



2018

**ANNUAL REPORT
&
ACCOUNTS**

River Tweed Commission
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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

2018 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2018 saw another year of low Salmon and Sea-trout catches in common with the rest of Scotland excepting the far North. This will inevitably lead to fewer rod days let in advance and pressure on rental levels. It is a bleak picture and the Commission has had to respond positively to very challenging circumstances.

The Assessment was reduced again in 2018 and further cuts are planned for 2019, which will achieve a reduction of 46% (ie. C.£250,000 p.a.) from a peak in 2015. Over that period, staffing levels have been reduced and the Commission now employs the Clerk, an Administrator and four full-time Fishery Officers.

At the same time, our stocks of Salmon, Sea-trout, Brown trout, Grayling and other species need increasing levels of protection at all stages of their life cycle.

Goosanders are prevalent throughout the catchment and the number of semi-resident Cormorants have increased significantly in the past few years. Whilst a decline in fish stocks, particularly migratory, is unlikely to be attributable to a single cause, it is distressing for anyone closely involved in the well-being of the river regularly to watch large numbers of piscivorous birds hunting in flocks of up to 50 – 100. This would not have happened 20 – 30 years ago and the numbers we see today will be having an impact on all freshwater fish stocks.

The Commission's executive and Tweed Foundation staff have come under considerable criticism for not "doing enough", particularly in relation to piscivorous birds. All I can do is remind everyone of the following: -

1. In 2018, the Clerk applied, on behalf of the Commission, for a licence to remove an increased number of Goosanders and Cormorants in 2019. This will enable a robust dietary analysis to take place and this approach has now been adopted by three other major rivers in Scotland and is being supported by Marine Scotland.
2. The problems of predation are recognised across Scotland and we have been actively involved throughout the year with a predation working group that includes Marine Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Fisheries Management Scotland, and other fishery boards and trusts. The aim being a licensing system that is more responsive on a catchment basis.

3. During 2018, the Commission applied and monitored more robust scaring techniques to disperse the main Cormorant roosts on the river. This has been successful and the lessons learnt will be applied on a regular basis throughout the catchment in future.

I am not seeking re-election in 2019 and, although I have really enjoyed many aspects of my involvement over the last seven years, it has been a turbulent period. The dramatic decline in Salmon catches has resulted in a loss of confidence, anxiety and anger at the present position leading to a polarisation of views often sustained by an unconscious bias towards only listening to like-minded opinions. Everybody involved should be working to find a consensus, not discord, restore trust and to maintaining the Tweed's international reputation for management based on sound evidence and sound science.

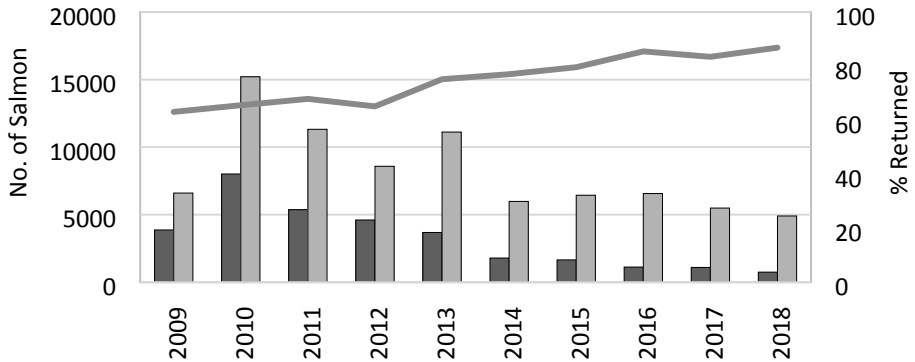
I hope the new measures agreed during 2018 to establish a more formal management committee that is elected and representative of the Commission as a whole will assist in that process, and I look forward to supporting the new Chairman and his team in the future.

D. J. Dobie

FISH CATCHES

Salmon

The total Salmon catch at 6,129 saw a further drop on the previous year (7,003 in 2017). 5,644 Salmon (6,577 in 2017) were caught by rod and line and 485 (426) by net; 87%, 4,901 fish, of the total rod catch was returned (83% in 2017).

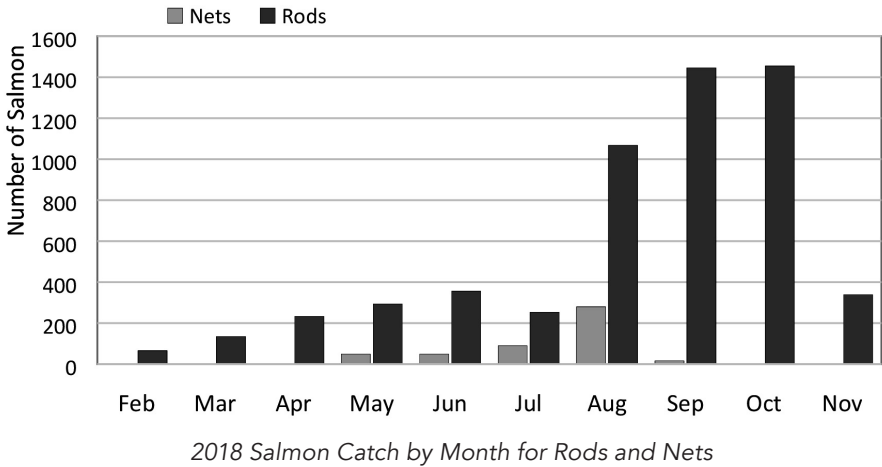


Salmon Rod Catch 2009 – 2018, kept and returned

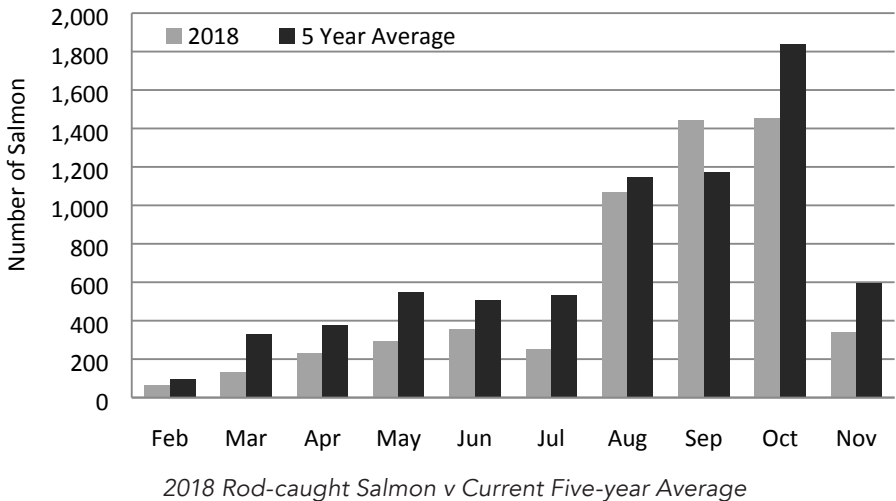
The Tweed catch was low, as it was on other rivers. Heavy snowfall and blizzards - due to "The Beast from the East" - came at the end of February resulting in high waters throughout March, and meaning the season got off to a poor start. In April, the weather warmed up and continued to do so resulting in a prolonged and hot late Spring, and a sweltering Summer. The pattern was the same as on the majority of other rivers, with Tweed seeing relatively few fresh fish coming in to the system, and those that did so having no incentive to move higher up the system due to lack of water. Late June saw the first runs of fish, but even then the numbers were down on recent years.

Whilst it did not feel as though catches were better than 2017, the autumn months were a slight improvement in some areas of the river. September and October saw the most fish caught this season, with 1,446 and 1,455 respectively caught to the rod (1,159 and 1,179 in 2017); the August catch, whilst not as high as last season, saw the third highest catch, 1,068 (1,134 in 2017). Catches were below the five-year average except in September, which managed to top it with 1,446 (5 yr av. 1,176). September was the only month since 2014, when the downward trend started, in which rod-caught fish continued to be more numerous (1446, 2018; 1,159, 2017; 887, 2016). The

last two months of the season with a catch of 1,794 were 241 fish up on last season. However, the trend of sparse catches in late autumn persisted, and the November catch dropped further, with just 339 fish caught (374, 2017). Due to the lack of fish around in autumn many fisheries closed early and the last week of the season saw torrential rain, and the river in flood.

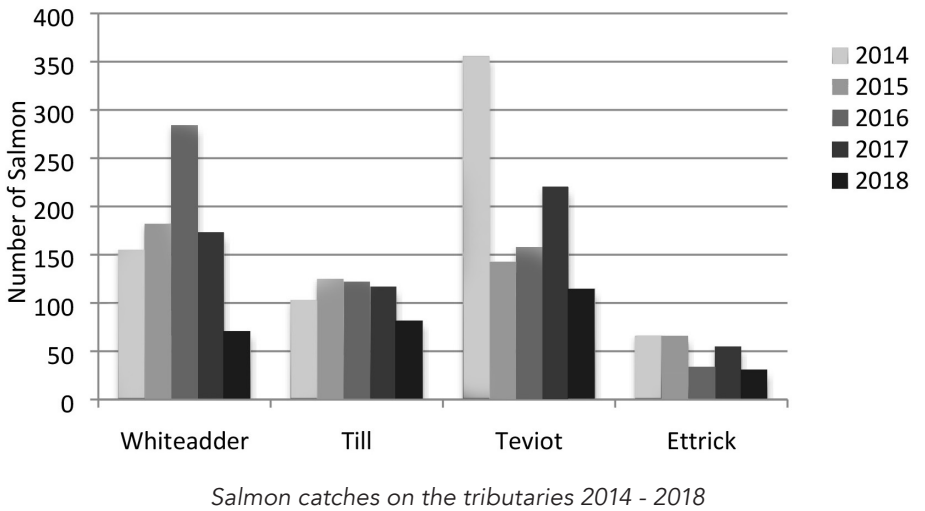
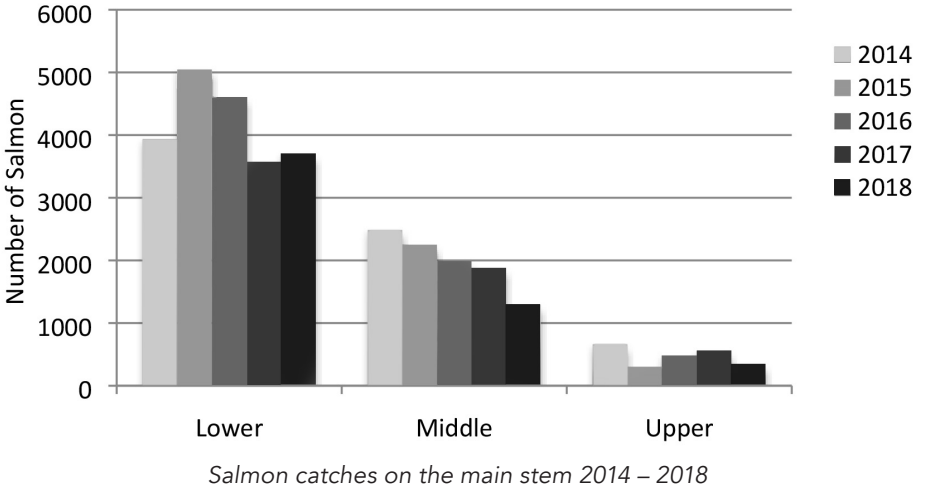


Whilst it was widely acknowledged that there was a lack of fish in the system, in contrast with last season the low water conditions depressed any potential for catches until mid-August.



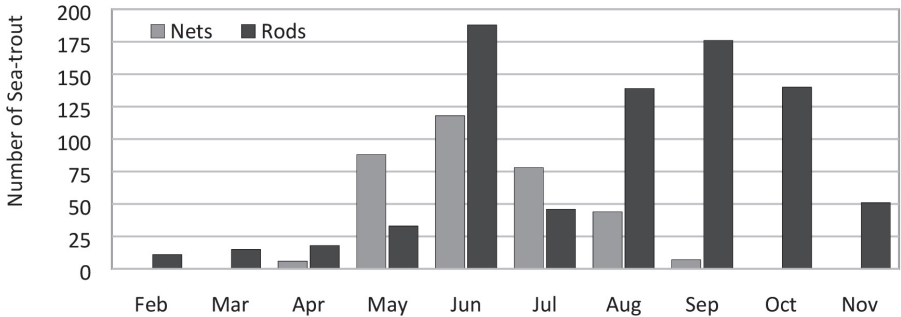
Only the September catch performed better than the five-year average.

Lower Tweed catches were fractionally up on the previous year, but the decline in the Middle river continued.

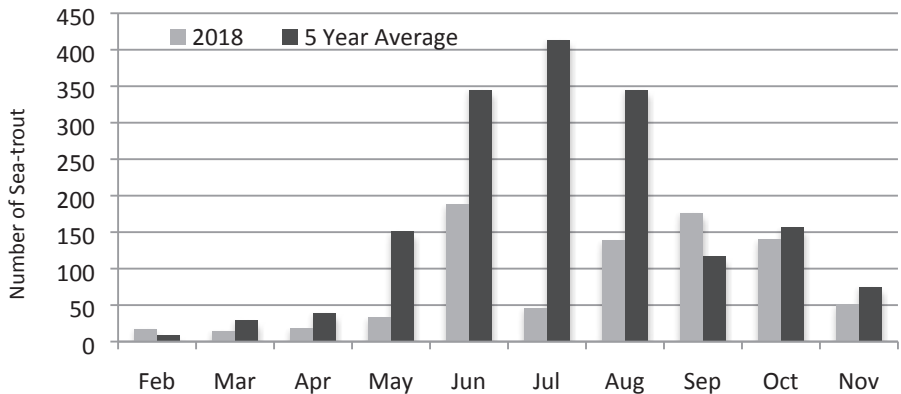


Sea-trout

The 2018 Sea-trout catch was less than half that of the previous season at 1,158 (2,594 in 2017). Of the catch, 817 (1,939 in 2017) were caught by rod and line and 341 (655) by net; 74% (62% in 2017) of rod caught Sea-trout were returned. The bulk of the fish were caught from June onwards, which had the “largest” catch at 188, although half that of the previous season (364, 2017); September’s Sea-trout catch at 176 exceeded the current five-year average (117).



2018 Sea-trout Catch by Month for Rods and Nets



2018 Rod-caught Sea-trout v Current 5-year average

More information on catches can be found in Appendices I - V

The Tweed Foundation’s electro-fishing monitoring during the summer months continued to confirm that, at present, the headwaters are fully stocked with juvenile fish. Further information can be found on The Tweed Foundation’s website, and in its own reports.

Other Freshwater Fish

Brown trout catches from the main stem of the Tweed were well below average during the 2018 fishing season, with catches worsening in the lower river. Fishing conditions did not help, with “The Beast from the East” at the start of the season being closely followed by one of the warmest and driest summers for some years. Whether the catches were as a result of the conditions or down to there being less trout than usual will not be known until next year’s catch figures are analysed. There were some positives towards the end of the season as Brown trout catches picked up, with the average catch rate of trout in the Earlston Inter-club competition being the highest since records began in 2006, although most were small trout between 8” and 12” (typical for the time of year).

With the exception of the Whiteadder, which mirrored the catches from the Tweed, catches on the Tweed’s tributaries were far more promising. The Ettrick and Yarrow catches were around the average for the previous 10 years whilst the Teviot catches were slightly above the average: more encouraging when taking the poor fishing conditions in 2018 into account. The Leader Water provided the best catches of the season, with the average catch rate being the highest since the Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative started collecting data in 2006. As with the Inter-club competition, most of the “oversize” sized trout from the tributaries were in the 8” to 12” size range and catches of them may indicate good survival rates of one or more trout year classes.

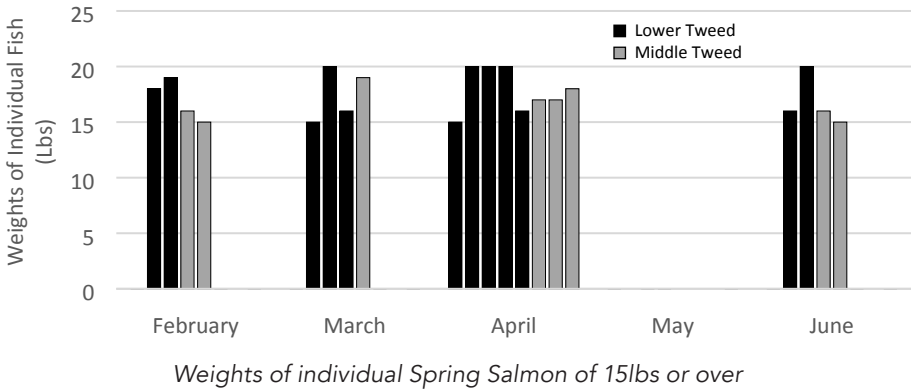
As with the trout, the Grayling catches were below average at the start of 2018 but picked up towards the end of the Brown trout season. This was largely due to good catches of one-year-old Grayling between 8” to 12” size range in August and September, especially in the Teviot and Lower Tweed, indicating good survival of that year class. Most encouragingly were reports by numerous anglers of very high numbers of “young-of-the-year” Grayling fry. These should be 8” to 12” by the back end of the 2019 season.

SPRING SALMON CONSERVATION

The Spring Salmon figure was low with only 1,083 (1,852 in 2017) rod-caught fish being recorded. Fishing conditions, coupled with lack of fishing effort, made it difficult to assess how many fish may have entered the river. Sea survival also impacted on the catch.

Similar data and conditions were recorded on other rivers, with English rivers being in a much poorer condition than those north of the border. 2018 was not the lowest Spring catch in recent times: in the early 1990s there were recordings of just over 800 fish in Spring seasons. Since catch recording

started there have been 14 years where the recorded catch has been under 1,500. Angler expectations were being driven by the high Spring catches that Tweed had experienced in 2011 and 2012, which may be an unrealistic benchmark: the current five-year average (1,860) was similar to the long-term average (1,945), going back to 1970 when Tweed became a river with a predominantly autumn run of fish.



20 Springers of 15lbs or over were recorded, with four of 20lbs (the largest in 2017 weighed in at 30lbs).

Middle Tweed caught 316 fish (591 in 2017), nearly half that of the current five-year average of 609. Whilst the tributaries tend not to catch large numbers in the early season, 2018 was the lowest catch of the last five years at 86 Salmon (five-year average 145, the 2016 season being the best in recent years with a catch of 241).

CONSERVATION LIMITS

Scottish Ministers continued to regulate the killing of Salmon in Scotland, including the prohibition on retaining any Salmon caught in coastal waters, by means of conservation regulations made under section 38 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003.

Marine Scotland had undertaken an assessment of the conservation status of Salmon in inland waters in Scotland for the 2018 fishing season. The outcome of that assessment was that the whole of the River Tweed system continued to be noted as Category 1. This is contrary to the RTC’s assertion that Spring Salmon do not form a sustainable stock of fish that can withstand any exploitation and should receive additional protection. The RTC continues to press for a change to the Annual Close Time to counter the Category 1 status throughout the season.

STAFFING

Following the departure of the Superintendent, Mr Karl Ferguson was promoted to the role of Head Fishery Officer in May to take over the lead on enforcement and other fisheries-related work, and to manage the team.

Miss Monica Kerr joined the RTC in June as Administrator. Miss Kerr also undertakes administrative duties for The Tweed Foundation.

Mrs Gail Hughes was appointed as the RTC's Treasurer at the end of the year, a post which has been dormant for some time. Mrs Hughes is an independent Chartered Certified Accountant and is responsible for the bookkeeping activity of both the RTC and Tweed Foundation.

Mr Eric Hastings retired from the RTC in July having been employed for over 40 years as Water Bailiff, Bailiff Chief Inspector for many years, and acting Superintendent. He followed his father who also worked for the RTC for more than 45 years: an extraordinary family record of over 80 unbroken years of loyal service to the RTC.

The RTC was delighted that Eric Hastings was presented with the Tweed Forum 'River Champion' Award for 2018, and wish him a long and well-earned retirement.

FISHERY OFFICER REPORT

Job Specification Change

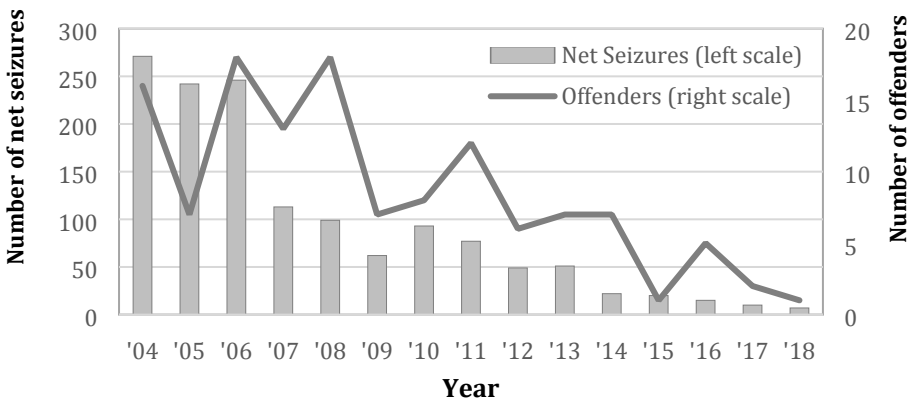
Following a management restructure, the Water Bailiff role has been expanded to encompass additional duties under the title of Fishery Officer. This change reflects a number of basic scientific and monitoring tasks now being undertaken by the team in order to fully utilise the resource. Enforcement duties, when required, will continue to take priority.

In respect of policing, the Head Fishery Officer, together with the Clerk, have also worked on establishing better links with other agencies in the area, which has included meetings with Police Scotland, SEPA and NIFCA, with the aim of sharing information and providing assistance to one another in a climate where all organisations have limited resources.

Illegal Activity

The early part of the season was quiet, in part due to the weather and water conditions. With the warmer weather, some illegal netting activity commenced in the estuary area, resulting in the successful prosecution of a known individual for gill netting and possession of Sea-trout. Seven illegal nets were recovered from the lower river during 2018. Regular night patrols were undertaken during the low water conditions of summer to check for nets in known hot spots. The latter part of the season was busier with some conflict between Salmon and Trout fishers, particularly in the middle river. Policing Trout angling presented some challenges: with grey areas in the law, and local rules differing between clubs, education was found to be the best approach in diffusing situations and resolving clashes between anglers. Monitoring of the Upper Tweed continued in the autumn, with foul hooking of fish still an issue. Most instances of bad fishing practice were combatted by fishery proprietors agreeing to remove tickets from repeat offenders for the current and future seasons. Night patrols increased in the Upper Tweed in the back end as fish moved up to spawning areas.

One successful prosecution was taken at Berwick Magistrates Court, and five warnings regarding angling conduct were issued.



Offenders and Net Seizures over the last 15 years

Spinning

Spinning caused some aggravation on the river in some areas during the 2018 season, particularly where there is different ownership on opposite banks, and specifically as the water was so low for the majority of the season, providing little space to fish. The RTC was consequently asked to reconsider its guidance on spinning in the Tweed Angling Code, which was duly discussed by the Commission; it concluded that the rules on spinning within

the Code did not require alteration but adherence to them, by all, required reinforcing. The recommendation was that the rules regarding spinning would be highlighted in an update of the Tweed Angling Code for the 2019 season; that the spinning rules would be further strengthened by detailing them in a separate flyer, and that a poster for huts on the spinning rules would be produced. The RTC undertook to investigate any transgression of those rules brought to its attention in the coming season. Whilst this was not stringent enough for some, the RTC did not feel that its role was to be overly prescriptive about fishing methods, but that the basic fishing rules and courtesy amongst anglers needed to be observed.

Operational Patrols and Joint Working

The Head Fishery Officer completed training to Coxswain level during the year; two staff are now trained as Coxswain for the sea boat providing more flexibility in its operation.

Working with The Tweed Foundation, the Fishery Officer team was involved in the construction of two new facilities: the fish counter on the Etrick Water, and a smolt trap on the Gala Water and, during the smolt run, the team were involved on a daily basis in the first-year trial of running the trap and processing the smolts. That work would be fully reported in The Tweed Foundation's Annual Report for 2018. American Signal Crayfish trapping took place in May on the Eye Water and River Till to establish the extent and expansion of the populations in those catchments. RTC manpower was, as usual, supplied during the summer monitoring season to help with the electro-fishing programme, and Fishery Officers also undertook the majority of the tagging and recording of adult fish at the Paxton netting station, as part of the long-running exploitation study. A re-survey of the habitat sites commenced and fitted in around other work, with an update on status and new photographic records being made; around half of the 80 sites have now been visited and will be completed early next year.

Monitoring and advice on riverworks sites was undertaken, the Head Fishery Officer maintaining and building on the good working relationship that the RTC has with SEPA, SBC and other statutory agencies in the Borders. With so many months of low flow in watercourses during 2018, some time was spent in monitoring water abstraction points. Three fish rescues were undertaken on the Gala, Leithen and Slitrig Waters to facilitate riverworks operations.

During the low summer water conditions, the team also assisted the Gala Waterways Group with the removal of 61.75 kg litter and old metalwork from the Gala Water.

PREDATION

Avian Predation

The four regular counts of piscivorous birds were undertaken throughout the season, covering the majority of the river's main stem as well as some of the lower tributaries; numbers were in accordance with counts in the previous year.

The RTC made an application for an extended licence to control Cormorant and Goosander from 1st October 2018 through to 31st May 2019, as Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) had agreed last year. In addition, the RTC requested a larger number of birds to be taken in some months to fulfil the requirements of a study to look at the current dietary make-up of the birds, to be undertaken by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) in Edinburgh. That work had last been carried out in the 1990s when the main constituent of the diet had been Eel. A few samples had been collected by the RTC during 2017 and sent for analysis, but a larger, co-ordinated, study was required. During lengthy consideration of that request, the RTC was issued with several interim month-long licences throughout the autumn period by SNH to enable the usual control and scaring regime to take place. At the end of the year, a compromise was agreed with SNH enabling a dietary analysis study to take place during 2019, involving several rivers, and being led by Marine Scotland.

Due to the increase in, particularly, Cormorant numbers on the Tweed, the Fishery Officers actively monitored and recorded numbers - especially at roosting sites around the catchment - to help collect data for future licence submissions for control measures. With growing populations of piscivorous birds being seen on many rivers, a dedicated group has been set up comprising representation from Marine Scotland and Marine Scotland Science, SNH, Fisheries Management Scotland and the Fishery Boards and Trusts to debate the whole issue and approach to predation control and to find a way forward.

In addition to continuing to press the authorities for a larger licence to better protect the smolt run and juvenile stocks of Salmon and Trout, the RTC is also developing non-lethal techniques to disrupt feeding patterns and discourage roosts.

Seals

A phone app has been created to make recording seal disruption on Tweed fisheries easier for boatmen; that information has been distributed to those beats most affected and the data collected will help to support any future management applications.

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 2019, and a second time to discuss and agree the draft annual budgets; the RTC budget was then proposed to Commissioners.

RTC Committee Restructure

It has been agreed that the RTC needs to modernise and clarify its management arrangements in respect of the informal RTC Committee. Whilst the Committee has functioned effectively over many years, a more formal framework with a clear remit from the Commission was now felt to be more appropriate. A refresh of the Committee would demonstrate both transparency and accountability to the RTC; ensure that the Committee was representative of the Commission as a whole; provide continuity should any statutory officers be incapacitated, and develop a model which could be more formally adopted within the Tweed legislation at some future date.

Ultimate authority remained with the Commission as the body corporate, as set down in The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006 ("the Tweed Order") and therefore any changes in the way in which the RTC operated had to dovetail with the existing statutory framework.

The new structure would be implemented in 2019.

General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR)

In accordance with the new GDPR, which came into force on 25th May 2018, the RTC reviewed the data it collected to ensure it was accurate, lawfully processed, retained only as long as necessary, and kept securely. It informed all of its stakeholders of the way in which data would be collected and used, and produced a Data Handling Policy and a Privacy Statement in line with the Regulation. The RTC will review its policy annually.

RTC Budget

The 2018 budget had again responded to Proprietors' concerns regarding the continuing fall in catches and the subsequent effect on fisheries. Consequently, a further cut in the 2018 Assessments had been applied, resulting in a 30% reduction in Assessment over the last three years. That cut had been achieved by re-structuring the management of the RTC, which now operated with a much leaner workforce.

Net Fisheries

The application for an Annual Close Time Order under Schedule 2, Article 3 of The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006 had been progressed during the year. An amendment to the Annual Close Time sought the introduction of a conservation measure which would require the release of all Salmon caught during the period 1st February to 31st May each year, to further preserve the fragile Spring Salmon stock on Tweed. Following the initial application, the Scottish Government (through Marine Scotland) had agreed to a consultation phase, which was undertaken in the summer.

Marine Scotland sought further comment from the RTC on queries arising from the responses received during the consultation stage. Subsequently, Marine Scotland have been considering the application which, at the end of the year, had not been put before the Minister for a decision. It was therefore unlikely that the Close Time would alter for the 2019 season. Under the current legislation, the remaining commercial netting station at Gardo can continue to legally kill Salmon from 1st April each season.

Salmon and Sea Trout Protection Byelaws

At the end of the year, the Environment Agency announced that the national Salmon and Sea Trout Protection Byelaws had been confirmed by Defra resulting in the cessation of the North East Drift Net Fishery from 1st January 2019.

Coastal T nets would, however, continue to operate as a Sea-trout only fishery, with shorter seasons according to netting Districts. The RTC understands that the Environment Agency (EA) is introducing a modified design of the existing Northumbrian T net which is intended to capture Sea-trout whilst allowing Salmon to pass through unharmed; we have serious concerns over this scheme as there is no proof or prior study to the best of our knowledge to show that it will not impact on Salmon, in contravention of Defra's obligations regarding "At Risk" rivers and neighbouring SACs, i.e. the Tweed.

Communication

The monthly updates published by the Tweed fisheries management team of the RTC and Tweed Foundation, "the River", had been well received by the majority on those on the river, with the content being intended as informative without being overly technical. The newsletters would be continued in 2019, alongside Facebook posts and the Tweed News site. Other ways of increasing engagement with the RTC's stakeholders were being considered.

In response to the falling catches across many rivers, the four largest Fishery Boards had met with Scottish Enterprise to discuss the current crisis in Salmon stocks and how the angling sector in Scotland could be supported. Scottish Enterprise had listened to concerns, which affected not just riparian owners, their employees and the boards, but also the rural economy more widely and was currently considering how best it may be able to provide assistance.

Angling Clubs and Associations

The RTC continued to support small-scale easements on minor burns in the catchment, as put forward by the Angling Associations and Clubs. Two projects were successfully completed last year, and three more easement projects at little cost were undertaken in 2018 by the trout clubs, in conjunction with The Tweed Foundation's Trout & Grayling Biologist. These were on the Shiplaw Burn (Eddleston Water) with the Peeblesshire Trout Fishing Association; on the Cockholm Burn at Stow (Gala Water) with the Gala Angling Association; and on the Harden Burn (Borthwick Water, Teviot) with Hawick Angling Club.

The Tweed and Eye Fisheries Management Plan

Commissioners approved the work programme for 2019 that was, as usual, reviewed by the RTC Committee together with the Trustees of The Tweed Foundation.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December 2018

2017		2018
	INCOME	
654,834	Statutory Assessment	620,870
130	Other Income	517
6,000	Rents Received	6,100
195	Interest Received	837
<u>661,159</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>628,324</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
	Bailiffs' Costs Etc.	
1,373	Boat Costs	2,371
4,678	Telecommunication Costs	4,006
1,675	Other Equipment Maintenance	1,752
195,987	Salaries and Other Direct Staff Costs	186,448
32,848	Vehicle Costs	25,511
<u>236,561</u>		<u>220,088</u>
	Administrative Costs	
53,499	Management and Costs	51,238
11,591	Insurance	12,057
3,483	Printing, Telephone, Stationery	3,696
4,837	Office Costs	5,116
2,022	Interest and Charges	1,536
20,901	Property Costs	13,748
3,968	IT Costs	4,206
16,008	Valuation Review	-
37,467	Professional Fees	21,040
22,630	Subscriptions	21,541
1,726	Meeting Costs	1,621
3,248	Sundries	5,849
<u>181,380</u>		<u>141,648</u>
	Research and Improvements	
133,320	Research and Conservation	126,654
27,655	Salmon Conservation	21,643
101	Caulds	123
11,147	Conservation Payment Scheme	8
<u>172,223</u>		<u>148,428</u>
	Depreciation, Etc.	
30,673	Depreciation	31,543
(500)	Gain on Sale of Motor Vehicles	(6,500)
(62,733)	Gain on Sale of Cheswick Shiel	-
<u>(32,560)</u>		<u>25,043</u>
<u>557,604</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>535,207</u>
103,555	Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year	93,117
12,194	Corporation Tax	1,063
<u>91,361</u>	Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year	<u>92,054</u>

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2018

2017		2018
£		£
	Fixed Assets	
223,035	Property	214,241
47,426	Motor Vehicles	25,547
-	Miscellaneous Equipment	3,480
<u>270,461</u>		<u>243,268</u>
	Current Assets	
18,323	Debtors and Prepayments	15,797
35,567	Cash at Bank and In Hand	127,181
<u>53,890</u>		<u>142,978</u>
	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	
-	Bank Overdraft	-
(34,076)	Trade Creditors and Accrued Charges	(21,906)
(12,194)	Corporation Tax	(1,318)
(7,113)	Hire Purchase Creditor	(1,778)
<u>(53,383)</u>		<u>(25,002)</u>
507	NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>117,976</u>
	Creditors: Amounts falling due outwith one year	
(1,778)	Hire Purchase Creditor	-
269,190	NET ASSETS	361,244
	Represented by:	
	CAPITAL ACCOUNT	
177,829	Balance as at 1 st January 2018	269,190
91,361	Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	92,054
<u>269,190</u>	Balance at 31/12/2018	<u>361,244</u>

EXTRACT FROM THE 2018 ACCOUNTS

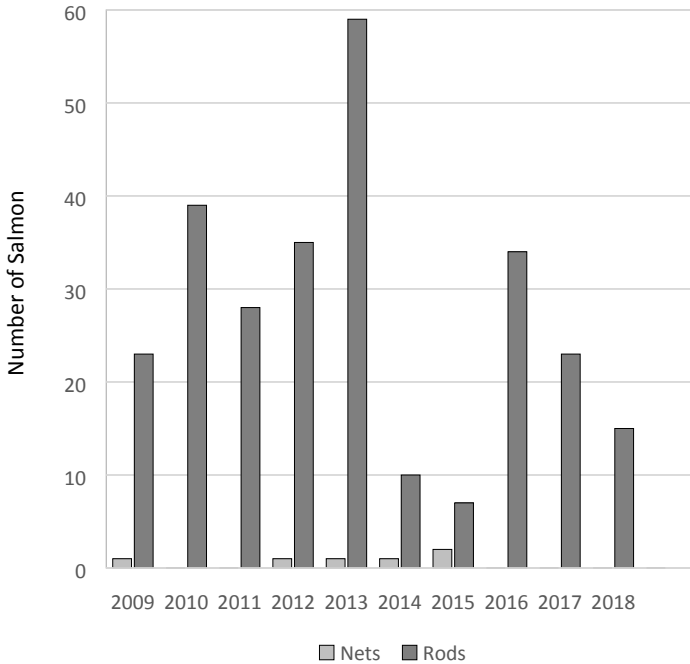
The financial information set out on these pages has been extracted from the RTC's full audited accounts on which the auditors, Rennie Welch, reported without qualification.

Copies of the full audited accounts are available on request.

APPENDICES

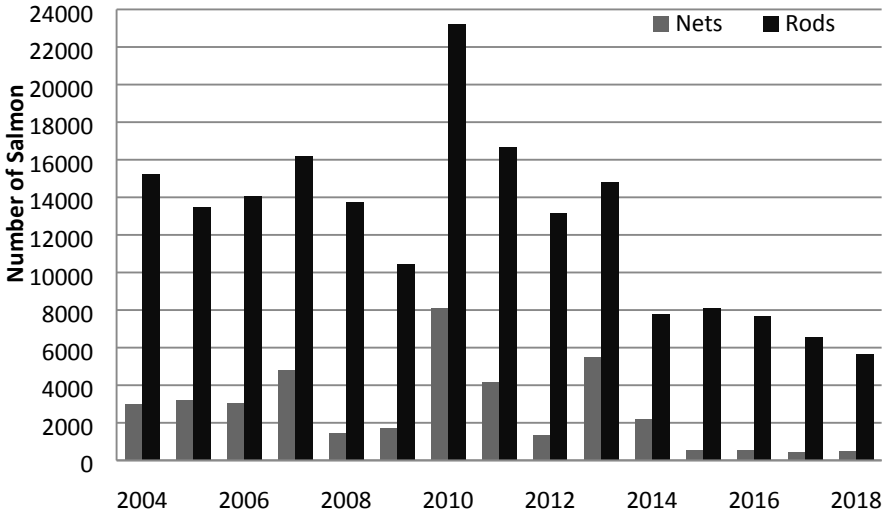
Appendix I Salmon of 25lbs and Over

Rod Fishery	Individual Weights (lbs)	Rod Fishery	Individual Weights (lbs)
Tiptoe	25	Birgham Dub	30, 27, 26
Pedwell (Pt)	25	Sprouston	30
West Newbiggin	29, 25, 25	Dryburgh Lower	31
West Learmouth	27	Dryburgh Upper	25
Wark South	27	The Nest	26
Wark Upper North	25		

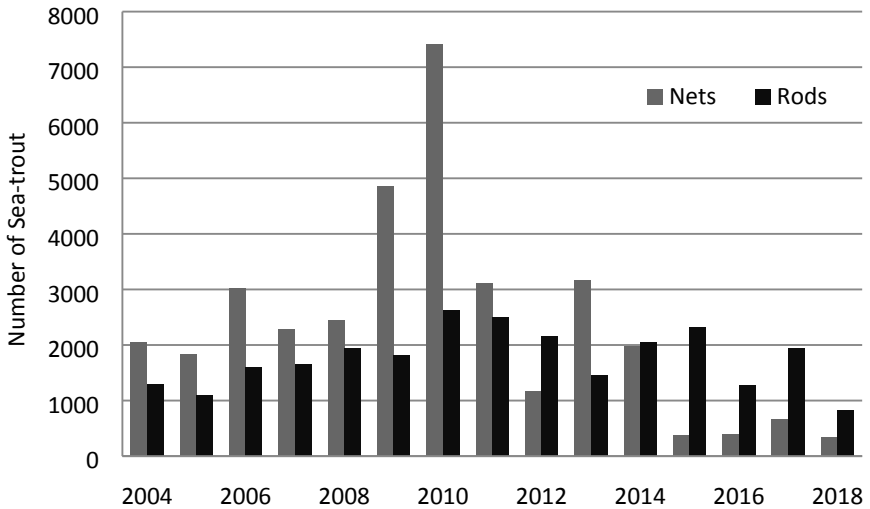


10 year catches of Salmon 25lbs and over

Appendix II Rod and Net Catches

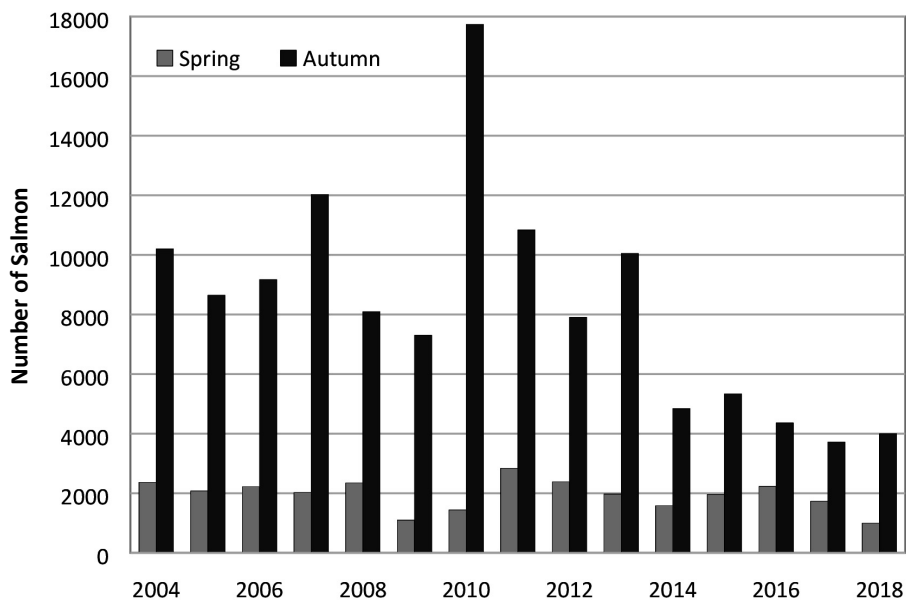


Salmon catches 2004 – 2018 for Rods and Nets



Sea-trout catches 2004 – 2018 for Rods and Nets

Appendix III



Spring v Autumn trends for rod-caught Salmon below Ettrickmouth

Appendix IV

	Upper	Middle	Lower	Whiteadder	Till	Teviot	Ettrick
February	0	18	47	0	0	1	0
March	0	38	87	7	0	3	0
April	0	73	126	17	9	8	0
May	0	66	206	11	10	0	0
June	0	121	215	4	16	0	0
July	0	25	219	0	9	0	0
August	13	177	864	2	3	6	3
September	45	347	1020	1	12	14	7
October	200	345	814	19	11	49	17
November	93	87	99	10	12	34	4
TOTAL	351	1297	3697	71	82	115	31

2018 Salmon Rod catch by month

Appendix IV cont.

	Upper	Middle	Lower	Whiteadder	Till	Teviot	Ettrick
February	0	2	9	0	0	0	0
March	0	4	11	0	0	0	0
April	0	0	4	2	12	0	0
May	1	6	11	1	14	0	0
June	0	34	71	3	76	4	0
July	0	13	19	0	14	0	0
August	3	58	58	2	14	4	0
September	22	59	75	0	8	12	0
October	40	35	48	2	8	6	1
November	22	8	12	1	4	4	0
TOTAL	88	219	318	11	150	30	1

2018 Sea-Trout Rod catch by month

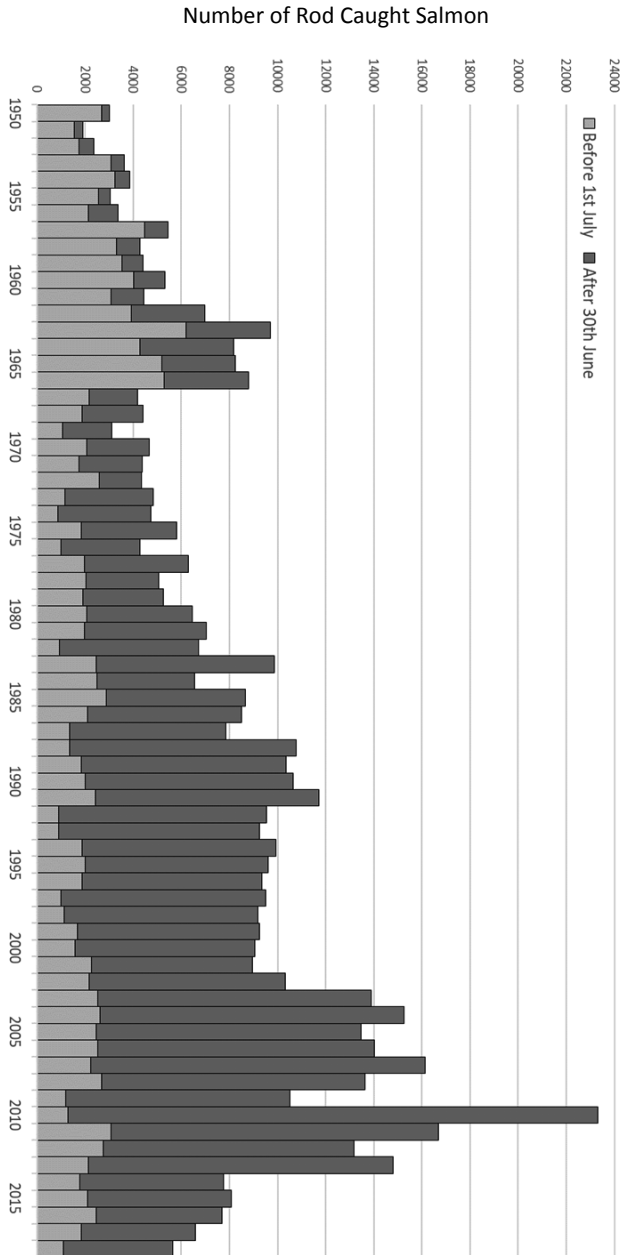
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
February	149	132	151	260	244	65	142	126	79	66
March	166	251	330	429	258	445	394	387	294	135
April	246	373	461	643	797	433	340	564	305	233
May	382	484	1328	840	416	477	698	797	487	293
June	252	308	813	679	418	347	545	603	687	356
July	282	747	926	881	202	171	701	660	879	253
August	898	2309	3388	1787	1030	1169	1222	1146	1134	1068
September	1889	5440	4031	2414	3131	1142	1246	887	1159	1446
October	3820	7301	3397	3658	3720	2551	2123	1904	1179	1455
November	2381	5874	1857	1594	4578	967	688	609	374	339
TOTAL	10,465	23,219	16,682	13,185	14,794	7,767	8,099	7,683	6,577	5,644

Annual Salmon Rod Catch by month: 2009 – 2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
February	10	11	14	1	9	4	7	3	17	11
March	14	35	12	16	25	51	40	11	29	15
April	24	53	17	74	54	82	32	33	27	18
May	162	128	194	226	93	243	227	114	122	33
June	283	350	735	413	139	355	560	254	364	188
July	487	946	661	638	164	186	791	412	634	46
August	416	293	501	393	194	591	382	219	393	139
September	182	339	187	179	267	90	76	86	158	176
October	145	247	115	166	299	270	136	92	147	140
November	91	219	63	110	216	147	74	56	48	51
TOTAL	1,814	2,621	2,499	2,216	1,460	2,019	2,325	1,280	1,939	817

Annual Sea-Trout Rod Catch by month: 2009 – 2018

Appendix V Salmon Rod Catches on Tweed 1950 – 2018



Appendix VI
TWEED COMMISSION MEMBERS

As at 31st December 2018

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

Roxburgh (9)

J. Curtis (Upper Teviotdale)
I. Davis
R. Glass (Kelso) *
N. S. Highmore
D. Noble (Hawick)
T. W. Reid
J. T. Scott
R. Young (Jedforest)
Vacancy

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)

Tweeddale (5)

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

Northumberland County Council (9)

J. Cameron (Ladykirk & Norham)
P. Cowe (Berwick)
C. Hallam-Baker (Glendale)
Miss G. Hill
Dr. J. H. Mitchell

A. H. Murray
G. Renner-Thompson
G. Roughead
R. Tebay (Chatton)

*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 2018

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
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 *	-	Carham
The Duke of Sutherland	-	Mertoun
D. Theaker	-	Mounthooly
N. Thompson	-	Cornhill
W. Younger	-	Old Melrose Fishings
Vacancy	-	

Appendix VII
RTC Officials and Employees

At January 2019

Chairman:	D. J. Dobie
Vice Chairman:	R. Glass
Clerk:	F. B. L. Hieatt
Treasurer:	G. Hughes
Administrator:	M. Kerr
Office:	The North Court Drygrange Steading Melrose Roxburghshire TD6 9DJ Tel: (01896) 848294 Fax: (01896) 848277 Email: enquires@rtc.org.uk Website: www.rtc.co.uk
Head Fishery Officer/ Superintendent:	K. Ferguson Mobile : 07884 230045
Fishery Officers/ Water Bailiff:	A. Davison Mobile: 07884 230048 K.G. Graham Mobile: 07884 230047 T.A. Heard Mobile: 07884 230046

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; known primarily as a Salmon river, 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.

USEFUL CONTACTS

River Tweed Commission

www.rtc.org.uk

River Tweed News

www.rivertweed.org.uk

The Tweed Foundation

www.tweedfoundation.org.uk

The Tweed Foundation Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/TheTweedFoundation/

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Other Organisations

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

www.gov.uk/defra

Environment Agency

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Fisheries Management Scotland

fms.scot

FishTweed

www.fishtweed.co.uk

National Angling Diary

www.anglingdiary.org.uk

Natural England

www.naturalengland.gov.uk

USEFUL CONTACTS

Other Organisations Cont.

Northumberland County Council

www.northumberland.gov.uk

Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (NIFCA)

www.nifca.gov.uk

Northumbrian Water

www.nwg.co.uk

Scottish Borders Council

www.scotborders.gov.uk

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

www.sepa.org.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage

www.nature.scot

Scottish Water

www.scottishwater.co.uk

The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland Science

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/salmon-trout-coarse

Tweedbeats

www.tweedbeats.com

Tweed Forum

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.

