

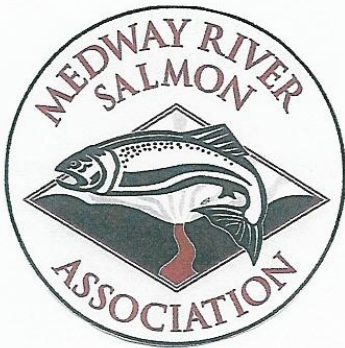
Medway River Blues

Water conditions on the Medway River were at acceptable levels for most of the early spring fishery. Trout catches were above normal as, in addition to speckle trout, reports of sea run (hatchery reared) and rainbow (farmed) were in abundance. The good fishing continued into May with an excellent hatch this year of mayfly. In April, the reported stonefly hatch was way above normal. This should auger well for the health of the river populations.

The membership, with scientific licences, who participated in the Kelt Experiments reported large numbers of slink (Kelt) salmon in the river. In fact, some commented that the numbers reminded them of the "good old days". The excellent numbers were augmented by the 293 Gene-Bank salmon released last October into the Medway River.

The one negative this year, which apparently is continuing problem, is that some fishers in April/May specifically target "slink", when fishing, supposedly for trout. That is one problem but the bigger issue is the choice of gear. In other words, lures, spinners, treble hooks, live bait etc. can and do cause mortality when released. Angling for Kelt under the experiment was conducted by artificial fly and single hook lures with no mortalities reported.

It is an issue that must be addressed by our Association if our re-population efforts are to be successful!



Membership Meeting

Charleston Fire Hall

Tuesday, June 17th

7.00 pm

Bring a Friend

Pot Luck Supper

Charleston Fire Hall

Saturday, June 14th

4:30-6:00 pm

\$8.00

Presidents Message

The future is now!

On March 27, 2008 we completed our first year in existence. A very successful year by all accounts, however, just the tip of the iceberg of exciting times that lie ahead. It's important to reflect on the past, however, not to dwell on past successes as the future may pass you by.

The future for the Medway River Salmon Association commenced on April 1st just a scant five days after our first anniversary. On that date and for the month of April 2008 we partnered with Fisheries & Oceans Canada on two Kelt experiments for the Medway River. These science experiments will track out-migrating salmon through the river system on their destination to Greenland. (a full report will appear in this newsletter)

The Environment Committee was tasked to prepare funding proposals on behalf of the membership for the Adopt-A-Stream and the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation. In respect to the Adopt-A-Stream a proposal was submitted for a liming project on the 15 Mile Stream tributary. This well prepared proposal was unfortunately dismissed by the Funding Committee. It appears that a number of the committee members had difficulty supporting a liming project. This is a sad situation as neither the fish or ourselves can wait fifty years and hope that the river replenishes itself, as they advocate.

Our proposals for seeking funding from the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation was put on ice for this year. Two reasons for this decision centre around the terms and conditions of the submissions and the amount of money available in its first year. The Foundation weighted submissions based on considerable factors, such as, community and professional support, to which we have more work to do. The other, was the amount of \$300,000 available to fund prospective projects. If you remember are proposals involved installing a lime Dozier below Ponhook Lake and catchment basin liming approach above Ponhook. This will give the Environment Committee the time necessary for our submission in 2009.

Predators remain a problem for many river associations. On one side you have the seal and commorant populations exploding and dining on adult and juvenile salmon and on the other side trout fishers targeting slink salmon on their out migration. In both cases mortality happens and efforts must be put in place to curb these losses. The time has come for Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Inland Fisheries of Nova Scotia to tackle these problems and come up with viable solutions.

Yours in conversation

Darrell Tingley

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Kelt Experiment's

At the end of March, 2008 a meeting between Fisheries & Oceans Canada, the Medway River Salmon Association and Queens County Fish & Game Association was held at the Charleston Fire Hall to evaluate the potential of carrying out the following programs:

(a) Kelt monitoring program

(b) Kelt mark and recapture program

Both programs were to take place in April, 2008. The monitoring program would last until fifteen (15) wild Kelt were angled and the mark and recapture program for the month of April. The QCF&G Association did not wish to participate, therefore the Medway River Salmon Association gladly took up the challenge.

A Scientific Licence was issued to thirty-four members of the Medway River Salmon Association and one to Jim Gourlay, Editor Eastern woods & Water magazine. As determined by the Executive ten (10) members of the Environment Committee and twenty (20) members at large, through a lottery, would be selected to participate. At the end of the day we submitted a total of thirty-four names as a result of the tremendous response received by the membership.


The two key points of the scientific licence are as follows:

1. That the purpose of the fishing is to catch downstream migrating post spawned Atlantic salmon and apply a mark to the tail fin using a standard fabric punch and immediately release the salmon alive and a retention of 15 migrating post spawned Atlantic salmon, for scientific purposes.
2. That fishing for salmon is permitted only by angling with an artificial fly or by single-hook lure to which no natural bait is attached and only by those persons listed on the attached Schedule 1 are permitted to fish under the authority of this Licence.

Originally the acoustic monitoring program called for thirty (30) Kelt - fifteen (15) wild and fifteen (15) Gene-Bank salmon, however, DFO shared the tags with the Lahave River Salmon Association and we ended up with fifteen acoustic tags. Eight (8) tags were implanted in the Gene-Bank salmon at the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility and seven (7) implanted in the wild Kelt at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility. The implanted salmon were released into the Medway River on April 23rd at the boat launch at Dean's Brook.

Receivers were placed in the Medway River prior to the release of the implanted salmon to track the movement. Wild Kelt should immediately head downstream, however, the jury is out on how the Gene-Bank salmon will behave. In addition, the Ocean Tracking Network's plan is to have thirty (30) receivers off the coast of Nova Scotia to track any implanted salmon on their journey to Greenland. (Thirty receivers will track migrating salmon 50K of the coast) The data will be shared with our Association at a later date.

The following article in the Spring 2008 issue of *Eastern Woods & Water* is reproduced with the permission of the Editor in Chief/Publisher Jim Gourlay.



Remedial work under way on once renowned Medway River

Surely there can be no more optimistic people on the planet than Nova Scotia's Atlantic salmon conservationists. With their Atlantic coast rivers devastated by acid rain and their Bay of Fundy rivers devastated by what DFO claims is an unsolved mystery, the province's volunteer river committees and associations carry on in the face of horrible odds.

The most recent case in point is the once famous Medway River on the south shore of Nova Scotia—just an absolutely classic salmon stream, the Medway has been fished by the rich and famous over


the years, including Prince Charles. Today, thanks to acid rain, it's a mess.

The river needs a lime doser period (price tag \$250,000-plus)—but until such time as those funds can be made available, volunteers with the recently established, 130-member Medway River Salmon Association have partnered with DFO in a program of catching and tagging kelts.

Fifteen wild Kelts will have hydroacoustic tags surgically implanted at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility in Milton. Those tags will each communicate a unique signal

to tracking receivers planted along the river estuary and a few kilometres out to sea so individual fish can be tracked. More information is needed as to whether adult salmon are being lost in the river or out in salt water. Captured kelts will be checked for tags inserted last year as a less sophisticated means of tracking.

Receivers are also being installed in increasingly larger numbers along the coast of Nova Scotia as part of a Dalhousie University-led Ocean Tracking Network.

Initial results from special licence angling to capture kelts were very good. 

B.C. places moratorium on salmon farming on North Coast

Last Updated: Thursday, March 27, 2008 | 8:48 PM ET Comments 19 Recommend 40
CBC News

A moratorium on salmon farming along British Columbia's North Coast has been put in place because of concerns about the potential impact on wild salmon stocks.

The provincial government won't allow any fish farm applications or issue any licences for coastal waters north of Klemtu, which is north of Port Hardy, Agriculture Minister Pat Bell announced Thursday.

"This is in response to an urgency around ensuring that part of the province, that has not had finfish aquaculture, is protected until we get this worked out [and] figure out how we move forward," Bell said.

Salmon farms in B.C. are concentrated on northern and western Vancouver Island. They remain controversial largely because of the potential impact on wild salmon of parasitic sea lice found in salmon farms.

Last year, a legislative committee recommended a ban on fish farming in all coastal waters north of Vancouver Island.

Bell's decision Thursday didn't go that far, but he did suspend all fish farming in areas near the mouth of the Skeena River, where three applications were pending.

'I consider this a very significant decision. This is not something I took lightly.'

— B.C. Agriculture Minister Pat Bell

"I consider this a very significant decision. This is not something I took lightly," he said.

New Democrat MLA Robin Austin said the government's decision is a huge step forward.

"This is a victory for everybody who cares about protecting wild salmon and I think it's also a tacit recognition of the fact that fish farms do indeed cause economic or environmental damage to wild salmon," said Austin, the NDP fisheries critic.



This young pink salmon is infected with sea lice.
(Courtesy of Alexandra Morton/Science)



Acoustic Tags Implanted



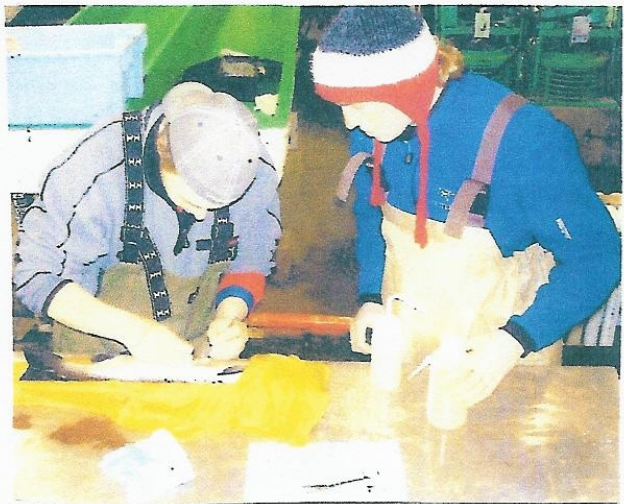
Mersey Biodiversity Facility

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Medway Wild Kelt



DFO Staff Perform Surgery



U.S. accidentally scoops up chinook

By **TERRI THEODORE**
The Canadian Press

VANCOUVER — American fishing boats with massive nets dredging the bottom of the Bering Sea for pollock accidentally caught 130,000 prized chinook salmon last year.

About half of those salmon would have ended up in Canadian rivers.

It came in the same year that fish escapement levels were hardly reached in the Yukon River, well known for its chinook fishery.

Canadian commercial fishermen weren't allowed to take any chinook from the river and First Nations pulled just 5,000 fish for a food fishery.

The record accidental catch, or bycatch, has alarmed fisheries experts, environmentalists, government officials and even pollock trawler operators, who say a bycatch cap would devastate their fishery.

DNA analysis shows about 20 per cent of the chinook caught up in the football field-sized nets were bound for the Yukon River, which runs through both Alaska and the Yukon.

Another 40 per cent of those salmon were destined for rivers in British Columbia and the U.S. Pacific Northwest. The U.S. North Pacific Fisheries Man-

agement Council is looking over several options to prevent such a massive bycatch again, but it will be two years before new rules are implemented.

"And in the meantime nobody's watching the fish," Gerry Couture said in frustration.

Couture, a Canadian member of the Yukon Salmon Committee in the Yukon River Panel, said the process to save chinook is moving with glacial speed.

Chinook, also known as king, are the giants of the salmon world and can reach weights equal to an average seven-year-old child.

They are the fish you often see in pictures where a beaming sport fisherman is using both hands to hold up his catch, after fighting to get the fish in the boat.

Pollock are small, sedate and plentiful and often used in fish sticks or fast-food fish sandwiches.

The billion-dollar Bering Sea pollock fishery is the largest in the world.

The bycatch issue has been a problem for years but never have so many chinook been caught up in the nets as in 2007.

Jon Warrenchuk, a marine scientist with the American marine advocacy group Oceana, said the failure to cut the bycatch is a failure in regulation.

"They say green works well on the St. Mary's"



Green works well in many ways.

To protect our salmon habitat, to help this river stay forever wild, or even to tie the collar of the St. Mary's Special... the river needs green to thrive. Support the Nova Scotia Nature Trust's St. Mary's River campaign. www.nsent.ca | 1-877-434-LAND

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Have you renewed your
Membership?

Send \$10.00 to Treasurer
Medway River Salmon Assoc.
P.O. Box 93-Mill Village, N.S.
B0J 2H0

Forever Wild
ST. MARY'S RIVER
CONSERVATION LEGACY CAMPAIGN

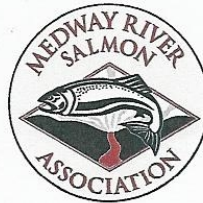
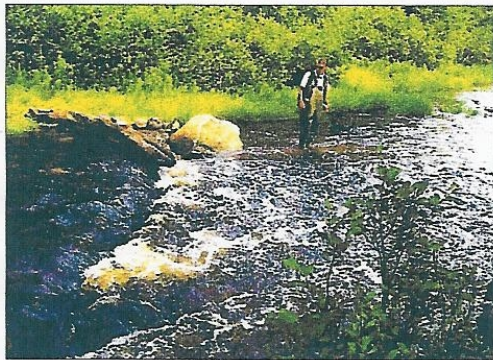


If you would like to become a member of the Medway River Salmon Association or if wish to renew your membership in our Organization or if you would like more information about our goals and objectives please send your name and mailing address to:

Medway River Salmon Association
P.O. Box 93
Mill Village, N.S.
B0J 2C0

Membership Fee is \$10.00

The Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Stream Program



PAINTED BLUE CHARM

Hook: Barbless Mustad 36890 any size, fluorescent green
Thread: 6/0 Waxed, Black
Tag: Fine Oval Silver Tinsel
Tip: Neon Green Floss
Tail: Golden Pheasant
Body: Medium Black Holographic Tinsel
Rib: Medium Oval Silver Tinsel
Throat: Fluorescent Blue Hackle
Wing: Dark Moose Hair
Head: Black

The Medway River Salmon Association is affiliated with the Nova Scotia Salmon Association and the Atlantic Salmon Federation.