



## Brown Trout Fishing on the Tweed



Brown trout, like Salmon, have formed a useful food source since man first arrived in the area after the Ice Age. While netting trout would have been the main method of catching them for food, fishing with hooks also has a long history. A very modern looking hook has been dug up from the Roman camp of Trimontium at Melrose. In 1722 it was recorded that "*Scott of Gala hath in his parks surrounded with planting very good ponds rich for trouting*". The change to the modern idea of trout for sport can be dated to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when netting for trout was made illegal and trout fishing clubs started to take action to stop netting.



There are a number of Trout fishing clubs on the Tweed, the oldest one being the Ellem Fishing Club, its fishing competition has been running since 1834. In more recent times International Fly-Fishing Team Trials have been held on the Tweed.

Minimum sizes have been set for fish that are allowed to be caught. In the past trout fishers caught very small fish, sometimes only 2oz in weight. They wanted to catch lots of fish and size didn't matter. Now anglers prefer to catch larger fish and kill less of them. This protects the fish stocks and allows them to reproduce before they are big enough to be caught. Trout fishers today tend to return most of the fish that they catch to the river and only take a few to eat.



*Brown-trout from the Blackadder*



---

## Questions

Where is the Roman camp where a fishing hook was found?

When was trout netting made illegal?

What is the name of the oldest Trout fishing club on the Tweed?

Why were minimum fish sizes introduced in Trout fishing?