



# 2023 Fisheries Science Seminar Citizen Science

## Focus: species

All Irish marine recreational fishing species



## What is this project about?

The Irish Marine Recreational Angling Survey (IMREC) Diary gathers individual angling trip data helping researchers to estimate catch rates of all species encountered during marine recreational fishing, thus meeting some requirements of the EU data collection framework (DCF).

The aim of IMREC catch diary is to encourage potential citizen science anglers to share their catch data through an easy-to-use, online marine angling diary. Since the program commenced in August 2021, it has recruited nearly 100 citizen science anglers. Between them, they have submitted close to 1000 marine angling trips and have reported over 5,800 catches. Active angler recruitment and retention is ongoing. These data will be combined with regular fisheries dependent data, to estimate catch of multiple species around Ireland.



## ...and citizen science?

Although the program is ongoing, it would not be possible to collect the volume of data currently available through creel surveys without greatly increasing resources for on-site sampling. As resources are limited, fishery scientists cannot monitor for every species, all the time. By collaborating with citizen scientists, they can collect data across a far larger number of sites and times. Combining the fishery scientist's data with citizen science data will support a more complete understanding of Marine Recreational Fishing (MRF) in Ireland, with the potential for high levels of data collection across space and time compared to conventional fishing surveys.



## Want to know more?

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