



Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation 2022 – 2023 Provincial Symposiums

THE PATH TO TRANSFORMATIONAL GROWTH



Summary Outcomes from the September 30th and October 1st Symposium
Grand Falls – Windsor, Newfoundland and Labrador



Climate change, volunteer development and partnerships dominate discussion at the inaugural ASCF provincial symposium in Newfoundland and Labrador

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF) launched its first of five provincial symposiums with a diverse and enthusiastic group of community, research, government, conservation, and watershed management stakeholders in Grand Falls - Windsor, NL on September 30th and October 1st.

The symposium, organized in partnership with the Atlantic Salmonid Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, reinforced the increasing threats that climate change presents for wild Atlantic Salmon, as well as the critical need for additional resources and enhanced partnerships and stewardship efforts at the watershed level.

Highlights from the Newfoundland and Labrador symposium include:

- **Climate Change:** The impacts of climate change, including water flow and temperature, are having a significant impact on the province's salmon rivers.
- **Applied Science:** Data and applied science is being increasingly used to effectively track and monitor the health of individual Atlantic salmon watersheds.
- **Partnerships:** Atlantic salmon habitat conservation requires innovative public sector, non-governmental and community partnerships. The symposium included representation from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador.
- **Volunteer Development:** There is an urgent need for additional resources at the watershed level, including funding, stewardship support and volunteer development efforts. The opportunity to proactively engage both secondary and post-secondary students was a key discussion theme at the symposium.
- **Information Sharing:** Multiple Atlantic salmon case studies were showcased at the symposium, including conservation efforts on the Exploits River, the Environment Resources Management Association (ERMA) and the Rattling Brook project. The success of individual watershed conservation projects needs to be shared with host communities, as well as the critically important role of enforcement in preserving wild Atlantic salmon stocks.



“The ASCF is dedicated to putting even more funding into the hands of community groups, indigenous organizations, researchers and others to help them carry-out wild Atlantic salmon conservation activity at the watershed level”

Robert Bishop, Vice-Chairman and Vice-President of the ASCF and a participant in the Grand Falls – Windsor symposium

The ASCF, founded in 2008, was established as an endowment fund by the Government of Canada to create lasting financial support for Atlantic salmon conservation projects. Since its inception, it has granted more than \$12.5M to 763 projects, including applied scientific research grants and Indigenous-led projects. The outcomes of this work speak for themselves with more than 100 km² of Atlantic salmon habitat opened or improved.

The ASCF Board of Directors also approved a renewed strategic plan in the spring of 2022 focused on transformational growth. The plan will guide the Foundation’s direction and priorities for the five-year period extending from mid-2022 to 2027, including the goal to double the size of the ASCF’s trust fund and the funds it distributes on an annual basis in support of Atlantic salmon conservation efforts in New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Québec.

Sixty volunteers representing government, research, academic and several non-governmental organizations from five provinces support the work of the Foundation and are contributing their time and efforts in organizing the five provincial symposiums. The next symposium will be held on October 17th in Charlottetown, PEI.

The ASCF’s Vision, Values and Mission are well positioned for transformational growth:

Vision:

To contribute to the attainment of healthy and sustainable wild Atlantic Salmon in Atlantic Canada and in Québec

Values:

Inclusiveness and Partnerships, Volunteerism, Balance and Integrity

Mission:

To promote enhanced community partnerships in the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and its habitat in Atlantic Canada and Québec