

**Spring 2007**

Nova Scotia Salmon Association

# UPSTREAM

**A Commitment by Nature to Conservation**

## President's Creel

The past year has proven to be a busy one! The West River Sheet Harbour Liming Project has stabilized the pH of the river and a baseline data of flora and fauna has been collected and analyzed. In 2007 we plan to have a smolt wheel in operation to aid in data collection.

DFO has finally released \$30,000,000 for the Wild Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund and the annual interest is to be used for projects within the five regions of Atlantic Canada.

In September'06 we had a very successful golf tournament to raise funds for the operation of the lime doser.

ASF and NSSA sponsored an acid rain workshop and the proceedings of this venture will be published soon. An outcome of this workshop was to address issues with the Southern Uplands and with the blessing of DFO, we hired Dr. John Ritter to begin "A Development Plan for the Southern Uplands of Atlantic Salmon".

The Adopt-A-Stream Program, with funding provided by the habitat stamp, had another very successful season under the direction of Amy Weston.

There were also areas in which no progress has been made. The Inner Bay of Fundy is not receiving the attention it needs, i.e. no marine research since 2003.

DFO and Inland Fisheries refused to act on our conservation resolutions from the past year and this is after much travel, discussion and meetings in various parts of the province.

It is important for all members of our association to realize that you have a very hard working, dedicated board of directors, with each person taking a leading role in various committees and activities. As president, I would very much like to thank them for their support during the past year. As well our association has a very positive and supporting relationship with ASF. Thanks must be given to Lewis Hinks, ASF Regional Director, for Nova Scotia.

Carl Purcell  
President



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### Nova Scotia



### Salmon Association

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**Nova Scotia Salmon Association 2007 AGM**  
Saturday March 24th 12:30 PM. Reception to follow the meeting Future Inn, Halifax. Directions can be found at [www.futureinns.com](http://www.futureinns.com). Everyone is invited to attend and learn about the many activities of the association in 2006. Presentations will be made on The West River Acid Rain Mitigation project and the Lahave River Tracking Project and other work being done by the association and affiliates. Any members wishing to submit resolutions for consideration are asked to submit drafts by March 17th to David Reid at [nssalmo@yahoo.ca](mailto:nssalmo@yahoo.ca)

# News from ASF

*We would like to take this opportunity to give an update of some conservation programs that ASF has undertaken, many of which are carried out in cooperation with our Regional Councils.*

## GREENLAND CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

In 2001 the Greenland Conservation Agreement suspended Greenland commercial salmon fishing for five years. The 2006 season, the agreement's final year, resulted in a significant increase in large salmon returning to North American rivers. The Agreement was funded by the U.S. Department of State, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, North Atlantic Salmon Fund and ASF and it stipulated that we invest annually in a fund for economic development programs.

Greenland salmon fishermen diversified into other means of employment such as fishing for lumpfish, snow crab and cod, boat building and eco-tourism. The program resulted in the decommissioning and disposal of salmon fishing nets, which discourages the resumption of the salmon fishery. Greenland fishermen indicated that they would welcome another agreement and we continue to work with the North Atlantic Salmon Fund and the fishermen to develop and raise funds to continue these efforts.

## ATLANTIC SALMON ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund became a reality in December 2006 thanks to the leadership of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Loyola Hearn. On January 23, 2007, the Minister of Veterans Affairs on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans presented the \$30 million cheque to the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF). The ASCF consisting of six members, one from each of the Atlantic Provinces, one from Quebec and one First Nations representative, is responsible for investing and administering the fund. The Board of Directors operates at arms length from government and consists of volunteers with skills necessary to operate a major public trust fund. Currently the ASCF is creating advisory committees in each province to develop program guidelines and criteria, and to consult widely on plans and priorities, while working with community-based conservation organizations, federal and provincial governments and First Nations. The ASCF plans to open an office in Fredericton in February. Thanks to all who worked hard to achieve the Endowment Fund.

## ACID RAIN MITIGATION, WEST RIVER SHEET HARBOUR

In Canada, Nova Scotia suffers the most from acid rain, destroying and damaging salmon habitat in 54 rivers. In Norway liming rivers has restored salmon runs and in 2005, utilizing Norwegian-built technology, NSSA and ASF began restoring the West River Sheet Harbour. For over a year a 40-foot high and 8-foot wide steel structure called a lime "doser" has operated, resulting in dramatic water quality improvement in 2006.

The target is to raise pH readings to 5.4 - 5.5 the level that supports salmon production. By November of 2006, the readings on the river above the doser were 4.5 - 4.7. One hundred meters below the doser, pH values were 6.5 and, at the river mouth, pH values had reached our goal of 5.4 - 5.5.

In May of 2006, ASF, with help from NSSA and others, hosted a 2-day acid rain mitigation workshop to explore liming techniques, their applicability to various situations, cost benefit analysis and current liming project results. The workshop's proceedings are almost complete and will be available upon request.

## WILD ATLANTIC SALMON POLICY

Unlike the Endowment Fund, a new policy on the direction for conserving wild Atlantic salmon did not materialize in 2006. In April 2005, DFO issued a policy framework for the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon, promising a draft policy for public consultation. ASF and our Regional Councils responded, emphasizing the need to ensure there is funding to support policy initiatives. Despite constant urging by ASF and Regional Councils, the draft policy and public consultation had not occurred by the end of January 2007.

## ASF'S INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH ON MORTALITY AT SEA

ASF is a leader in tracking salmon at sea. For ten years, at a cost of more than \$3 million, we developed innovative sonic telemetry technology and tracked migrating salmon downstream into the estuaries of the Miramichi, Restigouche, York, Grand Cascadepedia, and St-Jean (North Shore Quebec) rivers, and into the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine. In 2006, we extended our monitoring to the Strait of Belle Isle off the coast of Labrador, the salmon's northern exit from the Gulf of St. Lawrence into the Atlantic Ocean. *Continued on page 4*

## ATLANTIC OUTDOOR SPORTS AND RV SHOW

**NSSA will have a booth at the show. Come see us and pick up a brochure on invasive species.**  
**Thursday March 15th , 5 to 9 PM, Friday and Saturday March 16th and 17th 10 AM to 9:30 PM and Sunday March 18th 10 AM to 5PM**  
**Exhibition Park, Prospect Road, Halifax, NS**  
**Come check us out!!**



# Adopt-A-Stream Update: Fish Habitat Restoration Progressing in NS

The 2007 field season holds great promise for fish habitat restoration in Nova Scotia.

This year the NSSA's Adopt-A-Stream program is once again expecting to support 20 to 25 projects – some new, but many building on past work by community groups, incrementally repairing a substantial amount of habitat in their respective watersheds in order to achieve real gains in fish populations and stream productivity.

The groups tackle a stream stretch by stretch, sometimes over a number of years, then move on to another tributary, restoring quality spawning and rearing habitat. They seek opportunities to reconnect habitat by repairing culverts and installing proper crossings. They work with landowners to re-establish and sustain riparian buffers. Many groups are also examining their estuaries and considering ways to increase natural productivity.



*Lake O'Law Brook is major tributary to the NE Margaree. Trout Nova Scotia and the Margaree Salmon Association have partnered on this project since 2002. In 2006, about a kilometer and half of stream was restored, improving 16,000 square meters of habitat.*

The role of Adopt-A-Stream has always been to serve as a catalyst and facilitator for broad-based community watershed management. Although called Adopt-a-Stream, the program takes a watershed approach to habitat protection and restoration. All aquatic and riparian habitats – from the headwater wetlands and streams, to major tributaries, lakes, rivers, salt marshes, and estuaries – are included in the program.

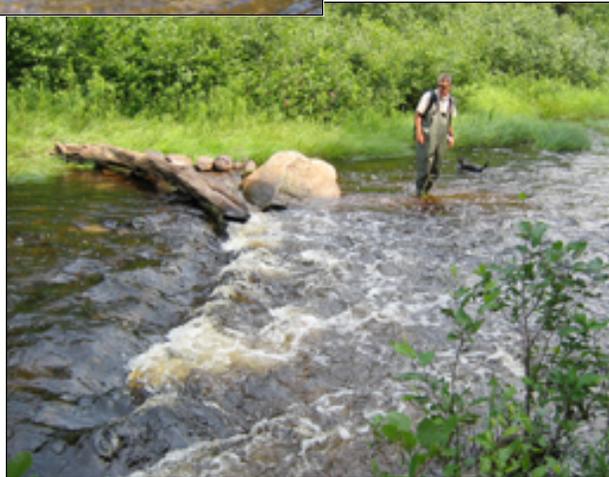
Adopt-A-Stream's strategy is two-fold. The program encourages and supports communities working on long-term land and water-use issues to ensure that best management practises are adopted, and it also provides direct assistance in the form of project funding and technical advice for hands-on projects that physically restore ecological function

and productive capacity to aquatic and riparian habitats. Key funding for projects comes from the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund – anglers' money at work. Last year the Fund contributed \$205,000 which went directly into 22 projects. Although Adopt-a-Stream can provide up to 50% of project funding, the participating community groups' cash and in-kind contributions totalled double the amount supplied by the Fund – stretching anglers' dollars to get the maximum amount of work done in the field. The result was more than 160,000 square meters of habitat restored in 2006.

The primary application deadline for 2007 project funding was set for February 20. An early deadline allows for proposals to be reviewed and funding levels approved well ahead of the field season.

If your group is interested in getting involved but missed the deadline, it may not be too late. We accept project applications at any time; if it meets the program

criteria and funding is available, a proposal may still be supported this year. Otherwise, applications will be held on file for future consideration. Some aspects of your project – particularly assessment and planning – can still go ahead, so don't hesitate to get in touch



*In 2006, the Mulgrave and Area Lakes Enhancement Association, headed up by Bob MacDonald (pictured here), installed 30 habitat structures in the St. Francis Harbour River in Guysborough Co. The group has been working on habitat improvement in the watershed for at least past seven years.*

Amy Weston  
NSSA Adopt-A-Stream  
Program  
Manager  
902-644-1276

amy.weston@ns.sympatico.ca

## Mark your Calendar!!! 2ND Annual Limey Golf Tournament

In support of the West River Sheet Harbour Acid Mitigation Project Thursday September 20th 2007  
Granite Springs Golf Club, Bayside, NS • Check the website for details



# ***Affiliates Corner - St. Mary's River Association***

***by Joanne Mailman***

The St. Mary's River Association, a charitable, non-profit organization since 1979, provides leadership and engages partners to enhance, protect and promote the St. Mary's River as a healthy ecosystem for Atlantic salmon and other native animals and plant species. Our vision is health for the River, the Atlantic salmon and our community. We currently have 286 members, meet the 1st Thursday of the month at 7pm at our Education & Interpretive Center and welcome all members.

The St. Mary's River is located in Eastern Nova Scotia and, once renowned for its abundance of wild Atlantic salmon stock, still attracts anglers from many parts of the world hoping to hook a large salmon or fish the lakes for brook trout. Canoeists also come to paddle our gentle waters. Over the past few years, the recreational fishery has been open for catch and release only.

The SMRA opened its Education and Interpretive Center in 2001. There is an excellent collection of photos, fishing tackle and memorabilia of famous anglers such as Lea Woulf and the Legendary Babe Ruth. Showcased as well are the river

system, its history, its problems and the progress made by St. Mary's River Association volunteers on river enhancement and river stabilization projects. We are located at 8404 Highway #7, Sherbrooke, NS and are open from June 1st to October 15th(9:30AM - 5:30PM)

Some of the projects completed by the Association in the past:

- Archibald/Glencross Brook Habitat Project
- Cut Bank Pool Bank Stabilization
- Smolt Wheel Project
- Barren Brook Stabilization
- Eshbaugh Property Stabilization
- MacKeen's Brook Bank Stabilization
- Education & Interpretive Centre Construction
- Barrier Free Access
- Silvers Pool Bank Stabilization
- Various Habitat Enhancement Projects
- Wood Turtle Population Estimates Project
- Day camps for local youth
- Bird walks

For more information visit us at [www.geocities.com/stmarys-riverassociation](http://www.geocities.com/stmarys-riverassociation) or e-mail us at [stmarysriver@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:stmarysriver@ns.sympatico.ca)

## ***News from ASAF continued from page 2***

ASF coordinated marine research activities with SALSEA, a program investigating mortality of salmon at sea that is run by the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO). At a cost of \$350,000, our smolt tracking research was a direct and valuable contribution to SALSEA in 2006.

### **IN RIVER PROTECTION**

The Greenland Conservation Agreement, live release, and ASF restoration projects help ensure that more salmon and grilse return to our rivers to spawn. The challenge is to make sure that poachers don't kill them in the rivers, especially with government budget cuts in the crucial area of enforcement officers.

In 2006, through our education and public awareness programs, we appealed to the public to report poaching. Using various media, ASF made it clear that it is illegal to purchase wild Atlantic salmon.

Similarly, ASF promoted and assisted anglers to learn live release as an effective conservation tool, and to refrain from angling when water temperatures rise to unsafe levels. ASF's Live Release and Recognition Program has rewarded 25 outfitters and private camps for their commitment to live release.

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

## ***18th Annual NSSA/ASF Halifax Dinner***

***Thursday April 12th • The Westin Halifax ....\$150 per ticket***

***Conservation Table \$2500 Patron Table \$5000***

***Cocktails Smoked Salmon Reception 6PM Dinner 7PM • Silent and Live Auction***

***See website for more details • For ticket information contact Jim Lawley***

***Office 902 453 2121 • Cell 902 456 2121 • Fax 902 453 2126 • Home 902 492 3059***

### **ON LINE NEWSLETTER**

The NSSA, in an effort to save mailing costs and the environment, is looking at another means of getting Upstream to our members. This would be via our website as our newsletters are posted at:

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

If you would like to receive e-mail notification that the newsletter is on the website please take the time to let us know by sending an e-mail to [nssamember@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:nssamember@ns.sympatico.ca) and simply state, "send newsletter".



# NSSA MEMBERSHIP

Reminder!!! NSSA memberships expire on March 31, 2007. If your membership card has expired please take a minute to renew. If you have renewed please pass this to a friend and encourage them to join NSSA.

## NSSA Junior Member

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

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

To renew your membership or to become a member of NSSA please complete and return the coupon to:

**Nova Scotia Salmon Association,  
P.O. Box 396, Chester, Nova Scotia, Canada B0J 1J0.**

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

### NOVA SCOTIA SALMON ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Charitable Donor # 0620856-54