The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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Helping Community Groups Succeed!

Introduction

We at the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation like helping our community partners improve conservation of wild Atlantic salmon. That's why we strive to facilitate conservation action. Although our process is accompanied by pretty rigorous accountability for performance and use of funds, we do everything we can to keep our approach to business as user friendly as possible.

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to improving and strengthening the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and its habitat in Atlantic Canada and Quebec.

The Foundation is a volunteer-based organization that opened its doors in February 2007. The Board of Directors of the Foundation are volunteers, along with all of the volunteer experts on its advisory committee who have come together to ensure the wise use of the trust fund for the conservation purposes for which it is intended.

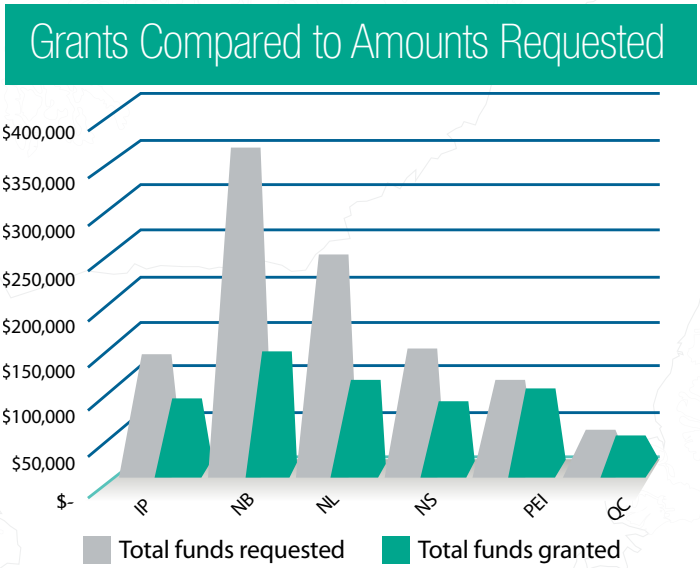
The Foundation has the dual mandate of prudently investing the trust funds to generate income while preserving capital, and ensuring that the organization is well managed so it can provide funding to eligible salmon conservation initiatives in Atlantic Canada and Quebec, in perpetuity.

A significant feature of the Foundation model is the inclusion of volunteer experts drawn from conservation groups, Aboriginal organizations and federal and provincial governments in all of its advisory processes. The Board of Directors of the Foundation actively relies on advice and recommendations forthcoming from the six technical-advisory committees to guide the work of the Foundation. It is a model of partnership and inclusiveness that is unique in the conservation world.

This annual report reflects the Foundation's seventh year of operation. In 2013 the Foundation continued to build on the successful operational structure it created over the first six years, and launched new development activities with liquor corporation partners to augment its ability to support and extend salmon conservation initiatives. The year also witnessed completion of the Foundation's sixth round of grants in support of community salmon conservation projects as well as the 2013 call for funding proposals which closed in December.

Background

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (the Foundation) was formed by a group of volunteers who incorporated a non-profit organization in 2005 to prepare a proposal to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to accept responsibility for the Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund (ASEF) Program. The



ASEF was created by the Government of Canada as a permanent source of funding to help conserve, restore and protect wild Atlantic salmon and their habitat in Atlantic Canada and in Quebec.

The ASEF reflected, and continues to reflect, the calls of conservation organizations, Aboriginal groups and government officials for a permanent source of funding to help watershed and community organizations working on a range of wild Atlantic salmon habitat, enhancement, monitoring and conservation initiatives.

The organization that was created as a result of the federal investment was structured to meet the following objectives:

1. Be managed at arms-length from DFO by an incorporated organization;
2. Be a charitable organization;
3. Invest appropriated funds and hold them in trust;
4. Draw on contributions from other public and private sources;
5. Deliver the program from income generated on the principal amount; and
6. Facilitate partnership with the provinces, Aboriginal groups and community volunteer organizations.

These objectives have been attained very successfully and continue to drive the organization and its way of doing business. The ASCF operates in the large and complex geographic, political and stock status environment of Atlantic Canada and Québec. To address these complexities, the Foundation relies completely on inclusive, expert advisory committees that are unique in

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opening all processes to broad and meaningful involvement as well as full transparency.

In 2013 the Foundation received a very positive value for money audit conducted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The audit resulted from a provision in the funding agreement with the Government of Canada whereby the performance of the Foundation is to be assessed every five years according to performance measures identified in the funding agreement. The audit found that the Foundation represents excellent value for money, is demonstrating measurable progress on several fronts.

Foundation Mission Statement and Goals

The mission statement of the Foundation is "To promote enhanced community partnerships in the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and its habitat in Atlantic Canada and Quebec".

Four goals flow from this statement, around which our strategic direction is built and from which our granting process flows:

- To be **an effective source of funding for community volunteer organizations** in conserving, restoring and protecting wild Atlantic salmon and its habitat.
- To **enhance cooperation and partnership** among governments, Aboriginal organizations, community volunteer groups and others in the interests of conserving, restoring and protecting wild Atlantic salmon and its habitat.
- To **promote and improve conservation planning and management at the watershed level** as the basis for ensuring effective use of and accountability for funds made available for wild Atlantic salmon conservation initiatives.
- To **improve public awareness, education and research** respecting the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and salmon habitat.

The Granting Process

The Foundation is interested in funding innovative projects that will have a high probability of success with measurable results for on-the-ground conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and its habitat. It considers eligible projects related to the following categories:

- Development of salmon and salmon habitat conservation plans for a watershed or sub-watershed (watershed planning)
- Conservation, rebuilding and restoration of wild Atlantic salmon and salmon habitat
- Restoring access of wild Atlantic salmon to salmon habitat
- Public education and awareness of the importance of conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and its habitat

Emphasis is placed on improved conservation planning and management at the watershed level, as an ecological and geographic unit, as a way to promote most effective use of, and accountability for project funds.

The Foundation holds one call for proposals annually. Proposals may be submitted on-line from April to a closing date for receipt of proposals in mid-December. Proposals for funding are reviewed by staff for completeness then forwarded to the advisory committees for review and recommendation during the period February –March. Each advisory committee follows a standard proposal assessment and scoring procedures designed by the Central Advisory Committee. Recommended proposals are reviewed and approved by the Board in early spring to enable all final approvals to be given well before the opening of the conservation field season. Each project proponent that was unsuccessful in gaining approval for funding is given an explanation why it was unsuccessful both for information, and to encourage future submissions.

Technical Advisory Committees

The Foundation relies heavily on its volunteer technical-advisory committee structure to make good decisions on the projects that should be funded. Our advisory committee model is unique in the world of salmon conservation. It's a strategic direction that promotes inclusiveness and partnership, while assuring excellent advice in addressing the unique salmon conservation imperatives faced in each of the five provinces.

There are six advisory committees consisting of a Central Advisory Committee and five Provincial Advisory Committees. Appointees to these committees are each volunteers proposed in consultation with stakeholder groups and governments. Our advisory committees have proven to be a very successful way of assuring broad volunteer inclusiveness and ensuring full transparency in the granting process.

The Central Advisory Committee is a committee of technical experts with the dual mandate of assisting the Board of Directors in maintaining effective policy, procedures and strategic direction. This committee is also responsible for reviewing and recommending inter-provincial and strategic project proposals, and in monitoring their outcomes.

Each of the five provincial advisory committees is responsible for identifying the salmon conservation priorities unique to its province; reviewing proposals for conservation funding and making recommendations on which projects should be approved for funding. They also participate actively in monitoring approved projects to help ensure they are progressing as intended. These committees meet twice annually to carry-out their responsibilities.

Message from the Chairman

Meeting the challenges!

It's hard to believe we are now reporting on all of the positive developments in what was our seventh year of operation. We continue to gain experience as a granting entity, helping community organizations, universities, First Nations and many others improve conservation of their rivers and salmon populations.

We have enjoyed great success in what we do to facilitate conservation. In doing so we strive to be both smart at what we do, while remaining sustainable in our approach to business. Partnership is a key word in what we seek to do. As a foundation, we build partnerships with like minded organizations to extend our ability to support conservation activity. It's also central to our business approach to promote partnerships among organizations, thereby, focussing many individual contributions to gain greater results.

The greatest factor in our success is dedicated, expert volunteers. We enjoy outstanding expertise of over 60 individuals that help guide our affairs. These volunteers include our six expert advisory committees, the Members of the Foundation, and our talented Board of Directors. And no wonder. Everyone involved in our organization is dedicated to conservation of the wild Atlantic salmon.

On a daily basis, our talented staff ensures we are constantly on top of our game, providing excellent management in implementing well informed policy, plans and priorities while facilitating selection and oversight of the best projects contributing to our overall goal of improving salmon conservation across the range of wild Atlantic salmon in Canada.

NB: Nepisiguit Salmon Association

"Progress is the activity of today and the assurance of tomorrow."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Honourable Rémi Bujold, P.C, C.M.
Chairman of the Board of Directors

The ASCF operates in accordance with a fiscally prudent, long-term financial plan. 2013 was a good year for financial markets with our trust fund performing extremely well thereby enabling the Foundation too increase its 2014 grant pool by 50 percent to $550,000. We shall continue to follow our plan with the goal of gradually increasing the annual funding to community groups year over year.

I am constantly appreciative of the continuous, dedicated efforts of our many volunteers, and our staff. Together, we are doing our part to fulfil the vision of becoming one of the world's most innovative salmon conservation organizations!

Hon. Rémi Bujold, P.C, C.M.
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Executive Director's Report

Embarking on some new directions!

"Meeting our challenges and embarking on new directions helps make our work so rewarding and moving forward to make a real difference in salmon conservation."

Stephen Chase *Executive Director ASCF*

As we observe the progress made in our seventh year, it's clear that the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation is helping make clear and measurable gains in salmon conservation through the exceptional work carried-out by the community organizations, Aboriginal groups and other committed partners we help fund. The Foundation's vision from the beginning is to facilitate these groups in helping save an iconic fish species that contributes so much to supporting lifestyles, economies and lots of durable jobs across five provinces in Canada.

We have put in place a very solid approach to business over our first seven years of operation, based on a few simple, but important, principles. I like to call it the Four P's guiding our work: Planning; Priority Setting; Performance Measurement; and Partnership. All of these represent key elements in the Foundation's business model.

NB: Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance

Every project we fund has clearly stated objectives with performance measures for each objective. Importantly, we do everything we can to work with funding recipients to facilitate their work and help gain the best use of our conservation funding. Ours is a transparent and inclusive way of working through which all interests can readily observe and be involved in helping the Foundation register positive gains on many fronts.

In 2013 we provided $410,000 in new funding to 38 projects in our sixth round of grants. These brought our total number of funded projects to 153 since inception, including some multi-year projects. The Foundation's $1,750,000 total commitment to project funding over six years has facilitated over $6 million in total project value with a leveraging advantage of approximately 4:1. ASCF funding directly assists rural economic development and helps sustain well over 100 good jobs, primarily seasonal and student workers, representing a very significant contribution to the economy, and to higher education.

The year also witnessed huge growth in our ability to help fund conservation projects through a long-term partnership with the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation's "Protect Our Rivers - Protégeons nos rivières» sales event. The ANBL event nearly doubled in yield to provide an additional $136,000. Solid gains were also posted in the on-going partnership with the PEI Liquor Control Commission's "Island Rivers-Worth Protecting" sale, which completed its third year at $21,600. These are exceptional examples of corporate partnership toward improving the natural environment.

We believe firmly in facilitating conservation action via the community groups we support. We are also always looking for better ways of doing things, seeking new partners and like-minded organizations to build upon our collective success. This way we're able to gain the best bang for our conservation dollars. This way of working also helps us stay on-track with our long-term financial plan.

Meeting our challenges and embarking on new directions helps make our work so rewarding and moving forward to make a real difference in salmon conservation.

Stephen Chase
Executive Director ASCF

Foundation Objectives 2013

The following objectives were stated in the 2013 Business Plan

Objective 1: To continue observing a prudent investment and financial strategy to restore the ASEF to its adjusted value and create a reserve fund.

2013 Actions: The Foundation's investment portfolio is managed in accordance with a very prudent long-term investment and financial management plan. This plan conforms to the Investment Policy and Investment Strategy adopted pursuant to the requirements of the Funding Agreement with the Government while enabling a reasonable response to the project funding expectations of the salmon conservation community.

The Foundation has been operating in recovery mode since the 2008 financial market decline and has directed most of its trust fund income toward reinvestment and recovery of the market value of the fund to match adjusted book value, as required by the funding agreement. As a result, the $300,000 in grant funding awarded in 2013 remained considerably less than the demonstrated need for funding. The bright note during the year was the major gains demonstrated in financial markets which could expedite attainment of fiscal objectives identified in the long-term financial plan.

The long-term financial plan is reviewed at least twice annually by the Board of Directors. Its purpose is to restore the market value of the fund to match the funds adjusted book value at the earliest possible date, taking into account financial market performance, and Funding Agreement requirements.

Objective 2: To observe a funding allocation model that is reflective of and responsive to the various conservation needs and priorities of each province.

2013 Actions: As at 31 December 2013 the market value of the fund reported just over $35 million which compared well to the projected 2013 year-end amount presented in the long-term financial strategy. As a result, the Board of Directors approved a fifty percent increase in grant funding from the previous annual allocation of $300,000 to $450,000 for 2014.

The Foundation follows a funding allocation model based on the advice of the Central Advisory Committee which is designed to optimize response to the respective conservation needs of each province. The funding formula provides for a base allocation to each province that can be supplemented according to a funding distribution formula that reflects individual provincial conservation variables.

Each year, provincial conservation priorities are reviewed by each advisory committee to help ensure funding is directed where desired results may be obtained.

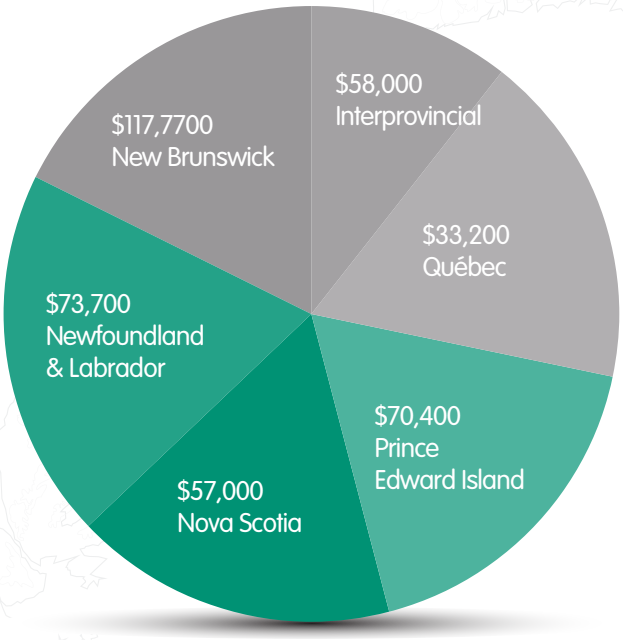
Objective 3: To maintain and strengthen a results-based management approach to funding Foundation projects.

2013 Actions: The Foundation conducts its business in accordance with its comprehensive *Audit and Evaluation Strategy*. All projects report their performance in a uniform manner designed to populate a database developed by the Central Advisory Committee.

The standard project reports and database are designed to reflect the performance measures in the Funding Agreement, and are improved as necessary to enable the Foundation to be a results-based management organization. During 2013 additional refinements were made to project report forms through feedback from grant recipients and advisory committees to ensure that necessary data was reported but also to simplify required reporting.

By year end 111 projects had been completed and had provided final reports out of a total of 150 projects approved during the five rounds of grants (2008 to 2013). Of the 49 remaining projects, 8 projects were multi-year and at some stage of satisfactory progress at year end, with 7 (2008-2010) projects cancelled for varying reasons.

Grants Amounts Approved in 2013



Foundation Objectives 2013

The following objectives were stated in the 2013 Business Plan

Objective 4: To strengthen the Foundation's relationships and communications with current and potential stakeholders/ beneficiaries, the public, and potential supporters.

2013 Actions: Throughout 2013 the Foundation followed the direction identified in the communications plan, which is designed to enable the Foundation to establish a distinct profile; build public understanding of the salmon conservation needs, and build public support for salmon conservation.

During the year the Foundation issued periodic press releases and posted items on its website, as well as regular email messages to its constituents and interested stakeholders. The Annual Report and the Business Plan are both designed to promote understanding of and support for the Foundation, and are frequently shared with external groups. Throughout 2013 the Foundation provided regular updates to Facebook and Twitter to keep followers informed of developments.

NL: Salmonid Preservation Association for the Waters of Newfoundland

The most significant new development in communications for the Foundation resulted from the partnership with the Canadian Rivers Institute in jointly sponsoring a monthly webinar series on fish and freshwater issues. Expert individuals are invited to present the topics and lead discussion on-line with regular attendance by representatives of First Nations, NGOs, governments, academic institutions and businesses. The series has provided new opportunities for information sharing and partnership building. In 2013, 10 webinars were hosted with a total of 528 participants.

Several communications were also made jointly with corporate partner organizations, including the Prince Edward Island Liquor Control Commission which sponsors the "Island Rivers – Worth Protecting" sales event, and Alcool New Brunswick Liquor, which sponsors the "Protect Our Rivers" sales event. Both arrangements are long-term partnerships through which 100 percent of funds are committed to river conservation projects in the respective provinces.

2013 was the third year for the PEILCC "Island Rivers – Worth Protecting" partnership resulting in a three year total contribution of over $53,000 for conservation funding in the province.

ANBL held its second "Protect Our Rivers" sales event and has raised a combined total of over $200,000 for river conservation in New Brunswick.

The Foundation will continue to build corporate partnerships as a priority.

QC: Corporation du Basin Jacques Cartier

2013 Project Profiles • NL

Next population boom in St. John's may well be "something fishy"

If you think there's something "fishy" about claims that wild Atlantic salmon can be found in the rivers flowing through St. John's, Newfoundland, don't. Fact is, with hard work and a little luck, the municipality's salmon population could grow significantly once the Salmon Association of Eastern Newfoundland (SAEN) completes its work. The organization received a $15,000 grant from ASCF in 2013 for a two-year project to reintroduce salmon to the Rennies and Virginia river systems and restore and enhance access to the watersheds above Quidi Vidi Falls.

For the first part of the plan, SAEN was granted a five-year license from DFO to intercept 80 adult salmon per season from the Exploits River. The expected yield of up to 100,000 eggs per year would then be fertilized and hatched in a new in-stream incubation system developed in British Columbia.

"We were thrilled when ASCF was established seven years ago. We wouldn't be able to do this work without the support of the Foundation and other agencies."
- Scott Nightingale

"This is a completely new approach and, to our knowledge, the first attempt of its kind in Atlantic Canada," says SAEN's president, Scott Nightingale. "Because the incubators are placed right in the river, the eggs have the advantage of developing and hatching in their natural habitat."

SAEN started off with two different types of incubators. The most successful was the Jordan/Scotty, which produced a 90% hatch rate in the units that stayed in place.

"Some of the units we tried were washed downstream and were never found," Nightingale explains, "so this past summer we hired students to install plastic crates to house the incubators deep in the river bed in 125 places within the rivers' five tributaries. This should ensure better results."

And once the eggs are hatched?

"We have to anticipate the time when the smolt will migrate to sea and then return to spawn the following year," says Nightingale. That leads us to the second phase of the project, restoration of access to the Rennie and Virginia rivers' watersheds above Quidi Vidi Falls.

At first SAEN thought work at Quidi Vidi would entail major construction, but further examination revealed that a rudimentary old fishway with chambers and drops already exists along the north side of the falls. Perhaps a simple redirection of water flow to that structure may do the trick? SAEN now plans to test this idea by placing sandbags so that some of the river's flow will be pushed down the existing fishway channel. Measurements will then be taken to determine whether the existing structure is fit for the job, or could be altered to handle it.

"If it works," says Nightingale, "we may be able to devise a much simpler, less costly solution to help the salmon reach the watersheds above the falls."

Looking ahead, SAEN hopes to build on their successes by conducting a Rennies River Watershed management survey and restoring additional salmon habitat.

2013 Project Profiles • QC

Bonaventure Association of Sport Fishers. Operation of a day camp for youth ages 12 to 15 years.

Twelve young people got to play a special game of "Go Fish" last summer, and they didn't even need a tablet, an Xbox 360, or a lowly deck of cards! What they did need was waders, broad-brimmed hats, bug repellant and maybe just a bit more patience and dexterity than what's required for a video game.

The 12 youth, all from the Carleton to Paspébiac area of Quebec's Gaspé peninsula, were participating in the second annual Salmon Sport Fishing Summer Camp offered by l' Association des pêcheurs sportifs de la Bonaventure Inc. (the Bonaventure Association of Sport Fishers).

"Our plan was to develop a camp where youth could learn the art of fly fishing," says Ronald Cormier, the Association's executive director. "Using that fun experience, we would also teach them about the magnificent wild Atlantic salmon in the area, and help them gain an understanding and appreciation of how important it is to protect and preserve the fish's sensitive habitat."

With inaugural funding from several sources, including $6500 from ASCF, the Association began to build its vision in 2012: a rustic camp some 40 kilometers in the wilderness of the Bonaventure River ZEC, outfitted with a large meal tent, a portable toilet, basic camp furniture, a solar lamp post and 12 sets of fishing gear.

The first camp was offered that August and was, indeed, a wonderful learning experience, starting with that 40 kilometer drive through wilderness forest to the rustic campground (far away from electronics and cell service!) and including lessons on canoeing and water safety, fishing equipment, rigging a rod, entomology, knots and fly-tying. There were also casting lessons and, of course, there was plenty of fishing!

"All the participants were thrilled with the experience," says Cormier.

Based on that success, ASCF granted the Association an additional $2200 per year for the next three years so that the camp can continue operation until at least 2015.

Now with a second year of experience under its belt, Cormier and his Association are looking beyond 2015, with plans to expand the camp idea to other ZECS across Québéc.

"We are certain that many of our campers will become ambassadors for the conservation and protection of our wild Atlantic salmon populations," says Cormier. "Some may even choose to set aside their game remotes, pick up a casting rod and become lifetime sports fishers!

"What a great way to ensure a bright future for wild Atlantic salmon and recreational fishing for years to come!"

"We are certain that many of our campers will become ambassadors for the conservation and protection of our wild Atlantic salmon populations," says Cormier. "Some may even choose to set aside their game remotes, pick up a casting rod and become lifetime sports fishers!"

2013 Project Profiles • NB

Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance

"It's too hot!" While a person probably would never say that about the water in the Petitcodiac River, you might hear it from a wild Atlantic salmon, if they could talk! Cold water fish like salmon don't do well in water that is warmer than 22 degrees Celsius, so last summer one of the initiatives undertaken by the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance was to install stream temperature data loggers in key tributaries of the river to help find the cool water refuges that salmon might use during the hot and dry summer months.

The project, which received $14,000 in funding from ASCF, also included fish monitoring and restocking components.

"This project is part of an ongoing collaborative effort with the Petitcodiac Fish Recovery Coalition (PFRC), of which the PWA is a founding member," says Jacques Mazerolle, PWA biologist. The PFRC is comprised of 11 like-minded groups including First Nation, angling and non-profit environmental organizations, all working to revitalize Inner Bay of Fundy (IBoF) Atlantic salmon stocks and other fish populations in the Petitcodiac watershed.

"IBoF Atlantic salmon are officially an endangered population," explains Mazerolle. "Some 20 percent of historical adult IBoF spawners were of Petitcodiac River origin, but they were completely extirpated when the causeway was built across the river. With the causeway now opened, the Coalition is working to bring wild Atlantic salmon back to the Petitcodiac watershed."

That's where the restocking effort comes in. Over the 2011 and 2012 seasons some 341,000 fry and 700 ready-to-spawn adults were released into the Petitcodiac watershed. This year the PWA, working closely with fellow Coalition member Fort Folly Habitat Recovery (FFHR), released an additional 157 ready to-spawn-adults, 150 post-smolt juveniles and approximately 100 post-spawned adults.

To determine the success rate of their restocking efforts, the researchers also monitored areas of the watershed using a box trap, fyke traps and electrofishing.

"We were pleased to find a good number of salmon in the watershed," Mazerolle reports, "particularly in Little River, where we netted adults that came from the Live Gene Bank facility in Mactaquac, NB, and had been tagged and released in 2012.

"Our electrofishing activities produced exactly 100 salmon: 72 young-of-the-year in the Little River, where ready-to-spawn adults had been released in 2012, and 28 parr in the Pollett River, where we had released unfed fry in 2011."

As for water temperatures and levels, the researchers ran into a little problem when one of their four data loggers disappeared (likely washed away in high current) and high water left another too deeply immersed to be retrieved. The other two loggers showed that water temperature of Anagance River never exceeded 22°C, while the temperature in the Little River only exceeded the 22° mark during the month of August and one day in September."

All in all, the results of their 2013 project were very encouraging to the PWA and the entire Petitcodiac Fish Recovery Coalition.

"There is alot more work to do, of course, including the development of a sub-watershed management plan for the Petitcodiac River," says Mazerolle. "If we can do that, and continue our restocking, monitoring and research activities, it's quite possible that the Petitcodiac watershed will one day again be home to IBoF salmon!"

"Our electrofishing activities produced exactly 100 salmon: 72 young-of-the-year in the Little River, where ready-to-spawn adults had been released in 2012, and 28 parr in the Pollett River, where we had released unfed fry in 2011."

2013 Project Profiles • NS

Culprit culverts make work for Chéticamp conservationists

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Well, that's certainly the case for the photo below. It shows a set of four culverts on Aucoin Brook, one of just a few tributaries of the Chéticamp River with potential spawning habitat for migrating Atlantic salmon.

"*Potential* spawning habitat" is the key phrase, however. The stacked culverts had long been preventing fish from reaching important upstream spawning habitat. Not only that, but the culverts were also causing heavy siltation, which was degrading spawning and rearing grounds.

Most of the Chéticamp River lies within the boundaries of the Cape Breton Highlands National Park and is a popular destination for sports fishers. That indicates that it's also a destination for migrating salmon and trout, despite the fact that its main stem is inaccessible beyond a barrier falls about 20 kilometers in, and other waterfalls limit access to all but a few miles of its tributaries.

"Aucoin Brook lies completely outside of the National Park, however," Jillian Baker, project manager with the Chéticamp River Salmon Association (CRSA), explains. "While the brook has good potential spawning ground for salmon, over the years it has been severely impacted by farming, logging and mining and, more recently, by poor road construction and ATV practices."

The four-culvert structure was a prime example of harmful human impacts. The solution? The culverts had to go! Now, thanks in part to a $5000 grant from ASCF and the hard work of the Chéticamp River Salmon Association (CRSA), they're nothing more than a memory.

"The culverts were removed and replaced with a large wooden trail bridge," says Baker. ASCF funding covered material costs, including lumber, pit gravel, rocks, nails, and other supplies.

"Construction of this bridge has eliminated a major restriction to fish passage, improving access to kilometers of proven spawning and rearing habitat," says Baker. "Now that the culverts have been replaced, the heavily silted areas above and below the bridge should also begin to clean up, and we expect to see additional habitat improvements."

So what's next for Aucoin Brook?

"The CRSA plans to continue its restoration work on Aucoin Brook, as well as on other local waterways that have proven spawning habitat for Atlantic salmon and other native species," says Baker.

And thanks to a grant from the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation, Baker is now developing a comprehensive management and restoration plan that will help the CRSA identify and prioritize restoration activities for the years to come.


Before

After

Thanks to the hard work of dedicated volunteers, the new 12-foot wide, 20-foot long wooden trail bridge was completed on time and on budget. With the culverts out of the way, access to more than 2 km of the brook has been restored, giving migrating salmon and trout access to some 8000 square meters of viable habitat.

2013 Project Profiles • PEI

It's those beavers again! Dammed, damaged culverts, sediment build-up keep PEI volunteers busy

Imagine swimming along and coming across an obstacle that leaves you high and dry. Fortunately, all you have to do is stand up, walk to where the water gets deeper, and continue swimming. Not so if you're a salmon in a stream. If he comes across a barrier, he has no way to surmount it.

Wild Atlantic salmon can face a number of obstacles when making their way up rivers, brooks or streams. Sediment build-up is one; beaver dams and damaged culverts are others. Whatever they are, barriers aren't something salmon can fix, so the result can be the decline of a viable fish population.

Enter the Richmond Bay Watershed Association (RBWA), a group of volunteers dedicated to restoring and improving salmon passage and habitat in rivers, brooks and streams in the Tyne Valley and Richmond areas of Prince County, PEI. The RBWA-initiated Grassroots Conservation in Action Project had a full list of tasks to accomplish in 2013. Two of these involved barriers in Bank Brook and received $5,000 in ASCF funding.

"One of the barriers was sediment build-up in Bank Brook, which had resulted mainly from beaver colonies causing debris and eroded soil to flow downstream from their dam sites," says Cathy Gallant, RBWA's executive director.

"The solution was to build a bypass pond to control that sediment by reducing the speed of water flow and allowing soil particles to settle," she explains. "Thanks to that man-made pond, downstream habitat for older fish has vastly improved. We expect that upstream habitat will do likewise."

As a bonus, the newly created pond is not only a good spot for fish, but also for other species like ducks and birds, says Gallant.

The other barrier was caused by both man and beavers – a damaged and dammed culvert structure that was part of a road crossing further up the brook.

"The structure was part of an access road to a farmer's back fields," Gallant recounts. "Beavers continuously dammed the culverts, causing flooding and erosion and creating a partial obstruction to the free passage of fish. The culverts were undersized, too, which made the problem worse.

"Since the road was no longer safe to cross, the farmer had stopped using it. It was time to return the brook to its natural, free-flowing state."

That done, "The need for annual repairs and concern about further erosion issues no longer exist, and fish passage and habitat has been vastly improved," says Gallant.

While the RBWA has accomplished alot, there are still many more tasks on the "to do" list in their watershed management plan.

"Our ultimate goal is for these rivers, brooks and streams to have good water quality and be producing salmon and trout at their maximum capacity," says Cathy Gallant. "We are very grateful for ASCF's sponsorship assistance. It is gratifying to see the positive results from our combined efforts."

"The need for annual repairs and concern about further erosion issues no longer exist, and fish passage and habitat has been vastly improved," says Gallant.

2013 Project Profiles • Interprovincial

"Calling back the salmon" helps the Mi'gmaq's future learn about its past.

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors—we borrow it from our children."

When the Gespe'gewaq Mi'gmaq Resource Council (GMRC) proposed a project entitled *Engaging Mi'gmaq Youth on Atlantic Salmon*, a saying like this one might have been on their minds.

An interprovincial endeavour involving communities in northeastern New Brunswick and Québec's Gaspé region, the project received a $13,000 ASCF grant in 2013 for two main initiatives aimed at teaching children in the region about salmon's importance in their heritage.

The first initiative, "Calling Back the Salmon," is an educational curriculum for Grade 7 and 8 students. Developed by a Mi'gma'gi, Marsha Vicaire, the course includes both Mi'gmaq culture and western scientific teachings, and is meant to help students to identify more closely with the traditional natural resources around them.

"Course materials, including teaching notes, worksheets and posters will be ready to introduce into the 2014-2015 curriculum at the Alaqsite'w Gitpu School in Listuguj, Québec," says Denny Isaac, environmental manager with GMRC.

"Once the program has been offered in Listuguj, our plan is to introduce it in other schools in the region. We hope that it could eventually become the basis for curriculum at schools in other watershed areas similar to ours."

The second initiative is the introduction of the popular "Fish Friends" program into three elementary schools in the region.

"With its hands-on approach, the Fish Friends is a wonderful way to familiarize younger children with the wild Atlantic salmon's life cycle and history, and to get them thinking about conservation at an early age," says Isaac.

The program was introduced in the spring of 2013, when staff from GMRC and volunteer Roland Lavalee, a retired biology teacher and a long-time volunteer with the NB Salmon Council, began working with three schools: the Alaqsite'w Gitpu School in Listuguj, the L.E. Reinsborough school in Dalhousie, NB, and the Terry Fox Elementary school in Bathurst, NB. Incubators and chillers were installed, lesson plans at the Grades 3 and 5 level were developed, and educational sessions were given.

"We also scheduled two guest speakers for the classes," says Isaac. "Elder Gilbert Sewell from Pabineau First Nation talked about Mi'gmaq local knowledge and history, and the relationship between the Mi'gmaq and the salmon, while I made a presentation on salmon from the Western scientific angle.

"The program was a huge success!" says Isaac. "The highlight was the June field trip to release the fry hatched and grown in the classrooms, of course."

The students and teachers from all three schools along with Elder Sewell, Roland Lavalee, and GMRC representatives and volunteers, gathered at the Pabineau First Nation community, where some 900 fry were released into the Nepisiguit River. Following the release, a luncheon was served and stories were shared.

"The kids just soaked it in," says Isaac. "We have received numerous phone calls and emails asking if the program is going to continue."

And so it will. Preparation for the 2014 Fish Friends program began in November 2013, and all was ready to go by February, 2014. With Fish Friends well established in the region's schools, Denny Isaac and his GMRC educational team can hardly wait to introduce "Calling Back the Salmon" next September.

"We really hope that by educating our children, the future of wild Atlantic salmon, and our other traditional natural resources, will be in good hands."

Gespe'gewaq Mi'gmaq Resource Council (GMRC)
Engaging Mi'gmaq Youth on Atlantic Salmon

Grants & Status

2013 Project Grants

Project Number: IN-2012-04b
Characterization of thermal refuge habitats for salmon in the Restigouche
Recipient: Restigouche River Management Council
Approved Grant Amount: **$120,000** *(year 2 of 2)*
Funding provided to date: $15,000
Summary: This project will serve to locate thermal refuges in Restigouche River watershed to preserve the integrity in line with the different uses (forest, agriculture, etc.) and will enable the proponent to develop management tools related to sports fishing in conjunction with salmon confinement during high temperatures.

Project Number: IN-2013-01
ASF Tracking Research – 2013
Recipient: Atlantic Salmon Federation
Approved Grant Amount: **$25,000**
Funding provided to date: $25,000
Summary: ASF researchers conducted time-series of survival estimated for tagged smolt on the following rivers: Miramichi (105 tagged), Restigouche (80 tagged), and Cascapedia (39 tagged). The survival estimated for tagged smolt exiting the Gulf was only 4% from the Miramichi, the lowest survival through the Gulf since 2006. The Restigouche survival through the Gulf was 17% and the Cascapedia was 26%.

Project Number: IN-2013-02
Engaging Mi'gmaq Youth on Atlantic Salmon
Recipient: Gespe'gewaq Mi'gmaq Resource Council
Approved Grant Amount: **$13,000**
Funding provided to date: $9,750
Summary: A culturally responsive curriculum "Calling Back the Salmon" has been developed and translated. It will be shared with the grade 8 teachers at the Alaqsite'w Gitpu School to be incorporated as part of their science curriculum.Posters to illustrate salmon anatomy, migration map and life cycle are under development. The Fish Friends program was offered to 4 classrooms at 3 different schools and was very successful.

Project Number: NB-2013-01
Evaluation of a recovery strategy for Atlantic salmon: impacts of stocking hatchery raised juveniles on top of wild populations
Recipient: Canadian Rivers Institute
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $2,500
Summary: Catchment and site level information has been calculated through GIS datasets and preliminary statistical analysis has identified several physical variables which may play a role in predicting juvenile Atlantic salmon densities. Stocking data for the past 30+ years has been obtained through the New Brunswick Aquatic Data Warehouse (late 1970s to present). Work is underway to identify stocked and unstocked sites on the landscape for comparison.

Project Number: NB-2013-02
The Eel River Bar Aquatic and Habitat Recovery Program
Recipient: Eel River Bar First Nation
Approved Grant Amount: **$12,000**
Funding provided to date: $9,000
Summary: Students at L.E. Reinsborough School participated in Fish Friends program and released 300 Atlantic Salmon into the Nepisiguit River. Nine obstructions and 3 beaver dams were removed from the 4 main branches of the Eel River. The crew has also planted 500 trees along the river. A public information meeting was held in the fall and several more are planned for the winter to prepare the Aquatic Habitat Restoration Plan.

Project Number: NB-2013-03
Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon monitoring on the Pollett and Little Rivers
Recipient: Fort Folly First Nation
Approved Grant Amount: **$20,000**
Funding provided to date: $15,000
Summary: The purpose of this project is to continue the recovery processes underway in the Petitcodiac River watershed. A rotary screw trap was operated to determine the first smolt run estimates for the Pollett River. Electrofishing was also conducted to determine survival to varying age classes. One hundred captured smolt were transferred to the Mactaquac Biodiversity Centre for inclusion in the live-gene bank program.

Project Number: NB-2013-04
Hammond River Smolt Assessment
Recipient: Hammond River Angling Association Committee (KWRC)
Approved Grant Amount: **$10,000**
Funding provided to date: $7,500
Summary: A total of 6 smolt were captured and marked in the spring of 2013. It is thought that the Hammond River smolt run may begin a few weeks earlier than other rivers. This project has been extended so that the smolt assessment can be repeated earlier in the spring in 2014.

Project Number: NB-2013-05
Installing Bioengineering Structures to Restore Fish Habitat on Trout Creek
Recipient: Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee Committee (KWRC)
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $5,000
Summary: This project used bioengineering techniques to stabilize eroding stream banks and improve riparian health. A rock and fascine bundle hybrid was used on one site and the results appear to be positive. Working with 5 landowners, KWRC was also able to enhance 445 m of highly degraded

Grants & Status

2013 Project Grants

stream banks on Trout Creek. This effort will improve both aquatic and riparian habitats and result in greater habitat availability to salmonids.

Project Number: NB-2013-06
Atlantic Salmon Habitat Assessment for the Bay du Vin River Drainage Basin
Recipient: Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee
Approved Grant Amount: **$10,000**
Funding provided to date: $7,500
Summary: This project assessed the Bay du Vin River watershed (315 km²) and determined its potential contribution to the Atlantic salmon of the Miramichi River system. A summary report of the assessment was prepared and concluded that the river does not maintain habitat conditions that would support a significant salmon stock. The two most significant limiting factors appear to be water temperature regime and stream bed geology.

Project Number: NB-2013-07
Atlantic salmon kelt movement and temperature preferences from the Miramichi River through the Gulf of St. Lawrence using satellite tag technology
Recipient: Miramichi Salmon Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$12,000**
Funding provided to date: $9,000
Summary: A total of 11 kelts received externally mounted pop-up satellite tags and implanted with internal acoustic transmitters. Survival out of the Northwest River was 82% (9 of 11) and out of Miramichi Bay was 73% (8 of 11). Of the 8 salmon which survived out to sea, 6 successfully transmitted information regarding path of movement, temperature and depth. No satellite tagged kelts returned to the Miramichi this year as consecutive spawners.

Project Number: NB-2013-08
Nepisiguit Salmon Assessment & Enhancement
Recipient: Nepisiguit Salmon Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$12,000**
Funding provided to date: $12,000
Summary: This project oversaw the operation of streamside incubation boxes with 118,000 eyed salmon eggs resulting in 116,400 fry (98.7% survival). Monitoring included electroseining, pH and temperature, and predator, environmental and stream surveys. Spawning surveys were carried out in November. Data on the total returns, angling statistics and spawning escapement was also carried out.

Project Number: NB-2013-09
Petitcodiac River Salmon Restoration and Monitoring Project
Recipient: Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance
Approved Grant Amount: **$14,000**
Funding provided to date: $14,000
Summary: Data on geomorphology, temperature and water level profiles were collected. PWA also monitored Petitcodiac River with the use of a trap and fyke nets (2 smolts and 9 adult salmon captured). Electrofishing passes at 2011 and 2012 stocking release site located young of the year and parr, showing that restocking yielded positive results. Over 150 adult salmon and 150 post smolt salmon were released in late October 2013.

Project Number: NB-2013-10
Management Plan of Little Main Restigouche and Hailes Brook sub-watershed
Recipient: Restigouche Watershed Management Council
Approved Grant Amount: **$12,770**
Funding provided to date: $9,577
Summary: The purpose of this project was to regroup a large quantity of data on habitat and juvenile distribution, to prepare maps for a presentation to the working group and to validate scheduled data collecting directions. The distribution of a fisherman log and field observation by the fishermen will characterize fishing pressure and harvesting on the public portion of Little Main Restigouche. The preliminary management plan of an educational section was prepared and permit applications were sent for these activities.

Project Number: NB-2013-11
Jacquet River Salmon Restoration Project
Recipient: Village of Belledune
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $3,750
Summary: Through this project, 2500 salmon fry were released into the Jacquet River. New equipment was purchased to address issues causing high mortality rates in rearing tanks. Repairs were also made to the barrier. Staff were hired to oversee monitoring and public education at the barrier and salmon interpretation centre.

Project Number: NL-2011-02
Rattling Brook Salmon Restoration Project
Recipient: Norris Arm Economic Development Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$35,000** *(year 3 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $24,372
Summary: The goal of this project has been to restock Atlantic salmon to the Rattling Brook watershed after a 54 year absence. This watershed encompasses an area of approximately 384 square kilometers of fish habitat. The third year of the project was considered to be very successful. A total of 67 fish have been radio tagged for future monitoring. In 2013, an additional 400 salmon were transferred bringing the project total to 1,250.

Grants & Status

2013 Project Grants

Project Number: NL-2013-01
Falls Remediation - Quidi Vidi
Recipient: Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland
Approved Grant Amount: **$15,000**
Funding provided to date: $7,500
Summary: Scotty-Jordan and Whitlock Vibert incubators were used to plant 84,000 eggs. Young of the year salmon were identified in 9 out of 10 sites electrofished. SAEN participated in several public outreach events including, Earth Day, Spawning Festival at the Fluvarium and a major trade show. The lower Quidi Vidi Falls was remediated by busting and removing rocks. Further remediation work on the falls is currently being explored.

Project Number: NL-2013-02
Genetic investigation of stock suitability for re-introduction of anadromous salmon above the Grand Lake dam
Recipient: Salmonid Preservation Association for the Waters of Newfoundland
Approved Grant Amount: **$15,000**
Funding provided to date: $11,250
Summary: In total, 17 locations were sampled and of these, 10 had salmon present (8 below the Grand Lake Power station and 2 above). Five hundred samples were collected and sent to Dr. Dawn Marshall at the Genomics Lab of Memorial University for processing and analysis. Completion of the genetic analysis and interpretation are anticipated in the spring of 2014.

Project Number: NL-2013-03
Exploits River Tributaries Restoration 2013
Recipient: Environment Resources Management Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$8,700**
Funding provided to date: $8,700
Summary: This project addressed 10 sites that were on the priority list for restoration. Some of the structures had deteriorated and were collecting debris which resulted in a total obstruction to migrating fish in both directions. In some cases there was an accumulation of drowned pulpwood resulting in lost production for spawning and rearing habitat. Old, inactive beaver dams also created problem with the same results as old, unused wooden structures.

Project Number: NS-2011-04
Inverness South Anglers Committee
Recipient: Inverness South Angler's Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$7,700** *(year 3 of 3 with top-up)*
Funding provided to date: $5,775
Summary: ISAA has completed in-stream work in the Fraser's Brook, More Brook, MacQuarries Brook, Shea's Brook (Big & Little), Broad Cove River, North East Mabou River and tributaries, MacNeils Brook , Rankins Brook, Glendyre Brook, and Maramichi Brook. A management plan for the Shea's brook and tributaries is being prepared.

Project Number: NS-2013-01
Development of the LaHave River Watershed Management Plan: Year 2 – West River sub-watershed
Recipient: Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $5,000
Summary: Through this project, a detailed sub-watershed management plan document for the West River sub-watershed of the LaHave River was completed. Stream surveys, riparian health assessments, and water quality monitoring occurred at 229 site locations throughout the sub-watershed. The management plan will be used to guide any future fish habitat restoration, conservation, and/or stewardship initiatives in the area.

Project Number: NS-2013-02
Aucoin brook Culvert replacement
Recipient: Cheticamp River Salmon Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $5,000
Summary: A set of four perched culverts on Aucoin Brook (tributary of the Cheticamp River) were determined to present barriers to migrating Atlantic salmon and other fish. By replacing the culverts with a large wooden trail bridge (built to withstand 1 in 100 year storm events), a major restriction on fish passage has been eliminated. As a result, more than 2 km of stream habitat is now accessible to salmon.

Project Number: NS-2013-03
Little River Restoration Project
Project Recipient: Cobequid Salmon Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$7,500**
Funding provided to date: $6,473
Summary: In 2013, 8 new structures were installed to remove silt deposits and restore 415 m of riverbed to more natural and healthy conditions. Riparian restoration included planting 300 elm trees and the cultivation of native grasses and shrubs along exposed banks. The project also addressed the survey and repair of all existing instream structures. The assessment of flooding issues at Little River in Upper Brookfield is ongoing.

Project Number: NS-2013-04
Enhancement of habitat and increasing access in four watersheds of Antigonish County
Recipient: Habitat Unlimited
Approved Grant Amount: **$8,400**

Grants & Status

2013 Project Grants

Funding provided to date: $4,200
Summary: It is the intent of this project to continue restoration efforts within four watersheds in Antigonish County, specifically the Meadow Green region of the Pomquet River, the Keppoch region of the Beaver River, Pinevale Brook of the South River, and Cameron's Brook of the Wright's River. To address habitat issues the project will install in-stream structures and remove debris jams that are obstructions to fish passage.

Project Number: NS-2013-05
Waugh's River habitat enhancement for 2013
Recipient: North Colchester River Restoration Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $5,000
Summary: Habitat was improved in the two Tatamagouche watersheds, Waugh's and French Rivers, through the construction of 1 new structure and the repair of 45 existing structures. A portion of the river bank on the Waugh's River near head of tide was also rocked for stream bank stabilization. A total of 75,000 parr were released. This project also provided opportunities for education and public outreach.

Project Number: NS-2013-06
Salmon Habitat Restoration on Watervale Brook
Recipient: Pictou County Rivers Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$7,400**
Funding provided to date: $7,400
Summary: The objectives of this project were to increase the amount and improve the quality of Atlantic salmon spawning habitat and nursery habitat for juveniles in Watervale Brook. Through this initiative, 9 new in-stream structures were installed and 2 existing structures were repaired, resulting in the restoration or improvement of 6000 square metres of habitat.

Project Number: NS-2013-07
River Restoration 2013
Recipient: Sackville Rivers Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $5,000
Summary: SRA installed 7 rock sills and 9 diggerlogs (with 12 associated deflectors), 26 pool enhancements, 3 log berms, and thawleg improvement or creation in Tomahawk Run (21 structures in total) and Stoney Brook (10 structures in total). Electrofishing surveys were also conducted in Stoney Brook and confirmed the presence of salmon parr.

Project Number: NS-2013-08
Increasing access and mitigating erosion within the St. Mary's River watershed
Recipient: St. Mary's River Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$6,000**
Funding provided to date: $3,000
Summary: This project has two main objectives, to restore access to long reaches of streams that are currently inaccessible to many fish due to culverts acting as barriers to passage and to mitigate an erosion point due to improper placement of a crossing. Passage issues will be mitigated with a low-cost passage device. Erosion will be mitigated by applying rip rap to the eroding bank.

Project Number: PEI-2012-01B
Restoration of spawning and rearing habitat, including accessibility, for Atlantic Salmon in the West (Eliot) River Watershed.
Recipient: Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
Approved Grant Amount: **$18,800** *(year 2 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $14,250
Summary: A revised West River Watershed Management Plan is being prepared. In 2013, 1,054 native trees and shrubs were planted to restore riparian areas, several volunteer events were held, community councils were met with, barriers to fish passage were removed and in-stream structures to enhance habitat were installed. Two failed culvert structures on Black Brook and Brookvale main branch were replaced with wooden bridges.

Project Number: PEI-2012-02b & PEI-2013-02
Restoration of the Atlantic Salmon population of Bristol Creek, Kings County, PEI & Structure Assessment, Repair and Modifications in the Morell River.
Recipient: Morell River Management Co-op
Approved Grant Amount: **$9,000** *(year 2 of 3 with top-up)*
Funding provided to date: $5,250
Summary: MRMC is working to restore and enhance trout and salmon habitat in Bristol Creek by removing obstructions, protecting water quality, and applying stream enhancements techniques. A report has also been prepared and recommendations have been made on the structures of the Morell River.

Project Number: PEI-2012-03b
Souris & Area Atlantic Salmon habitat and population restoration project. *Year 2 of 3 year commitment*
Recipient: Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation (SWF)
Approved Grant Amount: **$19,800**
Funding provided to date: $15,000
Summary: SAB is working to ensure that streams in seven watersheds are accessible to salmon and provide good in stream habitat by removing barriers and by restoring habitat. This year's surveys of salmon redds has revealed a dramatic increase compared to survey results from previous years.

Grants & Status

2013 Project Grants

Project Number: PEI-2012-04b
Mill River salmon enhancement project
Recipient: Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter
Approved Grant Amount: **$17,800** *(year 2 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $13,500
Summary: Alder cutting and selective debris removal has been carried out on the upper section of Caruthers Brook. Brush mats also been installed to reduce siltation and beaver dams have been surveyed. Redd surveys were carried out in both the Caruther's and Cain's systems.

Project Number: PEI-2013-01
Grassroots Conservation in Action Project
Recipient: Richmond Bay Watershed Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $5,000
Summary: To restore streams and riparian zones, 3,000 native tree species and shrubs were planted and 3.5 km of in-stream restoration activities were carried out. This work included the construction of brush mates, addition of in-stream cover structures, installation of rock groupings, installation of a water control device to naturally control the effects of erosion and runoff, excavation of one sediment basin and removal of one in-stream road crossing.

Project Number: QC-2012-01
Atlantic salmon conservation in Inuit communities of the North Shore by valuing aboriginal tradition knowledge
Recipient : Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht (AMIK)
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000** *(year 2 of 2)*
Funding provided to date: $3,483
Summary: The purpose of this project is to preserve and transfer aboriginal traditional knowledge about salmon conservation, through workshops on intergenerational sharing, promote matching of salmon management methods derived from ATK and those derived from science, and empower adults of the community for salmon conservation and awake youth to salmon biology and threats for its survival. Workshops were offered, a flyer is being prepared and a documentary is also being produced.

Project Number: QC-2013-01
Restoration and enhancement of Atlantic salmon habitat in the Gouffre River
Recipient : Association de conservation de la Vallée du Gouffre
Approved Grant Amount: **$15,000**
Funding provided to date: $15,000
Summary: Through this project, all obstructions in the surveyed area were removed, on a distance of 10 kilometers. All fallen trees in the river were also removed, giving fish access to the upriver section.

Project Number: QC-2013-02
Atlantic salmon in our schools: 10 years of education
Recipient : Corporation du bassin de la Jacques-Cartier
Approved Grant Amount: **$6,000**
Funding provided to date: $3,000
Summary: The project was completed smoothly in 2013 by the CBJC team. The addition of two full size salmon, a quiz and games entertained the students and the teachers during the 10th edition of the teaching kit. The uniting effect and the festive atmosphere were felt during this lovely evening of the month of June. Eleven releases were facilitated by CBJC and appreciated by all. The two very special days, where the Jacques Cartier national park provided great assistance, added a festive touch to the event.

Project Number: QC-2013-03
Assessment of the importance of the Atlantic salmon in Petits Escoumins River
Recipient : Organisme des bassins versants de la Haute-Côte-Nord
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $3,750
Summary: The OBVHCN team completed fish surveys in Petits Escoumins River with electrofishing. During this activity, 12 fish species were captured, including Atlantic salmon, American Eel and brook trout. Juvenile salmon of at least two age classes were captured. In addition, this species distribution area in the watershed was greatly expanded compared to previous surveys. A complete report of the study was prepared.

Project Number: QC-2013-04
Operation of a Youth summer camp (12 to 15 years old) on the Bonaventure River
Recipient : Association des pêcheurs sportifs de la Bonaventure
Approved Grant Amount: **$2,200** *(year 2 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $2,200
Summary: L'Association des pêcheurs sportifs de la Bonaventure gives a very positive report of its «YOUTH SUMMER CAMP» which was held on August 6 - 9 last year on the ZEC of Bonaventure River. Young 12 to 15 year old participated in a new summer camp concept. The main purpose of this project was youth education and awareness of the importance of wild Atlantic salmon and its habitats. The objective was successfully met.

Summary of Project Audits

Summary of Project Audits and Evaluations

In 2013 random audits of 26 projects were conducted. The audit process follows a structured method of assessing whether the project is being carried-out in accordance with the funding agreement entered into between the Foundation and the recipient, including site visits and an examination of minutes of meetings and accounting records. This supplements the assessment of performance completed by staff through review of the draft funding agreement, interim and final reports received from recipients.

In 2013 the following recipient groups were audited for performance:

Inter-provincial Projects

IN-2012-04b	Restigouche River Management Council
IN-2013-02	Gespe'gewaq Mi'gmaq Resource Council (GMRC)

New Brunswick Projects

NB-2013-02	Eel River Bar First Nation
NB-2013-03	Fort Folly First Nation
NB-2013-06	Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee
NB-2013-07	Miramichi Salmon Association
NB-2013-09	Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance
NB-2013-10	Restigouche Watershed Management Council
NB-2013-11	Village of Belledune

Newfoundland & Labrador Projects

NL-2011-02c	Norris Arm and Area Economic Development Committee
NL-2013-01	Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland (SAEN)
NL-2013-02	Salmonid Preservation Association of the Waters of Newfoundland (SPAWN)
NL-2013-03	Environment Resources Management Association (ERMA)

Nova Scotia Projects

NS-2011-04c	Inverness South Anglers Committee
NS-2013-01	Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
NS-2013-02	Cheticamp River Salmon Association
NS-2013-04	Habitat Unlimited
NS-2013-05	North Colchester River Restoration Association
NS-2013-06	Pictou County Rivers Association
NS-2013-07	Sackville Rivers Association

Prince Edward Island Projects

PEI-2012-01b	Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
PEI-2012-02b & PEI-2013-02	Morell River Management Coop
PEI-2012-03b	Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
PEI-2012-04b	Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter
PEI-2013-01	Richmond Bay Watershed Association Inc

Quebec Projects

QC-2013-04	Association des pêcheurs sportifs de la Bonaventure Inc.

Reports & Statements

Auditors' Report

MacMillan Lawrence & Lawrence
Chartered Accountants

Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements

To the Directors of The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2013, the summary statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation for the year ended December 31, 2013. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated April 10, 2014.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation for the year ended December 31, 2013 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Fredericton, NB
April 10, 2014

Chartered Accountants

Reports & Statements

Statement of Financial Position

		December 31, 2013	December 31, 2012
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents		$ 200,515	$ 140,667
Receivables		30,488	14,258
Inventory		-	1,116
Prepaids		852	852
		231,855	156,893
Investments, stated at value		35,704,624	31,361,992
		$ 35,936,479	$ 31,518,885
Liabilities			
Current			
Payables and accruals		$ 181,925	$ 207,429
Net Assets			
General Fund – Unrestricted		-	-
Reserve Fund – Internally Restricted		147,300	125,242
Endowment Fund – Externally Restricted		35,449,066	31,094,291
ANBL – Externally Restricted		136,588	71,377
PEILCC – Externally Restricted		21,600	20,546
		35,754,554	31,311,456
		$ 35,936,479	$ 31,518,885

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Director

Director

Reports & Statements

Statement of Operations and Change in Net Assets

Year ended December 31,	2013	2012
Revenue	$ 5,342,181	$ 3,106,457
Expenses		
Administration	322,775	269,007
Grants	410,070	329,600
Investment management fees	166,238	155,144
	899,083	753,751
Excess of revenue over expenses (expenses over revenue)	$ 4,443,098	$ 2,352,706
Net assets, beginning of year	$ 31,311,456	$ 28,958,750
Excess of revenue over expenses (expenses over revenue)	4,443,098	2,352,706
Net assets, end of year	$ 35,754,554	$ 31,311,456

Statement of Remuneration:

For the 2013 Fiscal Year total remuneration paid to one Foundation employee whose remuneration exceeds $100,000 per year was $143,232.65 consisting of the following: Salary =$109,686.98, fees =$0; travel expenses =$17,298.35; CPP =$2356.20; EI =$891.12, allowances $0; and, benefits =$13,000.00)

ASCF Volunteers & Personnel

Officers, Directors & Board Committees

Officers

Honourable Rémi Bujold, P.C., C.M. · *Chairman & President* · Québec QC
Robert Bishop, C.A. · *Vice-Chairman & Vice-President* · St. John's, NL
Paul D. Michael, Q.C. · *Secretary* · Stratford PEI
Joan Marie Aylward · *Treasurer* · St. John's, NL

Directors

James Lawley · Halifax, NS
John LeBoutillier · Montréal, QC
Denis Losier · Moncton, NB
Katharine Mott · Stewiacke, NS
Chief David Peter Paul · Pabineau First Nation, NB

L-R: Joan Marie Aylward; Robert Bishop; Denis Losier; Rémi Bujold; Jim Lawley; Katharine Mott; John LeBoutillier; Paul Michael. Missing from photo: Chief David Peter-Paul.

Board Committees

Investment:
J. LeBoutillier
D. Losier
R. Bishop (Chair)

Audit & Finance:
J.M. Aylward (Chair)
R. Bishop
R. Bujold

Policy & Program:
P. Michael (Chair)
D. Losier
K. Mott

Development Committee
D. Losier
R. Bujold
J. Lawley
D. Peter-Paul

Staff

Stephen Chase, Executive Director
Darla Saunders, Conservation Program Coordinator

ASCF Volunteers

Advisory Committees

1. Central Advisory Committee

Dave Reddin, François Caron, Peter Cronin, John Bagnall, Jeff Hutchings, Larry Felt (Chair). *Missing from photo:* Victoria LaBillois.

2. New Brunswick Advisory Committee

John Pugh, Fernand Savoie, Kathryn Collet, Michelle Gray, Tom Callaghan, Jim Marriner. *Missing from photo:* Robert Chiasson (Chair).

3. Nova Scotia Advisory Committee

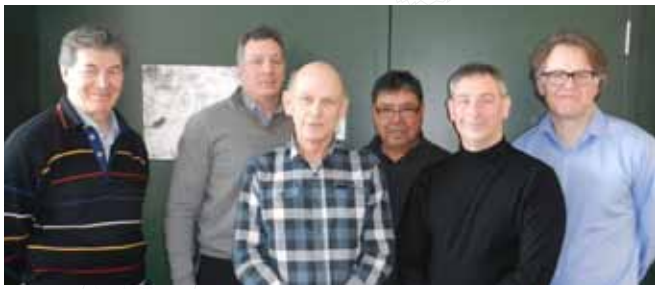
Iris Hunter, Scott Cook (Chair), Alan McNeill, Jim Gourlay, Carl Purcell, Shane O'Neil, Charles MacInnes. *Missing from photo:* Kerry Prosper.

4. Newfoundland & Labrador Advisory Committee

Robert Perry, Dr. Donald Downer, Thomas E. Bursey, Keith Piercey, Fred Parsons (Chair), Dave Reddin, Ross Hinks, Chief Calvin Francis.

5. Prince Edward Island Advisory Committee

Leaming Murphy, Chris Mills, Dale Cameron, Rosanne MacFarlane (Chair), Walter McEwen. *Missing from photo:* Steve Cheverie, Allan Ledgerwood, Randy Angus.



6. Comité consultatif provincial du Québec

Patrick Plante, André St-Hilaire, Stan Georges (Chair), Jean Malec, René Lafond, Serge Tremblay. *Missing from photo:* Claude Théberge, Michel Damphousse.

Volunteer Profiles 2013

Meet some of the volunteers that bring energy and vitality to the ASCF!

Meet Rosanne MacFarlane, the chair of the PEI Advisory Committee.

Rosanne MacFarlane

MacFarlane has been a freshwater fisheries biologist with the province of PEI since 2003.

"My job takes me from one end of the Island to the other providing technical assistance to watershed groups, collecting data on fish populations, consulting with angling and watershed groups, carrying out surveys, collecting fish for our enhancement program, preparing angling regulations and summaries, and encouraging residents and visitors to take part in our sport fishery," said MacFarlane. "Prior to this career I served as a watershed coordinator so I know first hand the challenges faced by our dedicated watershed groups across PEI."

MacFarlane has been a member of the PEI Advisory Committee from the beginning. She is an avid angler who appreciates the economic, cultural, and recreational values of salmon angling to a region.

"Having worked in fish habitat restoration and management for 24 years, I have seen a lot of funding programs come and go. I am so impressed with the quality of people on our Advisory Committee and the knowledge and level of commitment they bring to the table; there is a strong sense of teamwork. The ASCF is an extremely well organized foundation with good people at all levels"

MacFarlane said ASCF funds have been a major contributor to salmon projects all across PEI.

"I can say without hesitation that without ASCF funding we would not be seeing a resurgence in salmon populations in Eastern Kings County with salmon returning to rivers where they had long been absent and numbers sky rocketing in others."

"The value of Atlantic salmon goes far beyond any economic statistics. Having Atlantic salmon in your rivers is an indication of a healthy environment. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the ASCF and the dedicated watershed and angling organizations who are so committed to Atlantic salmon conservation and management."

Charles (Charlie) MacInnes has been a member of the NS Advisory Committee since the beginning, and has been involved in salmon habitat restoration for thirty years.

Charlie MacInnes

A science gradate from St. Francis Xavier University, MacInnes spent 30 years with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 25 of those years in habitat management. Recently retired, he stays involved with plenty of local community groups involved in habitat restoration.

An avid angler himself, which he says is important for perspective, he stresses anglers were the original conservation groups involved in lobbying government for the protection of Atlantic salmon

"I have always supported 'boots on the ground projects' and keeping the interest of volunteers high; there are too many plans that lead to the next plan without anything being done. This is certainly not the case of the conservation fund."

"The ASCF plans but also believes things should be done, done well, and followed up on to ensure projects are done right."

MacInnes says the fall season in Nova Scotia is off to a good start after a hot, dry summer; the gulf shore has just opened and salmon are already being caught.

"Going forward I do plan to be involved but I am very concerned with the amount of austerity measures targeting science programs including habitat and the retrenchment of programs away from communities into central centres, where in my opinion they are far less effective and quickly lose touch with the community."

Volunteer Profiles 2013

Meet some of the volunteers that bring energy and vitality to the ASCF!

Meet Calvin Francis, a member of the NL Advisory Committee.

Calvin Francis

Chief Francis has been chief of the Gander Bay Indian Band Council for more than 30 years. He has also worked for the Federation of Newfoundland Indians as the director of the Aboriginal Fishery Guardian Program for 20 years, is the current president of the Gander River Ecosystem Corporation, and a founder of the first ever River Watch Program in Newfoundland.

"The program was started on the Gander River in 1982, and later it was expanded by DFO to all of Newfoundland," said Francis. "The River Watch Program was made up of volunteers who wanted to protect the Atlantic salmon from being poached; at that time poaching was a big issue on the Gander River due to lack of enforcement."

Chief Francis became a member of the ASCF's NL Advisory Committee about five years ago.

"My interest was in conservation and protection of Atlantic salmon, and being a member of the Foundation has allowed me to contribute to helping other groups find money for projects that would protect and enhance salmon stocks. I, along with many members of my family, are fishing guides on the Gander River; guiding has been in the family for over 100 years."

"I remain involved because of my concern for nature and passion for protecting our natural resources so that my children and grandchildren will enjoy the outdoors and nature as I have."

"The work of the ASCF is very meaningful, the contributions the ASCF is providing to various groups will ensure the salmon stocks will remain healthy for years to come so that many can enjoy the sport of salmon angling. I would encourage others to join so that we can together contribute to conserving and protecting our wild Atlantic salmon stocks."

Robert Bishop, one of our many dedicated volunteers, calls St. John's, NL home.

Robert Bishop

He first became involved with the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation in 2008 after discussing ASCF with Dr. Larry Felt, then the only Newfoundland representative on the Board of Directors. Bishop joined the Board in April 2008 and has been a member ever since. Along with having a deep interest in salmon fishing, Bishop was a fishery biologist early in his working life and has retained that interest. He also has current relevant experience in dealing with investment funds, fund managers, and consultants.

"I stay involved because it's very rewarding to see the good work performed by the many organizations funded by the Foundation as they make a significant contribution to the protection and enhancement of salmon stocks in a very cost effective manner."

"The work ASCF does is valuable, rewarding and interesting."

Meet François Caron; he's a member of the Central Advisory Committee and is based in Quebec.

Caron has been interested in nature, wildlife, and fish since he was a child. Growing up on a farm in Eastern Township, Quebec, he remembers going out into the forest with his father.

"At the age of five, my father took me into the forest to cut wood to heat our home. He showed me how to set a snare to catch snowshoe hares. I will remember that day forever. I just sat by the snare and watch for hours. No, I didn't see anything that day but the day after a hare was caught; I was so happy!"

It was also around this age that Caron began fishing.

"Nearby our place there was a small creek where I would fish for trout everyday with my mother. We would catch trout and

Volunteer Profiles 2013

Meet some of the volunteers that bring energy and vitality to the ASCF!

François Caron

crayfish. It seemed that I was always asking questions about wildlife. That same year my uncle, who was a hunter, told me 'Frankie, you should study to be a biologist. Biologists know everything about fish and wildlife.' I still have this passion for wildlife, science, and knowledge -- plus some others for sure!"

As a biology student, Caron worked in Forillon National Park.

"This was a great summer job. This is where I first understood the link between geology, climate, habitat and the fauna."

"I spent most of my career as a biologist doing research for the Quebec Fish and Wildlife Department. For 25 years I did research on migratory fish -- mainly salmon, sturgeon and eel. During those years I worked closely with scientists with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, many of them are still my good friends. I was also a member of the Canadian delegation on the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) North Atlantic Salmon Working Group where I had the opportunity to visit different salmon habitats during the annual meeting of this group -- Iceland, Scotland, Ireland and France are among the countries where I learned a lot about the diversity of salmon habitat."

"I had the great opportunity in Quebec to conduct two major projects on population dynamic on the St. Jean River (Gaspé area) and the Trinité River (on the Quebec North Shore), where for more than 20 years we watched the smolt and the juvenile habitat. These studies are still ongoing and the quantity of information coming out of this project is priceless."

Caron has been retired for three years.

"I keep up my interest on salmon being involved in CIRSA, (Centre interuniversitaire de recherche sur le saumon atlantique) which is a multidisciplinary group from six universities. I am also involved in local and regional conservation groups. I was very pleased to join the ASCF two years ago. I strongly believe that science is very important to understand the world in which we live, and education and communication are the best ways to make sure that the next generation will understand the need to protect nature."

"I am so pleased to be involved in the Central Advisory Committees with a very dedicated group of people from different parts of Eastern Canada."

Meet Robert Chiasson, the chair of the NB Advisory Committee.

Robert Chiasson

Chiasson said he was interested in the ASCF right from the beginning.

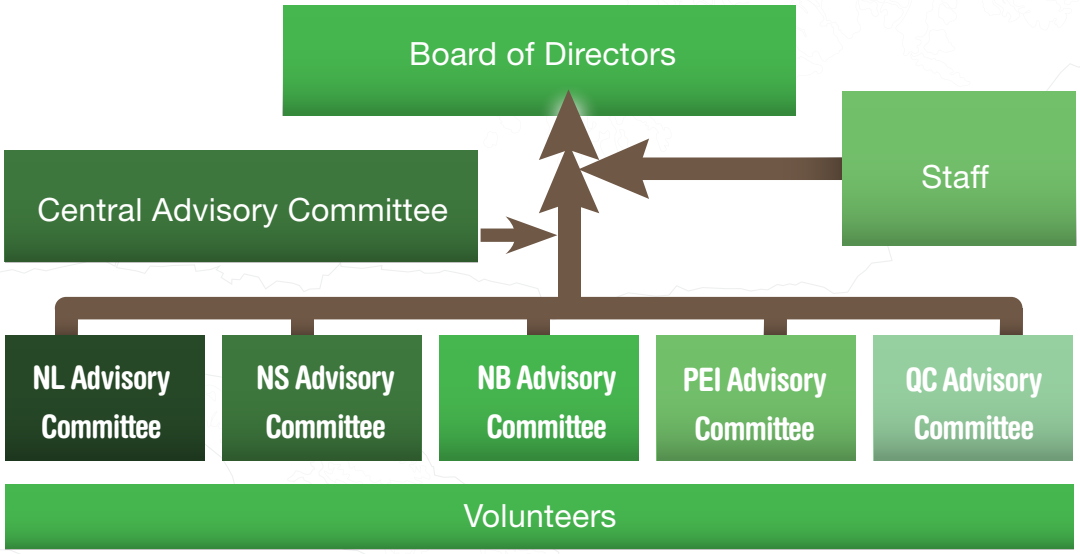
"The establishment of the trust fund was great news for salmon conservation as it provides a source of funding which will be on going," he said.

"As a member of the Nepisiguit Salmon Association and associating with other like minded groups, including First Nations, I've had the opportunity to see the positive impact that can be achieved when volunteers get involved in conservation and become stewards of their watersheds."

Chiasson said sustained recovery of Atlantic salmon is still very challenging and he finds his association with the ASCF has been a great learning experience.

"I would encourage others, especially younger people, to get involved to ensure the continuation of great projects initiated and accomplished by volunteers throughout Eastern Canada."

ASCF Structural Model



Conservation Partners

The 2013 List of Our Conservation Partners

Adopt a Stream
Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht
AMEC
Arlington Farms
Association de conservation de la Vallée du Gouffre
Association des pêcheurs sportifs de la Bonaventure
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Atlantic Superstore
Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
Bruce Craig Construction
Caisse Populaire Quatre-Vents
Canadian Rivers Institute
Cascapedia Society
Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
Charlo Salmonid Enhancement Center
Cheticamp River Salmon Association
Clean Nova Scotia & NS Youth Conservation Corps
Cobequid Salmon Association
Conseil de recherche en sciences naturelles et en génie
Conservation Corps Newfoundland and Labrador
Corporation du bassin de la Jacques-Cartier
County of Colchester (NS)
Dalhousie University
Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Dhachaidh Farms
ECO Canada
Écoles primaires et secondaires de Pessamit, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, Ekuanitshit, Nutashkuan, Pakua shipi et Unamen Shipu
Eel River Bar First Nation
Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation
Environment Canada
Environment Resources Management Association
Employment and Social Development Canada
Fédération québécoise pour le saumon atlantique
Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologie
Fort Folly First Nation
Gesgapegiag First Nations
Gespe'gewaq Mi'gmaq Resource Council
Habitat Unlimited
Hammond River Angling Association
Highland ATV Club

Conservation Partners

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Holland College
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
Institut Nationale de la recherche Scientifique –Centre Eau, Terre, Environnement
Inverness South Angler's Association
JD Irving, Limited
Kedgwick Lodge
Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee
L.E.Reinsborough School
LaHave River Salmon Association
Langille Fuels
Lighthouse Publishing
Listuguj First Nations
Memorial University
Michelin North America (Canada) Inc.
Ministère des Ressources naturelles (QC)
Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs (QC)
Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee
Miramichi Salmon Association
Morell River Management Co-op
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
NB Department of Natural Resources
NB Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training & Labour
NB Power
Regional Development Commission (NB)
Nepisiguit Salmon Assessment & Enhancement
NB Wildlife Trust Fund
NB Community College
Newfound Construction
Newfoundland Power Inc.
NL Department of Department of Environment and Conservation
Norris Arm Economic Development Association
North Colchester River Restoration Association
NS Community College
NS Department of Agriculture
NS Department of Natural Resources
NS Department of Economic and Rural Development & Tourism
NSLC Adopt A Stream
Ocean Tracking Network
Organisme des bassins versants de la Haute-Côte-Nord
Pabineau First Nation band council
Parc national de la Jacques-Cartier
PEI Department of Agriculture and Forestry
PEI Department of Environment, Labour and Justice
PEI Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Rural Development
PEI Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
PEI Employment Development Agency
PEI Trappers Association
PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund
Petitcodiac Fish Recovery Coalition
Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance
Pictou County Rivers Association
Regional Councils of ASF
Restigouche River Watershed Management Council
Richmond Bay Watershed Association
Sackville Rivers Association
Sage Environmental Fund
Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland
Salmonid Preservation Association for the Waters of Newfoundland
Sept conseils de bande (Essipit, Pessamit, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, Ekuanitshit, Nutashkuan, Unamen Shipu et Pakua Shipi)
Service Canada
Skills PEI
Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation (SWF)
Souris Regional High School, Souris Consolidated School & Ecole La Belle Cloche
St. Mary's River Association
Stantec
Sussex Fish and Game Association
Tatamagouche Home Hardware
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Town of Bridgewater
Town of Lunenburg
Town of Norris Arm
Tri County Ford
Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter
Unité régionale loisir et sport Gaspésie
Universal Helicopter Newfoundland Inc.
Université de Montréal
Vale
Village of Belledune
Wal-Mart Evergreen
Wambolt Video
Xstrata Zinc
YMCA