ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation

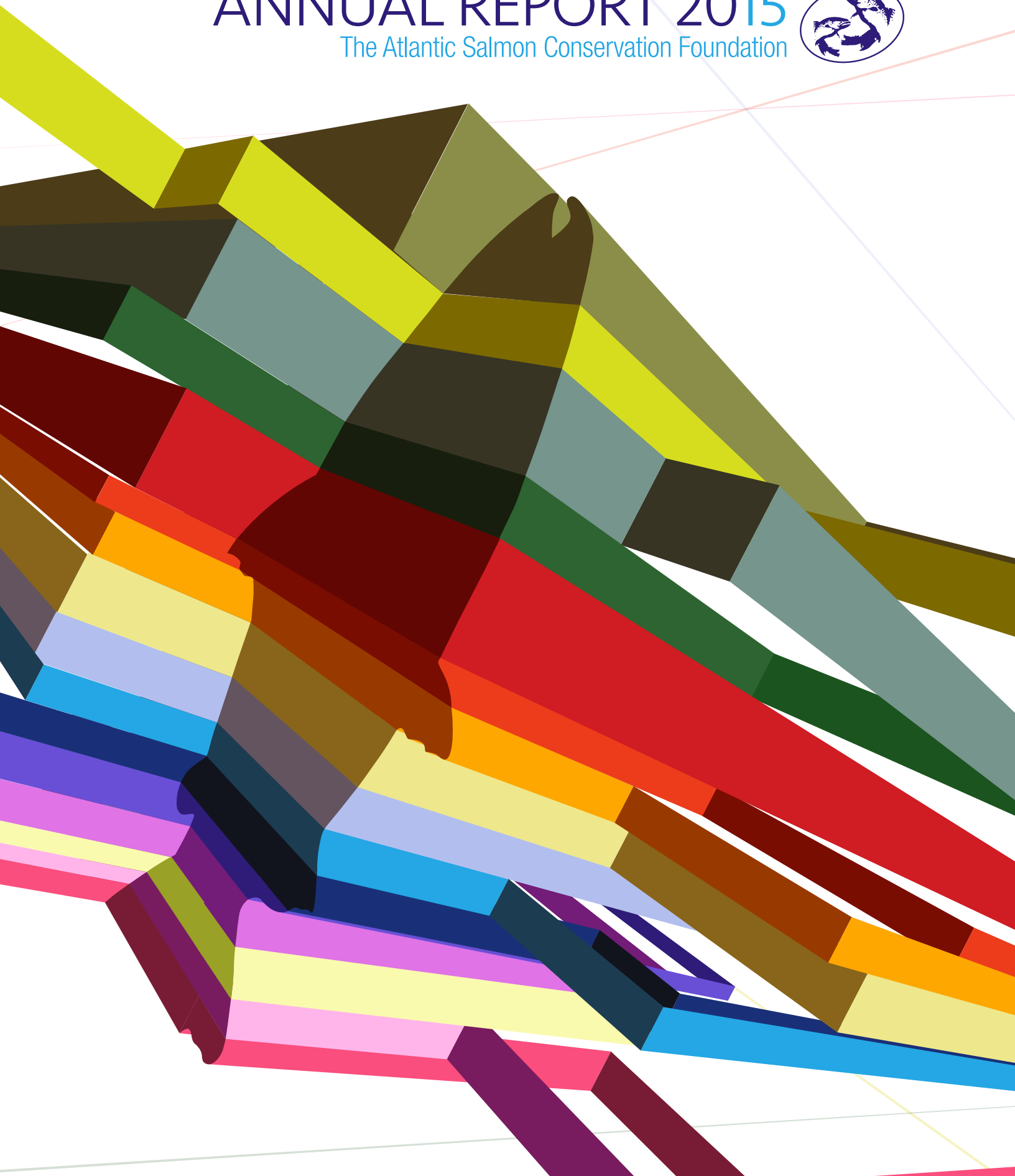


Table of Contents

Annual Report 2015

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 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.

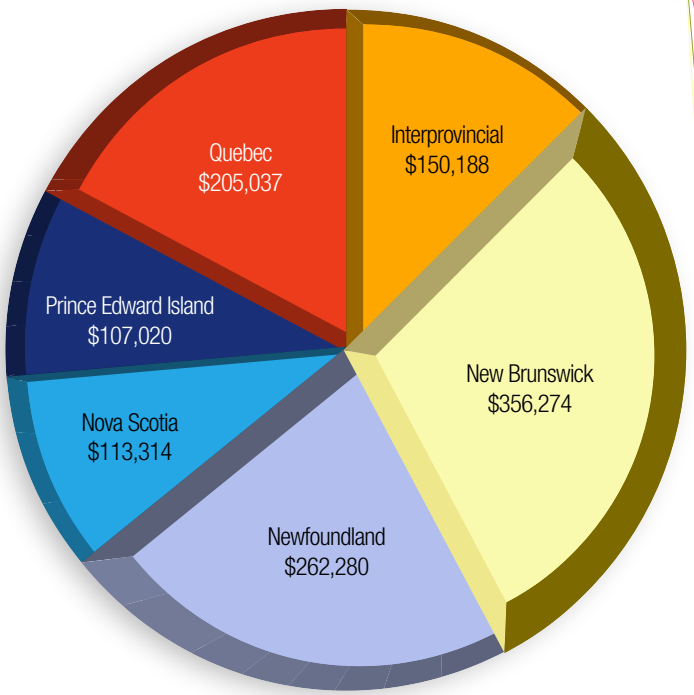
The Foundation has the dual mandate of prudently investing the trust funds to generate income while preserving capital, and ensuring that the organization is well managed so it can provide funding to eligible salmon conservation initiatives in Atlantic Canada and Quebec, in perpetuity.

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 ninth year of operation. In 2015 the Foundation continued to build on the successful operational structure it created over the first eight 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 eighth round of grants in support of community salmon conservation projects as well as the 2016 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 Amounts Approved in in 2015

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.

In 2012 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 online 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.

Advisory Committees

The Foundation relies heavily on its volunteer 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 of the many interests in wild salmon conservation as well as partnership among them. Most importantly, our advisory committees ensure the Foundation receives excellent advice in recommending conservation projects that respond to the unique salmon conservation imperatives faced in each of the five provinces.

There are six advisory committees consisting of a Scientific Advisory Committee and five Provincial Advisory Committees. Each appointee to these committees is an expert volunteer identified in consultation with stakeholder groups and governments. Our advisory committees have proven to be a very successful way of including people in our decision-making processes and ensuring full transparency in the granting process.

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is the Foundation's newest innovation in helping ensure wise investments are made in scientific projects. This is a natural evolution of the former Central Advisory Committee, and the SAC retains the role of assisting the Board of Directors in maintaining effective policy, procedures and strategic direction. The SAC is comprised primarily of eminent scientists capable of guiding the Foundation as it moves to strategically target scientific projects that will make a difference in salmon conservation.

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

Helping to create positive change.

On the verge of our tenth year of operation, excellence has been our watchword as we help facilitate the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon pursue throughout the domain of this iconic species in Canada. We strive for excellence in all of our processes and in bringing forward the innovations we have introduced. We are constantly seeking improvement, not just because it's always good to improve, but because we also gain optimum use of the precious conservation funds with which we are entrusted as a foundation.

2015 was our ninth year of operation as The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation. The year brought many new gains in conservation results, as well some new innovations in improving salmon conservation, and in new partnerships we are forging. We are not prepared to rest on our laurels as an solid conservation organization. Rather, we plan to continue to raise the bar in facilitating improved conservation action, and in sharing information to help others gain from our experience.

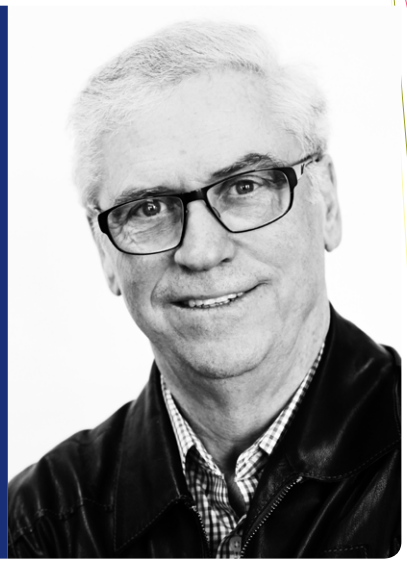
2015 was the second year in which we were able to offer over $1 million in grant funding. That objective was one of the original goals our foundation set for itself when we opened our doors in 2007. Now that we have achieved our million dollar target we firmly intend to maintain that level of funding into the future.

Our partnerships are very important to us, and we could not do our work without seeking and nurturing collaboration and cooperation. Partnership on many levels is central to our business approach, whereby the contribution of individuals may be focussed to gain greater conservation results. We take great pride in our partnerships with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, provincial governments, First Nations, municipalities and the community groups we assist. We are especially indebted to our NB Liquor Corporation and PEL Liquor Control Commission partners for significantly adding to the pool of funds available for conservation projects. Every partner is doing their bit to promote and sustain wild Atlantic salmon conservation.

Memorial University

"We are what we repeatedly do; excellence, then, is not an act but a habit."

- Aristotle



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

The greatest partnership we have, however, lies in our pool of over 60 expert volunteers who serve on our Board of Directors and who serve on our six expert advisory committees. These dedicated volunteers are the reason why we are able to continually strengthen our foundation's ability to fulfil its mission, fund high quality conservation projects and to pursue excellence.

We are also indebted to the day to day efforts of our talented staff. They ensure we continually improve and innovate through strong management, based on progressive policy, plans and priorities, as we help address the many challenges facing wild Atlantic salmon in Canada.

Working together among the conservation community, our volunteers and our staff is the key to helping fulfil our vision of being one of the world's most supportive wild Atlantic salmon conservation organizations!

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

Executive Director's Report

Moving toward our goal of making a real difference.

As we stand poised on our tenth year in operation, it's rewarding to reflect back upon our ninth year – 2015, and all the preceding years of progress we have made as a Foundation helping people pursue first class salmon conservation. All in all, there's no doubt that the ASCF has helped advance conservation of Canada's wild Atlantic salmon in many, measurable ways.

Over the years, we have established a solid approach to business based on a few simple, but important, principles: Partnership, Planning, Priority Setting, and Performance Measurement. These principles represent the essential elements of the Foundation's business model. Working with our conservation partner recipient groups according to these principle has led to clear conservation gains in several critical areas.

As staff delivering the Foundation's conservation program, we strive to facilitate the work of recipient groups to help them realize their conservation goals. We discuss project objectives, agree on performance measures for each objective then stay in contact as the project unfolds. We celebrate the success attained by our partner groups, and we support them if they encounter problems. In our view, that's the essence of partnership.

The ASCF follows a fiscally prudent, long-term financial plan. 2015 witnessed a record sixty five new conservation project grants, bringing our overall seven-year contributions to $3.6 million and funded project total to 276. Because we are careful in funding the best funding proposals, our leveraging (cash and in-kind) exceeded an overall $18.3 million, with five to one leveraging. Importantly, ASCF project funding has helped sustain well over 1000 jobs over the years, primarily seasonal and student workers. These jobs are an important and very significant contribution to a rural economies, while helping young people gain job experience.

Shediac Bay Watershed Association

"...delivering the Foundation's conservation program, we strive to facilitate the work of recipient groups to help them realize their conservation goals."

Stephen Chase
Executive Director ASCF

The year also witnessed significant 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 that yielded a solid $65,000 in 2015. Conservation projects in PEI were also rewarded through our partnership with the PEI Liquor Control Commission's "*Island Rivers-Worth Protecting*" sale, which completed another year at $19,700 in our 5-year partnership. These are exceptional examples of corporate partnership dedicated to improving the natural environment.

In new developments, in October we were excited to launch the "Salmon Hub" which will become our free, web-based one-stop shop for wild Atlantic salmon conservation information. All of the projects we fund have stories and information to share so we are building upon our capacity to share information. Our goal is for the "Salmon Hub" to evolve into the "go-to" source of information, conservation techniques and guidance for everyone interested in salmon conservation.

Meeting our challenges and embarking on new directions makes our work so rewarding. It also keeps us moving toward realizing our goal of making a "real difference" in salmon conservation.

Stephen Chase
Executive Director ASCF

Foundation Objectives 2015

The following objectives were stated in the 2015 Business Plan

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

2015 Actions: The Foundation's investment portfolio is managed in accordance with a very prudent long-term investment and financial management plan overseen by the Investment Committee. This plan conforms to an Investment Policy and an Investment Strategy developed pursuant to the requirements of the Funding Agreement with the Government. This approach to investment and fiscal management enables the Foundation to ensure a minimum of $1 million dollars is available for project funding on a go-forward basis.

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.

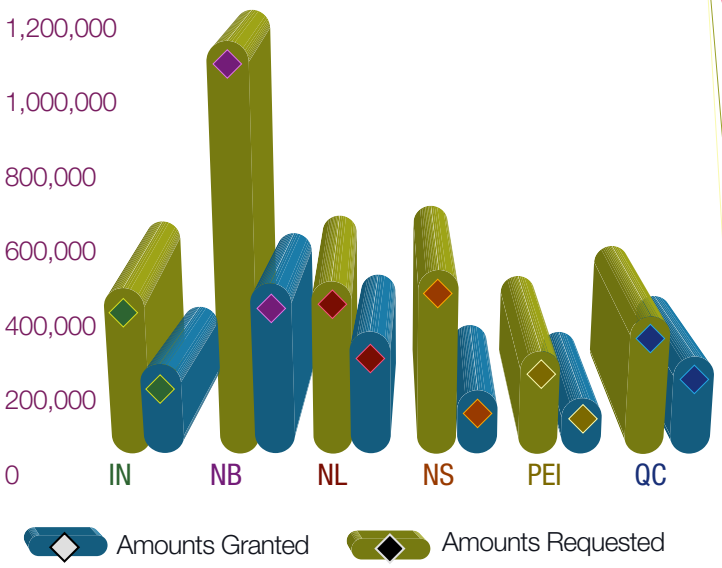
The Foundation has been successful in restoring the market value of the trust fund to exceed the inflation adjusted book value of the fund by 2014. This permitted the Foundation to increase the annual grant pool to $1 million, and to create a reserve fund to ensure the Foundation's ability to continue to be able to provide $1 million in grant funding each year into the future. In 2015 the financial markets demonstrated flat growth, although at year end the market value of the trust fund still exceeded adjusted book value.

In addition, in late 2015 the Board, after careful and long-term review, decided to replace one of the two investment management firms with whom half of the original trust fund had been invested, with two firms demonstrating stronger track-records. This is expected to permit greater flexibility in managing trust funds and improved growth for the future.

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

2015 Actions: As at 31 December 2015 the market value of the fund was reported as just over $38 million. As noted above, this placed the market value of the trust fund above the projected 2015 year-end amount as presented in the long-term financial strategy.

The Foundation continues to follow a funding allocation model, based on the early advice of the Scientific 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. The formula also provides $100,000 as a fixed annual amount to fund applied research and other scientific projects.



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

2015 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 Scientific Advisory Committee.

The standard project report for each project grant is designed to reflect the performance of each project and to enable cumulative reporting against the Foundation's performance measures as outlined in the Funding Agreement. The performance measure contribute to a database which has enabled the Foundation to report clearly on its attainment of objectives and other performance criteria. Thus, the Foundation is a results-based management organization. During 2015 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.

Up to and including 2015, 276 salmon conservation projects had been funded by the Foundation through a total investment of $3.6 million in grant funding. Overall, from inception, 570 funding proposals have been received by the Foundation. The total value of these projects, in both cash and in-kind contributions, was over $18.3 million resulting in an overall leveraging benefit of five to one.

Foundation Objectives 2015

The following objectives were stated in the 2015 Business Plan

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

2015 Actions: Throughout 2015 the Foundation carefully followed the direction identified in the communications plan, which is designed to facilitate the Foundation in establishing a distinct profile; building public understanding of wild Atlantic salmon conservation needs, and building public support for salmon conservation.

During the year the Foundation issued periodic press releases and posted items on its website, as well as sending 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 2015 the Foundation provided regular updates to Facebook and Twitter to keep followers informed of developments. The number of followers on both social media increased significantly during the year.

In 2015 the Foundation launched a monthly newsletter featuring announcements and updates on the Foundation, as well as profiles on several advisory committee and Board of Director volunteers. Growth in the number of recipients increased significantly throughout the year with over 400 individuals and organizations receiving the newsletter by year-end.

During 2015 the Foundation partnership with the Canadian Rivers Institute jointly hosted the monthly webinar series on fish and freshwater issues. Several expert individuals from Canada and abroad were invited to present the topics and lead discussion online with regular attendance by representatives of First Nations, NGOs, governments, academic institutions and businesses. The series has provided major new opportunities for information sharing and partnership building. In 2015, 14 webinars were hosted with a total of 817 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.

2015 was the fifth, and final year, for the PEILCC "*Island Rivers – Worth Protecting*" partnership resulting in a three year total contribution of over $96,000 for conservation funding in the province.

In 2015 ANBL held its fourth "*Protect Our Rivers*" sales event which raised $65,000 for a four year combined total of over $370,000 for river conservation in New Brunswick. ANBL has agreed to extend this very successful program an additional three years to 2018.

The Foundation continues to seek corporate partnerships, as a priority.

Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation

2015 Project Profiles • NL

Restoring and improving access to streams and stream habitat.

There were likely some wet feet, but thanks to the muscle and dedication of some volunteers things are literally running a lot smoother because of a stream restoration project undertaken by the Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation.

The project, which received $19,958 in funding from the ASCF, used in-stream structures to minimize a barrier, control the flow of water, and promote pool-riffle creations along 600m of Northwest Brook within the Indian Bay Watershed Management Area.

The project was truly a group effort. IBEC's team of project staff worked with board members and other community volunteers to remove blockages to fish migration, stabilize a section of the stream bank, and install channel velocity mitigations. This involved the removal of two large beaver dams, the installation of in-stream bank stabilization and channelization structures as well as a low head weir to remove a barrier caused by a perched culvert. These enhancements will help improve fish migration and spawning throughout the length of the brook by deepening the stream beds, removing barriers for fish migration and creating resting pools for salmon and trout populations.

The cleanup will also restore access for salmon and trout to spawning and rearing habitat within the headwaters of Northwest Brook, which is critical to restoring access to Northwest Pond – a lake that has long supported salmon and trout populations.

Past events caused some serious issues for this stretch of the watershed area. Historic logging practices have caused many of the banks to be washed out. A large fire also destroyed the surrounding forest causing an issue with surface water runoff. In order to narrow the stream to its natural stream width a tree deflector was placed along the true left bank.

Thanks to some ingenuity, the tree deflector was created using a single piece of timber which was secured with rebar. Geotextile fabric was then draped over the front of the log and along the stream bottom to reduce the possibility of the water creating an undercut. The fabric and log were then covered in rock to secure the materials and create a ramp in front of the structure to divert high waters and ice.

IBEC staff says it's still too soon to predict what the overall effect will be, but they can say the weir is working as anticipated and the water levels are being maintained in the culverts. Most of the work that was done was to mitigate issues that occur during low water levels so they won't be able to make a proper determination on the success until summer 2016.

Overall, the project achieved some impressive results including improving 800 m2 of stream habitat and restoring access to an additional 13 km of streams. Twenty-three volunteers added their efforts to IBEC's team of project staff to meet their restoration goals.

The ASCF also helped to fund another IBEC project with a $5,000 grant - the Bonavista North Stewardship and Enhancement Project - which involves habitat restoration in Indian Bay Big Pond and Number Two River.

This restoration project removed a portion of the dam that has washed away and was creating a partial steam blockage at the mouth of Indian Bay Big Pond. The removal will increase salmon access to the rest of the watershed.

The cleanup will restore access... to spawning and rearing habitat within the headwaters of Northwest Brook, ...critical to restoring access to Northwest Pond – a lake that has long supported salmon and trout populations.

2015 Project Profiles • QC

Regional round table on participatory management of Atlantic salmon by the Innu communities of the North Shore.

No matter what the problem may be, if all of the affected stakeholders are not involved in coming up with a solution it likely won't work out.

That's why the Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht (AMIK) knew a collaborative approach was needed when it came to helping the Atlantic salmon in the region.

The ASCF provided AMIK with a $20,000 grant for the project "Regional round table on participatory management of Atlantic salmon by the Innu communities of the North Shore."

AMIK works with seven Innu communities of the North Shore - Ekuanitshit, Essipit, Nutashkuan, Pakua Shipu, Pessamit, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam and Unamen Shipu.

The round table project was created with the objective to facilitate the implementation of stewardship actions that will reduce the threats to the recovery of Atlantic salmon.

In an assessment published in 2010, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), granted the status of Atlantic salmon (Western North Shore population) as 'special concern'.

The AMIK project helped the seven Innu communities participate in salmon recovery in the spring and summer of 2015. The communities access at least 12 salmon rivers, including

River Escoumins, Betsiamites, Moisie, the Roman, the Natashquan, the Étamamiou, the Musquaro, the Olomane, and the Washicoutai.

"The aim of the project was to facilitate the implementation of conservation measures for the Atlantic salmon that were developed by the Innus in order to reduce the threats concerning the health and the habitat of salmon," says AMIK's Mathieu Marsa.

"The project focuses on the preservation of the Atlantic Salmon in the Innu rivers. In order to implement this global objective, three specific objectives were identified - facilitate the sharing of information and initiate cooperation between the Innu communities represented, the necessity of implementing the traditional knowledge of the Innus within the new initiatives, and the creation of an Innu round table on the Atlantic salmon in order to adopt concerted measures at a regional scale."

Marsa says the first round table with representatives of the seven communities was held on May 28, 2015 to define precisely the first measures that would be implemented in each community.

"In September, our team visited all the seven communities to evaluate all the actions implemented for the protection of this fish. We have also held public meetings in each community to present the project and to identify stakes and ideas to develop new measures of preservation in the future."

"In the end, eleven measures were implemented in the communities. One measure was developed by all seven communities. It is a letter sent to the MPO signed by the seven Innu Chiefs and by Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, which ask for the pursuit of a complete scientific research on the impact of marine fisheries on the Atlantic salmon."

Marsa says the other measures focus on claiming ancestral rights, on the requests of Innu communities to develop cooperation with other concerned groups, strengthening awareness within the communities, and public consultations.

This round table project shows that a lot can be accomplished when everyone comes to the table.

"...our team visited the seven communities to evaluate all the actions implemented for the protection of this fish." - *AMIK's Mathieu Marsa*

2015 Project Profiles • NB

Restoring ecosystem health and increasing progeny fitness through marine reared Atlantic Salmon.

A recent project designed to give a fighting chance to some young wild salmon is paying off in a big way.

Unprecedented results are being seen in follow-up efforts to a successful pilot project involving the release of native adult salmon to Fundy National Park.

The original pilot in 2009-2013 resulted in 20-year highs in adult observations. Building off of that the CRI is looking to determine the cascading positive effects of those releases on the ecosystem integrity and resulting population fitness.

The three year project - "Restoring ecosystem health and increasing progeny fitness through marine reared Atlantic Salmon" - is already showing positive results.

The project, which will receive a total of $84,000 over the three years from the ASCF, includes collecting wild-exposed smolt from the river which are transported to marine cages where they are raised to adulthood before being returned to the river.

"So far this year we saw some unprecedented results, including the release of 400 adult inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon to the Upper Salmon River in Fundy National Park," says the CRI's Kurt Samways. "We tagged all released fish with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags, which allows us to track the movements including out-migration and over-wintering of fish. We also radio tagged 20 adult salmon. Actively tracking these fish provides data regarding where salmon spawn within this river and their survival after spawning. Based on the current movements, adults are migrating up the river to areas known to be historic spawning locations."

The numbers of Atlantic salmon within many New Brunswick rivers are at historically low levels, with low numbers of smolts and far fewer returning adults. Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon populations have declined by 90-percent or more in recent years putting these fish at risk of extinction.

This project is anticipated to tag and release a projected 500-1000 native adult salmon into the Upper Salmon River annually from 2015 through 2018. Those adults will be allowed to spawn naturally and produce large numbers of juveniles with an estimated 4900-6000 smolts (over three years) leaving the river in future years.

Samways says returning adult salmon - including the cage reared adults they released- deliver marine-derived nutrients which drives freshwater productivity.

> "So far... we saw unprecedented results, including the release of 400 adult inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon to the Upper Salmon River in Fundy National Park,"
>
> *Kurt Samways, Canadian Rivers Institute*

"In addition to monitoring the adult population within the river, we are also monitoring the ecological state of the river to assess the impact of having a large spawning population of salmon in the river again. We have collected all of the baseline (pre-adult) samples which we will then compare samples collected post-spawn to measure any ecological effects."

Samways says this project will assess the effectiveness of releasing wild, marine pen reared adult Atlantic salmon as a conservation and restoration tool. He notes the general effects are widely applicable to all salmon producing rivers which are increasingly dealing with declining salmon populations.

He adds a more advanced understanding of the role that Atlantic salmon play in freshwater ecosystems is crucial for a comprehensive approach to mitigate the limiting factors associated with salmon production and survival in freshwaters.

"The annual returns of adult Atlantic salmon, both natural and artificial, are critically important for sustaining productivity, both regionally and throughout Atlantic Canada. Carrying capacity for Atlantic salmon depends on properly functioning biogeochemical cycles and diverse food webs, both of which are strongly dependent on Atlantic salmon."

2015 Project Profiles • NS

The Coastal Action crew assessed close to 200 stream crossings in the Main River sub-watershed.

Conservation workers sometimes come across a few surprises when they're out in the field. This year's "check this out!" moment for the crew from the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (Coastal Action) was the discovery of a house in Bridgewater that was built directly over a stream!

The Coastal Action crew assessed close to 200 stream crossings in the Main River sub-watershed as part of the organization's 2015 LaHave River watershed project to develop a restoration plan for this important sub-watershed.

The Main River sub-watershed "is a significant gateway to the rest of the LaHave River watershed, making its aquatic connectivity a critical factor to investigate," says Fredericks, a project coordinator with Coastal Action. "That's one of the reasons we decided to take a new approach this year and focus on the network of stream crossings throughout the entire sub-watershed. The assessment would give us a sound understanding of aquatic connectivity and quickly identify areas in need of further assessment or restoration."

The Main River sub-watershed "is a significant gateway to the rest of the LaHave River watershed, making its aquatic connectivity a critical factor to investigate."

- Shanna Fredericks, Coastal Action

Efficiency was another reason for the new approach. "It also allowed us to cover the entire sub-watershed within the field season," says Fredericks.

It was a sound plan. Field workers identified a number of crossings in need of remediation. The work on five of them was completed this fall and access to a significant amount of upstream fish habitat was restored.

Coastal Action received $14,000 from ASCF this year, for not only the Main River sub-watershed work, but for restoration of fish habitat in the West Branch sub-watershed, as well.

"Over the years, this group has prepared and implemented multiple watershed management plans with funding from ASCF," says Stephen Chase, ASCF's executive director. "Coastal Action's work is a shining example of ASCF's mission to promote and fund watershed planning as an important conservation tool to ensure efficient and effective use of limited resources."

The work on the West Branch sub-watershed concentrated on a 560-meter tributary flowing from New Canada Lake to Wagner Lake. This time the crew had a "no surprise" experience when they discovered a pile of trash that had been dumped down the slope from the side of the road.

"We found tires, fishing gear, car parts, paint cans, farming equipment and a wide variety of other items," Fredericks recounts. In addition to a dumpster full of garbage, about 1000 pounds of scrap metal was also removed and sent to be recycled.

Other initiatives completed in the West Branch sub-watershed included the removal of a debris blockage and assessment and improvement of a wooden box culvert. In both cases, fish passage was restored.

The group did get a bit of a surprise when one landowner was highly opposed to the work proposed for a stream adjacent to her property.

"For the most part, landowners have been very positive and helpful," says Fredericks. Ever resourceful, she and her crew quickly switched gears and developed a new project, choosing to work on Ross Brook in the Main River sub-watershed.

"We improved fish habitat along 500 meters of stream when we installed two digger logs and a deflector, thinned alders, removed a debris blockage and did a significant amount of step-pool habitat restoration work."

In total, Coastal Action restored some 8,000 m2 of fish habitat this year and has developed a detailed plan for future work in the Main River sub-watershed. With over 1,700 km² to work on, they're sure to uncover a few more surprises!

2015 Project Profiles • PEI

On PEI, back to basics hard work improved habitat in Mill River watershed.

With all of the news about declining wild Atlantic salmon stocks over the past few years, it's hard to imagine that that there are any success stories when it comes to the iconic "king of the fighting fish." But there are, and some of them are the result of the diligent work of the Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation (SAB).

"SAB has achieved many positive results, with significantly improved salmon returns since they began habitat restoration work in their management area," says Stephen Chase, executive director of ASCF.

That management area covers approximately 62,000 hectares (about 12 percent of PEI) and includes some 27 watersheds.

Since 2009, ASCF had supported SAB's work in these watersheds with over $153,700 in funding. And the results have been impressive, with significant habitat restored, and increased salmon stocks in North Lake Creek, Cross River, Priest Pond Creek and Naufrage River.

"Back in 2008, the total redd count in those four rivers was just 431, and they were considered the best salmon rivers on PEI," says Fred Cheverie, Watershed Coordinator of SAB. "Those waterways were then, and still are, in dire need of nurturing and continuous enhancement." Thanks to SAB's efforts, that's just what they've been getting. And the results have been excellent, with redd counts having almost quadrupled to some 1205 in 2013.

"Even more impressive are the results SAB has realized in the Cow, Bear and Hay rivers, waterways where studies indicated that salmon had all but disappeared since 2002," says Stephen Chase. In 2011, when SAB first started counting, there were just five redds in those rivers; in 2013 there were 109.

How has SAB managed to achieve these results?

"Our experience indicates that what is 'tried, tested and true' is the route to follow," says Fred Cheverie. "Our salmon numbers have shown annual increases in each of our systems, so we continue to do what works: brush matting, installation of digger logs and baffles, thinning alders or planting trees on riverbanks, removing blockages such as beaver dams, debris and blowdowns; generally doing anything and everything to improve fish habitat."

"That's the kind of straightforward watershed improvement and management that leads to success," says Stephen Chase, success that has been recognized municipally and provincially, and in 2012 garnered SAB the "Canada's Recreational Fisheries Award" presented by Fisheries and Oceans Canada for their "outstanding contribution to the conservation and protection of the recreational fisheries."

"We feel that we share that award with everyone who has been involved with SAB through the years," says Cheverie. "We are fortunate to have the cooperation and assistance of landowners, and an army of volunteers and supporters who do everything from assisting us in the field to organizing and providing all the goods for our annual fundraising dinner (for example, the lobster – 600 pounds of it – was donated by 56 fishers from five harbours located in our management area)."

> Our experience indicates that what is 'tried, tested and true' is the route to follow,"
>
> - *Fred Cheverie, SAB*

That kind of support is the result not only of SAB's hard work and positive results in the field, but also of its efforts to engage its community through outreach programs in area schools, tours and public presentations, as well as via its constantly updated website and Facebook page, its quarterly newsletter, and its outreach to media.

"We also owe our success to excellent funding support, including that from ASCF," Cheverie adds.

"Our experience with the ASCF has proven highly rewarding. Since entering our initial partnership in 2009, we have been able to produce incredible results. This success can be attributed to the commitment of ASCF to funding rehabilitation initiatives and supporting new and innovative efforts.

"We look forward to even more, and greater, successes in the future."

2015 Project Profiles • Interprovincial

Building a water temperature monitoring network in Canadian Atlantic salmon rivers.

Not too warm, and not too cold; the water temperature needs to be just right to in order for Atlantic salmon to thrive.

Monitoring the temperature in numerous waterways is one of the projects the National Institute of Scientific Research (INRS) has on the go.

In 2014 the organization received a three year grant totalling $75,000 from the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation. The project involves building a water temperature monitoring network in Canadian Atlantic salmon rivers.

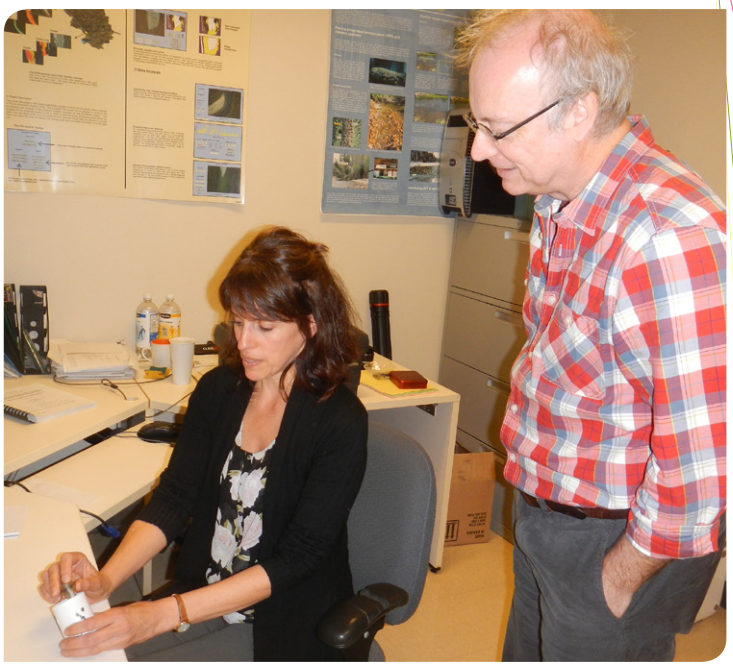
Atlantic salmon is a stenothermal fish – that means it can tolerate a relatively narrow range of temperatures. And although water temperature is monitored in some rivers, Eastern Canada does not have a structured river temperature network. There is no concerted effort to provide consistent thermal information that is relevant for fishery management. The INRS team is working on establishing a network of water temperature monitoring stations with centralized data management. Selected rivers in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador will be part of the project.

The INRS team notes, "that the temperature of the river is one of the hydro-climatic factors determining the health and survival of Atlantic salmon at different stages of life. However, water temperature is monitored only in few rivers in Eastern Canada and these measurements are not fully structured within a network. This lack of basic information may limit our ability to send out thermal exceedance alerts, for example."

The end goal of the project is to construct an optimal and sustainable temperature monitoring network with the participation of stakeholders that delivers key management and conservation information for Atlantic salmon and its habitat. That will be achieved by following three main objectives - coordinating various organizations concerned with water temperature issues in Atlantic salmon rivers, establishing a network of water temperature monitoring stations with a centralized database, and providing a common monitoring protocol.

To date, the INRS team has identified key partners acting on a large number of salmon rivers in Eastern Canada and has informed them about the project. These various agencies have agreed to participate in the network and to share their data. The team intends to continue the network expansion next year.

The database is one of the outcomes of the project. So far, the INRS has been able to collect data from two provincial agencies (Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) and Direction de l'Expertise Hydrique (DEH) from the Ministère du



"…temperature of the river is one of the hydro-climatic factors determining the health and survival of Atlantic salmon at different stages of life." - *INRS Team*

Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte aux Changements Climatiques (MDDELCC)), Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, INRS, National Defense monitoring stations and from local watershed groups such as Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC) and Groupe des Bassins versants de la Baie des Chaleurs (BVBC).

As of December 1, 2015, the database contained 304,058 daily temperature data entries from 478 monitoring stations (opened and closed stations) distributed over 186 rivers and 62 watersheds.

The INRS team is pleased that awareness about river temperatures and its impact on recreational fisheries is growing, noting that the networking of people sharing information and the centralization of data within a main database comes at a right time.

The network and its database is expected to grow year over the next year. It is also expected that the network and its dataset will help to identify trends in water temperature, draw links between climate, watershed activities and water temperature, and promote new management strategies.

Grants & Status

2015 Project Grants

Interprovincial

Project Number: IN-2014-03
Project Recipient: Institut national de la recherche scientifique
Project Title: Building a water temperature monitoring network in Canadian Atlantic salmon rivers.
Approved Grant Amount: $75,000 *(year 2 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $41,185
Summary: Atlantic salmon tolerates a relatively narrow range of temperatures. Although temperature is monitored in some rivers, Eastern Canada does not have a structured river water temperature network. This project will establish a network of water temperature monitoring stations with centralized data management relevant for fishery management.

Project Number: IN-2014-04
Project Recipient: Restigouche River Watershed Management Council
Project Title: Characterization of piscivorous birds predation in Restigouche River estuary using bioenergy analysis approach.
Approved Grant Amount: $44,000 *(year 2 of 2)*
Funding provided to date: $38,500
Summary: This project is characterizing smolt mortality rates in the Restigouche River estuary by piscivorous bird predation during spring migration, particularly the cormorants of Rock Bonamy colony, using a bioenergy model approach to determine the proportion of Atlantic salmon in the cormorants' diet during the smolt's downstream migration.

Project Number: IN-2015-01
Project Recipient: Atlantic Salmon Federation
Project Title: Estimation of post-smolt survival through the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
Approved Grant Amount: $10,000
Funding provided to date: $7,500
Summary: The estimation of survival rates of post-smolt through the Gulf of St. Lawrence requires a calibration of the detection probabilities of the SOBI line. The installation of a second line in close proximity to the original SOBI will resolve the confusion of the survival rates and probability of detection rates and allow the estimation of survival rates through the initial 4 to 6 weeks of migration through the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Project Number: IN-2015-02
Project Recipient: University of New Brunswick (Cunjak)
Project Title: Patterns in the abundance and distribution of Atlantic salmon in Maritime rivers
Approved Grant Amount: $40,000
Funding provided to date: $30,000
Summary: This project is analyzing DFO's electrofishing data and returning adult salmon numbers in the Miramichi and Restigouche Rivers to determine whether spawner estimates correlate with indices of juvenile (parr) abundance and freshwater production (smolts). River warming on juvenile population trends and representivity of DFO electrofishing sites will also be investigated.

Project Number: IN-2015-03
Project Recipient: Canadian Rivers Institute/University of New Brunswick (Gray)
Project Title: ASCF Salmon Hub (Phase II).
Approved Grant Amount: $7,188
Funding provided to date: $7,188
Summary: Phase II for the "go-to" Salmon Hub information portal on the ASCF website further developed this new online tool and expanded on the compilation of informative technical manuals, projects, and scientific literature. Moving forward, Salmon Hub will continue to expand to fill ongoing knowledge gaps for watershed groups.

Project Number: IN-2015-04
Project Recipient: University of New Brunswick (Linnansaari)
Project Title: Migration and survival of smolt, post-spawning (kelt) and adult Atlantic salmon.
Approved Grant Amount: $46,000
Funding provided to date: $34,500
Summary: The project is examining the survival and success of migration of Atlantic salmon through 96 km long Mactaquac reservoir, situated upstream of the Mactaquac Generating Station (MGS) in the Saint John River (SJR). The project is a part of larger research Mactaquac Aquatic Ecosystem Study consortium evaluating the options for the future of MGS that is nearing the end of its service life.

New Brunswick

Project Number: NB-2014-01
Project Recipient: Association des Bassins Versants de la Grande et Petite Rivière Tracadie Inc.
Project Title: Evaluation and strategic planning in Petite rivière Tracadie watershed.
Approved Grant Amount: $33,900 *(year 2 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $22,600
Summary: In 2015, this multiyear project began implementation of the management plan developed in year one. Restoration activities were undertaken in Gaspereau and Thomas Brooks including installation of brush mats to control sedimentation and removal of stream blockages such as inactive beaver dams.

Project Number: NB-2014-05
Project Recipient: Restigouche River Watershed Management Council
Project Title: Salmon stocks restoration and education on Little Main Restigouche.

Grants & Status

2015 Project Grants

Approved Grant Amount: $25,000 *(year 2 of 2)*
Funding provided to date: $18,750
Summary: This project is focusing on the implementation of a management plan for the Little Main Restigouche watershed. The main goals include temporary dismantling of targeted beaver dams, reduction of forest roads negative impacts from sedimentation and development of an interpretation trail of Atlantic salmon along Hailes Brook.

Project Number: NB-2014-11
Project Recipient: Meduxnekeag River Association Inc.
Project Title: Meduxnekeag Watershed Salmon Habitat Restoration Plan.
Approved Grant Amount: $15,000 *(year 2 of 2)*
Funding provided to date: $13,750
Summary: MRA is participating in the development of a trans-border salmon habitat restoration plan for the Meduxnekeag watershed, a process being facilitated through a partnership between the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. MRA's involvement and support is integral to the long-term potential completing this planning process in other portions of the St. John River Watershed.

Project Number: NB-2014-16
Project Recipient: Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance
Project Title: Broken Brooks: Monitoring and Restoration activities in the Petitcodiac River.
Approved Grant Amount: $60,000 *(year 2 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $40,000
Summary: PWA is monitoring, restoring and enhancing salmon habitat and numbers. The assessment of potential fish passage barriers in the watershed is also being completed. Aquatic connectivity assessments are focusing on culverts on fish bearing streams within the watershed. Restoration plans are being created and some rehabilitation is occuring to restore fish passage.

Project Number: NB-2015-01
Project Recipient: The Chaleur Bay Watersheds Group
Project Title: Atlantic salmon habitat restoration in the Jacquet River.
Approved Grant Amount: $24,000
Funding provided to date: $18,000
Summary: This project improved Atlantic salmon habitat in Jacquet River watershed. Restoration techniques were based on the DFO manual "*Ecological Restoration of Degraded Aquatic Habitats: A Watershed Approach*" and included removal of debris, alder thinning, stabilizing the banks, and adding retaining structures or deflectors on damaged waterstream banks.

Project Number: NB-2015-02
Project Recipient: Restigouche River Watershed Management Council
Project Title: Stabilization of one bank using plant-based engineering and rip-rap techniques – Little Main Restigouche River.
Approved Grant Amount: $40,000
Funding provided to date: $39,263
Summary: This project used various bank stabilizing techniques to restore riparian habitat along 240 m of Little Main, Restigouche. The work, based on a geomorphologic study of the site, included reduction of the bank slope, installation of rip rap and bioengineering techniques.

Project Number: NB-2015-03
Project Recipient: Restigouche River Watershed Management Council
Project Title: Fall count of brood salmon – Restigouche River.
Approved Grant Amount: $31,200 *(year 1 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $7,800
Summary: This multi-year project is using a fall count method in spawning areas of rivers and brooks within the watersheds of Upsalquitch, Kegwick, Little Main Restigouche and Restigouche. This project is also aiming to improve evaluation techniques of conservation by comparing with modern stock evaluation methods.

Project Number: NB-2015-04
Project Recipient: Eel River Bar First Nation
Project Title: Eel River Recovery Project.
Approved Grant Amount: $20,000
Funding provided to date: $10,000
Summary: This project is implementing activities within the Recovery Plan for the Eel River including electrofishing surveys, habitat inventories, electrofishing surveys, potential stocking sites recommendations, restoration of access of wild Atlantic salmon, Fish Friends Program, public information sessions and tree planting.

Project Number: NB-2015-05
Project Recipient: Fort Folly First Nation
Project Title: Restoring Atlantic Salmon to the Petitcodiac River: An Inner Bay of Fundy Wild Salmon Recovery Project .
Approved Grant Amount: $30,000
Funding provided to date: $15,000
Summary: This project worked to improve salmon populations in the Petitcodiac River by capturing smolt from Petitcodiac tributaries, rearing them to maturity at sea along with live gene bank smolt, and returning mature adults to their spawning grounds to spawn. Electrofishing surveys, smolt run monitoring, fyke net captures, snorkel surveys and redd counts were used to monitor the population.

Grants & Status

2015 Project Grants

Project Number: NB-2015-06
Project Recipient: Friends of the Kouchibouguacis
Project Title: Atlantic Salmon-Kouchibouguacis watershed (education, egg incubation, restoration and monitoring).
Approved Grant Amount: $20,000
Funding provided to date: $20,000
Summary: This project worked to benefit Atlantic salmon and its habitat in the Kouchibouguacis River watershed. Different monitoring methods were used to collect data on population, migration, age, water quality and habitat. Brood stock were collected for incubation purposes. Restoration plans were developed and education and outreach activities were held in the community and schools.

Project Number: NB-2015-07
Project Recipient: Hammond River Angling Assoication
Project Title: Hammond River Smolt Assessment.
Approved Grant Amount: $2,000
Funding provided to date: $2,500
Summary: A smolt wheel was installed on the Hammond River to allow for a mark-recapture survey. The ongoing smolt assessment, in conjunction with long-term data on juvenile and adult salmon life stages, helped to increase the understanding of documented population declines and will contribute to future management decisions to better protect this species.

Project Number: NB-2015-08
Project Recipient: Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee
Project Title: Assessing and improving stream bank health in the Kennebecasis watershed.
Approved Grant Amount: $20,000
Funding provided to date: $15,000
Summary: More than 12 km of stream habitat were assessed and landowners were provided with prescriptions to stabilize eroding stream banks and improve riparian and flood plain conditions. KWRC completed restoration and enhancement work over 390 m of severely eroding stream banks and planted more than 8000 trees.

Project Number: NB-2015-09
Project Recipient: Maliseet Nation Conservation Council
Project Title: Maliseet Nation McIntosh Brook Fish Habitat Enhancement Program.
Approved Grant Amount: $15,000
Funding provided to date: $0
Summary: Restoration of upstream fish passage in McIntosh Brook, a tributary of the Saint John River, is the focus of this project. At the request of the proponent, this project is being delayed until 2016 so that additional funding can be secured.

Project Number: NB-2015-10
Project Recipient: Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee
Project Title: Barnaby River Atlantic Salmon Habitat Assessment.
Approved Grant Amount: $14,000
Funding provided to date: $10,500
Summary: MREAC undertook an Atlantic salmon habitat assessment on the Barnaby River in 2015 along with environmental assessment and monitoring. Existing knowledge was used along with field assessments to determine the habitat and salmon stock potential for this river system.

Project Number: NB-2015-11
Project Recipient: Miramichi Salmon Association Inc.
Project Title: Enhancing critically important Atlantic salmon thermal refuge habitat throughout the Miramichi watershed.
Approved Grant Amount: $20,000
Funding provided to date: $
Summary: This initiative used heavy equipment and rock structures to physical restore and enhance three important cold-water refuges: confluence of Otter Brook and the Little SW Miramichi River, confluence of Indiantown Brook and the SW Miramichi River, and at the confluence with Doak Brook and SW Miramichi.

Project Number: NB-2015-12
Project Recipient: Nepisiguit Salmon Association
Project Title: Nepisiguit Salmon Assessment & Enhancement 2015.
Approved Grant Amount: $8,574
Funding provided to date: $8,574
Summary: Approximately 120,000 eyed salmon eggs were reared in streamsidede incubation boxes, then stocked to the Nepisiguit River as fry. Monitoring surveys were completed as part of ongoing efforts to assess juveniles and returning adults and to check on water quality surveys, mainly temperature and pH, predator and environmental conditions.

Project Number: NB-2015-14
Project Recipient: Shediac Bay Watershed Association Inc.
Project Title: Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Public Education Program.
Approved Grant Amount: $7,500
Funding provided to date: $5,625
Summary: SBWA conducted electrofishing surveys to identify spawning habitat. Two eroding bank areas were planted with native trees and shrubs as well and erosion control measures were installed. Access was restored at an elevated culvert by the installation of a fish ladder. This project expanded the engagement and education of river stakeholders.

Grants & Status

2015 Project Grants

Project Number: NB-2015-15
Project Recipient: University of New Brunswick (Gray)
Project Title: Thermal infrared remote sensing to identify critical thermal refuges in southern NB rivers.
Approved Grant Amount: $27,000 *(year 1 of 2)*
Funding provided to date: $15,000
Summary: Using remote sensing, this project is working to map the frequency and distribution of thermal refuges in Hammond, Kennebecasis, and Pollet Rivers. Airborne optical and thermal infrared imaging techniques are being employed to identify thermal refuges and link to landscape-level GIS variables for the development of a long-term aquatic monitoring plan.

Project Number: NB-2015-16
Project Recipient: University of New Brunswick (Samways)
Project Title: Restoring ecosystem health and increasing progeny fitness through marine reared native adult Atlantic salmon introductions.
Approved Grant Amount: $84,000 *(year 1 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $21,000
Summary: This multiyear project is working to determine the effects of native adult salmon releases in Fundy National Park on ecosystem integrity and population fitness. This project will assess efficacy of introduced adult Atlantic salmon, quantifying increases in freshwater productivity and food resources, and determine young-of-the- year (YOY) recruitment and distribution.

Newfoundland & Labrador

Project Number: NB-2014-05
Project Recipient: Norris Arm & Area Economic Development Committee
Project Title: Rattling Brook Salmon Restoration Project.
Approved Grant Amount: $65,000 for 2014 *(year 2 of 2)*
Funding provided to date: $53,700
Summary: This project involves building a fish passage and restoring adult salmon to the Rattling Brook watershed. A total of 800 fish are being transferred in 2014 and 2015. Construction is completed on a downstream fish pass and the upstream fish pass is expected to be completed in time for the upstream migration of grilse and adult salmon in 2014.

Project Number: NL-2015-01
Project Recipient: Environment Resources Management Association
Project Title: DExploits River Tributaries Restoration - 2015.
Approved Grant Amount: $20,000
Funding provided to date: $10,000
Summary: This project is a continuation of efforts from past years to address sites that are considered to be on the priority list for restoration on the tributaries of the Exploits River. The remains of old wooden structures and drowned pulpwood will be removed from the streams and placed above the high water mark to prevent re-entry into the streams.

Project Number: NL-2015-02
Project Recipient: Freshwater-Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corporation.
Project Title: Evaluation of Habitat Expansion Outcomes on Upper Terra Nova River.
Approved Grant Amount: $26,270
Funding provided to date: $19,702
Summary: This project aims to monitor water flow and salmon migration through the Mollyguajeck Falls fishway on the Upper Terra Nova River.

Project Number: NL-2015-03
Project Recipient: Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation
Project Title: Northwest Brook Stream Restoration Project
Approved Grant Amount: $19,958
Funding provided to date: $19,958
Summary: This project largely aims to improve habitat within the Northwest Brook Stream by minimizing barriers, installing velocity controlling devices and by installing in-stream structures to create pool and riffle development.

Project Number: NL-2015-04
Project Recipient: Memorial University (Purchase)
Project Title: Incubation sensitivity to winter temperatures in four DUs of Atlantic salmon in Canada.
Approved Grant Amount: $95,000 *(year 1 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $16,500
Summary: Official start time of this project was delayed until Spring 2016. This project aims to monitor the response of salmon to changes in temperature on their development. The differences from Exploits River salmon will be compared among 8 rivers from 4 DUs (Labrador, Northeast Newfoundland, South NL, Northwest NL).

Project Number: NL-2015-05
Project Recipient: Memorial University (vanZyll de Jong)
Project Title: Ecological Restoration Plan Salmon River Watershed.
Approved Grant Amount: $46,500 *(year 1 of 2)*
Funding provided to date: $13,250
Summary: This project aims to develop a river restoration planning and analysis tool for consistent and thorough planning of, and evaluation of the potential effects of proposed projects on river habitat and function, particularly for Atlantic salmon.

Project Number: NL-2015-06
Project Recipient: Miawpukek First Nation
Project Title: Miawpukek Aquaculture Escapee Monitoring.
Approved Grant Amount: $50,000
Funding provided to date: $37,500

Grants & Status

2015 Project Grants

Summary: Miawpukek First Nation will aim to sample a portion of the Atlantic salmon population in the Conne River watershed at pre-determined sites using electroseining methods to determine if they are of aquaculture origin or are carrying any diseases. All salmon will be scale sampled and fin clipped. Any salmon of aquaculture origin will be sent away for genetic analysis.

Project Number: NL-2015-07
Project Recipient: Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland.
Project Title: Salmon Tracking and Falls Remediation Plan.
Approved Grant Amount: $17,552
Funding provided to date: $8,776
Summary: With this project, SAEN will commission a smolt fence, including a camera system to enumerate out-migrating smolts. They will also transfer and tag 20 adult salmon from the Exploits River to the Rennies River.

Project Number: NL-2015-08
Project Recipient: Gander Bay Indian Band Council
Project Title: Salmon Tracking and Stock Assessment.
Approved Grant Amount: $17,000
Funding provided to date: $17,000
Summary: With this project the GBIBC will assess the status of Atlantic salmon stocks in Salmon Brook by counting all salmon returns in the brook from June through September 2015.

Project Number: NL-2015-09
Project Recipient: Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation
Project Title: Bonavista North Stewardship & Enhancement Project.
Approved Grant Amount: $5,000
Funding provided to date: $3,750
Summary: This project aims to restore habitat in Indian Bay Big Pond and Number Two River. This project will remove the remnants of a dam at the mouth of Indian Bay Big Pond to increase salmon access to the rest of the watershed.

Project Number: NL-2015-10
Project Recipient: Memorial University (Purchase)
Project Title: Research on offspring quality of virgin/repeat spawning grilse salmon and the success of Jordan/Scotty incubators undertaken in conjunction with salmon reintroduction to Rennie's River.
Approved Grant Amount: $15,000
Funding provided to date: $11,250
Summary: A technician will setup incubation sites in the Rennie's River to determine how placement effects siltation of Jordan/Scotty incubators in streambeds lacking gravel. This will inform on how useful this technology will be for other Newfoundland stocking efforts.

Nova Scotia

Project Number: NS-2015-01
Project Recipient: Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
Project Title: LaHave River watershed project 2015 – development of Main River sub-watershed fish habitat restoration plan and West Branch sub-watershed fish habitat restoration project
Approved Grant Amount: $14,000
Funding provided to date: $10,500
Summary: This project will simultaneously be an in-stream restoration project in the West Branch sub-watershed and will also involve the development of a Main river Sub-watershed Fish Habitat Restoration Plan.
Project Number: NS-2015-02
Project Recipient: Dalhousie University (Sterling)
Project Title: Acid rain mitigation plans for the 13 priority watersheds for Southern Upland Salmon in Nova Scotia: development of a sub-plan to address the aluminium problem.
Approved Grant Amount: $45,000 *(year 1 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $7,500
Summary: This project proposes to create a sub-plan for the Southern Upland Watershed Acid Rain Mitigation Plan that will address the aluminium problem. A student in Dr. Sterling's research group, Marley Geddes began this Southern Upland Watershed Acid Rain Mitigation plan in 2014, and it is planned to continue in 2015.

Project Number: NS-2015-03
Project Recipient: Habitat Unlimited
Project Title: Initial South River watershed planning and restoration including the installation of a novel temperature reduction device.
Approved Grant Amount: $10,000
Funding provided to date: $5,000
Summary: The project seeks to begin substantive restoration in the South River in Antigonish County by development a watershed strategy outlining potential restorative measures, conducting traditional restoration actions on existing salmon bearing streams, development novel restoration actions to mitigate temperature issues and continuing education initiatives.

Restigouche River Watershed Management Council

Grants & Status

2015 Project Grants

Project Number: NS-2015-04
Project Recipient: Inverness South Anglers Association
Project Title: Ongoing enhancement of the Mabou and Inverness watersheds & long term planning for the Graham's River and Captain' River watersheds.
Approved Grant Amount: $15,000
Funding provided to date: $15,000
Summary: This project aims to improve habitat in Mabou, Mull and Broad Cove rivers and develop two long term habitat restoration plans for the Graham's River and Captain's River.

Project Number: NS-2015-05
Project Recipient: Nova Scotia Salmon Association
Project Title: River Restoration 2015.
Approved Grant Amount: $13,000
Funding provided to date: $6,500
Summary: This project aims to install and operate a seasonal adult salmon counting fence and trap in the West River-Sheet harbour to further document the results of measures taken to mitigate the impacts of acidification upon returning adult Atlantic salmon.

Project Number: NS-2015-06
Project Recipient: Sackville Rivers Association
Project Title: River Restoration 2015.
Approved Grant Amount: $5,000
Funding provided to date: **$5,000**
Summary: This project involves the installation of habitat restoration structures on the Thompson Run. It also involves surveying cultures in the Sackville River watershed for the purpose of identifying fish passage issues.

Project Number: NS-2015-07
Project Recipient: St. Mary's River Association
Project Title: Salmon Habitat Enhancement (West River, St. Mary's).
Approved Grant Amount: $31,314
Funding provided to date: $23,485.50
Summary: This project aims to continue the study of selecting the appropriate sites to be addressed, the type and design of structure to be used and their implemention on one or two short sections of the river. Habitat enhancement work will also be down on the middle section of the river as set out in the 2014 Restoration of the West Branch of the St. Mary's River report.

Project Number: NS-2015-08
Project Recipient: Cheticamp River Salmon Association
Project Title: Improving fish passage on lower Cheticamp River (Phase II).
Approved Grant Amount: $10,000
Funding provided to date: $7,500
Summary: This project is phase two of a collaborative effort between the CRSA and Parks Canada to improve fish passage increase access to important upstream habitat, and restore impacted habitat on the lower Cheticamp River. Phase II involves installing instream structures in three over-widened sites upstream of the sites addressed in Phase I.

Prince Edward Island

Project Number: PEI-2014-01
Project Recipient: Morell River Management Coop
Project Title: Morell Salmon Habitat Reclamation.
Approved Grant Amount: $25,000 *(year 2 of 2)*
Funding provided to date: $22,500
Summary: The main focus of this project is to reclaim and repair spawning habitat that has been lost due to habitat degradation from human and beaver activity. Habitat degradation has caused both physical and thermal barriers to migrating fish. Work is focusing on improving habitat to regain the spawning gravel and increasing the quantity of cold-water input.

Project Number: PEI-2015-01
Project Recipient: Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
Project Title: Restoration of Cold, Freshwater Habitat for Atlantic Salmon on the West and Clyde Rivers, PEI.
Approved Grant Amount: $55,000 *(year 1 of 2)*
Funding provided to date: $20,625
Summary: This project aims to continue efforts to improve habitat in the West River, particularly CQWF will reduce the amount of sediment in the river with the construction of three more sediment traps or bypass ponds.

Project Number: PEI-2015-02
Project Recipient: Morell River Management Coop
Project Title: Midgell River Habitat Rehabilitation Project**.**
Approved Grant Amount: $17,000
Funding provided to date: $12,750
Summary: MRMC aims to restore habitat in the Midgell watershed by addressing habitat degradation from impoundments, natural and manmade.

Project Number: PEI-2015-03
Project Recipient: Richmond Bay Watershed Association
Project Title: On the Road to Recovery.
Approved Grant Amount: **$9,020**
Funding provided to date: $4,510
Summary: This project focuses on restoring Atlantic salmon habitat on the Trout River and Little Trout Rivers in West Prince, PEI. This will be done by the selective removal of in-stream debris and placement of brush mats to consolidate in-stream sediment. A significant portion of headwater stream on the Trout River will be restored through the removal of a beaver colony and a beaver dam that restricts fish passage.

Grants & Status

2015 Project Grants

Project Number: PEI-2015-04
Project Recipient: Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
Project Title: Perpetuation of Atlantic Salmon in Northeastern PEI.
Approved Grant Amount: $79,500 *(year 1 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $19,875
Summary: The majority of this project aims to restore and further enhance existing Atlantic salmon habitat in North Lake, Priest Pond, Cross, Hay, Naufrage and Cow Rivers by installing brush mattresses and ensuring fish passage by trimming alders and removing "blow-downs", natural blockages and any non-active beaver dams.

Project Number: PEI-2015-05
Project Recipient: Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter
Project Title: North Branch of Caruther's Brook Restoration.
Approved Grant Amount: $17,000
Funding provided to date: $12,750
Summary: This project aims to improve habitat on the North Branch of Cauther's Brook in the Mill River watershed. This will be done by removing debris and obstructions, installation of in-stream structures, removal of dams and by conducting redd surveys.

Québec

Project Number: QC-2013-02
Project Recipient: Association des Pêcheurs Sportifs de la Bonaventure
Project Title: Operation of a summer camp for youth (12 to 15 years old) on the Bonaventure River.
Approved Grant Amount: $6,600 *(year 3 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $6,600
Summary: The Association des pêcheurs sportifs de la Bonaventure (APSB) held a summer camp for youth in mid-August. The goal of this project is to promote youth education through information and awareness on the importance of Atlantic salmon and its habitats through fly-fishing learning opportunities.

Project Number: QC-2014-06
Project Recipient: Corporation du basin de la Jacques-Cartier
Project Title: Study on the monitoring of smolt downstream migration of Atlantic salmon populations (Salmo salar) in Jacques-Cartier River.
Approved Grant Amount: $35,000 *(year 2 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $22,500
Summary: This project is working to assess the size of the annual smolt run on the Jacques Cartier River and to determine the number of smolt that are using the bypass of the Bird 1 hydroelectric station. The climate change impacts on the juvenile salmon survival rate will be documented for one of the most vulnerable populations in Quebec.

Project Number: QC-2015-01
Project Recipient: Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht
Project Title: Regional Round Table on participatory management of Atlantic salmon by the Innu communities of the North Shore.
Approved Grant Amount: $10,000
Funding provided to date: $7,500
Summary: The objective of this project is to facilitate the implementation of stewardship actions to reduce the threats to Atlantic salmon recovery. Seven Innu communities on the North Shore participated through the establishment of a consultative structure, monitoring measures, management symposium, public meetings, integration of ATK and scientific knowledge, and the development of a method of participatory management.

Project Number: QC-2015-02
Project Recipient: Association de chasse et pêche de Forestville
Project Title: Improving habitat quality on the Laval River.
Approved Grant Amount: $6,400
Funding provided to date: $4,800
Summary: This project improved the habitat of the Laval River by stabilizing the bank with rock and planting vegetation on the talus slope. The river was surveyed to identify areas of erosion and sedimentation. All information gathered through the project was used to developed a prioritized list of action items.

Project Number: QC-2015-03
Project Recipient: Restigouche River Watershed Management Council
Project Title: Characterization of Matapedia River smolt descent in the framework of the integrated management structure of the salmon resource in the Restigouche.
Approved Grant Amount: $59,658 *(year 1 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $14,990
Summary: By installing a rotary trap for three consecutive spring seasons, RRWMC is working to estimate smolt productivity in the Matapedia. With this standardized approach, RRWMC will be able to compare the descent on Matapedia River to the Kedgwick River. Time variability of smolt descent, density and physical condition and survival rate are being investigated.

Project Number: QC-2015-04
Project Recipient: Conseil de l'Eau Gaspésie Sud
Project Title: For Bonaventure River's sustainable future: Development of an adapted management method - phase II.
Approved Grant Amount: $10,000
Funding provided to date: $5,000
Summary: This project is working to mobilize and engage stakeholders; identify creative and relevant tools for use by municipalities, tourism operators and others; enable joint actions; promote awareness and long term protection of Atlantic salmon population and habitat; help to limit negative impacts; and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and expertise to other communities.

Grants & Status

2015 Project Grants

Project Number: QC-2015-05
Project Recipient: Conseil des Innus de Pessamit
Project Title: Hydraulic features assessment of a spawning area on Betsiamites River and Boucher River.
Approved Grant Amount: $6,900
Funding provided to date: $3,450
Summary: This project is collecting reference data on 2 spawning sites in order to document the impact of Bersimis Dam-2 flow management on spawning site hydrodynamics. One spawning site is located above the dam, and thus strongly influenced by dam management, while the other is located at the mouth of Boucher River and served as a control point.

Project Number: QC-2015-06
Project Recipient: Conseil Innu Takuaikan Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam (ITUM)
Project Title: Fish way reconstruction and improvement at McDonald Falls on Nipissis River.
Approved Grant Amount: $35,000
Funding provided to date: $17,500
Summary: The fish way was built at McDonald Falls in 1969 has been nonoperational due to design problems. This project is working to ensure that all salmon who reach McDonald Falls can access upstream spawning grounds, reduce injuries, reduce poaching and ultimately increase salmon population productivity in Nipissis River.

Project Number: QC-2015-07
Project Recipient: Corporation du bassin de la Jacques-Cartier
Project Title: Validation of the use of a new spawning habitat by Atlantic salmon on Jacques-Cartier River after the failure of Donnacona dam.
Approved Grant Amount: $10,000 *(year 1 of 2)*
Funding provided to date: $3,750
Summary: After the failure of the Donnacona dam in 2014, salmon were able to reach spawning areas in the downstream section of the river, the access of which had been limited for 100 years. This project is working to determine if natural reproduction of Atlantic salmon occurred in this stretch of the river and to identify the presence of potential competitive species.

Project Number: QC-2015-08
Project Recipient: FaunENord
Project Title: Presence of Atlantic salmon of Ungava Bay, Nunavik, in Koksoak system.
Approved Grant Amount: $50,000 *(year 1 of 2; total $50,000)*
Funding provided to date: $13,500
Summary: This project is using Inuit traditional knowledge to ensure Atlantic salmon conservation in Koksoak watershed by an exact delineation of species distribution in those watercourses and by developing a series of recommendations. In the first year, data was collected to identify priority rivers for future validation.

Project Number: QC-2015-09
Project Recipient: National Institute of Scientific Research
Project Title: Fragmentation of juvenile salmon habitat caused by road and forest culverts.
Approved Grant Amount: $75,000 *(year 1 of 3)*
Funding provided to date: $18,750
Summary: Passive transponder technology is being used to complete a marking-recapture study for many culverts of variable features, allowing the determination of variables and thresholds which limit juvenile migration. This filter can be applied to all culverts on salmon rivers and a GIS analysis will allow calculation of habitat losses related to each insurmountable culvert.

Project Number: QC-2015-10
Project Recipient: National Institute of Scientific Research
Project Title: New calculation of the productivity potential of Québec salmon rivers.
Approved Grant Amount: $29,451
Funding provided to date: $22,089
Summary: The project is based on recent geomatics developments (remote sensing and GIS) and habitat modeling to recalculate the production potential of salmon rivers established by Picard et Caron (1999). Semi-automated habitat mapping will be developed based on aerial photos recently captured by the Department of Natural Resources for the southern part of Quebec.

Project Number: QC-2015-11
Project Recipient: Saumon de la Rivière Malbaie
Project Title: Inventory of salmon spawning sites of Malbaie River, upstream portion.
Approved Grant Amount: $11,900
Funding provided to date: $8,925
Summary: Potential salmon spawning were identified, characterized and entered in a geographic information system (GIS) for the upstream portion of the Malbaie River. This work will allow for the production of thematic maps, information consultation, resource management and will guide conservation actions or interventions to improve salmon productivity of the river.

Project Number: QC-2015-12
Project Recipient: Société de gestion de la rivière Ouelle
Project Title: Preparation of Wild Atlantic salmon conservation plan of Ouelle River.
Approved Grant Amount: $8,200
Funding provided to date: $6,150
Summary: A conservation plan for the Ouelle River is being developed in cooperation with local and regional partners and stakeholders with the goal of helping achieve healthy and sustainable Atlantic salmon stocks. Fishing opportunities development, management, spawning sites protection and improvement, thermal refuges, and action leads will be included in the plan.

Summary of Project Audits

Summary of Project Audits and Evaluations

In 2015 random audits of 32 Foundation funded 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.

Note: Project audits are not conducted on every project each year. This is due to limited staff resources being available, or that the same recipient group had recently undergone a project audit.

In 2015, the following recipient groups were audited for performance:

Interprovincial Projects

IN-2014-04b	Restigouche River Watershed Management Council

New Brunswick Projects

NB-2014-04b	Restigouche River Watershed Management Council
NB-2014-16b	Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance
NB-2015-01	Bassins versants de la Baie des Chaleurs
NB-2015-02	Restigouche River Watershed Management Council
NB-2015-03a	Restigouche River Watershed Management Council
NB-2015-04	Eel River Bar First Nation
NB-2015-05	Fort Folly First Nation
NB-2015-06	Friends of the Kouchibouguacis
NB-2015-08	Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee
NB-2015-10	Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee
NB-2015-14	Shediac Bay Watershed Association
NB-2015-16a	University of New Brunswick

Nova Scotia Projects

NS-2015-03	Habitat Unlimited
NS-2015-04	Inverness South Anglers Association
NS-2015-08	Cheticamp River Salmon Association
NS-2015-01	Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
NS-2015-06	Sackville Rivers Association

Prince Edward Island Projects

PEI-2015-01	Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
PEI-2015-02	Morell River Management Coop
PEI-2014-01	Morell River Management Coop
PEI-2015-04	Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation

Newfoundland & Labrador Projects

NL-2015-01	Environment Resources Management Association
NL-2014-05	Norris Arm & Area Economic Development Committee
NL-2015-08	Gander Bay Indian Band Council
NL-2015-03	Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation
NL-2015-09	Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation
NL-2015-02	Freshwater-Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corp
NL-2015-07	Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland

Quebec Projects

QC-2014-05	Conseil des Innus de Pessamit
QC-2015-02	Association de chasse et pêche de Forestville
QC-2015-03	Conseil de gestion du bassin versant de la rivière Restigouche
QC-2015-05	Conseil des Innus de Pessamit
QC-2015-11	Saumon Rivière Malbaie
QC-2015-12	Société de gestion de la rivière Ouelle

Société de gestion de la rivière Ouelle

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, 2015, 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, 2015. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 23, 2016.

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, 2015 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Fredericton, NB
March 23, 2016

MacMillan Lawrence & Lawrence
Chartered Accountants

Reports & Statements

Statement of Financial Position

		December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents		$ 158,421	$ 1,063,626
Receivables		37,713	40,440
Prepaids		93	1,198
		196,227	1,105,264
Investments		37,696,662	36,842,388
		$ 37,892,889	$ 37,947,652
Liabilities			
Current			
Payables and accruals		$ 320,499	$ 230,083
Net Assets			
General Fund – Unrestricted		-	-
Reserve Fund – Internally Restricted		192,414	170,701
Endowment Fund – Externally Restricted		37,294,908	37,459,484
ANBL – Externally Restricted		65,338	66,217
PEILCC – Externally Restricted		19,730	21,167
		37,572,390	37,717,569
		$ 37,892,889	$ 37,947,652

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Director

Director

Reports & Statements

Statement of Operations and Change in Net Assets

Year ended December 31,	2015	2014
Revenue	$ 1,608,584	$ 3,225,184
Expenses		
Administration	412,089	330,530
Grants	1,162,113	756,657
Investment management fees	179,561	174,982
	1,753,763	1,262,169
Excess of revenue over expenses (expenses over revenue)	$ (145,179)	$ 1,963,015
Net assets, beginning of year	$ 37,717,569	$ 35,754,554
Excess of revenue over expenses (expenses over revenue)	(145,179)	1,963,015
Net assets, end of year	$ 37,572,390	$ 37,717,569

Statement of Remuneration:

Statement of Remuneration: For the 2015 Fiscal Year total remuneration paid to one Foundation employee whose remuneration exceeds $100,000 per year was $146,015.40 consisting of the following: Salary = $112,871; fees = $0; travel expenses = $17,733.65; CPP = $2479.95; EI = $930.60, allowances $0; and, benefits = $12,000.00

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
Jim Jones · Monton, NB
John LeBoutillier · Montréal, QC
Denis Losier · Moncton, NB
Katharine Mott · Stewiacke, NS
Chief David Peter Paul · Pabineau First Nation, NB

L-R: John LeBoutillier, Jim Lawley, Jim Jones, Katharine Mott, Hon. Remi Bujold (Chair), Joan Marie Aylward, Robert Bishop, Paul Michael. *Missing: Chief David Peter-Paul, Denis Losier.*

Board Committees

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

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

Policy & Program:
J. Jones
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 Manager
Krystal Binns, Conservation Program Coordinator

L-R: Darla Saunders, Stephen Chase, Krystal

ASCF Volunteers

Advisory Committees

1. Scientific Advisory Committee

Peter Cronin, Yvon Coté, Dr. Jeff Hutchings, David Reddin (Chair), Brian Dempson, Francois Caron, John Bagnall. Missing: Rick Cunjak

4. Newfoundland & Labrador Advisory Committee

Keith Piercey, Robert Otto, Brian Dempson, Fred Parsons (Chair) & Rick Maddigan. Missing from photo: Ross Hinks, Calvin Francis & Robert Perry.

2. New Brunswick Advisory Committee

Denis Guitard, Fernand Savoie, Kathryn Collet (Chair), Michelle Gray, John Pugh, Tom Callaghan & Jim Marriner.
Missing: Patricia Saulis.

5. Prince Edward Island Advisory Committee

Mike Durant, Allan Ledgerwood, Randy Angus, Mary Finch, Rosie MacFarlane (Chair) & Becky Hersom-Petersen. Missing from photo: Chris Mills.

3. Nova Scotia Advisory Committee

Shane O'Neil, Sana Kavanagh, Michael Pollard, Kris Hunter, Al McNeill (Chair), Larry Shortt & Jim Gourlay.

6. Comité consultatif provincial du Québec

Sébastien Ross, Michel Damphousse, René Lafond (Chair), Patrick Plante & Sylvie Tremblay. Missing from photo: Jean Malec, Jean Boudreault and André St-Hilaire.

2015 Volunteer Profiles

Meet a few of ASCF's stellar volunteers, who are crucial to realizing ASCF's work for Atlantic Salmon conservation.

Meet Dale Cameron, a member of the PEI Advisory Committee.

Cameron grew up on the family farm in rural Prince Edward Island and worked for a short period in the public service sector after completing school. He has been working with TUC Prince County Chapter Inc. for the past twenty-three years, starting as a crewmember and took over as project coordinator in 2007.

Dale Cameron

"Having always enjoyed the outdoors and associated activities, the job seemed like a good fit and has progressed from what I do to become who I am," said Cameron.

Cameron became involved with the ASCF shortly after its formation when he was recommended for a position on PEI's regional advisory committee.

"TUCPCC has had a long history in Atlantic salmon rearing and habitat enhancement so it was something that was not only near and dear to my heart but also something I felt I could contribute positively to."

Cameron said it has been a great experience sitting on the committee noting the members are a great group of people to work with.

"It is always a challenge to try to improve environmental conditions in today's world and there is always a need for committed volunteers. ACSF is made up of a great bunch of folks and I would encourage anyone to get involved."

Meet John LeBoutillier, member of the ASCF board of directors.

LeBoutillier was born and brought up in the Gaspé and then studied law at Université Laval in Quebec City and business administration at the Richard Ivey School (Western University). He was the CEO of a steel and then an iron ore company for a combined total of 18 years. For the past 15 years, he has been a corporate director. LeBoutillier has served on the board of several publicly listed companies, private companies, as well as not-for-profit organizations. He is married with one daughter and two grandchildren.

John LeBoutillier

LeBoutillier first became involved with the ASCF in 2007 when there were several vacancies on the Investment Committee. The Chair asked him to join the board and become a member of that committee.

"I was brought up surrounded by salmon rivers the two Pabos, Grande Rivière, Saint-Jean, York, and Dartmouth," said LeBoutillier. "Back then, they were quite inaccessible to the average salmon fisherman. When I joined the board, I had been salmon fishing for several years."

LeBoutillier said he enjoys working with his board colleagues and doing more salmon fishing than ever before.

"Furthermore, the salmon industry faces several threats and I like facing up to the challenge at ASCF," he said.

"The ASCF is doing a great job with more financial resources available to support projects. My pet project, on my favourite river the St-Jean – was the removal this past winter of a 1.5 km long logjam. ASCF did contribute financially to this project."

Meet Al McNeill, the chair of the NS Advisory Committee.

Al McNeill

McNeill is the Manager of Resource Management for the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture. He works in the Inland Fisheries Division in Pictou. After graduating from the University of Guelph in 1983, McNeill worked for four years with DFO in Halifax. In 1988 he switched over to the province where he worked as a fisheries technician, and biologist on a number of sportfish species including trout, landlocked salmon and small mouth bass.

In 2001, Al accepted a secondment with the Aquaculture Division in Halifax where he spent four years as Aquaculture Manager and Acting Director helping to develop the finfish and shellfish aquaculture industries, and was responsible for initiating the Environmental Monitoring Program for Marine Aquaculture. For his efforts as project manager of the Environmental Monitoring Program, Al won the Premiers Award of Excellence in 2007.

McNeill's current responsibilities include leading a team of fisheries biologists, technicians, promotion and development officers who are tasked with managing the provinces recreational fishery, worth an estimated 58 million dollars.

McNeill has been involved with the ASCF since its inception.

2015 Volunteer Profiles

Meet a few of ASCF's stellar volunteers, who are crucial to realizing ASCF's work for Atlantic Salmon conservation.

"I'm really impressed with the professionalism of the executive of the ASCF, and how the foundation is run," he said. "We had some lean times in 2007/08 when the market collapsed and the Endowment lost money - along with everyone else - but we never lost sight of our goals and now we are beginning to see more funds available to volunteer organizations to do restoration and watershed planning work. The members of the Nova Scotia Advisory Committee are passionate about salmon conservation and challenge the foundation leadership to make sure Nova Scotia gets its share of the funding – I expect the other provincial advisory committees do the same – we all want the most for our salmon!"

McNeill believes the greatest work done by the ASCF is on the ground - in the rivers across Atlantic Canada.

"If you are passionate about saving Atlantic salmon, join a watershed association, or Atlantic Salmon Association affiliate and get involved. Encourage them to submit a proposal to the ASCF. The competition is tough –we see a lot of applications each year and virtually all of them are thoughtful, well developed proposals for meaningful projects – but we just can't fund them all. That's the only downside of my involvement, but as the fund grows, we'll have more opportunity to include more projects each year."

Meet Fred Parsons, the chair of the NL Advisory Committee.

Parsons has been working with Atlantic salmon for the past 30 years. From the beginning of the major enhancement of the Exploits River in 1985, he has been employed with Environment Resources Management Association as general manager. Over this period of time he has held several volunteer executive positions with the Salmonid Council of Newfoundland and Labrador and other development groups.

Fred Parsons

"I became involved with ASCF from their first year of operations and my interest was in seeing grassroots groups be able to access funds to complete smaller projects in their communities," said Parsons. "I guess over the years I have personally seen what could be done to help the wild salmon resource and the many benefits that come back indirectly to usually rural areas of our provinces."

Parsons said the work that ASCF fosters has made a big impact on the Atlantic salmon's habitat; in some provinces the habitat has been damaged by years of logging activity and log drives in the streams and river.

"I have enjoyed the expertise that I see at the advisory board meetings where some of the most knowledgeable people related to salmon give freely of their time to advance the fight to save and improve on one of our finest fish species. I see the dedicated people at the board and staff level that guide the organization and have set the path to the success that it enjoys today."

Meet Sylvie Tremblay, a member of our Quebec Advisory Committee.

Sylvie Tremblay

We'll let her tell you about herself: I went salmon fishing for the first time in my life in 1989. It was on Matane River. At that time, I fished only one weekend per summer. It took a long time to acquire experience, but I waited impatiently for each occasion which was bringing hope every time. It is however on Jacques Cartier River that I struck my first salmon. It was on September 30th, the last day of the season, but it was a real inspiration for the next season. Since then, I visit a few rivers every season, including rivers in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

All my working years were spent in practising a teaching career, as a classroom teacher, a teaching consultant, a school principal and a remedial teacher. I get a lot of happiness from learning and sharing knowledge. I considered becoming a member of the Quebec Advisory Committee to learn more on salmon and specifically on its protection.

In its mission, the Foundation promotes partnership and in its objectives, it focusses on cooperation, local innovation as well as on scientific expertise. These values combined with salmon protection and restauration of its habitat were attractive to me. Being an enthusiastic angler myself and having no scientific knowledge about salmon, I accepted to join de committee in 2014.

I have been representing anglers of Québec-Saguenay regions on the board of the Fédération québécoise pour le saumon atlantique (FQSA) since 2010. Of course, I support the values of resource conservation, education and promotion of salmon fishing. I inherited those values from my father who is still to this day honored by the Prize Salar Pierre Tremblay.

By taking part in the FQSA and the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation's activities, I also wish to represent women,

2015 Volunteer Profiles

Meet a few of ASCF's stellar volunteers, who are crucial to realizing ASCF's work for Atlantic Salmon conservation.

those women who are more and more active on rivers, but not so present in associations, federations or foundations. In order to walk the talk (« les babines suivent les bottines », I authored a few articles in the journal « Saumons », featuring women who work in the field, I am an attendant for the « Journée des femmes » (Women's day) of L'Anse-St-Jean and I work with several committees throughout the year.

As a new member of the Quebec Advisory Committee of the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation, I have already learned a lot, I am broadening my horizons, and I sincerely hope to participate in its mission and its objectives for the persistence of wild Atlantic salmon and its habitat.

Meet Peter Cronin, member of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Peter Cronin

Cronin retired in 2012 after working almost 38 years as a fisheries biologist with the province of New Brunswick; at one time he was a fisheries program manager. He assisted in the clarification of the federal, provincial, and non-government organizations' roles in the management of New Brunswick's inland recreational fisheries.

Cronin is affiliated with numerous organizations dedicated to the fisheries and he's an Honorary Research Assistant at UNB. Cronin is also a recipient of the NB Salmon Council's Lieutenant Governor's Award for Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation.

"As a kid I often fished with my father, and when I was a teenager he bought a camp at the Forks Pool on the Tobique River," said Cronin. "The only way to the camp was to pole across the river from the canoe landing on the opposite shore. Anne and I own the camp today and the only access is still by canoe. During those early days on the Tobique I earned a boundless lifelong respect for the wild Atlantic salmon."

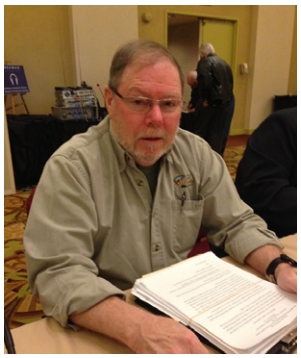
"My upbringing, my career, the many friends that I met along the way, and my deep passion for the fisheries resource is the reason that I became involved with the ASCF. The challenges that our Atlantic salmon populations are facing on both sides on the North Atlantic are what keep me involved."

"I have often stated that governments cannot and should not manage the natural resources of the province in isolation of its citizens," said Cronin. "We must work with federal and provincial departments, First Nation communities, non-governmental organizations, universities, individuals and the private sector to adopt a common philosophy and approach to conservation of our fish, their habitats and their use."

"One suggestion that I would share is that we need to work co-operatively towards prioritizing specific projects even if they are not on your home river. We need to join our resources and work on those initiatives that truly matter to the Atlantic salmon resource. We need watershed plans that identify priority projects."

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, dedicated and informed anglers and conservationists can change the situation; indeed, it's where everything begins."

Meet Jim Marriner, member of the NB Advisory Committee.



Jim Marriner

Marriner is a graduate of UNB and practiced law from 1971-2005 with offices in Moncton and Petitcodiac. Currently he is a small claims court adjudicator and an inspector with the NB Law Society under the Real Property Practice Review Program.

Marriner enjoys hunting, fishing, and trapping. Some of the organizations he has been involved with include the Moncton Fish and Game Club, NB Wildlife Federation, Petitcodiac Sportsman's Club, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Fur Institute of Canada, and NB Salmon Council. He has been a hunter education/firearm safety instructor for 35 years and a trapper education instructor for 15 years.

Marriner also enjoys researching and recording the history of hunting, fishing, and trapping in the province. He is the author of "Tight Lines Mean Bright Fish, The Larry's Gulch Story", a limited history of Larry's Gulch salmon fishing lodge on the Restigouche River.

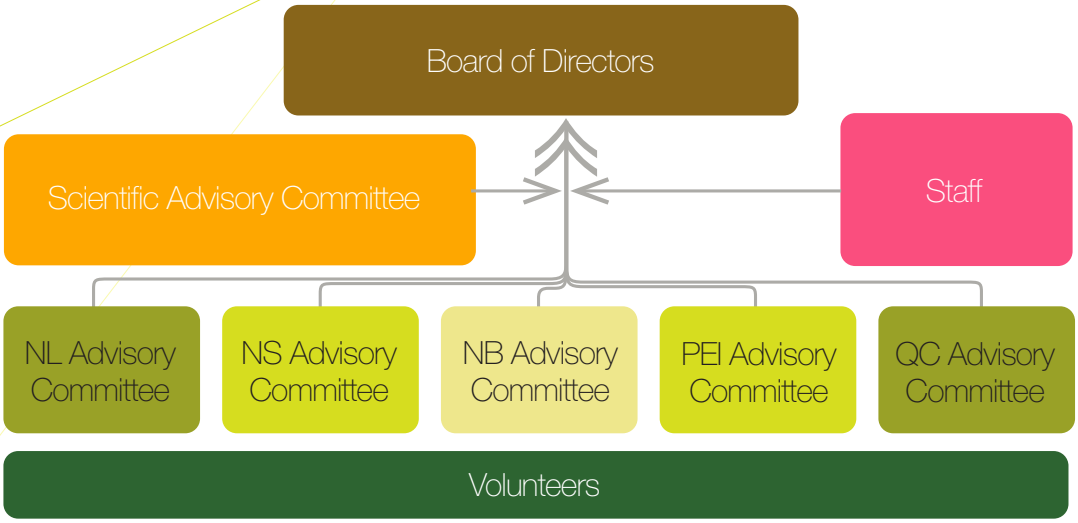
Marriner became involved with the ASCF in 2012.

"I have a great appreciation for the efforts of volunteers involved in wild Atlantic salmon

conservation," said Marriner. "For most, funding for their projects and programs is the most difficult ingredient. I enjoy being involved in the process that allows so many worthwhile projects to become a reality.

"The funding provided by the ASCF plays a significant role in the enhancement of our wild Atlantic salmon and its habitats. I look on my involvement with the ASCF as an important element in the 38 years I have spent as a volunteer in the wildlife conservation movement."

ASCF Structural Model



Conservation Partners

The 2015 List of Our Conservation Partners

Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk
Adopt-a-Stream Program
Advanced Education and Skills
Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht
Alcool NB Liquor
Amec
Antigonish Rivers Association
Army Corps of Engineers
Arpin Canot Restigouche
Association de chasse et pêche de Forestville
Association des bassins versants de la Grande et Petite Rivière Tracadie
Association des pêcheurs sportifs de la Bonaventure
Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Bassins versants de la Baie des Chaleurs
Belledune Regional Environmental Association
Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
Camp Bonaventure
Canada Summer Jobs
Canada Summer Jobs Program
Canadian Foundation for Innovation
Canadian Rivers Institute
Cascapedia Society
Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
Centre d'initiation à la recherche et au développement durable
Centre d'Expertise Hydrique de Québec
Centre interuniversitaire de recherche sur le saumon atlantique
Charlo Fish Hatchery
Cheticamp River Salmon Association
Cime Aventures
Clean Annapolis River Project
Club Le Canadien
CN EcoConnexions
Collège de technologie forestière des Maritimes
Commission environnement Tracadie-Sheila
Conférence des Élus de la Côte-Nord
Conseil Bassin Versant Rivière Restigouche
Conseil de bassin versant de la rivière Bonaventure
Conseil de Gestion du Bassin Versant de la rivière Restigouche
Conseil de l'Eau Gaspésie Sud
Conseil des Innus de Pessamit
Conseil Innu Takuaikan Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam (ITUM)
Conseil régional de l'environnement Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine
Conseils de Bande Innus Essipit, Pessamit, Innu Takuaikan Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, Ekuanitshit, Nutashkuan, Unamen Shipu et Pakua Shipu
Conservation Cops NL
Conservation Corps Newfoundland and Labrador
Cooke Aquaculture
Corporation de gestion des rivières Matapédia-Patapédia
Corporation du bassin de la Jacques-Cartier
Corporation du bassin de la Jacques-Cartier
Craig Construction & Cabinet Making
CURA H2O
Dalhousie University
David B Giles Trucking
Dhachaidh Farms
Donner Foundation
Eastern Shore Wildlife Association
École Marée-Montante
Eel Ground First Nation
Eel River Bar First Nation
Elsipogtog First Nation
Employment & Social Development Canada -Emploi et développement social Canada
Employment Development Agency
Énergie NB Power
Environment Canada - Environnement Canada
Environment Resources Management Association
FaunENord
Fédération des gestionnaires de rivières à saumon du Québec
Fédération québécoise du saumon atlantique
Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Pêches et Océans Canada
Fondation Héritage Faune
Fornebu Lumber Inc.
Fort Folly First Nation
Freshwater-Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corporation
Friends of the Kouchibouguacis
Gander Bay Indian Band Council
Gesgapegiag First Nation

Conservation Partners

The 2015 List of Our Conservation Partners

Gespe'gewaq Mi'gmaq Resource Council
Glencore
Glenwood First Nation
Greening Spaces Program
Government of Nova Scotia Strategic Cooperative Education Incentive
Habitat Unlimited
Hammond River Angling Association
Houlton Band of Maliseets
Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation
Institut national de recherche scientifique
Inverness South Anglers Association
Jardins Vertes l'Avenir
JD Irving Ltd.
Jobs for Youth Program
Kedgwick Lodge
Kedgwick Salmon Club
Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee
Kouchibouguac National Park
L.E. Reinsborough School
LaHave River Salmon Association
Listuguj First Nation
Loblaws Environmental Fund
LUSH
Mabou River Inn
Macquarrie University
Maliseet Nation Conservation Council
Matrix Solutions
Meduxnekeag River Association Inc.
Memorial University
Mi'kmaw Alsumk Mowimsikik Koqoey Association
Miawpukek First Nation
Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et des Exportations du Québec
Ministère des forêts, de la faune et des parcs du Québec
Ministère des ressources naturelles du Québec
Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee
Miramichi Salmon Association
Morell River Management Coop
Morell River Management Coop
Mosher Limestone
Mountain Equipment Co-op
MRC Bonaventure
Municipalité de Tracadie-Sheila
Municipalités de Bonaventure, Saint-Alphonse, Saint-Elzéar
Municipality of St-Louis-de-Kent
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
National Defence - Défense nationale
Natural Resources Canada - Ressources naturelles Canada
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council - Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie
Nepisiguit Salmon Association
New Brunswick Community College - Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick
New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local government - Ministère de l'environnment et des gouvernements locaux du Nouveau-Brunswick
New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources - Ministère des ressources naturelles du Nouveau-Brunswick
New Brunswick Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour - Ministère de l'éducation postsecondaire, de la formation et du travail de Nouveau-Brunswick
New Brunswick Energy Institute - Institut de l'énergie du Nouveau-Brunswick
New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund - Fonds en fiducie pour l'environnement Nouveau-Brunswick
New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund - Fonds de fiducie de la faune du Nouveau-Brunswick
Newfoundland Power Inc.
Newfoundland Department of Transportation Works
Norris Arm & Area Economic Development Committee
Nova Scotia Community College
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Nova Scotia Environment
Nova Scotia Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative
Nova Scotia Labour and Advanced Education
Nova Scotia Museums Grant
Nova Scotia Power Inc.
Nova Scotia Salmon Association
Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps
NSLC Adopt A Stream
Ocean Tracking Network
Organisme de bassin versant Matapédia-Restigouche
Organisme de bassins versants de Kamouraska, L'Islet et Rivière-du-Loup
Pabineau First Nation
Paq'tnkek First Nation
Parks Canada - Parcs Canada
PEI Liquor Control Commission
Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance
Piedmonts Plastics Fence
Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture & Forestry
Prince Edward Island Department of Environment, Labour & Justice
Prince Edward Island Department of Fisheries Aquaculture and Rural Development
Prince Edward Island Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
Prince Edward Island Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning
Prince Edward Island Forest, Fish and Wildlife Division
Prince Edward Island Watershed Management Fund
Prince Edward Island Wildlife Conservation Fund
Qalipu Mikmaq First Nation
Québec Sécrétariat aux Affaires autochtones
Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program
Richmond Bay Watershed Association
Ristigouche Salmon Club
Royal Bank of Canada Blue Water Fund
RSP Énergie Inc.
Sackville Rivers Association
Sage Environmental Fund
Salamander Foundation
Salmon Preservation Association for the Waters of Newfoundland
Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland
Saumon Rivière Malbaie
Service Canada
Shediac Bay Watershed Association
Shell Environmental Fund
Sidney Anglers
Small Craft Harbour
SNB Wood Co-op
Société Cascapédia
Société de gestion de la rivière Ouelle
Société Makivik
Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
Souris Regional School
St. Francis Xavier University
St. Mary's River Association
Stantec Consulting
St-Ignace Golf Club
Sussex Fish and Game
TD Bank Friends of the Environment
Terra Nova National Park
Tobique First Nation
Tobique Salmon Club
Town of Bridgewater
Town of Glovertown
Town of Lunenburg
Town of New-Wes-Valley
Town of Norris Arm
Town of Terra Nova
Town of Traytown
Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter
Universal Helicopter Newfoundland Inc.
Université Laval
University of Hull
University of New Brunswick
Village de Nigadoo
Village of Sussex Corner
Walmart Evergreen
YMCA

Conservation Partners

Our 2015 Conservation Partners

Alcool NB Liquor

PEI Liquor Control Commission