

# IRISH SPECIMEN FISH 2020



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



Iascach Intire Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland



**DAERA**

Department of Agriculture,  
Environment and Rural Affairs  
[www.daera.ie/gov.uk](http://www.daera.ie/gov.uk)

Website: [www.specimenfish.ie](http://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 2020. Over 31,000 claims have been received by the ISFC over the past 65 years. This dataset is one of the most valuable and long-running time-series of its type.

## Irish Specimen Fish Committee Members 2020

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

*Awards Presentation*

*The Annual Presentation of  
Specimen Awards 2020*

*will not be held due to the ongoing  
COVID-19 pandemic.*

*Awards will be posted to anglers*



Irish Specimen Fish Committee



In Association with  
Iascach Infíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

**Cover: Specimen Ballan Wrasse for Leigh Barnwall in July**

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# ISFC Chairman's Review 2020



Welcome to the Specimen Fish report for 2020. It has been a year unlike any we can remember with Covid-19 impacting on so many aspects of people's lives. The impact was seen in angling generally in 2020 and in specimen fish also. However, it was a relatively productive year, considering that Ireland was in sustained lockdown over different periods. In spells, and travel restrictions permitting, angling was active from midsummer onwards, and specimen hunters were active too. A total of 309 specimen claims were ratified – all were from anglers resident in Ireland. Not surprising given the lack of tourists visiting Ireland in 2020. Over 90% of claims were for marine species and almost 66% of all claims were length-based. The largest numbers of claims were for two pelagic dogfish groupings – namely Smoothhound and Spurdog. One new record was ratified – the Smoothhound record has been broken

several times in the past decade and now stands at 12.02 kg, which is close to the UK record of 12.76 kg set in 1998. There were two 'notable' fish in 2020 – the first of which, an Angel Shark, was caught in the Shannon Estuary. This is the first record of this species, which is deemed Critically Endangered, recorded by the ISFC since it was restored to the ISFC listing, for data recording purposes only, in 2016. The second was a very large Salmon, estimated at 13.25 kg, was caught and released in the River Suir. Careful handling ensured both fish were returned in excellent condition to the water.

2020 was a year when the importance of angling, on the list of several outdoor activities seen as essential to well-being for many, was acknowledged. Never have those quiet spells by river or lake or seashore been so important. Different permissive regimes and travel restrictions have changed our horizons, and those fortunate to live near their favourite angling waters were counting their blessings. Others experimented in places closer to home, trying local venues, with varying degrees of success. Catching a specimen was probably unlikely but getting out was, and will continue to be, good for body and soul. We have all missed the social side, the banter and friendly competition, and it has not always been possible to share time in a boat, perhaps the ultimate test of friendly rivalry.

ISFC meetings were conducted via Zoom, restricting activity to essential business. The main impact of restricted activity was that we could not host our annual Specimen Awards Day in 2021. The claims reviewing process was rather different too with claims quality being checked by correspondence.

The Committee continued to review the numbers of claims over the range of species, addressing the balance between numbers of claims, recording truly noteworthy specimens, and the risk of recording nothing about cropped or declining species. The ISFC has added a length-based option for several additional species and will review more species in 2021. We recognise that the recording of more species as length-based specimens continues to be the direction of travel, despite our difficulties over the established weight-based records. The ISFC discussed anglers catching rare, and sometimes protected, fish species. For anglers, this additional focus can bring a different perspective, particularly regarding the welfare of rare or large fish species. We welcome this interest, as anglers often provide much of the data on the distribution and abundance of these species, and the long-term ISFC records are valuable indicators of population status particularly for non-commercial species. Without any such data, declines or increases in these species may not be noticed. In this way anglers have been contributing to 'citizen science' since long before the name existed. ISFC recognises the value of this recording, and has adapted, where possible, to maintain the flow of data, encouraging always catch and release, length-based recording for specimens and proper handling practice. We will continually review and seek opportunities to record captures of all species where this is practicable and possible under legislation.

The pandemic forced ISFC to postpone genetic analysis of shad and cyprinid scales. Some claims were received for both but the overall total number received did not warrant undertaking this expensive, fixed cost analysis. The 2020 claims will be processed in 2021 or when we have received enough claims for cost-effective analyses.

Opportunities arose in the pandemic too. To expand opportunities and encourage more and perhaps junior anglers, we have also begun to consider some of the more common smaller species regularly caught, but not yet on our list. Acknowledging the increased interest in targeting different species and changes in angling methods and skills, ISFC has introduced four new species. In freshwater, Gudgeon is now at full specimen status. Three marine species, Shore Rockling, Short-Spined Sea Scorpion and Corkwing Wrasse are listed as species requiring more data. If sufficient completed claims for each are submitted, ISFC will review at year end and decide on an appropriate threshold lengths/weights. The ISFC website has also been upgraded and revamped. The [www.specimenfish.ie](http://www.specimenfish.ie) site will be further upgraded in 2021 as ISFC moves towards continued modernising of its activities.

In other Committee business, Glenda Powell, a leading fly-casting instructor and angling guide, joined in February 2021 and brings a wealth of angling experience and know-how. Thanks to the Committee for their input in 2020, and to ISFC Secretary Willie Roche who has compiled and edited this report for many years.

Finally, thanks to all the anglers making the effort to record their big fish, and a special thanks to our sponsors – IFI, DAERA and all the individual anglers who keep us afloat. And like the rest of the world, we look forward to the day when we can meet face to face and share more fishy stories.

Dr Robert Rosell, Chairman ISFC

April, 2021

## Report of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee 2020

In 2020 the ISFC processed 340 claims. A total of 5 were rejected for non-compliance with ISFC rules and a further 28 will be queried further. This report presents details of special awards and ratified specimen fish for 2020.

### New Irish Record

for fish exceeding the current Irish record weight



*Smoothhound 12.02 kg, Wicklow, 25 July 2020 - John Hughes, Dublin*

### Mullet of the Year 2020



*Heaviest Mullet of 2020 for Robbie Reid from Dublin who won the Kennedy Award*



## SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORIES 2020

### 10 SPECIES AWARD

#### DONAL O'MAHONY, CORK

<b>2000</b>	Plaice	<b>2005</b>	Gurnard - Red
<b>2002</b>	Coalfish	<b>2008</b>	Lesser Spotted Dogfish
<b>2003</b>	Ling	<b>2009</b>	Pollack
<b>2004</b>	Cuckoo Wrasse, Cod, Stone Basse	<b>2017</b>	Bluemouth

#### ALAN O'DOWLING, CORK

<b>2004</b>	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	<b>2010</b>	Gilthead Bream
<b>2005</b>	Ling	<b>2014</b>	Ray - Painted
<b>2006</b>	Pollack, Twaite Shad	<b>2016</b>	Ballan Wrasse
<b>2008</b>	Flounder	<b>2020</b>	Dab
<b>2009</b>	Mullet - Golden Grey		

#### EVAN MCGOVERN, CORK

<b>2016</b>	Spurdog, Ray - Sting	<b>2019</b>	Ray - Thornback
<b>2017</b>	Pollack, Smooth-hound, Tope, Ballan Wrasse	<b>2020</b>	Ray - Painted, Conger Eel
<b>2018</b>	Skate - Common		

### 50 SPECIMENS AWARD

#### NICHOLAS MCEVOY, WATERFORD

<b>1982</b>	Ballan Wrasse	1	<b>2012, 2017</b>	Mullet - Golden Grey	3
<b>2015</b>	Carp	1	<b>2012, 2015</b>	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	4
<b>1988</b>	Cuckoo Wrasse	1	<b>2007-2020</b>	Ray - Painted	4
<b>2016-2017</b>	Dace	4	<b>2003, 2016</b>	Rudd x Bream Hybrid	3
<b>2008</b>	European Seabass	1	<b>1986-2018</b>	Smooth-hound	10
<b>1984-1995</b>	Flounder	3	<b>2017</b>	Spurdog	2
<b>2013, 2019</b>	Gilthead Bream	2	<b>1985, 1986</b>	Three-Bearded Rockling	2
<b>2006</b>	Gurnard - Red	1	<b>2018</b>	Tope	1
<b>1980</b>	Lesser Spotted Dogfish	1	<b>1985-2019</b>	Twaite Shad	8

**50 SPECIMENS AWARD (continued)****NICHOLAS WARD, CO. WICKLOW**

<b>2014-2019</b>	Bream	4	<b>2000-2014</b>	Roach x Bream Hybrid	9
<b>2011, 2013</b>	Brown Trout (Lake)	2	<b>2012</b>	Rudd x Bream Hybrid	1
<b>2000</b>	Brown Trout (River)	2	<b>2018</b>	Skate - Common	1
<b>2012, 2014</b>	Carp	2	<b>2012</b>	Smooth-hound	1
<b>2013</b>	Gilthead Bream	1	<b>2013-2019</b>	Spurdog	5
<b>2014</b>	Mullet - Golden Grey	1	<b>2011, 2014</b>	Tench	2
<b>2000-2020</b>	Mullet - Thick-Lipped	4	<b>2012-2016</b>	Tope	6
<b>2012</b>	Perch	1	<b>1995</b>	Trigger Fish	1
<b>2002</b>	Pike (River)	1	<b>1999-2015</b>	Twaite Shad	5
<b>2001</b>	Pollack	1			

**10 SPECIMENS AWARD**

Joe Cooney, Co. Mayo	<b>1999-2020</b>	Stephen Hanway, Dublin	<b>2017-2020</b>
Andrew Logan, Belfast	<b>2011-2020</b>	Oisín MacDomhnaill, Dublin	<b>2018-2020</b>
Rob Millard, Dublin	<b>2013-2020</b>		

**Cuckoo Wrasse for Dan Lynch**

**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.

**Robbie Reid**, Dublin

3.23 kg **Thick Lipped Mullet** at Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, 5 September 2020

**DR AEJ WENT AWARD  
YOUNG SPECIMEN ANGLER OF THE YEAR**

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

**Amy O'Brien**, Cork

1.02 kg **Golden Grey Mullet** at Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, 1 September 2020

**THE MINISTER'S AWARD**

Inaugurated by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, this "fish of a lifetime" award is for the best specimen fish of the year (other than a new record), and is presented to the angler who catches a fish which represents the highest percentage of the existing record.

**Jason Convery**, Cork

3.37 kg **Gilthead Bream** at Clonakilty Bay, Co. Cork, 17 August 2020

**BEST LENGTH SPECIMEN AWARD**

Length specimens are commonly recorded by anglers since originally introduced by ISFC in 2011 and this award is for the longest length based specimen in 2020 (% of the threshold length).

**Ronan Doherty**, Dublin

117 cm **Sting Ray** at Castlemaine Harbour, Co. Kerry, 18 September 2020

**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.

*Not awarded as no overseas angler submitted a specimen fish claim in 2020 - (tourist angler numbers severely reduced due to COVID-19 travel restrictions).*



## SPECIMEN FISH CLAIMS RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2020

### FRESHWATER FISH 2020

## Coarse Fish and Pike

### BREAM

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.83	8.44	61.0	Bawn Lake	S	16-Aug	David Lanigan	Corn
3.54	7.81	—	Bawn Lake	S	04-Aug	Keith Marsella	Maggots



**Bream for Keith Marsella**



**A 9.3 kg River Shannon Pike for John O'Sullivan**

**Year of capture** is 2020 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.

## PIKE (RIVER)

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

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 100$  cm FL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12.25	27.00	114.0	R Barrow, Athy	S	08-Nov-19	Pat Kirwan	Mackerel
11.57	25.50	108.5	R. Barrow, Athy	S	18-Nov-19	Dan Smith	Rudd
11.00	24.25	106.0	Upr Shannon, Roscommon	B	26-Nov-19	Peter Lynch	Mackerel
10.21	22.50	106.0	R Suck, Ballyforan	S	08-Jan	John Geogheghan	Mackerel
9.98	22.00	103.0	R Shannon, Portumna	S	21-Nov-19	Oisin MacDomhnaill	Smelt
9.53	21.00	106.0	R Shannon, Rooskey	S	03-Jan	Derek Greene	Sardine
9.33	20.56	102.0	R Shannon, Rooskey	S	25-Jan	Derek Greene	Sardine
9.30	20.50	115.0	R Shannon, Rooskey	B	31-Jan	John O'Sullivan	Roach Dead Bait



**9.98 kg Pike for Oisin MacDomhnaill from the River Shannon at Portumna**



**The heaviest of Derek Greene's three specimen Pike**

**PIKE (RIVER) CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
9.24	20.37	—	R Erne, Belturbet	S	01-Mar	Damien Maddock	Lure
9.13	20.12	99.5	Upr Shannon, Roscommon	B	26-Nov-19	Thomas Lynch	Mackerel
9.10	20.06	—	R Erne, Belturbet	S	01-Mar	Damien Maddock	Lure
L-S	—	102.0	R Shannon, Rooskey	S	18-Jan	Derek Greene	Sardine
L-S	—	102.0	R Barrow, Bagnelstown	S	01-Nov-19	Dan Smith	Ledgered Smelt



*The heaviest Pike, a 12.25 kg fish from Athy, for Pat Kirwan*



A Rooskey Pike of 11 kg for Peter Lynch

TENCH							
Record 8.15 lbs (3.697 kg); Specimen Weight 2.722 kg (6 lbs)							
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.92	6.44	55.0	Rahans Lake	S	09-Jun	David Lanigan	Casters



From the recent past - Eoin Leonard's 9.58 kg Pike from the River Shannon in Athlone in December 2017



## Game Fish 2020

### BROWN TROUT (RIVER)

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

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 57$  cm FL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
6.72	14.81	83.0	R Shannon, Killaloe	B	31-May	Gerard McKeogh	Roach Dead Bait
3.06	6.74	65.0	Sixmilewater R	S	07-Aug	Francis McNeilly	Nymph
2.84	6.26	61.0	Sixmilewater R	S	18-Sep	Jim Gregg	Fly
2.62	5.78	58.0	Sixmilewater R	S	04-Aug	Jim Gregg	Fly
2.30	5.07	56.0	Sixmilewater R	S	23-Sep	Jim Gregg	Fly
L-S	–	66.0	R Suir, Clonmel	S	04-Jun	Lukasz Ryz	Spinner



***Lukasz Ryz with his River Suir Brown Trout caught and released in June***



***A Six Mile Water length specimen Brown Trout for Francis McNeilly taken on a nymph***

## Marine Fish 2020

### BASS

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

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 75$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.22	11.50	75.0	Port Beach	S	20-Sep	Noel O'Shea	Ragworm/ Mackerel
4.82	10.63	76.5	Ballycrenane Beach	S	30-Sep	Edward Howard	Ragworm
4.82	10.62	–	Ardamine, Wexford	S	12-Nov-19	Joseph Brady	Crab
4.59	10.12	72.0	Fenit	B	02-Jun-19	Sidney Kennedy	Spinner
L-S	–	75.0	Garretstown Beach	S	19-May-19	Mick O'Callaghan	Squid/ Mackerel



*A Bluemouth for Sue Tait fishing out of Valentia in early August*



## BLUEMOUTH

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

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 38$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.92	2.03	36.5	Valentia	B	08-Aug	Donie O'Mahony	Mackerel
L-S	–	40.0	Valentia	B	16-Aug	Micheál Hennessy	Baited Hokkais
L-S	–	39.0	Valentia	B	08-Aug	Tony Tait	Mackerel Strip
L-S	–	39.0	Valentia	B	16-Aug	Micheál Hennessy	Baited Hokkais
L-S	–	39.0	Valentia	B	16-Aug	Gary Blake	Baited Feathers
L-S	–	38.5	Valentia	B	08-Aug	Tony Tait	Mackerel Strip
L-S	–	38.5	Valentia	B	08-Aug	Tony Tait	Mackerel Strip
L-S	–	38.5	Valentia	B	08-Aug	Sue Tait	Mackerel Strip
L-S	–	38.5	Valentia	B	16-Aug	Micheál Hennessy	Baited Hokkais
L-S	–	38.0	Valentia	B	08-Aug	Sue Tait	Mackerel Strip
L-S	–	38.0	Valentia	B	19-Sep	Eddie Butler	Mackerel Strip
L-S	–	38.0	Valentia	B	16-Aug	Ben Horgan	Baited Feathers



**Eddie Butler and Bluemouth**



**A Bluemouth for Gary Blake fishing out of Valentia**

COALFISH							
Record 15.1 kg; Specimen Weight 6 kg (13.23 lbs) Length – specimen (L-S) threshold ≥ 86 cm TL							
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.48	16.50	94.0	Courtmacsherry	B	06-Jul-19	Mark Pattison	Mackerel



Courtmacsherry Coalfish for Mark Pattison

## CONGER EEL

**Record 72 lbs (32.658 kg); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)**

**Length – based specimen (L-BS) threshold  $\geq 165$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	190.0	Cork Harbour	B	11-Oct	Evan McGovern	Mackerel
L-S	–	183.0	Carraroe	S	02-Jan	Ian O’Grady	Mackerel
L-S	–	179.0	Carraroe	S	12-Jan	Ian O’Grady	Mackerel
L-S	–	177.0	Galway	S	30-Aug	Ian O’Grady	Mackerel



**Longest Conger of 2020 to Evan McGovern fishing out of Cork Harbour in October**

## BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH

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

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 67$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	68.0	Islandmagee	B	12-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel

## GREATER SPOTTED DOGFISH

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

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 125$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.31	16.12	104.0	Greystones	B	25-Aug-19	Pat Kirwan	Mackerel Fillet



*A happy Brian Cooke with his 106 cm Spurdog from Wicklow in early March*

## SPUR DOGFISH

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

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 105$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
7.35	16.20	110.0	Kerry Head	B	03-Aug	Philip Barry	Mackerel Fillet
6.69	14.75	108.0	Barna	B	30-Jun	Dave Tully	Mackerel Strip
6.16	13.58	104.0	Islandmagee	B	09-Aug	Mark Todd	Coalfish
L-S	–	118.0	Belfast Lough	B	26-Aug	Andy Logan	Mackerel
L-S	–	117.5	Achill	B	19-Jul	Joe Cooney	Mackerel
L-S	–	117.0	Wicklow	B	03-Jan	Ciaran O'Toole	Mackerel
L-S	–	117.0	Belfast Lough	B	10-Aug	Andy Logan	Mackerel Flapper
L-S	–	117.0	Belfast Lough	B	26-Aug	Andy Logan	Coalfish
L-S	–	116.5	Dunmore East	B	18-Jun	Barry Murphy	Mackerel
L-S	–	116.5	Donaghadee	B	13-Jun	Stephen Kingsman	Mackerel
L-S	–	116.0	Wicklow	B	04-Jan	John Millerick	Mackerel
L-S	–	116.0	Islandmagee	B	29-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel
L-S	–	115.0	Belfast Lough	B	22-Jan	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-S	–	114.0	Belfast Lough	B	26-Aug	Keith Nellins	Mackerel Fillet



***Ciaran O'Toole with one of the longest Spurdogs of 2020 taken in January***



***Denis Morgan and his Spurdog***





*Galway Bay produced this Spurdog for James O'Donnell*



*One of three Spurdogs for Eddie Butler fishing off the Waterford coast*

**SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	—	114.0	Islandmagee	B	09-Aug	Peter Ross	Mackerel
L-S	—	113.0	Wicklow	B	31-Dec-19	Jerry Dixon	Herring
L-S	—	113.0	Wicklow	B	04-Jan	Dan Smith	Herring
L-S	—	113.0	Islandmagee	B	09-Aug	David Craig	Mackerel
L-S	—	111.0	Belfast Lough	B	29-Jul	Keith Nellins	Mackerel Flapper
L-S	—	111.0	Downings	B	09-Aug	Colm Slater	Mackerel



*A well wrapped Stan Ryan and his 106 cm Spurdog from early March*



*A March Spurdog for Dan Smith*



**SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	—	111.0	Wicklow	B	04-Jan	John Millerick	Mackerel
L-S	—	111.0	Islandmagee	B	09-Aug	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-S	—	111.0	Wicklow	B	04-Jan	Thomas Lynch	Mackerel
L-S	—	111.0	Wicklow	B	04-Jan	Ian Mulligan	Herring
L-S	—	110.5	Waterford	B	01-Jun	Eddie Butler	Mackerel
L-S	—	110.5	Dunmore East	B	18-Jun	Barry Murphy	Mackerel
L-S	—	110.0	Wicklow	B	03-Nov-19	Derek Scarlett	Mackerel
L-S	—	110.0	Wicklow	B	31-Dec-19	Denis Morgan	Herring/Prawn
L-S	—	110.0	Wicklow	B	31-Dec-19	Niall Burke	Mackerel
L-S	—	110.0	Wicklow	B	08-Jan	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
L-S	—	110.0	Belfast Lough	B	15-Aug	Andy Logan	Mackerel Flapper
L-S	—	110.0	Wicklow	B	20-Jan	Mick Quinn	Herring
L-S	—	110.0	Dunmore East	B	15-Jun	Paul Twomey	Mackerel
L-S	—	110.0	Wicklow	B	08-Jan	Kenneth Murphy	Mackerel
L-S	—	110.0	Portrush	B	18-Jan	Gary Blake	Mackerel
L-S	—	110.0	Wicklow	B	19-Jan	Joseph Brady	Mackerel
L-S	—	109.0	Wicklow	B	20-Jan	Denis Morgan	Mackerel
L-S	—	109.0	Downings	B	02-Aug	James Doherty	Mackerel
L-S	—	109.0	Waterford	B	01-Jun	Eddie Butler	Mackerel
L-S	—	109.0	Wicklow	B	08-Jan	Kenneth Murphy	Mackerel
L-S	—	109.0	Wicklow	B	04-Jan	Thomas Lynch	Mackerel/Squid
L-S	—	109.0	Wicklow	B	04-Jan	Thomas Lynch	Mackerel/Squid
L-S	—	108.0	Wicklow	B	31-Dec-19	Liam Markey	Squid
L-S	—	108.0	Waterford	B	01-Jun	Eddie Butler	Mackerel

*SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...*

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	—	108.0	Wicklow	B	04-Jan	Dan Smith	Herring
L-S	—	108.0	Galway Bay	B	17-Jul	James O'Donnell	Mackerel
L-S	—	108.0	Wicklow	B	20-Jan	Clare Maurer	Mackerel
L-S	—	107.0	Wicklow	B	31-Dec-19	Liam Markey	Herring
L-S	—	107.0	Wicklow	B	31-Dec-19	Denis Morgan	Herring/Prawn
L-S	—	107.0	Wicklow	B	31-Dec-19	Niall Burke	Mackerel
L-S	—	107.0	Wicklow	B	19-Jan	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
L-S	—	107.0	Achill	B	19-Jul	Danny Sweeney	Mackerel
L-S	—	107.0	Belfast Lough	B	06-Sep	Keith Nellins	Mackerel
L-S	—	107.0	Portrush	B	18-Jan	Gary Blake	Mackerel
L-S	—	107.0	Wicklow	B	04-Jan	John Millerick	Mackerel
L-S	—	107.0	Islandmagee	B	01-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel



*Nice Smoothound for Thomas Lynch fishing out of Wicklow*



*The second heaviest Smoothhound of 2020, at 9.75 kg, fell to Jessica McBride*

**SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	—	107.0	Galway Bay	B	17-Jul	Matthew O'Donnell	Mackerel
L-S	—	107.0	Belfast Lough	B	22-Jan	Ross Macklin	Mackerel
L-S	—	106.5	Belfast Lough	B	29-Jul	Riley Nellins (J)	Mackerel Flapper
L-S	—	106.5	Wicklow	B	04-Jan	Ken Garry	Herring
L-S	—	106.5	Wicklow	B	04-Mar	Brian Cooke	Mackerel
L-S	—	106.0	Wicklow	B	31-Dec-19	Jerry Dixon	Herring
L-S	—	106.0	Wicklow	B	04-Mar	Stan Ryan	Squid/Mackerel
L-S	—	106.0	Dunmore East	B	18-Jun	Barry Murphy	Mackerel
L-S	—	106.0	Wicklow	B	08-Jan	Kenneth Murphy	Mackerel
L-S	—	105.5	Wicklow	B	04-Jan	Ken Garry	Herring
L-S	—	105.5	Islandmagee	B	09-Aug	Mark Todd	Mackerel
L-S	—	105.5	Kenmare Bay	S	27-Feb	Stephen O'Neill	Mackerel

***SPUR DOGFISH CONTINUED...***

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	105.0	Wicklow	B	08-Jan	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
L-S	–	105.0	Islandmagee	B	09-Aug	Mark Todd	Mackerel
L-S	–	105.0	Belfast Lough	B	22-Jan	Terry Jackson	Mackerel
L-S	–	105.0	Belfast Lough	B	22-Jan	Terry Jackson	Mackerel



***108 cm Smoothhound for David Butler***



***Derek Greene with a nice Wicklow Smoothhound***



***Smoothhound for Jack Cooney***

## DAB

**Record 2.343 lbs (1.063 kg); Specimen Weight 0.6 kg (1.32 lbs)**

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 37$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	37.5	Beara Peninsula	S	01-Aug	Alan O'Dowling	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	37.0	Cork Harbour	B	16-Jun	Stephen O'Neill	Ragworm



*Specimen Dab in August for 10 Species Award Winner Alan O'Dowling*



## FLOUNDER

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

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 45$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.22	2.70	45.0	Youghal	S	25-Oct	Jason Phillips	Crab
1.17	2.58	43.5	Youghal	S	12-Nov-19	Barry Healy	Peeler Crab
1.16	2.56	45.5	Youghal	S	11-Oct	Barry Healy	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	47.0	Youghal Bay	S	25-Mar	Donal Domeney	Crab
L-S	–	46.0	Clonakilty Bay	S	20-Mar	Jason Convery	Maddies

## GILTHEAD BREAM

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.37	7.44	59.0	Clonakilty Bay	S	17-Aug	Jason Convery	Lugworm
3.32	7.31	58.0	Clonakilty Bay	S	18-Aug	Andrew Wolsey	Lugworm
3.18	7.00	60.0	Clonakilty Bay	S	26-May	Jason Convery	Lugworm
3.09	6.81	58.0	Clonakilty Bay	S	21-May	Jason Convery	Lugworm



*Gilthead Bream by Brian Lombard*



*3.32 kg Gilthead for Andrew Wolsey in August*



**GILTHEAD BREAM CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.03	6.69	53.0	Clonakilty Bay	S	11-Aug	Brian Lombard	Ragworm
2.82	6.22	57.0	Clonakilty Bay	S	16-Jun	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
2.66	5.87	56.0	Clonakilty Bay	S	31-May	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm
2.50	5.51	54.0	Dunworley Bay	S	04-Jul	Jeremy Smith	Lugworm
2.45	5.40	52.0	Clonakilty Bay	S	24-May	Patrick Lombard	Ragworm

**Brian Lombard, Gilthead Bream**

LING							
Record 55 lbs (24.95 kg); Specimen Weight 11.34 kg (25 lbs)							
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
13.60	29.98	136.0	Crosshaven	B	15-Aug	Philip Barry	Mackerel Fillet
12.53	27.62	137.0	Outer Cork Harbour	B	11-Jul	Kenneth Murphy	Mackerel
11.79	26.00	123.0	Courtmacsherry	B	02-Jun	Alan Browne	Pirk



*Heaviest Ling of 2020 to Philip Barry fishing out of Crosshaven*



*Alan Browne and a Courtmacsherry Ling*





***Ian Mulligan with one of his three specimen Thick Lipped Mullet***



***Thick Lipped for Jason Convery***

## THICK LIPPED MULLET

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
3.23	7.12	57.0	Rosscarbery	S	05-Sep	Robbie Reid	Bread Flake
3.12	6.87	60.0	Rosscarbery	S	05-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
3.09	6.81	64.0	Rosscarbery	S	20-Apr	Jason Convery	Bread Flake
3.06	6.75	58.0	Rosscarbery	S	05-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
3.01	6.62	58.0	Rosscarbery	S	24-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Bread Flake
2.95	6.50	—	Rosscarbery	S	04-Sep	Derek Greene	Bread
2.89	6.37	57.0	Rosscarbery	S	05-Sep	Robbie Reid	Bread Flake
2.80	6.17	58.0	Rosscarbery	S	09-Mar	Philip Connolly	Bread

**THICK LIPPED MULLET CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.78	6.12	61.0	Rosscarbery	S	20-Sep	Thomas Lynch	Bread
2.66	5.87	59.0	Rosscarbery	S	21-Aug	Patrick Lombard	Bread
2.64	5.81	61.0	Rosscarbery	S	05-May	Jason Convery	Bread
2.61	5.75	58.0	Rosscarbery	S	12-Sep	Nicholas Ward	Bread
2.61	5.75	61.0	Rosscarbery	S	04-Sep	John Millerick	Bread Flake
2.55	5.62	58.0	Clonakilty Bay	S	21-Mar	Jason Convery	Bread
2.41	5.31	60.5	Rosscarbery	S	03-Sep	Thomas Lynch	Bread
2.38	5.25	58.0	Wicklow	S	17-Jul	Brian Cooke	Bread Flake
2.31	5.10	56.0	Vartry, Wicklow	S	05-Aug	Des Chew	Bread Flake
2.27	5.00	55.0	Vartry, Wicklow	S	02-Aug	Des Chew	Bread Flake



***A well proportioned Thick Lipped Mullet for Derek Greene***



## GOLDEN GREY MULLET

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

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
1.16	2.55	48.5	Cork Harbour	S	14-Oct	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
1.09	2.40	47.0	Cork Harbour	S	15-Oct	Jason Phillips	Maddies
1.09	2.40	48.0	Cork Harbour	S	15-Oct	Donal Domeney	Maddies
1.02	2.25	45.5	Rosscarbery	S	01-Sep	Amy O'Brien (J)	Ragworm
1.00	2.20	47.0	Cork Harbour	S	15-Oct	Donal Domeney	Maddies
0.82	1.81	41.5	Rosscarbery	S	01-Sep	Amy O'Brien (J)	Ragworm
0.79	1.75	41.0	Rosscarbery	S	01-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.77	1.69	41.0	Rosscarbery	S	01-Sep	Amy O'Brien (J)	Ragworm
0.75	1.65	41.5	Cork Harbour	S	13-Oct	Stephen O'Neill	Maddies
0.71	1.56	40.0	Rosscarbery	S	01-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.68	1.50	38.0	Rosscarbery	S	05-Sep	Thomas Lynch	Spinning Maddies
0.68	1.50	40.0	Rosscarbery	S	01-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Ragworm
0.68	1.50	43.0	Cork Harbour	S	15-Oct	Donal Domeney	Maddies

### GOLDEN GREY MULLET GALLERY



**Donal Domeney**



**Sidney Kennedy**



**Jason Phillips**

RED MULLET							
Record 0.82 kg (1.807 kg); Specimen Weight 0.4 kg (0.88 lbs)							
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
0.50	1.10	33.0	Ballycotton Bay	B	12-Sep	Donal Domenev	Lugworm



One of three Golden Grey Mullet for Amy O'Brien



Longest Painted Ray of 2020 for Paul Twomey



## POLLACK

**Record 19.186 lbs (8.7 kg); Specimen Weight 5.442kg (12 lbs)**

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 82$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
5.44	12.00	82.5	Wicklow	B	01-Aug	Jerry Dixon	Artificial Eel
5.44	12.00	82.5	Wicklow	B	28-Sep	Kit Dunne	Shad



*Pollack for skipper  
Kit Dunne*



*Jerry Dixon's Pollack*

## HOMELYN RAY

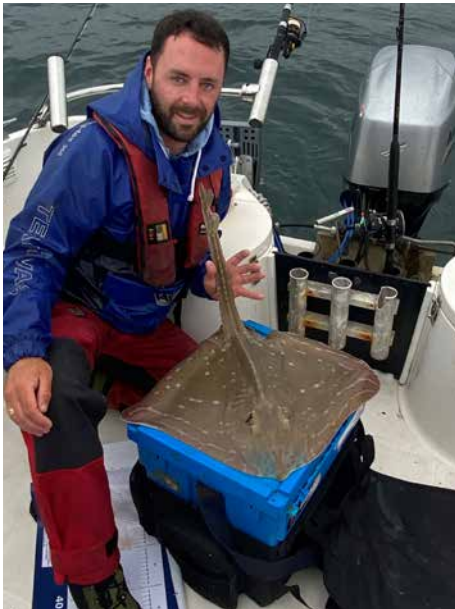
**Record 8.28 lbs (3.756 kg); Specimen Weight 2.268 kg (5 lbs)**

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 65$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	65.5	Greystones	B	04-Jul	Rob Millard	Launce
L-S	–	65.0	Sneem	B	05-Apr	Micheál Hennessy	Mackerel



*Best practise example of holding a ray by Nicky McEvoy taken at Woodstown*



*Painted Ray for Evan McGovern*

## PAINTED RAY

**Record 17.21 lbs (7.806 kg); Specimen Weight 4.536 kg (10 lbs)**  
**Length – specimen (L-BS) threshold ≥80 cm TL**

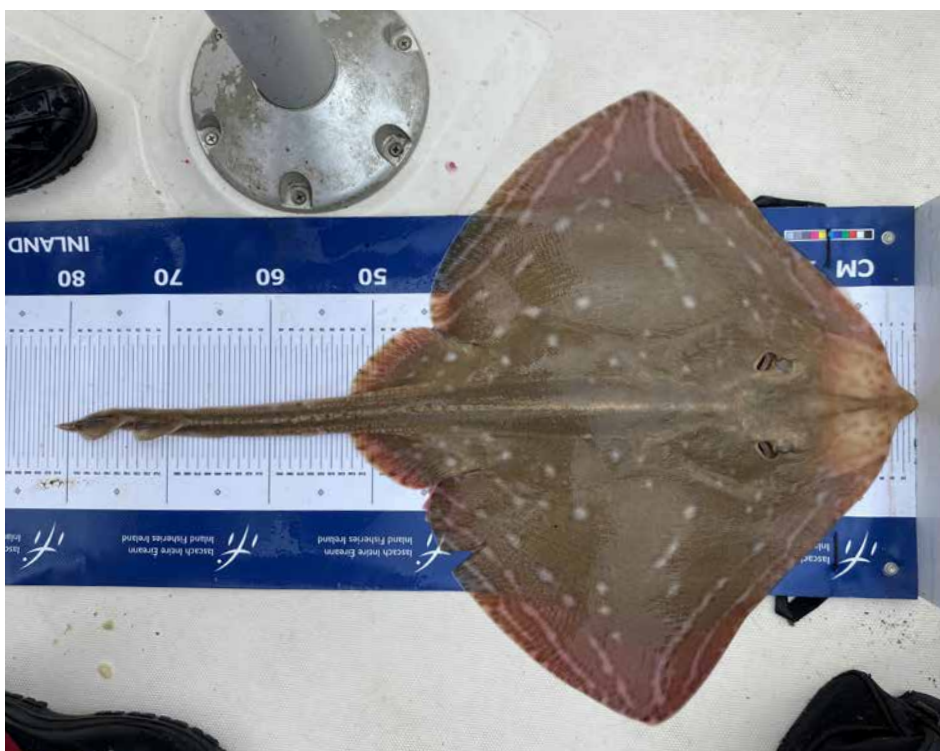
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	82.0	Cork Harbour	B	20-Jul	Paul Twomey	Mackerel Strip
L-S	–	82.0	Ballycotton Bay	S	20-Sep	Paul Cullinane	Sandeel
L-S	–	81.0	Cork Harbour	B	16-Aug	Evan McGovern	Sandeel
L-S	–	80.0	Woodstown Estuary	S	10-Sep	Nicky McEvoy	Crab/Sandeel

## STING RAY

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

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 90$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	117.0	Castlemaine Harbour	S	18-Sep	Ronan Doherty	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	110.0	Tralee Bay	S	16-Aug	Darren Ryan	Mackerel



*Evan McGovern's 81 cm Painted Ray*

## BLUE SHARK

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

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 185$  cm FL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	194.0	Courtmacsherry	B	13-Aug	James Raymond	Mackerel Flapper
L-S	–	191.0	Kilmore Quay	B	02-Aug-19	Joseph Brady	Mackerel
L-S	–	186.5	Outer Cork Harbour	B	05-Sep	Kenneth Murphy	Mackerel Flapper
L-S	–	186.5	Outer Cork Harbour	B	06-Sep	Sidney Kennedy	Mackerel Flapper
L-S	–	186.0	Outer Cork Harbour	B	10-Aug	Pat Mostyn	Mackerel
L-S	–	185.0	Kilmore Quay	B	28-Aug-19	Joseph Brady	Mackerel



**191 cm Blue Shark for Joe Brady fishing out of Kilmore Quay**



*A 186 cm Blue Shark for Sidney Kennedy fishing out of Cork Harbour in his own boat*

## COMMON SKATE

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

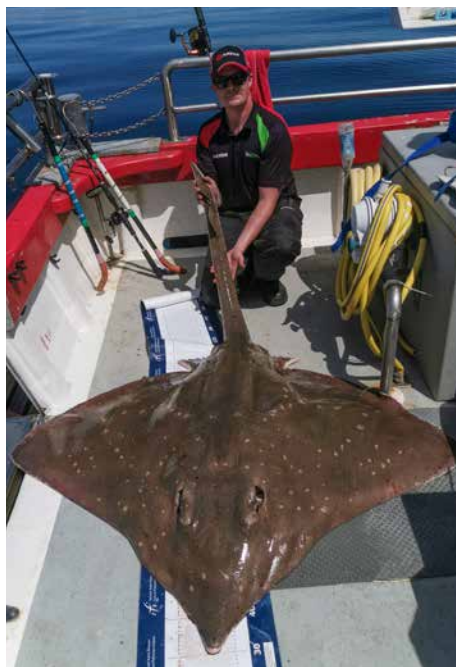
**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 180$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	229.0	Belfast Lough	B	02-Jun	Andy Logan	Coalfish
L-S	–	214.0	Union Hall	B	01-Jul	Evan Collins	Coalfish
L-S	–	213.0	Belfast Lough	B	01-Aug	Andy Logan	Pollack
L-S	–	213.0	Union Hall	B	11-Jul	Joseph Brady	Coalfish
L-S	–	212.0	Union Hall	B	11-Jul	Ronan Doherty	Pollack
L-S	–	212.0	Islandmagee	B	30-Aug	David Craig	Mackerel
L-S	–	207.0	Belfast Lough	B	18-Sep	Jonny Smyth	Coalfish
L-S	–	203.0	Islandmagee	B	26-Jun	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-S	–	198.5	Kinsale	B	11-Oct	Jim Clohessy	Mackerel
L-S	–	198.0	Belfast Lough	B	27-Sep	Paul Clarke	Mackerel
L-S	–	196.0	Belfast Lough	B	01-Oct	Keith Nellins	Pollack/Mackerel



**COMMON SKATE CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	195.0	Belfast Lough	B	21-Sep	Jonny Smyth	Mackerel
L-S	–	193.0	Islandmagee	B	01-Jul	David Craig	Mackerel
L-S	–	193.0	Courtmacsherry	B	13-Jan-19	Alex Holfeld	Mackerel
L-S	–	191.0	Islandmagee	B	05-Mar	David Craig	Mackerel
L-S	–	186.0	Islandmagee	B	09-Jun	Mark Todd	Coalfish
L-S	–	183.0	Islandmagee	B	05-Mar	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-S	–	183.0	Islandmagee	B	01-Jul	Peter Ross	Coalfish
L-S	–	180.0	Belfast Lough	B	02-Jun	Keith Nellins	Coalfish
L-S	–	180.0	Islandmagee	B	09-Aug	Mark Todd	Coalfish



**Joseph Brady with his Union Hall Common Skate from July**



**Alex Holfeld had this Common Skate in 2019 fishing out of Courtmacsherry**



*The second largest Common Skate of 2020 fell to Evan Collins*



*Wicklow 108 cm Smoothhound for David Butler*

## SMOOTH-HOUND

**New Record 12.02 kg (26.5 lbs); Specimen Weight 4.5 kg (9.92 lbs)**

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 103$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
12.02	26.50	124.5	Wicklow	B	25-Jul	John Hughes	Crab
9.75	21.50	120.0	Wicklow	B	12-Jul	Jessica McBride	Peeler Crab
9.19	20.25	119.0	Wicklow	B	17-Jun	Bert McGregor	Peeler Crab
8.62	19.00	119.0	Wicklow	B	24-Jun	Bert McGregor	Peeler Crab
5.44	12.00	109.0	Ballyhealy	S	11-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Peeler Crab
5.33	11.75	102.0	Wicklow	B	11-Jul	Ian Mulligan	Crab
5.22	11.50	102.0	Wicklow	B	12-Jul	Jessica McBride	Peeler Crab
5.08	11.20	102.0	Wicklow	B	18-Jul	Brian Cooke	Mackerel
5.08	11.20	109.0	Cork Harbour	S	01-Aug	Donal Domeney	Crab

**SMOOTH-HOUND CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
4.93	10.87	101.0	Wicklow	B	18-Jul	John Millerick	Crab
4.76	10.50	102.0	Wicklow	B	17-Jun	John Millerick	Crab
4.76	10.50	98.0	Wicklow	B	24-Jun	Des Chew	Crab
4.76	10.50	102.0	Wicklow	B	19-Jun	Brian Cooke	Crab
4.63	10.20	97.0	Wicklow	B	24-Jun	Conor Mulligan	Crab
L-S	—	116.0	Wicklow	B	17-Jun	Bert McGregor	Peeler Crab
L-S	—	113.0	Wicklow	B	11-Jul	Alan Flahive	Crab
L-S	—	112.5	Greystones	B	20-Aug	Conor McElwaine	Mackerel
L-S	—	112.0	Wicklow	B	11-Jul	Ian Lewins	Crab
L-S	—	112.0	Wicklow	B	01-Jul	Rory O'Donnell	Crab
L-S	—	110.0	Wicklow	B	19-Jun	Derek Greene	Mackerel
L-S	—	110.0	Wicklow	B	16-Jun	Des Chew	Crab
L-S	—	110.0	Wicklow	B	16-Jun	Dan Smith	Crab
L-S	—	110.0	Wicklow	B	18-Jul	Brian Cooke	Crab

**Smoothounds for Lee Greene, and Ian Lewins (right)**

**SMOOTH-HOUND GALLERY**



**Karl Gorman**



**Rory O'Donnell**



**Dean Fox**



**Conor Mulligan**



**Brian Cooke**



**Gary Blake**



**Glenn McLoughlin (shore caught)**



**Anthony Fermoy**



**SMOOTH-HOUND CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	—	110.0	Wicklow	B	28-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Crab
L-S	—	109.0	Wicklow	B	13-Jun	Gary Blake	Crab
L-S	—	109.0	Wicklow	B	31-Jul	Ronan Murphy	Crab
L-S	—	108.0	Wicklow	B	26-Jul	Anthony Fermoy	Crab
L-S	—	108.0	Wicklow	B	28-Jun	Thomas Lynch	Crab
L-S	—	108.0	Wicklow	B	01-Jul	David Butler	Crab
L-S	—	107.0	Wicklow	B	18-Jul	Dan Smith	Crab
L-S	—	107.0	Wicklow	B	20-Jun	Jonathan McCarthy	Crab
L-S	—	106.0	Wicklow	B	18-Jul	John Millerick	Crab
L-S	—	106.0	Wicklow	B	19-Jul	Jack Cooney	Crab
L-S	—	106.0	Wicklow	B	24-Jun	Dean Fox	Crab
L-S	—	105.5	Greystones	B	14-Jun	John Hughes	Crab
L-S	—	105.0	Tralee Bay	B	09-Jun	John Boyle	Mackerel
L-S	—	105.0	Ennereilly Beach	S	03-Aug	Glenn McLoughlin	Peeler Crab
L-S	—	105.0	Wicklow	B	19-Jul	Karl Gorman	Crab
L-S	—	105.0	Wicklow	B	31-Jul	Paul Coates	Peeler Crab



*Smoothounds for Rob McClean, and Jonathan McCarthy (right)*



**SMOOTH-HOUND CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	—	105.0	Greystones	B	16-Jul	Rob McClean	Crab
L-S	—	104.5	Greystones	B	31-May	Mark Cahill	Crab
L-S	—	104.0	Cork Harbour	S	03-Aug	Paul Cullinane	Crab
L-S	—	104.0	Wicklow	B	27-Aug	Lee Greene	Crab
L-S	—	103.5	Cork Harbour	S	20-Jul	Stephen O'Neill	Crab
L-S	—	103.0	Wicklow	B	24-Jun	Dean Fox	Crab



**Heaviest Tope of 2020 for Conor Ward out of Greystones**



**Wicklow Tope for Reuben Hutton**

**TOPE**

**Record 34.019 kg (75 lbs); Specimen Weight 18.144 kg (40 lbs)**

**Length - specimen (L-S) threshold ≥155 cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
26.31	58.00	169.0	Greystones	B	21-Sep	Conor Ward	Mackerel
22.68	50.00	159.0	Greystones	B	21-Sep	Sean Ward (J)	Mackerel
22.28	49.12	163.0	Courtown	S	01-Jul	Joseph Brady	Mackerel
21.10	46.52	—	Donegal Bay	S	14-Sep	Peter McGroary	Mackerel



**Longest Tope of 2020 for Rob Millard**



**Another shore caught Tope for Joseph Brady - Courtown was the venue for this 22.28 kg fish**

**TOPE CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
19.50	43.00	154.0	Wicklow	B	14-Jun	Derek Brady	Mackerel
19.07	42.04	—	Donegal Bay	S	14-Sep	Peter McGroary	Mackerel
18.82	41.50	—	Tinnabearna Beach	S	20-Jul-19	Joseph Brady	Mackerel
18.60	41.01	160.0	Lough Foyle	S	20-Aug	Andrew Gregg	Mackerel
L-S	—	170.0	Bray	B	03-Aug	Rob Millard	Mackerel
L-S	—	163.0	Kilgorman Beach	S	01-Jul-19	Joseph Brady	Mackerel
L-S	—	163.0	Codling Bank	B	03-Aug	Paul Flood	Mackerel
L-S	—	162.5	Greystones	B	11-Aug	Clyde McElwaine	Mackerel
L-S	—	162.0	Dun Laoghaire	B	01-Aug	John Hughes	Mackerel
L-S	—	162.0	Greystones	B	01-Aug	Rob Millard	Mackerel
L-S	—	161.5	Greystones	B	27-Sep	Clyde McElwaine	Mackerel
L-S	—	161.0	Wicklow	B	17-Sep	Nathan Condell	Mackerel
L-S	—	161.0	Wicklow	B	09-Jun	Sean Byrne	Mackerel
L-S	—	160.0	Bray	B	08-Aug	Rob Millard	Mackerel
L-S	—	160.0	Greystones	B	27-Sep	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
L-S	—	159.0	Kilmore Quay	B	20-Jul	Paul Twomey	Mackerel
L-S	—	158.5	Greystones	B	14-Jun	John Hughes	Mackerel
L-S	—	158.5	Wicklow	B	09-Jun	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel

**TOPE CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	—	158.0	Greystones	B	16-Aug	Ronan Doherty	Mackerel Flapper
L-S	—	158.0	Malin Head	B	11-Jul	Ben Horgan	Mackerel
L-S	—	157.0	Waterford	B	01-Jun	Eddie Butler	Mackerel
L-S	—	157.0	Dunmore East	B	20-Jul	Paul Twomey	Mackerel
L-S	—	157.0	Wicklow	B	02-Aug	Paddy Trainor	Mackerel
L-S	—	157.0	Wicklow	B	11-Jul	Chris McConnell	Mackerel
L-S	—	156.0	off Hook Head	B	10-Jun	John O'Connor	Mackerel
L-S	—	156.0	Wicklow	B	10-Oct	Reuben Hutton	Mackerel
L-S	—	156.0	Wicklow	B	16-Jul	Kit Dunne	Mackerel
L-S	—	156.0	Greystones	B	10-Sep	Conor McElwaine	Mackerel
L-S	—	156.0	Greystones	B	15-Aug	Stephen Hanway	Mackerel
L-S	—	155.0	Dun Laoghaire	B	30-Aug	John Hughes	Mackerel

**TOPE GALLERY****Kilgorman Beach caught Tope for Joseph Brady****Eddie Butler****Ronan Doherty****Paul Flood**



*Craig Murphy holding and measuring his Bundoran Ballan Wrasse*

BALLAN WRASSE							
Record 4.3 kg; Specimen Weight 2.154 kg (4.75 lbs)							
Length – specimen (L-S) threshold ≥48 cm TL							
WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
2.72	6.00	53.0	Slea Head	S	15-Aug	Amy O’Brien (J)	Crab
2.28	5.03	50.2	Bundoran	S	02-Sep	Craig Murphy	Zman Minnowz
2.15	4.75	47.5	Allihies	S	10-Sep	Ian Mulligan	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	48.5	Kinsale	S	15-Aug	Kenneth Murphy	Crab
L-S	–	48.0	Slea Head	S	25-Sep	Brian Noonan	Ragworm



*Ballan Wrasse for Sidney Kennedy*



*Ballan for Ian Mulligan*

**BALLAN WRASSE CONTINUED...**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	50.0	Slea Head	S	18-Sep	Ronan Doherty	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	49.0	Kilmore Quay	B	06-Sep	Shay McDonnell	Ragworm
L-S	–	48.5	Sligo Bay	S	09-Aug	Ronan Doherty	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	48.5	Kilmore Quay	B	06-Sep	Shay McDonnell	Ragworm
L-S	–	48.5	Slea Head	S	05-Aug	Sidney Kennedy	Crab
L-S	–	48.0	Lettermullen	S	02-Aug	Janic Schutte	Rubber Worm
L-S	–	48.0	Sligo Bay	S	09-Aug	Ronan Doherty	Peeler Crab
L-S	–	48.0	Gorumna Island	S	11-Aug	Leigh Barnwall	Soft Plastic Lure
L-S	–	48.0	Dun Laoghaire	B	15-Sep	John Hughes	Ragworm/Crab
L-S	–	48.0	Gorumna Island	S	19-Sep	Leigh Barnwall	Soft Plastic Lure
L-S	–	48.0	Spiddal	S	21-Aug	Ian O'Grady	Green Crab

**John Hughes and Ballan Wrasse - fishing out of Dun Laoghaire**



## CUCKOO WRASSE

**Record 2.438 lbs (1.105 kg); Specimen Weight 0.567 kg (1.25 lbs)**

**Length – specimen (L-S) threshold  $\geq 35$  cm TL**

WT (KG)	WT (LBS)	L (CM)	VENUE	S/B	DATE	CAPTOR	METHOD
L-S	–	38.0	Roundstone	B	30-Aug	Leigh Barnwall	Soft Plastic Lure
L-S	–	36.0	Roundstone	B	30-Aug	Janic Schutte	Baited Feathers
L-S	–	36.0	Killybegs	B	04-Jul	Peter McGroary	Ragworm
L-S	–	35.0	Kilmore Quay	B	16-Nov-19	Dan Lynch	Ragworm
L-S	–	35.0	Galway Bay	B	16-Nov-19	Paddy O'Farrell	Mackerel Strip
L-S	–	35.0	Islandmagee	B	15-Aug	David Craig	Mackerel
L-S	–	35.0	Islandmagee	B	27-Sep	David Craig	Mackerel



***A Roundstone Cuckoo Wrasse for Leigh Barnwall***



***Sligo Bay Ballan Wrasse for Ronan Doherty***



***Janic Schutte with his 36 cm Cuckoo Wrasse***

# Special Notices

## CLOSING DATE FOR SPECIMEN CLAIMS

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

## NEW SPECIES, SPECIMEN WEIGHT & LENGTH REVISIONS

All species listed below were reviewed in 2020 - details of changes for 2021 in table below. FL refers to Fork Length; TL refers to Total Length.

Species	Current Threshold	Revised	Status
Gudgeon ( <i>Gobio gobio</i> )	New species	35g ≥14 cm	Full specimen status
Corkwing Wrasse ( <i>Symphodus melops</i> )	New species	150g ≥20 cm	Claims invited for this species to set specimen thresholds. See 'Establishing a new specimen fish category'.
Shore Rockling ( <i>Gaidropsarus mediterraneus</i> )	New species	No weight ≥30 cm	Claims invited for this species to set specimen thresholds. See 'Establishing a new specimen fish category'.
Short-Spined Sea Scorpion ( <i>Myoxocephalus scorpius</i> )	New species	260g ≥25 cm	Claims invited for this species to set specimen thresholds. See 'Establishing a new specimen fish category'. See photos on P54.
Tench	-	≥52cm	Added length specimen option
Greater Spotted Dogfish	≥ 125cm	≥115 cm	Reduced threshold length
Spur Dogfish	-	-	Numerous specimens; review thresholds in 2021
Gilthead Bream	-	≥42cm	Added length specimen option
Ling	-	≥125 cm	Added length specimen option
Megrim	-	≥49cm	Added length specimen option
Pollack	5.443	5 kg ≥80 cm	Reduced weight & length thresholds
Scad	-	≥44cm	Added length specimen option
Smooth-hound	-	-	Numerous specimens; review thresholds in 2021

## GEOGRAPHICAL LIMIT FOR CLAIMS

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

## WEIGHT BASED SPECIMENS

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

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

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

### Contact details:

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

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

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

## LENGTH-BASED SPECIMENS

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

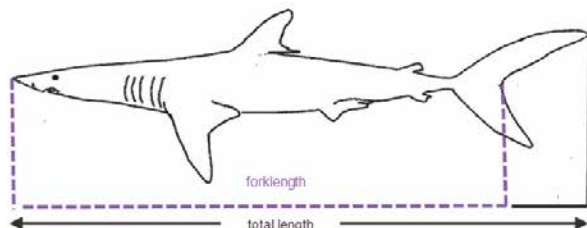
**Length-based claim procedure:** Claims must be made on current form and angler **MUST** specify if length-based.

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

## NEW RECORD CLAIMS

Records will be weight based only.

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

## FISH SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

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

Only three claims may be submitted for any combination of Shad (i.e. Shad or suspected Shad Hybrids).

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

Sample requirements for genetic analysis of selected cyprinids and shads for species/ hybrid determination			
Species	Sample required	Storage	Additional information
Roach, Rudd and their hybrids	3 scales	In an envelope with fish details and date	Good quality photographs required
Shad species	3 scales	In an envelope with fish details and date	Ensure fish is retained in water as much as is feasible when taking scale sample
<b>Notes:</b> As all fish can be returned alive please handle carefully. Allow envelope to dry out to preserve the sample. <b>Do not</b> 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	<b>Features to photograph</b> <b>(a) the whole body (lateral view) must be photographed for all species AND</b> <b>(b) the specific features detailed below</b>
All cyprinids (Dace, Roach, Roach/Bream, Roach/Rudd, Rudd, Rudd/Bream)	Whole body; body with fins extended and close ups of: (a) mouth - closed (b) dorsal fin (c) full lateral line (d) anal fin Three scales to be taken
Angler Fish	Whole body; head area showing head appendages upright
Brill	Whole body; close up of skin
Cuckoo Wrasse	Whole body; lateral view, close up of head
Dab	Whole body; close up of skin and lateral line
Flounder	Whole body; close up of lateral line scales close to head
Golden Grey Mullet Thin-Lipped Mullet	Whole body and close ups of: (a) head including pectoral fin (lying flat) (b) mouth showing upper lip (c) underside of head
Grey Gurnard	Whole body; close up of lateral line and head
Thick Lipped Mullet	Whole body; close up of head showing upper lip (head-on), underside of head to back of gills
Herring	Whole body; keel of fish
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	Whole body; underside of head
Mackerel	Whole body; close up of stripes on back
Megrim	Whole body; head
Ray's Bream	Whole body; close up of head
All Gurnards	Whole body; detail of lateral line, head with pectoral fin fully expanded
Red Mullet	Whole body; close up of head
Scad	Whole body; close up of entire lateral line
Shad - Allis, Twaite & Hybrid	Whole body; three scales to be taken
Smooth-hound	Whole body and close ups of: (a) tail fin (b) underside of head showing mouth (c) back in region of dorsal fin
Three Bearded Rockling	Whole body; close up of head and lower jaw area, and close up of area in front of dorsal fin
Torsk	Whole body; close up of skin and dorsal and tail fin area

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



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

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

**Place of capture:** For freshwater species all claims must include the name of the water in which the fish was caught (e.g. Monalty Lake) and in the case of the larger systems, the area (e.g. River Shannon – Rooskey). For marine species taken by boat angling the port of origin and the place of capture (examples: Burford Bank, 5 km West of Stags Head or Smiths) should be stated.

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

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

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

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

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

## ADMINISTRATION

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

## ESTABLISHING A NEW SPECIMEN FISH CATEGORY

An important function of the ISFC is to act as a focal point for data collection on the occurrence of notable, rare or unusual species taken on rod and line in Irish waters. In some instances this has led to species previously regarded as “unusual” being added to the list of eligible species. Examples from recent years include smooth-hound (*Mustelas asterias*) and three bearded rockling (*Gaidropsarus vulgaris*), (from 1983), garfish (*Belone svetovidovi*) (from 1986), torsk (*Brosme brosme*) (from 1988), trigger fish (*Balistes carolinensis*) (from 1992), bluemouth (*Helicolenus dactylopterus*) (from 2002), albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) (from 2002), golden grey mullet (*Liza aurata* (Risso)) (from 2005), gilthead bream (*Sparus aurata* L.) (from 2007), blackmouthed dogfish (*Galeus melastomus*) (from 2008), black bream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*) (from 2009), and thin lipped mullet (*Liza ramada*) from 2011.

To begin the process of attempting to establish a new specimen fish category, anglers **are requested to submit a completed claim form** for each fish captured. This is to establish a database for the species and enable further investigation and comparison of future claims. Claims for 10 fish of that species must be submitted for it to be considered for possible inclusion on the listings. The specimen weight will be set from this dataset and other relevant data. The record fish will be ratified after 5 fish exceeding specimen weight are ratified.

With some species a body may have to be forwarded for positive identification. Other arrangements would apply for larger fish. The availability of a body will allow the Committee to verify positive identification of the species and the claims will allow monitoring of numbers and weights of the species. This facilitates assessment of the likelihood of capture, the likely specimen weight and the availability and seasonality of the species. It is difficult to legislate for every situation that may arise but the final decision will rest with the Committee and will be based on a balanced review of the information available. While this process is progressing some details of interesting fish captured will be reported in the annual report.

## NOTABLE FISH

**Angel Shark** (*Squatina squatina*) measuring 120 cm captured by **Stephen Gill**, Clare on 9/8/2020 in the Shannon Estuary on a lure. Deemed Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List of Threatened Species), this unusual capture on a lure, although not of specimen length, was the first angler caught angel shark notified to ISFC since this species was relisted by ISFC in 2016 for data collection purposes.



**Stephen Gill's Shannon Estuary Angel Shark**



**Michael Lynch releasing his Salmon**

**Salmon** (*Salmo salar*) estimated at 106 cm in length, captured by **Michael Lynch**, Co. Kilkenny, on 6/8/2020, in the River Suir at Clonmel, on a fly. Estimated to weigh 13.25 kg this fish was quickly photographed and released.

## PRESENTATION OF 2019 AWARDS

Fergal Keane, journalist, presenter of 'Seascapes' on RTE Radio 1 and angler, made the Annual Presentation of Specimen Awards at the Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport on 15 February 2020.

## 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 Michael Martin (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 the extremely cooperative staff of the National Metrology Laboratory NSAI for certification of anglers' scales. DNA analysis, undertaken by Dr. Jens Carlsson and Dr. Netan 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.



**Shore Rockling is a new species on ISFC listings from 2021 onwards**



**3 Bearded Rockling**

## DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIMEN AWARDS

Nationalities of anglers whose claims were ratified:

Year	Ireland	The Netherlands	United Kingdom	Germany	Belgium	France	Other	TOTAL
		(NL)	(UK)	(D)	(B)	(F)		
2000	403	41	48	13	1	0	2	508
2001	427	28	37	5	4	3	4	508
2002	471	23	43	7	6	2	7	559
2003	384	63	41	11	13	4	5	521
2004	412	48	38	3	9	4	4	518
2005	432	62	52	10	7	4	1	568
2006	351	44	42	2	10	0	2	449
2007	424	56	28	6	12	2	2	530
2008	429	46	23	1	3	0	0	502
2009	470	39	15	5	0	0	2	531
2010	521	45	26	6	5	1	3	607
2011	519	50	14	0	3	0	1	587
2012	578	40	18	2	1	0	1	640
2013	536	41	11	5	1	0	1	595
2014	476	23	15	1	7	2	2	526
2015	422	12	8	0	4	0	1	447
2016	416	45	10	2	9	0	3	485
2017	346	22	8	—	2	—	4	382
2018	374	10	6	1	—	1	1	393
2019	480	22	6	4	—	—	1	513
2020	307	—	—	—	—	—	—	307



IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS

ISFC Expenditure & Revenue Account 1/1/2019 – 31/12/2019

2018	Expenditure	2019	2018	Revenue		2019
€		€	€		€	€
				Balance b/f from 2018		21494.72
				Grants		
440	Awards Day Expenses	741.5				
34.18	Bank Fees & Stamp Duty	38.63	4500	IFI Donation	4500.00	
0.00	DNA	4000		DAERA Grant	2299.22	
323.97	Medals & Awards	1127.91				
92	Meeting Expenses	142.8		Payments		
98.9	Miscellaneous	141.85	170	DNA Payment	440.00	
4655.68	Printing	3383.12				
			2297.94	Donations		
				Angler Donations	635.56	
	Total	9575.81			7874.78	7874.78
	Balance c/d	19793.69				
		29369.50				29369.50
				Balance b/d		19793.69

“The ISFC has prepared a revenue and expenditure account for 12 months ended 31st December 2019 based on the movements in the bank. Upon review of the financial records provided we are satisfied that this income and expenditure account accurately reflects the underlying transactions”

Signed:



M. Martin (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 2020 were:

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI); Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA); TAFI; Delphi Fishery; **Jason Convery**, Clonakilty, Co. Cork; **Ronan Doherty**, Glenageary, Co. Dublin; **Donal Domeney**, Cork City; **Eric Gosnell**, Blackrock, Cork; **Jim Gregg**, Antrim, BT41 1EY; **Christy Lane**, Dillons Cross, Cork City; **Noel Lane**, Mayfield, Cork; **Thomas Lynch**, Rush, Co. Dublin; **Nicholas McEvoy**, Waterford City; **Bert McGregor**, St. Margaret's, Co. Dublin; **Craig Murphy**, Walkinstown, Co. Dublin; **Karl O'Leary**, Raheen, Limerick; **Stephen O'Neill**, Ferndale, Carrigaline, Co. Cork; **Melvin Percy**, Co. Armagh; **Jason Philips**, Whitegate, Co. Cork; **Frank Prendergast**, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry; **Tony Tait**, Lower Aghada, Cork.



*Measuring Rudd/Bream Hybrid*

*Measuring Homelyn Ray disc width*

# IRISH RECORD FISH

## FRESHWATER SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Bream	6.07 kg	24.6.2012	Ballywillan Lough Fishery, Co. Down	Bryan Robinson
Carp	14.24 kg	26.10.2014	Loughgall, Armagh	Aaron Cummins
Dace	1 2	8.8.1966	River Blackwater, Cappoquin	John T. Henry
Eel	6 15	12.6.1979	Lough Droumenisa, Bantry	J. Murnane
Perch	5 8	1946	Lough Erne	S. Drum
Pike (Lake)	42 12	25.9.2005	White Lake	Larry Kelly
Pike (River)	42	22.3.1964	River Barrow	M. Watkins
Roach	1.425 kg	6.10.2002	Drumacritten Lake	Terry Jackson
Roach/Bream Hybrid	3.376 kg	3.5.2013	Monalty Lake, Co. Monaghan	Jason Dingle
Roach/Rudd Hybrid	2.1 kg	5.5.2009	River Lagan, Co. Antrim	Terry Jackson
Rudd	4 8	5.9.1996	Coney Lake	Hugh Gough
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7 10	19.10.1996	Monalty Lake	Brendan Doran
Tench	8.15	20.6.1995	Ballyeighter Lake	Nick Parry
Salmon	57	1874	River Suir	M. Maher
Brown Trout (Lake)	26 2	15.7.1894	Lough Ennell	Wm. Mears
Brown Trout (River)	20	22.2.1957	River Shannon, Corbally	Major Hugh Place
Sea Trout	16 6	29.10.1983	Shimna River, Co. Down	Thomas McManus

## MARINE SPECIES

Species	Weight lbs ozs	Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
Angler Fish	42.985 kg	3.11.1985	Belfast Lough	Sean Neill
Bass	17 13	21.10.2000	Doughmore Strand	Emmet Naughton
Black Bream	1.46 kg	17.9.2008	Kilmore Quay	Gordon Thornes
Black Sole	6.32	28.12.1986	Ballycotton	Eddie Cull
Bluemouth	1.32 kg	28.7.2008	Caherciveen	Sue Tait
Brill	9 8	8.9.1984	Causeway Coast	Deborah Gregg
Coalfish	15.1 kg	30.8.2003	Castletownshend	Roger Barham (UK)
Cod	42	1921	Ballycotton	I.L. Stewart
Conger Eel	72	June, 1914	Valentia	J. Green
Dab	2 5.5	2.10.2002	Cork Harbour	Mick Duff (UK)
Blackmouthed Dogfish	1.33 kg	10.8.2011	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Jan Vrieswijk (NL)
Spur Dogfish	11.06 kg	3.6.2013	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Tom Walsh
Greater Spotted Dogfish	23 13	17.09.2003	Kenmare Bay	Perry Dumay (NL)
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	4 4	26.7.1982	Valentia	Cor Heinis (NL)
Flounder	4.91	2.10.1993	Ballyteigue	Brian Russell
Garfish (B. belone)	1.729 kg	28.5.2007	Cork Harbour	Stephen O'Neill
Garfish (B. svetovidovi)	1.11	5.8.1994	Courtmacsherry	Eric Leijten (NL)
Gilthead Bream	3.505 kg	17.8.2013	Dingle, Co. Kerry	Jeremy Coleman (UK)

**MARINE SPECIES (Contd.)**

Species	Weight		Date of Capture	Place of Capture	Captor
	lbs	ozs			
Tub Gurnard	12	3.5	8.8.1973	Bullsmouth, Achill	Robert Seaman
Grey Gurnard	3	1	21.9.1967	Rosslare Bay	Brendan Walsh
Red Gurnard	3	9.5	17.7.1968	Belmullet	James Prescott
Haddock	5.39	kg	21.2.2010	Union Hall	Tony Santry
Hake	25	5.5	28.4.1962	Belfast Lough	H. W. Steele
Halibut	156		23.7.1972	Belmullet	Frank Brogan
Herring	0.48	kg	17.9.2011	Red Bay, Co. Antrim	Hamish Currie
John Dory	7	8	12.8.1984	Killala Bay	Cleona Walkin
Ling	55		3.1.2004	Cork Harbour	Ailbhe O'Sullivan
Mackerel	4	2	18.9.1979	Ballycotton	Ulrich Plassmann (D)
Megrim	1.85	kg	26.7.1987	Killala	Paul Hennigan
Angel Shark (Monkfish)	73		1.6.1980	Fenit, Co. Kerry	James Boyd
Grey Mullet	9.10		26.9.1993	Cork Harbour	Cay Heerwagen (D)
Golden Grey Mullet	1.52		15.8.2018	Cork Harbour	Stephen O'Neill
Thin Lipped Mullet	2.95		15.7.2018	Cork Harbour	Noel Lane
Red Mullet	0.82	kg	20.9.2010	Kilmore Quay	Sue Tait
Plaice	8.23		23.1.1982	Ballycotton Pier	Edmund Cull
Pollack	19	3	1904	Ballycotton	J. N. Hearne
Pouting	4	13.5	2.4.1983	Kilmore Quay	John Devereaux
Thornback Ray	37		28.5.1961	Ling Rocks, Kinsale	M. J. Fitzgerald
Blonde Ray	37		10.10.2005	Cobh	Paul Tennant
Sting Ray	33.2	kg	19.5.1999	Tralee Bay	Michael Wall
Cuckoo Ray	5	11	3.8.1975	Causeway Coast	V. Morrison
Undulate Ray	18		11.6.1977	Fenit	Ann-Mari Liedecke (DK)
Homelyn Ray	8.28		28.9.1983	Cork Harbour	Edmund Cull
Painted Ray	17.21		29.8.1994	Garryvoe, Co. Cork	Edmund Cull
Electric Ray	40	kg	24.8.2002	Achill	Shay Boylan
Ray's Bream	6	4.25	26.8.1978	Valentia	Martin Sarney (UK)
Red Sea Bream	9	6	24.8.1963	Valentia	P. Maguire
Twaite Shad	1.64	kg	15.5.2015	St. Mullins	Thomas Lynch
Porbeagle Shark	365		1932	Keem Bay, Achill	Dr. O'Donel Brown
Blue Shark	206		7.10.59	Achill Head	J. McMonagle
Six Gilled Shark	480	kg	16.6.09	Carrigaholt	Joe Waldis
Common Skate	221		1913	Ballycotton	T. Tucker
White Skate	165		7.8.1966	Clew Bay	Jack Stack
Scad	1.97		6.9.1986	Clonakilty	Master R. McCarthy
Smooth-Hound	12.02	kg	25.7.2020	Wicklow	John Hughes
Stone Basse	11.72		14.7.2005	Baltimore	Tony Rainer (UK)
Three Bearded Rockling	3	1	1.5.1990	Arklow	Maurice Laurent
Tope	34.02		3.10.2018	Greystones	Stephen Hanway
Torsk	4.858	kg	26.6.2006	Rosguill	Jan de Bakker (NL)
Trigger Fish	2.54	kg	7.9.2006	Slea Head	Bob Moss
Turbot	34		9.6.1982	Cork Harbour	Frank Fleming
Tuna – Albacore	29.96	kg	5.9.2007	Caherciveen	Henry McAuley
– Bluefin	440	kg	5.10.2001	Donegal Bay	Adrian Molloy
Whiting	4	14.5	19.3.1981	Kenmare Bay	Comdt. M. J. O'Connor
Ballan Wrasse	4.3	kg	20.8.1983	Clogher Head	Bertrand Kron (F)
Cuckoo Wrasse	2	7	15.9.1998	Causeway Coast	Brian McLoughlin

## **SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS AND LENGTHS**

(revisions for 2021 in bold)

	IRISH RECORD WEIGHT		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		LENGTH BASED SPECIMEN	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs		
FRESHWATER FISH						
Bream ( <i>Abramis brama</i> )	6.07 kg		3.402	7.5		—
Carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> )	14.24 kg		5.9	13		—
Dace ( <i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i> )	1	2	0.3	0.66		Scales & photos
Eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	6	15	suspended from ISFC listing			
<b>Gudgeon (<i>Gobo gobio</i>)</b>			<b>35g</b>	<b>1.23ozs</b>	<b>≥14cm Fork Length</b>	Photograph on mat
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	5	8	1.2	2.646		—
Pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> ) (Lake)	42	12	13.608	30	≥115cm Fork Length	—
Pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> ) (River)	42		9.072	20	≥100cm Fork Length	—
Roach ( <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> )	1.425 kg		0.907	2		Scales* & photos
Roach/Bream Hybrid	3.376 kg		1.6	3.528		Scales* & photos
Roach/Rudd Hybrid	2.1 kg		0.9	1.98		Scales* & photos
Rudd ( <i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i> )	4	8	0.8	1.76		Scales* & photos
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7	10	1.2	2.64		Scales* & photos
Tench ( <i>Tinca tinca</i> )	8.15		2.722	6	<b>≥52cm Fork Length</b>	—
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 ( <i>aka Monkfish</i> ) ( <i>Squatina squatina</i> )	73		No Specimen Weight		≥125cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Angler Fish ( <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> )	42.985 kg		8.0	17.64		Body†
Bass ( <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> )	17	13	4.536	10	≥75cm Total Length	—
Black Sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> )	6.32		0.6	1.32		—
Black Bream ( <i>Spondyllosoma 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	≥38 m 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	<b>≥115cm Total Length</b>	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> )	3.505 kg		1.4	3.08	<b>≥42cm Total Length</b>	Photo (whole body, head shot showing mouth & eyes)
Gurnard – Grey ( <i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i> )	3	1	0.68	1.5		Body†
Gurnard – Red ( <i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i> )	3	9.5	0.907	2		Body†
Gurnard – Tub ( <i>Trigla lucerna</i> )	12	3.5	2.0	4.41		Photo (pectoral fins must be fully expanded)
Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> )	5.39 kg		2.5	5.51	≥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	<b>≥125cm Total Length</b>	–
Mackerel ( <i>Scomber scombrus</i> )	4	2	1.0	2.205		Body†
Megrim ( <i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i> )	1.85 kg		0.794	1.75	<b>≥49cm Total Length</b>	Body†
Mullet – Grey, thick lipped ( <i>Chelon labrosus</i> )	9.1		2.268	5		Body†
Mullet – Golden Grey ( <i>Liza aurata</i> )	1.52 kg		0.68	1.5		Body†
Mullet – Thin Lipped ( <i>Liza ramada</i> )	2.95 kg		1.5	3.31		Body†
Mullet – Red ( <i>Mullus surmuletus</i> )	0.82 kg		0.4	0.88		Body†
Plaice ( <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> )	8.23		1.2	2.65	≥48cm Total Length	–
Pollack ( <i>Pollachius pollachius</i> )	19	3	<b>5.0</b>	<b>11.02</b>	<b>≥80cm Total Length</b>	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 microocellata</i> )	17.21		4.536	10	≥80 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Sting ( <i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i> )	33.2 kg		13.0	28.66	≥90 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Thornback ( <i>Raja clavata</i> )	37		7.0	15.43	≥100 cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray – Undulate ( <i>Raja undulata</i> )	18		No Specimen Weight		≥85cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Ray's Bream ( <i>Brama brama</i> )	6	4.25	2.0	4.41		Body †
Red Sea Bream ( <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> )	9	6	1.0	2.205		–
Short-spined Sea Scorpion ( <i>Myoxocephalus scorpius</i> )	260g				≥25cm Total Length	Claims invited to set specimen thresholds
Rockling, Three Bearded ( <i>Gaidropsarus vulgaris</i> )	3	1	0.794	1.75		Body †
Scad ( <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> )	1.97		0.680	1.5	≥44cm Total Length	Body †
Shad – Allis ( <i>Alosa alosa</i> )	–		1.814	4		Scales
Shad – Twaite ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> )	1.64 kg		1.2	2.65	≥48 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
<b>Shore Rockling</b> ( <i>Gaidropsarus mediterraneus</i> )	<b>No weight</b>				≥30cm Total Length	<b>Claims invited to set specimen thresholds</b>
Skate – Common ( <i>Raja batis</i> )	221		No Specimen Weight		≥180cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Skate – Long Nosed ( <i>Raja oxyrinchus</i> )	–		36.287	80		Photo on measuring mat
Skate – White ( <i>Raja alba</i> )	165		No Specimen Weight		≥180cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Smooth-Hound ( <i>Mustelas asterias</i> )	11.27 kg		4.5	9.92	≥103cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Stone Basse ( <i>Polyprion americanus</i> )	11.72		3.628	8		–
Tope ( <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> )	34.02 kg		18.144	40	≥155cm Total Length	Photo on measuring mat
Torsk ( <i>Brosme brosme</i> )	4.858 kg		2.5	5.51		Body †
Trigger Fish ( <i>Balistes carolinensis</i> )	2.54 kg		1.474	3.25		Photo
Tuna – Albacore ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )	29.96 kg		12.0	26.46		Photo
Tuna – Bluefin ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> )	440 kg		suspended from ISFC listing			
Turbot ( <i>Scophthalmus maximus</i> )	34		5.0	11.02		–
Whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> )	4	14.5	1.361	3		–
Wrasse, Ballan ( <i>Labrus bergylta</i> )	4.3 kg		2.154	4.75	≥48 cm TL	Photo
<b>Wrasse, Corkwing</b> ( <i>Symphodus melops</i> )	<b>150 kg</b>				≥20 cm TL	<b>Claims invited to set specimen thresholds</b>
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, and shad for genetic identification. Generic 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). Record will be weight based only.

**(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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:robert.rosell@afbini.gov.uk)



## Some nuggets from specimen history...

*The first specimen claim received by ISFC in 2021 was for a salmon. While helping the angler with his claim, **Shane Gallagher**, Fishery Manager, Drowes Salmon Fishery, found some interesting facts about specimen salmon on the ISFC website [www.specimenfish.ie](http://www.specimenfish.ie) and posted some specimen salmon information online.*

The annual Irish Specimen Fish Committee's reports provide a fascinating look at specimen fish captures going back to 1956. The ISFC hosts a very informative website where many of their annual reports are available to view. Their 2020 report will be published shortly.

Seamus O'Neill's capture of a 20.06 lbs specimen salmon on Monday (22 Feb 2021) will become, once verified, the fourth specimen salmon from the Drowes <https://drowessalmonfishery.ie/>, based on a review of ISFC reports available on their website.

Previous Drowes specimens were:

Andre de Schepper's 25 lbs fish on shrimp on 18/3/1973

Anton Basso's 25 lbs 8oz fish on worm on 16/4/1985

George "Geordie" Matier's 20.7 lbs fish on shrimp on 31/07/2007

The Irish record for an Atlantic salmon is 57 lbs caught by Mr. M. Maher from the River Suir in 1874. It is also the longest held record of any fish species in Ireland and is unlikely to be beaten anytime soon.

The specimen weight for Atlantic salmon\* was reduced from 25 lbs to 20 lbs in 1985 reflecting the absence of larger fish at that time.

Some other interesting information in the reports is contained under the lists of "Rare, Scarce or Local Species Caught in Irish Waters". Included in this category, in the 1973 report, is a Humpback Salmon - *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* or "pink" salmon caught on the River Moy. This information, and the 1980s photograph from our own archives, would suggest that the recent occurrences of pink salmon in Irish rivers is not as novel an occurrence as once believed.

In the reports, which are available online (1956 & 1973-2019 inclusive), a total of 114 specimen salmon are listed. The majority, 58 (51%), were taken on spinner. Trends in the popularity of different lures can be charted over time by their prevalence as lures mentioned in the reports. Devon was by far the most successful lure in the 1970s and 80s. In total, 19 fish were taken on Devon but none have been taken on Devon in the past 25 years. The Flying C makes its first appearance in the 1993 annual report and the following year it accounted for 5 specimen salmon. Fourteen salmon in the reports were taken on the Flying C. Six were caught on Rapala, 4 on Toby, 2 on Mepps, 2 on spoon and one each on Lukki, Lane Minnow and Buch Special. One further fish was accounted for by Minnow.

24 fish were taken on fly but only 3 patterns are specifically mentioned: Claret Bumble, Shrimp fly and Cascade.

20 fish were taken on shrimp/prawn.

11 fish were taken on worm.

Specimen salmon were recorded in each month of the fishing season.

The months with the most specimen fish recorded were May and September with 21 each. Followed by March and April with 17 each, June, July and August with 9 each, February with 7 and January and October each with 2.

Of the specimen salmon reported, the River Corrib/Galway Weir has produced the most at 21, followed by the River Slaney at 10, Currane/Waterville at 8, River Blackwater at 7 and the River Boyne and River Moy at 6 each.

There is no cost for submitting a claim. The ISFC annual reports can be found on their excellent website [www.specimenfish.ie](http://www.specimenfish.ie)

*\*Specimen salmon are fish longer than 90 cm forklength or exceeding 9.072 kg (20 lbs)*



**Julian Ciconte from Enniskillen releasing his Salmon (estimated 7.25 kg) on the River Drowes in May 2018.**



*161 cm Tope for Nathan Condell in September out of Wicklow*



*A July Tope for Kit Dunne*



*Smoothound of 109 cm for Ronan Murphy*

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*Gilthead Bream (above) and Thomas Lynch with a nice Golden Grey Mullet from Rosscarbery in September.*



## 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.





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