ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation

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Facilitating Smart Community Conservation!

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 rigourous 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.

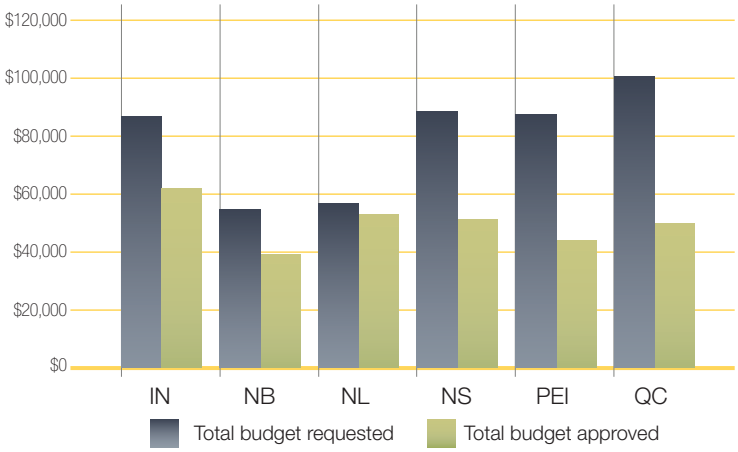
A significant feature of the Foundation model is the inclusion of volunteer experts drawn from conservation groups, Aboriginal organizations and federal and provincial governments in all of its advisory processes. The Board of Directors of the Foundation actively relies on advice and recommendations 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 sixth year of operation. In 2012 the Foundation continued to build on the successful operational structure it created over the first five 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 fifth 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.

Grants Compared to Amounts Requested



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

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Facilitating Smart Community Conservation!

Importantly, in 2012 the Foundation received the very positive results of a 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. Based on the positive assessment, there were no recommendations stemming from the audit.

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!

The beginning of a new year provides an opportunity to look ahead while reflecting on the past. We learn from our experience and our experience in 2012, our sixth year of operation, was excellent. We've had many successes and few setbacks. We continue to strive to be both smart at what we do, while remaining sustainable in our approach to business.

We are very fortunate to have an organization that's comprised of so many dedicated, expert volunteers. The outstanding expertise helping guide our affairs is the key to our success. The over 60 volunteers that serve as Members of the Foundation, as our Board of Directors, and on our expert advisory committees help make us one of the most talented organizations involved in conservation of wild Atlantic salmon. Together with our talented staff we are able to make the best informed decisions in policy, planning and the best projects to fund in our continuing effort to improve salmon conservation.

This Foundation is making clear and carefully measurable gains in salmon conservation through the exceptional work carried-out by the community organizations, Aboriginal groups and other committed partners we help fund. It's these groups that are doing the work in helping save an important fish species that sustains lifestyles, economies and lots of durable jobs across the five provinces that include the domain of the wild Atlantic salmon in Canada.

We were also able to make important gains in meeting the financial challenges resulting from world money markets. Our long-term financial plan underpins attainment of our goals and our trust funds performed above average. Thus, we continue to look forward to being in a position to gradually increase the annual funding available to community groups beginning in 2015.

NL: Norris Arm & Area Economic Development Committee

"The key to the ability to change is a changeless sense of who you are, what you are about and what you value."

- Stephen R. Covey

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

We believe firmly in facilitating conservation action. Our approach to the task is to facilitate community groups in making good things happen. We are 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, thereby ensuring that our trust fund will continue to grow while enabling project funds to be available in perpetuity, as expected by the conservation community and the Government.

I am constantly appreciative of the continuous, dedicated efforts of our many volunteers, and our staff. Together, they help us fulfill our dreams and the goals we've set in evolving into one of the world's greatest 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!

Stephen Chase
Executive Director ASCF

It's very satisfying to report the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation's achievements in our sixth year of operations. There have been many positive developments as we work together as partners in improving the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon across five provinces.

The Foundation continues to help community groups make a positive and measurable difference in salmon conservation throughout Atlantic Canada and Quebec. In our on-going exercise of due diligence we work with our funding recipients to measure our progress toward attainment of project goals. Every project we fund has clearly stated objectives with performance measures for each objective. We work with recipients to monitor attainment of results that, in turn, roll up to provide a comprehensive picture, year by year, of how we're doing in getting best use of our conservation funding.

PEI: Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation.

In 2012 we conducted and implemented 29 new funding agreements from our fifth round of grants. These brought our total number of funded projects to 122 since inception. The Foundation's $1,500,000 total commitment to conservation projects has facilitated over $5 million in total project value. Our support directly assists rural economic development and helps sustain well over 125 good jobs, primarily seasonal in nature. This is a very significant contribution to our environment and our economy, especially in difficult economic times.

Early in the year we were pleased to receive the results of a value for money audit carried out by DFO with extensive consultation. The audit recognized the Foundation as a cost effective way of delivering federally mandated services, through a diligent yet facilitative approach to conducting its business. This is concrete testimony to our transparent and inclusive way of working through which all interests can be involved in guiding the Foundation and helping us register positive gains on many fronts.

The year also witnessed amazing growth in our ability to help fund conservation projects through a new corporate partnership with the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation's "*Protect Our Rivers - Protégeons nos rivières*» sales event. This initiative complements our on-going partnership with the PEI Liquor Control Commission in the "*Island Rivers-Worth Protecting*" sale, which successfully completed its second year. These represent excellent example of corporate contribution to improving the environment and public awareness of conservation issues.

The future looks very bright for the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation. We are working hard to build a clear identity and an ever larger base of support. With the expertise of our many volunteer members, directors, and advisory committee members who lend their time and expertise, we will be strong and sustainable, into the future.

Meeting our challenges and embarking on new directions is a very rewarding undertaking. Through partnership and working hard we'll keep moving forward to continue to make a real difference in salmon conservation.

Stephen Chase
Executive Director ASCF

Foundation Objectives 2012

The following objectives were stated in the 2012 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.

2012 Actions: The Foundation's investment portfolio continues to carefully follow a very prudent long-term investment and financial management strategy. This strategy fulfills the requirements of the Funding Agreement with the Government while meeting the expectations of the salmon conservation community.

The Foundation has been operating in recovery mode since the 2008 financial market decline directing 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 is considerably less than the demonstrated need for funding. This is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future due to relative slow growth in financial markets in 2011 and 2012.

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 by 2019 while continuing to ensure a reasonable annual distribution of project funding among the provinces. The Foundation forecasts a zero deficit on the principal of the trust, as compared to adjusted book value, and capacity to offer a minimum $1 million per year in grant funding by 2020.

As at 31 December 2012 the market value of the fund reported $31,362,000 as compared to the projected $32,942,000 demonstrating a modest improvement over the 2012 year-end projection presented in the long-term financial strategy.

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

2012 Actions: In accordance with the long-term financial plan, in 2012 $300,000 was again made available for grants to conservation projects. This consisted of the base allocation of $50,000 for each province plus $50,000 for interprovincial projects.

The Foundation follows a funding allocation model based on the advice of the expert Central Advisory Committee designed to best respond 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.

2012 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. This will assist the Foundation in being a results-based management.

During 2012 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 83 projects had been completed and had provided final reports out of a total of 122 projects approved during the five rounds of grants (2008 to 2012).

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

2012 Actions: Throughout 2012 the Foundation followed the direction set out in the communications plan, designed 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 2012 the Foundation provided regular updates to Facebook and Twitter to keep followers informed of developments.

The reduced availability of grant funding has led the Foundation to seek partnerships with public and private organizations designed to increase the availability of funds. Most significant of theses are partnerships with the Prince Edward Island Liquor Control Commission to create the "Island Rivers – Worth Protecting" sales event, and with Alcool New Brunswick Liquor to create the "Protect Our Rivers" sales event. Now in its second year, the PEILCC event has raised over $33,000. The ANBL event raised over $70,000 in its first year alone. Both arrangements are long-term partnerships through which 100 percent of funds are committed to the respective provinces.

The Foundation will continue to build partnerships of this nature as a priority.

2012 Project Profiles • NL

A bad case of "you can't get there from here" remedied; salmons' Exploits improved!

You know how frustrating it is to run into roadblocks when you're trying to get somewhere? Think about how difficult it must be for wild Atlantic salmon whose very survival depends on a migration up a river. Obstructions in Newfoundland's Exploits River meant salmon had to deal with a serious case of "You can't get there from here." Thankfully, the Environment Resources Management Association (ERMA) has made things right.

The Exploits is the largest river system in central Newfoundland, with a drainage area of some 12,000 square kilometers. That made it an ideal resource for Newfoundland's century-old pulp and paper industry.

"The industry thrived in this area because of the vast amounts of forest resources and the river system," says Fred Parsons, ERMA's General Manager.

"What they did back then was set up a system to hold water in a pool, store logs in the pool and then, when the pool was full and high, open it up and float the logs down the river in the fast flow," Parsons explains. "Other structures were built to keep the logs in the channels so they wouldn't get trapped in gullies along the way."

NL: BEFORE
Environmental Resources Management Association
NL: AFTER

Over the years transport of the logs changed to trucks and the old structures on the river were abandoned. They deteriorated and collected debris. Eventually, many of them became total obstructions to migrating salmon.

"Drowned pulpwood upstream and downstream of the obstructions had accumulated, as well," says Parsons. "It all added up to a significant loss of productive habitat for spawning and rearing."

One of the key elements required for healthy fish is healthy habitat. The Exploits River has a migrating stock of approximately 50,000 salmon and is an important recreational area for anglers, canoeing, white water rafting and other related activities. ERMA has been working on development of the Exploits River as a major producer of wild Atlantic salmon for over 25 years.

During the Summer and Fall of 2011 assessments were completed on areas of the river that would benefit from removal of obstructions caused by the remains of those old wooden dams, instream log jams, old abandoned beaver dams and other barriers to the salmons' migration. Ten sites were identified as needing immediate attention.

Funded in part by an $18,000 grant from ASCF, the organization got to work early last summer (2012), as soon as water levels and flow rate allowed. They first removed the obstructions and then placed them well above the high water line, to assure that none of the debris would re-enter the river.

With water depth and flow their only restriction, the workers managed to get all 10 sites completely cleaned out by the end of the summer.

"The success of the obstruction removal phase of the project is clearly visible," says Fred Parsons. "With the debris gone, you can see the stream flowing well. Habitat has opened up both upstream and downstream, allowing the fish to move freely.

"We estimate that over 150 kilometres of stream are now accessible to fish passage, in some cases for the first time in many years!"

And has the fish "traffic flow" improved?

"It's a little early to tell," says Parsons, "but similar projects completed elsewhere on the Exploits have proven successful, with fish populations definitely using the newly restored habitat."

So now, thanks to ERMA and its funding partners, including ASCF, the salmon can "get there from here" and continue their exploits on the Exploits River!

2012 Project Profiles • QC

Obstacle turns to opportunity: an ill-fated dam keeps salmon lovers on Quebec's North Shore as busy as beavers

There are times when an obstacle can turn into an opportunity. That's not usually the case when a dam blocks access to what were once fertile salmon grounds, except if the dam in question is scheduled to be dismantled.

That was the opportunity presented to the Escoumins River Salmon Management Corporation (Corporation de gestion de la rivière à saumons des Escoumins, CGRSE) when it received word that the dam at the mouth of the Escoumins would be torn down. The group had spent some 50 years working to restore salmon stocks in the Escoumins River on Quebec's north shore so, even though the timing of the dam's removal was uncertain, the fact that it could eventually happen encouraged the folks with CGRSE to start thinking big!

The Escoumins River had long been used by logging companies to transport their wood to the local mill. That activity, plus the dam, had essentially destroyed the Escoumins River's once robust salmon run.

"Salmon had been absent from the river for over 100 years," says Yves Demers, director of CGRSE, adding that the organization had worked to change that situation over the last half century, building a wooden fishway to bypass the dam and making other improvements to the upriver habitat.

"While these efforts have met with moderate success, with the dam gone, the river could finally be restored to its natural state," says Demers. "The time had finally come for us to propose a comprehensive strategy that would ensure that the Escoumins' salmon stocks had every chance to return to their original level."

The strategy was planned to roll out over five years. The first year's activities, scheduled for the 2012 season, received close to $7,000 in funding from ASCF. Working with a team of supporters from government agencies such as the Watershed Development Organization of the Upper North Shore (l'Organisme des bassins versants de la Haute-Côte-Nord) and the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife, and non-government agencies such as Zec Nordique (Association de Chasse et Peche Nordique), CGRSE identified, measured and assessed each tributary of the Escoumins for its suitability as habitat for salmon. Four were chosen for further study and development, while three others were rejected due to factors such as their short length, shallowness, potential for poaching or use by vacationers.

The group also conducted a comprehensive literature search, using the information collected to make recommendations on how each viable tributary could be prepared to introduce parr and eventually welcome salmon back to its waters.

While conducting their studies the group also worked at raising local public awareness by posting notices of their activities and meeting with pertinent groups and individuals to explain their plan and discuss what people using the area could do, or not do, to ensure the project's success.

"We were very encouraged with the progress we had made in our first year, and were looking forward to rolling out year two next spring," says Yves Demers. The plans for 2013 included a clean-up of the viable tributaries to encourage salmon migration, work to render the areas around bridges and culverts more salmon-friendly, and liaison with government and others to improve regulations for use of the area to reflect the environmental concerns related to salmon survival.

"We were restoring habitat that was necessary to welcome the salmon back up the river once the dam was dismantled, whenever that would happen," says Demers.

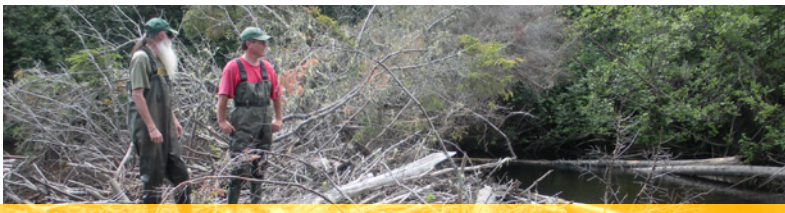
Then disaster struck and another opportunity emerged!

In October, 2012, the wooden fishway on the side of the dam caught fire. By the time the flames were extinguished, the fishway was gone and the dam had suffered extensive damage.

The opportunity? The dam was now a safety hazard and fish passage up the river was completely blocked. Due to the immediate urgency of the situation, CGRSE was able to leverage support to get the dam removed sooner rather than later. Both the provincial and municipal governments, as well as the Essipit Band Council and Hydro Quebec (through la Fédération Québécoise pour le Saumon Atlantique), provided funding.

"The dam will be completely gone by the spring," says Demers. "We are now developing a revised five-year strategy that will turn the Escoumins into a brand new river, hopefully teeming with salmon, by 2018!"

If all goes according to plan, one thing is certain. When the funding is in place to execute their new, accelerated strategy, salmon supporters in the Escoumins area are going to be – well, if you'll pardon the pun – as busy as beavers!



QC: BEFORE
Corporation de gestion de la riviere a saumon des Escoumins

2012 Project Profiles • NB

Proverb defied: In the Petitcodiac River, maybe the salmon can go home again

"You can never go home again." The message in this proverb is that you can't recover the past. More literally, it conjures up images of returning home, only to find that everything has changed.

That's what happened to the wild Atlantic salmon that once inhabited the Petitcodiac River. In 1968 a newly constructed causeway cut off access to their spawning grounds up river, almost completely. And those that did make it through the gate found a drastically altered environment on the other side.

While people can accommodate change, fish aren't always so adaptable. Since the final stage of almost every salmon's life is to return to the spawning ground where it was first hatched, it didn't take long before the Petitcodiac's salmon were entirely extirpated. Gone.

This turned out to be a serious blow to salmon stocks in the inner Bay of Fundy (iBoF).

"Petitcodiac River salmon at one time made up 20 percent of the iBoF salmon population," says Tim Robinson of the Fort Folly Habitat Recovery Program (FFHRP). "Considering that there are 31 other salmon rivers in the iBoF, the Petitcodiac river system was obviously an important contributor to that stock."

After years of study, and lobbying, and negotiation, the gates of the causeway were finally opened, permanently, in April, 2010. Many thought it was too late for the salmon, though... but was it?

Not in the minds of those who are looking forward to the causeway's complete removal. The open gates allowed not only the river's water to flow and rise, but ideas and hopes, as well. The FFHRP and other members of the Petitcodiac Fish Recovery Coalition (PFRC) immediately seized the opportunity. With financial support from ASCF and others, in the spring of 2011 some 341,000 iBoF salmon fry were released into one of the Petitcodiac's tributaries, the Pollett River. That fall, electrofishing surveys were conducted to gather information on the fry's survival.

ASCF funded the project again in 2012 with a grant of $10,000. This allowed the FFHRP and partners to again release fry into the Pollett and again follow up with fall monitoring to see how the fry had survived the summer. The group also installed a rotary screw trap (RST) and assessed its location and functionality for counting fish in the river. This latter initiative looks to the future, when some of the smolt from the 2011 fry release will start to leave home. In the years to come, the hope is that those smolt will make it to maturity and, contrary to that proverb, that they will be able to come home again.

But even when they do, there's still the proverb's other message, that you can't restore the past. Those involved with the recovery program for the Petitcodiac's salmon aren't so sure about that one, either, although they do admit that they shouldn't count their fry before they're hatched.

"There are still many obstacles to be addressed, and there's still plenty of work to be done," says Robinson. "Hopefully at some stage the causeway will be replaced with a new bridge. In the meantime, the hope is to continue the fry release program. And to better assure the stock's survival, we're looking further up the river and in the tributaries, conducting habitat assessment and planning restoration initiatives.

"Our long-range hope is to see the Petitcodiac once again become a contributing part of the recovery of the iBoF salmon stock."

If that happens, if wild Atlantic salmon can actually return to the Petitcodiac River, they will have defied that "You can never go home . . ." proverb on both fronts: by, indeed, recovering their past and, yes, by literally going home again!

NB: Fort Folly Habitat Recovery Program (FFHRP)

2012 Project Profiles • NS

Sparking the imagination

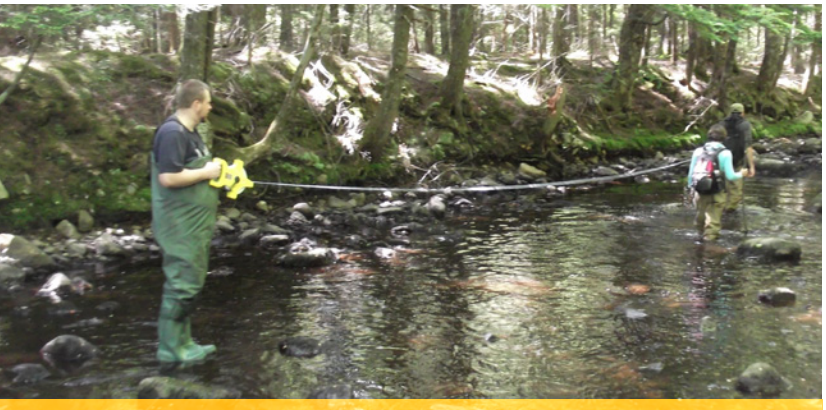
The Sackville Rivers Association (SRA) has spent the past 25 years repairing the damage from centuries of human activity in the Sackville Rivers watershed.

"A lot of people feel we're wasting our time to restore and try to protect an urban river and watershed," says SRA President Walter N. Regan, but he doesn't buy that notion. The watershed is part of the Regional Municipality (HRM) with the largest population in Atlantic Canada, approaching 400,000 people and growing. The Sackville River stretches from Mount Uniake at its most northern point in Nova Scotia, winding 40 kilometres southward through a series of lakes and ponds until it empties into Bedford Basin and the Halifax Harbour. The river is part of numerous popular bedroom communities.

"So when we're working on a restoration or cleanup project, we're often almost in people's back yards. We're quite visible and attract attention," says Regan. "People wander up out of curiosity to ask what we're doing. It's a point of contact, an opportunity we can use to talk about the river and watershed. We're like the spark for people's imaginations. They're often surprised to learn that the river they thought was 'dirty' is actually now clean and supports more than 13 fish species, including the magnificent wild Atlantic Salmon."

Regan says these casual learning encounters often translate to a new awareness and respect, a new valuing of the river and watershed. He believes this appreciation, born of knowledge, is crucial to the future coexistence of communities and the rivers.

The SRA got its start in June, 1988, when a handful of residents turned out for an afternoon cleanup of the local river. When they decided to create an organization for river restoration and protection, they needed to establish a standard for their work—a big, overriding goal. They chose to champion to the wild Atlantic salmon because the healthy presence of this species is considered to indicate the best water and habitat. "It's a biological indicator of water quality, similar to a canary used to monitor air quality in coal mines years ago," explains Regan.



NS: Sackville Rivers Associations (SRA)

"We believe the Southern Uplands rivers (rivers discharging into the Atlantic ocean from Nova Scotia's southern, Atlantic coast) supported over 3,000 salmon at one time in history. Last year, our river counter registered only 15," says Regan. "The Atlantic Salmon fishery in this region has been closed since 1998. We (the SRA) can't do anything about acid rain or the black hole in the ocean, but we can do something about habitat," he adds.

Instead of wanting to keep people away once a river or brook has been rehabilitated, the SRA encourages respectful recreational use of the watershed. The group is working on an ambitious public access project, the Conservation Corridor, a series of trails along the 40-km Sackville River.

The Corridor will also include a network of side trails, connecting tributaries with the main river, and one of those tributaries is Peverills Brook. The brook is considered a high priority restoration area because it is one of the largest tributaries to the Sackville River and has good water chemistry that can provide important habitat to Atlantic salmon and other fish species. This watercourse endured years of gravel mining and the impact of two dams and a mill operation. It is believed the brook was even straightened in the past to accommodate logging activity.

In 2012, with the help of a grant from the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF), the SRA tackled restoration of Peverills Brook. By summer's end, they had installed 12 new structures and enhanced two existing natural structures to improve fish habitat and water quality. They also maintained five other digger logs already installed in a past project.

"We're a small organization," says Regan. "The work we're doing is only possible through the efforts and kindness of the ASCF and many others."

Regan recalls that at one point after the installation of a digger log, some of the university students who had worked on the project came back to the site and were standing in the brook. "They jumped and got excited when something hit their feet. A whole school of Gaspereau was coming down the river, and they couldn't believe there were so many fish just bouncing off their feet. That's when they realized that the digger logs were actually working. It was one of those exciting, learning moments."

With a quarter-century of good work under their belts, the 200-plus volunteer members of the Sackville River Association will continue to restore and protect the precious watershed and will relish those times when they can spark the imagination and commitment of others.

2012 Project Profiles • PEI

The tools for habitat assessment are changing—for the better

When the Morell River Management Coop's Project Coordinator Becky Petersen headed out last summer to do a habitat assessment of Bristol Creek on Prince Edward Island, she left the usual tools of the task at home—paper, clipboard, pencils. Anyone who has done this work knows it can get messy and frustrating, trying to keep papers organized and dry while working in the middle of a stream, or later, the time consuming process of entering data to a computer back at the office.

Petersen, instead, was armed with technology that would make her job not only easier and faster, but also would collect a dazzling volume of data. Once downloaded to a computer, the data could be refined and manipulated to reveal everything possible about Bristol Creek.

In 2012, MRMC received funding from the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation, including funds raised through the partnership with the PEI Liquor Control Commission through the Island Rivers – Worth Protecting program, for a three-year restoration project to support the recovery of salmon to Bristol Creek. Salmon presence has been extremely limited in recent years.

The MRMC has a multi-year, multi-objective watershed management plan for Bristol Creek focusing on restoring and enhancing trout and salmon habitat, enhancing conditions for spawning salmon, improving the salmon population base and protecting water quality. Significant work was accomplished in 2012, and work continues into 2014, assisted by funds from ASCF including funds raised in partnership with the PEI Liquor Control Commission through the *Island Rivers – Worth Protecting* program.

Assessment of the physical habitat is an essential step in such restoration projects, and there has been significant progress in developing technologies for this field purpose. Last summer, Petersen had the benefit of a handheld Trimble Juno GPS receiver that was running on ArcPad software. Petersen had crafted the assessment questions using ArcStudio software then loaded them into the GPS unit before heading into the field.

She describes how the system worked:

"In the stream, a line is started on the GPS and a section of stream walk is walked, and habitat conditions are observed by the assessor. When a significant change in the habitat occurs—indicated by a significant change in either the riparian zone plant community, channel or bank structure, a stream crossings or barrier—the line is ended, and a blank copy of the assessment questions automatically appears on the screen. The questions are answered by checking boxes or entering text and/or numbers right into the GPS unit.

"Later, the GPS unit is connected to a desktop computer with ArcGIS, and the data is downloaded as line files directly onto a map in ArcGIS desktop software. The questions with all the answers are automatically connected to each line in a table. There is no need for data entry."

"The scores are then calculated for each line segment, according to the values entered in the assessment questions. The scores are colour-coded. And there you have it—a map with different sections of stream lined in four different colours."

The scores are divided into four classes:

- Red means immediate attention is required
- Orange says the habitat is significantly compromised
- Yellow indicates moderate habitat quality
- Green shows habitat is in the best possible condition

Petersen has a deep appreciation for the technology pieces she used last year. "The big value of the process and assessment results is in the colour-coded maps that generate an overview of the quality of habitat in each section of stream. They provide information that can assist with management, planning and the prioritizing of resources," she concludes.

The technology used by Petersen last year was on loan through the generosity of the PEI Wildlife Federation. But it's fair to say the Morell River Management Coop was "sold" on the positive experience and valuable results. They have just purchased their own Trimble Juno 3B (a newer model) with the latest version of ArcPad software.

PEI: Morell River Management Co-op

2012 Project Profiles • Interprovincial

"Sedimentary, my dear Watson." Scientists using core clues to solve the mystery of Didymo

They say that history repeats itself. If that's true, then a team of researchers from Queen's University just may be the ones to solve the mystery behind a serious ecological problem threatening rivers in the Gaspé and in northern New Brunswick.

The problem: an invasive alga called Didymo. About six years ago anglers and scientists noticed its occurrence was on the rise in the Matapédia-Restigouche watershed. "Why?" they asked. "And how will Didymo affect the survival of the regions' already vulnerable wild Atlantic salmon stocks?"

Those questions were pressing enough to merit funding from the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF) for a number of studies that commenced in 2008. These included habitat assessment of the Matapédia River and an examination of how the presence of Didymo in the area might influence juvenile salmons' choice of habitat, feeding habits and growth.

As for what had caused the sudden increase in the presence of Didymo in the first place, that's the mystery. Suggestions range from recreational activities to climate change to shifts in water chemistry.

Enter the Paleoecological Environmental Assessment and Research Lab (PEARL) at Queen's University.

Words starting with "paleo" conjure up images of an early, archaic or ancient time or condition. As the name suggests, paleolimnology is the study of aquatic ecosystems and their watersheds using the biological, chemical, and physical information stored in sediments that accumulate over many years. By collecting core samples of the sediments from the bottoms of lakes and rivers, paleolimnologists can determine the timing and extent of environmental change, often with strong chronological certainty.

"We believe that the past is the key to understanding the present Didymo situation," says Dr. Joshua Kurek, a postdoctoral fellow with PEARL. The Board of the ASCF agrees and has provided the PEARL scientists with an $18,000 grant to support their work from May, 2012 through to December, 2013.

The team's plan was to study the Restigouche River watershed by dovetailing paleolimnological techniques with modern habitat surveys. Core samples collected from the sediment of lakes and rivers would reveal changes in Didymo presence and historic environmental conditions while the modern habitat surveys provide evidence of what algae are currently distributed throughout local rivers.

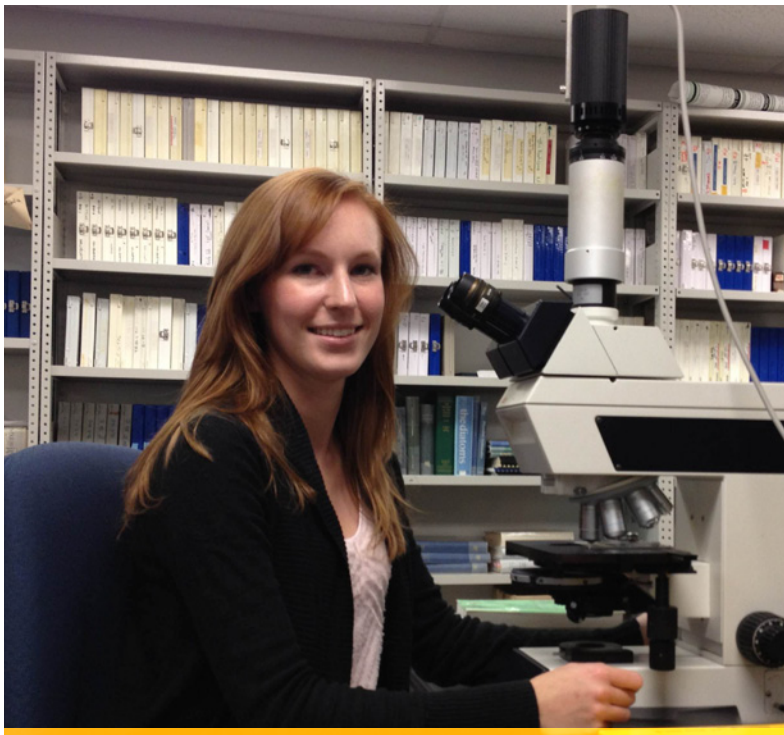
The PEARL team identified several promising coring locations and survey sites. Lac au Saumon and Lac Humqui (near the headwaters of the Matapédia River) were cored to identify historic Didymo blooms and other environmental shifts and "determine what watershed changes have led to these blooms," recounts Dr. Kurek. "Once dated, we anticipate these cores will reflect about 200 years of ecosystem history."

For the modern habitat survey, samples were collected from 23 sites on the Patapedia, 20 sites on the Upsalquitch, and two sites on the Restigouche.

With all the samples collected, it was then time to start solving the mystery. Lab analyses got underway in September 2012, with some 60 samples from Lac Humqui and Lac au Saumon being processed. These cores have now been dated and measurement of their contents is taking place this winter. Samples collected for the modern habitat survey have been measured for environmental indicators such as pH, water depth, substrate, flow, and percentage of Didymo. Lab analysis of the algae from the modern survey will begin in 2013.

So, what have these Sherlock Holmeses of aquatic ecology turned up? Well, since the lab work and data analysis is ongoing, like many a good mystery, this one is going leave us wondering until next season!

To be continued... tune in next year!



Paleoecological Environmental Assessment & Research Lab (PEARL) at Queen's University

Grants & Status

2012 Project Grants

INTERPROVINCIAL

Project Number: IN-2012-01
Smolt tracking and assessment
Recipient: Atlantic Salmon Federation
Approved Grant Amount: **$15,000**
Funding provided to date: $7,500
Summary: ASF researchers sonic tagged a total of 291 smolt during the 2012 field season from the following rivers: Miramichi (80), Restigouche (105), Cascapedia (64), and St. Jean, North Shore (42). All tracking equipment has been retrieved and downloaded for this season. Staff biologists are now in the process of analyzing the tagged smolt detection data.

Project Number: IN-2012-02
Labrador trap net research demonstration project
Recipient: NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC)
Approved Grant Amount: **$8,600**
Funding provided to date: $4,300
Summary: To explore opportunities to reduce the exploitation of large salmon in Labrador, a modified trap capable of catching and holding salmon live was installed in St. Lewis Bay. In 2012, 39 salmon were captured in the leader. Several suggestions have been put forward to increase the success of live capture of salmon including trap redesign relocation.

Project Number: IN-2012-03
Investigating bloom triggers of the diatom Didymosphenia geminata within the Restigouche River watershed: insights from paleolimnology and diatom surveys
Recipient: Queen's University (PEARL)
Approved Grant Amount: **$18,000**
Funding provided to date: $9,000
Summary: Lake sediment cores were collected from Lac Humqui and Lac au Saumon. These natural archives of past environmental conditions are being analyzed. Rock scrapings, sediment grabs, and habitat measures were collected from the Patapedia, Upsalquitch, and Restigouche Rivers. The researchers hope to use these data to better understand bloom triggers of Didymo.

Project Number: IN-2012-04
Characterization of salmonid habitats and thermal refuges in the watershed of the Restigouche River
Recipient: Restigouche Rivers Watershed Management Council (RRWMC)
Approved Grant Amount: **$40,000** (over two years)
Funding provided to date: $15,000
Summary: Restigouche, Kedgwick and Northbranch Kedgwick, Little Main Restigouche, Upsalquitch, Northwest Upsalquitch and Southeast Upsalquitch were surveyed with a thermal, high definition optical camera equipped helicopter. Data are being analyzed by the Institut Nationale de Recherche Scientifique (INRS) to generate georeferenced maps and tools. This project will enable improved assessment of conservation strategies and management tools.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Project Number: NB-2012-01
The Eel River Recovery Project
Recipient: Eel River Bar First Nation (ERBFN)
Approved Grant Amount: **$12,300**
Funding provided to date: $9,225
Summary: Two adult fish counting facilities were successfully installed and operated. Access to salmon habitat has been restored by opening 3 major blockages and creating new riffle pool sequences. A public information session has been conducted and a workshop is planned to exchange information, engage communities, and educate the public on salmon conservation.

Project Number: NB-2012-02
Live gene bank inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon releases and monitoring on the Pollett River
Recipient: Fort Folly First Nation, Fort Folly Habitat Recovery (FFHR)
Approved Grant Amount: **$10,000**
Funding provided to date: $10,000
Summary: A total of 37,246 unfed fry were released at 20 sites on the Pollet River. A rotary screw trap was deployed below the lowest release site. Data was collected on captured fish species and wheel performance. FFHR and their partners conducted electrofishing surveys at 5 release sites on the Pollett River.

Project Number: NB-2012-03
Creating a methodology for assessing adult salmon populations
Recipient: Hammond River Angling Association (HRAA)
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $2,500
Summary: Hammond River Angling Association is developing a redd counting process that they will be able to repeat annually at minimal expense. This process will be condensed into a template that can be used by similar organizations.

Project Number: NB-2012-04
Bio-engineering solutions for eroding stream banks
Recipient: Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee (KWRC)
Approved Grant Amount: **$12,000**
Funding provided to date: $9,000

Grants & Status

2012 Project Grants

Summary: KWRC has established 3 restoration sites using 3 different bio-engineering techniques: wattle fencing, fascine bundles and willow staking. These sites have been used to educate agricultural stakeholders. Volunteers were also organized to aid in the installation of these sites.

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

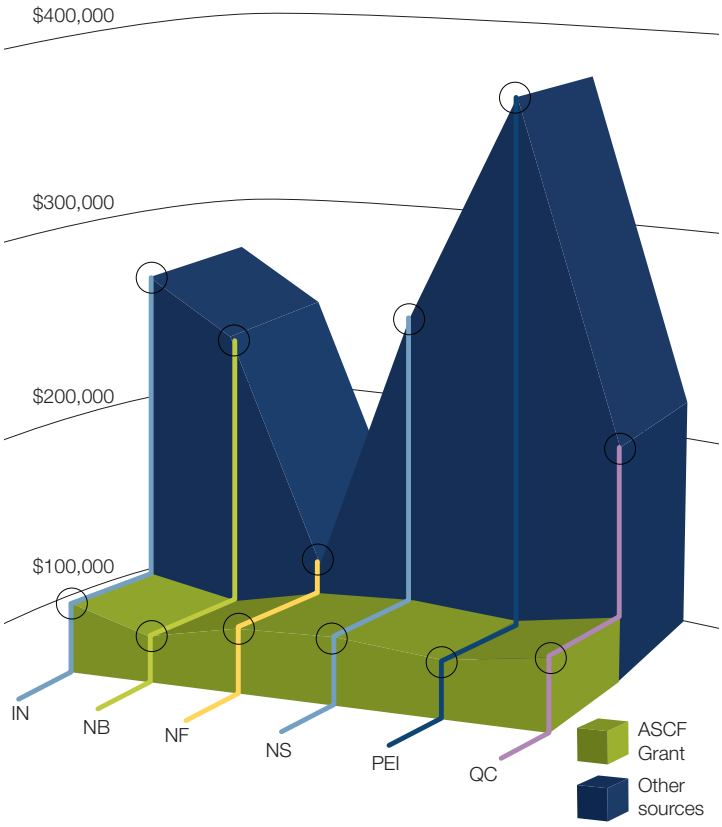
Project Number: NL-2012-01
Exploits River Tributaries Restoration - 2012
Recipient: Environment Resources Management Association (ERMA)
Approved Grant Amount: **$18,000**
Funding provided to date: $18,000
Summary: The project addressed ten sites that were considered to be priorities for restoration. Some of the structures have deteriorated and are collecting debris which over the years has resulted in creating a total obstruction to migrating fish. An accumulated amount of drowned pulpwood or old inactive beaver dams resulted in lost production for spawning and rearing.

NOVA SCOTIA

Project Number: NS-2012-01
Development of the LaHave River watershed management plan: year 1 – West Branch Sub-watershed
Recipient: Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (BCAF)
Approved Grant Amount: **$7,500**
Funding provided to date: $3,750
Summary: Field work on the West Branch Fish Habitat Restoration Plan has been completed. Research regarding such topics as geological characteristics and historical conditions/impacts is being conducted. After all the information has been compiled, a prescription for restoration will be completed and the report finalized.

Project Number: NS-2012-02
Restoration of tributaries in two Antigonish Meadows (Meadow Green on the Pomquet River and Beaver Meadow on the Beaver River)
Recipient: Habitat Unlimited
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $2,500
Summary: Through this project, 1 barrier to fish passage was removed and 5 in-stream structures (1 in Beaver Meadow; 4 in Meadow Green) were installed. A riparian area of 50 m2 was also restored by planting trees. Approximately 25 students from St. FX participated in the project and learned about restoration and stream ecology.

Approved Project Funding Sources



Project Number: NS-2012-03
The St.Francis Harbour River Restoration Project
Project Recipient: Mulgrave & Area Lakes Enhancement Association (MALEA)
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $3,750
Summary: In-steam structures (i.e. digger logs and/or deflectors) have been constructed at 18 sites. As well, armouring of the adjacent banks in the close proximately of the structure has also been completed. A number of debris jams have also been removed. On average, the tributary is 7 metres wide with an average spacing between structures of 6 to 7 channel widths.

Project Number: NS-2012-04
Waugh's River habitat enhancement for 2012
Recipient: North Colchester River Restoration

Grants & Status

2012 Project Grants

Association (NCRRA)
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $3,750
Summary: NCRRA has constructed in-stream structures (e.g. deflectors) in the portion of Waugh's River above the new fish ladder. A small streamside incubator has been operated to facilitate the repopulation of the stream with Atlantic salmon. NCRRA has engaged and educated students from local schools in stream restoration techniques and salmon habitat.

Project Number: NS-2012-05
West River (Sheet Harbour) acid mitigation project – end of project monitoring and report
Recipient: Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA)
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $2,500
Summary: Equipment for monitoring river pH and the effects of lime dosing has been purchased, tested and installed in the West River. NSSA is currently negotiating sorting and analysis of previously collected invertebrate samples. In general, the project is on track, and NSSA anticipates progress report will be completed as scheduled.

Project Number: NS-2012-06
River Bank Stabilization, West River, Pictou County
Recipient: Pictou County Rivers Association (PCRA)
Approved Grant Amount: **$7,000**
Funding provided to date: $7,000
Summary: The designated section of river bank has been stabilized with rock. The site has been photographed to document pre-stabilization conditions. Trees were also planted along an 8 m buffer strip along the river bank after the armour stone was installed.

Project Number: NS-2012-07
Peverill's Brook habitat restoration project
Recipient: Sackville Rivers Association (SRA)
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $5,000
Summary: To date, 11 structures have been installed and 2 natural features upgraded, for a total of 13 sites completed. The site has been inspected by both DFO and the NS Adopt-a-Stream program and resulted in very favorable feedback.

Project Number: NS-2012-08
Enhancing Cape Breton/Unama'ki Rivers
Recipient: Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UNIR)
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $2,500
Summary: UNIR is working to enhance rivers in Cape Breton by planting native trees (e.g. sugar maple, yellow birch, American beech, American elm, black ash and red oak) along riverbanks to improve natural riparian zones.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Project Number: PEI-2012-01
Restoration of spawning and rearing habitat, including accessibility, for Atlantic Salmon in the West (Eliot) River Watershed
Recipient: Central Queens Branch of PEI Wildlife Federation
Approved Grant Amount: **$57,000** (over three years)
Funding provided to date: $14,250
Summary: CQWF has cleaned out an existing sediment trap, built 15 brushmats, cleared alders and other obstructions from 3.5 km of stream, and planted 1,780 native trees and shrubs. Six logs have been added to stream reaches flushed of sediment last year. Education and outreach efforts have been successful with several volunteer events and a new website.

Project Number: PEI-2012-02
Restoration of the Atlantic Salmon population of Bristol Creek, Kings County, PEI
Recipient: Morell River Management Co-op
Approved Grant Amount: **$18,000** (over three years)
Funding provided to date: $3,000
Summary: Stream habitat assessments were carried out on 12 km of Bristol Creek. Maps of assessment results were generated and used in the development of a management plan. Stream enhancement work addressed barriers to fish passage and excessive sediment bedload. Access trails were cut, 80 brush mats were installed, and 3 inactive beaver dams were removed.

Project Number: PEI-2012-03
Souris & Area Atlantic Salmon habitat and population restoration project
Recipient: Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation (SWF)
Approved Grant Amount: **$60,000** (over three years)
Funding provided to date: $15,000
Summary: More than 70 km of streams were maintained over 7 watersheds including the removal of blockages, debris, alders and beaver dams. Strategic sites are tested in each watershed to monitor water quality. SWF, in partnership with DFO and PEI Fish & Wildlife Division, returned juvenile wild salmon to PEI's Hay River after a 10 year absence.

Grants & Status

2012 Project Grants

Project Number: PEI-2012-04
Mill River salmon enhancement project
Recipient: Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter
Approved Grant Amount: **$54,000** (over three years)
Funding provided to date: $13,500
Summary: The project began with the planting of approximately 1000 native trees provided by the J. Frank Gaudet tree nursery. Selective debris removal, alder removal and brush mat installation was carried out on the upper reaches of the main branch of Caruthers's Stream. Several log jams were also removed from the lower reaches.

QUÈBEC:

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: **$10,000** (over two years)
Funding provided to date: $2,500
Summary: AMIK completed a literature review and consulted with experts. The interview questionnaires for the stakeholders and the elders are completed, the traditional knowledge collection protocol also. The logistics of the first visits of the 7 communities is completed. AMIK sent an article to the paper Innuvelle about the project and announcements were made on Inuit radios.

Project Number: QC-2012-02
Restoration and enhancement of the Atlantic salmon habitat in the Gouffre river
Recipient : Association de conservation de la Vallée du Gouffre (ACVG)
Approved Grant Amount: **$9,000**
Funding provided to date: $9,000
Summary: The total project enabled the removal of all obstructions in the area of the inventory, that is a distance of 10 kilometres. All fallen trees were also removed from the river. All spawning sites are now accessible to salmon.

Project Number: QC-2012-03
Atlantic salmon survival rate of the Petit-Saguenay River
Recipient : Association de la rivière Petit-Saguenay (ARPS)
Approved Grant Amount: **$16,000**
Funding provided to date: $12,000
Summary: The launching of the Charter for the protection of the Atlantic salmon in the Petit-Saguenay River captured huge publicity for the project. Fishers, citizens and businesses got their certification. The second objective, that is the improvement of the fishers behaviour by the publication of practical knowledge and the establishment of an assessment system of the releases, has also been achieved.

Project Number: QC-2012-04
Access of the salmon to the Escoumins river tributaries
Recipient : Corporation de gestion de la rivière à saumon des Escoumins (CGRSE)
Approved Grant Amount: **$8,500**
Funding provided to date: $4,250
Summary: All of the tributaries of the Escoumins Rivers with a strong potential for good salmon habitat were characterized and analyzed. Awareness of the project was also raised with land users, the forestry company Boisaco, the Association of Trappers of the North Shore and the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife.

Project Number: QC-2012-05
The creation of an "enhancement and development corporation" of the Sheldrake River regrouping different stakeholders from the area
Recipient : Municipality of Rivière-au-Tonnerre
Approved Grant Amount: **$5,000**
Funding provided to date: $3,750
Summary: A public information meeting was held in the village of Sheldrake. Those present showed interest for reactivating the Association for the Development and Protection of the Sheldrake River (ADPRS).

Project Number: QC-2012-06
Implementation and operation of a youth summer camp (12 to 15 years of age) on the salmon rivers of the Baie-des-Chaleurs
Recipient : Association des pêcheurs sportifs de la Bonaventure (APSB)
Approved Grant Amount: **$6,500**
Funding provided to date: $4,875
Summary: In partnership with the Maison des Jeunes Point-de-Mire de Verdun, l'APSB directed a four day trip on Bonaventure River. Twelve youngsters aged between 12 to 15 years attended the camp. They developed an appreciation for the importance of salmon conservation. The participants stayed at the Camping de la ZEC of Bonaventure River.

Grants & Status

2009 to 2011 Project Grants

2009 to 2011 Project Grants

Note: *This statement reflects only those projects that remain open or are not yet complete. All other projects approved in 2009 to 2011 are complete. All 2008 projects are complete.*

2009

Project Number: QC-2009-01 (Quebec)
Enhancement of Katchapahun, located 140 km from the mouth of the Moisie River
Recipient: Moisie River Protection Association
Approved Grant Amount: **$13,500**
Funding provided to date: $10,810
Summary: Progress achieved to October 2009. Installed a lift system and repaired some of the walls in the Katchapahun fish-way of Moisie River. Due to problems with materials, the project has been delayed. The deadline has been extended to November 30, 2013.

2010

Project Number: NL-2010-02 (Newfoundland and Labrador)
Miawpukek First Nation Little River Atlantic salmon enhancement habitat colonization study
Recipient: Miawpukek First Nation
Approved Grant Amount: **$12,300**
Funding provided to date: $6,150
Summary: After a year's delay due to hurricane Igor, the Little River project has come to its conclusion. Twelve salmon collected from the counting fence were tagged and released above the obstructions on the river. Remote sensing and manual tracking has revealed that after transfer, salmon continue to use the inaccessible areas open up to them by this transfer.

Project Number: QC-2010-01 (Quebec)
Assessing the impact of the algae Didmosphenia geminata on habitat selection and growth of juvenile salmon in the watershed of the Restigouche River
Recipient: Organisme de bassin versant Matapédia-Restigouche
Approved Grant Amount: **$45,000** (over two years)
Funding provided to date: $37,500
Summary: A map of observations of didymo in the watershed has been produced. A complete summary of observations of the magnitude and distribution of the algae didymo has been completed. OBVMR has undertaken a rigorous analysis of the issue of the algae didymo and its impact on juvenile Atlantic salmon.

2011

Project Number: NL-2011-02 (Newfoundland and Labrador)
Rattling Brook Salmon Restoration Project
Recipient: Norris Arm Economic Development Association (NAEDA)
Approved Grant Amount: **$105,000** (over three years)
Funding provided to date: $57,977
Summary: NAEDA were able to work with DFO and ERMA to arrange to move their capture site to the Grand Falls Fishway due to the unavailability of fish at Great Rattling Brook this year. They successfully captured and transferred 345 fish. This year fish were placed in 3 new locations at the headwaters of the Rattling Brook: Rothery, Wheeler and Snoopy Ponds.

Project Number: NS-2011-04 (Nova Scotia)
North East Mabou Habitat Restoration
Recipient: Inverness South Angler's Association (ISAA)
Approved Grant Amount: **$17,500** (over three years)
Funding provided to date: $7,750
Summary: ISAA has completed their in-stream work in the North East Mabou area as well as throughout the watershed at Glendyer Brook, Broad Cove River, Foot Cape (Fraser's Brook), Shea's Brook. A report concerning the inventory of structures completed over the past 10 years of restoration work and 5 year plan are being prepared.

PEI: Central Queen's Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation

Summary of Project Audits

Summary of Project Audits and Evaluations

In 2012 random audits of 12 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 2012 the following recipient groups were audited for performance:

Mulgrave & Area Lakes Enhancement Association

Nova Scotia

- Habitat Unlimited
- North Colchester River Restoration Association
- Pictou County Rivers Association

Prince Edward Island

- Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
- Morell River Management Co-Operative
- Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
- Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter

Quebec

- Association des pêcheurs sportifs de la Bonaventure
- Association de conservation de la Vallée du Gouffre
- Association de la rivière Petit-Saguenay
- Corporation de gestion de la rivière à saumon des Escoumins
- Organisme de Bassin versant Matapédia - Restigouche

NB: Kennebecasis Watershed restoration Committee

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, 2012, December 31, 2011 and January 1, 2011, the summary statements of operations and changes in net assets for the years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, are derived from the audited financial statements of The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation for the years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 26, 2013.

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 years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Fredericton, NB
March 26, 2013

Chartered Accountants

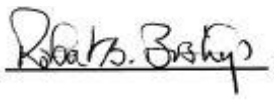
Reports & Statements

Statement of Financial Position

	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2011	January 1, 2011
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 140,667	$ 9,147	$ 31,790
Receivables	14,258	28,367	13,885
Inventory	1,116	1,424	-
Prepaids	852	852	852
	156,893	39,790	46,527
Investments, stated at value	31,361,992	29,114,863	30,086,290
	$ 31,518,885	$ 29,154,653	$ 30,132,817
Liabilities			
Current			
Payables and accruals	$ 207,429	$ 181,514	$ 161,153
Deferred contributions	-	14,389	1,243
	207,429	195,903	162,396
Net Assets			
General Fund – Unrestricted	-	-	-
Reserve Fund – Internally Restricted	125,242	-	-
Endowment Fund – Externally Restricted	31,094,291	28,958,750	29,970,421
ANBL – Externally Restricted	71,377	-	-
PEILCC – Externally Restricted	20,546	-	-
	31,311,456	28,958,750	29,970,421
	$ 31,518,885	$ 29,154,653	$ 30,132,817

Approved on behalf of the Board:

 Director

 Director

Reports & Statements

Statement of Operations and Change in Net Assets

Year ended December 31,	2012	2011
Revenue	$ 3,106,457	$ (270,942)
Expenses		
Administration	269,007	298,956
Grants	329,600	287,850
Investment management fees	155,144	153,923
	753,751	740,729
Excess of revenue over expenses (expenses over revenue)	$ 2,352,706	$ (1,011,671)
Net assets, beginning of year	$ 28,958,750	$ 29,970,421
Excess of revenue over expenses (expenses over revenue)	2,352,706	(1,011,671)
Net assets, end of year	$ 31,311,456	$ 28,958,750

Statement of Remuneration:

For the 2012 Fiscal Year total remuneration paid to one Foundation employee whose remuneration exceeds $100,000 per year was $131,070.22 consisting of the following: Salary =$106,018.90, fees =$0; travel expenses =$9904.45; CPP =$2306.90; EI =$839.97, allowances $0; and, benefits =$12,000).

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

John Bagnall, François Caron, Peter Cronin, Dr. Larry Felt (Chair), Jeff Basque (part), Dr. Jeff Hutchings, David Reddin

2. New Brunswick Advisory Committee

Tom Benjamin (part), Tom Callaghan, Robert Chiasson (Chair), Kathryn Collet, E. Anita Hamilton (part), Donald Humphrey (part), John Pugh (part), Fernand Savoie, Jim Marriner (part), Fred Wheaton (part)

3. Nova Scotia Advisory Committee

Scott Cook (Chair), Alan McNeill, Charles MacInnes, Shane F. O'Neil, Kerry Prosper, Carl Purcell, Kris Hunter, Chuck Thompson

4. Newfoundland & Labrador Advisory Committee

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

5. Prince Edward Island Advisory Committee

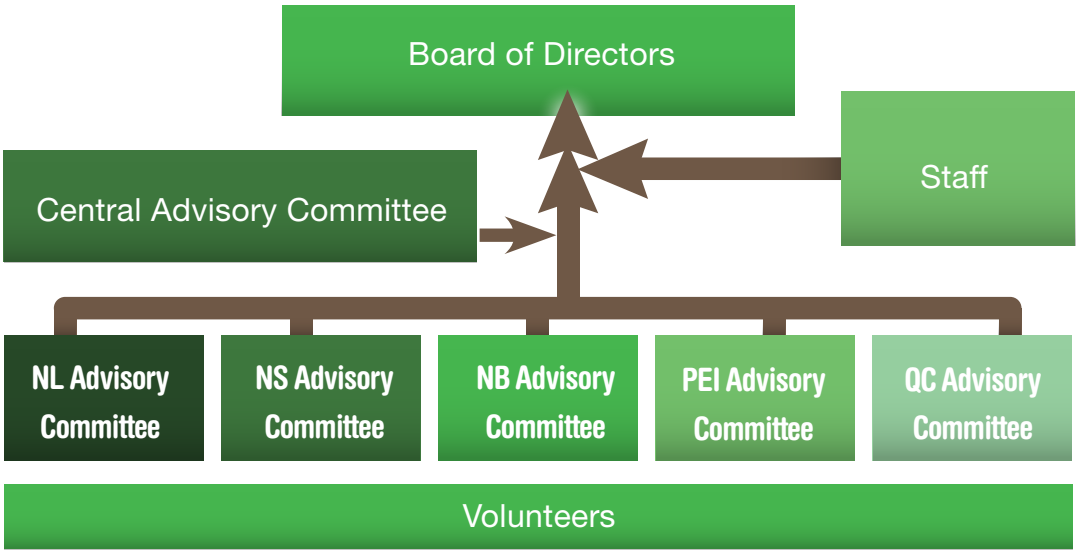
Walter McEwen, Dale Cameron, Steve Cheverie , Delly Keen, Randy Angus, Leaming Murphy, Rosanne MacFarlane (Chair), Allan Ledgerwood

6. Comité consultatif provincial du Québec

George Arsenault (Chair), Normand Bergeron, Michel Damphousse, Stan Georges, René Lafond, Jean-Marie (Jack) Picard, Claude Théberge, Patrick Plante

ASCF Personnel

ASCF Structural Model



Conservation Partners

The 2012 List of Our Conservation Partners

Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht
Association de conservation de la Vallée du Gouffre
Association de la rivière Petit-Saguenay
Association des Pêcheurs Sportifs de la Bonaventure
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Bishop's Falls Tim-Br Mart
Bluenose Coastal Action Fund
Caisse Populaire Quatre-Vents de Bonaventure
Canadian Forest Service
Cascapedia Society
Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
Clean Nova Scotia
Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative & Collaborative Salmon Initiative
Conférence Régionale des Élus (Programme Volet II)
Conseil de gestion du bassin versant de la rivière Restigouche
Conseil de recherche en sciences naturelles et en génie
Conseils de bande de Essipit, Pessamit, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, Ekuanitshit, Nutashkuan, Unamen Shipu et Pakua Shipi
Corporation de gestion de la rivière à saumons des Escoumins
Domaine Laforest
Eastern Shore Wildlife Association
EcoAction Community Funding Program
Écoles primaires de Pessamit, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam (2), Ekuanitshit, Nutashkuan
Écoles secondaires de Pessamit, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, Ekuanitshit, Nutashkuan, Unamen Shipu et Pakua Shipi
Eel River Bar First Nation
Eel River Crossing Municipality
Employment Development Agency
Environment Canada
Environment Resources Management Association
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Fondation de la faune du Québec
Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologie
Fort Folly Habitat Recovery, Fort Folly First Nation
Forum jeunesse Côte-Nord
Gesgapegiag First Nation
Habitat Unlimited
Halifax Regional Municipality
Hammond River Angling Association

Conservation Partners

The 2012 List of Our Conservation Partners

Hans Rauh & Son Construction
Institut national de la recherche scientifique
Institut Tshakapesh
Inverness South Anglers Association
Island Nature Trust
Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee
LaHave River Salmon Association
Listiguj First Nation
Ministère des ressources naturelles et de la faune du Québec
Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs du Québec
Miramichi Salmon Association
Morell River Management Coop
Mountain Equipment Coop
Mulgrave & Area Lakes Enhancement Association
Municipalité de Petit-Saguenay
Municipalités régionales de comté de Bonaventure (Pacte Rural)
Municipality Of Guysborough
Munipipalité de Rivière-au-Tonnerre
Musée régional de la Côte Nord
Musée Shaputuan
New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources
New Brunswick Department of Supply and Services
New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund
New Brunswick Salmon Council

PEI: Central Queens Branch PEI Wildlife Federation

New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund
Newfoundland Power Inc.
Norris Arm & Area Economic Development Committee
Notre Dame Agencies Ltd.
Nova Scotia Community College
Nova Scotia Salmon Association
Nova Scotia Student Career Skills Development Program
Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps
NSLC Adopt-A-Stream Program
Nunatukavut Community Council Labrador
Ocean Tracking Network
Organisme des bassins versants de la Haute-Côte-Nord
PEI Department of Agriculture and Forestry
PEI Department of Environment, Labour & Justice
PEI Department of Environment, Labour and Justice
PEI Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Rural Development
PEI Department of the Environment
PEI Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
PEI Employment Development Agency
Petitcodiac Fish Recovery Coalition
Pictou County Rivers Association
Programme de mise en valeur des habitats du saumon atlantique de la Côte-Nord (FQSA)
Queens University - Paleoecological Environmental Assessment and Research Lab (PEARL)
Regional Councils of ASF
Regroupement des rivières à saumon de la Baie-des-Chaleurs
Restigouche River Watershed Management Council
Sackville Rivers Association
Salmonid Association Eastern Newfoundland
Salmonid Council of Newfoundland and Labrador
Service Canada
Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
St. Francis Xavier University
Stagg Signs
Stan Dawe Limited
Stantec Consulting
Sussex Fish and Game Association
Town of Lunenburg
Town of Norris Arm
Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter
Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
Universal Helicopter Newfoundland Ltd.
University of Prince Edward Island
Watershed Management Fund
Wildlife Conservation Fund
ZEC Nordique