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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*

RTC

2013 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Commission is saddened to report the loss of it's Vice-Chairman, Mr Robert Johnston, during 2013; Bert made a huge contribution to both angling clubs and the RTC over many years.

No RTC report would be complete without reference to weather, and the one certainty is that every year is different. A long cold Spring yielded a Spring catch close to the long-term average clearly showing that the early runs are still fragile and vulnerable at any stage of the cycle, both in river and at sea. A dry Summer, at last, produced low rod catches but conversely the in-river nets did well and there is anecdotal evidence of high catches from the remaining North Sea drift nets. When proper rain did eventually arrive, the Tweed enjoyed a strong late run with exceptional catches in the upper river. A number of large fish were landed (or lost) including a cock fish estimated to be over 45lbs. It does add an edge if anglers feel there is a decent chance of hooking a fish of a lifetime (or two)!

During the year, we welcomed the appointment of Eddie Weatherly to the Water Bailiff team. He will take over as Superintendent in 2014. Eric Hastings, our current Superintendent, is retiring from full-time employment after 37 years' service with the Commission, but I am particularly pleased we will retain his knowledge and experience on a part-time basis in years to come. The Water Bailiff report indicates that Eddie had a busy induction period with low water making the catchment accessible not only to some persistent poachers but also to a wide variety of in-river works which required monitoring and managing.

In 2013, the Scottish Government announced a fundamental review of freshwater and coastal fisheries management. Certain key issues have emerged. It will require more open governance from all Scottish Salmon Fishery Boards. Although the Tweed already has a very robust and effective management structure in place protected by its own laws and orders, the Commissioners have decided, from 2014 onwards, to make some

changes including inviting the public to attend the AGM.

I welcome the Government's Review as it will give all those involved in fisheries management the opportunity to press for much needed support from Government. It will, hopefully, build on measures already taken by the Commission to protect vulnerable spring stocks such as Catch and Release, and compensation payments to in-river netsmen. Numbered carcass tagging is expected to be introduced throughout Scotland (including Tweed) by 2016. This will ensure the accurate recording of legally taken fish and significantly reduce the possibility of illegally taken fish reaching the market. The review will also give fishery managers the opportunity to re-emphasise the dangers of continued exploitation by coastal mixed stock fisheries particularly in relation to vulnerable spring stocks.

The Commission was pleased to host visits from a number of officials from Marine Scotland during 2013. An external review of fisheries management on Tweed highlights the long-term commitment by the Commission and Tweed Proprietors to fund objective science-based decision making. The RTC gives considerable annual support to The Tweed Foundation as do many individual proprietors and the research services provided inform management decisions taken by the Commission. This is not only in relation to Salmon; a considerable amount of work done by The Foundation in the year applied to Brown Trout and helping to define that elusive relationship with Sea-trout. In addition, The Foundation continues to accumulate knowledge of other species such as Lamprey, Eels and Shad, all of which helps to benchmark the overall health of the aquatic environment.

D J Dobie

FISH CATCHES

As the Chairman has noted, the year started with a very cold Spring and, whilst 2012 was extremely wet from March onwards, in 2013 there were no spates between April and October

making the River very low for the Summer and early Autumn. More unusually, even with those spates that did come, no days were completely lost to angling at the end of the season.

Salmon

20,316 salmon were reported caught in 2013 (14,556 in 2012) of which 5,522 (1,371) were caught by nets and 14,794 (13,185) by rod and line. 75%, 11,110 fish, of the total rod catch was returned (65%, 2012). The rod catch was higher than that of 2012 and although slightly below the five year average, there are still only four years on record with a higher catch. Spring Salmon were caught in all the months to June, April having the largest rod catch. Most Salmon were, as usual, caught in the Autumn with very significant catches being made in the Upper River where the catch was above its five year average. Other parts of the River, including the tributaries, had catches slightly below their average.

More fish over 25lbs were caught than in recent years. Very large fish have been regularly recorded by the nets and by The Tweed Foundation in their fish counters but few have appeared in the rod catches. In this respect 2013 was different, perhaps indicating a larger proportion of these fish returning to spawn.

The nets had their second best Salmon catch since 2000. The in-river nets had particularly good catches in July and August coinciding with the low summer flows.

Sea-Trout

4,608 Sea-trout were reported caught in the 2013 season (3,314 in 2012), of which 3,157 (1,162) were by net and 1,451 (2,152) by rod. The Sea-trout rod catch was less than in recent years but this was almost certainly due to low water flows. Whilst catches are normally around June, this year they increased steadily through the year and peaked in October.

Net catches of Sea-trout were also better than the very low catch of 2012 but still below their five year average.

Other Freshwater Fish

The conditions experienced during the 2013 trout fishing season were not ideal. An unusually cold April and, to a lesser extent, May was followed by an unusually warm Summer and Autumn with prolonged periods of very low flows. As a result, the average catch rates for the Upper, Middle and Lower Tweed were well below the last seven years' averages. However, the Whiteadder bucked this trend and above average catches were recorded; this was mostly as a result of a very good May and September, as even the Whiteadder had below average catch rates in the months when the conditions had their biggest influence (April, July and August).

The Grayling fishing followed the same pattern as the trout angling in the 2013 season.

SPRING SALMON CONSERVATION

In line with national Salmon management policy, The Tweed Spring Salmon Conservation Measures were in place again during the year. This included Catch and Release of all rod-caught fish until 30th June and the return of all Salmon caught by the in-river nets until 15th June. The net fisheries catch predominantly fish of Tweed origin and are not mixed stock fisheries.

The Spring rod-caught Salmon catch (to the end of June) was 2,110 of which 1,994 (95%, 97% in 2012) were returned. The in-river nets caught 214 fish to the end of June but also returned all Spring Salmon (116 fish) caught to 15th June. The Tweed Foundation's work indicates that whilst all fish coming into the River before June are Spring fish, and those in the first half of June a mixture of Spring, Summer fish and Grilse, those at the end of June are predominantly Summer fish and Grilse. In exchange for returning fish up to mid June, the in-river nets were paid compensation by the RTC. The coastal netting stations reported killing 208 Salmon in the same period. Unlike 2012 when the majority of the rod-caught Spring fish were caught in middle Tweed, in 2013 most Spring fish were caught in the Lower River.

CONSERVATION PAYMENTS

66 (56 in 2012) eligible fisheries from the Tributaries and Upper Tweed signed contractual agreements to be part of the Scheme in 2013. Under the scheme, fisheries receive payments to agree by contract to additional measures on their beats 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.

CAULDS

Murray Cauld, Etrick Water

A new Larinier fish pass, to which the Commission had made a grant contribution, was installed in association with a hydroelectric scheme on the Murray Cauld at Philiphaugh. However, as no fish counter was installed in 2013 the number of ascending fish was unknown, unlike in previous years. Water Bailiffs did, however, monitor the pass on a daily basis and noticed that fish appeared to ascend the pass easily and that very few fish were seen jumping on the cauld face, as they had previously.

The new arrangement also has a dedicated eel pass and a smolt chute on the outside of the fish pass. The Water Bailiffs also noted that while some fish did try to ascend the eel pass, few succeeded and those were probably Sea-trout.

The hydroelectric turbines at Philiphaugh do not begin generating until there is water surplus to that needed for the fish pass. When they do, the turbines act as a buffer taking more or less water which allows the fish pass to have a consistently ideal flow of water for fish passage for more than 80% of the time. For a Larinier fish pass design in the cauld to work efficiently the water level must not exceed 8" above its optimum running speed and the design allows for this. The zig-zag shape on the bottom of the pass creates turbulence in an uneven pattern and direction to the predominantly downward flowing current which enables the fish to ascend more easily. Even so, the pass has a resting pool halfway up its length.

It is hoped that final confirmation that the whole structure works correctly will come from The Tweed Foundation's 2014 electro-fishing monitoring programme when, hopefully, more fry will be found above the cauld. The pre-existing fish pass was blocked off in December.

BAILIFF ACTIVITY REPORT

General

Illegal activity continued to be a significant problem in 2013. The low flows that were prevalent in many months of the year kept fish in the deep waters of the Lower River which required more or less continuous surveillance. Considerable assistance was received from the general public whose reports to the bailiff team were crucial. 51 nets were recovered in the year. In concert with the Police Wildlife Crime departments, particular effort was spent trying to identify the outlets used to dispose of illegal fish; one case from that was prepared for Court. Seven other cases were taken to the Courts. Other offences included anglers spinning out of season, one of whom was apprehended and sent a warning letter; illegally fishing on Sundays and in the early morning; and deliberate foul hooking, using heavy tackle, in the Peebles area with day ticket availability. This latter offence was much reduced on previous years but was still in evidence in the Autumn despite intensive bailiff presence. The perceived prevalence of it was due to internet "chat" but it is still surprising how many anglers seemed to know of no other way to fish. The bailiffs have been greatly helped by those selling upstream tickets who withdrew them from offenders; further, they agreed to introduce stringent tackle specifications for the 2014 season.

Other Duties

The bailiff team have also assisted in planned fish rescues connected with the new railway construction on the Gala Water and road repairs in the River Till, together with general environmental surveillance in conjunction with The Tweed Foundation.

During the year the Commission's sea boat, which

is a fast rigid inflatable, underwent a significant upgrade. The boat, its coxswain, and crew are fully compliant with the Marine and Coastguard Agency's codes of practice and certification. In addition to the Commission's own sea-going capacity, it also has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (NIFCA) with whom it works closely in the Tweed's coastal area. The Memorandum agrees a coordinated approach to fisheries management and sustainable development in the mutual areas of interest to NIFCA and the Commission.

DISEASE

Worryingly, some disease was noted in fish at the beginning of the season. This became less evident over the Summer, as is usual with Spring outbreaks, and remained so until the end of the year.

The RTC, along with eight other Scottish Fishery Boards and Marine Science Scotland, are funding a three year studentship, based at Stirling University, to study the skin conditions observed in migrating salmonids and which are often described as "disease". It is coordinated by the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards. Whilst it was pleasing not to see the recurrence of disease, this made the research work difficult with few samples to study. The work will conclude in 2015 and is anticipated to enable more informed management decisions to be made about Salmon disease which causes much concern to anglers, the public and managers alike.

PREDATION

Recent work from The Tweed Foundation has shown, as has always been suspected, that there are very significant losses of emigrating smolts when river flows are low and which can only be accounted for by predation. Each year the Commission applies for, and receives, a licence as an aid to scaring for the purpose of preventing serious damage to fish stocks by Goosanders and Cormorants. The rationale to demonstrate this damage is made by conducting regular bird

counts which are undertaken and supervised by The Tweed Foundation. The licence is not granted to reduce or to eliminate piscivorous predators and only authorises the shooting of the birds for the purpose of preventing serious damage, and when there is no other satisfactory course of action; no more than the number of birds specified can be killed.

POLICY

Governance

During the year the Commission met on four occasions in Kelso. The first, in March, was also the AGM to which, in addition to Representative and Proprietorial Commissioners, all 165 Tweed Proprietors of registered fisheries were also invited to attend; these meetings were followed by a meeting of Proprietors, the purpose of which was to elect 38 members to be Commissioners in the year. The RTC Committee, which is appointed by the Chief Commissioner, met separately on three occasions to review financial and other matters that either required preliminary work or consideration of specific issues raised by Commissioners. The RTC Committee also met jointly with the Directors of The Tweed Foundation twice: to review the year's work of The Foundation and to discuss that proposed for 2014, and to prepare the preliminary budgets of both organisations for consideration by the Commission and The Board of The Foundation.

Superintendent

During the year, in anticipation of the planned retirement of Superintendent Eric Hastings in May 2014, Eddie Weatherly was appointed Superintendent Designate. Educated at Galashiels Academy and Dundee University, Mr Weatherly has served with both the Metropolitan and Powys Police Forces before taking up the position of Head Boatman at Mertoun in 2004. Following his appointment he passed the Institute of Fisheries Management Water Bailiff examination.

Legislation

The Aquaculture & Fisheries (Scotland) Bill was passed by Parliament and received Royal Assent during the year. The Association of Salmon

Fishery Boards, of which the RTC is a member, incorporated the requirements of the Bill within its Code of Good Governance and whilst the Bill and the governance provisions therein do not form part of the Tweed legislation, the Commission decided to adopt these which included: a complaints procedure, that the Annual Report would include a reference to forward Work Plans, that a record of Commissioners' Interests would be kept, and that the general public would be admitted to its AGM.

Spinning and the Tweed Angling Code

During the year, two changes to the Tweed Salmon Angling Code were proposed with respect to spinning; these were that there should be no upstream spinning, especially with a Flying C, and that downstream spinning should only be allowed below a specific water height. The Commission considered that a global restriction of spinning to above a certain height was problematic because it would be hard to agree a single height for all beats and at differing turbidity. The Commission decided that both proposals were for beats themselves to implement if they considered them appropriate, rather than including them in the Code. Further, it agreed that where there were different Proprietors on opposite banks, then angling practice should be by mutual agreement.

The Tweed Fisheries Management Plan

Each year the Commission makes a forward Work Plan with respect to its responsibilities for freshwater fisheries management. It subcontracts the provision of research services to The Tweed Foundation to which it makes a grant. These services are delivered via the Tweed Fisheries Management Plan and, as in previous years, the RTC Committee met with the Board of Directors of The Tweed Foundation, to prepare and agree the proposed Work Plan for 2014. The proposals were approved by the Commission and subsequently incorporated, where appropriate, into both its budget and that of The Foundation. The Plan is published on The Tweed Foundation's website.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December 2013

2012		2013
	INCOME	
672,762	Statutory Assessments	691,766
15,850	Policing & Property Income	12,240
<u>1,491</u>	Interest Received	<u>1,322</u>
690,103	Total Income	705,328
	EXPENDITURE	
	Bailiff Costs, Etc.	
2,062	Boat Costs	6,043
4,096	Telecommunications Costs	4,118
566	Other Equipment Maintenance	1,647
265,391	Salaries & Other Direct Staff Costs	245,265
<u>38,122</u>	Vehicle Costs	<u>38,076</u>
310,237		295,149
	Administrative Costs	
59,710	Management & Costs	67,448
4,116	Printing, Telephone, Stationery, Etc.	5,294
17,811	Insurances, Office Costs & Repairs	25,941
1,111	Interest & Charges	558
5,421	I.T. Costs	3,298
7,703	Professional Fees	3,501
21,362	Subscriptions	23,769
1,618	Meeting Costs	1,489
2,747	Sundries	4,457
<u>12,000</u>	Valuation Review	-
133,599		135,755
	Research & Improvements	
137,560	Research & Conservation	141,687
13,260	Spring Salmon Conservation	11,431
30,000	Caulds	-
21,917	Conservation Payment Scheme	28,628
-	Biosecurity	<u>6,000</u>
202,737		187,746
	Depreciation, Etc.	
34,253	Depreciation	41,832
<u>(11,597)</u>	(Loss)/Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	-
22,656		41,832
<u>669,229</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>660,482</u>
20,874	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	44,846
<u>(2,212)</u>	Corporation Tax	<u>(2,028)</u>
<u>18,662</u>	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	<u>42,818</u>

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2013

2012		2013
	Fixed Assets	
233,321	Property	225,310
62,396	Motor Vehicles	49,085
<u>6,048</u>	Miscellaneous Equipment	<u>4,378</u>
301,765		278,773
	Current Assets	
14,764	Debtors & Prepayments	21,153
<u>236,395</u>	Cash at bank and in hand	<u>255,717</u>
251,159		276,870
	Current Liabilities	
(30,325)	Bank overdraft	(15,027)
(19,389)	Creditors/Accrued Charges	(27,057)
(2,212)	Corporation Tax	(2,028)
(9,873)	Term Loan	-
<u>(5,000)</u>	Fishery Buy-out	<u>(5,000)</u>
(66,799)		(49,112)
<u>184,360</u>	NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>227,758</u>
486,125	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	506,531
	Creditors: Amounts falling due after	
<u>(32,412)</u>	more than one year	<u>(10,000)</u>
453,713	NET ASSETS	496,531
	Represented by:	
	CAPITAL ACCOUNT	
435,051	Balance as at 1/1/13	453,713
18,662	Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	42,818
<u>453,713</u>	Balance at 31/12/13	<u>496,531</u>

EXTRACT FROM THE 2013 ACCOUNTS

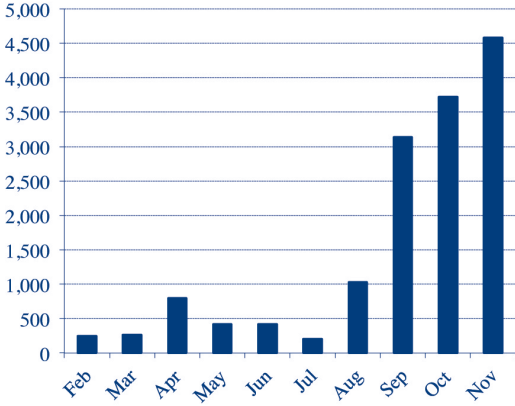
The financial information set out on these pages has been extracted from the R.T.C.'s full audited accounts, on which the auditors, Rennie Welch, reported without qualification.

Copies of the full audited accounts are available on request.

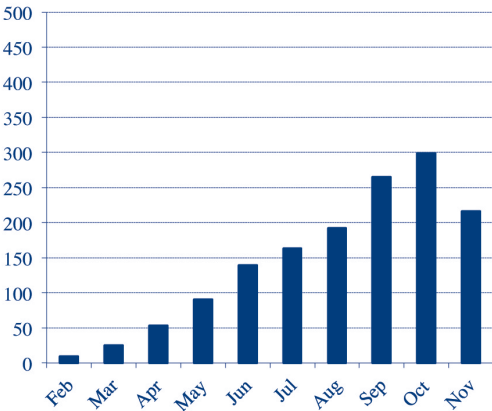
APPENDICES

Appendix I - 2013 MONTHLY CATCHES

SALMON - RODS

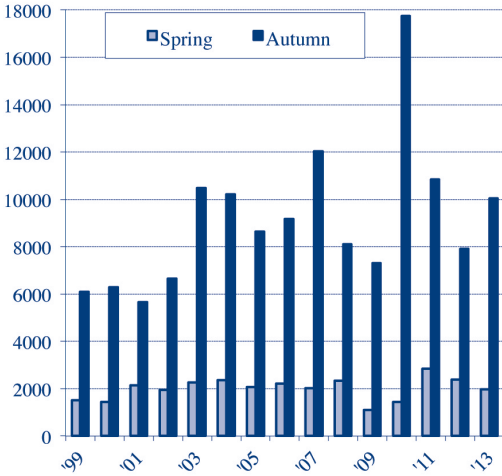


SEA-TROUT - RODS



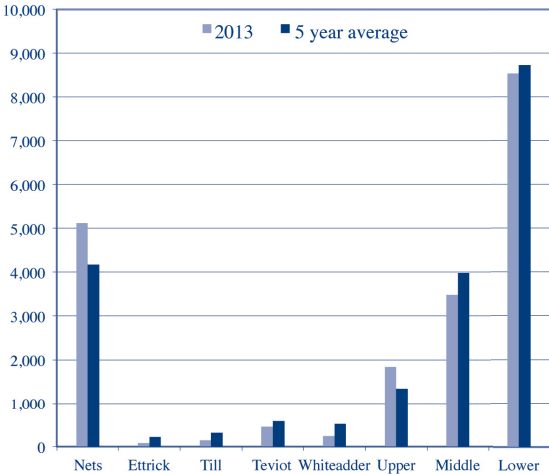
Appendix II - SPRING v. AUTUMN TRENDS

For rod-caught Salmon below Ettrickmouth



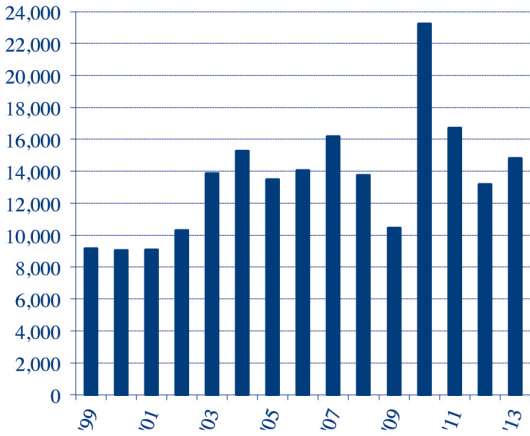
Appendix III - TWEED SALMON TRENDS

Salmon Catch vs Five-Year Average

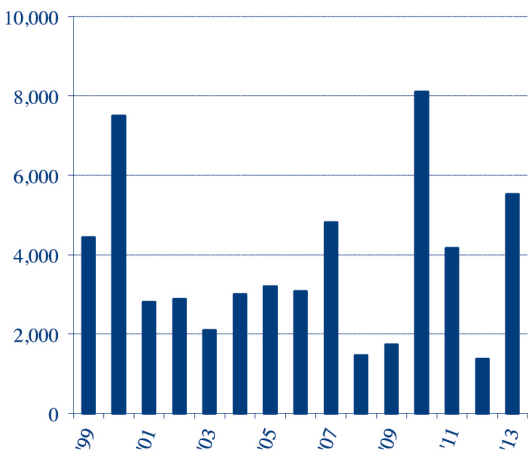


Appendix IV - ANNUAL CATCH TRENDS

SALMON - RODS

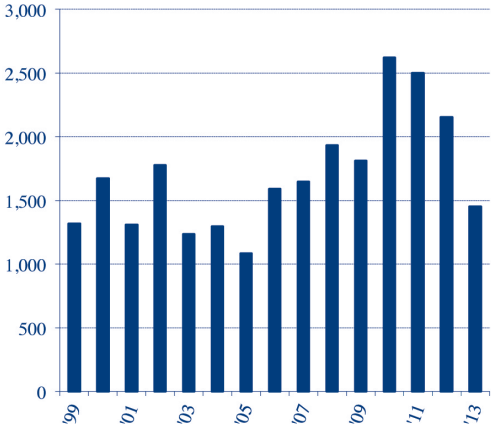


SALMON - NETS

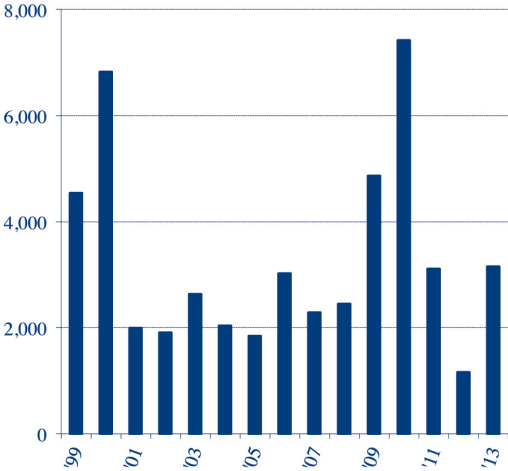


Appendix IV (cont'd) - Annual Catch Trends

SEA-TROUT - RODS



SEA-TROUT - NETS

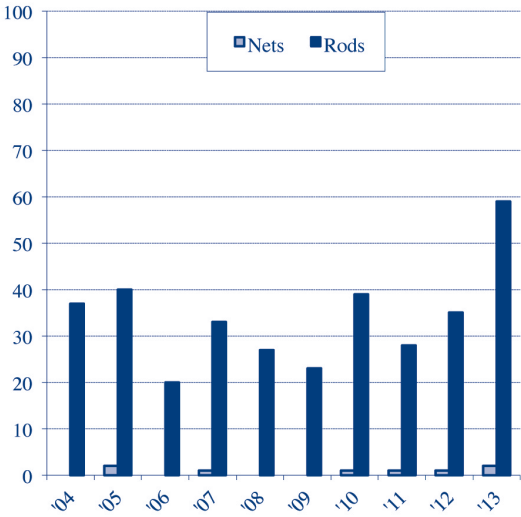


Appendix V - Salmon of 25lbs & Over

Net Fisheries	No.	Individual Weight (lbs)
Cheswick	1	25
Paxton House	1	31
Rod Fisheries	No.	Individual Weight (lbs)
Upper Roxburgh	1	27
Ormiston	2	25, 26
Chesters	1	25
Waltham	1	31
Horncliffe	2	25, 25
Gliddyheugh	1	30
Canny R	1	30
West Newbiggin	1	25
Tillmouth Water	6	25, 25, 25, 25, 30, 33
Tweedmill	1	25
Upper North Wark	2	25, 26
Birgham Dub	2	26, 29
Sprouston	1	25
Hendersyde	2	25, 26
Junction	3	25, 25, 34
Floors Lower	1	25
Floors Upper	1	25
Rutherford	1	25
Mertoun Upper	1	26
Dryburgh South	1	30
Ravenswood	1	29
Drygrange	2	27, 30
Pavilion Lower	1	28
Pavilion Middle	1	25
Boleside	5	25, 25, 30, 33, 50
Fairnilee	2	25, 25
The Yair	5	26, 29, 29, 29, 35
The Nest	1	25
Juniper Bank	1	32
Caberston Upper	4	25, 30, 30, 40
Glenormiston	1	30
Peebles Burgh Water	3	25, 26, 30

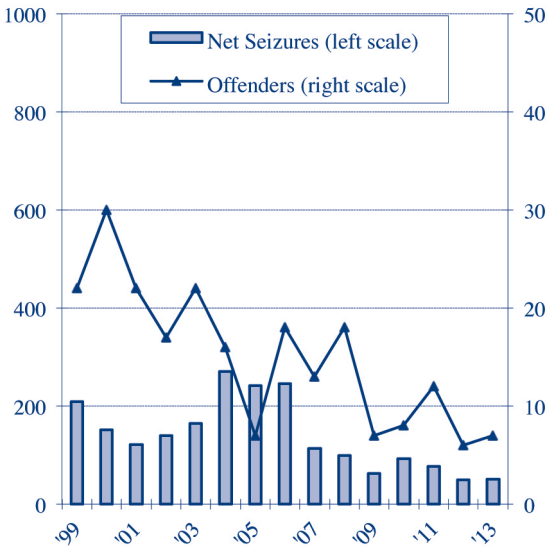
(Appendix V continued)

10 Year Catches of Salmon of 25lbs and Over



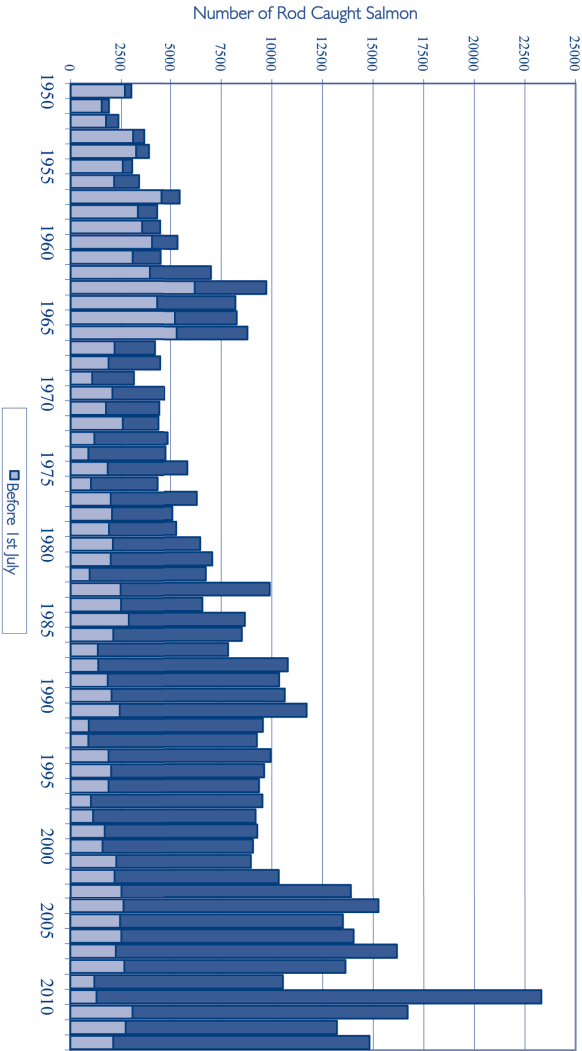
Appendix VI

Offenders and Seizures over the last 15 Years



Appendix VII

Salmon Rod Catches on Tweed 1950 - 2013



Appendix VIII - TWEED COMMISSION MEMBERS

As at 31st December 2013

Tweed Committee: See asterisks below:

Appointed by Local Councils

Scottish Borders Council

Berwickshire (9)

M. Crozier (Coldstream)
J. Fairgrieve (Gordon)
W.L. Forrest
P.J. Huddleston
M. Keysell (Whiteadder)
F. Scott
J. Todd
F. Turnbull
W.W. Quarry

Ettrick & Lauderdale (11)

T.B. Hardy (Gala)
N.J.H. Houldsworth
T. McLeish (Melrose)
J. MacLennan (Earlston)
V. Pemberton (Selkirk)
W.W. Rodger (St Boswells)
J.P.H. Scott
W.A. Virtue
A. White (St Mary's)
Vacant
Vacant

Roxburgh (9)

J. Curtis (Upper Teviotdale)
I. Davis
R. Glass (Kelso)*
J.T. Scott
F. Wight (Hawick)
R. Young (Jedforest)
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

Tweeddale (5)

D.G. Fyfe
J. Lees (Peebles)
Capt. D. Younger
Vacant
Vacant

Northumberland County Council (9)

P. Cowe (Berwick) J.M.F. Nesbit (Chatton)
J. Cameron (Ladykirk & Norham) J.A. Taylor
C. Hallam-Baker (Glendale) R.J.D. Watkin
Dr. J.H. Mitchell J. Woodman
A.H. Murray

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

(Appendix VIII continued)

Elected by Proprietors

As at 31st December 2013

Ms M. Andrews	-	Paxton
Mrs C.K. Balfour	-	Birgham Lower
P.A. Baxendale	-	Sprouston
S.J. Blades	-	Elibank
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
I. Fleming	-	Birgham Dub
Dr. G.M. Fraser	-	Horncliffe
J.R. Gardiner	-	Caddonfoot
Mrs C.A. Hoare	-	Dryburgh South
(Resigned during the year)		
F.G. Jennings	-	Boleside
C.M.A. Lapsa	-	Tillmouth
(Resigned during the year)		
Miss J.J. Lovett*	-	South Wark
J.H. Lovett	-	Lower North Wark
J. McCorquodale	-	Maxton
A. Marson	-	Lennel
C.A. Matheson	-	Tweedhill
T.P. Metcalfe	-	Crown Estate Fisheries
R.J.Onslow	-	Tweedmill
P. Pitchford	-	Bemersyde
D. Platt	-	Milne Graden
The Earl of 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
Lt. Col. D.J. Younger	-	Ravenswood

Appendix IX - RTC OFFICIALS & EMPLOYEES

At January 2014

Chairman: D.J. Dobie (Elected March 2012)

Vice Chairman: R. Glass

Clerk: N.P. Yonge

Administrator: Miss F.B.L. Hieatt

Office Assistant: Mrs E.M. Johnston

Office: The North Court, Drygrange Steading,
Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9DJ
Tel: (01896) 848294
Fax: (01896) 848277
Email: enquiries@rtc.org.uk
Website: www.rtc.org.uk

Water Bailiff

Superintendent:

E.A.Hastings

MELROSE

Mobile: 07836 686254

Water Bailiff

Superintendent

Designate:

E.J. Weatherly

MELROSE

Mobile: 07884 230041

Water Bailiffs:

D.R.M. Brown

BIGGAR

Mobile: 07884 230043

A. Davison

BERWICK

Mobile: 07884 230048

K.G. Graham

BERWICK

Mobile: 07884 230047

T.A. Heard

JEDBURGH

Mobile: 07884 230046

K.B. Wardhaugh

MELROSE

Mobile: 07884 230045

M.M. Wardhaugh

MELROSE

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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:-

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Burnbrae, Mossilee Road, Galashiels, TD1 1NF. Tel: 01896 754797 - Pollution and control of water quality & quantity in Scotland.

Environment Agency

Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 7AR. Tel: 03708 506 506 - Pollution and control of water quality and quantity in England.

Scottish Water

Winston Road, Galashiels, TD1 3HH. Tel: 0845 601 8855 - Sewage disposal and water supplies on the Scottish side.

Northumbrian Water

Northumbria House, Abbey Road, Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5FJ. Tel: 0845 604 7468 - Sewage disposal and water supplies on the English side.

Scottish Natural Heritage

Anderson's Chambers, Market Street, Galashiels, TD1 3AF. Tel: 01896 756652 - Protection of the Site of Special Scientific Interest which covers most of the main river and of the Special Area of Conservation on the Scottish side.

Natural England

Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 7YH. Tel: 0300 060 2219 - Protection of the Site of Special Scientific Interest which covers most of the main river and of the Special Area of Conservation on the English side.

USEFUL CONTACTS

River Tweed Commission
www.rtc.org.uk

River Tweed News
www.rivertweed.org.uk

The Tweed Foundation
www.tweedfoundation.org.uk

TweedStart
www.tweedstart.org.uk

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Association of Salmon Fishery Boards
www.asfb.org.uk

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
(DEFRA)
www.gov.uk/defra

Environment Agency
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

FishTweed
www.fishtweed.co.uk

National Angling Diary
www.anglingdiary.org.uk

Natural England
www.naturalengland.gov.uk

Northumberland County Council
www.northumberland.gov.uk

Northumbrian Water
www.nwg.co.uk

Scottish Borders Council
www.scotborders.gov.uk

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
www.sepa.org.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage
www.snh.org.uk

Scottish Water
www.scottishwater.co.uk

The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse

Tweedbeats
www.tweedbeats.com

Tweed Forum
www.tweedforum.org

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

NOTES

