



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

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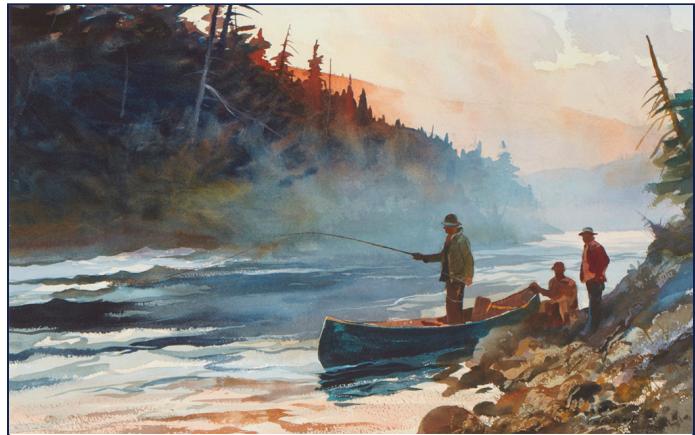
NASCO: Summary of 2014 Session

Stephen Gephard, US Commissioner to NASCO

As world leaders and veterans met a short distance to the north in Normandy to observe the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the North Atlantic Salmon Commission (NASCO) held its 31st annual meeting in St. Malo, Brittany (France). The US delegation was again led by Daniel Morris of NOAA and the other two US commissioners were Patrick Keliher, the Commissioner of Maine DMR and myself. The main issues on the agenda were to hold two special sessions: one on the management of multi-stock fisheries and one on the review of the Implementation Plan action plans by each Party. Of course, the regulation of the fisheries at West Greenland and Faroe Islands are always a concern but this issue looms larger for next year's meeting.

Each year, a scientific committee of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) issues a report to NASCO, providing a status report and catch advice on Atlantic salmon. The report is voluminous and includes

(See NASCO, page 9)



SAVE THE DATE!

The 39th Annual CRSA Dinner/Auction will be held on Saturday, January 31, at the Chowder Pot IV in Hartford. CRSA is pleased to announce that the 2015 guest sporting artist is Chet Reneson, whose work is pictured above. For more, see page 3!

Chrosniak Elected New President of Connecticut River Salmon Association

By Jim Carroll, Secretary, CRSA

Thomas Chrosniak, III, was elected president of the Connecticut River Salmon Association in a unanimous vote by the CRSA board of directors at their meeting on March 11, 2014. Tom replaces long-serving Bob Jones, who welcomed Tom's enthusiasm, energy and intelligence, saying, "Tom has proved himself to be very able while in his role as our successful Dinner Chairman."



Left to right: Bob Jones, Atlantic Salmon Federation Vice President John Burrows, and Tom Chrosniak at the 2014 CRSA dinner.

Tom was brought up in St. Paul, Minnesota, and West Hartford, Connecticut. He majored in English at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York. Tom comes by his lifelong love of fishing from his experience started at a very young age (3) on Horseshoe Lake in Merrifield, Minnesota. His first fly rod was a Shakespeare Wonder Rod and with it he caught panfish, bass and northern pike. He began fly fishing for trout in Connecticut; his first trout rod was an Orvis Green Mountain from Clapp & Treat. Thank you TDC Sr., TDC Jr., RDC., Ed Ruestraw, John Marona, Kevin M. D. Kelly, Brian Owens, Michael F. Motyl, Curt Gowdy, Lee Wulff... He is a member of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, TU, CFFA, FRAA, FRWA and other conservation organizations.

Tom and his wife Roxanne have two daughters and live in West Hartford. He is a Major Account Representative with EBP Supply Solutions of Milford, Connecticut.

Maine's Saco River Atlantic Salmon Restoration

By Jim Carroll, CRSA Secretary

An effort to restore wild Atlantic salmon to the Saco River in southern Maine has been spearheaded by The Saco River Salmon Club and the Maine Department of Marine Resources with assistance from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), The Atlantic Salmon Federation and other partner organizations.

Currently, salmon in Maine's Androscoggin, Kennebec and

THE CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION

The Connecticut River Salmon Association (CRSA) is a nonstock, nonprofit Connecticut corporation. Our mission is to support Atlantic salmon in the Connecticut River basin.

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Penobscot rivers plus those in seven smaller rivers in eastern part of the state have been designated as belonging to the Gulf of Maine (GOM) Distinctive Population Segment, or DPS, and are protected as an endangered species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. That designation is possible because all those rivers have salmon populations that have never been extinct. Atlantic salmon efforts in those rivers are recovery programs. However, the Saco River salmon are not part of that GOM DPS because that river's salmon were extirpated, so the original river-specific genetic stock no longer exists. Thus the Saco River has an Atlantic salmon restoration program, which could not qualify for endangered species protection and benefits.

The Saco River Salmon Club in Biddeford started in the late 1980s to support their river's restoration. The club began with a small incubator on the Saco River in 1983, then built a two-floor, state-of-the-art hatchery in 1997, a tremendous effort. Funding for salmon eggs, fry, parr and smolts that were stocked in the Saco River have come from funds the club raised and from a local electric utility. This utility missed target dates for the installation of fish passage facilities, which resulted in a judgment that required funding of the salmon parr and smolts for the Saco River.

The fertilized eggs for their hatchery had come from the USFWS Craig Brook National Hatchery in Maine but when the Gulf of Maine (GOM) DPS was established and the Saco River watershed was designated as being in the Central New England DPS, the Endangered Species Act prohibited the movement of eggs from the GOM to areas within another DPS. The Saco River club had to look elsewhere.

The USFWS National Fish Hatchery in Nashua, NH has been successfully culturing Atlantic salmon for the Merrimack River restoration program. The Nashua National Fish Hatchery began supplying salmon to the Saco River Club when the club could no longer get them from Craig Brook. This supply has been possible because a Maine utility had entered into a multi-year purchase contract for

salmon progeny from Merrimack broodstock to be supplied to the Saco River. The Merrimack restoration program was stopped by the USFWS last year but the Nashua brood stock salmon program has continued.

In 2013–2014 the USFWS Nashua National Fish Hatchery supplied about 400,000 salmon eggs and 12,000 smolts to the Saco River restoration. The supplied eggs were grown at the club's hatchery into fry for stocking. In addition, approximately 15,000 parr were supplied; the Saco River Club selected the largest parr, about half, and stocked them out immediately. The remaining, smaller parr were cultured for five months at the Saco hatchery and then stocked out. Finally, the smolts originated at the Nashua hatchery as eggs but were grown to the smolt stage at the USFWS's Attleboro National Fish Hatchery. They were transported to the Saco River for stocking.

Despite the excellent efforts by all, the Atlantic salmon returns the Saco have been in decline the last three years.

Year	Salmon Returns
2009	14
2010	21
2011	94
2012	12
2013	5

The river seems to be healthy and productive:

- 42,402 river herring returned in 2013, the second largest number in a 21-year time series;
- 6,168 American shad returned in 2013, which again was the second largest in the same long time series.

Meanwhile the Saco River Club is experimenting both with in-gravel deposition of salmon eggs to improve fry viability and aiding removal of barrier dams. And work continues by many worldwide organizations to identify the reasons for the declining Atlantic salmon sea returns across the North Atlantic. ♦



The **2015 CRSA Dinner/Auction** takes place on Saturday, January 31, 2015, at the Chowder Pot IV Restaurant in Hartford. It will feature silent and live auctions, a bucket raffle and door prizes!

CRSA's 2015 guest sporting artist is Chet Reneson.

"Hunter fly-fisherman and artist since boyhood, he lives what he paints, and paints what he lives. When pursuing Atlantic salmon, says water-colorist Chet Reneson of Lyme, Conn., 'I like those rough Canadian rivers, like the George and the Whale. The fish are rough, tough and ready, and when I paint the rivers I make 'em just as powerful and rugged, and mean and nasty as I can.' — *Atlantic Salmon Journal* (Summer 1993)

Above, Tom Turek and his 2014 Grand Prize, a Thomas & Thomas NSII 5 wt rod at the 2014 Dinner.

CRSA 2014 DINNER DONORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

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

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 Alycia Chrosniak
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a Donation!**

Participants in Salmon-in-Schools programs range from elementary schools to colleges, each using CRSA-supplied education materials and training. Almost every last dollar raised at the CRSA annual banquet goes to schools in your communities. Fishing equipment, new clothing, new items for kitchen or home, artwork, trips, dinner certificates and funded lectures are just some donation possibilities. All of the funds come back to your communities and schools in the form of support for the nationally recognized Salmon-in-Schools environmental program. Contact Tom Chrosniak at 860-519-7451, or tchrosniak@comcast.net.

Introduction to Connecticut Broodstock Atlantic Salmon Fishing

By Ben Bilello,

Until last year, offspring of Connecticut broodstock Atlantic salmon were used to help restore runs in tributaries of the Connecticut River. In 2013, the restoration effort was transformed into a "legacy program." As such, the broodstock salmon fishery has become the main focus of salmon production at the Kensington hatchery, as opposed to salmon restoration. Salmon fry are still stocked in tributaries of the Connecticut River, but at greatly reduced levels.

Since 1992, the Connecticut DEEP has stocked surplus broodstock Atlantic salmon for the enjoyment of local anglers. In a typical year, the DEEP stocks between 800-1600 broodstock Atlantic salmon, usually between mid-October and early December. The salmon are stocked in the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers, as well as in a handful of ponds and lakes. The salmon range from two to twenty pounds, with a four to six pound fish now being average size.

Though stillwater salmon fishing is popular with many anglers, most choose to target broodstock salmon in rivers. There are three designated broodstock salmon areas which receive regular salmon stockings:

- **Upper Naugatuck River:** From Route 118, Litchfield-Harwinton, downstream to the Thomaston Dam
- **Lower Naugatuck River:** From Prospect Street, Naugatuck, downstream to Pines Bridge Road, Beacon Falls
- **Shetucket River:** From the Scotland Dam, Scotland, downstream to the Occum Dam, Norwich

From October 1 to March 31, angling for all species in the salmon broodstock areas is restricted to fishing methods that are legal for Atlantic salmon (a single fly or a lure with a single free-swinging hook only). Additional weight may not be added to the line. Anglers are reminded that the season is closed from March 1st to the 3rd Saturday in April for all species other than broodstock Atlantic salmon except in the upper Naugatuck River Broodstock Area. This area is within the Naugatuck River TMA, which is open year-round for trout (catch-and-release only).

Fishing for Atlantic salmon is limited to use of a single fly or artificial lure with a single free-swinging hook. Additional weight may not be added to the line. Snagging is strictly prohibited.

Most of the information above was taken from the *Connecticut Angler's Guide*. It is important to consult the *Angler's Guide* for a more comprehensive list of regulations and dates when salmon retention is allowed. Now that the legal details are out of the way, let's begin to talk about what we need to be successful broodstock salmon anglers.

If I had to pick one rod for broodstock salmon fishing in Connecticut, it would be my old Sage Graphite II 9' for 7wt. It has enough backbone to handle a large and/or hot fish, but it's not overkill for most smaller salmon. It works well with wet

flies, bulky dry flies and all but the heaviest tube flies. A close second place would be my Sage Z-Axis switch rod, which is 11' for 6wt. I fish several spots with minimal backcast room. The ability to fish a two-handed rod with spey casting techniques makes casting in tight quarters much more pleasant. Also, line control is much easier with a long rod. Nearly any single handed rod from 9' to 10' and from 6wt. to 8wt. will suffice. As for switch and spey rods, I wouldn't go any longer than 12.5' to 13' (5wt. to 7wt.). Certain areas are more conducive to a longer rod than others. For instance, I wouldn't use a switch or a spey rod while fishing the Upper Naugatuck broodstock area as the river is fairly narrow.

The vast majority of the broodstock salmon I hook are taken on floating lines and monofilament leaders. I like leaders in the 7' to 12' range, with the longer leaders being used mainly in low water conditions. I use Maxima Chameleon for tippet material. It's thick, stiff and turns over flies with ease. I carry spools from 6lb. to 20lb. test. Most of the time, I use 8lb. or 12lb. test. Sinking lines and tips are useful in high, dirty and/or cold water. However, I use a floating line and a mono leader about 80-90% of the time.

Atlantic salmon fly selection theory can seem downright bizarre to many trout anglers. I will go into greater detail on the subject in another article. In a nutshell, have a good selection of wet flies and bucktails in sizes 1/0 down to size 12. It's important to have a light colored fly, a predominantly black fly and a fly with a tinsel body. Year in and year out, I catch more broodstock salmon on an unweighted, size 6 Mickey Finn than with any other fly. Weighted flies can be helpful at times, especially later in the season.

These fish will take dry flies when conditions are right. I've found various colored Bombers around size 4 to be most effective. If you don't have dry flies specifically for Atlantic salmon fishing, try using the biggest hopper or Stimulator you can find. Both upstream and downstream presentations work, though I find these salmon prefer dry flies to have a little action as opposed to being dead drifted. Even if they don't take the fly, a dry can be a good "locator." Often times, a dry fly finds the salmon and a wet fly hooks him.

When faced with water that is high, cold, colored, or any combination of these, I use tube flies more than conventional flies. Copper tubes weigh more than standard single hooks but without the leverage problems associated with long shanked fly hooks. Another advantage of tube flies is durability. Often times, when a fish takes the fly, the hook separates from the tube and the fly slides up the leader and away from the fish's teeth. If an errant cast hits a rock and breaks the point off the hook, the tube fly can be reused simply by swapping hooks.

In addition to essential tackle, there are a few other items I recommend carrying. A wading staff is particularly useful for rocky runs and pools, as well as for river crossings. Along the
(See Broodstock, page 8)

The CRSA "Salmon-in-Schools" Program

Salmon-in-Schools 2014 Teachers Orientation Oct. 10

By Dick Bell, CRSA Education Chairman

The 2014 Teachers Orientation will be held on October 10, 2014, at the Northeast Utilities offices at 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT. The facility is directly off CT Routes 5 & 15, which is the Berlin Turnpike. The meeting will start at 8:30 AM and will close at 4:00 PM. Lunch will be available in the NEU employees' cafeteria.

Salmon-in-Schools current and new teachers should email me at bellawrg@cs.com to make a reservation. I will confirm the reservation and send meeting information back to you. To participate in the Salmon-in-Schools program, new teachers must attend this orientation. Others are very welcome.

The day's presentations will include an overview of the life cycle of wild Atlantic salmon and the status of world salmon stocks by world Atlantic salmon expert Steve Gephard of the CT DEEP Fisheries Department. Tim Wildeman of the DEEP will offer a lecture on how a math tool, the Development Index (D.I.), can be used to predict and regulate the growth and birth day of Atlantic salmon fry.

Lectures on how to set up and operate an aquarium tank, what needs to purchased by the school, when events are scheduled and how to find other teachers with whom to network are some of the other subjects in an information-packed plan for the day. Environmental education manuals will be given to new teachers. Attending teachers can get Continuing Education Credit certificates for participating.

You can reach me at bellawrg@cs.com. More information is available at the CRSA web site, ctriversalmon.org. ♦

Kensington State Fish Hatchery Tour

[From 2014 Inland Fisheries Division: Program Notes and Updates (Summer), Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection]

In early August (8/5), following a request by the Fisheries Advisory Council, Al Sonski (Hatchery Manager) and Tom Fitzgerald (Hatchery Maintainer) led a distinguished crowd with representatives from the Fisheries Advisory Council, Trout Unlimited, the Connecticut River Salmon Association, various schools associated with the Salmon-in-Schools and Trout-in-the-Classroom programs, and State Representative Melissa Ziobron (member of Legislative Sportsman's Caucus and the Environment Committee) on a tour to spotlight the many unique roles Kensington State Fish Hatchery plays in fisheries restoration, management, and education programs.

Leading off the day were updates on the status of the Atlantic Salmon Legacy Program (Steve Gephard-IFD), Salmon-In-Schools (Dick Bell), and Trout in the Classroom (Ed Albrecht), as Kensington is the primary facility supporting all 3 programs.

After hearing a presentation providing a brief history and detailed specifications about the facility, all were led from building to building, exhibiting all stages of fish rearing at Kensington. The stars of the show were the very large Atlantic Salmon and Seeforellen Broodstock. As many in attendance consider themselves avid anglers, one could tell all were day dreaming of how a fish like these would feel on the end of their line. All left with a greatly increased awareness and appreciation for the role and benefit the Kensington facility provides to fisheries both within and around Connecticut. ♦

[Editor's Note: Invitations were sent to all CRSA teachers to attend the Kensington Tour. Jaunice Edwards, Harris AgriScience Center in Bloomfield; George Lyman and Tyler Cremeans, Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury; Deb Thomas, Doolittle Elementary School in Cheshire; and Cheryl Mawaka, Tolland High School, joined the tour. CRSA directors Dick Bell, Jim Carroll, Jim Glista, Hal Gorman, Elizabeth Kendall, Roger Plourde, and Vin Ringrose saw firsthand those lovely salmon that provide the eggs for the Salmon-in-Schools program.]



Left to right: CRSA Directors Jim Glista, Roger Plourde and Hal Gorman at the Kensington State Fish Hatchery [Photo: E. Kendall]

Teachers Egan and Reed, Waterford High School Win CRSA Education Awards

By Jim Carroll, CRSA Secretary

The 2014 CRSA Education Award was presented to Jen Reed, the STEM coach at John Wallace Middle School in Newington, by Education Chairman Dick Bell at the January 2014 CRSA annual dinner.

Jen first used Salmon-in-Schools in her classroom in 1999 as part of an interdistrict grant, "River To The Sea." Since that beginning, she taken the program to Windsor Middle School, King Phillip Middle School in West Hartford, Two Rivers Middle School in Hartford, Connecticut River Academy at Goodwin College in East Hartford and Renzulli Gifted & Talented Academy in Hartford. The award honored Jen for her environmental education contribution to Salmon-in-Schools and her students.

Dick Bell gave the CRSA 2014 Education Long Service Awards to Kathy Egan and Waterford High School. These awards recognize teachers and schools who have taught or used Salmon-in-Schools for 15 years.



Pictured above, Kathy Egan (left) and Jen Reed (right) receive education awards from Dick Bell at the 2014 CRSA dinner. [Photo: E. Kendall]



Kathy Egan of West Hartford's Bristow Middle School has enthusiastically used Salmon-in-Schools in her classrooms since 1999 when she was recruited for the Interdistrict Grant Program "River to the Sea," which used the CRSA award-winning environmental program. Kathy has persisted in raising salmon in her classrooms to allow her many students to learn about Atlantic salmon and their life in both fresh and salt water.

Accepting for Waterford High School was Lauren Shaw. Mike O'Connor, a member of the science faculty at the Waterford High School, each year has a student at the high school, as a senior project, coordinate the Salmon-in-Schools program at Great Neck Elementary School in Waterford. Lauren was the coordinator at Great Neck Elementary as her senior year science project. Teaching others teaches best. ♦

At left, Lauren Shaw accepts the Long Service Award on behalf of Waterford High School [Photo: E. Kendall]

Salmon-in-Schools 2014-2015 Data Requirements

By Dick Bell, CRSA Education Chairman

Some schools experienced problems with fungus in their salmon tanks last school year and reported the issue to me or to their liaisons. In other cases the liaisons surveyed their schools. From those reports we created an Excel spreadsheet and sent a formal report with the data to Steve Gephard on May 1, 2014.

On August 29, Steve responded to the CRSA with an analysis, which came out of meetings with Kensington Hatchery personnel. Apparently trying to identify the exact reasons for the poor survival last year is very difficult. The Kensington Hatchery as a whole did not suffer the same mortality. Some salmon eggs went to the Burlington State Hatchery and then were delivered to the Tripps Streamside Incubation Facility in Old Lyme (even more handling) yet did not suffer the same mortality rate. Steve has said the Fisheries Department has decided to implement a few changes for next year that are aimed at improving survival rates. Some internal procedural changes with the egg taking operations at Kensington will be made.

(See Data Requirements, page 8)

New CRSA Directors Elected

By Jim Carroll, Secretary, CRSA

At the Annual Meeting on January 18, 2014, Edward Ahern and Dr. Lawrence Rappaport were unanimously elected to the board of directors by the members at large. They bring interesting backgrounds and broad fishing experience.

Edward Ahern

Ed Ahern was born in Chicago and attended the University of Illinois, graduating with a degree in journalism. After Navy OCS he was a diving and explosive ordinance disposal officer aboard the USS Essex. After leaving active duty, he worked as a reporter for the *Providence Journal* for a year before undergoing intelligence training and working for eight years in Germany and Japan. He speaks French, German and Japanese.

Ed then spent 23 years with Abitibi, a Canadian paper producer, in international sales and marketing, picking up an MBA from NYU. He retired, but went back to work as a sales executive for another ten years, this time for International Forest Products owned by the Kraft family that also owns the New England Patriots.

He has contributed nine articles to Marty Vickers' book, *Fly Fishing The Atlantic Salmon of the Miramichi River*. Since 2010 he has had 47 short stories published, with a novella due for publication early next year.

Ed and his wife Elizabeth, both long time fly fishers and dedicated salmon anglers, live in Fairfield.

Dr. Lawrence N. Rappaport

A retired radiologist, Larry attended Harvard College and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He did his internship at Cornell/Bellevue Hospital in New York City, and a radiology residency at Mt. Sinai Hospital. He served for two years as a Navy doctor in St. Albans, NY.

Larry and his wife Karin moved to Connecticut in 1970 when he joined Radiologic Associates, P.C. He also practiced radiology at Bristol Hospital. Their home is in Avon.

He started fishing at an early age but came to fly fishing in 1995—and it took. Larry has fished in Iceland, the Russian Kamchatka Peninsula, Belize, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Alaska and the American West; he makes a yearly trip to bonefish in Abaco as well. Salmon fishing has included the Grand Cascapedia and the Restigouche. He has been a member of the Limestone Trout Club since 1996. ♦

A Surprised Salmon!

By Jim Carroll, CRSA Secretary

In 2014, returning wild Atlantic salmon got a surprise. When captured by DEEP personnel at fishways or netted in a river, they were examined, a yellow tag attached to the dorsal fin and then they were returned back to their home waters such as the Farmington or Salmon rivers in Connecticut. Ah, freedom! For the first time in thirty-five years salmon were not retained in a hatchery for breeding and contributing to future salmon generations.

As in the past, salmon caught by anglers were required by regulation to be released but, for the first time, the catch data and tag information had to be recorded and sent back to Steve Gephard, Supervisor of the DEEP IFD Diadromous Fish Program and Habitat and Conservation Enhancement Program at 860-447-4316 or email at steve.gephard@ct.gov.

The surprised salmon were allowed to migrate up stream to spawn naturally this fall.

Atlantic salmon can change their skin pigmentation based on their environment. Fresh from the ocean they are bright silver. In Connecticut rivers they will turn brownish and resemble brown trout but will generally be about 30 inches long. Any river caught brownish fish that length, tag or no tag, should probably be returned to its river. The tag should remain with the fish but the fish ID number recorded, a picture taken when possible, and Steve Gephard contacted by phone or email.

Wild Atlantic salmon returns to the Connecticut River this year were the lowest in a long time. Returns for the last five years look like:

2014	31
2013	92
2012	47
2011	111
2010	51

Research work is ongoing by educational institutions, governments, NASCO and salmon fishery organizations in Europe and North America to identify the causes of the high sea mortality and what steps can be taken to improve survival.

The 2014 low return is much like the data across the North Atlantic salmon rivers. Excellent information about Canadian rivers can be found on the Atlantic Salmon Federation's web site at atlanticsalmonfederation.org/rivernotes/.

Atlantic salmon spawning at the Connecticut state Kensington Hatchery will continue with the broodstock on site. Fry and will be stocked out in 2015 as in the past and eggs will be supplied the CRSA Salmon-in-Schools Program in December this year. ♦

Broodstock *(from page 4)*

same lines, a good pair of studded boots can make wading a lot easier. A net is helpful, especially for salmon under 24" or so. Larger salmon can be tailed easily, but I prefer to use a net on smaller fish. My net can accommodate fish up to about 26"-28". Don't overlook the need to stay warm! Be sure to have a good base layer, hat and gloves for those cold fall and winter days. Salmon fishing is usually best in overcast-to-rainy weather, so a good wading or rain jacket is a must.

In upcoming pieces, I'll go into further depth on tackle selection, flies, fishing strategies and locations. Also, I will address how we can use the Connecticut broodstock Atlantic salmon fishery to improve our salmon fishing skills and to prepare for salmon fishing trips abroad. In the meantime, good luck and don't forget to stock up on Mickey Finns! ♦

[Editor's Note: For updates on Connecticut broodstock salmon fishing, visit our website at ctriversalmon.org.]

When he's not behind a set of drums in a concert hall, jazz club, or recording studio, Ben Bilello can be found either on the water or behind the vise. Ben has spent several seasons chasing sea-run Atlantic salmon in New Brunswick, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Russia; landlocked salmon in New York and Vermont, and broodstock Atlantic salmon in Connecticut. Ben's work can be seen at www.benbilello.com/salmonflies and theleaper.blogspot.com.

New CRSA Website Launches!

By Elizabeth Kendall, Web Site Director

This spring, the CRSA Board of Directors undertook a major revamping of the CRSA website. Our objectives were to:

- Redesign the site to give it a contemporary look and feel.
- Adopt a new software platform so the site could be updated in-house.
- Maintain easy registration for the Salmon-in-Schools faculty
- Maintain easy stock out scheduling for participating schools
- Provide information about wild Atlantic salmon.
- Offer information and notices about Connecticut's Atlantic Salmon Legacy Program
- Offer site access to back issues of the CRSA newsletters.
- Make possible online reservations for CRSA dinners and events.
- Highlight CRSA events and those by our partners.
- Continue to use the URL ctriversalmon.org

With the assistance of Martha Sherman of Sherman Communications, a new software platform was chosen and platform training completed. We developed design options for the CRSA board, they were approved and a new design finalized. The new design is now up and running.

Meanwhile, schools will still have their same password-protected pages to register for the Salmon-in-Schools program and schedule their school stock outs as they have in the past.

Past CRSA newsletters will be posted on the website but new editions will continue to go out by email or US Postal Service. Please send comments and concerns about the new web site to info@ctriversalmon.org. Keep in touch, new features are coming! ♦



Connecticut Legacy male salmon. [Photo: Ben Bilello]

Data Requirements *(from page 5)*

Another planned change is for eggs to be picked for distribution from the Kensington Hatchery, not Burlington as in past years, thereby removing a handling step. The eggs will be in the same insulated jugs with a tag with the same information as in the past – plus an additional new element.

Effective this school year, schools will be required to maintain a CT DEEP Data Sheet for each tank at their school.

Effective this school year, schools will be required to maintain a CT DEEP Data Sheet for each tank at their school. Information from the data sheets and from operations at the Kensington Hatchery will be correlated and then used to better analyze any possible sources of tank failures this coming school year. The forms with preliminary hatchery data will be provided to the schools when the eggs are delivered. The completed data sheets will be returned to the CRSA by the schools after the stock outs next spring. The data sheet will be discussed in detail at the forthcoming CRSA Teachers Orientation on October 10.

As a start, a sample new Data Sheet will be sent to all the schools so teachers can use it as a teaching tool before the eggs arrive. This step can also be used by teachers as a designed experiment with the practical purpose of aiding their class. ♦

NASCO 2014 (*from page 1*)

updates of nearly every statistic you can think of. Highlights of the status report includes: (1) the reported catches of Atlantic salmon in 2013 was the lowest in the time services dating back to 1960; (2) the estimate of pre-fishery abundance for 1 sea-winter maturing salmon from North America ranked 30th in the 43 year time series; (3) returns of 2 sea-winter salmon increased in 2013 relative to 2012 in five of the six North American geographical regions but; (4) returns of 2 sea-winter salmon to the United States were 40% lower than 2012 and close to the lowest in the time series. Remember, this report is for 2013 as presented at the 2014 NASCO meeting. It now appears that the 2014 adult returns are even worse—but we'll get the official results next year.

As for catch advice, since stock status has not changed much in many years, NASCO's commissions have adopted multiyear regulatory measures (agreements for levels of harvest). Each year, ICES determines whether or not conditions have changed enough to warrant offering new catch advice. If not, the current catch advice and the current regulatory measure stand, without the need for NASCO to take this up as an agenda item.

This was the case for 2014. However, the current regulatory measure for West Greenland ends in 2015 so regardless of conditions, NASCO will take this up next year and there are already rumblings about this issue. The issue is complicated by Greenland's unilateral decision in 2013 to allow increased landings of salmon in its fishery and allow it to be sold to factories, which is a departure from past practices. This has resulted in an increase in harvest from 33 metric tons in 2012 to 47 metric tons in 2013 and it is clear that this expanded fishery will once again occur in the summer of 2015.

This fishery is of prime importance to the United States because US salmon are caught in this fishery, along with salmon from many different countries. I will warn readers that this is a particularly complex and sensitive matter. The United States does not suggest that

Greenland should not harvest any salmon; but rather live by existing agreements and work to minimize catches of weaker stocks (like those from the United States) and improve reporting, data collection, enforcement, and accountability. The issue is also complicated by home rule politics in Greenland. Many discussions resulted in an agreement by all Parties to set up a Working Group to study the options available and prepare for a March 2015 meeting of the West Greenland Commission in Nuuk, Greenland—an unprecedented step for this commission. It is hoped that all of this will set up the possibility of adopting new conservation-based regulatory measures at the 2015 annual meeting.

Another interesting development was the announcement that a recent genetics study of fish caught in the Faroe Islands fishery many years ago (there hasn't been a fishery there for years) revealed that 16% of the fish came from North America, including the United States. It had always been assumed that all of the harvested fish came from Europe, particularly the southern portion. This fishery is regulated by the Northeast Atlantic Commission (NEAC), of which the United States and Canada are not members. This revelation begs the question if they should be members of NEAC and how that can be accomplished. Acknowledging that the weak US stocks are present could influence the regulation of future fisheries at the Faroe Islands. Denmark (in respect to the Faroe Islands) is proposing a "research fishery" to address this question but such research fisheries have not previously been conducted within NASCO and have been the source of considerable controversies in other organizations, like the International Whaling Commission.

In order to effectively press for sound management of the mixed stock fisheries at Greenland and the Faroe Islands, we must also seek similar approaches as other less notorious mixed stock fisheries, even if they do not intercept US fish—out of fairness. These include fisheries in Finnmark (mostly a concern for Russian fish), Scotland, England,

Labrador, and St. Pierre and Miquelon (SPM), the last two intercept US fish. France (in respect to SPM) is not even a member of NASCO. The US delegation supports efforts to learn more about these fisheries and modify them so that they no longer harvest fish from other nations.

This year was the last year that Mary Colligan of the United States was president of NASCO. Her term is up and Steiner Hermannson of Norway was elected to succeed her. Furthermore, it will be Mary's last NASCO meeting as she left her post as head of the Protected Resources Division of NOAA-Fisheries (Gloucester) shortly after the NASCO meeting to head up polar bear protection efforts for the US Fish & Wildlife Service in Anchorage, Alaska. Mary has been a member of the US delegation for 20 years, since the days when the Alan Peterson was its head. For many of those years, she was the delegation manager and was instrumental in organizing the delegation, preparing us, and keeping us on task. Her skills, work ethic, dedication to salmon conservation, effectiveness, as well as congenial manner cannot be overstated. She has been the heart and soul of the US delegation and for the last four years, the firm leader of all of NASCO. She will be greatly missed by all of those associated with NASCO.

The 2015 NASCO meeting will be held somewhere in Canada—at a site to be determined. ♦

What's in a Name?

Salmon-in-Schools is the official name of the CRSA's nationally recognized environmental education program.

The name was selected because of the two meanings of the word "schools," both of which apply to the CRSA program. Schools are where formal education takes place in Connecticut. Schools are groups of salmon living and learning together. The two meanings are combined in Salmon-in-Schools.

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