

Nova Scotia Salmon Association

UPSTREAM

A Commitment by Nature to Conservation

President's Creel

The past months have been an extremely busy and exciting time for the Nova Scotia Salmon Association. The highlight was the official launch of our West River Sheet Harbour Acid Rain Mitigation Project on 21 September 2005. On the morning of the 21st NSSA's George Ferguson and ASF's Regional Director for Nova Scotia, Lewis Hinks, participated in several interviews with local, national and international print, radio and television media. At 3:00 PM, the ribbon was cut at the doser site and, in true Nova Scotia tradition, we "piped" (as in bag -pipes) the first dose of lime into the West River. Following the official ceremony, we joined with the Eastern Shore Wildlife Association for a smoked salmon reception and fundraiser at the ESWA lodge. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to ensure this very important venture got the kick-off it needed.

Present and future concerns for the Association will be to fine tune the operating logistics of the doser, raise funds needed to annually operate the Project and increase awareness of the issue of acid rain at local, provincial and national levels. Judging by the attention the official start up generated, we have garnered the interest of government, the media and the general public. We remain confident that this Project is the first step in what will eventually be a comprehensive acid rain mitigation strategy for affected regions of Nova Scotia. Already we have received inquiries from people who want to participate in funding future dosing projects. Stay tuned for updates on this historic chapter for the Association.

In addition to the West River Project, our Adopt-A-Stream program has quietly enjoyed tremendous success in its inaugural "restart" year. 20 groups received Adopt-A-Stream support (financial and/or technical) in the 2005 field season. Summer crews and volunteers worked to improve habitat in about 25 watercourses across the Province, restoring more than 100,000 square meters of in-stream habitat and many kilometres of riparian habitat by planting thousands of trees and shrubs. Community groups and affiliates are now planning for the 2006 field season.

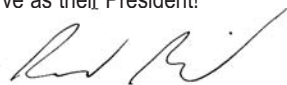
Funding for the Adopt-A-Stream program was in large part from the new Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund. A total of \$208,500 of funding was approved and was matched by other cash (including \$8000 from the NS Inland Fisheries Division for an AAS manual field study) and in-kind contributions at a rate of more than 2:1. The value of the 2005 AAS Program is approximately \$689,000 (conservative estimates that will likely be higher when final numbers are in.)

In July, the NSSA held the first ever Salmon Summit in Margaree, which was intended to bring NSSA affiliate groups together to discuss important salmon issues. The two primary topics discussed were the Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund and the proposed Wild Atlantic Salmon Policy. The Summit resulted in two sets of recommendations submitted to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on both the Policy and Fund. To date, we have not received a response from DFO

On other fronts, we are making efforts to jump-start the Inner Bay of Fundy recovery program, advising the Provincial Inland Fisheries Division on how to spend recently allocated salmon funds for recreational salmon angling, and serving as a watch dog for issues that threaten salmon populations, such as bridge construction over the Sackville River

This is my last edition of the Creel as Carl Purcell will be taking over as President in March 2006. Carl has a long history with NSSA and has recently served as our representative on the Inner Bay of Fundy Recovery Team. We are fortunate that after only several threatening letters and phone calls he agreed to accept the position. I look forward to working with him as NSSA evolves to the next level.

The Association's members and directors are hardworking, dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers with whom I have had the pleasure to work with over the last 2 years. It has been an honour to serve as their President!

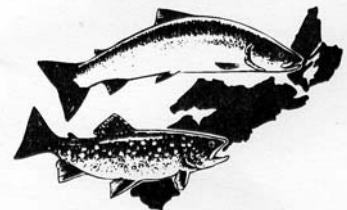


Tight Lines,
David Reid



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WEST RIVER PROJECT A REALITY! - *What a Summer*

By Lewis Hinks

SEPTEMBER 21, 2005. Remember that date folks, it could be a Trivial Pursuit question one day. That was the day that NSSA threw the switch to begin liming the West River.

Those of you who have been following this story will no doubt remember the various articles in previous newsletters that talked about the project, how it was progressing and how we were hopeful that it soon would begin. Well now it is real and I'd like to use this article to describe the events of this past summer.

The real fun started once we placed the order for the doser in the spring. That began a frantic series of events to prepare for a late July arrival of the doser. We had begun the process of obtaining a lease for the property from the Nova Scotia government. We now ramped that up and I had several meetings with the Department of Natural Resources to work out the details of the lease. A lease needs cabinet approval and that can take some time, so in order to be able to construct the pad for the doser, I asked for and obtained a Letter of Authority, which allowed us to begin work on the pad while the lease is finalized. We also needed a survey of the area and George arranged with Thompson Conn to donate the survey work. Neenah Paper came on strong and did a terrific job up-grading the road to the doser site. Too bad some of our paved highways are not as good. As an aside, on one of our many trips to the site, while the road was being upgraded, I bottomed out my vehicle and did several hundred dollars worth of damage. This was a small price to pay for such an important project.

While all of this was going on, we had to finalize the permits. The Nova Scotia Department of the Environment representative happens to live in my village, so I used the 'neighbour' connection to help move that process forward. All during this process, George and I were meeting on a regular basis, trying to work through the myriad of details.

With the road upgraded, we were ready to begin work on the pad and intake and outlet lines for the doser. Two representatives from Miljøkalk in Norway came to Nova Scotia in late June to work with George and I on building the

pad. George ordered all the materials needed and I drove the big truck, (that broke down en route). We had great help from Walter Regan and his crew from the Sackville Rivers Association. These great folks put in a full day at the site getting things ready for construction, sandbagging the river for the pipe installation. Neenah Paper once again stepped up and contracted an excavator for this job, and provided sand and gravel that was needed for the pipes. After several days of hard work, the pad was completed on June 29, 2005.

It was interesting to observe the interaction between the Norwegian engineer Kjell Gilje and George Ferguson. Kjell could speak not a word of English and George could speak no Norwegian, however they were able to inform each other what was needed and the work went very smoothly. The Sackville Rivers Association crew came back and along with the good folks of the Eastern Shore Wildlife Association, we took out the sand bags used to divert the river during the construction of the pad. Walter Regan and Gerald Hardy were always willing to help and their efforts were greatly appreciated. Amy Weston was on site that day doing a story for the Atlantic Salmon Journal, which appeared in the fall issue. We seeded and mulched the site, Bob Rutherford was on site that day helping out, and less than a week later we had grass growing and the site looked great. (now, if only I could be so lucky with my lawn.) As an aside, the week we built the pad, the weather was very hot and dry and the horseflies were big and plentiful as were the black flies. George decided that this would be a great time to camp out on the site to guard the equipment and materials. Personally, I thought the horseflies were doing a great job of keeping people out.

Next we had to get the power line in. This requires clearing an area along the road to place the poles. There was some concern about where the line should go, so I met on site a couple of times with representatives from both Neenah Paper and Nova Scotia Power to clarify the issue. Chris van Slyke led the work of clearing the area and the poles were installed



The lime doser almost in place

the latter part of August. During this time we had to order the phone line. This doser is a new project for Nova Scotia and we had to jump through many hoops to make it a reality. One of those hoops came when we requested the phone line, which is used to contact and monitor the operation of the doser. In order to get a phone line for the doser, we had to have a civic address for the 911 system, in case the doser has a heart attack, I guess. Well, have you ever tried to get a civic address for a 1-hectare piece of land that is part of a 25,000-hectare parcel in the middle of nowhere? This project did not fit in any of the categories of the Halifax Regional

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WEST RIVER PROJECT A REALITY! - continued from page 2

Municipality (HRM) civic addressing department. I made countless phone calls, provided maps and oral descriptions of the area to HRM civic addressing. In the end the doser is at 5150 Highway 224, Pleasant Valley, Nova Scotia and the phone line, (remember that?), was ordered with an early September hook-up planned.

There were several work days on the site planned by George with members of the NSSA and the Eastern Shore Wildlife Association to clean up the site and finish work around the doser. All were very successful and the success of this project has depended greatly on the generosity of those volunteers.

While the work was being done on the pad and getting things ready for the doser, Mr. Eddie Halfyard, an MSc student at Acadia, was busy collecting data on the West River. Eddie is

research program.

On July 30, 2005 the doser arrived on a container ship in Halifax. This was a new project for all of us, so we had to secure a broker to handle getting the doser cleared through the port. I made some calls and got in touch with a broker who, working with David Reid, handled all our paper work. We now had to get the doser off the dock and to the West River. Lloyd MacLellan was contacted and he kindly donated the trucking of the doser to the site. George and I went to Lloyd's storage yard and saw the doser for the first time and I think it was then that it hit us that this project was real. The doser was transported to the site on August 5, 2005. I had arranged with Sagadore Cranes to have the doser placed on the pad and it was quite a day seeing the machine we had worked so hard and long for standing on the pad.

work needed to make it operational.

In September, another representative from Miljøkalk arrived to set up and check the operation of the doser. I worked with ASF's communications staff on the design of a sign for the doser and arranged to have it made locally. Also during this time George and I were working on plans for a grand opening. There was a reception planned, which George organized and I worked with ASF's communications department on media coverage. This included preparing media releases and backgrounders and contacting the media. Jack MacDonald, president of the Eastern Shore Wildlife Association, and I were involved in the preparation of the media photos and video that was sent out as part of the media kits.

On the day of the grand opening, the media descended upon us, literally. We had arranged, with the kind and generous donation of Robert Pace, for a helicopter to transport media to the site. ASF Communications did a fantastic job spearheading the media coverage. George and I were interviewed by many different media outlets and we had great coverage. The story was covered by ATV News, Global News, the Chronicle Herald (in both the city and provincial editions), the Daily News, the Telegraph Journal in New Brunswick, the Globe and Mail and Eastern Woods and Waters. CBC interviewed David Reid and I was interviewed by Radio Canada International for broadcast to Europe and we even got a piece on the Weather Channel. There was also good coverage in the Toronto Star and the Guysborough Journal. Many more people now know about this great project. David cut the ribbon to officially begin the West River liming project.

The night after the media event saw a reception at the Eastern Shore Wildlife Association clubhouse with some speeches and a smoked salmon reception and silent auction. All had a wonderful evening and it was a great way to celebrate the grand opening of the doser.

This has been a very long, sometimes difficult journey, but NSSA/ASF and our partners should feel very proud of our efforts – they made this project a reality.



GRAND OPENING LIME DOSER. The ribbon cutting ceremony of the West River Sheet Harbour liming doser grand opening. Pictured left to right, Walter Regan, Carl Purcell, George Ferguson, David Reid, Gerald Hardy, Jack MacDonald.

studying the effects liming will have on the plant and animal communities in the West River. His work lends more credibility to the project and is an important aspect of the West River project. ASF is helping fund Eddie's MSc and I sat on the committee that helped work out his

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association is very fortunate to have a contractor named George Ferguson spearheading this project for the organization. His training and experience were invaluable in all the detail work needed in hooking up the doser to the power line and with other

Adopt-A-Stream 2005 - Up And Running!!

Levi Cliche, project leader with the Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP) worked with farmers and landowners to improve riparian habitat and bank stabilization by fencing livestock out of watercourses, doing stream side planting and installing "live sills" like the one pictured here, in eroding banks.



The Margaree Salmon Association continued habitat work on the NE Margaree. Pictured are Joel Robinson, who headed up the MSA restoration efforts and Dave Fram on one of the ambitious structures the MSA crew built this year on the NE Margaree. It is designed to close off a chute cut-off and provide better cover above the Hart Pool.



The Cheticamp River Salmon Association began restoration of Aucoin Brook. Pictured are association president René Aucoin, project coordinator Denis Aucoin project coordinator and crew member Elizabeth Poirier.



The Richmond Wildlife Association resumed their restoration efforts on Kyte's Brook on Isle Madame with a goal of improving trout habitat. Pictured are crew leader Bernadine Babin and RWA president Hubert Doyle



Trout Nova Scotia and the Margaree Salmon Association teamed up to continue habitat restoration on Lake O'Law Brook in the Margaree Valley. Pictured left to right are Joel Robinson, MSA; project coordinator Dave Fram and Danielle Goff, DFO Habitat Management Officer.



It is a pleasure to be offering this Adopt-a-Stream report to the NSSA membership and Upstream readership! After two years of languishing without funding, the Adopt-A-Stream program is back on track with long-term stable funding. As of April 1st 2005, the long awaited, and sometimes hotly debated, NS Sportfish Habitat stamp was levied on recreational fishing licenses (general and salmon licences, seniors excluded), with the revenue generated directed to the NS Sportfish Habitat Fund.

Borrowing" against the anticipated revenue generated from anglers in the province, the Fund Committee approved \$208,500 to the Adopt-A-Stream program for community-based restoration projects, habitat restoration planning, program delivery, and technical support to community groups.

During the 2005 field season, 18 community groups, including NSSA affiliates, wildlife clubs and environmental organisations, received funding and technical support to undertake fish habitat restoration on approximately 25 watercourses in the province. While the final figures have yet to be tallied, this work has resulted in about 100,000 square meters of improved river and stream habitat. Riparian restoration has meant thousands of new trees and shrubs were planted. Pictured here are a few of the community-based restoration projects receiving Adopt-A-Stream support.

Additionally, a number of groups have taken advantage of the available technical support to assist them with habitat restoration planning in preparation for the next field season. Now that there is a long-term commitment to habitat restoration in Nova Scotia, we'll be working on doing project planning in the fall and early winter so that projects can get underway as early as possible each field season. With that in mind, the main deadline for proposals will be February 1st, to ensure early review and best access to funding approval. This does not necessarily preclude accepting proposals later in the season, but the earlier things are started the better.

Finally, as many of you know, the Adopt-A-Stream program is very fortunate to have Bob Rutherford as the new committee chair. Bob joined the NSSA's Board of Directors after retiring from DFO. His name is synonymous with habitat restoration in the Maritimes, and he brings great experience and expertise to our program.

Thanks to all the volunteers and staffers who contributed to a great habitat restoration season.

Amy Weston
Program Manager

Winning the Acid Rain Battle

Starting with West River, Sheet Harbour

It is indeed a pleasure for me to congratulate the members and volunteers of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association and the Eastern Shore Wildlife Association on the successful installation and start-up of the lime doser on West River, near Sheet Harbour, on September 21.

Lime dosers have led to major increases in the Atlantic salmon populations in 21 Norwegian rivers. The Mandal went from being almost completely bereft of salmon to a run of 2,500 in just five years.

This doser is an important milestone in our effort to reduce acid rain pollution and it began long before the new Norwegian-built doser was put through its first run. In 1988, one of my first challenges with ASF was to raise awareness of the wild Atlantic salmon decline in Nova Scotia due to acid rain. We erected billboard signs on impacted salmon rivers to advise passersby that acid rain was killing these once healthy rivers.

When the U.S. Clean Air Act of 1990 was passed, we were convinced the problem was solved and all but a few dedicated volunteers stopped trying to save salmon that were victims of acid rain. Ten years later, in 2000, NSSA members were still struggling to tell the world that the acid rain-impacted salmon in 50 Nova Scotia rivers were far from restored. To make matters worse, predictions indicated that, with the present emission-cutting schedule, it could take up to 100 years to restore lakes and rivers naturally.

Our diverse group of environmentalists, community volunteers, outdoor associations, academics, funding foundations, private sector organizations, and the Norwegian government is providing a powerful example to the Canadian and U.S. governments by meeting environmental challenges, practically and positively. We're seeing part of the solution in Sheet Harbour a North American 'first' that is a vital first step in recovering our polluted waterways.

ASF thanks all NSSA, affiliate volunteers and other partners for working so hard to bring this doser to West River, and we also extend our gratitude in advance to those who will continue to work on this project in the months and years ahead. I would especially like to thank George Ferguson, Jack MacDonald, and Lewis Hinks for their perseverance and determination as they worked to prepare the site and install this doser.

Together, we will win the battle with acid rain. We've started with West River, Sheet Harbour.

Bill Taylor, President and CEO - Atlantic Salmon Federation

Sackville's 2nd Annual Dinner A Huge Success

The Sackville Rivers Association hosted a dinner and auction on Sept 16 th for 185 guests and raised an impressive \$17,000. The money will go directly to the preservation and restoration of the Sackville River system by creating salmon pools and bank stabilization and projects like River Friends and Fish Friends. A donation of lime to NSSA's West River Project is also planned.

Local support was exceptional and donations were generous including a trip from Via Rail, a \$5000 Quebec fly fishing trip, a Newfoundland trip, rods, paintings and more. Lloyd MacLellan Construction donated the smoked salmon and Atlantic Measuring Technologies donated the dinner costs.

Everyone involved deserves to be congratulated on their efforts that made this evening a resounding success!

Salmon Summit A Success

By John Hart

On July 30th and 31st in Margaree the Nova Scotia Salmon Association hosted what is hoped to be the first annual Salmon Summit. The meeting was convened and chaired by NSSA's president David Reid and covered two primary topics: the proposed Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund and the Wild Atlantic Salmon Policy.

The Summit, held at the Barn at the Normaway, [not as bad as it sounds] was represented by eleven different organizations including NSSA. The final part of the session was held on Sunday as well as a review of the issues and points previously discussed.

The Summit began as a forum where affiliates could voice and table any concerns they might have, offer suggestions on rebuilding stocks in their

particular area, network with other groups to compare notes, tactics and strategies, and demonstrate to smaller groups that they were not alone in their efforts.

Although the Summit was held on a holiday weekend, there was a good turnout and positive feedback in the end. As a bonus on Sunday participants had an opportunity to do some fishing as well.

It is significant to note the return of an affiliate, the Cumberland County River Enhancement Association. Welcome back guys!!

A questionnaire will be circulated in the near future to affiliates, NSSA Board members and attendees to determine interest in a second and or subsequent summits. Judging by the initial reaction, the expected results will not be if, but rather when and where.

Superstitions and Such

By John Hart

Salmon fishermen are a strange bunch. There are a million and one idiosyncrasies about a hat, fly, fishing companion or other variable that the terminally superstitious base their success or lack of it on. This is beyond the usual beliefs of the river about a dark day, a dark fly, not spitting into the wind etc. Some of these beliefs have been with us for years and some folks seem to think the Margaree is a hard place to get a fish unless by accident. Those of us fortunate enough to witness both events may have discovered a way to get a Margaree Fish to take: make sure you are in the rotation behind the NSSA President [the current one].

On July 31st at dusk our illustrious leader was on his second pass through the Twin Elms Pool and, while he was hoping for a salmon or grilse, he had just released his second nice trout. He was followed by the NSSA's ex-cop from Sackville River resulting in the catch of a very nice grilse. Congrats all around and everyone went home happy.

On Sept. 10th, immediately after the NSSA meeting hosted by MSA, two of the same players found themselves at the Seal Pool and were joined by our ASF Regional Director, LH. Although Mr. Hart from Margaree was the first through, our intrepid Prez followed and then the ASF RD brought up the rear. Prez was almost out of sight heading back to the car when LH hooked a nice lively hen. Although the term "snakebit" was used more than once, our illustrious leader was summarily termed the "Salmon Aprodisiac". He goes through the pool and excites them for the next in line. I know who I want to fish behind from now on!!



Lewis Hinks and John Hart releasing a lively hen on the Margaree



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