

Nova Scotia Salmon Association

UPSTREAM

A Commitment by Nature to Conservation

President's Creel

Much has happened in the past 6 months since we last checked in. The West River Acid Rain Mitigation Project continues to be the main focus of the NSSA. For several reasons, our originally targeted start date of September 1, 2004 has come and gone. We have been in extensive discussions with Acadia University to determine the role Acadia can play in the Project. Partnering with Acadia brings many benefits to the Project, including increasing the profile and integrity of the venture, advancing much needed research in the area of acid rain mitigation and assisting with fundraising. Acadia recently informed the Acid Rain Mitigation Committee that it favours a Norwegian-designed doser, largely because of its ability to monitor the application and results of the liming process remotely.

Once we learned of Acadia's doser preference, our next challenge was to arrange electricity for the doser site. The closest power lines are approximately 1 mile from the site and estimates were for \$50,000 to power the doser. We are happy to report that Nova Scotia Power Inc., one of our partners on the Acid Rain Mitigation Committee, has generously agreed to absorb its installation costs and is prepared to install the necessary lines and poles to the site for the all-inclusive price of \$12,000.

We are now finalizing the permits required to install and operate the doser and will be placing our order with Milokalk, the Norwegian doser supplier. The new start date for the Project has been moved to late April, 2005.



Left to right, Gerald Chaput of the Department Fisheries and Oceans, George Ferguson Past President NSSA, Dave Reid President NSSA, Rene Aucoin of the Cheticamp River Salmon Association and Lewis Hinks Atlantic Salmon Federation were on hand to discuss stock assessment of Northumberland Shore rivers at last month's NSSA Board of Directors meeting held in Cheticamp.

I urge the membership to continue its support of this worthwhile venture. Acid rain continues to be one of the most significant challenges facing wild Atlantic salmon populations in this Province. Our leadership on the Acid Rain Mitigation Committee has caught the attention of elected officials, industry and conservation groups in Nova Scotia, Canada and the US. It is imperative that we not lose sight of the importance of completing this undertaking so that we can convince those that still need convincing of the value of investing in acid rain mitigation ventures such as the West River Project.

Many thanks to our past president, Terry MacIntyre and ASF's Rob Beatty, for continuing to lead the Project's fundraising charge, as well as, to another past-president, George Ferguson, and ASF's Regional Director, Lewis Hinks, for their committed efforts to nail down the venture's logistical elements.

On other topics, we remain cautiously optimistic that the proposed habitat stamp will be in place for 2005. We understand that the stamp proposal will go before Cabinet for a decision this fall and hope to know of having the stamp in place for 2005 before the end of November, 2004. One of the keys to the stamp program is ensuring that we are able to access the proceeds of the stamp in the year in which it is collected. In other words, in order to have an Adopt-a-Stream type program for next year, we need to be able to use the funds collected in 2005 for habitat work. Discussions are currently underway with Inland Fisheries on this topic.

NSSA continues to be involved on a number of other fronts, including monitoring the Inner Bay of Fundy situation; assisting new affiliate groups with developing viable organizations and reopening closed rivers to angling; lobbying the provincial government with respect to forestry activities in important sport-fish areas such as the Nictaux River; and working with the Ecology Action Centre with respect to its Protected Areas Initiative.

I'd like to take a moment to recognize the hard work and dedication of all our affiliate groups in the Province. You are undoubtedly the heart and soul of this organization. I look forward to working and getting to know you better in my second year as President of the NSSA.

Tight Lines

David Reid, President, Nova Scotia Salmon Association



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Nova Scotia



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This is expected to be a six year program with 2004 being mostly a test year designed to get the partners, the equipment, the expertise and the resources in place. Other organizations providing resources in this research project include Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, The Atlantic Salmon Federation. Other organizations such as the Margaree Salmon Association are also providing important advice.

Local and visiting anglers can help by providing creel census information regarding the number of salmon hooked and released. Angler information is vital for the study to be a success and will be plotted with other data.

The Cheticamp River Salmon Association, in a separate project and under the guidance of DFO and the Nova Scotia Department of Environment, is hoping to do some stream surveying for possible future repair/remedial work on some of the smaller streams in the Cheticamp area. Some work was already done on these streams in 2003. Four Wheeler paths along the streams have allowed some of these brooks to overflow their banks and actually change their courses during high water. This unnatural overflow usually brings with it large amounts of mud and silt. These are deadly for trout and salmon eggs and have contributed significantly to the deterioration of fish habitat on small streams such as Aucoin's Brook, Fiset Brook and Farm Brook.

For more information on the Salmon Research Project on the Cheticamp River please contact: René Aucoin (224-3701-home) or Robert Chiasson (224-1199) (Cheticamp River Salmon Association) or Gordon Delancy at 224-2490 (Cape Breton Highlands National Park)

NSSA Scholarship Fund Update

The scholarship application deadline is October 31st and application forms are available on line on the NSSA website. Recipients will be announced through a press release and posted on our website.

We are proud to have longtime supporter Dr. Harris Miller as Honorary Scholarship Chair for our 2004 2nd Annual Christmas 50/50 Lottery. Dr. Miller has authored a letter encouraging each of us to be generous in supporting our scholarship. Watch for you lottery ticket with Dr. Miller's endorsement in early November!

Regarding the financial aspects of the scholarship, we will be consulting with a fellow member of NSSA, Sean Graham of Assante Financial Management Ltd., for his expertise on how to better manage this fund. The scholarship was held in a non-redeemable GIC and has earned less than \$100.00 interest. Since we award two \$500.00 scholarships annually, Sean will help us set a course in regards to how much money we need to raise and where to invest these funds.

The balance of the scholarship is presently \$21,000.00 and we need to get serious and raise some substantial funds. If you can identify an individual or corporation that may be interested in making a tax-deductible donation to our scholarship, please let me know. All we need is a name and phone number and we'll make the pitch.



NSSA is the only conservation organization in Nova Scotia that offers a scholarship. We should be proud of our commitment to education!

- Terry MacIntyre, Scholarship Committee
E-mail: nssalmon@ns.sympatico.ca



Directors Hard at Work!

Directors Terry MacIntyre, Pat Kessler, Larry Shortt, and George Ferguson releasing a salmon.

Often wonder it takes to be a Director of this organization? The time required, the jobs that need to get done and expenses incurred? Well, check out the job description below and then look at the photo above. Where else can you combine a Board of Directors meeting with landing an Atlantic salmon?

Check us out. Yes we work hard, but we have a lot of fun doing it.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Position Name: Director

Term of Commitment: 2 years

Overall Function: To administer to the goals of the Association by attending 4 Board of Directors meetings and 1 Annual General Meeting annually. Meetings are hosted by various Affiliate Associations throughout the Province and always provide a social and angling opportunity.

Committee Participation: The Association requires each Director to be active on a Committee or project that interests the Director. The Director may work alone on a given project, or with an existing group. Committees such as fund raising, scholarship, acid rain, membership and newsletter welcome fresh ideas.

Authority and Reporting Relationship: The Director may be required to submit an update of group or committee activities at a Board of Directors meeting and Annual General Meeting. All Directors are prohibited from issuing a press release or speaking directly to the media without having discussed the item with the President of the Association.

Expenses: The Association, when feasible, will reimburse any Director for expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of the Board.

Desired Skill Set: Knowledge of meeting procedures an asset. All skills are welcomed and readily employed in conserving Atlantic salmon and Trout.

Results Expected: Regular attendance at Board of Directors meetings and active participation in ensuring the Association is meeting its goals.

Angling Experience: None required and would have great fun learning the art of fly fishing after a Board of Directors meeting.

DON'T FORGET TO FILL OUT THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON THE INSERT OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

ANSWER: " Even if people didn't ever fish them, the fact that salmon were there indicated that that river was pretty healthy." Dr. Wilfred Carter

Atlantic Salmon Cryptoquote

St. Mary's River Assoc. Celebrates 25th Anniversary – Joanne Mailman

In January 2004 Bill Carpan, Brenda Carpan, Florence Duffy, Colin Coady and Joanne Mailman met to discuss preparations for the St. Mary's River Association's 25th anniversary celebration. It was held June 19th at the Interpretive Center with well over 200 people in attendance. To start the day, honorary directors Dr. George Archibald and Dr. Hardy Eshbaugh led a group of 20 enthusiastic birders on a half-day excursion and after returning to the center excited and ready for lunch, they were joined by other attendees for the river project tours lead by director Allan MacDonald. An entertaining talk was given by local Keith Horton on the history of the river punt followed with a presentation by biologist Mark Pulsifer on the wood turtle project here in the St. Mary's watershed. For the kids we held a fishing derby in the morning at Nimrod's Campground, where Thelma Morris-Fogarty, local author, charmed her audience with readings from her two books. With help from directors Colin Coady, Don Barnes, Jack Duffy and Jocelyn Ellis all went well!



SMRA's 25th anniversary birdwalk participants

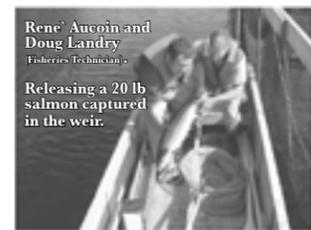
A hot turkey supper, attended by 100 people, featured guest speaker Dr. George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation. President Dale Archibald thanked everyone for attending and spoke of our long and productive past. The silent auction was a success and our MC, Terry MacIntyre, did an exceptional job with the bidding and entertaining us with his delightful anecdotes. The day was a tremendous success, a testament to what a group of volunteers can accomplish!

Strong leadership, volunteerism and the construction of the Interpretive Centre have allowed the Association to continue to be involved in a variety of projects, and has enabled it to expand its focus on other factors affecting the health of the watershed.

The Interpretive Centre has displays on the current wood turtle study, birds, butterflies and bats as well as invasive species. We extend an invitation to join us during our season from June 1st through to September 30th.

Contact us at 902-522-2099 or by e-mail at stmarysriver@ns.sympatico.ca

Parks Canada & Cheticamp River Salmon Assoc. Join Forces in Salmon Tagging Program



Rene Aucoin and Doug Landry Fisheries Technician

Releasing a 20 lb salmon captured in the weir.

The project calls for the establishment of two Salmon weirs on the Cheticamp River. The recapture program works in the following manner; Two weirs are installed at various locations on the river. The weirs do not block the entire river and are only expected to capture portion of the run. Fish entering the first weir are tagged, measured released. Similar programs done on other rivers show that a portion of these tagged fish will be recaptured in the second weir (further upstream) along with untagged fish that have bypassed the first weir. Marked fish will be released again while first timers will tagged and released. Given enough data, biologists, using mathematical formulas, will be able to estimate the number salmon returning to the Cheticamp River.

This particular method (Mark recapture) of evaluating salmon stocks is new for the Cheticamp but our association is quite familiar with other methods of evaluation of salmon runs. During the 1080s, the Cheticamp Salmon Association operated a salmon counting fence on the Cheticamp River for a six year period. Those previous experiences as well as information from similar projects across the country tell us that this type of recapture program has very little impact on the fish but conversely can provide very important information to river managers.

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Greater Numbers Than Expected – Sue Scott

This has been a busy, exciting, and productive year. Despite the scientists' prediction of a decline in two-sea-winter (2SW) salmon to North American rivers this year, the 2SWs generally held their own. As well, more grise and some very large salmon returned in greater numbers than expected.

These improved returns can be attributed, in part, to our Conservation Agreement with Greenland's commercial fishermen to suspend their salmon fishery at West Greenland, the positive impact of more anglers live releasing both salmon and grise, and healthier and more accessible watersheds, thanks to the many restoration projects undertaken by local affiliates over the past decades.

Anglers and guides are beginning to reap the rewards of practicing live release as large repeat spawners, weighing from 15 to more than 50 pounds, return to challenge them. We remind all live release anglers and guides to return their completed live release forms, found in the brochure, "Celebrate 65 years of Live Release", to ASF by December 15 to be included in our incentive draw for some great prizes. You can also register on line at www.asf.ca.

The Greenland Conservation Agreement, first signed in 2002, is particularly beneficial to North America. Between 75% and 90% of the salmon harvested at Greenland were from Canadian and American rivers.

We are working on many other issues that affect wild salmon populations. One of those issues that concern Nova Scotia and Maine, in particular, is acid rain.

With the Nova Scotia Salmon Association and other partners, we are undertaking a major acid rain mitigation effort on West River Sheet Harbour. We are working to raise the money needed to purchase a doser from Norway and we hope to install it and begin liming the river soon.

In the United States, we are filing a "Friend of the Court" motion challenging the recent amendments to the rules governing the New Source Review of pollution control technologies. Our Maine affiliates and partners are proposing a liming project on the Dennys River. The project was mentioned in articles published after the National Academy of Science (NAS) report was issued. The NAS recommended implementing a liming project as high priority.

For more information on any of the programs mentioned or other programs, visit ASF's web site: www.asf.ca.

– Sue Scott, VP Communications, Atlantic Salmon Federation (506) 529-4581

Atlantic Salmon CRYPTOQUOTE

One letter simply stands for another. These are quotes from within our salmon world.

"GHGS FX BGCBMG PFPS'W GHGA XF LV WVGK, WVG

XDHW WVDW LDMKCS NGAG WVGAG FSPFHDWGP

WVDW WVDW AFHGA NDL BAGWWQ VGDMMWVQ."

PA. NFMXAGP HDAWGA

See answer on back page.



Acid Rain Project Nears Reality

By Lewis Hinks, Committee Co-chair

The West River liming project continues to move towards reality. This ambitious project is aimed at improving water chemistry, specifically pH and alkalinity, in the West River, Sheet Harbour. Previous articles in this newsletter have outlined the project in greater detail, but essentially this project is aimed at mitigating for the impacts of acid rain, providing a research and teaching area for universities and as a tool for advocacy for more mitigation projects.

Water sampling to collect base line pre-treatment data was conducted last fall, winter and spring and completed in May. We wish to thank Gerald Hardy for his great work in collecting these samples. We also wish to thank PSC Analytical Services for helping us with the water chemistry.

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has been collecting fish and invertebrate pre-treatment data this summer. They have been electrofishing the site to determine the numbers and species of fish in the area to be treated and have been collecting aquatic insects and other invertebrates to determine numbers and species of these animals prior to any treatment. This information is important to determine the level of effect the liming is having on the river systems and the animals that live there. We wish to thank Ralph Heighton for leading that work.

We have a signed license agreement with Kimberly Clark to use the road into the site and a letter from them affirming their assistance in maintaining the road and assisting us in preparing the area for the doser.

We are well on our way to having a signed agreement with Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources to use the property on which the doser will sit. We had to have final approval to use the road before we could get this.

A watercourse alteration permit has been applied for to install the doser.

This past spring some NSSA Board members and members of the acid rain mitigation committee met with representatives of two lime doser companies, Miljokalk of Norway and Environmental Dosers of the USA, to determine the suitability for each of the dosers and for them to understand our project. We had originally decided on the Norwegian design, and this continues to the preferred model, but power requirements must be addressed. We are confident that these issues will be addressed to our satisfaction.

We are into detailed discussions with Acadia University regarding the research/teaching possibilities this site has to offer. Joining with Acadia allows us to seek other potential funding sources and this is already paying dividends.

Our friends in Maine are conducting a similar project and are actively discussing ways that we can collaborate and work together to help each project become a success through joint fundraising, research and information sharing.

If everything that is required for such an ambitious project falls into place, we hope to have the doser on site this fall and liming will begin in the spring of 2005.

Woof and Release or Another Reason for Barbless Hook by John Hart

For anyone who is of the fly fishing persuasion, there are rules ingrained into us from the first time we pick up a fly rod. Along with the technical aspects, the casting and the presentation we learn at least the basics of courtesy. Although many of the more proficient anglers seem to have developed a talent for embellishment, we smile to ourselves realizing the details may have become slightly skewed with the telling and re-telling of events. God forbid that our angling companions ever be referred to as out and out liars!!

Once the basics have been conquered if not mastered there are only a few rules left which include never lay a rod down and always announce your presence when walking behind an angler so their backcast does not conflict with your own anatomy. Unfortunately, our canine friends are unaware of this part. Slightly embarrassed to confess this, I was reminded recently that one should always be aware of who or what is behind them. While working through the pool above Ross Bridge on the Margaree, I neglected to pay attention to a large, shaggy black dog, that was crossing the cobble behind me. One back cast too many, a sharp yelp and the dog was exiting with a 9wt line streaming from him. Feeling bad for the dog, I apologized profusely to the folks watching but was told it wasn't their dog. I believe the hook was removed.

Seven days later, same bridge, only on the downstream side, my angling companion for the day, a lady from Ontario, sank a fly in a young lab that ventured too close to her back cast. The startled gal dropped her rod only to see it snaking away through the bushes in the general direction of said dog. The line broke, and one hopes the dog has successfully had the hook removed. Although it was the cause of some mixed emotions and reactions, barbless hooks should be easier to remove even from wayward pets. Although it has become a source of amusement for some by asking me if I'm fishing for Black Labs, a new reason for going barbless was driven home. After all, dogs are people too.....

SRA Wins Award

Congratulations to the Sackville River Association on winning the 2004 Canadian Geographic Restoration and Rehabilitation Award for their outstanding accomplishments! Walter Regan travelled to Calgary, Alberta to accept the award on behalf of SRA.

AGM

The 2004 AGM will be held in Sackville on November 20th. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend! See website for location details.

NSSA Bylaw Notice

New bylaws are being proposed for NSSA and will be voted on at the November 20th AGM. They will be posted on the website prior to the AGM. Be sure to review them and come out to vote.

NSSA Membership

A reminder that NSSA memberships expired on March 31, 2004 so please take a moment to renew yours and if you have, pass this to a friend and encourage them to join.

NEW - NSSA Junior Member

- The youth of today are tomorrow's protectors of Atlantic Salmon and Brook Trout.

NSSA is encouraging youth under the age of 16 to join the association with a Junior Membership. This is an opportunity to introduce them to the sport of fishing and to have them become stewards of the environment. The cost is \$5.00 and includes 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.

If you want to become more involved with the NSSA please contact us! We need you to help us help the fish!

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association, along with several other Nova Scotia angling groups, has approached the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries with a proposal to establish a **Sportfish Stamp**. The proposed Stamp would see between \$2-5 added to the General and Salmon Fishing Licences beginning in 2005 and would finance fish habitat restoration projects like Adopt-A-Stream.

The **Sportfish Stamp** has the potential to provide **\$300,000.00 per year** for habitat restoration work. The proposal states that **all funds raised** go to project work.

Presently NSSA is accepting donations to support habitat restoration work in Nova Scotia. **Please show your support for this initiative** by including \$5.00 with your membership fee and checking off the Adopt-A-Stream Fund box where indicated below

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Renewal New Member Adopt-a-stream fund

Name: _____

Address: _____

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: _____

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