



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

PUBLISHED BY THE CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2006



CRSA Dinner Committee (left to right): Bill Hankinson, Chairman  
Ed Ruestow, Bob Hoffman and Dr. Vincent Ringrose

~ CRSA ~

## 31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL DINNER AND RAFFLE/AUCTION

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## A History of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program

By Robert A. Jones, President, CRSA

If one is to believe the references in a variety of historical documents, the Connecticut River may have had the largest run of salmon in New England. What happened to the Connecticut River Salmon? In 1798, a dam was built across the River just below the mouth of Miller's River, about 100 miles from the mouth of the Connecticut. Although salmon were found in large numbers below the dam for 4 or 5 years, a few years later they had all but disappeared. During this period of the Industrial Revolution dams were built on virtually all the tributaries to the River and it was not long before salmon disappeared from the River altogether. In 1867 the Connecticut Fish Commissioners, originally appointed by the Governor in 1866 to investigate the problems of salmon and shad, joined with their counterparts from New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts "to cooperate in the restocking of the Connecticut with salmon and shad." Although hundreds of thousands of juvenile salmon were stocked in the 1870s, with some 800 or more adult fish returning to the river, this restoration effort failed. Unsuccessful fishways and an inability to control commercial fishing were the major causes of the failure. It was not until the passage by Congress, in 1965, of the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act that serious efforts were again initiated to restore Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River Basin.

One hundred years after the first attempt at restoration, in 1967 the fish and wildlife agency administrators from the Basin states agreed to pool their respective restoration funds and joined with their counterparts in the federal government in an agreement for an anadromous fisheries program for the Connecticut River Basin. In order to provide overall direction to the restoration program, the state and federal administrators agreed to participate in a Connecticut River Fisheries Management Policy Committee. In a "Statement of Intent" the Policy Committee set the framework for what turned out to be nearly 40 years of effort. In this statement goals were set, estimated benefits described and problem areas and research needs were defined. Among its first official acts,

(See History, page 2)

## History (continued from page 1)

the Policy Committee named a Technical Committee composed of senior state and federal biologists. The Technical Committee was charged with the design and implementation of needed research programs and development and recommendation of sound fishery management practices. During this period the Policy Committee with the assistance of the Technical Committee became a rather unique organization in the management of regional fisheries programs and a model for other regional and national programs. As an organization established on little more than a "handshake", the Committee was able to bring together state and federal government agencies, private industry, special interest groups and average citizens in a cooperative effort with a common goal.

Initially the primary goal of the Connecticut River program was to restore American shad to their historical spawn-

ing area in the river. The secondary goal was to attempt to restore Atlantic salmon to some portion of their historical range in the basin. As efforts associated with shad restoration neared completion and public interest in the Atlantic salmon program became more intense, it became clear that a more formal institutional arrangement was necessary for program administration. Legislation was drafted which, once enacted by all four basin states and ratified by the U.S. Congress, created an interstate compact known as the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission or CRASC. This legislation provided for membership to include a knowledgeable citizen from each of the basin states, appointed by the respective governors, the fisheries administrator from each of the states and the regional directors of the two relevant federal agencies -- the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). In addition to the duties assumed by the Policy Committee, the Commission was authorized to regulate the salmon fishery in the main stem of the Connecticut River and to issue a license for participation in any Atlantic salmon fishery within the basin. On approval by the U.S. Congress in 1983, the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission held its first meeting in January of 1984 and took up the task of administering the anadromous fisheries restoration program in the Connecticut River Basin.

During the next 20 years, the Commission, with the aid of senior fisheries biologists and scientists from each state and federal agency, developed and managed a program of research and management that has brought the program to the present. Fishways were constructed and operated on five main stem dams and on dams on selected tributaries. Shad were restored to their historical spawning area. Many millions of juvenile salmon were reared and released throughout the Basin and a total of more than 5500 adult Atlantic salmon are known to have returned to the River. All of this work was accomplished cooperatively by private industry, the individual state fish and wildlife agencies, and the USFWS with routine operating funds. No specific funding had been appropriated for this program by Congress or the respective states legislatures until 2003.

Recognizing that the 20 year Congressional authorization for the Commission was to expire in 2003, during the winter of 2000-2001, the Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Service developed a program describing the need for additional funding for the Program and for the reauthorization of the Connecticut River Compact legislation. Members of CRASC, representatives of the USFWS and representatives of interested non-governmental organizations, including the president, vice-president and secretary of the Connecticut River Salmon Association, traveled to Washington, DC, to present the program to the staffs of the Connecticut River basin Congressional delegation. As a result of this initiative, CRASC was reauthorized in 2003 for an additional 20 years and \$250,000 was appropriated to the USFWS specifically for CRASC. ♦

*To be continued ...see our next issue.*

### 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.

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Funding for The Connecticut River Salmon Association is received from membership dues, donations, grants, and special events.

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# Jan Rowan Honored with 2006 "Sense of Wonder Award" from USFWS

Message sent to all US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 5 Employees from Marvin Moriarty, Regional Director:

I am pleased to announce that Jan Rowan, Project Leader, Connecticut River Coordinator Program has been selected as this year's Regional winner for the 2006 Sense of Wonder Award. Jan is being recognized not only for her long-term commitment to education and outreach but also for her leadership with and coordination of the Salmon in the Schools program. Each year, the Service selects a national winner from among the seven Regional winners across the agency. This is the seventh consecutive year the Service will bestow this award on an employee who has designed, implemented, or shown visionary leadership in an interpretive or environmental education program that fosters a sense of wonder and enhances public stewardship of our wildlife heritage. Jan is more than worthy of receiving this prestigious award.

Jan works cooperatively with environmental education programming to link school students with wildlife, their local river or stream, the work of the Service, and their community. The program, initially introduced by Trout Unlimited, has grown extensively through Jan's efforts and hard work. The program is designed to help students learn basic concepts related to aquatic ecology and fisheries management and encourages them to participate in stewardship activities within their local watershed. Jan's collaboration with and support to teachers ensures the program remains interdisciplinary, flexible and based on the principles of sound environmental education and interpretation. The program's effectiveness in enlightening and motivating learners is shown by the kinds of projects students do, from writing letters to their local newspapers, conducting stream clean-ups, monitoring construction projects near streams, and writing poems for the fish they release into the river. It is noteworthy to mention that Jan's efforts are in addition to her ongoing professional duties as project leader. A Regional award review team determined that Jan's nomination best met the award criteria and that her efforts helped awaken a sense of wonder in the lives of young people. ♦



USFWS Director Marvin Moriarty presents Sense of Wonder Award to Jan Rowan, Connecticut River Coordinator (Photo: ??)

## Atlantic Salmon Federation Report

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

The University Club in New York was the international focus point for Atlantic salmon conservation on November 7-9, 2006 when the Atlantic Salmon Federation conducted their annual Board of Directors and Joint Committee Meetings. There were about 100 attendees including Board and Staff.

Many topics were discussed but the main focal points were:

**PENOBSCOT RESTORATION:** The ASF and its four partners are attempting to raise US\$24-\$26 million to open up 500 miles of habitat to anadromous fish on the Penobscot River in Maine. In years past there have been as many as 100,000 Atlantic salmon return to the Penobscot River. Today the return is about 1000. The goal is to remove two lower stem dams and to circumvent a third dam upstream. When the project is completed, they expect returns of Atlantic salmon to increase to 10,000 to 12,000 per year.

The Trust that is running this project has a three-to-five year option to buy the dams and to circumvent the third dam. The price of US\$24-\$26 million is dependent upon the timing of obtaining the funds and completing the purchase. A Capital Campaign has gained momentum led by Rick Warren, Chairman of ASF (USA) and has raised more than US\$6 million in private funds towards an initial goal of US\$8-\$10 million from non government sources.

Progress is being made in raising government funding. To date, the Trust has received US\$3.5 million in federal funding for dam acquisition and US\$500,000 for other project work. Currently, US\$4.7 million is in the Department of the Interior and NOAA Fisheries bills and grant programs. The Army Corps of Engineers is a good possibility as another federal partner. Once the Trust has completed the purchase

(See ASF Report, page 9)

# The CRSA Salmon in Schools Program

## Largest Class of First-Time Teachers Ever Join Veterans at 2006 Orientation

By Jim Carroll, Secretary, CRSA

Seventeen new teachers from new schools were among sixty participants at the November 9, 2006 CRSA Teachers Orientation held at the headquarters of Northeast Utilities in Berlin, CT. Once again, participation was required for new teachers joining the CRSA Salmon in Schools Program for the first time. Education Chairman Dick Bell opened the meeting by saying, "This is the largest class of first-time teachers in the 10-year history of our fast-growing Connecticut environmental education program."

The agenda included a presentation by CT DEP biologist Steve Gephard of the life cycle of Atlantic salmon, a history of the Connecticut River salmon restoration effort by CRSA president Bob Jones, a review of how to set up and operate an aquarium tank by CRSA director Bill Hankinson, a Development Index explanation by CRSA consultant Gary Bogli and a program overview by Education Chairman and CRSA Director Dick Bell.

Mary Pat Coburn, past president of the CT Science Teachers Association



Teachers attending the 10<sup>th</sup> annual orientation at Northeast Utilities. (Photo: J. Carroll)

and a faculty member at Smith Middle School in Glastonbury, talked about "A Successful Middle School Program" in the CAPT test environment. Lyme Consolidated teacher Rebecca Pote, a ten-year veteran of the program, presented the elements of her school's successful elementary school program, which is unique among Connecticut schools. Every one of the elementary school students in her school is academically involved in the salmon proj-

ect even though there is only one incubating tank in a sixth grade classroom.

This continuing teacher training is made possible in an important way by the generosity of Northeast Utilities. The Berlin-based company's meeting facilities include a large enough meeting room with special audio/visual equipment and access to their first rate cafeteria to accommodate the growing size of the CRSA Teachers Orientation. ♦

## New Hampshire, Vermont Groups Join Forces with CRSA for Orientation

By Jim Carroll, Secretary, CRSA

The partnership of US Fish & Wildlife (USFWS), New Hampshire Fish & Game, Vermont Fish & Game, the CRSA and the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum (SVNHM), announced in the last CRSA Newsletter, formed an Education Committee in September. Judy Tumosa of NH Fish & Game and Chris Alexopoulos of the US Forest Service agreed to be the Adopt A Salmon Education Coordinators for their respective states. The committee includes Jan Rowan, USFWS Connecticut River Coordinator; USFWS

Pittsford Hatchery manager Henry Bouchard; USFWS Bethel, VT salmon hatchery manager Ken Gillette; long-time education volunteer and teacher Audrey Halpert, Jason Saltman of SVNHM and CRSA Director Jim Carroll.

The 2006 Teachers Orientation was held November 8 at the Montshire Natural History Museum in Norwich, VT. Thirty-one teachers attended, with eight from New Hampshire. All of the teachers in the two states who incubated Atlantic salmon last year as a science

tool were invited to the session. The eight first-year Vermont teachers from new schools sponsored by the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum were required to attend.

Presentations were made about the life cycle of Atlantic salmon, the history of Atlantic salmon in the Connecticut River basin, how to use the salmon rearing program as a teaching tool, how to manage the incubator tank, and how and where to stock the salmon fry in the spring. ♦

## Good Neighbors Make Good Stocking Sites!

By Dick Bell, Education Committee Chair

For many years, the chief stocking sites for schools engaged in our Salmon in Schools program have been on State of Connecticut property. We have made extensive use of the Salmon River Recreation Area in East Hampton, as well as the Comstock Covered Bridge parking area just upstream. Similarly, and of especial interest to schools in the southern and southeastern parts of the state, Devils Hopyard State Park on the Eight Mile River has been an extremely popular site. Other State sites which have been used on a smaller scale include People's State Forest on the Farmington River in Barkhamsted, and Gay City State Park on the upper Blackledge River in Hebron.

Quietly and without much fanfare, some of our schools have also stocked at Holcomb Farm in West Granby, along the West Branch of the Salmon Brook. This is a different kind of ownership; it is not State-owned public land at all, but private. Holcomb Farm is joined this year by two other privately owned new stocking sites. Together, they make a definitive and very much appreciated statement of private nonprofit support for our efforts.

Holcomb Farm is owned and operated by Holcomb Farm Learning Centers, Inc., a nonprofit organization devoted to providing greater Hartford, and the local community, with a variety of program opportunities in environmental studies, the arts and agriculture. The Farm

(See Good Neighbors, page 7)

## Record 17 New Schools Join Program in 2006

By Dick Bell, Education Committee Chair

It took CRSA about seven years to achieve an enrollment of 17 schools in its Salmon in Schools. Never in our history have we had a single year enrollment in double digits. Now, in 2006, we had 17—count 'em!—17 new schools join in a single year. Indeed, it would have been 18 had not a high school teacher's own delivery schedule trumped the CRSA egg delivery schedule! She was signed, sealed, owned her chiller and was ready to attend the CRSA Orientation, when a decision, no doubt a wise one, was made to wait 'til next year. I'm sure her baby will appreciate that.

That created another first. Previously, another high school teacher had decided to take a sabbatical. He did so only on the condition that we would admit him back into the program in the fall of 2007. This is the first time we've ever had two schools, much less large schools, equipped and fully committed to join the program 12 months hence.

An interesting feature of this year's delegation is the number of old faces in new places. This year, four of our veteran teachers transferred from their old schools to go to new ones. They have all brought their new schools into the program. In three of the four cases, we had a junior teacher step up to the plate at the old school and keep it in the program as well. We also had a middle school return after a two-year absence; the original teacher had transferred to a new school two years ago, and brought it into the program then.

There are two high schools, six middle schools, two middle magnet schools, one 6<sup>th</sup> grade school, four elementary schools, and two special schools. They come from 12 different Connecticut cities and towns. The largest delegation—four schools from Cheshire—is the largest single group of schools from any one city or town we've ever had come in at the same time. ♦

### NEW CRSA Participating Schools for 2006

CITY/TOWN AND SCHOOL	LEAD TEACHER
Cheshire High School	Tom Lewoc, Tom McLure
Cheshire: Chapman Elementary	Judy Gianetto
Cheshire: Doolittle Elementary	Deborah Thomas
Cheshire: Norton Elementary	Tara Daly
Deep River: John Winthrop Middle	Douglas Gagne
East Windsor Middle	Mark Paradise
Glastonbury: Gideon Welles (6 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	Anna Ryzak, Jim Martin
Glastonbury: Tootin' Hills Middle	John Carpenter
Hartford: Breakthrough Magnet	Roland J. Perreault
Hartford: Noah Webster Microsociety Magnet	Paul Duva
Manchester: Raymond Hill	Bob Romeo
New Britain: Robertson Elementary	Rick Rossi
North Haven Middle	Lauretta Dowling
Plainville: Northwest Village	Michael Deitter
Wallingford: Dag Hammarskjold Middle	Kim Bloom
West Hartford: Bristow Middle	Kathy Egan
Windham High School	Pam Cavanagh

## Spotlight on Our Sponsors ...

By Jim Carroll, Secretary, CRSA

### **The Largest Start-up by a School District**

Ed Albrecht, a Cheshire resident and Trout Unlimited member, learned about the CRSA Salmon in Schools Program from fellow TU member and teacher Al Concilio, a previous CRSA program participant at Beecher Road School in Woodbridge. Ed contacted Dr. Deborah Burns, the curriculum coordinator in his Cheshire School District. Soon after, CRSA VP Dick Bell was invited to make a presentation about the program to Dr. Burns and a small group of Cheshire administrators and teachers. In turn, the school district applied for and received a very significant sum of money from the Cheshire-based Peck Jones Fund, a local trust donated as a memorial and bequest to serve the children of Cheshire. The funds from the Peck Jones endowment allowed the school district to equip four schools with tanks, chillers, and filters.

Dr. Burns said, "We are very thankful to Ed, Al, Dick, the Connecticut River Salmon Association, and the Peck Jones Fund for helping us foster environmental education in Cheshire. Their personable support and fast response to all of our questions really speeded the planning and preparation stage. This project provides a perfect opportunity for us to integrate our learning standards in oceanography, life science, and environmental science with our desire to promote hands-on learning, student inquiry, measurement, and data collection. The children are already incredibly excited about their new role in rearing the salmon and helping to restore the population to our local streams. They are eagerly awaiting the delivery of the eggs in early January and promise to be good stewards throughout the coming months." VP Dick Bell said at the CRSA November Teachers Orientation, "This is the largest number of schools in a single school district to ever adopt the Salmon in Schools Program in a single year in Connecticut. Our gratitude to Dr. Burns."

### **A Reel Chance: The Connecticut River Steward Program**

Hartford's Breakthrough Magnet School was founded by principal Norma Neumann-Johnson for K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students to provide a single, secure learning environment for a child from pre-school to high school. Riverfront Recapture, Inc. is the award-winning private, nonprofit organization founded in 1981 that has led restoration of access to the Connecticut River and development of parks and public recreational facilities that improve the quality of life for people who live and work in Metro Hartford; made the Riverfront a destination for



Left to right, Breakthrough Magnet School project staff Carolyn McElravy, Roland Perreault, Hartford Police Sergeant Robert Allen, Kristin Wilder, Riverfront Recapture's Craig Mergins, Maritza Soto-Gomez and Principal Norma Neumann-Johnson. (Photo: J. Carroll)

visitors from outside the region as well as residents; and leveraged the public investment in the Riverfront parks to attract private investment for economic development that will create jobs, generate tax revenues, and help to revitalize Metro Hartford.

The Connecticut River Steward Program was founded this Fall by Breakthrough Magnet School, Riverfront Recapture, The Metropolitan District Commission, the Connecticut Center for Science and Exploration, the Hartford Police Department-Marine Patrol Division, the Connecticut Power Squadron, The Connecticut Bass Federation, FLW Outdoors and the Berkley Conservation Institute.

Craig Mergins of Riverfront Recapture said, "We will use the CRSA Salmon in Schools Program and other curriculum elements at Breakthrough Magnet School to provide career and occupational education in the various skills and areas of study associated with the wise use of marine and freshwater resources. Students will study topics in the life cycle of Atlantic salmon and its restoration, fish habit restoration, fisheries management and gear technology, resource accountability, and community skills including violence prevention, safe boating skills and Connecticut River history. Our thanks go to the Citizens Bank Foundation for their critical financial support too."

### **Leaders and Leadership**

The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association (CFFA) runs perhaps one of the best portfolio of fly fishing education programs in New England, with annual winter courses available in fly tying, fly rod making, fly casting, leader making and fly fishing. President John Barrachi called CRSA director Vincent Ringrose last spring and said his board wanted to add a school environmental academic program to their efforts. The result has been two CFFA \$800 checks this year to sponsor equipment for teacher Mark Paradise at East Windsor Middle

(See Sponsors, page 7)

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## Good Neighbors *(continued from page 5)*

encompasses 322 acres of farmland, rolling hills, meadows, woodland and clear brooks. Jonathon Holcomb originally established it as a working farm in 1719. Seven generations of Holcombs followed him, farming continuously up to 1976. In that year, Tudor and Laura Holcomb gave the Farm to the public, to be used for agricultural and educational purposes. In 1993, it was reorganized to its present form.

Today, Holcomb Farm is listed on both the State and National Historical Registers. Its Environmental Programs include Stream and Aquatic Studies, Ecosystems and Wilderness Survival, and Reptile and Mammal Studies, to name a few. For a charge, CRSA Schools can schedule one of these programs as a part of the stocking event. There is no charge to come and stock and picnic. All activities, including stocking, must be scheduled in advance through Melissa Vanek at Holcomb Farm (860-844-8616), and are subject to both the Farm's rules and our daily limits on the number of schools, as published in our recent Stocking Guide.

The McLean Game Refuge lies in both North Simsbury and West Granby. It includes over 4,000 acres of varied wilderness preserve, offering an array of hikes through its forests and along its streams and ponds. It contains an ideal stocking site in West Granby, at the Barndoor Hill Road access, on the West Branch of the Salmon Brook downstream from Holcomb Farm.

This wonderful area was established as a Refuge in 1932 by the bequest of local resident George Payne McLean. McLean had an Horatio Alger upbringing on his family's farm. Born in Simsbury in 1857, his thirst for education led him to commute to Hartford by train while continuing his milking chores, morning and night. Eventually, he passed the bar, opened a law practice in Hartford, and entered politics. He served his District as a State Senator, and later as District Attorney, and in 1900 was elected Governor of the State of Connecticut. A very substantial inheritance devolved upon him in 1905, which he devoted to the acquisition of those western highlands in Granby and Simsbury, which became the heart of the present day Refuge. In 1911, he was elected to the United States Senate and served three distinguished terms, through the first world war. The Migratory Bird Act of 1918, an early conservation effort, was one of his significant achievements. He retired from public service in 1929, and died in Simsbury in 1932. The Trustees of the McLean

Foundation carry on his wishes today by managing and protecting the property as a refuge for wildlife ó and as a place where the public can visit it and enjoy it for nature study and passive recreation. It was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1983. The Refuge, through its Director Steve Paine, has graciously permitted our schools to use the area near the bridge off Barndoor Hill Road in West Granby as a stocking site. It has all the bells and whistles for this: many picnic tables, outhouse facilities, a covered area, ample parking, plus all the hiking trails you could wish for. Use of this site will be scheduled through Dick Bell, and individual schools will be contacted as appropriate.

The third new site is quite different than Holcomb Farm and the McLean Refuge. It utilizes a strip of State land along the Blackledge River, on the Old Hartford Road, which parallels Route 2, just over the Marlborough town line from Colchester. There is good habitat here and room to get in and out by bus, but not a lot more. It would be useful for a group that just wanted to stop and stock, but not stay. Most of our schools, especially with younger classes, want to stay.

This is where the Loyal and Benevolent Order of Moose, Lodge No. 1631, comes in. The Lodge building is situated on the opposite, or north, side of the road. On its east side, Fawn Brook comes down to join the Blackledge. There is plenty of bus parking room in the Lodge parking lot, and they have a very attractive covered picnic area with outhouse facilities behind the Lodge, right on Fawn Brook. This is framed by expansive athletic fields ó which they rent to the town for a dollar a year ó on either side. These amenities change the Blackledge stocking site from one of limited utility to one that will be very useful indeed. Making these facilities available to us is consistent with the public service mission of the Lodge. Use of this site will be scheduled through Dick Bell, and individual schools will be contacted as appropriate.

So, these three private organizations have all agreed to let CRSA use, without charge, their property, either as a stocking site directly, or, in the case of the Moose Lodge, as an ancillary facility to make the stocking event more meaningful and more interesting to students from all over Connecticut. This is a very nice thing indeed, and the Connecticut River Salmon Association is very grateful. ♦

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## Sponsors *(continued from page 6)*

School and Pam Cavanaugh at Windham High School for the CRSA Salmon in Schools Program in their classrooms. CFFA member Bob Winot has volunteered to be the liaison for the schools. The CFFA has been a generous partner to

the CRSA, lending a handsome folding exhibit for the CRSA to use with its own art work, which the CRSA has employed at school events, teacher conferences and environmental meetings. ♦

# Extracts from the 2006 Report of the CRASC Technical Committee

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

## Genetics Research

Use of genetically marked families as a monitoring and management tool continues.

Sea-run returns are individually genotyped. This information allows mating to prevent loss of genetic variability and the production of known, "genetically marked" families. Research by staff at the United States Geological Survey (USGS)-Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center has shown that parents and families can be accurately assigned to fish captured in the river, based on an analysis of emigrating smolts. Further analysis of samples from smolts and returning adults should yield conclusions about which regions within the Connecticut River basin are most productive.

## Fish Culture

5.8M fry and almost 70,000 smolts were stocked in 2006. Half of the smolts were stocked into the Farmington River and the remainder in the mainstem Connecticut River in Massachusetts.

The egg production projection for this year is 10.9 million green eggs.

Staff at the Richard Cronin National Salmon Station (RCNSS) have completed sea run spawning, taking about 887,000 eggs. The balance will be from domestic broodstock. Spawning is underway at the White River National Fish Hatchery (WRNFH), the Roger Reed State Fish Hatchery (RRSFH), and the Kensington Salmon Station (KSS). Kelt spawning is underway at the North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery (NANFH). Spawning is nearly complete at the RRSFH (~1.8M eggs). Only about 0.5M eggs were shipped to the WRNFH this year because both chiller and incubation capacity have been increased at this site. Incubation facilities at the KSS (2M eggs) are full and future production will be shipped to the WRNFH.

Milt from 41 sea-run males was cryogenically preserved at the RCNSS with help from the Northeast Fishery Center and materials from the Pittsford National Fish Hatchery (NFH). Motility ranged from 25-85%. This study will help to confirm protocols for milt preservation and provide insight into production level milt preservation. The study will also address kelt and domestic milt from the NANFH and the WRNFH as a comparison.

A cadre of volunteers assisted the staff at the Pittsford NFH in vaccinating and marking pre-smolts. The fish were large, of consistent size, and appeared to be of high quality.

Bill Archambault reported that salmon production is underway at the Berkshire hatchery in Great Barrington, MA, under the direction of a United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) volunteer group. The production goal is 25,000 2-year smolts. The Smolt Advisory Committee will meet at the Berkshire hatchery this winter to review the operation and view the fish.

## Salmon Studies

Fourteen sea-run Atlantic salmon were radio-tagged and released above the Holyoke dam as part of the annual Deerfield River Fish Passage Study. Two of these fish were never detected in any tributary. One salmon was located in the Mill River-Hatfield (MA). Seven salmon were documented in the Deerfield River with five salmon reaching the #2 dam, exceeding the 4 fish trigger number for upstream fish passage. This is the second year in a row that the trigger has been met—so now the committee must now determine if we wish to pursue upstream passage at Deerfield #2. Four salmon passed the Vernon dam. Of these, three were found in the West River at the Townshend dam though none were successfully trapped. Another hovered around the Bellows Falls dam and fishway but ultimately made its way to the Cold River which is the first tributary downstream of that dam. It stayed there for 10 days and then left.

Preliminary assessments this summer's stream parr growth and survival work indicate that most sites looked good with variability at some sites in each state likely related to high flows at or just after stocking. Vermont experienced reduced stock densities for 0+ salmon but good parr numbers and likely a good smolt estimate overall.

## Fish Passage

### Holyoke - Connecticut R.

- 2006 Fish Passage Season went well (second season with new facilities).
- New crowder system & operation protocol at shad transport system worked well.
- Downstream passage investigations ongoing n̄ sturgeon tagging/lab testing.

### Turners Falls - Connecticut R.

- Project sold by Northeast Utilities to Energy Capital Partners out of New Jersey  
- Staff to remain the same
- Plans for new Gatehouse entrance are in revision - due mid-November
- Construction is still set for 2007

### Rainbow Fishway Rehabilitation - Farmington River

- Engineering alternatives analysis nearly completed
- Next step is to choose the new design

## Shad Studies

About 1,400 shad were transferred in 2006. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, USFWS, Maine Department of Marine Resources and USGS made intra- and inter-basin transfers for restoration and research. Survival was generally good though loss in some loads was heavy possibly because of density in the lift and delays in loading. Shorter lift intervals helped. ♦



## ASF Report *(continued from page 3)*

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of the dams, they will need another US\$25 million to take the dams down.

The limited catch and release Atlantic salmon fishing season on the Penobscot River this fall was a big success. This was the first time since 1999 that anglers were allowed to fish for Atlantic salmon in Maine. Even though only one fish was caught, it revitalized the interest of the individual fishermen and the various salmon fishing clubs throughout the State. Consideration is being given to another limited season next year.

**NON-NATIVE SPECIES:** Most of the Regional Council Presidents addressed this issue. The species involved are: largemouth and smallmouth bass, Northern pike, chain pickerel, muskellunge and rainbow (steelhead) trout. All of these species can be deadly to smolts and parr. The Regional Presidents are working closely with their various government officials to control this problem.

**SMOLT TRACKING:** As a leader in tracking salmon at sea, ASF has financed the development of sonic telemetry to track smolt migration from the rivers, into the estuaries, into the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of Maine as well as the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This year they pushed their monitoring to the Strait of Belle Isle, the salmon's northern most exit from the Gulf of St. Lawrence. ASF plans to share this work with SALSEA and NASCO as part of their support for these groups.

Dr. Fred Whoriskey, Vice President, Research and Development for ASF, gave an enlightening power point presentation showing tracking results on 203 smolts that were released in 2006 from the Miramachi, Restigouche, Cascapedia and St. Jean (North shore) Rivers. The presentation showed the smolts on their voyage from up river to the estuaries and into the Bay of St. Lawrence. With the tracking station at the Strait of Belle Isle, they discovered more smolts were using this path to Greenland than they thought. This was a very interesting scientific presentation.

**SALSEA** (NASCO's research into mortality at sea): ASF is participating in the next steps for SALSEA. NASCO is involving NGOs and their representatives. Dr. Fred Whoriskey is serving on the Scientific Advisory Council and Bill Taylor, President of ASF is on the Steering Committee to SALSEA. Sue Scott, ASF Vice President is on NASCO's public relations committee. ASF director Bud Bird serves as a Canadian Commissioner to NASCO and has been a leader in moving SALSEA forward.

Ken Whalen, President of NASCO and Chairman of SALSEA discussed financial needs for this research as well as plans for the future. To emphasize the problem he pointed out that in 1976 there were about 900,000 Atlantic salmon returning to North American rivers of which about 226,000 were

maiden 2ws fish. In 2004 there were 126,000 returns to North America of which 81,300 were 2ws fish. He emphasized that marine survival is a Global Problem and that Atlantic salmon are an "Aquatic Canary".

With the recent buyout of the Irish drift net fishery all of the major interceptive fisheries have been dealt with.

The goal is to build a genetic Atlas of all of the Atlantic salmon stocks in the North Atlantic. They will be netting salmon at sea to accomplish this. The only problem is there will be salmon killed in the beginning. By 2008 they will be able to genetically track salmon caught at sea back to their natal rivers. This will involve a goodly amount of "Scientific Boat Time" and they are seeking both cash and vessel donations. They are approaching this as an Oceans Problem rather than an Atlantic salmon problem. They feel they will be more successful in fund raising with this approach, particularly with government organizations.

SALSEA will need US\$26.5 million (US\$8.5 from NGO sources) to accomplish their goals. Their intention is to finish their work by 2012, "close tent", and turn over to "others." Mr. Whalen mentioned that in 2010/2011 there will be a "Salmon Spectacular" involving both Atlantic and West coast salmon conservation.

**GREENLAND CONSERVATION AGREEMENT-**The agreement which has been in effect since 2002 expires at the end of 2006. If a new agreement can't be reached the Organization of Hunters and Fisherman in Greenland (OFHG) will be able to resume fishing at sea when the new season starts in August of 2007. The agreement stipulates that 2.2 million Danish Krone (about US\$350,000) annually be invested in a fund for economic development. The Agreement has been funded by the U.S. Dept. of State, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, North Atlantic Salmon Fund and ASF. Most of the above funding is not available and ASF will be responsible for funding the lion's share of the new agreement.

Negotiations are under way to conclude a new agreement with OFHG but these have been delayed by Bill Taylor's recent illness. It is not expected that a new agreement will be concluded until April 2007.

The proposal to the Board of the ASF to establish a fund to finance the new five year agreement with the OFHG was delayed till the April, 2007 meeting of the ASF Board in Montreal. It was felt that from a negotiating standpoint it would be better not to have a fixed amount of funds available for this agreement. Also, some Board members were uncomfortable with having two Capital Fund drives going at the same time (Penobscot Trust). It is felt that the Penobscot Trust fund drive should be winding down by April, 2007. ♦

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