



Newsletter: June 2017

Editor: P.J. Wall

Editorial:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, commitments and time constraints I apologize for the lateness, brevity and format of this newsletter. I promise to do better after a spanking.

It's hard to believe, but another year has come and gone for all of us – WSU included. Although activities seem static, we have been working with our partners the Richmond County Wildlife Association and the Inverness South Anglers Association with projects on their respective rivers, the Grand and Grahams. The latter river has been successful from the habitat rehabilitation perspective and the Grand has had a scientific project completed. WSU contributed significant funding to both these projects and we are grateful to our supporters and donors for their generosity and to both associations for their diligent work.

We continue to work hard on the fundraising front through the efforts of Lowell Weir, our fundraising chair. He's been successful in attracting significant support from Scotiabank who we thank for their contribution. He continues to work on attracting support from other corporate entities. We owe him our thanks for his efforts as well as a big thank you to the other members of our board for their work over the year. And, of course, to our membership for your support.

And speaking of support I've included, as an addendum to this newsletter, a copy of a letter I wrote, on WSU's behalf, to Minister Dominic LeBlanc. In it we requested a meeting to discuss how we can help with his department's goal to bring Atlantic salmon numbers back to 1975 levels. The response from is also attached. You'll notice I copied both Cape Breton MPs, Roger Cuzner and Mark

Eyking, plus the Honourable Keith Colwell, NS Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Colwell had the decency to acknowledge receipt of his copy but nary a word from our Cape Breton representatives. Obviously, they don't care much about Atlantic salmon or its demise. I guess we didn't qualify for a response since we didn't provide the boo zoos an opportunity to get their pictures taken smirking their delight in handing out public money. We indicated in the letter that we weren't requesting funding. Mistake, maybe?

You will have an opportunity to ask us questions about WSU at our upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM). It will be held at the same location as last year: **St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 6641 Cabot Trail, NE Margaree, NS. beginning at 14:00 on Saturday June 24th, 2017.**

Come join us, renew your membership, partake in the meeting proceedings, enjoy some refreshments and, if you're lucky win a door prize. See you there.

Pat.



Visit to Strathlorne Nursery:

Several members of your board of directors, along with representatives of the Inverness South Anglers Association, met with the manager of the nursery to evaluate some holding ponds on the property for use in raising smolt.

Unfortunately, due to accessibility issues and predator control, the site was deemed unsuitable for our purposes. We thank Morley MacNeil, manager, for providing us a tour of the site.

Charitable Status:

Just a reminder to everyone that we do have charitable status and your donations and membership fees are tax deductible.

Funding:

We are indeed indebted to our anonymous donor who has, once again in 2017, provided us with a significant sum of money to help us carry out our mandate. Heartfelt thanks go to our donor, their representatives and to Joel Robinson, our treasurer, for his efforts in continuing the dialogue with them all and keeping us informed.

Out and about.

We continue to inform other organizations of our objectives and progress. Due to its proximity, we often connect with the Margaree Salmon Association who are embarking on a significant study of the Margaree river beginning in June. WSU fully agrees with their efforts. WSU did not attend any sports shows this year. On-going discussions are in progress as to our future fund-raising methods.

Salmon Dinners/Auctions:

A couple of Board members, including President Pat, attended the Cobequid Salmon Association's annual dinner this spring. It was a well-attended function with good food and a lively auction. Bill Yarn, a good friend of WSU made us all feel welcome.

Memberships:

At the annual meeting, and on our website, you will notice that our regular membership fee is now \$30.00. In addition, as mentioned earlier, it is now tax deductible. If you have not already done so, please remit your membership fee at the AGM.



WSU Executive:

President: Pat Wall

Vice-Pres: Lowell Weir

Secretary: Peter Hill

Treasurer: Joel Robinson/membership

WSU Board of Directors:

Bob Shortt: Past President

Lowell Weir (Fundraising chair)

Peter Hill (Secretary)

Leonard Forsyth (Scientific chair)

Jim Dustin (Scientific advisor)

Chuck Thompson

Harry Vickers

Clifford Boudreau

Ken Smith

John Stinson/nominations

WILD SALMON UNLIMITED

3rd annual AGM Minutes

Saturday June 18

St. Patrick's Hall, NE Margaree

After verifying we had a quorum, Wall opened the meeting with 30 seconds silence, to remember those no longer with us.

He then introduced some guests:

Lester Wood, Paul MacNeil and Greg Lovely from the Margaree Salmon Association.

Cliff Bourdreau and Hubert Doyle from Richmond Wildlife Association

Geoff Nishi and Dave Cameron from Inverness South Anglers

Harry Vickers from Cape Breton Anglers.

Wall then informed members that Bob Shortt was unable to attend due to having a pacemaker installed but sent his greetings. He also commented that some of the door prizes were at Bob's house, so winners would have to get later!

Minutes of last AGM: Moved by Peter Hill, seconded by Lowell Weir that they be accepted as circulated.

Business Arising: the only issue from last year's AGM was the matter of whether our **membership year** should be 'yearly', (anniversary of date paid), or follow the Calendar Year. Moved by Cliff Bourdreau seconded by Lowell Weir that the MSA membership be sold on a calendar year basis. **MC**

Membership: Joel Robinson reported that there were 48 members now and gave breakdown as to Founding members, sustaining members and affiliates.

Treasurer's Report: Robinson then presented financial report as on Dec. 31, 2015. Two members of the BOD had reviewed the banking information and signed off on this, he reported.

He went on to inform the membership that WSU, although only operating for 3 years, had been able to raise \$220,000 for Project Specific operations. He felt we should be pleased with this accomplishment.

Moved by Lowell Weir, seconded by Donald Fortune that Treasurer's financial report be accepted. **MC**

Wall thanked Robinson for his work as treasurer but also for his dealing with the Anonymous Donors who have stepped up to the plate for the project with the Inverness South Anglers Project. The membership responded with applause.

AFFILIATES:

Inverness South Anglers: Dave Cameron began by giving a brief background of their group, formed in 2004, initially to deal with the Mabou Watershed however, more recently they had branched out to other rivers in S. Inverness.

They had been funded by ASCF to do a 5-year plan on the Graham's River and Captain's Brook, in the Port Hood/Judique area. Charlie MacInnis did this study. Although a short river, in the 1800's, Graham's River was considered to be one of Cape Breton's best Salmon Rivers.

This year they had a 3 man AAS crew working for 18 weeks, the first 4 or 5 being involved in maintenance on past work and the rest in new projects, almost entirely on Graham's River.

He also commented that one of their priorities was to get youth involved in fishing AND in conservation and the association was involved with Fish Friends and a fishing derby.

Geoff Nishi then detailed the group on funding issues they had faced of late. He also went on to explain in more detail the work required on Graham's river, in reality a 3 to 5-year project. He also shared that UNIR would be doing a CABIN study on the river, this year, and they hope to collect brood stock from the Mabou area that will be raised at the Margaree Hatchery.

He commented that there was some disagreement with AAS personnel, on whether Fry, parr or smolts should be released but this will be discussed further.

Nishi and Cameron both wanted to thank WSU for providing the funds required to get this restoration work started. They feel that this work will make the river more suitable for smolt survivability and that this project could serve as a good demonstration for WSU's proposals and projects.

Wall asked if there were any questions from the audience. Chuck Thompson asked about the geographic location of the river. There was also a question on signage, would WSU be mentioned? Nishi said signage was included in their budget and WSU certainly would be acknowledged.

Richmond Wildlife Association: Cliff Boudreau described the Grand River and the proposed project for that river and detailed problems they had getting DFO onside, but that movement WAS being made. The work is ongoing.

There was a question re: ocean mortality and tracking.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Funding: Lowell Weir again thanked Robinson for his work with our anonymous donor, getting them to come to the table for the two projects we now have, with Richmond and the Inverness South groups.

He went on to report there was a commitment from one bank for 25K and another had made a partial commitment. This work is ongoing.

Dinner: Wall reported that BOD was thinking of working with other groups to have joint dinner/fundraisers. Again, this is ongoing.

RESOLUTIONS:

Peter Hill reported to the membership that the BOD had passed two resolutions: one was to make Founding Members, (30 plus), Life Members since they had all put up \$200 to get association going before the association had Charitable status.

The second was that membership fee was reduced from \$50 a year to \$30.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Robinson informed meeting that, according to Paragraph 24 of our Bylaws, ½ the BOD must step down each year but can stand again for election, if they so choose.

This year the following people have stepped down: Bob Shortt, Justin Murray, Jim Pasher, George Blois. Bob Shortt has agreed to reoffer.

Robinson thanked the resigning directors for the work they had done!

Robinson then went on to nominate the following members to the board: Cliff Bourdreau, Bob Shortt, Ken Smith and Charles Thompson.

Three times Robinson called for further nominations from the floor and, there being none, he moved that these people be elected to the board. Motion was seconded by Harry Vickers, and carried.

MC

NEW BUSINESS:

Wall went over the past year's accomplishments: the joint projects with Richmond Wildlife and South Inverness, the WSU being granted Charitable Status, our new website being up and running

www.wildsalmonunlimited.com

in retrospect, he felt we had accomplished a lot, although sometimes things seem to move slow!

PEIROWAY RAFFLE:

The 9', 8 weight was won by Gordon Olford, 849-0717. Wall will contact him

The 9', 6 weight was won by Greg Lovely but he returned this rod to be used for a raffle next year.

DOOR PRIZES:

Geoff Nishi won a poster donated by Peter Hill.

Lowell Weir won the Hugh McKervill's Book, The Salmon People, donated by Pat Wall.

<https://www.amazon.ca/Salmon-People-Hugh-W-McKervill/dp/1770502084>

Fred Burns won the cutting board from Larch Wood Enterprises

Greg Lovey was the winner of the one night accommodation for two people at the Salmon Pool Inn, donated by Bob Shortt.

Meeting adjourned

2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT The Society for the Enhancement of Wild Salmon Stocks - WSU
Business No. 81371 3971 RR0001 NS Registry Joint Stock Corp. No. 3280669

Beginning Balances Checking Acct.

East Coast CU	\$8,880.54	
Project Fund	\$164,300.00	
Smolt Fund	\$750.00	
Total	\$173,930.54	\$173,930.54

Income

Cash Contributions	\$	5,562.50
Project Contribution	\$	150,000.00
Gift Contributions - Raffle	\$	1,000.00
Raffle Income	\$	1,444.85
Membership	\$	640.00
Interest	\$	1,002.00
Sub-Total	\$59,649.35	\$ 59,649.35

Expenses / Reductions

Advertising / Website	\$	1,483.98
Bank Fees	\$	35.28
Annual Registration Joint Stocks	\$	31.15
Meeting Expenses	\$	526.43
NS Alc & Gaming	\$	19.16
Postage	\$	29.35

Project Expenditures 2	\$ 90,000.00	
Raffle Expenses	\$ 224.01	
Raffle Prize Value	\$ 1,000.00	
Show Expense	\$ 100.00	
Travel	\$ 387.16	
Sub-total	\$ 93,836.52	(93,836.52)
Year End Balance	\$(34,187.17)	\$139,743.37

Smolt Fund	\$937.50
Project Fund Acct	\$ 124,300.00
General Acct	\$ 14,505.87
Total	\$ 139,743.37

- 1) Project contribution for Graham's River Project = \$50,000.00
- 2) Graham's River - \$50,000.00, Grand River - \$40,000.00

2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Society for the Enhancement of Wild Salmon Stocks - WSU Business No. 81371 3971
RR0001 NS Registry Joint Stock Corp. No. 3280669

Assets:

The Society for the Enhancement of Wild Salmon Stocks does not own land, buildings nor do it have any mortgage obligations.

Membership East Coast CU	\$ 5.00
Total Deposits East Coast CU	\$ 139,743.37
Gift Donation (Raffle)	\$ 1,000.00
Total Assets	\$ 140,748.37

Liabilities:

Membership East Coast CU 5.00
Gift (raffled at 2016 AGM) 1,000.00

Smolt Fund 937.50
Project Fund 124,300.00
Total Liabilities 126,242.50
Owner Equity 14,505.87

INVERNESS SOUTH ANGLER'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE: Provided by: Geoff Nishi.

The Inverness South Anglers Association began its 2017 instream work season on Monday 29 May and it will run through Friday 29 September. We have a seasoned crew of four, a high school summer intern, an NSCC intern, and a field technician to get this year's work done.

The first five weeks of the eighteen week work season is devoted to restoring migratory access and upgrading existing infrastructure in the Broad Cove River and Mabou Harbour tributaries of the Northeast Mabou and the Mabou/Mull rivers.

The remaining thirteen weeks of the instream season will be spent on completing Year 2 of the Graham's River three year restoration plan.

ISAA and NSCC are concluding a watershed management agreement that establishes the Captain's Brook watershed as an auxiliary campus to be developed by NSCC and its NRET students.

ISAA has partial funding to design a long term restoration plan from ASCF and we are negotiating with Dalhousie University to cover the balance of the work. Restoration of the Southwest Mabou River has been left to last for ISAA to attend to. It will take two ensuing years to secure funding to implement the Southwest Mabou River Restoration Plan over the next ten years.

ISAA's Learn 2 Fish Friday and 10th Annual John F. MacInnes Trout Fishing Derby Saturday were great 'back to back' successes according to news coverage by the Inverness Oran. A total of an \$8,568 prize purse was distributed to: 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st Child Prize winners; 3rd, 2nd and 1st Youth and 3rd, 2nd and first Adult category prizewinners. Community sponsorship of these events was up this year by 150%.

RICHMOND COUNTY WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

GRAND RIVER UPDATE: Provided by Cliff Boudreau

I just received the information yesterday, regarding the electrofishing that was done on four Eastern Cape Breton rivers. They include; Grand River, River Inhabitants, Framboise River and

River Tillard. Overall, the number of fry/parr was quite low compared to other rivers in Eastern Cape Breton. I have attached the stock status update of Atlantic Salmon in Salmon Fishing areas 19-21 and 23. The results were not unexpected considers most people that are familiar with the rivers were saying that numbers were in a steady decline. DFO has informed me that they have the necessary funding to do a genetic analysis of the salmon samples that were collected. I am not certain when it will be completed but I do know that they have not started the process. For now, it seems like there is not a lot that Richmond Wildlife can do until DFO has more information.

I believe the fish ladder repairs are almost complete and hopefully will visit the area soon and take some pictures. If I get pictures I will email to you and perhaps you can show them at the meeting if you or another Board member has a laptop.

The one positive is that we will have concrete information about current salmon population and a better understanding of the work that need to be done to bring them back to 1975 levels. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Dominic LeBlanc letter

April 6th, 2107

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans & Canadian Coast Guard
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A OA6

Dear Honourable Minister:

On a quiet morning in 2016, while angling for wild Atlantic Salmon on a Nova Scotia river, I overheard a conversation between a grandfather and his young grandson. It went like this. "Pop, how come you just let go the only salmon we caught this morning when grand-ma would have cooked it for supper?" "Boy", Pop replied, "I didn't want to but it's the law." "Why

Pop?” asked the young boy. “Because”, said Pop, “the salmon are almost all gone.” “What happens then?” asked the boy. “God knows” said Pop. He continued. “We, and I mean all of us, have to talk to our Governments and get them to do something.” “Like what?” asked the boy.

Mr. Minister, the boy’s last question is part of the reason I’m writing to you on behalf of an organization called: The Society for the Enhancement of Wild Atlantic Salmon Stocks, also known as, “Wild Salmon Unlimited (WSU). Primarily a fundraising group, our mandate is to fund the restoration of wild Atlantic salmon to their native rivers. A goal that dove-tails well with a recent funding announcement from your department wherein Atlantic Salmon were highlighted with an objective of returning their numbers to 1975 levels. A formidable but welcome objective that I’m sure every Atlantic Canadian appreciates. WSU commends you for taking that major step, one where we can certainly contribute. Just four years old our group, without government funding, has provided considerable monetary assistance to two Cape Breton organizations allowing them to enhance Atlantic Salmon rivers in their jurisdictions.

With this new Atlantic Salmon initiative, pending, the executive of WSU would appreciate an opportunity to meet, at your convenience, and present our position to government. It will, in our humble opinion, benefit the intricate planning process for this important new beginning. Since WSU raises its money from the private sector, we will not be soliciting monetary support from government. Our positive experience working with officials within your Department, with other government agencies and non-governmental conservation organizations, should be an asset. We look forward to providing our input and discussing how we can best fit in the overall plan.

No doubt, together, we can answer, “Like what?”

Sincerely,

P.J.Wall: President

Cc: Honourable Roger Cuzner

Honourable Mark Eyking

Honourable Keith Colwell

LeBlanc's e-mail response

Mr. P.J. Wall

President

Wild Salmon Unlimited

< admin@wildsalmonunlimited.com >

Dear Mr. Wall:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 6, 2017, and for your kind invitation.

Unfortunately, my schedule cannot accommodate this request. I have copied my Director of Policy, Ms. Alexis McIntyre, and my Special Assistant–Atlantic, Mr. Sheldon Gillis, for their information.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed By

Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

c.c.: Ms. Alexis McIntyre

Director of Policy

Mr. Sheldon Gillis

Special Assistant–Atlantic
