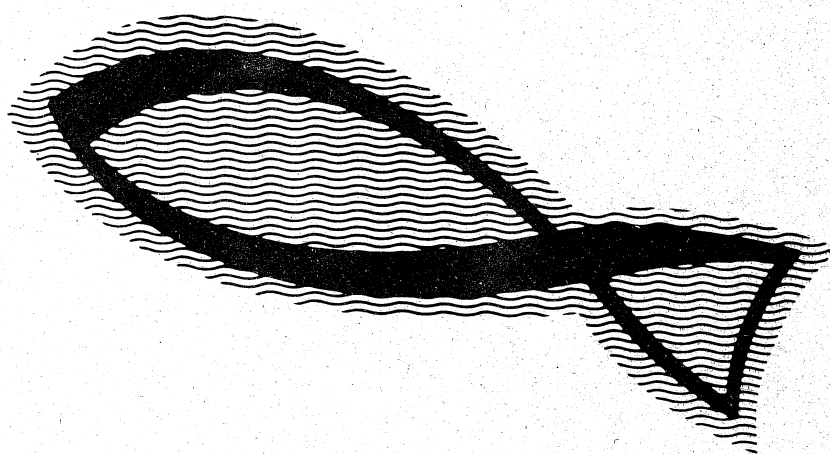




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**an roinn  
talmhaíochta  
agus iascaigh**

**Interesting recaptures of  
tagged salmon in 1973**



**by**

**A.E. J. Went.**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES  
FISHERIES DIVISION  
DUBLIN.1.**

## INTERESTING RECAPTURES OF TAGGED SALMON IN 1973

by

A.E.J. WENT

In a recent paper (Went, 1973a) I gave details of movements of salmon to and from Irish waters based on returns from foreign centres of fish tagged in Ireland and of foreign tagged fish recaptured in Irish waters. This note gives details of the recaptures made in 1973 on similar lines.

### SMOLT TAGGINGS

#### a. In Ireland

In November 1969 salmon parr numbering 817 were tagged by my colleague, Mr J. Browne, BSc. on the River Blackwater, a tributary of the River Boyne, in the period 6 - 26 November. These fish would generally have gone to sea as smolts in the spring of 1970. Four recaptures from the West Greenland area have already been reported from these taggings (Went, 1973 a) and a further recapture was reported from the Greenland area as follows:-

<u>Tagging details</u>			<u>Recapture details</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Length</u> (cm)	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Length</u> (cm)	<u>Weight</u> (kg)
13/11/1969	14.9	64°50'N 52°10'W	October 1972	85.0	5.7

#### b. In Great Britain

During 1973 no less than 20 fish tagged as smolts in Great Britain were recaptured, with two exceptions as grilse, along the Irish coasts. I am indebted to Mr Arthur Swain of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, London and Mr W. Shearer of the Pitlochry Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture for Scotland for the tagging details of these fish. In addition one other recapture from a previous year was reported. The details are as follows:

Tagging detailsRecapture details

<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Length</u> (cm)	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Length</u> (cm)	<u>Weight</u> (kg)
N.Esk R.(Scotland)	10/5/71	13.5	Old Head Kinsale	1/5/73	-	-
" "	11/5/71	11.5	Waterford coast	May 1973	-	-
R.Usk (S. Wales)	23/3/71	16.5	R Foyle	1972	-	-
R.Bran(Scotland)	7/5/72	13.7	5 miles N. Fanad Lighthouse	12/6/73	-	2.8
N.Esk R.(Scotland)	4/5/72	12.5	Donegal Coast	15/6/73	-	-
" "	25/5/72	17.0	Waterford coast	"	59	2.05
R.Usk (S. Wales)	8/3/72	25.0	Donegal Coast	June or July '73	-	-
" "	9/3/72	14.5	Off Tory Island	June '73	65	2.6
" "	15/3/72	14.5	R. Moy7	" "	61	2.7
" "	15/3/72	15.5	R. Suir	20/7/73	67	2.8
" "	17/3/72	16.0	Mayo coast	30/6/73	-	4.3
" "	18/3/72	16.0	Donegal coast	June or July '73	-	-
" "	18/3/72	13.5	" "	"	-	-
" "	18/3/72	15.5	Off Broadhaven	7/7/73	-	3.2
" "	22/3/72	16.0	Donegal Coast	June or July '73	-	-
" "	"	14.5	" "	"	-	-
" "	23/3/72	17.0	Waterford coast	30/6/73	-	3.0
" "	24/3/72	15.0	2 miles North Fanad Head	24/7/73	-	ca 1.8
" "	"	16.0	Mayo coast	June 1973	-	3.6
R.Ure Tributary of R. Humber (England)	May 1972	-	Malin Head	21/6/73	-	3.4
" "	"	-	Shannon Estuary	5/7/73	74	4.5

As explained in a short note (Went, 1973b) the relatively large number of recaptures in Irish waters in 1972 and 1973 was exceptional in as much as up to 1971 only five young salmon tagged as smolts outside Ireland had been recaptured as salmon or grilse in Irish waters.

#### FEEDING FISH

In the recent paper (Went, 1973a) details were given of recaptures of salmon tagged off Greenland and around the Faroes up to and including 1972. In 1973 additional recaptures were made as follows:-

##### a. From the Faroes area

Munro and Struthers (1973) explain there is a feeding ground off the Faroes Islands for S. salar which have just completed one year in the sea. Up to and including 1972 nine fish tagged in the Faroes area as feeding fish were recaptured on north, north-west and south coasts of Ireland (Went, 1973a). In 1973 two further recaptures as follows:-

<u>Tagging details</u>				<u>Recapture details</u>			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Length</u> (cm)	<u>Weight</u> (kg)	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Length</u> (cm)	<u>Weight</u> (kg)
4/5/73	62°52'N, 06°24'W	56	1.9	R. Moy	18/6/73	-	1.7
18/5/73	62°53'N, 06°26'W	64	1.7	L. Swilly	4/6/73	59	2.2

##### b. From West Greenland

Up to 1972 seven salmon tagged in the West Greenland area had been recaptured in Irish waters in the River Slaney, Waterford Harbour, the River Barrow, the Currane or Waterville River, the River Bann and off Torr Head, Co Antrim.

In the autumn of 1972 under the aegis of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea an international salmon tagging programme was undertaken in the West Greenland area, involving Canadian, Danish, French, and Scottish research vessels, as well as commercial salmon fishing boats mainly from Denmark,

the Faroes and Norway. A total of 2,364 feeding salmon were tagged and released in August and September 1972. During the 1973 fishing season recaptures were made from these taggings along the Irish coasts as follows:-

<u>Tagging Details</u>			<u>Recapture details</u>		
Place	Date	Place	Date	Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
67°09'N, 55°42'W	5/8/72	R. Moy	June 1973	-	-
62°26'N, 50°32'W	8/8/72	Glengarriff River	12/5/73	-	6.5
65°08'N, 53°03'W	16/8/72	South coast (Waterford)	17/4/73	73	4.3
62°19'N, 50°17'W	24/8/72	South coast (Waterford)	17/4/73	72	3.9
64°50'N, 52°45'W	26/8/72	Waterford Harbour	28/2/73	70	4.4
69°20'N, 54°20'W	3/9/72	Off Dungarvan Head	14/5/73	74	4.3
63°36'N, 51°40'W	12/9/72	River Maine	10/7/73	-	-

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