

# NEWS

## WORLD RECORDS

### FRESHWATER FISHING

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Edition Year 2011

The independent news from [WWW.FISHING-WORLDRECORDS.COM](http://WWW.FISHING-WORLDRECORDS.COM)

## CATCH OF THE YEAR 2011



**Date:** 13 March 2011

**English name:** Mussullah Mahseer

**Scientific name:** *Tor mussullah*

**Method:** rod & reel

**Weight:** 58,97 kg (130 lb 0 oz)

**Length:** 147 cm (58 inches)

**Water:** Cauvery River

**Country:** India

**Angler:** Ken Loughran

**Courtesy of:** Bopanna Pattada

Hardly a year after the ban on angling of mahseer came into force, a British angler has caught a giant mahseer weighing 130 lb (calculated with a mahseer weights formula) in Kodagu district. The specimen broke the six-decade old rod & reel record. The fish had an incredible girth of 99 cm (39 inches). Loughran was a guest of the "Coorg Wildlife Society" (CWS), an organisation working for "conservation of wildlife in Kodagu".

The Mahseer found in the Cauvery, is on the list of endangered species and angling is banned. The ban has neither dimmed the enthusiasm of amateur fishermen wanting to pose for the camera with their catch, nor has it deterred organisations facilitating anglers, whose defence is that they catch and release the fish back into the river. Members of the IGFA claim that catch-and-release angling helps conservation of sport fish. It has much less impact on the environment than using nets to catch fish for research.

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friend of fishing and ichthyology,

welcome to the issue 2011 of your "WRFF News".

#### Records & Photos

Especially in the first half of 2011 we were able to verify some new milestones in sport fishing. Furthermore we want to mention some older and possible records, which we discovered in 2011. In addition to our weekly updates we finished our "hunt" for the failing photos. We could add photos of 82 (!) new species since August 2011 – 81% of the profiles (57% in 2009) include a photo now.

#### Website

The new state-of-the-art search engine is online since 1.1.2012. In a second step we will try to finance this important project of "pro-active worldwide monitoring of record catches" with useful advertising. In the second quarter 2012 we will start the new section "Where to fish" attractive for advertising partner. We will bring anglers planning a trip or searching a new destination together with tour operators, camps, lodges, fishing venues, outfitters etc.

#### Reminder: targets of the project

First we want to maintain a reliable, actual and complete database concerning the maximum size of freshwater fish to uplift the knowledge about fish in general (in some weeks the species profiles of [www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org) and [www.fishing-worldrecords.com](http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com) will be directly linked).

Second, we want to show less known, large species of unexplored waters. Then angling tourists and tour operator practicing catch & release will check out these destinations. Native commercial fishermen have a new source of income through guiding. This is a chance to reduce commercial fishery and therefore protect threatened species.

We are always grateful for your information of possible record catches. In addition we need your ongoing help to review our estimates due to the length-weight ratio. Simply send us an E-Mail at [editor@fishing-worldrecords.com](mailto:editor@fishing-worldrecords.com).

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

Heinz Machacek, chief editor  
AUSTRIA

P.S. Thank you in advance for your donation which helps us a little bit to run this time- and cost intensive website due to it's high quality content!

### FACTS & FIGURES

#### Visitors per month:

330-480.000 from over 90 countries

#### Newsletter:

2.300 subscribers, audience at least 20.000

Species +5 kg in the database: 481

plues european species between 1 - 5 kg: 31

Profiles with record catch photo: 417

Sportfishing records: 68% of the species

Record age known: 43% of the species

#### Updates in the last 12 months:

record weights: 138

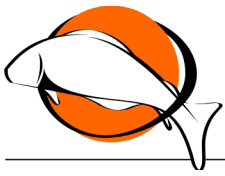
record lengths: 115

record ages: 25

record photos: 155

### TRANSLATION?

Please copy-paste the text into



+++TELEGRAM +++ new records 2011 +++ TELEGRAM +++ new records 2011 +++ TELEGRAM +++ new records 2011 +++

We are pleased to present the most remarkable catches of 2011.  
Most of them were made in the first half year.



**Date:** 29 November 2010  
**English name:** Giant Catfish  
**Scientific name:** *Pangasianodon gigas*  
**Method:** rod & reel  
**Weight:** 117,93 kg (260 lb 0 oz)  
**Length:** 221 cm (87 inches)  
**Water:** Gillhams Fishing Resort  
**Country:** Thailand  
**Angler:** Dr. Martin David Kent  
**Courtesy of:** Gillhams Co., Ltd.

Addendum to the year 2010: In spring 2011 the IGFA accepted the catch as the new all tackle record. The fish with a girth of 117 cm (46 inches) was quickly measured and weighed on certified scales, and then safely returned back into the small fishing lake.

In the wild the population of this species dropped dramatically because damming of the Mekong's tributaries has cut off its spawning grounds (river fishing for the species is actually illegal but poaching is widespread).

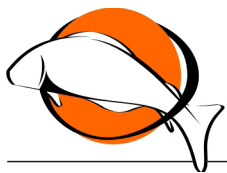
On the other side thousands have been stocked in fishing lakes. The fish eat algae and prefer turbid water which makes a tropical pond like this one a perfect habitat. Stuart Gillham, the lake owner, has recorded growth rates among his fish between 50 and 100 lb per year!



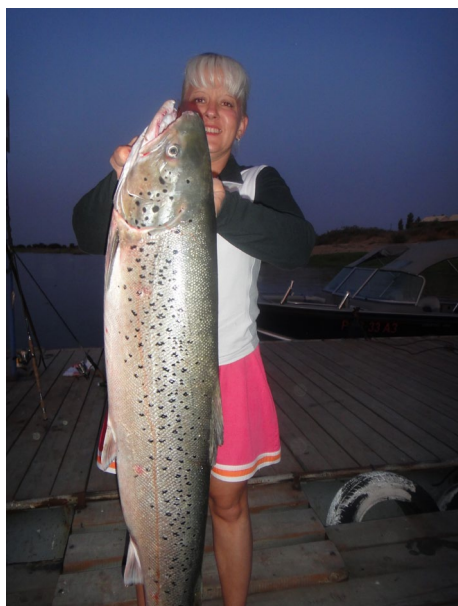
**Date:** May 2011  
**English name:** Bagrid Catfish  
**Scientific name:** *Hemibagrus wyckioides*  
**Method:** rod & reel  
**Weight:** 32,00 kg (70 lb 9 oz)  
**Length:** 120 cm (47 inches)  
**Water:** Palm Tree Lagoon  
**Country:** Thailand  
**Angler:** Tim Webb  
**Courtesy of:** Tim Webb

This fish, also called Asian Redtail Catfish, is one of dozens of native and introduced fast growing species stocked in various lakes and fishing ponds in Thailand. Recreational fishing has provided economic alternatives for many fishing communities in parts of the world. Therefore we don't refuse the booming catch & release sport fishing in Thai fishing venues.

Special thanks to Tim Webb, the number 1 among our dedicated contributors, who provided us with reliable and accurate data and high quality photos for 18 records. The number 2 is the wellknown Southeast Asia specialist J.F. Helias with 16 official or unofficial records since 2004. And last but not least Mark Jones with 8 contributions, which we could verify as world records.



+++ TELEGRAM +++ new records 2011 +++ TELEGRAM +++ new records 2011 +++ TELEGRAM +++ new records 2011 +++



**Date:** July 2011

**English name:** Caspian Salmon

**Scientific name:** *Salmo caspius*

**Method:** rod & reel

**Weight:** 9,00 kg (19 lb 13 oz)

**Length:** approx. 100 cm  
(approx. 39 inches)

**Water:** Volga River

**Country:** Russia

**Angler:** unknown

**Courtesy of:** Oleg Sarana

On our opinion the most interesting catch in 2011. Despite the similarity with the Atlantic Salmon taxonomists considered it a subspecies of *Salmo trutta trutta* for a long time, finally *Salmo caspius* is accepted as a valid species. The fish was caught in the Enotaevsky district north of Astrakhan. Two further specimen were caught with the net one week later, because fishermen don't know that it is listed in the red list of Russia and Kazakhstan.

Caspian Salmon spawn mainly in the rivers of the western shore of the Caspian Sea, Kura, Terek and Aras. In the Volga it is rare nowadays. In former centuries this fish was caught commercially in large quantities. Due to overfishing and the change of habitat, the Volga strain is near extinction.



**Date:** May 2011

**English name:** Giant Pangasius

**Scientific name:** *Pangasius sanitwongsei*

**Method:** rod & reel

**Weight:** 67,00 kg (147 lb 11 oz)

**Length:** 155 cm (61 inches)

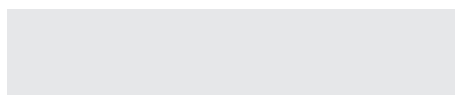
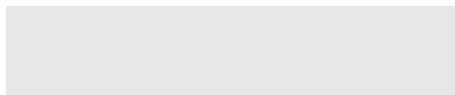
**Water:** Palm Tree Lagoon

**Country:** Thailand

**Angler:** Tim Webb

**Courtesy of:** Tim Webb

Tim Webb improved his own best mark from October 2010. The Giant Pangasius or Chao-Phraya Catfish, not to be confused with the Giant Catfish (*Pangasianodon gigas*), shows also remarkable growth rates in fishing lakes. We are looking forward to the growth potential of this species...



**Date:** 18 June 2011

**English name:** Blue Catfish

**Scientific name:** *Ictalurus furcatus*

**Method:** rod & reel

**Weight:** 64,86 kg (143 lb 0 oz)

**Length:** 145 cm (57 inches)

**Water:** John H. Kerr Reservoir

**Country:** USA

**Angler:** Richard Nicholas Anderson

**Courtesy of:** The Mecklenburg News-Progress

Due to the catch and release policy and decreasing commercial freshwater fishing in the United States, the best mark for Blue Catfish is improved nearly every year. After some records from the Mississippi-Missouri River system, this specimen was caught in a dam of the Roanoke River. Anderson landed the fat fish with a 110 cm (43 inches) girth after a 45 minutes fight before dusk.

**Date:** June 2011

**English name:** Mrigal

**Scientific name:** *Cirrhinus cirrhosus*

**Method:** rod & reel

**Weight:** 9,20 kg (20 lb 5 oz)

**Length:** 80 cm (32 inches)

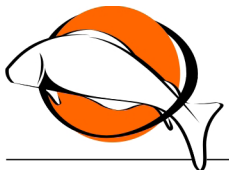
**Water:** Palm Tree Lagoon

**Country:** Thailand

**Angler:** Praphap „Bung“ Meesomboon

**Courtesy of:** Tim Webb

The third remarkable Thai record came from Mr. Bung, a Thai Fishing Guide. Specimen up to 15,42 kg (34 lb) were supposedly caught with rod & reel in the 19th century in India (Thomas, The Rod In India, 1897)



+++TELEGRAM +++ new records 2011 +++ TELEGRAM +++ new records 2011 +++ TELEGRAM +++ new records 2011 +++



**Date:** 4 August 2011  
**English name:** Striped Bass  
**Scientific name:** *Morone saxatilis*  
**Method:** rod & reel  
**Weight:** 37,14 kg (81 lb 14 oz)  
**Length:** 137 cm (54 inches)  
**Water:** Atlantic coast, Long Island Sound  
**Country:** USA  
**Angler:** Greg Myerson  
**Courtesy of:** Steven Hill, Field & Stream

**Date:** 13 August 2011  
**English name:** Granulated Catfish  
**Scientific name:** *Pterodoras granulosus*  
**Method:** rod & reel  
**Weight:** 7,03 kg (15 lb 8 oz)  
**Length:** 75 cm (30 inches)  
**Water:** Rio Xingu  
**Country:** Brazil  
**Angler:** Martini Arostegui  
**Courtesy of:** Martini Arostegui

The record stood for 29 years, therefore this fish had the most publicity in 2011. Myerson was participating in an event called the Striper Cup (which he won in 2010) and landed the fish near Outer Southwest Reef in the night after a 20 minute fight. It was officially weighed in the next morning, nearly 12 hours after the catch. The giant was estimated to be over 25 years old.

At last we want to mention the most remarkable new best mark from South America. The fish was caught during a 10 days fishing period at the top destination Xingu River. The Arostegui family are multiple world record holder in salt and freshwater.

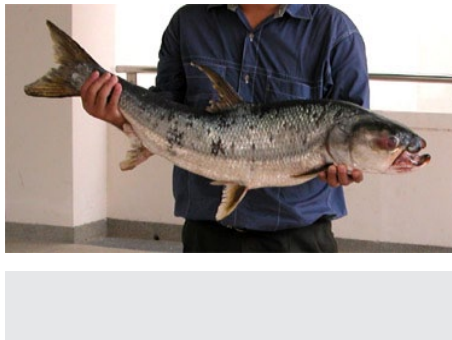
[register@fishing-worldrecords.com](mailto:register@fishing-worldrecords.com)

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

Here are the highlights of our updates in the last months (chronological order), beside the record catches of 2011. 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.



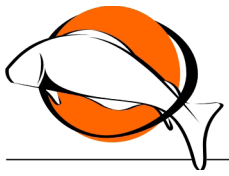
**Chinese Perch**  
*Siniperca chuatsi*  
 over 8 kg  
[more info on >](#)  
<http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com/scientificname/Siniperca%20chuatsi/show>



**Giant Salmon Carp**  
*Aptosyax grypus*  
 approx. 8 kg  
[more info on >](#)  
<http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com/scientificname/Aptosyax%20grypus/show>



**Greek Catfish**  
*Silurus aristotelis*  
 over 30 kg  
[more info on >](#)  
<http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com/scientificname/Silurus%20aristotelis/show>



**Striped Catfish**

*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*

43,00 kg

[more info on >](#)

<http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com/scientificname/Pangasianodon%20hypophthalmus/show>



**Shark Head Patin**

*Pangasius nasutus*

19,00 kg

[more info on >](#)

<http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com/scientificname/Pangasius%20nasutus/show>



**Krempf's Catfish**

*Pangasius krempfi*

21,00 kg

[more info on >](#)

<http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com/scientificname/Pangasius%20krempfi/show>



**Maraena Whitefish**

*Coregonus maraena*

7,08 kg

[more info on >](#)

<http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com/scientificname/Coregonus%20maraena/show>



**no common name**

*Labeobarbus caudovittatus*

approx. 5 kg

[more info on >](#)

<http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com/scientificname/Labeobarbus%20caudovittatus/show>

**no common name**

*Puntioplites bulu*

11,00 kg

[more info on >](#)

<http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com/scientificname/Puntioplites%20bulu/show>



**Thai Mahseer**

*Tor tambroides*

25,00 kg

[more info on >](#)

<http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com/scientificname/Tor%20tambroides/show>



**Manguruyu**

*Zungaro jahu*

178,00 kg

[more info on >](#)

<http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com/scientificname/Zungaro%20jahu/show>

**FURTHER NEW PHOTOS IN THE SPECIES PROFILES (highlights in chronological order)**

**Carp**

Ripon Barbel, *Labeo erythropterus*, Kalabans, Italian Barbel, Copper Redhorse, *Labeobarbus megastoma*, Lost River Sucker, Razorback Sucker, Graell's Barbel, Smallscale Yellowfish, Sawfin, Kutum, Cianwilliam Yellowfish, Mud Carp, *Cosmochilus harmandi*, Aral Barbel, Bulatmai Barbel, Rhinofish, Wuchang Bream, *Barbus grypus*, Black Sharkminnow

**Characins**

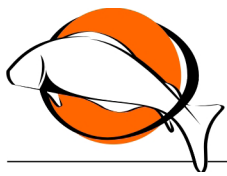
Pirapitinga

**Catfishes**

Barred Sorubim, Slobbering Catfish, *Oxydoras kneri*, *Acanthicus Adonis*, *Belodontichthys dinema*, Salween Shovelnose Catfish, Laulao Catfish, Whitespotted Clarias, *Phalacronotus apogon*, Kampoyo, Bubu, *Dinotopterus cunningtoni*, Zebra Catfish, Lesser Salmon Catfish

**Perch-likes**

Emperor Snakehead, Nile Tilapia, Turquoise Cichlid



+++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:** 5 January 2011  
**English name:** Yellowcheek  
**Scientific name:** *Elopichthys bambusa*  
**Method:** other methods, net  
**Weight:** 50-60 kg (110-132 lb)  
**Length:** over 160 cm (over 63 inches)  
**Water:** Poyang Lake  
**Country:** China  
**Fishermen:** unknown  
**Courtesy of:** Dajiang Wang

The published weight of "estimated 150 lb" (68 kg) seems to be exaggerated. Please note that these giants were caught during the first large-scale commercial fishing over the past decade because of a fishing ban. Poyang Lake is hometown of 80 fish species and the Chinese River Crab, exported to Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia.



**Date:** 2009  
**English name:** Redtail Catfish  
**Scientific name:** *Phractocephalus hemiliopterus*  
**Method:** rod & reel  
**Weight:** 80-100 kg (176-220 lb)  
**Length:** 160-166 cm (63-65 inches)  
**Water:** Rio Araguaia  
**Country:** Brazil  
**Angler:** Marcelo Siqueira

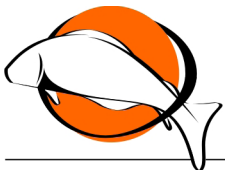
Marcelo Siqueira, a really experienced angler who caught a lot of large Redtail Catfishes estimated the weight by the measurements of the length and the incredible girth. Anyway we can't believe that the rod & reel record was nearly doubled and that this specimen exceeded the accepted maximum weight. Therefore further proofs and witnesses are necessary.



**Date:** 5 June 2008  
**English name:** Mangar  
**Scientific name:** *Luciobarbus esocinus*  
**Method:** rod & reel  
**Weight:** over 70 kg (over 154 lb)  
**Length:** 179 cm (70 inches)  
**Water:** lake near the Baghdad Airport  
**Country:** Iraq  
**Angler:** SFC Douglas Anderson

This is the largest specimen caught with rod & reel during the occupation period (2003-2011) in Iraq. It's definitely a new length record, but it was not weighed. The fish was exactly 70,5 inches long and had a girth of 39 inches. It was supposedly released alive and has been hooked a couple of times, but never landed again (looks dead at the photo...).

Although we are sure, that Mangars up to 100 kg (220 lb) were caught with rod & reel in Turkey, Iraq and Iran, we are still waiting for a well-documented record catch. The "official" rod & reel record dates back to the British colonial period at the beginning of the 20th century! During the occupation period a lot of interesting information and photos of less known species was distributed over the WWW, this ended with the departing of the troops in December 2011.



+++TELEGRAM +++ interesting records +++ TELEGRAM +++ interesting records +++ TELEGRAM +++

At least we want to inform you about two extraordinary catch which should not to be forgotten.



**Date:** March 2006  
**English name:** Brown Trout  
**Scientific name:** *Salmo trutta fario*  
**Method:** rod & reel  
**Weight:** 15-20 kg (33-44 lb)  
**Length:** 100-120 cm (39-47 inches)  
**Water:** Patagonia  
**Country:** Chile  
**Angler:** Luis Antúnez  
**Courtesy of:** Salmo Patagonia Lodge

Supposedly this beautiful Brown Trout was 120 cm(!) long with a girth of 98 cm (39 inches). The fish was not weighed, maybe it was heavier than the rod & reel world record from 2009. It's definitely the largest resident (non-migrating) Brown Trout ever caught in South America. The beauty was caught with a fly rod by Luis Antúnez, the owner of the Salmo Patagonia Lodge. The catch was witnessed by a full TV program staff which made a video for the channel "Seasons". Mr. Antúnez is above all suspicion, but this specimen would be far longer than every other documented Brown Trout.



**Date:** 7 July 1951  
**English name:** Atlantic Salmon  
**Scientific name:** *Salmo salar*  
**Method:** rod & reel  
**Weight:** 32,50 kg (71 lb 10 oz)  
**Length:** 142 cm (56 inches)  
**Water:** Tana River  
**Country:** Norway  
**Angler:** Nils Valle  
**Courtesy of:** Chris Appleby

We were informed by Chris Appleby from the magazine "Alt om Fiske" that the famous 35,89 kg (79 lb 2 oz) catch from Henrik Henriksen, caught at the same place in 1928 was deleted from the official Norwegian record list. The fish was weighed without head and gutted and the total weight was only estimated later! In addition an extremely long gaff was used to stab the (died) fish from the bottom of the pool and lift it into the boat. It is remarkable, that this old record is still listed by the IGFA.

Although a lot of giant Salmon between 30 and 35 kg were caught with rod & reel in the first half of the 20th century, the fish left is the largest exactly weighed with photo document, as far as we know.

These were only some highlights from our research, so take a look at [www.fishing-worldrecords.com](http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com) and find a lot of interesting information about the maximum size of freshwater fishes!

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- state-of-the-art search engine online since 1.1.2012 – please try it, you will enjoy it!
- 81% of the species profiles with photo document after worldwide extensive research
- attractive advertising opportunities in the second quarter 2012
- the last newsletter in pdf-format, you will receive the next one in html-format



Your donation helps us to run this time and cost intensive website - and provide you with the high quality content you'd expect from us!

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