

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 September 4, 2013

Over the past several months Mike and Bev have been working hard to keep the Mersey Biodiversity Facility Open ,please find below an update from Mike on their efforts.

Hi everyone

Great news – we now have a contact with Gail Shea – Federal Minister of Fisheries office. It seems that at this level –they are interested in helping us save the Mersey Biodiversity Facility.

There has been a slow down in the tendering process to decommission the facility. There is still work to do but this is encouraging. The first step is to apply for two types of licences.

- 1) "Collections License " because of the endangered species listing ; and
- 2) "License to introduce & Transfer species"

Because we have been asked by Shea's office to submit these license requests we have picked 4 rivers that would give the southern uplands some coverage. The applications would entail the collection of brood stock and the releasing of sea ready smolts on these rivers. The 4 rivers are Medway River, Lahave river, Sackville river, and St Mary's River. We have also asked Bluenose coastal Action foundation to assist us in submitting an application for whitefish enhancement or protection. These rivers were chosen because they have been stocked in past years and because they cover a cross section of the southern uplands and give us a reasonable opportunity to be successful.

Each river watershed association must provide a letter to the Mersey Biodiversity Facility Supporters Society supporting enhancement activities on their river system. This must be received as soon as possible as part of the application process. I have received this letter from The Medway River Assoc, I have been called by the Sackville River Association – they are preparing their letter. I expect a letter from the Lahave River assoc – soon as well.

DFO HFX is not committed to our endeavours, therefore we have to keep supplying our contact in Gail Shea's office with information so that he can keep the process moving. We initially thought that we could have genetic testing assistance from DFO – they are now telling our contact they do not have the capacity. Therefore we are contacting universities to assist us . (Any thoughts ????)

Now we are down to the big one . Financial support –

I was asked how much funding do we have. My answer was none yet because we did not have any approved projects. Given the 5 projects that are now proposed – we need funding sources. Given the time of year and the remaining assets at the facility and the time to get approvals it is unlikely that any projects could be started in 2013. However, funding maybe needed to safeguard the facility. As well we must get ready for operations to commence in the spring of 2014. It is my understanding that it would be to our advantage to show funding source commitment letters which state that this amount of funding is available for x number of years if this/these enhancement activities are undertaken. It is time for our fundraisers to step forward.

These letters of understanding will put us in a stronger position – so that Gail Shea's office can assure DFO –HFX that they will not have to fund it.

It is still important that DFO –Hfx is aware of all of our support groups.

I would now like to thank Angeline Gillis from the Mi'kmaw Conservation Group for their letter of support that was sent to Faith Scattolon office and for asking the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative (KMKNO) to assist us and to send a letter to Faith Scattolon office as well. (This letter will be sent in early September, 2013 -representing the Nova Scotia 13 First Nation Bands)

I would also like to thank Bev Davison for the amount of time he is spending on the applications for licenses process. Everything hinges on these licenses so we have to get the approvals as soon as possible –even though we will not start the projects until the spring of 2014.

NSPC says they will be supportive of us running the facility if we receive the appropriate licenses.

The Nova Scotia Department Of Fisheries is supportive but have no funds. They have stated that they would share resources with us and assist in brood stock collection and transportation.

It maybe necessary to have a meeting in October,2013 to discuss all the issues at that time.

Regards

Michael Fralic,Chair, MBFSS

Posted July 17, 2013

MRSA today released its aquaculture policy by way of a memorandum. [Click here to view it](#) on our Aquaculture Page.

Posted July 10, 2013

Nova Scotia's first land-raised salmon could be on the market by next summer. Sustainable Blue, a small salmon farm in Hants County, has moved in a batch of young salmon and said it's well on the way to raising them for commercial sale.

Read the full story at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/story/2013/07/09/ns-land-salmon-farmed.html> (The link may expired soon when CBC remove the content from their site.)

Posted June 10, 2013

Two fundraisers for the benefit of MRSA operations are currently underway. Everyone is invited to get involved and have some fun along the way, all for a good cause:

- MRSA will be hosting a Hot Dog BBQ at MacPherson's store front Saturday, 15 June 2013, 10:30am -1:00pm.
- MRSA is holding a raffle of:
 - 4 way Convertible Picnic Table
 - Donated by: Dennis Alexander
 - Tickets are 1 for \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00
 - Draw 14 July 2013
 - License #: AGD-230476-13



Posted May 24, 2013

The Regional Director-General, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region, has advised the public of a number of changes to seasons and bag limits for Atlantic salmon in Nova Scotia. [Click here](#) to read the full communique.

Posted May 21, 2013

With the closure of the Mersey Biodiversity Hatchery in Milton, efforts are under way to maintain productive activity there. The following update with regards to those efforts by the Mersey Biodiversity Facility Supporters Society has just been received.

Hi Everyone

Time is flying by and there has not been much communications sent out. Here is a quick update.

- 1) *Mersey Biodiversity Society Supporters Society has been setup as a not for profit organization. (Late March/2013)*
- 2) *Sterling Belliveau sent a letter to Keith Ashfield requesting a stop to the removal of equipment etc... from the facility.*
- 3) *Carl Purcell wrote a letter to Faith Scattolon , DFO in early April/2013.*
- 4) *On April 18,2013 Alain Vezina had a conference call with Carl Purcell & Mike Fralic – it was stated on this call and confirmed on a second conference call April 24,2013 that DFO is getting out of Mersey Hatchery and that we would have to negotiate with NSPC (present business plan to them). He said that there were no plans to move assets until September/2013 when DFO will be done there.*
- 5) *April 30,2013 e-mail to Alain Vezina to request clarification on assets to be left at the MBDF. Second e-mail sent May 13,2013 – still waiting from information from him.*
- 6) *May 1,2013 Detailed letter sent to Terry Toner , NSPC requesting an opportunity to present a business plan and also requesting in writing their concerns and issues. Second e-mail sent May 13,2013 – Waiting response.*
- 7) *Bev Davison has been working on a business plan but needs a few items clarified.*
- 8) *Our group (Society membership) at this time is small but if we are to successfully negotiate with NSPC and DFO we are going to need key people to step up and assist in obtaining the funding sources we need. As well as provide the influence we will need with DFO to be able to carry out useful activities to the southern upland rivers.*
- 9) *Please send me any key contacts that you feel maybe useful in moving us to a successful conclusion to our quest to save the Mersey Bio-diversity Facility.(We will invite them to our next meeting)*
- 10) *Another meeting is going to be needed in the near future, as soon as we obtain some answers to our questions.*
- 11) *I will be in touch.*

Regards,

*Michael Fralic, Chair
Mersey Biodiversity Facility Supporters Society.*

Posted April 8, 2013

Notice: Please join MRSA as we host a viewing of the video '**Salmon Wars**'
May 6, 2013 @ 7:00pm
Queens Place Emera Center, Community Room

Posted April 4, 2013

The following was forwarded by Queens MLA Vicki Conrad and is published here for information.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION
Crown Land in
Western Nova Scotia

Nova Scotians now own 1.5 million acres of Crown land in the province's western region. It's an abundance of natural resources. The province wants to hear from you on ways these lands can be used to create economic and social gain for the western region and for all Nova Scotians.

Please join us for an open house to share your ideas.

CONSULTATION SESSION – 5PM TO 8PM

April 9
Greenfield, Queens Co.
Greenfield Recreation Centre
5048 Hwy #210

To get more information, or submit
comments online: www.novascotia.ca/natr

To check consultation near you,
call toll free: 1-855-814-5832

*To mail comments, write to:
Western Region Crown Land Planning,
Department of Natural Resources,
PO Box 698, Halifax, NS, B3J 2T9*

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

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

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

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

[January 1 through March 31, 2012](#)

[President's News, April through June, 2012](#)

[President's News, July through September, 2012](#)

[President's News, October through December, 2012](#)

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[**RETURN TO HOME PAGE**](#)