

R T C

2 0 1 4

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](mailto:enquiries@rtc.org.uk)  
[www.rtc.org.uk](http://www.rtc.org.uk)  
River Tweed News:  
[www.rivertweed.org.uk](http://www.rivertweed.org.uk)

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

# RTC

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Chairman's Report</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Fish Catches</b>	<b>2</b>
Salmon	<b>2</b>
Sea-trout	<b>3</b>
Other Freshwater Fish	<b>3</b>
<b>Spring Salmon Conservation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Conservation Payments</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Bailiff Activity Report</b>	<b>4</b>
General	<b>4</b>
Other Duties	<b>6</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>7</b>
Governance	<b>7</b>
Superintendent	<b>8</b>
Wild Fisheries Review	<b>8</b>
Code of Practice	<b>9</b>
Tweed Management Plan	<b>9</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Background Information</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Useful Contacts</b>	<b>23</b>

### APPENDICES

<b>I-VIII</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>12 - 18</b>
<b>IX</b>	<b>Members of Commission</b>	<b>19 - 20</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>RTC Officials &amp; Employees</b>	<b>21</b>

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

It is easy to be gloomy given the low rod catch of Salmon in 2014, particularly in the back end, and there are serious issues chiefly associated with marine survival which are of great concern to fishery managers throughout the range of Atlantic Salmon. But there is also much to be positive about.

Our Fisheries' resource properly protected, monitored and understood secures the future and will always provide the platform to bounce back from a period of relative famine. The dry summer allowed the Tweed Foundation to undertake a full monitoring programme throughout the catchment, and reports from that data collection indicated that Salmon fry numbers had held up well and showed no sign of long-term decline. Likewise, our two working fish counters on Tweed, even in 2014, showed no long-term downward trend in returning adult Salmon.

Concentrating entirely on Salmon, however, hides the full picture. The relative health of our streams is amply demonstrated by significant catches of truly wild Brown trout in many parts of the catchment. We also continue to undervalue the contribution that the Sea-trout catch makes which is buoyant and significantly adds to the quality of the angling experience enjoyed over a large part of the Tweed, particularly in the summer months.

So we should take heart and have a little faith! There are problems at sea but they have not suddenly appeared and these sorts of events will have happened many times in the past. Salmon and Sea-trout have evolved to cope with setbacks at any stage of their complicated and risk-filled life cycle and so they will have, hopefully, adjusted to ensure a bountiful future.

*D J Dobie*

## **FISH CATCHES**

The winter of 2013/4 was the mildest on record and the season started with high water. The hot summer and lengthy dry spell meant that river levels were very low during the summer months but such conditions are not unusual. This resulted in very few fish showing in the system and even the deep pools in the lower reaches did not appear to hold many fish. In the autumn there were fewer fish backed up in the lower River. After the Spring, Salmon rod catches were much lower than they had been in recent years in all parts of the River. Even the north-east coastal net fisheries, which enjoyed excellent early Sea-trout catches and then summer fishing conditions, had poor Salmon catches. Conversely, good Brown trout and Grayling catches were reported on many parts of the River, Brown trout catches exceptionally so.

### **Salmon**

9,971 Salmon were reported caught in 2014 (20,316 in 2013) of which 2,204 (5,522) were caught by nets and 7,767 (14,794) by rod and line. 77%, 5,980 fish, of the total rod catch was returned (75% in 2013).

Rod catches were low up to the end of June but not unusually so. However, in August, September and November catches were around only 1,000 fish in each month and 2,500 fish in October; only in recent years have there been higher catches in August but those of September onwards were unusually low in all parts of the River. These very low rod catches were more similar to the levels caught in the 1980s than those of more recent years and the reduction was similar to those of other north Atlantic rivers. Some fisheries did report more or less normal catches but for the vast majority, throughout the River, catches were very low. A conundrum in trying to interpret these poor Salmon catches, although replicated on other Scottish rivers, was that the two fish counters on the River Whiteadder and Gala Water showed more or less normal runs of fish.

## **Sea-Trout**

Conversely, Sea-trout catches were good in the year. 4,029 Sea-trout were reported caught in the 2014 season (4,608 in 2013), of which 1,979 were by net and 2,050 by rod. 54% (58% in 2013) of rod-caught Sea-trout were returned. Rod catches were near the highest levels seen in recent years.

## **Other Freshwater Fish**

Brown trout catches were exceptionally good in 2014. Good numbers of catch returns were submitted to the Tweed Foundation from the 2014 trout fishing season from most areas of the river system. All of those areas recorded their highest average catch rate for "oversize" (10"+) Brown trout during the nine years that the Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative has been collecting data, which confirmed reports of the good quality trout fishing by anglers this year.

Recorded Brown trout sizes indicated that the improved fishing was mostly as a result of a big increase in catches between 10" and 14" (25 - 35cm), with catches of larger oversize trout around average. Scale reading showed that the vast majority (90%) of these 10" to 14" trout shared one thing in common: they had just survived their first winter (2013/2014) in the main stem of one of the larger channels. (Brown trout start off in small spawning burns then migrate into the larger channels after one or two winters.) Particularly good survival of first river-winter trout over the summer of 2013 and winter of 2013/2014 may have resulted in there being far more of these trout than normal and could have been the reason for the good catches. This was backed up by reports of very good catches of one-winter old Grayling during 2014 (2013/2014 would also have been their first winter in the Tweed although the Grayling would be younger than the trout as they were spawned in the larger channels and did not migrate out of burns at one or two years old). The increase in first river-winter Brown trout was also supported by a big increase in trout of the same size recorded passing through the Gala Water fish counter.

## **SPRING SALMON CONSERVATION**

The rod catch for the Spring was 1,737 (2,110 in 2013), which was higher than had been expected given that the season had been very poor in all but a handful of beats. The overall catch by the nets was 314, with 71 being returned under agreements with the in-river nets. 96% of rod-caught Springers were returned to the water.

The five-year average catch stood at 2,249 which was slightly up on the 2013 five-year figure of 2,141, due to three relatively good Springs and only two poorer, the poorest being in 2010 when only 1,500 Springers were caught, and the best the following season at 3,061.

## **CONSERVATION PAYMENTS**

72 (66 in 2013) eligible fisheries from the Tributaries and Upper Tweed signed contractual agreements to be part of the Scheme in 2014. Under the Scheme fisheries receive payments to agree by contract to additional measures on their fisheries that would otherwise not be mandatory; these include, as well as compliance with Spring Conservation Measures, restrictions on fishing methods and provision of information.

Some net fisheries were paid compensation for not taking Salmon.

## **BAILIFF ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **General**

Having reviewed the existing system, the Superintendent introduced some changes in the way the Bailiffs operate on the River, the targeting and investigation of persistent poachers focusing on what was happening to Tweed fish after they had been illegally taken. With the invaluable assistance and cooperation of Police Scotland, a multi-agency partnership approach was adopted in the fight to combat organised crime, involving poaching offences in the River Tweed District and throughout neighbouring Districts. To this end, much of the Bailiff work at the beginning of the year involved recognising the need for a new intelligence system and further training

on how to investigate, gather, disseminate and report more information on poaching, markets, dealers, and how they connected in a larger way, including the environmental issues on Tweed and its tributaries.

The Health and Safety Operating Procedures were also reviewed and the required changes were implemented.

The Bailiff team's usual patrols resulted in 22 nets being recovered from Lower Tweed, the Whiteadder and Till during 2014. Many of those finds followed on from information received from anglers or dog walkers; we are extremely grateful for their help. Six cases were successfully prosecuted in Berwick Magistrates Court, mostly involving offences on the beach and surrounding areas; a further case was pending at the year end.

With the start of the fishing season in February, the Bailiff team conducted more early morning patrols and routine visits in and around the fish dealers and markets in Eyemouth. The early part of the season saw regular and steady numbers of mainly Sea-trout being recorded by the coastal nets and put through the fish merchants in Eyemouth.

Low summer flows resulted in reduced poaching activity on the Lower Tweed compared to similar months in previous years. Following the heavy rains of October and November the run of fish towards Upper Tweed moved the focus to current fishing practices in and around Peebles where there was a dramatic improvement in the methods used, due largely to limiting line weights and restricting hook sizes to size 6 doubles, with treble hooks being banned completely. Feedback from the various online Salmon fishing forums suggested more interest returning from serious "fair" Salmon anglers, who felt safe to travel to Peebles and enjoy a peaceful day's fishing on those beats, and it is hoped that this trend continues.

The RTC's sea-boat was used, particularly in directing patrols to monitor the activities of

the coastal nets; in this it proved invaluable in allowing the Bailiffs to clearly see, at close range, when nets were set in the sea and actually fishing. Much time was also spent patrolling the coastline, in and out of coves and close to shore, checking for poachers' nets set from land, and using the sea-boat to effectively direct Bailiffs on-shore to those nets.

In addition to RTC Bailiff Reserves, a volunteer reserve scheme was initiated mirroring that used by the Environment Agency in England, whereby volunteers who spend much of their time on the River can report in with information in a similar way to a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. These individuals would also be included in the two-way flow of intelligence sharing, so that they would have specific knowledge of individuals and vehicles to be aware of that were, for example, already of interest to the Bailiff team.

During the summer and into autumn the Bailiffs responded to numerous reports of illegal fishing, mainly on beats around Kelso, Melrose and Galashiels. Those who were caught committing such offences had warnings issued or advice given and, where necessary, all fishing tackle was confiscated.

Approximately 60% of Fishery Record Books – both rod and net fisheries – were checked throughout the season.

### **Other Duties**

The Bailiff team was involved with attending riverworks and developments on the River, including the new Waverley Railway Line, and monitoring work on or near the tributaries. Riverworks sites where the RTC's physical presence is required - either before or during works to ensure that there is as little disturbance as possible to fish – has become an increasing role for the Bailiffs. As usual, fish passes were all checked and cleared where necessary prior to the autumn run of fish; it is the responsibility of the owner or operator of a fish pass to keep it clear and, whilst Bailiffs are often able to clear light debris, it is more usual for the owner to be asked to undertake the clearance.



The Commission granted consent under Articles 48 & 49 of The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006 for the Tweed Foundation to catch Salmon for tracking purposes in the autumn. The Tweed Foundation had identified an opportunity with Glasgow University to track Salmon migrating up the Ettrick Water, which would allow validation of the new fish pass in the Murray Cauld, Selkirk. Thirty migrating fish were caught by the Water Bailiff team, and tagged and released unharmed by the Tweed Foundation's biologists downstream of the cauld in order to gauge the efficacy of the pass.

## **POLICY**

### **Governance**

For the first time, Commissioners decided to hold their AGM in March in public; it was advertised for public and press attendance, and one member of the public did so. The AGM was followed by a usual quarterly meeting of Commission, one of four held each year. As is now the norm, all Tweed fishery proprietors were also invited to attend both those meetings in advance of the annual meeting of Proprietors, which was also held in March, 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 in October to review the year's work of The Tweed Foundation and to discuss that proposed for 2015 and, again, jointly in November, to prepare the preliminary budgets of both organisations for consideration by the Commission and the Board of The Foundation.

Two governance policies were adopted, those being a Complaints Procedure as a formal way of dealing with complaints and, for Commissioners, a Declaration of Interests Policy.

## **Superintendent**

Superintendent Eric Hastings retired from full-time employment with the RTC at the end of May following 37 years' service; however, Mr Hastings was retained in a part-time capacity. Mr Eddie Weatherly, who had joined the RTC as Superintendent Designate in the previous year, took over as Superintendent.

## **Wild Fisheries Review**

The Scottish Government instigated an independent Review of Wild Fisheries Management in Scotland. The aims of the Review being *"to develop and promote a modern, evidence-based management system for wild fisheries fit for purpose in the 21st century and capable of responding to our changing environment and to manage, conserve and develop our wild fisheries to maximise the sustainable benefit of Scotland's wild fish resources to the country as a whole and particularly to rural areas."* Much time was spent working on the Review and considering the RTC's response to it. Following the publication of the Report of the Review, and having discussed it in depth in many fora, and with the Tweed Foundation, the RTC agreed that a new wild fisheries management system was required for the rest of Scotland and that it should be firmly based on a decentralised and locally empowered model. However, it considered that the River Tweed already had such a management system, which worked well and addressed all the legal and administrative requirements of cross-border fisheries management. The RTC, together with biological support from the Tweed Foundation, was self-funding and did not receive financial support from central government either in England or in Scotland. The RTC was both democratic and accountable, and its 81 members represented a wide range of local fishery and other interests. The RTC, being the Tweed's long-established management system, wished to work closely with other centrally coordinated fisheries management both in Scotland and in England. Therefore the RTC did not agree with the Review's recommendation that its management should be part of the reform proposed for the rest of Scotland.

## **Code of Practice**

The Tweed Angling Code for Salmon and Sea-trout fishing was reviewed and the salient changes were to clarify that the Code applied to both species; that total Catch and Release applied only to Salmon; to where it was illegal to fish for Salmon with worms and multiple hooks; that it was illegal to deliberately foul hook fish, and on which rod-caught fish required to be recorded. A further change was made in regard to spinning in low water with the protocol for that fishing method particularly where there was different ownership on opposite banks.

## **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 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.

2014 was the last year of the current five-year Plan, and an updated version (Version 6) would be produced, agreed by the RTC and Tweed Foundation, and implemented for the next five-year period covering 2015 - 2019.

# INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December 2014

2013		2014
	<b>INCOME</b>	
691,766	Statutory Assessments	709,528
12,240	Policing & Property Income	9,270
<u>1,322</u>	Interest Received	<u>1,248</u>
705,328	<b>Total Income</b>	720,046
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
	<b>Bailiff Costs, Etc.</b>	
6,043	Boat Costs	3,302
4,118	Telecommunications Costs	4,543
1,647	Other Equipment Maintenance	1,627
245,265	Salaries & Other Direct Staff Costs	259,988
<u>38,076</u>	Vehicle Costs	<u>42,192</u>
295,149		311,652
	<b>Administrative Costs</b>	
67,448	Management & Costs	89,278
5,294	Printing, Telephone, Stationery, Etc.	3,473
25,941	Insurances, Office Costs & Repairs	30,467
558	Interest & Charges	370
3,298	I.T. Costs	4,256
3,501	Professional Fees	3,830
23,769	Subscriptions	24,074
1,489	Meeting Costs	1,723
<u>4,457</u>	Sundries	<u>2,484</u>
135,755		159,955
	<b>Research &amp; Improvements</b>	
141,687	Research & Conservation	145,229
11,431	Salmon Conservation	33,750
-	Caulds	36
-	Netting Equipment	2,000
28,628	Conservation Payment Scheme	28,132
<u>6,000</u>	Biosecurity	<u>6,000</u>
187,746		215,147
	<b>Depreciation, Etc.</b>	
41,832	Depreciation	31,909
<u>41,832</u>		<u>31,909</u>
<u>660,482</u>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>718,663</u>
44,846	<b>Surplus for the Year</b>	1,383
<u>(2,028)</u>	Corporation Tax	<u>(1,242)</u>
<u><b>42,818</b></u>	<b>Surplus for the Year</b>	<u><b>141</b></u>

# BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2014

2013		2013
	<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
225,310	Property	217,299
49,085	Motor Vehicles	26,858
<u>4,378</u>	Miscellaneous Equipment	<u>2,707</u>
278,773		246,864
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
21,153	Debtors & Prepayments	31,752
<u>255,717</u>	Cash at bank and in hand	<u>283,961</u>
276,870		315,713
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
(15,027)	Bank Overdraft	(38,354)
(27,057)	Creditors/Accrued Charges	(16,309)
(2,028)	Corporation Tax	(1,242)
<u>(5,000)</u>	Fishery Buy-out	<u>(5,000)</u>
(49,112)		(60,905)
<u>227,758</u>	<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>254,808</u>
506,531	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	501,672
	Creditors: Amounts falling due after	
<u>(10,000)</u>	more than one year	<u>(5,000)</u>
496,531	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	496,672
	<b>Represented by:</b>	
	<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>	
453,713	Balance as at 1/1/14	496,531
42,818	Surplus for Year	141
<u>496,531</u>	<b>Balance at 31/12/14</b>	<u>496,672</u>

## EXTRACT FROM THE 2014 ACCOUNTS

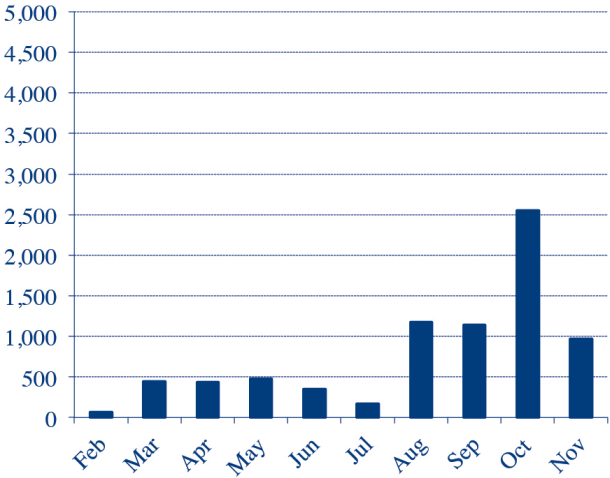
The financial information set out on these pages has been extracted from the R.T.C.'s full audited accounts, on which the auditors, Rennie Welch, reported without qualification.

Copies of the full audited accounts are available on request.

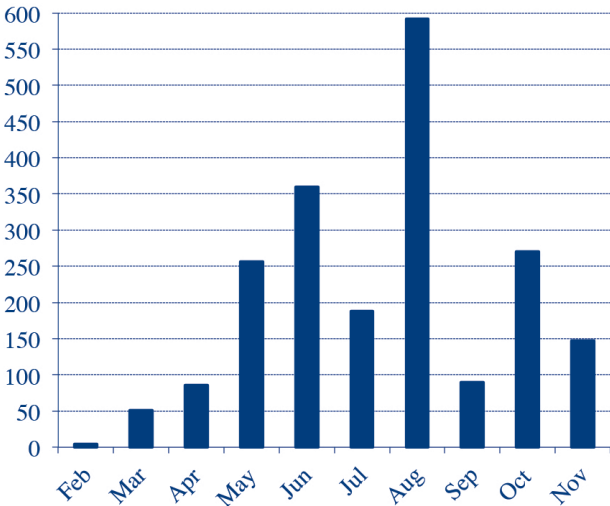
# APPENDICES

## Appendix I - 2014 MONTHLY CATCHES

### SALMON - RODS

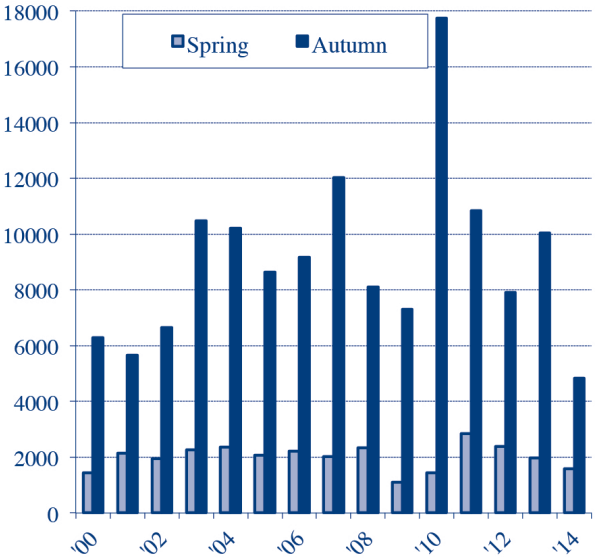


### SEA-TROUT - RODS



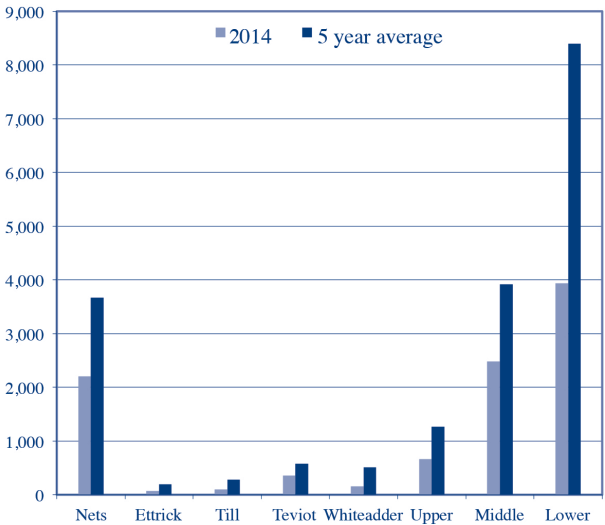
## Appendix II - SPRING v. AUTUMN TRENDS

For rod-caught Salmon below Ettrickmouth



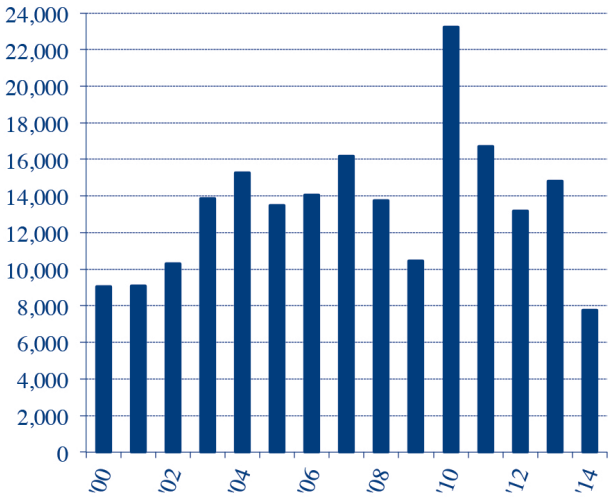
## Appendix III - TWEED SALMON TRENDS

Salmon Catch vs Five-Year Average

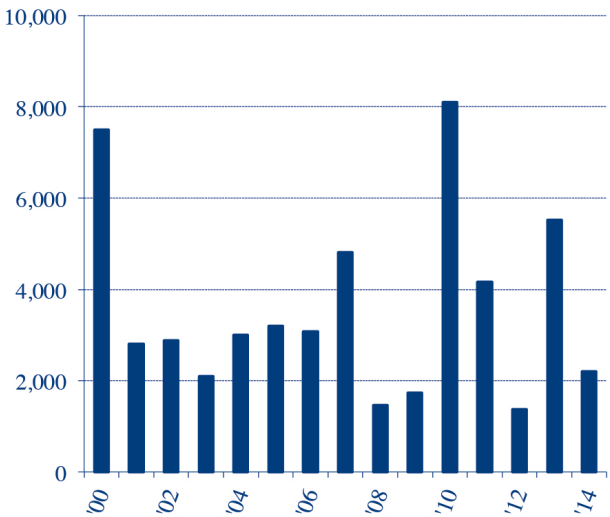


## Appendix IV - ANNUAL CATCH TRENDS

### SALMON - RODS



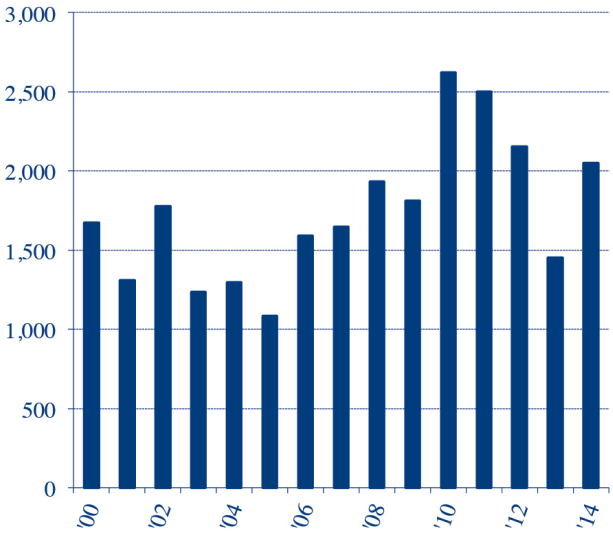
### SALMON - NETS



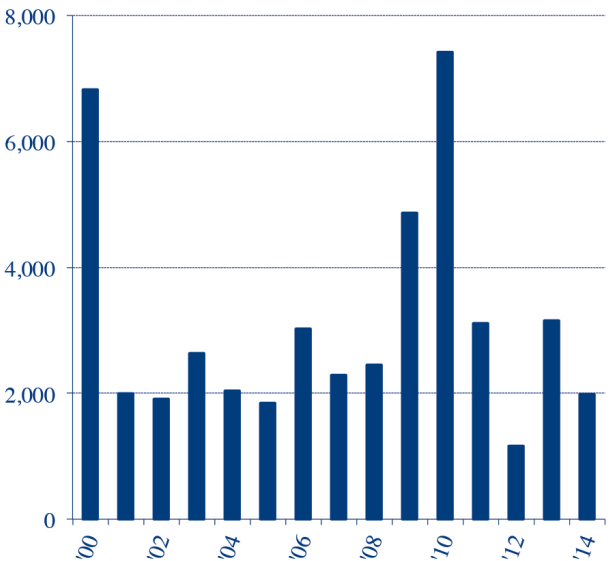


## Appendix IV (cont'd) - Annual Catch Trends

### SEA-TROUT - RODS



### SEA-TROUT - NETS



## Appendix V - SALMON OF 25LBS & OVER

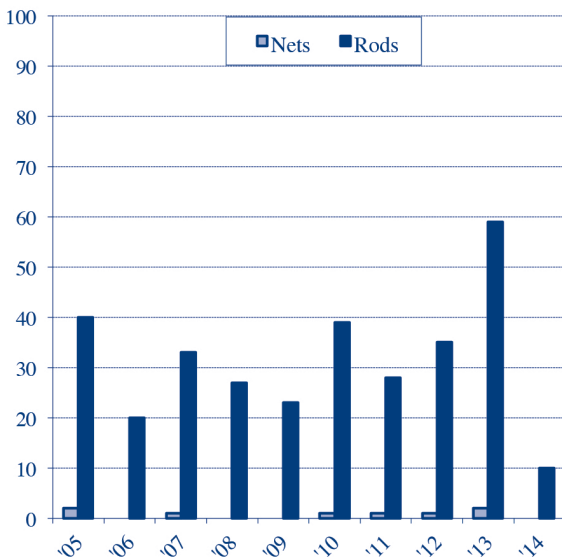
### Large Salmon

Unsurprisingly, given the very poor overall catch, few larger fish were seen. Notwithstanding the 33lber caught in the Spring (and which won the Malloch Trophy once again for Tweed), fish over the 25lbs mark were rare with only 10 being recorded by rod fisheries throughout the system in 2014, following the largest number of 25lbbers-plus in 2013 at 59. The ten-year annual average for larger recorded fish is 32.

2014: Salmon of 25lbs and Over

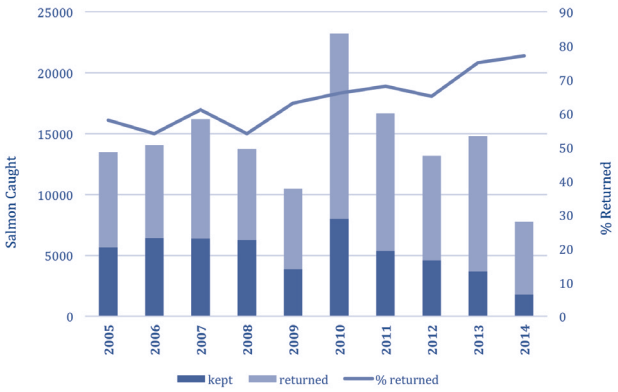
Rod Fisheries	No.	Individual Weight (lbs)
Ormiston	1	25
Upper North Wark	2	26, 35
Birgham Dub	2	27, 27
Mertoun Middle	1	32
Dryburgh Lower	1	30
Drygrange	1	25
The Yair	2	25, 25

10 Year Catches of Salmon of 25lbs and Over



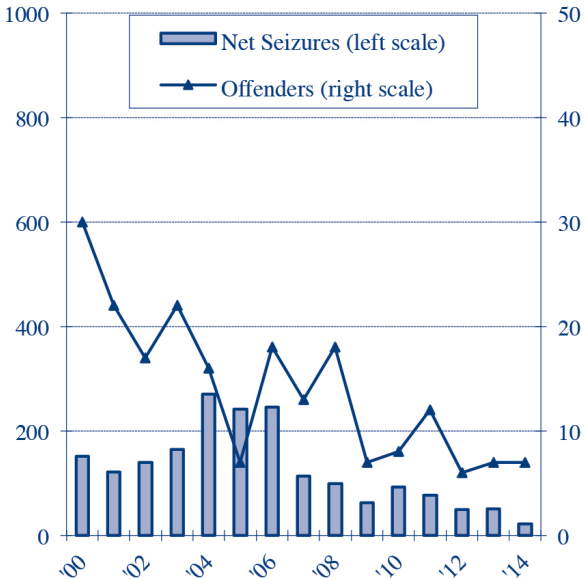
## Appendix VI - % FISH RETURNED

10 Year Catches of Salmon: Kept and Returned

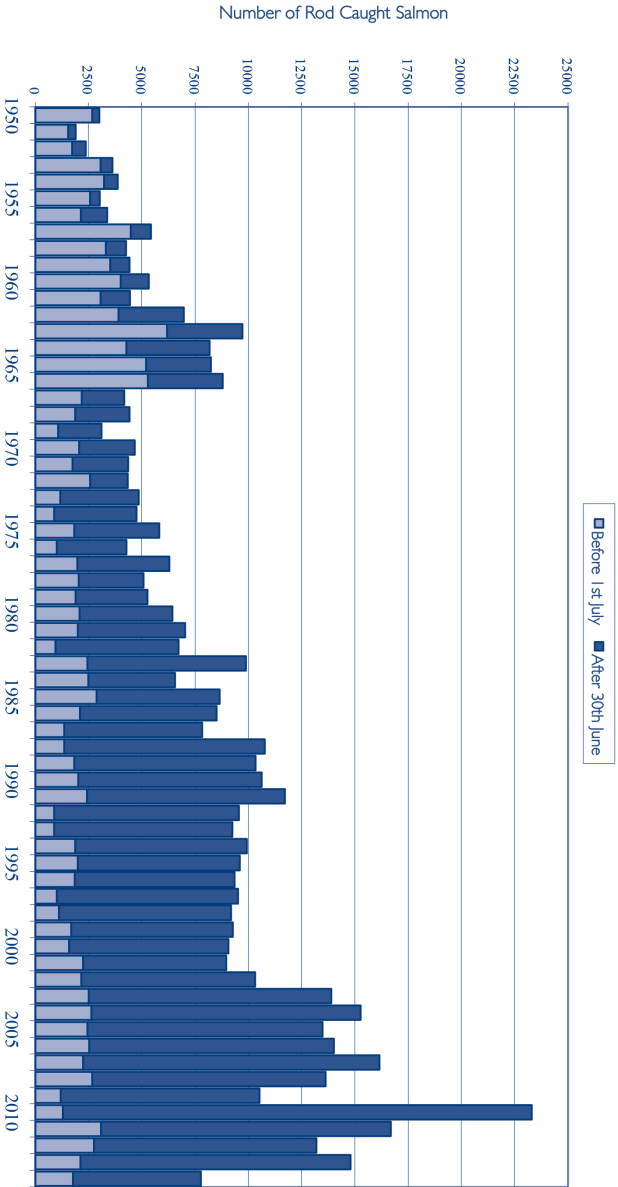


## Appendix VII - POLICING

Offenders and Seizures over the last 15 Years



## Appendix VIII Salmon Rod Catches on Tweed 1950 - 2014



## Appendix IX - TWEED COMMISSION MEMBERS

As at 31st December 2014

**Tweed Committee:** See asterisks below:

### Appointed by Local Councils

#### Scottish Borders Council

##### Berwickshire (9)

M. Crozier (Coldstream)

J. Fairgrieve (Gordon)

Dr. D Gray

W.L. Forrest

P.J. Huddleston

M. Keysell (Whiteadder)

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)

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.M.F. Nesbit (Chatton)

J. Cameron (Ladykirk & Norham)

J.E. Smith

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 2014

Ms M. Andrews	-	Paxton
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
Miss J.J. Lovett*	-	South Wark
(Resigned during the year)		
J.H. Lovett	-	Lower North Wark
J. McCorquodale	-	Maxton
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 X - RTC OFFICIALS & EMPLOYEES

At January 2015

**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.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

E.A.Hastings

**MELROSE**

Mobile: 07836 686254

T.A. Heard

**JEDBURGH**

Mobile: 07884 230046

K.B. Wardhaugh

**MELROSE**

Mobile: 07884 230045

M.M. Wardhaugh

**MELROSE**

Mobile: 07884 230044

## **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 £18m to the local economy supporting c.480 full-time job equivalents.



## USEFUL CONTACTS

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

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

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

**TweedStart**  
[www.tweedstart.org.uk](http://www.tweedstart.org.uk)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Association of Salmon Fishery Boards  
[www.asfb.org.uk](http://www.asfb.org.uk)

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)

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

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

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

Northumberland County Council  
[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.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 Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)  
[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

Scottish Natural Heritage  
[www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk)

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)

# 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

