

RTC

2016

ANNUAL

REPORT

&

ACCOUNTS

River Tweed Commission
The North Court
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*Established by Order
under an Act of Parliament
to protect the fish stocks in
the Tweed River System*

RTC

2016 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It may seem difficult to write positively in this Report when the status quo is being so severely challenged. Rod catches were, again, at their lowest level for a number of years and they could signal a fundamental shift away from the abundant Grilse and Autumn runs which have contributed a large proportion of the total rod catch in recent years. The norm may become an increased reliance on Spring and Summer fishing with significant consequences in terms of gross letting revenues achievable on the river as a whole.

One consequence of reduced gross income, is a pressure on the Commission to carefully consider the annual Assessment levied on Proprietors. From our Accounts on Page 10 it can be seen that the 2016 Assessment was substantially below that raised in 2015 and a further reduction is planned for 2017. This has been achieved, in 2016, through a reduction in staff numbers, particularly the Bailiff team and a willingness within the organisation to adapt to new working practices.

At the same time, changing and declining fish stocks, arguably, require increased protection and further understanding to encourage a quicker recovery and to further plan for the future. It is clear, therefore, that achieving the correct balance between these conflicting pressures and securing best value from a reduced level of Assessment will be a challenge for the foreseeable future.

Whilst we can theorise about long-term cycles and changing feeding patterns in the North Atlantic, there is no substitute for hard work on the ground. I am confident the Bailiff team continue to provide an effective deterrent to all activities which interfere with fish stocks; be it poaching, pollution, or obstructions to free passage, amongst many others.

I am also pleased that, with a long dry summer, 2016 was a good year for the biologists. Our research grant to The Tweed Foundation continued to support the collection of vital data, including targeted electro-fishing that may shed further light on the current status of our fish stocks and give some insight into future prospects.

On a brighter note, the Scottish Government has recently announced significant changes to the Wild Fisheries Reform process. A new Fisheries Bill will be brought forward but it will be much more limited in its scope and nature and it will not affect the primary legislation on the Tweed in any way. As you will see in this Report, responding to Government on the WFR process took up an enormous amount of time and it is hoped that this level of effort will not be required going forward.

D J Dobie

FISH CATCHES

Salmon

7,680 Salmon (8,091 in 2015) were caught by rod and line and 541 (553) by net; with an overall Salmon catch of 8,221 (8,644 in 2015), 2016's catch was down 7% on the previous season. 85%, 6,531 fish, of the total rod catch was returned (80% in 2015).

Whilst Salmon catches overall were similar to the previous two years, the decline in the Autumn continued. The Spring run again showed a slight improvement on the five-year average and similar to that of the last fifteen years; this continued through in the summer till July. However, there was (again) a marked decline in the grilse run and catches from August until the end of the season were lower, this markedly so at the very end of the season. October catches were reduced by around one third and those of November reduced by three quarters. This made the third Autumn running with a poor catch and markedly distinct from the long sequence of good (mostly comprised of grilse) years prior to that. The pattern was similar in all parts of the main river and in the tributaries. Only one, in-river, netting station was active in killing Salmon and then only from mid-June after the end of the Spring run. A greater number of large (>25lbs) fish were caught than in recent years.

Sea-Trout

1,280 (2,323 in 2015) Sea-trout were caught by rod and line and 391 (374) by net; overall, the 2016 Sea-trout catch was 1,671 (2,697 in 2015), with 57% (51% in 2015) of rod caught Sea-trout being returned.

After two years of improved catches, the catch declined and was smaller than any of the previous 10 seasons, in all parts of the river.

Other Freshwater Fish

The 2016 Brown trout catch rates in most areas of the Tweed system were similar to the previous 10 years of data that the Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative has collected. With two exceptions, the catchment saw a slightly above-average catch

of trout over 25cm, with a small drop in those of lesser sizes. Exceptions to this trend were on the Ettrick/Yarrow, with below average catches of smaller trout, and on the Upper Tweed where 25+cms fish catches were more numerous and the Trout much larger; the catch rate of "specimen" Brown trout of 50+cms being over four times the "norm".

The Grayling catches in the annual Catch & Release Earlston Inter-club competition were amongst the highest on record. This was mostly as a result of very high catches of one year old Grayling in the 23-28cm size range, indicating a very strong year class despite the large floods over the winter of 2015/2016. The competition was held on the last Saturday of August on three Associations' waters in middle Tweed between Melrose and Kelso.

SPRING SALMON CONSERVATION

After some disappointing catches in recent years, the 2016 Tweed Spring Salmon rod catch continued to improve with 2,464 fish being caught (2,030 in 2015) by the rods. 2016 was the fifth largest catch in the last 30 years and the best for four years. The majority of fish reported to date were, as usual, caught in the Lower River (1,536), with the Middle catching the bulk of the rest (685). Overall, the Lower Tweed catch was 23% higher than in 2015 although those on the Middle river averaged only a 5% increase. The greater part of the catch was in the later Spring months of April, May and June. Of the tributaries, the Whiteadder showed the biggest increase on last season with a catch two and a half times that of 2015 (72 in 2015; 176 in 2016), although these were mostly reported from the lower beats.

CONSERVATION PAYMENTS

70 (71 in 2015) eligible fisheries from the Tributaries and Upper Tweed signed contractual agreements with the RTC to be part of the Scheme in 2016. Under the Scheme the fisheries receive payments to agree by contract to additional measures on their fisheries that would otherwise not be mandatory; these include, as well as

compliance with Spring Salmon Conservation Measures, restrictions on fishing methods and provision of information.

CONSERVATION LIMITS

The Scottish Government's Salmon Conservation Regulations September 2016 were published by Marine Scotland Science (MSS) for consultation. They proposed that, under a new system, MSS would make an assessment each year of each rivers' stocks (The Tweed and the Eye) and provide a conservation grade based on its catches:

Category 1: fishing permitted throughout the season;

Category 2: some restrictions; and

Category 3: total Catch & Release.

The Tweed categorisation had not been altered since it was first introduced, but from 2016 would be on an individual river basis. Whilst Tweed continued to be in Category 1, the RTC had told MSS that this was not appropriate as it had been awarded only a single Category for the whole river despite it having distinct stocks, specifically that the Spring Salmon run should be in Category 3.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Illegal Activity

Reduced poaching activity in the year resulted from targeting the markets for illegal fish, the introduction of carcass tagging, and the close monitoring of commercial net fisheries.

15 illegal nets were recovered, mainly from the Lower River and the Whiteadder. From May onwards complaints regarding illegal fishing were mostly related to travelling communities encamped near Galashiels and the RTC worked with local Police to manage the situation.

Two successful prosecutions were taken at Berwick Magistrates Court with another one pending at the year-end; three prosecutions were pending with the Procurator Fiscal in Scotland at the year-end.

Winter Floods

At the beginning of the year much time was taken up with monitoring of river levels, flood damage reporting, and patrols covering the entire Tweed District frequently checking and reporting new damage. Site meetings with other agencies and follow-up visits continued throughout the year, with the majority in the late Spring and Summer.

New Fisheries Officer/Water Bailiff

An additional staff member was recruited as a Fisheries Officer/Water Bailiff. This is a new post incorporating the skills of a Water Bailiff with general monitoring and other duties in conjunction with The Tweed Foundation's biologists.

Operational Patrols and Joint Working

The sea boat Osprey was used to patrol the coastline and the river estuary including joint operations with the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority seeking to identify illegal activity.

The Bailiff team worked with The Tweed Foundation during the summer carrying out electro-fishing surveys, fish rescues and the netting of fish for research purposes.

National Training Event

For the second year in succession the RTC hosted an event in line with the Scottish Bailiffing Continued Professional Development programme. The subjects covered were "Netting Methods to Catch Salmon – Legal and Illegal" and "The Seizure, Integrity and Management of Exhibits". This two-day course was attended by 30 delegates from across Scotland and was run by The National Bailiff Steering Group, and supported by the Institute of Fisheries Management and the Scottish Government.

POLICY

Governance

The Commission met, as usual, four times in the year with its March meeting preceded by its public AGM, and which was followed by the annual meeting of fishery proprietors at which

Proprietorial Commissioners were elected. The RTC Committee met five times, including twice with the Trustees of the Tweed Foundation: once to review the Foundation's work for its current year and that proposed for 2017, and then for a second time to discuss and agree the draft annual budgets; the RTC budget was then proposed to Commissioners.

Expertise

Commissioners pooled information detailing their areas of expertise and demonstrated the considerable spread of knowledge contained within the organisation. (The breakdown of that expertise is published on the RTC's website.)

The Timing of Commission Meetings

Timing of the quarterly Commission meetings was considered and whether it would be prudent to change them, perhaps facilitating Commissioners' attendance. Whilst the Tweed Order stipulated that its AGM, and that of the annual meeting of the Tweed Proprietors, should be held on the first Monday in March each year, it placed no other restriction on frequency, timing or location of meetings within the catchment. Commissioners overwhelmingly agreed not to change the timing of meetings.

Net Fisheries

Changes in the Law this year resulted in Gardo Fishery being the only commercial netting station within the Tweed District that could legally kill Salmon and sell them. Having been a redundant fishery, Gardo was reopened in 2015 and had agreed with the RTC not to commence fishing before mid-June. In 2016, whilst the fishery opened in April, it agreed (in May) not to kill Salmon until 16th June, so complying with the Tweed Spring Salmon Conservation Measures.

Separately, the contract between the RTC and The Paxton Trust, owners of the Paxton House fishery, continued so that it would no longer kill any Salmon. Netting continued there for demonstration and heritage purposes and also to allow The Tweed Foundation to collect data for scientific research purposes.

Wild Fisheries Reform

During the year the Scottish Government consulted upon the draft legislative provisions and fisheries strategy for the next phase of the Wild Fisheries Reform (WFR). This consultation was on the provisions for a Wild Fisheries Bill for the rest of Scotland, along with confirmation that the Tweed would not be part of that Bill but would be subject to a new Tweed Order in due course, the provisions of which would have to be with agreement of Westminster. There was also a vision for managing and developing wild fisheries in Scotland which would cover the Tweed to include financing, the form of the new bodies (in the rest of Scotland) which would take over from the existing Fishery Boards, as well as detail in many areas; particular amongst these, with respect to the Tweed, was the constitutional role of Scottish Ministers in Tweed fisheries management. The RTC made the point to Ministers that whilst Salmon and freshwater fisheries was a devolved matter, the RTC had a special role emanating from the inclusion of the English part of the Tweed in the Tweed District. The Tweed legislation gave the RTC powers to administer Salmon and freshwater fisheries in the District, defining fishing methods and closed times, and detailing offences and certain exemptions; it also enabled Scottish Ministers to make Orders and granted them certain powers, along with the RTC. The established purpose and modus operandi of the RTC being to remedy the democratic deficit of English fisheries being controlled by Scottish legislation and, specifically, by Scottish Ministers who were not accountable to English citizens. The RTC therefore provided a constitutional "buffer" which was why the primary Tweed legislation could not be changed without the agreement of both the Westminster and Holyrood governments.

The RTC sat on three of the working groups formed to consider the proposed Wild Fisheries Reform, being: Baits and Lures, Continued Professional Development, and Legislation and Enforcement.

Revision of the RTC Stocking Policy

In concert with the Scottish Government's "Policy on Introductions of Fish to Scottish Inland Waters", the RTC's policy for consent was changed so that it would not be given for the introduction of fish species that the RTC considers:

1. to be out-with their native range unless they cannot reproduce either by being sterile or because of climatic conditions
2. to pose a threat to native flora or fauna within the body of water, e.g. by predation or habitat modification, or
3. to previously un-stocked, natural, fishless lochans or to catchments above impassable waterfalls.

Legislation

The Tweed Regulation (Salmon Conservation) Order 2016 became law during the year, the key aspects of which were:

1. to prohibit the taking of Salmon in coastal waters of the Tweed District (effectively coastal netting)
2. to ensure that an assessment of the conservation status of Salmon is made
3. to enable Scottish Ministers to agree a conservation plan for the Tweed District with the RTC.

A similar Order was made for the rest of Scotland.

The Tweed Regulation (Salmon Carcass Tagging) Order 2016 also became law and required Salmon retained by net fisheries:

1. To be tagged with a prescribed, individually numbered tag available only upon application to Scottish Ministers and
2. For records of tagged fish to be kept and submitted to Scottish Ministers.

Commissioners agreed to amend the RTC's record keeping requirements, under powers granted by the Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006, to include the presentation of records of tagged fish to a Water Bailiff, upon demand.

Angling Clubs and Associations

As a pilot scheme, Commissioners agreed that it would fund half the costs of a barrier easement scheme on the Gala Water, together with the Gala Angling Association. If the easement was successful then a longer term programme with the Angling Clubs would be considered in future years.

The Tweed & Eye Fisheries Management Plan

The work programme for 2017 was approved by Commissioners. As usual, it had been reviewed by the RTC Committee together with the Trustees of The Tweed Foundation.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December 2016

2015		2016
	INCOME	
856,415	Statutory Assessments	751,285
10,505	Policing & Property Income	6,000
<u>329</u>	Interest Received	<u>313</u>
867,249	Total Income	757,598
	EXPENDITURE	
	Bailiff Costs, Etc.	
2,728	Boat Costs	2,024
4,919	Telecommunications Costs	4,143
1,197	Other Equipment Maintenance	2,633
267,125	Salaries & Other Direct Staff Costs	178,594
<u>32,931</u>	Vehicle Costs	<u>29,388</u>
308,900		216,782
	Administrative Costs	
83,640	Management & Costs	118,882
3,838	Printing, Telephone, Stationery, Etc.	5,583
22,841	Insurances, Office Costs & Repairs	21,926
2,166	Interest & Charges	2,938
8,274	I.T. Costs	4,559
30,114	Professional Fees	7,657
22,221	Subscriptions	15,395
1,915	Meeting Costs	2,527
<u>3,442</u>	Sundries	<u>4,736</u>
178,451		184,203
	Research & Improvements	
148,134	Research & Conservation	148,134
612,120	Salmon Conservation	27,689
-	Caulds	126
<u>33,527</u>	Conservation Payment Scheme	<u>31,233</u>
793,781		207,182
	Depreciation, Etc.	
27,008	Depreciation	24,974
<u>27,008</u>		<u>24,974</u>
<u>1,308,140</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>633,141</u>
(440,891)	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	124,457
<u>(1,205)</u>	Corporation Tax	<u>(1,204)</u>
<u>(442,096)</u>	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	<u>123,253</u>

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2016

2015		2016
	Fixed Assets	
223,581	Property	245,755
25,957	Motor Vehicles	30,141
<u>1,367</u>	Miscellaneous Equipment	=
250,905		275,896
	Current Assets	
17,949	Debtors & Prepayments	18,220
<u>114</u>	Cash at bank and in hand	<u>100</u>
18,063		18,320
	Current Liabilities	
(182,786)	Bank Overdraft	(98,981)
(25,401)	Creditors/Accrued Charges	(16,202)
(1,205)	Corporation Tax	(1,204)
<u>(5,000)</u>	Fishery Buy-out	=
(214,392)		(116,387)
<u>(196,329)</u>	NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>(98,067)</u>
54,576	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	177,829
=	Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	
<u>54,576</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>177,829</u>
	Represented by:	
	CAPITAL ACCOUNT	
496,672	Balance as at 1/1/16	54,576
(442,096)	Surplus/ (Deficit) for Year	123,253
<u>54,576</u>	Balance at 31/12/16	<u>177,829</u>

EXTRACT FROM THE 2016 ACCOUNTS

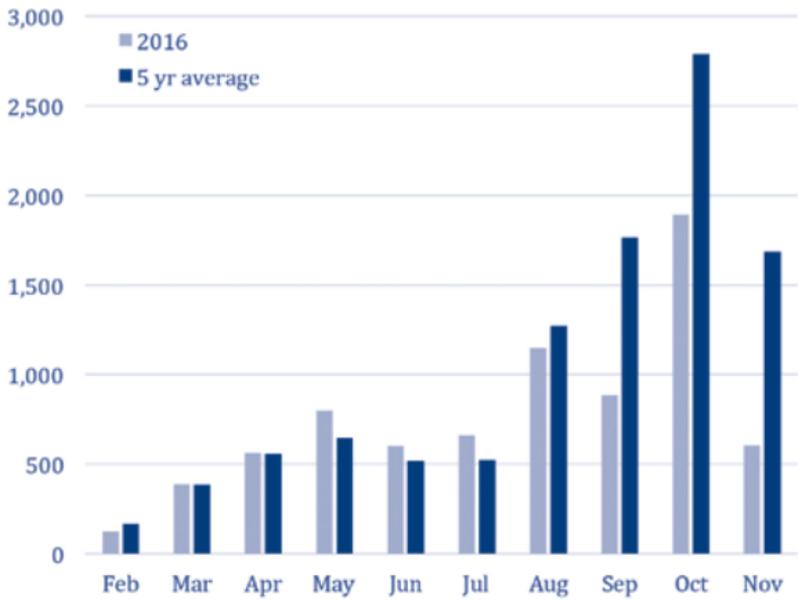
The financial information set out on these pages has been extracted from the R.T.C.'s full audited accounts, on which the auditors, Rennie Welch, reported without qualification.

Copies of the full audited accounts are available on request.

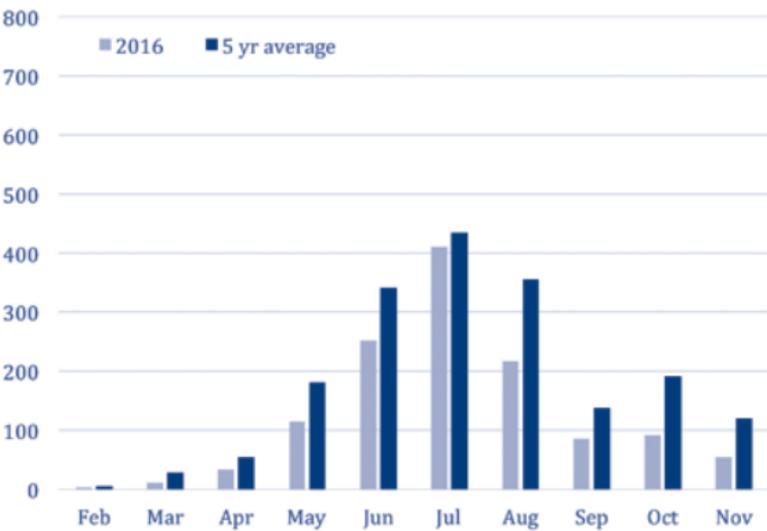
APPENDICES

Appendix I - 2016 MONTHLY CATCHES

SALMON - RODS

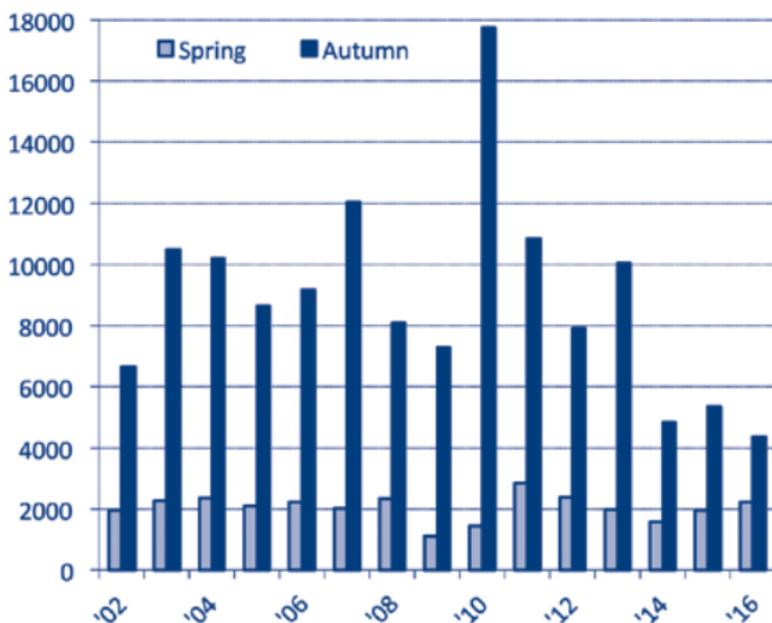


SEA-TROUT - RODS



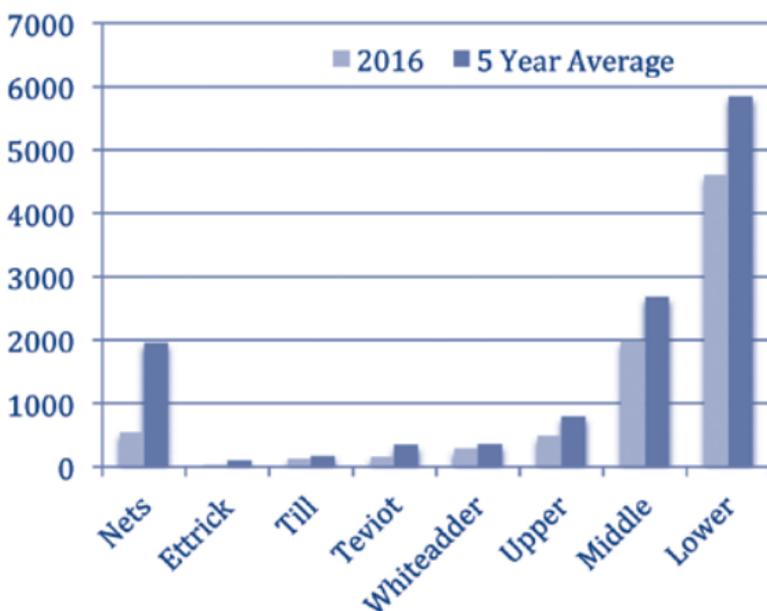
Appendix II - SPRING v. AUTUMN TRENDS

For rod-caught Salmon below Ettrickmouth



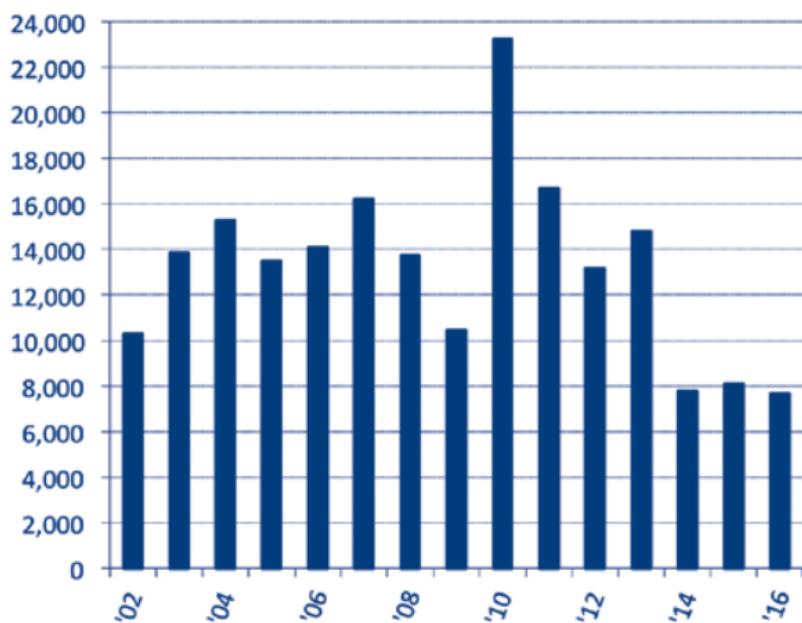
Appendix III - TWEED SALMON TRENDS

Salmon Catch vs Five-Year Average by Area

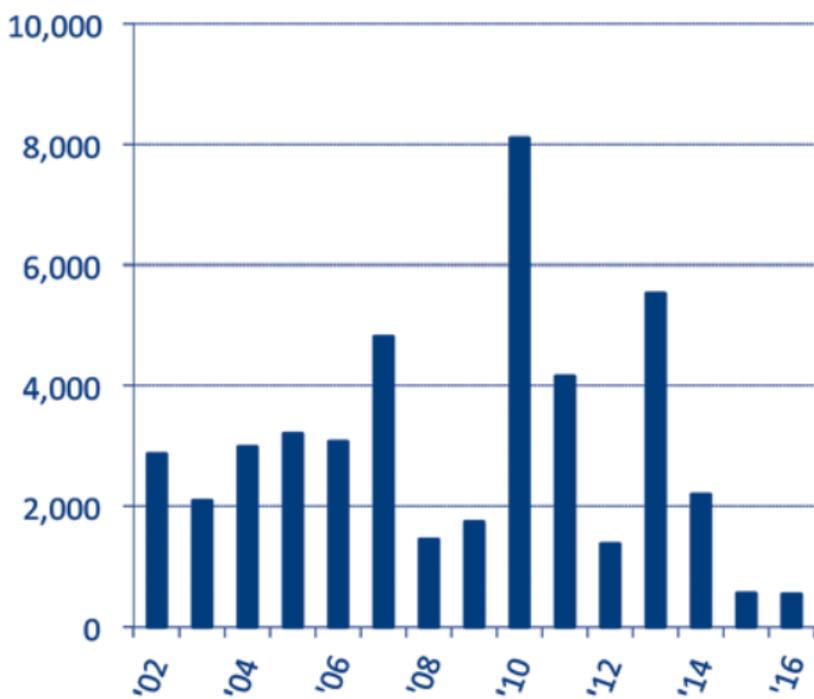


Appendix IV - ANNUAL CATCH TRENDS

SALMON - RODS

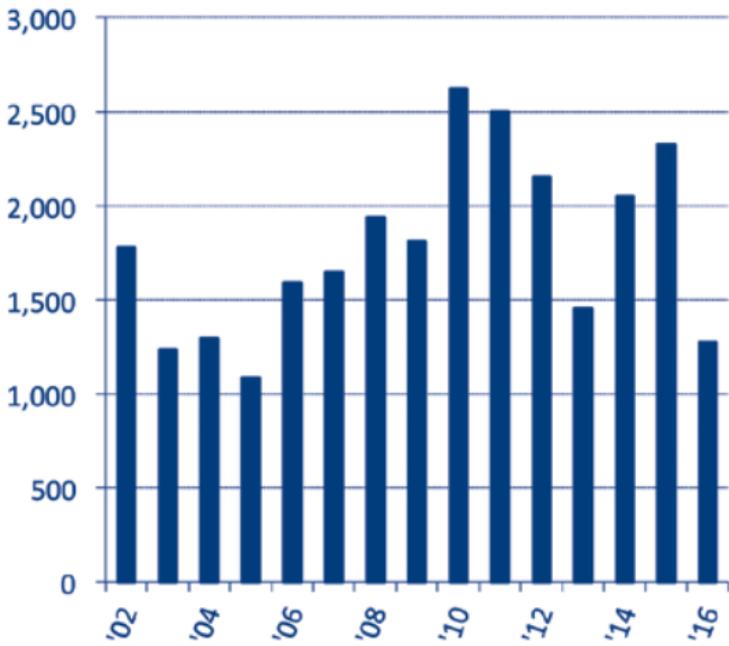


SALMON - NETS

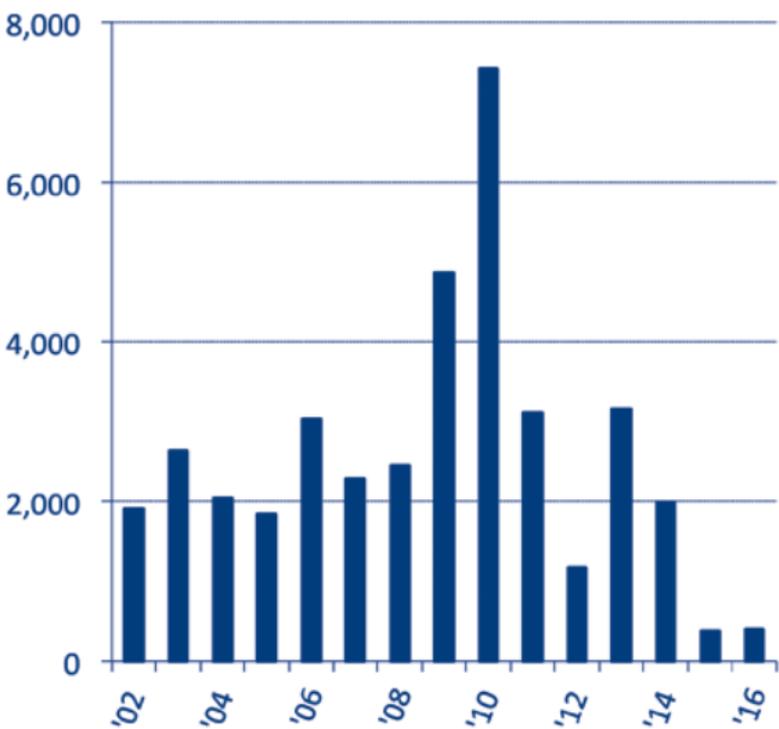


Appendix IV (cont'd) - Annual Catch Trends

SEA-TROUT - RODS



SEA-TROUT - NETS

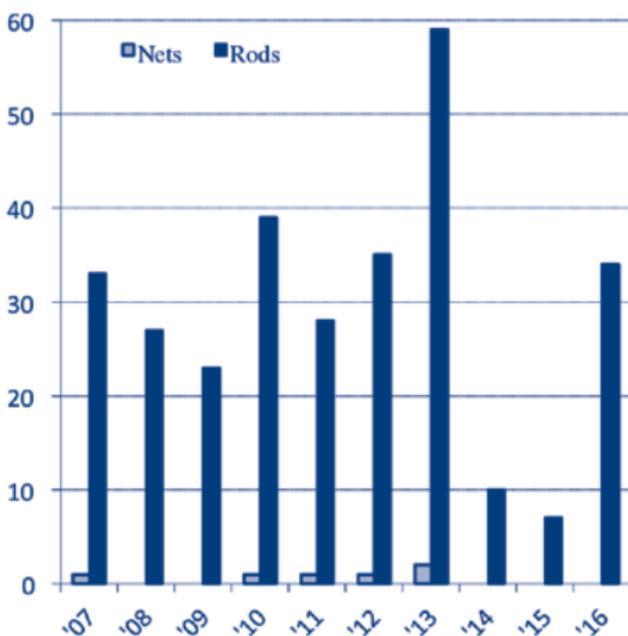


Appendix V - SALMON OF 25LBS & OVER

2016: Salmon of 25lbs and Over

Rod Fisheries	No.	Individual Weight (lbs)
Ladykirk	1	25
Tillmouth Water	1	30
Tweedmill	1	26
Lower Birgham	1	26
Birgham Dub	3	25, 25, 30
Sprouston	1	30
Hendersyde Upper	1	28
Junction	2	25, 36
Floors Lower	1	25
Floors Upper	1	25
Makerstoun	1	30
Rutherford	1	25
Mertoun Middle	2	26, 32
Mertoun Upper	1	28
Drygrange	2	25,30
Pavilion Upper	1	30
Boleside	1	26
Holylee	1	25
Caberston Upper	9	25, 25, 26, 26, 26, 28, 30, 32, 35
Glenormistion	1	25
Neidpath	1	26

10 Year Catches of Salmon of 25lbs and Over



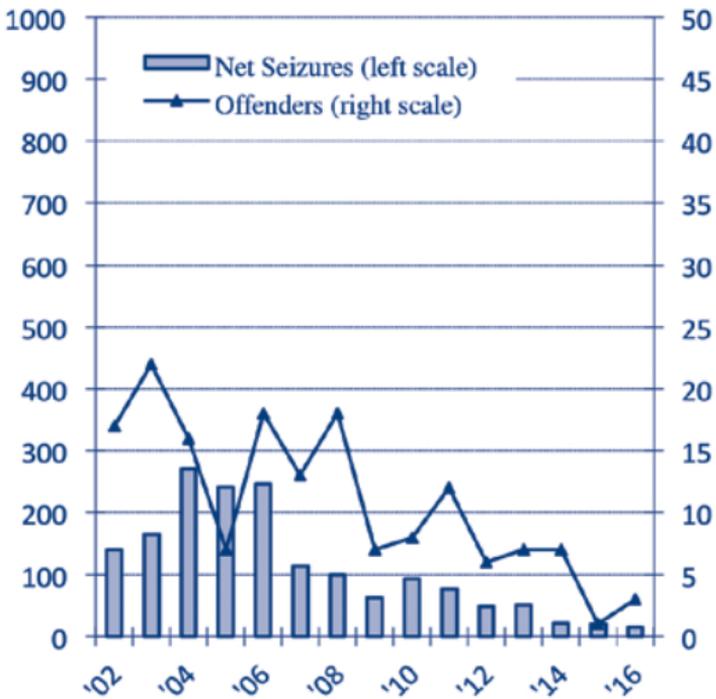
Appendix VI - % FISH RETURNED

10 Year Catches of Salmon: Kept and Returned

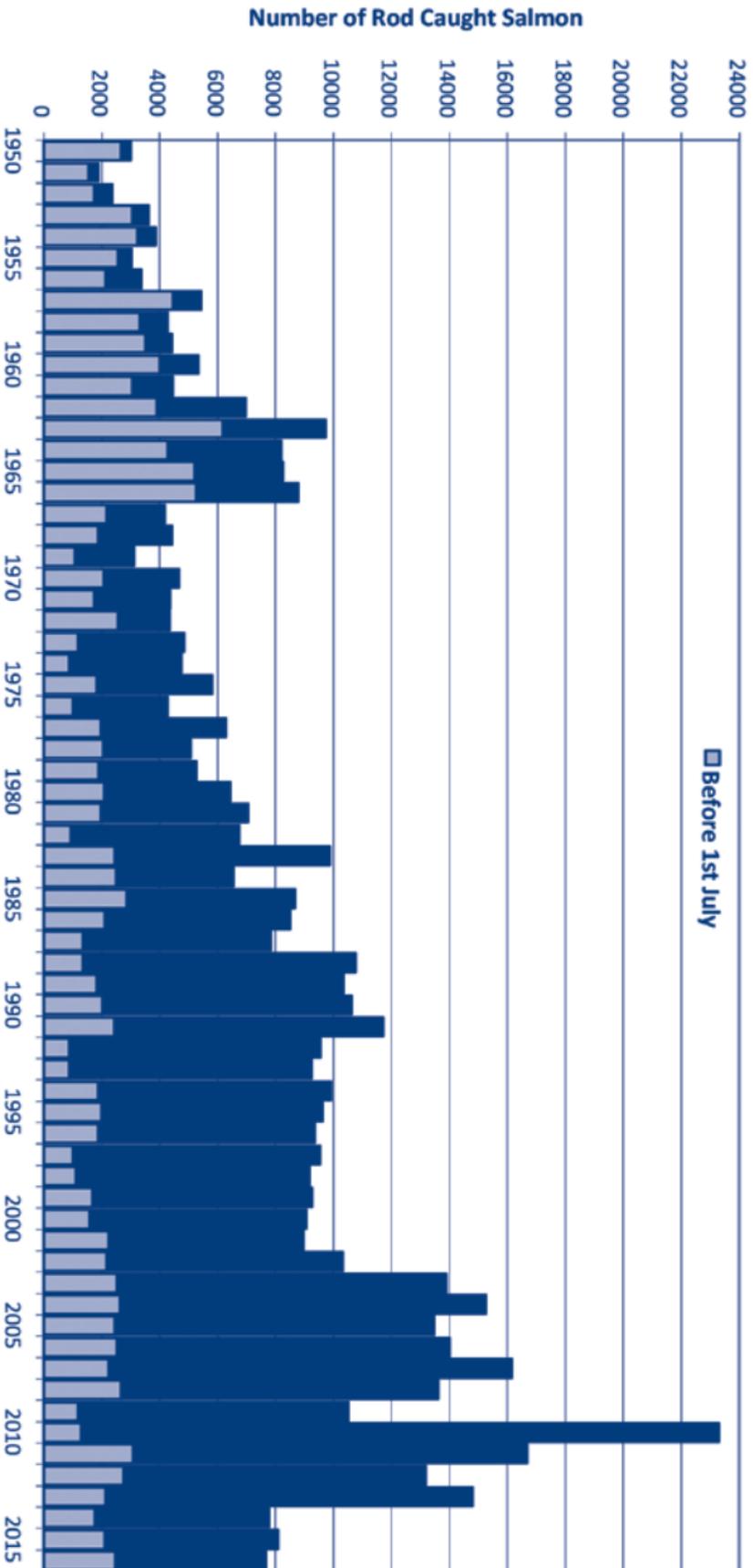


Appendix VII - POLICING

Offenders and Seizures over the last 15 Years



Appendix VIII Salmon Rod Catches on Tweed 1950 - 2016



Appendix IX - TWEED COMMISSION MEMBERS

As at 31st December 2016

Tweed Committee: See asterisks below:

Appointed by Local Councils

Scottish Borders Council

Berwickshire (9)

M. Crozier (Coldstream)
J. Fairgrieve (Gordon)
W.L. Forrrest
Dr. D. Gray
P J. Huddleston
M. Keysell (Whiteadder)
J. Todd
L. Thomson
F. Turnbull

Ettrick & Lauderdale (11)

R. Cockburn (Gala)
J. Harvey, (St Boswells)
N.J.H. Houldsworth
E. Robertson
C.R. Scott
J.P.H.S. Scott
W. A Virtue
A. White (St Mary's)
H.P. Younger*
Vacancy (Club)
Vacancy(Club)

Roxburgh (9)

J. Curtis (Upper Teviotdale)
I. Davis
R. Glass (Kelso)*
N.S. Highmore
T. Pilcher
T.W. Reid
J.T. Scott
F. Wight (Hawick)
R. Young (Jedforest)

Tweeddale (5)

K.D. Annand*
D.G. Fyfe
M.W. Ireland
J. Lees (Peebles)
Vacancy

Northumberland County Council (9)

P. Cowe (Berwick) J.E. Smith
J. Cameron (Ladykirk & Norham) R. Tebay (Chatton)
C. Hallam-Baker (Glendale) R.J.D. Watkin
Dr. J.H. Mitchell J. Woodman
A.H. Murray

*Representatives of Angling Associations
are denoted by the name of their Club.
The remainder are independents*

(Appendix IX cont'd)

Elected by Proprietors As at 31st December 2016

M. Baker	-	Tillmouth
Mrs C.K. Balfour	-	Birgham Lower
P.A. Baxendale	-	Sprouston
S.J. Blades (Retired during the year)	-	Elibank
Lord Biddulph	-	Makerstoun
J. Boulton	-	North Doddington
A. Brough	-	Middle Ettrick
J.McK. Brownlie	-	Drygrange
C. Crawford	-	Middle Pavilion
M. Cuddigan	-	Ford & Etal
D.J. Dobie*	-	The Retreat
A. Douglas-Home*	-	Lees Upper
G. Edgar	-	Selkirk Burgh
N. Fenton	-	Hendersyde
I. Fleming	-	Birgham Dub
J.R. Gardiner	-	Caddonfoot
E.R.T. Harris	-	Dryburgh Upper
F.G. Jennings	-	Boleside
A. Lee	-	Bluestone Ford
J.H. Lovett	-	Lower North Wark
J. McCorquodale	-	Maxton
C.A. Matheson	-	Tweedhill
T.P. Metcalfe	-	Crown Estate Fisheries
J. Miller	-	Upper Caberston
R.J.Onslow	-	Tweedmill
P. Pitchford	-	Bemersyde
D. Platt*	-	Milne Graden
The Earl of Portarlington	-	Gledswood
J. Pringle	-	The Nest
The Duke of Roxburghe*	-	Floors
J.C. Rutherford*	-	Rutherford
J.G. Scott	-	Ancrum
R.D. Smyly	-	Sunderland Hall
P.D. Straker-Smith*	-	Carham
The Duke of Sutherland	-	Mertoun
D. Theaker	-	Mounthooly
N. Thompson	-	Cornhill
W. Younger	-	Ravenswood

Appendix X - RTC OFFICIALS & EMPLOYEES

At January 2017

Chairman: D.J. Dobie (Elected March 2012)

Vice Chairman: R. Glass

Clerk: N.P. Yonge

Administrator: F.B.L. Hieatt

Secretary: W. Glendinning

Office: The North Court, Drygrange Steading,
Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9DJ
Tel: (01896) 848294
Fax: (01896) 848277
Email: enquiries@rtc.org.uk
Website: www.rtc.org.uk

Water Bailiff

Superintendent: E.J. Weatherly

MELROSE

Mobile: 07884 230041

Water Bailiffs:

A. Davison

BERWICK

Mobile: 07884 230048

K.G. Graham

BERWICK

Mobile: 07884 230047

K. Ferguson

KELSO

Mobile: 07884 230045

E.A. Hastings

MELROSE

Mobile: 07836 686254

T.A. Heard

JEDBURGH

Mobile: 07884 230046

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The River Tweed Commission is charged under The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006 with the general preservation and increase of Salmon, Sea-trout, Trout and other freshwater fish in the River Tweed and its Tributaries, and in particular with the regulation of fisheries, the removal of nuisances and obstructions and the prevention of illegal fishing. The area of jurisdiction extends eight kilometres out to sea and includes the coastline between Cockburnspath and Holy Island. Powers are granted to the Commission by this Order in Council made in accordance with an Act of Parliament to help fulfil these duties.

The Governing body is the Commission which consists of 43 members appointed by Local Authorities (23 from Local Angling Clubs and 20 from other interests), and 38 members elected by the Proprietors of the River from their number. An annual assessment is levied on the owners of all registered Fisheries.

The Commission only has statutory duties and powers relating to fish, although this inevitably necessitates an interest in many other aspects of Tweed management. The statutory responsibilities for these other areas are, however, held by other organisations, with whom we maintain close links; on the English side these are the Environment Agency, Natural England and Northumbrian Water and, in Scotland, Marine Scotland Science, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage, and Scottish Water.

The Tweed is a Special Area of Conservation for Salmon and three species of Lamprey; it is a most prolific Salmon river, and it also has important Sea-trout, Trout and Grayling fisheries, as well as some coarse fisheries; it has approximately 18% of Scotland's Salmon spawning area. Tweed fisheries are now mostly rod fisheries with 26% of the Salmon being caught in England and 74% in Scotland; the Sea-trout rod catch is distributed evenly between England and Scotland. The RTC has responsibility for the management of these and all other species of fish in both the English and Scottish parts of the Tweed system. Its fisheries contribute £24m to the local economy supporting c.520 full-time job equivalents.

USEFUL CONTACTS

River Tweed Commission
www.rtc.org.uk

River Tweed News
www.rivertweed.org.uk

The Tweed Foundation
www.tweedfoundation.org.uk

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Association of Salmon Fishery Boards
www.asfb.org.uk

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
(DEFRA)
www.gov.uk/defra

Environment Agency
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

FishTweed
www.fishtweed.co.uk

National Angling Diary
www.anglingdiary.org.uk

Natural England
www.naturalengland.gov.uk

Northumberland County Council
www.northumberland.gov.uk

Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation
Authority (NIFCA)
www.nifca.gov.uk

Northumbrian Water
www.nwg.co.uk

Scottish Borders Council
www.scotborders.gov.uk

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
www.sepa.org.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage
www.snh.org.uk

Scottish Water
www.scottishwater.co.uk

The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland Science
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse

Tweedbeats
www.tweedbeats.com

Tweed Forum
www.tweedforum.org

KEEP GYRODACTYLUS SALARIS (Gs) OUT OF *Tweed*

Gyrodactylus salaris (Gs) is an extremely dangerous parasite and the RTC is taking most careful steps to ensure that it does not enter the Tweed fishery. As such, we have adopted rigorous biosecurity procedures, which we are sure you will support.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

In order to minimize the risk of spreading *Gyrodactylus salaris* to Scotland, it is imperative that you clean and treat your equipment before fishing on Tweed in one of the following ways **if** the equipment has been used outside Britain and Ireland in the preceding seven days:

- a) Dry at a minimum temperature of 20°C for at least 2 days, OR
- b) Heat for at least one hour at a temperature above 60°C, OR
- c) Immerse in a suitable solution. Virkon (at 1% solution); Wescodyne (at 1%); a 3% solution of common salt (Sodium Chloride), or a 0.2% solution of Sodium Hydroxide, OR
- d) Deep freeze for at least one day.

Gs has been shown to survive away from a live fish host for 5-7 days at ambient river temperatures. Equipment or product that has been kept cool and damp and is transferred rapidly (within one week) may present high levels of risk.

This notorious parasite has destroyed the Salmon stocks of over 20 rivers in Norway. It is also indigenous to, or has been spread to, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Germany, France, Spain and Portugal - largely through fish-farm movements of Rainbow Trout.

**If this parasite gets into Tweed it means the absolute
end of our Salmon**

NOTES

