



the River



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

Focussing in on water temperature

The low water conditions and heat waves in July 2022 and June 2023 has focussed minds on how we try to manage the catchment to minimise water temperatures and the stress that can be placed on fish, particularly salmon and trout.

The River Tweed Commission continues to be in dialogue with SEPA regarding licensed water abstraction as it is important that we maximise the amount of water available in the river. Certainly more consideration needs to be put into how farmers can use water for irrigation more wisely, including the adoption of trickle irrigation and storage of water from winter rainfall. The Tweed Foundation continues to study the effect of freshets from reservoirs on river water temperature and whether freshets can help cool the main stem of the Tweed.

As part of the Salmon Implementation Plan for Scotland, a scientific advisory group has provided advice on water temperatures for angling, recommending extra care for water temperatures between 18°C and 20°C and to cease fishing above 20°C. At present there is no agreed system of providing live updates on Tweed water temperature – equipment is being trialled this year and will hopefully be available in 2024.

Updated catch and release advice can be found using the QR code or link below :-



<https://www.rivertweed.org.uk/news/posts/2023/june/angling-in-hot-weather/>

Brown Trout season so far



Casting a line at West Learmouth

It has been a tough season for Brown trout, certainly on the Lower Tweed where we have been trout tagging, but as ever, it is difficult to know whether there are less trout this year or conditions and hatches have had their part to play. A cold Spring followed by a heatwave in June has not helped matters. The trout that have been caught are certainly in good condition, so there are certainly no issues with food availability. From the insights of our Brown trout catch monitoring scheme, we know that poor years can be followed by exceptionally good ones, so fingers crossed for 2024!

Trout tagging continues

The Tweed Foundation staff, assisted by local anglers, are plugging away to catch 40 trout for acoustic tracking to find out where they go to spawn. In a normal year this would be a straightforward exercise to catch the Trout! 28 fish have been tagged so far. There have been a lot of late nights, with the evening rise starting as late as 11:00 in June.

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More questions? Feedback on this Newsletter, and suggestions for future topics are very welcome
Email: enquiries@rtc.org.uk

TweedStart at The Hass Loch



Children from Earlston High school, along with their teacher, Andrew Foggin, a well known Tweed Trout angler, visited the Hass Loch for a fly fishing education day. The Hass is owned by the Jedforest Angling Club and is an ideal location for Tweedstart education days. Following the Tweed Start format, children learnt about fly tying, aquatic fly life and received casting instruction. We are grateful for the provision of the loch by the club, free of charge, and we look forward to future visits.

A donation to TweedStart



Alison & Hugh Hynd owners of Fast Flies (<https://fastflies.co.uk>) visited the Ian Gregg River Academy earlier this month to meet Education officer Ben McCallum. They presented a cheque for £300 to be used for TweedStart, the education programme from the Tweed Foundation.

Handing over the cheque Alison commented :-

"TweedStart gives the next generation of anglers the best platform to develop and learn new skills."

TweedStart Plus

The Tweed Foundation has launched TweedStart Plus, a free 4-week fly fishing development programme aimed at young people aged between 10 and 17 years old. The first programme runs between Wednesday 12th July and 2nd August at Kailzie Gardens, Peebles. Unfortunately it is fully booked already and over subscribed, but we aim to provide more events next year, with a greater range of venues throughout the Tweed District.

The programme includes fishing tuition on the pond at the Kailzie Trout Fishery and on the river. At the end there will be an opportunity to become a TweedStart Ambassador. The TweedStart Plus initiative is being taken forward by our new education officer, Ben McCallum.

Ben commented :-

"It is essential that we start inspiring the next generation of anglers. We know that the magic of fishing will always remain, we just need to provide more opportunity and assistance for children to have a go. For the first time, TweedStart Plus will provide a pathway for older children to help develop their skills under the guidance of fly tying and fly casting experts from the Tweed. Hopefully this will encourage them into lifelong participation."

Keep an eye out for Pinks

The first report of a Pink salmon this year has been received from Ireland and numbers are building up in Northern Norway, although no reports in Scotland. July should see the first pinks entering the Tweed. Captures of sightings can be reported at <https://arcg.is/Lafne> or please scan the QR code.

