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Salmon catches for England and Wales, 1966
showing proportion of grilse in these catches

The following catch figures are for the major rivers in the five areas given in Salmon Doc. 66/15. Some of these are provisional but in nearly all cases the 1966 rod catches were much higher than normal, particularly in the Welsh rivers, where certain rivers (e.g. Wye, Usk) had the biggest rod catches ever.

Area 1 - English Channel - R. Avon, R. Axe, R. Dart, R. Exe, R. Frome, R. Stour, R. Tamar, R. Elym, R. Teign.
Area 2 - Bristol Channel - R. Severn, R. Paw, R. Torridge, R. Towy, R. Usk, R. Wye.
Area 3 - Cardigan Bay and North Wales - R. Conway, R. Dee, R. Dovey, R. Teify.
Area 4 - North West - R. Eden, R. Lune, R. Ribble.
Area 5 - North East - R. Coquet, R. Esk (Yorks), R. Tyne.

Rod	AREA 1		AREA 2		AREA 3		AREA 4		AREA 5					
	Net	Total	Net	Total	Net	Total	Net	Total	Net	Total				
5,311	9,526	14,837	12,920	9,076	21,006	4,909	6,940	11,849	3,998	9,028	13,026	1,441	9,992	11,433

Salmon Catches for England and Wales, 1966

GRILSE

In certain River Authority Areas it has not been possible to estimate the number of grilse in the total salmon catch. In others it is based on a relatively small scale sample and in certain instances it is done on a weight basis (fish of 7 lbs. or less)

Area 1

R. Avon, R. Frome, R. Stour - virtually no grilse.

R. Teign, R. Exe, R. Dart - In the net catches the percentage of grilse varies from 1.8 to 12.
In the rod catches the percentage of grilse is very low.

R. Axe - In this river where scale samples are taken from all salmon going up there were 30.8% grilse in the spawning run.
Many of these, of course, run late when angling and netting have ceased.

Area 2

R. Severn - Of total Rod Catch of 1018 salmon, estimated 0.9% grilse.
Of total Catch by other means of 3195 salmon, estimated 11% grilse

R. Wye - Of total Rod Catch of 6991, estimated 3.5% grilse
Of total Net Catch of 853, estimated 11% grilse

Rivers Taw and Torridge - Of Net Catch, estimated about 5% grilse
Of Rod Catch, estimated almost negligible grilse.

R. Towy - Estimated 13.5% grilse from small scale samples.

Area 3

R. Teify - estimated about 7% grilse.

Area 5

R. Coquet & R. Tyne - Of total Rod Catch of 787, estimated 3.4% grilse
Of total Net Catch of 8415, estimated 49% grilse (by weight)

R. Esk (Yorks) - Of total Rod Catch of 654, estimated 40.5% grilse
Of total Net Catch of 1577, estimated 24.5% grilse.

It would appear that with the exception of the North East, the percentage of grilse in net and fixed engine salmon catches is below 13 ~~or~~ 14 ~~per~~ cent and the percentage in rod catches much lower than this.

It is hoped that in future more accurate estimates of grilse catches will be available.