



the River

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

News Updates

Gala Smolt Trap

The trap's first, trial, year of operation has been a great success, with around 5,000 Salmon smolts caught on their downstream migration, allowing The Foundation to carry out a mark and recapture programme to assess total smolt production from the Gala Water. After a slow start in April due to the cold weather, the main run started on the 6th May with over 900 caught in the trap. Our initial analysis produces an estimate of 25-30,000 Salmon Smolts coming from the Gala Water. With more detailed analysis we will be able to produce a more accurate total.

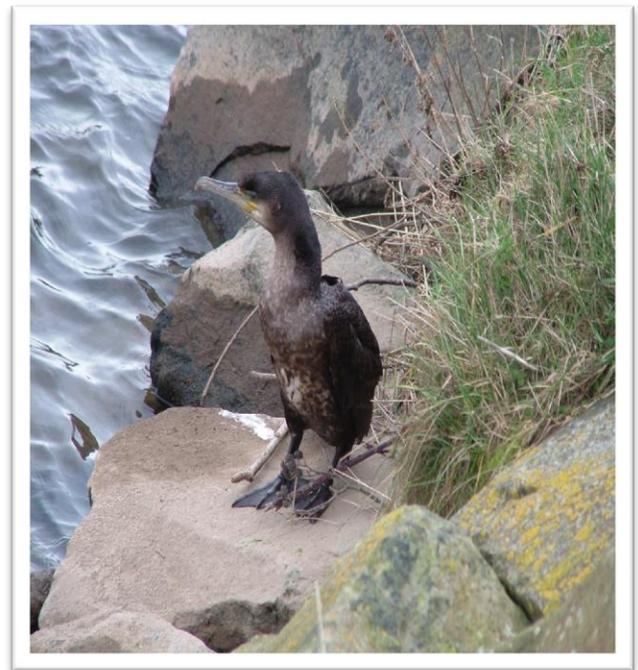


A sample of smolts about to be returned to the river

Interestingly, almost all migrating Trout that were caught (around 1,500) were silver coloured, which gives an indication of the importance of Sea-trout production from tributaries like the Gala Water. Very few were brown in colour, which would be Brown Trout moving down to the main river. Trapping at other times of the year, particularly Autumn may reveal other migration times as well.

Avian Predators - Update

With the continuing concern over the effect of bird predation on smolt survival down the river, the results of recent research on smolt losses for different rivers were recently presented to SNH licensing. High losses of smolts shown from tracking work carried out on the Tweed are similar to other studies in Scotland (between 50 and 90%). The Tweed Foundation presented evidence on the Cormorant issue in the Middle Tweed and highlighted some of the problems with the current licensing process. By continuing the dialogue with the SNH licensing team, we hope to agree a more effective license for Tweed and participate in creating a more transparent system in Scotland.



Ettrick Fish Counter

The new Ettrick counter has been in full operation since 3rd May, although with exceptionally low water through this period, counts of Salmon have been low, with mainly Brown Trout being counted through.

Monthly totals for the three Tweed fish counters will be posted on Facebook and our Tweed News site at the beginning of July.

More information on how these fish counters work and the methods used to calculate the totals can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8o2Hqu5lwA>



A pair of Spring Salmon on 4th June

Tweed Fishing Auction - Days Available

Fishing conditions have not been Auction-fisher-friendly to date. There are days on offer throughout the summer. For an up-to-date list of availability, go to The Tweed Foundation website and click on the Tweed Auction Live box on our Home Page.

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

2018 TWEED SHIRTS are now available. Pick up a form from a fishing hut, or download from the Support Us page on The Tweed Foundation's website.

TAKE PART

Electro-fishing: The Tweed Foundation visits sites throughout July, August & September and everyone is welcome to come and see what is involved, and what we find. Contact the office for details.

Ettrick Fish Counter: Visits with further detail for anyone interested can be arranged.

Contact the Office if you would like to book a trip: info@tweedfoundation.org.uk / 01896 848271

Brown Trout Angling Recaptures

During the last few seasons we have been asking trout 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 including within a single day, and recaptures in successive seasons all being recorded. More detailed updates on Brown trout recaptures are posted on the Tweed Foundation Facebook page.



This Brown trout from Melrose has been caught during the 2016, 2017 and 2018 trout fishing seasons (at 33cm, 42cm and 47cm respectively)

Produced by the River Tweed Fisheries Management team
Websites: rivertweed.org.uk rtc.org.uk tweedfoundation.org.uk
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