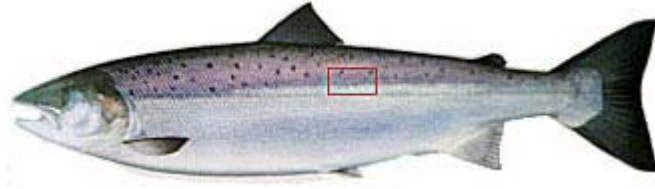




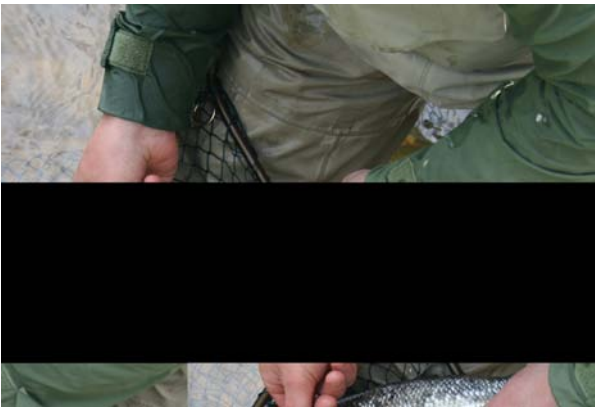
River Don Trust Scale Sampling Protocol

Here is a simple protocol to illustrate the process. It’s important to follow the protocol below to ensure that the most suitable scales are collected, that their condition is maintained and minimal impacts are made to the fish sampled. ***The River Don Trust encourages anglers to attend there Scale Sampling Workshop for guidance on the process.***

1. Collect scales (8-10) from the preferred area illustrated below, if this side is damaged then collect scales from the opposite flank or just in front of this location.



2. The scales can be collected by plucking scales from the area indicated using a pair of tweezers. Slide the tweezers parallel with the flank of the fish and slip the point under the scale. Grip the scale and pull back to the tail of the fish. The scales can then be transferred to a scale envelope (available from the Trust or from participating tackle shops details below) or alternatively folded in a piece of clean paper and left to dry.



Examples of scales being removed from fish to be returned.

3. Alongside the scale sample, information such as the species, sex, weight(estimate if returned) length to fork of tail(estimate if returned) date, location and any other remarks such as condition or coloration.
4. The samples can either be posted to the Trust offices (address below) passed to the Don Bailiffs or left at either Bain’s or Somers(Aberdeen), Sloans(Inverurie)or Orvis(Banchory) fishing tackle shops to be collected.

Remember salmon, sea trout and brown trout scales are required, also it is not necessary to kill the fish in order to take scale samples, the fish can be released without harm if handled carefully during this procedure.

Please feel free to contact the Trust Biologist Jamie Urquhart for more information: biologist@riverdon.org.uk or 07860 846 999/01330 830 080. River Don Trust, Old Estate Office, Cluny Castle, Sauchen, Inverurie AB51 7RT or visit the website at www.riverdon.org.uk.