

TNS helps research at Kejimikujik N.P.

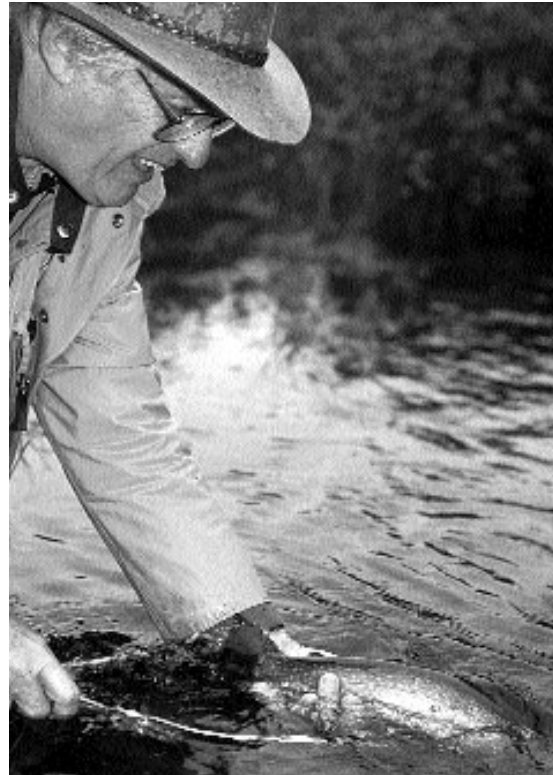


Photo © James Steeves

Gary Corbett of Parks Canada sporting a TNS cap, took scale samples, tagged and recorded size and weight of fish. ▶

◀ Reg Baird releases another brookly from the project sample.

Jamie Steeves focuses on hooking a trout for the study sample. ▼

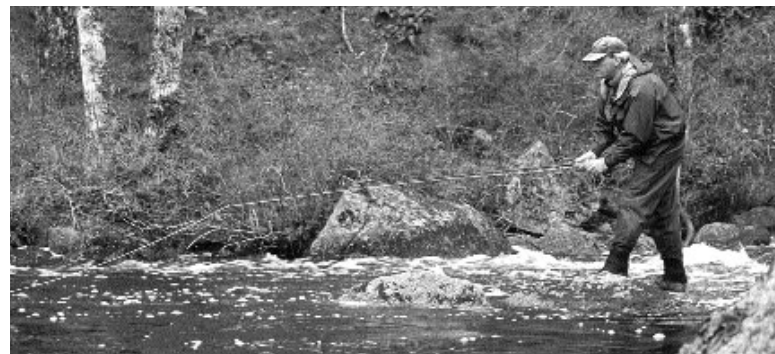


Photo by Gary Corbett



Photo © James Steeves

One of the Project's five or six year old brookies, measured, tagged and ready for release. ▶

Join Us, become a member of Trout NS

Yes, I want to be a member of Trout Nova Scotia and help insure an improved and sustainable trout fishery in the province for future generations. For more information or to send in your membership contact:

Trout Nova Scotia e mail: membership@troutnovascotia.ca www.troutnovascotia.ca

- Associate (under sixteen): \$ 5.75
- Regular Member : \$ 11.50
- Family Membership: \$ 17.25
- Corporate Membership: \$ 57.50
- Donation: \$ _____

R I F F L E S A N D P O O L S

Dedicated to the preservation of Nova Scotia's trout

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George Taylor

In Nova Scotia, Trout fishing for most of us usually slows in the summer months, but does the fishing slow down ? Well that all depends on where and when you fish.

Yes, the small ponds and shallow lakes warm up quickly, and the fishing slows down. If you want to stay with these waters, pull out the newspaper and find out when the sun rises. You can fish two hours before sunrise and that's when the water temperature will have dropped up to 10 degrees from the heat of the day. You'll catch a few fish before the sun gets on the water and get back home before the grass is dry enough to mow.

For those who can travel, June and July are the months that the Sea Trout are making their way back to and up our rivers . To find a group of large Sea Trout coming in is to experience some of the best fishing of your life!

In the summer months, the Caddis start hatching and skating over the water. Fishing them can have some wild action. It's also time to find a lake with a Green Drake hatch. I believe every trout fisherman should experience this spectacular hatch. Even the big trout will come up for these.

If you can pick and choose then pick up the rod on overcast days. With the heat of August things can slow down but you can still catch fish . Check out those rivers that offer night fishing for Brown Trout. Just tie on a big mouse and pull it across the surface. My recommendation for all of you is to get out there and fish till you drop! The winter's far too long to fish only in the spring .

Tight Lines!

Raffle Results and the winners are...

- 1 Steven Evens, Lantz
Patagonia Chest Waders from TheTrail Shop
- 2 Gordon Williams, Brookside
Flyfishing outfit from Fishing Fever Tackle Shop
- 3 Paul Blois, Kennetcook
Skill Saw from Coastal Restoration & Masonary
- 4 Phil Jenkins, Halifax
Fenwick Rod from Fenwick Canada
- 5 Gary Fraser, Baddeck
Framed Sherman Hines print
- 6 Ron Grantham , Halifax
Cortland Fly Line from Corbett's Sporting Goods
- 7 Rorer Kenney, Oyster Pond
Reel and line from Baird's Snow Country
- 8 Art Vidito, Dartmouth
Fly Fishing Note Cards from Atlantic Stock Images
- 9 Barbara Corbett, Liverpool \$25 gift certificate
- 10 Bob Korhonen, Kingston \$25 gift certificate



Casting Around

Dennis Grant, of the Atlantic Fly Fishing School, has generously offered to donate a "Fly Fishing Clinic", as a fund raiser for Trout Nova Scotia.

Many of us have watched in amazement at his skill with a fly rod during the Sport's Show each year. Dennis has the distinction of being classified as one of the top five fly casting instructors in North America.

We are asking if T.N.S. members would be interested in supporting this event. We need 40 participants at a fee of \$15.00 each, for a half day of instruction to make it worthwhile. We are looking at an early fall date with the event held near Halifax. An exact date and place to be announced. This clinic is open to anyone who would like to take advantage of this fantastic offer. **Please respond** as soon as possible to Claude Cochrane 902.757.2996 or troutns@hotmail.com



President

George Taylor

Secretary

Lyle Goldberg

Treasurer

Tom Lee

Membership

Reg Baird

Policy Development Committee

George Taylor, Gary Corbett,
Reg Baird, Claude Cochrane

Newsletter

Jamie Steeves

Website

Pat Donoghue & Jamie Steeves

Directors

George Taylor

Tom Lee

Claude Cochrane

Reg Baird

Gary Corbett

Jamie Steeves

Lyle Goldberg

Mike Murray

Peter Budreski

The Executive meets Wednesdays
of the first full week each month.

Rifles & Pools is published four times per
year. Deadlines for 2001 submissions are:
February 2, April 6, June 1, September 28.

The Editor reserves the right to edit
for length and clarity.

Trout Nova Scotia attn. George Taylor
e mail: president@troutnovascotia.ca
www.troutnovascotia.ca



In Memory of Gordon Ross

April 2, 1921 - August 27, 2000.

by Bob Boudreau

Today I visited the home of Edith Ross. Her husband, Gordon passed away August 27th 2000. He was an enthusiastic fly fisherman and a friend to trout. He took George Taylor's trout and salmon classes. He was a conservationist and a keen observer of nature. Edith has generously donated all of Gordon's fly tying supplies and equipment to Trout Nova Scotia so we may teach our children about the sport that meant so much to Gordon.

Below is a copy of a small story and poem Gordon wrote that was handed out as his funeral.

"Once in a Lifetime"

I had an experience a few years ago of the passive type. It was during a deer hunting trip. I arrived at my selected hunting spot just before sunrise. There had been a heavy frost the previous night. I was overlooking a large field. As the sun came up it melted the frost and formed droplets on the grasses and stubble. With the sun shining through the droplets, they refracted and reflected the light so that the field looked like a field of jewels. I forgot all about the hunting as I looked at the field until the sun rose higher and the "jewels" disappeared and the field just became a brownish field again. When I got back to the camp, I sat down and wrote the following:

Nature's jewel box was opened for me, a privilege granted to few. A fortune was there before my eyes but I could take nothing for you.

I could only look and wonder at the spectacle displayed. Diamonds, sapphires, emeralds at my feet were laid.

Precious jewels innumerable sprinkled with golden dust, All the untold riches for which men scheme and lust.

I took it all and stored it away to savour another day.

I cannot lose it nor can it be taken from me, As I will have it forever stored in my memory.



Photo © James Steeves

Questions & Answers with Reg Baird

Q. What is meant by the term "drag"?

A. When casting a dry fly across a current to slower water, the swifter current catches your line and forms a down stream bow that pulls your fly down stream faster than the current it is in. The pulling causes the fly to make an unnatural wake in the water. This wake is called "drag". A fly that "dead drifts" with the current is a very effective technique for raising fish.

Q. What is the best knot for joining monofilament?

A. The two most commonly used are the Blood Knot and the Double Surgeon's Knot.

Q. What is the purpose of felt soles on waders?

A. Felt soles provide traction in most wading situations. They grip well on slippery rocks in moderately fast water. They can also be replaced when they wear out. When wearing wet felts on land, use caution as they are slippery where the ground slopes or when pine needles carpet the ground. In places outside Nova Scotia, people resort to wearing chains or have their felts studded for increased grip not unlike the hob nailed boots of logging days.



The Fishing Tourist

by Charles Hallock, Published by Harper & Brothers, 1873, p. 126-128

Edited by Michael Murray Charles Hallock, (b. 1834-d. 1917) has been called the dean of outdoor writers. Born in New York city he lived briefly in Halifax in 1865-66. He was editor of *Forest and Stream*, one of the early outdoor magazines and a pioneer sport angler. The following excerpt, from his book *The Fishing Tourist*, demonstrates why Nova Scotia became a favoured destination for "sports" from the northeastern United States.

...leaving word for Johnny and Joe to expect us in the morning, we drive to Charley Lovetts hospitable inn, six miles farther (from Chester NS). There we shall enjoy the full fruition of the anglers hopes, without one drawback or vexation to mar its ripe perfection. "There'll be no sorrow there." Private parlor and bedroom with gossamer curtains; sheets snowy white; bouquets of wild flowers, renewed every day; boots blacked in the morning; a rising bell, or a little maids tap at the door; breakfast under hot covers—broiled salmon, baked trout with cream, omelettes, toast, broiled beefsteak, (everybody else fries it down there,) coffee, eggs, milk, wild honey, and "all that sort of thing ad libitum, ad infinitum." At seven o'clock, sharp, every morning, the wagon is brought to the door and loaded. In the hinder part we stow a hamper of biscuit and cheese, sandwiches, cold ham, sardines, sometimes a boiled lobster (they catch them here by the thousand and can them for market), hard-boiled eggs, bottles of claret and Bass beer, a big chunk of ice, a couple of lemons, salt, pepper, and sugar, with all table utensils necessary; also pickles. This is for luncheon. We never carry pie; it squashes. Under the seats we place our waterproofs, wading trousers, and extra boots and socks; then we light pipes or cigars and mount to our seats; Charley hands us our rods, which we nurse tenderly, and giving the word "go," we rattle off under the respectful but admiring gaze of a dozen lobster-crackers going to work in the factory, and of all the early risers in the village. For, be it known, this diurnal departure and the arrival of the stage at noon, are the great events of the passing days.

At sundown the wagon will be sent to the river to bring us back with our trophies. It is a great satisfaction to be able to exhibit the trophies of ones skill or endeavor. The two greatest rewards of effort are the accomplishment of something to be done, and the praise which follows success. Indeed, they are the only substantial pleasures of life. Poor satisfaction is it to catch fish when you cannot bring them home; indifferent reward to contemplate by ones self a hard-won conquest after days of travel and nights of toil, with only a wilderness stream to reflect the image of his disgust and discontent. Chester is one of the very few places where the luxury of fishing can be enjoyed without this alloy.

And there is not only one river, but three, within six miles of your home. You can drive half way to Gold River, and fish the Middle River, a tolerable stream, or take the opposite direction to the East River, a glorious runway for salmon, with splendid falls and cold brooks tumbling into it at intervals, at the mouth of which large trout can be caught two at a time, if the angler be skillful enough to land them when they are hooked. If one chooses, he can put up at Mrs. Fraills, upon the very bank of this stream, and take his morning and evening fishing, with a noon siesta and a quiet cigar and book; and it is not improbable that he will meet some officers from Halifax, now thirty-nine miles away by the stage route. Between this and Indian River, before mentioned, there is no good fishing.

TAILS from the waters

by Bob Boudreau

This is not a trout tail, but I thought you might be interested in the inside scoop!

Very early this season I heard from a tourist who was travelling in the Margaree area. He indicated that he had spotted a number of large salmon lying beneath a bridge over the river. This tourist had witnessed the beginnings of the Annual Marketing Ritual of the Margaree Salmon Chamber of Commerce. This a little known conspiracy that was revealed to me through a mole at the Department of Fisheries (let's call him "Deep Trout").

As you know, thousands of fishermen and tourists from all over the world converge on the Margaree each year to fish for, and gaze upon, the mighty Atlantic Salmon. The surrounding businesses, shops, hoteliers etc. greatly benefit from the parade of people that roam like osprey spotting the fish. What better publicity to have people proclaiming that they saw twelve monsters under Doyle's Bridge. The word spreads like wildfire and more fishermen and tourists flock to the valley. Of course, these salmon are all fakes! Yes that's right fakes !!!

Perhaps for the uninitiated tourists, watching these forms in the sparkling water below the bridge is adequate entertainment but we know that salmon fishermen are not easily fooled. The well equipped salmon fisherman wants action!

So, after spending considerable funds on scientific research, the Margaree Salmon Chamber of Commerce (MSCC) developed the "Rising Atlantic Salmon Inflatable" and the "Jumping Atlantic Salmon Inflatable" in order to keep the interest of the true salmon fisherman. The technology is sophisticated but so simple. You must recall the small toy submarines you had as a kid that you filled with baking soda. They would sink to the bottom and then rise to the top with action of the baking soda and the water. Voila! The MSCC took the standard inflatable model and added baking soda and a Pentium micro processor to control the timing.

Now, as salmon anglers fish over dead water, the timing mechanism in the Rising Atlantic Salmon Inflatable is triggered, releasing the soda and the inflatable salmon comes to the surface and then returns to the bottom causing such enthusiasm and anticipation that the salmon fisherman will continue to thrash the water with their flies for hours on end.

The Jumping Atlantic Salmon Inflatable was a natural progression. The key was to control the amount of powder distributed by the microprocessor. It is a delicate balance. Just enough and the inflatable shoots to the surface with such speed that it flies into the air in a classic Atlantic Salmon jump. Enough to drive even the most conservative salmon fisherman into a froth beating frenzy for at least two days. By varying the size and locations of the inflatable in the pool one can create the illusion of a whole school of salmon rising, jumping and moving into a pool.

Of course, if the microprocessor distributes too much powder the inflatable explodes. In the early stages of the development of this model there were some problems which led to the rumors of dead fish floating down the river which was inappropriately attributed to improper catch and release techniques.

There are a number of other such covert marketing techniques that are in use on the Margaree which I am reluctant to divulge at this time. I believe my web site is being monitored. Needless to say, I will disclose other sinister actions in future segments which will help to explain some of the bizarre occurrences we salmon fishermen experience on the Margaree!

Lets keep this among ourselves.

Cheers, Bob

Check us out:
www.troutnovascotia.ca
 or send us an email:
troutns@hotmail.com



More Tails....

Mark Hooks the Big One! by Mark Quade

Picture yourself on the beautiful sea coast of Nova Scotia. Before you are the sights and sounds of the sea and a virtual cornucopia of possible tasty meals. This story is about a fishing adventure that required absolutely no skill, no finesse and very little gray matter...on my part.

It all started innocently enough, an avid angler trying his hand at "jigging" cod (when it was legal) using a borrowed rod, 6 ounce cod jig and a 25 pound test line. I was precariously perched atop of a small embankment that required dropping the jig about 8 feet before it hit the water. I was having poor luck, a couple of small skates and two small cod were all that were foolish enough to strike the lure.

I had just returned the jig to the bottom when all of a sudden there was a very purposeful tug on the line. I set the hook and brought my next cod arduously to the surface. This one was considerably larger, maybe 6 or 8 pounds. Now came the problem. How to get the larger fish up and over the edge of the drop-off, without breaking the line and losing the borrowed jig?

The line did not break as I lifted the cod, and watched it safely come up and over the edge. What I did not take into consideration, was that the cod's lip did not have a 6 to 8-pound rating. I watched in horror as the fish's lip broke sending the 6 ounce jig skyrocketing. Someone could really get hurt doing this. If it hadn't been for my head getting in the way, someone else might have!

Lucky me, it didn't hurt at all. When I regained consciousness I thought I had better see about getting this thing removed from my head or I would never make it through airport security again! Then again, body piercing is very much "in" and perhaps I could have made some angling fashion statement.

Looking about to make sure no one had seen my *faux pas*, I reached back and laid the lure on top of my head and covered it with my ball cap to hide the obvious. Because anytime is a good time for a little TLC and pity, I stopped to pick up my girlfriend Bonnie and we made our way to the local Emergency Room.

I was on vacation so I had to go through the humiliation of sitting in the waiting room until a doctor was available. The locals in attendance listened with a smile as I described my predicament to the nurse. Once in the treatment room, I bravely told the doctor "No freezing necessary". He proceeded to work on the size "Triple O" hook and I instantly realized that no freezing meant PAIN, PAIN, PAIN! so I ordered him to stop. "I'll take the freezing, I'll take the freezing". Bonnie told me that during the "operation" the doctor was actually lifting the skin on my scalp a good 2-3 inches trying to pry out the hook.

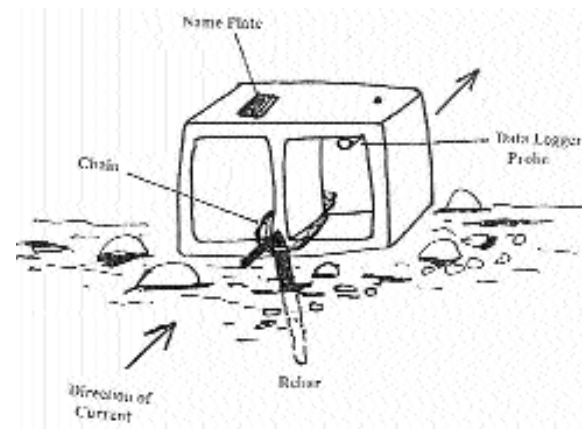
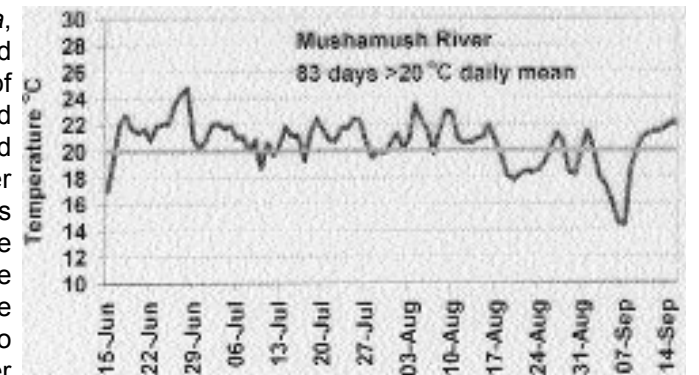
After I regained consciousness, (again) I made a vow that if I was ever again in a situation where I might have to "hoist" a large fish over an embankment, that I would never use a strange hospital again!

Pretty smart eh?

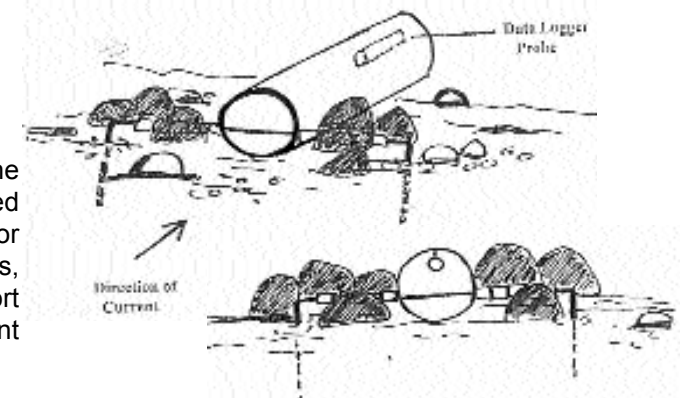
Nova Scotia Water Temperature Monitoring Project

by John MacMillan, Jason LeBlanc - NS Dept. of Agriculture & Fisheries and Lewis Hinks - Atlantic Salmon Federation

Speckled trout *Salvelinus fontinalis*, Brown trout *Salmo trutta*, and Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* are members of the salmonid family and need cool water to survive. Speckled trout are one of the most sensitive of the salmonids to warm water and they avoid temperatures of more than 20C, whereas Brown trout and Atlantic salmon are slightly more tolerant of warm water conditions. Climate change and poor land use practices associated with forestry, agriculture, and other development have resulted in an increase in the amount of warm water during the summer, and a consequent decrease in the amount of suitable habitat during this stressful period. Speckled trout migrate to colder water temperatures during warm water periods. Cooler waters are located in the small, shaded tributaries that flow into the main branch of a river, or in the deep areas of pools and lakes. Thermal restriction of habitat can result in overcrowding of fish in cold water sites. Overcrowded populations are more susceptible to predation, parasite and disease transmission, and over fishing. For this reason, the number of trout in a system could be directly related to the amount of cold water habitat available in summer.



The Nova Scotia temperature monitoring project involves the work of many volunteers and community-based organizations. The purpose of the project is to understand how much salmonid habitat is affected by warm water conditions and identify important cool water areas. The project design provides a relatively simple and inexpensive approach to collecting accurate temperature information on a large number of sites. Volunteers used automatic temperature loggers to assess the summer temperature profiles from 145 sites on 22 river systems.



The results of the program to date indicate that temperatures in the main branch of many river systems warm above 20C for prolonged periods in summer, resulting in a reduction of suitable habitat for speckled trout. The information suggests that, in many situations, the small streams are vital to the survival of the cold water sport fishery. Unfortunately, small streams are often deemed insignificant and are often abused during development and land use activities.

Current global warming trends could have the most profound impact on cold water populations in the future; however, land use practices are reducing the buffer (riparian) zones around streams that provide shade, maintain bank stability, and provide cooler water. Protecting and/or establishing riparian zones could result in an improvement for salmonid populations that must use small, cold areas in summer. Many of the volunteers involved in this project have undertaken habitat enhancement activities which have benefitted salmonid populations. Additionally, angling regulations have been used to protect speckled trout that have been restricted to cold water refuges such as Trout Brook, a tributary of Lake Ainslie, Nova Scotia.

The data collected in the survey is being used to develop river system maps to help identify where the important cold water sites are located in each watershed. These maps are being developed with the help of the Centre of Geographical Sciences (COGS) in Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia, and will be provided to the organizations and volunteers involved in the project.

To learn more about the temperature monitoring project please call (902) 485-5056 Inland Fisheries Division Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Box 700, Pictou Nova Scotia BOK 1H0

Fish used in Assessment of Wooden's River Watershed



by Sue Belford, JEWL

In the Fall of 1994, Jacques Whitford Environment Limited (JWEL) conducted a fisheries sampling program in the Wooden's River Watershed to determine the concentration of persistent contaminants in fish tissues. PCBs, mercury and dioxins and furans are contaminants of concern, and are compounds that do not depurate from living organisms and can bioaccumulate in higher trophic levels.

The parameter of most concern by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour (NSDEL) is elevated levels of PCBs. Monitoring of PCB in fish tissues is planned for 2001. Based on the 1994 baseline survey, the following study was recommended.

Study Area

Fish tissues from Five Island Lake and Hubley Big Lake contained concentrations of PCBs in excesses of federal guidelines. Frederick Lake should be sampled to provide comparative reference data.

Species

Trout and perch and golden shiner should be re-evaluated. The trout and perch species are the main sport fish for recreational fishers for consumption. The golden shiner or other available bait fish species provide information on trophic level effects.

Considering this work is being planned early in the season, the easiest time to collect the trout will be during the mayfly hatch. It is understood that a NSDOFA biologist will conduct the sampling and they will be familiar with hatching time (May to early June). All species can be captured at the same time. Only one sampling event will be sufficient for this year.

Tissue Analysis

Analysis of liver tissues is required to monitor the health of the fish. Analysis of muscle tissue is required to evaluate risk to human consumption. If both of these concerns are issues with provincial regulators, then it is recommended that both tissue sets be analyzed for PCBs. A minimum of ten fish per species per lake are required for analysis. Total length, fork length and weights must be measured before the fish are processed. The back muscle tissue from the perch and trout specimens, are placed in individual whirl-pak bags and kept chilled until they reach the laboratory. With small baitfish, the entire fish is homogenized (as it would as a prey item for piscivorous fish), thus the whole fish is kept and sent to the lab.

Fishing Changes Population

BREWSTER, Mass. (AP) - The reason fishermen are catching smaller fish than their predecessors might not be just because all the big ones have been caught. Research indicates that as bigger fish are removed from the population, the smaller fish left behind take on more influence in breeding the next generation.

"It's like (eliminating) all the people who are 7 feet tall; they will become rarer and rarer and you'll have only small people left. It's fascinating to think humans are having this effect on fish," Steven Murawski, chief of the population dynamic branch of National Marine Fisheries in Woods Hole, told The Boston Globe.

Some of those smaller fish also are reaching sexual maturity earlier, producing offspring that are both small and programmed to be mothers while still young.

In the 1960s, most Boston haddock spawned at age 3 or later, but now even 1-year-olds are spawning. Cod are also having offspring at younger ages. On the West Coast, the average size of pink salmon coming back to spawn decreased 30 percent in 40 years. Scientists say it is difficult to sort out what is true genetic or evolutionary change and what is a short-term physiological adaptation that will end when fishing pressure does.

If a genetic change is occurring, there is a potential problem: Fish that have offspring earlier tend to produce ones that are less viable. Those fish could continue to produce fewer and fewer fertile offspring until the fishery industry is in danger of collapsing.

"It can be a downward spiral," said Joseph G. Kunkel, a professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst studying marine life. "If it's physiological, we'll have the same old codfish one day. But if it isn't, it has tremendous consequences for codfish and haddock."

Many fishermen scoff at the suggestion that fish are becoming smaller because of overfishing. "It's only because they don't have a lot of food now," said Anton Stetzko, of Orleans, who briefly held the world's record for catching the biggest striped bass off Nauset in 1981. That fish was 73 pounds and he regularly caught 40 and 50 pounders back then. Now, he figures the average catch is somewhere between eight and 18 pounds.

Striped bass are coming back and he says their lighter weight is probably because there are so many of them that they are having a tough time finding enough food.

"I think the big fish will be back," he said. "But we have to allow them to grow big."



Photo © James Steeves

The reason fishermen are catching smaller fish might not be just because all the big ones have been caught.

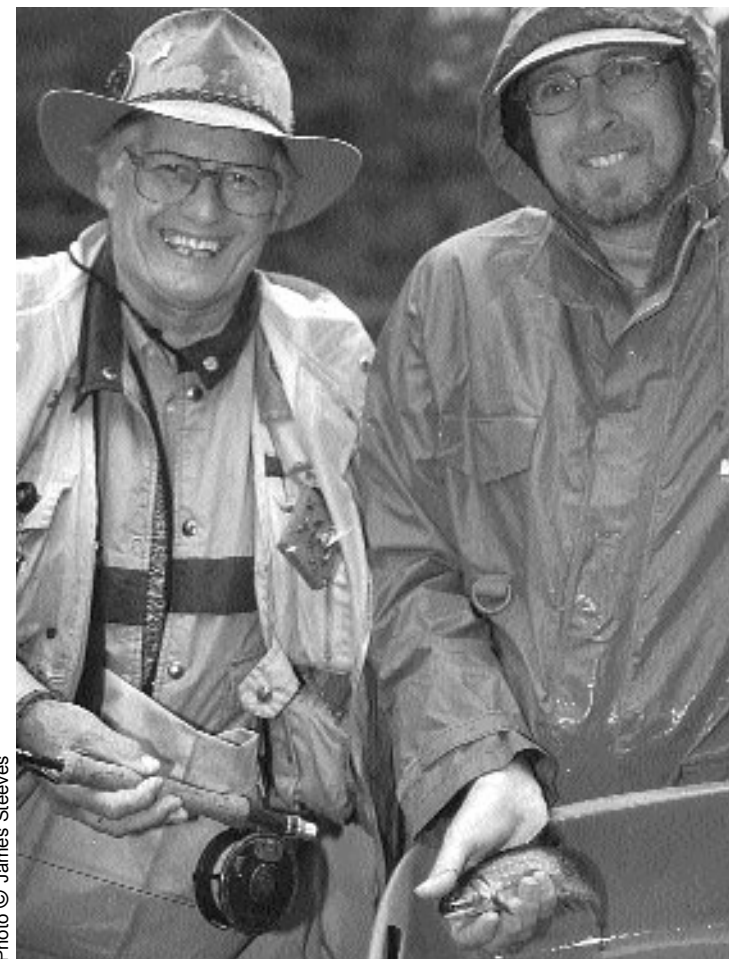


Photo © James Steeves

TROUT DID YOU KNOW ?

with Gary Corbett

A lot of anglers want to know what determines the abundance of catchable size trout particularly the nice older ones in the 32 to 35 centimeter range; roughly 13 to 14 inches for those of you not metricated.

I think most anglers have observed considerable variation from year to year in the number of trout in certain size ranges. One year your favourite stream might have lots of 13 inchers but the next spring most of what you are catching are 8 inchers. If there are lots of trout the standard remark is usually that "there must have been good spawning a couple of years back".

This point can certainly be true, but usually by the time October and November roll around, water conditions are generally good for trout spawning in this province in most years. If there are few trout, most anglers will blame it on over fishing or predators such as cormorants. The key is that trout have a huge

productive potential because of the large number of eggs laid - over 1000 eggs per pound of fish. Can you imagine the enormous number of trout if all these eggs hatched and grew trout!

Biologists generally consider that each fish species has a critical period. This is defined as the time when natural regulatory factors determine the eventual abundance of a year class of that species. For brook trout the critical period is generally during larval development when they become dependent on natural food. Initially, larvae use the energy contained in the yolk sac to develop functional mouth parts and become capable of swimming.

At the point of transition, their energy reserves are very low and they are very vulnerable to weather extremes, food shortages and predation. Consider that this entire batch of young in the watershed will eventually be the year class of fish that are your 13 to 14 inchers.

If there is an abundance of larvae surviving the first few months, chances are good that this will be a strong year class and will remain so throughout their life span. Predation, accidents and maybe some disease will knock out many over the years to that age where they reach 13 inches but their vulnerability will not be nearly as bad as those first few months of life. Over 90% of the larvae can be lost at this critical period!