



RIVER TWEED COMMISSION THE NORTH COURT DRYGRANGE STEADING MELROSE ROXBURGHSHIRE TD6 9DJ
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Established by Act of Parliament to protect the fish stocks in the Tweed river system

New Carcass Tagging and Logbook Scheme 2010

A guide for Salmon and Sea-trout fixed engine and net and coble fisheries

Important information – please read. This leaflet explains the carcass tagging scheme the River Tweed Commission (RTC) is introducing to reflect the measures introduced in 2009 by the Environment Agency in England and Wales.

What is happening?

New byelaws came into force on 30 January 2009 in England and Wales requiring all Salmon and Sea-trout caught by nets and traps to have a carcass tag affixed as soon as possible after capture.

As a cross border river, the River Tweed Commission feel it is appropriate and beneficial for Tweed to operate a similar scheme in order that the origin of Tweed Salmon and Sea-trout is as identifiable as fish caught south of the border.

Whilst this scheme will initially be voluntary, there have been clear indications that it may well become a legal requirement in due course.

This leaflet explains why we are introducing these measures and what you need to do.

Why is this necessary?

Along with a ban on the sale of rod-caught Salmon and Sea-trout, this scheme will help in the battle against illegal Salmon and Sea-trout fishing. As selling rod-caught fish is illegal, and all fish caught by nets will carry a carcass tag, it will be much more difficult to dispose of illegally caught fish.

It is also thought that there is a premium on Tweed wild Salmon at market and a clear indication of origin will assist merchants and netsmen alike.

How will it work?

Initial allocation of tags and logbooks

- Logbooks and carcass tags will be issued to both coastal and in river nets, as appropriate.
- Delivery will be by hand to the registered, authorised person for the fishery or the nominated operator, if this is notified to the RTC.
- Please note, you are *not limited* to this initial allocation. If you use these tags before the end of the month you can obtain additional tags. This also applies to lost, stolen or accidentally destroyed tags. However, please plan ahead to make sure you always have sufficient tags.
- Your logbook should have sufficient space to record your catch records. Should you need an additional logbook or to replace a lost or accidentally damaged logbook, you may request an additional one.

Tagging Salmon and Sea-trout

- The tags are designed to be attached to individual fish carcasses. Every fish landed must be tagged (one tag per fish). You should thread the tag through the mouth and gill cover, and secure it by inserting the strap through the securing slot (See Figure 1).



Figure 1. Carcass tags are attached to individual fish, through the mouth and gill cover, and fixed in place by way of a tamper-proof lock.

- The tag supplied may not be the same as illustrated above, but the application principle will be the same.
- Once locked, the tags are tamper-proof. Please do not try to release them. However convenient they may look, please do not use the tags to carry your catch.
- You may only use tags to attach to fish caught by you or your authorised agent. You cannot transfer tags between fisheries.
- You must attach tags to your catch as soon as possible after capture, and at the latest, before taking them away from the fishery.
- If you run out of tags, you may obtain an additional allocation on request and by showing proof that your original allocation has been used. Please plan ahead to make sure you have enough tags to cover your planned fishing effort.
- The tag must remain attached to the fish until it is processed. Processing includes: a) curing, marinating or cooking the fish; b) removing the head, gutting *and* freezing the fish; or, c) cutting it into portions.
- You must return any unused tags with your logbook to the River Tweed Commission within 14 days of the end of the fishing season.

Your logbook

- It is already a legal requirement to keep a logbook of all the fish you catch and, whilst the tagging scheme will initially be voluntary, *your logbook is already open to inspection* under the provisions of The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006. Please take care of it and keep it safe. You must return the logbook to the River Tweed Commission at the end of the season and may be asked to present it for inspection during the course of the season.
- For each day (or part thereof) fished, you must enter the following information in your logbook :
 - the date;
 - the individual weight of any Salmon and Sea-trout caught;
 - the serial numbers of tags attached to individual fish.
- You must use permanent ink (black or blue ball-point or equivalent).
- You must keep your logbook up-to-date, entering the details of the day's fishing as soon as is practically possible and, at the latest, by the end of the day.
- You must return the logbook, together with any unused tags, to the River Tweed Commission within 14 days of the end of the season.

Obtaining additional tags and logbooks

- You may request additional tags, should you run out before the end of the month. We will confirm your existing allocation has been used and provide you with additional tags. We will estimate the additional allocation from the number of tags used so far.

Please plan ahead to make sure you always have enough tags. Remember: every fish you catch and kill must be tagged.

- Should you need an additional logbook before the end of the season, please contact the RTC who will arrange for your current log book to be inspected and a replacement issued.

Replacing lost or damaged tags and logbooks

- Please report any lost or stolen logbooks or tags to the RTC immediately.
- Should you lose or accidentally damage any tags, this should be noted in your log book with the tag number(s) and a date.
- Should you lose or accidentally damage your logbook, please contact the RTC for a replacement. On receiving this, you must complete the replacement logbook to the best of your knowledge with details of your fishing activity and catch for that season. To this end, we advise that you keep a duplicate or photocopy record of your logbook.

Inspection

We will be inspecting fisheries and merchants regularly to ensure fish are being tagged and recorded correctly. Additionally, we will be liaising with the Environment Agency and markets to monitor the effectiveness of the scheme.

- You may be asked to present your logbook and any fish you have caught to an authorised Water Bailiff for inspection.

- Whilst we do not expect you to carry your logbook on your person while fishing (to avoid damage or loss), it may be advisable to keep it in your vehicle or fishing hut, in case you need to present it.

Returning your logbook and unused tags

- You must return your logbook and any unused tags within 14 days of the end of the fishing season. A stamped, addressed envelope will be provided for this purpose. Collection by a Water Bailiff may also be arranged if preferred.
- The serial numbers of any unused tags should be listed as a final entry for the season.

Further information

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the River Tweed Commission:

Telephone : **01896 848294**
Fax : **01896 848277**
Email : **enquiries@rtc.org.uk**