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## TWEED FOUNDATION WORK PLAN PRIORITIES

<b>Education</b>	To continue educational meetings and publications explaining the work of The Foundation and the natural histories of our fish species to a wide audience.
<b>Scale Reading</b>	To continue the programme of collecting and reading scales of Salmon, Sea-trout and Brown trout to help identify their population structures on Tweed. To develop databases to hold information and from which to produce analyses and reports.
<b>Exploitation</b>	To continue to estimate the level of exploitation of Salmon and Sea-trout in Tweed by netting and tagging fish.
<b>Tweed Sea-trout: Living North Sea (LNS)</b>	To conclude the Living North Sea programme, to work out the river and sea distributions and migrations of the Sea-trout of the Tweed catchment including upstream and downstream migrations; to allow a better informed Sea-trout section of the Management Plan to be drawn up to ensure their sustainable exploitation in the future. This may include the use of sex test kits to establish sex ratios of Sea-trout and Brown trout.
<b>Tweed Traps</b>	To continue monitoring the fish traps on Tweed to understand the population dynamics and relationships of Brown trout and Sea-trout and their connections with their environments. This may be replaced with chemical analyses that can show the origins of trout fry as being from either Sea-trout or Brown trout eggs: feasibility studies on this will be made.
<b>Tweed Trout &amp; Grayling Initiative (TTGI)</b>	To continue the wild Trout and Grayling initiative on Tweed, working with Angling Clubs and Associations to develop sustainable management plans for Trout and Grayling based on collection of catch data through the logbook scheme and other means. Surveys of trout burns and plans for mitigation of any problems found will continue. To explore the use of chemical analyses to type Trout spawning burns to resident or migratory fish.
<b>Geographical Information System (GIS)</b>	To continue using GIS as the prime method of data and information management and retrieval on Tweed. To extend and improve the output systems from the GIS to speed up data retrieval and analysis to improve inputs to the management work as a whole. In particular, analyses will be made of the Whiteadder and Gala spawning areas where fish counter data now exists.
<b>Fish Counters</b>	To operate and to analyse the data of the three existing fish counters on the Ettrick, Whiteadder and Gala. An estimate of fish by-passing the Whiteadder counter will be made using video. If a new fish pass is installed in the Ettrick then the fish counter will have to be installed and monitored.
<b>Fry Indexing and Electro-fishing</b>	To continue the fry indexing on the tributaries. In 2013 the surveys were on the Rivers Till and Teviot. In particular, to understand the physical conditions that determine the boundaries between Trout and Salmon areas. Also, to monitor fish populations on the Till where there has been a major fish passage problem at Haughhead, and a new fish pass at Powburn.
<b>Catch Data</b>	To continue analysis of historic and recent catch data to find the natural, long-term changes in Salmon populations so any novel changes that could indicate problems can be distinguished.
<b>Invasive Species</b>	To complete work with Scottish Natural Heritage and RAFTS to eradicate American Signal Crayfish from the Whiteadder stank where they have been identified. To continue monitoring Crayfish and Bullhead in other parts of the District if funding is acquired.



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<b>Consultancy</b>	To continue to deliver efficient and good value biological survey facilities to developers and others on the River.
<b>Physical Parameters</b>	To continue monitoring water temperatures at key points within the catchment and, in particular, on the Whiteadder caulds to identify possible temperature barriers. To analyse the relationship, if any, of electro-fishing data and conductivity.
<b>St Mary's Loch</b>	To work with SEPA, Scottish Water and Scottish Borders Council to establish proper fish passage at the outfall of St Mary's Loch.
<b>Predators</b>	To continue monitoring predators in the catchment both through main stem counts but also through index monitoring at roosts and at strategic points throughout the District which will allow a measure of whole catchment distribution to be made. To analyse the frequency of damage types on young fish in relation to run timing and sizes using the existing fish traps.
<b>Tweed Wheelyboats</b>	To continue to provide access for less-able anglers through the provision of wheelyboats.
<b>Genetics</b>	To continue work with Napier University using chemical analysis (stable isotope ratios) to map maternal Sea-trout and Brown trout spawning distributions.