

SADSAA 5,10,15 and 20 to 1 Club Merit Awards.

The South African Deep Sea Angling Association has established a programme, similar to that of IGFA to give special recognition to catches where the weight of the fish far exceeds the breaking strength of the line. Approved applications will recognise the angler as a member of the SADSAA 5:1, 10:1, 15:1 or 20:1 Club.

Eligibility

All registered affiliated members fulfilling the "Club Merit Award Catch Requirements" are eligible. Catches made in the past will be considered if reputable data can be submitted to substantiate the breaking strength of the line.

All previous SA record holders are eligible. There is no limit to the number of entries which can be submitted by each angler.

Club Merit Award Catch Requirements

1. All catches must be made in accordance with IGFA International Angling and Equipment Regulations.
2. The minimum weight acceptance for any fish entered is 5kg.
3. The weight of the catch must exceed the breaking strength of the line by 5, 10, 15 or 20 times, depending on the Club Merit Award category for which the application is being made.
For example, in order to qualify for the 10:1 Club Merit Award, an angler using 8kg test line would have to catch a fish weighing at least 80kg, while an angler using 24kg test line would have to catch a fish weighing a minimum of 240kg.
4. All fish species caught from craft at sea within the territorial limits for all South African records are eligible, provided the fish can be positively identified from the data and photographs submitted. Entries will not be accepted for fish caught in hatchery waters or sanctuaries.
5. Weighing requirements must comply with those currently in effect for IGFA World Record Claims.

Submission of entries

Application Form

When submitting a Club Merit Award entry, anglers must supply the same information and material (line sample and photographs) as required for a South African record. The standard "Application for Registration of Record Fish-Craft at Sea" form, or a copy must be used. The angler must indicate on the form the Club Merit Award category for which the application is being made.

SADSAA 50, 100 and 500kg - Club Merit Awards.

The SADSAA Fifty, One Hundred, and Five Hundred Kilogram Club Merit Awards recognises anglers who have fought and subdued fish weighing 50, 100 and 500 kilograms or more. The Club Merit Awards are open to all registered affiliated members who have legitimately caught, with regulation tackle, any fish weighing more than 50, 100 and 500kg or more, the territorial limits for all South African records.

Entries will not be accepted for fish caught in hatchery waters or sanctuaries. The catch must not be at variance with any laws or regulations governing the species or the waters in which it was caught. Applications must be submitted on the standard "Application for Registration of Record Fish -Craft at Sea" form or a copy thereof. The angler must submit sufficient information to positively identify the catch and verify the weight.

7. If at the time of weighing the fish, the scale has not been properly certified within twelve months, it must be checked and certified as quickly as possible, and an official report stating the findings of the inspection prior to any adjustment of the scale must be included with the record application.
8. In extremely remote areas where no weighing scales are available, it will be permissible for the angler to use his own scales providing that they are of a quality type and have been properly assized and certified both before and after returning from the fishing trip.
A full report on the trip and both assized certificates must accompany the record claim application. If there are any variances between the two inspections then an official report stating the findings of the inspection prior to any adjustment of the scale must be included with the record application.
9. SADSAA reserves the right to require any scale to be recertified for accuracy if there are any indications that the scale might not have weighed correctly.

Application Form

The official SADSAA RECORD APPLICATION FORM or a full size reproduction must be used for all record claims. This form may be reproduced as long as all items are included.

The angler must fill in the application personally and immediately submit it, together with all requirements, to the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of his club, who will then verify the information before sending it forward to the PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION for final processing by the RECORDS OFFICER or SADSAA.

SADSAA also recommends that the angler duplicates the entire application with all requirements, for his own safe keeping, in case of mail losses.

When making any record claim, the angler must indicate the specified strength of the line used to catch the fish. In the SADSAA LINE CLASS category (see SA RECORD CATEGORIES). All lines will be examined by SADSAA to verify the specified strength of the line. If the line over tests its particular category, the application will not be considered for the lower line class.

The heaviest line class permitted for records is 60kg class. If the line over tests these maximum strengths, the claim will be disallowed.

Extreme care should be exercised in measuring the fish, as measurements are often important for weight verification and scientific studies.

See the measurement diagram on the record application to be sure you have measured correctly.

The angler is responsible for seeing that the necessary signatures and addresses of the boat

skipper, weighmaster and witnesses are on the application.

If a SADSAA officer or representative, or an officer of a member club is available, he or she should be asked to witness the claim. The name of a crew member, guide or weighmaster repeated as witness is not acceptable.

The angler must appear in person to have his application notarised.

Any deliberate falsification of an application will disqualify the applicant for any future SADSAA SOUTH AFRICAN RECORDS and any existing records will be nullified.

Line Samples

All applications line class records must be accompanied by the entire leader, the double line, and at least 15 metres of the single line closest to the double line, leader or hook.

All line samples and the leader (if one is used) must be submitted in one piece. If a lure is used with the leader, the leader should be cut at the eye attachment to the lure.

Each line sample must be in one piece. It must be submitted in a manner that it can be easily unwound without damage to the line. A recommended method is to take a rectangular piece of stiff cardboard and cut notches in two opposite ends.

Secure one end of the line to the cardboard and wind the line around the cardboard through the notched areas.

Secure the other end, and write your name and specified strength of the line on the cardboard. Any line sample submitted that is tangled or cannot be easily unwound will not be accepted.

Photographs

Photographs showing the full length of the fish, the rod and reel used to make the catch and the scale used to weigh the fish must accompany each record application.

A photograph of the angler with the fish is also required. So that there can be no question of species identification, the clearest possible photos should be submitted.

This is especially important in the cases of hybrids and fishes that may be confused with similar species. Shark applications should include a photograph of the shark's teeth, and of the head and back taken from above, in addition to the photographs taken from the side.

Whether the shark has or does not have a ridge between the dorsal fins should be clearly evident in this photograph.

In all cases, photographs should be taken of the fish in a hanging position, and also lying on a flat surface on its side. The fish should be broadside to the camera and no part of the fish should be obscured.

The fins must be fully extended and not obscured with hands, and the jaw or bill clearly shown.

Avoid obscuring the keels of sharks and tunas with a tail rope.

When photographing a fish lying on its side, the surface beneath the fish should be smooth and a ruler or marked tape placed beside the fish if possible.

Photographs from various anglers are most helpful.

An additional photograph of the fish on the scale with actual weight visible helps to expedite the application.

Photos taken by daylight with a reproducible-type negative film are highly recommended if at all possible.

Weights and Measures

Persons submitting the application form for a SOUTH AFRICAN RECORD claim must provide the weights and measurements of the fish only in units in which they were actually taken.

These should, whenever possible, always be carried out using the metric scales.

Conversion Formulae for Weights and Measures

The following formulae are provided for your information only.

<u>WEIGHTS</u>			
Ounces	x	28,349	= Grams
Ounces	x	0,02835	= Kilograms
Pounds	x	453,59	= Grams
Pounds	x	0,45359	= Kilograms
Grams	x	0,0353	= Ounces
Grams	x	0,002	= Pounds
Kilograms	x	35,2736	= Ounces
Kilograms	x	2,2046	= Pounds
<u>MEASURES</u>			
Inches	x	25,4	= Millimetres
Inches	x	2,54	= Centimetres
Feet	x	30,48	= Centimetres
Feet	x	0,3048	= Metres
Millimetres	x	0,03937	= Inches
Centimetres	x	0,3937	= Inches
Centimetres	x	0,0328	= Feet
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>			
1 Pound force	x	4,448	= Newtons
1 Kilogram force	x	9,806	= Newtons
1 Fathom	x	6,0	= Feet
1 Fathom	x	1,8288	= Metres

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It is important that the witness can attest to the angler's compliance with the IGFA ANGLING and EQUIPMENT regulations.

Minimum Weight Requirements for Vacant Records

1. The minimum acceptance weight for any record catch claim is 1 kg.
2. LINE CLASS record catch claims will only be considered for acceptance when the weight of the fish equals or exceeds the breaking strain of the line. Should the weight of the fish be less than the breaking strain of the line, the LINE CLASS record will not be allowed, but the claim will still be considered for the ALL TACKLE category if the weight exceeds the current ALL TACKLE RECORD.

Weights Needed to Defeat or Tie Existing Records

1. To replace a record for a fish weighing less than 10 kilograms, the replacement must weigh at least 50 grams (0.05kg) more than the existing record.

2. To replace a record for a fish weighing 10kg or more, the replacement must weigh at least one half of one percent more than the existing record.

EXAMPLE: At 50kg the additional weight required would be 250 grams (0,25kg), at 500kg the additional weight would be 2500 grams (2,5kg).

3. Any catch which matches the weight of an existing record or exceeds the weight by less than the amount required to defeat the record will be considered a TIE.

In the case of a TIE claim involving more than two catches, weight must be compared with the original record (the first fish to be caught).

4. Estimated weights will not be accepted. (See WEIGHING REQUIREMENTS.) Fractions of grams will not be considered.

Time Limit on Claims

With the exception of ALL TACKLE records only, claims for record fish must be received by SADSAA within 60 days of the date of the catch.

Claims for ALL TACKLE records only are considered for catches made in past years if:

1. Acceptable photographs are submitted.
2. The weight of the fish can be positively verified, and
3. The method of catch can be substantiated.

For catches made in the past, as much information as possible must be submitted on a SADSAA - SARECORD APPLICATION.

List of Line Class Species With Line Class Limitations

COMMON NAME MAXIMUM LINE CLASS

I. BILLFISH

Black Marlin	60kg
Blue Marlin	60kg
Striped Marlin	60kg
White Marlin	60kg
Sailfish	37kg
Shortbill Spearfish	37kg
Longbill Spearfish	37kg
Swordfish	60kg

II. TUNA

Albacore (Longfin)	37kg
Bigeye	60kg
Bluefin	60kg
Dogtooth	60kg
Eastern Little	15kg
Kawakawa	15kg
Skipjack	24kg
Southern Bluefin	60kg
Yellowfin	60kg

III. GENERAL GAMEFISH

Barracuda, Great	37kg
Bonito, Atlantic	15kg
Bonito, Striped	15kg
Cobia (Prodigal Son)	37kg
Dorado	37kg
Shad (Elf)	15kg
Kingfish, Giant	60kg
Kingfish, Bigeye	60kg
Kingfish, Bluefin	15kg
Garrick (Leervis)	24kg
Mackerel, King	37kg
Mackerel, Queen	15kg
Queenfish	24kg
Rainbow Runner	24kg
Snoek	24kg
Wahoo	60kg
Yellowtail	60kg

IV. GAME SHARK

Blue	60kg
Great White	60kg
Hammerhead	60kg
Mako	60kg
Thresher	60kg
Tiger	60kg

V. GENERAL

Blood Snapper	24kg
Dageraad	24kg
Geelbek	24kg
Green Jobfish	24kg
Kob	37kg
Musselcracker (Black)	37kg
Red Roman	6kg
Red Stumpnose	10kg
Rockcod, Moustache	24kg
Rockcod, Potato Bass	60kg
Rockcod, Yellowbelly	24kg
Santer	10kg
Scotsman	15kg
Seventy-four	15kg
Slinger	10kg
Steenbras, Bank	15kg
Steenbras, Red	37kg

Steenbras, Sand	10kg
Steenbras, White (Pignose)	37kg
Steenbras, White (Namibian)	24kg
Wreckfish	15kg

FORM with any additional substantiating data available. If an incomplete record claim is submitted, it must be accompanied by an explanation of why certain portions are incomplete.

An incomplete claim will be considered for a record if the following conditions are met:

1. The incomplete claim, with explanations of why portions are incomplete, must be received by SADSAA within the time limits specified above.
2. Missing data must be due to circumstances beyond the control of the angler making the record claim.
3. All missing data must be supplied within a period of time considered to be reasonable in view of the circumstances.

Final decisions on incomplete claims will be made by SADSAA'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Weighing Requirements for Record Fish

1. The fish must be weighed by an official weighmaster (if one is available) or by an official of a member club or by a recognised local person familiar with the scale. Disinterested witnesses to the weight should be used whenever possible.

2. The weight of the sling, platform, or rope (if one is used to secure the fish on the scales) must be determined and deducted from the total weight.

3. At the time of weighing, the actual tackle used by the angler to catch the fish must be exhibited to the weighmaster and weight witness.

4. No estimated weights will be accepted. Fish weighed only at sea will not be accepted.

5. Only weights indicated by the graduations on the scale will be accepted. Visional fractionalising of these graduations is not allowed. Any weights that fall between two graduations on the scale must be rounded to the lower of the two.

6. All record fish must be weighed on scales that have been assized and certified for accuracy by a recognised scale adjuster. All scales must be regularly checked for accuracy and certified in accordance with applicable Government regulations at least once every twelve months. A CERTIFIED copy of the valid current assized certificate is to accompany every record claim application.

Fish catches can only be considered for South African record status if they are caught according to IGFA rules. SADSAA do not submit anglers applications for IGFA records. These are done by the anglers themselves. Anglers applying for IGFA records do not have to be members of SADSAA and the fish do not necessarily have to be caught from boats at sea as with SADSAA records. Following is information on SA categories, requirements and procedures of filling claims, effective 1 January, 1988. The new fees are as follows. SA or SA Merit awards R20.00 per application, All Africa US\$10.00 and FIPS US\$15.00 of which the current rate at the time will apply for S.A. Anglers.

Banking Details:
D. Oostingh
First National Bank
Southernwood Branch
Branch Code: 210221
A/c No: 5213213992

All Provincial record officers to ensure that the amounts are paid by cheque or bank transfer, as cash deposits attract a minimum of R5.00 cash banking fees. Please fax confirmation of deposits to 043 735-4113 with the anglers name as a reference.

IGFA members pay US\$40 per application for IGFA record, while non-members pay US\$65.00.

SARECORD CATEGORIES

General Information

SADSAA maintains South African records for saltwater fishes in Line Classes and All tackle categories.

The LINE CLASSES categories are maintained for THREE separate GROUPS of anglers, i.e. MEN, WOMEN and JUNIORS.

The ALL TACKLE category encompasses all three groups. In order to qualify for a record, a catch must be a minimum of one kilogram in weight, and must outweigh the existing record by the required amount, or meet the minimum weight requirements, if any, for vacant records.

No applications will be accepted for fish caught in HATCHERY WATERS or SANCTUARIES. The catch must not be at variance with any laws or regulations governing the species or the waters in which it was caught.

When an additional species of fish is made eligible for SADSAA SA records, the effective date will be announced. Fishes caught on or after the effective date will not be considered. Announcement of an additional species in the SADSAA publications will be considered proper notification in lieu of any other notice.

All Tackle Category

All Tackle SA records are kept for the heaviest fish of a species caught by an angler in any line class up to 60kg. Fish caught on lines designed to test over the 60kg class will not be considered for record claims.

All Tackle record claims are considered for all species fish caught according to IGFA ANGLING RULES. Applications for species not currently included in the SADSAA line class listings must meet the following criteria:

1. The fish must represent a valid species with a recognized scientific name.

2. The fish must be a species commonly fished for with a rod and reel in the general area where the catch is made.
3. The fish must be identifiable, based on photos and other supporting data presented with the application.
4. The fish must be considered 'trophy-sized'. A rule of thumb is that weight must fall within the top half of the estimated weight of the species.

Line Class Categories

With the exception of All Tackle claims, line classes are limited for many species. Listed below are the FISH SPECIES and the MAXIMUM line classes acceptable for SA

LINE CLASS RECORDS.

Line Class records are maintained according to the wet testing strength of the line used by the angler.

Records are kept in the following line class categories, which are limited for certain species:

METRIC	IMPERIAL
1kg	2lb
2kg	4lb
4kg	8lb
6kg	12lb
8kg	16lb
10kg	20lb
15kg	30lb
24kg	50lb
37kg	80lb
60kg	130lb

Line Testing

SADSAA tests all the line samples submitted with SA Record claims in accordance with the METRIC LINE CLASS designations.

Line samples submitted with record claims are uniformly tested in accordance with Government specifications which have been modified and supplemented by SADSAA.

NOTE: SADSAA only tests lines submitted for SA Record claims. The Imperial equivalents in pounds for the metric line classes are as follows:

METRIC	IMPERIAL
1kg	2.20lb
2kg	4.40lb
4kg	8.81lb
6kg	13.22lb
8kg	17.63lb
10kg	22.04lb
15kg	33.06lb
24kg	52.91lb
37kg	81.57lb
60kg	132.27lb

REGULATIONS GOVERNING

RECORD CATCHES - For fish caught from craft at sea

GENERAL

1. Protested applications or disputed existing records will be referred to the SADSAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for review. Its decision will be final. SADSAA reserves the right to refuse to consider application or grant a claim for a record. All SADSAA decisions will be based upon the intent of the regulations.
2. When a substantial award is specifically offered for a WORLD record, ALL

AFRICA record, SA record or a PROVINCIAL record catch in any line class, only a claim for an ALL TACKLE record will be considered.

3. In some instances, a SADSAA officer or a deputy appointed from a local SADSAA member club may be action is not to be regarded as doubt of the formal affidavit, but rather as evidence of the extreme care with which SADSAA investigates and maintains its records.

4. To qualify for JUNIOR LINE CLASS RECORDS, the angler must be under the age of 18 years, i.e. must not yet have turned 18 years of age on the date on which the catch was made.

5. LINE CLASS RECORDS are restricted to the GROUP in which the angler qualifies, e.g. WOMEN cannot defeat the MEN'S record or vice-versa, and nor can the JUNIORS defeat the MEN'S and/or WOMEN'S records.

Territorial Limits

The territorial limits for all SADSAA SA RECORDS shall embrace the coastal waters and all off-shore islands of SOUTHERN AFRICA from KOSI bay in the EAST to the KUNENE RIVER in the WEST. Fish caught outside of these boundaries will not be considered for record purposes.

Species Identification

Photographs must be submitted, by which positive identification of the exact species can be made. (See the rules on photographs at the end of the section PREPARATION OF RECORD CLAIMS)

1. Applications without photographs will not be accepted.

2. If there is the slightest doubt that the fish cannot be identified from the photographs and other data submitted, the fish should be examined by an ichthyologist or qualified fishery biologist before a record is submitted to SADSAA. The scientist's signature and title (or qualifications) should appear on the SADSAA application form or on a separate document confirming the identification of the species.

3. If a scientist is not available, the fish should be retained in a preserved or frozen condition until a qualified authority can verify the species or until notified by SADSAA that the fish need no longer be retained.

4. If no decision can be made from the photographs and the angler can provide no further proof of the identification of the species, the record claim will not be considered.

Witness to catch

On all record claims, witnesses to the catch are highly desirable if at all possible. Unwitnessed catches may be disallowed if questions arise regarding their authenticity.