

UPSTREAM

A Commitment by Nature

to Conservation



Contents



- President's Creel 1
- Licence Stub Returns 2
- Margaree Salmon Association . 7
- Salmon Management Plan Process 2
- Jim Campbells Barren 3
- Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline 4
- NSSA Lands Adopt-A-Stream! 4
- ASF Announces 5
- Beauty and Utility 5
- DFO... what are you doing? . 6
- NSSA Scholarship Nominations 7
- From the President's Report 7
- NSSA Awards Call For Nominations 8

President's Creel

Here's wishing each of you good people all the best in '98!

In brief, 1997 was a tough year. The news pertaining to Atlantic salmon stocks was depressing and the drought kept many of us off the rivers. However, we did enjoy an excellent Halifax Dinner and a great scotch tasting evening at Acadia University. Now, I realize I identified two fund raising events as highlights, but consider this—if we didn't have your financial support, the following successes would never have been realized.

First and foremost, the threat to the Margaree and Cheticamp Rivers was successfully addressed with the relisting of the Jim Campbells Barren. This effort has proven that good communications between ASF, NSSA and the affiliates can make a difference. This issue is not over and we still have much to do!

Other great news was the signing of a \$1.16 million dollar contract to administer the Adopt-A-Stream Program. This win illustrates the fact that our organization is well respected within government and that we have their confidence. The Association has always stated that good habitat is the cornerstone in resurrecting our wild fish stocks. As well, we were very fortunate in recruiting Amy Weston as our Adopt-A-Stream manager.

These are but a few of the many issues we touched in 1997. We continue to play a strong role on the Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee advising Minister Barkhouse on fisheries related issues. River Watch is developing nicely, Fish Friends continues to grow and we've established good communication links with the Sable Island Gas Pipeline Program.

What's going to happen in '98? What about DFO and hatcheries? Recently Min. Anderson and DFO stated they are to stay the course of divestiture as they have "less

costly management measures" to implement. So, we asked, "what are they"? The question was presented back in November and still has not been answered. A question this important, left unanswered, virtually ignores us and DFO wonders why they have no public support. By the way, I hear we're down to two assessment biologists...is this what "less costly" means?

We are pleased that Dr. Fred Whoriskey, ASF, will be joining us at our April 4th AGM to present the status of Atlantic salmon stocks both locally and internationally. I don't anticipate that Dr. Whoriskey's message is going to be pleasing, but we take the good with the bad. Stocks will return and our efforts are vital. Don't pack it in!

The Association continues to enjoy the support of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and especially that of our Regional Director, Lewis Hinks. Bill Taylor and his staff are busy addressing our many national and international concerns pertaining to high seas fisheries and

DFO divestiture, while researching the effects of aquaculture escapees and developing river management strategies. It is essential that we continue to work together as a team, each doing his/her part, to ensure we meet our shared goals. Thank you ASF!

As usual, we are always in need of volunteers. We need a new treasurer and could use a few new Directors. It only takes four days a year to participate. Maybe you can't join the Board, but could afford a few hours to assist with fund raising or serve in some other fashion. Think about it...maybe it's time to give a little something back.

Best regards,
Terry MacIntyre,
President

This win illustrates the fact that our organization is still well respected within government and that we have their confidence

Newsletter comments are welcome.
Send your ideas/concerns to:

NSSA

P.O.Box 523, Halifax, N.S., B3J 2R7
OR

To the Editor : Alice K. Hale
35 Mount Edward Road
Dartmouth, N.S., B2W 3K5
e-mail nstn0210@fox.nstn.ca
Phone/fax 434-2927

President—Terry MacIntyre
Antigonish Phone 386-2552
Fax 386-2334
email nssalmon@atcon.com



Licence Stub Returns...

Take five minutes for fisheries management.

You can pretty well tell the time of year it is by the type of mail we get around here. Requests for lake survey summaries and stocking inquiries increase as spring approaches, trout derby requests and bass tournament permit requests start to pile up as spring turns into summer, and after September, completed fishing licence stubs and angler diaries fill up Box 700 at the Pictou Post Office.

What do we do with all those licence stubs (sometimes called angler report cards)? The Atlantic salmon licence stubs are forwarded to DFO in Halifax for processing while the 3-4,000 General fishing licence stub returns are sorted and summarized for entry into the computer. This takes place the summer after the end of the previous years fishing season, so 1996 data will be processed this summer when seasonal staff come on stream.

General fishing licence sales have been fairly steady at around 60 - 68,000 annually for the last ten years, with an average voluntary stub return rate of about 5.7%. Atlantic Salmon licence sales over the same period have ranged from a high of 8,615 in 1989 to a low of 3,536 (preliminary figures) in 1996. Return rates for Atlantic salmon licence stubs average around 75%. As some of you may have found out over the years, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans places a high priority on information gleaned from licence stubs and actively solicits returns by issuing reminder notices to those who haven't sent their cards in promptly.

What kinds of information do we get from licence stub returns? Total annual catch estimates for each species, estimates of average catch per angler per year, catch estimates by county and RFA, and since 1991, with the addition of a column for number of days fished, we can calculate the catch per angler per day by species. There is certainly much more information we could request from anglers on the licence stub, but we've decided to keep it simple for a couple of reasons.

With ten sportfish species and over 6000 lakes and 100 rivers in Nova Scotia, it would not be possible to use a format similar to that used for Atlantic salmon licence stubs. Any more detailed information would at least double the size of the card or make a separate form or booklet necessary; the angler diary program has been developed to collect that level of detailed information on a daily basis. Since the stub returns are usually filled out by anglers at the end of the fishing season, "recall bias" can make the data unreliable. And we all know that fish stories can change over time! Additionally, we don't want to decrease the level of voluntary stub returns by asking people to fill out an overly detailed report card.

Licence stub return data date back to 1966 and are our longest time series that shed light on sportfish population levels. While the data do not estimate fish population levels directly, they provide an index by which this years' data can be compared to historical levels, or trends in total catch rates can be examined over time. There are more accurate methods of collecting vital statistics on fish populations which can estimate population density, natural and fishing mortality, growth rates, production, surplus yield etc. - but they all have one thing in common: they are expensive. Increasingly, fisheries managers are relying on index methods of fisheries assessment such as snorkel counts, electrofishing spot checks, and creel surveys to augment more traditional population enumeration and assessment techniques. Licence stub return data are a valuable contribution to the "toolbox" of information required to successfully manage our sportfishery.

So take five minutes to fill out your fishing licence stub return and help fisheries managers get a more accurate picture of what's going on in the fishery. And don't forget to mail it - we'll pay the postage!

Alan McNeill, NSDOF; Atlantic salmon stats courtesy of Deborah Stewart, DFO.

SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

Scotia-Fundy Sector, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

① The salmon angling season in at least two of the province's salmon fishing areas does not close until October 31. On average, only 35% of anglers provide stubs without a reminder letter. Science data from field programs is not available until mid-November and then must be processed.

② By mid-January sufficient information is available from the stub returns (the response rate increases to 70% with reminder letters) and other sources for assessment purposes.

③ Throughout December and January, client consultations are held in the various salmon fishing areas. The purpose of these consultations is to get client input on the assessment programs.

④ That input is taken into account at the Regional Advisory Process (RAP) held in February. The RAP is essentially a peer review of the assessment program with angler and Native representatives invited to attend and participate in the process.

⑤ The RAP culminates in the release of the official salmon stock status reports in March.

⑥ Once the official stock status reports are available, two additional rounds of consultations commence in April. First, there are consultations with natives towards the development of their annual fishing agreements and harvesting plans. Second are the Zone management Advisory Committees (ZMAC) meetings where all stakeholders get the opportunity to make recommendations to DFO on salmon management measures for the upcoming angling season.

⑦ Because the consultations with Natives and the ZMAC's often happen simultaneously, DFO specifically advises ZMAC members that management measures arising from ZMAC consultations are subject to finalizing agreements with Natives.

⑧ Regional flexibility for implementing annual changes to salmon fishing regulations is essentially restricted to adjusting seasons, bag limits and size limits through the variation order process.

⑨ At the conclusion of the ZMAC process, the required variation order package is prepared and sent to the Regional Director-General complete with a briefing package.

⑩ Management plan decisions are made on the following priority basis

a) conservation b) Native fishing rights c) others

⑪ Once the variation orders are signed, they are published and a package is sent to the Province for inclusion with salmon angling licenses.

Greg Stevens DFO

The Value of Volunteers

in the Nova Scotia Sportfishing Industry

In Nova Scotia, 10.7% of the licensed anglers belong to an organized group.

- In Nova Scotia, each volunteer contributes an average of 13.0 days

Calculation of Value of Volunteer Hours by Anglers

- number of licensed anglers=65,000
- 65,000 X 10.7%=6,955 organized anglers
- each angler commits 13 days to volunteer efforts=6,955 X 13=90,415 days
- 90,415 days X 8 hour days=723,320 volunteer hours
- at \$12.00 per hour X 723,320 hours= \$8,679,840.00

Economic Value of Angler Volunteers in Nova Scotia Is \$8,679,840.00

Source : Vision for the Future by Howard Paish & Associates, prepared for the department of Fisheries and Oceans, 1995

Jim Campbells Barren

Raymond Plourde

A Conservation Victory for the Margaree

After almost a year of political controversy and public outcry, the environment and wild Atlantic salmon have scored an important victory in Nova Scotia. On October 29th, Premier Russell MacLellan announced he was returning the area known as Jim Campbells Barren to the list of Parks and Protected Areas. Declaring the Barren "to be protected from development and preserved for the natural enjoyment of our people", the new premier has made it off limits to mining and other hard development. "We must protect a priceless piece of our natural endowment rather than risk its loss to the uncertainties of exploitation," he said. "I have taken this decision in the belief that it is essential to protect the integrity of our environmental decision making in this province - that once a decision is made to protect lands and spaces from development that such decisions be unrevokable."

Jim Campbells Barren is a 12-kilometer bog/barren plateau in northern Cape Breton, near the world famous Cabot Trail and just south of the Cape Breton Highlands National Park. It is also part of the headwater mountains feeding the Margaree River and its smaller and more remote neighbour, the Cheticamp. The salmon conservation community, environmentalists and citizen groups from all walks rallied to protect this sensitive place and this special river.

"These 31 natural masterpieces of biodiversity deserve perpetual protection and that is what they will get"

- Premier Russell MacLellan

Premier MacLellan's announcement that he was reinstating protected status was the culmination of a year long battle to save the Barren. The area had originally been included in a list of 31 spaces to be protected in 1995, following extensive public hearings and consultation. It was removed from the list by former Premier John Savage's government after intense behind-the-scenes lobbying by mineral interests. Regal Goldfields of Toronto wanted access to the environmentally sensitive and much-loved wilderness area to explore for gold and other minerals. When the public got word that the Barren had been pulled from the list, with no public consultation, they were outraged.

At issue were the corruption of the public consultation process, protection of important wilderness areas and the threat to one of about a dozen remaining healthy river systems supporting runs of wild Atlantic salmon. Nova Scotians have already lost too many rivers to acid rain and were not willing to stand by and watch this near-pristine river system threatened. Over 50 groups from across the province and beyond came together to fight for the return of the Barren. At the forefront of the effort were the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, Atlantic Salmon Federation,

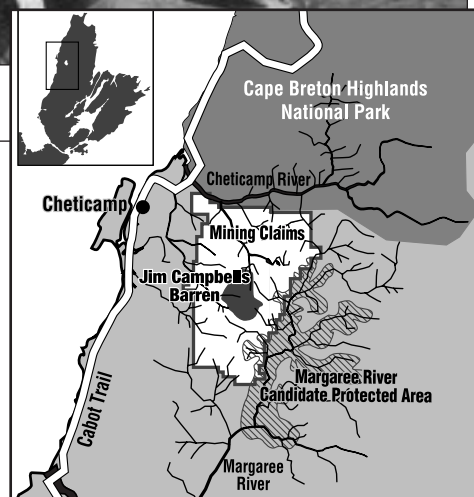


The Barren Brigade - From left: Robert Chiasson CSA, John Hart MSA, Raymond Plourde NSSA, Lewis Hinks ASF; Front: Terry MacIntyre NSSA

Margaree & Cheticamp Salmon Associations, Sierra Club of Canada and World Wildlife Fund. Letters from across Canada, the US and Europe poured into Provincial government offices calling for the return of the Barren and the protection of the watersheds. A petition signed by almost 10,000 Nova Scotians demanding the return of the Barren was presented to government leaders. The story made national news for months. A year of public outcry, revelations of possible insider trading and an RCMP investigation brought the issue to the top of the provincial government agenda. The wrong had to be put right.

On December 9th the government introduced legislation to permanently protect all 31 sites - including Jim Campbells Barren. The act will protect almost 20 per cent of the province's Crown lands, a higher percentage than in any other province in Canada. In his announcement, Premier MacLellan promised, "These 31 natural masterpieces of biodiversity deserve perpetual protection and that is what they will get". Upon introducing the legislation he added, "There will be no mining".

Now, as Regal Goldfields goes to court to challenge him - and maybe mine the pockets of



Nova Scotian taxpayers along the way - all eyes will be on the premier to see if he keeps his word.

Salmon anglers were particularly thankful to have the Margaree this past season, as it was just about the only river in the province to receive both rain and fish. And due to the Jim Campbells Barren controversy, all were made very aware of how important it is that she be protected. To that end, the salmon conservation family will have to remain active and vigilant. We hope our grandchildren will also know the thrill of seeing flashing silver in the deep, dark Seal Pool.

NSSA Membership

Adult : \$10.00 Youth : \$5.00 Affiliate : \$5.00

NSSA NEEDS YOUR HELP -Read through Upstream and see the projects we have been working on--e.g. Jim Campbells Barren, lobbying DFO, administering Adopt-A-Stream, taking a lead role in River Watch. Renew your membership or join for the first time.

Name : _____

Address : _____

_____ Postal Code _____

Phone No. : _____ Email Address : _____

Please check if you wish to receive information about how to get active with NSSA _____

Return to : **NSSA, c/o Madonna MacIntyre**
102 Pomquet Road, R.R.#7, Antigonish, NS B2G 2L4

There was a concern about the overland route for the distribution of Sable Island gas; therefore, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association asked for and received official status as an intervener at the hearing. This allowed us to have funding for research, preparation of briefs, travel and availability of documents.

During the proceedings we made three separate appearances where we voiced concerns, raised questions and gave recommendations.

From the very start, we were not opposed to the pipeline but our concern was the crossing of 92 river systems which included the St. Mary's East River, and rivers of Pictou and Cumberland Counties.

During the proceedings we had the following mandate: "the preservation of Atlantic Salmon and other salmonoids within the aquatic environment of Nova Scotia".

Some of the main issues raised by NSSA were:

- 1 Specific methods used to cross our various rivers. We were opposed to any "wet crossings"
- 2 Potential for acid bearing rock at river crossings and on riparian zones
- 3 Proper number of qualified environmental inspectors on the job at river crossings with the authority to "shut down" the operation if necessary
- 4 Soil damage and siltation of rivers especially on steep slopes
- 5 Areas of selection for some river crossings
- 6 Open access to ATV's and degradation of riparian zones
- 7 Emergency measures

We were successful in making recommendations with regard to various river crossings: i.e. French River, Wallace River, Middle River. Another area of success was the hiring and

training of 30 environmental inspectors from the original number of 10.

We discussed the "window of operation" for specific river systems: i.e stay away from late summer, early fall river crossings on our fall rivers.

The pipeline company was supposed to have an "Environmental Protection Plan" available in February. This plan was to discuss various environment concerns and corrective measures for outstanding issues. At this time there are still 10-12 river systems which are question marks for "wet or dry" crossings. Since the pipeline debate, there is the issue of "lateral lines" which have not had an environmental review process and this should be a matter of great concern as the lateral line to Halifax will be travelling through acid generating rock.

In summary, the main line can proceed through the province with minimal negative environmental impact IF environmental controls are followed but there is still more work to be done on the issue of lateral lines.

NSSA Lands Adopt-A-Stream!

Amy Weston

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association has taken on the lead role of administrating the Adopt-A-Stream Program. The NSSA's goal for the program is to increase community involvement in watershed conservation projects that will result in the enhancement of Nova Scotia's sport fisheries. With financial assistance from the Canada/Nova Scotia Cooperation Agreement on Economic Diversification, the NSSA is able to offer project funding and technical support to community groups undertaking projects in two categories: fish population enhancement projects such as incubation boxes and satellite rearing units, and fish habitat restoration projects.

Many of you are familiar with Adopt-A-Stream, and have at some point undertaken projects to improve your waterways for the fish that inhabit them. The Adopt-Stream Program encourages volunteer community groups to become actively involved in the long term care, conservation and enhancement of their local waterways. Although called "Adopt-A-Stream", this program has a broader perspective, encompassing the entire watershed: lakes, streams, rivers, marshes and estuaries. Similarly, the program is not limited to particular fish species. While Atlantic salmon and trout are notoriously sensitive to habitat disturbance, and respond quickly to improved conditions, other sport fish species are equally valuable, and can be targeted in Adopt-A-Stream projects.

Across the province current and past land-use has drastically reduced productive fish habitat. Adopt-A-Stream concentrates on the restoration and improvement of the vital physical aspects of aquatic habitats. Habitat degradation can be reversed. Community

groups can develop and put into action plans that restore the natural productivity of aquatic systems in a matter of years. One type of project that has proved to be highly effective involves the installation of physical structures in streams, restoring natural channel dynamics, and thereby improving migration and increasing spawning and nursery habitat. Other successful projects have restored the riparian areas of streams and lakes through replanting, bank stabilization, and livestock fencing. Such hands-on efforts have resulted in ecological benefits for the local environment, and also in economic returns through growth in the sport fishing industry.

An Adopt-A-Stream project may be just the opportunity you have been looking for to involve other groups (Lions clubs, seniors, Scouts and Guides, students, etc.) and indi-

viduals from your community in the protection and conservation of local waterways.

As the NSSA's Adopt-A-Stream Program Manager, I am looking forward to working with affiliates and other groups on a range of interesting and effective projects. I will provide technical support for the planning, design, and implementation of Adopt-A-Stream projects. Now that the program is guaranteed three years of solid funding, Adopt-A-Stream can offer you and your organization new opportunities to take major steps toward healthier waterways and better fishing. For more details about Adopt-A-Stream and the Project Funding Program, please contact:

Amy Weston NSSA/ Adopt-A-Stream Program Manager phone: (902) 455-3676 e-mail: ab270@chebucto.ns.ca

Fish Tales

Raymond Plourde catches & releases a large fall-run male at Sheppard's Rock Pool - Margaree River.
Photo: Douglas Hart



ASF ANNOUNCES

Nova Scotia's 1997 Roll Of Honour Winner

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) announces that John Hart of Margaree, Cape Breton Island, has been selected as ASF's 1997 Roll of Honour recipient for Nova Scotia. ASF presents the Roll of Honour annually to a volunteer in each of its regional council areas to acknowledge outstanding commitment to Atlantic salmon conservation at the grass-roots level. Bill Taylor, ASF President, states, "John Hart has spent many years working at the local level to preserve Atlantic salmon in Nova Scotia. This year, John played a major role in getting the Jim Campbells Barren relisted as a candidate protected area in Nova Scotia. Through his leadership, 53 concerned groups, representing local, provincial and international interests, demanded and won protection of the ecologically sensitive Barren area in the headwaters of two salmon rivers, the Cheticamp and the Margaree. This action protects the rivers' fish populations from the threats of mining. We are delighted to place John's name on the ASF's Roll of Honour."

John Hart is the immediate past-president of the Margaree Salmon Association (MSA). He has been a member of the Board of Directors for the past six years and is a driving force in representing the Atlantic salmon of the Margaree River. He has led the organization in the development of the provincial River Watch program and in the implementation of salmon research on the Margaree River. The Margaree Salmon Association also operates the Margaree Visitor's Interpretation Centre, which educates thousands of visitors annually about the Atlantic salmon, its history and habitat and about issues affecting its future. John was recently elected to the Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA) Board of Directors.

Terry MacIntyre, President of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, says, "John's passion, concern and commitment for the present and future status of the Atlantic salmon is to be admired and should challenge each of us to do our part to conserve the Atlantic salmon. He is truly deserving of the ASF's Roll of Honour distinction."

The Atlantic Salmon Federation is an international, non-profit organization which promotes the conservation and wise management of the Atlantic salmon and its environment. ASF has a network of seven regional councils (Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Maine, and New England), which have a membership of more than 150 river associations and 40,000 volunteers. This regional network covers the freshwater range of Atlantic salmon in Canada and the United States.

Beauty and Utility

Alice K. Hale

"I'm a guy who likes to play and experiment—to tie a fly because it's pretty." This is Eric Baylis' attitude toward flytying—trying to be creative, trying new ways on the old patterns, all the while making something both beautiful and utilitarian.

The NSSA has been the lucky recipient of Eric's work. He first created the Salmo Salar fly and then the Margaree Autumn especially for the Association. These flies, in 8 by 10 frames, bring nice prices at the annual NSSA dinner and auction.

Last winter, I signed up for a flytying course from Eric Baylis at Fishin' Fever. I had seen his articles in *Spawner* but had no idea the extent of Eric's knowledge about the history of flytying, nor his interest in little gadgets which facilitate flytying for people like me.

When I visited his shop, he talked about his love of trying new ways of doing things, of fiddling around with tools. He uses the new materials like krystal flash, visits hobby shops to see what would be useful for him to adapt, and reads all the magazines and books he can find.

The very first article he sent to *Flytyer*, in response to a contest, won first prize. In the article, he described his invention of the "wire core dubbing twister". Since then, he's published lots of articles, sharing his original patterns, or variations on old patterns, and describing some of the techniques he uses while tying.

His classes were extremely interesting and he reminded me of some of the fine classroom teachers I've seen. Eric stressed quality work—put on a good even base of thread, line up the hairs carefully, use 5 equal turns for the rib. If the body doesn't look good, untie it and do it again! Keep your tying space neat—always put the top back on the head cement bottle! These small things form the basis for good work. The precision, the neatness, the sharp attention to the blending of colours—these combined with Eric's nat-

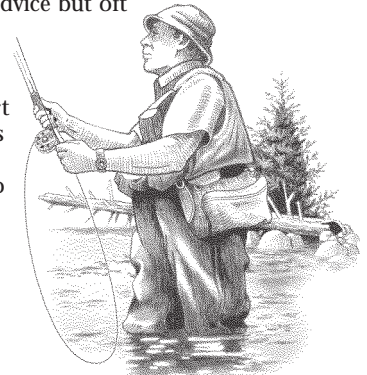
ural dexterity made me very envious of the results he achieved. However, after I completed the course, I knew I was a better tyer and had the desire to continue improving.

His shop, where he repairs reels and rods and sells flies, is a room filled with history. There are shelves of some of the books and magazines he's collected, many period rods and reels, and samples of classic flies he's tied. Eric is having difficulty with his eyesight these days—a serious deterrent to a tyer—but he continues making flies, especially the larger ones.

He makes all kinds of flies but salmon flies are his favourite—he also loves salmon fishing. Because he wanted to know "the whole gauntlet", he learned to tie the classics on his own, from books and magazines. Later in his career, he attended seminars by some of the well-known tyers, but those merely tuned up his techniques. When I asked how long it took him to tie a classic he was somewhat uncertain, but acknowledged that with all the materials laid out and no interruptions, it would be a minimum of 4 hours.

In his own salmon fishing career, he said he caught more on Cosseboom type flies but stressed "fishing the conditions" is the most important point to remember. "Carry good standard flies (like the Blue Charm) in about 6 sizes and suit the size to the water level". Very sensible advice but oft ignored.

I enjoyed learning from Eric—an expert flytyer who has raised his achievement to an art form.



Cummulative counts of MSW salmon and grilse in Nova Scotia rivers, Oct.31, 1997

RIVER	Mean	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
MSW SALMON	92-96						
La Have River							
Morgan Falls Fishway	219	265	197	211	227	194	90
Sackville River							
Fence 92-96	n/a	n/a	n/a	32	7	10	1
Liscomb River							
Fishway	21	39	23	18	12	14	11
Grand River							
Fishway	8	18	5	5	6	7	5
Margaree - Not Available At This Time							
GRILSE	Mean						
La Have	1302	2420	1166	694	1096	1132	300
Sackville	n/a	n/a	n/a	88	175	223	11
Liscomb	267	270	262	253	238	313	73
Grand	116	114	91	68	152	154	28

DFO... what are you doing?

Terry MacIntyre, President, NSSA

Veteran journalist Ralph Surette, in his article "DFO adrift and dangerous", (*Chronicle Herald*, Jan. 1998) presented his sagacious views on the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. He mused about DFO having "alienated most of the fishing community" saying, "It's not tending to any major issues and its science sector is in turmoil".

The article goes on to quote a "dismayed DFO insider" as follows: "The message from Anderson is that everything is fine. But it's not fine when you're out of sync with the people who are supposed to have confidence in you. DFO doesn't have confidence, vision or anything."

In the fall of '97, we addressed a series of questions to the Hon. David Anderson, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. In one of these questions, we asked him to elaborate on the "less costly management measures" he had alluded to in an earlier correspondence. To date, this question has not been addressed.

So let's talk about confidence...if DFO has a less costly management strategy, why have they not told anybody about it? Why have they kept in complete darkness the very people they should be rallying in support of Atlantic salmon conservation? The very people they think are going to pay for hatcheries?

Ask yourself why we have not seen any endorsement for hatchery divestiture from any provincial conservation or sportsfishing organization?...how come the Government of Nova Scotia has not endorsed a divestiture plan?...why isn't there any public support?

Are we so blind that we can't see the wisdom of the divestiture process or are we simply being uncooperative? Is the DFO insider one malcontent or are there others who share his/her opinion? If we're all wrong, why are similar stories expressing frustration, outrage and utter disdain and chastising the DFO showing up in the *Globe and Mail*, *New York Times* and *Telegraph Journal*?

Furthermore, why is DFO so uncompromising about divesting the hatcheries instead of rallying resources and discussing cost saving measures for salmon management as a program?

How can Min. Anderson justify \$27 million for British Columbia hatcheries while ignoring the east coast? Is he not aware that Nova Scotia is the province in Canada most seriously impacted by acid rain? Yet DFO refuses to acknowledge hatcheries play a role in mitigating effects of acid rain. To date, we are aware that a group called Salmon Care is attempting to assume the hatchery program. We are not aware of any public support or

whether they have been able to secure sufficient financial resources. We do know that DFO has stated that hatcheries are not required for conservation so Salmon Care is virtually handcuffed from playing the conservation card in their fund raising efforts. Hatcheries have to be for the public benefit. How can this be if conservation isn't being met, aboriginal food fishery is second in line and the sportsfishery third? I ask once again, where's the money?

Other than hatcheries, what else is involved in salmon management? DFO employs biologists and technical support in assessing the salmon populations and habitat. Herein lies a rather expensive management scheme—two different branches (assessment and habitat) visit the same waterways to collect data about a single species. Considering that divestiture is primarily a cost-saving measure, why couldn't the two branches be consolidated?

Back to Mr. Surette. He goes on to address the actions of Nova Scotia's Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Hon. Jim Barkhouse. Barkhouse is quoted as saying, "We have tried to be patient, but the stakes are too high...Nova Scotia will settle for nothing less than the provinces being recognized as full partners in the new federal Fisheries Act". The Minister has been patient and very supportive of our concerns. He is right that we must be full partners. Does DFO want this?

Since the central theme of the divestiture process is fiscal restraint the timing is perfect for redefining salmon management to incorporate a more holistic approach to fisheries management. All DFO has to do is transfer responsibility and financial resources for fisheries management to the Province of Nova Scotia.

Once transferred, the province then could legitimately and with authority get on with working on behalf of the Atlantic salmon and other anadromous species. The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has the confidence of and commitment from the people it represents.

Herein lies our problem. Where do we present this concept of redefining fisheries management to better utilize our private and public sector resources? Where do we find an elected member who will stand up and support a solution to keep the field staff in the field? It appears that DFO simply wants us to pay for the hatcheries and keep quiet. This is unacceptable as salmon management entails far more than just hatcheries. We want to talk about management.

if DFO has a less costly management strategy, why have they not told anybody about it?

NSSA Scholarship Nominations

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association annually grants a scholarship award in the amount of \$500. The purpose is to provide an award to any person resident in Nova Scotia who enhances or proposes to enhance by any endeavour the well-being of the Atlantic salmon. For example, an individual may:

i) have undertaken, or be in the process of undertaking scholarly pursuit related to the enhancement or conservation of the Atlantic salmon
ii) propose to publish, or have published, an article or scientific paper in any field which furthers enhancement of the Atlantic salmon
iii) promote the cause of the Atlantic salmon by outstanding leadership or participation
iv) be engaged in endeavours of an Association which results in the conservation of the Atlantic salmon.

Applications for the 1998 scholarship are solicited. Please provide detailed information; for example, about the course of study and its relation to the Atlantic salmon; about the individual and why you think he or she is worthy of recognition by NSSA; or about the Association and its interest in conservation of the Atlantic salmon.

Deadline for application: March 23, 1998. The scholarship award will be presented at the NSSA Annual Dinner and Auction, April 2, 1998.

Please send your nomination to the Chair of the Scholarship Committee, NSSA, P.O. Box 470, Port Williams, N.S. BOP 1T0. If further information is required, please contact Peter Bagnell: Tel: 542-3889; Fax 542-7871.

Pictou County Rivers Association

5th Annual Fishing Expo

The Stadium, Washington St.
New Glasgow
April 3,4,5 Fri. 6:00 pm-10:00 pm;
Sat. 9:00 am-5:00 pm; Sun. 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Features: vehicles, ATV's, trailers, flytying demonstrations and competitions, fishing tackle, hunting equipment and clothing

Applications or more info from:
Pictou County Rivers Association,
P.O. Box 586, Westville, NS B0K 2A0
Phone Bob (902) 396-5409
or (902) 755-1024

Each year, the president of ASF highlights the year's achievements. We are presenting excerpts from Bill Taylor's 1997 annual report.

- I hope to be able to report conclusively that the Humber River hydro development and the Jim Campbells Barren issue have been resolved. Our scientific input to the environmental impact statement and our advocacy work with the Humber River Allies have encouraged Deer Lake Power "to put on hold" its planned development that would destroy a major spawning area for Atlantic salmon in the Upper Humber. (Ed. comment—Jim Campbells Barren has been put back on the protected list.)

- We were unable to deter the federal government's resolute resolve to stop the requirement for tagging aquaculture salmon.

- Another victory—This year we had the lowest quota ever on the Greenland and Labrador fisheries...but it became apparent that governments haven't gone far enough in restructuring interceptory fisheries. Returns of adult salmon to counting fences in North America were extremely low this season. A 50% reduction from last year is not out of the ordinary...Salmon populations are at their lowest point in history. Despite even smaller commercial quotas, there has been no resurgence of salmon populations in the sea. At the Atlantic Salmon Symposium in Ireland, this resolution was unanimously passed:

That the ASF and the Atlantic Salmon Trust will take the lead role to organize before the end of 1997, a meeting of ASF, AST and other appropriate international players with the goal of developing a strategy to influence governments throughout the North Atlantic to apply the required resources and implement appropriate conservation measures to effectively address the priority issues affecting salmon in the sea.

- In December, Wilfred Carter and I met with our allies at the Atlantic Salmon Trust to pursue an integrated salmon management plan at the international level...The number one priority was to shut down destructive mixed stock fisheries which indiscriminately

harvest the valuable large spawners.

Excerpts from Management Board Priorities —(1996-97) six-month progress update

Elimination of Interceptory Fisheries—In Newfoundland, ASF and the Salmonid of Newfoundland and Labrador(SCNL)...were successful in having the 5-year moratorium extended for 1997.

Labrador—ASF and SCNL participated in an advisory group and were successful in reducing the quota from 55 to 50 metric tonnes and in obtaining a permanent buy-out offer to 13 commercial fishermen.

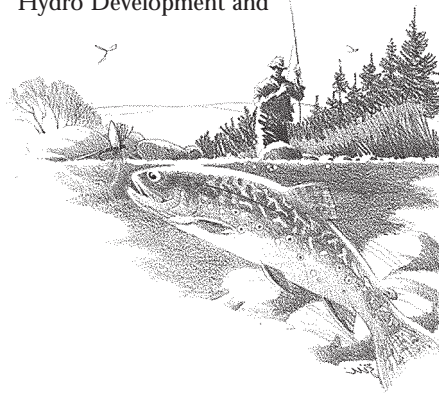
Greenland—ASF was part of the deliberations that resulted in the lowest quota yet on the Greenland fishery (57 metric tonnes).

Quebec North Shore—The quota was again 37.5 metric tonnes, reduced from 47 metric tonnes in 1995.

Research—In 1997, thanks to funding from the Molson Foundation and co-operation with DFO, the technology to track salmon at sea was developed so that when the project resumes in 1998, researchers will use the most advanced, efficient and cost effective tracking methods.

River Specific Management — ASF and the Ponoï River Co. (Russia) continue researching how to develop a detailed conservation plan for a wild salmon river. This pioneer study is answering many questions about natural production. The knowledge gained on the Ponoï will benefit salmon management around the North Atlantic.

Hydro Development and



Margaree Salmon Association

On October 29, 1997, Premier MacLellan ended months of speculation by announcing that the Jim Campbells Barren would be reinstated to the list of 31 Candidate Protected Areas in the province.

With the Margaree River being the single most prominent entity affected by mining in the Barren, the announcement was greeted with elation and "high-fives" by friends of the Margaree from across North America. Because articles have appeared in the media describing interest in the development of other special areas across the province, we can exult in having won a major battle, but the war isn't over yet.

The Margaree Salmon Association would like to thank all the individuals, groups and

organizations who played a part in the Barrens decision. From December 3, 1996 to October 29, 1997, petitions, letters, presentations, and moral support were a stellar example of teamwork, and of what may be accomplished in a cooperative fashion.

We would like to thank, for their tireless efforts, our friends and colleagues in the ASF/NSSA family and every group and individual who supported this cause.

John Hart, JCB Committee Chairman (MSA)

Relicensing Interventions —In an unprecedented action, staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recommended in July that the 169-year-old dam in Augusta, Maine be removed in order to benefit the habitat and spawning potential of nine migratory fish species of the Kennebec River. FERC disagreed with the State of Maine and recommended that the proposed Basin Mills Dam not be built on the Penobscot.

In the campaign to have the Jim Campbells Barren relisted as an ecologically valuable area designated for protection, the threat to the million-dollar sportfishery by mining was given much exposure by the coalition fighting for the health of the Margaree and Cheticamp rivers thus creating public awareness of the economic benefits of the recreational fishing industry.

Thanks to the support, dedication and good work of our staff and volunteers, I am optimistic and confident about the future.

Annual General Meeting

**Nova Scotia Salmon Association
Dartmouth Ramada Inn**

Day 1 - Saturday, April 4, '98

10:00AM

Guest Speaker

Dr. Fred Whoriskey

VP Research and Environment,
Atlantic Salmon Federation

Topic : Stock Assessment Data for
Nova Scotia

1:00 PM

Topic : Management

Recommendations Tabled for Each
Nova Scotia River

7:00 PM

Meet and Greet Reception for
membership, guests, affiliates

Day 2 - Sunday, April 5, '98

10:00AM

Adopt-a-Stream Display and
Information Session

Affiliate Exhibits, Door Prizes,
Tackle Shop Displays, etc.

1:00PM

Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker

Dr. Fred Whoriskey

NSSA Awards Call For Nominations

DAVE SYMONDS AWARD

The award is presented annually to a member of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association or Affiliate Association that has illustrated outstanding contributions to the sport of angling, promotion of public education, enhancement, resurrection and conservation of Atlantic salmon and/or trout within the Province of Nova Scotia.

RIVER WATCH FISHERIES MONITOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each River Watch host group may nominate one Fisheries Monitor from their group. The candidate must :

a) Be active and dedicated to his/her local river watch program and the overall promotion and development of the province-wide initiative.

b) Be actively monitoring, observing, recording and reporting aspects of the watershed and violations affecting it, as outlined by the "Role of a River Watch Fisheries Monitor" : p 6-7 of the Guidebook

c) Be actively communicating with and educating others about the importance of a healthy watershed and the benefits of the River Watch program.

d) Be actively striving to establish the link between the community and the River Watch Program through his/her volunteer efforts and community service.

e) Be actively trying to recruit new volunteers to the program.

f) Be actively encouraging anglers, landowners and other members of the general public to join government in the enforcement of regulations designed to protect fish, fish habitat and the environment in general.

g) Be conscious of his/her actions, both on the job and off, and serve as a role model for others to follow.

AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR

The Affiliate of the Year is presented annually to an Affiliate Association recognized for its outstanding leadership and achievements in the promotion of Atlantic salmon and/or trout restoration, public education and conservation in the Province of Nova Scotia. Affiliate Associations can be nominated by the Regional Vice Presidents, any member of the Association or of an Affiliate Association.

ELIGIBILITY:

Recipients of Nova Scotia Salmon Association awards must be members in good standing, except for the River Watch Award.

Nominations for the awards are solicited from the Associations membership and affiliate network via the Association's newsletter. Nominations are to be supported by a letter outlining the nominees' actions.

Award presentations are made at the Annual Halifax Dinner Auction, scheduled for April 2, 1998.

Deadline for submission : March 23, 1998

Send nominees to :

Dr. Peter Bagnell

P.O. Box 470

Port William, N.S. B0P 1T0

Tel: 542-3889 Fax: 542-7871



NSSA/ASF DINNER

Thursday, April 2, 1998 • The Westin Nova Scotian
Reception : 6:00 pm Dinner : 7:00 pm

Special Honoured Guest
Donald Sobey

Presentation: 2nd Annual Lt. Governor's Award for Conservation

\$75.00
per person

For tickets Contact Jim Lawley
Phone: 453-2121(w) 492-3059(h)
Pager: 459-3395 Cell: 456-2121

FISH THE MIRAMICHI - JULY 23-25 ASF CONCLAVE '98

*Don't miss our 50th Anniversary celebration
of fellowship, fun and fishing!*

REGISTRATION FEE:

Before April 30 /98....\$125 per person

After April 30 /98.....\$150 per person

CONCLAVE HEADQUARTERS:

Rodd Miramichi River Lodge & Conf. Centre

Accommodations information...1-800-565-RODD

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Mark Hambrook, Conclave Registrar..1-506-622-1781

ASF CONCLAVE '98

P.O. Box 181, Newcastle, Miramichi, N.B. Canada E3V 3M3

SPONSORED BY:

- Northumberland Salmon Protection Association
- New Brunswick Salmon Council • Atlantic Salmon Federation

