

MEDWAY RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION

Queens County
Nova Scotia

LATEST NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The association President keeps the membership up to date through the Medway River Blues publication, also [archived here](#) on this web site. Between times, though, things can happen quickly. This page is a good place to keep up with the very latest developments, be they with the Medway River Salmon Association activities or with other events that affect our interests. Here then is the latest.

Posted 30 Jun 2011

Recent events around the transfer of smolt to the Coffin Island fish farm have raised emotions on both sides of the issue. Being sought are reasonable accommodations and solutions. One interested party sent some comments to President Darrell Tingley suggesting an alternative point of view. Though his note to Darrell was signed, it is published here without identification to respect the sender's privacy, followed by Darrell's response.

June 24, 2011: "It's interesting to note that the answer now is closed containment. Far from being any kind of expert I know there are enough problems with this system that it has not worked in most places. There was a farm in Lingan that went under for many reasons. Granted it was 80-'s technology but the issues remain the same. Power consumption is ratched up to warm or cool the water(good for the environment burning more fossil fuels?), the water being pumped ashore still had sea lice, and the recirculated water made the fish taste like the shit they were swimming in. Dare i call this "food for thought?"

I also understand farms around the world are shutting down because of the many problems associated with "closed containment."

Maybe the Shelburne issue might be better served by asking Cooke to grow out a cage of Medway fish and put them in the river rather than the truck stoppage approach.

Camps are being formed and the first thing to go is "reasoned debate." It's time for the people who care about fish get in the same room and have an 'INFORMED DEBATE.'

Before the e-mails get flying around accusing me of being a "closet(cage) aquaculturist, I'm not. I am simply looking for informed debate not the wild accusations I see coming from our group."

Darrell's response:

June 29, 2011: "So I take it that you agree with Cooke transporting Saint John River stock all over the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia to fill the open pen cages. The stock put in the pen off Coffin Island came from two sources (a) a nursery in Antigonish County and (b) a nursery in St Stephen, N.B. The Industry, with help from DFO, has discovered that the Saint John River stock is best suited for aquaculture farms.

Your notion that Cooke grow out a cage of Medway fish and put them in the river will not be entertained by DFO, in fact, at a meeting yesterday DFO refused to do a small collection (3 male/3 female) of wild fish for a breeding program for fish friends. The issue was genetics. Therefore, to provide eggs to produce 700,000 fish for Cooke Aquaculture, you could say is out of the question. We eventually agreed to do a breeding of hatchery reared salmon (3&3) provided the adults and 1 year old smolts are released in current vacant waters of the Medway.

One of the problems with closed containment may be the volume of fish the aquaculture industry deems necessary to squeeze into a site to maximize profits. If we look at the Sea Bass aquaculture site up in the valley it is a closed contained site, water is treated before released and the product is excellent. The Sea Bass are being served in the finest restaurants in New York, Toronto, Montreal and Nova Scotia. Maybe the operator refuses to jam 750,000 into the contained site. Oh, and by the way, it is profitable. Maybe with solar or wind power your energy cost fixation can be eliminated.

In todays Canada, including Nova Scotia, if we sit back and wait for governments and/or DFO and the Aquaculture Division Inland Fisheries to do the right thing the Southern Upland Salmon will be extinct. Therefore, unless the people rise up and take a stand and stop the exploitation of our forests, rivers, harbours and our land what will be left for the future generations? Corporate greed, left un-checked, will destroy the land, the water and all living things that rely on forest and fresh, un-polluted ocean/river water.

I didn't succeed in preventing Cooke from unloading a cargo of Saint John River salmon smolt destined for the Coffin Island site, however, 100 like minded people or 1,000 like minded people would have succeeded. As would 10, 20 30 or 50 vehicles on the Port Medway wharf. I may have failed in stopping the truck, however, I contributed to the debate around the dangers of the Aquaculture Industry and Wild Atlantic Salmon. Others are raising the consciousness of aquaculture on Lobster fishers and shell fish harvesters. Someday, for society as a whole, I hope we succeed."

Darrell Tingley
President, Medway River Salmon Association
Director, Nova Scotia Salmon Association

Posted 27 Jun 2011

On Saturday June 25, in an effort to prevent the transfer of foreign salmon species and possibly contaminated water into the Medway region, President Darrell Tingley, supported by several MRSA members, picketed a large salmon smolt transfer from trucks to boat at Port Medway. The fish were en route to an open pen salmon farm off Coffin Island nearby. Darrell was arrested and briefly detained by RCMP officers before finally being released without charges. Although unsuccessful in preventing the transfer, work continues behind the scenes to alleviate the threats that this fish transfer pose, of which more to come. Read more of Saturday's events [here](#).

President Darrell Tingley reports:

On Saturday, June 25th three DARTEK transport trucks off loaded Saint John River Smolts onto a Cooke Aquaculture boat at the Port Medway dock. Cooke was assisted by the RCMP who made sure any protestors would be arrested if they attempted to stop the trucks. DFO and the Aquaculture Branch of Inland Fisheries "failed" to show up to protect Wild Atlantic Salmon from these "foreign" species.

Information has been received that the first shipment of smolts on Thursday were from a hatchery in Antigonish County, N.S. (Saint John River Stock) and Saturdays shipment was from St. Andrews, N.B. (also Saint John River Stock). The permit in place states that the fish must be healthy and disease free and this is left up to the company (Cooke) to determine. The water that contains the smolt does not require testing and will end up being dumped at the Fish Farm off Coffin Island.

The jurisdiction for transfers is Federal, Introduction and Transfers, under the responsibility of DFO. A provincial representative sits on this committee. Unfortunately, DFO, washed its hands of any responsibility and left the issue in the hands of the provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Wild Medway Atlantic Salmon Stock are under serious threat as any escapees will penetrate the Medway and other rivers in the area. Escapees are sure to happen as 500,000 Rainbow Trout escaped during hurricane Juan and 13,000 escaped the spring of 2010 as seals tore holes in the nets. If appears nobody in DFO or Fisheries & Aquaculture care about Wild Atlantic Salmon as long as Cooke makes maximum profits!

Posted 25 Jun 2011

Movement of salmon smelt at Port Medway wharf to be shipped to the Cooke farm site off Coffin Island has resulted in a variety of coverage, including on last evening's 6.00pm CBC TV news. Here are some links to some of the recent coverage.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/story/2011/06/24/ns-port-medway-salmon-fish-farm.html>
<http://responsibleaquaculture.wordpress.com/2011/06/25/nova-scotia-salmon-farm-proteted-by-anglers/>
<http://bit.ly/lfoUQk>
<http://bit.ly/iCxS93>
<http://bit.ly/iE2FS6>

Posted 24 Jun 2011

The following was today sent to Nova Scotia Minister of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Sterling Belliveau.

Mr Belliveau:

High winds offshore prevented the transportation of salmon smolts from the Port Medway dock to the Cooke farm site off Coffin Island. To clarify the trucks were advised to "not leave" or "stay somewhere on route" until the seas calm. Therefore no stoppage of the trucks was necessary at the docks in Port Medway.

In addition, to the danger of spillage at the docks, another issue has surfaced in which we ask you, as Environment Minister, to investigate. We know that the smolts are from Saint John River stock, however, we have no idea which nursery/hatchery are raising the stock for delivery to Cooke. Therefore, we are concerned as to what

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pollutants/impurities may be contained in the water carrying the smolts. We request that the water be tested before any off-loading is performed regardless of port of transfer.

Mr. Belliveau it is obvious that you, Inland Fisheries and DFO are not interested in protecting Wild Atlantic Salmon, in that, Cooke was at the Port Medway dock today waiting arrival of the trucks. Yesterday's request was not acted upon by fisheries and it seems you are willing to gamble on the health of "endangered" Wild Atlantic Salmon. It seems that only the financial health of Cooke is important...this is shameful. We as citizens of Nova Scotia expect better of our elected officials.

Once again I am asking you, Inland Fisheries, Environment, DFO and the Federal Government to stop the transportation of "foreign" fish from New Brunswick to the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia. The risks to Wild Atlantic Salmon are too great. Have Cooke Aquaculture build self contained cages on land and protect the environment, as well as, wild stocks.

Darrell Tingley
President, MRSA

PS We will be back to the docks tomorrow am...trusting you will take your responsibilities seriously and the transfer will not take place in Port Medway

Posted 23 Jun 2011

The following missive was sent yesterday to the pationed addressees and is posted here for information.

Minister of Fisheries/Environment, MLA's MP's, DFO, ASF, NSSA, Region of Queens, QCF&GA, Media:

It has come to my attention that salmon smolt were taken from Port Medway to the Fish Farm at Coffin Island now owned by Cooke Aquaculture. Tks Mr Belliveau for NOT informing the MRSA of this information. Tks also to Cooke Aquaculture for NOT informing Queens residents about the change over from trout to salmon. Your irresponsible behaviour will be remembered. Despite all the known dangers of salmon escapes from this open pen farm the Minister of Fisheries has allowed this to happen. DFO has turned a blind eye to this activity knowing full well that the Southern Uplands Wild Atlantic Salmon have been listed "endangered".

What will it take to have corporations and government act in a responsible manner?

Inland Fisheries, N.S. Minister of Fisheries, DFO, Federal Government stop this madness.

Failing to do so will leave, citizens and organizations alike, no choice but to take the law into their own hands!

Darrell Tingley
President, Medway River Salmon Association

Posted 23 Jun 2011

An interesting article, Help For Salmon In Nova Scotia, paper by R. W. Gray, Biologist, Resource Branch, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, is now posted on our [News page](#). Click [here](#) to go directly to the article.

Posted 21 June 2011

The following report was received regarding the Harmony Lake fish ladder, pictures of which are shown below.

Monday June 20, 2011

Further to my update last Wednesday, our field crew has completed flow measurements from the Harmony Powerhouse tail race. We'll do some follow-up work and be in touch over the coming month with data.

Also, during a stream survey downstream of Harmony Lake, it was noticed that the Harmony Lake fish ladder is currently filled with large amounts of debris that nearly completely obstruct flow. NSPI field personnel rescued a significant number of fish, mostly white sucker, that were trapped in the buckets. Many of these displayed evidence of stress (skin lesions and infections). NSPI personnel also noted numerous mortalities. I recall that Louie and George were concerned about Harmony Lake last fall, and thought that it should be brought to your attention. Photos are attached; DFO was notified this morning.

Dan Thompson
Environmental Scientist, NSPI
Environmental Services



Posted 21 June 2011

A Community Dialogue on Salmon Aquaculture and the Traditional Fishery

Monday, June 27, 7:00pm

Shelburne Regional High School

Shelburne County residents, in cooperation with the Ecology Action Centre, are presenting the first in a possible series of Community Dialogues on Aquaculture in Shelburne. The first public meeting will be on Monday, June 27 at 7:00pm at Shelburne Regional High School. One of the key speakers at the Dialogue will be Inka Milewski, a marine biologist with more than 30 years of experience working with government and non-governmental agencies. She has participated in two DFO-sponsored national science reviews on the impacts of salmon and shellfish aquaculture and has conducted research in New Brunswick.

Recent research is showing that the rush by industry and the provincial and federal governments to substantially increase aquaculture in the dozens of bays and harbours in this region may not bode well at all for the marine environment or traditional fishery and greater citizen knowledge about some of the consequences of large-scale salmon aquaculture can only make communities stronger.

The Community Dialogue session will also have presentations by representatives from the Ecology Action Centre, celebrating forty years of providing advice and consultation to communities and governments regarding marine ecology and preservation issues. Jordan Nikoloyuk, sustainable fisheries coordinator with EAC says that community events not sponsored by government or industry have often proven effective in providing relevant information to rural citizens in an open and friendly environment. "We have a lot to learn about the

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negative effects of net pen salmon farming on our coasts and communities”

One of the most recent indications of the threats to the traditional fisheries in the region by the installation of industrial-sized salmon cages can be seen in the recent study released by the Coastal Community Research Alliance (CURA). The study was based largely on interviews with fishermen in southwestern New Brunswick whose lobster, scallop and sea urchin fisheries have been affected by the large-scale salmon farms which have been installed throughout the coast of New Brunswick in the past ten years. The effects include the disappearance of berried lobsters, brittle scallop and sea urchin shells, scallop meat and sea urchin roe adversely affected and lobster, crab and shrimp kills in down-current areas. The study can be read online at: <http://coastalcura.ca/documents/FinalLEK04292011.pdf>

The Community Dialogue is open to the public and questions by community members will be welcomed. The event is free. For more information about the event, visit www.SaveOurCoastalFishery.com/dialogue

Posted 19 Jun 2011

The topic of open pen salmon farming in Nova Scotia continues to boil in the arena of public discussion and opinion. Salmon and their habitat is at the very heart of the mission of the MRSA, so we continue to report on relevant developments as best we can. In that vein, here is another letter of support for the St. Mary's Bay Coastal Alliance.

*Sent: Sun, Jun 19, 2011 5:44 pm
Subject: letter in support of St. Mary's Bay Coastal Alliance*

*Honorable Stephen McNeil
Leader of the Opposition*

Dear Mr. McNeil,

It is difficult to express in a short letter, the alarm in our small fishing community of Jordan Bay/Green Harbour about open-pen salmon farming and the way our provincial government is promoting this unsustainable practice. We would like to add our support to the St. Mary's Coastal Bay Alliance, in their attempt to bring awareness to this issue, which affects the entire province.

We believe open-pen salmon farming is a serious threat to our traditional, sustainable lobster fishery. In every other area in the world, this intensive type of salmon farming has led to sea lice problems and disease outbreaks, which in turn has led to job losses. The industry's response has been to increase the use of chemicals and pesticides. One only has to look to New Brunswick and the increase in lobster mortalities and loss of fishing grounds (Lobster Deaths Raise Questions, CBC News, Feb. 18, 2010; Coastal CURA Report, 2011) to understand what the implications of large-scale salmon farming will be for Nova Scotia.

Our provincial government has never enforced its own pollution standards. In Shelburne Harbour, even though, from 2005 - 2008, maximum pollution levels increased as much as five times the allowable levels each year, no action was taken. Since 2009, the industry has done its own monitoring, and this information has never been made public, despite repeated requests.

The risk is simply too great for the lobster fishery. Our fishermen wish to protect their trapping territory, their market security (due to the adoption of electronic monitoring), and lobster habitat and populations.

Cooke Aquaculture has made a verbal promise to Shelburne County to build a processing plant, for which they are now lobbying for funding from the provincial government. They have promised hundreds of jobs here and in the Digby area. How many fish farms will it take to provide enough work for a year-round operation providing work for hundreds of people?

It is time to place a moratorium on industrial-sized open-pen fish farms and adopt new technologies, such as closed-containment, so that Nova Scotia can become a world leader in aquaculture.

*Sincerely,
Sindy Horncastle for MAYDAY - Shelburne County
3914 Sandy Point Road
875-4771
www.saveourcoastalfishery.com*

Posted 17 Jun 2011

First of Its Kind Study on Value of Wild Atlantic Salmon Underway: The Atlantic Salmon Federation today announced commencement of a major study. [Click here](#) for details.

Posted 16 Jun 2011

The following letter, which is self explanatory, was emailed on June 5 and was posted then for general information. The addressees were: Sterling Belliveau Minister of Environment & Fisheries; Vicki Conrad, MLA Queens; Gerald Keddy, MP South Shore-St. Margarets; Don MacLean, Director Fisheries and Aquaculture, N.S.; Greg Stevens, Fisheries & Aquaculture Management, DFO; and Thomas Wheaton, Area Habitat Chief Inspector, DFO.

Since the mailing a response dated June 16 was received from Minister Belliveau. That response, and President Darrell Tingley's reply, is now posted below.

June 5, 2011:

Morning Mr Belliveau, Ms Conrad, Mr Keddy, Mr Stevens, Mr MacLean, MR Wheaton

It has come to my attention, as of this date, that Cooke Aquaculture has purchased Ocean Trout Farm Inc. off Coffin Island, Liverpool Bay, N.S.

How is it possible in the month of June 2011, with all the controversy around Fish Farms in the Bay of Fundy, that a transaction of this magnitude and importance happen without the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Nova Scotia Salmon Association, Medway River Salmon Association and Queens County Fish & Game Association knowing a thing about it? Was this done on purpose to eliminate dissent from these groups/organizations. This is a shameful act and all those responsible should be held accountable.

COSEWIC has determined Wild Atlantic Salmon to be endangered in the Southern Uplands Region of Nova Scotia and this decision flies in the face of this designation.

During Hurricane Juan 500,000 Rainbow Trout escaped from the Ocean Trout Farm and entered rivers from the Mersey in Queens to the Sackville in Halifax County. From March 22, 2010 to April 3, 2010 in excess of 13,000 Rainbow Trout escaped from the same facility. It is well documented about the Farmed Salmon escapees in the Bay of Fundy some at Cooke Aquaculture facilities.

Interesting to note that Jeffrey Hutchings is currently studying at Dalhousie University how cross breeding between escaped farmed salmon and wild salmon is affecting fisheries stocks, particularly as it relates to the already scarce wild salmon population. His team's work is extremely important to the species' survival, informing recovery strategies and conservation plans.

I request an emergency meeting be called to deal with this matter. In the interim all proceedings be put on hold at the Coffin Island site. If salmon are currently in the open pen facility they be removed.

An early reply is anticipated.

*Darrell Tingley
President, Medway River Salmon Association*

June 16, 2011:

Dear Mr. Tingley:

Thank you for your e-mail of June 5, 2011 concerning aquaculture lease # 1205 in Liverpool Bay near Coffin Island.

This site is properly licensed to grow both Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout. The lease is held by Ocean Trout Farms Inc.

It is possible for leaseholders to enter into business arrangements with other companies regarding the culture of species on approved leases as long as they follow the terms and conditions established when the site was issued or subsequently renewed.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write on this matter.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Sterling W. W. Belliveau

June 16, 2011:

Mr Belliveau:

That is not good enough. The lease is old and dated and a great amount of information/science has come forth on the dangers of salmon farms to Wild Atlantic Salmon.

Over 500,000 Rainbow Trout escaped from Ocean Trout Farms during Hurricane Juan and in March/April over 13,000 trout escaped from the same facility. These trout showed up in rivers from Liverpool to Sackville. If these were salmon escapees, their intermingling with wild stock would ruin the genetics of the Medway Stock, and others along the Southern Uplands.

As well, COSEWIC has recently designated Atlantic Salmon in the Southern Uplands of Nova Scotia as endangered. This matter is before the Federal Government for review and study. Therefore, all open pen salmon farming in this area should be put on hold until the review is complete. To this end I suggest you consult Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

I would suggest that Cooke Aquaculture proceed with closed containment sites on land to replace the Liverpool Bay, Shelburne Harbour and St Mary's Bay proposed sites. This way any threats to wild stocks will be eliminated. Profits will still be made and a clean environment will be enjoyed by all residents/fishers/workers in South West Nova Scotia.

Darrell Tingley
President, MRSA

Posted 15 Jun 2011

[Here](#) are some interesting salmon statistics from Penobscot River, Maine.

Posted 14 Jun 2011

The following email of support to the MRSA was received today:

Hello,

Just wanted to voice my support for your opposition to and concerns about the salmon farms proposed for the south shore. I spent a weekend at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre a few weeks ago and, as an environmental historian, was quite horrified at the effects of aquaculture. I've written to Cooke Aquaculture voicing my own concern.

Good luck with it!

Dr. Claire Campbell
Department of History
Coordinator, Canadian Studies Program

Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 4R2
902-494-3668

Posted 14 Jun 2011

The following letter was sent to the CBC following a broadcast interview of the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture, Sterling Belliveau on June 8. It is published here for information.

Dear CBC,

I listened in disbelief to the June 8th interview with the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Sterling Belliveau, and his comments about open-pen salmon farming. The Minister stated, he had no intention of conducting any in-depth scientific study and relied upon the screening report done by Transport Canada to make his decision to approve the sites in St. Mary's Bay. He also stated that the Transport Canada document had addressed concerns around the lobster fishery and that if any adverse effects did occur, the lease sites would be shut down. These comments by the Minister are misleading.

Members of the Jordan Bay and Green Harbour communities were present at the April 30 meeting called by Minister Belliveau to discuss the Transport Canada screening report on St. Mary's Bay. Neither the Minister nor the Deputy Minister, Paul Lefleche, had read the report they were there to discuss. They also stated repeatedly that they would not discuss the effects that had occurred at salmon farm sites in other areas, even though the NSDFA itself had documented high levels of pollution in Shelburne Harbour since 2005. No action has ever been taken by the Minister to close these sites, and since 2009 Cooke Aquaculture has done its own monitoring. Despite repeated requests, monitoring data since 2009 has not been supplied by the NSDFA.

The screening report is not required to look into the amount of waste generated by an open-pen site, even though, by the company's own estimates, a site containing 700,000 salmon will generate at least 700,000 lbs. of fecal and food waste per harvest cycle, a very conservative estimate. The screening report does not address any potential impacts to the lobster fishery. It states only that, "The lobster fishery is likely the most economically sound fishery in the area." The screening report is not required to look at the use of in-feed chemicals and pesticides, even though the pesticides used by industrial salmon farms are lethal to crustaceans.

The effects of aquaculture on the traditional fishery in Southwest N.B. are documented in a study being presented at the Coastal CURA conference in Halifax, June 26-29. The fishermen state that their once-rich fishing grounds have become "marine deserts" due to the effects of intensive salmon farming. They also state that the environmental effects of industrial salmon farming have been worse than the degradation caused by pulp and paper mills. It has already been documented in Port Mouton Bay that lobster catches decrease over time around open-net salmon pens.

Who is protecting our lobster fishery ?

Sindy Horncastle
Jordan Bay, Shelburne County

Posted 12 Jun 2011

A study about the effects of ocean based aquaculture in the St. Mary's Bay area will be presented at the Coastal CURA conference in Halifax, June 26-29, 2011. It documents the personal experiences of N.B. fishermen with industrial salmon farming. A lengthy, scientific report, it may be read in summary [here](#) or in full [here](#) (large document, lengthy download). The full report will remain available through our [News](#) page.

Posted 11 Jun 2011

On June 10, 2011, the Ecology Action Centre issued a release "Approval of Salmon Aquaculture Lease Spurs Outrage from Community and Conservation Groups". Click [here](#) to view the release, also available from our [In The News](#) page.

Posted 11 Jun 2011

President Darrell Tingley was quoted in today's Halifax Chronicle Herald criticizing the approval of a new salmon farming operation in Liverpool Bay. The story can be read [here](#) for as long as the Herald link remains live.

Posted 09 Jun 2011

The following message advertising a free Fish Habitat and Restoration Workshop on June 16 has just been received.

Hello,

I wondered if you could circulate [this poster](#) to your members. The MTRI is hosting a workshop about identifying and restoring fish habitat that I thought one or two people from the Salmon Association might want to attend. The hope is that the workshop will recruit some volunteers to monitor water quality in the Upper Mersey watershed. Please notify us if you will be attending so we can plan lunch. Also, let us know if you have allergies. Hope to hear from you soon,

Lindsey Beals
Aquatic Health Researcher
Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute
9 Mount Merritt Rd., Kempt
Nova Scotia BOT 1B0
lindsey.beals@merseytobeatic.ca
Phone: 902 682 2371
Fax: 902 682 2760

Posted 05 Jun 2011

The following letter, which is self explanatory, was emailed today and is posted here for general information. There is sure to be more to come in due course. Stay tuned. The addressees are: Sterling Belliveau Minister of Environment & Fisheries; Vicki Conrad, MLA Queens; Gerald Keddy, MP South Shore-St. Margarets; Don MacLean, Director Fisheries and Aquaculture, N.S.; Greg Stevens, Fisheries & Aquaculture Management, DFO; and Thomas Wheaton, Area Habitat Chief Inspector, DFO.

Morning Mr Belliveau, Ms Conrad, Mr Keddy, Mr Stevens, Mr MacLean, MR Wheaton

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I request an emergency meeting be called to deal with this matter. In the interim all proceedings be put on hold at the Coffin Island site. If salmon are currently in the open pen facility they be removed.

An early reply is anticipated.

*Darrell Tingley
President, Medway River Salmon Association*

Posted 01 Jun 2011

The 2011 salmon fishing regulations from the federal government are now out. [Click here](#) to see them. There is also an excellent article appearing in the Telegraph Journal entitled "A case for salmon feedlots on land." [Click here](#) to see it on their site.

Posted 27 May 2011

Nova Scotia Salmon cross-bred with New Brunswick Salmon released into the Pollate River which feeds into the Petitcodiac River. [Click here](#) for the CBC story.

Posted 27 May 2011

A meeting took place Thursday May 26, 2011 between MLA Vicki Conrad, Seymour Sears, Consultant, CANUC Resources Corporation and DWT, President, MRSA in respect to an Exploration Program at the old Thompson and Gold Eagle Mines.

Recently, CANUC entered into an option agreement with Magnum Resources Inc. regarding the Mill Village Gold property. The property consists of 31 claims covering 501.8 hectares. The Gold Eagle and Thompson mines host geology and mineralization identical to the other "meguma Series" gold deposits located in Nova Scotia.

Permits are being sought from the Ministries of Natural Resources and Environment for an Exploration Program consisting of (a) geology, geophysics, trenching and drilling; and (b) de-water the Gold Eagle mine, conduct panel and bulk sampling followed by metallurgical testing. If permits are received and test results are positive mining could take place in 2012. The mining would be underground and decisions have yet to be made if the rock would be crushed on site or transported elsewhere. The drill site is approximately 2.5 KM from the Medway River Road.

Posted 20 May 2011

The MRSA has been pushing for remedial work at the Harmony fish ladder. The following information, received from Nova Scotia Environmental Services, explains the progress to date and beyond. The attached pictures are from such work being done at an unrelated location and are to illustrate what such work involves.

Darrell: I believe I can answer all or most of your questions. a) When was the ladder repaired? An initial inspection of the Harmony Ladder was made by NSPI hydro engineering March 1st and repairs to the Harmony Fish Ladder were carried out April 11th, 2011. Though deterioration of the concrete in the lower buckets of the ladder was a known issue over the last year or so, repair work was expedited due to the concerns expressed by MSRA, QCF&G, and DFO. Repair work began March 30th and was wrapped up by April 14th, 2011. As stated in the Harmony Hydro operating approval, it is a requirement to have the fish ladder watered up by April 1st of each year. This year we had to apply for a variation to mid-April to allow us time to repair to the ladder. NSE granted a variation in the requirement and we delayed watering the ladder until April 15th. b) What repairs were carried out? With the ladder isolated using the upstream stoplogs, a thorough inspection was done and areas of concern were identified. A combination of concrete and anchored plywood with grout mixture was used to refurbish the ladder. Work crews passed over exposed concrete faces with a grinder to remove any sharp angles and other hazards to fish. I have attached photos of the de-watered ladder to show some of the results of this work. c) When will written confirmation be provided to all interested parties? I am unsure of the nature of this request. NSPI does not typically issue written letters or confirmation to "all interested parties" over repair work to our structures, but you may use the contents of this email to inform anyone on your associations, or any other interested parties that you know of. NSPI has been in touch with DFO and NSE throughout this project and they should be aware already. The Harmony Ladder repair work was inspected by our Environmental Services staff and made the grade. A fish passage assessment is now underway and we hope to have more information on the ladder, flows, etc. for the next stakeholder meeting. The date for this meeting has yet to be determined. The Harmony relicensing studies are only just underway and it will be several months yet before we have data to share. It is my intention to share this data with our regulators and stakeholders later on in 2011, so that we may better design the ongoing Harmony relicensing study for 2012. I'll be in touch over this in the near future. Sincerely, Dan
Dan Thompson Environmental Scientist, NSPI Environmental Services Office: 902-428-7589 Cell: 902-225-5150 Email: dan.thompson@nspower.ca



Posted 15 May 2011

The ZMAC meeting for Zone 21 was held on Friday, May 13th, 2011, in Bridgewater. Billy Stevens, George Mansfield and myself attended. Greg Stevens chaired the meeting and Heather Bowly provided the science overview. Representatives from LaHave, Mushamush, Gold, Medway and QCF&GA, NSSA, ASF attended the meeting.

Science:

- LaHave River: Parr densities up in 2010 vs 2009. 300 small, 50 large salmon through counter on West Branch (35% of spawning requirement). It is believed the main run of salmon go up the North Branch.
- Near shore mortality has increased in Greenland travel.
- COSEWIC: Final report not yet released. Status designation for Southern Uplands is "Endangered". One of the reasons for that designation is Acid Rain. Recovery Potential Assessment will take place in 2011, listing in 2012 and action plan can take up to 4 years to take effect.
- Cutbacks to science budget will close Morgan Falls Fish Ladder in 2012. It was destined to close in 2011, however was put on life support. There is no smolt assessment for 2011 as technicians were hired too late.

Issues raised by MRSA:

- Stocking initiative for the Medway River for the Fish Friends Program (Greenfield, Caledonia & Mill Village Schools). Excess eggs will be held at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility. Consultation will be held with DFO to determine the age of release and location(s) of release.
- NSP Power Plant: An update is to be provided as to the repairs carried out on the fish ladder this year.
- Budget Cuts: What impact will the budget cuts have on the Mersey Biodiversity Facility going forward? DFO clarified that the budget cut over the next 3 years is \$57 million, not the \$86 million reported in the newspapers. Currently, as a result of ongoing cuts to DFO, some fisheries have no science. As positions become vacant they are eliminated through attrition.

It was the unanimous position of those assembled was that we oppose any cuts to programs, facilities and staff in Zone 21 and that the LaHave River counting station not close in 2012, also that the fish ladder be staffed for the relevant data for the Recovery Potential Assessment.

Poaching: The LaHave River Salmon Association raised the issue of those fishing salmon with a trout licence. DFO will look at closing some salmon pools to angling in 2011. Notice will be posted at each pool and DFO enforcement will monitor.

Posted 10 May 2011

Darrell received the following message and photographs today about the smolt wheel on the West River.

A quick update from the West River. As feared, George received a call from our summer student this morning - the West River was angry. The river has raised ~ 1 m at both the smolt wheel site and fyke net site and continues to rise. We were not able to get near the fyke net - but it is still there. The water was well over the deflectors, and some sections have been ripped out. Also, the wheel has a significant amount of torque on it, and being aluminum it is flexing, resulting in poor performance. We needed a canoe to get to the smolt wheel, but were able to get last night's catch out. Although we did have some recaptured (marked) smolts from last night, our total catch was way down at only 12 smolts + 7 recaptured smolts (out of 118). This is presumably because the water did not raise until a few hours after dark, our marked fish were caught under "moderate" water conditions (being released only a few hundred meters above the wheel) and then when the water rose (well over our deflectors), we started missing fish. Our overall estimate will still be sound, however we will underestimate the number of fish moving over these past few days (we may be able to account for some of this). Anyway, people are safe, the gear is safe, and we're getting the best data we can given the conditions. Lets all hope for some sunny and dry weather soon!! Eddie



Posted 10 May 2011

A media release was issued on April 29, 2011, by Mi'kmaq leaders opposing a proposed fish farm in St. Mary's Bay. The content would be of interest to our members and supporters. [Click here](#) to read the release.

Posted 04 May 2011

Yesterday saw the release of unfed fry in the upper reaches of West River. The following note received from one of the members involved passes on great news about the success of our liming efforts. The photos he sent also tell some of the story.

Folks:

The release of 47,000 unfed fry yesterday went extremely smoothly. It was not an easy task for the ten volunteers who made it happen--canoes, unfed fry and volunteers had to be trucked into a remote location via an ATV, from there three canoes were sent down river 4km to release the fry in to what we thought were habitat voids. That was the big surprize - wild atlantic salmon beat us to this area!!!

While volunteers waited for the fry to arrive, some did some trout angling and caught smolts just below the falls on the upper end of West River! This top 10km of West River has been void of salmon since the 1970's. The pH in this area is now 7. Finding salmon smolts at these falls (this is as far as salmon can travel on the West River) is huge news!!!



It means -liming works!!!! it means we have salmon production in an area that has been dead for 40 years!!!! I think it's time we start making some noise about liming.

The smolt count is also getting exciting this year; after only our first week of counting smolts the estimate for the first week is 1875 smolts!!! and we don't expect the smolt run to peak until May 10th--and we now know that we still have smolts 30km up river.

Can you tell that I'm excited???

George Ferguson (VP, NSSA)



Posted 21 Apr 2011The following was emailed by Darrell to our members and others this morning.

Morning All: With the election campaign heating up some news that may be of interest to you. Michael Ignatiff was in Yarmouth last evening to announce funding for the Maine/Yarmouth ferry. In addition, he told reporters "that aquaculture must not be allowed to harm the fishery" Further he said "but we can't harm wild fish stocks with farmed aquaculture". [Op-ed piece](#) on page A11 of the Chronicle-Herald Carl Purcell, President NSSA, talks about budget reductions of 86 million dollars to DFO, of which 50 million will be in Atlantic Canada. This is in addition to the 60% reduction since 1992. Carl goes on to talk about one of the first casualties being Morgan Falls Counting Station on the LaHave River not operating in 2011. Carl closes with "where is the federal Conservative Government? On May 2nd, I will be voting for Wild Atlantic Salmon". * Because DFO did not consult with the native community the closure will take place next year. Eric Robichaud who is responsible for the Counting Station retires this year and his position will not be replaced. Sub title on the front page of the Herald on the [St Mary's River](#) states " declining salmon runs, acid rain threaten waterway's sport fishery". Its time to let your candidate know that DFO cutbacks, that affect Wild Atlantic Salmon, will not be tolerated. That Fish Farms should be land based and funding must be made available to tackle Acid Rain in the Southern Uplands. My vote, like Carl's, is for Wild Atlantic Salmon.*

Posted 20 Apr 2011

Frustrated by federal government cuts, the following was emailed by Darrell to our members and others this morning.

Morning All I attended last nights all candidates meeting at the Day's Inn in Bridgewater. My purpose was to question the Harper governments cuts to the DFO budget and the resulting program, facilities and jobs. Unfortunatley Gerald Keddy was a "no" show and therefore no answer was forthcoming. The 86 million in cuts to DFO over the next 3 years, on top of the previous cuts to DFO over the past 5 years, will severely cripple their work and make the recovery of wild Atlantic salmon all that more difficult. Already announced budget cuts will terminate the counting station at Morgan Falls this year. Eric Robichaud will retire this year and his job will not be filled. This will leave a big hole in the science department and will have a detrimental effect on the Southern Uplands. How long before word is rec'd that the Mersey Biodiversity Facility will close? The 86 million in cuts were before the additional 11 billion cuts announced during the campaign to improve efficiencies in the federal Government. Will the Science Department of DFO be contracted out? Will Fish Farms regulate themselves? Will any money be available to protect the Wild Atlantic Salmon in the Southern Uplands which are endangered? All this while in excess of 24 Billion dollars in tax cuts will be handed out to the BIG BANKS, OIL & GAS COMPANIES in the next 4 years. 2.2 Billion will be handed over to Quebec on September 1st for harmonizing the sales tax in 1992! How many Billions will it take to fight the 2 wars in Afganistan and Lybia? 30 Billion to buy new fighter jets. 10 Billion to build new mega jails.All that largesse and nothing for programs, facilities and jobs for DFO in the fight to preserve the Wild Atlantic Salmon. The Conservative Government was in contempt of Parliment for refusing to provide information to parliament...Gerald Keddy was in contempt of due process by refusing to show up the the all candidates debate. I say lets rid ourselves of this contempt on May2nd. Darrell

Posted 19 Apr 2011

The following letter, sent to the editor of the Bridgewater Bulletin, was published word for word in today's edition.

Morning Vernon Another attempt to knock some sense in the voters heads: 11 Billion More in Cuts Recently the "Harper Government" announced 86 million in cuts to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) over the next 3 years, of which 50 million is destined for Atlantic Canada. On the April 9,10 weekend the "Harper Government" announced another 11 billion in cuts to federal departments and programs. The magician didn't say where the cuts would be other than 4 billion would be though efficiencies. Are these the same efficiencies that Gail Shea announced for DFO re the 86 million in cuts? If the 86 million in cuts would create job and facility losses what would another round of cuts do to Fisheries and Oceans, Environment, Health, Education and Transportation Departments? If you are employed by the Federal Government and vote Conservative you are voting to eliminate your department and job. If you are a salmon fisher and vote Conservative you are voting to never fish salmon on the South Shore again. If you are an environmentalist and vote Conservative you are voting for the destruction of your country. If you are a senior citizen and vote Conservative you are voting for reduced health care. If you are a student and vote Conservative you are voting for reduced education opportunities. If you are employed in the transportation industry and vote Conservative you are voting to keep ferries from the transportation infrastructure. My vote will be for a better Canada for all. How are you going to vote?
Darrell TingleyLunenburg

Posted 18 Apr 2011

The Dinner/Auction was a roaring success with \$5,423 raised for projects to improve the habitat in the Medway Watershed for trout and salmon. The Committee would like to thank everyone who attended and bid on the silent and live auction items, as well as those who provided donations for the auction. See you again in 2012 for the 2nd Annual Dinner/Auction.
Darrell

Posted 14 Apr 2011

An Op-Ed article in the April 6 edition of the Vancouver Sun entitled "Bringing fish farming into the modern age" makes interesting reading. It is posted here as the link will remain active for short duration. [Click here](#) to read it.

Posted 12 Apr 2011

Darrell's letter to this week's Queens County Advance entitled "Healthy Watersheds" can be viewed on our "[In The News](#)" page, or by clicking [here](#).

Posted 05 Apr 2011

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency is asking for public input re the proposed St. Margaret's Bay salmon farms. The issue in the Inner Bay of Fundy is that Fish Farms have been responsible for the decimation of wild Atlantic salmon...through disease, pollution, escapes etc. The Gov't (DFO) are now granting approval for two more large salmon farms which can only make the situation worse. Public input is being accepted until May 3, 2011. [Click here](#) to view the report; the request for input is at the foot of that page. In the Appendices to the large Report document are interesting DFO studies on wild salmon populations... It is disappointing that the report recommends an approval of the proposal.

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