

# ANGLING TRUST



## SPECIMEN FISH AWARD SCHEME 2017 RULES

**1. ENTRY CONDITIONS:** This scheme is open to Members and Members of Affiliated Clubs, provided in both cases that at the time of the capture of the fish their current subscription or affiliation fees have been paid.

**2. DURATION:** The scheme is an annual one. It opens on 1st December in each year and closes on 30th November of the following year.

**3. TWO SECTIONS:** The scheme is divided into two sections. Section B is for fish caught from boats and kayaks. Section S is for fish caught from the shore, piers, harbour walls or breakwaters.

**4. SPECIMEN FISH:** The minimum size of a specimen fish of each species in each section shall be decided, and may be varied, by the Angling Trust Competition Group Committee from time to time. Any variation made by the CG Committee shall be notified to each affiliated club individually and reasonable notice shall be given before it comes into effect. No fish below the minimum specimen size is eligible for this competition. The sizes at present in force are set out in the Schedule hereto and are in pounds (lbs).

**5. LIMIT OF WATERS:** Only fish caught in the coastal waters of England (including the Channel Islands), Scotland, Wales and Ireland are eligible. [See also Rule 9 (iv)]. A boat angling trip is normally of one day or 24 hrs duration, but if in the course of a trip, whether it be of one day or more, the boat puts into a port which is situated geographically in a different Specimen Area, then that port becomes the port of departure for the remainder of the fishing trip and the specimen weights of that port will be implemented. If for whatever reason the boat puts into a foreign port for which there are no Specimen Area Weights, then the Specimen Weights of the original port of departure will apply.

**6. WEIGHING: *To Qualify for the Principal Awards and Certificates of Merit-***

- All fish must be weighed on land on scales, steelyards or spring balances.
- All weighing must be certified in writing by an official of a recognised Angling Club, and two witnesses.
- All weighing equipment must carry a current certificate of test.

Failure to comply with any of these requirements will render the registration null and void. Certificates of Test are obtainable from the Department of Weights and Measures. A copy of this certificate must be sent to the Hon. Fish Recorder with a club's or association's first registration made in any one year. All weighing equipment must be tested every 5 years and carry a current certificate of test.

There are certain species that have restrictions that require them to be weighed at sea, or measured. These are Bass, Monkfish, Undulate Ray, Porbeagle Shark, Silver Eel, and Spurdog. Some of these species are on the critically endangered list within the Northeast Atlantic. There is a national restriction on landing Tope caught from a boat, which includes kayaks, and by rod and line. Any boat caught Tope are legally required to be released as soon as possible after capture.

The situation with Bass is that the EU brought into existence a conservation measure that from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016, all Bass must be returned alive to the sea. To facilitate this measure, we have introduced a "Measure and Release" rule for the scheme, for Bass. Each area has a "Specimen Length" for Bass caught either from the shore, or from a boat. From the length given for a fish, we can determine the weight by using the Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network's "Give Fish a Chance" online converter.

For further information, go to:  
<http://www.ssacn.org/gfac/length-to-weight>

For further information, go to:  
<http://www.anglingtrust.net/page.asp?section=163&sectionTitle=Legal+Minimum+Landing+Sizes+For+Sea+Fish>

and

[http://www.anglingtrust.net/core/core\\_picker/download.asp?id=3391&filetitle=Recommended+Retention+Size+Limit+For+Sea+Angling%2C+Matches+and+Competitions](http://www.anglingtrust.net/core/core_picker/download.asp?id=3391&filetitle=Recommended+Retention+Size+Limit+For+Sea+Angling%2C+Matches+and+Competitions)

We would also recommend that Thresher, Blue and Mako Sharks are included in the above.

**Weighing at Sea:** In addition, provided the registration form so indicates, fish weighed at sea will be accepted, but any certificates awarded will clearly indicate that the weight of the fish was estimated and the fish returned alive to the sea.

**7. REGISTRATION:** A Declaration in the form set out in the Schedule hereto must be filled in and signed by the captor and given by him to the Hon. Secretary of his club, and the latter will send the Declaration together with the Registration particulars in the form also set out in the Schedule duly completed, to the Hon. Fish Recorder of the Angling Trust, or other Officer appointed for this purpose, within 30 days of the capture, except in the case of fish captured in the last fifteen days of NOVEMBER, when 14 days are allowed. Registrations should be sent direct to the AT Fish Recorder at the following address: 20 Chatsworth road, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO19 7NJ. Further proof of capture, identification and/or weight may be asked for, and in its absence the registration may be refused.

The form may also be sent in electronically, in Excel format

**8. FISHING RULES:** The following Angling Trust Marine Festival and Competition Rules No. 11 apply to this scheme and all entrants must abide by them:-

~~Rule B2, 3, 8, 62. Weep behind mounted boats with the exception that not more than two rods with three single banks or exceed 20cm for boat angling & 10 cm for shore angling.~~

**9. AWARDS:**

(i) Awards are decided on a percentage system based on the amount by which a fish exceeds the minimum weight of a specimen fish in force at the time of its capture. The awards are in the form of Specimen Certificates, and are issued to the captors club at the end of each year.

(ii) No individual shall receive more than 1 Certificate for the same fish.

(iii) In the case of every award and in such other cases as the Officers of the Trust shall decide, the claimant to a certificate or Special Award shall within 28 days of issue of a request for a statutory declaration send to the Hon. Fish Recorder of the AT such a declaration in an approved form, stating that the capture of the fish in respect of which the award or Certificate is claimed was by fair angling methods and that the rules of the competition at the time were observed in all respects. The declaration is to be sent in addition to and not in substitution for the Specimen Fish Registration Form.

(iv) The AT CG Committee may, at its discretion, award Bronze Certificates for any exceptional fish not included in the list of Specimen Fish. These will be termed "Special Awards". Only the heaviest fish in both Section B and Section S of any specie so registered from all those received will be entitled to an award.

(vi) All captors of specimen fish accepted into the scheme have the option to purchase an appropriately engraved gilt, silvered, or bronze medal, to commemorate the capture.

(vii) Regional Sizes. For the purpose of Registration, applicable regional sizes are determined by the point of departure for a claim made under Section B (Boats) and shore fishing station or venue under Section S (Shore).

**10. JUNIOR MEDAL COMPETITION:**

(i) All rules and Regional Specimen sizes appertaining to the AT Senior Specimen Fish Award Scheme will apply to the AT Junior Award Scheme and participation is open to Juniors of affiliated clubs and Junior Sea Angling clubs affiliated to the AT in their own right.

(ii) Juniors are defined as not having attained the age of 17 years as at the commencement of the current year's scheme, this commencement date being the 1st December of each year. A Junior who attains 16 years of age within the current year's scheme will be classed as a Junior for the purpose of further registrations to the end of that year's scheme which is the 30th November each year.

**11. PRINCIPAL AWARDS:**

(i) The SEA ANGLING NEWS TROPHY For the greatest number of Certificates awarded to an affiliated club for the year.

**12. ANGLING TRUST COMPETITION GROUP COMMITTEE:** All arrangements for the Specimen Fish Awards Scheme are in the hands of the AT CG Committee, whose decision on any point shall be final and binding on all parties.

**13. COPYRIGHT:** These rules, revised in March 2016, are the copyright of the Angling Trust and may not be reproduced whole or in part without its consent in writing.

**1 October 2016**