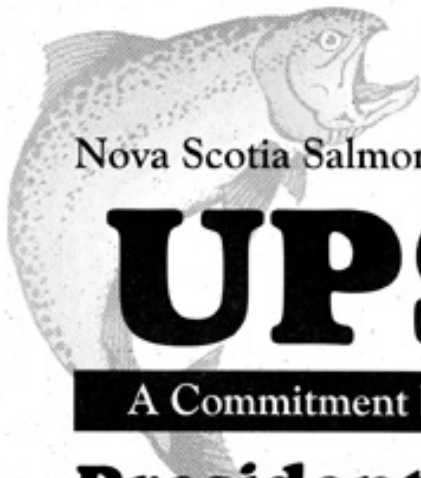


Winter 2006



Nova Scotia Salmon Association

UPSTREAM

A Commitment by Nature to Conservation

President's Creel

Dear members and friends. Despite the comments in the fall '05 Creel about it being my last, I have another opportunity as president of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association to reflect on the significant achievements of our Association over the past 2 years.

Two years ago we had an ambitious plan to initiate a pilot project which would demonstrate to government, industry and anglers that properly applied acid rain mitigation techniques can be employed in Nova Scotia rivers to restore pH to former levels that support healthy salmon populations. Our challenges at that time were researching and acquiring a doser, enlisting the support of industry and, perhaps most intimidating of all, raising a half million plus dollars needed to undertake the project (details, George kept telling me, mere details!).

Beginning in October 2003, we thoroughly researched available dosers, prepared the doser site, rallied local support, developed an extensive media program, raised a large portion of funds, purchased and installed the doser and finally began liming the West River, Sheet Harbour in October 2005. The pH level has already risen to more acceptable levels and we expect to be fully operational in the next couple of months. All of this was possible because of the support of our industry partners, our friends at the Atlantic Salmon Federation, our strong local affiliate group, the Eastern Shore Fish and Wildlife Association and our past president George Ferguson's leadership. The expressions of interest and support have been astounding! We have had extensive media coverage here in Nova Scotia, across Canada and around the world and have captured the attention of many people. It is imperative that we continue to work hard to ensure its success.

Two years ago we had only the skeletal remains of what had once been one of the most successful habitat restoration initiatives anywhere – the Adopt-A-Stream program. We had a proven structure in place and an experienced and exceptional co-ordinator, Amy Weston, waiting in the wings and willing to continue the habitat work. However the funding under the Federal-Provincial co-op program had ended and despite the efforts of supporters within local government circles, we simply could not locate sufficient funds to continue the program.

In late 2004, we finally received the news we had worked so hard and waited so long to hear. The Provincial Government agreed to implement a \$5 stamp on fishing licenses sold in NS and establish the Sportfish Habitat Fund. We frantically began putting together an Adopt-A-Stream program for 2005, resulting in an excellent 2005 field season with over 20 groups receiving support (financial and/or technical). Summer crews and volunteers worked to improve habitat in about 25 watercourses across the Province, restored more than 100,000 square meters of in-stream habitat and many kilometres of riparian habitat and planted thousands of trees and shrubs. The program received total funding of \$208,500, which was matched by other cash and in-kind contributions at a rate of more than 2:1. The program's total value for this year is conservatively estimated to be almost \$700,000.

Adding to these successes we've enjoyed over the past several years, I am particularly encouraged to see our committee studying the issues of the Inner Bay of Fundy and to have the first of what I hope will be many annual Salmon Summits.

The NSSA is an important and vibrant organization and will continue to evolve and grow under the experienced hand of our incoming president, Carl Purcell. I'd like to express my appreciation again for the dedicated work of the Directors of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association – without which this organization would simply cease to exist.

Tight lines!
David Reid



Contents

President's Creel	1
Atlantci Salmon Federation	2
Adopt A Stream	3
How Sweet It Is!	4
News from the Affiliates	6
New ATV Regulations	7
NSSA Member Challenge	8

Nova Scotia



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GREETINGS FROM THE ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION

**By Lewis Hinks
Regional Director for Nova Scotia, and Sue Scott, VP
Communications**

That the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) values our relationship with the Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA) and its affiliated organizations is an understatement! The hours that volunteers work are a significant and a vital component of salmon conservation programs. The work by NSSA on the issues of acid rain, the Inner Bay of Fundy, habitat restoration, education, live release and affiliate support are instrumental in conserving and enhancing salmon in Nova Scotia.

ASF concentrates on issues that have the most potential to improve runs to North American rivers, such as our Greenland Conservation Agreement and our program to encourage live release by anglers. Thanks to both initiatives, we are seeing improved salmon runs and more repeat spawning fish. This is the last year of our five-year agreement to suspend Greenland's commercial salmon fishery and we are working to re-negotiate it and raise the funds needed to support this vital agreement. While it is difficult to quantify numbers of fish as a result of these activities, angler reports from many parts of Nova Scotia indicated stronger runs in many of our rivers than in previous years.

ASF, NSSA and the Eastern Shore Wildlife Association became North American leaders in acid rain mitigation last fall when we erected an automatic lime doser on the West River in Sheet Harbour, NS. Improvements in water chemistry were noted soon after the start up of the doser with the pH rising from 4.4 to 4.9, much closer to the 5.4 needed to support wild salmon

production and for its juveniles to survive to smolt stage. As we become proficient in using this machine, we will be able to refine the dosage amount so that the target pH of 5.4, at the mouth of the river, will be met and maintained. The doser is working flawlessly to date. ASF is working to convince governments to extend the use of this Norwegian technology to restore other rivers and to ensure that the U.S. Clean Air Act does its job.

Despite the coordinated efforts of ASF and our Regional Councils, the \$30 million Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund, announced by government in early 2005, was not implemented by the year's end. An election call in November put the fund on hold. We are determined to get it up and running and the money invested to ensure that the fund's accumulated interest gets to volunteers on the riverbanks as quickly as possible. We encourage you to continue to call for more funds to support salmon restoration and research initiatives. Programs such as the highly successful Adopt-a-Stream program can benefit from an increase in funding.

Our program on the Magaguadavic River in N.B. proved to be invaluable in allowing researchers to capture a few of the 100,000 escapees from sea cages released by vandals in November. Important information on the farmed fish and their potential threat to wild salmon in Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine rivers was obtained.

We hope the trend that we have seen of healthier runs on many rivers will continue, and that our hard working volunteers enjoy some good fishing this season.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST !

7th Annual Halifax Dinner

Thursday, April 6 th

Cocktails 6 pm • Smoked Salmon and Dinner 7 pm

The Westin, Halifax • \$125.00 per ticket

Conservation Table \$2500.00 • Patron Table \$5000.00

For tickets contact Jim Lawley

Office 902 453 2121 - Cell 902 456 2121 - Fax 902 453 2126 -Home 902 492 3059

Nova Scotia Salmon Association AGM

Saturday March 4th , 1 to 5 pm

Future Inn • Maple Room

30 Fairfax Drive(off of Lacewood Drive) Halifax, NS

Check the website for details of the agenda and guest speakers. See you there!

ADOPT-A-STREAM PROGRAM IN FULL SWING.

The NSSA is looking forward to another productive field season of fish habitat restoration through its Adopt-A-Stream program. The 2005 field season marked the first year of program funding from the new Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund and the renewal of Adopt-A-Stream. We are really pleased to have the opportunity to put anglers' money to good use, supporting hard-working volunteers and community groups in their efforts to better their local watersheds.

In 2005, 17 in-stream and riparian projects were initiated across Nova Scotia, resulting in approximately 100,000 square meters of restored habitat. In addition to the groups that received project funding, a number of groups took advantage of Adopt-A-Stream technical support to start planning river habitat work for upcoming field seasons. These include the St. Mary's River Association, the Cobequid Salmon Association, and the newly established Canard River group.



"Cumberland County River enhancement installed this habitat restoration structure on the Second River in the River Philip watershed."

Adopt-A-Stream coordinates project proposal assessment and review by the three government departments involved in regulating and managing fish habitat and the recreational fishery.

Representatives from the NS Departments of Fisheries and Agriculture and of Environment and Labour, along with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, participate in the Adopt-A-Stream review process. The NSSA provides ongoing field support and habitat planning to community groups involved in the program.

AAS Funding 2006

The primary application deadline for project funding was set for February 20, 2006. An early deadline allows for proposals to be reviewed and funding levels approved ahead of the start of the field season.

We will, however, accept project applications at any time. If a late application meets the program criteria, and if funding is available, it may still be supported this year; otherwise it will held "on file" for future consideration.

For more information about Adopt-A-Stream visit our website at www.novascoti-salmon.ns.ca

Or contact

Amy Weston, Adopt-A-Stream program manager

Tel:(902) 644-1276

Email: amy.weston@ns.sympatico.ca

LAHAVE DINNER A GREAT SUCCESS

The LaHave River Salmon Association held their fabulous annual Dinner and Auction on January 21, 2006. The sold-out event featured a raffle, silent and live auctions, musical entertainment, a wonderful hors d'oeuvres table and very good sit-down meal. The fundraiser netted about \$5500 which the LaHave group hopes to put towards joint research project with DFO to track kelt migration in the LaHave estuary starting this spring.

The NSSA Board of Directors held their January meeting in Bridgewater to coincide with the LaHave Dinner that evening. Pictured (left to right) are Walter Regan, Jack Johnson, Ray Plourde, Carl Purcell, Seam Graham, Bob Rutherford, David Reid, Lewis Hinks and Larry Shortt.



HOW SWEET IT IS!!!!

With five months of operations under our belt I am very pleased to report our lime doser plant is working flawlessly!! This first year of lime dosing is a learning / training year as we learn all the ins and outs and bells and whistles of this very high tech plant.

Currently the dosing plant is administering 3 grams of lime per cubic meter of flow into the West River Sheet Harbour. This has raised the pH to 4.9 from a mean pre treatment pH of 4.1. Our Acid Rain Mitigation Committee is now working on new dosing calculations and we hope to meet our target pH of 5.5 this spring.

I would like to extend a big thank you to Jim Lawley for his recent donation of a \$1000 towards a lap top computer and software for monitoring the dosing plant. This is not Jim's first donation to the West River Project as last year he donated \$1800 towards the purchase of a seining net for our fish population-monitoring program. THANK YOU JIM!!! WE LOVE YOU!!!

Also recently we have received a \$5000 grant from the Sage Environment Fund. The West River Project has an estimated annual operational budget of \$35,000 and the Sage Environment Fund Grant gives us a good start to fund raising this year.

Here is a look at the 10 year budget:

WEST RIVER ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS AND REVENUES

Cost Activity	2004	2005	2006-14	2015
Annual Project Costs				
Project Management	1,600	5,000	35,000	5,000
Road Maintanance		2,000	16,000	2,000
Project communications		1,000	9,000	3,000
Doser purchase		111,000		
Doser shipping costs		1,613		
Electrical Power				
- Installation		70,000		
- Service		350	8,000	300
Telephone				
- Installation		5,160		
- Regular service		350	4800	300
Pad construction		5,375		
Dosing level determination		1,000		
Insurance premium cost		600	7,000	500
Land lease				
- Development of lease		645		
- 10-year fee		269		
Trucking		3000	74,250	8,250
Doser installation		2,000		
Limestone purchase		5,000	80,000	5,000
Doser operating expenses		2500	5,000	2,500
Doser miscellaneous expenses		1,000	7,000	1,000
Doser routine maintenance		1,000	9,000	1,000
Water Chemistry	5,000	5,000	15,000	2,500
Total Costs	6,600	223,086	263,050	31,350 = 524,086

Revenue Source	2004	2005	2006-14	2015
NSSA-ASF Dinner	55,885	35,000		
Donner Foundation Grant		23,000		
Webster Foundation		20,000		
McCain Foundation		20,000		
Trout Nova Scotia		1,000		
Sackville Rivers Association		1,000		
NSPI inkind		5,000		
Neenah Paper		4,000	16,000	2,000
ESWA		2,200	2,300	
NSDA&F		1,000		
NS Habitat Stamp		5,000		
Mosher Limestone		2,000		
Load Of Lime Campaign		1,250		
Sage Environment Fund		5,000		
Jim Lawley		1,800	1,000	

The volunteer effort during the construction phase of this project has helped us stay within our budget. Volunteers from the Eastern Shore Wildlife Association, Sackville Rivers Association and NSSA contributed over 900 hours of mostly backbreaking labour. To all our friends and supporters of the West River Project-I would like to extend a short gaelic saying ---Dulcius ex asperis.

Note: To any one that can e-mail or snail mail me the proper English translation of the above gaelic saying-----
--I will tie a Hot Scottie salmon fly.

George Ferguson
Project Manager West River Project
nssa@ns.sympatico.ca

Notice

Plan to Attend an Acid Rain Workshop “Liming. Why Now”

We will be looking at different liming techniques, their suitability for various situations and the economic value of the various techniques.

The workshop will be held in Halifax in May....check our web site for details of date, time and location or email Lewis Hinks at lhinks@auracom.com or call 902 275 3407. See you there!

NEWS FROM THE AFFILIATES

MAGIC ON THE RIVER DAY, ST. MARY'S RIVER ASSOCIATION

By Joanne Mailman, Manager

On August 16, 2005 the St. Mary's River Association Education and Interpretive Centre held the fourth annual Magic on the River Day. Thirty-two children of various ages from 7 –13 attended. Visitors attended from as far away as Jersey, Chicago, Fall River and Halifax. Partnering this year with the Program Development Office, were Alicia Mills, Morgan Silver, Gloria Burns and Nick Turner. After registration, Duncan Gallant took the day campers on an informative tour of the Interpretive Centre. This was followed by an energetic game of predator/prey lead by Stefan Morin in Stonewall Leisure Park. Adam Silver was the official photographer. We were grateful for directors Jocelyn Ellis and Don Barnes and Wood Turtle Project staff, Julia Montgomery, Diana Chisholm and John Murray in helping supervise our outside events

Following the game, we broke up into four groups. Jocelyn Ellis led a group into the park for a nature hike. Don Barnes led a group outside for fly casting demo and lessons. Morgan Silver taught fly tying and Duncan Gallant entertained the fourth group with a scavenger hunt and colouring inside the Centre. We continued to rotate the groups so that all have a chance to participate. The PDC office provided hot dogs for the BBQ lunch, while Joanne scooped out ice cream for dessert. The kids were especially happy to have their face painted by Jean Jordan-Robichaud. All in all everyone worked well together to make the day very special for all our day campers. The kids had a great introduction to the art of casting, fly tying, salmon fishing history and nature.

JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT

LAHAVE RIVER SALMON ASSOC. & DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS APRIL – OCTOBER 2006

The marine survival of wild and hatchery Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) smolts and post-spawned salmon adults of the LaHave River, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia fell from sustainable levels in the 1980's to non sustainable levels in the 1990's and has not recovered in the 2000's. The suggested hypotheses for this collapse have ranged from loss of productive capacity of the freshwater habitat to habitat interference caused by development in and adjacent critical routes to increased predation from predators.

The documentation of critical habitat routes for migratory fish has not developed principally due to technical constraints. New technologies that provide miniature and individual decode acoustic and radio tags now enable these routes and timing to be identified.

This project proposes to evaluate the progress of the wild Atlantic salmon smolts and kelts in the river and estuary thereby providing new evidence of habitat use and fates of tagged salmon.

This project proposes to utilize a student or intern that will work closely with DFO and LaHave River Salmon Association and possibly others at the Morgan Falls Monitoring Facility at New Germany. The intern will operate from the Morgan Falls Facility and will be involved in all operations involving diadromous fish conducted from that facility. This location has both downstream and upstream collection capability for live capture of downstream migrating smolts and kelts and as well as upstream migrating mature salmon.

This project proposes to capture 30 kelts and/or 15 smolt (optional) and implant these fish with acoustic (30) and radio (9) tags for extended monitoring in the river and estuary to the extent of the LaHave Islands. Acoustic buoys supplied by DFO and or the Atlantic Salmon Federation will provide complete monitoring of the passage of acoustic tagged salmon through these confines using acoustic recorders. Active searches will also enable the possible documentation of important marine summer holding habitat within these islands and estuary. This array will remain in place from May to October, the effective life of the acoustic tags. Active searches of beaches and colonies will also be made to detect radio tags. All equipment for deployment of the gear and searches will be provided by DFO and the LRSA will provide volunteers to assist with the monitoring of the acoustic monitors and active searches for tags.

This program in addition to providing a local qualified young scientist the opportunity to gain expertise in fisheries science will also foster a better understanding in the local community through LRSA of the habitat use and interaction of salmon with other species in the LaHave River estuary. It is entirely possible that critical marine holding areas could be discovered in the estuary that could contribute to the future of Atlantic salmon in the LaHave River.

Notice

We need your help to help us save costs and the environment by getting your newsletter on line. See the membership renewal form in this newsletter for details on how you can contact us to receive future issues of Upstream via the internet.

ATVS GET NEW REGULATIONS

In December the Nova Scotia Government passed Bill 275 to amend the Off Highway Vehicle Act. New regulations governing the use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and other forms of Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) will come into force on April 1. Although most of the attention leading up to the legislation was understandably focused on age restrictions and youth safety, there are also some important new rules to better protect the environment and private property from the growing negative impacts of unrestricted recreational ATVing. These include:

- A ban on OHV use in Sensitive Ecosystems including wetlands, beaches, sand dunes, streams and lakeshores.
- A general prohibition for OHV use in our Parks, Protected Areas and Nature Reserves.
- Banned from core habitat for Endangered Species (like inner Bay of Fundy streams).
- Limiting use of OHVs on Crown land to a designated trails network (to be developed).
- Requiring written permission from private landowners to use their property.
- Mandatory vehicle registration and display of new, highly visible license plates.
- Significant new fines and vehicle seizure penalties for those who break the law.

The explosive growth of recreational ATVing in recent years has opened up the landscape allowing easy access to formerly remote areas. This has created additional pressure on already seriously stressed wildlife populations in Nova Scotia including our fisheries resource. Wetlands and streams have also become a favorite target for a thoughtless few that don't know or don't care about fish habitat. For them its all just good 'ol fun in the wet and the

mud. NSSA appeared before the Law Amendments Committee and spoke in support of wetland and wilderness protection measures. We are pleased to see that these important riparian zones will now enjoy some form of legal protection from OHV abuse.

Of course enforcement will be key – so the government has created a dedicated law enforcement unit to back up the new regulations. The Province has also set up a toll-free hotline for people to report OHV violations. The province-wide number to call is 1-800-565-2224. This is the same central dispatch number you can use to report poaching and other wildlife violations. It will be staffed 24/7, 365 days a year. The next time you see someone on an ATV mindlessly tearing up a beach, stream or your own backyard you will have a number to call and someone who will respond. This will be a welcome relief for many folks in our rural and suburban areas who've watched the explosion of ATV use all around them and felt helpless to control it. These new regulations are much needed and long overdue. We hope that a previously "out of control" situation will now come under some kind of reasonable control - for the good of fish, fur and fowl - and for people as well.



"Wetland Fun" - ATV and Argo riders enjoying a fine day on a Nova Scotia stream

NSSA will have a booth at the
23rd Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show
March 16th – 19th, 2006
Exhibition Park, Prospect Road • Halifax, NS
Come and check us out!

NSSA "MEMBER GET A MEMBER" CHALLENGE

NOTE - The Challenge is open to NSSA Members only.

NSSA Members here's an opportunity to help increase NSSA Membership and to get some great prizes in return. All you have to do is sign up "new members" for NSSA. (Renewals of present members do not count). Simply use the form below, check off Member Get A Member, include your name in the "Signed up By" space and forward the new member's name, address, phone number and e-mail address to:

Nova Scotia Salmon Association

Member Get A Member

P.O. Box 396, Chester,

Nova Scotia, B0J 1J0

Also include the \$20.00 membership fee or \$5.00 fee for Junior Members.

Contest closes October 31, 2006.

There will be first and second prizes awarded to the persons who sign up the most members. (In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by a random draw.)

Prizes:

1st Prize: Sage fly rod – Model DS2 890-4 (4 piece, 9ft, 8 weight, value \$395.00.

2nd Price: Book "Leaper" by Charles Gaines & Monte Burke, value \$75.00

NOVA SCOTIA SALMON ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Renewal: New Member Junior Member Adopt-A-Stream Fund:

Member Get A Member: Signed up by: Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Prov/State: _____ Postal/ZIP Code: _____ Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Membership: \$20.00 (Cdn) Junior Membership: \$5.00 (Cdn)

I wish to donate: \$20 \$50 \$100 Other: _____

Charitable Donor # 0620856-54

NSSA MEMBERSHIP

Just a reminder that NSSA memberships expire on March 31, 2006. If your membership card has expired please take a minute to renew. If you have renewed please pass this to a friend and encourage them to join NSSA.

NSSA Junior Member – *The youth of today are the protectors of our Atlantic Salmon and Brook Trout tomorrow.*

The NSSA would like to encourage more of our youth to become members and we now have Junior Membership for those **under** the age of 16 years. This is an opportunity to introduce youth to the sport of fishing and teach them to be stewards of the environment. Membership is \$5.00 and they will receive a membership card and decal.

To renew your membership or to become a member of NSSA please complete and return the coupon, to:
Nova Scotia Salmon Association, P.O. Box 396, Chester, Nova Scotia, Canada B0J 1J0.

Should you wish to become more involved with the NSSA please contact us – there is always plenty to do!

NOVA SCOTIA SALMON ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Renewal: New Member: Junior Member Adopt-A-Stream Fund:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Prov/State: _____ Postal/ZIP Code: _____ Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Membership: \$20.00 (Cdn) Junior Membership: \$5.00 (Cdn)

I wish to donate: \$20 \$50 \$100 Other: _____

Charitable Donor # 0620856-54

NEWSLETTER SURVEY

The NSSA, in an effort to reduce mailing costs, is looking at another means of getting our newsletter to our members. This would be via our website as our Newsletters are posted at:

<http://www.novascotiasalmon.ns.ca/theassociation/newsletter.asp>

If you would like to receive e-mail notification that the Newsletter is on the website please take the time to let us know by sending an e-mail to **nssamember@ns.sympatico.ca** and simply state, “**send newsletter**”.