

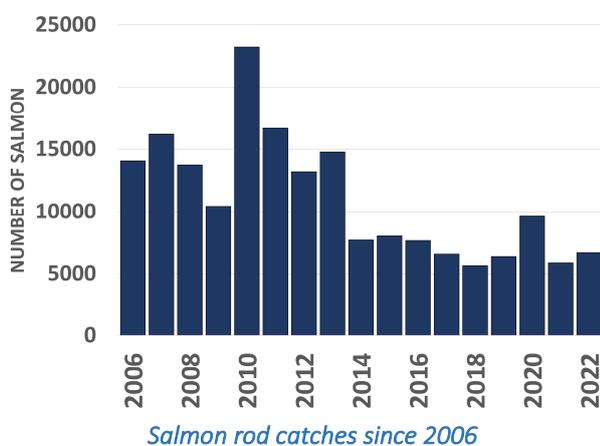


# the River

News from Tweed Fisheries Management: The River Tweed Commission & The Tweed Foundation

## Salmon catches for 2022

The annual River Tweed Commission (RTC) Report has now been released, which includes an assessment of the catches for 2022. Despite the challenging conditions last year, 6,690 salmon were caught by rods and 414 by nets. This figure was just under the five-year average (6,810) and well within the range of catches since 2014. While concerns remain about the spring run, the total spring rod catch (February to the end of June) for the Tweed District was 1,804 salmon, an improvement on last year and the best return since 2019.



Maintaining the upward trend in catch and release for salmon, which is evident since 2010, 96.1% of rod caught salmon were returned to the river, the first time that this figure has exceeded 95%. RTC recently discussed a proposal by Scottish Government for season-long voluntary or mandatory catch and release, with the outcome that we will continue with our current regulation for full release in Spring to the end of June, restrained killing of fresh salmon from July through to September and the return of all hen fish in Autumn.

The RTC chairman, Peter Straker-Smith commented in the annual report :-

*“My first year in the job has seen heatwaves, low flows, algae, and rotten weed, but it has not been all gloom! The 2022 fishing season proved to be a challenge for a number of reasons but, despite the poor conditions, more salmon ran the Tweed in 2022 than in 2021, with some lower and upper beats returning catches above the five-year average. Most of the middle river was not so lucky. Spring 2022 was blessed by the absence of Covid restrictions (which had severely restricted angling efforts in early 2021) and by good water conditions in March and April, but drought led to reducing – and eventually very reduced – water flows from May to September, concentrating fish in the lower river. “*

The RTC report can be found at :-

<https://www.rivertweed.org.uk/river-tweed-commission/reports-publications/annual-reports/>



*Lee Craig, boatman from Carham, with a 24lbs Spring salmon, caught early March this year*

### The Ian Gregg River Academy is now open!

An overhaul of the visitor room at our Drygrange office to turn it into a 21<sup>st</sup> century venue for delivering education sessions to all ages has now been completed.



*The visitor room has new interactive touch screens, presentation screen and bench area with microscopes*

To celebrate the completion of the work, Lorna Slater (MSP for Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity of Scotland) opened the Academy with Ian Gregg, former chairman of the River Tweed Commission and driving force for the creation and development of The Tweed Foundation. Just as importantly, two children from Lauder primary school who have taken part in the Trout in the Classroom' initiative assisted with the opening of the Academy.



*Our guests, just before cutting the ribbon*

### Keeping track of brown trout

In 2022, with sponsorship from Coldstream and Kelso angling clubs, 20 brown trout were tagged in the Lower Tweed to see where they go to spawn. At the moment we have very little idea of the stock structure of Tweed trout and where we should focus our efforts on for habitat improvement of nursery areas in the tributaries.



On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Jonny Archer, Tweed Foundation biologist gave a talk on the study, providing an overview of the project and the tracking results for individual fish.

If you miss the presentation, it can be viewed at [https://youtu.be/TD0\\_0nme1c](https://youtu.be/TD0_0nme1c)

We plan to tag 40 brown trout in 2023. If you would be interested in sponsoring a fish, please contact with the Tweed Foundation. Each tag costs £320.

### A significant fine for poaching

One of the most serious poaching incidents in recent years has ended up with a successful prosecution at Newcastle Magistrates Court. Three men from the Eyemouth and Berwick area were fined a total of £2,322 for the use and possession of a trammel gill net on the River Till.



*3 salmon and 7 sea trout were found in the net*