

All Tackle length Records

IGFA & NZ Rules

All fish entered for length records must be measured by anglers at the site of capture and released so that it swims away on there own and in good condition. Fish should be revived by moving forward in the water to ensure a healthy release. Fish caught and entered for length records are not eligible for weighting and submission for other record categories.

Rules and equipment Regulations

All IGFA rules and equipment regulations stipulated for fishing with conventional and fly tackle in fresh and salt water shall apply with the exceptions below. All angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is measured and released alive.

A. Gaffs & Nets

1. The use of gaffs to land fish is prohibited
2. Nets used to boat or land fish must not exceed 8 feet (2.44 meters) in overall length. (Note when fishing from a bridge, pier or other high stationary structure, this length limitation does not apply.
3. The use of knot-less rubber coated nets or other similarly designed nets that minimise slime and scale removal is strongly recommended.

B. Measuring Device

1. For world records all fish must be measured using an official IGFA measuring device.
2. For NZ records it is acceptable to use a device authorised by the NZACA or NZSFC
3. The measuring device may be shortened by cutting it, but it may not be rejoined after such shortening.

Angling Regulations

The following acts will disqualify a catch

1. Failure to comply with IGFA (or NZACA Approved) equipment or angling rules.
2. If the fish dies during the documentation process or does not swim away on its own accord after release.

Length Record Requirements

All fish entered for length records are subject to the same requirements stipulated for other categories with the following additions and exceptions.

A. Measuring Requirements

1. Fish must be measured using an official measuring device on a flat surface.
2. The fish snout must be touching the nose stop free of lures or lifting devices.
3. With the fish lying on top of the measuring device, measurements will be taken from the most forward part of the fishes snout to the rear centre edge of the tail.
4. All measurements will be made in centimetres.
5. Fish that measure between centimetre increments shall be recorded at the lower of the two increments. For example, a fish that measures between 45 and 46 cm will have a recorded length of 45cm.

B. Minimum length Requirements for Vacant Records

For IGFA Length records fish entered for vacant record categories must measure within the top half of that species maximum recorded length as shown in the eligible species list.(Refer to NZACA or NZSFC Records Officers or IGFA Records Book for list

C. Minimum Length Requirements Needed to Defeat or Tie Existing Records

1. To defeat an existing record, the fish must measure two (2) cm longer than existing record.
2. A catch, which matches the length of an existing record or exceeds the length by less than 2cm will be considered a tie. In the case of a tie claim involving more than two catches. length must be compared with the original record (First fish to be caught). Nothing measuring less than the original record will be considered.

D. Photographic Requirements

Photos included with applications must contain the following information.

1. The full length of the measuring device clearly showing the position of the mouth and tail. The fish may be held in position, but must be done in such a manner that does not obscure the view of the fish on the tape.

2. A close up showing the position of the fishes nose and tail on the measuring device.
3. The angler with the fish.
4. The rod and reel used to make the catch.

E. Eligible Species

For world records refer to IGFA Species list (Refer to NZACA or NZSFC Records Officers or IGFA Records Book for list)

For NZ only length records any species which is currently on the NZ records schedule is eligible.

General Best Handling Practices

To remove your fish from the water to document for record purposes anglers should use either hands or a knotted rubberised landing net to minimize slime and scale loss. Lip grabbing devices may be used to help subdue fish. However, large fish should not be lifted out of the water as this can cause damage jaw muscle and bone as well as to internal organs. The best method of removing fish from the water by hand is to grip the fish by the lower jaw and support the fishes underside. Again, the point is to hold the fish horizontally and not vertically.

Documentation

Length records require pictures and measurements. All of this takes time, so you should have the necessary equipment ready before landing the fish. If the documentation process takes longer than several minutes, periodically place fish back in the water or place in live well to allow it to breath.

Releasing

Considerable time and care should be exercised when releasing fish. Fish should be placed in the water and held by the base of the tail. If the fish dose not swim away from your grasp on its own, gently move it forward in the water to get water flowing over the gills. For the best results , move fish in the forward direction only instead of back and forth. A fishes gills somewhat resemble the pages of a book and are designed for water to flow over in one direction. Moving in a circle or gently towing it behind a boat will accomplish this.