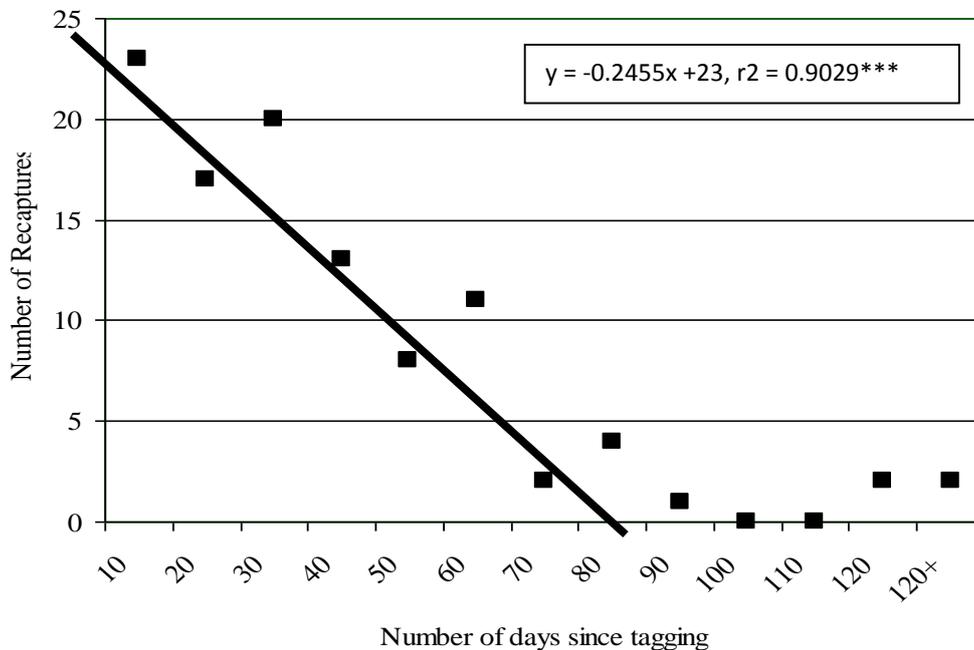




For how long are Salmon catchable after they enter the river?

1. The information on this for the Tweed comes from the tagging work and tracking work done since the mid 1990s: fish are tagged at the bottom of the river or in the estuary to see what proportion are then caught upstream by anglers.
2. Since the date on which these fish were tagged is at, or very close to, the time at which they entered the river and the date of recapture is reported by the anglers catching the fish, the length of time that recaptured fish have been in the river is known: to date, there are 103 Salmon for which these details are known.
3. The graph below shows how the number of fish recaptured declines with time since tagging: the largest number of recaptures is of fish that have been in the river for 10 days or less while the smallest number of recaptures is of fish that had been in for 90-100 days.



4. There is a period of 100-120 days for which no recaptures have yet been reported and then a few for more than 120 days: this is a feature seen elsewhere and represents fish at spawning time when they become aggressive and more catchable again.
5. Overall, 58% of tagged fish were caught within 30 days of tagging and 89% within 60 days so assuming that there is no difference in catchability between tagged and untagged fish this means that 58% of the fish that are caught by anglers on the Tweed are captured within 30 days of entering the river and 89% within 60 days. A fish that has been in the river for two months or more is therefore very unlikely to be caught.
6. In management terms this shows the need for a wide diversity of Salmon types and genetically distinctive populations within the catchment so that there are fresh fish entering throughout the season to give a constant supply to anglers.