

## DOUBLE TAKE

One day in May this year on the River Conon, conditions looked hopeless with the gauge at nearly 4ft. However, three gillies, two from the Conon and one from the Dee, caught 10 spring fish. All were released.

One fish, weighing about 18lb, was being returned after a long fight in ➤

the heavy water. After unhooking the fish its captor flicked the fly into the current and let the fish swim away. Immediately it retook the fly and after a short time was landed and released for a second time. This episode alone seemed unusual and indeed incredible.

But then, 10 days later, my daughter's friend (an experienced salmon fisher) caught a 12lb fish. One of the same gillies was present. Once again, the rod was placed on a rock with the fly trailing in the water as the fish was released. But while everyone was celebrating someone noticed the line twitching. Again the fish had retaken the fly. This fish had a distinctive mark on its tail and as it was being unhooked for the second time the first hook hole was seen in its mouth. All lingering doubts that it could be a different fish were removed. Surely this adds a new meaning to the expression "doing a double take".

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