



June has finally arrived, salmon have now passed through the estuaries and fishers have gone stream-side in search of an elusive catch. Black-flies have been replaced by mosquitoes, put away are the trout flies and out come the salmon flies of choice...Silver rat; Green Machine; Blue Charm. Tales of yesteryear, and the one that got away today, share the chatter at the fishing lodge.

2009 sees the continuation of Hook & Release fishing in many jurisdictions of the province. As well, barb-less or pinched barb hook is mandatory in all Nova Scotia salmon rivers. Conservation of the Atlantic Salmon is important if we wish to enjoy the benefits of this sport fishery.

Many salmon and trout organizations have been busy throughout the province improving the habitat, so that, damage from the winter thaw and high water from record setting April rains can be minimized. The Medway River may have avoided some of the severe ice and water damage reported elsewhere, however, it had a profound impact on the Kelt Experiment.

So enjoy the salmon fishing season be it in Nova Scotia, or beyond, and plan for the day the Medway River is once again open to anglers for a salmon sport fishery.

Volume 3 # 2 of the Medway River Blues is a product of the Medway River Salmon Association. P.O. Box 93, Mill Village, N.S. B0J 2H0

Presidents Message:

As we approach the second half of 2009 it is positive to know that other organizations in Nova Scotia, Atlantic Canada and beyond are interested in having the Medway River re-opened for angling opportunities. The challenge, however, daunting it may seem, is not impossible if we break the renewal strategy into smaller pieces and phase it in over time.

First and foremost we must have population confirmation of the numbers of juvenile and mature salmon in the Medway River. The Index River system of Fisheries and Ocean's Canada, using the LaHave and St. Mary's Rivers, to determine the fish population in the Medway or other rivers in the Southern Uplands is outdated science. What is required is a highly technical fish counter for the Medway River.

Secondly, an acid rain mitigation strategy, with a view or raising pH levels to 5.5 or above, must be undertaken. This can be phased in and can use various liming techniques ie air, land or water. In 2001 Dr. Hindar of Norway recommended four Lime Dozier's for the Medway River, maybe, Dr. Hindar should be invited back to recommend a phased in plan using all types of liming applications.

The third element is to improve fish passage. Currently, the fish ladder at the Power Plant at McGowan Lake, has restricted passage of fish species from above and below the dam, especially Atlantic Salmon. This can be corrected by installing a new fish ladder on the west side of the new gates at the Diversion Dam overflow.

The current policy of Fisheries and Ocean's Canada is to re-populate vacant water and the rearing of juvenile salmon through the gene-bank experiment. The vacant water above the McGowan Lake dam would meet one of the policy conditions. However, the gene-bank experiment was applied to the Medway River (2003-08) and no stocking plans are being considered for the Medway in the immediate future.

One of the main arguments against stocking is the concern of genetic diversity. We to share this concern, however, with technology and science improvements DNA sampling can eliminate any questions or concerns.

The time is now for government, business and salmon organizations to come together and make the Medway River healthy and vibrant.

The wait must end!

Darrell Tingley

Incubation Box Experiment

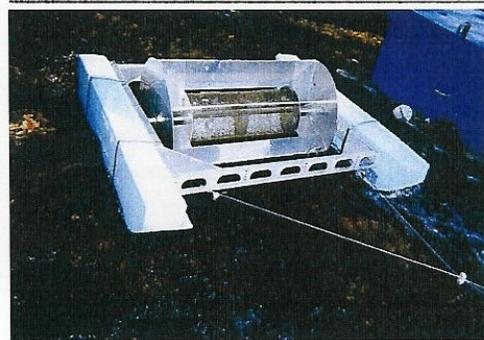
In the March issue of the Medway River Blues we showed the placement of the incubation box, below the dam, in the man-made waterway of the Old Charleston Fish hatchery. 20,000 (eyed) trout eggs were placed on mats layered in the incubation box. Then the wait was on for the eggs to hatch once the water warmed.

Before, looking at the results, it is important to note that the incubation box had limestone in the buffer and bottom. This was to improve the water quality to ensure the hatch had the best opportunity to survive. Tests of the pH levels taken from the box indicated a reading of 5.1. Considering the high water levels this spring the results were extremely positive.

Despite the long cold spring the hatch was complete by early May. Mortality was less than 200 eggs making the experiment a huge success. The Environment Committee is now looking forward to 2010 to continue these experiments, hopefully, with salmon eggs.

Lime Tumbler

Chris Staffort, a member of the Environment Committee, developed a lime tumbler for use in tributaries of the Medway River. An experiment of the tumbler took place this spring in the man-made waterway of the Old Charleston fish hatchery. The tumbler worked to perfection and raised the pH in the waterway, adjacent to and below the incubation box, to 5.0-5.1. Readings were taken over a six week period.



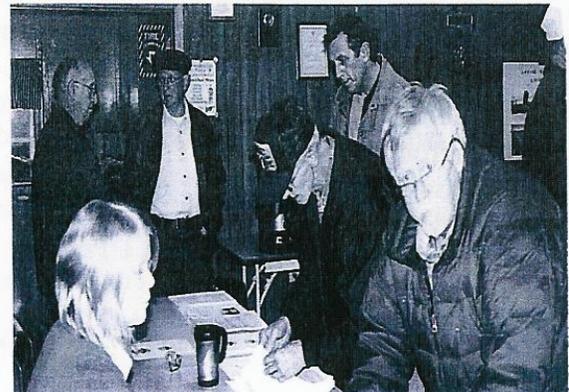
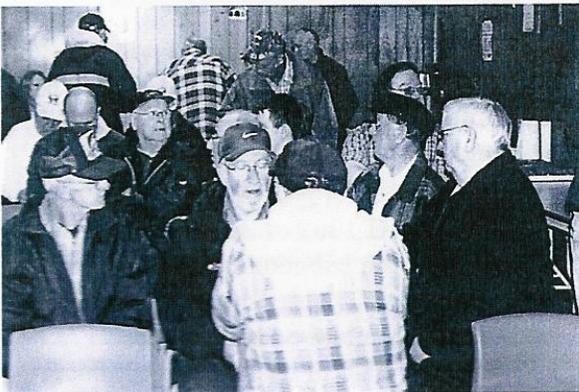
The challenge for the future will be to have additional lime tumblers constructed to assist in the acid rain mitigation of the Medway River and its tributaries.

Congratulation Chris!

Reflections



Front Row: Dell Nauss, Vice President; John Whitelaw, Secretary
Back Row: Raymond Alexander, Environment Committee; Reg Rafuse, Treasurer



with the 3 associations, in the near future.
To evaluate the results.

Kelt Experiment

On March 10, 2009 Fisheries and Oceans Canada issued a licence, pursuant to S.52 of the Fishery Regulations, to the Medway River Salmon Association to fish for Atlantic Salmon on the Medway River, N.S., for scientific purposes. The stated purpose is to conduct a Mark/Recapture operation to estimate the population of Atlantic Salmon in the Medway River.

Individual licences were issued to thirty members of the Association. The Kelt fishery took place from April 1 to 31, 2009. A total of 77 Kelt were recorded during this time frame. 69 were wild fish and 8 were marked salmon from the 2008 release of gene-bank salmon from the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility. The experiment suffered from high water conditions in early April.

A report has been forwarded to Jamie Gibson, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Population Ecology Division, in respect to, the key findings of the experiment and population estimate.

In addition, to the Medway River, Kelt experiments were also conducted on the Gold and St. Mary's Rivers. A meeting will be convened by DFO

Cormorants

On Friday June 12, 2009 a meeting was held in the Lunenburg office of Natural Resources between the Wildlife Division, DNR, Medway River Salmon Association and Carl Purcell, President, Nova Scotia Salmon Association to discuss Cormorant predation.

A future meeting will be scheduled between the participants, and other stake-holders, to look at the whole question of predation of Atlantic Salmon in the Southern Uplands. This is an important question as Salmon groups, worldwide, grapple with the decline of the salmon population.





BOWATER MERSEY WOODLANDS FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Environment Committee member George Mansfield has been the Medway River Salmon Association member on the Bowater Mersey Woodlands Forest Advisory Committee since September, 2008. George has prepared the following report following a recent field trip to Annapolis County. The report will answer some of the questions members ask in respect to forest operations in the area.

The Forest Advisory Committee (F.A.C.) Has 19 members from all over Nova Scotia where Bowater Mersey owns and Operates their woodland activities. In the Medway District Bowater Mersey owns approximately 98,457 hectares of forest land in Annapolis, Queen's and Lunenburg Counties. This is part of the Acadian forest region described as a transitional forest between the boreal and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forest regions. The Acadian forest is characterized by shade tolerant softwood trees ie red spruce, eastern hemlock and white pine and hardwood trees ie sugar maple, beech and yellow birch. Most of the Medway District lies within Nova Scotia's Western Eco-Region, but, it also extends into the Valley and Central Lowlands Eco-Regions, representing two of the provinces nine Ec0-Regions.

A recent change in cutting practices has left stand of hemlock un-touched in old growth forests. Hardwood stands are being stripped of re maple to allow other species, such as, sugar maple and yellow birch to multiply. After thinning takes place in the hardwood stands there will be no cutting for about thirty years.

Bowater Mersey is committed to sustainable forest management , they endorse the SFI principle for sustainable forests and the Stewardship Councils principles and criteria, as well as, as their standards of the Maritime Forest Region. The S.F.I.

standard has been implemented on all Bowater Mersey lands. International standards apply for all Stewardship Councils.

Two areas of concern raised at the meeting were (a) Riparian Sections and (b) Herbicide use. In respect to (a) assurance was given that streams as small as fifty centimeters ((11.8") in width were protected by a six meter barrier from forest machinery. However, trees can still be harvested in the area, subject to the equipment reaching into the area. Helicopters are used to spray the forest regions with herbicides. The pilots use GPS controlled sweeps and it is done on calm days with excellent results.

George Mansfield

Adopt-A-Stream

Funding has been approved by the Nova Scotia Salmon Association Adopt-A-Stream program for our project: Stream-side incubation box at Old Charleston Fish Hatchery.

Funding requested was for materials to build the dam, limestone and the environmental licence to proceed with the work. The incubation box, intake and out-take pipes and valves were supplied by Inland Fisheries through the McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery. Matching in-kind labour donations were provided by the membership.

Many thanks go out to Mike McNeil and staff for making the project an overwhelming success.

Fish Friends

At the March membership meeting a resolution was passed to finance a "fish friends" program for the Greenfield School in 2009-10.

Fish Friends is an innovative, interactive and adaptable classroom project for grades 4,5 and 6 students. The highly acclaimed program teaches children about the importance of fish and healthy rivers to our society and our natural environment.

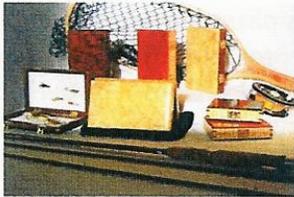
The MRSA has made a request to Fisheries and Ocean's Canada for 300 salmon eggs for the Greenfield program. Trout eggs have become the norm, however, Greenfield's historic relationship with salmon should swing the podium in our favour.

The Atlantic Salmon Federation

Raffle 2009



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Upper Oxbow Outdoor Adventures on the Miramichi River
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(prizes may not be exactly as shown)

Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100 – Draw date is Wednesday December 30, 2009 - makes a great stocking stuffer!

If you are interested in purchasing tickets for the ASF Raffle please contact a member of the Executive/Environment Committee or write the Secretary at MRSA, P.O. Box 93, Mill Village, B0J 2H0.

- Dell Nauss.....677-2150
- Reg Rafuse..... 677-2654
- Raymond Alexander.... 677-2892
- George Mansfield..... 354-4217
- Darrell Tingley..... 634-3172

