRESENTATION OF 2022 AWARDS

The ISFC Awards Day Presentation was held on 11th March 2023 in a Dublin hotel.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special acknowledgements: Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) continues to support and provide other services to the ISFC and is sincerely acknowledged. Sincere thanks to Myles Kelly and Shane O'Reilly, IFI, who manage the ISFC website, and ISFC auditor Jennifer Dowling (IFI). ISFC Chairman, Dr Robert Rosell and Dr Steven Beggs (both AFBI) provide a specimen fish identification service for anglers in the northern part of Ireland and are thanked for their efforts. Bridie Fleming's (formerly IFI) support of ISFC activity is very much appreciated. Thanks to Eoin Leonard (IFI) for his time also.

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 Rory Hanrahan, National Metrology Laboratory NSAI for his input in 2023 and previously. DNA analysis, undertaken by Dr. Jens Carlsson and Dr. Nettan Carlsson at UCD, has significantly advanced ISFC fish identification procedures for some species.

Photographs: Many photographs in this report are taken by anglers. They, along with charter skippers, fisheries staff and journalists, are acknowledged for these.

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)		
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
2019	480	22	6	4	–	–	1	513
2020	307	–	–	–	–	–	–	307
2021	471	3	–	–	1	–	–	475
2022	412	20	1	1	–	–	–	436
2023	546	9	11	1	–	2	2	571

IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022		2021	
	€	€	€	€
Income				
DAERA Grant	2,350.45		2,337.59	
DNA Payment	257.99		–	
Donation	1,311.69		1,023.89	
IFI Grant	4,500.00		4,500.00	
Total Income		8,420.13		7,861.48
Expenditure				
Awards Day Expenses	1,358.25		–	
Bank Fees & Stamp Duty	30.99		29.90	
DNA Sampling	2,000.00		–	
Medals & Awards	331.45		200.00	
Print/Design	4,568.34		3,635.87	
Total Expenditure		8,289.03		3,865.77
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year		131.10		3,995.71
Balance Brought Forward at 01 January		27,819.12		23,823.21
Balance Carried Forward at 31 December		<u>27,950.22</u>		<u>27,818.92</u>

“The ISFC has prepared a revenue and expenditure account for 12 months ended 31st December 2022 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:



Jennifer Dowling (Auditor)

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 2023 were:

Inland Fisheries Ireland, 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, D24 CK66; DAERA, Marine & Fisheries Group, Level 1, Klondyke Building, Cormac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, BT7 2JA, Northern Ireland; Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland; Delphi Lodge, Leenane, Co. Galway.

Colin Dixon, Woodbrook Glen, Bray, Co. Wicklow; **Ronan Doherty**, Glenageary, Co. Dublin; **Donal Domeney**, Cork City; **Ken Garry**, Tallaght, Dublin; **Eric Gosnell**, Church Road, Blackrock, Co. Cork; **Derek Greene**, Howth, Co. Dublin; **Jim Gregg**, Antrim; **Terry Jackson**, Greyabbey, Co. Down; **Christy Lane**, Dillons Cross, Cork; **Noel Lane**, Mayfield, Cork; **Dan Lynch**, Halfway Angling Centre, Halfway, Ballinacorney, Co. Cork; **Joe Marsalla**, Kilkenny; **Nicky McEvoy**, Grange Heights, Waterford City; **Bert McGregor**, St. Margarets, Co. Dublin; **WF McLoughlin**, Limavady, Derry; **Joe Mulholland**, Feede Cross, Dundalk, Co. Louth; **Karl O'Leary**, Raheen, Limerick; **Stephen O'Neill**, Carrigaline, Co. Cork; **Noel O'Shea**, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath; **Patrick O'Shea**, Carriglen, Bellvue, Cobh, Cork; **Dan Smith**, Greenpark, Walkinstown, Dublin; **Kevin Tobin**, Malahide, Dublin.

TOPE GALLERY



Regular visiting angler to Ireland from the Netherlands, Anne Hooijenga, with his Wicklow Tope



Wicklow Tope of 158 cm in August for Muhamed Delic



Stephen Hanway with his 168 cm Tope from Greystones



Sean Byrne just before releasing Tope he tagged for IFI's Elasmobranch Tagging Programme

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
Gudgeon	16cm	23.10.2023	Movanagher Canal	Terry Jackson
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	Ballyeigher 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	3.742 kg	22.8.22	Rosscarbery	Robert Quin
Gilthead Bream	3.742 kg	10.7.22	Clonakilty Bay	David Brennan

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
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
Flapper 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	12.02 kg	25.7.2020	Wicklow	John Hughes
Stone Basse	6.07 kg	12.10.2021	Outer Cork Harbour	Jim Clohessy
Shore Rockling	34.5 cm TL	26.3.22	Dunabratin Bay	David Flynn
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)
Corkwing Wrasse	26 cm TL	1.10.23	Fanad Head	Duncan Cole
Cuckoo Wrasse	2 7	15.9.1998	Causeway Coast	Brian McLoughlin

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS AND LENGTHS

(revisions for 2024 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	27.5 cm Fork Length	Scales & photos
Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	6	15	suspended from ISFC listing			
Gudgeon (<i>Gobio gobio</i>)	16 cm TL		35g	1.23 ozs	≥14cm Fork Length	Photograph on mat
Perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)	5	8	1.2	2.646	≥40 cm Fork Length	Photograph on mat
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	≥52cm Fork Length	–
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	57		9.072	20	≥90cm 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	≥36cm Total Length	Body [†]
Bluemouth (<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>)	1.32 kg		0.9	1.98	≥38cm Total Length	Photo
Brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)	9	8	1.6	3.53		Body [†]
Coalfish (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	15.1 kg		6.0	13.23	≥86cm Total Length	Photo
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	42		7.0	15.43	≥88cm Total Length	–

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		LENGTH BASED SPECIMEN	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs		
Conger eel (<i>Conger conger</i>)	72		18.144	40	≥165cm Total Length	–
Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	2	5.5	0.6	1.32	≥37cm Total Length	Body †
Dogfish – Blackmouthed (<i>Galeus melastomus</i>)	1.33 kg		1.0	2.205	≥67cm 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	≥115cm 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	≥89cm 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>)	3.742 kg		1.4	3.08	≥42cm Total Length	Photo (whole body, head shot showing mouth & eyes)
Gurnard – Grey (<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>)	3	1	0.6	1.32	≥40cm Total Length	Body †
Gurnard – Red (<i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i>)	3	9.5	0.907	2	≥45 cm TL	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	≥63cm Total Length	–
Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)	25	5.5	2.2	4.85	≥68cm Total Length	–
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	≥125cm Total Length	–
Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	4	2	1.0	2.205	≥44 cm TL	Body †
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)	1.85 kg		0.794	1.75	≥49cm Total Length	Body †
Mullet – Grey, thick lipped (<i>Chelon labrosus</i>)	9.1		2.268	5	≥55 cm TL	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	≥48cm Total Length	–
Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)	19	3	5.0	11.02	≥80cm Total Length	Photo
Pouting (<i>Trisopterus luscus</i>)	4	13.5	1.361	3		–
Ray – Blonde (<i>Raja brachyura</i>)	37		11.34	25	≥100cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Cuckoo (<i>Raja naevus</i>)	5	11	1.6	3.53	≥63cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		LENGTH BASED SPECIMEN	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs		
Ray – Electric (<i>Torpedo nobiliana</i>)	40 kg		9.072	20		Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Homelyn (<i>Raja montagui</i>)	8.28		2.268	5	≥65 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Painted (<i>Raja microcellata</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		–
Short-spined Sea Scorpion (<i>Myoxocephalus scorpius</i>)					≥25cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Shore Rockling (<i>Gaidropsarus mediterraneus</i>)	34.5 cm TL				≥30cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Rockling, Three Bearded (<i>Gaidropsarus vulgaris</i>)	3	1	0.794	1.75	≥40 cm TL	Body†
Scad (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)	1.97		0.680	1.5	≥44cm Total Length	Body†
Shad – Allis (<i>Alosa alosa</i>)	–		1.814	4		Scales
Shad – Twaite (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	1.64 kg				No Specimen Weight ≥50 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 – Flapper (<i>Dipturus intermedius</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>)	12.02 kg		4.5	9.92	≥103cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Stone Basse (<i>Polyprion americanus</i>)	6.07 kg		3.628	8		–
Tope (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	34.02 kg		18.144	40	≥158cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Torsk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>)	4.858 kg		2.0	4.409	≥40 cm TL	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	≥54 cm TL	–
Wrasse, Ballan (<i>Labrus bergylta</i>)	4.3 kg		2.154	4.75	≥48 cm TL	Photo
Wrasse, Corkwing (<i>Symphodus melops</i>)	26 cm TL		200 g		≥24 cm TL	Photo on measuring mat & head shots
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 landed 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.

For a length based specimen a photograph of the fish on a measuring mat or similar device must accompany the claim.



- (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 for genetic identification. Genetic identification is subject to a charge of €10 per claim to cover the analysis, and payment can be made on the ISFC website.

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).

WHERE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE OF SUFFICIENT QUALITY TO PROVIDE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE (i.e. key identification features clearly visible) to identify the following species: **ANGLER FISH, BRILL, DAB, LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH, FLOUNDER, GREY & RED GURNARDS, HERRING, MEGRIM, MACKEREL, GREY MULLET, GOLDEN GREY MULLET, THIN-LIPPED MULLET and RED MULLET, RAYS BREAM, THREE BEARDED ROCKLING, SCAD, TORSK, CUCKOO WRASSE and BLACK BREAM,** the body is not required. If the angler is in doubt about image quality the body can be presented. Body (head and gills only) required for **GARFISH.**

> 99.5% of specimens 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). New records for established species will continue to be weight based; however, for newly listed species, or species without a record weight, the committee will accept length-based record claims.

(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), Best Length Specimen 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



Erne Tench for Micheal Hennessy

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.

