

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

Published by the Connecticut River Salmon Association

### CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION



### **ANNUAL DINNER AND RAFFLE / AUCTION**

Saturday, January 25, 2003 The Hawthorne Inn 2421 Wilbur Cross Highway, Berlin, CT Tickets \$35.00 per person

Diversified Silent Auction "Reasonable length" Live Auction Select Bucket Raffle Door Prizes

Guest Speaker Stephen Gephard U.S. Commissioner to NASCO

Special Grand Prize

Raffle and Auction items include fresh and saltwater tackle and equipment, limited edition and original art work, guided trips and other items which provide excitement and enjoyment throughout an evening of good fellowship.

For Reservations Call: Ed Ruestow at (860) 521-1426 or Jim Carroll at (860) 236-5181

2002 Grand Prize winner Paul Genn displays the five-piece travel rod he won at CRSA's 2002 auction. Donated by Orvis, the reel was a Winston redesigned and improved version of the famous Hardy Perfect reel. A Cortland 444SL WF-5-F fly line was included.



### WINTER 2002 - 2003

### A Major Conservation Breakthrough?

By Robert Jones, President, CRSA Commissioner, CRASC Past Commissioner, NASCO

Greenland's commercial fishermen's organization, The Organization of Hunters and Fishermen, has agreed to a suspension of its commercial salmon fishery. The Greenland Conservation Agreement was finalized on August 9 of this year, just prior to the opening of the commercial Atlantic salmon fishery. The West Greenland fishery is the last ocean fishery that targets North American wild Atlantic salmon. Canada terminated its commercial salmon fisheries in the 1990s, while the US suspended fishing as far back as the 1940s.

The agreement was negotiated by the North Atlantic Salmon Fund, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, the

(See Conservation, page 2)

### CRSA Annual Meeting To Be Held January 25, 2003

The annual meeting to elect directors and conduct other appropriate business of the membership is scheduled for 4:45 PM on January 25, 2003 at The Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT.

The meeting has been called by CRSA President Robert A. Jones and a Notice of the Meeting with a Proxy have been sent to all the members of record as of December 15 by CRSA Secretary, James J. Carroll. The meeting will be followed at 5 pm by an Auction Preview and Social Hour, and the Annual Dinner at 6:30 pm. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other US and Greenland officials and has been endorsed by the Greenland Home Rule Government. The agreement is renewable annually for up to five years and, in exchange for the right to fish for salmon, provides that new fisheries development projects will be initiated to offset economic losses associated with the suspension of the salmon fishery. It

#### 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the National Marine Fisheries Service, pursuant to an act of Congress in 1983.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert E. Allaire, Bristol, CT Peter H. Basta, Dorset, VT Rudolph Besier, Old Lyme, CT Myron Cohen, Guilford, CT David Egan, Guilford, CT James T. Glista, Enfield, CT Elaine Holcombe, South Windsor, CT William Hoyt, North Haven, CT John E. Kinnear, Enfield, CT Edward C. Meyer, New Fairfield, CT Edward H. Ruestow, West Hartford, CT Robert B. Wolter, Norfolk, CT

#### 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@ctriversalmon.org

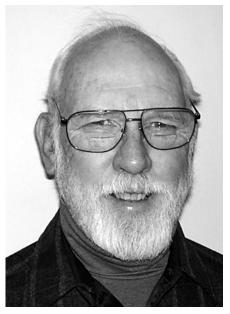
www.ctriversalmon.org

does not include the local subsistence fishery, estimated to be from eight to twelve metric tons.

The total cost of the agreement is approximately \$275,000 annually or \$1.375 million over five years. Approximately \$500,000 left over from the similar 1993-1994 buyout agreement, and previously provided by the US Congress to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, has been dedicated to this effort. As a result the United States has provided, in advance, funds to almost pay for the first two years of the five-year agreement.

This agreement is being touted as a major breakthrough in the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon. Clearly the reduction in the West Greenland catch will mean that more salmon will be saved to return to North American and European rivers (bearing in mind that a subsistence fishery of from eight to 12 metric tons will continue). However one must question whether the results of the agreement will be worth the cost to the United States, particularly given that there is reason to believe that the Greenland fishery has not, in recent years, been the cause of the continuing reduction in wild Atlantic salmon returning to our rivers. How many fish will be saved to return to US rivers? Are there more pressing needs for the \$500,000 in US funds dedicated to the agreement?

It is noted that at the 2002 NASCO meeting, the delegates were advised that adult salmon returns were strongly influenced by unknown factors in the marine environment. In many river systems, it is apparent that substantial numbers of juvenile salmon are being produced and are leaving the rivers, but are not returning in commensurate numbers, even though the Greenland catch has been significantly reduced in recent years. NASCO has created an International Atlantic Salmon Research Board which will direct and coordinate a research



CRSA President Bob Jones is a commissioner of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) and a past commissioner of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization.

program to identify factors which may be contributing to high mortality of salmon at sea. Unfortunately there appears to be little funding available to launch such an effort. The Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program has suffered and will continue to suffer due to a lack of funding. The US Congress declined to include an authorization for desperately needed funding for the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) during the recent CRASC reauthorization process. There are undoubtedly other salmon research and management efforts that are suffering for the lack of adequate funding.

A few more fish may return to US rivers and a few more fish may be available to anglers in Canadian rivers but could we make better use of our money than paying Greenland fisherman not to fish? The question may be moot at this point but it is one that needs to be asked. ◆

[Note: the text of the agreement is available on the CRSA web site, at www.ctriversalmon.org/news/2002\_ Cons\_Agreement.html]

## Extracts from the 2002 Report of the CRASC Technical Committee

Prepared by Jay McMenemy, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and CRASC Technical Committee Chair

#### Salmon Studies

A total of 43 adult salmon was counted at fishways this year. Most other salmon rivers had similarly disappointing returns. Fry stocking and estimated smolt production has remained stable or increased while adult returns have been declining over the last few years. This is presumably due to continued poor conditions in the marine environment. All of the returns were from fry stocking except for two salmon that came from the first stocking of 48,000 two-year old smolts from Pittsford in 2000.

Most adults were retained for broodstock, but four were radio-tagged and released by Pacific Gas and Electric Gen (PGEGen) at Holyoke as part of a study to evaluate the need for upstream passage on the Deerfield River. PGEGen provided the Agencies with a radio receiver to assist in monitoring salmon that did not enter the Deerfield. Adult salmon from this release are known to have entered the Ashuelot, Deerfield, and West Rivers. One salmon escaped capture at Holyoke but was later trapped and retained for broodstock at Vernon.

Northeast Utilities and Greenfield Community College again conducted a study to estimate wild smolt production by marking smolts at Turners Falls and recapturing them at Holyoke. No population estimate was possible because of the very low capture and recapture rates caused by high river flows and associated spillover the dams. Smolt estimates made from index station assessments were up considerably over last year and the smolts had generally good flow conditions during outmigration.

Index station surveys conducted in 2002 have not been analyzed yet. However, first summer survival appears to be normal in most areas despite the drought. Stocked salmon are doing well in most tributaries in the basin. One area of concern is the continuing poor survival of stocked fry of sea-run origin particularly in Connecticut tributaries but also in Vermont. This is believed to be related to the small size of sea-run fry in recent years, perhaps due to the incubation temperature regime. This could be addressed by feeding the sea-run fry to increase their size prior to stocking but due to staffing concerns, White River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) is not able to undertake feeding fry this year.

#### Fry Stocking

A total of 7.2 million salmon fry was stocked last spring into habitat in the four basin states, down significantly from last year's 9.6 million and well short of our goal of ten million fry stocked. Cuts were accomplished by cutting stocking densities and by not stocking some of our least productive habitat. Agency personnel were assisted by hundreds of volunteers.

#### Spawning/Egg Production/ Egg Incubation

Spawning got underway in mid October and the projected egg take for 2002 is about 10.6 million, similar to last year and far short of our 15 million goal. Ken Gillette, White River NFH manager, indicated domestic production is down due to less attentive care because of reduced staffing and colder water to save money on heating oil. Fry stocking next spring will probably be similar to this year's reduced level.

#### Genetics

Genetically-based broodstock management continued in cooperation with the Conte Lab. Sea-runs were genetically typed and matings planned to avoid breeding closely related fish. Most of the egg production of domestic broodstock at White River was genetically "marked." These known family groups were allocated to various tributaries. About half of the total fry production, at White River NFH was genetically "marked" last spring and a similar level is planned for this spring. Two groups of genetically marked eggs will also be shipped to Pittsford for future smolt production. Smolts and adults produced from these fry will be able to be identified to tributary of origin (or group of tributaries) by analyzing a small tissue sample (i.e. partial fin clip).

#### Fish Passage

A variety of improvements to upstream and downstream passage are underway at the Holyoke project as a result of the recent relicensing. Full depth louvers in the canal and sturgeon exclusion screens in the fishway attraction flow are being installed this month. Designs are in hand for new upstream passage facilities including new lifts, new flume and trapping facilities. Permanent upstream eel passage facilities are expected for 2004.

#### Shad Studies

A total of 375,000 shad was counted at Holyoke Dam this spring, up about 100,000 from last year, but only 2,870 shad were counted passing Turners Falls. Only 356 shad passed Vernon. Passage at DSI on the Westfield declined to 2,800 from 4,700 last year, probably due to very high flows in the mainstem. Shad passage at Rainbow on the Farmington continued to be low (110). The blueback herring population continued to be at a low level; only 1,900 were counted at Holyoke. Connecticut has closed the river herring fishery completely.

A total of 600 shad was trucked above Vernon, 687 were trucked to the Ashuelot, 200 were trucked to Connecticut River tributaries in Connecticut and 600 were trucked out of basin by Connecticut DEP. Blueback herring were trucked to the Westfield and the Ashuelot. Successful herring production was documented in the Westfield and shad and herring production was documented in the Ashuelot. A draft Management Plan for Blueback Herring in the Connecticut River Basin has been developed. ◆

# The CRSA School Program

# 2002 CRSA Orientation Welcomes New, Returning Teachers

By Dick Bell, CRSA Vice President, Education Committee Chair and Elaine Holcombe, Timothy Edwards Middle School Teacher, CRSA Director

ON DECEMBER 5, 2002, just a few short steps ahead of a full-blown winter storm, CRSA welcomed almost 50 teachers and volunteers to its Annual Teachers' Orientation at the Farmington Marriott. For the first time, both new and experienced teachers were invited to attend this training session, which is intended to prepare teachers for the coming program year.

New teachers from the schools new to the program attended, as well as new teachers taking positions in some veteran schools. The new teachers collectively formed the largest group. Some 17 experienced teachers attended.

The program was co-sponsored by the Connecticut Science Teachers'

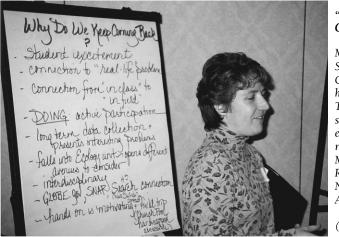


A new feature of the CRSA newsletter will be a section devoted to contributions by the participating teachers in the restoration program. The title will be "THE BUS STOPS HERE."

It is hoped that this feature will excite and encourage teachers to use as well as contribute appropriate material as a means of networking. It will be your voice that will be heard. As a vehicle of communication, everyone will be able to HEAR what is happening with students and teachers in the restoration program.

Please send items to:

Elaine Holcombe, CRSA director The Timothy Edwards Middle School 100 Arnold Way South Windsor, CT 06074



Association (CSTA), represented by Mary Pat Coburn of the Smith Middle School in Glastonbury. Mary Pat is a past president of the CSTA, and was a presenter at last year's orientation.

The combined group first heard from Bob Jones, CRSA president, on the current legal status of the restoration program, and its recent twenty-year renewal by the United States Congress. They then saw the New England Cable News Network video of the school program, as seen through the eyes of Elaine Holcombe's Middle School students in South Windsor. After that, they reviewed with Dick Bell, CRSA education committee chairman, the entire program cycle in detail. The group then divided, and the experienced teachers convened in a separate room under the leadership of CRSA consultant Gary Bogli and master teacher and CRSA director Elaine Holcombe.

The new teacher group was led through the salmon cycle by Steve Gephard, supervising fisheries biologist of the Connecticut DEP, then the DI cycle by Alan Concilio, a teacher at the Beecher Road Middle School in Woodbridge; finally, they were shown how to assemble and insulate a tank by Bob Jones and Jim Carroll, CRSA secretary. All met together for a delightful luncheon before braving the trip home. — By **Dick Bell**  "Why Do We Keep Coming Back"?

Mary Pat Coburn of Smith Middle School in Glastonbury is shown here at the "Experienced Teacher" orientation session. Coburn was recently elected Regional Director representing Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island in the National Science Teachers Association.

(Photo: Jim Carroll)

THE MEETING with the experienced teachers was an outgrowth of the teacher survey done last year. A productive aspect of the session was the networking and sharing of ideas, lessons and experiences. When teachers come together and dialogue about what they do and how they do it, that creates an electrifying forum of exchanges.

The program was divided into three segments:

Why do we keep coming back? Lessons of interest and activities Website and Newsletter

Most felt that future orientations should include the experienced teacher. The ideas and the sharing of lessons and activities was informative and got teachers excited about trying them out. These lessons and activities are available; we hope to have a complete listing on the CRSA web site (www.ctriversalmon.org), as well as information about video and book resources, in the near future.

Thank you all for your participation and sharing of some fine ideas and activities. We are looking forward to doing this again as you all felt that it was a very valuable experience. — *By Elaine Holcombe* 

# The CRSA School Program

## Become an Atlantic salmon 'obstetrician' - deliver eggs and have fun!

By Jim Carroll, CRSA Secretary

CRSA Vice President and Education Chairman Dick Bell says: "Be an Atlantic salmon obstetrician and deliver Atlantic salmon eggs. We will even give you a license to practice."

The CRSA School Program in Connecticut needs you to help — by having fun! There are 58 schools with some 70 tank systems that will incubate Atlantic salmon eggs this school year. The program is such a success with the teachers and students that the Salmon Association's ability to service current schools — much less new ones — is limited by the lack of enough volunteers. It only takes a few hours of your time four or five mornings a year.

People — or "salmon obstetricians" — are needed to deliver the eggs during the first two weeks in January

and then help the schools with the stocking out of the salmon fry in late April or May. To distribute the eggs, the volunteers meet at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Hatchery in Burlington at 8:30 a.m. Each volunteer picks up a two-quart thermos containing two hundred beautiful orange spheres. The eggs are then driven to schools throughout the state. Some schools have had a ribbon cutting ceremony during their first delivery. Others have taken pictures for posting in the school or have local newspapers present. It is a morning well spent. (Note: Surgical gowns are not necessary for the volunteers!)

In late April or early May, the salmon fry are stocked out by the schools. It usually means an outing for the science classes who raised the fry and is great fun

# Farmington River Anglers Fund New Schools

By Jim Carroll, CRSA Secretary

Dick Reynolds, president of the Farmington River Anglers Association (FRAA), presented a check for over \$700 to Kathee Phelps at the John Wallace Middle School in Newington and a similar one to Donald LaCroix at the Barkhamsted School in Pleasant Valley this fall.

The two schools will use the funds to buy a 20-gallon aquarium tank, a chiller, a filter, a digital thermometer and other equipment the schools need to incubate Atlantic salmon eggs as a science-based conservation teaching tool in the 2002-2003 school year.

The FRAA also provided partial but much needed funding to Virginia Atkins at the Elizabeth Green School in Newington so she could also begin incubating salmon eggs this school year.

Reynolds said, "This is a great way to bring fishery conservation and river ecology into our schools. We are delighted to have our schools participate in the CRSA School Program. Our members have stocked Atlantic salmon fry for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for many years but this is our first opportunity where we have chosen to be directly involved in underwriting schools raising Atlantic salmon."

CRSA Education Chairman Dick Bell said, "This is wonderful educational support by an enthusiastic group of dedicated anglers."

The FRAA is an organization of volunteers dedicated to the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the Farmington River and its outstanding fishery. Their activities include river cleanups, salmon and trout stocking, educational programs, and political activism when necessary. More information can be found at www.fraa.org ◆ for all. A volunteer is asked to go with the school as a guest and a resource if needed to talk about Atlantic salmon. The CRSA will provide you with all the knowledge about Atlantic salmon you may require to help the schools. It is easy and rewarding, too.

If you would like to help you can call the following people:

Dick Bell, Education Chairman 203-784-8275

Jim Carroll, Secretary 860-236-5181

Bob Jones, President 860-644-0159

They are licensed to certify Atlantic salmon obstetricians! ◆

### New Schools in 2002

The following schools joined the School Program for 2002-2003:

Elizabeth Green School (Newington) John Winthrop Junior High School (Deep River) The Barkhamsted School (Pleasant Valley) John Wallace Middle School (Newington) Essex Middle School (Essex) Chester Elementary School (Chester) Deep River Elementary School (Deep River) Catherine M. McGee Middle Sch. (Berlin) EastConn Place (Dayville) Lyme Consolidated School (Lyme)

### NASCO 2002: International Cooperation Paves Way for Salmon Recovery

[From the National Marine Fsheries Service (NMFS). Provided through the courtesy of Steve Gephard, Commissioner, NASCO]

At the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), held from June 3-7, 2002, in Torshavn, Faroe Islands, an innovative management measure was adopted that provides for real-time quota management of the salmon fishery at West Greenland. Under the approach, the commercial quota for this fishery will be between 20 metric tonnes (mt) and 55 mt depending on the abundance of fish as monitored during the fishing season. This is the second year that such a management approach has been adopted for the West Greenland fishery. Significantly, the 2002 agreement represents a more risk averse management approach than last year and represents a 67% reduction in quota compared to a previously agreed formula.

"This agreement represents significant sacrifices on the part of all parties," stated Rolland Schmitten, Head of the U.S. Delegation to the 2002 NASCO meeting and Director of the NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation. "Application of previous quota setting criteria would have allowed a 167 mt quota to be established for the 2002 West Greenland fishery. We commend Greenland for its flexibility in accepting a quota limit that is significantly more conservative and will greatly improve the chances for embattled North American salmon stocks to recover."

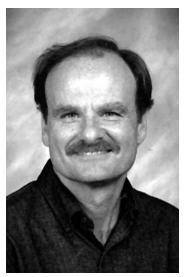
Another important aspect of the agreement is the commitment to continue the international sampling program to obtain additional information on the stocks of salmon occurring off Greenland. This sampling program will assist in the evaluation of the status of the species and will also provide insights into the distribution of Atlantic salmon stocks.

NASCO made additional progress in formalizing international collaboration to help unravel the mystery of salmon in the sea. NASCO was advised that adult salmon returns to home rivers are strongly influenced by factors in the marine environment, about which little is known. In order to increase our knowledge, NASCO has launched an initiative to create an International Atlantic Salmon Research Board. This Board will direct and coordinate a research program to identify factors which may be contributing to high mortality of salmon at sea and seek to identify actions that can be taken to improve survival.

### Gephard Appointed NASCO Commissioner

President Bush has named Steve Gephard to replace Clinton appointee Robert Jones as a U.S. Commissioner to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO). Steve was born and raised in northern Illinois but grew up spending summers on the Connecticut River at a family-owned summer cottage in Haddam where he developed an interest in anadromous fish. Steve received a BA in Biology from Aurora College in Illinois and an MS in Fisheries Biology from the University of Connecticut in 1974. After graduation he spent six months in the Peace Corps in southern Africa working on trout and minnow populations.

NASCO, formed in 1982, is the international organization responsible for promoting the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international cooperation. Contracting Parties are Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America. ◆



Stephen Gephard

In 1978 Steve joined the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Fisheries Division as a seasonal employee. He worked at the Rainbow Dam fishway and captured the first Atlantic salmon to return to that location, when he was instantly bitten by the Atlantic salmon "bug." He was hired as a full-time fisheries biologist in 1980 and has worked in the Anadromous Fisheries program ever since. He was promoted to supervisor of the program in 1994.

Steve is Connecticut's representative to the Technical Committee of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission and has been a member of the U.S. Atlantic Salmon Assessment Committee which advises U.S. NASCO Commissioners on technical aspects of U.S. salmon programs. He first attended the annual NASCO meeting as a member of the U.S. delegation in 2000 when the meeting was held in Miramichi, New Brunswick, thanks in part to a CRSA travel grant. He was also a member of the U.S. delegation in 2001 at the annual meeting in Mondariz, Spain.

Steve says that he is very grateful for the continued support of the CRSA and hopes to continue the high standards and traditions set by former NASCO commissioners, former CRSA president David Egan and current CRSA president Bob Jones. "In representing our country at NASCO, it will be very important to see that the concerns and perspectives of the CRSA are represented," Steve said, "and I plan to maintain close communication links with the Association."

## **CRASC Honored by US Department of Interior**

Prestigious Conservation Service Award Presented in Ceremonies in Washington, DC

The Department of Interior Conservation Service Award was presented to the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) on September 4, 2002 at the 61st Conservation Service Award Convocation at the Sidney Yates Auditorium in Washington, D.C. Tom Menard, CRASC Commissioner from Massachusetts, accepted the award for CRASC. Mamie Parker, US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director, and Jan Rowan, CRASC Executive Assistant and Connecticut River Coordinator, attended the ceremony and reception with Menard.

This award was established in 1951 and is a Departmental honor award granted to a partner-in-mission for direct service. It is considered to be the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a private citizen or group by the Department. The award recognizes partners-in-mission for their outstanding performance and direct service to the effectiveness of the Department's mission. ◆



Commission Receives Conservation Award

Thomas Menard, Massachusetts CRASC Commissioner, and Janice N. Rowan, Executive Assistant, Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, display the Department of the Interior's 61st Conservation Service Award, presented to CRASC in Washington, DC, in September 2002.

# New England Council Interim Report

By Dick Bell, CRSA Vice President

The main challenge for the New England Council during the previous year was the renewal in Congress of the legal life of the Connecticut River Restoration Project. The original legislation which authorized the four-state compact creating the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission was passed in 1983, with a 20-year life. Efforts to renew this legislation were begun in 2001.

The events of September 11th knocked everything else off of the Congressional agenda for a substantial period of time. Moreover, environmental matters generally were not seen as high on the current Administration priority list to begin with. However, to make a long story short, and despite considerate difficulties, renewal was successfully accomplished early this year for an additional 20 years. I'm glad to say that the entire New England Congressional Delegation eventually came on board to support this effort.

With a new lease on life, the next question is adequate funding. That is mundane, familiar, and likely to be an endemic problem for the foreseeable future. The New England Council will, to the extent possible and permissible, continue to support efforts to have the Congress provide an adequate funding system.

Overshadowing the funding problem is the problem of numbers. The greatest concern now is the viability of the program from a scientific point of view. The returns in 2002 were 43 adult salmon; there were 40 in 2001, down from 77 in 2000, 154 in 1999, and 300 in 1998. From 1998 back through 1985, 14 years, the returns averaged 258 adult salmon. One of these years, 1988, was aberrational with only 95; if that were eliminated, the 13-year average would be approximately 270 adult salmon.

The figure of 258 or even 270 returning salmon is, admittedly, a very small one. However, it is not negligible. It is in fact more than the aggregate of the five Maine rivers currently under Endangered Species designation. It was enough to give a sense of achieving a stable threshold minimum, which would, in time, move to the next level. The returns since 1999 have come as a rude shock to that mind set. We have no better understanding of why than we do for the decline of wild salmon generally in the North Atlantic. We point to the ocean and also fear the consequences of global warming trends. Climate may be the wild card, and there were those who said at the outset that this experiment, at the end of the southerly range of Atlantic Salmon, was ill-advised to begin with for precisely that reason. It will be of great interest to see during the next year or two whether the West Greenland Moratorium has any effect.

It's ironic that while the Connecticut River returns are sharply declining, the educational program run by the Connecticut River Salmon Association keeps on expanding to the point where it has reached, if not exceeded, the resources of its volunteer administration. In 2002, 3,500 Connecticut school-children were involved in raising Atlantic salmon eggs in over 70 tanks in over 50 Connecticut schools. In addition, CRSA has established a liaison with sixteen schools in the state of

(See Council, page 8)

### **Council** (continued from page 3)

Vermont, to whom it provides website access and information as well as direct indoctrination for teachers. Moreover, there is a Massachusetts organization of some 30 schools under a volunteer group of TU enthusiasts engaged in precisely the same program. These activities have led to more interstate (and hence "New England") activity than, in my recollection, has ever been previously enjoyed. There is, assuming the program remains viable in the basic sense of achieving successful returns, great potential for integrating Connecticut River interests into a truly "New England" voice. ◆

Application for CRSA Membership		NEW	
Name		patron: \$500	
Address		LIFE: \$250	
		sustaining: \$100	
CITYSTATE	Zip	sponsoring: \$50	
Telephone		contributing: \$25	
Please make checks payable to $CRSA$ , and mail them to:		FAMILY: \$25	
CRSA 76 Deming Street South Windsor, CT 06074		regular: \$20	

**THE CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION** 76 Deming Street South Windsor, CT 06074

Visit us at www.ctriversalmon.org