



# the River



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

### Prepare for the Pinks!

Fisheries management organisations throughout the natural range of Atlantic salmon are preparing for the next influx of Pink salmon. With a two year life cycle, reports in the U.K. and Europe were the highest on record in 2021 and we are expecting increasing numbers to be reported biannually (2023, 2025, 2027 etc.).

Reports from Northern Scandandavia show that the breeding range of Pinks continues to expand and there is a marked increase in numbers. For example, the estimate for the Teno river in 2021 was 40-50,000 returning fish. More worryingly, the Thurso and Oykel rivers in Northern Scotland have recorded evidence of successful breeding with the capture pink salmon smolts.



*A mature male Pink salmon has a humped back and therefore easy to recognise*



*A female Pink salmon is less distinct*

While Pink salmon will try to spawn in the Tweed, water temperature is probably too high for viable offspring to be produced.

***The current management advice is that all Pink salmon are dispatched and catches are included in annual catch returns made to the River Tweed Commission***

More information about Pink salmon can be found at [www.rivertweed.org.uk/biosecurity/](http://www.rivertweed.org.uk/biosecurity/)

### Reporting captures or sightings

To provide a live assessment of Pink salmon presence in U.K. rivers, a reporting app has been developed by The Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre. In addition to reporting in the annual catch return, we would appreciate captures or signs of spawning activity to be recorded using an app that can be found using the QR code or link (<https://arcg.is/Lafne>).

A live map will be present on the Fisheries Management Scotland website ([fms.scot](http://fms.scot)).



### Sponsoring trout and smolts tags

We would like to thank Kelso Angling Association for their continuing financial support for salmon and trout tagging work carried out by The Tweed Foundation, with a donation of £1,040 this year which will go towards some acoustic tags for tracking brown trout and PIT tagging some of the Gala smolts.

A link to our Gala smolt tagging sponsorship page can be found using the QR code below.

**THE GREATEST RACE OF THEIR LIVES!**  
**SMOLTRUN** 



## Gala smolt trap update



**The Tweed Foundation team busy tagging**

1,000 salmon and 500 sea trout smolts have now been successfully PIT tagged to monitor their return rates in 2024 and 2025. Senior Biologist James Hunt commented :-

*“Our first batch of sea trout tagging in 2021 found that 10% of fish managed to return back to the Gala Water in 2022, which is a surprisingly high return rate, given that the return of salmon is around 3%. The Gala Water sea trout tagging is the only UK East Coast river that is providing this sort of information.”*

## A visit from the Torne River Commission



**Members of the Torne Commission with TF and RTC staff at Drygrange**

There are a number of River Commissions in Europe to help manage river systems that either form the boundary between countries or flow between them. The Torne river forms part of the boundary between Sweden and Finland and has a number of tributaries in each country with significant populations of salmon and trout.

Thirteen members of the Torne Commission visited the Tweed for two days in early May to learn about the management and marketing of our river.

## Inspiring the next generation of anglers



A pupil from Earlston High School and very keen angler, Luke Butler, recently took part in our first ‘TweedStart Plus’ angling initiative. The project aims to foster the enthusiasm of children for fly fishing by building on their existing knowledge. Participants are encouraged to take part in various activities such as fly tying, casting instruction from an AAPGAI Advanced instructor and freshwater invertebrate sampling.

The highlight for Luke’s training was catching his first ever wild brown trout on a dry fly from the Leader Water on the final day. Commenting on Luke’s progress, our new education officer, Ben McCallum said :-

*“It was a pleasure to work with a young person so enthusiastic about fly fishing. We hope Luke will become a future Tweed Ambassador and help promote fishing for the next generation of anglers.”*