



NEWS

WORLD RECORDS

FRESHWATER FISHING

EDITION YEAR 2006

The independent news from www.fishing-worldrecords.com

SENSATION OF THE YEAR



Date: 2001
English name: Mangar
Scientific name: *Barbus esocinus*
Method: net
Weight: 111 kg (244,71 lbs)
Length: 240 cm (94 inches)
Water: Euphrates River
Country: Turkey
Fisherman: Mr. unknown

This is the largest carp-like fish ever, from which a photo was published or maybe exists. Larger than the unofficial sportfishing record for Giant Siamese Carp of approx. 110 kg (242,5 lbs) and the new commercial fishing record for Black Carp of 106 kg (233,69 lbs) – see page 3.

It is also a new record length for this species, which lives only in the Tigris-Euphrates-River system in Turkey, Syria and Iraq. The maximum weight is 136 kg (300 lbs) and there are also reports of fishes up to 200 kg (440 lbs) from the good old times, which seems possible under the aspect of this actual catch.

The fish was caught with a net in a side part of the Euphrates River near Birecik in South-East Turkey, before gravel winning started. Of course *Barbus esocinus* is threatened by the dam building (e.g. Atatürk Dam) on the upper Euphrates River.

Although this catch happened some years ago, it was definitely the most sensational information we got in the year 2006!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear member,

Welcome to the issue 2006 of your "WRFF News".

In 2006 we got more information and photos of record catches than in the years before. Thank's to our worldwide network, to all the scientists and angler who are interested in creating a correct and complete database about the maximum size (weight, length, age) of freshwater fish. In the meantime www.fishbase.org took over nearly 300 sportfishing records from our database.

On page 2 you find some highlights of 2006 catches. But in particular the photo gallery develops excellent (examples see page 3-4). The target is to show the largest catch of every species with a photographic proof.

Good news: the necessary corrections in the database on the website decrease from year to year. Bad news: There's still no documented rod & reel record for 40% of the freshwater species over 5 kg (11 lbs) – see page 5.

And at last we want to mention also some highlights of possible record catches, which we couldn't enter in the database or photo gallery (see page 5-6).

Our main intention is to exchange information 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 photos 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...

Heinz Machacek, editor

FACTS & FIGURES

www.fishing-worldrecords.com

Average visitors per month: 304.712
Latest Newsletter subscriptions: 1.129

Species +5 kg (11 lbs) in the database: 467
plus european species between 1-5 kg: 31
Sportfishing records: 56% of the species
Record age known: 38% of the species

Photos in the gallery (species +10 kg): 107

corrections in the database 2006:
record weights 41
record lengths 34
record ages 7



+++ TELEGRAM +++ new records 2006 +++ TELEGRAM +++ new records 2006 +++ TELEGRAM +++ new records 2006 +++

Two of the most exiting entries in the database caused a controversy, especially in Great Britain. Due to catch & release some record specimen are caught more than one time and every year they grow larger and larger and beat their "own" records.



Date: 30th November 2006
English name: Common Carp
Scientific name: *Cyprinus carpio*
Method: sportfishing
Weight: 39,52 kg (87,13 lbs)
Length: unknown
Water: Rainbow Lake
Country: France
Angler: Mr. Gary Hague

Above you see the photo which was taken from the carp one year before, as he weighed 37,87 kg (83,49 lbs). Since the nineties of the last century over 150 carps between 30 and 40 kg were caught in Europe!



Date: 17th November 2006
English name: Barbel
Scientific name: *Barbus barbus*
Method: sportfishing
Weight: 9,61 kg (21,19 lbs)
Length: unknown
Water: River Ouse
Country: Great Britain
Angler: Mr. Grahame King

This specimen called "The Traveller" is caught every year, at last 3 times (!) within one year by the same angler – every time it beat the british record.



Date: November 2006
English name: Redtail Catfish
Scientific name: *Phractocephalus hemiliopterus*
Method: sportfishing
Weight: 49,40 kg (108,91 lbs)
Length: approx. 140 cm (55 inches)
Water: Amazon River
Country: Brazil
Angler: Mr. Rolens Sonada

At the moment the rod & reel record climbs pound by pound because it is the most popular catfish species of South America beside the Sorubims and therefore in the focus of angler. The commercial fishing record stands at 80 kg (176 lbs) from Rio Madeira in Brazil.



Date: 11th January 2006
English name: Dorado
Scientific name: *Salminus brasiliensis*
Method: sportfishing
Weight: 24,11 kg (53,15 lbs)
Length: approx. 100 cm (39 inches)
Water: Rio Uruguay
Country: Argentina
Angler: Mr. Andre de Botton

The fish was caught while helping in a scientific study of the Rio Uruguay. All fishes were examined, measured, weighed and tagged before released. The commercial fishing record is still far away with a specimen of 34 kg (75 lbs) from the Rio Parana in Argentina.

Here are some highlights of new entries in the photo gallery. Of course new entry doesn't mean automatically caught in 2006, because most of the information we get are catches of the last years. No matter, it's only important that the data are correct and the photo quality is sufficient. Our aim is showing the whole sportfishing and scientific world the largest catch of every species from which a photo was published.



Date: 19th September 2004
 English name: Black Carp
 Scientific name: *Mylopharyngodon piceus*
 Method: net
 Weight: 106 kg (233,69 lbs)
 Length: 174 cm (69 inches)
 Water: Gold Cow Reservoir near Nanjing
 Country: China
 Fisherman: Mr. unknown

This specimen was caught by the reservoir fishing staff. It is the largest black carp in this region for at least 60 years, the estimated age was 20 years. This species is specialized on water snails. As the fishing pressure is high in China, the chances for Angler are much better in Japan, where it was introduced.



Date: 2005
 English name: Firewood Catfish
 Scientific name: *Sorubimichthys planiceps*
 Method: sportfishing
 Weight: 12,60 kg (27,78 lbs)
 Length: 145 cm (57 inches)
 Water: Amazon River system
 Country: Ecuador
 Angler: Mr. Jens Bursell

The wellknown Globetrotter Jens Bursell caught this fish during an expedition in the amazonian part of Ecuador. The team caught a lot of extraordinary Arapaimas, stingrays and catfish species in world record size. Best time for fishing is the start of the rainy season.



Date: 11th July 2006
 English name: Lake Trout
 Scientific name: *Salvelinus namaycush*
 Method: sportfishing
 Weight: approx. 31,75 kg (70 lbs)
 Length: 127 cm (50 inches) x 85 cm (33,5 inches) girth
 Water: Tazin Lake
 Country: Canada
 Angler: Mr. John Geiger

This enormous lake trout was caught out of Tazin Lake, which is located in the northwest corner of Saskatchewan, Canada. There's only one lodge located at the lake and commercial fishing is prohibited since 1958. The lake is in the region of Lake Athabasca, from where the commercial fishing record comes with a specimen of 46,37 kg (102,23 lbs) caught in 1961.



Date: fall 2005
 English name: White Sturgeon
 Scientific name: *Acipenser transmontanus*
 Method: sportfishing
 Weight: over 454 kg (1000 lbs)
 Length: 338 cm (133 inches)
 Water: Frazer River
 Country: Canada
 Angler: Mr. unknown

The anglers were guests of Len's Sport Fishing Adventures. Four men battled the fish for about six hours on the Frazer near Chilliwack. The population of the White Sturgeon develops better from year to year due to catch and release – a contrary situation in comparison to the sturgeon populations in the rest of the world. Today sturgeons from 210-300 cm are normal and specimens up to 430 cm are caught every year.



Date: 1958?
 English name: Brown Trout
 Scientific name: *Salmo trutta fario*
 Method: net
 Weight: 25,50 kg (56,22 lbs)
 Length: 124 cm (49 inches)
 Water: Lokve Reservoir
 Country: Croatia
 Fisherman: Mr. unknown

After all we got a photo of the wellknown commercial fishing record for Brown Trout. The fish was caught during the first periodic dam control, when the lake was emptied. The specimen profited by the new and fertile lake environment, the lake was never stocked with lake trouts. The estimated age was 15-16 years. Curious – according to angling and scientific literature brown trouts don't exist in the Croatian mountains, only *Salmo trutta macrostigma*.



Date: unknown
 English name: Golden Mahseer
 Scientific name: *Tor putitora*
 Method: not sportfishing
 Weight: approx. 40 kg (88 lbs)
 Length: approx. 150 cm (59 inches)
 Water: Ravi River
 Country: India
 Fisherman: Mr. unknown

In former times this species was native to most rivers of the southern Himalayan mountains with reports of fishes up to 275 cm (108 inches) length. Today the largest specimens are seen on fish markets with weights up to 50 kg. The population is depleted through pollution, irrigation, dams and commercial over-fishing. A few monsters may still exist in the main streams of the eastern Himalayas e.g. Brahmaputra, Salween, Mekong or Yangtze River. Because the upper sections of these rivers are very remote areas.



Date: 22nd March 1999
 English name: Smallmouth Buffalo
 Scientific name: *Ictiobus bubalus*
 Method: bowfishing
 Weight: 41,73 kg (92,00 lbs)
 Length: 122 cm (48 inches)
 Water: Sabine River
 Country: USA
 Fisherman: Mr. Kent McDowell

At the moment the largest buffalo (bigmouth, black and smallmouth) catch with a published photo document. Caught with bow and arrow. In the USA bowfishing is very popular, target are "coarse" species. In Europe this kind of "Sport" is prohibited.

+++ TELEGRAM +++ new records in the database +++ TELEGRAM +++ new records in the database +++ TELEGRAM +++

In 2006 we had to update only few record data, because most of the commercial fishing records are correct and the percentage of fish species with a documented rod & reel record doesn't increase. The focus of anglers and angling tour operators remains the same in the last years. Following are new entries in the database on www.fishing-worldrecords.com, marked in red:

- You find **new record weights** for Siberian Sturgeon, Russian Sturgeon, Paddlefish, Japanese Eel, Whitespotted Char, Black Carp, Mussullah Mahseer, Common Carp, Barbel, River Redhorse, Greater Redhorse, Crucian Carp, *Chondrostoma soetta*, Dace, Dorado, *Brycon falcatus*, *Leporinus obtusidens*, Firewood Catfish, Gilded Catfish, Redtail Catfish, Salmon Catfish, Salween Shovelnose Catfish, Lesser Salmon Catfish, Ussuri Catfish, Amur Catfish, Forktail Catfish, Orinoco Peacock, Jaguar Guapote, Snakehead, Bowfin, Thousand Dollar Knifefish, Arawana.
- You find **new record lengths** for the above mentioned species plus Shovelnose Sturgeon, Speckled Longfin Eel, Brown Trout, Mangar, Silver Carp, Deccan Mahseer, Predatory Carp, River Carpsucker, Aba.
- You find **new record ages** for Beluga Sturgeon, Japanese Huchen, Marmorata, Black Carp, Italian Barbel, *Chondrostoma soetta*, Australian Lungfish.

Attention! Following are freshwater species with a maximum weight of 50 kg (110 lbs) and more and still no documented rod & reel record:

Sturgeons: *Huso dauricus* (1140 kg), *Acipenser sinensis* (over 550 kg), *Psephurus gladius* (500 kg), *Acipenser schrenckii* (200 kg), *Acipenser dabryanus* (+ 80 kg), *Acipenser persicus* (76 kg), *Acipenser mikadoi* (61 kg)

Salmon-like Fishes: *Salmo trutta caspius* (51 kg)

Carp-like Fishes: *Probarbus labeamajor* (70 kg), *Tor tor* (68 kg), *Luciocyprinus striolatus* (~50 kg)

Catfishes: *Pangasius pangasius* (208 kg), *Chrysichthys grandis* (190 kg), *Chrysichthys cranchii* (135 kg), *Sperata aor* (120 kg), *Sperata seenghala* (120 kg), *Bagarius suchus* (+100 kg), *Brachyplatystoma juruense* (+100 kg), *Silonia silondia* (+100 kg), *Bagrus bajad* (100 kg), *Bathyclarias gigas* (~90 kg), *Hemibagrus microphthalmus* (80 kg), *Dinotopterus cunningtoni* (~60 kg), *Hemibagrus maydelli* (58,5 kg), *Silurus triostegus* (+50 kg), *Silurus aristotelis* (+50 kg), *Wallago micropogon* (+50 kg), *Rita rita* (+50 kg), *Cetopsis coecutiens* (+50 kg), *Hexanematichthys parkeri* (50 kg), *Chrysichthys laticeps* (~50 kg)

Perch-like Fishes: *Macrospinosa cuja* (~50 kg)

Lungfishes: *Protopterus aethiopicus* (50 kg), *Neoceratodus forsteri* (50 kg)

Of course some of the species are now on the IUCN Red List.

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

In 2006 we got a lot of information and photos of possible records, which we have not listed in the database and photo gallery. Either the information was incomplete, doubtful or the photo quality was too bad to estimate the size of the catch.



Date: 11th April 2006
English name: Silver Carp
Scientific name: *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*
Method: sportfishing
Weight: 56 kg (123,5 lbs)
Length: 142 cm (56 inches)
Water: Bajer Reservoir
Country: Croatia
Angler: Mr. Milan Rakovčan

It looks like a Bighead Carp or a hybrid between Silver Carp and Bighead Carp. In addition there is the suspicion that it was foulhooked. If it was really a pure-blood Silver Carp, it would be the largest ever caught worldwide and a new maximum weight for this species!



Date: 20th March 2006
English name: Largemouth Bass
Scientific name: *Micropterus salmoides*
Method: sportfishing
Weight: 11,37 kg (25,07 lbs)
Length: unknown
Water: Dixon Lake
Country: USA
Angler: Mr. Mac Weakley

The fish was weighed on a hand-held digital scale, but no measurements were taken. The Angler said the fish was foulhooked. He released the fish alive. Experts mean the size seems possible. If the story is true, this would be the largest rod & reel caught largemouth bass ever.



Date: unknown
 English name: Taimen
 Scientific name: *Hucho taimen*
 Method: sportfishing
 Weight: 50 kg (110 lbs)
 Length: unknown
 Water: Siberia
 Country: Russia
 Angler: Mr. unknown



Date: 12th July 1997
 English name: Muskellunge
 Scientific name: *Esox masquinongy*
 Method: sportfishing
 Weight: unknown
 Length: 157 cm (62 inches)
 Water: Ottawa River
 Country: Canada
 Angler: Mr. W.H. Craig

The weight seems possible, the rest is unknown. Maybe the largest taimen of the last years.

This is the official catch & release world record according to the American National Freshwater Hall of Fame. This is a good example, that the general worldwide trend of catch & release is an increasing "problem" to find new record weights.



Date: 2000
 English name: Lake Trout (Namaycush)
 Scientific name: *Salvelinus namaycush*
 Method: sportfishing
 Weight: approx. 35,8 kg (78,9 lbs)
 Length: 135 cm (53 inches) x 88 cm (34,5 inches) girth
 Water: Great Bear Lake
 Country: Canada
 Angler: Mr. Aivars Slucis

The fish was released as the majority of the Lake Trout record catches in the last centuries. Possibly it beat the official world record from the same lake and is the largest catch, from which a photo was published. The unofficial rod & reel record is 39,5 kg (87 lbs) from Lake Bennett, USA.



Date: 2002
 English name: Giant Tigerfish
 Scientific name: *Hydrocynus goliath*
 Method: sportfishing
 Weight: 56 kg (123,5 lbs)
 Length: unknown
 Water: Zaire River
 Country: Congo
 Angler: Mr. unknown

Maybe the largest Giant Tigerfish from which a photo was published and the second largest ever caught with rod & reel. The unofficial record is 58 kg (128 lbs) from Lufubu River in Zambia.



Date: unknown
 English name: Goonch
 Scientific name: *Bagarius yarrelli*
 Method: not sportfishing
 Weight: 136-150 kg (300-330 lbs)
 Length: unknown
 Water: Ramganga River
 Country: India
 Fisherman: Mr. unknown

The fish was caught by employees of the Fisheries Department. In certain stretches of the Ramganga River, where fishing is not allowed, you have still the possibility to see specimens of that size. But the weight of this fish seems a little bit exaggerated.

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