

Irish Specimen Fish Committee



c/o Central Fisheries Board, Swords Business Campus, Swords, Co. Dublin.

CLAIM FORM 2008

Claim No.....

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

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

Date of Capture **Fishery Region**

All claims must include the name of the water in which the fish was caught (e.g., Monalty Lake) and in the case of the larger systems, the area (e.g., River Shannon – Rooskey).

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

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

(Note: Length measured in a straight line – not over curve of body – between tip of snout and end of middle rays of tail fin. Greatest girth, usually in front of dorsal fin. Wing spread, in case of rays and skate only – Horizontal distance – not over curve of body – from wingtip to wingtip).

2. **NAME OF CLAIMANT** **First Name** **Surname**

(Block Letters)
ADDRESS

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

PHONE NO **E-MAIL ADDRESS**

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

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

3. **WITNESSES TO CAPTURE**

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

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

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

Max. weighing capacity **Divisions**

Where scales located (if retail outlet)

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

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

5. **WITNESSES TO WEIGHING AND MEASURING**

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

Signed Address

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

Signed Date.....

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

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

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

Bait or Lure.....

Important Note:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RULES – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- (1) **IRISH SPECIMEN FISH COMMITTEE:** This Committee consists of representatives of the Irish Angling Federations and the Government Departments and official organisations interested in angling. Its objective is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large fish on rod and line in Irish waters. A list of Specimen Fish is published annually by the Committee. Only fish which can be fully vouched for as to weight and species can be accepted and listed by the Committee. Except in exceptional circumstances claims will remain valid for a period of one year following the year of capture.
- (2) **FAIR ANGLING:** "Fair Angling" means any legitimate method of angling with rod and reel which is recognised as a fair and sporting method. A fish must be hooked in or in the immediate vicinity of the mouth when it has taken the bait or lure; fish which have been foul-hooked, even accidentally, are not eligible. A fish in respect of which a claim is made must be hooked, played and brought to gaff or net by the angler UNAIDED, though the fish may be gaffed or netted by another, and it is permissible for the person using the gaff to take hold of the trace or doubled line (in the case of big game fishing) to steady the fish when it has been played out and brought within reach. If a fixed rod holder is in use while boat fishing, and a fish strikes, the rod must be removed from the holder as quickly as possible. This is to ensure that the angler hooks and plays the fish with rod in hand. Where a fighting chair is employed, it must not have any mechanically driven device which aids the angler in playing a fish. Body harnesses (which attach the rod to the body) are permissible but must not be fixed to the chair. Gimbals must be free swinging including those which move in the vertical plane. Gimbals which permit the angler to rest or reduce strain while playing a fish are prohibited. 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 certificate from the local Weights and Measures Officer. Claims cannot be accepted in respect of fish weighed on uncertified scales, e.g., anglers spring balances or in respect of fish weighed on scales inappropriate to the size of the fish, e.g., fish in the 1 to 3 kg range weighed on balances weighing up to 50 kg or over and graduated in large divisions. Where weights are in large divisions (e.g. 0.25kg divisions) the weight of a fish must be rounded DOWN to the nearest actual division. **Claims cannot be accepted in the case of fish which has been weighed on board a boat.**

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

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

FISH SCALES must be submitted in respect of claims for SALMON, SEA TROUT, BROWN TROUT (including SLOB TROUT). 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 scraped from one shoulder of the fish should be sent with the claim. Scales and photos are also required for each ROACH, ROACH/BREAM HYBRID, RUDD and RUDD/BREAM HYBRID claim submitted.

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

NB - Claims may, however, be ratified where a photograph is of sufficient quality to provide conclusive evidence (i.e. key identification features clearly visible) to identify a fish, to the satisfaction of the Committee. However, the onus to provide suitable evidence rests solely with the angler.

CLEAR, SHARP, CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHS, showing the entire fish with its fins and other features easily seen, and not fore-shortened or obscured by shadows or bystanders must be provided in the case of TOPE, SHARKS, SKATE, RAYS, BLUEMOUTH, MONKFISH, POLLACK, BALLAN WRASSE, TRIGGERFISH, COALFISH, ALBACORE, TUB GURNARD (pectoral fins of gurnard must be fully expanded), GILTHEAD BREAM (whole body and head shot showing mouth and eyes) and BLACKMOUTHED DOGFISH.

RECORD FISH: A CLAIM FOR A NEW RECORD MUST INCLUDE A CLEAR SHARP PHOTOGRAPH, WITH AN INDICATION OF SCALE (FISH SIZE), SHOWING THE IMPORTANT SPECIES IDENTIFICATION FEATURES.

If necessary, the fish should be hung up for photographs. In the case of skates and rays, photographs of both back and belly surfaces should be provided and particulars of the coloration given (with particular reference to the presence of dark or grey spots, or streaks or patches on the belly side). Samples of the teeth should be furnished in the case of Porbeagle and Mako Sharks. In addition, there should be a clear close-up photograph showing the jaws and teeth exposed.

- (5) **LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF CLAIMS:** A maximum of three (3) awards will be made to any particular claimant for a single species in any one year. However, provision will be made that when an angler achieves this target and subsequently captures larger fish, these will be taken into account but the final number of awards for any species in a single year will not be more than three awards. By including this latter provision, it will ensure that the anglers competitive spirit is kept up and higher achievements could still be sought.
- (6) **SENDING FISH TO THE COMMITTEE:**
Please
- (1) Notify the Committee when a fish is being sent in for identification. Make specific arrangements (by telephone) with the Committee if bringing live fish for identification. (Telephone 00-353-1- 8842600; Fax: 00-353-1-8360060; Email: isfc@cfb.ie).
 - (2) Do not forward fish before Bank Holidays or weekends; (keep in a cold store if fish cannot be delivered quickly on or before Friday afternoon).
 - (3) Please attach a label to each fish forwarded for identification giving the captor's name and address, date and place of capture and the weight of the fish.
 - (4) Fish should **not** be sent in polythene bags or wrapped in aluminium foil as this causes very rapid decomposition. They should be wrapped in greaseproof paper and then in newspaper and brown paper.
- (7) **AWARDS:** Anglers whose claims have been accepted by the Committee will be awarded special "Merit Badges" in the case of Specimen Fish, and Silver Medals in the case of Record Fish. Specimen Fish Certificates will also be issued in respect of all ratified claims. Only one merit badge will be awarded to any angler per annum even where multiple claims are received. Special badges are awarded to anglers who have caught specimens of ten different species, fifty or more specimen fish, ten or more specimen fish and a special badge is issued each year for fish of exceptional merit though not of record size.

***IMPORTANT – Completed claim forms should be sent to: Irish Specimen Fish Committee, c/o CFB, Swords Business Campus, Swords, Co. Dublin, Rep. of Ireland (Tel: 00-353-1-8842600) before 30th November each year. Where required for identification purposes (see Rule 4) fish should be sent to the same address.**

For marine fish taken in Northern Ireland contact/send to Dr. Richard Briggs, AFBINI, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX. Tel:+44 (0) 28 90 9025 5503; Email: richard.briggs@afbini.gov.uk

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

SCHEDULE OF SPECIMEN WEIGHTS

	IRISH RECORD		SPECIMEN WEIGHT		SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
	lbs	ozs	kg	lbs	
FRESHWATER FISH					
Bream (<i>Abramis brama</i>)	12	3	3.402	7.5	-
Carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)	29	13	5.443	12	-
Dace (<i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>)	1	2	0.35	0.772	Scales* & photos
Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	6	15	1.361	3	Body for any freshwater eel taken in tidal waters
Perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)	5	8	1.2	2.646	
Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (Lake)	42	12	13.608	30	-
Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) (River)	42		9.072	20	-
Roach (<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>)	1.425 kg		0.907	2	Scales* & photos*
Roach/Bream Hybrid	7		1.6	3.528	Scales* & photos*
Rudd (<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>)	4	8	1.021	2.25	Scales* & photos*
Rudd/Bream Hybrid	7	10	1.361	3	Scales* & photos*
Tench (<i>Tinca tinca</i>)	8.15		2.722	6	-
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	57		9.072	20	Scales
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (Lake)	26	2	4.536	10	Scales
Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) (River)	20		2.268	5	Scales
Sea Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	16	6	2.722	6	Scales
Slob Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	-		4.536	10	Scales
SEA FISH					
Angler Fish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	42.985 kg		18.144	40	Body
Bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	17	13	4.536	10	-
Black Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>)	6.32		0.907	2	-
Bluemouth (<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>)	2.4		0.9	1.9845	Photo
Brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)	9	8	2.268	5	Body
Coalfish (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	15.1 kg		6.804	15	Body
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	42		9.072	20	-
Conger eel (<i>Conger conger</i>)	72		18.144	40	-
Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	2	5.5	0.68	1.5	Body
Dogfish - Blackmouthed (<i>Galeus melastomus</i>)			1.0	2.205	Photo
Dogfish - Lesser Spotted (<i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i>)	4	4	1.474	3.25	Body
Dogfish - Greater Spotted (<i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i>)	23	13	7.257	16	-
Dogfish - Spur (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	21.25		5.443	12	-
Flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)	4.91		1.1	2.4255	Body
Garfish (<i>Belone bellone</i>)	1.729 kg		1.021	2.25	Head and gills
Garfish (<i>Belone svetovidovi</i>)	1.11		0.355	0.875	Head and gills
Gilthead bream (<i>Sparus aurata</i>)	3.24 kg		1.4	3.08	Photo
Gurnard - Grey (<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>)	3	1	0.68	1.5	Body
Gurnard - Red (<i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i>)	3	9.5	0.907	2	Body
Gurnard - Tub (<i>Trigla lucerna</i>)	12	3.5	2.268	5	Photo
Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)	10	13.5	3.175	7	Body
Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)	25	5.5	4.536	10	-
Halibut (<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>)	156		22.68	50	-
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)	0.425 kg		0.34	0.75	Body
John Dory (<i>Zeus faber</i>)	7	8	1.814	4	-
Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>)	55		11.34	25	-
Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	4	2	1.134	2.5	Body
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)	1.85 kg		0.794	1.75	Body
Monkfish (<i>Squatina squatina</i>)	73		Suspended from listings		
Mullet - Grey, thick lipped (<i>Chelon labrosus</i>)	9.1		2.268	5	Body
Mullet - Golden Grey (<i>Liza aurata</i>)	1.191 kg		0.68	1.5	Body
Mullet - Red (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)	0.71 kg		0.454	1	Body
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	8.23		1.814	4	-
Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)	19	3	5.443	12	Photo
Pouting (<i>Trisopterus luscus</i>)	4	13.5	1.361	3	-
Ray - Blonde (<i>Raja brachyura</i>)	37		11.34	25	Photo
Ray - Cuckoo (<i>Raja naevus</i>)	5	11	2.041	4.5	Photo
Ray - Electric (<i>Torpedo nobiliana</i>)	40 kg		9.072	20	Photo
Ray - Homelyn (<i>Raja montagui</i>)	8.28		2.268	5	Photo
Ray - Painted (<i>Raja microocellata</i>)	17.21		4.536	10	Photo
Ray - Sting (<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>)	33.2 kg		13.608	30	Photo
Ray - Thornback (<i>Raja clavata</i>)	37		9.072	20	Photo
Ray - Undulate (<i>Raja undulata</i>)	18		Suspended from listings		
Ray's Bream (<i>Brama brama</i>)	6	4.25	2.268	5	Body
Red Sea Bream (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>)	9	6	2.041	4.5	-
Rockling, Three Bearded (<i>Gaidropsarus vulgaris</i>)	3	1	0.794	1.75	Body
Scad (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)	1.97		0.680	1.5	Body
Shad - Allis (<i>Alosa alosa</i>)	-		1.814	4	Body
Shad - Twaite (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	1.54 kg		1.1	2.4255	Body
Shark - Blue (<i>Prionace glauca</i>)	206		45.359	100	Photo
Shark - Mako (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>)	-		90.718	200	Photo
Shark - Porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)	365		68.038	150	Photo
Shark - Six-Gilled (<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>)	154		45.359	100	Photo
Shark - Thresher (<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>)	-		54.431	120	Photo
Skate - Common (<i>Raja batis</i>)	221		Suspended from listings		
Skate - Long Nosed (<i>Raja oxyrinchus</i>)	-		36.287	80	Photo
Skate - White (<i>Raja alba</i>)	165		54.431	120	Photo
Smooth Hound	16.58		3.175	7	Body
Stone Basse (<i>Polyprion americanus</i>)	11.72		3.628	8	-
Tope (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	66	8	18.144	40	Photo
Torsk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>)	4.858 kg		2.721	6	Body
Trigger Fish (<i>Balistes carolinensis</i>)	2.54 kg		1.474	3.25	Photo
Tuna - Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	29.96 kg		12	26.46	Photo
Tuna - Bluefin (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>)	440 kg		250	551.88	-
Turbot (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>)	34		8.165	18	-
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)	4	14.5	1.361	3	-
Wrasse Ballan (<i>Labrus bergylta</i>)	4.3 kg		2.154	4.75	Photo
Wrasse Cuckoo (<i>Labrus mixtus</i>)	2.01		0.567	1.25	Body

*for genetic fingerprinting feasibility study

Where body requested for ID purposes a series of photos showing all relevant features MAY suffice (see Rule 4 above)