

**SCOTTISH FEDERATION OF SEA ANGLERS  
SCOTTISH BOAT & SHORE (rod caught) RECORD  
AND SPECIMEN MARINE FISH  
RULES OF PROCEDURE**

- 1.(a) The Claimant should contact the Fish Recorder, Paul King, on 01343 830316. Advice will then be given concerning preservation, identification and claims procedure.
- (b) Notification of claim or intention to claim a record or specimen must be made within 10 days of capture of the fish; a further period of 21 days being allowed for the return of the completed claim form and relevant documents.
2. Claims must be made in writing to the Fish Recorder, stating:
  - (a) The species of fish and the weight.
  - (b) The date and place of capture and the tackle used, and whether boat or shore caught.
  - (c) The names and addresses of reliable witnesses both as to capture by the claimant and the weight, who will be required to sign the forms supporting the claim. If no witnesses to the capture are available the claimant must verify his claim by avadavat.
3. No claim will be accepted unless the Committee is satisfied as to the species, method of capture and weight. The Committee reserves the right to reject any claim if not satisfied on any matter which it may think in the particular circumstances to be material.
4. **IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES**
  - (i) **for Record Claims**
    - (a) To ensure the correct identification, it is essential that claimants should retain the fish and immediately contact the Fish Recorder who will advise as to production of the fish for inspection on behalf of the Committee.
    - (b) No claims will be considered unless the fish in its natural state, dead or alive, is available for inspection.
    - (c) All carriage costs incurred in production of the fish for inspection by the Committee must be borne by the claimant.
  - (ii) **for Specimen Claims**

Claims should be accompanied by a clear detailed photograph or transparency of the fish in close-up which shows the fish in lateral view with the fins spread. In the case of sharks a sample of the teeth and a photograph of these in position should be submitted.
5. **METHOD OF CAPTURE**
  - (a) Fish caught at sea will be eligible for consideration for record or specimen status if they have been caught from a shore within the political boundary of Scotland or from a boat, if that boat has set out from and returned to a port within Scotland, without having first called at any port outside Scotland. Fish caught in the territorial waters of other countries will not be eligible.
  - (b) Claims can only be accepted in respect of fish which are caught by fair angling with rod and line. Fair angling is defined by the fish taking the baited hook or lure into its mouth.
  - (c) BOAT caught includes those fish caught from any man made structure which may be moored but not permanently anchored to the sea bed. SHORE caught means those fish caught from a natural shore or any man made structure permanently secured to the sea bed.
  - (d) Fish must be caught on rod and line with any legal hook or lure and

hooked and played by one person only. No one other than the angler playing the fish may touch any part of the tackle e.g. to adjust the reel clutch, but he may be given assistance in putting on a harness. Assistance to land fish (i.e. gaffing, netting) is permitted provided the helper does not touch any part of the tackle other than the leader.

6. **WEIGHT**

- (a) The fish must be weighed on land using scales or steelyards which can be tested on behalf of the committee. Where possible, commercial or trade scales which are checked regularly by the Weights and Measures Department should be used. The sensitivity of the scales should be appropriate to the size of the fish i.e. small fish should be weighed on finely graduated scales and the weight claimed for the fish should be to a division of weight (ounces, dram, gramme) not less than the smallest division of the scales.
- (b) A Weights and Measures Certificate must be produced certifying the accuracy of the scales used and indicating testing at the claimed weight.
- (c) The weight must be verified by two independent witnesses who for example should not be relations of the claimant or a member of his club or party.

Note: Specimen tope and common skate may be weighed on board a boat when this is possible so that they may be returned to the water alive to conserve stocks.

7. Claims can be made for species not included in the Committee's Record Fish List.

8. A fish for which a record is claimed must be normal and not obviously suffering from any disease by which the weight could be enhanced.

9. The activities of the Committee are voluntary and claims are considered and adjudication 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.

The body of the fish should, whenever possible, be kept in a deep freeze until required for identification. **FORMALIN SHOULD NO LONGER BE USED.**

When sending fish for inspection please:

- (a) notify the Recorder or the person appointed by him that the fish is being sent for identification.
- (b) attach a label to each fish forwarded for identification or inspection giving the captor's name and address, date and place of capture, and weight of fish.
- (c) send deep frozen specimens by express post or rail, first wrapping them in cotton polythene before parcelling them.