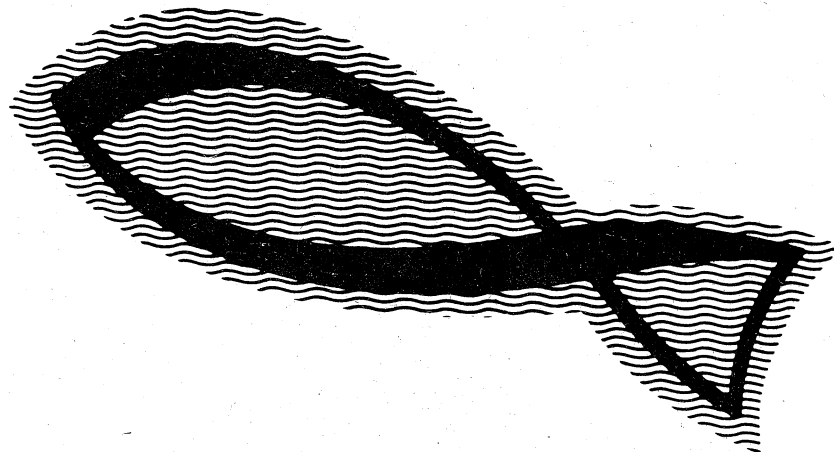




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**an roinn  
talmhaíochta  
agus iascaigh**

**Interesting recaptures of  
Tagged Salmon in Ireland  
in 1974.**



**by**

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Interesting recaptures of tagged salmon in Ireland in 1974

by A E J Went

In a previous issue in the Fishery Leaflet series (No 58, 1973) I gave a list of interesting recaptures of tagged salmon in Irish waters in the year 1973. In this Leaflet I propose to give details of similar fish in 1974 and of some tags recovered in earlier years but not reported until 1974.

Smolt Taggings

a. In Great Britain

Further recaptures were made in 1974 of salmon tagged as smolts in Great Britain. Of these four were either two-sea-winter fish or previous spawners and the other ten were grilse. The details were as follows:-

<u>River</u>	<u>Tagging details</u>			<u>Recapture details</u>	
	<u>Date</u>	<u>Length (cm)</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Weight (Kg)</u>
Avon (H)	27/4/73	17.8	Blacksod Bay	11/6/74	3.2
Axe (H)	2/4/73	13.2	Broadhaven Bay	5/7/74	4.0
Usk (H)	7/3/72	-	Dungarvan Bay	24/5/74	4.8
" "	"	-	North Mayo	9/7/74	7.5
Meig <sup>1</sup> (W)	8/5/73	13.5	Off Galley Head	3/6/74	-
" "	9/5/73	12.6	Off Portstewart Bay	9/7/74	3.2
Girnock <sup>2</sup> (W)	30/4/72	12.5	Dungarvan Bay	14/5/74	3.0
N. Esk (W)	19/4/73	13.5	Off Arammore Head	19/6/74	2.9
" " "	3/5/73	15.5	<b>Co. Donegal</b>	<b>14/6/74</b>	<b>2.8</b>
" " "	7/5/74	12.0	<b>Lough Corrib</b>	<b>6/12/74</b>	<b>3.2</b>
" " "	17/5/73	12.5	Off Malin Head	12/7/74	2.3
Tummel <sup>3</sup> (W)	8/4/72	11.5	Off Rossen Point Co Donegal	12/6/74	4.5
Almond <sup>3</sup> (H)	4/5/73	-	Off Tory Island	12/6/74	-
" "	"	16.3	" " "	28/6/74	2.7
" "	"	15.1	Off Arammore	18/7/74	3.0

- 1 Tributary of Conon River
- 2 Tributary of Aberdeenshire Dec.
- 3 Tributaries of R. Tay

(H) Hatchery reared smolts (W) = Wild or natural smolts

b. In France

Although a large number of salmon or grilse originally tagged as smolts outside Ireland have been recaptured in Irish waters as indicated above and in Went (1973, a, b and c), none of these were derived from French rivers. On 17th July 1974, however, a fish weighing 4.05 kg, which had been originally tagged as a reared smolt in the Sevre Niortaise (a river in central west coast of France) on 6th March 1973, was recaptured off Burtonport.

c. In Denmark

In Went 1973b mention was made of the recapture off the Irish coast of a salmon originally tagged as a reared smolt which had been released into the Ribe River on the west coast of Jutland, Denmark. In 1974 three recaptures were made off the Donegal coast of reared smolts released into Danish rivers as follows:-

<u>Tagging details</u>			<u>Recapture details</u>		
<u>River</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Length (cm)</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Weight (Kg)</u>
Gera	5/4/73	17.0	2 miles N.W. of Arammore		3.83
Gera	5/4/73	16.0	2 miles S.W. of Tory Is.		2.48
Havmølle	5/4/73	17.0	8 miles W. Glen Head		3.38

d. In River Bush

One of 181 one-year-old smolts released in the River Bush on 3rd May 1973 was recaptured in a North Mayo drift net on 11th July 1974. It weighed 3.6 kg.

Taggings of Feeding Fish

In a paper published in 1973 (Went 1973 b) details were given of recaptures of salmon tagged around the Faroes and off West Greenland up to and including 1972 and Went (1973 a) gave details of recapture from the same two areas in 1973. Three

recaptures were recorded in 1974 from these two areas, one fish being recaptured in 1972 and another in 1973 but not reported until 1974.

a. From the Faroes area

Munro and Struthers (1973) stated that there is a feeding ground off the Faroes for S. salar which have completed just one year feeding in the sea. Up to and including 1973 eleven such fish tagged in the Faroes area as feeding fish were recorded as having been recaptured on the north, north west and south coasts of Ireland (Went 1973 a and b). Details of one such capture in 1972 but not reported until 1974 and one recapture from 1974 were as follows:-

<u>Tagging Details</u>				<u>Recapture details</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Weight</u>
		cm	kg			kg
14/3/72	62°57'N, 05°55'W	-	-	River Blackwater	June 1972	2.5
11/5/74	62°49'N, 05°46'W	55	1.65	Dawros River	11/7/74	1.82

b. From West Greenland

In the years up to 1971 salmon were tagged annually in the West Greenland area on a relatively small scale. From these taggings seven recaptures were made in the River Slaney, (2) Waterford Harbour, the River Barrow, the Currane or Waterville River, the River Bann and off Torr Head, Co Antrim. In 1972 under the aegis of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) an international tagging programme was undertaken in the West Greenland area, involving Canadian, Danish, French and Scottish boats, the Faroes and Norway. A total of 2364 feeding salmon was tagged and released in August and September 1972. During the 1973 fishing season seven recaptures were reported from Irish waters from these taggings and

details of an additional recapture made in 1973 but not reported until 1974 are as follows:-

<u>Tagging details</u>		<u>Recapture details</u>		
<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Weight (kg)</u>
67°09'N, 54°19'W	5/9/74	River Dee	Mid-August 1973	ca 6.0

This brings the total of recaptures from the ICES scheme to eight for Ireland, making a total of fifteen from the West Greenland area. Other recaptures from the ICES scheme were obtained from Canada, France, Great Britain and Spain. Incidentally a kelt tagged at the Salmon Research Trust's installations on Furnace Lough on 3rd March 1973 was recaptured off the West Greenland area on 27th August 1973 but was not reported until 1974.

#### REFERENCES

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