



BRITISH RECORD (rod - caught) FISH COMMITTEE

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Press Release -

December 17th, 2010

The BRFC met at the Fishmongers Hall, London on 14th December 2010. In attendance were Ian Epps (Chairman), Oliver Crimmen (Natural History Museum), Scientific Advisor, Nigel Hewlett (Environment Agency), Scientific Advisor, Mike Heylin (Angling Trust) & Andy Nellist (Angling Trust - Freshwater). Len Le Page Guernsey Record fish Committee, David Rowe (Secretary),

The following claims were ratified by the committee:

Specie	Record Weight	Captors Name	Date Caught & Location	Previous Record
Sea Fish - Boat	1lb 7oz 1 drms	Mr Neil	29-Sep-10	None
Greater Amberjack (<i>Seriola dumerili</i>)	655 Grammes	McDonnell	Off West Coast of Lundy	
Sea Fish - Boat	10lbs 14oz 11drms	Mr Gary	15-Oct-10	10lbs 6oz 8drms
Marbled Electric Ray (<i>Torpedo marmorata</i>)	4.953 Kg	Crane	Off East Coast of Sark, CI.	
Sea Fish - Mini Species		Mr Jonathan	12-Jul-09	None
Connemara sucker (<i>Lepadogaster candollei</i>)	10 Grammes	Trevett	The Stonepier at Weymouth	
Sea Fish - Shore	2lbs 8oz 12drms	Mr Nick	13-Sep-07	1lb 4oz
Blue Runner (<i>Caranx hippos</i>)	1.155 kg	Rogers	North Cornwall Coast	

Notes from the meeting:-

1/ Other claims considered by the committee:-

Freshwater claims:- Although there had been a number of potential freshwater claims all had failed to meet the criteria in respect of identification and weighing, or have failed to submit the completed application forms.

Game fish Records:- Following further investigation and consultation on the cultivated game fish category, it was agreed to remove the cultivated salmon from the list. Therefore the claim for the cultivated record for the game fish species, Atlantic Salmon, submitted by Mr Alan Moore was rejected.

Seafish Records:- It was noted that 5 claims for seafish records were in the system having been positively identified, and these are awaiting completed application forms.

2/ Notable list for Boat caught Sea Fish.

The Committee are very much aware of the increasing conservation practice of returning rod caught fish alive to the sea or water. This practice along with the difficulties of accurately weighing fish at sea, will have the effect that

records for some species may never be broken despite the possibility of larger fish being captured. The Committee all firmly believe that the credibility of the true British records which has been built up over many years cannot be compromised by recognising any fish that cannot be accurately weighed. Therefore the committee has decided to establish a notable boat caught fish list for such species that can be suitably identified from photographs, but are weighed on water, or calculated from a measurement formula recognised by the BRFC.,

It will set out to establish the criteria of such a list which will satisfy the wish of anglers to return fish alive whilst enabling them to receive some recognition for the capture. The criteria will be agreed by the next meeting in March 2011.

It is to be emphasised this will not replace the official British rod caught record list but will provide a list of notable fish that meet a less demanding criteria, they cannot be called records because of the inevitable variables that will be present.

The shore caught records will continue as normal because, provided that an angler is prepared with a suitable camera and scales, shore caught fish can be captured, photographed and weighed and returned alive.

3/ Removal of Boat Caught Tope.

Following the introduction of the Tope Prohibition Order by DEFRA in 2007 and its review 2010, which introduced a by catch limit for registered commercial boats and a ban on recreational sea anglers retaining Tope caught from boats, the committee have suspended the Boat caught Tope record which stands at 82lbs 8oz.

The official British Records List and procedures are available on the Angling Trust website at <http://www.anglingtrust.net>, under the "Go Fishing Section" or from the BRFC Secretary.

The initial telephone contact point of the BRFC remains at the Angling Trust Head Office on **0844 7700616** but any queries may be directed to the BRFC Secretary.

The next meeting of the full committee is scheduled for spring 2011. The committee will continue to consider all claims as and when they arise and to keep captors informed as to progress.

Notes for editors:

Aims and Objects of BRFC

The Committee exists to recognise and publish record weights of both fresh and salt water fish caught on rod and line by fair angling methods in the waters of England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, and aims:

- To provide an adjudicating body to which marine and freshwater anglers may submit claims for record fish taken by fair rod and line angling.
- To investigate all such record claims to the fullest possible extent and maintain a permanent record of such investigations.
- To establish and maintain accurately a list of British fish, marine and freshwater, of record size and to publish this list frequently and make it readily available to all interested persons.

The activities of the Committee are voluntary, and claims are considered and adjudicated upon, only on the basis that the Committee shall be under no obligation whatsoever to claimants, that its decisions shall be final, and it shall not be obliged to give reasons for its decisions.

For further information please contact;

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