

# 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 15 Sep 2011

The following response dated September 14, 2011, was received from Hon. Sterling W.W. Belliveau, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

*Dear Mr. Tingley:*

*Thank you for your e-mail of August 31, 2011 regarding damage to the new salmon farms at St. Mary's Bay.*

*A fishery officer and my Department's Manager of Licensing visited the farms on Thursday September 1st. They interviewed the site manager and toured both sites.*

*Although the farm did experience wind and wave action from tropical storm Irene, the manager reports that no fish escaped and the cages experienced only minor damage.*

*Our inspection of these sites did not reveal evidence of significant damage, lost cages or escaped fish.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Original Signed By:*

*Sterling W.W. Belliveau  
Minister  
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture*

### Posted 13 Sep 2011

The following news release was issued today by "Mayday Shelburne County" and is posted here for information.

**MAYDAY SHELBURNE COUNTY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 13, 2011**

***Belliveau's demand for \$2140 for lobster science data outrageous***

***In response to a request from a lobster fisherman in Jordan Bay near Shelburne for information regarding previous studies done which suggest that the location for one of new salmon farm leases being considered in Jordan Bay might be a lobster "nursery", Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture minister Sterling Belliveau wants more than \$2000 before he will release the data.***

***"This is absolutely outrageous," says West Green Harbour lobster fisherman Ricky Hallett, who made the request. "I've been asking questions of the Minister about studies of "berried" (egg-bearing) female lobsters in Jordan Bay for some time and finally I get this response from him." What was even more insulting, says Hallett, is that the first response from the department to his freedom of information request was a phone call from a staffer in which she said he might have to pay as much as \$9000.***

***At every public and private meeting Belliveau has attended and been questioned on the science surrounding the placement of open net, industrial scale fish farms near sensitive lobster grounds and other species habitat, the minister (and Shelburne MLA) has said that he and his department possess adequate scientific data to ensure no harm will come to existing fisheries or tot the ecosystem.***

***"This is a prime example of how this government treats the serious efforts of citizens to understand the science behind the controversial placement of salmon farms so close to lobster and other critical***

fisheries," says Mayday Shelburne County organizer and Jordan Bay resident *Sindy Horncastle*.

"I've questioned *Sterling Belliveau* on this issue on many occasions," added *Hallett*. "At a LFA 33 meeting in *Bridgewater* in June, he said all of my and other fishermen's questions would be answered at a public meeting in *Shelburne*." *Belliveau* did not attend the July 12 meeting and questions regarding the berried females met with no response from *Belliveau's* staff or *DFO* staff in attendance.

Some of the charges from the department include accessing and reviewing the information, which the department told *Hallett* amounts to at least 1500 pages. "As far as I am concerned," says *Hallett*, "it is criminal for the minister to charge me or anyone for scientific data. Since they know there are at least 1500 pages of relevant science, and since we are two thirds through the review period and decision-making process, this information should already be on his desk and should have been reviewed by the minister. It seems outrageous to me that he now wants to charge a regular fisherman in the area concerned more than \$2000 for that same information." The department demanded a pre-payment of \$1070 prior to processing the request. *Hallett* has not decided whether or not to appeal the \$2000 demand from *Belliveau's* department.

Recently, another freedom of information request to the Department for science information surrounding fish farms and lobster habitat was met with the response that the department had not one science-related document in its possession and that it had never been allowed to see the reports from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (*DFO*) and other departments surrounding salmon aquaculture science

*Mayday Shelburne County* is coalition of fishermen and citizens in *Jordan Bay*, *Green Harbour* and *Shelburne* who are opposing the granting of industrial fish farms in sensitive ecosystems without adequate scientific justification.

#### **MAYDAY SHELBURNE COUNTY**

Contact: *Ricky Hallett* – 902-656-2760  
*Sindy Horncastle* – 902-875-4771 (eves)

[harbourwatch@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:harbourwatch@ns.sympatico.ca)

#### **Posted 12 Sep 2011**

The following is correspondence among the Atlantic Salmon Federation from its president, *Bill Taylor*. It relates to a land based, fully enclosed salmon rearing facility.

DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

RE: UPDATE ON LAND –BASED AQUACULTURE PROJECT

*I am pleased to report that the closed containment project we are carrying out in partnership with the Conservation Fund Freshwater Institute of Shepherdstown, West Virginia, is progressing well. Dr. Steven Summerfelt, Director of Aquaculture Systems Research for the Freshwater Institute, reports that the Saint John River strain salmon that they are growing out in freshwater are healthy and proving that this technology for grow-out is feasible. In four months of grow out, the salmon have more than quadrupled in weight (340 to 1650 g). Water quality has been excellent. The food conversion rate is very good, with the weight of the feed producing the same weight of fish. The survival rate of our fish has been 95.5% which is very good.*

*All of this has been accomplished without the use of vaccines, harsh chemicals and antibiotics. There have been no threats to fish health and no sea lice. The harvest is expected to be about ten tons and could occur from January to April of 2012.*

*Our research is providing key data on growth rate, survival, fish densities, feed conversion, water quality, primary variable costs, waste loads, fish health, pesticide/antibiotic use, fillet attributes (yield, color, lipid content, flavor) and other key parameters for growing Atlantic salmon to food-size within a freshwater commercial-scale closed containment system. The new information obtained through this study will assist with future decision-making by the North American salmon farming industry, government regulators, funders, and conservation advocates and result in better-informed decisions regarding land-based closed-containment systems for salmon grow-out.*

*In New York in November, you will hear firsthand from Steve Summerfelt at the Directors Dinner and more in-depth during the committee meetings, giving you good opportunity to discuss this exciting project with the experts.*

*I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.*

*Bill Taylor*

#### **Posted 11 Sep 2011**

1) The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has released its report to the Minister on the status of Wild Atlantic Salmon stocks in the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec. For the Southern Uplands Region (Annapolis River to the Straight of Canso) the designation is Endangered. The Minister has ninety (90) days to

respond.

2) A crew of eight (8) on Saturday, September 10th spread 28 ton of pelletized limestone at the Twin Bridges site. The shovel/bucket brigade covered, as much as possible, of the 4 hectare site. The crew now understands why Terrestrial/Air is the favourite method of land liming.

**Posted 30 Aug 2011**

After our brush with hurricane Irene in the last couple of days, people's attention has focused on the St. Mary's Bay fish farm operation and the apparent damage that it has suffered. The following message was received from an observer yesterday.

*It appears that there may have been some significant damage to the St. Mary's Bay site in the storm last night. We sailed out there tonight, seas were still quite rough, we see that there are currently only 7 cages left in the first site which was completed and stocked last month. My husband counted 12 cages there in July. Of the 7 remaining pens, 5 are damaged, 2 have seawater flowing freely in and out of the pen as the sides have collapsed. There are feeding frenzies of seabirds as the predator nets have washed away.*

And further, today, from the same correspondent:

*We did take video and photo's, I have attached a photo of one of the cages. There did not appear to be any fish in the damaged pens that remained. The ones with the predator nets still intact did have fish jumping. I am attaching a photo of one of the cages that we saw, clearly the potential for escape is evident. Also during the storm the seas were totally burying these cages. How do we determine how many fish are gone? Impossible for us. This is a ridiculous situation. The winds we sustained for this tropical storm are nothing compared to what we will see on the shores of St. Mary's this winter. This wind lasted less than 24 hours, what will take place when we get our Southerly gales that last for 3 and 4 days? Cooke's is saying that they only had 7 cages on the site. We know there were 12 there in July. But what about these cages that are clearly open to the sea? Where is DFO? Are they not to be called immediately? Who is policing and enforcing the limited NS regulations on this farm? Do we rely on the site managers to assess the damage and tell us that nothing escaped? Clearly this is not acceptable.*

<http://www.thecoastguard.ca/Business/2011-07-18/article-2659993/Cooke-Aquaculture-moving-ahead-with-fish-farms/1>

*This article states that the site was completed and fully stocked. Blueprints for the site show a completed site held 12 cages.*



**Posted 30 Aug 2011**

Hon. Sterling W.W. Belliveau, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, has sent the following response to Darrell's email posted below on July 28:

*Dear Mr. Tingley:*

*Your e-mail to the Honourable Percy Paris expressing your comments about Cooke's proposed aquaculture expansion in Nova Scotia has been forwarded to my office for response.*

*The concerns you have raised over creating jobs and keeping the environment healthy in Nova Scotia are important. We are aware of these concerns and have developed the jobsHere strategy, to create more employment opportunities in this province. As you are aware, Cooke Aquaculture plans to expand its operations in Nova Scotia. The proposed expansion may include a hatchery, a processing facility and a feed manufacturing facility. This expansion would provide a sustainable seafood product while promoting economic development and employment throughout Nova Scotia. To ensure long-term sustainability the aquaculture industry is highly regulated and is required to meet and maintain strict regulatory standards to operate in this province.*

*Again, I want to thank you for taking the time to express your concerns. I will carefully weigh all information available to me, including yours, before any conclusions or decisions are made.*

*Yours Sincerely,*

*Original Signed By:*

*Sterling W.W. Belliveau  
Minister  
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture*

*c. Honourable Percy Paris*

**Posted 20 Aug 2011**

Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Hon. Keith Ashfield, has sent the following response to Darrell's earlier correspondence:

*August 16, 2011*

*Dear Mr. Tingley:*

*I have received a copy of your correspondence of July 17 and 26, 2011, addressed to your Member of Parliament, Mr. Gerald Keddy, regarding the fish ladder at Harmony Lake, Queens County, Nova Scotia.*

*As Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, I share your concerns regarding the lack of fish passage into Harmony Lake. As you noted in your correspondence, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) officials recently visited the fishway. Due to the state of disrepair of the fishway and the potential for fish to become entrapped in the structure, the fish ladder was closed. In addition to the physical inspection of the site, DFO is researching the ownership of the dam and fishway, and working to identify parties who could have a role in restoring fish passage at this site.*

*The interest of the Medway River Salmon Association in the fishery resources of the Medway River is greatly appreciated. Should you have any further questions, I encourage you to contact Mr. Mike Cherry, Regional Manager, Habitat Management Program, at 902 426-7464.*

*Thank you for taking the time to write.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Original Signed By*

*Keith Ashfield*

*c.c.: Mr. Gerald Keddy, M.P.*

**Posted 20 Aug 2011**

Hon. Percy Paris, Nova Scotia Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, has sent the following response to Darrell's email posted below on July 28:

*August 17, 2011*

*Dear Mr. Tingley:*

*Thank you for your email describing your concerns about provincial investment in aquaculture sites in Nova Scotia.*

*Licensing, regulation and monitoring of aquaculture sites is the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, working in conjunction with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. To ensure your concerns are addressed properly, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your message to the Honourable Sterling Belliveau, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, for his attention and response.*

*Economic investments by the Province of Nova Scotia are considered very seriously and with all available information. Each project that is presented for possible investment is considered on its own merit and overall benefit to the province. Please be assured many factors are considered in this decision making, including environmental sustainability.*

*Thank you for taking the time to write and share your concerns on behalf of your organization.  
Sincerely,*

*Original signed by:*

*Percy A. Paris  
Minister*

*c. Sterling Belliveau, Minister, Fisheries and Aquaculture (min\_dfa@gov.ns.ca)  
Ian Thompson, Deputy Minister, Economic and Rural Development and Tourism  
Derrick Jamieson, Investment, Economic and Rural Development and Tourism*

**Posted 11 Aug 2011**

Asked for an update with regards to Nova Scotia Power's dealing with problems with the "fish ladder", Dan Thompson, an environmental scientist with NSP responded:

*As promised, the Harmony bypass pipe was scoped with a camera earlier this week and a significant blockage consisting of woody debris was found. It was located approximately 17' in from the intake. The blockage was fully cleared Wednesday, August 10th. A field crew will be down to measure the flow and confirm that the pipe is fully clear in two weeks.*

*I read through the latest copy of the "Medway River Blues" (vol. 5 #2), and was disappointed to see that the McGowan Fishladder and the Harmony Lake fishladder were both featured side by side under the title "Fish Ladder Woes". Little care was taken to explain that these are two different ladders in two different places. It may be obvious to yourself and others who frequent both sites, but it will not be to the casual reader. I had hoped that the repairs of the ladder, while not a permanent solution, would be a positive step for your organization. I trust that you will clarify the difference between the two ladders on the MRSA website and/or in the next newsletter.*

*To summarize:*

- 1) the McGowan Lake fishladder was repaired last April and water flows through it unimpeded.*
- 2) the McGowan downstream fish bypass was identified as clogged and was cleared out on August 10th.*
- 3) the Harmony Lake fish ladder is in rough shape and MRSA and QCF&G continue to push for solutions.*

*Thanks,  
Dan*

There are indeed two fish ladders and, based on Dan's reply it is evident that Nova Scotia Power responded very properly and adequately to our request for remedial action. Not having notified us of the actions taken by NSP, the latest issue of Medway River Blues does not acknowledge the work that they have completed. With apologies to Nova Scotia Power for this omission, we are pleased to post Dan's corrective and welcome report. Kudos to NSP for completing this work as requested. Corrective work to the Harmony Lake fish ladder remains outstanding at this time.

**Posted 28 Jul 2011**

The following letter was emailed to Hon. Percy Paris, Nova Scotia Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism.

*Mr Paris*

*Fisheries Minister Belliveau is criss-crossing the Province talking about the government handing out bag fulls of cash to Cooke Aquaculture. This is part of the so-called 150 million dollar Cooke expansion for sites in Truro, Digby and Shelburne. Aquaculture sites (open pen) in Shelburne, a nursery in Digby and a feed lot in Truro.*

*Is Mr Belliveau talking about 50 million, 100 million, 125 million dollar investment by your department?*

*Cooke/Belliveau are talking about the potential of upwards of 400 jobs, the vast majority paying just above minimum wage. Hell it wasn't that long ago that your government wouldn't cough up 7 million to keep the Yarmouth ferry running and the direct loss of 200 good paying transportation jobs and hundreds in the service sector. Is the little guy from Milton, Premier Dexter, on side with the Minister of Fisheries?*

*I think its high time that you rein in the Minister and the notion of spending a hundred million dollars of taxpayer dollars on an ill advised scheme to pollute our environment. After your department finds the money, to get a ferry service up and running from Yarmouth to the U.S., then it may be time to discuss environment friendly last based aquaculture with Cooke. Any investment of tax payers dollars must consider the environment first and jobs second.*

*I would ask you to give this matter your earliest attention, so any and all confusion, can be put in its place.*

*Darrell Tingley  
President, Medway River Salmon Association*

Having written to Gerald Keddy, MP, on July 17 about the Harmony fish ladder (see below), and having received no response, Darrell emailed a request for a response from his office on July 26. The following reply was received that same day. The fish ladder remains unrepaired at this time.

*Darrell,*

*Happy July!*

*We have been in contact with the Queens County Fish & Game concerning the below matter as well as Minister Ashfield's office.*

*Thank you,  
Jennifer*

Jennifer McSween  
Constituency Assistant  
Office of Gerald Keddy, MP  
South Shore - St. Margaret's

**Posted 21 Jul 2011**

The following was today sent to The Coast Guard for publication.

*I read with interest an op-ed piece in another Nova Scotia newspaper about "fish farm supporters reel in members". The gist of the article is that fin aquaculture is good for the community and young people can obtain jobs and stay at home. Sherri Harris says her employment as a Cooke contractor has nothing to do with her support for open pen expansion in the area.*

*If open pen fin aquaculture is so clean and pristine why is Ms. Harris not arguing to have the three additional sites proposed placed in Shelburne Harbour? Could the pollution, stink and other negative impacts on the environment have any thing to do with it?*

*In speaking about the area youth heading west seeking employment, Ms. Harris argues the new open pen farms and "maybe" a processing plant in Shelburne will keep them at home. My question is how will jobs at \$11.00 an hour (Cooke's going rate for labourers) keep any one from heading west where workers at MacDonaldis in Alberta make \$20.00 an hour? Truckers make \$30.00 to \$35.00 an hour? Nice try.*

*No one, including Ms. Harris, relate new jobs to the environment. Its OK to pollute the environment, as long as we get some jobs, seems to be the order of the day of industry and government. Take for example biomass harvesting, open pit mining and open pen aquaculture. Shouldn't the environment be the number one concern and not trampled by excess and greed?*

*I wonder what the little guy from Milton, Premier Dexter, thinks about shelling out in excess of 100 million, of tax payers dollars, to Cooke to create jobs at just above minimum wage in Shelburne and Digby Counties? For that kind of money maybe the Minister of Fisheries/Environment, Mr. Belliveau, can take off the rose coloured glasses and do some good for the fisheries and environment. Why not continue to support aquaculture industry in a environmentally sustainable way and have future sites land based in closed contained tanks? Build a new processing plant in the Shelburne area and the necessary closed contained tanks adjacent to the plant. This way our tax dollars will be put to good use in construction jobs, as well, other jobs will be available to those seeking same. I'm not sure if this will impact Ms. Harris trucking contract, however, if it does she can apply for one of the \$11.00 labourer jobs at the processing plant.*

Darrell Tingley  
President, Medway River Salmon Association

**Posted 19 Jul 2011**

The following letter was sent today to the Halifax Chronicle Herald. Links to the story referred to in the letter will expire after a few days.

*I read with interest the piece by Brian Medel, "[Fish farm supporters reel in members](#)" in the July 18th edition of the Herald.*

*It appears Sherri Harris has lost focus because of her contract with Cooke Aquaculture. If open pen fin aquaculture is so clean and pristine why is Ms Harris not arguing to have the three additional sites proposed, placed in Shelburne Harbour? Could the pollution, stink and other negative impacts on the environment have any thing to do with it?*

*Ms. Harris also talks about local people heading west to seek employment and new fish farms and "maybe" a processing plant in Shelburne, if the government coughs up enough cash, will stop the stampede. A job posting in New Brunswick by Cooke is seeking labourers at \$11.25 an hour. So jobs, at just above Nova Scotia's minimum wage, is going to stop people in Shelburne County from going out west? I think not.*

*No one, including Ms. Harris, relate new jobs to the environment. Its OK to pollute the environment, as long as we get some jobs, seems to be the order of the day of industry and government. Take for example biomass harvesting, open pit mining and open pen aquaculture. Shouldn't the environment be the number one consideration and not trampled by excess and greed?*

*If Minister Belliveau, and the Dexter Government are going to shell out in excess of 100 million dollars to Cooke to expand fin fish aquaculture in Nova Scotia and a processing plant in Shelburne County I trust that closed contained sites will be the order of the day. These contained sites could be built adjacent to the processing plant to protect the environment. This way my tax dollars will be put to good use in construction jobs, as well, minimum wage jobs will be available at the processing plant and Ms. Harris will still have her contract with Cooke to haul fish!*

Darrell Tingley  
President, Medway River Salmon Association

**Posted 17 Jul 2011**

The following email was sent today to Gerald Keddy, M.P. Any response from him or in relation to this email will be published here when received.

*Morning Mr. Keddy*

*In the past week stories have appeared in the Chronicle Herald and on CBC TV News in respect to the efforts of Queens County Fish & Game Association to have the Fish Ladder at Harmony Lake repaired to allow passage of various fish species from the Medway River system to Harmony Lake, Queens County. The stories appeared after a number of fish species were discovered dead in the delapidated fish ladder. Apparently to address the problem DFO blocked passage to migrating fish to prevent further deaths, however, with no immediate solution to correct the problem.*

*I would ask you as MP and the Minister of Fisheries to immediately instruct DFO to correct the problem to allow fish species to migrate to Harmony Lake as per the Fisheries Act. Harmony Lake is a jewel in the Medway Watershed with pH in excess of 6. Salmon returns to the Medway are up greatly in numbers this year and, to enhance the species, access to all spawning grounds should be possible. Strange that DFO has access to great amounts of money for the Aquaculture Industry, however, zilch or very little for wild species.*

*Please advise of steps to be taken to correct this Fisheries Act violation.*

*Darrell Tingley  
President, Medway River Salmon Association*

**Posted 12 Jul 2011**

The LaHave River Salmon Association is holding a fly tying competition, closing date September 8, 2011. Click [here](#) for full details.

**Posted 12 Jul 2011**

President Darrell Tingley's response to last week's issue of the Queens County Advance headlining "Cook (sic) Aquaculture speaks out on protest" is published in today's Advance. Read his response [here](#).

**Posted 11 Jul 2011**

The Medway River has now been closed to fishing of any kind. Here is the notice to us of the order, just signed:

**NOTICE**

The Regional Director-General, Maritimes Region, Department of Fisheries and Oceans wishes to advise that effective July 11, 2011 until August 15, 2011 the following waters of the Medway River, Queens County, Nova Scotia, are closed to angling for any species of fish by any method.

Medway River, from the Highway 210 bridge at Greenfield downstream to the Highway 103 bridge. For further information contact your local fishery officer and refer to Maritimes Region Fishing Close Time Variation Order 2011-081.

Faith G. Scattolon  
Regional Director-General for the Maritimes Region

**Posted 11 Jul 2011**

A media release was today posted by a group of community organizations in the area of St. Mary's Bay and the Atlantic Salmon Federation. The release announced that the community groups along with the Atlantic Salmon Federation today filed an appeal to the Nova Scotia Supreme Court to oppose the creation of one of the province's largest fish farms in the community's traditional fishing grounds. Click [here](#) to read the contents of the release, also posted on our [In The News](#) page.

**Posted 09 Jul 2011**

An article in today's Halifax Chronicle Herald entitled Fish Way Choking Out Life describes the conditions at the fish ladder at Harmony Lake. Read the story [here](#). The link will expire in just a few days.

**Posted 07 Jul 2011**

The Queens County Advance, on the front page of its July 5, 2011, edition, published an article entitled "Cook (sic) Aquaculture speaks out on protest". Read the article [here](#), along with President Darrell Tingley's response which he has submitted to the Advance for publication.

**Posted 04 Jul 2011**

The following report is published here for information. The MRSA's local Salmon Fishing Area is SFA 21.

## Science Response 2011/005

### Status of Atlantic Salmon in Salmon Fishing Areas (SFAs) 19-21 and 23 Context

Atlantic salmon populations of the Maritimes Region have experienced two or more decades of decline. Atlantic salmon commercial fisheries were closed by 1985. In-river closures of recreational fisheries began in 1990 in the inner Bay of Fundy and expanded to all outer Bay of Fundy (western part of Salmon Fishing Area, SFA 23) and many eastern and southern shore rivers (SFAs 20 and 21) by 1998. In addition, Aboriginal communities have either reduced or

curtailed their fishing activity. There are thought to be four large groupings of salmon in the Maritimes Region: the outer Bay of Fundy, the Nova Scotia Southern Upland (SFAs 20 and 21), the inner Bay of Fundy (SFA 22 and eastern part of SFA 23), and eastern Cape Breton (SFA 19) areas. Many populations are extirpated, and inner Bay of Fundy salmon are listed as endangered under the Species at Risk Act. In November 2010, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) designated the Outer Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia Southern Upland and eastern Cape Breton population assemblages as endangered.

Science advice on the status of salmon in SFAs 19-21 and 23 was requested by Fisheries and Aquaculture Management on November 19, 2010. This advice is used to inform Aboriginal groups of the status of the salmon resource in advance of developing harvest agreements and to develop recreational fishing plans for 2011. Given that this advice consists of an update of previous advice using established methods, it was decided to provide this status report through the Science Special Response Process. A meeting was held by DFO Maritimes Science (February 17, 2011) to review the information in this document. This Science Response report is a product of that meeting.

Evaluation of the status of Atlantic salmon in the Maritime Provinces is based on a comparison of the abundance of salmon relative to a reference point known as the conservation spawner requirement (CSR). The CSR is generally a river-specific estimate of the number of salmon, based on the amount of fluvial (of suitable gradient) habitat, and biological characteristics of salmon, required to produce an egg deposition of 2.4 eggs/m<sup>2</sup> of habitat (O'Connell et al. 1997). The corresponding egg deposition is referred to as the conservation egg requirement. The CSR was originally adopted by the Canadian Atlantic Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee (CAFSAC) as the level below which CAFSAC would strongly advise that no fishing should occur. CAFSAC considered that this level provided a modest margin of safety but that the possibility of irreversible damage to the stock increased the further spawning escapement was, and the longer it remained, below the CSR, even at levels only slightly below (CAFSAC 1991).

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This Science Response report is from the Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, Regional Science Special Response Process (SSRP) of February 17, 2011 on Stock Assessment of Atlantic Salmon.

[View complete PDF document](#)

(26 pages; 369K)

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