



Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative Newsletter

No. 19 – 2021 Lower Tweed

2020 Lower Tweed Brown Trout Catch Summary



Picture courtesy of Mark Straughen

Brown Trout catch log book returns for the Lower Tweed for the 2020 season were below the usual return rate. This is most likely as a result of limitations put on ticket sales by some Angling Associations in light of COVID-19 restrictions which were in place when angling opened up in late May. This likely indicates that Brown Trout angling effort was lower than would normally be the case in some areas.

The catch rate for Brown Trout over 25cm (10") from the Lower Tweed in late May, June and July was the highest on record. The May and June 2020 catches likely benefitted from the river being rested during April and much of May, and from reduced angling pressure in some

The catch rate for Brown Trout between 25cm (10") and 35cm (14") in May, June and July 2020 was the highest on record

areas. However, the catch rates for Brown Trout between 25cm (10") and 35cm (14") during this period were well above the ten year average. Catches of bigger (over 35cm) and smaller (under 25cm) trout remained much closer to the ten year average. This indicates a higher abundance of 25-35cm Brown Trout than would normally be the case and the likelihood that the catches in the first half of the Brown Trout season would have been well above average, even if the 2020 season had proceeded as normal.

In contrast to May, June and July, the catches were much closer to the average in August and below average in September. A different catch trend is normally observed between the first and second half of the season as the catch rate of Brown Trout over 30cm (12") tends to drop off markedly after the end of June.

In addition to the trout catches, the Grayling catch rate for the Lower Tweed was amongst the highest on record.

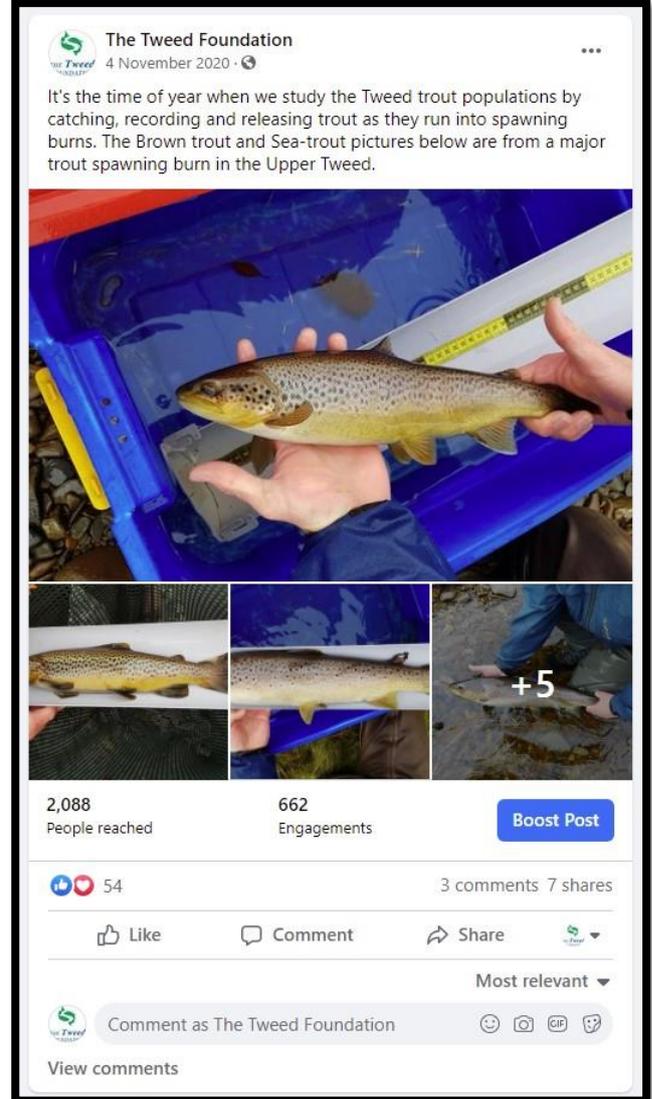
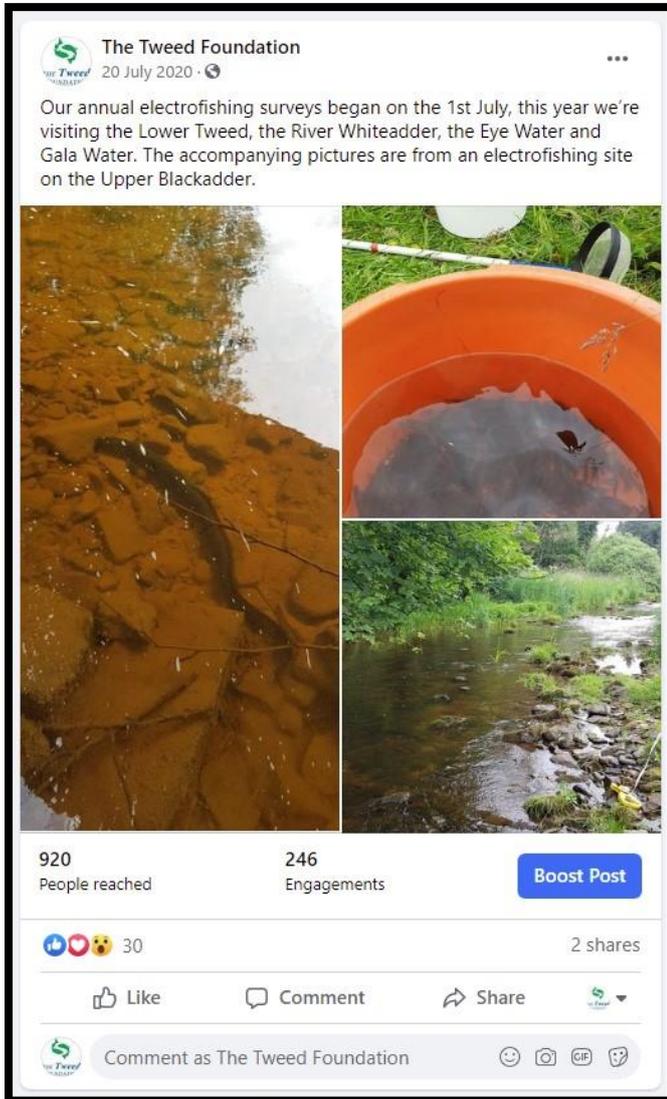
The Brown Trout and Grayling catches in the Middle and Upper Tweed during the 2020 fishing season mirrored those from the Lower Tweed.



Both the Brown Trout and Grayling catches were well above average in the Lower Tweed during 2020



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.

Brown Trout Angling Recaptures

During the last few seasons we have been asking anglers to take pictures of the left side of the Brown Trout they catch. This allows us to identify individual trout from the spot pattern on their gill cover and record movements and 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 in successive years all being recorded. If you can help us by photographing the Brown Trout you catch from either the Kelso or Coldstream & District Angling Association waters please contact Kenny Galt at: kgalt@tweedfoundation.org.uk, or through the Tweed Foundation's Facebook page.



This Brown Trout from the Middle Tweed was caught and photographed in each of the 2017, 2018 and 2019 trout fishing seasons