

EA - SOUTH WEST BOX 18



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

SOUTH WEST REGION

FISHERIES TECHNICAL REPORT

RIVER TEIGN
NET LIMITATION ORDER REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2002
FRCN/02/04

K.J.BROAD

I.HOPE
REGIONAL WATER MANAGER

River Teign Net Limitation Order Review 2002

Contents List

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Net catches**
- 3.0 Rod catches**
- 4.0 Compliance with salmon spawning targets**
- 5.0 Juvenile distribution and abundance**
- 6.0 Fishery status**
- 7.0 Management options**
- 8.0 Consultation**
- 9.0 Agency proposals**
- 10.0 References**



1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The net fishery for salmon and sea trout on the River Teign is regulated by a Net Limitation Order (NLO) and byelaws. The current NLO limits the number of nets to a maximum of nine. It expires on 25 February 2003.
- 1.2 When the current NLO was confirmed by the Minister in February 2000, he asked the Agency to consider the need for additional measures to reduce exploitation of the River Teign salmon stock. We have now updated our stock assessment, and taken account of the effect of new national byelaws, reductions in fishing effort and catch and release.
- 1.3 The main improvement in our stock assessment has been the estimation of annual rod exploitation rates for spawning target compliance assessment. This has resulted in a significant change in the performance of the River Teign salmon stock over the last ten years.
- 1.4 Proposals are made for the future management of the Teign salmon fishery.

2.0 Net catches

- 2.1 The number of nets operating in the estuary remained at nine or ten over the period 1954 to 1994. From 1995 to date the take-up of licences has been at a reduced level of between four and six. Since the NLO was renewed in 2000 at the reduced level of nine, the take up has been four in 2000, five in 2001 and six in 2002.
- 2.2 A national byelaw which prohibited netting for salmon before 1 June was introduced in 1999. An exemption for the River Teign allowed netsmen to continue to fish for sea trout prior to 1 June, but any salmon caught have to be returned.
- 2.3 Information on netting effort has been collected since 1997. Total annual netting effort reduced from an average of over 300 days in 1997 and 1998 to less than 150 days from 1999 to 2001.

Year	Days pre June 1st	Days post June 1st	Total days fished
1997	140	310	450
1998	64	175	239
1999	33	93	126
2000	12	109	121
2001	27	112	139

- 2.4 Annual salmon catches for the period 1953 to 2001 are presented in Figure 1, split into numbers caught before and after 1 June. Fish caught before 1 June represent the multi-sea winter (MSW) 'spring salmon' component of the stock, whereas fish caught later in the season are a mixture of MSW salmon and 'grilse' (one sea winter fish).
- 2.5 The total season catch averaged over 1000 salmon for the period 1953 to 1994, and exceeded 2000 fish in 1975 and 1987. Catches fell below 500 fish for the first time in

1995 and have declined further, to an average of less than 100 fish over the last three years (1999 to 2001).

- 2.6 Catches of spring salmon have shown a long term decline from over 500 fish in the 1950s to less than 50 fish in recent years. Catches in 1997 and 1998 were the lowest on record at 17 and 4 salmon respectively. It should be noted that reported catches of spring fish from 1999 onwards have been severely restricted by the national byelaw, which requires the release of any salmon caught before 1 June.
- 2.7 Catches now consist almost exclusively of fish caught after 1 June, and catches of this stock component have also reduced markedly since 1994.
- 2.8 The estimated net exploitation rate for salmon has reduced from around 40% in the early 1990s to 5% in the last three years (Peress, 2002).
- 2.9 Annual sea trout catches for the period 1953 to 2001 are presented in Figure 2. Over this period total season catches have been highly variable, with periods of good catches in the 1960s and the 1980s, and poor catches in the 1970s and 1990s. Catches in the last four years (1998 to 2001) have been the lowest on record.

3.0 Rod catches

- 3.1 Annual salmon catches for the period 1966 to 2001 are presented in Figure 3, split into numbers caught before and after 1 June. Fish caught before 1 June represent the multi-sea winter (MSW) 'spring salmon' component of the stock, whereas fish caught later in the season are a mixture of MSW salmon and 'grilse' (one sea winter fish).
- 3.2 Over the period, total season catches have been highly variable, with a period of low catches in the 1970s, and better catches in the 1980s and 1990s (peaking at over 350 fish in 1994).
- 3.3 Catches of salmon before 1 June have declined from about 150 fish in the late 1960s to an average of less than 50 fish in the 1990s. Since the introduction in 1999 of national byelaws which require the release of all rod caught salmon prior to 16 June, catches have remained at very low levels.
- 3.4 Catches of salmon after 1 June have increased from an average of less than fifty fish in the 1960s and 1970s to an average of more than 100 fish from the mid-1980s to date.
- 3.5 Rod fishing effort has been recorded on statutory catch returns since 1993. Estimated annual fishing effort for salmon and sea trout combined is presented in Peress (2002), together with the corrected salmon catch and catch per unit effort (CPUE) for salmon. It may be seen that fishing effort has reduced over the period from over 6000 days per year to less than 2000 days per year. The reduction in effort from 1999 onwards is probably related to the introduction of the national salmon byelaws. CPUE for salmon has varied considerably over the period, within the range 0.034 to 0.101 salmon per day, but has remained relatively constant from 1997 to date, at an average of less than 0.05 salmon per day.

- 3.6 The proportion of salmon voluntarily released after capture by the rods has been increasing steadily since 1996. In each of the last three years (1999 to 2001), over 30% of the reported catch of salmon was returned to the river. Although this includes the spring salmon, which must be released, the majority of fish were released voluntarily. Significant numbers of sea trout are also released by the rods. In 2000, 218 sea trout were returned from a catch of 591 (37%).
- 3.7 The estimated rod exploitation rate (in terms of the number of salmon killed) has reduced from nearly 30% to 5% over the period 1993 to 2000 (Peress, 2002). It should be noted that the estimated exploitation rate of 3.8% in 2001 is probably artificially low due to the effects of the Foot and Mouth restrictions.
- 3.8 Annual sea trout catches for the period 1966 to 2000 are presented in Figure 4. Over this period total season catches have been highly variable. Periods of good catches were recorded in the 1960s and the 1980s, peaking at over 2000 fish. Catches in the 1990s have been similar to those of the 1970s, averaging between 500 and 1000 fish.

4.0 Compliance with salmon spawning targets

- 4.1 Salmon spawning targets have been set for each salmon river in England and Wales according to guidelines developed by the Environment Agency (Environment Agency, 1998). For the River Teign, the target is 352 eggs/100m² of accessible stream area, which equates to 3.5 million eggs (Peress, 2000).
- 4.2 Compliance with spawning targets was assessed for the period 1964 to 1998 according to the above guidelines (Peress, 1999a). Subsequently, marine survival and rod exploitation rates have been reassessed, and the current assessment of target compliance is presented in Peress (2002). It may be seen that the Teign salmon stock has failed to meet the spawning target since 1996.

5.0 Juvenile distribution and abundance

- 5.1 Analysis of juvenile survey data Peress (1999b) indicated that average densities of both salmon fry (0+) and salmon parr (>0+) did not differ significantly between years from surveys in 1987, 1993 and 1996.
- 5.2 The most recent survey (in 1999) indicates that overall juvenile populations remain similar to the levels recorded in 1987, 1993 and 1996 (Appendix 1).
- 5.3 Semi-quantitative survey data for main river sites indicate that significant salmon spawning and production takes place in the main stem. Salmon fry populations were better in 1996 and 1999 than in 1993, but salmon parr populations appear to have remained relatively stable over the period. The survey data are presented in Appendix 2.

6.0 Fishery status

- 6.1 It is apparent from the information presented above that the salmon stock of the River Teign is giving cause for concern. There has been a long-term decline in the spring-running component (Broad, 1995), which has continued to date, with both rod and net catches at all time low levels.
- 6.2 The current minimal contribution by spring fish to total egg deposition accounts largely for the failure to meet the spawning target. Increased numbers of later running fish since the mid-1980s have to some extent compensated for the lack of spring fish in terms of overall egg deposition. While this later running component has declined since the mid-1990s in the net catches (and is probably associated with the reduction in effort), it has been sustained in the rod catches.
- 6.3 In recent years estimated egg deposition has remained below target level, despite significant reductions in rod and net exploitation rates. This appears to have been due primarily to a marked reduction in marine survival.
- 6.4 Catch per unit effort (CPUE) data for the rod fishery suggest that the stock available to the rods has remained relatively stable since 1996. This is consistent with the egg deposition estimates.
- 6.5 The sea trout stock appears to be in a better state than the salmon stock. There has been a decline in net catches since the late eighties, but this would be consistent with the reduction in effort. Rod catches have remained relatively stable through the 1990s (as for later running salmon).

7.0 Management options

- 7.1 The recent introduction of a package of national byelaws to protect spring salmon stocks has reduced the number of fish which are taken by the rods and nets on the River Teign.
- 7.2 There has also been a systematic reduction in net catches and netting effort in recent years, and the estimated exploitation rate has decreased from around 40% in the early 1990s to 5% in the last three years (1999 to 2001). This may be explained by the gradual decline in the number of net licences taken out, together with a reduction in the number of days fished per net. The CPUE for the nets over the period 1997 to 2001 has averaged 0.79 salmon per day and 1.18 sea trout per day. At these levels the fishery is unlikely to be economically viable, which may explain why effort has reduced.
- 7.3 Estimated rod exploitation rates (in terms of the number of fish killed) have fallen from just under 30% in 1993 to 5% in 2000. This trend has been due largely to the introduction of voluntary restrictions, club rules and the increasing practice of catch and release.
- 7.4 Despite such significant reductions in both net and rod exploitation rates, the River Teign salmon stock continues to fail to meet the spawning target. The main reason for this would appear to be a reduction in marine survival over the last ten years to a

current level estimated at approximately 7%. At this level the numbers of adults returning to the river are not sufficient to meet the spawning target, even in the absence of exploitation.

- 7.5 Current levels of exploitation by both nets and rods are estimated to be at all time low levels and catches are now so low that any increase in the spawning escapement that can be achieved through further exploitation controls is marginal. Nevertheless, the current stock assessment indicates that the situation is so serious that further reductions in catches will be necessary to allow the stock to recover towards target level.
- 7.6 The number of salmon killed by the rod fishery has fallen to a very low level (70 fish in the 2000 season) and we are confident that voluntary restraint will be maintained at or in excess of the current level. The main angling associations have agreed to continue to review and tighten their club rules where appropriate to limit the numbers of salmon caught and killed. Currently there are recommended daily and season bag limits, a size limit to protect MSW fish, and a barbless hook recommendation for catch and release. Peer pressure is thought to be an important factor influencing the effectiveness of the voluntary measures. Both the Lower Teign Fishing Association and the Upper Teign Fishing Association have agreed to make these mandatory club rules in 2003. Copies of letters from both associations are attached in Appendix 3.
- 7.7 Net catches have averaged less than 100 salmon over the last three years, due largely to declining runs of fish, and the consequent reduction in fishing effort in response to the reducing viability of the fishery. While this indicates that the fishery is largely self regulating, measures are required to reduce the salmon catches even further. It is likely that further byelaws will be necessary to achieve this, and we consider that the most expedient approach is to review the local position on the Teign concurrently with the formal 'mid-term' review of the national salmon byelaws, due to take place in 2003. An appropriate package of national and local measures would then apply to the Teign, probably from 2004 onwards.
- 7.8 The review of the national byelaws will clearly also include the rod fishery, and if at this stage it is felt that further mandatory measures are necessary, they will be included as part of the package.
- 7.9 In the meantime it is important that a new NLO should be introduced in order to cap the number of nets at the current level of take up, and thus help to prevent exploitation increasing again before the salmon stock has recovered. Six licences were issued in 2002, and it is proposed that a new NLO should be introduced at this level.
- 7.10 It is currently our long term intention to further reduce the number of the NLO on the Teign, as this would result in a more sustainable fishery at current stock levels. To facilitate this we would propose that the new NLO should be for a maximum duration of three years. This would allow time for the public consultation which will be necessary in connection with the proposal for a reducing NLO.
- 7.11 A programme of habitat improvements is in progress on the River Teign system. This includes gravel rehabilitation schemes, bankside habitat restoration and fish pass

construction. The programme is aimed at increasing the productivity of the Teign system and hence the numbers of adult salmon returning to spawn.

8.0 Consultation

- 8.1 Consultation with rod and net fisheries interests has been ongoing throughout the development of these proposals.
- 8.2 The advice of the Agency's Regional Fisheries Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee (RFERAC) has been taken throughout the consultation process.

9.0 Agency proposals

- 9.1 The proposed management approach is to maintain rod and net exploitation rates at or below current levels in the short term, and to further reduce exploitation rates in the medium and long term.
- 9.2 It is proposed that the River Teign NLO should be renewed at the reduced level of six nets, to run for a period of three years from 2003.
- 9.3 Continued voluntary restraint by the rods will be encouraged through the tightening of angling association regulations.
- 9.4 The need for local byelaws to further reduce exploitation will be assessed in association with the mid-term review of the national salmon byelaws in 2003. An appropriate package of net and rod fishing byelaws would then be proposed for 2004 onwards.
- 9.5 Proposals for a reducing NLO will be made in 2003, as a long term measure to reduce the number of nets to a sustainable level.

10.0 References

Broad, K.J., 1995. The status of spring salmon stocks in Devon and Cornwall. NRA Report FRCN/95/01.

Environment Agency, 1998. Salmon Action Plan Guidelines, Version 2. Environment Agency.

Peress, J., 1999a. River Teign salmon spawning target and compliance assessment. Environment Agency Report FRCN/99/02

Peress, J., 1999b. Stock assessment review on the River Teign. Environment Agency Report FRCN/99/06

Peress, J., 2000. River Teign conservation measures to protect salmon stock. Environment Agency Report FRCN/2000/02

Peress, J., 2002. Amendments to: River Teign conservation measures to protect salmon stock. Environment Agency Report FRCN/2002/01

Figure 1. Salmon catches - River Teign Nets

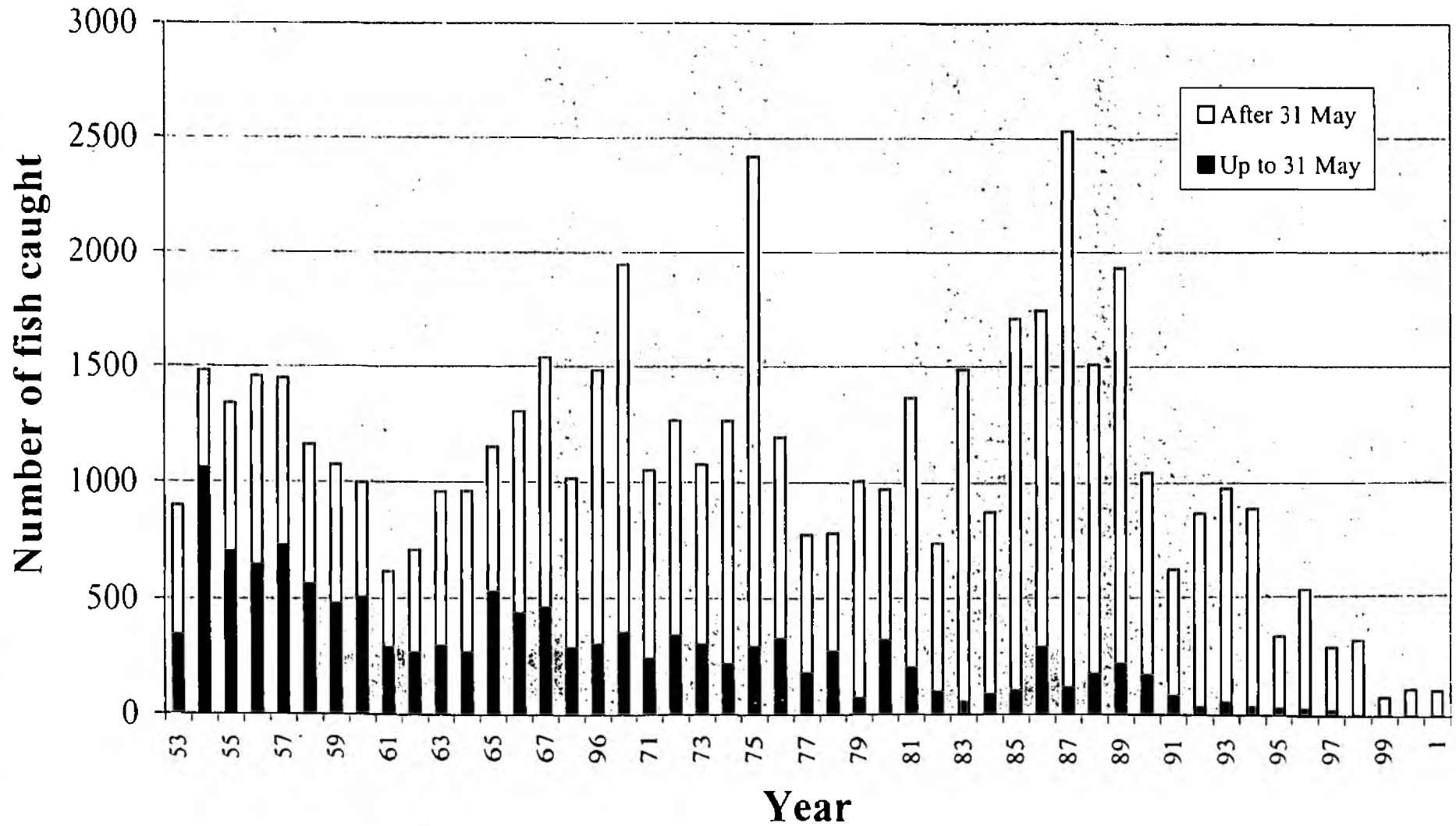


Figure 2. Sea Trout catches - River Teign Nets

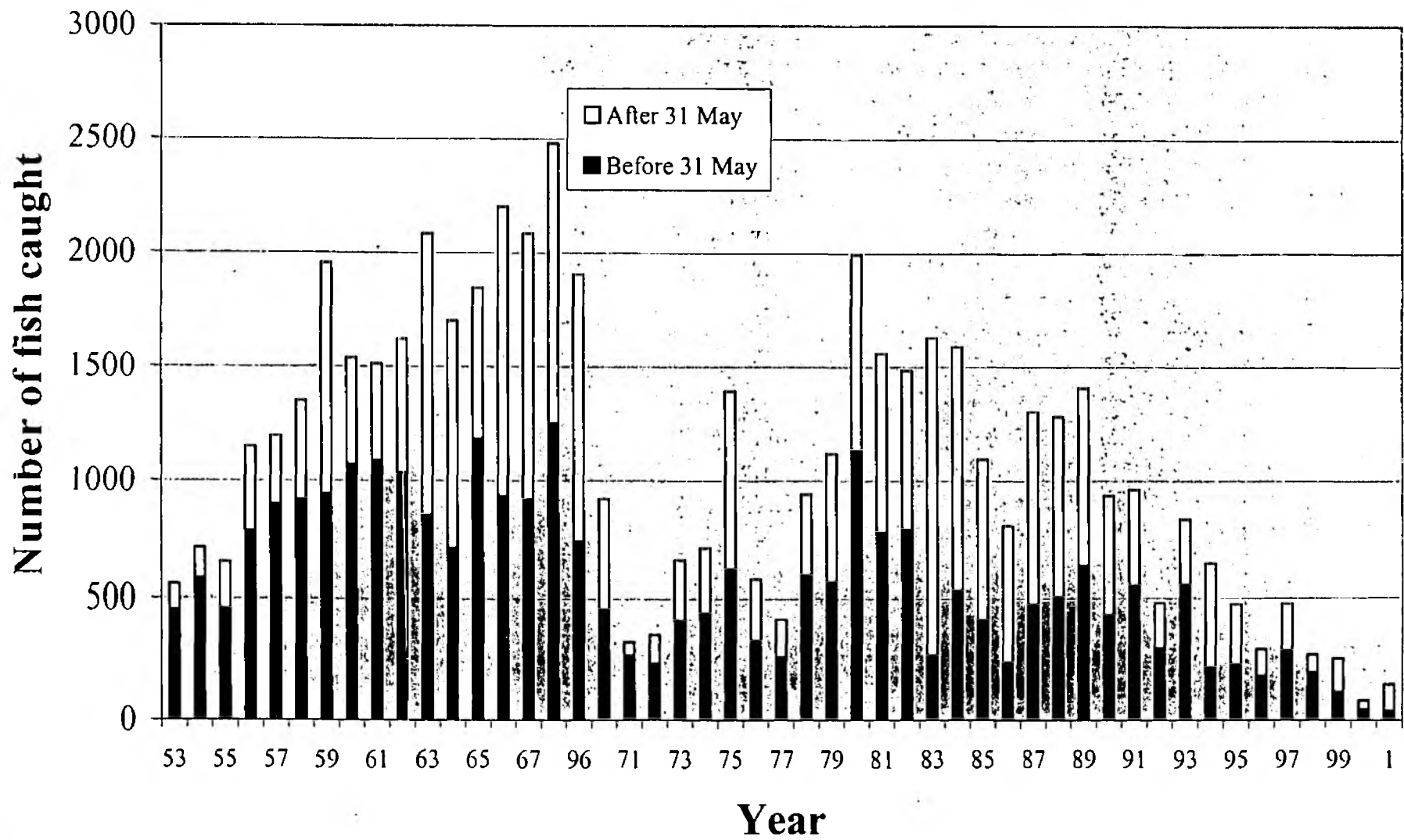


Figure 3. Salmon catches - River Teign Rods

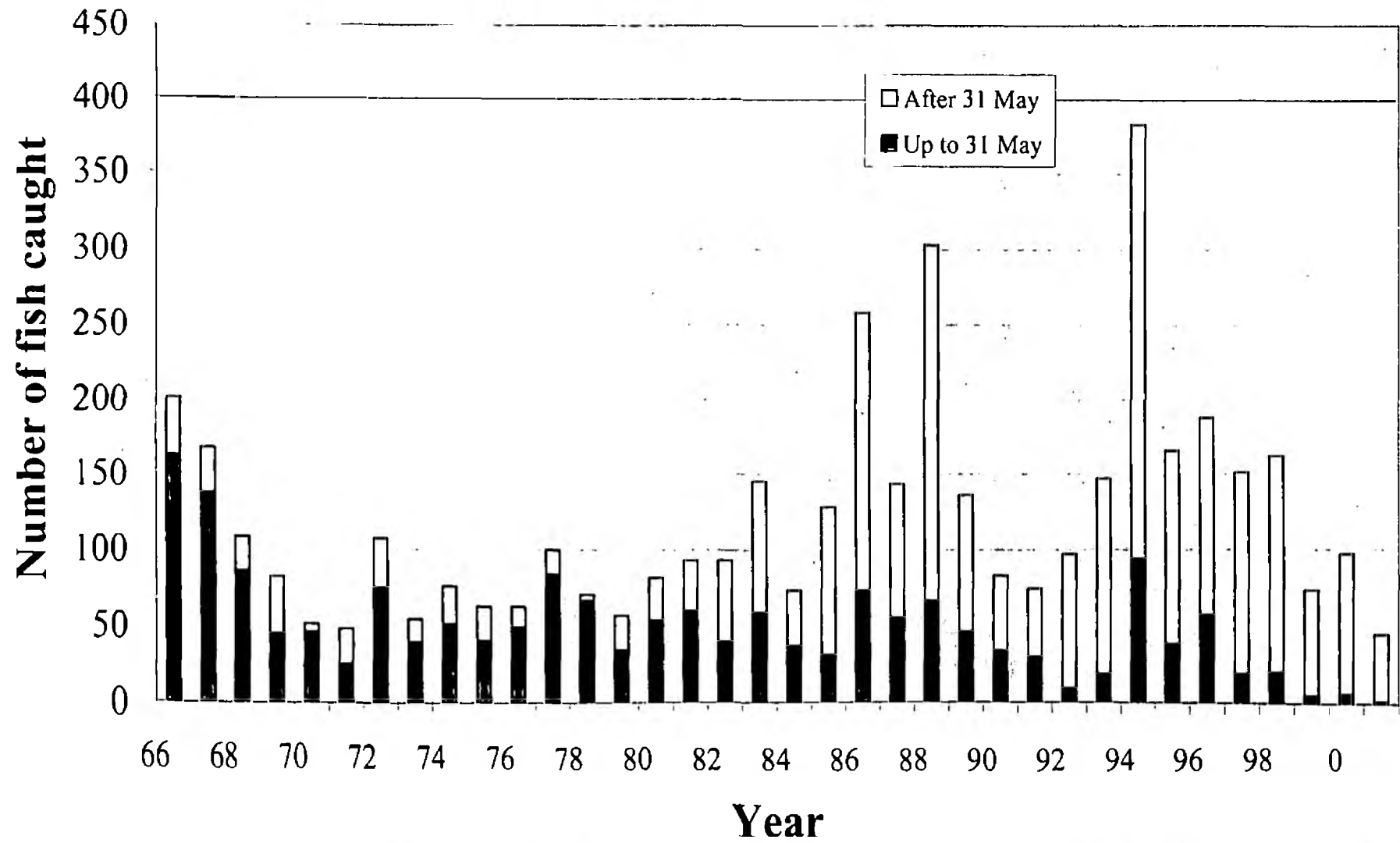
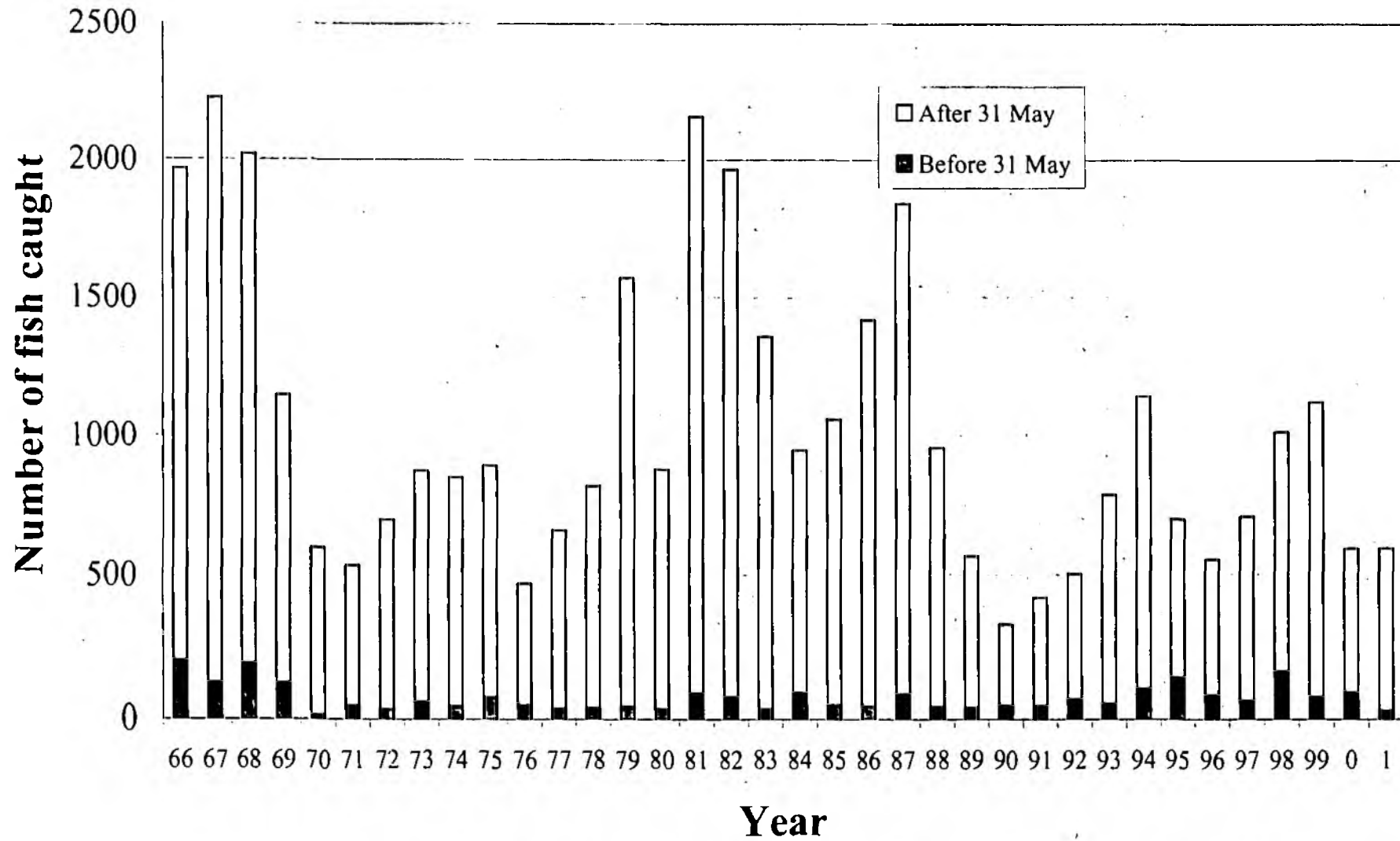


Figure 4. Sea Trout catches - River Teign Rods



Appendix 1.

River Teign - Analysis of estimated average densities of juvenile salmon.

- *Stock assessment review on the River Teign* report's (FRCN/99/06) update includes the analysis of 1999 juvenile survey data. The method to compare salmon population abundance between years remains the same. A Friedmann test is performed on the following data set for 1990, 1993, 1996 and 1999 for both age classes.
- This test shows that for both fry and parr there is no significant difference in estimated densities between the examined years (fry $P > 5\%$ and parr $P > 5\%$).

Appendix 1 (cont)

RIVER TEIGN – SALMON JUVENILE SURVEY – BALANCED DATA SET

SITE	FRY SALMON				PARR SALMON			
	1990	1993	1996	1999	1990	1993	1996	1999
1	0.45	24.90	6.72	0.00	3.15	13.51	6.22	1.47
2	56.23	59.29	103.68	84.56	18.03	38.68	29.36	19.6
3	58.40	7.26	5.65	33.97	10.40	0.00	7.26	9.95
4	14.03	6.16	13.03	17.30	8.87	11.65	12.14	10.22
5	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.72	0.00	0.00	4.56	6.93
6	20.75	1.86	3.85	7.47	6.99	4.24	4.45	8.43
7	0.00	0.00	6.11	0.00	0.00	13.70	1.69	17.66
8	5.56	14.92	1.28	0.00	2.08	1.24	14.06	3.88
9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.68	1.67	0.00	4.77
10	0.00	5.56	15.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.62	0.93
11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
13	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
14	0.40	15.12	9.08	13.09	1.60	5.61	11.07	7.95
15	1.98	0.00	10.76	2.48	25.00	19.83	21.63	16.15
16	7.29	0.00	0.00	2.85	2.82	0.35	5.13	4.59
17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
18	0.00	0.36	1.41	0.00	0.79	0.36	2.56	0.75
19	0.00	0.00	2.67	0.00	0.00	6.60	2.54	1.89
20	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.67	0.00	0.00	4.11	2.57
21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.94	1.21
22	3.23	19.42	15.91	0.66	5.86	17.03	15.25	0.75
average	7.65	7.06	8.88	8.44	3.92	6.11	6.85	5.44
standard deviation	20.65	15.15	21.83	18.96	6.57	9.66	7.69	9.09
confidence at 5 %	8.63	6.33	9.12	7.92	2.75	4.04	3.21	3.80

Appendix 2.

Electric fishing survey data for juvenile salmon on the River Teign, 1963 to 1999.

RIVER TEIGN SEMI-QUANTITATIVE SURVEY
RESULTS 1993-1999

<u>WATERCOURSE</u>	<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	
TEIGN	RUSHFORD MILL	SX 708 885	
	SANDY PARK	SX 717 894	
	SHARP TOR	SX 736 898	
	FINGLE BRIDGE	SX 745 898	
	TEN BEECHES	SX 762 898	
	CLIFFORD BRIDGE	SX 780 898	
	COD WOOD	SX 788 888	
	STEPS BRIDGE	SX 802 885	
	SOWTON BRIDGE	SX 823 885	
	BRIDFORD WEIR	SX 834 873	
	ORCHARD POOL	SX 839 864	
	SPARA BRIDGE	SX 844 842	
	HYNER	SX 843 818	
	CROWCOMBE BRIDGE	SX 848 811	
	LYNEHAM BRIDGE	SX 856 792	
	CHUDLEIGH RUN	SX 855 779	
	NEW BRIDGE	SX 848 764	
	PRESTON	SX 855 745	
	BOVEY	PARKE BRIDGE	SX 805 789
		LITTLE BRIDGE	BOVEY SX 831 768

No. salmon fry			No. salmon parr		
1993	1996	1999	1993	1996	1999
62	160	134	25	20	14
60	122	222	22	20	48
4	36	87	20	16	27
14	50	103	39	19	34
2	39	93	19	11	10
8	64	91	30	17	27
25	81	83	39	22	15
35	74	83	32	10	23
24	74	107	22	22	13
25	107	185	22	4	11
9	132	140	18	34	33
32	72	135	32	30	29
24	35	30	7	14	3
4	41	48	5	4	9
24	199	109	27	13	11
14	118	82	15	7	15
6	72	30	20	5	7
6	13	8	11	7	3
n/s	14	4	n/s	10	10
9	105	32	15	26	5

RIVER TEIGN - ALL SURVEYS 1963 to 1999

<u>WATERCOURSE</u>	<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>SALMON PARR (1+)</u>				
		<u>1963</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1990</u>
NORTH TEIGN	Teignhead Farm	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
	Manger Waterfall	0.00	-	-	-	-
	Teign-e-ver	0.00	0.20	-	-	3.15
	Leigh House	3.30	11.60	4.50	-	18.03
WALLA BROOK	Wallabrook Bridge	0.00	0.00	-	-	10.40
BLACKATON BROOK	East Weck	-	-	-	-	-
	Ash Bridge	-	-	-	-	-
	Highbury Bridge	1.00	15.30	9.90	9.44	8.87
MOORTOWN BROOK	U/s Blackaton Bridge	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTH TEIGN	U/s Femworthy	-	-	-	-	-
	Teignworthy	0.70	1.20	-	-	0.00
	Leigh Bridge	1.30	11.00	7.90	11.27	8.99
ASSYCOMBE STREAM	Assycombe Bridge	-	-	-	-	-
METHERALL STREAM	Lodge Bridge	-	-	-	-	-
TEIGN	Chagford Leat	2.40	2.30	-	-	-
	Chagford Weir	5.10	8.10	-	-	-
	Rushford Mill	6.00	11.10	8.90	4.11	8.41
	Sandy Park / Dogmarsh Bridge	4.70	-	-	-	-
	Black Pool	9.60	3.80	-	-	-
	Bad Rock	1.10	8.90	7.50	6.21	-
	Sharp Tor	-	-	-	-	-
	Fingle Bridge	15.20	-	-	-	8.08
	Ten Beeches	-	-	-	-	-
	Clifford Bridge	7.00	-	-	-	8.67
	Cod Wood	-	-	-	-	-
	Steps Bridge	5.80	9.40	8.30	9.25	10.20
	Sowton Weir	15.60	8.20	-	-	-
	Bridford Weir	-	-	-	-	-
	Higher Orchard Pool	14.20	23.00	-	2.13	11.27
	Ashton	5.40	-	-	-	-
	Canonteign Barton	4.60	-	-	-	-
	Hyner Farm	2.40	8.00	-	6.49	7.85
	Trusham	1.80	-	-	-	-
	Spara Bridge	-	-	-	-	-
Hyner	-	-	-	-	-	
Crowcombe Bridge	-	-	-	-	-	
Lyneham	-	-	-	-	-	
Chudleigh Bridge	1.90	2.70	-	-	-	
Chudleigh Run	-	-	-	-	-	
New Bridge	2.30	5.40	-	4.32	4.52	
Preston	-	-	-	-	-	

1993 1996 1999

0.00	0.00	-
-	-	-
13.51	6.22	1.47
38.68	29.38	19.60
0.00	7.26	8.95
0.84	8.86	0.00
3.52	5.84	4.97
11.85	12.14	10.22
21.42	23.85	21.83
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	4.56	6.93
4.24	4.45	8.43
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
-	-	-
-	-	-
#	#	#
#	#	#
-	-	-
-	-	-
#	#	#
#	#	#
#	#	#
#	#	#
#	#	#
#	#	#
#	#	#
#	#	#
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
#	#	#
#	#	#
#	#	#
#	#	#
-	-	-
#	#	#
#	#	#
#	#	#

SALMON PARR (1+)

<u>WATERCOURSE</u>	<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1990</u>
PADLEY STREAM	Millhouse	-	-	-	-	-
WEEKE BROOK	Cranaford Bridge	-	-	-	-	-
THE WHITE WATER	Mill End	-	-	-	-	-
WHIDDON BROOK	Farder	-	-	-	-	0.00
FINGLE BROOK	East Fingle Bridge	-	-	-	-	-
	Drewston Woods	-	-	-	-	2.08
SCOTLEY BROOK	Woodbroke	-	-	-	-	0.88
CLIFFORD BROOK	U/s Teign Confluence	-	-	-	-	-
DOCCOMBE BROOK	D/s Docombe Mill	-	-	-	-	-
REEDY BROOK	Dunford D/s	-	-	-	-	0.00
	Lower Reedy Brook	-	-	-	-	-
SOWTON BROOK	Sowton Barton	-	-	-	-	0.00
ROOKERY BROOK	Bridford Bridge	27.60	-	-	-	-
	Stone	-	-	-	-	0.00
CHRISTOW STREAM	Gidleigh Meadow	-	-	-	-	-
ASHTON STREAM	Place Barton	-	-	-	-	0.00
SHOOTAMOOR BROOK	D/s B3193 Road Bridge	-	-	-	-	-
BEADON BROOK	Hyneser Bridge	-	-	-	-	0.00
BRAMBLE BROOK	Middle Copse D/S	-	-	-	-	5.36
	Shortridge	-	-	-	-	-
HATE BROOK	Harcombe	-	-	-	-	-
	Lowell House	-	-	-	-	0.00
BOVEY	Greencombe	-	-	-	-	-
	Stinial Bridge	-	30.30	18.20	0.00	-
	D/s Wormhill Bridge	2.20	0.40	-	-	1.60
	North Bovey Bridge	0.90	0.20	-	-	-
	Clapper Bridge	0.80	2.60	-	0.00	25.00
	Hisley Wood	7.80	7.50	4.50	4.71	2.82
	Wilford Bridge	33.50	5.10	-	-	-
	Parke Bridge	5.50	-	-	-	4.90
	Little Bovey Bridge	7.30	3.70	4.30	2.68	2.20

<u>1993</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1999</u>
0.00	1.43	0.00
3.03	1.28	5.43
10.42	2.04	6.76
13.70	1.89	17.86
0.00	4.07	1.08
1.24	14.08	3.88
1.67	0.00	4.77
0.00	0.00	1.51
0.00	0.00	0.00
-	-	-
0.00	2.15	3.99
0.00	1.62	0.83
-	-	-
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.66	5.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	1.18	0.00
5.81	11.07	7.85
-	-	-
19.83	21.63	16.15
0.35	5.13	4.59
-	-	-
3.74	#	#
#	#	#

SALMON PARR (1+)

<u>WATERCOURSE</u>	<u>SITE NAME</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1990</u>
BECKA BROOK	D/s Beckaford Bridge	-	-	-	-	-
WRAY BROOK	Wray Barton	-	-	-	-	0.00
	Casely Bridge	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	-
	Knowle	-	-	-	-	0.79
LIVERTON BROOK	D/s Ilstington	-	-	-	-	-
	Stover Bridge	-	1.10	-	-	-
ABBRÖÖK STREAM	D/s Roadbridge / Fishwick	-	-	-	-	0.00
LEAMON	Sigford	-	-	-	-	-
	Halfway House	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00
	Morley	-	-	-	-	0.00
	Bradley Manor	-	-	-	15.28	5.88
ALLER BROOK	Aller Orchard	-	-	-	-	0.35

N.B. Densities are given in Estimated Numbers of fish per 100 square metres.

KEY

- # = Species present (semi-quantitative survey)
- ⊕ = Species absent (semi-quantitative survey)
- * = Fry were ignored during this survey.
- = Site not surveyed.

<u>1993</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1999</u>
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.64	0.00
0.36	2.56	0.75
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
6.60	2.54	1.89
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	4.11	2.57
0.00	6.94	1.21
17.03	15.25	3.75

Appendix 3.

Letters from the Lower Teign Fishing Association and the Upper Teign Fishing Association.

THE UPPER TEIGN FISHING ASSOCIATION

Founded 1870

President: Lady Ann Hayter-Harnes

Chairman: Mike Weaver MBE, Southcombe Meadow, Sticklepath, Okehampton, EX20 2NJ.

Tel: 01837 840911. E-mail: Mike.Weaver1@btinternet.com

Hon Secretary: Roddy Rae, 6 Hescane Park, Cheriton Bishop, Exeter, EX6 6SP. Tel: 01647 24643. E-mail: roddyrae@btopenworld.com

Hon Treasurer: Colin Pape, 8 Lumley Close, Kenton, Exeter, EX6 8HT. Tel: 01626 891897. E-mail: papecolin@hotmail.com

12 May 2002

K J Broad
Fisheries Officer
Environment Agency
Manley House
Kestrel Way
Exeter EX2 7LQ

Dear Kelvin

RIVER TEIGN NET LIMITATION ORDER

Thank you for your letter of 10 May 2002 regarding the NLO proposal for the River Teign.

I can confirm that the proposed changes to the rules of the UTFA, as set out in my letter of 3 August 2001, are still on offer as part of a submission to DEFRA and will be introduced as mandatory rules if the proposed reduction in the number of nets on the Teign estuary takes places. Fortunately, since our meeting at Exminster last July, I have had a chance to put these proposals to the UTFA AGM in January 2002, when they were approved by an overwhelming majority of the members present.

At the time of writing my letter of 3 August 2001, we were assuming that the EA submission would be going to DEFRA around September 2001, giving us the opportunity to introduce new UTFA rules for the 2002 season. As the submission has still not gone to DEFRA, it is far too late to introduce new rules for this season, so we hope that things can now progress quickly in time for the UTFA to introduce the new rules for 2003.

As the proposed conservation measures have been made known to UTFA members through our AGM, I anticipate that members will readily adopt them in the current season as recommendations pending changes to our rules

Yours sincerely



Mike Weaver
Chairman

PS: PLEASE NOTE MY CURRENT ADDRESS

THE UPPER TEIGN FISHING ASSOCIATION

Founded 1870

President: Lady Ann Hayter-Hames

Chairman: Mike Weaver MBE, Pippin Cottage, Drewsteignton, Exeter, EX6 6QW. Tel: 01647 281671. E-mail: Mike.Weaver1@btinternet.com

Hon Secretary: Roddy Rae, 6 Hescane Park, Cheriton Bishop, Exeter, EX6 6SP. Tel: 01647 24643. E-mail: roddy.rae@virgin.net

Hon Treasurer: Colin Pape, 3 Marlborough Court, Lyndhurst Road, Exeter, EX2 4NX. Tel: 01392 660227. E-mail: pape@eurobell.co.uk

Mr S R Douglas
Area Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Manager (Devon)
Environment Agency
Exminster House
Miller Way
Exminster
Exeter EX6 8AS

3 August 2001

Dear Steve

River Teign Salmon Fishing Measures

I am writing on behalf of the Upper Teign Fishing Association to confirm the proposed measures agreed at the meeting at Exminster House on 25 July 2001. If these measures are acceptable to DEFRA as part of your package for conserving salmon on the River Teign, we shall introduce them as mandatory UTFA rules commencing 1 February 2002.

I think it is worth pointing out that, if introduced, these rules will be enforced by our bailiff and members, with the support of our rules, which provide for the expulsion of any member breaking these rules and unable to provide a satisfactory explanation. I would suggest that, at a time when the sharp cuts in GiA have resulted in the reduction of your fishery enforcement staff to a very low level, association sanctions are likely to be a greater and more immediate deterrent than byelaws.

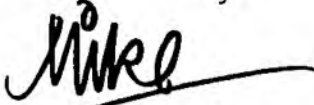
My understanding is that the new measures to which we agreed were as follows:

1. **No more than 5 salmon to be killed in a season.**
2. **No more than 2 salmon to be killed in a day.**
3. **All salmon of 28in/71cm or over to be released to protect the MSW/spring stocks.**
4. **Catch and release may be practised after the limit has been taken but barbless or de-barbed hooks become mandatory at that point.**

These rules will apply to permit holders as well as members.

Finally, we would suggest that the NLO should cover a period of no more than three years.

Yours sincerely



Mike Weaver
Chairman, Upper Teign Fishing Association

LOWER TEIGN FISHING ASSOCIATION

Founded 1876

Secretary: R.J. Waters Esq
121 Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon EX2 4RE

Telephone: 01392 251928
(after 6.00 pm)

K.J. Broad Esq
Fisheries
Environment Agency
Manley House
Kestrel Way
Exeter **EX2 7LQ**

17 May 2002

Dear Kelvin

River Teign Net Limitation Order

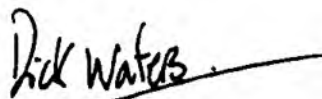
Thank you for your letter dated 10 May enclosing a copy of (the first half of!) my letter on this matter to Steve Douglas and dated 22 August 2001.

I can confirm that currently the situation remains as it was last season with the onus on members to fish within the guidelines as recorded in my letter to Steve, and as indeed they did last year. In view of the fact that the Agency's submission to the Minister has taken substantially longer to get off (or onto) the table we have let the matter lie also for 2002. Nevertheless when push comes to shove we will be working to achieve self-regulation rather than suffering the imposition of a byelaw. The record so far suggests that we shall be able to achieve this for 2003 by making the current guidelines mandatory rather than advisory.

We would however ask you to take note of the fact that whereas the estuary net salmon catch over the last decade or so has dropped from a four figure total to barely a two figure one, the net limitation has only reduced from ten to seven which seems to us an unrealistic response to the situation.

I hope this answers your question

Yours sincerely



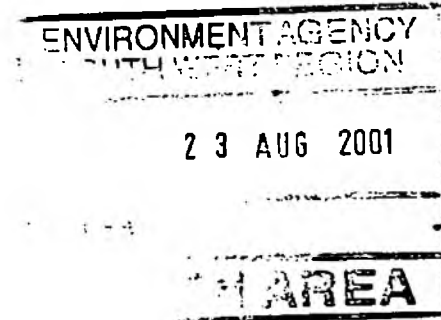
Dick Waters
Hon Sec LTFA

LOWER TEIGN FISHING ASSOCIATION

Founded 1876

Secretary: R.J. Waters Esq
121 Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon EX2 4RE
Telephone: 01392 251928
(after 6.00 pm)

S.R. Douglas
Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation
Environment Agency
Exminster House
Miller Way
Exminster EX6 8AS



22 August 2001

Dear Steve

NLO 2002 - Regulatory Proposals LTFA

Following our joint meeting with yourselves and the Upper Teign Association at which the proposal for "firm rules" implemented by the associations to complement the proposed NLO was discussed, those rules being -

Return of all salmon over 28 inches (8lbs)

A seasonal bag limit of five salmon per season

A daily bag limit of two salmon

barbless/debarbed hooks to be used for bait fishing once an angler has reached his/her bag limit

.....I am now able to convey the response of the Lower Teign Committee as follows:

It was suggested by the Secretary of the Upper Teign Fishing Association that he and I should each write you a letter swinging our respective associations firmly behind the proposed rules outlined above on the basis that this would show the willingness of the associations to implement the rules for themselves and thus hopefully avoid the imposition of a local byelaw which would be harder to police and would also be less likely to work effectively. (For example, loss of membership would follow the breaking of a club-imposed rule but not probably for breaking an externally imposed order of similar magnitude. The threat of loss of membership far outweighs any other potential sanction.....)

Unfortunately I am unable to write you such a letter. Unlike that of the Upper Teign our Lower Teign committee is only able to change any rule after full consultation of the

membership at Annual General Meeting (or in exceptional cases at Extraordinary General Meeting.) Therefore neither I nor the LTFA committee are in a position to pre-empt the decision of our membership.

Nevertheless the committee in meeting last week did endorse the proposals which will be put to the membership at the appropriate meeting (too late for your immediate requirements I'm afraid) with the recommendation that they be accepted. I have every confidence that they *will* be accepted for two particular reasons.

1. Just prior to the imposition of the National Salmon byelaw this association had already accepted a very similar package (in fact the membership had accepted a seasonal bag limit of *four* salmon....). If they have done it once they will no doubt do it again particularly as the shortage of salmon is more obvious now than it was then.

2. I offer you the following statistics gleaned from 2001:

Of the 80 members and associate members fishing last season 22 of those members caught 56 salmon between them of which 22 were returned, 10 under the byelaw and 12 voluntarily. (This figure may differ slightly from the original end-of-season statistics which you already have because I recently discovered two more previously overlooked salmon recorded in a letter)

9 members caught 1 salmon each

6 members caught 2 salmon each

4 members caught 3 salmon each

1 member caught 5 salmon (and returned 3 under the byelaw)

1 member caught 7 salmon (and returned 4 voluntarily after June 16th)

1 member caught 11 salmon (and returned 2 under the byelaw and 6 voluntarily)

Therefore not only did no angler *kill* 5 salmon (your proposed bag limit) but only the two top scorers, who individually returned the most on a voluntary basis, could have even reached or been capped by that limit. Apart from these two no other angler even reached a potential *four* fish bag limit! Now you see why I have no doubt that the proposal *would* be accepted. The same for two fish in a day...it just hasn't been happening. The barbless/debarbed hooks for bait-fishing will only be of concern to a small handful of shrimp and prawn fishers. The 28inch limit *will* cause some grumbles but the educative process through our newsletter has already begun. It is a system that has proved effective before. I am sure it will again!

I hope this will help indicate to you why I am confident that we *can* institute these rules for 2002 although I am sorry I am not able as yet to confirm a "done deal" prior to your meeting with the Ministry. The full association has proved it can deliver before. I am sure that will be the case again.

Yours sincerely

Dick Waters

Dick Waters
Hon Sec LTFA