



2019

**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

2019 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Whilst salmon and sea-trout catches in 2019 were a distinct improvement on the depressed catches of 2018, the apparent emergent trend of a larger run of both salmon and sea-trout in the summer months has not counter balanced the absence of an autumn run. That said the Tweed remains the most productive salmon river in the UK catching 6,382 salmon and 2,176 sea-trout by rod and line during the 2019 season.

As far as the spring run is concerned catches were slightly up at 1,925, but against that, the new Ettrick fish counter is recording significantly lower numbers of ascending salmon than those recorded over the 11-year period to 2009.

We had hoped that the Scottish Government would introduce a Conservation Order providing for compulsory Catch and Release until 30th June but regrettably this has been delayed. We have been arguing for this since 2012 and owing to the route that the Scottish Government took to move the Close Time from 15th February to 31st March in 2015 we have been obliged to apply in each year for consent to fish by spinning during the Close Time from 15th February to 31st March. We will be continuing our discussions with the Scottish Government with a view to this matter being resolved and put on a permanent footing from 2021.

The marked reduction in salmon catches throughout Scotland over the past six years has led both the Scottish Government and those charged with the protection and management of fisheries to devote more resources on establishing the reasons for the decline. It is now clear that mortality at sea, for whatever reason, is the major peril faced by our smolts and salmon and a primary objective for the RTC and its fellow fishery boards is now the protection of smolts with a view to boosting the number of returning salmon.

In 2019, the Tweed Foundation ran a pilot study involving the tagging of 60 smolts during the smolt run, 41% of which safely reached tidal waters. This result is similar to that arising from studies on other Scottish rivers and it demonstrates that there is scope for us to take positive actions to improve the survival rate of smolts in the Tweed. In the first instance, a full trial of 150 smolts is to be run by the Tweed Foundation for the next two years. In addition, and for a second year, 1,000 smolts will be tagged with "P.I.T." tags, which will enable the return rate of the smolts as adult salmon to be established.

Efforts also continue to be made to minimise the effect of in-river predation and we expect that more information on the possible causes will become available during the year following the smolt studies, the analysis of the diet of avian predators and also a satellite tracking project involving goosanders. Last year's pilot study indicated that the Middle Tweed was the area where the highest smolt mortality occurred and this is the area where the most detailed monitoring will take place during the smolt run this spring.

The RTC reduced its budget again in 2019 to reflect lower rents paid for fishing on the river, but the annual income of circa £500,000 is very much regarded now as a base figure if the RTC's activities (including its support for the Tweed Foundation) are not to be curtailed. We will be looking to make an increased payment to the Tweed Foundation for 2020 to assist them with their studies on smolts and avian predator tracking. In addition, work has been started on developing communication strategies for both organisations and the aim is to roll these out during 2020.

The re-structuring of the RTC Committee resulted in a refreshment of the membership of the Committee and, in addition, a Treasurer is now in post.

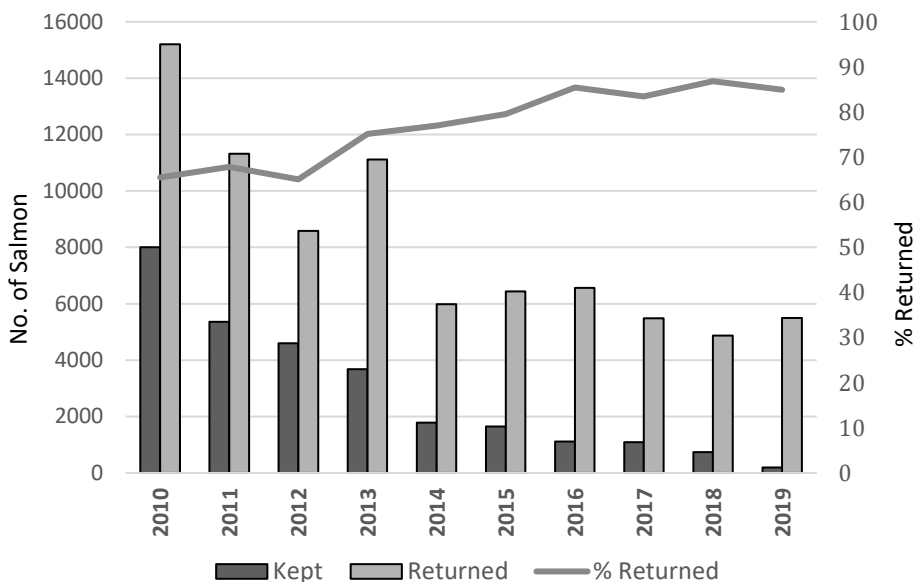
The pressures on the RTC and Tweed Foundation have only increased over the past few years as catches have fallen and the members of staff of both organisations are to be thanked for their commitment and contribution over the past year.

H. P. Younger

FISH CATCHES

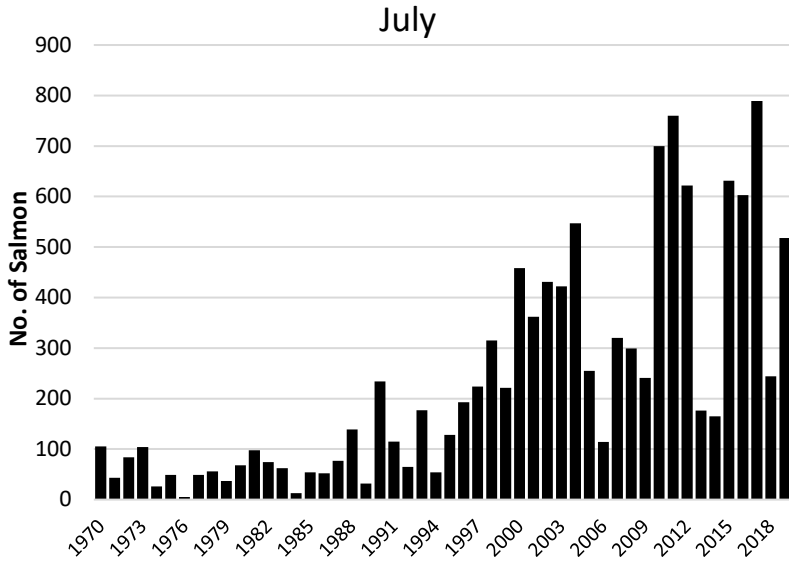
Salmon

The total salmon catch at 6,814 was higher than the previous season (6,129 in 2018). 6,382 salmon (5,644 in 2018) were caught by rod and line and 336 (485) by net; 86%, 5,503 fish, of the total rod catch was returned (87% in 2018).

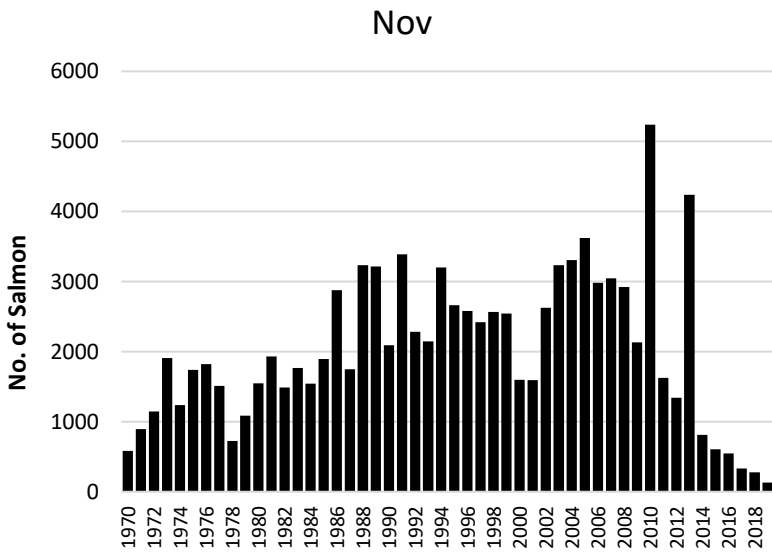


Salmon Rod Catch 2009 – 2019, kept and returned

The 2019 Tweed salmon catch showed a modest improvement on 2018, with 738 more fish caught by the rods. Weather during the Spring was kinder providing conditions that allowed more fishing effort. The effect that water conditions have on the summer months was clear this season. Continued high water during June, July and August resulted in a summer catch of 2,542 salmon. Last season— during a prolonged dry spell, which stretched from April to September –rods caught 1,677 in those same three months. Some of the later summer action moved into the middle Tweed beats. Whilst the upper Tweed catches were a little higher than 2018, figures were not huge, but spread out a little more, with the first handful of fish being caught in June above Galashiels, whereas last season saw no catches until August.



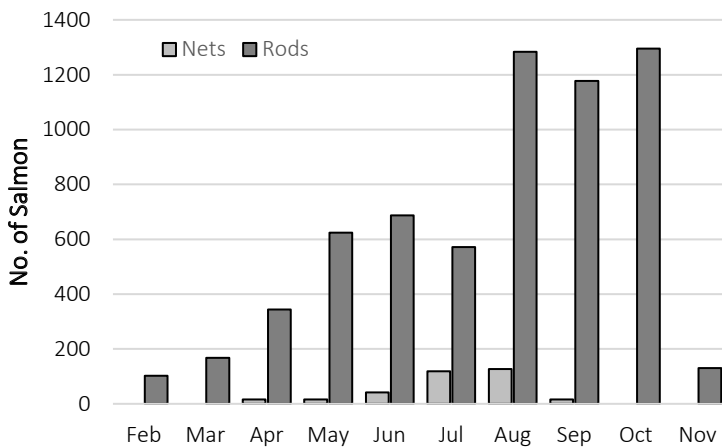
July: Rod-catch on the main stem of Tweed 1970 – 2019



November: Rod-catch on the main stem of Tweed 1970 – 2019

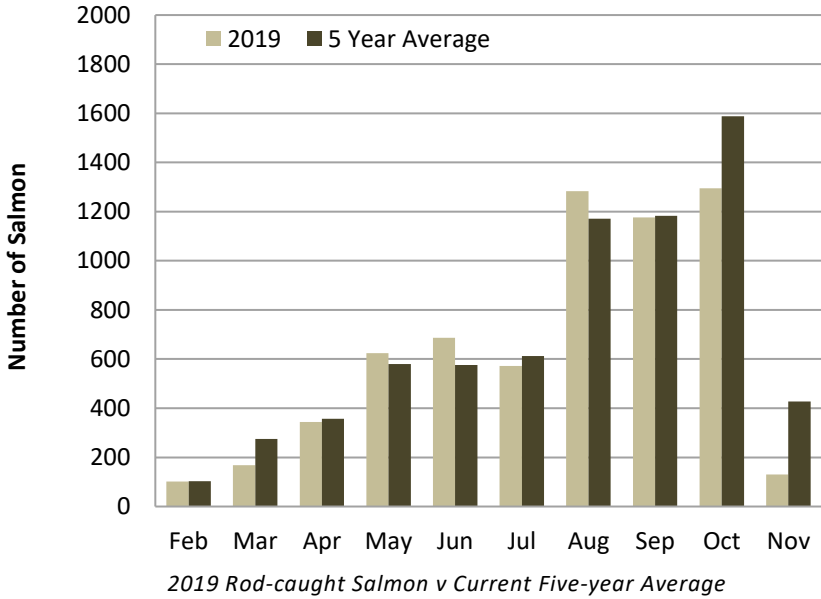
The lack of an autumn run was evident with a further drop in salmon catches from September onwards: 2,602 in 2019 (3,240 in 2018). Weather conditions and fishing effort also played their part.

All tributaries except the Teviot saw an improvement in their catches, with the biggest increases seen on the Till (210 fish in 2019; 82 in 2018) and the Whiteadder (196 fish in 2019; 71 in 2018).

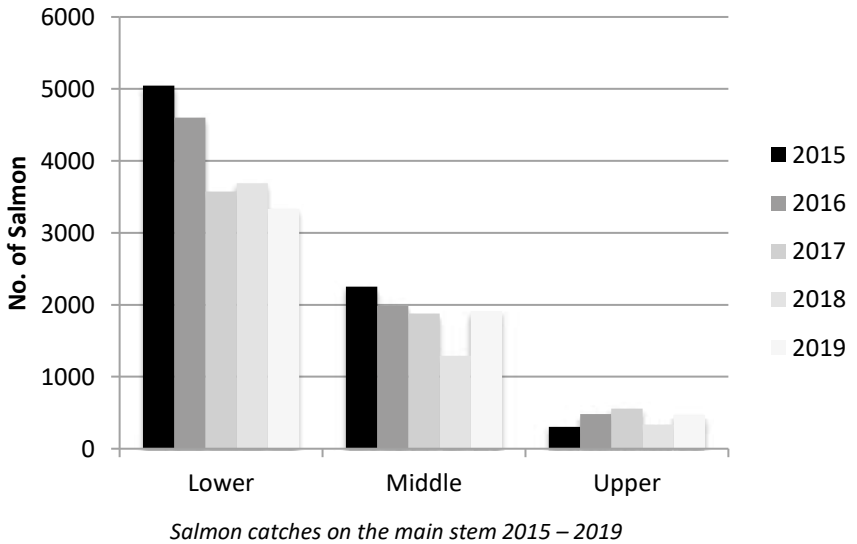


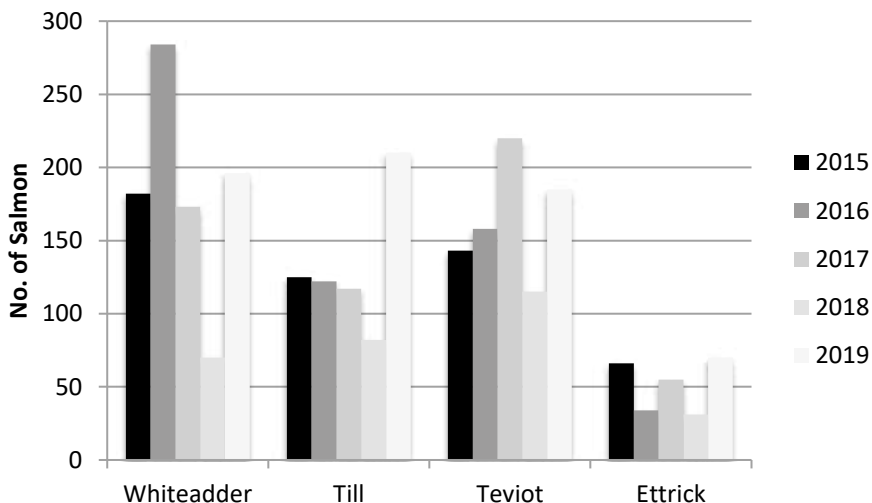
2019 Salmon Catch by Month for Rods and Nets

Just 130 fish were caught over the entire river in November.



2019 catches in the summer were relatively good, with June and August exceeding the five-year averages. September equalled the five-year average.

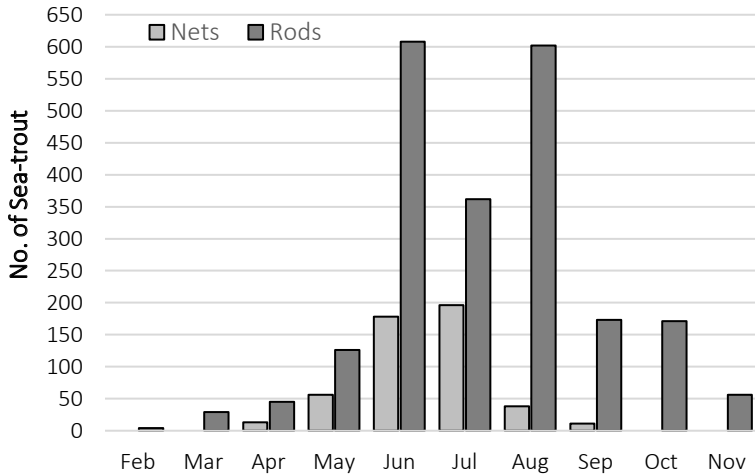




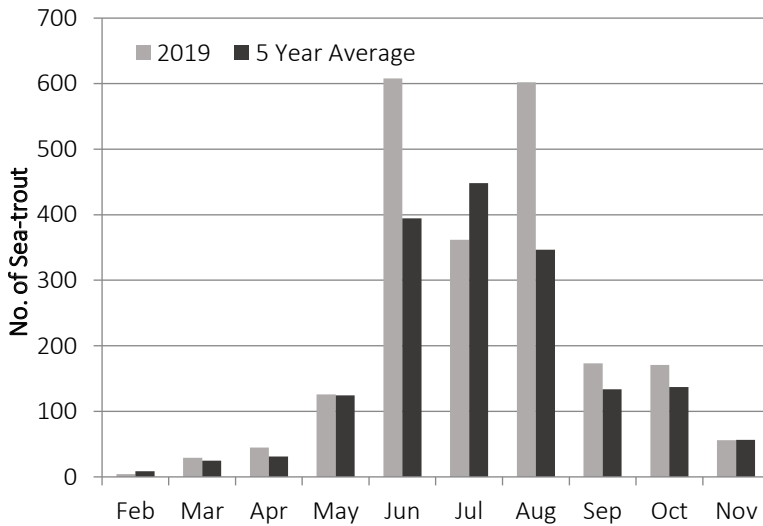
Salmon catches on the tributaries 2015 - 2019

Sea-trout

The 2019 sea-trout catch was also higher at 2,668 (1,158 in 2018), with the rods catching a significantly higher number of fish: 2,176 (817 in 2018). The net catch was also higher at 492 (341); 64% (74% in 2018) of rod caught sea-trout were returned. Catches of sea-trout by rods in the summer season- June to August – increased more than four-fold, with 1,572 caught (373 in 2018), the effect of which might, in part, have been due to the final closure in January of the North East Drift Net Fishery. The rod catch in June at 608 was the highest for that month since 2011 (735). Rod catches in August have not traditionally been high, but 2019 saw a catch of 602, the highest for over 50 years.



2019 Sea-trout Catch by Month for Rods and Nets



2019 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 the headwaters are largely fully stocked with juvenile fish. Further information can be found on The Tweed Foundation's website, and in its own reports.

Other Freshwater Fish

In contrast with the disappointing catches of “oversize” (10”+) Brown trout on the main stem of the Tweed during 2018, last season was much improved with catch rates in the Upper, Middle and Lower Tweed well above average, and over double the catch rate of the previous season. This increase facilitated a large rise in catches of oversize Brown trout as a result of many more catches of Brown trout in the 10” and 16” length range, which were the parr and small “oversize” trout from the 2018 season.

The floods during winter 2015/2016 were the most likely reason for below average survival of one, or possibly two, year classes of juvenile trout, explaining the poor catches of adult-sized trout in 2018. As a result, the juvenile year classes that followed saw above average survival (those were parr and small “oversize” trout from 2018 and the 10” to 16” trout from 2019). The catches clearly showed that extreme conditions within the river could result in below average juvenile survival but that when this happens, the river compensates at the first available opportunity with above average survival in the year classes that follow. This is something that is seen quite frequently with Grayling, but appears much less frequently with trout. Since catch recording started in 2006, this has only occurred on one previous occasion.

In contrast to the main stem of the Tweed, the tributaries, which are dominated by parr and small “oversize” trout, generally fished well in both 2018 and 2019. The Whiteadder and Teviot had the highest overall catch rates since current recording started, whilst the Leader Water produced catch rates that were well above average.

Grayling catch rates were above average in 2019 and were dominated by one and two-year-old Grayling (fish in their second and third summer respectively). Catches of those age classes of Grayling were good last season.

SPRING SALMON CONSERVATION

The Spring salmon figure was an improvement on the previous season, with 1,925 (1,083 in 2018) rod-caught fish being recorded up to 30th June. There was a small increase in the five-year Spring average catch to 1,891 (1,860 in 2018). Angling conditions this Spring were more favourable, with considerably more water around at times. Catches might have been higher had the river been fished harder, but some beats remained underlet. Unsurprisingly, the beats that did relatively well, and which were in demand with anglers, were those where the fish were reported as being held up or had decided to rest.

The first two months of the season were a slight improvement on last year, following a relatively mild winter. Catches picked up in April, and May and June saw half decent figures and a large increase on 2018 when, by that point in the Spring, the river had already endured three months of low water conditions. The June catch, at 687, equalled that of 2017.

19 (20 in 2018) Springers of 15lbs or over were recorded, with the largest being one of 22lbs.

The Lower Tweed caught the bulk of the Springers at 1,191 (681 in 2018) and, again, over double the number in the Middle river at 572 (316 in 2018).

The tributaries, although not traditionally catching large number of salmon in the early part of the season, caught 152 this Spring, up a little on the five-year average of 144. A total of just 86 salmon were caught in these areas last year. The Till had its best catch since 2012, with 60 Springers (77 in 2012). Very few fish (10) were caught in the Upper Tweed, as would be expected.

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.

SPINNING

The RTC compiled data retrospectively from the 2017 season onwards on the prevalence of spinning during the Spring season. That information was required in response to a claim that spinning damaged fish more readily than fishing with a fly, and that therefore it was likely to contribute to greater mortality in Spring salmon. Following meetings between the RTC and the Scottish Government, it was accepted that spinning was:

- a) A legitimate method of fishing;
- b) That it was a method that was required to be employed in certain fishing conditions, such as high or coloured water;
- c) That to remove spinning as a legitimate method would severely disadvantage anglers by denying them the opportunity of catching salmon in certain conditions, remove fishing opportunities for the young and elderly and – in the current climate – have the potential to have a negative impact on the economics of the river by dissuading anglers from fishing on Tweed.

Season	No. of Salmon caught on the Fly		No. of Salmon caught on the Spinner	
	Spring 1 Feb–31 May	Whole Season 1 Feb–30 Nov	Spring 1 Feb–31 May	Whole Season 1 Feb–30 Nov
2019	79%	76%	21%	24%
2018	71%	87%	29%	13%
2017	82%	84%	18%	16%

% of Salmon caught during Spring, and over the whole season, on the main stem of Tweed from Boleside downstream

The spinning season is linked to the netting season in the Tweed Order legislation and, therefore, the agreement of the Scottish Government to allow spinning to continue during the Close Season for netting currently has to be sought until the legislation can be amended. The Scottish Government has issued consent to the RTC to allow spinning to continue since the Close Time was moved to 31st March.

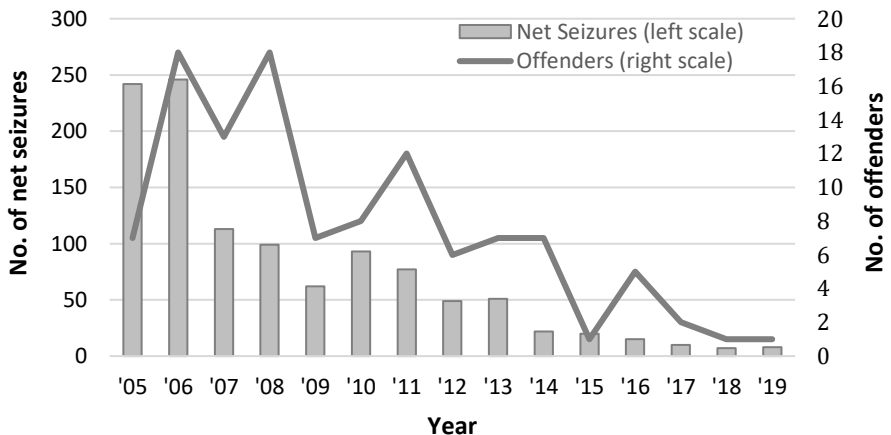
STAFFING

Miss Monica Kerr left the RTC in October as Administrator, having undertaken the office duties for both the Commission and the Tweed Foundation for almost two years.

FISHERY OFFICER REPORT

Illegal Activity

The early part of the year was very quiet with few incidents reported. Grayling anglers were checked regularly on the upper river from January through to March. As Spring salmon fishing got under way the focus of the team returned to the lower river with regular night patrols carried out at known poaching areas. That work has been greatly aided by the purchase of new thermal imaging binoculars, which allow areas to be monitored during the hours of darkness from up to 1,800 metres distant. The binoculars also record illegal activity in real time, which can then be used as evidence. That equipment was used to detain an individual on Hallowstell Beach in possession of two gill nets and a salmon that resulted in a successful prosecution, the single case during the year; he pleaded guilty in Berwick Magistrates Court and was fined. There was a slight increase in netting activity last year in the Berwick area with a total of 8 gill nets recovered. Night patrols using the RTC's river boat were carried out during the summer.



Offenders and Net Seizures over the last 15 years

Working hard with proprietors in the Upper Tweed area has paid dividends in curtailing the foul-hooking practice, which was a regular occurrence over many seasons. Reported incidents of that activity were well down on previous seasons, with proprietors assisting by keeping known individuals away from the river. High water levels in the latter part of the season allowed fish to move upstream without getting held up at some of the caulds and fish passes, which resulted in little illegal activity in those areas.

In contrast with 2018, when some conflict was experienced between boatmen and Trout anglers over sea-trout fishing, last year saw far fewer incidents occurring with the Fishery Officer team spending time monitoring the problem areas and educating anglers about the importance of observing the rules. Due to improved communication with all stakeholders on the river, the team was able to deal with problems before they get out of hand.

Sea-boat

The RTC's sea-boat was deployed during 2019. To improve safety when carrying out manoeuvres close to shore, it has had a new GPS and depth finding system fitted.

Operational Patrols and Joint Working

To raise awareness of fish-related crime, the Head Fishery Officer has been working closely with the Police Scotland Wildlife Crime Officer, PC Steven Irving. Over the course of the year a map of the Tweed District was created highlighting the problem areas, including the type of illegal activity usually expected in each area. That information is now available to all Police Officers and is currently being used successfully, with Police checks being made whenever possible. Two Police training days were run in the autumn at Drygrange, both with input from the RTC's Fishery Officers and the Head Bailiff of the Forth DSFB. The training consisted of presentations and practical demonstrations with Reserve Fishery Officer, Kevin Patterson, kindly allowing access at Tweedwood. In total, 35 Police officers attended the sessions from all over the Lothian and Borders region. Feedback from the events was extremely positive, with two of the Procurator Fiscals' attending the second session and commenting on how useful they found the day. Similar training days will be held next year.

Due to the reducing amount of active enforcement work required, Fishery Officers are increasingly taking on other tasks as part of their revised remit, especially to assist the Tweed Foundation and to make use of the additional capacity within the team. Should illegal activity increase, the Fishery Officers' first call will always be to respond to that area of their remit.

During the early part of 2019, the team re-surveyed the remaining habitat sites that had not been completed in 2018. Most of these sites had not been checked for a number of years. The photographic record was updated and all damage within the sites recorded.

In the spring, the Tweed Foundation started a pilot study using acoustic tags to track salmon smolts and Fishery Officers were involved during the entire process - from catching the pre-smolts in the Gala Water to checking the receivers in the estuary. During the smolt run the team was also involved daily in running the Gala trap, tagging and processing the smolts.

Towards the end of June, Fishery Officers checked the downstream movements of American Signal Crayfish, this time on the Ettrick. The size and location of any crayfish caught were recorded with results showing that there has not been much increase in the downstream movement to date.

The team continues to work closely with the Tweed Foundation throughout the year and this increased from late June to the end of September when the annual juvenile electro-fishing surveys were undertaken. Fishery Officers rotate this work on a weekly basis therefore splitting the workload between their normal enforcement duties and the electro-fishing monitoring work. The team also conducted all the floy tagging and recording of adult fish as part of the exploitation study undertaken each year at the Paxton netting station, with a team of two officers being involved at each session.

Fishery Officers undertook checks and clearance of obstructions from fish passes around the catchment, and additional checks were made during the continued periods of high water experienced last year. During the course of the season, Fishery Officers were also responsible for the maintenance, delivery and retrieval of the Tweed wheelyboats to and from beats, as required.

Riverworks

The RTC's good relationship with SEPA ensures that most works are carried out correctly by contractors. Due to steady river flows, water extraction was not a problem last summer and there was no need to monitor the various extraction points. Some riverworks require working in the dry, which necessitates fish rescues where fish have to be removed from the site and relocated downstream. The team carried out the first rescue of the year in early November on a small side channel of the River Breamish.

Other Agencies

The Head Fishery Officer, along with the Clerk, continued to establish links with other agencies in the area; that has included meetings with Police Scotland, SEPA and NIFCA. The Head Fishery Officer is also part of a national enforcement group, which has its secretariat within Fisheries Management Scotland, and which is considering ways to improve standards within fisheries enforcement.

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. The 2019 counts of goosander showed January and October as amongst the lowest on record; the April count recorded above average numbers of birds, with May's count recording a return to the average for that month. Cormorant numbers remained around average for the year.

Throughout the year, Fishery Officers monitored cormorant and goosander numbers on the Tweed with regular counts undertaken at all the roosting sites and extra counts carried out during the smolt run in the tidal areas of the District.

Following the RTC's request for a larger licence in 2019 to enable it to undertake a study to look at the current dietary make-up of the birds, Marine Scotland took this study on, funding a multi-river diet study on the rivers Tweed, Dee, Spey and Nith. This work built on the last major dietary analysis study of cormorant and goosander undertaken in the 1990s, when the main component of the birds' diet was eel – a species now in crisis in many areas.

The usual control licence for avian predators held by the RTC was therefore suspended in 2019 and replaced by a larger licence, controlled by the Tweed Foundation, for a scientific study to assist Marine Scotland in the collection of samples for dietary analysis. The RTC's Head Fishery Officer organised the sub-licensees and arranged the collection of samples for this study. Marine Scotland commissioned the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology to undertake the analysis work, with results expected in Spring 2020.

The samples that the RTC had collected under its usual control licence during 2017 and 2018 will be used to supplement the Tweed samples as part of the dietary analysis study.

Use of Lasers

Lasers were deployed by the Fishery Officers, with additional help from some boatmen, during 2019 as a way of disrupting the feeding patterns of the birds and discouraging the formation of permanent roosts using a non-lethal technique. Whilst initially very successful, the birds quickly became accustomed to the laser and became more reluctant to move on. This technique does not therefore provide a permanent solution for the better protection of Tweed's smolts and juvenile fish populations.

Avian Predator Tracking

The RTC supported a trial study that the Tweed Foundation had hoped to undertake during 2019 to satellite tag and track five goosanders. The trial would provide more data on the upstream and downstream in-river migration of birds around the catchment and, particularly in conjunction with the scaring techniques undertaken by the RTC, would provide an indication of how successful such techniques were in moving birds on. The work would be undertaken with the expertise of the Game & Countryside Wildlife Trust and would inform future, larger, studies. It was hoped that the trial would now be completed in early 2020.

SALMON SMOLT STUDIES

The Tweed Foundation's work on salmon smolts dovetails with the ongoing work to reduce avian predation in the catchment. These are currently the two most important areas of work where the RTC and Tweed Foundation can make a positive impact on the numbers of fish that successfully migrate downstream to the sea.

The RTC supported a pilot study undertaken by the Tweed Foundation to acoustic tag and track 60 salmon smolts in Spring 2019. The RTC's Fishery Officers were heavily involved in the tagging process, which was undertaken on the Gala Water. The study aimed to provide an estimate of salmon smolt survival in the main river (Middle & Lower Tweed), identify any areas of the river where there were high smolt losses, and test alternative management strategies to reduce losses in those areas.

The study found that 41% of smolts reached the Tweed estuary; however, the 59% smolt loss was for tagged fish only, and could not be taken as representative of the whole population. The highest losses were found in the Middle Tweed (relative to the Lower river), which would inform the direction of future study. The tagging system was unable to pinpoint how those smolts that had been lost were taken and, with such a small trial sample of smolts, drawing any firm conclusions for the wider population was difficult.

The pilot study confirmed that the tagging and tracking process is feasible, and a larger-scale study is planned for Spring 2020.

POLICY

Governance

In accordance with its legislation, the Commission met 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 six times, including three times with the Trustees of the Tweed Foundation. Joint meetings with The Foundation included a review of work for its current year and that proposed for 2019, discussion and agreement of the draft annual budgets (after which the RTC budget was then proposed to Commissioners), and to agree a communications strategy for Tweed.

During the year, the Commission undertook a major review of its insurance requirements. Whilst cover was extended in some areas, there were some cost-savings and a new broker was engaged to supply the RTC's insurance requirements.

RTC Committee Restructure

The new Committee structure, agreed in December 2018, was implemented following the Commission's AGM in March with the intention of modernising and clarifying its management arrangements, functioning within a clear remit, and being transparent and accountable to the Commission. The RTC Committee now consists of four Proprietorial and four Representative Commissioners, along with the Chief Commissioner and Deputy Chief Commissioner. All are elected by the Commission: four Proprietors by the Proprietorial Commissioners, and four Representatives by the Representative Commissioners. The Chief Commissioner is elected annually as required by the Commission's legislation – the 'Tweed Order' – at the AGM, and the Commission has agreed to do likewise with his Deputy. Those elected to the new RTC Committee undertook to remain in post for a three-year term to provide continuity. A new Terms of Reference document was produced for the Committee's operation, which was approved by the Commission.

Ultimate authority remains 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 operates has to dovetail with the existing statutory framework.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

In accordance with the GDPR, the RTC undertook an annual review of its GDPR policy to ensure that the data it collected was accurate, lawfully processed, retained only as long as necessary, and kept securely.

RTC Budget

The RTC's 2019 budget was reduced further in recognition of the continuing fall in catches and the subsequent effect on Tweed proprietors and their fisheries. The reductions allowed for a further drop in the Assessment of 12%. The RTC has now reduced the Assessment by 40% over the last four years.

Net Fisheries

The application for an Annual Close Time Order under Schedule 2, Article 3 of The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006 stalled due to both a shortage of resource in the Recreational Fisheries department at Marine Scotland and the

pressures that Brexit had provided on Scottish Government lawyers. 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. Whilst no material progress had been made, Marine Scotland indicated that its preference was to protect Springers further via the introduction of a Conservation Order, rather than a Close Time Regulation, which would have the effect of making Tweed a Category 3 river during the Spring to 31st May. Such an Order would allow sea-trout to be taken during an extended close season for salmon and provide more flexibility should stocks improve at some future point.

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

A much-reduced number of coastal T nets in Northumberland District 1 (the closest District to Tweed) operated in the 2019 season as a sea-trout only fishery, with shorter seasons according to netting Districts. In addition, the Environment Agency (EA) introduced the trial of a modified design of the existing Northumbrian T net, which was open-ended and intended to capture sea-trout whilst allowing salmon to pass through unharmed. The trial appeared to show that most salmon were able to be released with minimal damage, being only lightly entangled or resting in the net. The trial monitored 91 separate netting sessions with a total catch of 3,355 sea-trout and 40 salmon, the salmon all being safely released. The Environment Agency would be producing a report on the outcome of the trial before consulting with stakeholders on recommendations for the coastal netting regime in the 2020 season.

Communication

The monthly updates published by the Tweed fisheries management team of the RTC and Tweed Foundation, "*the River*", continued in 2019, alongside Facebook posts and the Tweed News site.

The RTC Committee held joint meetings with the Board of the Tweed Foundation to discuss ways in which it could improve its general communication with all stakeholders. It has engaged some professional expertise to assist with this process, and commenced the construction of a new, joint, fisheries management website for both organisations to showcase the river and provide information on

current studies. The site will also host a Tweed proprietors' area, and up-to-date catch information for the whole river will be available.

The Tweed and Eye Fisheries Management Plan

Commissioners approved the work programme for 2020 that was reviewed annually by the RTC Committee together with the Trustees of the Tweed Foundation.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December 2019

2018		2019
	INCOME	
620,870	Statutory Assessment	509,561
517	Other Income	6
6,100	Rents Received	4,800
-	Wayleaves	1,081
837	Interest Received	1,667
<u>628,324</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>517,115</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
	Bailiffs' Costs Etc.	
2,371	Boat Costs	3,813
4,006	Telecommunication Costs	1,562
1,752	Other Equipment Maintenance	1,014
186,448	Salaries and Other Direct Staff Costs	143,451
25,511	Vehicle Costs	22,574
<u>220,088</u>		<u>172,414</u>
	Administrative Costs	
51,238	Management and Costs	52,863
12,057	Insurance	9,915
3,696	Printing, Telephone, Stationery	5,057
5,116	Office Costs	5,547
1,536	Interest and Charges	834
13,748	Property Costs	3,784
4,206	IT Costs	2,838
21,040	Professional Fees	8,382
21,541	Subscriptions	19,962
1,621	Meeting Costs	2,383
5,849	Sundries	1,968
<u>141,648</u>		<u>113,533</u>
	Research and Improvements	
126,654	Research and Conservation	126,654
21,643	Salmon Conservation	20,786
123	Caulds	-
8	Conservation Payment Scheme	-
<u>148,428</u>		<u>147,440</u>
	Depreciation, Etc.	
31,543	Depreciation	36,329
(6,500)	Gain on Sale of Motor Vehicles	(12,006)
<u>25,043</u>		<u>24,323</u>
<u>535,207</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>457,710</u>
93,117	Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year	59,405
1,063	Corporation Tax	803
<u>92,054</u>	Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year	<u>58,602</u>

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31st December 2019

2018		2019
£		£
	Fixed Assets	
214,241	Property	205,447
-	Sea Boat	1,772
25,547	Motor Vehicles	41,552
3,480	Miscellaneous Equipment	<u>6,094</u>
<u>243,268</u>		<u>254,865</u>
	Current Assets	
15,797	Debtors and Prepayments	28,498
127,181	Cash at Bank and In Hand	157,404
<u>142,978</u>		<u>185,902</u>
	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	
(21,906)	Trade Creditors and Accrued Charges	(20,118)
(1,318)	Corporation Tax	(803)
(1,778)	Hire Purchase Creditor	-
<u>(25,002)</u>		<u>(20,921)</u>
<u>117,976</u>	NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>164,981</u>
361,244	NET ASSETS	419,846
	Represented by:	
	CAPITAL ACCOUNT	
269,190	Balance as at 1 st January 2019	361,244
92,054	Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	58,602
<u>361,244</u>	Balance at 31/12/2019	<u>419,846</u>

EXTRACT FROM THE 2019 ACCOUNTS

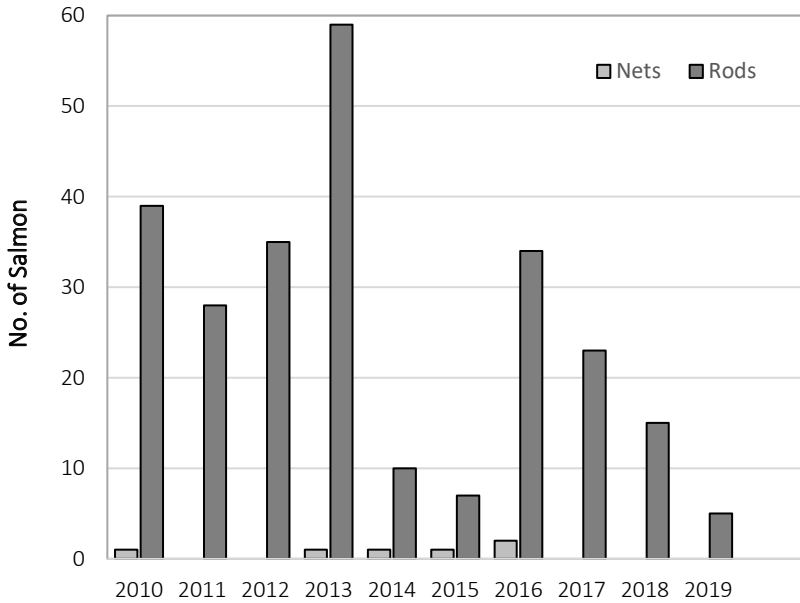
The financial information set out on these pages has been extracted from the RTC's full audited accounts on which the auditors, Rennie Welch, reported without qualification.

Copies of the full audited accounts are available on request.

APPENDICES

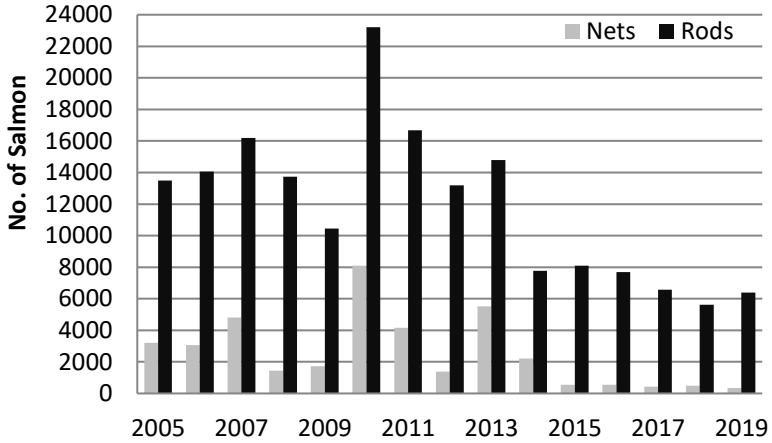
Appendix I Salmon of 25lbs and Over

Rod Fishery	Individual Weights (lbs)	Rod Fishery	Individual Weights (lbs)
Mertoun Middle	25	Elibank	28
Drygrange	31.5	Caberston Upper	29E
Fairnilee	34		

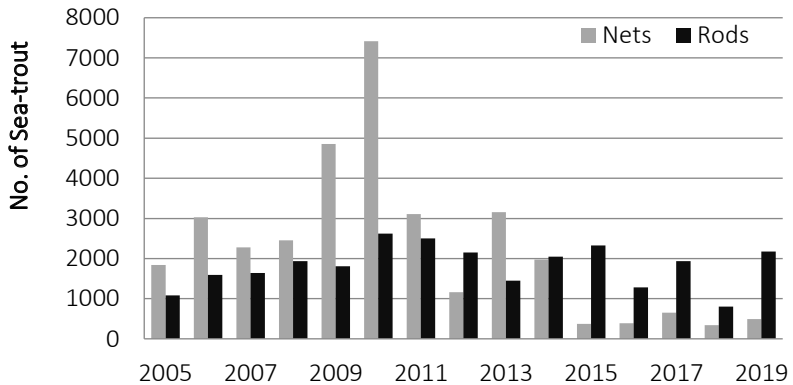


10 year catches of Salmon 25lbs and over

Appendix II Rod and Net Catches

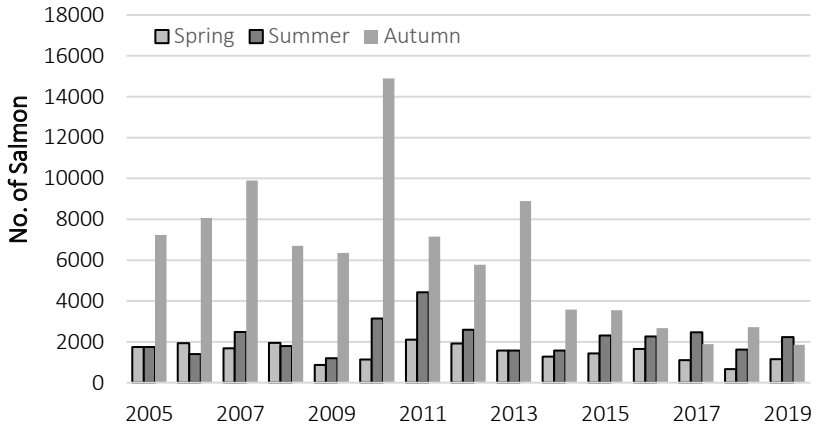


Salmon catches 2005 – 2019 for Rods and Nets



Sea-trout catches 2005 – 2019 for Rods and Nets

Appendix III



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

Appendix IV

	Upper	Middle	Lower	Whiteadder	Till	Teviot	Ettrick
February	0	13	85	1	0	3	0
March	0	54	95	13	3	3	0
April	0	77	240	17	9	1	0
May	0	148	436	18	22	0	0
June	10	280	335	18	26	14	4
July	7	142	369	15	31	7	1
August	19	372	742	42	69	35	4
September	65	369	622	18	40	57	6
October	299	426	389	52	10	69	50
November	68	32	18	2	0	5	5
TOTAL	468	1913	3331	196	210	194	70

2019 Salmon Rod catch by month

Appendix IV cont.

	Upper	Middle	Lower	Whiteadder	Till	Teviot	Ettrick
February	0	0	3	0	1	0	0
March	0	7	15	0	7	0	0
April	0	5	18	1	21	0	0
May	2	10	47	3	63	1	0
June	7	104	230	9	244	12	2
July	7	131	120	5	78	19	2
August	25	254	166	6	84	66	1
September	29	72	44	5	8	15	0
October	65	43	37	3	8	13	2
November	36	11	4	1	0	3	1
TOTAL	171	637	684	33	514	129	8

2019 Sea-Trout Rod catch by month

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
February	132	151	260	244	65	142	126	79	66	102
March	251	330	429	258	445	394	387	294	135	168
April	373	461	643	797	433	340	564	305	233	344
May	484	1328	840	416	477	698	797	487	293	624
June	308	813	679	418	347	545	603	687	356	687
July	747	926	881	202	171	701	660	879	253	572
August	2309	3388	1787	1030	1169	1222	1146	1134	1068	1283
September	5440	4031	2414	3131	1142	1246	887	1159	1446	1177
October	7301	3397	3658	3720	2551	2123	1904	1179	1455	1295
November	5874	1857	1594	4578	967	688	609	374	339	130
TOTAL	23,219	16,682	13,185	14,794	7,767	8,099	7,683	6,577	5,644	6,382

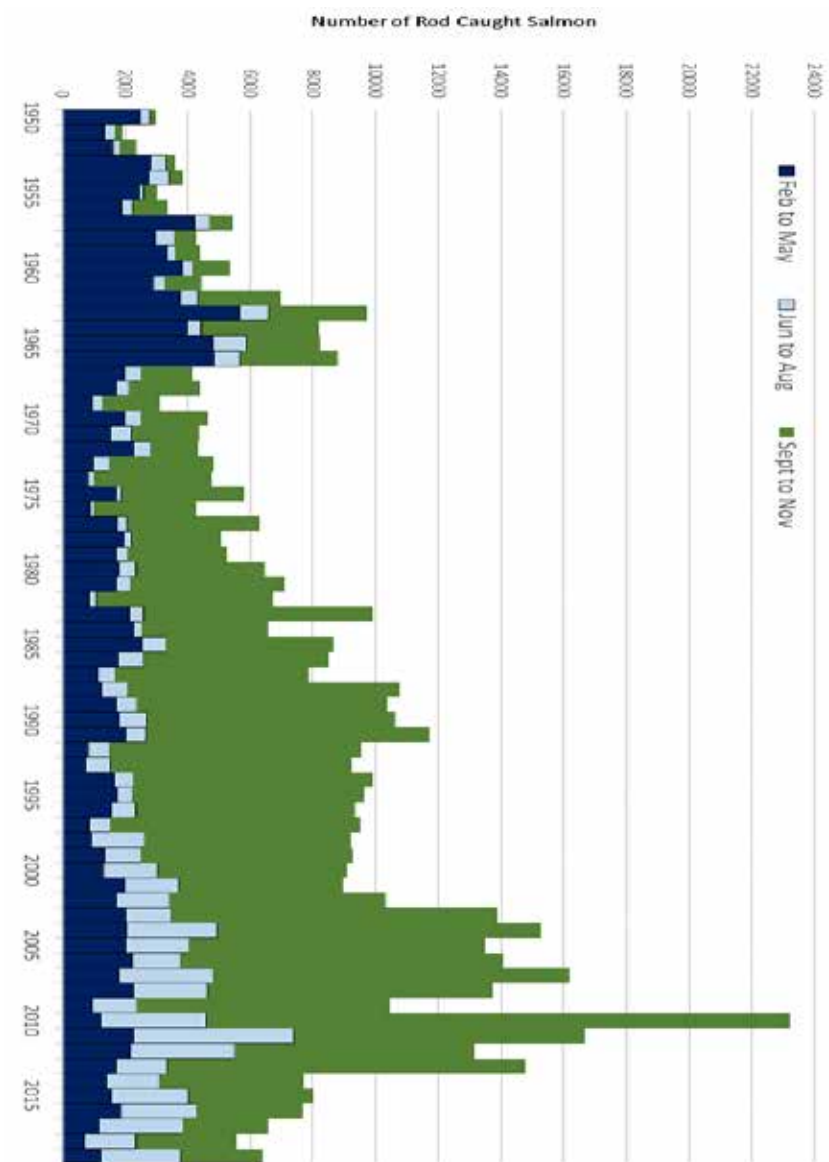
Annual Salmon Rod Catch by month: 2010 – 2019

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
February	11	14	1	9	4	7	3	17	11	4
March	35	12	16	25	51	40	11	29	15	29
April	53	17	74	54	82	32	33	27	18	45
May	128	194	226	93	243	227	114	122	33	126
June	350	735	413	139	355	560	254	364	188	608
July	946	661	638	164	186	791	412	634	46	362
August	293	501	393	194	591	382	219	393	139	602
September	339	187	179	267	90	76	86	158	176	173
October	247	115	166	299	270	136	92	147	140	171
November	219	63	110	216	147	74	56	48	51	56
TOTAL	2,621	2,499	2,216	1,460	2,019	2,325	1,280	1,939	817	2,176

Annual Sea-Trout Rod Catch by month: 2010 – 2019

Appendix V

Salmon Rod Catches on Tweed 1950 – 2019



Appendix VI

TWEED COMMISSION MEMBERS

As at 31st December 2019

Tweed Committee: See asterisks below.

Appointed by Local Councils

Scottish Borders Council

Berwickshire (9)

M. Crozier (Coldstream)
J. Fairgrieve (Gordon)
Dr. D. Gray
P. J. Huddleston*
M. Keysell
P.J.H. Neate
L. Thomson*
F. Turnbull
B. Turner (Whiteadder)

Ettrick & Lauderdale (11)

R. Cockburn (Gala)
S. Emmerson
J. Harvey (St Boswells)
C. R. Scott
J. P. H. S. Scott
W. A. Virtue
H. P. Younger*
Vacancy (Club)
Vacancy (Club)
Vacancy (Club)
Vacancy (Club)

Roxburgh (9)

I. Davis
R. Glass (Kelso) *
N. S. Highmore
D. Noble (Hawick)
J.M. Reddin
T. W. Reid
J. T. Scott
R. Young (Jedforest)
Vacancy (Club)

Tweeddale (5)

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

Northumberland County Council (9)

J. Cameron (Ladykirk & Norham)	G. Roughead
P. Cowe (Berwick)	R. Tebay (Chatton)
Miss G. Hill	Vacancy (Club)
A. H. Murray	Vacancy
G. Renner-Thompson	

*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 2019

M. Baker	-	Tillmouth
Mrs C. K. Balfour	-	Birgham Lower
P. A. Baxendale	-	Sprouston
Lord Biddulph	-	Makerstoun
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
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
J. Pringle	-	The Nest
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
R. Trotter	-	Horncliffe
Dr N. Walters	-	Eckford
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Vacancy		

Appendix VII

RTC Officials and Employees

At January 2020

Chairman:	H. P. Younger
Vice Chairman:	P. D. Straker-Smith
Clerk:	F. B. L. Hieatt
Treasurer:	G. Hughes
Administrator:	Vacancy
Office:	The North Court Dryrange 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](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)

**FishPal**  
[www.fishpal.com](http://www.fishpal.com)

**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.**

