



2017

ANNUAL REPORT  
&  
ACCOUNTS

River Tweed Commission  
The North Court  
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*Established by Order  
under an Act of Parliament  
to protect the fish stocks in  
the Tweed River System*





# River Tweed Commission

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nick Yonge retired as Clerk to the Commission at the AGM in March and was succeeded by Fay Heatt. Nick has given many years of service to the Tweed having been both a Tweed Commissioner and a Trustee of The Tweed Foundation prior to taking up the post of Clerk, which he held for 14 years. We will miss his wide range of knowledge, enthusiasm and forthright approach to the task.

2017 Salmon catches are again at a relatively low level with very few Grilse and late-running fish and, for the first time, summer catches matched autumn figures. These changes in run timing and the consequent decline in rod catches have a significant economic impact and the RTC has come under pressure to justify its management policies. Sadly, there is no magic wand but we do now have a better understanding of what is going on:-

- 1) The decline in Grilse and late running fish is a nationwide trend;
- 2) Analyses of Tweed Salmon catches over the past 200 years, particularly netting records, clearly show long-term oscillations between periods of earlier running Salmon (less numerous) and later running Grilse (more numerous);
- 3) Periods of earlier running fish show higher average weights;
- 4) These long-term fluctuations are an indication of changing currents and feeding patterns at sea in the Atlantic Ocean;
- 5) Electro-fishing in 2017 continues to show relative abundance of fry and parr throughout the catchment despite the decline in later running fish.

A logical response, therefore, to a period dominated by earlier running fish with a lower survival rate at sea is to continue to ensure an abundance of fry and, particularly, to maximise the output of smolts. We continue, through the Water Bailiffs and working with SEPA and others, to protect adults, juveniles and habitat. Through The Tweed & Eye Fisheries Management Plan, The Tweed Foundation carries out a vigorous annual monitoring of juvenile abundance

designed to cover the whole catchment over a three-year cycle. They are also starting to direct significant resources towards understanding the cumulative effect on smolt survival caused by predation, water conditions and physical barriers. This will enable The Foundation to develop viable and effective actions to mitigate events leading to high in-river mortality and advise the Commission accordingly.

It is also important to reflect that the Tweed system remains remarkably productive for salmonids and, arguably, has never been in a better position to adapt to changing circumstances, not least because of the management policies adopted by the Commission in recent years. More of the catchment is open to migrating fish for spawning than at any time in the last 200 years. We have invested in excess of £1.5m over the last 30 years in buying out netting interests both within the District and as part of the initial buy-out of the North East Drift Net licences. Netting effort continues to decline and all our past efforts will in some way have contributed to the recent decision by the Environment Agency to extinguish the remaining North East Drift Nets in 2018, and limit on-shore activity in the same area. Over the same period, we have commissioned research from The Tweed Foundation to increase our understanding of the fish stocks under our protection. This has enabled us to adopt policies based on sound scientific evidence such as the Spring Conservation Measures.

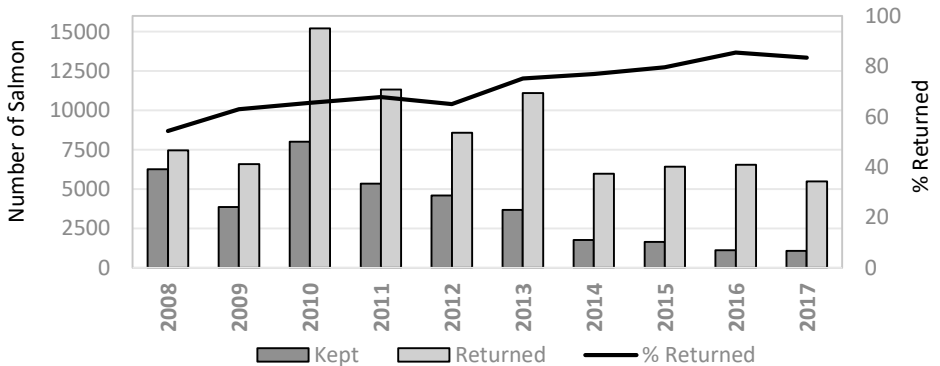
Given the above, it is not unreasonable to be optimistic. Even a modest increase in adults returning to the river could significantly improve rod catches for both Salmon and Sea-trout and see a welcome return of confidence in the river and the quality of the angling opportunities it can provide.

*D. J. Dobie*

## FISH CATCHES

### Salmon

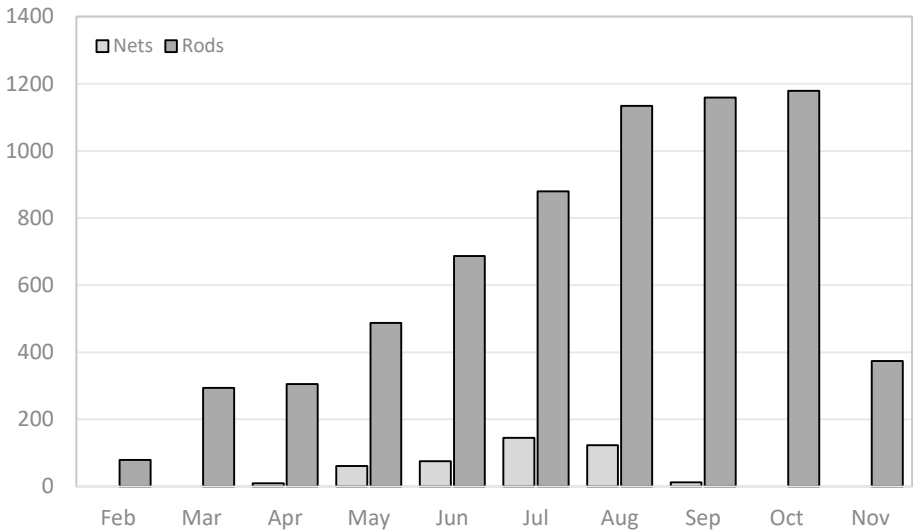
With an overall Salmon catch of 7,003 (8,221 in 2016), 2017's catch was down by 15% on the previous season. 6,577 Salmon (7,680 in 2016) were caught by rod and line and 426 (541) by net; 83%, 5,487 fish, of the total rod catch was returned (85% in 2016).



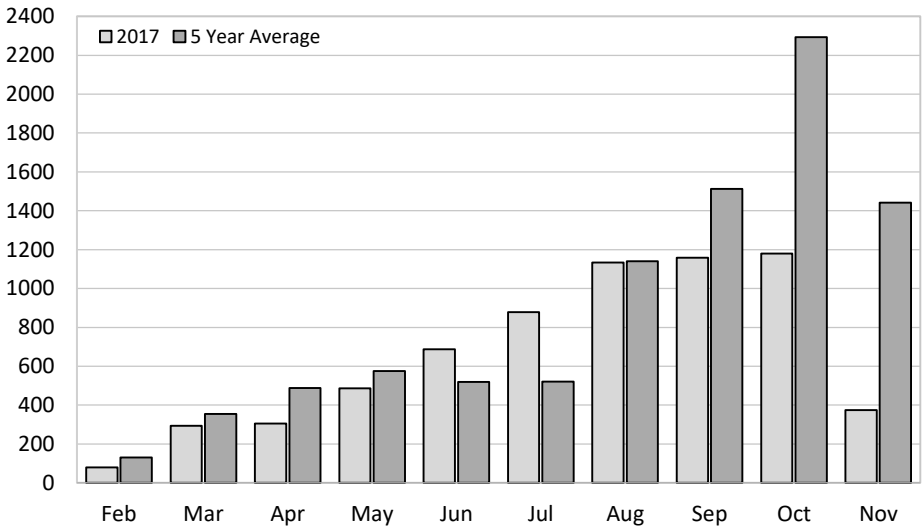
*Salmon Rod Catch 2008 – 2017, kept and returned*

Tweed continued to catch more Salmon than any other river in the UK although the downward catch trend continued, as it did elsewhere; this was not helped by the lack of angling effort on the river at times, which may have depressed the catch still further. The early months of Spring did not produce many fish but, for the first time on Tweed, the catches during the summer months of 1 June to 31 August (2,700) were practically equal to the autumn season of 1 September to 30 November (2,712). Fishing in September was better than last season with 1,159 caught (887, 2016), but the last two months of the season showed a 38% drop on 2016 (2,510 in 2016; 1,553 in 2017). The November catch in 2015 and 2016 was low but consistent (603, 2015; 609, 2016) but this season dropped to just 374. There was a large-scale collapse of Grilse across the whole of the UK.

There were many reports of earlier spawning, with fish in the Upper Tweed seen pairing up in October and, in some areas, September. In some instances that contributed to the lack of angling effort in the back end, with some fisheries closing earlier so as not to cast over spawning fish or redds.



*2017 Salmon Catch by Month for Rods and Nets*



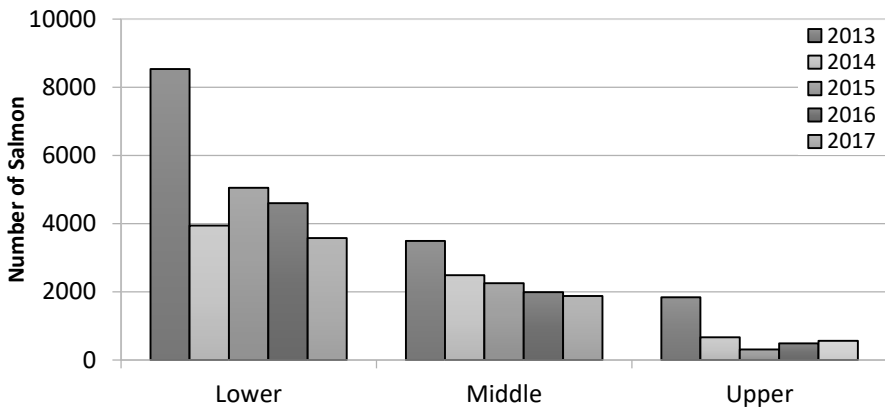
*2017 Rod-caught Salmon v Current Five-year Average*

Whilst angler reports of less fish in the river were widespread, that was not borne out by the results from The Tweed Foundation’s fish counter on the Gala Water - monitoring a summer stock - and which had recorded 1,100 fish moving upstream, indicating that egg deposition would be well in excess of

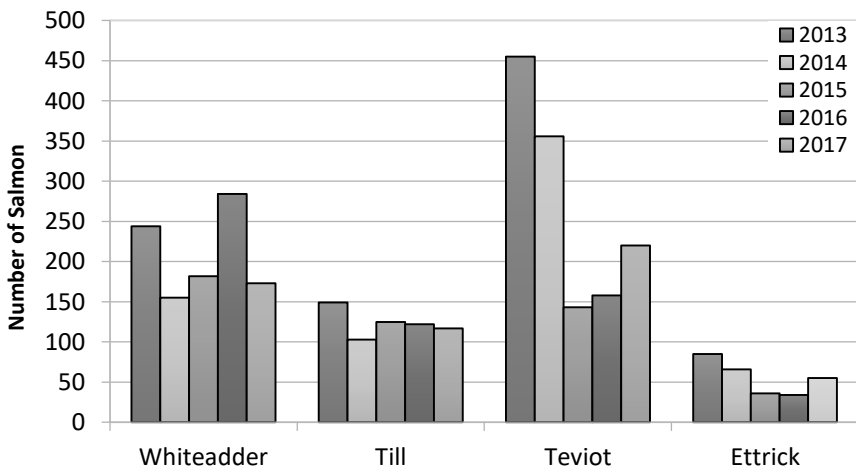


requirements. The Tweed Foundation’s annual monitoring of the juvenile stocks also confirmed that the headwaters and smaller burns were stocked to capacity in 2017, a recovery from the extremely depressed results the previous year.

Lower and Middle Tweed catches continued to fall, with a marginal increase continuing on the upper river as in the previous two seasons. The tributaries caught few fish, and remained in line with the five-year average figures.



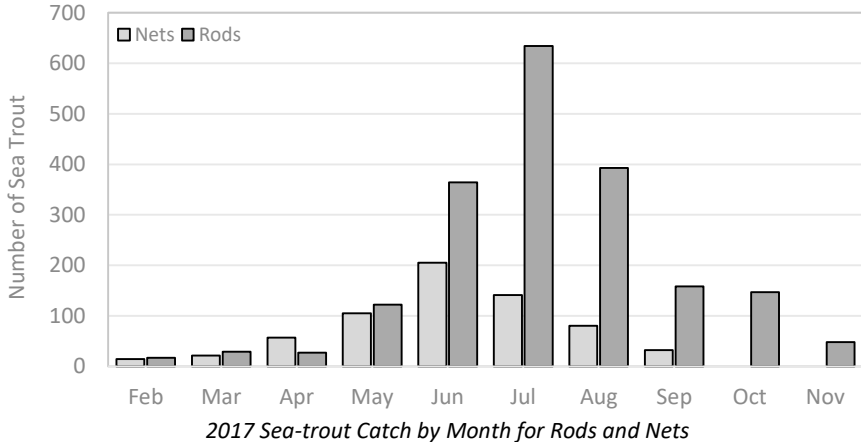
*Salmon catches on the main stem 2013 – 2017*



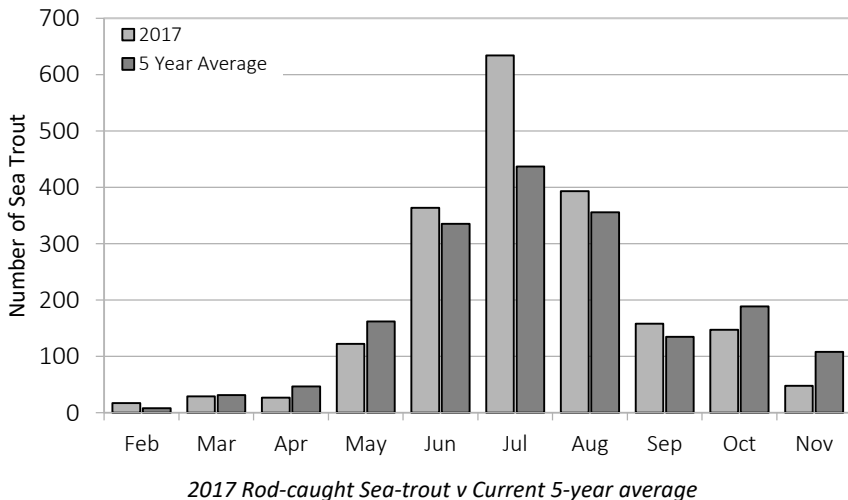
*Salmon catches on the tributaries 2013 - 2017*

## Sea-trout

The 2017 Sea-trout catch was 2,594 (1,671 in 2016), of this 1,939 (1,280 in 2016) were caught by rod and line and 655 (391) by net; 62% (57% in 2016) of rod caught Sea-trout were returned.



Following a poor year's catch the previous season, 55% more Sea-trout were reported in 2017, which also represented an 12% increase on the 2015 figure (2,323).



**More catch trend graphs can be found in Appendices I - V**

## **Other Freshwater Fish**

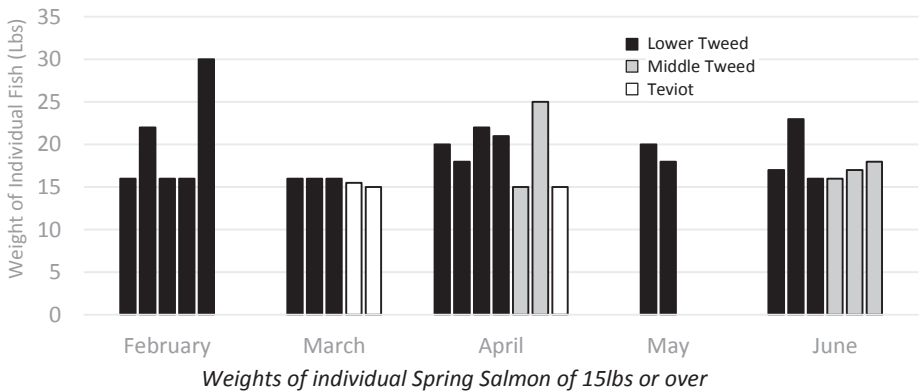
Brown trout catches were variable, with no overall trend in the 2017 season, although all catch rates were within the usual range recorded by the Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative over the last 12 years. The Upper Tweed catch returns showed average catches for 25cms+ Brown trout, lower for smaller sizes, but with catches of larger trout (40cms +) well above the average. The general view from the Lower and Middle Tweed was that it had been a poor season, although this was not entirely supported by the data gathered: analysis of the Middle Tweed returns for the season showed that catches of +25cms Brown trout were fractionally above average. The Lower Tweed catches were a little below average, but still notably higher than three recent years. Whilst many anglers commented on the poor fishing conditions in the first half of the season (when the best catches are usually expected), the returns suggested that on the few occasions when conditions were favourable, some good catches were made.

The only consistent catch data held for Grayling comes from the Middle Tweed which, in 2017, indicated that catches were well below average. As with the trout returns, the Grayling catches were still well within the natural variability seen from the records of previous seasons. Overall, Grayling catch records illustrated that numbers can vary hugely from year to year as a result of the natural variability in survival of year classes, and poor years can quickly be followed by “bumper” years.

## **SPRING SALMON CONSERVATION**

2017 produced a Spring rod catch of 1,852 which was 612 fish less than the previous season (2,464). The river was unseasonably low and dry until mid-June and whilst some fish - in good condition - were caught in the early months, numbers did not really pick up until later in June. Those fish were mainly caught in the lower river, making 2017 the highest June catch in the last five years (687), and larger than the 2012-2016 five-year average of 550. Whilst fish were fairly scarce until May, there were some large Springers reported in the early part of the season, with 25 fish of 15lbs or over being caught, the biggest of which topped 30lbs.

April experienced its lowest catch in the last five years (305; five-year average 546), providing further evidence of the weakness of the Spring stock and the need to continue to conserve those fish from all forms of predation.



### CONSERVATION PAYMENTS

2017 was the final year of the Conservation Payment Scheme with 64 (70 in 2016) eligible fisheries from the Tributaries and Upper Tweed signing contractual agreements with the RTC to be part of the Scheme. Under the Scheme the fisheries receive payments to agree by contract to additional measures on their fisheries that would otherwise not be mandatory; these include, as well as compliance with Spring Salmon Conservation Measures, restrictions on fishing methods and provision of information.

### CONSERVATION LIMITS

Under the Scottish Government’s Tweed Regulation (Salmon Conservation) Order 2016, the entire Tweed catchment had been designated as Category 1: fishing permitted throughout the season, despite RTC protest. Whilst the Scottish Government understood that there were different stocks of Salmon in larger rivers, it was unable to account for that fact within its current categorisation system, and the Tweed therefore remained designated as Category 1 for the 2017 season. The RTC made representations to the Scottish Government asking for Tweed to be designated as a Category 3 river for the Spring season, which would protect the fragile Spring stock by requiring compulsory Catch & Release of all fish throughout the Spring. That request was

not granted, and the Scottish Government’s mandatory Catch & Release period continued until 31st March only.

## WATER BAILIFF REPORT

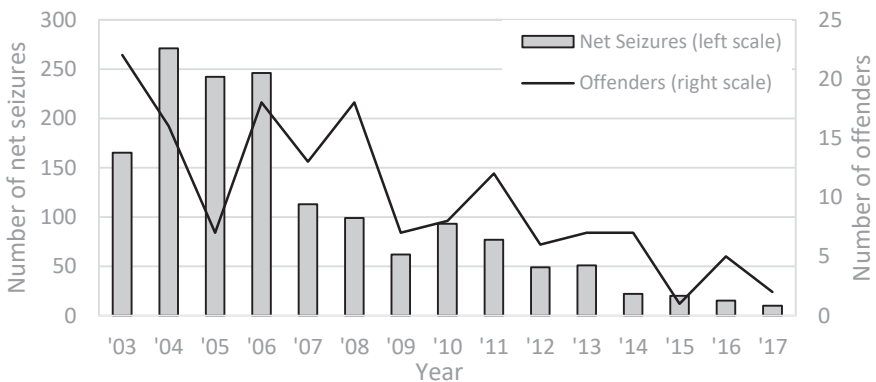
### Illegal Activity

The current trend of reduced poaching activity continued during 2017, depressed in part by the decline in catchable fish.

10 illegal nets were removed from the lower end of the river during the season. There was a spike of illegal activity in the Upper Tweed during the autumn and the Bailiff team apprehended several anglers foul hooking fish, as well as dealing with other bad fishing practice in that area. Several warning letters were issued and fishery proprietors were contacted to discuss how their fisheries may be better regulated; the Bailiffs worked with angling clubs and proprietors to ensure that the fish were protected during the start of the spawning season.

Bailiffs responded to an incident in the Middle Tweed where three persons were apprehended fishing without Angling Association permits and using spinning rods out of season.

One successful prosecution was taken at Berwick Magistrates Court, and one prosecution case was pending with the Procurator Fiscal system in Scotland at the year-end.



*Offenders and Net Seizures over the last 15 years*

## **Operational Patrols and Joint Working**

The new Boat Shed at Drygrange was completed, with the RTC's full complement of boats now stored at the facility.

The Bailiff Team worked with The Tweed Foundation during the summer months carrying out electro-fishing monitoring work in the Upper Tweed, Whiteadder and Ettrick & Yarrow. The Bailiff Team also undertook netting of fish for research purposes.

Advice and site visits for in-river works by third parties was supplied.

To comply with the RTC's requirement to consent stocking of ponds, the Water Bailiff team carried out checks in advance of stocking applications being granted. Minor works to ensure that fish passes were kept clear of gravel to ensure free passage was undertaken following periods of high water.

Water Bailiffs acted as a first response to a pollution event in the Upper Tweed, which had resulted in significant fish mortality; Bailiffs provided data and reports on the event to assist SEPA, as the relevant authority.

## **Staffing**

Whilst the Superintendent was absent, the Clerk reviewed the work of the Water Bailiff team. Regular weekly team meetings took place to ensure that the team reported on its operations, and that the flow of information in both directions was maintained.

## **PREDATION**

A full river count of piscivorous birds was undertaken in January, co-ordinated by The Tweed Foundation, and including all RTC staff as well as a number of volunteers to provide adequate cover; 370km of riverbank were surveyed, supporting the four regular counts undertaken throughout the season covering the majority of the river's main stem as well as some of the lower tributaries; that information now provides over twenty years of comparative data.

The count found no shift in Goosander numbers - the counts providing an index of the density of birds on the river - but an increase in the number of Cormorants in the catchment.

The RTC had obtained the usual licence in the Spring primarily to scare, and also to remove a small number of birds to help protect the smolt run. Based on the data collected, a further licence had been granted in the autumn in order to expand the scaring regime, and aimed at targeting those areas most vulnerable to predation on the river.

## **SALE OF ASSET**

Cheswick Shiel, which had been included in the purchase of the Cheswick netting station by the RTC in 2015, was sold. The property was one of the last remaining examples of a traditional netting shiel and would be converted into holiday accommodation, whilst preserving its original integrity.

## **PINK SALMON**

12 Pink Salmon had been reported on Tweed, although it was thought likely that more had gone unreported, particularly at the bottom of the river. Tissue samples had been collected for Marine Scotland Science, and genetic analysis would confirm from where the Pink Salmon had originated.

The RTC had posted updates on its “Tweed News” website on Pink Salmon, and had also circulated the information to Tweed Proprietors and provided posters for the fishing huts requesting that all fish be killed and reported.

Fisheries Management Scotland was working with the Scottish Government to monitor reports of Pink Salmon from around the country and there had been some instances of spawning, particularly in rivers further north. The Fish Health Inspectorate, Aberdeen, had collected fertilised Pink Salmon eggs in order to ascertain whether or not they were likely to produce viable offspring, and egg baskets had been sited in rivers further north where spawning had been observed to test out that likelihood. It was thought that water temperatures on Tweed would be too warm to support Pink Salmon survival.

## **POLICY**

### **Governance**

The Commission met, as usual, four times in the year with its March meeting preceded by its public AGM, and which was followed by the annual meeting of

fishery proprietors at which Proprietorial Commissioners were elected. The RTC Committee met five times, including twice with the Trustees of The Tweed Foundation: once to review The Foundation's work for its current year and that proposed for 2018, and then for a second time to discuss and agree the draft annual budgets; the RTC budget was then proposed to Commissioners.

### **The Ednam Committee**

A sub-committee of the Commission (called the Ednam Committee) was appointed by the Commission to address an internal HR issue that arose during 2017.

### **RTC Budget**

In response to a third year of poor catches on the river, the Commission had again lowered the Assessment - for the third year in succession - and representing a 23% total drop over that period. That drop in Assessment income could only be achieved by making savings in other areas, and restructuring of the entire operation was planned in 2018 since there was little financial wastage. Any further cuts in future years would need to be carefully considered.

### **Tweed Valuation Review**

CKD Galbraith was instructed to complete the five yearly review of the Assessment calculation system as required under Article 16 of The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006. That was undertaken and presented to Commission in December 2017, where it was approved. It will be used until 2022 as the method to calculate the annual Assessment of fisheries.

### **Net Fisheries**

Gardo Fishery remained the only commercial netting station within the Tweed District that could legally kill Salmon and sell them, from 1st April each season. Following the RTC's unsuccessful efforts last year to reach an agreement with the fishery, a voluntary solution to halt the killing of Spring Salmon at Gardo, led by the Scottish Government, had also been rejected by the operator. The RTC therefore felt that the only permanent, binding, solution was to request a change to the Close Times for netting in the Spring, which was progressed in late autumn with an application for an Annual Close Time Order under Schedule 2, Article 3 of The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006 being made to the Scottish Government.



At Paxton House fishery the contract between the RTC and The Paxton Trust, owners of the fishery, continued so that it would no longer kill any Salmon but would continue to take a limited number of Sea-trout. Netting continued there for demonstration and heritage purposes and also to allow The Tweed Foundation to collect data for scientific research.

### **Wild Fisheries Reform**

The Wild Fisheries Reform process was largely abandoned in February by the Scottish Government with the announcement that it would not be pursuing most of the key elements of the proposed reformed system of fisheries management; lack of resources was given as the main barrier to any progress.

The RTC sat on three of the working groups considering aspects of the Wild Fisheries Reform, and continued to contribute to the group concerned with Enforcement, which still met regularly to discuss and suggest legislative changes which could be taken forward to improve the efficacy of the Boards and water bailiffing.

### **Angling Clubs and Associations**

Following the successful completion of an easement in a culvert on a tributary of the Gala Water – undertaken as a pilot scheme by the Gala Angling Association, and which Commissioners had agreed to 50% fund – a modest fund was available for small-scale easements on trout burns. Two projects have been completed and monitoring of the original scheme on the Toddle Burn, by The Tweed Foundation, confirmed that access for trout had improved dramatically, with some Salmon parr also colonising the area for the first time. Clubs and Associations were encouraged to come forward with further proposals for Commission’s consideration.

### **The Tweed & Eye Fisheries Management Plan**

Commissioners approved the work programme for 2018. As usual, it had been reviewed by the RTC Committee together with the Trustees of The Tweed Foundation.

# INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

2016		2017
	<b>INCOME</b>	
751,285	Statutory Assessment	654,834
-	Other Income	130
6,000	Rents Received	6,000
313	Interest Received	195
<b><u>757,598</u></b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>661,159</u></b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
	<b>Bailiffs' Costs Etc.</b>	
2,024	Boat Costs	1,373
4,143	Telecommunication Costs	4,678
2,633	Other Equipment Maintenance	1,675
178,594	Salaries and Other Direct Staff Costs	195,987
29,388	Vehicle Costs	32,848
<b><u>216,782</u></b>		<b><u>236,561</u></b>
	<b>Administrative Costs</b>	
118,882	Management and Costs	53,499
11,501	Insurance	11,591
5,583	Printing, Telephone, Stationery, etc.	3,483
5,119	Office Costs	4,837
2,938	Interest and Charges	2,022
5,306	Property Costs	20,901
4,559	IT Costs	3,968
-	Valuation Review	16,008
7,657	Professional Fees	37,467
15,395	Subscriptions	22,630
2,527	Meeting Costs	1,726
4,736	Sundries	3,248
<b><u>184,203</u></b>		<b><u>181,380</u></b>
	<b>Research and Improvements</b>	
148,134	Research and Conservation	133,320
27,689	Salmon Conservation	27,655
126	Caulds	101
31,233	Conservation Payment Scheme	11,147
<b><u>207,182</u></b>		<b><u>172,223</u></b>
	<b>Depreciation, Etc.</b>	
<b>28,642</b>	Depreciation	<b>30,673</b>
<b>(3,668)</b>	Gain on Sale of Motor Vehicles	<b>(500)</b>
-	Gain on Sale of Cheswick Shiel	<b>(62,733)</b>
<b><u>24,974</u></b>		<b><u>(32,560)</u></b>
<b><u>633,141</u></b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>557,604</u></b>
124,457	<b>Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year</b>	103,555
1,204	<b>Corporation Tax</b>	12,194
<b><u>123,253</u></b>	<b>Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b><u>91,361</u></b>

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

2016		2017
£		£
	<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
245,755	Property	223,035
30,141	Motor Vehicles	47,426
<b><u>275,896</u></b>		<b><u>270,461</u></b>
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
18,220	Debtors and Prepayments	18,323
100	Cash at Bank and In Hand	35,567
<b><u>18,320</u></b>		<b><u>53,890</u></b>
	<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	
(98,981)	Bank Overdraft	-
(16,202)	Trade Creditors and Accrued Charges	(34,076)
(1,204)	Corporation Tax	(12,194)
-	Hire Purchase Creditor	(7,113)
<b><u>(116,387)</u></b>		<b><u>(53,383)</u></b>
<b><u>(98,067)</u></b>	<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b><u>507</u></b>
	Creditors: Amounts falling due outwith one year	
-	Hire Purchase Creditor	(1,778)
177,829	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	269,190
	<b>Represented by:</b>	
	<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>	
54,576	Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2017	177,829
123,253	Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	91,361
<b><u>177,829</u></b>	<b>Balance at 31/12/2017</b>	<b><u>269,190</u></b>

### EXTRACT FROM THE 2017 ACCOUNTS

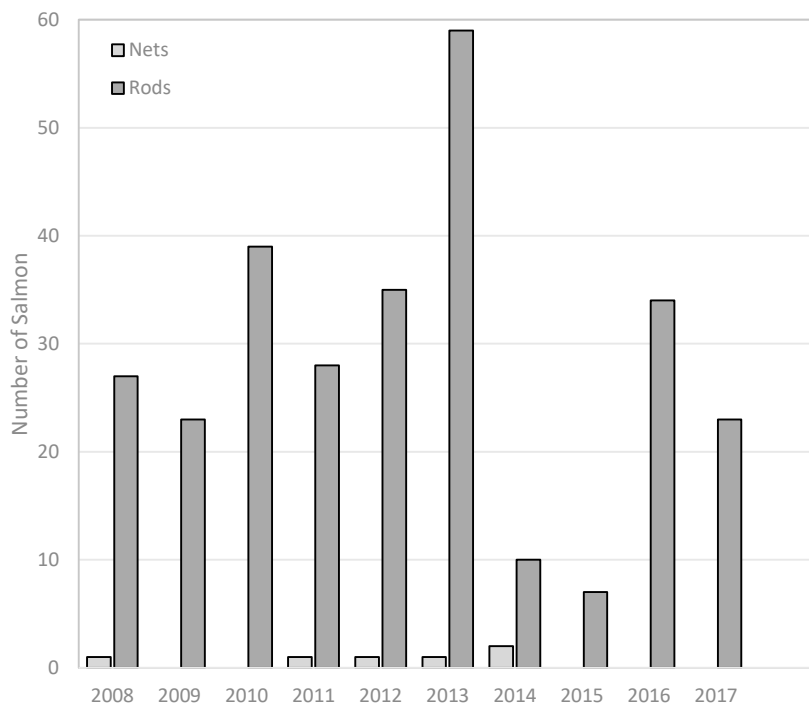
The financial information set out on these pages has been extracted from the RTC's full audited accounts on which the auditors, Rennie Welch, reported without qualification.

Copies of the full audited accounts are available on request.

## APPENDICES

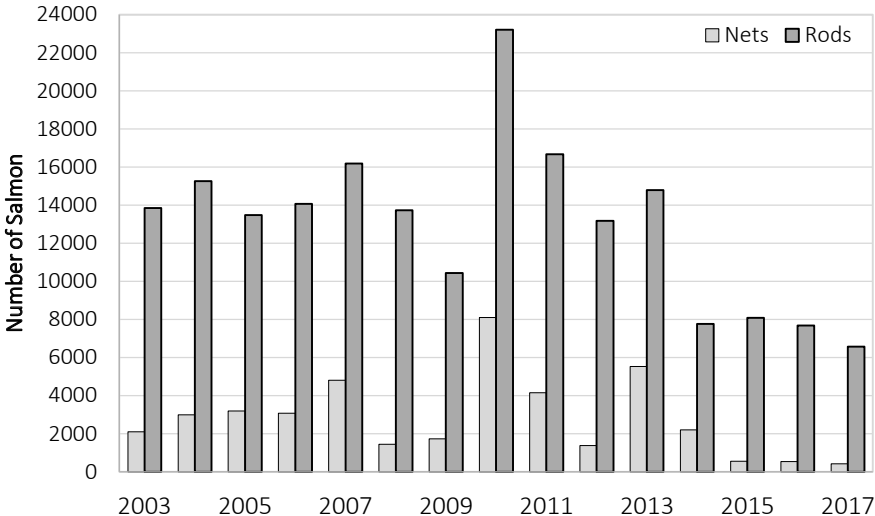
### Appendix I Salmon of 25lbs and Over

Rod Fishery	Individual Weights (lbs)	Rod Fishery	Individual Weights (lbs)
Monteviot	36	Dryburgh Lower	25
West Learmouth	25	Bemersyde	25, 25
The Lees	30, 25, 25	Tweedwood	26
Wark Lower North	25	Pavilion Lower	31
Birgham Dub	32, 30	Boleside	30
Sprouston	26	Fairnilee	25
Floors Lower	27	The Yair	25, 25
Rutherford	30	Caberston Upper	33
Maxton	26	Traquair	25

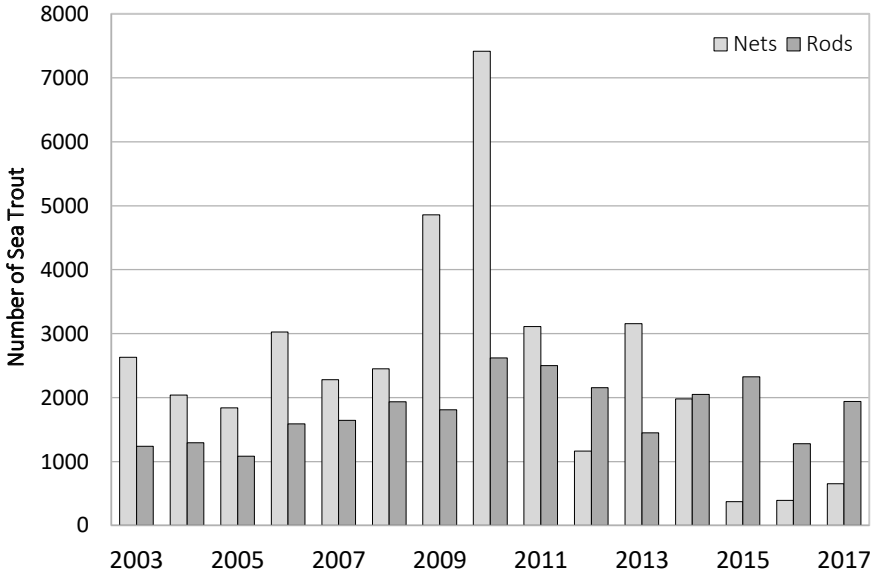


*10 year catches of Salmon 25lbs and over*

## Appendix II Rod and Net Catches

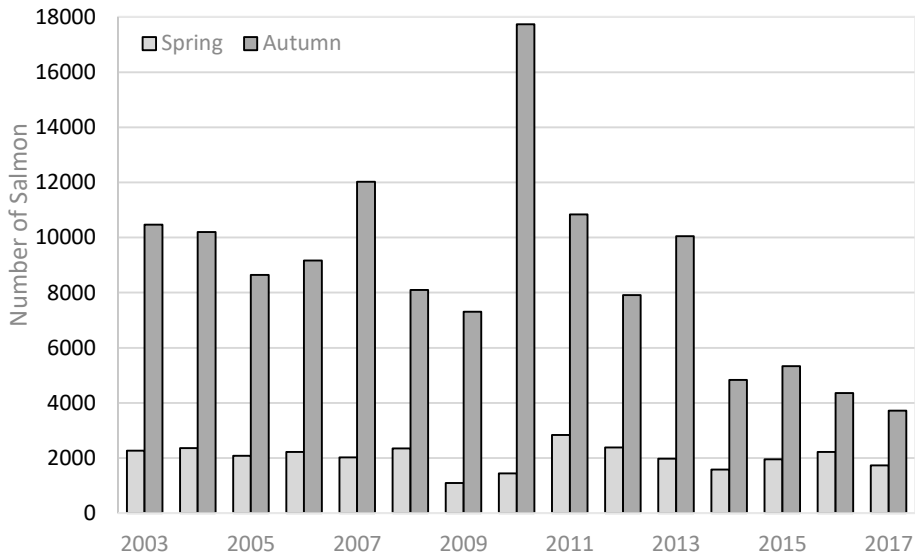


*Salmon catches 2003 – 2017 for Rods and Nets*



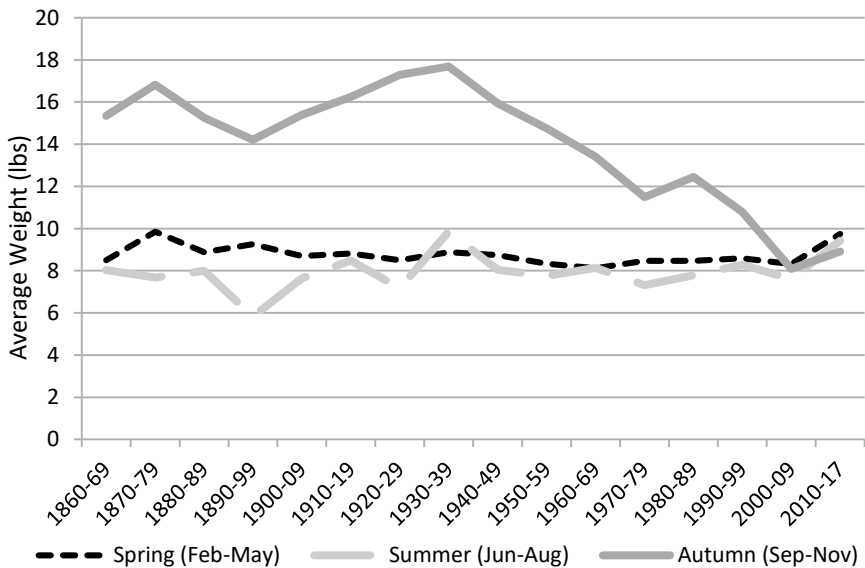
*Sea-trout catches 2003 – 2017 for Rods and Nets*

### Appendix III



*Spring v Autumn trends for rod-caught Salmon below Ettrickmouth*

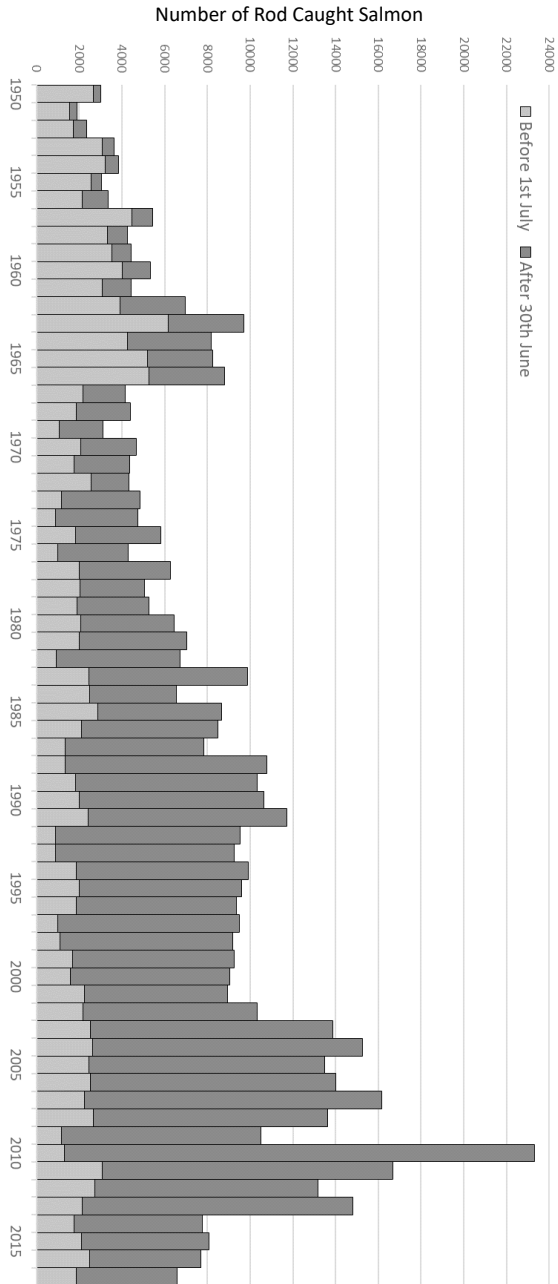
### Appendix IV



*Average weights of Salmon in the Lower Tweed by Decade*

## Appendix V

### Salmon Rod Catches on Tweed 1950 - 2017



## **Appendix VI**

### **TWEED COMMISSION MEMBERS**

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

Tweed Committee: See asterisks below.

#### **Appointed by Local Councils**

##### **Scottish Borders Council**

###### **Berwickshire (9)**

M. Crozier ( Coldstream)  
J. Fairgrieve (Gordon)  
W. L. Forrest  
Dr. D. Gray  
P. J. Huddleston  
M. Keysell (Whiteadder)  
J. Todd  
L. Thomson  
F. Turnbull

###### **Ettrick & Lauderdale (11)**

R. Cockburn (Gala)  
J. Harvey (St Boswells)  
N. J. H. Houldsworth  
E. Robertson  
C. R. Scott  
J. P. H. S. Scott  
W. A. Virtue  
H.P. Younger \*  
Vacancy (Club)  
Vacancy (Club)  
Vacancy (Club)

###### **Roxburgh (9)**

J. Curtis (Upper Teviotdale)  
I. Davis  
R. Glass (Kelso) \*  
N. S. Highmore  
T. Pilcher  
T. W. Reid  
J. T. Scott  
F. Wight (Hawick)  
R. Young (Jedforest)

###### **Tweeddale (5)**

K. D. Annand \*  
D. G. Fyfe  
M. W. Ireland  
M. Stuart (Peebles)  
Vacancy

##### **Northumberland County Council (9)**

P. Cowe (Berwick)	R. Tebay (Chatton)
J. Cameron (Ladykirk & Norham)	Miss G. Hill
C. Hallam-Baker (Glendale)	G. Renner-Thompson
Dr. J. H. Mitchell	G. Roughead
A. H. Murray	

*Representatives of Angling Associations are denoted by the name of their club.  
The remainder are independents.*



## **Appendix VI cont. Elected by Proprietors**

As at 31st December 2017

M. Baker	-	Tillmouth
Mrs C. K. Balfour	-	Birgham Lower
P. A. Baxendale	-	Sprouston
Lord Biddulph	-	Makerstoun
Mrs P. A. Blair	-	Lothian Estates
J. Boulton	-	North Doddington
A. Brough	-	Middle Ettrick
J. McK. Brownlie	-	Drygrange
C. Crawford	-	Middle Pavilion
M. Cuddigan	-	Ford & Etal
D. J. Dobie *	-	The Retreat
A. Douglas-Home *	-	Lees Upper
G. Edgar	-	Selkirk Burgh
N. Fenton	-	Hendersyde
I. Fleming	-	Birgham Dub
J. R. Gardiner	-	Caddonfoot
E. R. T. Harris	-	Upper Dryburgh
F. G. Jennings	-	Boleside
A. Lee	-	Bluestone Ford
J. H. Lovett	-	Lower North Wark
J. McCorquodale	-	Maxton
C. A. Matheson	-	Tweedhill
T. P. Metcalfe	-	Crown Estate Fisheries
J. Miller	-	Upper Caberston
R. J. Onslow	-	Tweedmill
P. Pitchford	-	Bemersyde
D. Platt *	-	Milne Graden
Lord Portarlington	-	Gledswood
J. Pringle	-	The Nest
The Duke of Roxburghe *	-	Floors
J. C. Rutherford *	-	Rutherford
J. G. Scott	-	Ancrum
R. D. Smyly	-	Sunderland Hall
P. D. Straker-Smith *	-	Birgham Middle
The Duke of Sutherland	-	Mertoun
D. Theaker	-	Mounthooly
N. Thompson	-	Cornhill
W. Younger	-	Old Melrose Fishings

## **Appendix VII RTC Officials and Employees**

At January 2018

<b>Chairman:</b>	D. J. Dobie
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	R. Glass
<b>Clerk:</b>	F. B. L. Hieatt
<b>Administrator:</b>	Currently vacant
<b>Office:</b>	The North Court Drygrange Steading Melrose Roxburghshire TD6 9DJ Tel: (01896) 848294 Fax: (01896) 848277 Email: <a href="mailto:enquires@rtc.org.uk">enquires@rtc.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.rtc.co.uk">www.rtc.co.uk</a>

### **Superintendent, Water Bailiffs & Fisheries Officers:**

Contact details for the Water Bailiffs and Fisheries  
Officers can be found on the RTC's website:

**[www.rtc.org.uk/html/contacts.html](http://www.rtc.org.uk/html/contacts.html)**

## **Background Information**

The River Tweed Commission is charged under The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006 with the general preservation and increase of Salmon, Sea-trout, Trout and other freshwater fish in the River Tweed and its Tributaries, and in particular with the regulation of fisheries, the removal of nuisances and obstructions and the prevention of illegal fishing. The area of jurisdiction extends eight kilometres out to sea and includes the coastline between Cockburnspath and Holy Island. Powers are granted to the Commission by this Order in Council made in accordance with an Act of Parliament to help fulfil these duties.

The Governing body is the Commission which consists of 43 members appointed by Local Authorities (23 from Local Angling Clubs and 20 from other interests), and 38 members elected by the Proprietors of the River from their number. An annual assessment is levied on the owners of all registered Fisheries.

The Commission only has statutory duties and powers relating to fish, although this inevitably necessitates an interest in many other aspects of Tweed management. The statutory responsibilities for these other areas are, however, held by other organisations, with whom we maintain close links; on the English side these are the Environment Agency, Natural England and Northumbrian Water and, in Scotland, Marine Scotland Science, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage, and Scottish Water.

The Tweed is a Special Area of Conservation for Salmon and three species of Lamprey; it is a most prolific Salmon river, and it also has important Sea-trout, Trout and Grayling fisheries, as well as some coarse fisheries; it has approximately 18% of Scotland's Salmon spawning area. Tweed fisheries are now mostly rod fisheries with 26% of the Salmon being caught in England and 74% in Scotland; the Sea-trout rod catch is distributed evenly between England and Scotland. The RTC has responsibility for the management of these and all other species of fish in both the English and Scottish parts of the Tweed system. Its fisheries contribute £24m to the local economy supporting c.520 full-time job equivalents.

## **USEFUL CONTACTS**

**River Tweed Commission**  
[www.rtc.org.uk](http://www.rtc.org.uk)

**River Tweed News**  
[www.rivertweed.org.uk](http://www.rivertweed.org.uk)

**The Tweed Foundation**  
[www.tweedfoundation.org.uk](http://www.tweedfoundation.org.uk)

**The Tweed Foundation Facebook Page**  
[www.facebook.com/TheTweedFoundation/](http://www.facebook.com/TheTweedFoundation/)

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## **Other Organisations**

**Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)**  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

**Environment Agency**  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Fisheries Management Scotland**  
[fms.scot](http://fms.scot)

**FishTweed**  
[www.fishtweed.co.uk](http://www.fishtweed.co.uk)

**National Angling Diary**  
[www.anglingdiary.org.uk](http://www.anglingdiary.org.uk)

**Natural England**  
[www.naturalengland.gov.uk](http://www.naturalengland.gov.uk)

## **USEFUL CONTACTS**

### **Other Organisations Cont.**

#### **Northumberland County Council**

[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

#### **Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (NIFCA)**

[www.nifca.gov.uk](http://www.nifca.gov.uk)

#### **Northumbrian Water**

[www.nwg.co.uk](http://www.nwg.co.uk)

#### **Scottish Borders Council**

[www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk)

#### **Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)**

[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

#### **Scottish Natural Heritage**

[www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot)

#### **Scottish Water**

[www.scottishwater.co.uk](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk)

#### **The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland Science**

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/salmon-trout-coarse](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/salmon-trout-coarse)

#### **Tweedbeats**

[www.tweedbeats.com](http://www.tweedbeats.com)

#### **Tweed Forum**

[www.tweedforum.org](http://www.tweedforum.org)

## GYRODACTYLUS SALARIS

### KEEP GYRODACTYLUS SALARIS (Gs) OUT OF *Tweed*

*Gyrodactylus salaris* (Gs) is an extremely dangerous parasite and the RTC is taking most careful steps to ensure that it does not enter the Tweed fishery. As such, we have adopted rigorous biosecurity procedures, which we are sure you will support.

#### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

In order to minimize the risk of spreading *Gyrodactylus salaris* to Scotland, it is imperative that you clean and treat your equipment before fishing on Tweed in one of the following ways **if** the equipment has been used outside Britain and Ireland in the preceding seven days:

- a) Dry at a minimum temperature of 20°C for at least 2 days, OR
- b) Heat for at least one hour at a temperature above 60°C, OR
- c) Immerse in a suitable solution. Virkon (at 1% solution); Wescodyne (at 1%); a 3% solution of common salt (Sodium Chloride), or a 0.2% solution of Sodium Hydroxide, OR
- d) Deep freeze for at least one day.

Gs has been shown to survive away from a live fish host for 5-7 days at ambient river temperatures. Equipment or product that has been kept cool and damp and is transferred rapidly (within one week) may present high levels of risk.

This notorious parasite has destroyed the Salmon stocks of over 20 rivers in Norway. It is also indigenous to, or has been spread to, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Germany, France, Spain and Portugal - largely through fish-farm movements of Rainbow-trout.

**If this parasite gets into Tweed it means the absolute end of our Salmon.**



