



Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative Newsletter

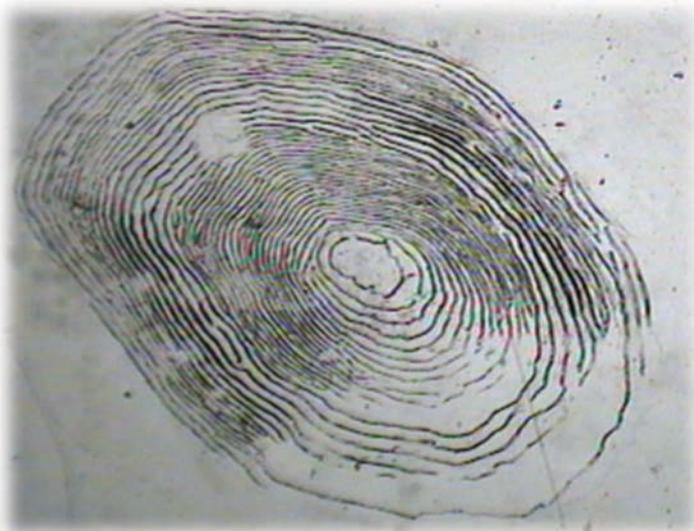
No. 13 – Spring 2015 Ettrick & Yarrow

Brown Trout Scale Collection Appeal

Last year we put out an appeal to Ettrick & Yarrow anglers to collect scale samples from the Brown trout they catch. This line of study forms part of our ongoing project to better understand the variability in Brown trout production in different parts of the Tweed system and how it relates to and influences angling catches. The samples will be used to give age and growth rate information but will also provide a genetic sample which can be sent away for genetic sex determination (an important part of understanding the complicated relationship between Brown trout and Sea-trout). The only other reliable way of determining sex during the trout season is to kill the fish which we don't encourage in the numbers we need. Unfortunately only a few scales were collected for 2014 (partly due to the low number of anglers who fish the Ettrick & Yarrow). We need to collect more scale samples during the 2015 trout fishing season. As such we'd like to again appeal for volunteers to assist. If you would be willing to assist please contact Kenny Galt at:

kgalt@tweedfoundation.org.uk

or via the address at the bottom of the page, and he will provide you with scale sample packets and instructions. A video showing how to collect a small sample of scales without harming a fish can be found on the Tweed Foundation's YouTube page.



A Brown trout scale viewed under a microscope

2014 Ettrick & Yarrow Brown Trout Catch Summary



An angler catching a trout on the River Ettrick near Lindean - June 2014.

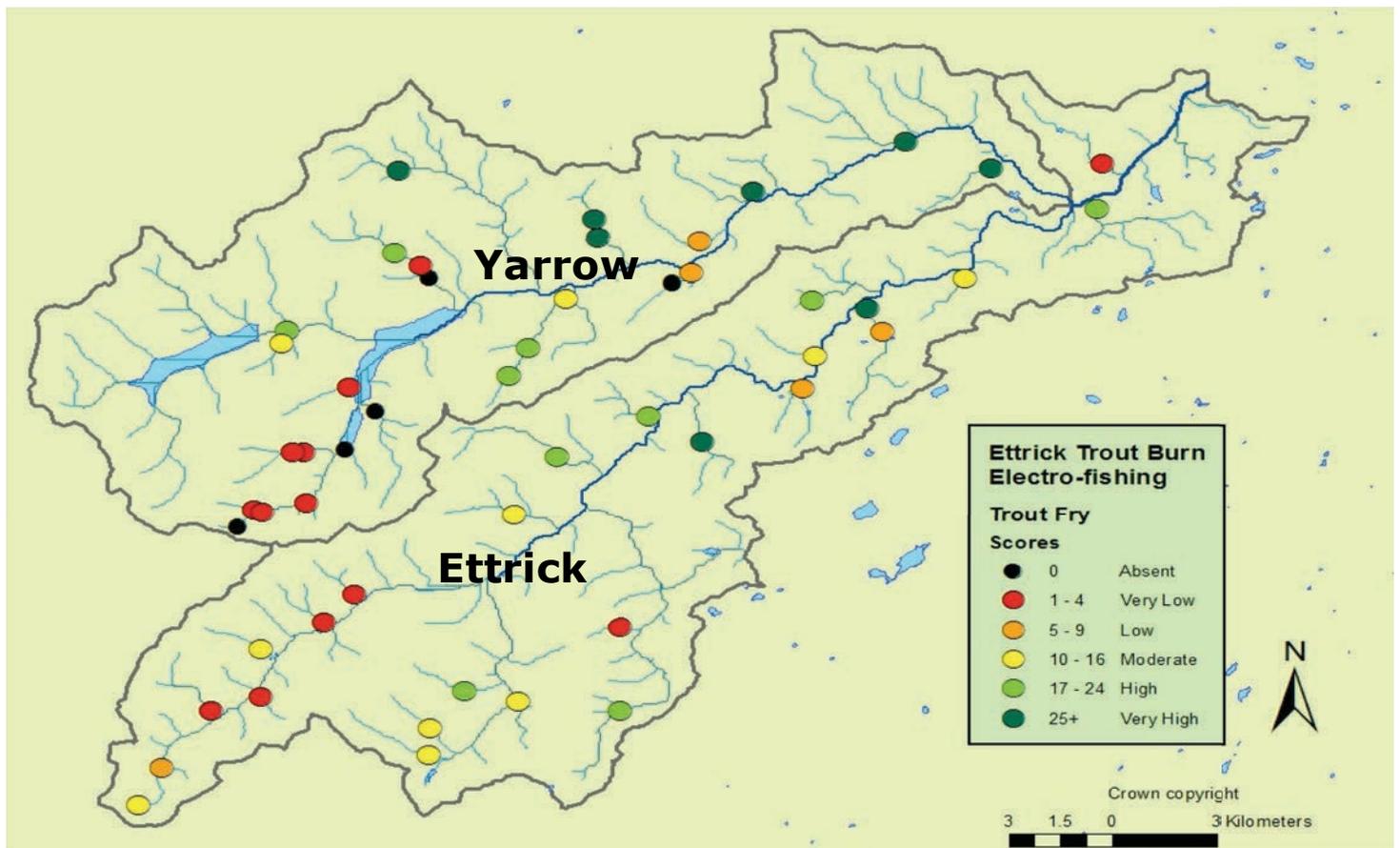
Angling catch records submitted for the Ettrick & Yarrow were above average in 2014, but were still relatively low. In total, anglers' submitted returns covering 18 fishing trips and 53 hours of angling effort. Despite tough fishing conditions in the second half of the season (low, warm water) the 2014 Brown trout catches were encouraging. Catches of undersize trout (under 10") were slightly above the modern average (by 5%), however catches of oversize trout (10" and over) showed a 100% increase and so were double the average. Whilst most of the oversize trout were between 10" and 12" (62%) there were also a reasonable number of larger trout up to 20" (3lb) caught as well.



Ettrick & Yarrow Juvenile Trout Electro-fishing Results

The map below shows the trout fry results for Ettrick & Yarrow trout spawning burn electro-fishing carried out between 2010 and 2014. The results come from three-minute timed electro-fishing samples and the scoring system is based on sampling results from a variety of habitat quality across the whole Tweed system (therefore indicating what classes as high results and what classes as low). Many of the sites have been sampled more than once and for these sites the result shown is the average result/score. To see a video of a three-minute timed sample from a Yarrow trout spawning burn visit the Tweed Foundation's YouTube page:- www.youtube.com/user/tweedfoundation

Most trout burns in the Ettrick & Yarrow produce moderate to very high juvenile numbers. These juveniles, as they age, will either drop downstream into the areas fished by Brown trout anglers or head out to sea as Sea-trout. The low results seen in the upper Ettrick are as a result of natural waterfalls blocking access to spawning adults, whilst the poor St Mary's Loch results are unexplained and are being investigated. The few other low and absent results recorded are currently also being investigated. In a number of cases man-made obstacles preventing access to adult trout have already been identified as the reason for the poor results and methods of allowing fish passage are in development.



2015 Electro-fishing

In September 2015 the Tweed Foundation will be carrying out juvenile electro-fishing surveys on the Upper Ettrick trout spawning burns. If you wish to come out with us to see what the juvenile fish numbers are like in this area please contact Kenny Galt at: kgalt@tweedfoundation.org.uk The Foundation will be electro-fishing most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Tweed Foundation Website

The Tweed Foundation has a new website. It's bigger, better and easier to use. Visit:-

www.tweedfoundation.org.uk

