

Processing International Game Fish Association World Records



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There is nothing more exciting than catching a trophy fish. But, catching a fish that may qualify for an IGFA World Record is the ultimate of all angling achievements. The IGFA maintains and publishes World Records for saltwater, freshwater, fly fishing, state freshwater records, and junior records.

IGFA International Committee of Representatives: The IGFA appoints Representatives to act as ambassadors of the IGFA. There are approximately 300 International Representatives from nearly 90 countries, with Virginia having four Representatives. I am the IGFA Representative for the Hampton Roads, Virginia area. The IGFA is dependant on International Representatives to act as a liaison between angling interests in our area and the IGFA Headquarters.

I am in contact with the IGFA on a weekly basis, as well as the media and other angling organizations. I provide IGFA-related information and support on both local and regional levels, encourage IGFA memberships, as well as assist with witnessing and processing local world record catches, and investigating questionable submissions. I work closely with the local Official IGFA weigh station, Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle, and other angling agencies. I have helped process many local world records, as well as seven line class records and an all-tackle record for myself.

Current World Records are available to members online, and in the Official Book of World Record Game Fishes. Click here for information on IGFA memberships: [Join IGFA \(www.igfa.org\)](http://www.igfa.org)

Processing a World Record Catch

Click here to print out an [IGFA World Record Application](#)

The IGFA puts forth very specific guidelines for catches to qualify for World Record status. The IGFA provides four types of saltwater world records; line

class, tippet class, Junior, and all-tackle categories. The line class and tippet class records require closer adherence to IGFA requirements, more documentation, and submission of more supporting materials than the all-tackle category. The line class and tippet class records also require the line to be submitted to the IGFA. If you have questions about this process, be sure to contact an IGFA representative, a certified IGFA Weigh Station, or the IGFA for assistance in order to avoid disqualifying a catch due to misinformation.

GENERAL GUIDELINES for WORLD RECORD APPLICATIONS:

FOR ALL CATCHES: If a fish is under consideration for World record status, care should be taken to carefully preserve the fish, either alive or on ice. Proper documentation of the catch is crucial, so take plenty of pictures or even a video if possible. Save and preserve the line, leader, and tackle used. Remember the more information provided, the easier it is for the IGFA to process the application.

Witnesses: At least one witness to a record catch is highly desirable.

Time limits: All-tackle records have no time limit. Catches made in U.S. waters have 60 days from the date of catch, 90 days for out of country.

Weighing: The fish must be weighed by an official weigh master, IGFA official or a recognized local person familiar with the scale. If an IGFA representative or an IGFA officer is available, he or she should witness the claim. The scale must be checked and certified by a government agency or other qualified and accredited organization within the last 12 months, or submitted to IGFA with the application for testing.

Tackle: At the time of weighing, the actual tackle used must be exhibited to the weigh master and weight witness.

Line: For line class records: The entire leader, double line, and 50 feet of line is required for submission and must be intact and connected. Fly fishing records must be accompanied by the lure, entire tippet, entire leader and one inch of the fly line, and these components must also be intact.

Photographs:

Required: 1) The certified scale 2) The rod and reel 3) The full length of the fish 4) The angler with the fish.

Suggested: 1) The angler and fish at the time of the catch. 2) The fish displayed on the certified scale with the weight visible 3) The fish on a flat surface with a ruler beside the fish 4) A video of the catch.

Disqualifications include but are not limited to: Wire line, umbrella rigs, leaving the rod in the rod holder, resting the rod against the gunwale, entangling the line with another line, anyone touching the rod, reel, or line once the fish has taken the bait.

This is a general overview. Many details are involved for a properly completed IGFA application. For comprehensive and complete details, you may go to [IGFA Rules](#) online, or email me at drjball@msn.com, or call Long Bay Pointe Bait & Tackle at 757-481-7517.

Note: This information was reviewed and approved by the IGFA February 2008.