



THE CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION N·E·W·S·L·E·T·T·E·R

PUBLISHED BY THE CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2010

A Response to the Critics

By Caleb Slater, Technical Committee Chair, CRASC; Anadromous Fish Project Leader, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Occasionally throughout the effort to restore Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River there has been published criticism of the effort, especially when the number of returning salmon has been relatively low. The following article was written by CRASC Technical Committee Chair Dr. Caleb Slater as a response to a "My Turn" editorial by Karl Meyer of the Greenfield, MA, Recorder newspaper. The article is published here not only as a response to Meyer's editorial, but also to the range of criticism leveled against the program throughout the effort. [Ed.]

The February 3, 2010 "My Turn" editorial by Karl Meyer outlined his perspectives and concerns about the status of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program. While the members of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) share his desire to see greater numbers of returning sea run salmon, we do not believe this is the appropriate time to abandon the effort. The fact that we have regular annual returns of sea run salmon is a testament to the success of the core strategy of the program. However, the low numbers of salmon returning to the Connecticut River must be looked at in a larger context.

First, the original Connecticut River Atlantic salmon stock is extinct, exterminated by overfishing and dam building in the eighteenth century. Through applied genetic science, the program has been able to develop a Connecticut River strain of salmon that is distinct

from other rivers, including the original donor stocks. These fish were not bred in test tubes or designed by computers—the program allows natural selection to act on the fish that are stocked; those that survive and return as adults pass their genes on. It is not a process that happens quickly over a few years or even reasonably within a few decades, as one salmon generation takes four to five years. This is not an effort that can be undertaken without substantial dedicated resources that are largely directed at hatchery facilities.

Second: salmon returns to the Connecticut River are following broader North American population trends. Most Atlantic salmon runs in North America have been in decline for the last twenty years. In fact wild salmon runs in eight Downeast Maine Rivers were listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act in 2000 and Maine's remaining salmon

runs (Penobscot, Kennebec and Androscoggin) were all listed in 2009. These declines have been occurring in spite of the fact that ocean intercept fisheries in the North Atlantic have been closed, virtually eliminating the fishing-related mortality that used to harvest as many as half of the fish destined for our rivers.

How is this possible? A very dramatic and well documented decrease in marine survival has occurred throughout the range of Atlantic salmon. Since the 1990s, marine survival rates have declined by tenfold. In plain English, we could reasonably expect return rates 10 times greater than what we have been experiencing if marine survival rates returned to what they were in the 1980s. Research has implicated large-scale changes in ocean currents and sea surface temperatures that correlate with the observed declines in marine survival.

(Response, page 2)



The faces of CRSA's Salmon-in-Schools Program

At left, teacher Sean Laydon (left) and Dick Bell at North Haven Middle School during January egg delivery. Right, Dick Bell with students from Tolland Middle School at an April 2010 stockout. [Photos: J. Carroll]



Response from page 1)

al. Scientists believe these changes are cyclical and we can only wait for ocean conditions to change and again become favorable for salmon.

The salmon restoration program was designed to benefit all migratory fish in the Connecticut River. Far from being ignored, the American shad has been the greatest beneficiary. Fish passage, built as part of the salmon restoration program, now allows free access from the Atlantic Ocean to above Bellow's Falls in

THE CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION

The Connecticut River Salmon Association (CRSA) is a nonstock, nonprofit Connecticut corporation. Our mission is to support the effort to restore Atlantic salmon in the Connecticut River basin, a joint undertaking by the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut, together with the US Fish and Wildlife Service of the National Marine Fisheries Service, pursuant to an act of Congress in 1983.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rudolph Besier, Old Lyme, CT
Thomas Chrosniak III, West Hartford, CT
David Egan, Guilford, CT
James T. Glista, Enfield, CT
Harold V. Gorman, Farmington, CT
William F. Hankinson, Jr., Tolland, CT
Robert B. Hoffman, West Hartford, CT
William Hoyt, North Haven, CT
Elizabeth Kendall, North Granby, CT
Roger Plourde, Plainville, CT
Vincent P. Ringrose, Jr., Kensington, CT
Edward H. Ruestow, West Hartford, CT
Robert B. Wolter, Little Compton, RI

OFFICERS

Robert A. Jones, President
South Windsor, CT
Richard G. Bell, Vice President
Hamden, CT
Gerald A. Feinberg, Treasurer
North Haven, CT
James J. Carroll, Jr. Secretary
West Hartford, CT

Funding for The Connecticut River Salmon Association is received from membership dues, donations, grants, and special events. Membership dues, comments, and letters to the editor may be mailed to:

CRSA
76 Deming Street
South Windsor, CT 06074
(860) 644-0159
email: info@ctriversalsalmon.org
www.ctriversalsalmon.org

Vermont. American shad numbers in the Connecticut River are lower than their historic highs of the 1980s, but the population is stable and persists in numbers higher than would be possible without the access to spawning and rearing habitat provided by these fishways. The prospect of salmon restoration precipitated the formation of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC), a multi-agency state/federal partnership that continues to work for the restoration of all of the migratory fish in the Connecticut River. The CRASC is committed to a system management approach that considers the entire complex of migratory species in the watershed. Mr. Meyer's contention that we should now ignore salmon and concentrate on shad perpetuates a discredited single species model of management that leads to the sort of myopic approach that ironically, he accuses us of.

American shad, Blueback herring, and alewife are also all experiencing declines in abundance throughout much of their range. The causes of these declines are also not well understood; bycatch mortality from other fisheries, increased predation, and loss of access to or degradation of habitat in both the freshwater and marine environments are all possible. The CRASC member agencies will continue to work toward the protection of all migratory fish in the Connecticut River. We are planning a new trap and transfer project with the goal of increasing herring production upstream of the Holyoke Dam. We continue working toward the resolution of the fish passage issues at the Turners Falls Dam. In fact the poor performing Cabot ladder will be replaced with a fish lift (like the very successful one at Holyoke) when the Project gets a new Federal Hydroelectric license in 2017 and the fishery agencies are working with the Utility to get this project completed well before then. In the interim we will continue the existing shad trap and transfer program to maintain production upstream of the Turners Falls Dam. And we plan to continue the salmon restoration program; stocking millions of fry and thousands of smolts with the goal of returning a healthy run of sea run Atlantic salmon to our River. ♦

The Connecticut River Salmon Association

2010 Dinner Donors and Contributors

Without the support of the following organizations and individuals, our fundraising dinner and many of our activities would not be possible. Our thanks to each for their contribution and their support of Atlantic salmon restoration.

Angler Sport Group
Atlantic Associates (Eagle Creek)
Peter Basta
Bruce Cox
Cabela's
Capt. Dan Wood
Capt. Jason Jones
Chuck Bellingrath
Dick Bell
Edgar M. Cullman, Jr.
(Culbro, LLC)
Dr. Slick Company
Fly Rod & Reel
Gary Bogli
Globe Pequot Press
Hal Gorman
Hawthorne Inn
Bob Hoffman
Housatonic River Outfitters
Jennifer Jones
Jim Carroll
Jim Glista
Jim Teeny Inc.
Joseph N. Ravita
Judith Bowman Books
Kurt Jagielow
Luther K. Hall
Mark Lewchik
North Cove Outfitters
Patagonia Westport
REC Components
Rob Nicholas
R. L. Winston Rod Co.
Roger Plourde
Roma Ristorante
Ross Reels
Royal Wulff Products
Sportsman's Felt Co.
Temple Fork Outfitters
Thomas & Thomas Rod Co.
Tom Chrosniak
UpCountry Sport Fishing
Vin Ringrose
West Harford Lock Co.

NASCO Holds Annual Meeting in Quebec City

By Stephen Gephard, US Commissioner to NASCO

Each June, the North American Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) holds its annual meeting to receive scientific information and advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) and set regulatory measures (often catch quota) for salmon in international waters. The 2010 Annual Meeting was hosted by Canada in Quebec City. The scientific report from ICES sounded very much like reports from past years, without much good news. The status of the salmon stocks remains about the same—very low—and landings were at an all-time low. The landings data are a bit of a two-edged sword. Landings have traditionally been used to reflect salmon abundance at sea. On the other hand, declining landings also reflect the cessation of fisheries, such as the Irish coastal drift net fishery in 2007. However, analyses show that the pre-fishery abundance of salmon remains low. If there was any glimmer of good news, it is that the average size of salmon at sea continues to creep upward, perhaps as an indicator of improving foraging conditions. However, with returns to most rivers well below the Conservation Limits, this is not cause for exuberance.

ICES examined a so-called “Framework of Indicators” to determine whether or not the status of the salmon stocks have changed substantially enough during the past year to merit NASCO re-examining the current regulatory measures at West Greenland (which currently allows only a minor internal fishery) for the coming year. Once again, this determination was negative and NASCO did not re-open discussions on the West Greenland fishery. Also, once again, the North East Atlantic Commission could not come to an agreement on a Framework of Indicators for the Faroe Island fishery. The fishers have voluntarily agreed not to fish in recent years and have indicated that they will continue not to fish, but Parties are disappointed that a more formal agreement (such as that at West Greenland) cannot be put into place.

A Special Session was held to review the progress by Parties on habitat protection, managing interactions with aquaculture, and public relations. Many reports from the various jurisdictions were discussed. It is probable that the details of these reports are beyond the interest of the average reader and for the sake of brevity, I will not report them here. Anyone who is interested in more information about these may contact me. However, under the discussion of public relations, the revised website was discussed. All agreed that it is much improved and readers may wish to visit and bookmark this site: <http://www.nasco.int/>. The Atlantic salmon rivers database is not yet up and running but it is hoped to be on the website prior to June 2011. Visitors will be able to view the North Atlantic area in Google Maps, click on a region (e.g., New England), then click on a river (e.g., Connecticut River) and learn about the status of salmon in that river.

Emerging threats to Atlantic salmon were discussed: the increased catches of pink salmon in Atlantic salmon rivers in Russia and northern Finland, the increased resistance to chemical controls by sea lice in Norwegian aquaculture facilities, and the proliferation of proposals for near-shore and off-shore alternative energy projects.

Not all of the news is discouraging. Canada and the United States agreed to revise the North American Commission protocols on reporting the transfer and introduction of salmonids, which also includes reporting on fish diseases, transgenics, and escapes from aquaculture facilities. These protocols are aimed at improving communication between the two Parties and improving biosecurity for Atlantic salmon in North America. The ambitious marine research program SALSEA continues to gather valuable data on salmon movements and behavior at sea. Genetic tools have been developed to allow the identification of the river-of-origin of post-smolts at sea. Advances have been made on understanding where post-smolts travel at sea, including some interesting patterns of how post-smolts depart the Gulf of St. Lawrence. A “salmon summit” symposium is scheduled for October 2011 in France to present the first of the results of this research.

Mary Colligan of NOAA-Fisheries and a long-time member of the US delegation to NASCO was elected president of NASCO at the end of the meeting. She presided over the 2010 meeting as acting president because the former president was from Iceland and was obliged to resign when Iceland withdrew from NASCO due to the economic crisis in that country. Mary will now serve a two-year term. George Lapointe, a non-federal commissioner from Maine was elected as vice-chair for the West Greenland Commission and I, the other non-federal commissioner, was elected chair for the North American Commission.

In the absence of regulatory measures for fisheries, it often appears that NASCO meetings lack excitement. While I cannot argue that characterization of the meetings, I would not agree that NASCO lacks purpose. It is true that much of the meeting is taken up with housekeeping duties and the review of reports, but many of these reports are important in the context of strengthening the NASCO partnerships and developing constructive guidelines for the sound management of Atlantic salmon. We all assume that some day the stocks will rebound and regulatory measures will again be necessary. The high level of cooperation and understanding among NASCO Parties will be essential to establishing fair and meaningful quota. Furthermore, the management guidelines being developed now in respect to fisheries management, habitat protection, and aquaculture interactions as well as the important research being encouraged by NASCO should hasten the day when stocks rebound and help build a more stable future. ♦

Extracts from the June 2010 Report of the CRASC Technical Committee

[From the report prepared by Caleb Slater, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and CRASC Technical Committee Chair]

Salmon Studies Subcommittee

Jay McMenemy reviewed that a March Fry Stocking Meeting was held, which included a basin-wide planned fry stocking total of 6.1 million fry. Final stocking numbers are not available and he urged those agencies that have not done so to get their records into the Coordinator. McMenemy noted that the WRNFH [White River National Fish Hatchery] fry were in very good condition and commended the WRNFH staff. He noted that 6.1 million fry is a slight decrease from the 6.5 million stocked in 2009, and is well below the Restoration Plan's call for 10 million fry.

Bob Stira provided a review of smolt data gathered from the mark/recapture project. He noted that 2010 was a very good year in terms of smolt numbers at the Cabot Station sampler, but less so for operational reasons at Holyoke. He explained that in low flows, Cabot is very effective at smolt sampling versus Holyoke, where in these conditions most of the water is not directed to the sampler/canal bypass, rather the turbines, and smolts use adjacent downstream passage gate. Approximately 9,600 smolts were sampled/counted at Cabot (5,698 smolts in 2009) with 2,860 marked (2,943 marked in 2009). This was a very large number of smolts, highest since 1998 (~11,000 sampled). Recall that 2009 was the record high smolt run estimate for this monitoring project. A total of 24 marked/recaptured smolts were observed at the Holyoke sampler which Stira described as average. Steve Gephard commented that the Rainbow Dam smolt sampler on the Farmington River worked well all season and they observed a strong smolt run which he attributed to higher levels of abundance not operational conditions. It was noted last year's parr assessments indicated high densities of fish.

McMenemy updated the Committee on the 10 radio-tagged salmon that had been released from Holyoke. Two fish are located in the Deerfield River. The remaining eight have all passed through Vernon Dam, with four passing Bellows Falls and two passing Wilder Dam. Fish locations were last noted at (3) West River, (1) Cold River, (1) Black River, (1) mainstem, and (2) unknown.

Fish Culture Subcommittee

In 2009, kelts at the NANFH [North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery] were hormone injected and advanced for spawning by approximately one month, to sync with Cronin spawning. Subsequent performance of kelt eggs was shown to be very poor, 5.6–10.4% eye-up rates. This compares very poorly to previous years eye-up performance (mean) of 74%, without hormone treatments.

It was the Subcommittee's recommendation based on these facts, that we not use hormones on the kelts, but rather obtain milt from stream-caught precocious parr and/or domestics (which are of the same age class). If hormones are to be used again, a close accounting of all steps in the process and tracking must be developed.

The use of precocious male parr again provided the required milt for many mating due to the continued skewed female: male ratio for sea-run fish. Data on these parr will be more closely monitored to better assess the period they may be held and still produce milt. Performance to date has been good and as noted before, is a naturally occurring life-history strategy for salmon populations. The use of parr for kelts in their natural later spawning timing may be an issue due to river conditions, thus the need to determine if earlier collected parr will remain viable. It was noted by Dr. Ben Letcher that his field studies have shown still high percentage (60%) of running parr in the early spring on his West Brook (MA) salmonid study.

Smolt Advisory Subcommittee

Steve Gephard reported the following information:

Eisenhower National Fish Hatchery

On February 2, 2010, four two-person crews (Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, and the US Forest Service) conducted a pre-smolt fin condition survey at Eisenhower ENFH [National Fish Hatchery]. A sub-sample of 132 salmon was surveyed from each of the 12 raceways holding Atlantic salmon. All salmon sub-sampled were measured to the nearest millimeter and fin condition was subjectively assessed for all fins.

A total of 1,584 Atlantic salmon were measured and assessed. A total of 455 (28.7%) were less than 150 mm in total length and were classified as parr. A total of 1,129 (71.3%) Atlantic salmon was greater than or equal to 150 mm in total length and were classified as smolts. A total of 37 (3.3%) smolts were determined to have fatal fin condition.

"Viable smolts" are salmon that are greater than or equal to 150 mm total length and without fatal fin condition. A total of 64,165 Atlantic salmon were stocked into the Connecticut River watershed from ENFH in 2010. This included 18,415 parr, 2,836 smolts with fatal fin condition, and 42,913 smolts without fatal fin condition (viable smolts). The overall viability rate of Atlantic salmon smolts produced at ENFH was 67% in 2010.

Berkshire National Trout Hatchery

On February 11 2010, a two-person crew (Connecticut, USFWS [US Fish and Wildlife Service]) conducted a pre-smolt fin condition survey at the BNTH [Berkshire National Trout Hatchery] using the same methods as described above except that the sub-sample was surveyed from the single pond holding Atlantic salmon.

A total of 132 Atlantic salmon were measured and assessed. A total of 52 (39.4%) were less than 150 mm in total length and were classified as parr. A total of 80 (60.6%) Atlantic salmon was greater than or equal to 150 mm in total length and were classified as smolts. A total of 33 (41.3%) smolts were determined to have fatal fin condition.

(CRASC, page 7)

The CRSA “Salmon-in-Schools” Program

School Days

By Dick Bell, Education Chair and Vice President, CRSA

This was a very successful year for the Connecticut River Salmon-In-Schools Program.

I think we had the fewest tank casualties since we began, some 15 years ago. To my knowledge, no school program was put out of business. We did have to close one entire tank, at the Elizabeth Green Elementary School, but this program was operating two tanks. So, very cleverly, Virginia Atkins simply moved the survivors—victims of a power failure—from the failed tank into the other where they were happily raised and subsequently released.

Power failures were the main culprit in partial losses at two other schools. These are probably unavoidable in rural Connecticut, at least those of natural causes. However, we have had two power failures in recent years caused not by storms or high winds, but simply by repair crews doing electrical work and shutting off a part of the schools for safety purposes. In both cases, the workers were completely unaware of the power needs of the salmon tank. A 24-hour loss over a weekend may be enough to kill everything, probably, for loss of oxygen before the high temperature would eventually do the same thing. This may be obviated if the school Head Office and Maintenance Department are forewarned, at the beginning of the school year, of the sensitivity of the salmon tank operation. At least the salmon tank can be, hopefully, accommodated for any necessary planned repairs.

We had 72 schools in the program, down from 77 the year before. This loss was due, in large part, to budget constraints. Happily, there may be ways around that. One of those schools which dropped out this year, New Canaan Country Day, happily advised me a short time ago that they have filled the budget gap with a special donation, and eagerly signed up to return next year. I have in hand an encouraging number of inquiries from new schools and it is obvious that we will need an Orientation next fall. We will announce the time and place for this as soon as it is confirmed. Historically, we have held this on or close to Election Day in November, at the Northeast Utilities Headquarters on the Berlin Turnpike.

One of our participants this year was not a school at all, but an environmental center. Holcomb Farm Learning Center in West Granby, Connecticut, is a familiar name to many of our schools, who find it an excellent stocking site on the Salmon Brook. The Learning Center runs a variety of environmental programs for school children and adults on its lovely rural preserve. Lucy Lindeyer of the Learning Center staff decided last year that they should also have their own tank. Elizabeth Kendall, of the Capitol Region Education Council, and one of our excellent Liaisons, acted as such. Lucy reports a highly successful year, advising me that the salmon tank proved

to be a magnet for interested children and adults. They had a “Salmon Fry” birthday party after the hatching, and a parade to the stream for stocking purposes. I like the idea of tanks in sites like this very much: there are many excellent educational opportunities outside schools, and we reach a slightly different audience, or come at them from a slightly different angle, this way. Next year, in addition to Holcomb Farm Learning Center, which will be back with us, we hope to be in the East Hampton Public Library for precisely the same purposes. If anyone has any further suggestions along these lines, I would be happy to hear them.

The stockings seemed to go well and the practice of advance registration at our major sites worked smoothly. This has proven its worth: If you were at the Salmon River on April 30 when the Tolland Middle School caravan arrived, all seven buses worth, you would understand why. Imagine that coming as a surprise! But it was not. Tolland, as with other large groups, schedules early and I make sure they can have the place to themselves. For this stocking, Cynthia Foster had already canvassed the site thoroughly, and laid out plans at least as extensive as those for the Normandy Invasion. Immediately upon arrival, hordes of Tolland Middle School students—230 by their official count—descend, sort themselves out into several discreet groups, and set out in all directions to pre-arranged work stations to accomplish designated assignments. I wouldn't miss it for the world!

One change needs to be made in our stocking practice this coming year. That will be to include People's State Forest in Barkhamsted (Farmington River) on the list of required advanced registration sites. We are getting more use of this site for stocking purposes, and advanced scheduling, as we use the Salmon River and the Devil's Hopyard, will, I hope, avoid congestion.

Let me close with a word of thanks to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. I advise them regularly of our stockings at our major sites on the Salmon River and the Devil's Hopyard (and next year, the Farmington River at People's State Forest). Whether it is directly a result of this or not, and I like to think that it is, I've never found a cluttered or littered site, and the lavatories have always been clean and well supplied. That's a great convenience to our schools and I'm very grateful.

I look forward meeting many of you and to working with you again next year. ♦

Please consider getting your newsletter by email — we can use the dollars saved for classroom support materials and programming. Sign up today at newsletter@ctriversalmon.org!

Report of the Atlantic Salmon Federation (Meetings of May 26-28, 2010)

By Robert Wolter, President, Western New England Council and Director, CRSA

I. STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board passed a resolution accepting the following in principle:

a. New Mission Statement:

THE ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION IS DEDICATED TO THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF WILD ATLANTIC SALMON AND THE ECOSYSTEMS ON WHICH THEIR WELL BEING AND SURVIVAL DEPENDS.

b. Recommendations:

1. That the ASF work with its Regional Councils to develop a more efficient model for delivery of FISH FRIENDS along the lines of the Western New England and Maine programs.
2. That the ASF develop a plan with the Regional Councils to provide more support to Regional Programs in terms of volunteer manpower and fundraising.
3. That ASF strengthen its Advocacy Program, particularly at the regional level.
4. That the ASF proactively search out opportunities to expand the number of partnered projects it leads and/or participates in along the lines of the Penobscott River Restoration Trust and SALSEA.
5. That ASF assemble a working task force to study the Federation's fundraising model and make recommendations that they consider would make it more effective and/or efficient.

In summary, ASF wants to make better use of the Regional Council's volunteer manpower, local knowledge and influence with provincial and federal governments. They want to establish partnerships with large, well funded NGOs such as the Nature Conservancy so as to share their financial and political clout on large projects. They also want to reexamine ASF's fundraising efforts. In the future they intend to focus on projects that are the most logical and important.

II. "DEAD SALMON DON'T SPAWN!!"

Every day it becomes more evident that one of the main efforts that the ASF must promote is catch and release. ASF has been working with the following groups to reduce or eliminate their annual take of wild Atlantic salmon as listed:

1. Greenland (KNAPK sustenance fishery)	27 tonnes
2. Labrador First Nations Intercepted Fishery	29
3. St. Pierre and Michelin	3
4. Other Canadian First Nation Fisheries	<u>36</u>
Total	95 tonnes

The Canadian recreational catch of wild Atlantic salmon amounted to about 65.4 tonnes in 2009.

It is very difficult to convince the above groups to reduce

their take when recreational fishermen in Canada are taking so many fish.

ASF continues to promote rewards and recognition for salmon camps showing leadership in "Catch and Release." The number of recognized camps has risen to 60.

Efforts to work with First Nations to reduce their catch and to eliminate gill netting and replace it with trap netting where large spawners can be released are starting to show results. The Gesgapegiag Band of Quebec has established a four-year ban on gill netting at the mouth of Quebec's Grand Cascapedia River starting in 2009. This is setting a precedent that can be built upon to enable more large spawners to reach their spawning grounds and to establish closer working relations between ASF and the First Nation people. During the meetings in St. Andrews it was announced that the 2010 winner of the HAPPY FRASER AWARD (ASF's top conservation award) was Chief Guy Condo of the Gesgapegiag Band for his work in convincing the Band of the benefits of working with the camp owners. This suspension, combined with a voluntary live release rate of more than 90% by anglers, will ensure the future health of the River.

III. WILD ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION POLICY

In short, bogged down in bureaucratic inefficiency, and due to reduction in the value of investments, the original Can\$30 million has been reduced to about \$28 million. Income is \$2 million per year. The budget has swollen to about \$415,000 per year, of which \$150,000 is paid to an investment firm to manage the money. The plan is to only distribute \$300,000 per year for the next 3-4 years so the fund can be rebuilt to the original Can\$30 million. After 2019, the hope is to distribute \$1 million per year.

The most affected are the Regional Councils and they are not happy. Their complaints are mainly with the administrative costs and the very small distribution of funds. As they point out, we are faced with emergencies now. At the present rate there might be nothing to save by 2019.

IV. SMOLT AND KELT TRACKING

The bad news is that Dr. Fred Whoriskey will leave The Atlantic Salmon Federation at the end of 2010. The good news is that Fred has accepted a position with Dalhousie University as Executive Director of the Ocean Tracking Network. This new position carries the potential to raise the profile of ASF's research and further contribute to wild Atlantic salmon conservation.

Dalhousie University will have the receiving line set up covering the Cabot Strait in time to count smolts and kelts for 2010 season. Fred and his group are making preparations to cover the Strait of Belle Isle again and will be at sea late June/

(See ASF, page 9)

“Viable smolts” are salmon that are greater than or equal to 150 mm total length and without fatal fin condition. A total of 1,910 Atlantic salmon were stocked into the Connecticut River watershed from BNTH in 2010. This included 752 parr, 478 smolts with fatal fin condition, and 825 smolts without fatal fin condition (viable smolts). The overall viability rate of Atlantic salmon smolts produced at BNTH was 43% in 2010.

Smolt Stocking

A total of 64,165 Atlantic salmon were stocked into the Connecticut River watershed from ENFH in 2010. 39,734 Atlantic salmon were stocked into the Farmington River including 13,524 parr, 2,401 smolts with fatal fin condition, and 23,810 smolts without fatal fin condition (viable smolts).

23,410 Atlantic salmon were stocked into the Deerfield River, including 4,466 parr, 461 smolts with fatal fin condition, and 18,483 smolts without fatal fin condition (viable smolts).

1,021 Atlantic salmon smolts were stocked in support of downstream fish passage studies at hydroelectric facilities in the watershed; 875 smolts at Moore Dam, and 146 at Woronoco Dam.

1,910 Atlantic salmon were stocked into the Connecticut River watershed from BNTH in 2010. This included 752 parr, 478 smolts with fatal fin condition, and 825 smolts without fatal fin condition (viable smolts). All Atlantic salmon produced by BNTH were stocked into the Westfield River.

Genetics Subcommittee

Steve Gephard noted that samples have been transferred from USGS [U.S. Geological Survey] Conte Lab to the USFWS Northeast Fishery Center's Conservation Genetics Lab. The extraction machine has been purchased (funding provided by USFWS) which will help increase the number of samples which can be processed in a year. A portion of the necessary supplies, reagents, and other consumables (\$25,000 worth) have been provided by NOAA [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration], and have been received by the Conservation Genetics Lab. A term position for conducting the lab work at the Conservation Genetics lab, (1 year to be funded by the USFWS), has been developed and is expected to be advertised shortly. The bulk of the supply funding is to be provided for by a Vermont –State Wildlife Grant, which has been developed and is in the Federal Aid office for review.

Samples from smolts which will be considered as part of the marking program were collected this spring. Also, returning adults for this year will also be analyzed for both broodstock evaluation and as part of the marking program.

Broodstock Management Plan

The Genetics subcommittee has developed an initial draft of the Broodstock Management Plan for the Connecticut River Atlantic salmon program. However, this draft was completed prior to the phased-completion approach of the genetic mark-

ing program, so the draft will need to be edited to reflect the program change. Plan should be complete later this summer.

Fish Passage Subcommittee

John Warner reviewed the status of hydroelectric projects in the basin.

Holyoke – Connecticut R.

- Downstream Passage – Concept for passage system revised to eliminate a minimum flow turbine
- New round of design development and review and CFD [Computational Fluid Dynamics] modeling underway.
- Will also need to discuss construction schedule and sequencing relative to upstream passage operations – will coordinate with CRASC
- Further evaluation of upstream eel passage ongoing

Turners Falls – Connecticut R.

- Gatehouse entrance design modifications installed and shad passage being evaluated by Conte Lab-Interim Progress Report, T. Castro-Santos
- Tags:
- Shad from Cabot Trap: 106 (48 Radio Tags)
- Shad from Holyoke: 113 (50 Radio Tags)
- Four releases (5/7; 5/18; 5/26; 6/7)-paired releases with approximately equal numbers of Holyoke and Turners Falls shad, approximately equal numbers Radio + PIT [Passive Integrated Transponder] and just PIT tags.
- 76 PIT Shad Entered Gatehouse (35%)
 - 29 Cabot Shad (27%)
 - 47 Holyoke shad (42%)
- Note that with early run we have seen better passage for all fish this was probably not the best year to look for a Cabot effect. Still, we see a significant difference-possibly conservative.
- 6 salmon, One Old Entrance, One New Entrance, Four Spillway Ladder
- USFWS, NOAA and MDFW [Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife] met with First Light on the potential to develop an agreement on upstream passage improvements at Cabot Station and Gatehouse. We will be working on various components of a Settlement agreement including design drawings, an evaluation plan, short-nose sturgeon issues and legal framework. Early in process.

Canton Hydro – Farmington River

- Preliminary Permit issued – No recent consultation on the project or fish passage
- **Woronoco – Westfield River**
- New ¾-inch rack and bypass installed
- Smolts test run but started late – uncertain results
- 3rd Eel pass being constructed this summer

Due to increasing concern for American shad and river herring in the Connecticut River, we have provided an extract from this report of the CRASC Technical Committee regarding the work being done on these species at www.ctriversalsalmon.org. ♦

CRSA Honors ...

The Berkshire National Fish Hatchery Foundation

A Connecticut River Salmon Association Service Award was presented to The Berkshire National Fish Hatchery Foundation at the CRSA Annual Dinner on January 30, 2010. Present at the dinner to receive the award were Berkshire Foundation directors Martin Cherneff, John P. Doelman III, George Emmons, Steve Schwartz, Esq. and LeRoy Thorpe. The award reads

"In recognition of John P. Doelman III, Phillip Gunzinger, George Emmons, Martin Cherneff and LeRoy Thorpe for their extraordinary dedication to the support of our mission of returning Atlantic salmon runs to the Connecticut River. To paraphrase an old quote 'Never have so few done so much for so many.'

That these exceptional individuals should dedicate their "golden years" to this arduous task of raising Atlantic salmon eggs, and smolts and various species of trout in the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery 24 hours, seven days a week, 365 days a year is truly amazing.

The dedication of these men is a reflection of their character. At this stage in life most are looking for the easy chair or a quiet stream to "wet a line." Not only have they taken on the feeding and raising of the hatchery's usual consignment of fish



From left: Martin Cherneff, Steve Schwartz, George Emmons, LeRoy Thorpe and John Doelman of the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery Foundation accept the CRSA Service Award from CRSA Secretary Jim Carroll. [Photo: James Glista]

but agreed to take in brood stock from the Allegash National Fish Hatchery while it undergoes major renovations.

It is not often that people of any age take on voluntary commitments such as the running of this hatchery. Their commitment to the Atlantic salmon and its environment should serve as an inspiration to us all. The Connecticut River Salmon Association is proud to be able to recognize the service and dedication of these men with this award."

At the dinner, Marvin Moriarty, US Fish & Wildlife Region #5 Director, noted that the Foundation was a unique group of individuals, as the Berkshire hatchery is the only national hatchery in the United States manned entirely by volunteers.



Jan Rowan of US Fish and Wildlife

Janice N. Rowan of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) received a CRSA Education Award for her Education and Outreach leadership while serving as the Connecticut River Coordinator for the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission. President Robert Jones made the presentation at the CRSA January banquet. The award reads

"In partnership with Trout Unlimited, Massachusetts Fisheries & Wildlife and the USFWS Janice jointly founded the Atlantic Salmon Egg Rearing Program (ASERP) in western Massachusetts. Jan's leadership over ten years has enabled thousands of students in more than 40 schools in Western Massachusetts to learn about Atlantic salmon, river quality, and the importance of protecting the environment.

Sophisticated and pertinent teacher and student training materials, including teacher training sessions and classroom demonstrations, were developed. Jan also brought to the program supplemental education support

and manager added great value to the curriculum and trainings.

Jan was also especially effective in providing outreach education materials and support to government and non-government institutions in other New England states. ASERP is a national model for education and environmental outreach program development and Jan's role in this program deserves our commendation and gratitude."

Jan is currently the New England Fish Passage Coordinator based in the Hadley, MA headquarters of USFWS. ♦ — J. Carroll

ASF (from page 6)

early July 2010. Results will be available for the November Board meeting.

This program has been mainly supported by the “Adopt a Smolt” fund where donors contribute \$500, take “ownership” of a smolt and are given progress reports on their smolts during their journey from the river to the sea. It has worked.

V. INVASIVE SPECIES

ASF and the New Brunswick Council are urging the governments involved to eliminate smallmouth bass from Miramachi Lake and to use rotenone if necessary. If the smallmouth bass get into the Miramachi River itself, it could be devastating to Atlantic salmon.

There have been joint efforts by USA and Canadian Regional Councils to override Maine's law preventing the migration of alewives up the St. Croix River. Although much progress has not occurred from a political standpoint, it appears that mother nature is taking over, as they have counted returns in the tens of thousand at the river mouth this year while they were minimal for the last two or three years. ♦

Harold Gorman Elected to CRSA Board

Harold V. Gorman of Farmington, CT, was elected a director of the Connecticut River Salmon Association at the June meeting of the board.

President Robert Jones said, “We are delighted to have Atlantic salmon angler Hal join the board. He has been a strong, longtime CRSA supporter both donating to our dinners and arranging dinner participation.”



Gorman has fished for salmon on the York, Restigouche and other rivers on the Gaspé peninsula for many years. He has fished for trout in various New England lakes and rivers and is a current member of the Limestone Trout Club.

Gorman received a BA degree from Wesleyan University and LLB and JD degrees from UCONN Law School. He spent over thirty years as legal in-house counsel in beverage companies starting with Heublein in 1968 and retiring from Pernod Ricard/Domecq in 2006 as Senior Vice President and General Counsel. He is the current president of The Country Club of Farmington in Farmington, CT. ♦ — J. Carroll .



Bell Receives ASF “Roll of Honor”

Robert Jones, acting on behalf of The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF), presented the coveted ASF Roll of Honor to Richard G. Bell at a March 2010 CRSA directors meeting.

ASF presents the Roll of Honor to individuals who exhibit outstanding commitment to salmon conservation at the grass-roots level to acknowledge the hard work that is performed on behalf of wild Atlantic salmon by dedicated volunteers within the federation's affiliate network.

Jones noted that Bell has been a vice president of the CRSA for over 10 years, the founder and chair of the very successful CRSA Education Committee and has ably represented New England, excluding Maine, on the President's Council of the ASF. Dick started the CRSA Salmon-in-Schools Program in 1996 with support from the ASF at the North Haven Middle School. The program—a partnership with the Connecticut DEP Fisheries Division—has grown to some 72 schools in Connecticut, with over 4,000 students participating.

“Dick is a tireless worker and a leader for our important education effort, and has made a significant environmental education contribution to over 10,000 students and teachers in southern New England and especially in our state. His enthusiasm has been contagious,” Jones said.

Bell's committee was also instrumental in the launch of the ASF Fish Friends Program in Vermont and Rhode Island, and has provided support to programs in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Richard Bell's name will also be engraved on ASF's Roll of Honor plaque that is displayed at the Atlantic Salmon Federation Interpretive Centre, near ASF headquarters in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada. CRSA current president Robert A. Jones and president emeritus, David Egan, were prior recipients of the ASF Roll of Honor award. ♦ — J. Carroll

Every penny counts — get your CRSA newsletter via email!

If you are not a member of CRSA, then you are receiving this complimentary copy of our newsletter in the hopes that you find it informative and that you will consider joining our organization by completing the membership application below.

If you ARE a member already, thank you! **Please consider helping us keep costs in check by receiving this newsletter via email.** You'll get it faster, straight to your inbox, and in full color. Just send us an email at newsletter@ctriversalmon.org with "Email Newsletter" in the subject line and we'll add your email address to our e-subscription list. We promise to protect your privacy: we will not share your email address with any other organization without your explicit permission.

Application for CRSA Membership

NAME _____

PATRON: \$500

ADDRESS _____

LIFE: \$250

SUSTAINING: \$100

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPONSORING: \$50

TELEPHONE _____

CONTRIBUTING: \$25

SEND NEWSLETTER TO MY EMAIL AT: _____

FAMILY: \$25

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "CRSA" AND MAIL THEM TO:

REGULAR: \$20

CRSA

76 DEMING STREET

SOUTH WINDSOR, CT 06074

THE CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION

76 Deming Street

South Windsor, CT 06074

Visit us at www.ctriversalmon.org