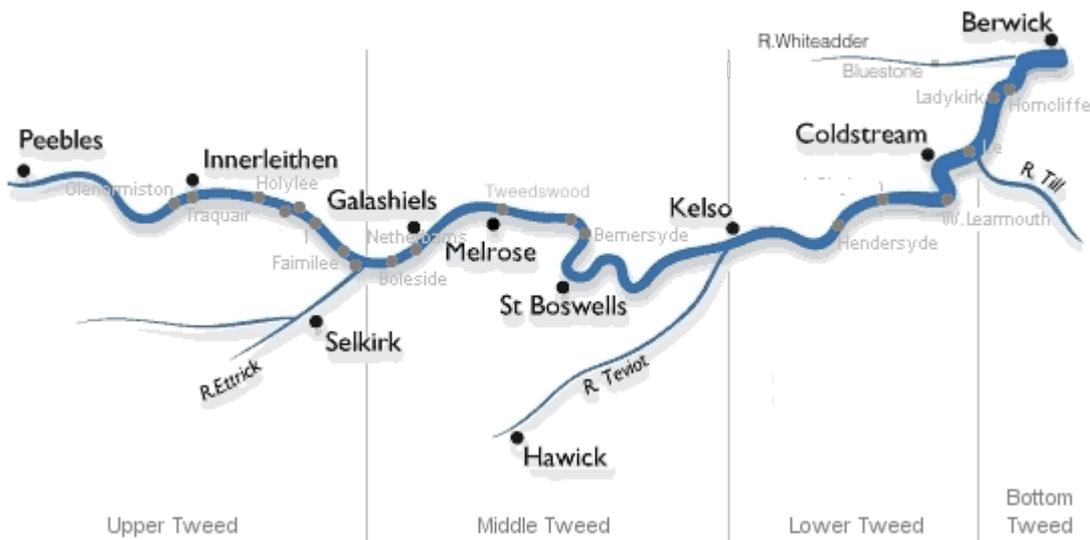




## Salmon Angling on the Tweed

(map not to scale)



Salmon fishing on the Tweed using a rod and line became popular in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The system involved a fishing owner leasing his fishings to a fisherman who would generally net the river but would also rent days out to anglers. The fish caught by the angler were taken away and then paid for at the commercial rate. Sport fishing increased in significance and value over the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the earliest existing rod fishing records from The Hirsell, Coldstream begin in 1856.

The transition from netting for food to fishing for sport on the river was long and drawn out. In 1886 there was a report in 'The Scotsman' stating the netting had been delayed until May after an agreement with the local fishery proprietors in order to improve the rod fishing. The year 1860 is taken as the beginning of the modern era of Tweed rod fishing for Salmon.



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The history of rod fishing for Salmon is of ever-increasing value and of the increase in the number of fishing beats. This can be seen in the records of the RTC (River Tweed Commission) as every beat was required to register each year with them. A beat is a section of river that is named for identification, some of the beats are shown on the map. If you rent a beat for a day's fishing you can only fish that section of the river. The Tweed is divided into Upper, Middle, Lower and Bottom Tweed, within each of these sections are a number of beats.

By 1911 there were 62 fisheries that could be identified as being fished wholly or partly by rod and only 8 which had both rods and nets. By 2006, this had become 84 rod fisheries, with only 1 that was angled and netted.

The culture of fishing has also changed over the years. At the beginning in the 1910s, Salmon angling was much more social than commercial with many beats being fished by friends and family. Today Salmon angling is highly commercial and brings a lot of money into the Borders area. Visitors come from all over the world to fish the famous Tweed. Businesses such as hotels, restaurants and shops benefit from the anglers visiting and many jobs are created directly by the Salmon anglers.



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## Quiz

What year do the earliest rod fishing records date from and what beat were they on?

What year is considered to be the time from which rod angling took off on the Tweed?

What organisation do river beats have to be registered with to record their fish catches?

What is a fishing beat?

How many sections of the river are there and what are they called?

How many fisheries were there in 1911?

How many more fisheries were there in 2006?

What businesses benefit from Salmon fishing on the Tweed?