

A photograph of two fishermen in a small boat on a body of water. The boat is white with a dark stripe and has the number '2' on the bow. The fishermen are wearing hats and outdoor gear. The background features rolling green hills under a blue sky with light clouds. The text 'The Tartan Trout' and 'Scotland's Trout Fishing Heritage' is overlaid on the image.

# The Tartan Trout

## Scotland's Trout Fishing Heritage

**Drew Jamieson**

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## PREFACE



*"for gameness and for beauty were all their fancy painted them"*

**Duncan Fraser, 1911**

You will have a happy lifetime pursuing *The Tartan Trout*. Like the Haggis and Nessie, or perhaps, like Lavinia Derwent's "Tammy Troot - frae West Kilbride", the *Tartan Trout* is a mythical creature.

At its core is Scotland's iconic wild brown trout. Add to that, a dash of the hills, mountains, rivers and lochs it which it is found, plus a good slug of the people and characters who fish for and manage them. Finish off with the great history and tradition of Scottish trout fishing and the literary heritage left behind by those who wrote about it and you have – the *Tartan Trout*.

Many of these essays started life as articles for angling magazines or chapters in books. Many have been published previously and a few have even been read! Others remained "works in progress" - until now. It seemed a shame to leave them dispersed all over the ether and back issues of publications. Most of the chapters can stand alone but there is a thread linking them together in a logical manner. So I have pulled them together in one document – a basket of trout - perhaps?

This is not a "How to" book. It is neither about "How to Catch Trout", nor "Where to Find Trout". There are many other publications which do that better. This is rather a celebration of Scotland's trout, the places you fish for them and the people who look after them. **Enjoy.**



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Author acknowledges the help and encouragement given by all those who provided information and pictures, checked facts and offered advice throughout the many years gestation of this book. I hope it was worthwhile. The black and white vignette is after Colin Gibson and the photograph of the author is by Bruce Sandison.

Many of these essays were first published in their original form in magazines. Specifically, the original versions of “*Harperrig Resurrected*”, “*Let's Fish the Clyde*” and “*Angling in Arcadia*” were first published in *Fly Fishing and Fly Tying*. “*Loch Leven – A New Dawn*” appeared in *Trout Fisherman* and “*Fishing in a Warming World*” was published in *Trout and Salmon*. “*Fly Fishing with the Kelpie*” appeared in *The Field* and *Scottish Islands Explorer*.



*In the cradle of the hills – a man and his rod*



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### DREW JAMIESON, BSc MLitt FIFM.

Drew Jamieson is a geographer by training; an angler by addiction and a writer by affliction. He has been promoting Scotland's salmon and trout fisheries for 40 years, in both the public and private sectors. Sometime:

- Aviator,
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- Fisheries manager,
- Planner,
- Environmentalist.



He has served as Honorary Secretary to the Scottish Anglers National Association (SANA) and was a member of the Secretary of State for Scotland's Consultative Committee on Freshwater Fisheries. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Fisheries Management and is a recent Chair of the Scottish Branch. From 1979 until he retired in 2000 he developed and managed many of the trout fisheries in the public supply reservoirs on behalf of Lothian Regional Council and, latterly, East of Scotland Water. He now acts as a fisheries consultant as "Anglers' Companions"

His writing is published in the UK and North America. In 2008 his work has appeared in *The Field, Trout and Salmon, Trout Fisherman and Fly Fishing and Fly Tying*. For many years he was fisheries correspondent for The Scotsman newspaper.

### BY THE SAME AUTHOR

- *Upland Trout Fishing and Sustainable Development (2004)*
- *Trout from the Tapwater (2009)*

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