

UPSTREAM

A Commitment by Nature

to Conservation

Winter 1999



President's Creel

Terry MacIntyre

Great water, superb weather and a few good friends in the midst of some of the most picturesque fall scenery Nova Scotia has to offer and, on a given day, these genuine sports, as a group, were hooking and releasing four or five healthy fall Atlantic salmon.

Other days, you would swear you were fishing in a bathtub. Strange, but that's how the fall season shaped up along the Northumberland shore. Still, it's a great treat to be able to go fishing and enjoy the fruits of our labour!

Speaking of good friends, we received a couple of phone calls. The first was from a gent by the name of Colin McKeown. Colin saw our call for help and offered to do some fund raising for us. It involved the sale of stamps and first day covers depicting the six flies recently released by Canada Post. A few months later, Colin presented the Association with a cheque for \$1200. Colin saw the need, volunteered his time and got the job done.

Another gent was Bob Dempsey. He led the campaign to sell the year 2000 calendars which Investors Group kindly provided to us. Bob canvassed the private sector, arranged distribution with our affiliates and through his efforts, proceeds continue to roll in.

It is refreshing to have a few members parachute in from out of the blue to lend a hand. Thanks Colin and Bob; the funds you raised will help to further our Inner Bay of Fundy Research efforts.

In other good news, the Atlantic Salmon Federation held its fall Management Board meetings in Quebec City. At this session the findings of the strategic planning committee were presented. We were especially pleased that our Regional Director, Lewis Hinks, will now report to and will play a much larger

role in the day-to-day business of the Association. It is obvious that in order to be more effective, we must have a 9 to 5 presence to deal with the many issues affecting our rivers and we know Lewis can provide that presence.

As well, Mr. Stephen Chase has been hired as Government Liaison and, after having met and spoken with Stephen on Nova Scotian issues, I am convinced that he will be a huge asset in creating a presence in the halls of Government.

In other Federation business, Gordon Gregory, QC, was invited to discuss the implications of the recent Donald Marshall case. There is no way I can summarize his offerings, although I left this discussion pondering a few issues. For example, was it the Aboriginal Community that caused the collapse in the commercial fishery... did they discover the Atlantic salmon wintering grounds off Greenland and proceed to overharvest... was it the Aboriginal Community that clearcut the headwaters of the west branch of the St. Mary's River...do they own any of the dams that impede fish passage... and finally, what role have they played in the production of acid rain? I can't think of a single issue that is negatively impacting Atlantic salmon stocks that has its roots within the Aboriginal Community. We will have a better understanding of the implications of the Marshall decision on Atlantic salmon after we talk to the Aboriginal Community and I feel confident that we will find a silver lining in the cloud.

Regardless of who or what is affecting our rivers, the Federation has brought forward the central theme that we must stop the killing of the Atlantic salmon—whether it be

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Terry MacIntyre

Nova Scotia



Salmon Association

President's Creel –Continued From Page one

recreational anglers, Aboriginals, the commercial fleet or the results of poor land use. We simply cannot afford to kill any more Atlantic salmon.

Stock status reports for Nova Scotia indicate that our four index rivers did not meet the five year mean for grilse or multi-sea winter adults.

1999 Final cumulative counts of MSW salmon and grilse at Nova Scotia river fishways:

River	MSW Salmon		Grilse	
	Mean 94-98	1999	Mean 94-98	1999
LaHave	172	130	829	454
Sackville	20	15	130	91
Liscomb	11	1	184	18
Grand	6	2	103	42

These numbers are not very good. By the way, mean numbers simply reflect a five year average—the actual number of salmon required to seed these rivers is much higher. So the reader would understand that none of these rivers is even coming close to achieving the minimum conservation requirement.

Using health care as an analogy, when victims arrive at the emergency room door, they are assessed and if their condition is life threatening, they are transferred to intensive care. In regards to salmon, their condition is critical and instead of being admitted to ICU, they are being told neither sufficient staff nor budgets are available to address their needs so they are being transferred directly to the morgue. I wonder whose decision it is to sign a river's toe tag.

Only the Northumberland shore rivers are presently meeting spawning conservation requirements. Simply stated, Nova Scotia is facing the extinction of salmon in the inner Bay of Fundy. Furthermore, what does the future hold for our salmon that come home to acid stressed rivers?

On a more positive note, we are making gains towards addressing the many issues affecting Atlantic salmon. The Adopt-A-Stream program is cruising along and the Thermal Monitoring Program, with corporate support of Breton Fuels, is revealing some interesting river temperature trends. However, to be effective, we must ensure our efforts are well coordinated. I am pleased to tell you that work on the Nova Scotia Accord Strategy is progressing very well. Each of the seven Accord issues is chaired by members of the Board. They are developing goals, strate-

gies, tactics to enable us to focus our resources towards the most pressing issues and to determine if we are meeting our goals of saving the salmon. The success of the Accord will depend on our ability to recruit other organizations to participate in implementing the strategies. The more people we have involved in the fight to save the Atlantic salmon, the better the chances of getting the salmon admitted to an ICU and into a rehab program.

Fund raising...a necessary evil of every organization. We are indebted to the Investor's Group for their corporate support in making the year 2000 Calendar available to us. We have provided you with a copy of the calendar and here's the pitch...a single sonic tagging device used in our Inner Bay of Fundy research costs \$400. We have mailed out 400 newsletters...each member is asked to make a donation of \$20...which should return \$8000...or 20 sonic tagging devices. Think of it as a Christmas gift to the Atlantic salmon of our beloved Stewiacke River.

The next phase of the research starts up in early spring, so as you are reading your Upstream Newsletter, grab a cheque, make it payable to the Association, put it in a Christmas card and send it to us. While you are doing that, we'll get your income tax receipt ready.

Yes, the Atlantic salmon is in trouble; however, the Association is getting stronger. With a solid group of volunteers, growing corporate support, quality programs and you, our membership, we have the tools to get the salmon out of emergency and into a good rehab program.

From our dedicated Directors and Affiliates, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and for the New Year, let's not make resolutions we can't keep, but rather make a few simple ones we can. I ask that you try to remember the Atlantic salmon and that each of us make a small resolution to do what we can to revive the mighty Atlantic salmon.

Slainte
Terry MacIntyre, President



Book Review

Lines on the Water

by David Adams Richards

(The book is set on the Miramichi River, New Brunswick. Richards says, "I love my river. I can tell you that.")

A Salmon Fisherman's Review

Lines on the Water has already won critical acclaim for the author with the Governor General's Award and now we look at it from the fisherman's perspective.

For those fly fishermen out there who do not want to be bored with statistics and techniques, but prefer rather to read about the true outdoors and the author's many experiences in the wilds of New Brunswick, this book is a gem.

Rather than discuss angles of drift, the author will take you down over the pools as if you were with him. His vivid description of rivers, forests and wildlife are unique and are apt to bring back memories of some of our own experiences.

Few of us are blessed with having had the opportunity of living so close to that vast network of prolific salmon rivers which never seem to go dry. The author takes you there, where you can smell the spruce and fir and (almost) hear the rapids.

With amazing objectivity he weaves into his stories the lives of his friends and acquaintances, some serious, others humorous.

It's a 'must' read for anyone, young or old, interested in the outdoors, our environment, and salmon fishing.

Charles Widgery

(Ed. Note—Charles is a longtime fisherman on the Miramichi.)



Important Notice

NSSA/ASF Dinner

Thursday, April 6, 2000 The Westin Nova Scotian
Call Jim Lawley (902) 453-2121(w) for ticket information

ADOPT A STREAM PROJECTS 1999

Summer 1999 may have been grim for salmon and trout trying to breathe in desperately low, warm water, but it sure meant that a lot of habitat restoration work could get done! Adopt-A-Stream grew this year with seven new groups getting involved in new projects. In total, there were 24 projects underway. The final numbers are not in yet but tens of thousands of square meters of habitat are well on the way to recovery as a result.

Here's what some of the groups have been working on in 1999...

On the River Philip, the Cumberland Co. River Enhancement Association (CCREA) undertook to re-establish a meander pattern in one kilometer of the main river near Collingwood Corner. This section was selected to address two eroding banks and a lack of pools. The groups tackled the situation with a combination of putting in 10 stream deflectors and by placing field stone and armour against the banks. By placing boulders in groupings in the river, part way along the stabilization work, turbulence was increased, scouring out a pool and kicking the flow into the proper pattern being established by the deflectors. Danny Ripley, the project leader for CCREA, commented that not only were the volunteers enthusiastic but the landowner cooperation with their project was excellent. "Not only were people interested but they came through with field stone, and trucking and tractor time".

In the Valley there were a number of groups doing their part for fish habitat. In Falmouth, the Wildlife Habitat advocates completed another section of French Mill Brook—restoring habitat for brook trout by placing digger logs in the stream. The Black River Environmental Group continued their work to improve habitat in Porcupine Brook which flows to Lumsden Pond and started work on Miners Meadow Brook.

Tributaries to the Cornwallis River are really shaping up. The Friends of the Cornwallis have been working hard to improve habitat on Sharps, Spittal and Elderkin Brooks. Stream work has included very selective debris removal and riparian replanting. An added bit of stream improvement was the redesign and installation of a horse jump! Beth Lenentine, FOCS project coordinator, is not only a fish fan but also a keen horse lover. Working with the land owner, Beth was able to design a jump that would be safe and challenging for the horses and also improve the fish passage and stream flow. Brown trout in the main river are ever happier as more "cover-logs" appear where they are most needed. FOCS, with help from Kings County Regional High, has installed a total of 30 cover logs. The Clean Annapolis River Project took on another river in their watershed, the Fales River, which flows through Greenwood. Using digger logs and deflectors, CARP expects to see good results with cleaner

and worked. Large spruce trees were anchored to the bank to trap organic matter and disperse the energy of the river, protecting soft banks from what had been on-going damage, giving the deflector a chance to work to redirect the flow.

The Richmond Wildlife Association was very busy this year with projects in two areas of the county. Restoration on Murchisson Brook in the Grand River watershed was completed this year with the addition of another 35 digger logs. The RWA began reforestation on Grand Ruisseau, a stream on Ile Madame, near Arichat. In Sydney, ACAP-Cape Breton went to work on Wash Brook, a beleaguered trout stream in the heart of Sydney. The New Waterford Fish and Game Association continued their hard work on the Northwest Brook Watershed which flows to Lingan Bay. Their Adopt-A-Stream Project focused on habitat restoration of Lees Brook, the tributary on which their incubation boxes are situated.

Other groups doing Adopt-A-Stream projects this past year were: Cobequid Salmon Association, Bluenose ACAP, Millbrook 1st Nation, Salmon River Salmon Association, Digby East Fish and Game, Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre, Noel Shore Game Protection Association, Sackville Rivers Association, St. Mary's River Association, Mulgrave and Area Lakes Association, Habitat Unlimited, and Pictou County Rovers Association. Watch for details on these projects and other important accomplishments in the next Upstream issue.

In the mean time, "no resting on laurels". Winter is the time to be thinking about possible projects for next year. I am available to help your

group plan and develop project proposals for summer 2000. The first application deadline is March 1. Fish habitat has never needed your help more.

Amy Weston
Adopt-A-Stream Program Manager
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email: amy.weston@ns.sympatico.ca



Leonard Forsyth of the Margaree Salmon Association observing a deflector working to create a pool. To date, 11 deflectors have been built in the Northeast Margaree.

gravel and a narrower, deeper channel.

On Cape Breton, there were five projects underway. The Margaree Salmon Association, building on the success of last year's pool restoration projects, continued with 5 new sites. Innovative block and tackle combinations were used to position large deflectors. Leonard Forsyth is also pleased with the tree revetments which have held

The Inner Bay of Fundy

NB...The Inner Bay of Fundy, between Nova and New Brunswick, has 33 rivers which used to have significant salmon runs. In NS, there are 22, with two of the best known being the Stewiacke and the Shubenacadie. NB has 11, with the Tantramar, the Petitcodiac, and the Big Salmon being most familiar to many of us...Ed.

"The rivers of the inner Bay of Fundy have all experienced catastrophic declines in their salmon runs. Runs which totaled 30,000 to 40,000 in the mid 1980's have deteriorated to a few hundred," said Bill Taylor, Atlantic Salmon Federation president in a press release on September 16. At the same time, he urged the Honourable David Anderson, Canada's Minister of Environment, "to place the inner Bay of Fundy strains of Atlantic salmon on the national strategic priority list for endangered species under Canada's new Species at Risk Act (SARA)." Declining salmon stocks remain a major concern to the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, and of particular concern is the plight of the inner Bay of Fundy fish.

Earlier, on August 18, the NSSA president, Terry MacIntyre made a similar request. He said, "Atlantic salmon stocks in the inner Bay of Fundy are in desperate condition. None of the inner bay rivers has met spawning requirements since the late 1980's and, at present, several runs are seriously threatened

with extinction." MacIntyre asserts that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has not played its part in researching the cause of the problem. "DFO staff have not been given the resources to do their jobs....Our volunteers are getting discouraged by what they feel is a lack of strong commitment by senior Fisheries and Oceans management." An example of this problem is the committee of stakeholders which has been struck to address the Inner Bay issues. The DFO leads this committee and must carry out committee actions, but adequate staff and/or funding is not available to do the work. MacIntyre also cited the five year, \$100 million dollar resource strategy announced for the Pacific coast salmon, making clear that DFO needs to put similar resources into solving East coast salmon problems.

The ASF release said that ASF and Trout Unlimited have filed a lawsuit in Washington, D.C., trying to force the US government to protect immediately Maine's wild salmon populations under the Endangered Species Act. The interesting point here is that these "salmon populations share the same marine ecosystem as the salmon from the inner Bay of Fundy rivers and ultimately, they suffer the same fate."

As well, the Big Salmon River Angling Association has been circulating a petition (available on the ASF website) that asks for Endangered Species Status for Atlantic Salmon of the Inner Bay of Fundy Rivers. The Big Salmon River Association has been tireless in its work for the Inner Bay.

Philip Lee wrote an article "Shining a Light into the Black Hole" (ATLANTIC SALMON JOURNAL, Autumn 1999) which described a fascinating research project being conducted on salmon from inner Bay of Fundy rivers. Two groups of smolt from the Big Salmon River (the first 29 and the second 37) were fitted with coded transmitters (in the abdomen). These fish have been tracked and the data will be analyzed. Kudos to Gilles Lacroix, a DFO biologist from St. Andrews, and Fred Voegeli, an electrical engineer from VEMCO, Shad Bay, N.S., who developed this ocean tracking system.

This project has already proved successful, because it did track fish in an ocean environment, but it is a very expensive venture. Its expansion will require a consistent, large source of money but the scientific rewards from tracking salmon into the ocean will be huge. Can we afford not to find the money? ASF, through the support of the Molson and McCormick Tribune Foundations, has facilitated the research thus far. The NSSA is committed, through the Anglers Trust, to raising \$50,000 towards supporting the research. An important thrust here is the sale of the Year 2000 calendar, which is sponsored by the Investors Group. The proceeds will go to the Inner Bay research.

In summary, we need more government legislative support to protect what is left of the fragile stock (Endangered Species Designation), more DFO scientific support, and more money from governmental, corporate, and individual sources to help this research project go forward.

Wouldn't we like to shine a light into a black hole, as Philip Lee suggests?

Alice K. Hale



Volunteers from the Wildlife Habitat Advocates installing a digger log on French Mill Brook, Falmouth, NS

Friends of Cornwallis River Society

The weather in the Annapolis Valley this past summer was best described as “sweltering”. This did not deter the 10 enthusiastic people working to enhance the Cornwallis River and its tributaries. In fact, given the influence of groundwater seepage into our streams, it was rather refreshing to be working in the waterways.

The Friends of Cornwallis River Society, funded by the Nova Scotia Salmon Association’s Adopt-A-Stream Program, Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps and the Youth Internship Canada Program were able to complete these stream enhancement projects:

Selective instream debris removal on Spittal Brook

We started this project last year and given the length of the stream, were unable to complete the entire distance. This work was completed this summer, however, with the enhancement of over 7243m² habitat. The crew had to switch to “Mountain Goat Mode” as the gradient rose significantly in the upper portions of this brook.

Selective Instream Debris Removal on Sharpes Brook

The “dreaded Brook” as it was dubbed, was nearly impassable prior to the

initiation of this project. We planned on doing an initial survey to chain off and highlight the areas that were in desperate need of debris removal. This stream was so badly choked off that it took us 2 days to survey a .5 km section. We changed tactics and decided to “just do it”. Many weeks later we are happy to report that we completed and enhanced over 6845m² of habitat. There were numerous wild apple trees along the stream banks which provided an opportunity to break up the monotony of the debris removal by having “apple fights”. But ironically, as they floated downstream, they would get caught up in debris, highlighting the next section to tackle.

Cornwallis River—Riparian Zone Planting and the Installation of Cover Logs

In June, native tree species were selected and planted along areas of the Cornwallis River that lacked vegetation. Due to the long dry summer, we checked on these trees on a weekly basis and watered them when needed. Also, we installed 16 “Cover

Logs” along the stretches of the river that lacked cover, shade and shelter.

Additional activities included: weekly water quality monitoring at 12 stations along the river; a public awareness campaigns with family fun days; environmental education programs with local schools; and gathering baseline fish population densities in the Brooks that we were enhancing.

For more information, check out our website at: www.valleyweb.com/focs

Beth Lenentine



Friends of the Cornwallis River Society—Horse jump over Spittal Brook

From the Editor

Watershed Boards

A recent article in the The Sunday Herald said, “A provincial water-resource management strategy could be reality by early 2000”. According to Catriona Moir of the Environment Department, “Cabinet is set to review and approve the plan early in the new year. The strategy’s focus is to establish community-based watershed stewardship boards, which will be watchdogs to protect and enhance water quality. They will act as advocates, advise government and inform the public,” she said. This announcement is one which should be good news for the angling community.

The Canadian Fly Fisher has now published 3 issues and is well worth reading. Finally, a magazine based on Canadian content—I recommend you check it out. Every issue seems to offer something from each region of the country and for each level of angling expertise. Paul Marriner is a field editor so we can continue to look for useful and interesting articles based in the East.

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website: www.canflyfish.com.

Did you ever stop to think about the number of people dressing and undressing by the side of the road during October? In most circumstances, such activity would be judged unseemly—not during the salmon season, though!



Natural Gas Pipeline Damages the Wallace River?

The Cumberland County River Enhancement Association (CCREA) is very concerned with the long term impacts of the heavy siltation resulting from the recent natural gas pipeline crossing the Wallace River this past summer.

What we have is a very unfortunate situation for all parties involved but most unfortunate of all for the fish and wildlife that call the Wallace watershed home. With water temperatures near their high summer peak the task of breathing for aquatic life was further complicated by the large amounts of suspended silt which left the impression that the Wallace River consisted of chocolate milk instead of water.

Both aquatic and terrestrial life faced many unnecessary hardships and, in some cases, death.

Terrestrial life was forced to find alternate food sources. Ospreys and eagles had to move to other areas to hunt for fish or forage local fields for small mammals. Raccoons could not forage for shellfish, fish, or aquatic insects, and still other birds and mammals which rely on the hatches of aquatic insects (mayflies, caddisflies, etc...) also lost out.

For aquatic life, there were other consequences. Aquatic algae in the silt-affected area was, in most cases, smothered and could not be utilized as a food source for the river's fish and insects. Silt that did



River Philip Restoration—Cumberland Co. River Enhancement Association completed 500 feet of bank stabilization (left) and installed 10 wing deflectors (picture on right is one)

sensitive external gills. For the insects that did escape the silt coating, again there was very little to eat.

Now three months and a couple of rain-falls later, some of the silt is beginning to move. The fact still remains though that the silt has to go somewhere (namely shellfish beds in the estuary) and it will take several spring freshets to get the section of river back to the way it was before

“The irony is that if this situation (or others like it) had cost human life or caused property damage the reactions would be very different.”

not remain suspended settled out to the river bed in a coating that exceeded one centimetre in most areas (including riffles). This silt clogged the rock crevices in which juvenile trout and salmon, as well as baitfish, used to live and hide. For aquatic insects the news was no better. Some insects were entombed in the gravel that was their home and others were left mired on stones unable to move or breathe because the silt on rocks clogged their

the crossing by Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline. This section of the Wallace River though may never be the same again. The silt that surely filtered several centimetres into the riverbed gravel may never filter out and this will have lasting effects on both spawning fish and aquatic insect life.

The most frustrating thing here is that there will be no charges laid by Department of Fisheries and Oceans or the Department of the Environment as the

company appears to have worked within the parameters of the permit issued by these departments. There will, however, be compensation provided for community groups such as the CCREA to do habitat restoration work. This compensation will be nowhere near the amount of money the pipeline company saved by doing a wet crossing instead of a directional drill.

Contrary to some rumblings within the local community, CCREA, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, or the Atlantic Salmon Federation did not sell out the Wallace River for the compensation money. No conservation organization in its right mind would trade further habitat damage to an

ecosystem and thwart previous work and public support just to obtain money to fix that same damage. No headway can be made that way. We would much prefer that this incident had not occurred, but we can try to make a positive impact on the Wallace River with the compensation money that will hopefully be available for work during the summer of 2000 and beyond.

The irony is that if this situation (or others like it) had cost human life or caused property damage the reactions would be very different. The evidence and responsibility would be self-explanatory, the compensation much greater, and we would not have to listen to “professionals” bicker back and forth.

They say we can't put a price on human pain and suffering, but we all (government, business, and individuals) seem continually to be able to put a price on our natural resources and the health of our planet, no matter how innocently, for more “creature comforts”—and there is not one scientific study that can deny that.

Danny Ripley
CCREA

Fly Fishers International

The 34th Federation of Fly Fishers International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave was held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee in August. Gatlinburg is a beautiful little tourist town in the Tennessee Smoky Mountains.

As we are in Nova Scotia, they are struggling to keep their fishery in good shape. Rainbow trout are stocked in the town river system every week and wild rainbow exist in the cool mountain streams.

The FFF offers 60 classes and seminars at the conclave including casting, tying, rod building and instructing. My wife, Verlie, and I were pleasantly surprised and honored to be invited to teach two courses at the conclave, appearing on the program beside instructors like Lefty Kreh. We taught a class for beginners called the Five Basics of Fly Casting and a three-hour seminar called Casting with Accuracy or "putting flies in difficult places". Both classes were great fun with people from as far away as Japan attending.

Our trip to Gatlinburg was further enhanced when the Federation asked me to become a member of the Board of Governors. The Board is responsible for the

development of instructor certification programs worldwide and is made up of 25 casting instructors from the US, Canada and Europe. At my first board meeting I took my seat beside the renowned Mel Kreiger and across the table from the legendary Joan Wulff—an intimidating spot to say the least. Only one other Canadian is a member of the Board, Denise Maxwell from BC.

As a board member we were responsible for conducting two days of testing which included one day interviewing and evaluating potential Basic Casting Instructors, and the second day conducting the Master certification examination. About 30 casters enrolled for the Basic Instructors course and 7 attempted the Masters with 2 passing the test.

The Conclave is attended by thousands of people and includes a large number of company displays, dinners, barbecues and award ceremonies. About 100 fly tyers from around the world produce all kinds of flies during the week. With two 100 foot casting ponds inside, it is a great opportunity to try out fly rods coming onto the market. I was asked to demonstrate rods for a new company from

Kentucky that is producing small trout rods for lines 1 through 3 weight. They manufacture 2,3,4 and 5 piece rods in the 6 to 7 foot range. A large reel for these rods is about 2 inches in diameter. We don't see these small rods in Eastern Canada but they are becoming very popular on small trout streams elsewhere.

Before we left Tennessee, Verlie and I fished the Pigeon River, a small cool mountain stream with wild rainbow trout. This summer they also had a low water problem and the trout were small; however, they were fighters, typical of cold water. (The guide doesn't tell you about the Rattler and Copperhead snakes until you are up there, and you walk to the water REAL quick). All in all, a very informative and fun conclave in a beautiful setting. Next year we look forward to teaching at the Conclave to be held in Livingston, Montana near the Yellowstone River.

Dennis Grant
Certified Master Instructor
Atlantic Fly Fishing School

NSSA AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

DAVE SYMOND 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:

- Be active and dedicated to his/her local river watch program and the overall promotion and development of the province wide initiative.
- 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": pp 6-7 of the Guidebook.
- Be actively communicating with and educating others about the importance of a

healthy watershed and the benefits of the River Watch program.

- Be actively striving to establish the link between the community and the River Watch program through his/her volunteer efforts and community service.
- Be actively trying to recruit new volunteers to the program.
- 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.
- 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 nominee's actions.

Award presentations are made at the Annual Halifax Dinner Auction, scheduled for April, 2000
Deadline for submission: **March 12, 2000**

Nominees to:

Dr Peter Bagnell
P.O. Box 470

Port Williams, N.S. B0P 1T0
Tel: 542-3889 Fax: 542-7871

Email bagnell@glinx.com

"I envy not him that eats better meat than I do, nor him that is richer, or that wears better clothes than I do; I envy nobody but him, and him only that catches more fish than I do."

Quotation from **THE COMPLETE ANGLER** by Issac Walton, first published in 1653.

What is a Herp Atlas?... What is a Herp?

In Nova Scotia we have 13 species of Amphibians (5 salamanders, 7 frogs and a toad) and 9 species of reptiles (4 turtles and 5 snakes). Together these are the herpetofauna, or "herps" of Nova Scotia. Of these, five species are endangered, threatened, or vulnerable: the Blanding's Turtle, Wood Turtle, Northern Ribbon Snake, Four-toed Salamander, and the Blue-spotted Salamander. In Nova Scotia we have started a Herp Atlas to monitor the status of these species and to ensure that they are not in danger of further decline due to land use decisions and other human impacts.

For the atlas, people across the province report herp sightings and observations. Volunteers can get involved simply by familiarizing themselves with the identification of herp species by sight and sound, reading the Atlasser's Guide that explains the observations needed to build the atlas, and registering as an atlasser (see below). For the rarer species, atlassers provide specific location information, the number seen, and any

observations on breeding. For all other species, atlassers record the location and numbers within a 10 x 10 km square area.

Since the start of the project in May of this year we have established a web site located at <http://landscape.acadiau.ca/herpatlas/> where you can find out more about the project, register as an atlasser and submit your herp data online. We have 56 people registered as atlassers thus far and over 250 records of herps reported this year.

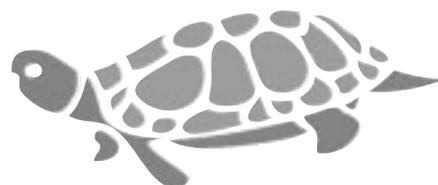
This is a five year project which will culminate with the production of an atlas with maps of the distribution and abundance of herps across the province. A Herp Atlas project is particularly important because amphibians and reptiles have specific life history characteristics that make them susceptible to environmental changes and alterations to habitats. This information that our volunteers are gathering will become a database which conservationists, land use managers and developers can use in planning. These data will also provide a baseline for long term

monitoring, since we must know the past status of populations before assessing whether they decline or increase in the future.

If you are interested in reporting sightings of frogs, turtles, snakes, and salamanders and becoming part of this province-wide atlassing project, or would like more information, please contact the NS Herp Atlas by phone: (902) 585-1313, email: herpatlas@acadiau.ca, or visit our web site at: <http://landscape.acadiau.ca/herpatlas/>

Samara Eaton

Although a non-salmonoid topic, this article deals with an issue of importance and interest to many anglers.



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 endeavor 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 endeavors of an Association which results in the conservation of the Atlantic salmon.

Applications for the 2000 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 12, 2000**. The scholarship award will be presented at the NSSA Annual Dinner and Auction, April 6, 2000.

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
Email bagnell@glinx.com

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

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"Indeed, for he who has the propensity to angle, it would be well, physically and spiritually, to set out not just with rod and creel but with "wit...hope and patience, and a love and propensity to the art itself." The angler has everything to gain. He cannot even lose a fish, "for no man can ever lose what he never had."

Quotation from THE COMPLETE ANGLER by Issac Walton, first published in 1653.