

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 Apr 4, 2012

The following was received from the NSSA and is posted for the information of members:

To: NSSA Board; NSSA Members; NSSA Affiliates; Flies & Lies List

Hi Folks,

Just a reminder of the upcoming 23rd Annual Halifax Dinner and Auction fundraiser for the Atlantic Salmon Federation and The Nova Scotia Salmon Association.

For the first time the Smoked Salmon Reception will consist of salmon raised in a land based closed containment facility thereby causing no impact to our precious wild Atlantic Salmon.

Date: Thursday, April 12th, 2012

Location: Casino Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Time:

6:00 - smoked salmon reception & silent auction

7:30 - dinner & live auction

Ticket Information

Single Tickets - \$150.00

Sponsor Table - \$1,800.00

Conservation table of eight - \$2,500.00

Patron table of eight - \$5,000.00

A tax receipt will be issued for the charitable portion.

For tickets please contact:

Jim Lawley

Phone: Cell: (902) 456-2121

E-mail: jimlawley@scotiafuels.com

Should you want to donate items please contact Lewis Hinks at our office in Chester 902-275-3407.

Your commitment and support of our 23rd Annual Halifax Dinner will make a difference and is appreciated.

Here is a sample of some of the Live Auction items:

Cold Spring Camp - Come and enjoy an unforgettable fishing trip at well-known Cold Spring Camp situated in Québec's ruggedly beautiful Gaspé Region on the bank of the Matapedia River. Two rods will fish for three days on the club's 9 miles of private water. Includes guided fishing, all meals and accommodation. Contact donor for mutually agreeable dates, which must be used in the 2012 season.

Donor: Cold Spring Camp www.coldspringcamp.com

Pira Lodge, Ibera Marshlands, Argentina (Golden Dorado) - Two rods for 5 nights and four days of fishing. A unique fly fishing experience in the Ibera Marshes. Meet the Golden Dorado, an acrobatic, explosive game fish with powerful jaws and razor sharp teeth. Built in a typical Corrientes style, the lodge enjoys a spectacular panoramic view of the vast wetlands. It accommodates up to 10 guests in five large rooms, each with a private entrance, private bath, two double beds and air conditioning. Dates will be determined by lodge availability and winner's preference.

Donor: NervousWaters www.nervouswaters.com

Sandhill River Lodge, Labrador - From Monday August 6 - Monday August 13, 2012, two rods will enjoy one week on the beautiful Sandhill River in Labrador. Only 6 rods will be fishing this very productive river during this time. Trip includes accommodation, meals, guide service, licenses, access to the river and transportation to and from Goose Bay.

Donor: Sandhill River Lodge

Salmon Lodge on the Grand Cascadepia - Two Rods for three days. Situated on an eighty foot bluff overlooking the famous Grand Cascadepia River, the recently renovated Salmon Lodge is a beautiful, century old lodge. Providing gourmet meals in a relaxing atmosphere, Salmon Lodge has quickly become known among sportsmen. This trip includes meals, lodging, guide service and fishing. Guests may also have the opportunity to fish the Bonaventure, the Petite Cascadepia along with the Grand Cascadepia. Plan to arrive August 5th, fish August 6, 7, and 8 and depart after fishing on the 8th.

Donor: Salmon Lodge www.thesalmonlodge.ca

Larry Shortt

NSSA

Posted Mar 27, 2012

The federal government are proposing to remove protection of fish habitat through passage of an omnibus bill containing that measure buried within unrelated budget matters. Let's try to keep protection of habitat in the Canadian Fisheries Act. Here is a link to an online petition:

http://www.thepetitionsite.com/124/389/037/keep-protection-of-habitat-in-the-canada-fisheries-act/?cid=FB_TAF

Posted Feb 8, 2012

The following message was received re the Nova Scotia Salmon Association AGM:

The NSSA Annual General Meeting will be held on:

Saturday March 3rd. 12 noon to 5:00 pm at the Future Inn, 30 Fairfax Drive, Halifax

Guest Speaker Jonathan Carr-Director, Research and Development, Atlantic Salmon Federation

Topic Climate Change and Atlantic Salmon plus More

If you wish any resolutions brought forward would you please e-mail them to Carl Purcell c.purcell@ns.sympatico.ca.

Cheers,

Larry Shortt

Posted Feb 3, 2012



We may be in the cold depths of winter, but that doesn't stop us looking back to the not so distant, warmer past. Here are a couple of photographs taken of students from Nova Scotia Community College, Lunenburg Campus, and members of the Medway River Salmon Association at McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery clipping fish to be released in the Medway River last fall.

Posted Feb 2, 2012

The following note was received by President Horace MacPherson and is reproduced here so that members and others might enjoy an old but interesting read.

Horace

During the Holidays one of my fly fishing friends from Fredericton came across this book which is free to read on the internet, or you can copy it to a file and read it at home. It is a book written in 1902 about Hunting moose and fishing in Nova Scotia. The main fishing river is the Medway, and Hunting Moose and Geese in Port Joli, I am sure you will read it with great interest. It is on my list to read every time I want to go back home in my mind. Here is the link. Just click on the book and it will open for you, select the chapters or read the whole thing.

<http://www.archive.org/details/moosehuntingssalm00pattuoft>

Best Regards
Bryant Freeman

Posted Jan 25, 2012

The annual general meeting was held on January 24, 2012, at the Charleston fire hall. A new slate of executive were appointed and sworn in at the end of the meeting.



ARRIVING FOR THE MEETING



THE MEETING IS UNDER WAY

PAST PRESIDENT DARRELL TINGLEY SWEARS IN NEW MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AFTER THE AGM ON JANUARY 24, 2012. NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS ARE HORACE MacPHERSON, PRESIDENT; LARRY CONNOLLY, VICE PRESIDENT; JO-ANN HOLDEN, SECRETARY; AND REG RAFUSE, TREASURER.



UPDATING MEMBERSHIPS



DARRELL DEPARTS AS PRESIDENT

Posted Jan 16, 2012

What lies ahead for the wild atlantic salmon? Read this editorial in the winter edition of the [Atlantic Salmon Journal](#) to get a glimpse of the future, also available from our [In The News](#) page.

Posted Jan 10, 2012

With the Province of Nova Scotia buying land from Bowater-Mersey, some of it within the Medway River Watershed, the province has now posted on [their web site](#) maps showing the various parcels. There are three maps posted. [Map number 1](#) shows the parcels on the northern reaches of the Medway.

Posted Jan 9, 2012

The following media release was circulated today by Mayday - Shelburne County.

Subject: letter from the David Suzuki Foundation in support of rejecting the salmon farm application for Jordan Bay and Middle Head
Date: Mon, 9 Jan 2012 09:03:00 -0400

From: Sindy Horncastle
Marilyn Moore
Mayday-Shelburne County
Jordan Bay, N.S.

Attached is the critique of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) by The David Suzuki Foundation for industrial salmon feedlot proposal in Jordan Bay and Middle Head, N.S.

There is no information in the EIA about the potential impacts of excess nutrient input, pesticides, fish feces and food waste, chemical anti-foulants, sea lice and

viruses on non-target species such as lobster and lobster larvae, upon which our local economy depends.

Due to the many deficiencies in the environmental assessment, The David Suzuki Foundation is recommending that the salmon farm proposals for the Jordan Bay and Middle Head areas be rejected.

Our community has presented this, and other overwhelming evidence, to the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) showing that Jordan Bay and Middle Head are inappropriate areas for industrial salmon feedlots.

The community of St. Mary's Bay, N.S. presented similar evidence to the NSDFA which was completely ignored. Fishermen there are now dealing with the dead salmon and damaged nets of an industrial feedlot site close to failure. The "promise" of jobs remains an empty promise.

The PEOPLE and coastline of Nova Scotia deserve better.

The [David Suzuki Foundation letter](#) may be viewed on our [In The News](#) page.

Posted Jan 9, 2012

The Atlantic Salmon Federation recently commissioned the Halifax consulting firm of Garner Pinfold to do a study of the economic value of wild Atlantic salmon. The report was released to the public today. An [executive summary](#) of the report is posted on our [In The News](#) section.

Posted Dec 20, 2011

In an Editorial published today in the Queens County Advance, recognition is given to the scope of the work proposed by the MRSA to improve the Medway River environment. See the editorial on our [News page](#), or directly to it by [clicking here](#).

Posted Dec 18, 2011

Alexandra Morton on the west coast of Canada is well known for her fight to force government to protect the ocean from the negative effects of open pen fish farming. Follow her activities and information through her blog at <http://alexandramorton.typepad.com/> also linked from our [Links](#) page.

Posted Dec 14, 2011

The Nova Scotia Commissioner of the Environment has issued his report for 2011. It is posted on our [Archives](#) page, or [click here](#) to see it directly.

Posted Dec 05, 2011

The following letter from the Nova Scotia Salmon Association is published here for information.

Carl R. Purcell
President, Nova Scotia Salmon Association
21 Canterbury Street
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
B2Y 1S8

Aquaculture Management Directorate, Program Policy, Stewardship Unit
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
200 Kent Street, 14th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

To whom it May Concern:

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA) is responding to the notice of intent by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans` (DFO) with respect to regulations for fish pathogens and pest treatment. NSSA is very concerned that the proposed regulations are an attempt by the Government of Canada to exempt salmon farmers from legislation under the Fisheries Act that is designed to protect the marine environment and Canada's fisheries. If allowed to proceed in it's present form, this legislation will allow the use of toxic chemicals in open net pen aquaculture operations to kill sea lice . Sea lice are crustaceans, as are lobsters, crab, shrimp, prawn and krill. These animals will also be affected as will various species of zooplankton that form an important base of the food chain in the marine environment.

The Canadian government has an obligation to protect and conserve the wild Atlantic salmon and as part of this mandate it is of paramount importance to provide regulations to the Aquaculture industry regarding the use of pesticides that are stringent but also provide an environment that is friendly and safe to all indigenous marine species.

There does not appear to be much literature on the half life of these chemicals within the water column and there possible accumulative effect on the various systems of other marine organisms ` The prevalence of cold water temperature in the Bay of Fundy, however, will likely result in oxytetracycline persisting for several lengths of time. Effects on indigenous non- target species have not been investigated.(taken from Canadian Technical Report of Fishes and Aquatic Science 2450 pg.118) Page 109 of the same report states "there are few publications in the primary literature regarding the environmental fate and effects of these drugs and other chemotherapeutants and chemicals in general used in the aquaculture industry .Another author makes a similar statement in the same publication on pg.98-99

While there are currently no sector specific Canadian Environmental Protection Act regulations to manage toxic substances for marine "fin fish" aquaculture, Environment Canada and Health Canada are currently implementing the Chemicals Management Plan which will evaluate chemicals currently in the commerce according to their level of risk. Control strategies may be implemented for substances which present the highest level of risk (Environment Canada 2009). This presents a feeling of "maybe" something will be done and what about future chemicals being used. This is like closing the henhouse after the fox has made a visit.

There should be more pressure placed on the Aquaculture industry to be diligent in providing a safe haven for its farmed salmon through better husbandry instead of relying on pesticides and other chemicals to ensure that their product reaches the market. I wonder if DFO is part of the problem? How can it be both a regulator and supporter of the industry?

Currently there is one population of wild Atlantic salmon that is listed under the Species of Risk Act (the Inner Bay of Fundy). Other wild Atlantic salmon populations have been assessed as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), those being the Outer Bay of Fundy, the Southern Uplands and Eastern Cape Breton. COSEWIC has identified aquaculture as one of the contributing factors to the decline of the wild Atlantic salmon in these areas and the potential for a pesticide to kill species of krill, shrimp and zooplankton, which are all food items for wild Atlantic salmon. This causes NSSA great concern.

NSSA would expect that DFO, the Government Agency responsible for the wild Atlantic salmon, would take a more precautionary approach to issues that may have a negative impact on the already depressed populations of those wild Atlantic salmon.

Yours in wild Atlantic salmon conservation,

Carl Purcell
President
Nova Scotia Salmon Association

Posted Nov 22, 2011

The following letter was sent today to The Honourable Sterling Belliveau, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Minister of Environment.

Dear Minister Belliveau,

Mayday-Shelburne County is writing to you, in response to comments made by Mr. Greg Roache, Associate Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, in an interview published in the Herald on Nov. 14, 2011.

Mr. Roache states that the NSDFA is interested in sustainable practices but that closed-containment systems are not commercially viable. Would you please provide Mayday-Shelburne County with the articles and documents that have been reviewed in relation to closed-containment recirculating systems, including the commercial viability of this technology.

Mr. Roache states that "the salmon industry has sea cages all over the world." Would you please provide Mayday-Shelburne County with the documentation you have reviewed about the environmental and social effects of open-pen aquaculture around the world. Would you also please comment on how open-pen aquaculture has affected the fishermen of southwestern N.B. (Coastal CURA report, 2011) and the fishermen and workers in Chile.

Mr. Roache states that he is not aware of any investigations in N.S. into the use of illegal pesticides. Would you please clarify his statements by stating the position of the NSDFA in regards to the charges facing Cooke Aquaculture concerning the alleged use of illegal pesticides. Would you please provide Mayday-Shelburne County with the documentation that has been reviewed by the NSDFA in relation to the use of pesticides by the aquaculture industry. Please also provide your assessment of the potential impacts of aquaculture pesticides on lobster and lobster larvae.

Mr. Roache states that the NSDFA follows a thorough assessment process before approving aquaculture applications. Would you please provide Mayday-Shelburne County with the NSDFA's analysis of the Environmental Impact Assessment done by Sweeney International for sites #1357, #1358, #1359 in Jordan Bay and at Middle

Head. Is the information in the EIA satisfactory to the NSDFA, including :

: wind and wave data from 1991 (sections 4.1.1 and 4.2.1)

: commercial fisheries data (section 5.2.1.1) that does not include any information on commercial lobster landings or gear conflicts, and contradicts information from local fishermen who fish in the areas of the proposed sites

: the statement "this is not the preferred habitat of lobster" section 5.2.4.1

: the statement "...due to the relatively shallow water"...section 5.4.1

: the information provided in section 8.5.4 on fish feed and feces

Please also provide the documents you have reviewed on the effects of copper (present in net anti-foulant and fish feed used by the aquaculture industry) on lobster and lobster larvae.

In addition, please provide information on recent treatments for sea lice in N.S. In August 2010, at the public meeting concerning the St. Mary's Bay salmon farm proposal, Dr. Roland Cusack stated that a ten day sea lice treatment had been used on a farm site in N.S. in 2010. Please elaborate on Dr. Cusack's statement by identifying the location of this site. Please also provide information on any sea lice treatments that have taken place to date on N.S. open-pen sites.

To date, the NSDFA has never consulted with local fishermen. To our knowledge, the frequent regulators meetings, which have included the proponent and several government agencies, have never included fishermen's' groups. What plans does the NSDFA have to consult with fishermen to hear their feedback on the EIA and to use their local knowledge as input into the lease assessment process?

We would appreciate your timely response.

Sincerely,

Sindy Horncastle

Mayday-Shelburne County

Jordan Bay, N.S.

1-902-875-4771

Posted Nov 19, 2011

On November 14, CBC radio broadcast a half hour programme surrounding charges currently in court against Cooke Aquaculture for their alleged release of a banned chemical used to control sea lice. Listen to the broadcast through the CBC site by clicking [here](#).

Posted Nov 17, 2011

Interesting data about infectious salmon disease in the Bay of Fundy has been posted [here](#) in our [Archives](#) section.

Posted Nov 15, 2011

On October 27th DFO released 90 mature adult salmon from the Mersey Biodiversity Facility into the upper reaches of the Medway River. Members of the MSRA Environment Committee and QCF&GA assisted the release. Releases were made at Albany New, Twin Bridges and below Alma Lake on the East Branch.



Posted Nov 15, 2011

The following open letter was mailed to the Halifax Chronicle Herald:

To: The Chronicle Herald

From: Mayday-Shelburne County

Jordan Bay, N.S.

1-902-875-2541

1-902-875-4771 (after 6 pm weekdays)

St. Mary's Bay Coastal Alliance (SMBCA)

Eastern Shore Fisherman's Protective Association (ESFPA)

An open letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Nova Scotia

Dear Minister Belliveau,

What is the vision of the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) for our coastal communities? The recent charges against Cooke Aquaculture in New Brunswick, stemming from an investigation into the alleged use of illegal pesticides and resulting lobster deaths, should be serious cause for alarm. As we watch events unfolding in N.B., we can easily see what the future has in store for our province if the Minister continues the promotion of industrial open-pen aquaculture. The industry's own practices (over-stocking, over-sized farms and farm density) have led to parasite and disease outbreaks, and the need for pesticides and antibiotics to protect "the investment." These practices are completely contrary to sustainability.

The aquaculture industry describes the chemicals used for sea lice control as "tools." Illegal pesticides are not "tools" - they are lethal weapons against lobster stocks and they threaten market security and our established economy built around the lobster fishing industry. The Minister has also been made aware of the pollution in Shelburne Harbour and the heavy metal contamination in Port Mouton Bay as a result of salmon farming operations - yet, the NSDFA has never taken ANY remedial action.

The real social and environmental costs of the open-pen salmon farming industry are being borne by Nova Scotia's coastal communities. The industry describes itself as "custodians of the marine environment" while leaving our fishing communities to deal with the pollution these floating feedlots generate, and the resulting chemical contamination. When we see salmon cages floating on the ocean surface, we are only seeing the "tip of the iceberg".

The Atlantic Canada Fish Farmer's Association, recently drafted a letter for the mayors and municipal governments of Charlotte County, New Brunswick, to send to the Federal Minister of Fisheries. The letter states...."without treatment options for sea lice management, farmers will have no option but to reduce stocking in 2012.....This will also mean that 750 direct jobs and up to 391.... indirect jobs will be lost."

We support the development of fish farming technologies (such as closed-containment recirculating systems) that create sustainable long-term jobs that do not displace fishermen.

The Minister must STOP issuing open-pen salmon farm leases and protect the Nova Scotia lobster fishery.

Mayday-Shelburne County

Posted Nov 13, 2011

A New Brunswick fish farm has been charged by Environment Canada in connection with alleged pesticide use. [Click here](#) for details. See also [this story](#) from 2010. (The links may become inactive after a short period of time.)

FOR EARLIER POSTINGS OF PRESIDENT'S NEWS:

[January 1 through March 31, 2011.](#)

[April 1 through June 30, 2011.](#)

[July 1 through September 30, 2011](#)

[October 1 through December 31, 2011.](#)

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