



Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative Newsletter

No. 19 – 2021 Middle Tweed

2020 Middle Tweed Brown Trout Catch Summary



The catch rate for Brown Trout between 10" and 14" during May and June 2020 was the highest on record

Brown Trout catch log book returns for the Middle 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 the COVID-19 restrictions which were in place when angling opened up in late May. This likely indicates that Brown Trout angling pressure was lower than would normally be the case in some areas.

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

angling pressure in some areas. However, the catch rate for Brown Trout between 25cm (10") and 35cm (14") during this period was elevated well above the ten year average. Catches of bigger (over 35cm) and smaller (under 25cm) trout remained relatively close 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 trout season would have been well above average, even if the 2020 season had proceeded as normal.

In contrast to the May and June, the catches were around average during July and August and below average during 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.

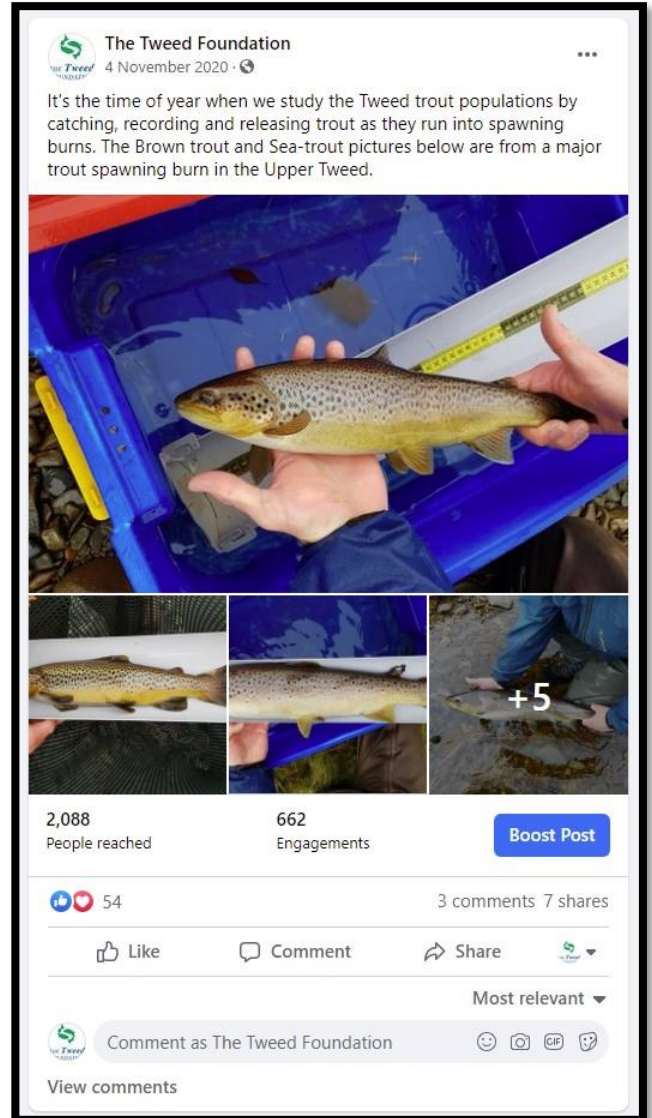
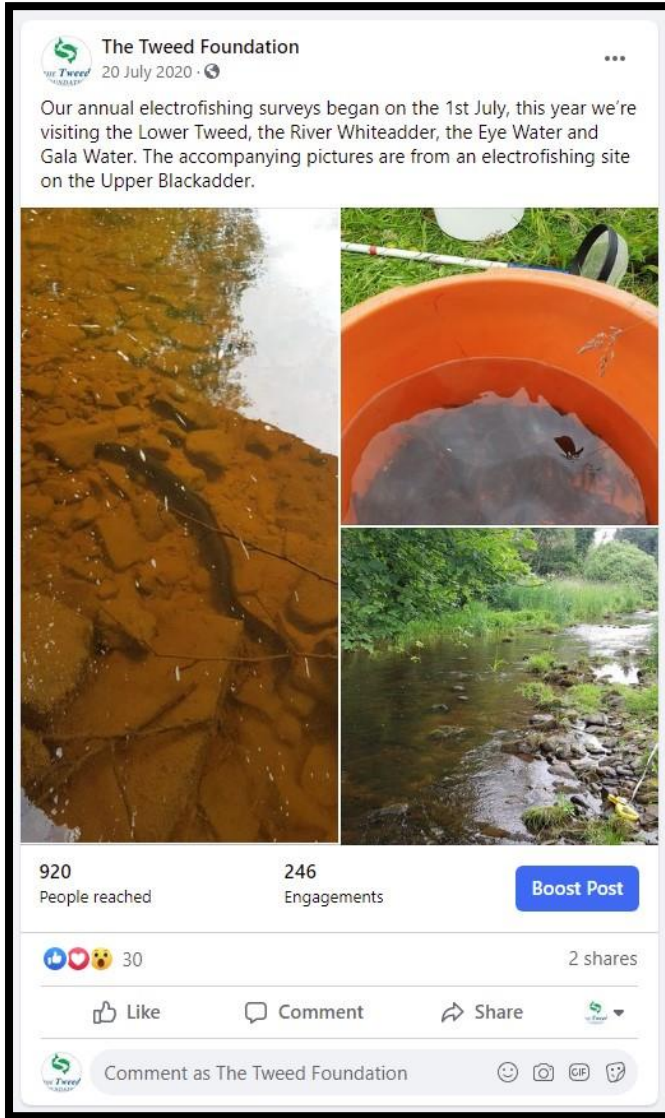
Since the current recording scheme began in 2006, the Brown Trout catches have varied substantially from one year to the next. However, the overall trend for Brown Trout over 25cm (10") shows neither an increase nor decrease in catch rates. The overall catch trend for undersize trout (<25cm) is one of slightly improving catches.



Although catch rates are highly variable from one year to the next, the overall catch trend from the Middle Tweed is unchanged



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 seasons all being recorded. If you can help us by photographing the trout you catch from either the Melrose & District or St Boswells, Newtown & Districts 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