

RTC

2015

ANNUAL

REPORT

&

ACCOUNTS

River Tweed Commission
The North Court
Drygrange Steading
By Melrose
Roxburghshire
TD6 9DJ

Tel: (01896) 848294
Fax: (01896) 848277
Email: enquiries@rtc.org.uk
www.rtc.org.uk
River Tweed News:
www.rivertweed.org.uk

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

RTC

2015 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2015 was another season of relatively low rod catches for Salmon even though anglers were casting over the returning progeny of the 2010 and 2011 bonanzas: a good example of why rod catches can provide very poor indicators on which to base future management decisions.

The distribution of catches during 2015 again showed a marked and rapid movement away from the traditional autumn run of numerous and larger fish (only seven fish over 25lbs were recorded in the year) to a reliance on grilse and summer fish. This apparent change is very quick in biological terms and the Tweed Foundation's ongoing fry surveys are, therefore, being targeted towards providing some understanding and guidance as to the long-term impact.

I am very pleased that during the year the Commission and the Tweed Foundation were able to make a vital contribution to the debate surrounding Wild Fisheries Reform and, more immediately, the statutory Conservation Measures (Kill Licence) proposed by The Scottish Government for implementation in 2016. The current proposals do now incorporate the core principals of data gathering and scientific analysis on a river-by-river basis to determine the nature and scale of future conservation measures. The Commission should also look forward, in the future, to being part of a successful reform of Fisheries Management by The Scottish Government.

As usual, the detail of the Annual Report shows just how much ground is covered each year, both by a slimmed down Water Bailiff team and, particularly this year, by a leaner administration.

D J Dobie

FISH CATCHES

The overall Salmon catch for the year was similar to 2014. Spring Salmon catches were unexceptional, although on some beats they were particularly good. There were short periods of elevated water levels during the late spring and summer but they were short-lived and for most of the fishing season flows were either low or very low, providing unfavourable conditions for angling. Whilst the summer of 2015 was not officially a drought, significant floods did not come until early November and were the first for almost seven months. Until then many of the best angling pools were of much reduced size.

Salmon

8,091 Salmon (7,767 in 2014) were caught by rod and line and 553 (2,204 in 2014) by net, giving a Salmon catch of 8,644 (9,971 in 2014). 80% (6,440 fish) of the total rod catch was returned (77% in 2014). This was the second consecutive year of unusually low total catches in all parts of the river and tributaries, largely attributable to the autumn. Both the grilse of the previous year (2014) and the Salmon of 2015 were the progeny of the unprecedented, large runs of 2010 and 2011. The grilse arrived late and were smaller than usual.

Sea-Trout

2,323 (2,050 in 2014) Sea-trout were caught by rod and line and 374 (1,979 in 2014) by net; overall, the 2015 Sea-trout catch was 2,697 (4,029 in 2014; mostly by net), with 51% (54% in 2014) of rod caught Sea-trout being returned. Sea-trout rod catches, as reported, continued to improve year-on-year, particularly in June, July and August.

Other Freshwater Fish

As usually found, Brown trout catch rates varied in different parts of the system; the low flows impacted on some areas at times throughout the season but in all areas where there were good numbers of catches they were either at, or above, the modern average. As predicted last season, the unusually high survival rate of trout parr in the previous winter did result in

increased catches of larger trout (over 35cms) during 2015. Upper, Middle and Lower Tweed all saw well above average catches of 35-40cms Brown Trout and, if the severe floods at the end of 2015 do not impact on their survival through the winter months, trout sizes and catches could increase again in 2016.

Grayling fishing continued to be a small but important part of Tweed angling, although the traditional end of season fishing was lost due to the extreme floods.

SPRING SALMON CONSERVATION

2,030 Springers were caught by the rods, which was an improvement on the poor Spring season of 2014 (1,797). The majority of fish were, as usual, caught in the Middle and Lower river with the Junction fishery having its best spring on record. The bulk of the spring catch was caught in the later months, with May and June producing 59% of the spring total.

The declared net catch was negligible due to the decommissioning of three coastal netting fisheries.

All Salmon (as defined by the Tweed Order to also include Sea-trout) are now returned, by law, up until 31st March. 98% of Spring caught Salmon (1st April to 30th June) were returned by the rods.

CONSERVATION PAYMENTS

71 (72 in 2014) eligible fisheries from the tributaries and Upper Tweed signed contractual agreements with the RTC to be part of the Conservation Scheme in 2015. Under the Scheme the fisheries receive payments to agree by contract to additional measures on their fisheries that would otherwise not be mandatory; these included, as well as compliance with Spring Salmon Conservation Measures, restrictions on fishing methods and provision of information.

BAILIFF ACTIVITY REPORT

Policing

Proactive information gathering by the Water Bailiff team throughout the year concentrated on breaking down the market chain for illegally caught Salmon from the river through to selling at London markets and onward to high-end restaurants. The development of a collaborative approach with other agencies, both in England and Scotland and adjacent District Salmon Fishery Boards, was instrumental in disrupting that organised crime. Having been urged to pass on intelligence information, the Tweed fishing community's support was crucial in enabling the RTC to maintain the momentum and effectiveness of that work through the year.

A major pollution incident in the spring in the middle river on the Bowden Burn resulted in hundreds of fish being killed and was investigated by the RTC's Water Bailiffs; an investigation by SEPA was still on-going at the year end.

Routine Bailiff patrols resulted in 21 illegal nets being recovered from the Lower Tweed and lower tributaries, together with a large fish trap from the bottom end of the system. September and October saw very low water levels and unseasonably high air and water temperatures for the time of year. Bailiff operations during the night highlighted that pools on Lower Tweed were full of stale fish. Poaching activity was limited although known suspects were active, surveying various parts of the River awaiting the arrival of fresh fish. Only when the rain eventually came in early November did those fish move swiftly to Upper Tweed beats, continuing to run whilst the water was high and contributing to poor catches.

Illegal fishing methods previously employed in the Peebles area were much reduced in 2015, vindicating the change which restricted line density and hook size and which has encouraged the genuine angler back on to the River.

Seizures and Offenders

Many of the nets seized in 2015 were old nets,

no longer set but recovered from various parts of the catchment having not been deployed because of fewer fish. Nets recovered in the Berwick area were fewer and mostly unattended. The operational pressure on the markets for illegally taken fish helped reduce seizures.

Other Duties

Throughout the 2015 season, and as part of an on-going regime, Bailiffs checked approximately 75% of the Fishery Record Books kept over the whole system. For the first time a successful prosecution was taken by the RTC against a fishery for contravening record keeping requirements. Two other minor cases were dealt with by warning and formal letters.

The Bailiff team assisted Tweed Foundation staff with a number of tasks including: a habitat survey (primarily for Lamprey) on the River Till, several fish rescues in the catchment, electro-fishing during the summer, help with trapping Signal Crayfish on the River Till and the tagging of Salmon and Sea-trout for research purposes at the netting station at Paxton House.

All fish passes and caulds were closely monitored by Bailiffs in early autumn, with debris being cleared as and when required and especially throughout the heavy rains in November that was an almost continual process.

The team also represented the RTC and contributed at riverworks and monitoring work meetings on the tributaries and, in particular, the work undertaken for the Selkirk and Philiphaugh Flood Prevention Scheme which included the new fishway and controls at St Mary's Loch.

Sea Boat

Minor repairs and modifications were carried out to the RTC's sea boat, Osprey, in anticipation of the law changes affecting coastal nets coming into force in 2016. Osprey continued to be used on patrols, also involving the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (NIFCA), to monitor boats operating in the Tweed District.

Staffing

Staff changes during the year resulted in three Water Bailiffs retiring from the RTC. In anticipation of recruitment in 2016, the opportunity was taken to reshape the team, building on current skills but operating in a more targeted form. In line with other Fishery Boards and the Scottish Government, the Bailiffs commenced a programme of continual professional development to bring them up to a national standard. That process started with the first seminar, attended by 30 bailiffs from across the country, held by the RTC in August, on Legal and Illegal Netting Practice.

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 Proprietary Commissioners were elected. The RTC management committee met nine 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 2016, and then for a second time to discuss and agree the draft annual budgets of the two organisations.

To facilitate coordination of regulatory powers in the District, so far as they pertain to the River, the four predominant environmental agencies on both sides of the Border were invited to nominate non-voting co-options to the Commission these being the Environment Agency, Natural England, SEPA and SNH.

Also following nomination, two Commissioners joined the RTC management committee during the year providing representation of the upper river and of netting interests.

Economic Survey

A report which updated previous work undertaken found that the contribution of Tweed angling to the local economy had increased significantly from £17.9m in 2006 to £24m per annum. In

addition, total related employment had increased from 490 to 513 full-time job equivalents; the number of days fished for Salmon had increased by 9%; the amount of Salmon angling, and income to the Tweed from it, had increased significantly to almost 57,000 rod days. Non-fishing companions spent a further 12,420 days, with angling contributing almost 70,000 visitor days within the Tweed District.

The report emphasised the additional intangible benefits of angling to the region including the importance of angling to the 490,000 overnight visitors to the Borders and to rural employment.

Net Fisheries

The freehold purchases of Cheswick and two of the Goswick coastal netting stations were concluded in the year. Separately, a contract between the RTC and The Paxton Trust fishery agreed that it would no longer kill any Salmon. Netting continued there for demonstration and heritage purposes and also to allow the Tweed Foundation to collect data for scientific purposes. The Gardo netting station in the Tweed estuary was used for heritage netting, and had agreed with the RTC not to commence fishing before mid June.

Wild Fisheries Reform

The RTC responded to the Scottish Government's proposed Wild Fisheries Reform.

Change in Closed Season

At the start of the season Scottish Ministers introduced the mandatory prohibition on the killing of Salmon up to 31st March both for the Tweed District and the rest of Scotland through separate Conservation Orders. While the extended Catch & Release period for rods to 31st March was intended only to apply to Salmon, 'Salmon' by definition in the Tweed legislation also includes 'Sea-trout' meaning that they too were included in the new regulation. Net fisheries that remained on Tweed could not commence fishing until 1st April and no Salmon or Sea-trout caught by rod and line could be retained between 1st February until 31st March, inclusive.

The change also had the unintended consequence of extending the period by which angling could be undertaken by artificial fly only, a provision in the primary Tweed Order, so that effectively spinning was precluded up until 1st April. To rectify this, and upon representations by the RTC, an exemption was granted to allow Tweed anglers to spin, as was usual, from 15th February - but only for the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

Structural Change

The Scottish Government consulted on wide-ranging proposals on wild fisheries reform for the whole of Scotland largely based upon the recommendations in the 2014 Thin Report; this included a question pertaining to the inclusion of the Tweed in the overall structural reform. Whilst the Commission considered that many of the proposals had the potential to bring benefit to Scottish fisheries management, others were unacceptable: *inter alia* that it was neither appropriate nor necessary for the whole of the Tweed District, including that part which was in England, to be included in the proposals that described the demise of the current management system. The RTC, supported by Scottish Borders Council (SBC) and Northumberland County Council, robustly defended its own structure and operation in its response to the Consultation. At the end of the year SBC and the RTC met with the Scottish Government which confirmed that the RTC would not be included in the new Bill which was proposed for 2016 and that any changes which might apply to Tweed would be in a new Tweed Order.

Licensing to Kill Salmon and Carcass Tagging

Early in 2015, the Tweed legislation was changed to enable carcass tagging in the Tweed District. The Scottish Government's stated intention was that this measure would be used to introduce tagging only for fish that could be sold and that it would not include Salmon caught by rod and line as those could not be sold. However, later in the year the Scottish Government then proposed measures to manage Salmon fisheries which would have effectively applied a quota on each Tweed fishery for the number of Salmon which could be killed, together with mandatory carcass

tagging. Whilst the RTC had supported carcass tagging for fish that could be sold, it expressed the strongest opposition to the new proposals, not only because it considered that there was no way either to calculate or to apportion an effective quota but also that it would have had a strong negative impact on the economics of Tweed fisheries. The RTC believed that it had already introduced effective measures to protect Tweed Salmon stocks and that there was no requirement to bring in new measures by statute. That view was held by the whole Tweed fishing community, including - and importantly - the Tweed boatmen, and also by a significant proportion of other fisheries on rivers throughout Scotland. The proposals were later dropped and replaced by proposals to introduce categorisation of rivers based on target Conservation Limits, a temporary cessation of coastal fisheries and carcass tagging of fish to be sold; the RTC supported the principle of such proposed measures but by the year end no progress had been made towards their implementation by the Scottish Government.

The Tweed & Eye 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 provided through the Tweed & Eye Fisheries Management Plan and, as in previous years, the RTC management committee met with the Board of Directors of the Tweed Foundation to prepare and agree the proposed Work Plan for 2015. The proposals were approved by the Commission and subsequently incorporated, where appropriate, in to both it's budget and that of the Foundation. The Plan is published on the Tweed Foundation's website.

2014 was the last year of the most recent five-year Plan, which is still current; an updated version (Version 6) will be produced when the RTC has more detail about The Scottish Government's Wild Fisheries Reform.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December 2015

2014		2015
	INCOME	
709,528	Statutory Assessments	856,415
9,270	Policing & Property Income	10,505
<u>1,248</u>	Interest Received	<u>329</u>
720,046	Total Income	867,249
	EXPENDITURE	
	Bailiff Costs, Etc.	
3,302	Boat Costs	2,728
4,543	Telecommunications Costs	4,919
1,627	Other Equipment Maintenance	1,197
259,988	Salaries & Other Direct Staff Costs	267,125
<u>42,192</u>	Vehicle Costs	<u>32,931</u>
311,652		308,900
	Administrative Costs	
89,278	Management & Costs	83,640
3,473	Printing, Telephone, Stationery, Etc.	3,838
30,467	Insurances, Office Costs & Repairs	22,841
370	Interest & Charges	2,166
4,256	I.T. Costs	8,274
3,830	Professional Fees	30,114
24,074	Subscriptions	22,221
1,723	Meeting Costs	1,915
<u>2,484</u>	Sundries	<u>3,442</u>
159,955		178,451
	Research & Improvements	
145,229	Research & Conservation	148,134
33,750	Salmon Conservation	612,120
36	Caulds	-
2,000	Netting Equipment	-
28,132	Conservation Payment Scheme	33,527
<u>6,000</u>	Biosecurity	<u>-</u>
215,147		793,781
	Depreciation, Etc.	
31,909	Depreciation	27,008
<u>31,909</u>		<u>27,008</u>
<u>718,663</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>1,308,140</u>
1,383	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(440,891)
<u>(1,242)</u>	Corporation Tax	<u>(1,205)</u>
<u>141</u>	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	<u>(442,096)</u>

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2015

2014		2015
	Fixed Assets	
217,299	Property	223,581
26,858	Motor Vehicles	25,957
<u>2,707</u>	Miscellaneous Equipment	<u>1,367</u>
246,864		250,905
	Current Assets	
31,752	Debtors & Prepayments	17,949
<u>283,961</u>	Cash at bank and in hand	<u>114</u>
315,713		18,063
	Current Liabilities	
(38,354)	Bank Overdraft	(182,786)
(16,309)	Creditors/Accrued Charges	(25,401)
(1,242)	Corporation Tax	(1,205)
<u>(5,000)</u>	Fishery Buy-out	<u>(5,000)</u>
(60,905)		(214,392)
<u>254,808</u>	NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>(196,329)</u>
501,672	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	54,576
	Creditors: Amounts falling due after	
<u>(5,000)</u>	more than one year	-
496,672	NET ASSETS	54,576
	Represented by:	
	CAPITAL ACCOUNT	
496,531	Balance as at 1/1/15	496,672
141	Surplus/ (Deficit) for Year	(442,096)
<u>496,672</u>	Balance at 31/12/15	<u>54,576</u>

EXTRACT FROM THE 2015 ACCOUNTS

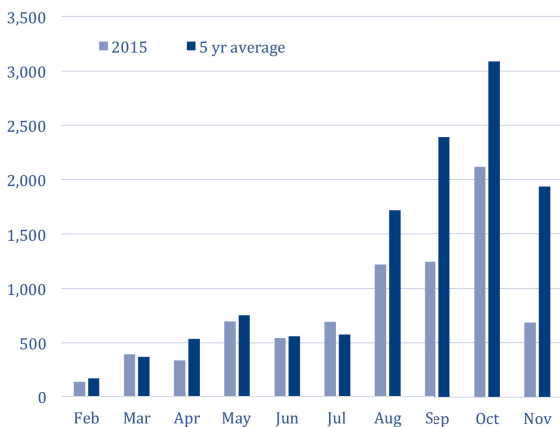
The financial information set out on these pages has been extracted from the R.T.C.'s full audited accounts, on which the auditors, Rennie Welch, reported without qualification.

Copies of the full audited accounts are available on request.

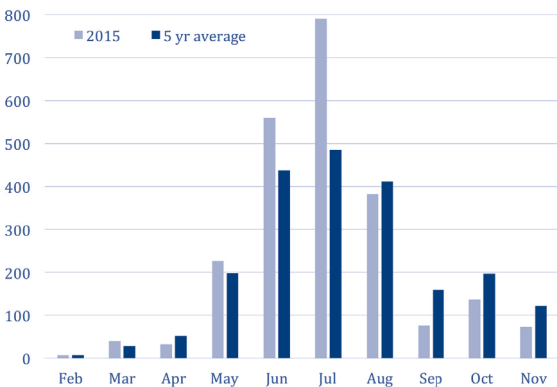
APPENDICES

Appendix I - 2015 MONTHLY CATCHES

SALMON - RODS

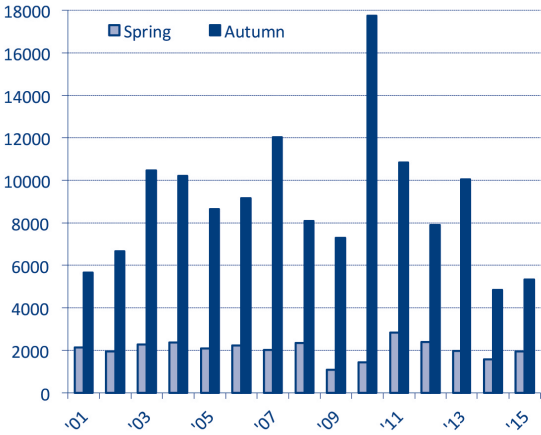


SEA-TROUT - RODS



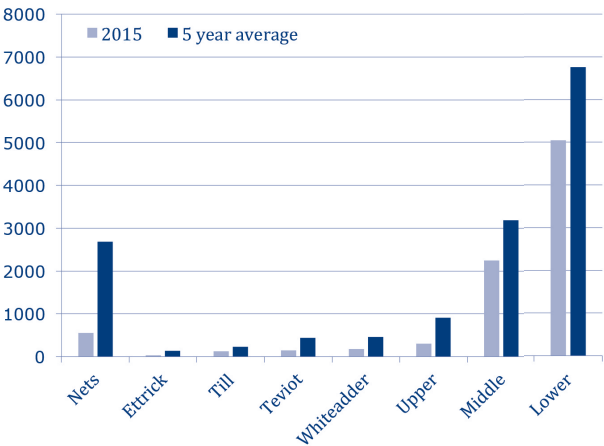
Appendix II - SPRING v. AUTUMN TRENDS

For rod-caught Salmon below Ettrickmouth



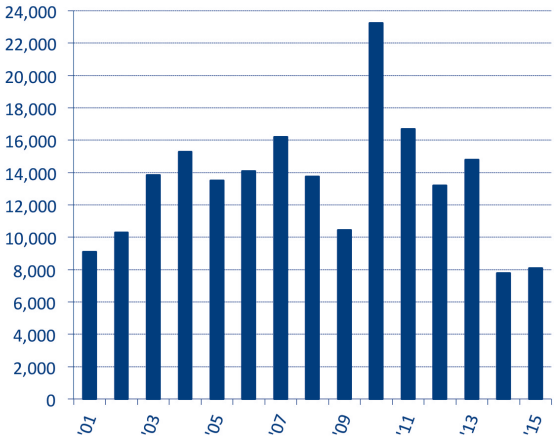
Appendix III - TWEED SALMON TRENDS

Salmon Catch vs Five-Year Average by Area

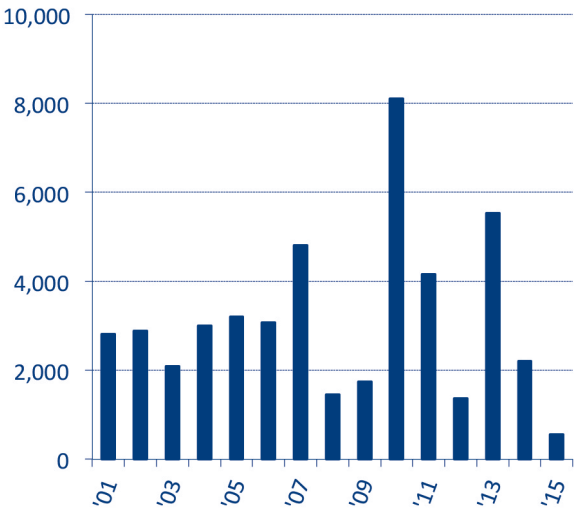


Appendix IV - ANNUAL CATCH TRENDS

SALMON - RODS

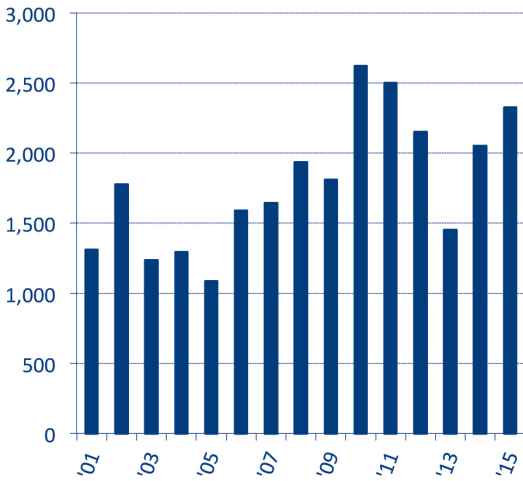


SALMON - NETS

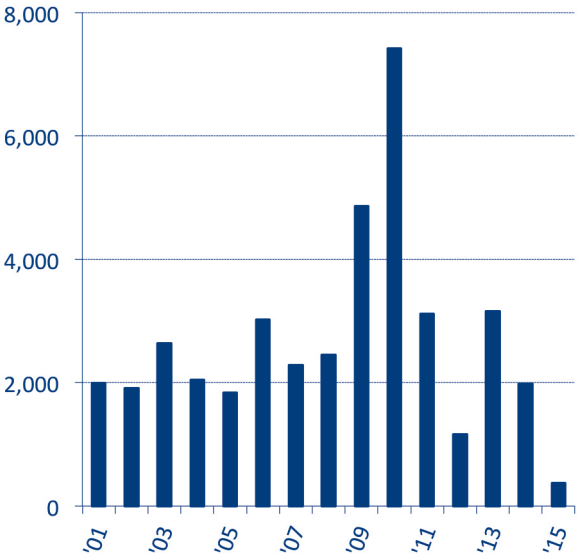


Appendix IV (cont'd) - Annual Catch Trends

SEA-TROUT - RODS



SEA-TROUT - NETS

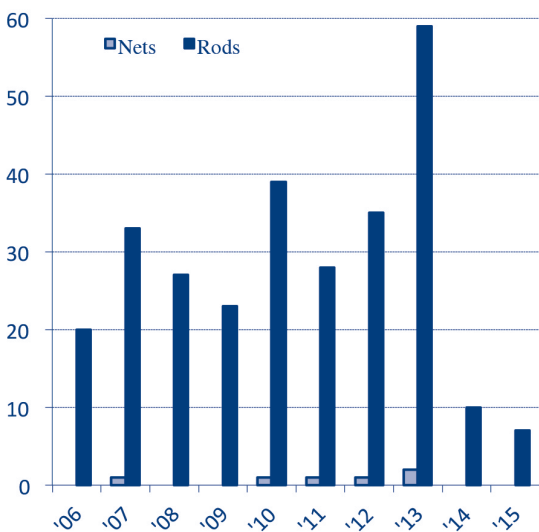


Appendix V - SALMON OF 25LBS & OVER

2015: Salmon of 25lbs and Over

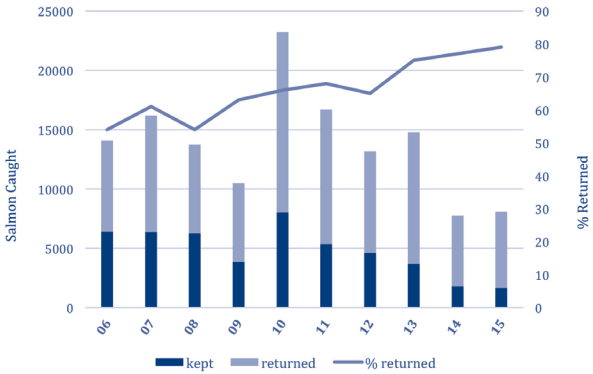
Rod Fisheries	No.	Individual Weight (lbs)
Tweedmill	1	26
The Lees	1	25
South Wark	1	26
Birgham Dub	1	26
Floors Upper	1	25
Boleside	1	28
The Yair	1	25

10 Year Catches of Salmon of 25lbs and Over



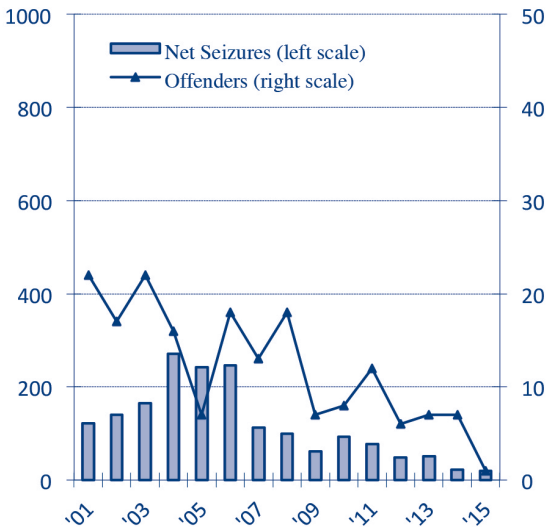
Appendix VI - % FISH RETURNED

10 Year Catches of Salmon: Kept and Returned



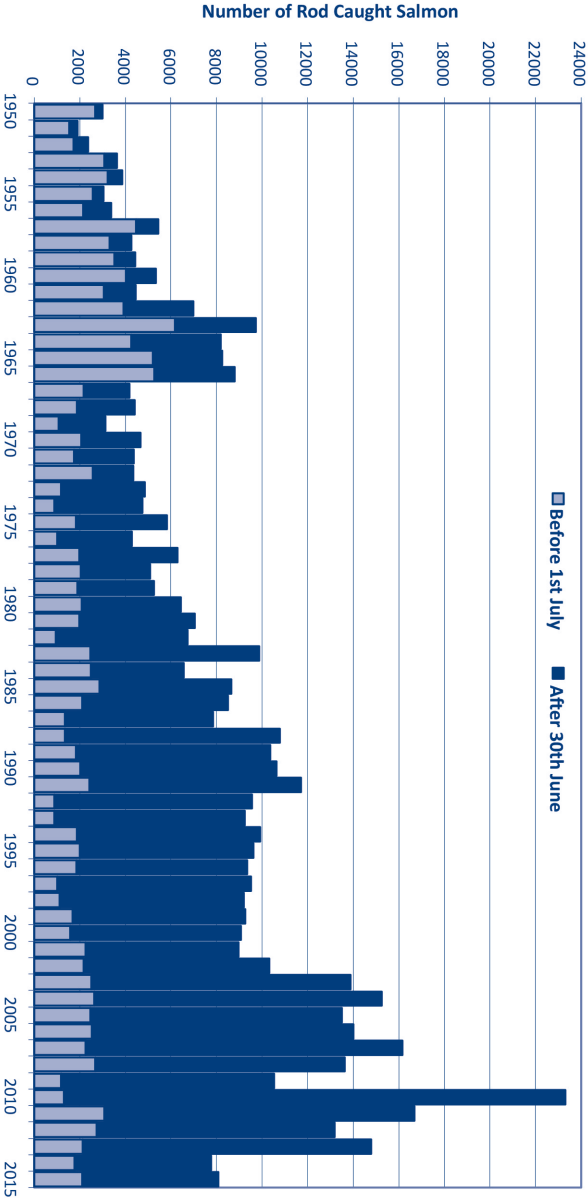
Appendix VII - POLICING

Offenders and Seizures over the last 15 Years



Appendix VIII

Salmon Rod Catches on Tweed 1950 - 2015



Appendix IX - TWEED COMMISSION MEMBERS

As at 31st December 2015

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

F. Turnbull

W.W. Quarry

Ettrick & Lauderdale (11)

Vacancy

N.J.H. Houldsworth

T. McLeish (Melrose)

J. MacLennan (Earlston)

V. Pemberton (Selkirk)

E. Robertson

W.W. Rodger (St Boswells)

J.P.H Scott

W.A. Virtue

A. White (St Mary's)

H.P. Younger*

Roxburgh (9)

J. Curtis (Upper Teviotdale)

I. Davis

R. Glass (Kelso)*

N.S. Highmore

T. Pilcher

T.W. Reid

J.T. Scott

F. Wight (Hawick)

R. Young (Jedforest)

Tweeddale (5)

K.D. Annand*

D.G. Fyfe

M.W. Ireland

J. Lees (Peebles)

Capt. D. Younger

Northumberland County Council (9)

P. Cowe (Berwick)

J.E. Smith

J. Cameron (Ladykirk & Norham)

R. Tebay (Chatton)

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 IX cont'd)

Elected by Proprietors

As at 31st December 2015

Ms M. Andrew	-	Paxton
(Retired during the year)		
M. Baker	-	Tillmouth
Mrs C.K. Balfour	-	Birgham Lower
P.A. Baxendale	-	Sprouston
S.J. Blades	-	Elibank
Lord Biddulph	-	Makerstoun
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
I. Fleming	-	Birgham Dub
Dr. G.M. Fraser	-	Horncliffe
J.R. Gardiner	-	Caddonfoot
F.G. Jennings	-	Boleside
A. Lee	-	Bluestone Ford
J.H. Lovett	-	Lower North Wark
J. McCorquodale	-	Maxton
C.A. Matheson	-	Tweedhill
T.P. Metcalfe	-	Crown Estate
		Fisheries
J. Miller	-	Upper Caberston
R.J.Onslow	-	Tweedmill
P. Pitchford	-	Bemersyde
D. Platt*	-	Milne Graden
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*	-	Carham
The Duke of Sutherland	-	Mertoun
D. Theaker	-	Mounthooly
N. Thompson	-	Cornhill
W. Younger	-	Ravenswood

Appendix X - RTC OFFICIALS & EMPLOYEES

At January 2016

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

Vice Chairman: R. Glass

Clerk: N.P. Yonge

Administrator: Miss F.B.L. Hieatt

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.J. Weatherly

MELROSE

Mobile: 07884 230041

Water Bailiffs:

A. Davison

BERWICK

Mobile: 07884 230048

K.G. Graham

BERWICK

Mobile: 07884 230047

E.A. Hastings

MELROSE

Mobile: 07836 686254

T.A. Heard

JEDBURGH

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

River Tweed Commission
www.rtc.org.uk

River Tweed News
www.rivertweed.org.uk

The Tweed Foundation
www.tweedfoundation.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

Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation
Authority (NIFCA)
www.nifca.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 Science
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

