



THE Tweed FOUNDATION

A Tweed Foundation Paper

IDENTIFICATION KEY TO TWEED FISHES

- 1 Body shape long and thin, “eel-like”, no distinct tail, either no paired fins or only one set : ► 2
or
Body shape more or less normal “fish-like”, with distinct tail, with more than one set of paired fins : ► 3
or
Flat body shape, a flatfish : **FLOUNDER (B.1)**

- 2 Distinct mouth with jaws, gill covers and always with eyes, one pair of fins : **EEL (B.2)**
or
No gill covers, a line of seven holes along each side of the head, no mouth with jaws, no paired fins a “sucker” in a hood instead : **LAMPREYS (A5 to A7)**

- 3 With an Adipose Fin ^(a) as well as a Dorsal Fin on the back : ► 4
or
Without an Adipose Fin ^(a), all dorsal fins with fin rays, either hard or soft.: ► 11

- 4 Scales large and in obvious lines along the body, Dorsal fin when flat along the body much longer than the head: **GRAYLING (C.5)**
or
Scales not in obvious lines, Dorsal Fin when flat along the body not longer than the head : ► 5

- 5 Small fish, under 20cms : ► 6
or
Large fish, over 20cms : ► 9

- 6 Red spots visible along the sides, with “Parr” or “thumb” marks : ► 8
or
No red spots visible, flanks silver, scales loose : ► 7

- 7 Fins black : **SALMON SMOLT (A.1)**
or
Fins yellow : **SEA-TROUT SMOLT (A.2a)**

- 8 One large (sometimes a second, smaller) very black spot on the gill covers, Pectoral Fin extending as far back as the beginning of the Dorsal Fin when folded along the body, Adipose Fin at most pale pink, usually brownish or clear but never bright red: **SALMON FRY / PARR (A.1)**
or
Four or five brownish spots on the gill cover, Pectoral Fin not extending as far back as the beginning of the Dorsal Fin when folded along the body, Adipose Fin red, often bright red : **TROUT FRY / PARR (A.2a & A.2b)**

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A charitable trust established by the River Tweed Commission to promote the development of fish stocks in the Tweed River System

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- 9 Upper jaw “lip” extends back beyond the pupil of the eye when mouth closed, on larger specimens edge of tail slightly rounded outwards (convex) when stretched out: ► 10
or
Edge of tail rounded in (concave) or straight, never rounded out when stretched; upper jaw “lip” not extending back beyond the pupil of the eye when mouth closed: adult **SALMON (A.1)**
- 10 Silver body colour, with black spots : adult **SEA TROUT (A.2a)** (*when fresh run*)
or
Brown and yellow, with large black and red spots : **BROWN TROUT (A.2b)** (*or stale Sea-trout – usually needs scale reading to distinguish*)
or
Obvious pink flanks, fins and especially tail very heavily spotted : **RAINBOW TROUT (D.1)**
- 11 With barbels ^(b) around the mouth : ► 13
or
With spines on back and / or sides : ► 14
or
Without barbels or spines, more or less normal “fish-like” shape: ► 15
- 13 One barbel at each corner of the mouth, which is at front of the head, scales large and obvious : **GUDGEON (C.8)**
or
Six barbels around the mouth, which is under the head, no obvious scales : **BEARDIE / STONE LOACH (C.2)**
- 14 Compressed sideways, narrow “wrist” before tail, two large spines in front of Dorsal Fin, a third as first fin ray, large spine at each Pectoral Fin: **THREE-SPINED STICKLEBACK (A.4)**
or
Flattened fish, large, broad head, narrow body behind, very large mouth, with two dorsal fins with fin rays and a strong spine extending from each gill cover : **BULLHEAD (C.9)**
- 15 Two dorsal fins with fin rays, front with hard, spiny rays, rear with soft rays: **PERCH (C.3)**
or
One Dorsal Fin : ► 16
- 16 Dorsal Fin set far back along the body, so is above the vent : **PIKE (C.4)**
or
Dorsal Fin more or less at mid-way point of the back : ► 17
- 17 Large, obvious scales, silvery body colour : ► 18
or
Scales small, barely visible, not silvery, olive-green-brown back with prominent black stripe running along flanks. Small fish, never more than 100mm in length. In May and June, mature males with bright red and green flanks and white tubercles on head : **BAGGIE / MINNOW (C.1)**

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- 18 Tail deeply forked with thin, sharp lobes, body shape flattened to a narrow keel along the belly, the scales there “hooked; large scales, very silvery, almost fluorescent, sometimes a large black spot behind the upper gill covers : **ALLIS SHAD (E.1)**
or
Tail forked, but not deeply, upper and lower lobes rounded. Silvery fish with large scales ► 19
- 19 Fins red : **ROACH (C.6)**
or
Fins pale gray, but with a yellowish-orange tinge: **DACE (C.7)**

- (a) Adipose fins have no fin rays and are smooth and rather rounded
(b) Barbels are narrow “beards” hanging down from around the mouths of bottom-feeding fish.

NOTE ON SCIENTIFIC NAMING

- 1 The smallest unit is the individual **Species** e.g. *trutta*, The Trout
- 2 Related Species are grouped together in a **Genus** (plural, genera) e.g. *Salmo*

- and the scientific name of an animal or plant is made up of its generic and specific names e.g. *Salmo trutta*, the Trout, *Salmo salar*, the Atlantic Salmon. The generic name has a capital letter, the specific name does not.
- 3 Related Genera are grouped together into a **Family** e.g. the Salmonidae which includes the Genera :
Salmo (the trout and the Atlantic Salmon)
Salvelinus (the charrs)
- 4 Related Families are grouped together into an **Order** e.g. the Isopondyli which includes the Families
Salmonidae (trouts, Atlantic Salmon, charrs)
Thymallidae (Grayling)
Coregonidae (Powan, Vendace)
Osmeridae (Sparling / smelts)
- 5 Related Orders are grouped together into a **Class** e.g. the Osteichthyes, the bony fish, which includes the Orders
Chondrostei (Sturgeons)
Isopondyli
Haplomi (Pike)
Ostariophysi (Carps, Loaches, Catfish)
Apodes (Eels)
Thoracostei (Sticklebacks)
Percomorphi (Perches)
Scleroparei (bullheads)

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