

RTC

2009

ANNUAL

REPORT

&

ACCOUNTS

River Tweed Commission
The North Court
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*Established by Act of Parliament
to protect the fish stocks in
the Tweed River System*

RTC

2009 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

After a year of taking some stick from both anglers and the angling press alike for what they perceive as Tweed management's failings and inadequacies, my report this year will pull no punches and, to deliberately mix some metaphors, where I have people in my sights, it is time to fire some bullets.

2009 was not *that* bad a fishing year; indeed I would be surprised if any other UK river exceeded our rod catch of 10,465 Salmon for 2009. It is also well in the top half of Tweed rod catches of the last 30 years. With the notable exception of the Aberdeenshire Dee (of whom more later), almost all UK Salmon rivers suffered reduced catches in 2009. Our reduction of 25% (from our previous 5 year average of 14,000) being pretty typical. Unless all rivers are making the same mistakes, it is a fair assumption that reduced Salmon runs are a result of conditions in the sea which have affected us all.

My real concern is for our spring fish. Of all our identifiable stocks, springers have for many years now been the weakest. Moreover, in angling and therefore financial terms, they are the most important. Without springers, we have a 3 or 4 months fishing season with all that implies for employment and the wider angling related local economy.

When the might of Tweed's fly fishing and toby spoon-wielding anglers can only catch some 1,100 (half our previous 5 year spring average) over the 5 months from 1st February to 30th June there is only one conclusion: there were very very few springers.

Killing any of them in these circumstances is, to my mind, just plain stupid. Most anglers, I am glad to say, heeded our early pleas to stop killing them and I congratulate them all (and especially their accompanying and hugely supportive boatmen). I personally favour full catch and release for springers even if for 2010 we have proposed something short of this; the Dee has had 100% catch and release for many years now and the Tay has just started. If I am to fire a bullet at anyone, it is at those Tweed

anglers who still think the old hunter/gatherer/killing argument holds sway over preservation of the species. I have no time for them at all.

The same is true for the legion of anglers (supported by some highly irresponsible angling press) who want us to start a hatchery. Let me quote from the Environment Agency's July 2004 report on the River Tyne hatchery. Conclusion 7.6, "*Current post 1995 annual contribution of direct hatchery returns to size and catch is estimated between 2% and 7%*". In other words between 93% and 98% of the catch did not come from hatchery fish.

Tweed is a far more prolific fishery than the Tyne and one cannot help thinking that the dilution of any hatchery fish in a bigger wild population would result in an even smaller percentage catch from any hatchery production. Moreover, nobody has ever yet been able to produce spring fish in a hatchery; we tried it many years ago and what few fish we could trace as coming back came back as Grilse. The Spey and the Tay have hatcheries, as of course does the Tyne. Just like us, they all suffered declines in catches in 2009. I could go on and discuss the cost!

All of this will no doubt be unconvincing to the pro-hatchery lobby. Which is why I want to come back to the Aberdeenshire Dee. I first went to fish there thanks to some very old friends in the early 1970s. Since then we have witnessed a decline in their catches of pretty terrifying proportions in the 1980s and 1990s. Some years ago they decided to confront my old friends: the anglers who think that you should not go fishing unless you kill what you catch. Resisting the calls for a full blown hatchery (indeed in 2006 they went the other way and stopped planting out a comparatively small number of eggs) and the howls of protest from the "*killers*", they went full catch and release for the whole season. In 2009 the Dee may be the only river whose catch actually went up. Dee managers would be the first to accept that there is an element of luck in all this, as there always will be with nature, but how they deserve their success.

I congratulate them with all my heart for sticking to their management principles. Here on Tweed we

have identical principles which, for over 20 years, have all been functions of research and objective decision-making, rather than the whim of the moment; and, like the Dee, we too intend to stick to those principles.

FISH CATCHES

Salmon

All fisheries reported difficult fishing conditions during the year. For the Middle and Lower River, flows were often too great in the summer and were followed by a period of little rain in the early autumn and severe floods towards the end of the season. Nevertheless, there was a reduced run of fish throughout the season. The Lower River had a slightly increased catch on 2008 but all other parts of the River had a lower catch, the Middle River and Whiteadder being particularly poor. Whilst the rod catch was significantly down, the net catch was similar to 2008 despite difficult conditions, although still low compared with previous years. Overall, 12,199 Salmon were caught in 2009 of which 10,465 were caught by rods and 1,734 by nets; 6,598 (63%) of the total rod catch was returned.

A change in the size distribution of Salmon caught has already been identified in previous years and reported upon by The Tweed Foundation. A distinct feature of this change is the appearance in the catch of very small Salmon. This had been noted in other rivers, and also in Norway. No hard evidence was available for the cause but fisheries scientists believed that it was likely to be a lack of food in the sea. Also, the trend of reduced numbers of large fish, over 25lbs, continued.

Sea-Trout

Whilst Salmon catches were depressed, reported Sea-trout catches were less so with the nets showing a notable increase and the best catch for nine years. 6,671 Sea-trout were caught in 2009 of which 1,814 were caught by rods and 4,857 by nets. 837 (46%) of the rod catch was returned. (The declared rod catch of Sea-trout on Tweed is likely to be a poor indicator of stock abundance because many fish are caught inadvertently by trout anglers and, although

they may be returned to the water, they are not declared. Thus the total catch is likely to be very much higher than that declared.)

Other Freshwater Fish

The story of the trout season was very similar to the last few years. Some good trout were reported in the Peebles area early in the season with less so as the months passed by. This encouraged the belief that those trout were migrating from the Upper Tweed burns back to the bigger waters. The opposite happened in late September and October in the upper Teviot, where Salmon fishers using small flies reported catching good Brown Trout and seeing plenty of rises, which were presumed to be trout moving up to the nursery streams.

Another unusual event in the Teviot was that in July and August two trout fishers each hooked a Grilse on small flies where the fish rose and took its fly on the surface: neither was landed. Along with that, 7 Grilse were reported as caught in August by Salmon fishers; that was most unusual so early in the autumn. It may have been attributable to the high water conditions which ran consistently from early June to mid September.

Another factor that was regularly mentioned across the catchment was the high number of very small Grayling. One fisher actually reported catching 3 at once on a wet fly cast.

A successful Grayling competition was held in December on the Jedforest and Hawick clubs' waters on the Teviot.

SPRING SALMON CONSERVATION

Following the very poor early run of Spring Salmon, in April the Commission issued a request to all Proprietors to extend the Spring Salmon Conservation Measures to return all fish caught by rod and line, not just the first and thereafter every alternate fish. In reality few fishermen had been catching more than one fish but it seemed very unlikely that the spawning escapement would be met. This was issued as

a request from the Commission, rather than a change of policy, partly because it could not be approved in time by the Commission but also because it was felt that a change would have narrowed the opportunities to review the whole policy and the Spring Conservation Measures required for 2010 and beyond. The request to return all Springers was largely well received on the River and was followed by other rivers in Scotland. However, even with this measure in place, the 2009 Spring catch was very poor, at 1,147 fish, which was half of the recent average; 83% of the Springers were returned. Even this is unlikely to have produced more than a barely adequate spawning escapement. There were no indications of anything being special or odd about the parent generation (the majority of which would have returned 5 years ago in 2004) of the current returning Spring fish and no particular problem with the fry indexing for that generation either. The smolt run showed no peculiarities. Fry abundance in the Ettrick was noted as towards the lower end of what was found in other areas of the catchment, but that had always been the case. As poor catches were also reported on other East Coast rivers the cause was likely to have been in the sea.

CONSERVATION PAYMENTS

The new scheme of Conservation Payment Agreements was introduced to recognise special conservation measures that could be undertaken by fisheries on the tributaries and Upper Tweed; Agreements had been signed by 51 of the eligible fisheries (61%) in those areas at a total cost of £18,927. It was thought that some fisheries may not have taken up the offer because it commenced after the start of 2009 fishery tenancy agreements, whilst others categorically did not wish to participate as they wanted to continue worm fishing.

POLICY

Review of Stocking Policy

The Tweed Stocking Policy for the introduction of fish was modified during the year following receipt of applications to stock with fish that were

outwith the meaning of the Policy, if not letter; this included stocking fish as food for other fish, stocking fish that were not native to the District (although of a single sex), and movements into the catchment with fish from outwith the Tweed District where the original source was not easily traced and therefore had the potential to bring in disease or other alien species with the stocked fish (such as Signal Crayfish, Zebra Mussel or Argulus). The amendment stressed that other organisms, such as mussels, snails, crayfish, etc., were not wanted in the catchment. The change also identified a new provision that the person who carried out the stocking had the responsibility for the lifetime of the fish stocked, a "Duty of Care", as some fish species had very long lives.

Out of Season Genetic Sampling

The Scottish Government granted a special licence to the Commission to collect out of season Salmon genetic samples in December and also January 2010, as it had done in 2008/9. The samples were required to confirm and refine knowledge of the Salmon stock structure of the Tweed using genetics to find out how many different stocks of genetically distinctive Salmon there were and what areas they occupied so as to determine whether the number of juvenile electric-fishing sampling sites within each population's area was adequate to show trends in that population. The operation was supervised by the Water Bailiff team and all fish were returned to the water.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMISSIONERS IN ENGLAND

New provisions were made for the appointment of English Representative Commissioners. Statutory Instrument 2009 No. 837, Local Government, England Item 614.c), The Local Government (Structural Changes) (Miscellaneous Amendments and Other Provision) Order 2009 - Article 27, amended the appointment of Representative Commissioners in England by the amendment of the Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006 as follows:

(1) In the Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006 ('The 2006 Order') (31), to the extent that

the 2006 Order applies to England, in Schedule 1 (representative commissioners) for 'Berwick-upon-Tweed District Council' substitute "The council for the county of Northumberland".

(2) Commissioners appointed by Berwick-Upon-Tweed District Council shall continue to hold office until their period of appointment comes to an end, and shall be treated for the purposes of Schedule 1 to The 2006 Order as if they were appointed by the council for the county of Northumberland.

CAULDS

Murray Cauld, Ettrick Water

Repairs made to the Murray Cauld during the year by the operator were overseen by the Water Bailiff team but were later entirely washed out by floods, as was the island below the cauld resulting in a massive change to the bed of the river in that area. However, by the year end the structure still stood. The Commission had a number of meetings throughout the year with prospective developers but the problem remained that the cost of making a lasting repair to the structure could not be met.

FISH COUNTERS

The Tweed Foundation operated two fish counters.

Ettrick

Given the lower Salmon catches of 2009, the Salmon total of 3,851 was surprisingly high compared to the totals for the two previous years and was close to the average for 1998-2008 of 3,900 fish. A major part of the count was made between 19th and 31st October, with a total of 4,450 fish (Salmon and Trout) counted through for that period. Possibly, changes to the entrance to the fish pass in 2009 and the deepening of the approach channel were contributing factors to the increased number of Salmon counted in 2009. 2,561 Trout, including Sea-trout, ascended which was marginally greater than the 1998-2008 average of 2,331 fish.

Gala

With the assistance of a grant from SEPA, the Commission paid for modifications to the entrance to the fish pass and also for alterations to one of the pots above the fish counter. This completed the work of equalising the jump heights between all of the pots, thus making fish passage easier and reducing the occurrence of the same fish repeatedly passing up and down through the counter. This work was not completed until the end of September so did not assist the whole run.

A decrease in the number of Salmon from 1,834 (2008) to 1,063 (2009) was in line with the reduced rod catch of Salmon in the main river; although a smaller count, the total was still more than 50% of the spawning target. Trout, including Sea-trout, also decreased from 2,218 (2008) to 1,889 (2009).

BEAVERS

The Commission continued in its representation to Government regarding the dangers of introducing Beavers to Britain. The prime reason quoted for wanting an introduction was that they built dams - the exact reason why fisheries do not want them. Tweed tributaries, in particular, are suitable Beaver habitat in which dams would act as impediments to the free passage of migratory fish to their preferred spawning destinations. Evidence from other countries is that reintroduced Beaver populations can spread widely and in every country in which Beaver have been introduced and established themselves so far, their numbers have, sooner or later, reached pest levels and required lethal control in order to mitigate their impacts on fisheries, roads, farming and forestry. No assessment having been made of the eventual population level to be expected in Scotland, nor any indication given of the methods of lethal control that would be allowed, nor any responsibility assigned for the expenses of their control, the Commission assumed that the burden would fall on fishery boards, which was unsatisfactory.

GYRODACTYLUS SALARIS (Gs)

Gs Record Books were issued to rod fisheries which were able to request anglers to make a declaration that their fishing tackle was “clean” at the start of a fishing trip. Whilst many beats were unable to use the books because they had no fishing hut or centralised “start” point for anglers, others found the log book helpful by positively identifying fishing tackle that did not pose a risk with respect to Gs and in keeping Gs in the forefront of anglers’ minds.

A Gs Biosecurity Plan for Tweed was also undertaken. The document comprised supplementary planning preparation to the Government’s Contingency Plan in the event of a Gs outbreak and addressed the risk assessment specifically appropriate to the Tweed & Eye District. The Tweed document contains a large amount of information that would be required if it was ever necessary to implement a Gs plan.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Following the trend of recent years, there was an initial rise of illegal activity at the start of the year in the estuary involving those well known to the Water Bailiff team. This quickly subsided as policing presence allied to Prohibition Orders, bail conditions and suspended sentences acted as effective deterrents. Additionally, fish movement was observed to be sporadic through the first part of the year, principally due to variable water conditions. Weather and river conditions played a part throughout the remainder of the year and this was a factor in illegal activity being well contained.

During the year, seven cases were submitted for prosecution: five to the Magistrates’ Court and two to the Procurator Fiscal.

A total of 62 nets were recovered for the year, compared to 99 in 2008. It is of note that the recovered net figures for April through to August 2009 were the lowest on record with the following months still being well below average.

In addition to policing the River, the Water Bailiff team conducted inspections of the individual fisheries' catch record and Gs books.

Floods & Fish Rescue

The floods of 2008, having had a significant impact on the stability of the river system, were exasperated by further spate conditions in 2009 which undid many of the remedial works undertaken, particularly in the Bowmont and Breamish areas. Whilst there were not the same large-scale fish rescues required as in the previous year, the Water Bailiff team monitored the state of the river and advised on best courses of action to facilitate fish passage and to minimise disruption to migrating fish. General engineering activity on the river was also monitored as part of the Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) in conjunction with SEPA and SNH. Monitoring of The Tweed Foundation habitat sites continued with Water Bailiffs making inspections to assess the state of fence lines, following spates. A number of these sites sustained significant damage directly to the fences, due to debris accumulation, and to the banks themselves with sections having been washed away. Those required realignment or modification and the RTC worked with landowners, on behalf of the Foundation, to seek the best solutions.

Health & Safety

As reported last year, the Health and Safety review process highlighted the possible hazards of lone working, a necessity for some Water Bailiff operations. Steps were taken to minimise those hazards by instigating appropriate operating procedures and controls. In addition to the 'buddy' system implemented last year for the Water Bailiff team, the RTC and Tweed Foundation staff were also issued with personal locators that track their position and have an emergency activation button. This equipment sends out an alert to all staff mobile telephones by text message, emails selected addresses, and produces a map location of each of the units' whereabouts. The system worked well, with tests of units for emergency response showing accurate location reports. Some areas with inadequate mobile phone coverage still allowed

an estimated probable location as the system logs the last true position of the unit thus providing a trail to follow.

THE TWEED FOUNDATION

The Tweed Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee which was set up by the River Tweed Commission to collect information and undertake research related to the Fisheries of the Tweed District. The Foundation provides sound scientific advice and draft policies, for consideration by the Commission, based upon its findings. Detailed publications of the Foundation's work are published both on its website and in periodic journals.

Further information about The Tweed Foundation and details of membership can be obtained from:

<http://www.tweedfoundation.org.uk>

Results from the Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative can be read at:

<http://www.ttgi.org.uk>

Tweed News is reported on the joint RTC and Tweed Foundation website at:

<http://www.rivertweed.org.uk>

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December 2009

2008		2009
	INCOME	
620,020	Statutory Assessments	640,693
15,763	Policing & Property Income	15,707
13,888	Interest Received	2,782
<u>649,671</u>	Total Income	<u>659,182</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
	Bailiff Costs, Etc.	
1,706	Boat Costs	12,573
5,152	Telecommunications Costs	3,742
1,690	Other Equipment Maintenance	816
258,044	Salaries & Other Direct Staff Costs	246,954
44,379	Vehicle Costs	38,920
<u>310,971</u>		<u>303,005</u>
	Administrative Costs	
50,313	Management & Costs	52,284
5,176	Printing, Telephone, Stationery, Etc.	4,187
17,776	Insurances, Office Costs & Repairs	43,491
5,101	Interest & Charges	1,881
3,834	I.T. Costs	1,523
5,408	Professional Fees	2,990
15,376	Subscriptions	18,465
1,171	Meeting Costs	989
1,299	Sundries	2,655
<u>105,454</u>		<u>128,465</u>
	Research & Improvements	
125,000	Research & Conservation	129,000
15,319	Spring Salmon Conservation	9,663
12,086	Caulds	8,000
18,910	Biosecurity	9,182
-	Conservation Payment Scheme	18,927
<u>171,315</u>		<u>174,772</u>
	Depreciation, Etc.	
37,142	Depreciation	31,040
-	Rock Fishery	8,988
<u>-1,740</u>	(Loss)/Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	-
<u>35,402</u>		<u>40,028</u>
<u>623,142</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>646,270</u>
<u>26,529</u>	Surplus for the Year	<u>12,912</u>
4,813	Corporation Tax	584
<u>21,716</u>	Surplus for the Year	<u>12,328</u>

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2009

2008		2009
	Fixed Assets	
265,365	Property	257,354
49,305	Motor Vehicles	27,951
423	Boats	141
<u>2,659</u>	Miscellaneous Equipment	1,266
<u>317,752</u>		<u>286,712</u>
	Current Assets	
16,502	Debtors & Prepayments	22,923
<u>183,663</u>	Cash at bank and in hand	190,896
<u>200,165</u>		<u>213,819</u>
	Current Liabilities	
-3,113	Bank overdraft	-2,299
-30,177	Creditors/Accrued Charges	-14,532
-4,813	Corporation Tax	-584
<u>-6,039</u>	Term Loan	-9,038
<u>-44,142</u>		<u>-26,453</u>
<u>156,023</u>	NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>187,366</u>
473,775	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	474,078
	Creditors: Amounts falling due after	
<u>-59,020</u>	more than one year	<u>-46,995</u>
<u>414,755</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>427,083</u>
	Represented by:	
	CAPITAL ACCOUNT	
393,039	Balance as at 1/1/09	414,755
<u>21,716</u>	Surplus for Year	12,328
<u>414,755</u>	Balance at 31/12/09	<u>427,083</u>

EXTRACT FROM THE 2009 ACCOUNTS

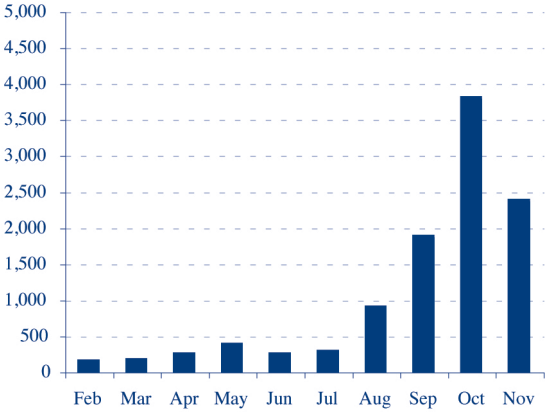
The financial information set out on these pages has been extracted from the R.T.C.'s full audited accounts, on which the auditors, Rennie Welch, reported without qualification.

Copies of the full audited accounts are available on request.

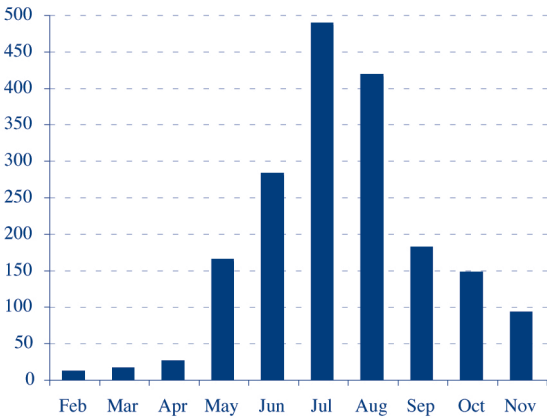
APPENDICES

Appendix I - 2009 MONTHLY CATCHES

SALMON - RODS

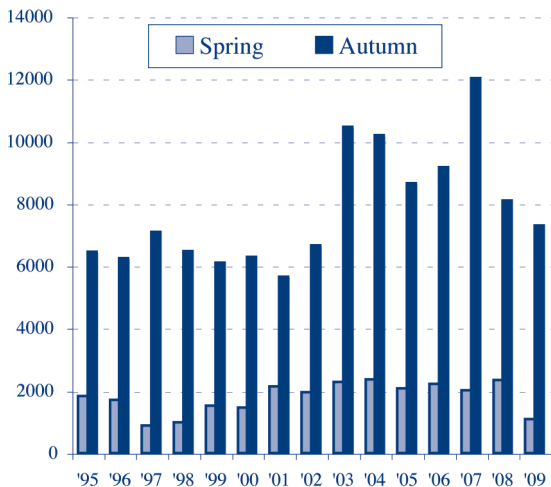


SEA-TROUT - RODS



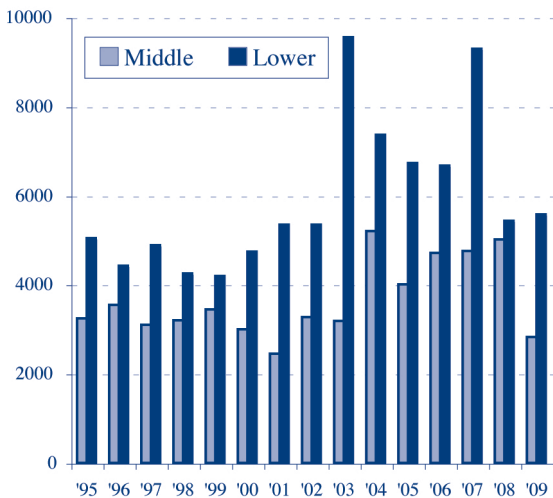
Appendix II - SPRING v. AUTUMN TRENDS

For rod-caught Salmon below Ettrickmouth



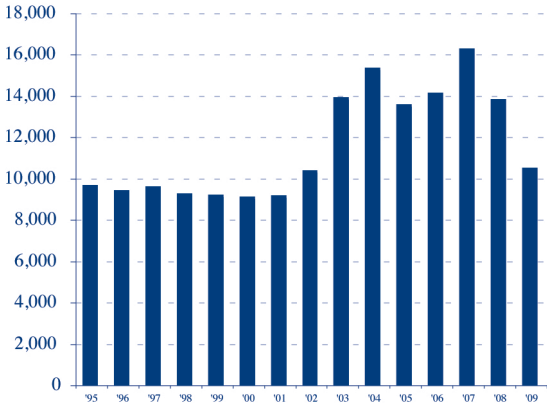
Appendix III - TWEED SALMON TRENDS

Differences between Middle & Lower beats

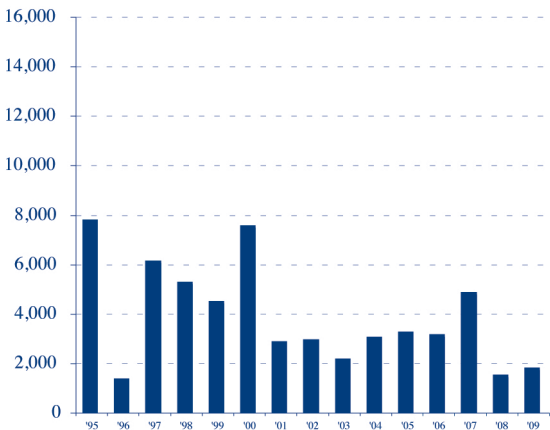


Appendix IV - ANNUAL CATCH TRENDS

SALMON - RODS

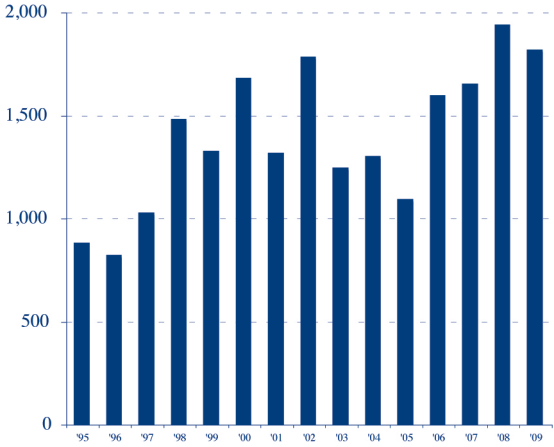


SALMON - NETS

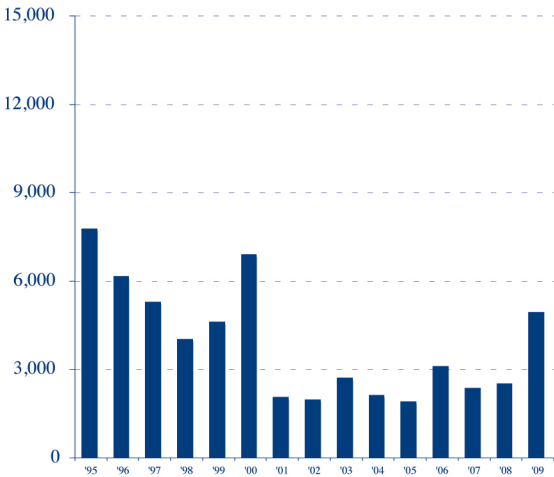


Appendix IV (cont'd) - Annual Catch Trends

SEA-TROUT - RODS



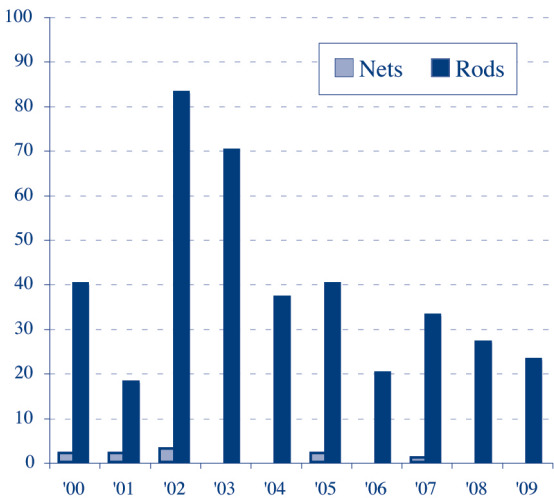
SEA-TROUT NETS



Appendix V - SALMON OF 25lbs & OVER

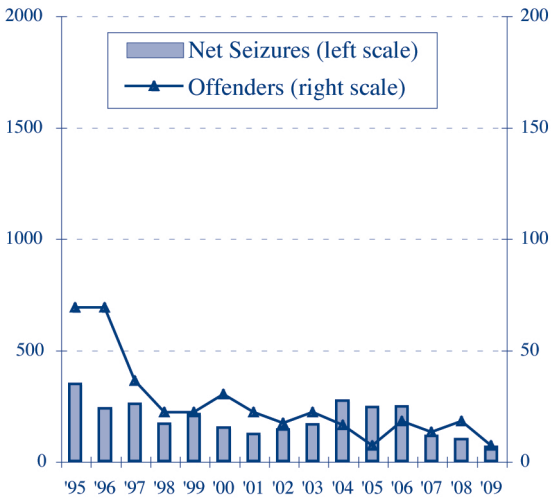
Rod Fisheries	No.	Individual Weight (lbs)
Fenton	1	25
Nisbet North	1	27
West Newbiggin	1	25
Tillmouth Water	2	25, 26
West Learmouth	2	25, 27.5
Lennel	1	25
The Lees	2	25, 30
Birgham Middle	1	25
Carham	1	30
Sprouston	3	25, 25, 27
Hendersyde	1	25
Junction	1	25
Floors Upper	1	32
Mertoun Middle	1	28
Dryburgh North	1	25
Gledswood	1	30
The Nest	1	28
Caberston Lower	1	25

10 Year Catches of Salmon of 25lbs and Over



Appendix VI

Offenders and Seizures over the last 15 Years



TWEEDLINE



*Up-to-date information on Tweed can be obtained on the
Tweedline telephone numbers as follows:*

Information & Prospects 09060 400 410

Daily River Levels 09060 400 411

Calls cost £1.50 per minute from a BT Landline (other network & mobile costs may vary). Profits from your call will go to The Tweed Foundation to help preserve fish stocks. Service provided by The Tweed Foundation, Drygrange Steading, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9DJ. In case of any problems with this service, please call +44 (0)1896 848271.

Appendix VII - TWEED COMMISSION MEMBERS

As at 31st December 2009

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
A.J. Panter
F. Scott
J. Todd
F. Turnbull
W. Quarry

Ettrick & Lauderdale (11)

T.B. Hardy (Gala)
N.J.H. Houldsworth
T. McLeish (Melrose)
V. Pemberton (Selkirk)
W. Rodger (St Boswells)
J.P.H. Scott
R.L. Simpson (St Mary's)
T.L. Speirs
G. Sutherland (Lauderdale)
Vacant
Vacant

Roxburgh (9)

J. Curtis (Upper Teviotdale)
I. Davis
R. Glass (Kelso)*
A.H. Hutton
R. Johnston*
Dr. D. H. Mills
T. Reid (Hawick)
K.A. Rothwell
R. Young (Jedforest)

Tweeddale (5)

N. Brown (Peebles)
D.G. Fyfe
J. Lees (Peebles)
A. Virtue
Capt. D. Younger

Berwick upon Tweed Borough Council (9)

D. A. Ewart (Ladykirk & Norham) Dr. J. H. Mitchell
G. O'Connell J.M.F. Nesbit (Chatton)
P. Cowe (Berwick) L.W. Robson
C. Hallam-Baker (Glendale) R.J.D. Watkin
D. Wilson

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

(Appendix VII continued)
Elected by Proprietors
As at 31st December 2009

Mrs C.K. Balfour	-	Birgham Lower
P.A. Baxendale	-	Sprouston
S. Blades	-	Elibank
Lord Biddulph	-	Makerstoun
J.McK. Brownlie	-	Drygrange
R. Claydon	-	Ashiestiel
C. Crawford	-	Middle Pavilion
M. Cuddigan	-	Ford & Etal
Viscount Dawick	-	Bemersyde
D.J. Dobie*	-	The Retreat
A. Douglas-Home*	-	Lees Upper
Dr. G.M. Fraser	-	Horncliffe
J.R. Gardiner	-	Caddonfoot
J. Gill	-	West Learmouth
Mrs C.A. Hoare	-	Dryburgh South
The Earl of Home	-	Birgham Dub
F.G. Jennings	-	Boleside
C. Lapsa	-	Tillmouth
Miss J.J. Lovett*	-	South Wark
J.H. Lovett	-	Lower North Wark
E. McCorquodale	-	Maxton
J. Malden	-	Paxton
C.A. Matheson	-	Tweedhill
R.J.Onslow	-	Tweedmill
The Earl of Portarlington	-	Gledswood
J. Pringle	-	The Nest
The Duke of Roxburghe*	-	Floors
J.C. Rutherford	-	Rutherford
J. Scott	-	Ancrum
Mrs F. Simpson	-	Crown Estate Fisheries
R.D. Smyly	-	Sunderland Hall
Mrs E.M. Straker-Smith	-	Carham Upper
P.D. Straker-Smith*	-	Birgham Middle
The Duke of Sutherland	-	Mertoun
D. Theaker	-	Mounthooly
S. Vickers	-	Middle Ettrick
D. Wilson	-	Kirkbank
Lt. Col. D.J. Younger	-	Ravenswood

Appendix VIII - RTC OFFICIALS & EMPLOYEES

At January 2010

Chairman: A. Douglas-Home
Vice Chairman: R. Johnston
Treasurer: Miss J. J. Lovett

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

Bailiff

Superintendent: A.P. Coleman
KELSO
Mobile: 07831 126969

Bailiff

Chief Inspector: E.A. Hastings
MELROSE
Mobile: 07836 686254

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
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 and other Acts 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. The Commission levies an annual assessment on the owners of all 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 752425/754797 - Pollution and control of water quality & quantity in Scotland.

Environment Agency

Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 7AR. Tel: 08708 506 506 - Pollution and control of water quality and quantity in England.

Scottish Water

Winston Road, Galashiels, TD1 3HH. Tel: 0845 501 8855 - Sewage disposal and water supplies on the Scottish side.

Northumbrian Water

Abbey Road, Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5FJ. Tel: 0870 608 4820 - 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

The Quadrant, Newburn Riverside, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE15 8NZ. Tel: 0191 229 5500 - 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

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

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

Environment Agency
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

FishTweed
www.fishtweed.co.uk

Fisheries Research Services
www.marlab.ac.uk

Natural England
www.naturalengland.gov.uk

Northumberland County Council
www.northumberland.gov.uk

Northumbrian Water
www.nwg.co.uk

River Tweed Commission
www.rtc.org.uk

River Tweed News
www.rivertweed.org.uk

Scottish Borders Council
www.scotborders.gov.uk

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

The Scottish Government, Marine Directorate, Food &
Fish Division, Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries
www.scotland.gov.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage
www.snh.org.uk

Scottish Water
www.scottishwater.co.uk

Tweed Forum
www.tweedforum.com

Tweed Foundation
www.tweedfoundation.org.uk

Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative
www.ttgi.org.uk

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 are adopting 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

