

NEWS

WORLD RECORDS

FRESHWATER FISHING

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Edition 2009/1st Half-Year 2010

The independent news from WWW.FISHING-WORLDRECORDS.COM

CATCH OF THE YEAR 2009



Date: 19 July 2009

English name: Marmorata

Scientific name: *Salmo marmoratus*

Method: rod & reel

Weight: 22,50 kg (49 lb 10 oz)

Length: 120 cm (47 inches)

Water: Soca River

Country: Slovenia

Angler: Maurizio Maule

Why this one? Here are the reasons for our voting:

- the heaviest rod-caught trout worldwide in the last 20 years
- the largest trout ever caught on a fly rod worldwide
- the longest Marmorata ever caught on rod & reel
- a symbol that intelligent fisheries management can restore the original state

This phantastic specimen was caught with a Streamer above the Most reservoir and confirmed by the Fishing Association of Slovenia. Hybridization with foreign trout stocked for angling was the main threat for this wonderful species. Tolmin Angler's Society launched a reintroduction programme from the last genetically pure populations in remote creeks of the Soca basin. The largest specimens of *Salmo marmoratus* were found in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. In this countries the main problem is habitat destruction due to dam building.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friend of fishing and ichthyology,

welcome to the issue 2009/10 of your "WRFF News".

The last 1 1/2 years were the best in our 25 years of research. Due to our worldwide network and the increasing popularity of our website, updates of records and especially photos are exploding. In addition the beginning of the year was sensational, we have to consider these catches in this issue AFTER verification.

The new structure with a scientific directory and species profiles has improved the usability. As you know the species in the directory are listed in descending order by their maximum weight. Maybe we will change the sorting to families in the next years. Therefore your permanent feedback is appreciated.

We want to show less known, large species of remote waters. Then angling tourists, mainly practicing catch & release and angling travel businesses will check out these destinations and enlarge their offer. Native commercial fishermen have a new source of income through guiding. This is a chance to reduce commercial fishery and therefore protect threatened species.

The long-term objective is to publish an illustrated book with photos (including copyrights) and record data of all these species. The pocketbook should be free of charge and distributed to interested anglers and scientists worldwide - to improve information exchange and inspire the fantasy.

We are always grateful for your information of possible record catches. Simply send us an E-Mail at editor@fishing-worldrecords.com.

And now enjoy this issue and expect the unexpected...

Heinz Machacek, research editor & fish historian
AUSTRIA

P.S. Thanks for all your donations which help us a little bit to run this time- and cost intensive website due to it's high quality content (see page 8).

FACTS & FIGURES

visitors per month: + 400.000

Newsletter: 2.100 subscribers, audience at least 20.000

Species +5 kg (11 lb) in the database: 475
plus european species between 1-5 kg: 430
profiles with record catch photo: 273

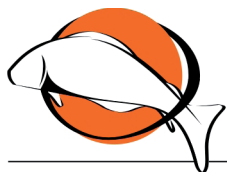
Sportfishing records: 61% of the species

Record age known: 42% of the species

Updates April 2009 – June 2010:

record weights 90
record lengths 78

record ages 11
record photos 89



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Date: 28 January 2009
English name: Freshwater Whipray
Scientific name: *Himantura chaophraya*
Method: rod & reel
Weight: over 265,00 kg (over 584 lb)
Length: 210 cm (83 inches)
Water: MaeKlong River
Country: Thailand
Angler: Ian Welch

This is the largest freshwater fish ever landed on rod and reel. The giant ray was caught while filming of a documentary with National Geographic Channel about this species. After an epic ninety minute battle it was examined by the well known fish biologist and National Geographic Explorer Dr.Zeb Hogan. The heavily pregnant fish was released back.



Date: 28 April 2009
English name: Amur Catfish
Scientific name: *Parasilurus asotus*
Method: rod & reel
Weight: approx. 20,00 kg (approx. 44 lb)
Length: 132 cm (52 inches)
Water: Cheongyong Reservoir
Country: South Korea
Angler: Kim Gi-Dong

A Wels Catfish and common in size? Wrong! This species belongs to the same family but catches of this length are very rare. The reservoir in the remote Gangwon Province was constructed in 1945 for agricultural water supply. This Amur Catfish, about 30 years old, is by far the largest specimen with photo proof.



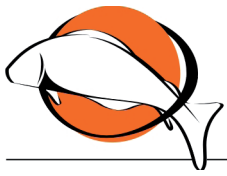
Date: 29 May 2009
English name: Piraiba
Scientific name: *Brachyplatystoma filamentosum*
Method: rod & reel
Weight: 155,00 kg (341 lb 11 oz)
Length: approx.230 cm (approx.91 inches)
Water: Rio Solimoes
Country: Brazil
Angler: Jorge Masullo de Aguiar

After a fight lasting nearly three hours, the largest Piraiba accurately weighed and confirmed by the IGFA was landed. In the last years we heard and read a lot of reports of fishes between 150 and 250 kg (see page 8). But till now we believe that in all the other cases the weight was only estimated.



Date: 14 July 2009
English name: Bighead Carp
Scientific name: *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*
Method: rod & reel (foul-hooked)
Weight: 77,50 kg (170 lb 14 oz)
Length: 150 cm (59 inches)
Water: Tisza River
Country: Hungary
Angler: Janos Deim

This is the heaviest Bighead Carp ever caught and documented worldwide. Heavier than the old world record from Hungary (not China!) and all commercial catches. The fish with an unbelievable girth of 143 cm (56 inches) had more than 10 kg of eggs in it. It is also the oldest specimen with 50 years, ever examined by a fish biologist.



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Date: 14 June 2009

English name: Altai Osman

Scientific name: *Oreoleuciscus potanini*

Method: rod & reel

Weight: 5,82 kg (12 lb 13 oz)

Length: approx. 80 cm (approx. 31 inches)

Water: Lake Khoton

Country: Mongolia

Angler: Yuri Diachenko

Due to new destinations offered by angling tour operators species like this predatory carp-like species are "discovered" by Sportfishing. With 10 kg maximum weight an attractive fish beside the Taimen.



Date: 16 August 2009

English name: Nile Perch

Scientific name: *Lates niloticus*

Method: rod & reel

Weight: 112,94 kg (249 lb 0 oz)

Length: 208 cm (82 inches)

Water: Murchison Falls

Country: Uganda

Angler: Tim Smith

Crazy story: The heaviest Nile Perch of the last years was attacked by a Crocodile during the fight, therefore it couldn't be released. Tim Smith had to jump into the chest-deep water, hook the dying fish on his stringer, tie it to a tree and rush back to the lodge to bring help. The fish, accurately weighed on certified scales had a girth of 152 cm (60 inches).



Date: 5 September 2009

English name: Rainbow Trout

Scientific name: *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

Method: rod & reel

Weight: 21,77 kg (48 lb 0 oz)

Length: 107 cm (42 inches)

Water: Diefenbaker Reservoir

Country: Canada

Angler: Sean Conrad

Sean Conrad beat the two year old record of his twin brother Adam. Diefenbaker's rainbow record production is the result of commercially raised sterile rainbows. A half-million fish entered the 225 kilometres long reservoir through a damaged net at a fish farm in 2000. Because they're genetically manipulated to have three sets of chromosomes instead of two, their growth rate is substantially higher than a diploid rainbow with no physical stress factors related to spawning. Biologists estimate that these trout could survive for upwards of 20 years. Beside, many record fish were sterile through natural causes.



Date: 2 July 2009

English name: Largemouth Bass

Scientific name: *Micropterus salmoides*

Method: rod & reel

Weight: 10,12 kg (22 lb 4 oz)

Length: 69 cm (27 inches)

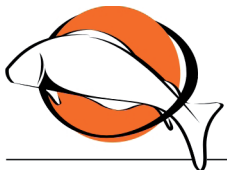
Water: Lake Biwa

Country: Japan

Angler: Manabu Kurita

Of course the catch with the most publicity worldwide. As a 25-pound-plus bass was caught as by catch in a fisherman's net earlier this year too, Japan's largest (670 square kilometres) natural lake will be in the focus of the bass community in the next years. Really interesting that it is an invasive species in Japan, therefore not protected and that this specimen with a girth of 68 cm was fertile. Curious: Although Kurita's fish was accurately weighed a full ounce heavier than the historical "official" record from 1932 it was only placed "a tie" by the IGFA.

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Date: 9 September 2009
English name: Brown Trout
Scientific name: *Salmo trutta fario*
Method: rod & reel
Weight: 18,80 kg (41 lb 7 oz)
Length: 111 cm (44 inches)
Water: Manistee River
Country: USA
Angler: Tom Healy

Within one week also the rod & reel record for Brown Trout was broken. It had a girth of 69 cm (in comparison to 81 cm of the new rainbow record) and was only six years old! The fight took short 15 minutes. One of the best documented record catches as Tom Healy posed for six hours in front of a tackle store till DNR biologists examined the fish, hundreds of people watched the measurements and a lot of photos and interviews were made ☺



Date: October 2009
English name: Flatwhiskered Catfish
Scientific name: *Pinarampus pinirampu*
Method: rod & reel
Weight: 25,20 kg (55 lb 9 oz)
Length: over 100 cm (over 39 inches)
Water: Rio Paraguay
Country: Brazil
Angler: Gary Newman

Globetrotter Mark Jones, now operator of Argentine Angling Adventures, took seven british anglers to a new destination, nearly unexplored by foreign sport fishermen. The Paraguay River close to the mouth of the Rio Apa, bordering Brazil and Paraguay. Nick Berridge settled a new record for Ocellate River Stingray with a 34,2 kg (75 lb 6 oz) specimen on the same trip. The Parana-Paraguay river system is home to some of the largest freshwater rays and catfishes in the world. Record sized fish are still often caught in this vast river system.



Date: 22 September 2009
English name: Common Bream
Scientific name: *Abramis brama*
Method: rod & reel
Weight: 10,23 kg (22 lb 9 oz)
Length: over 86 cm (over 34 inches)
Water: gravel pit Ferry Lagoon
Country: United Kingdom
Angler: Mark McKenna

Incredibly, it is the same bream banked by James Rust at a then record weight of 8,90 kg (19lb 10oz) in 2005, and experts now believe the same fish could dominate the record list for years. Such a rapid weight gain happened, when the fish's diet changed from natural food to a more high-energy food source like anglers baits... In former decades record catches from United Kingdom were really rare, but due to catch & release and intensive feeding the British have set records for Tench, Barbel and Common Bream now.



Date: 11 October 2009
English name: Speckled Longfin Eel
Scientific name: *Anguilla reinhardtii*
Method: rod & reel
Weight: 11,66 kg (25 lb 11 oz)
Length: approx. 150 cm (approx. 59 inches)
Water: watering hole near Gleniffer Road
Country: Australia
Angler: Jai Tennant

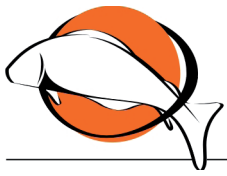
The 10-year-old boy set the world record (means Australian record) during the Bellingen Eel Fishing Championships. The participants of this annually one-week-competition are mainly children. Nearly all eels are released after daily weight-ins. Of course we are sure that some larger eels were caught with rod & reel in the last hundred years. But unfortunately not many records are documented for this species as it is not really considered a sportfish in Australia.

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Date: 27 February 2010
English name: Mangar
Scientific name: *Luciobarbus esocinus*
Method: gill net
Weight: 123,00 kg (271 lb 3 oz)
Length: 225 cm (89 inches)
Water: Karakaya Reservoir
Country: Turkey
Fisherman: Isa Yavuz

The male fish was caught at night by commercial fishermen. Unfortunately the reportings in the Middle East about this species are not as extensive and professional as for the Indian Mahseer species. Fishery experts of Turkey told us that the large reservoirs in the Anatolia Region (Atatürk, Keban, Karakaya) hold a lot of giant Silurus glanis and Luciobarbus esocinus. Fishes between 30 and 80 kg are caught every month. Reputedly the largest rod-caught Mangar of the last season had 92 kg from the Tigris River.



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Date: 27 March 2010

English name: Burbot

Scientific name: *Lota lota*

Method: rod & reel

Weight: 11,40 kg (25 lb 2 oz)

Length: 104 cm (41 inches)

Water: Diefenbaker Reservoir

Country: Canada

Angler: Sean Konrad

Seven months after his rainbow trout world record Sean Konrad did it again. His Burbot had a girth of 61 cm (24 inches), an egg-laden female in pre-spawn, which causes the species to go on an aggressive late-winter feeding. He drove six hours to the right part of the reservoir at this time of year when fish spawn and the big females come to shore to lay their eggs. Diefenbaker Reservoir is one of the most productive Burbot fisheries in Saskatchewan.



Date: 2 March 2010

English name: Speckled Peacock

Scientific name: *Cichla temensis*

Method: rod & reel

Weight: 13,10 kg (28 lb 14 oz)

Length: 108 cm (43 inches)

Water: Rio Ararira

Country: Brazil

Angler: Andre de Castro

One month after the "official" world record from Bill Gassmann with a 12,93 kg (28 lb 8 oz) specimen the best mark was broken once again by this Brazilian angler who released the fish after careful measurements. The two record fishes had very different proportions. Bill Gassmann record: length 37 x girth 25 inches, Andre de Castro record: length 43 x girth 21 inches. In addition a new Butterfly Peacock record with a weight of 7,31 kg was caught in February 2010.



Date: 7 January 2010

English name: Common Carp

Scientific name: *Cyprinus carpio*

Method: rod & reel

Weight: 42,64 kg (94 lb 0 oz)

Length: 120 cm (47 inches)

Water: Rainbow Lake

Country: France

Angler: Martin Locke



Date: 30 May 2010

English name: Common Carp

Scientific name: *Cyprinus carpio*

Method: rod & reel

Weight: 44,91 kg (99 lb 0 oz)

Length: over 111 cm (over 44 inches)

Water: Les Graviers Lake

Country: France

Angler: Ambrose Smith

Two specimen "Steve Brigg's Fish" from Rainbow Lake and "Scarfish" from Les Graviers Lake alternate in breaking off the record for many years. In the meantime this crazy hunt for the carp world record is boring, but some other facts are really interesting, although for scientists: One of these specimen will reach the 100 lb mark within the next two years. In former times an unbelievable weight for *Cyprinus carpio*. "Scarfish" has been caught over 25 times (!) in the last 8 years. In 2000 it was suspended in Les Graviers Lake with a weight of "only" 50 lb... Beside, the new record of 99 lb was possible, because the fish put on 8 lb in five weeks prior to spawning.



Date: 13 February 2010

English name: Lake Sturgeon

Scientific name: *Acipenser fulvescens*

Method: spearfishing

Weight: 96,25 kg (212 lb 3 oz)

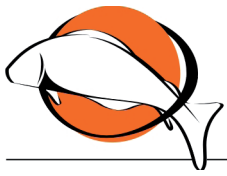
Length: 214 cm (84 inches)

Water: Lake Winnebago

Country: USA

Fisherman: Ron Grishaber

The lake sturgeon population in the Winnebago System is the largest in the world and the number of very large fish has increased over the last 15 to 20 years due to careful management of the harvest. The current population is estimated at about 60.000 fish aged 1 to 80 with weights up to 230 lb. The DNR has been intensively managing the lake sturgeon population and fishery for more than 60 years. So it's no problem that nearly 11.000 spearing licenses were sold for a six-day spearfishing season.



+++TELEGRAM +++ new entries in species profiles +++ TELEGRAM +++ new entries in species profiles +++ TELEGRAM +++

Here are the highlights of our updates in the last months, beside the record catches of 2009/10. Catches of the last years, which we are able to verify only now. As you know it's our aim to show the whole sport fishing and scientific world the largest catch of every species from which a photo was published.



Pallid Sturgeon

Scaphirhynchus albus, 22,45 kg,

more info on www.fishing-worldrecords.com



Orinoco Peacock

Cichla orinocensis, 6,22 kg,

more info on www.fishing-worldrecords.com



Bull Trout

Salvelinus confluentus, 14,51 kg,

more info on www.fishing-worldrecords.com



Chinese Paddlefish

Psephurus gladius, approx. 220 kg,

more info on www.fishing-worldrecords.com



Polynesian Longfin Eel

Anguilla megastoma, approx. 12 kg,

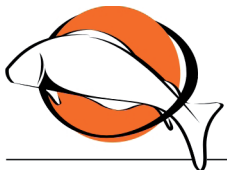
more info on www.fishing-worldrecords.com



Tanganyika Lates

Lates angustifrons, approx. 60 kg,

more info on www.fishing-worldrecords.com



+++TELEGRAM +++ new entries in species profiles +++ TELEGRAM +++ new entries in species profiles +++ TELEGRAM +++



Manguruyu

Zungaro jahu, 105 kg,

more info on www.fishing-worldrecords.com



Walleye

Sander vitreus, 11,34 kg,

more info on www.fishing-worldrecords.com

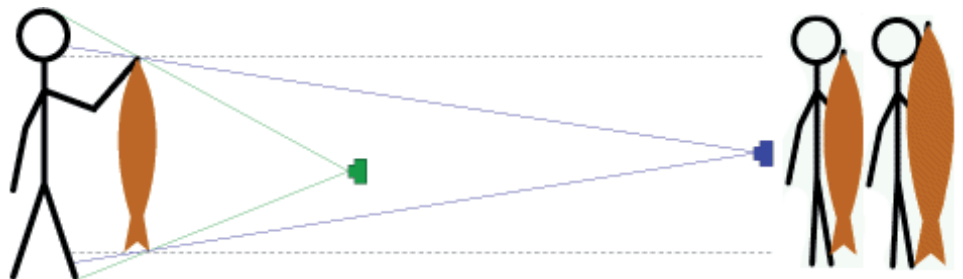
accepted... not accepted... accepted...

The NFHOF in the United States reinstated the historical 25-pound Walleye after a revision. This happened in 2006 too, as the IGFA re-established the Smallmouth Bass world record. These catches together with the old muskie records were disqualified in the 1990's, often due to an evaluation of photos.

ATTENTION:

This isn't possible!

The apparent size depends on the photographic perspective. Many „experts“ seem to overlook this fact when attempting to assess the size of a fish in photograph.



Lake Trout

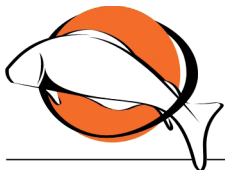
Salvelinus namaycush, 46,37 kg,

more info on www.fishing-worldrecords.com

Further new photos in the species profiles (chronological order):

European Eel, Golden Trout, River Carpsucker, Barred Sorubim, Leiarius marmoratus, Prussian Carp, Crussian Carp, Lenok, Tiger Sorubim, Sockeye Salmon, Redtail Catfish, North African Tigerfish, Black Sharkminnow, Short-tailed River Stingray, Giant Tigerfish, European Grayling, Siberian Sturgeon, Shortnose Gar, Thai Mahseer, Salween Rita, Ripsaw Catfish, Rock-Bacu, European Perch

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+++TELEGRAM +++ possible records +++ TELEGRAM +++ possible records +++ TELEGRAM +++ possible records +++

As every year we got and found information and photos of possible records, which we don't list in the database. Either the information was incomplete, doubtful or the photo quality was too bad to verify the catch.



Date: January/February 2009

English name: Northern Pike

Scientific name: *Esox lucius*

Method: net?

Weight: 29,00 kg (63 lb 15 oz)

Length: 156 cm (61 inches)

Water: Koronowski Lagoon

Country: Poland

Fisherman: unknown

This could be one of the largest Northern Pikes in the last decades. But we got no confirmation from local experts till now. It seems, that it was caught in an illegal way or with a net, so it is not a new official record in Poland. Probably no fake, simply a scanned photo in bad quality...



Date: 2009

English name: Piraiba

Scientific name: *Brachyplatystoma filamentosum*

Method: unknown

Weight: 225,00 kg (496 lb 1 oz)

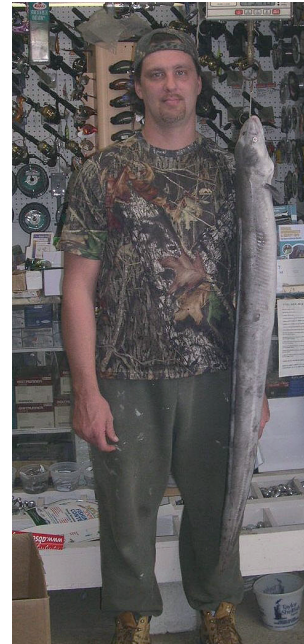
Length: approx. 270 cm (approx. 106 inches)

Water: Rio Teles Pires or Rio Madeira

Country: Brazil

Angler/Fisherman: Mr. Francisco

Reports of catches far bigger than officially weighed fishes are normal in Sportfishing. The main problem is, that anglers pay more attention to specified weight than length data – and nearly no freshwater angler owns an exact or even certified scale to weigh fish with 50 kg or more... There is no evil intention, but most lucky sport fisherman and their audience misjudge the weight of the catch. Earlier it was Wels Catfish and Muskie/Northern Pike, today Piraiba and Pirarucu monster stories provide the spark for discussions.



Date: autumn 2008

English name: American Eel

Scientific name: *Anguilla rostrata*

Method: rod & reel

Weight: 5,94 kg (13 lb 2 oz)

Length: 127 cm (50 inches)

Water: coast of Absecon Bay, NJ

Country: USA

Angler: Steven Carmen

The eel was caught at the beach and weighed in the Absecon Bay Sportsman Center. Employees of the Shop and state biologists, who examined the giant eel, confirmed that it was an eel and no conger. But for our team the fish on the photo looks more like a conger.

These were only some highlights from our database, so take a look at www.fishing-worldrecords.com and find a lot of interesting information about the maximum size of freshwater fishes!

SHORT OF TIME TO BROWSE THROUGH THE WEBSITE?

Just click on office@fishing-worldrecords.com and we are sending you the whole database as 44 pages PDF-file (contribution towards costs € 5,-).

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Advertorials are possible on every page including the profiles, price € 100,- per year. Banner (including Skyscraper, Pop-up...) are not accepted.

Content links:

Every destination (water or country) e.g. could be linked to a suitable offer of a fishing tour or camp operator, price € 100,- to € 1.000,- per year (depending on the frequency in the profiles).

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