



Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative Newsletter

No. 19 – 2021 Blackadder, Eye & Leader Waters

2020 Blackadder Water Brown Trout Catches

Only one catch record was submitted for the Blackadder for the 2020 trout fishing season. The Brown Trout catch for that single fishing trip was well above the average for the river. The largest trout caught was 16" and estimated at roughly 1½lb.



A 14" (approx. 1lb) Brown Trout from the Blackadder in September 2020

2020 Leader Water Brown Trout Catches



The Leader Water fished well above average for undersize trout during 2020

2020 Eye Water Brown Trout Catches

Catches of undersize (<10") and oversize (10"+) trout from the Eye Water contrasted greatly during the 2020 fishing season. Whilst undersize catches were slightly below average, oversize catches were the highest since the current recording scheme began in 2006.

Since then Eye Water catch rates have varied considerably from one year to the next. However, the overall trend is one of decreasing catches of undersize trout and increasing catches of oversize trout.



The catch rate of oversize Brown Trout from the Eye Water in 2020 was the highest on record

The average catch rate of undersize trout (<10") from the Leader Water in 2020 was the highest since the current recording scheme began in 2006. The catch rate of oversize (10"+) Brown Trout was almost exactly the same as the average for the previous 10 years. The Grayling catch rate was also on average with the previous 10 years.

Despite considerable variation from one year to the next, the overall trend in catch rates between 2006 and 2020 is one of steadily increasing catches of both undersize and oversize trout.



Catches of Brown Trout over 10" (25cm) were in line with the 10 year catch average



2021 Leader Water Juvenile Trout Electro-fishing Survey



In August 2021 The Tweed Foundation will be carrying out an electro-fishing survey of the juvenile trout and salmon of the Leader Water. The Gala Water and Upper Tweed will also be surveyed later in the month. Anyone wishing to come along to see the state of the juvenile stocks is more than welcome and should contact The Tweed Foundation on:

01896 848 271

Or Kenny Galt at:

kgalt@tweedfoundation.org.uk

Videos showing electrofishing surveys in action can be found on The Tweed Foundation's YouTube page

Brown Trout Recaptures

During the last few seasons we have been asking anglers to take pictures of the left side of the Brown Trout over 12" they catch. This allows us to identify individual trout from the spot pattern on their gill cover and so record their movements and angling recaptures. Although only a small number of anglers have participated to date the results have been eye-opening with localised movements, multiple recaptures, and recaptures over successive seasons all being recorded. There are also some early indications that smaller rivers have higher rates of angling recaptures for adult sized Brown Trout. This has significant implications for rivers the size of the Blackadder, Eye and Leader.

To date we have only received only a small number pictures from the Blackadder, Eye and Leader and we would like many more. You can help us by photographing any Brown Trout over 12" (30cm) that you catch and sending us the photographs.

For more information contact Kenny Galt at:

kgalt@tweedfoundation.org.uk

Or via our Facebook page.



This 20" Brown Trout from the Peeblesshire TFA water was caught at least five times during the 2019 fishing season

The Tweed Foundation Facebook Page

For updates on the work of The Tweed Foundation and the Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative, please visit The Tweed Foundation's Facebook page.

