



NEWS

WORLD RECORDS

FRESHWATER FISHING

Link of the year

Shanghai fishing network
<http://www.shfishing.com>

Translate with <http://balefish.altavista.com>

Issue YEAR 2005

The independent news from WWW.FISHING-WORLDRECORDS.COM | NEWS@FISHING-WORLDRECORDS.COM

WORLD RECORD OF THE YEAR 2005



Date: 1st May 2005
English name: Giant Catfish
Scientific name: Pangasianodon gigas
Method: Net
Weight: 293 kg (645,96 lbs)
Length: 270 cm (106 inches)
Water: Mekong River
Country: Thailand
Angler/Fisherman: Mr. Thirayuth Panthayom

It is the largest catfish since Thailand began keeping records in 1981, said Dr. Zeb Hogan, WWF scientist. WWF and National Geographic Society started a conservation project exploring rivers and lakes around the world seeking evidence of the largest freshwater fish on Earth. "My study of giant freshwater fish is showing a clear and global pattern - the largest fish species are disappearing," says Hogan. The Mekong River Basin is home to more species of giant fish than any other river on Earth. It is also the most productive river fishery in the world.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear member,

Welcome to the issue 2005 of your "WRFF News".

First of all, we have to apologize for the delay of our newsletter. Our aim was to inform you monthly about the latest news in the world of extraordinary freshwater catches and to keep you informed about our updates in the database and photo gallery at www.fishing-worldrecords.com. Due to our "regular" jobs we found no time to write newsletters beside the enormous work of updating the website.

For our community in Russia and Asia we have converted the whole database from pdf-files to html-files to allow automatic online translations.

Our main intention is to exchange information about the maximum size of freshwater fish and therefore uplift the knowledge about fish in general, not to promote the hunt for world records.

We are always grateful for your information and pictures of outstanding catches. Simply send us an e-Mail at editor@fishing-worldrecords.com.

If you are interested in sponsoring this project, please don't hesitate to contact us.

So enjoy this issue and expect the unexpected...
Your WRFF team

++ TELEGRAM +++ new records 2005 +++ TELEGRAM +++ new records

On 24th of October Mr. Franz Gruber caught an Adriatic Sturgeon, *Acipenser naccarii* with 162 cm (64 inches) length under assistance of Mr. Martin Wintermeier. This is equivalent to a weight of approximately 40 kg (88 lbs). Mr. Bernhard Heiner from a catfishing camp at the Po River in Italy confirmed this new world record. In contrast to the highly endangered Common Sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*) in Europe, there is still a good chance to catch this species in this Italian river. The stock is supported by artificial breeding.

Again a new world record for Blue Catfish, *Ictalurus furcatus*. The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) has approved a 56,25 kg (124 lbs) blue catfish caught on May 21st by Tim Pruitt of Illinois, USA. Pruitt took 40 minutes to land the catfish at the shore of the Mississippi River. The record catch measured 147 cm (58 inches) in length.



A second world record from Thailand, recognized by the IGFA too, was a Giant Pangasius, *Pangasius sanitwongsei* of 25,50 kg (56,22 lbs).

But this mark is still far away from the fishermen record of 200 kg (441 lbs).

FACTS & FIGURES

www.fishing-worldrecords.com

Average unique visitors per month: **272.328**

Latest Newsletter subscriptions: **892**

Species +5 kg (11 lbs) in the database: **466**

Sportfishing records: **59%** of the species

Record age known: **40%** of the species

Record photos in the gallery: **118**

New entries in the database 2006:

Record weights **69**

record lengths **63**

record ages **18**



++ TELEGRAM ++ TELEGRAM ++
+ new records 2005 ++ new records

Mr. Kouichi Honnami caught and released a new sportfishing world record for Japanese Huchen, *Hucho perryi* in East Hokkaido, Japan in July. The fish had a length of 111 cm (44 inches), this is equivalent to a weight of approx. 15 kg (33 lbs). Although the number of Japanese Huchen declines, there are no fishing regulations for protection. Therefore local anglers make their fishing spots a secret.



+++ new records in the database +++

New sportfishing world record for Paddlefish, *Polyodon spathula* at 65,31 kg (144 lbs). The fish was caught while carp fishing with doughbait! Paddlefish are filter-feeders that consume plankton, so it is unusual for them to be hooked in the mouth. In most cases they are legally snagged in specified waters.



The Giant Trahira, *Hoplias macrophthalmus* reaches over 22,68 kg (50 lbs) in the Amazon River system.

Sportfishing record for *Coregonus maraena* with a specimen of 7,08 kg, caught in Lake Syvälampi, Finland in 2000.

Highlight from Africa: new sportfishing record for Semutundu, *Bagrus docmak* at 46,00 kg (101,41 lbs) from the Murchison Falls, Uganda.

The new angling record for Green Sturgeon, *Acipenser medirostris* had a length of 244 cm (96 inches), caught and released in the Columbia River in 2000.

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

MOST CURIOUS PLACE OF THE YEAR 2005



Date: 8th September 2005
English name: Mangar
Scientific name: *Barbus esocinus*
Method: Sportfishing
Weight: 32 - 34 kg (70 - 75 lbs)
Length: 132 cm (52 inches)
Water: palace lake of Saddam Hussein
Country: Iraq
Angler/Fisherman: Mr. Kevin Choules

Kevin Choules of the RAF caught this barb floating a piece of bread on one of the many man made lakes near Saddam's Victory Palace. After a battle of 45 minutes he released the "Tigris Salmon" alive.

The palace ponds of Saddam Hussein are fed from the Tigris River through a canal system. They were stocked for the dictators own fishing excursions. The Mangar is still an important food species sold fresh in all markets in Iraq, but threatened in natural waters by dambuilding, water extraction, pollution and fishing with explosives.

The sportfishing record stands at 63,50 kg (140 lbs) caught in the Tigris River in 1915, the fishermen record at 136 kg (300 lbs) and 230 cm (91 inches). But there are also reports of specimen up to 200 kg (440 lbs)...

Destination of the year
CHINA

When To Go:
Spring (March-April) and autumn (September-October) are the best times to visit China. Daytime temperatures range from 20°C to 30°C (68°F-86°F) in these seasons - but bear in mind that nights can still be bitterly cold and it can sometimes be wet and miserable.

Notice:
120 million angler and traditional strong commercial fishing. You have to focus on large rivers and lakes, but be careful of floods. Organized angling tours and fishing camps don't exist, so check it on your own.

Sportfishing world records from China:

SPECIES	KG	PROVINCE	YEAR
Black Carp	72,50	Anhui	2004
Yellowcheek	42,50	Jiangxi	2001
Channel Catfish	27,00	Hubei	2001
Whitespott. Clarias	21,60	Guangdong	2003
Predatory Carp	14,00	Liaoning	2000
Great Snakehead	12,15	Liaoning	2001
Mud Carp	11,25	Guangdong	2004
Chinese Perch	10,20	Anhui	1999
Wuchang Bream	5,90	Zhejiang	1997

+++ new records in the database +++



Highlight from the perch-like fishes: This is the sportfishing record for Papuan Black Snapper, *Lutjanus goldiei* with a weight of 22,00 kg (48,50 lbs). The specimen was caught in the Fly River, Papua New Guinea in 2003.

FLOP OF THE YEAR

Australia's own Loch Ness monster

Witnesses saw a 300 to 400 cm (118-157 inches) long Speckled Longfin Eel (*Anguilla reinhardtii*) in a Trout Pond near Melbourne in February. It would weigh about 100 kg (220 lbs). The Melbourne



Aquarium has given the farm manager a holding tank to contain the creature. Melbourne Aquarium curator Nick Kirby said the eel may have been living for

up to 35 years in a pond upstream from the trout farm and been washed out during record storms and flooding last year. Although the farm's manager suspended a \$1000 reward to whoever catches the eel alive, all attempts failed. Last reports said the monster went upstream into the Yarra river.

The authentic fishermen record for this species is 45 kg (99 lbs) and 200 cm (79 inches) the largest freshwater eel on earth.