# NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY

## FISHERIES, CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## REPORT ON FISHERIES 1991

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SECTION 1

## 1 DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

The General Report for the previous year ended with the succinct statement that it was a busy year and alluded to the woeful staffing levels with which the department had been obliged to make the transition from a tiny, but politically palpable unit of a Water Authority to the ostensibly sympathetic environment of the National Rivers Authority. Well 1991 was an even busier year and the infusion of staff, especially on the technical side, enabled the Department to shed its relative scientific impotence and to probe the salmon, trout and coarse fish stocks of the rivers. With the appointment of Karen Miller as Scientist for salmon and Dr Tony Owen as coarse fish Scientist the accomplishment of this task was commenced with drive and alacrity. These two Officers reported to Bill Walker and Godfrey Williams respectively as Fisheries Officers.

Under the new structure, Bill had already been appointed as Fisheries Officer (North) in 1990 and Godfrey arrived in April 1991 as his Southern counterpart but, like their respective Scientists the latter with emphasis on the cyprinid and the former salmon fisheries. Indeed, the Department was conscious that the neglect of coarse fisheries had exposed a greater inadequacy than with scientific work on salmon as Bill Walker had manfully maintained monitoring of juvenile populations, with the assistance of temporary staff. Furthermore, with regard to salmon, Kielder Salmon Hatchery had been making the invaluable contribution of rearing juveniles since the late seventies and had been extended during recent years. In fact, activities at the Hatchery, so ably lead by Peter Gray, have had far greater promulgation than afforded by these pages in that television cameras have been present on several occasions to show glimpses of the various stages of rearing juveniles as well as the "stripping" of mature adults.

A background to events referred to later, especially on the netting side, might be of use at this stage. On 7 November 1985 John Selwyn Gummer, then as Fisheries Minister, announced his intention of making some changes to the North East Salmon Fisheries but nevertheless giving an undertaking as to the future of the fishery. He felt that there should be opportunity for those netsmen fishing from Sunderland to Redcar to have the option of using T nets thereby placing more emphasis on taking sea trout. One of those restrictions, requiring the presence at all times of the licensee when the net is being fished, had been urged by this Region/Area for some years with some initial resistance from MAFF. The procedure for enforcing this provision was set out in Section 36 of the Salmon Act 1986. Nearly 80% of the Salmon Act relates to Scotland although its original flagship was a salmon tagging scheme but which was found to be untenable ostensibly because of the impracticalities of reconciling its operation with that of fish farming in Scotland. The proposed dealer licensing system was also found to be unworkable, but only after the legislation was due to come into force.

Section 39 of the Salmon Act required certain action by the Minister and the Secretary of State for Scotland including the preparation of a Report which would address the need to ensure that sufficient salmon returned to spawn in those rivers between South Yorkshire and the River Ugie in Scotland, that fishing was properly managed throughout the area as well as reviewing the nature and extent of all such fishing therein.

The resultant report "Salmon Net Fisheries" was published in mid-October this year. The Review can be summarised as a wealth of information and data on salmon fisheries on the East coast which was an impressive testament to the work of the MAFF and DAFS Scientists. All but one and a bit of the twenty paragraphs of the Ministers' introduction was expository after which there came a change of tone: it was acknowledged that the Review had not produced evidence of an immediate threat to stocks and thus any justification for depriving existing licensees of their licences at a stroke. The Review went on "It would, however, aid and improve the management of individual East coast salmon and sea trout stocks if the drift net fishery were to come to an end. We consider, therefore, that it is desirable to phase out the drift net fishery but gradually so as not to cause any unnecessary hardship".

The Minister asked the NRA to give consideration to:

1 reducing the number of offshore drift net licences as those currently holding such licences leave the fishery;
2 making available increased opportunities for offshore fishing by T or J nets, giving priority to those surrendering their drift net licences;
3 reviewing the Authority's net licence duties so as to reflect enforcement costs;
4 postponing until 1 May the opening date for drift netting so as to reduce the level of exploitation on spring running salmon; and
5 harmonising the regulations which currently apply to the Northumbria and Yorkshire Regions of the NRA so as to operate the net fishery off the North East coast of England as a single entity under a common management regime.

In recognition of the uncertainties existing the Authority took the precaution of seeking a one year Net Limitation Order to secure the continuing regulation of the fishery in the short term. That Order would control the number of licences issued in the 1992 season fixed at 121. The NRA Board gave initial consideration to the Review in December 1991 expressing the intention of a final decision seven months later but with an exacting timetable to be got through during the intervening period.

The publication of the Review coincided with a change in the Fisneries, or as had become known as the FCR (Fisheries, Conservation and Recreation) Department. After eighteen years with the NRA and with two of its predecessor organisations, eleven of them as Fisheries Manager, Tony Champion had decided to retire. Early in his career he had worked as a Scientist with MAFF, both in this Country and as far north as Greenland. He had acquired a considerable knowledge of salmon, bearing in mind the number of unknown factors, and it was a knowledge lightly worn. To sum up briefly, one of his most notable achievements was to reorganise the bailiff force into two effective teams and at the same time equipping them to counter modern poaching methods.

His successor, Dr Richard Cresswell, arrived from the Welsh Region - he had also been with Yorkshire Water and Thames Water before that. He threw himself into his new post with considerable enthusiasm, his energies and cerebral alertness seemingly unimpaired by the daunting weekend commuting and subsequent move to the area. Added to this was

the Chairmanship of the Project Group which involved steering the Region's involvement in changes to the East Coast Fishery through its many stages. He also made an input on a variety of aspects concerning the continuing consultations on the proposed Tees Barrage.

With regard to the possible effects of the barrage on the coarse fisheries in the river, the Institute of Freshwater Ecology commenced work above the barrage area early in the close season. More than one thousand mixed coarse fish (but mainly dace) were captured which would provide a good basis for pursuing a more detailed investigation.

Whilst this Introduction has inevitably dealt at greater length with net licensing, significant changes were anticipated in the area of rod licensing but which, conversely, would be congenial to the practitioners of the sport. The advantages of a national rod licence had long been espoused and it was felt that the emergence of the National Rivers Authority banished, at a stroke, the inhibitions of making the idea a reality. In some ways, the achievement of "one" licence throughout England and Wales and, at the same time, overcoming obvious anomalies and satisfying biological and financial considerations was easier said than done. Notwithstanding, it must be said that the NRA moved with commendable expeditiousness and during the year under review carried out a wide-ranging consultation. By the end of the year, it was emerging that a single type of rod licence would be available in the following season for all species at a cost of £12.50 with a half price concessionary licence for youngsters, old age pensioners and registered disabled persons.

SECTION 2

# 2 GENERAL REPORT 1991

## 2.1 Conditions of Rivers and Runs of Migratory Fish

### 2.1.1 General

A few weeks before the commencement of the year under review, there occurred a sustained snowfall which was the heaviest of recent years and so helped to ensure a good level of flows during the early months. The dry spring/summer/autumn which followed provided a most unusual weather phenomenon, being the third successive "dry summer". This was bound to have a depressing effect on angling and a glance at some of the figures for reported catches would appear to bear this out although with regard to the official figures those for the River Wear were slightly up from 1990. Some further caution is needed in dealing with the official figures when it is considered that those catches reported for the Tyne system by the bailiffs equalled the return figures whilst bailiffs' observations on the Coquet even exceeded them.

Heavy spates arrived in the first week after the close of the salmon and sea trout rod season with the early November floods. Levels rose further immediately before Christmas with the most significant winter snowfall once again occurring in December.

### 2.1.2 River Aln

On Friday 1 February, the opening day of the salmon rod season, five anglers tried out the river but it was not until the second half of the month that an 11½lb salmon was taken on fly and a further three were taken quite soon thereafter. Falling water levels had an adverse effect on fishing and by 15 April, anglers seemed to have found fishing not worth their while. This situation persisted during the following few months although by June significant numbers of sea trout were coming into the river. No further catches were reported until August when three small sea trout were taken as well as two salmon, one a 17lb salmon taken on the tidal stretch towards the end of the month. Greater numbers of sea trout arrived in October and the season ended with a ten pounder being taken above Lesbury Dam. In the end, the catch slightly exceeded that for 1992 but was still somewhat disappointing.

### 2.1.3 River Coquet

On the first day of the season 70 anglers assembled to fish the tideway and even some four or five weeks later, 30 or 40 rods were regularly seen there. By late February two salmon had been taken above Blackbridge and in mid June the confirmed spring catch had passed 150. Sea trout were showing in the tideway from April and by mid June catches had reached thirteen, including a 13¼lb specimen taken at Felton Park. During August a substantial run of grilse appeared and consistently good catches were made by anglers between Low Park and Warkworth Dam. At that time, sea trout were also present in reasonable numbers but the small recruitment class were of such exiguous numbers to suggest that the sea trout population was still below average. Catches increased further in the

final two months of the season including seven sea trout weighing between 14 and 19 pound. Observations from anglers and bailiffs suggested that runs of salmon and grilse around the Rothbury area in September and October had been at record levels.

2.1.4 Waren Burn and Rivers Wansbeck and Blyth

Catch returns of migratory fish for the above mentioned watercourses have not been received since 1979, 1974 and 1960 respectively. Nevertheless there continue to be runs of mainly sea trout in each of them but also of salmon.

During April there were runs of sea trout in the Blyth and a few catches reported to bailiffs remained unconfirmed. Sea trout also ran the Wansbeck at the end of June thought to have been encouraged by the isolated torrential rain during the final weekend of that month. Again there were unconfirmed reports of catches and during early September there were runs of salmon as well as sea trout.

Towards mid October significant numbers of sea trout were seen to be running up the Waren Burn.

2.1.5 River Tyne System

A salmon was taken during the first day and 15 had been taken by the first weekend. Then fishing was curtailed as a result of heavy flows from snow melt. By early May just over 100 salmon were taken the heaviest weighing 20lb. During that month migratory fish continued to run on most tides with about 75 salmon and 3 sea trout being taken. As in the previous two years there were problems with the dry weather in the mid to upper tidal reaches and in an incident on 23 May 100 salmon and sea trout were found dead at Wylam.

For the following month the water levels inevitably fell with only the occasional release from Kielder Reservoir. A further 350 salmon and 60 sea trout were reported taken, mostly at Wylam and, for those taken on the North and South Tyne, either upstream of Chollerford or at Featherstone and Slaggyford. In September, it was only towards the end of the month that water levels started to rise and, commensurately catches of migratory fish including some salmon of 22lb on the Main Tyne and another of 21lb on the North Tyne at Chipchase. September and October have tended to see substantial runs of sea trout into the South Tyne. This occurred as usual but not to such a great extent as previously and it will be seen that the catch return of salmon exceeded that for sea trout. In the final month one angler took 15 fish and another landed a 30lb salmon, after a four hour struggle, on the South Tyne a few miles above the confluence.

2.1.6 River Wear

As usual, fishing on the Wear got off to a slow start in the early months, not helped by falling water levels by April. Up to that time, two small salmon and six sea trout had been taken. In mid May, a small run of salmon and sea trout appeared in the Chester le Street area and around 17 May six salmon were grassed. The remaining fish moved on through Durham and one salmon and two sea trout were reported taken from Framwellgate Waterside. In June and July, there were unconfirmed reports of catches as far upstream as Witton

Park. It was thought that 70 migratory fish had been taken, the majority of them sea trout up to 11lb. Despite further falling water levels in August and September catches did increase slightly in August and more significantly in September, including an 18lb tagged salmon grassed at Chester le Street.

For the final month of the angling season, there was a significant increase in catches with more than 100 salmon taken and nearly 200 sea trout. Overall, the most successful area for catches was Chester le Street and there were unconfirmed reports of large numbers of migratory fish taken from Framwellgate, the heaviest a 25lb salmon.

2.1.7 River Tees

Until the further planned improvements for dealing with effluent discharged to the river, a marked increase in salmon catches is unlikely. Coupled therefore, to the third successive dry summer and even the most optimistic could hardly be surprised at the depressing figure of one reported catch return of a 12lb salmon taken in March before water and oxygen levels had become critical. There were however other reports of eight salmon being taken on the river.

Those salmon which had made it back to the river during the last few years have tended to have an average weight comparable to those of the Tyne now almost famed for its big salmon. Indeed the heaviest of the eight fish referred to above was said to be a 24lb salmon.

2.2 Weirs and Obstructions in Rivers

2.2.1 Cannongate and Denwick Dams

The passes at both Cannongate and Denwick were cleared of obstructions in February. In July the boxes at Denwick were repaired and in September further improvements effected.

2.2.2 Denil Pass at Warkworth

In late July the resting box in the Denil Pass was deepened in an attempt to reduce turbulence. It was a while before flows sufficiently increased to test the efficacy of the work carried out.

2.2.3 Acklington - River Coquet

The usual clearance work took place in February and again in March after further blockage. In late October, ten sand bags were placed in front of the sluice.

2.2.4 Bothal Dam - River Wansbeck

After the clearance of a blockage in February more serious problems came to light some months later when it was found that no water was flowing through the fish pass but was flowing through the broken mill race. Despite repairs, further problems recurred with water continuing to go through the mill race.

2.2.5 Haltwhistle - River South Tyne

A boulder check weir was installed at Haltwhistle successfully raising the water level below the viaduct footings to a few inches of the apron. This would ensure that salmon could negotiate the passage through the viaduct at all but the very lowest of flows.

2.3 Spawning Season for Migratory Fish

Heavy rain at the end of September raised the level of the Coquet by some four to eight inches and by 3 October sea trout had settled on the redds immediately below the Felton Bypass Bridge. Salmon moved onto the redds in numbers from late November and into December.

For the River Tyne, although conditions were favourable during the first two weeks of November, few fish were seen spawning but those present were mainly found on the North Tyne at Falstone and a few miles upstream as well as on the River Rede. The majority of migratory fish spawned between late November and early December but somewhat fewer of them than in the seasons of the immediate past. Owing to low water levels in many of the burns, sea trout resorted to spawning in the main rivers. Furthermore the varying levels of discharges from Kielder Reservoir ensured that not a few redds were exposed downstream of Falstone.

A few sea trout were observed spawning in the Wear burns during early November and the main spawning coincided with the spell of mild weather in the last week and in the first week in December. There was an improvement in the redd count compared with 1990 and it was felt that further success against poaching had been a contributory factor.

Once again location of redds on the Tees was difficult but it does seem that the Greta is now well established for runs and spawning of migratory fish.

2.4 Trout

Trout fishing on most of the rivers got off to a poor start although anglers turned out in force on the Coquet on the first day but mainly where restocking had taken place. As in the previous year, Rothbury seemed to have faired better than the rest of the Coquet with 45 brown trout being taken in the first week and towards the end of the season one angler took 4 brownies weighing over 2lb. Possibly the most successful river in the region for trout fishing was the Blyth with some good catches from the early part of the season.

After a very poor start in the River Aln the situation improved slightly in June and in September a good stock of native 9-10" brownies was observed. During the following month a similarly sized good native stock was observed in the Waren Burn.

In April the local press in the Morpeth area were quite excited about the capture of a 6¼lb rainbow trout from the Wansbeck, probably an escapee from a local stillwater as a result of flood water.

For the Tyne, Wear and Tees trout fishing remained poor throughout the season.

On Friday 22 March some 240 anglers assembled at Fontburn Reservoir that figure increasing by April and by which time the heaviest fish caught was a 7lb 7oz rainbow trout. Despite closure of Hury for essential engineering works and restrictions at Grassholme and Burnhope and Balderhead for various reasons including low water levels there was good fishing on the Durham and Teesside Reservoirs. The stocked lakes at Tumbleton and Sweethope with some variations fished well throughout the season with notable catches being rainbows of 7lb 4oz in April and of 12lb in June at Tumbleton.

2.5 Coarse Fish

2.5.1 River Tees

In January anglers in the lower reaches at Yarm and Thornaby enjoyed some success with winning nets of 26lb of dace and 21½lb of chub.

During the early summer the Institute of Freshwater Ecology commenced on the lower reaches of the river but just upstream of the proposed Barrage. As the first step over 1,000 mixed coarse fish (mainly dace) were captured providing a good basis for a more detailed examination.

Fishing itself improved for the rest of the year with good weights of dace and chub as well as some barbel until the severe weather in mid December curtailed activities.

2.5.2 River Wear

Coarse fishing in the cold conditions at the beginning of the year started quite modestly with winning nets of dace to 11lb.

The resumption found fishing improved and then in August a three day exercise took place at Chester le Street to investigate the long running debate of the removal of coarse fish from game fishing waters, the riparian owner in question alleging that the presence of chub in his waters adversely affected trout fishing and that their removal would improve the game fishery. The exercise in question involved 326 dace, chub and barbel which were caught, marked with a blue spot and transferred further upstream at Durham.

Catches at this time included winning nets of 20-30lb dace and chub as well as some good weights of barbel. Good catches held up for the rest of the year until the deterioration in weather. Stocks of perch were observed on the Low Burn stretch downstream of Croxdale.

2.5.3 River Tyne

Of the Region's rivers holding stocks of coarse fish the Tyne had the poorest start, in contrast the Lower Derwent showed nets of dace to 18lb with many individuals weighing up to 11oz.

Then, for the Tyne itself, once the chub started to take on the lower reaches, sport did improve with fish to 3lb being taken and one of nearly 4lb on the Mickley stretch. This is thought to be the heaviest fish taken from the Tyne up to that time.

The Environmental Assessment Unit from Liverpool University were awarded the contract to study coarse fish populations in the river with particular emphasis on the decline of the dace population and the possible correlation with releases of cold water from Kielder Reservoir.

2.5.4 Stillwaters

All of the Region's stillwaters were frozen over until late February which meant that, where the close season is observed, there was very little opportunity for fishing before the break.

Few weeks had passed when, in contrast to the frozen conditions, reports were being received of carp mortalities in certain stillwaters. With regard to one such mortality, a post-mortem examination was carried out by biology staff on samples submitted by the Angling Club. As a precaution, tissue samples were sent to the MAFF fish diseases laboratory but they proved negative to tests for spring virema of carp. It was felt that the losses related to the parasitic infestation due to over-wintering and pre-spawning stresses.

Newsham Pond, Blyth, fished well throughout the season and in September some good quality carp were taken from Marden Pond. Brenkley Pond and Ancroft were found to be poor and water levels at Bowlam Lakes appeared to be the lowest for many years.

2.6 Commercial Netting of Migratory Fish

2.6.1 Return of Catches

An outline of the pattern of net catches of salmon and sea trout is given in Section 6 and references made elsewhere to the publication by MAFF and the Scottish Office in October of "Salmon Net Fisheries".

2.6.2 Licensees and Endorsees

In the Northern area, 75 licensees were authorised to fish up to the six mile limit by drift net or 'T' net and in the Southern area, 46 licensees by drift net only. The number of servants or agents (endorsees) in the Northern area was 164, and in the Southern area, 89.

2.7 Commercial Netting of Eels

Eel net/trap licences were issued to six men licensed to use 70 nets/traps. There is no requirement for a return of fish caught.

SECTION 3

# 3 FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

## 3.1 Juvenile Salmonid Monitoring

During the year, the launch took place of a comprehensive survey programme investigating the juvenile salmonid populations throughout the region. The aim of this programme was to establish baseline data relating to the extent and distribution of salmonid stocks within the major catchments of the Northumbria region.

A total of 101 electric fishing surveys were conducted between July and October, the results of which are presented in the following tables.

Juvenile salmon were located in all catchments with the exceptions of the River Blyth and River Wansbeck. A small number of adult salmon are, however, known to enter the Wansbeck each year.

The majority of sites on both the North and South Tyne, the Coquet and the Wear produced juvenile salmon indicating healthy spawning populations within those catchments. Salmon were also found at three sites on the River Aln although it is regarded primarily as a sea trout river. The presence of both 0+ and 1+ salmon parr at Egglestone Burn on the River Tees is encouraging indicating natural recruitment at this site. Salmon ova were planted in this burn in 1988.

Healthy juvenile trout populations were recorded at the majority of sites. It is likely that where these sites are accessible to migratory salmonids, the juvenile populations are comprised of both brown trout and sea trout progeny. This includes both the Blyth and the Wansbeck which have small runs of sea trout each year. It is, however, impossible to distinguish between sea trout and brown trout parr prior to smoltification.

Adipose fin clipped salmon originating from stockings of microtagged Kielder hatchery fish were caught at a number of sites on the Rivers Coquet, North Tyne, South Tyne and Wear which are indicated in the following tables. All salmon taken at the Carrshope sites on the River Coquet were of hatchery origin. Adipose fin clipped trout were also caught at Swinhope Burn (Lands Farm) on the River Wear. These were sea trout parr reared at Kielder hatchery and released in March this year.

During the electric fishing surveys, native British crayfish were located at a number of sites on the Rivers Blyth and Wansbeck and at Shipley Burn on the River Aln. The presence of this species is very encouraging in view of its having been wiped out across much of the country as a result of disease carried by imported American signal crayfish.

In addition to these surveys, four sites in the Ouseburn, a mid-tidal tributary of the Main Tyne, were also fished. No juvenile salmonids were located at any of those sites which are adversely affected by pollution. The only species present were stone loach and stickleback.

The juvenile salmonid monitoring programme will be expanded and developed in future years and so it is anticipated that the success of 1991 will be repeated and, indeed, exceeded.

## 3.2 Migratory Salmonid Redd Counts

The redd count programme was conducted during the first fourteen days in December. The results presented for this survey are more comprehensive than those of the 1990 operation due mainly to favourable weather conditions.

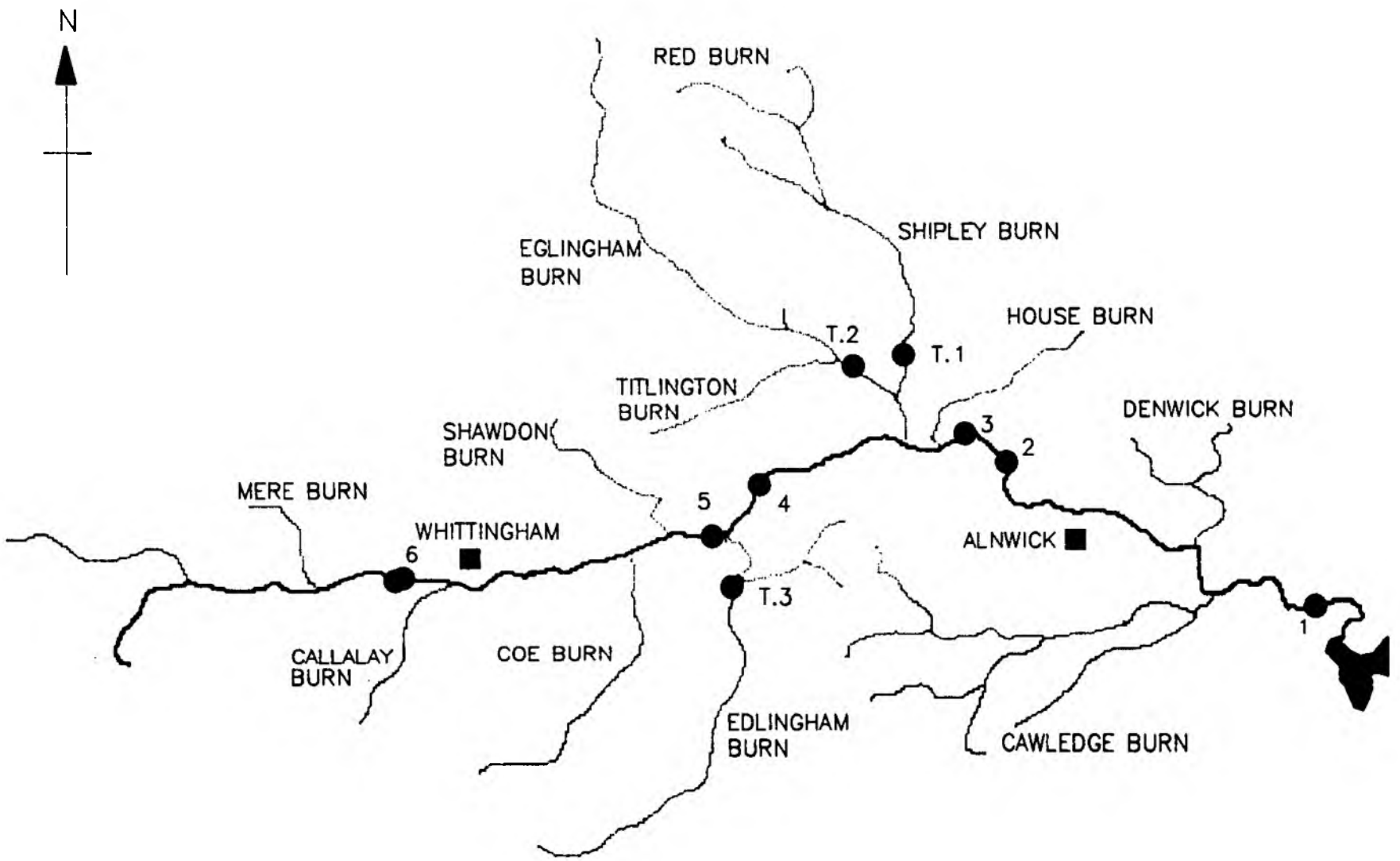
The data for the Tyne system is separated into the North and South Tyne and the River Rede. No data is presented for the River Wear.

| | Salmon | Sea Trout | Salmon | Sea Trout |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aln | 116 | 640 | 84 | 826 |
| Coquet | 486 | 2459 | 238 | 2004 |
| North Tyne | 150 | 117 | 16 | 175 |
| South Tyne | 54 | 184 | - | 268 |
| Rede | 81 | 90 | 2 | 37 |
| Tees | - | - | - | 5 |

# RIVER ALN

| SITE | DENSITY (number/$m^2$) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SALMON | | TROUT | |
| | 0+ | 1+ | 0+ | 1++ |
| **Main Stem:** | | | | |
| 1 Lesbury | 0.03 | 0 | 0.22 | 0.09 |
| 2 Hulme Park (1) | 0 | 0 | 0.59 | 0.06 |
| 3 Hulme Park (2) | 0 | 0 | 0.93 | 0.05 |
| 4 Abberwick Mill Ford | 0.10 | 0.01 | 1.29 | 0.08 |
| 5 Bolton Mill | 0.20 | 0.02 | 1.06 | 0.20 |
| 6 Whittingham Ford | 0 | 0 | 4.07 | 0.10 |
| **Tributaries:** | | | | |
| T1 Shipley Burn | 0 | 0 | 0.56 | 0.02 |
| T2 Eglingham Burn | 0 | 0 | 0.87 | 0 |
| T3 Edlingham Burn | 0 | 0 | 2.61 | 0.05 |

# RIVER ALN SURVEY PROGRAMME 1991



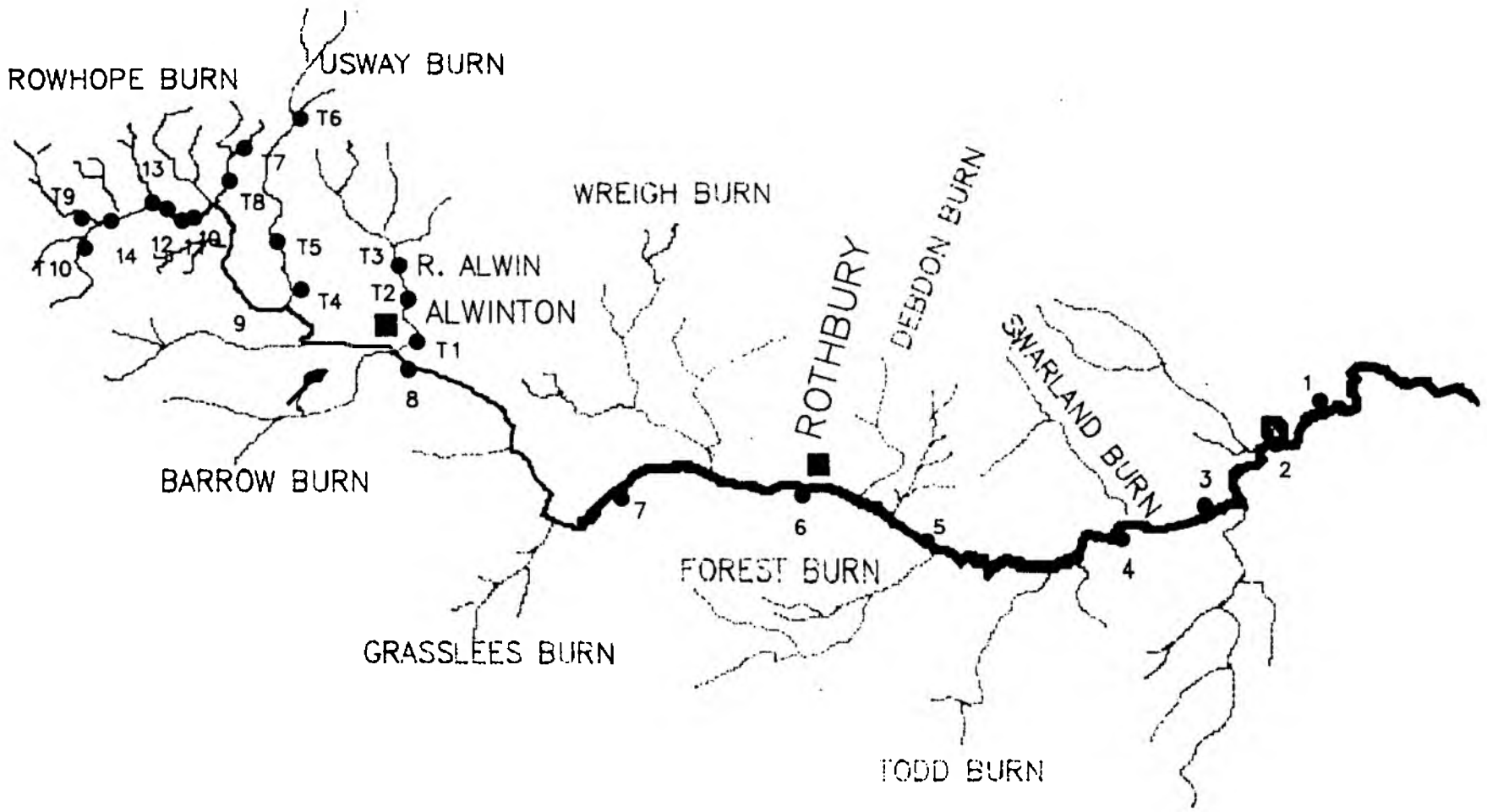
# RESULTS OF ELECTRIC FISHING SURVEYS

## RIVER COQUET

| SITE | DENSITY (number/m²) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SALMON | | TROUT | |
| | 0+ | 1+ | 0+ | 1++ |
| **Main Stem:** | | | | |
| 1 Morwich | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 Guyzance | 0 | 0 | 0.02 | 0 |
| 3 Felton | 0.004 | 0.02 | 0.08 | 0.01 |
| 4 Elyhaugh | 0.26 | 0 | 1.19 | 0 |
| 5 Pauperhaugh | 0.24 | 0.02 | 0.37 | 0.01 |
| 6 Rothbury Golf Course | 0.16 | 0 | 0.23 | 0 |
| 7 Caistron * | 0.69 | 0.01 | 0.49 | 0 |
| 8 Low Alwinton | 0.32 | 0.09 | 0.35 | 0.06 |
| 9 Bygate Dam | 1.52 | 0.18 | 1.57 | 0.02 |
| 10 D/S Carshope Bridge | 0 | 0 | 0.99 | 0.26 |
| 11 Carshope 1 * | 0 | 0.12 | 1.51 | 0.40 |
| 12 Carshope 2 * | 0 | 0.22 | 0.62 | 0.13 |
| 13 Carshope 3 * | 0 | 0.46 | 1.12 | 0.19 |
| 14 D/S Buckhams Walls Burn | 0 | 0 | 2.12 | 0.28 |
| **Tributaries:** | | | | |
| T1 R Alwin, Clennell | 0.18 | 0.21 | 2.28 | 0.73 |
| T2 R Alwin, 2 | 0.36 | 0.12 | 2.18 | 0.58 |
| T3 R. Alwin | 0.16 | 0.03 | 5.68 | 0.33 |
| T4 Usway Burn, D/S site | 0 | 0.05 | 4.10 | 0.70 |
| T5 Usway Burn | 0.03 | 0.02 | 1.40 | 0.02 |
| T6 Usway Burn, Usway Ford | 0 | 0 | 2.54 | 0.18 |
| T7 Rowhope Burn | 0 | 0 | 1.22 | 1.33 |
| T8 Rowhope Burn, U/S site | 0 | 0.03 | 1.91 | 1.79 |
| T9 Buckhams Walls Burn | 0 | 0 | 2.15 | 0.19 |
| T10 Fulhope Burn | 0 | 0 | 1.23 | 1.62 |

* Adipose fin clipped salmon present

# RIVER COQUET SURVEY PROGRAMME 1991

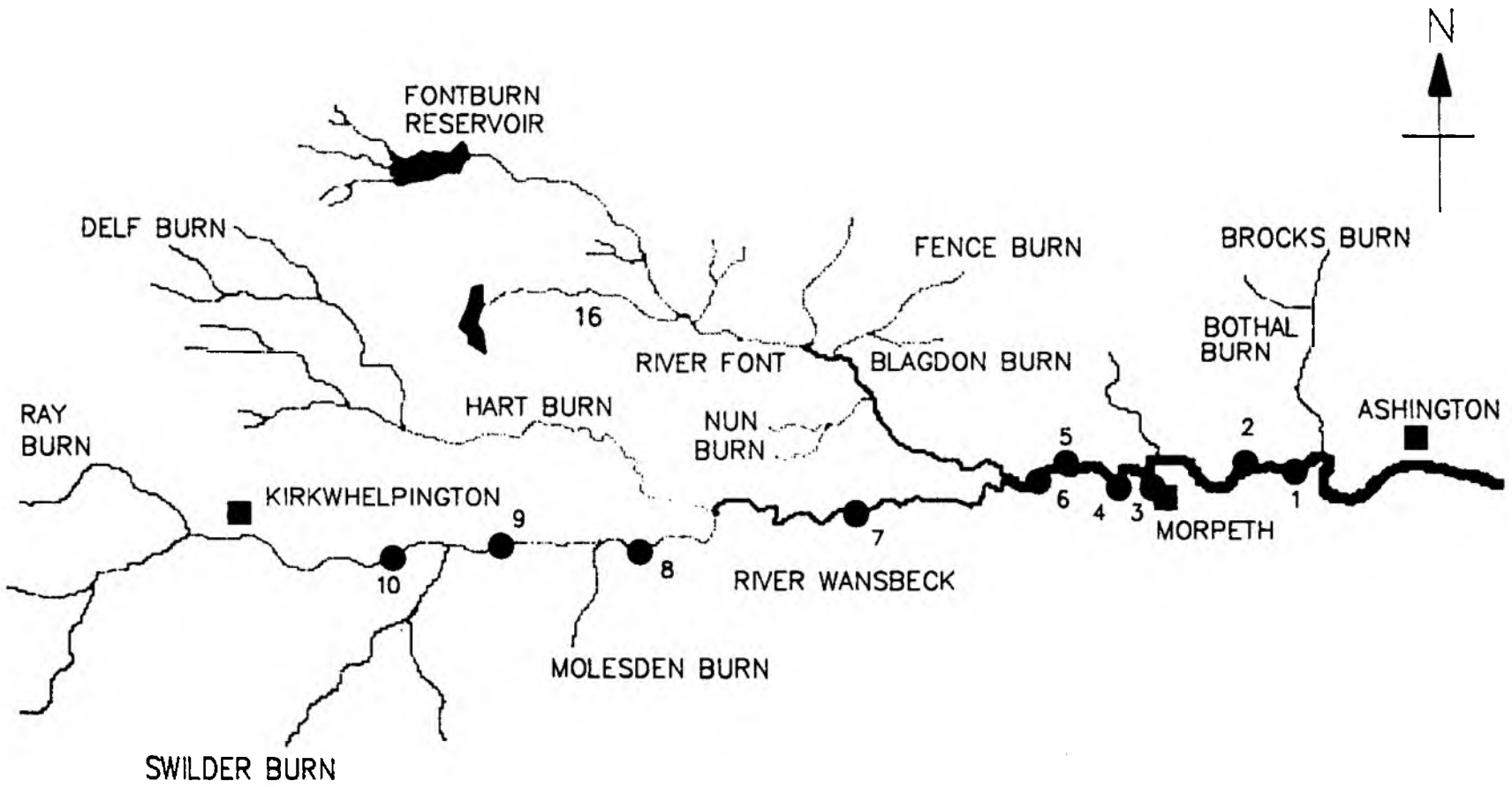


# RESULTS OF ELECTRIC FISHING SURVEYS

# RIVER WANSBECK

| SITE | DENSITY (number/m²) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SALMON | | TROUT | |
| | 0+ | 1+ | 0+ | 1++ |
| **Main Stem:** | | | | |
| 1 Bothal Castle | 0 | 0 | 0.34 | 0 |
| 2 Whitefield Weir | 0 | 0 | 0.44 | 0 |
| 3 Morpeth Bridge | 0 | 0 | 0.10 | 0.03 |
| 4 Stanners | 0 | 0 | 0.06 | 0 |
| 5 Spring Hill | 0 | 0 | 0.29 | 0 |
| 6 Mitford Weir | 0 | 0 | 0.24 | 0.01 |
| 7 Rivergreen Mill | 0 | 0 | 0.09 | 0 |
| 8 Low Angerton Bridge | 0 | 0 | 0.05 | 0 |
| 9 Middleton Bridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 Wallington Hall Bridge | 0 | 0 | 0.04 | 0 |

# RIVER WANSBECK SURVEY PROGRAMME 1991

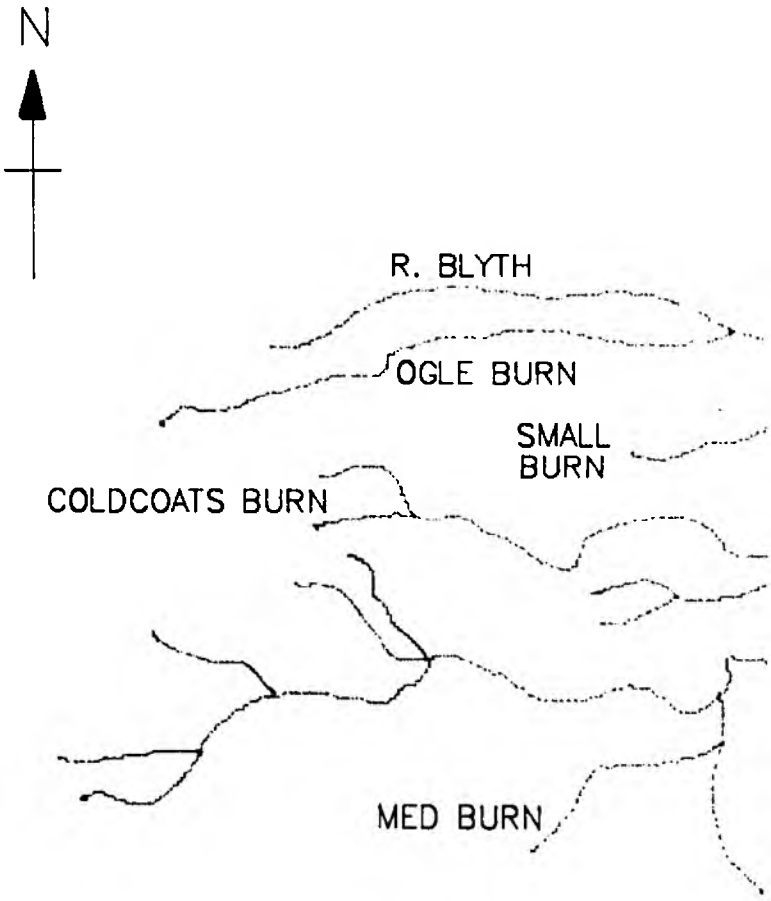


# RESULTS OF ELECTRIC FISHING SURVEYS

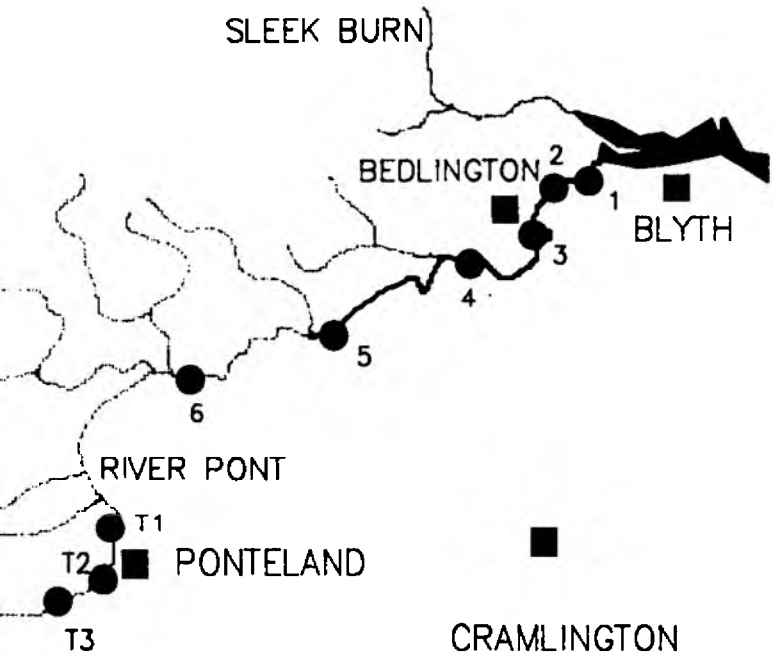
# RIVER BLYTH

| SITE | DENSITY (number/m²) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SALMON | | TROUT | |
| | 0+ | 1+ | 0+ | 1++ |
| **Main Stem:** | | | | |
| 1 u/s Kitty Brewster | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 Bedlington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 Humford Mill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.003 |
| 4 Plessey Farm | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| 5 Stannington Bridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 Bellasis Bridge | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | 0.02 |
| **Tributaries: River Pont** | | | | |
| T1 Berwick Hill Bridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| T2 Diamond Pub | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | 0 |
| T3 Ponteland Park | 0 | 0 | 0.24 | 0.02 |

# RIVER BLYTH SURVEY



# PROGRAMME 1991



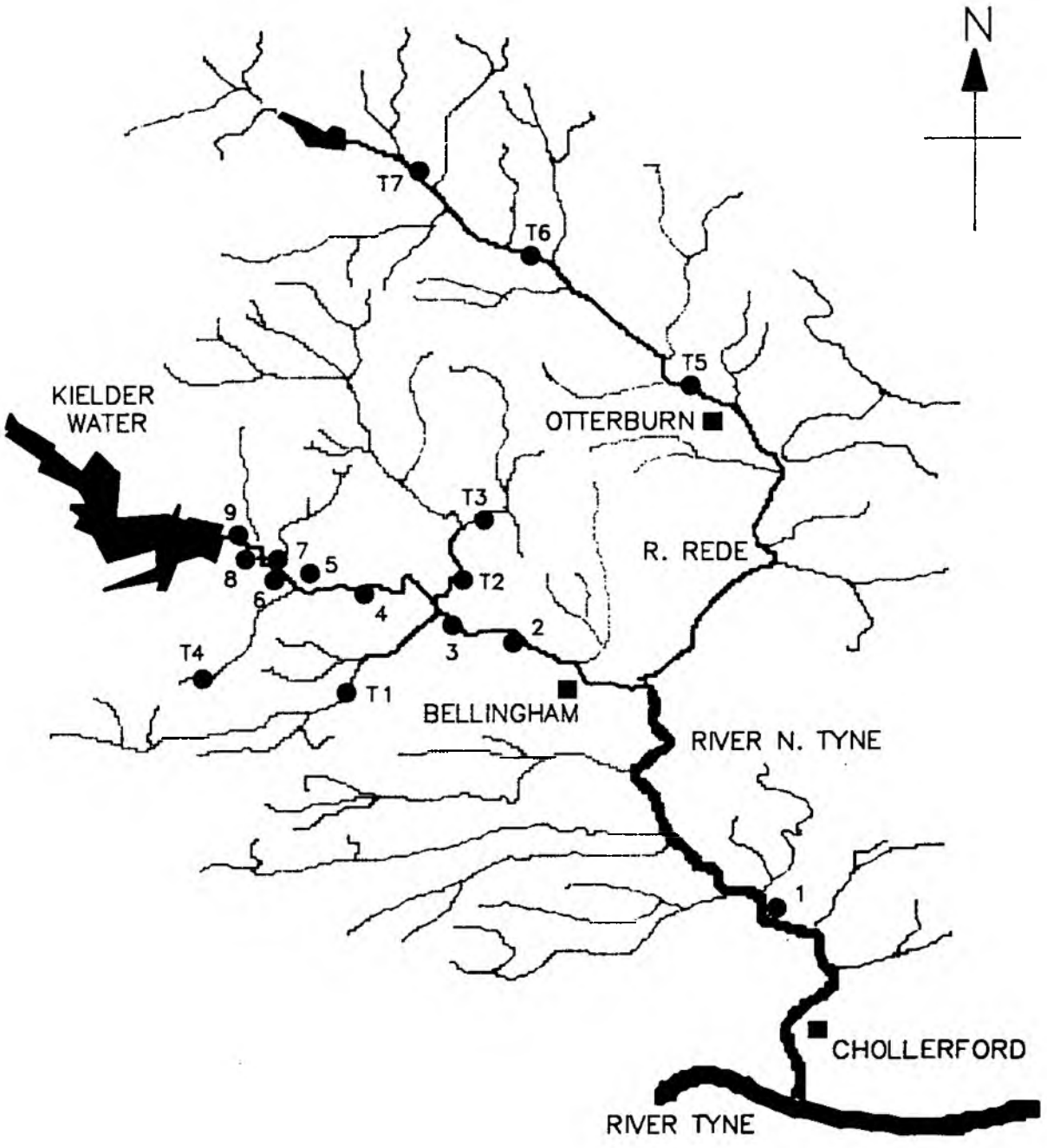
# RESULTS OF ELECTRIC FISHING SURVEYS

# RIVER NORTH TYNE

| SITE | | DENSITY (number/m²) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | SALMON | | TROUT | |
| | | 0+ | 1+ | 0+ | 1++ |
| **Main Stem:** | | | | | |
| 1 Riverhill Farm | | 0.18 | 0 | 0.01 | 0 |
| 2 Newton | | 1.83 | 0.04 | 0.13 | 0 |
| 3 Tarset Hall | | 0.10 | 0 | 0.04 | 0 |
| 4 Ridley Stokoe | | 0.35 | 0.003 | 0.20 | 0 |
| 5 Smalesmouth | * | 0.13 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0 |
| 6 Falstone Bridge | * | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0 |
| 7 Falstone | * | 0.52 | 0.04 | 0.14 | 0 |
| 8 Hawkhope Burn Confluence | * | 0.06 | 0.004 | 0.02 | 0 |
| 9 Yarrow | | 0 | 0 | 0.08 | 0 |
| **Tributaries:** | | | | | |
| T1 Chirdon Burn, Allery Bank | | 0 | 0.04 | 0.39 | 0.08 |
| T2 Tarset Burn, Redmire | * | 0.54 | 0.07 | 0.38 | 0.02 |
| T3 Tarret Burn | | 0 | 0 | 0.56 | 0.13 |
| T4 Smales Burn | | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.16 | 0.08 |
| T5 R. Rede, Greenchesters | | 3.24 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0 |
| T6 R. Rede, Woolaw | | 0.90 | 0.03 | 0.12 | 0.01 |
| T7 R. Rede, Raw Picnic Site | * | 4.16 | 0.73 | 1.68 | 0.14 |

* Adipose fin clipped salmon present

# RIVER N.TYNE SURVEY PROGRAMME 1991



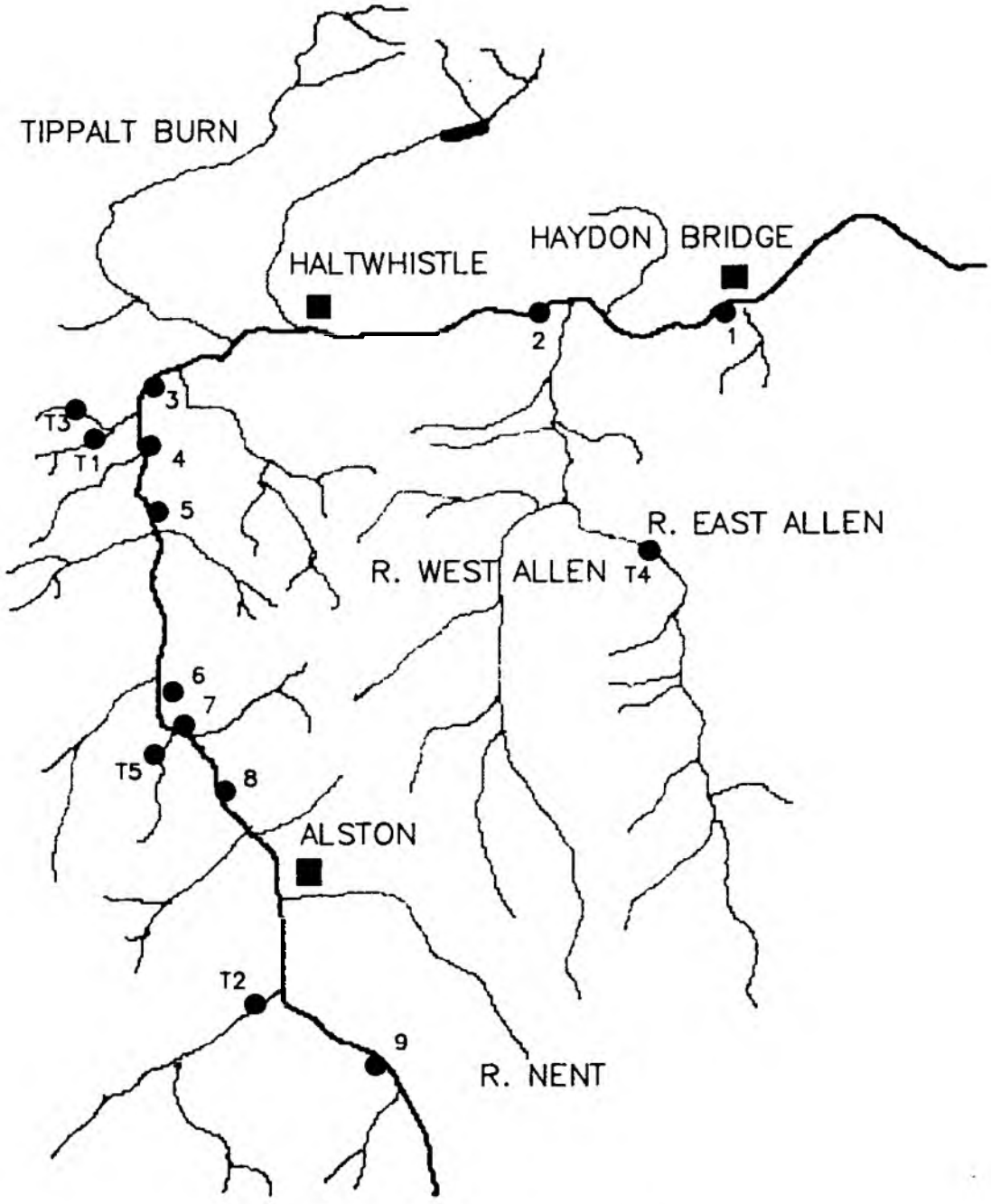
# RESULTS OF ELECTRIC FISHING SURVEYS

## RIVER SOUTH TYNE

| SITE | DENSITY (number/m²) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SALMON | | TROUT | |
| | 0+ | 1+ | 0+ | 1++ |
| **Main Stem:** | | | | |
| 1 Haydon Bridge | 0.21 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 Beltingham | 0.49 | 0 | 0.10 | 0.02 |
| 3 Featherstone Bridge | 0.17 | 0.02 | 0.25 | 0.03 |
| 4 Lambley Farm | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0 | 0.01 |
| 5 Eals * | 0 | 0.03 | 0.21 | 0.05 |
| 6 Parson Shields | 0.08 | 0 | 0.40 | 0.01 |
| 7 Williamston | 0.13 | 0.03 | 0.48 | 0.07 |
| 8 Kirkhaugh | 0.01 | 0 | 0.44 | 0.06 |
| 9 Garrigill | 0 | 0 | 0.17 | 0.08 |
| **Tributaries:** | | | | |
| T1 Black Burn, Lambley | 1.27 | 0.07 | 0 | 0.09 |
| T2 Black Burn, Alston * | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.44 | 0.06 |
| T3 Haining Burn | 0.05 | 0.21 | 1.33 | 0.21 |
| T4 River East Allen, Catton Bridge | 0 | 0 | 1.10 | 0.13 |
| T5 Thornhope Burn | 0 | 0 | 2.37 | 0.33 |

* Adipose fin clipped salmon present

# RIVER S.TYNE SURVEY PROGRAMME 1991



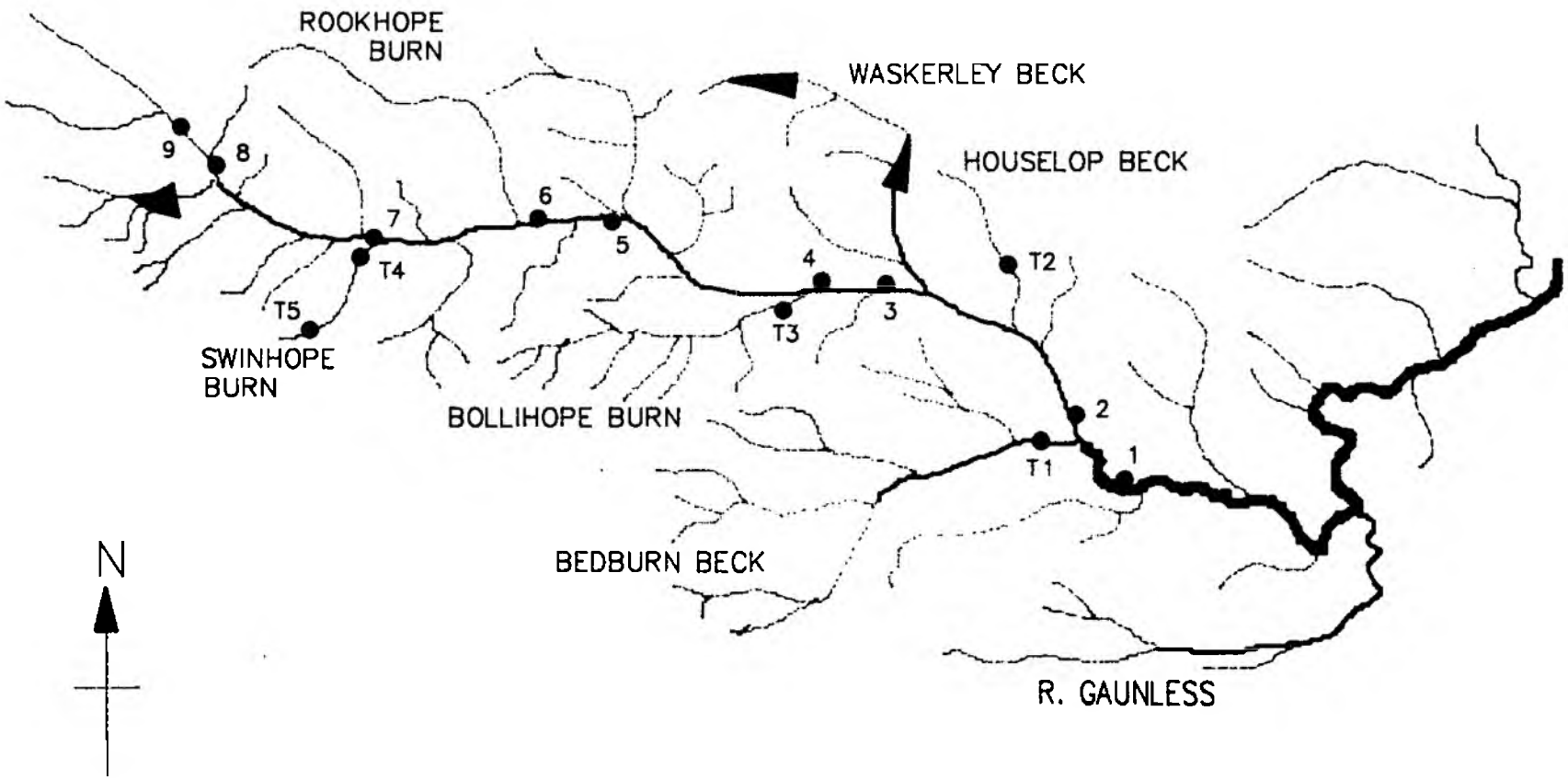
# RESULTS OF ELECTRIC FISHING SURVEYS

## RIVER WEAR

| SITE | | DENSITY (number/m²) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | SALMON | | TROUT | |
| | | 0+ | 1+ | 0+ | 1++ |
| **Main Stem:** | | | | | |
| 1 Witton le Wear | | 0.02 | 0 | 0.04 | 0.003 |
| 2 McNeils | | 0.35 | 0 | 0.05 | 0 |
| 3 Windy Nook | | 0 | 0.005 | 0.01 | 0.02 |
| 4 Landieu | * | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.10 | 0.01 |
| 5 Stanhope | | 0.10 | 0.02 | 0.56 | 0.06 |
| 6 Hag Bridge | * | 0.20 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.02 |
| 7 Westgate Station | | 0 | 0 | 0.08 | 0.03 |
| 8 Wearhead | * | 0 | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.10 |
| 9 Cowsgill | | 0 | 0.01 | 0.68 | 0.13 |
| **Tributaries:** | | | | | |
| T1 Bedburn Beck | | 0.35 | 0.07 | 0.61 | 0.12 |
| T2 Houselop Burn | | 0 | 0 | 1.63 | 0.30 |
| T3 Bollihope Burn | | 0.83 | 0 | 2.41 | 0.02 |
| T4 Swinhope Burn, Lands Farm | ** | 0 | 0 | 0.67 | 0.63 |
| T5 Swinhope Burn, Site 2 | | 0 | 0 | 0.94 | 0.14 |

* Adipose fin clipped salmon present
** Adipose fin clipped sea trout present

# RIVER WEAR SURVEY PROGRAMME 1991

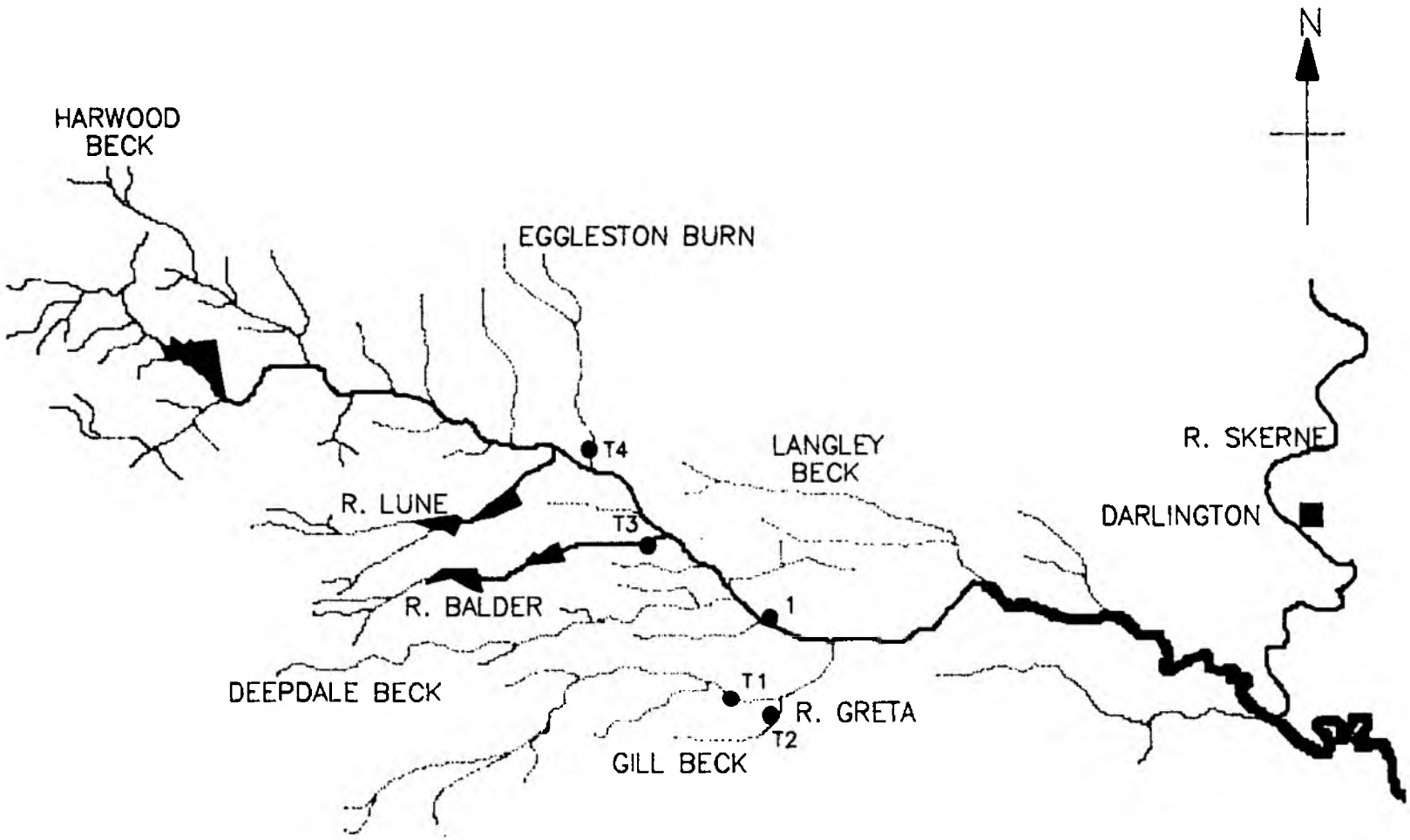


# RESULTS OF ELECTRIC FISHING SURVEYS

## RIVER TEES

| SITE | DENSITY (number/m²) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SALMON | | TROUT | |
| | 0+ | 1+ | 0+ | 1++ |
| **Main Stem:** | | | | |
| 1 Egglestone Abbey | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | 0 |
| **Tributaries:** | | | | |
| T1 River Greta, Moorhouse Farm | 0 | 0 | 0.02 | 0.19 |
| T2 Gill Beck | 0 | 0 | 0.50 | 0.21 |
| T3 River Balder, Doe Park Farm | 0 | 0 | 0.004 | 0.11 |
| T4 Egglestone Burn, Burnfoot Farm | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.08 |

# RIVER TEES SURVEY PROGRAMME 1991



SECTION 4

# 4 FISHERIES BIOLOGY AND CONSENTED INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions of fish to inland waters are consented under Section 30 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 and, in previous years, these have been summarised under Private and Northumbrian Water introductions. However, since reorganisation the National Rivers Authority is the regulating body issuing Section 30 consents and all Northumbrian Water introductions are, therefore, consented as "Private".

## 4.1 Hatchery

Migratory fish developed well in the early part of the year with all fry hatched by the end of April at which time most were transferred to incubators although some were retained in troughs. The first salmon fry in the incubators began feeding in early May and by mid May most of the fish were feeding. All fish were transferred from incubators into Swedish tanks with automatic feeders by early June. The grading of 0+ fish retained for over wintering in the hatchery took place in August.

All 1+ fish were stocked out from the hatchery by mid May and 0+ parr were stocked in September. Details of movements from the hatchery are given in Table 4.1.1.

Broodstock collection was again highly successful with 101 female and 91 male salmon being taken from the Rivers North Tyne, South Tyne, Rede, Coquet and Wear. Those fish were held in the hatchery for stripping, tagging and ultimate release. Stripping yielded a total of 575,000 salmon ova, of which 20,000 were from River Wear salmon. No migratory trout were collected during the year.

Over two hundred visitors attended the hatchery guided tours during the tourist season.

## 4.2 Microtagging

In 1991 microtagging of Kielder hatchery salmon parr was undertaken by National Rivers Authority staff for the first time. Prior to this the tagging of hatchery fish was co-ordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Tagging of 0+ parr commenced in November with operations lasting until February 1992. A total of 83,874 fish were tagged and scheduled for release into Northumbrian rivers in Spring 1992. In addition to this, 10,051 fish were tagged by Northumbrian staff on behalf of Yorkshire NRA for release into the Yorkshire Esk with Yorkshire staff tagging a further 10,000.

A summary of operations for Northumbrian fish is presented in Table 4.1.2.

## HATCHERY RESTOCKING 1991

| DATE | SPECIES | DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE | NUMBER | TAG CODE | RIVER SYSTEM | LOCATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4/2 | SEA TROUT | OVA | 112,000 | - | WEAR | - |
| 11/3 | SEA TROUT | OVA | 65,000 | - | WEAR | - |
| 14/3 | SEA TROUT | OVA | 202,000 | - | WEAR | - |
| 20/3 | SALMON | 1+ | 10,992 | TAGGED | YORKSHIRE ESK | - |
| 27/3 | SALMON | 1+ | 5,586 | 17/39 | WEAR | - |
| 27/3 | SEA TROUT | 1+ | 4,328 | 17/28 | WEAR | - |
| 28/3 | SALMON | 1+ | 8,329 | 17/29 | TEES | - |
| 9/4 | SALMON | 1+ | 10,554 | 17/25 | SOUTH TYNE | - |
| 15/4 | SALMON | 1+ | 5,178 | 17/27 | COQUET | CARSHOPE |
| 17/4 | SALMON | 1+ | 11,043 | 17/24 | NORTH TYNE | - |
| 17/4 | SALMON | 1+ | 11,171 | 17/22 | NORTH TYNE | R REDE |
| 30/4 | SALMON | 1+ | 11,486 | 17/23 | NORTH TYNE | - |
| 2/9 | SALMON | 0+ | 60,000 | - | NORTH TYNE | - |
| 3/9 | SALMON | 0+ | 35,000 | - | COQUET | - |
| 11/9 | SALMON | 0+ | 30,000 | - | NORTH TYNE | R REDE |
| 16/9 | SALMON | 0+ | 50,000 | - | WEAR | - |
| 24/9 | SALMON | 0+ | 50,000 | - | SOUTH TYNE | - |
| 24/9 | SALMON | 0+ | 50,000 | - | NORTH TYNE | - |
| 30/9 | SALMON | 0+ | 50,000 | - | TEES | - |
| 1/10 | SALMON | 0+ | 50,000 | - | NORTH TYNE | - |

| Intended River of Release | Number | Tag Code |
|---|---|---|
| Rede | 11,499 | 18/01 |
| South Tyne | 10,654 | 18/02 |
| Tees | 10,250 | 18/03 |
| Tees (tributary) | 10,012 | 18/04 |
| North Tyne | 10,026 | 18/05 |
| North Tyne | 10,041 | 18/06 |
| Wear | 10,050 | 18/08 |
| Coquet | 5,185 | 18/09 |
| Devils Water | 6,157 | 16/48 |

# 1991 CONSENTED INTRODUCTIONS

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

| AREA | SIZE | BROWN TROUT | RAINBOW TROUT |
|---|---|---|---|
| NORTHERN | 7 - 9" | 5,200 | - |
| | 9 - 12" | 10,200 | - |
| | 12 - 15" | - | 150 |
| | 1 - 2lb | - | 190 |
| | | **15,400** | **340** |
| TEES | 3 - 5" | 200 | - |
| | 5 - 7" | 1,900 | - |
| | 8 - 11" | 225 | - |
| | 11 - 13" | 2,425 | - |
| | | **4,750** | **0** |
| TYNE | Yearling | 1,800 | - |
| | 9 - 12" | 2,550 | 2,500 |
| | 12 - 14" | 525 | 650 |
| | 14 - 18oz | - | 200+ |
| | 1 - 3lb | 1,500 | 450 |
| | | **6,375** | **3,800+** (+ 200lb) |
| WEAR | 7 - 9" | 1,600 | - |
| | 10 - 12" | 500 | 400 |
| | | **2,100** | **400** |

# 1991 CONSENTED INTRODUCTIONS

## RESERVOIRS AND LAKES

| AREA | SIZE | BROWN TROUT | RAINBOW TROUT |
|---|---|---|---|
| NORTHERN | 9" | 500 | - |
| | 12 - 15" | 1,250 | 19,530 |
| | 1 - 3lb | - | 7,855 |
| | 1 - 10lb | - | 14,358 |
| | | **1,750** | **41,743** |
| | | | ( + 100,000 ova) |
| TEES | 5 - 10" | 100 | 100 |
| | 10 - 14" | 650 | 63,950 |
| | 12 - 16oz | - | 200 |
| | 2lb | - | 4,112 |
| | 3lb+ | - | 930 |
| | 10lb+ | - | 8 |
| | 16 per lb | - | 20,000 |
| | 50 per lb | - | 20,000 |
| | Unknown Size | 100 | - |
| | | **850** | **109,300** |
| TYNE | 6 - 12" | 3,860 | 35,500 |
| | 12 - 15" | 3,000 | 46,950 |
| | 10 - 20oz | - | 15,075 |
| | 1 - 3lb | - | 12,130 |
| | 3 - 4lb | 170 | 500 |
| | 5 - 7lb | - | 770 |
| | 7lb+ | - | 40 |
| | | **7,030** | **100,965** |
| | | (+ 65,000 ova) | (+ 900,000 ova) |
| WEAR | 3 - 4" | 2,000 | - |
| | 11 - 14" | 1,200 | 26,150 |
| | 1 - 2lb | - | 3,550 |
| | 3lb+ | - | 1,400 |
| | | **3,200** | **31,100** |
| | | | (plus 500 per week at 2 - 12lb) |

# 1991 COARSE FISH CONSENTED INTRODUCTIONS

| AREA | SPECIES | NUMBER |
|---|---|---|
| NORTHERN | Rudd | 200 |
| | Tench | 100 |
| TEES | Bream | 1,000 (+150lb) |
| | Roach | 3,500+, (+100lb) |
| | Carp | 200 |
| | Tench | 200 |
| | Crucian Carp | 300 |
| | Rudd | 500 |
| TYNE | Carp | 20 |
| | Tench | 10 |
| | Gudgeon | 10 |
| | Roach/Rudd Hybrids | 50 |
| WEAR | Bream | 1,100 |
| | Roach | 100 - 700lb+ |
| | Rudd | Unspecified Number |
| | Tench | 150 |
| | Crucian Carp | 150 |

## SECTION 5

## 5. FISH MORTALITIES

Once again there were problems at Wylam during the summer months caused by low oxygen levels. There was an exacerbation of the situation following an ammonia discharge to the river from factory premises, killing some 100 salmon and sea trout. For this the firm concerned was fined £5,000 with £6,500 costs.

A number of brown trout mortalities occurred, mainly as a result of storm sewage overflows, including incidents at Whitecliffe Woods, Skinningrove, the Gaunless at South Church, Bishop Auckland and the Deerness at Esh Winning. Numbers of dead trout ranged from 32 to 168 and two separate incidents occurred at the two latter locations. However, in terms of severity these were all eclipsed by the event in late July when 4,000 brown trout died following a workman unsuccessfully attempting to dispose surreptitiously of a pesticide which found its way into the Paxton Dene Burn at Longhorsley. The offender was found guilty and was given a twelve month conditional discharge and the Authority was awarded costs of £200.

Despite high water levels two significant mortalities occurred in December. First of all, early in the month, a mortality occurred at Coatham Marches, Redcar, involving the loss of more that 120 fish, including roach, bream and carp. Shortly before Christmas, approximately 2,800 salmon and trout were recorded as killed in the Shipley Burn, a tributary of the River Aln. The farmer responsible was fined £2,000 with £1,400 costs.

In the Early Spring there were three reports of carp mortalities in stillwaters in the area. In one instance a post mortem examination had been carried out by Biology staff on samples submitted by the Angling Club. As a precaution tissue samples were submitted to MAFF Fish Diseases Laboratory but they proved negative to tests for SVC. However, the indications were that the losses related to parasitic infestations due to over-wintering and pre-spawning stresses.

SECTION 6

# 6 CATCHES OF MIGRATORY FISH

## 6.1 Estimated Number and Gross Weight of Salmon, Grilse and Sea Trout Caught throughout the Season by all Methods

| Method | Salmon | | Grilse | | Sea Trout | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No | Weight (lb) | No | Weight (lb) | No | Weight (lb) |
| Nets | 10006 | 113279 | 12519 | 73965 | 24869 | 126069 |
| Rods and Line | 944 | 10270 | 320 | 1770 | 1215 | 5063 |
| Totals | 10950 | 123549 | 12839 | 75735 | 26084 | 131132 |

## 6.2 1991 Salmon Net Season

### General

The report "Salmon Net Fisheries" published in October is dealt with in Section 1 above. The netting season, which had preceded the publication of the report, was very poor and is detailed below.

### Salmon

After 1990 having been the best catch since 1986 and with massive runs of local salmon at the time, there was anticipation amongst the netsmen of a good season. In the event, those hopes were dashed with both Northern and Southern areas having their poorest seasons since the terrible year of 1976. Blyth reverted to being the port with the highest catch but with a 51% reduction compared with 1990. Next were Shields and Sunderland with corresponding reductions of 106% and 91%. No port recorded an increase in catches and further examples of the consequent diminution were 40% at Seaham, 63% at Amble, 71% at Boulmer, 81% at Newbiggin, 214% at Seahouses, 310% at Redcar and 354% at Hartlepool. The overall reduction was nearly 49%.

Unlike 1990, catches in May were depressed until the last week. There was a further increase in the first week in June when Blyth, Newbiggin and Shields had their best individual weeks (a rare feature at that time of the season) which said more for the catch failure in August than any cornucopia in early June. Nevertheless, June was more successful than May but with a marked falling-off later in the month. The beginning of July saw a slight and short-lived revival from which time catches remained depressed until the penultimate week of the season when they increased by about 50% and this was the best overall week. The average weight was fairly high, being in excess of 11¼lbs but less than the record weight of 1990 at over 11½lbs. Heavier weights are sometimes recorded in the 'T' nets and in the drift nets the average variation was 1lb from just over 10½lbs at Seaham to over

11½lbs at Hartlepool and Redcar. On the subject of weights, catches of salmon, grilse and sea trout at Seaham in 1991 were identical to 1990.

## Grilse

Grilse too saw the poorest season in both areas since 1976. Again, each port saw a reduction compared with 1990 of 44% at Amble, 45% at Seaham, 58% at Blyth and 80% + at Newbiggin, Boulmer and Beadnell, 100% at Sunderland, 180% at Holy Island, 130% at Redcar, 317% at Hartlepool and 682% at Seahouses. The overall reduction was nearly 47%. Sunderland had the highest catch with Blyth second and Amble third. The grilse run never really got going and peaked at the end of July. The peak at Sunderland was very late: the penultimate week in August.

Examples of average weight were 4.86lbs in the 'T' nets at Boulmer with most drift nets being either side of 6lbs but exactly 6½lbs at Hartlepool.

## Sea Trout

Sea trout catches, since the record catches of 1989, continue to decline and there was a repetition of the situation in 1990 when, for the first time, the Southern area registered a higher catch than the Northern area.

For 1991, that margin was wider still and the Northern area registered its lowest catch since 1963 and the Southern area since 1987. Blyth alone of the ports recorded an increased catch of 21% and, in addition, a weight increase of 6lbs to 6½lbs. Percentage reductions of catches in the ports were less dramatic than for salmon and sea trout and ranged from 8% and 9% at Redcar and Newbiggin to 86% at Boulmer. Possibly, the ultimate nadir for the Northern area sea trout was the catch of only one of that species during the last six weeks of the season at Boulmer, albeit at a weight of 15lbs.

The catch pattern, as often with sea trout migration, was of a fairly amorphous nature but there were no significant runs in May. Sunderland and Seaham were a long way ahead of the other ports in catches and accounted for 49% of the total catch. Shields was the highest northern port in the Northern area ahead of Amble and Boulmer. The latter was the only port where catches peaked in June; this did not occur in the others until early July, an unusually late period for the main run of sea trout.

The previous Report made mention of high average weights and the absence of significant numbers of small fish. Blyth has already been mentioned above in this respect and it registered the highest average weight followed by neighbouring Newbiggin and Shields, both just over 6lb. These are, indeed, remarkable average weights for sea trout. Those for Sunderland and Seaham were 5¼lbs and 5.05lbs respectively.

6.3.1 **Statements of the numbers and weights of migratory fish declared caught by licensed netsmen during 1991 fishing season**

| Method | Salmon | | Grilse | | Sea Trout | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No | Weight (lb) | No | Weight (lb) | No | Weight (lb) |
| **Northern Area** | | | | | | |
| Drift Netting | 6336 | 71566 | 6212 | 37012 | 4414 | 26976 |
| 'T' Netting | 900 | 10655 | 1527 | 8198 | 6880 | 28219 |
| **Total (Northern Area)** | 7236 | 82221 | 7739 | 45210 | 11294 | 55195 |
| **Southern Area** | 2770 | 31057 | 4780 | 28753 | 13575 | 70873 |
| **Overall Total for 1991** | 10006 | 113279 | 12519 | 73963 | 24869 | 126069 |

6.3.2 **Highest, lowest and average catches for the last 27 years**

| | SALMON AND GRILSE | SEA TROUT |
|---|---|---|
| Highest Catch | 90,587 (1970) | 48,626 (1989) |
| Lowest Catch | 12,118 (1976) | 19,160 (1969) |
| Average over 27 years | 42,845 | 29,875 |

## 6.4 Rod Catches of Salmon & Migratory Trout

The annual summary of rod catches throughout the Region is given in Table 6.4.1.

Comparative historical data are shown in Figures 6.4.2 - 6.4.8.

Details of rod returns for each river are tabled in Figures 6.4.9 - 6.4.23.

ROD LICENCE RETURNS

ANNUAL SUMMARY

All Rivers

FOR YEAR 1991

| River | SALMON No | SALMON Weight | SALMON Ave.Wt. | GRILSE No | GRILSE Weight | GRILSE Ave.Wt. | TROUT No | TROUT Weight | TROUT Ave.Wt. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ALN | 15 | 150 | 10.02 | 4 | 17 | 4.44 | 96 | 462 | 4.81 |
| COQUET | 237 | 2044 | 9.74 | 187 | 1009 | 5.40 | 200 | 1005 | 5.29 |
| NORTH TYNE | 192 | 2297 | 12.03 | 31 | 175 | 5.66 | 160 | 567 | 3.57 |
| SOUTH TYNE | 206 | 2391 | 12.32 | 46 | 276 | 6.02 | 248 | 995 | 4.61 |
| MAIN TYNE | 186 | 2196 | 12.55 | 18 | 117 | 6.53 | 82 | 295 | 3.70 |
| REDE | 2 | 16 | 8.25 | 1 | 5 | 5.00 | 5 | 18 | 3.60 |
| RIVER TYNE SYSTEM | 586 | 6901 | 12.28 | 96 | 574 | 5.99 | 495 | 1876 | 4.08 |
| WEAR | 105 | 1162 | 11.18 | 33 | 168 | 5.11 | 420 | 1706 | 4.28 |
| TEES | 1 | 12 | 12.00 | 0 | 0 | **.** | 0 | 0 | **.** |
| TOTALS | 944 | 10270 | - | 320 | 1770 | - | 1211 | 5051 | - |

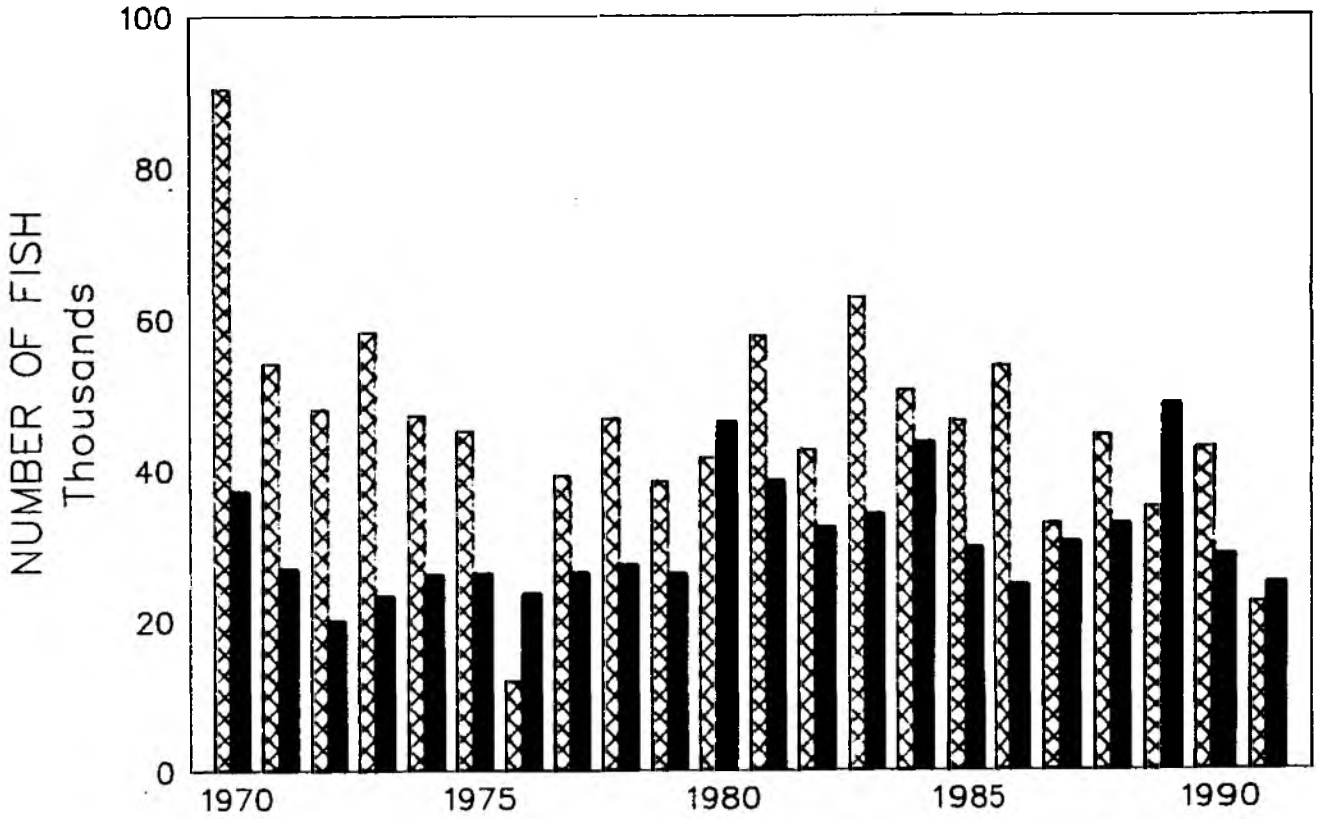
Notes (i) a small percentage of returns did not detail the weight of fish caught, These fish are included in the "number" column but have not been used to calculate average weight.

Notes (ii) "grilse" numbers have been estimated by examination of the weight.

6.4.1

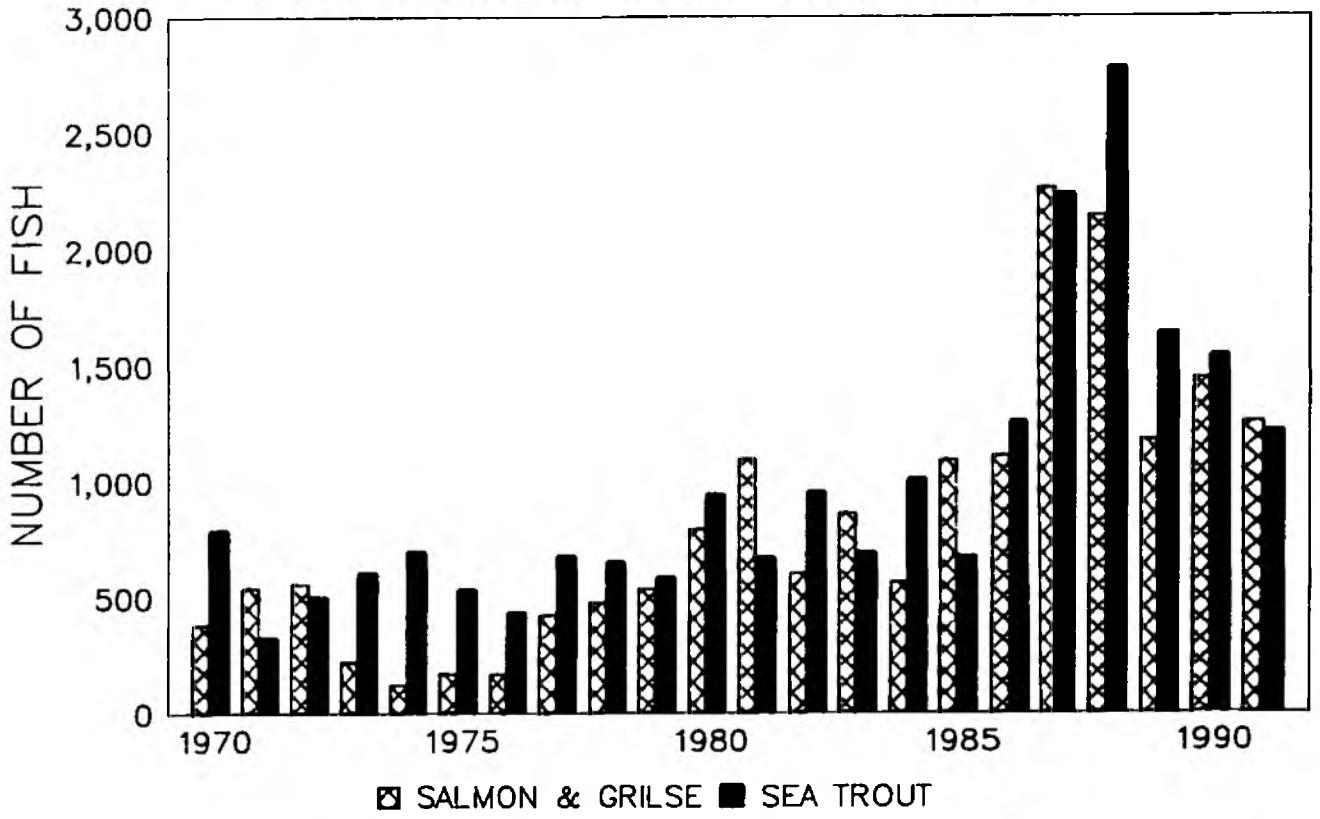
6.4.2

# REPORTED NET CATCH



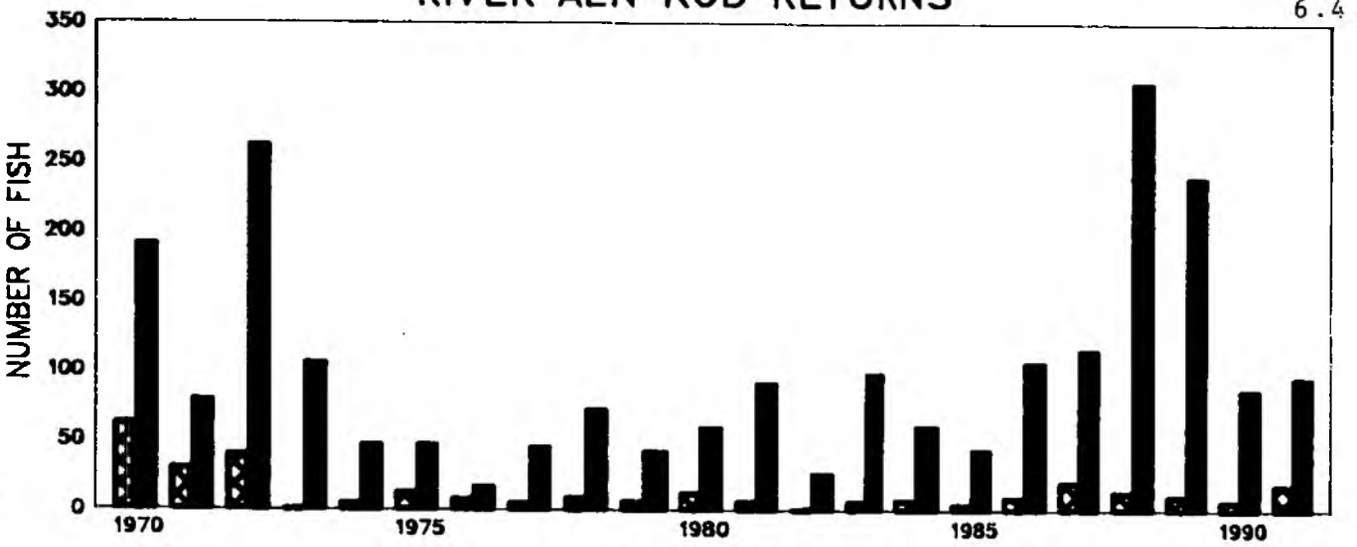

6.4.3

# ALL RIVER ROD RETURNS



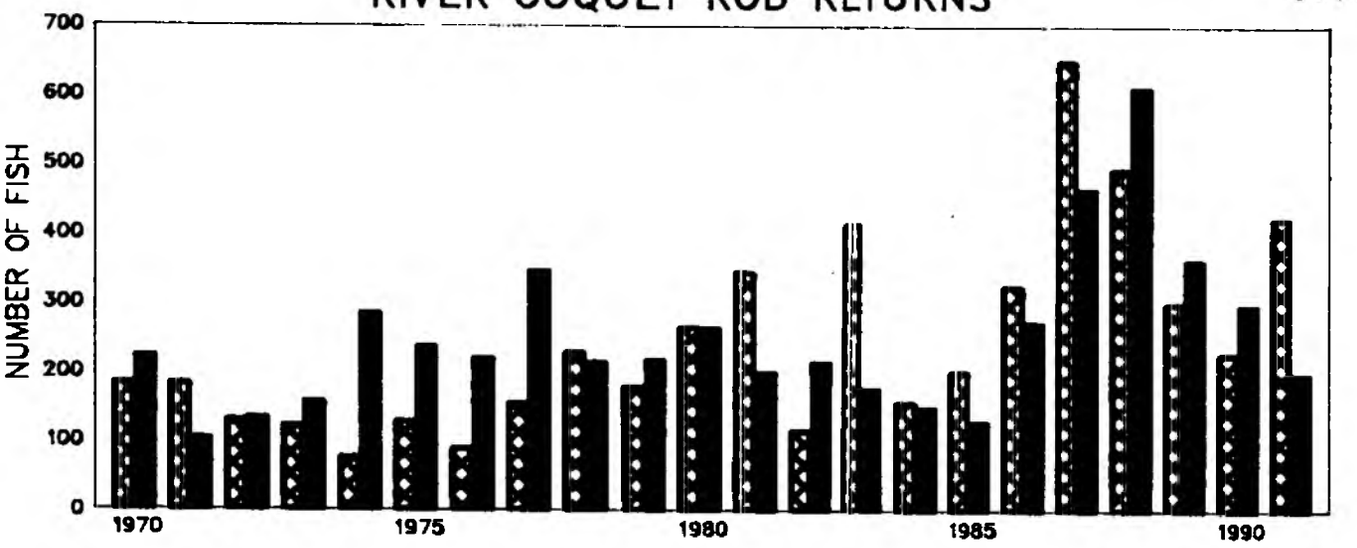
## RIVER ALN ROD RETURNS

6.4.4



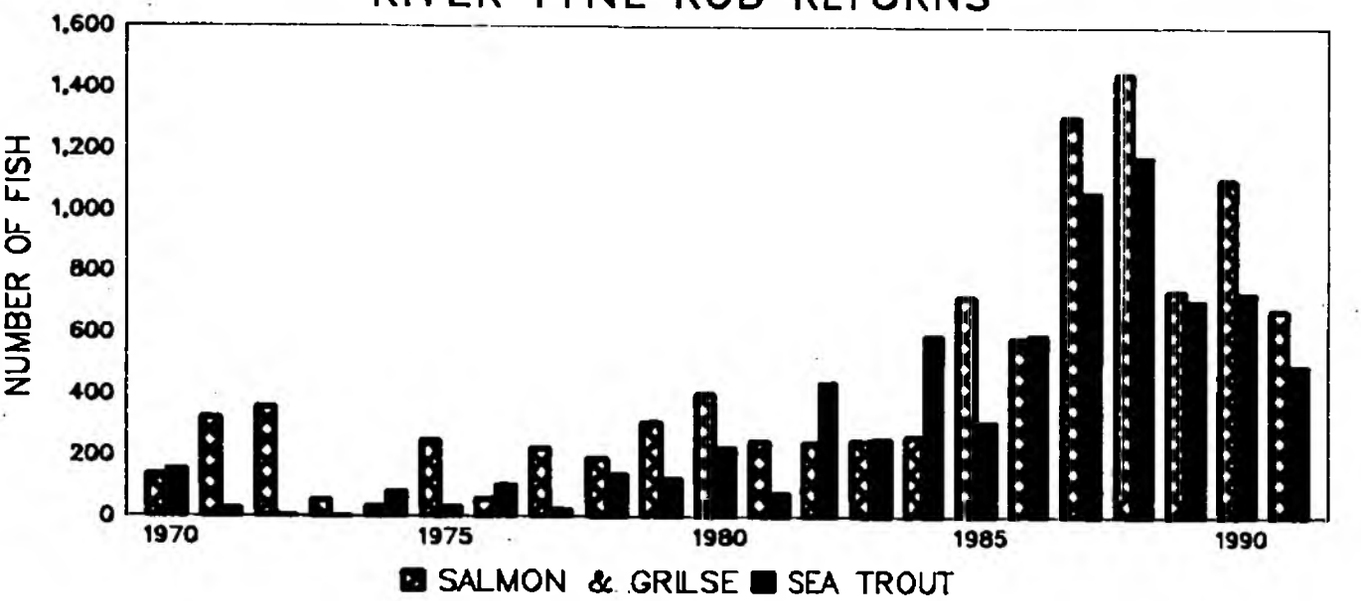

## RIVER COQUET ROD RETURNS

6.4.5



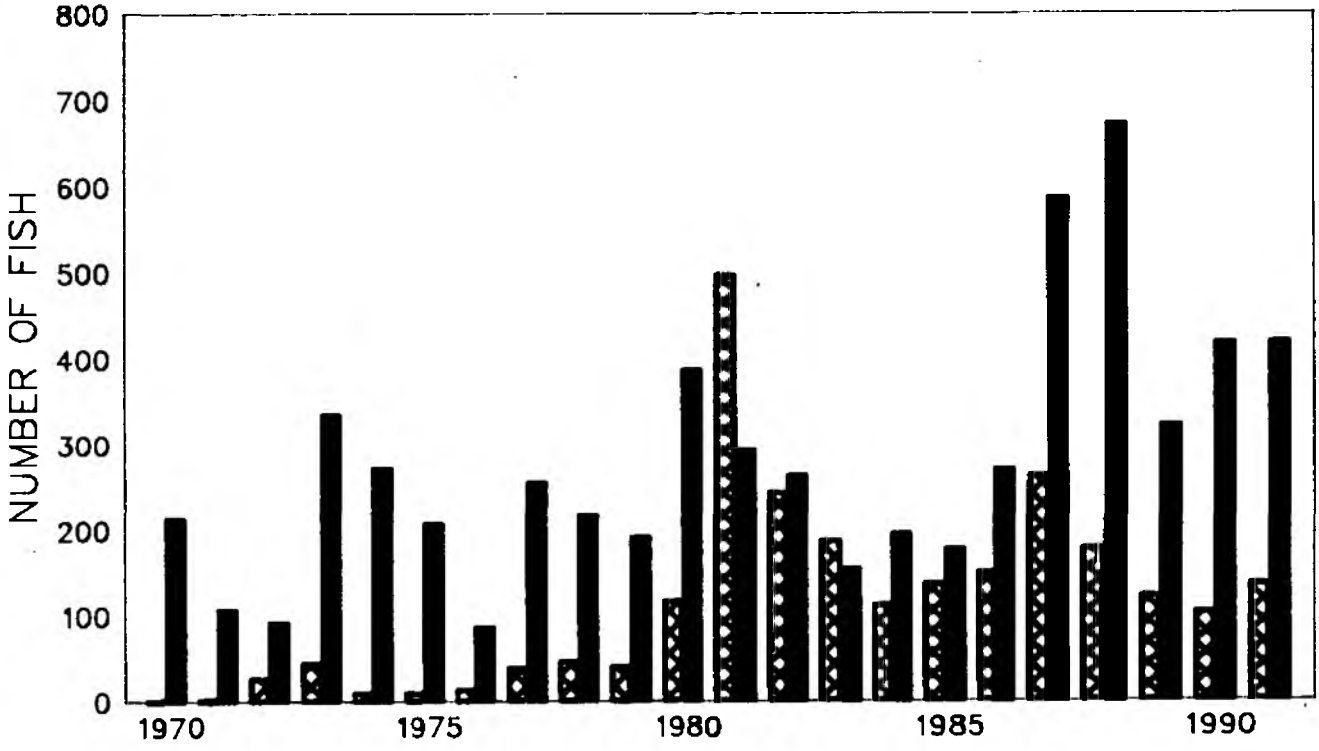

## RIVER TYNE ROD RETURNS

6.4.6



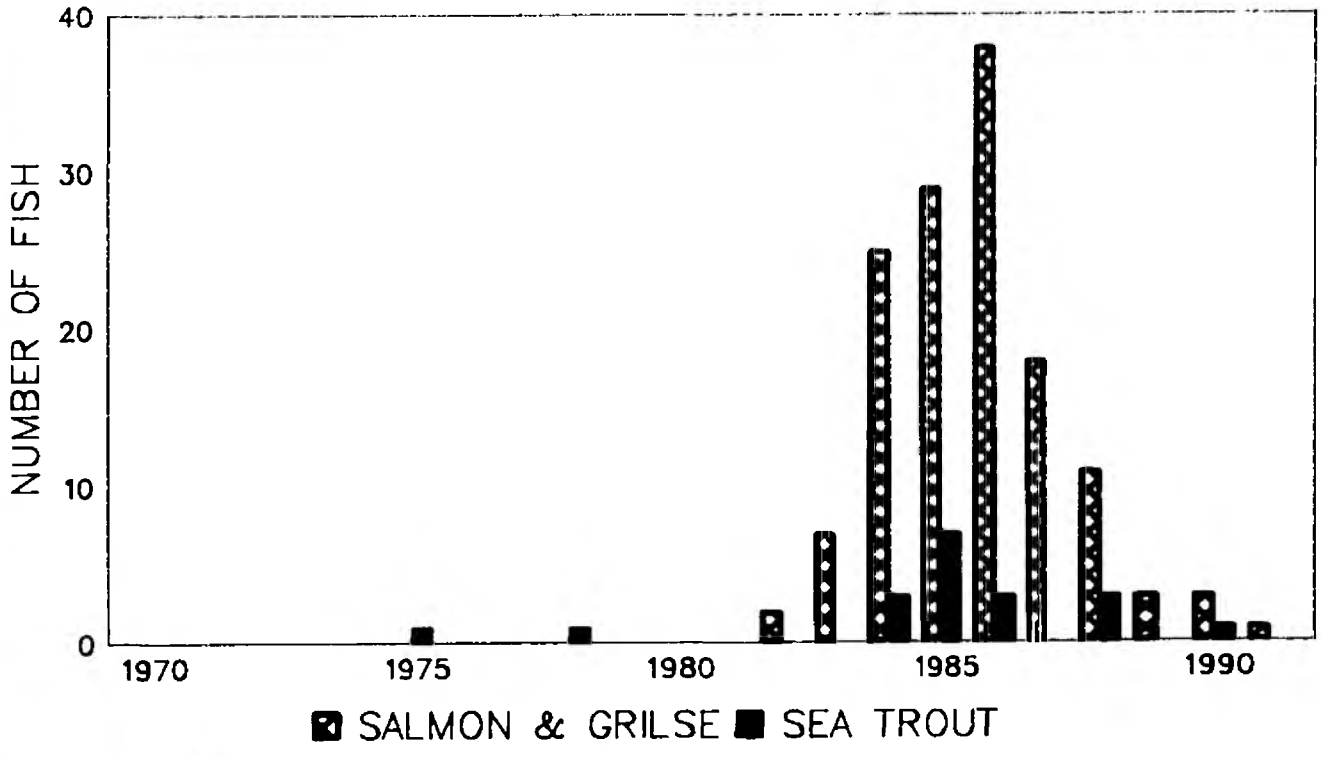
## RIVER WEAR ROD RETURNS

6.4.7




## RIVER TEES ROD RETURNS

6.4.8



**ROD RETURNS for River ALN** **Species SALMON** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.9 WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 4 | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| 5 | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | | 3 |
| 6 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 7 | | 2 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 8 | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 10 | 2 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 11 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 12 | | 2 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 13 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 14 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 15 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 17 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| TOTALS | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 19 |

**ROD RETURNS for River ALN** **Species TROUT** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.10 WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| 3 | | | | | | | 2 | 6 | 11 | 19 |
| 4 | | | | | | | 1 | 6 | 19 | 26 |
| 5 | | | 1 | | | | | 2 | 10 | 13 |
| 6 | | | | | | | | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| 7 | | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 |
| 9 | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 13 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 15 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 17 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 18 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 23 | 68 | 96 |

**ROD RETURNS for River COQUET** **Species SALMON** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.11

WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE — RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 3 | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 10 | 14 |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 7 | 7 | 22 | 40 |
| 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 13 | 4 | 22 | 45 |
| 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 7 | 11 | 48 |
| 7 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 16 | 63 |
| 8 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 19 | 59 |
| 9 | 3 | | 4 | 10 | 2 | | 2 | 8 | 10 | 39 |
| 10 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 43 |
| 11 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 4 | | | 10 |
| 12 | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | | 5 | 13 |
| 13 | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | 3 | 6 |
| 14 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 6 |
| 15 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 16 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 17 | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 18 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 19 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 21 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 22 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| TOTALS | 18 | 23 | 38 | 48 | 18 | 11 | 62 | 49 | 130 | 397 |

**ROD RETURNS for River COQUET** **Species TROUT** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.12

WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE — RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | 3 | 5 | | 1 | | 9 |
| 2 | | | | 2 | 12 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 32 |
| 3 | | | 2 | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 14 | 30 |
| 4 | | | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 17 | 27 |
| 5 | | | 3 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 19 |
| 6 | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 13 | 18 |
| 7 | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 13 | 17 |
| 8 | | | | | | | | 2 | 13 | 15 |
| 9 | | | | | | | | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | 4 | 4 |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 |
| 13 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 15 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 |
| 17 | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| 18 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 19 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 23 | 17 | 11 | 15 | 112 | 190 |

**ROD RETURNS for River MAIN TYNE** **Species SALMON** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.13 WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 5 | | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | | | 1 | 4 | | | 3 | 7 | 16 |
| 8 | | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 18 |
| 9 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | | | | 2 | 4 | 15 |
| 10 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 5 | 22 |
| 11 | | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | 2 | 15 |
| 12 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 5 | | 1 | | 2 | 18 |
| 13 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 17 |
| 14 | | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | | | 6 | 21 |
| 15 | | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 21 |
| 16 | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 18 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | | 1 | 6 |
| 19 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 2 |
| 20 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | 3 |
| 21 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 2 |
| 22 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| TOTALS | 9 | 34 | 29 | 25 | 20 | 13 | 7 | 13 | 43 | 193 |

**ROD RETURNS for River MAIN TYNE** **Species TROUT** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.14 WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| 2 | | | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 | | 1 | 14 |
| 3 | | | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 24 |
| 4 | | | 1 | | 3 | 2 | | 3 | 5 | 14 |
| 5 | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| 6 | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 3 | | 7 |
| 7 | | | | 1 | | | | 4 | | 5 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 12 | 16 | 7 | 18 | 12 | 80 |

**ROD RETURNS for River SOUTH TYNE** **Species SALMON** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.15 WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 3 | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| 4 | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| 5 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 6 | | | | | 1 | | | 6 | 11 | 18 |
| 7 | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 22 |
| 8 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 3 | 24 | 29 |
| 9 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 20 |
| 10 | | | | | 3 | 1 | 2 | | 13 | 19 |
| 11 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 4 | 8 | 14 |
| 12 | 1 | | | | | | | 6 | 14 | 21 |
| 13 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 10 | 13 |
| 14 | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | 16 | 19 |
| 15 | | | | | | | | 4 | 13 | 17 |
| 16 | | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 11 | 16 |
| 17 | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| 18 | | | | | | | | | 5 | 5 |
| 19 | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 21 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 22 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 23 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| TOTALS | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 44 | 165 | 240 |

**ROD RETURNS for River SOUTH TYNE** **Species TROUT** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.16 WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 14 |
| 3 | | | 1 | | 1 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 35 | 56 |
| 4 | | | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 48 | 61 |
| 5 | | | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 5 | 26 | 35 |
| 6 | | | | | | 1 | | 6 | 12 | 19 |
| 7 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 14 |
| 8 | | | | | | | | 1 | 10 | 11 |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 6 | 38 | 153 | 216 |

**ROD RETURNS for River NORTH TYNE** **Species SALMON** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.17

WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE — RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 4 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 5 | | | | | 1 | | | 3 | 3 | 7 |
| 6 | 1 | | | | | | 3 | 5 | 6 | 15 |
| 7 | | | | | 2 | | | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| 8 | | | 3 | | 3 | | | 3 | 13 | 22 |
| 9 | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | | 3 | 10 | 17 |
| 10 | | | 1 | | 6 | | | 8 | 17 | 3 |
| 11 | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 3 | 10 | 1 |
| 12 | | 1 | | | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 28 |
| 13 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 7 | 14 |
| 14 | | | | | | | | 2 | 14 | 1 |
| 15 | | | | | | | | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| 16 | | | | | | | | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 17 | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 4 | |
| 18 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 4 | |
| 19 | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 3 |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 21 | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 22 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 24 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 26 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| TOTALS | 1 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 25 | 5 | 7 | 45 | 126 | 22 |

**ROD RETURNS for River NORTH TYNE** **Species TROUT** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.18

WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE — RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | 6 | | 3 | 3 | | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 2 | | | | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 9 | 13 | 27 |
| 3 | | | | | | 4 | 3 | 13 | 35 | 55 |
| 4 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 4 | 22 | 3 |
| 5 | | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 12 | 1 |
| 6 | | | | | | | | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | |
| 8 | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 7 | 33 | 96 | 15 |

**ROD RETURNS for River REDE** **Species SALMON** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.19 WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 6 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |

**ROD RETURNS for River REDE** **Species TROUT** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.20 WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 3 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 |

**ROD RETURNS for River WEAR** **Species SALMON** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.21 WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 10 |
| 5 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| 6 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 11 | 13 |
| 7 | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | 10 | 14 |
| 8 | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 24 |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | 4 | 4 |
| 10 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 11 | | | | | | | | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 12 | | | | | | | | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| 13 | | | | | | | | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| 14 | | | | | 1 | | | | 7 | 8 |
| 15 | | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | 5 | 5 |
| 17 | | | | | | | | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| 18 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 19 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 17 | 105 | 137 |

**ROD RETURNS for River WEAR** **Species TROUT** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.22 WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 12 |
| 2 | | | 3 | | 2 | 11 | 15 | 21 | 31 | 83 |
| 3 | | | | 4 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 22 | 41 | 96 |
| 4 | | | 1 | | 2 | 7 | 13 | 20 | 33 | 76 |
| 5 | | | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 28 | 51 |
| 6 | | | | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 24 |
| 7 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 5 | 14 | 25 |
| 8 | | | | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 7 | 14 |
| 9 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 10 | | | | | | 3 | | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 11 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| 12 | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 |
| 13 | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 14 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 6 | 8 | 21 | 43 | 56 | 89 | 176 | 399 |

**ROD RETURNS for River TEES** **Species SALMON** **FOR YEAR 1991**

6.4.23 WEIGHT FREQUENCY TABLE RUN DATE

| Weight | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| TOTALS | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

## SECTION 7

## 4 ILLEGAL FISHING

Summary results of prosecutions taken during the year are given in the following tables. The various sections and abbreviations referred to are:-

**Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975**

| | |
|---|---|
| S.1 | Use of prohibited instrument |
| S.2 | Unclean Fish/Illegal Bait |
| S.6 | Fixed Engine |
| S.19 | Close Seasons |
| S.27 | Unlicensed fishing |
| S.35 | Failure to produce a licence |

**Salmon Act 1986**

| | |
|---|---|
| S.32 | Handling under suspicious circumstances |

| | |
|---|---|
| *AD* | Absolute Discharge |
| *CD* | Conditional Discharge |

## RIVER COQUET

| | Prosecutions | Convictions | Fines (£) | Costs (£) | Items Forfeit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S.1 (1) (a) | 1 | 1 | 70 | 50 | Rod, Fish |
| S.27 (a) | 4 | 4 | 290 | 90 | Fish |

## RIVER WANSBECK

| | Prosecutions | Convictions | Fines (£) | Costs (£) | Items Forfeit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S.27 (a) | 6 | 6 | 310 | 140 | Rods (3), Fish |
| S.27 (a) | 1 | 1 | 50 | - | - |

## RIVER TYNE

| | Prosecutions | Convictions | Fines (£) | Costs (£) | Items Forfeit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S.6 (1) | 1 | 0 | - | - | - |
| S.27 (a) | 5 | 4 | 60<br>inc 1 CD | 70 | - |
| Byelaws | 3 | 2 | -<br>1 AD | | |

## RIVER WEAR

| | Prosecutions | Convictions | Fines (£) | Costs (£) | Items Forfeit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S.2 (2) (a) | 3 | 3 | 75 | - | - |
| S.2 (2) (b) | 3 | 3 | 175 | 30 | - |
| S.6 (1) | 23 | 23 | 1730 inc. 2 CD & 3 AD | 340 | Net (3), rope waders |
| S.1 (1) | 1 | 1 | 150 | 30 | - |
| S.27 (2) | 42 | 39 | 2490* inc. 2 CD & 3 AD | 802 | Nets (14) fish filleting knife, rope |
| S.27 (b) | 1 | 1 | 100 | 40 | - |
| S.35 (3) | 11 | 11 | 380 | 60 | - |
| Byelaws | 18 | 18 | 310 inc 10 AD & 3 CD | 40 | - |
| Theft Act S.32 | 3 | 3 | 50 | - | - |
| 19 (4) (a) | 1 | | 76 | - | - |
| Police Act - Obstruction | 1 | 1 | 200 | 150 | |

* including suspended prison sentence

## RIVER TEES

| | Prosecutions | Convictions | Fines (£) | Costs (£) | Items Forfeit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S.19 (b) | 2 | 2 | 40 | 20 | - |
| S.27 (a) | 17 | 16 | 395 | 210 | - |
| Byelaws | 1 | 1 | 25 | - | - |
| Theft Act S.32 | 7 | 6 | 205 | 20 | - |

## RESERVOIRS AND LAKES

| | Prosecutions | Convictions | Fines (£) | Costs (£) | Items Forfeit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S.27 (a) | 62 inc 1 formal caution | 60 | 2055 inc 1 CD & 5 AD | 1110 | Fish |
| S.27 (b) | 5 | 3 | 470 | 180 | Rods (2) Fish |
| Theft Act S.32 | 4 | 4 | 275 | - | - |
| 19 (4) | 4 | 4 | 10 inc 3AD | 10 | - |
| 35 (3) 7 | 7 | 220 | 60 inc 1 AD | - | |

## COASTAL

| | Prosecutions | Convictions | Fines (£) | Costs (£) | Items Forfeit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S.6 (1) | 17 | 17 | 750 Inc 2 CD & 2 AD | 390 | Nets (18), Waders, Vehicle |
| S.27 (a) | 12 | 12 | 1025 | 460 | Nets (14), Boat, fish, oilskins, waders. |
| Byelaws | 10 | 80 | 750 | 280 | Fish |
| Police Act - Obstruction | 2 | 2 | 100 | - | - |

## HANDLING

| | Prosecutions | Convictions | Fines (£) | Costs (£) | Items Forfeit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Salmon Act 1986 S.32 (1) | 3 | 3 | 400 | 160 | Nets (2), Fish, Bags (2) |

[illegible]

**SECTION 8**

# 8 REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

## 8.1 REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

With the expansion of the Fisheries, Conservation and Recreation Department and the extra work undertaken, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee had much to consider at its four meetings during the year. As indicated in the introduction in Section 1, some items of major importance were under consideration. The Committee appointed a Working Group specifically to consider a one year Net Limitation Order which would obviate a free for all in the issue of licences before the publication of the East Coast Review. Section 26 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 specifies a maximum period of 10 years and the then existing Order was due to expire in February 1992.

Lord Crickhowell, the Chairman of the National Rivers Authority, was in attendance at the May meeting.

Below are listed the principal items considered by the Committee during 1991:

Corporate Plan.
Salmon Net Fisheries: East Coast Review.
Fisheries Improvement Associations.
Predators.
Salmon Catches in the North Atlantic.
North Tyne Study.
Discharge from Fujitsu Micro-electronic Plant.
Scientific Monitoring - River Tees.
National Rod Licence.
Decline of brown trout populations.
Salmon Act 1986: Section 36.
Fishing Licence Duties.
Proposed Environmental Agency.
Net Limitation Order 1992.
Fisheries Function Strategy.
River Wansbeck: migratory fish.
Introduction of rainbow trout in flowing waters.
River Tees Barrage.
Institute of Fisheries Ecology: River Tees Study.
Kielder Hatchery: Experimental rearing of salmon parr for the Test and Itchen.
Haltwhistle - installation of boulder weir.
Pollution from storm sewage overflows.
Flows on the River North Tyne.
Enforcement.
Introduction of salmon into stillwaters.

The membership of the Committee for 1991 was as follows:

* P L Tennant - (Chairman)
E A Wrangham
J Browne-Swinburne
* Dr Trevor Crisp
J Evans-Freke
J Fry
Dr S Haile
R D Hall
* D Heselton
K Hewitson
* R Kirton-Darling
E W Pratt
E J Thomas
C T Warwick

* Members of the Net Limitation Order Working Group

## 8.2 TEES VALLEY RIVERS AND FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

The Tees Valley Rivers and Fisheries Association was the first of its kind to be established in Northumbria. A new Secretary, Mr Frank Flynn, was appointed at the annual meeting held on 14 January 1991. Although this was part of the process by which the Association consolidated its affairs it did not deflect its officers and members from vigorously pursuing the fisheries interests of its rivers and tributaries. This was especially so in asking the NRA about its policy for the River Skerne and holding a series of meetings with the Japanese firm Fujitsu Electronics who planned to open factory premises at Newton Aycliffe. This led to the Association objecting to the development on grounds of water quality but, in the event, the Secretary of State for the Environment refused to "call-in" the application. The next major item of concern was the proposed Tees Barrage and the meeting received detailed reports on the award of the fisheries contract to the Institute of Freshwater Ecology, the scientific monitoring and coarse fish populations.

## 8.3 RIVER WEAR FISHERY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

On 22 January 1991 about 80 persons gathered in Durham Town Hall for a series of presentations given by the Steering Committee and it was agreed at that meeting that the River Wear Fishery Improvement Association be established. This led to the first annual meeting on 14 May with a very encouraging turnout. A Management Committee was elected which wasted no time in arranging its first meeting on 24 June and electing Len Law as Chairman and John Winter as Secretary.

## 8.4 TYNE FISHERY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

With the NRA working from south to north in establishing river improvement associations the Tyne logically followed the Wear but with a slightly long interval in commencing the process. However on 8 October 1991 almost 200 persons gathered at the Queen Elizabeth High School in Hexham with the intention of setting up a Steering Committee as a prelude to the establishment of the fisheries improvement association. The meeting was most successful and a Steering Committee was indeed formed which met within the following four weeks. Mr J W Clayton was Chairman.

**SECTION 9**

## FISHING LICENCE SALES FOR 1991 SEASON

| TYPE OF LICENCE | NUMBER SOLD 1991 | PRICE EACH £ | AMOUNT £ | NUMBER "SOLD" 1990 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EEL NET LICENCES | 70 | 5.50 | 385.00 | 77 |
| GENERAL LICENCES | 1 | 1000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1 |
| SALMON NET | | | | |
| NORTHERN AREA | 75 | 735.00 | 55,125.00 | 75 |
| SOUTHERN AREA | 46 | 660.00 | 30,360.00 | 46 |
| ENDORSEES | 253 | 0.20 | 50.60 | 304 |
| **TOTAL SALMON NET** | 121 | | 85,535.60 | |
| ROD LICENCES | | | | |
| SALMON ANNUAL | 1745 | 55.00 | 95,975.00 | 1,794 |
| SALMON CONCESSIONARY | 571 | 27.50 | 15,702.50 | 599 |
| SALMON 14 DAY | 456 | 17.50 | 7,980.00 | 598 |
| SALMON 1 DAY | 343 | 8.00 | 2,744.00 | 364 |
| TROUT ANNUAL | 7908 | 14.00 | 110,712.00 | 7,309 |
| TROUT CONCESSIONARY | 4739 | 7.00 | 33,173.00 | 4043 |
| TROUT 14 DAY | 996 | 5.50 | 5,478.00 | 996 |
| TROUT 1 DAY | 2140 | 1.00 | 2,140.00 | 22,172 |
| FRESHWATER ANNUAL | 4739 | 5.50 | 26,064.50 | 3466 |
| FRESHWATER CONCESSIONARY | 3918 | 2.75 | 10,774.50 | 2559 |
| **TOTAL ROD LICENCES** | 26,729 | | 311,743.50 | 43,901 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | | | 397,664.10 | |

NRA

*National Rivers Authority*
*Northumbria &*
*Yorkshire Region*