



## IGFA World Records and Ambassadeurs

Many thanks to the text below from Espen Sjaastad of Norway

***Did you ever wonder about the number of world record fish caught with Ambassadeur reels? Species, locations, and weights? Maybe you didn't. But here, regardless, is your chance to find out.***

*The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is the legislator, judge, jury, and court reporter of global angling records. It makes the rules. It dribbles every record application through a filter of standards related to fishing method, tackle, scales, and documentation. It keeps records of the records, and those records include information about species, weight, angler, place of catch, date of catch, and tackle. For a reasonable fee, those records are made available to nosy collectors.*

*In extracting Ambassadeur records from their database, the IGFA carried out searches on reels where the designations ABU, Garcia, or Ambassadeur had been listed, producing three separate data sets.*

*Processing of the raw data initially involved identification of the reels used and identification of duplicates across the three data sets. The latter was made easy by the IGFA practice of assigning a separate identity number to each record. The figures should be up to date as of August 3, 2009.*

### ***Records, Reels and Countries***

*The first table tabulates types of IGFA records by type of ABU reel used. Junior and fly records are in this table merged into "other" records. Some reservations should be noted here. In terms of tackle, the IGFA largely relies on the*

*information supplied by the applicant, and this information is frequently sketchy (the exception is for line-class records, where line samples are required for measurement). At the extreme, an applicant would simply list the reel used as “Garcia.” Fortunately, most applicants provided more detail, but determination of the specific model used in many cases required some educated guesswork and some entries had to be classified as unspecified Ambassadeurs or unspecified ABU reels.*

*Furthermore, although the figures should be reliable as far as Ambassadeurs are concerned, figures for other ABU reels such as the Cardinals, Abumatics, 500 series reels, and fly reels are low estimates. Figures for these reel types are based only on what turned up in the ABU and Garcia searches; for example, the data would fail to capture an entry where the reel is listed only as Cardinal (with neither ABU nor Garcia tag). Finally, be aware that each unique record does not imply a unique catch: a single fish may, for example, generate all-tackle, line-class, and junior records.*

*Some results and highlights:*

- *The 843 IGFA records caught on Ambassadeur reels together add up to about 10.5 tonnes of fish, giving an average record fish of 12.5 kg (so we’re generally not talking billfish reels here)*
- *By far the largest number of records (406) are found in the retired line-class category*
- *Still, there are 70 current all-tackle records caught on Ambassadeur reels, and more will be said about these later on*
- *5000 and 6000 series reels account for more records than all other Ambassadeurs put together, but the 18 current all-tackle records caught by 7000 series reels also deserve mention*
- *The “other Ambassadeur” category includes records caught on reels that do not fit into any of the other listed categories*
- *Unspecified Ambassadeurs accounted for 108 records, including 9 current all-tackle records (not included in the table are 34 records caught on unspecified Garcia reels)*

*The second table tabulates the 843 Ambassadeur-caught records by catch country. Unsurprisingly, the US leads the way with 414 records, nearly half of the total. All-tackle records are, however, more evenly distributed than line-class and junior records. The US still leads the way, but Australia, Brazil, Japan, and Scandinavia have all produced a significant number of current or retired all-tackle records.*

*The table undoubtedly reflects the varying density of anglers with impeccable taste in reels, but also something about where big fish are likely to be caught, and perhaps the propensity to lodge record applications with the IGFA.*

## IGFA records by type of reel

Reel type	Current all tackle	Current line class	Current other	Retired all tackle	Retired line class	Retired other	Total
Ambassadeur 1000 series	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Ambassadeur 2000 series	1	1	1	1	2	0	6
Ambassadeur 3000 series	1	15	0	3	19	0	38
Ambassadeur 4000 series	0	10	3	3	10	1	27
Ambassadeur 5000 series	12	66	3	17	105	11	214
Ambassadeur 6000 series	22	51	5	22	123	22	245
Ambassadeur 7000 series	18	25	1	12	44	3	103
Ambassadeur 8000 series	1	1	0	1	11	0	14
Ambassadeur 9000 series	2	1	0	2	13	0	18
Ambassadeur 10000 series	2	2	0	6	4	0	14
Ambassadeur 12	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Ambassadeur 20	0	3	0	0	4	0	7
Ambassadeur 30	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Other Ambassadeur	0	15	2	8	16	0	41
Unspecified Ambassadeur	9	20	7	14	52	6	108
Subtotal	70	212	22	90	406	43	843
Cardinal or other spinning	15	41	1	15	135	5	212
Abumatic	1	2	0	0	1	0	4
ABU 500 series	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
ABU fly reel	0	0	7	0	0	20	27
Subtotal	15	45	8	15	137	25	246
Unspecified ABU reel	26	42	12	20	44	10	154
Total	112	299	42	125	587	78	1243

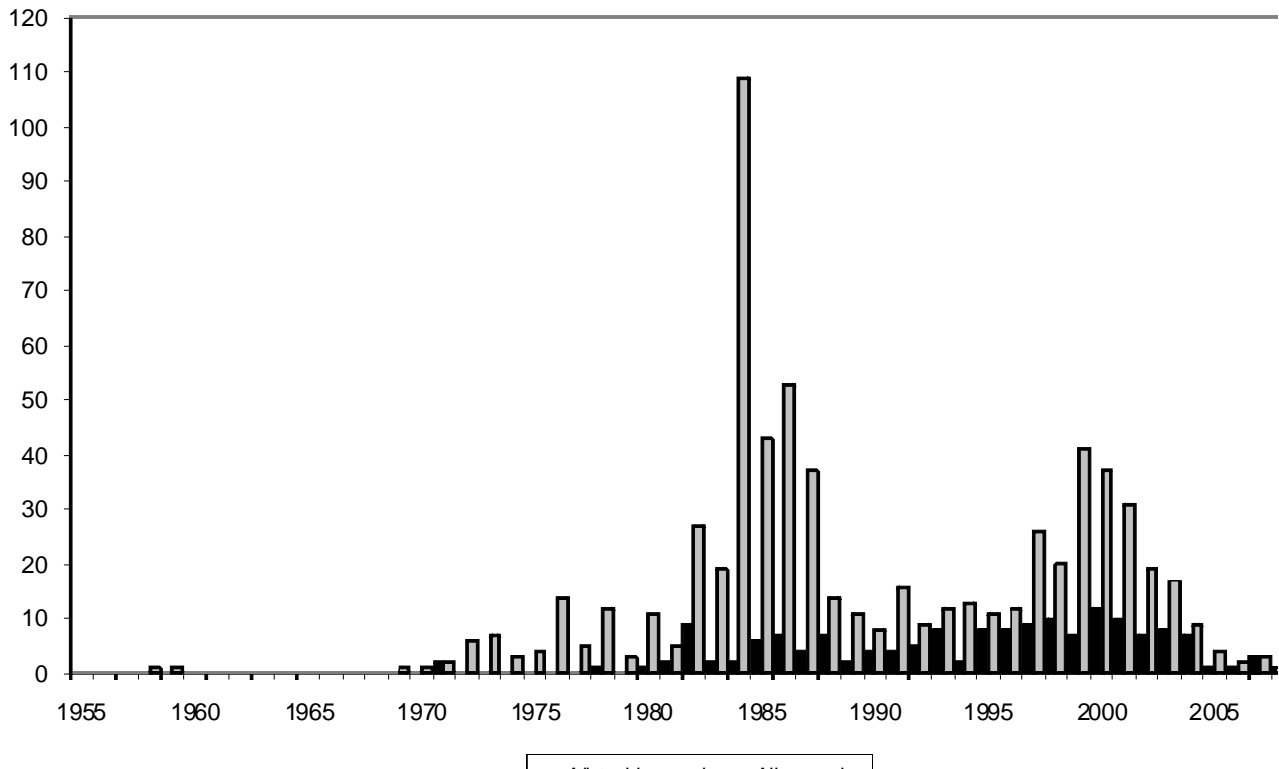
## Ambassadeur-caught IGFA records by catch country

Catch country	Current all tackle	Current line class	Current junior	Retired all tackle	Retired line class	Retired junior	Total
Australia	2	25	1	6	35	1	70
Brazil	6	2	0	12	15	0	35
Canada	1	10	2	0	17	2	32
Costa Rica	3	6	0	2	3	0	14
Japan	6	1	0	19	5	1	32
Mexico	3	2	0	2	7	0	14
New Zealand	2	13	0	1	15	0	31
Norway	6	5	0	3	2	0	16
Sweden	5	10	0	2	9	0	26
United Kingdom	2	8	0	1	36	0	47
United States	16	108	19	22	214	35	414
Venezuela	1	5	0	5	7	0	18
Rest of the World	17	17	0	15	41	4	94
Total	70	212	22	90	406	43	843

## ***Records Through Time***

*The below figure describes Ambassadeur-caught IGFA records through time, separated into an aggregate of all records and all-tackle records only:*

### ***Ambassadeur-caught IGFA records through time***



*The graph for the aggregate contains pronounced peaks and troughs. I wish I'd fished more in 1984, when 111 records were approved. As noted by Becky Wright of the IGFA, however, the high mid-eighties figures can probably be attributed to the opening of new line-class categories, as announced in the 1984 IGFA Yearbook. The enthusiasm of a few Ambassadeur-toting duos and trios also played its part. In 1984, the fabulous Baker family, represented by Linda and Winston, alone accounted for 23 line-class records, after an American Summer of frenzied fishing for shoal bass and spotted gar. The Harris family added a further 11 line-class records, mostly cod from Puget Sound, while the Whippy family managed nine line-class records, of which eight were for European bass taken in Sussex. The more moderate surge around the millennium, and the subsequent attrition, are a mystery.*

## ***Current All-Tackle Records***

*The final table lists current all-tackle records that were caught on Ambassadeurs according to the IGFA data. There are 70 of them:*

## Current Ambassadeur-caught all-tackle records

Species	Angler	Weight/kg	Catch date	Catch country
Angler	Thorsteinsen, G.	57.50	07.04.96	Norway
Asp	Skoglund, J. E.	5.66	09.25.93	Sweden
Bass, striped (landlocked)	Ferguson, H.	30.61	05.07.92	USA
Bowfin	Harmon, R.	9.75	01.29.80	USA
Bream, twoband	Borrell, E.	1.30	09.03.95	Gibraltar
Bullhead, brown	Lawrence, R.	2.86	09.08.02	USA
Catfish, Eurasian	Matsuura, S.	17.20	07.04.97	Japan
Catfish, flatwhiskered	de Sulocki, I. A.	7.68	08.07.01	Brazil
Catfish, gilded	Fernandes, G.	38.80	11.15.86	Brazil
Catfish, redbtail (pirarara)	Fernandes, G.	55.00	12.28.08	Brazil
Char, Arctic	Ward, J.	14.77	07.31.81	Canada
Corvina, orangemouth	Estrada, F. E.	24.60	07.29.92	Ecuador
Dab, long rough	Lundblom, D.	0.99	06.23.03	Norway
Dentex, pink	Dunham, P. A.	13.80	04.05.96	Gibraltar
Eel, European	Rasmussen, L.	3.59	08.08.88	Sweden
Flounder, slime (babagarei)	Ishikawa, T.	1.76	12.28.98	Japan
Grouper, moustache	Roucaayrol, C.	55.00	01.01.98	Seychelles
Guitarfish, giant	Lee, P.	54.00	10.09.95	Seychelles
Guitarfish, shovelnose	Young, R.	9.75	09.22.96	USA
Haddock	Neblinger, H.	6.80	08.15.97	Norway
Happy, pink	Glasspool, G.	2.45	08.14.98	Zambia
Jobfish, green	Manatsu, H.	20.20	07.16.03	Japan
Largemouth, humpback	Peters, R.	3.85	08.15.98	Zambia
Lates, forktail	Robinson, S.	8.30	12.01.87	Zambia
Leatherjack, longjaw	Whitehead, C.	1.58	02.06.90	Costa Rica
Mackerel, frigate	Beers, G.	1.72	04.17.98	Australia
Mackerel, narrowbarred	Wilkinson, M.	44.90	03.14.82	South Africa
Mahseer	Howitt, R.	43.09	06.26.84	India
Marimba	Reis, F.	1.50	08.31.02	Brazil
Monkfish, European	Dooley, J.	25.96	05.20.89	Ireland
Moray, highfin (Amime-utsubo)	Nishino, T.	1.76	05.02.04	Japan
Mullet, thicklip	Olsson, B.	3.48	03.16.91	Sweden
Peacock, butterfly	Campa, A. G.	5.71	01.06.00	Venezuela
Piranha, Manuelli's	Colston, J.	3.85	07.09.97	Brazil
Pollock	Lekang, T. M.	22.70	11.30.95	Norway
Pollock, European	Milkins, R.	12.41	01.16.86	United Kingdom
Pompano, Florida	Huston, B.	3.76	10.16.99	USA
Porgy, Canary	Triay, J	8.06	07.14.97	Portugal
Puffer, oceanic	Jagen, J	3.17	08.28.91	USA
Ray, bull (Australian)	Evangelou, S.	66.00	09.02.07	Australia
Rebeca	Magalhaes, K.	3.00	05.30.03	Brazil
Rockfish, grass	Pietsch, T.	2.89	03.30.07	USA
Salmon, pink	Minerich, A.	6.74	09.30.01	USA
Sauger	Fischer, M.	3.96	10.06.71	USA
Sculpin, shorthorn	Asbjornsson, S.	0.58	05.30.03	Iceland
Seabream, sharpsnout	Soiza, B.	1.68	11.23.96	Gibraltar
Seatrout, spotted	Carson, C.	7.92	05.11.95	USA
Sennet, southern	Kirkhart, C.	1.14	01.29.99	USA
Shark, bonnethead	Proctor, L.	11.79	07.14.06	USA
Shark, tope	Feldman, M.	33.00	12.19.86	New Zealand
Sheepshead	Desselle, W.	9.63	04.16.82	USA
Skate, starry	Hedlund, K.	4.25	10.10.82	Norway
Snapper, greenbar	Geiger, W.	9.58	06.15.94	Mexico
Snapper, Papuan black	Bradica, L.	19.20	09.22.92	Papua New Guinea
Snook, common	Ponzi, G.	24.32	10.18.78	Costa Rica
Snook, Pacific blackfin	Dodero, R.	3.20	01.29.02	Costa Rica
Spadefish, Atlantic	Brace, G.	6.35	05.23.86	USA
Stingray, diamond	Ehlers, R.	46.26	08.07.93	USA
Sturgeon, beluga	Lehne, M.	102.00	05.03.93	Kazakhstan
Taiwandojo	Kawada, Y.	3.02	08.16.03	Japan
Tench	Dellerfjord, D.	4.64	07.02.85	Sweden
Tigerfish	Daynes, J.	16.10	09.12.01	Zimbabwe
Tilapia, spotted	McLane, R.	1.81	06.06.05	USA
Tilefish, red	Hayashi, Y.	1.70	02.01.09	Japan
Tuna, slender	Wilson, G.	11.85	05.01.01	New Zealand
Weakfish, Stolzmann's	Escutia, S.	9.52	12.20.00	Mexico
Whitefish, ocean	Sullivan, N.	5.76	08.21.00	Mexico
Whiting, European	Kofoed, J.	3.11	06.10.97	Norway
Wolffish, northern	Hansen, J.	17.00	08.19.82	Greenland
Zander	Tennison, H.	11.42	06.12.86	Sweden

*As one would expect, the average all-tackle record fish is, at 15.4 kg, slightly higher than the average “all-types-of-records” record fish. All all-tackle records are impressive, of course, but, depending on what type of angler you are, some are more impressive than others. My personal green-envy award goes to Jennifer Daynes for her 16 kg tigerfish from Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe, taken on an unspecified Ambassador. The biggest fish is the 102 kg beluga sturgeon taken by Merete Lehne in Guryev, Kazakhstan on an Ambassador 7000. The ugliest is surely the 57 kg angler fish caught by Gunnar Thorsteinsen in Norway’s longest and deepest fjord. The most beatable record? That’s for you to find out. But remember to use an Ambassador.*

Note: the above tables, figures, and interpretations are the sole responsibility of the author. The IGFA does not endorse any particular tackle manufacturer.