



SECTION 3: THE FISHES OF THE TWEED AND THE EYE

C.9: **The Bullhead** Cottus gobio

UNWANTED



THE BULLHEAD **(*Cottus gobio*)**

This small fish species, of between 5 and 10 cms (2 to 4 inches) in length has recently been found in the Tweed catchment for the first time, in a small tributary of the Ale Water. Breeding has not yet been confirmed. It is a native of the South and East of England, though it became established in Northumberland last century and is also found in the Braid Hills area near Edinburgh. It is a predator of Trout and Salmon fry and its arrival brings a new and unpredictable factor for the fish and the fisheries of the Tweed. Once established, alien freshwater species of any sort are virtually impossible to eradicate and their presence permanently changes the natural identity of the area, making it less distinctive and more like any other place.

**IF YOU SEE A BULLHEAD ANYWHERE IN THE TWEED CATCHMENT PLEASE
CONTACT THE TWEED FOUNDATION ON 01896 848271 IMMEDIATELY**



TO HELP SAFEGUARD THE NATURAL IDENTITY OF THE TWEED, **PLEASE:**

- **DO NOT BRING ANY LIVING COLD FRESHWATER FISH, SHRIMPS, CRAYFISH OR ANY OTHER COLD FRESHWATER ANIMAL OR PLANT THAT COULD SURVIVE IN THE WILD INTO THE CATCHMENT**
- **DO NOT TIP WATER BROUGHT FROM OUTSIDE THE CATCHMENT INTO ANY POND, LOCH OR STREAM - POUR IT AWAY ON THE GROUND**
- **IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER ANY COLD FRESHWATER PLANT OR ANIMAL COULD SURVIVE IN THE WILD, CONTACT THE RIVER TWEED COMMISSION, ON 01896 848294 or SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE 01896 756652**