

Riffles & Pools



Dedicated to the preservation of Nova Scotia's trout

President's Musings....

As your new president and on behalf of the entire TNS Board and membership I would like to extend a very large thank you to George Taylor for all that he has done to make TNS the success that it is today. George's enthusiasm and knowledge of trout was paramount in building this organization. He will be a hard act to follow so I am very happy that he is still serving on several TNS Board committees. Following the March AGM, the TNS Board elected the 2003 executive and welcomed several new board members. The changes are reflected in the masthead of this newsletter.

Ahead we have several exciting initiatives in the works. Our most important activity will be around the announcement by Murray Hill of Inland Fisheries that there will be a Trout Plan for the Province. Murray took the opportunity of our AGM to make this important announcement. What fantastic news and I remind all who are passionate about trout fishing that it will be our job to lend support to Inland Fisheries in whatever ways are necessary to make this a meaningful and comprehensive plan. Many of you have asked for details. TNS has submitted a list of plan content, which we hope will be included in the final Trout Plan. Please see page 4 of this newsletter for details.

A second initiative is to get the TNS Directors to meet in various parts of the province. The invitations have flowed in and to the extent that our Board members can shoulder the travel expenses, plans are underway. TNS has been to meetings in Truro and full Board meetings are planned for Kentville, Antigonish, and Cape Breton. Along the way, we hope to see as many of you as possible. On the heels of the Outdoors Show, it's always great to share ideas and a few secrets too!

Other initiatives include Project Hook, which is aimed at school age children. We will be devoting time this year to getting this important program better established. I also draw your attention to the piece on the Public Lands Coalition in this newsletter (page 5). This coalition of 30 to 40 groups with an interest in the outdoors has important work that needs your support in an election year.

So there's a taste of what's to see in the riffles & pools this year. I hope there is time enough left to get out and do some fishing! Its been a bumpy start to the lying season with April Fools' flood waters, ice and snow. In the early days of April, I saw the enthusiasm summed up in boat-laden pick ups spinning out of the local gas station or hovering about the coffee shops. No complaints about water levels this year, just a little too much ice in your drink !

This was the first year in many that I didn't get out somewhere on the first of April. However, the scattered reports I've heard have set my anxieties aside. The cold, late spring has slowed the flurry and just yesterday I found time to repair my little trout rod. She's as good as new now, so bring it on in May!

Enjoy the fishing!
Jamie Steeves

AGM OUTCOMES ...

Welcome to three new TNS Directors: Gino Maddalena, Jeff Graves and Rick Devine. TNS also welcomes all our new members who joined us in March and April. The Directors wish to thank everyone who renewed their membership and bought raffle tickets as well!

A resolution was adopted at the AGM that TNS supports pinched barbs in all Special Trout Management Areas. A second motion was also adopted that TNS pursue forestry practices with government, in particular as they relate to habitat destruction.

The 120 plus members that attended the AGM and who participated in the "placing of dots program" gave the TNS Directors a clear message about what issues we should continue to pursue in 2003. The top three were:

1. NS Trout Management Plan
2. Habitat (destruction / restoration issues)
3. Project Hook (environmental stewardship & teaching fishing/outdoor skills to school kids.

Trout Plan Announced!!!



DUST back in the news

You may recall the proposed use of a cement waste product CKD (a lime kiln dust) to neutralize acidic water. Well, its back in the news, The Salmon River Salmon Association, LaFarge Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are each providing in-kind and monetary contributions to do a field study. Ecole Secondaire de Clare will provide laboratory facilities and administration.

In experiments using trout in local hatcheries during 2002, it was established that CKD is safe for use in local streams. Prior to introduction of CKD to streams this fall, baseline information will be collected to monitor the effectiveness of using CKD and to assess the impact on habitat.

For more information call Roland LeBlanc, Project Coordinator 902 769-8134

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The Executive meets the second full week of each month.

Riffles & Pools is published four times per year.

Deadlines for 2003 submissions are:

February 2, April 12,

June 1, September 28.

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

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Nova Scotia goes off the road. Will Province be a trail blazer or get lost in the mud?

The Nova Scotia government announced April 28, that Voluntary Planning Board will conduct a public consultation and research initiative on off-highway vehicle use in the province.

Jim Eisenhower of Voluntary Planning will assemble a task force of individuals from diverse backgrounds in the private or non-governmental sectors to address a wide variety of concerns regarding off-highway vehicles issues. Widespread concerns include public and user safety, liability, insurance, environmental damage, unauthorized use of private and public lands and the lack of systems in place to enforce appropriate use.

Voluntary Planning will provide policy recommendations that address recreation opportunities, possible legislative/regulatory changes, the role of public stewardship, trail development, insurance, enforcement, education and training, administration and funding.

The public consultation, research and recommendation process may take up to a year to complete. TNS plans to be contributing to this important initiative.

For more information individuals may contact Voluntary Planning Suite 600, Joseph Howe Building Halifax, N.S. B3J 3J9; Phone 424-5682 or (toll free) 1-866-858-5850 E-mail: volplan@gov.ns.ca . www.gov.ns.ca/vp .

The committee will be supported by representatives from the Office of Aboriginal Affairs and the departments of Agriculture and Fisheries, Environment and Labour, Justice, Natural Resources, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Tourism and Culture, Transportation and Public Works, Treasury and Policy Board and the Office of Health Promotion's Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Commission.



Trout Nova Scotia

TNS is the leading advocate for the trout fishery in Nova Scotia. Our volunteers work with government and other organizations towards program and policy development that positively impacts trout, trout habitat and sustainable trout fishing practices. Our purpose is to ensure an improved and sustainable trout fishery in the province of Nova Scotia for future generations.

AGM & Trout Expo

Bedford Legion, just before opening day



p John Chattaway added a professional lilt at the mike, auctioning everything in sight.

The crowd, gathered, talked and listened. Lots of interesting trouty things to see.



"The fishing allows us to be outdoors, & provides great memories ... Looking after our trout... it's so important" Ron Kronstein



Reg Baird welcomes members & guests, while Lyle Goldberg background explains the dot program. m



Ron Kronstein gave a wonderful animated and motivating presentation on the joys of fishing, the value of trout and the importance of teaching the next generation outdoor values.

Thank you Ron!



p Voting for programs placing dots... now what colour was that?

Carl Purcell beavers away on another fish carving o

Walter Regan, entertained questions at the Sackville Rivers Display o



Many thanks to Claude Cochrane for doing a great job organizing this year's event.



NS Trout Plan Content

as proposed by TNS January 2003

NS Inland Fisheries Mission Statement:

It is our policy to protect, conserve and enhance the quality and diversity of the fishery resources of this province and to provide continued and varied angling opportunity through scientific inventory, classification and management of those resources.

Why is a trout management plan important for Nova Scotia?

Economic value of trout fishery
Genetic and aesthetic value of wild trout
Historical significance, maintain & sustain fishery into future
Presence of brook trout as a positive indicator of water quality
Provides justification for actions taken on certain watersheds
Provides a way to engage angling community

Life history and ecology

Brook, Lake, Brown and Rainbow trout in NS

Status of Existing Trout Fisheries

Brook, Lake, Brown and Rainbow trout

Angling methods: bait lure fly

Stocking Program

Brief history
Criteria (current stocking policy)
Rivers and streams vs. lakes and ponds
Potential of rearing eggs from wild fish to prolong life of stocked trout and replenish wild stocks

Gathering Statistics (quantitative and qualitative)

Scientific research (fish counts, fish size, water quality, etc.)
Angler surveys
Angler report cards
Keeping statistics updated on regular basis
Rate of harvest vs. optimum sustainable yield

Identify and discuss management techniques

Slot limits
Bag limits
Catch and release
Gear restrictions - fly fish only/single hook no bait, pinched barbs
Season restrictions - delayed openings/early closures
Angling pressure
Restrictions to protect spawning grounds

Trout Habitat

Characteristics of healthy trout habitat

Threats to Habitat

Forestry practices
Agriculture practices/pesticide use
Illegal introductions of non-native species
ATVs
Aggressive residential/commercial development
Aquaculture
Acid rain
Global warming



Ways to Address Threats to Habitat

Promote Habitat restoration and enhancement
Regulations
Enforcement
Programs - Adopt-a-Stream
Identifying and working with partners - other departments - both federal and provincial - DFO, DNR, DOEL, municipalities, developers, farmers, NS Power, other corporations, river/watershed associations, angling community

Native Rights & Access to Trout fishery

Managing Trout Fishery

Rivers and streams vs. lakes and ponds - require different strategies
Identifying wild trout watersheds vs. stocking water sheds

Education Plan

Kids
Adults
Urban/rural

Enforcement

Public education programs
Riverwatch
DNR
DFO
RCMP

Various plans/strategies

Introduced species
Habitat restoration and enhancement
Wild trout
Trout enhancement
Trout put and take
Hatchery

Implementation strategy

Trout plan to be phased in over 3 years.
Should be updated every 5 years

Feedback and assessment of plan - may require follow-up survey

Value of angling surveys

Initial survey to determine angler preferences based on type of fishing
Subsequent surveys
Excellent way to obtain qualitative information include resident/non-resident and various types of anglers



Public Lands Coalition Meets

The Public Lands Coalition represents all kinds of environment-based groups within the Province all of whom have a common interest; the health, welfare and future of outdoors Nova Scotia. There are too many to list here, but the list includes environmental heavies like the Sierra Club Canada, Nature Conservancy Canada, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society and the Ecology Action Centre, but also many others like Trout Nova Scotia, various Salmon, Bass and River Associations, Tourism groups, Woodlot Owners, and so on. (Please look at the website: www.publicland.ca).

March 30, TNS attended an afternoon meeting of the Public Lands Coalition (PLC). It was a very informative meeting under the direction of Raymond Plourde, the new Wilderness Coordinator from the Ecology Action Centre. Over several hours we received a brief history of the struggle to set aside representative examples of Nova Scotia wildlands for the benefit of present and future generations. One of the results of that early work are the 31 protected areas but many gaps remain in the system and the government has not lived up to its commitment to complete Nova Scotia's Protected Areas Network. Of major concern is forestry and mining interests moving in on what remains of our natural wildlands in particular those held in trust for all Nova Scotians in the form of Crown Land.

The purpose of the March meeting was to rally the troops in this election year. The PLC wants to put pressure on the various political parties to: 1. Pressure the government to live up to its commitments and complete Nova Scotia's Protected Areas Network. 2. Build a broader public support for completing Nova Scotia's Protected Areas Network. 3. Raise the profile of individual "hotspot" areas, which occupy crown land.

The TNS Directors urge you to review the PLC website (www.publicland.ca) for more information about this important initiative. Have a look at the Endangered Wilderness Hotspots, fill out the enclosed petition with this newsletter and return it to:

Public Lands Coalition
Raymond Plourde
Wilderness Coordinator
Ecology Action Centre
1568 Argyle St. Suite 31
Halifax, NS B3J 2B3
902.429.2202 (P)
902.422.6410 (F)
www.publicland.ca

(Please indicate the petition comes from Trout Nova Scotia)

If you can write letters to the editor or the various political leaders on this issue it would do a great deal to support the cause. Thanks for your help.

Need an address for your fav-o-rite politician?

Contact:
www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/members/index.html
1-800-670-4357



How Are We Doing ?

The Government of Nova Scotia has adopted or endorsed the protected area commitments listed below. Although some progress was made with the establishment of 31 Wilderness Areas in 1998, these commitments remain unfulfilled. As of 2002, only 23 of 80 natural regions in the Province have been afforded a "satisfactory" level of protection, according to our own Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.

NS Protected Area Commitments:

Tri-Council Commitment 1992: "Council members will make every effort to complete Canada's network of protected areas representative of Canada's land based regions by the year 2000. ... "

Keeping the Wilderness Wild, NS Protected Areas Strategy 1997: "The most important goal of the Protected Areas Strategy is to preserve relatively large undeveloped areas that are typical of one or more of the 77 (now 80) natural landscapes found in N.S."

Action Plan, NS Protected Areas Strategy 1997: "Sites of ecological significance will be designated as nature reserves under the Special Places Protection Act ... specific targets will be established periodically."

National Forest Strategy 1998: "We will work toward completing, by the year 2000, a network of protected areas representative of Canada's forest ecosystem classification categories, to provide ecological benchmarks, protected areas of unique biological value and manage for the continuation of old-growth forest landscapes as natural heritage."

Whitehorse Mining Initiative 1994: "To create and set aside from industrial development by the year 2000 those protected areas required to achieve representation of Canada's land-based natural regions."

Canadian Biodiversity Strategy 1995: "Make every effort to complete Canada's network of protected areas representative of land-based natural regions, by the year 2000."

Dept. of Natural Resources response to Public Review Committee

for Proposed Systems Plan for Parks & Protected Areas in N.S. 1995:

1. "Crown owned islands of significant natural value should be designated for protection" (accepted by government).
2. "DNR should identify significant natural areas on Crown land that merit consideration as candidates for protection but that did not meet the size and selection criteria used in the initial planning exercise." (accepted by government with qualification that approx. 27% of public lands in N.S., including both federal & provincial would be dedicated to protection.)
3. New areas, both those recommended in this report and those that may be otherwise recommended and that are accepted as candidates for protection, should also be placed under moratorium until final decisions are made regarding their future status, and they are designated under legislation." (accepted by government with qualification "It is understood that this recommendation is intended to apply to areas that may be accepted in the future as candidates for protection.")

A proposed Systems Plan for Parks & Protected Areas in NS 1994:

"A high priority will be assigned to the protection of significant old forest sites on Crown land."

TAiLS from the waters

by Claude Cochrane

"The Beaver Trout"

Many I suppose have never heard of this fish, let alone fished for them. Very rare in Nova Scotia, and only by chance I became aware of their existence.

During mid-May a few years ago I was fishing a small stream in Hants County's back country, this being my first trip ever to this area I wasn't surprised to find the presence of beaver, as they were quite plentiful in that county. As I approached a newly repaired dam a closer examination revealed this work was not typical of the beaver. Those clean "chisel-like" cuts associated with this fur-bearer were non-existent, instead very ragged in appearance. Something other than beaver was responsible for this construction.

Across this shallow pond a circle widened perhaps indicating a hatch might be "coming-on". As I watched for more activity I noticed a small green worm was eating the redla bushes, the leaves providing a succulent spring salad. I noticed swirling in the water surrounding a redla bush that was in about fifteen inches of "dammed-up" water. I hurried to the spot and could hardly believe what was happening. The bush, heavy, with the green worms was being "cut-down" by a fish of about twelve inches or so. Round and round it ringed the bush until it toppled into the pond. Worms everywhere, thousands clinging to the juicy leaves. More fish moved to the area creating a feeding frenzy. Soon all was quiet, a small stain of leaf bits and fish excrement slowly drifted toward the dam. What kind of fish was this? I had to have a closer look.

A sparsely dressed "Mickey Finn" was quickly loaded with green worms and gently cast into the pool. Immediately a fish "took", as I played out the fish it was obviously from the speckled tout family. The spots were dull and fewer in number, the tail slightly wider, and the head were quite wide. The dorsal fin was normal. The mouth opened exposing two rows of bottom teeth capable of falling a large bush. Two top extremely sharp incisor teeth almost one-half inch in length as well as one row of small grinders. The nose and tail were calloused and mud stained from "dam-building". My thought was the tail scooped-up mud and small sticks, and then pushed in place with the nose.

The obvious reason for the dam was to flood the worm-laden bushes thus allowing the harvest. Remarkable. A week later, I returned to find a hole in the dam and the stream back to normal. By so doing, the many remaining redla bushes would not die because of flooding.

All that would be required the following year was dam restoration prior to the green worm season.

I am quite sure some of our readers have experienced this phenomenon. If not I suggest you carefully examine beaver dams in those areas where redla bushes grow, and maybe observe the "beaver trout" in action.

It is truly one of nature's wonders.

A Guides Observations

by Reg Baird

Old Charlie will long be remembered for his expertise as a guide but it was his dry wit and wry observations that made him a legend at the lodge.

Take for instance the evening a visiting sport with at least one too many drinks, was boring the other guests to tears with his long winded rhetoric on trout and salmon flies. Shortly after the last guest had retreated from the lodge verandah, our sport noticed Charlie sitting on the bench in front of the guide's cabin smoking his pipe. Calling out to Charlie he asked; "Charlie, what do you consider a good fly?" Charlie's answer; "One that buttons, I'm a little afraid of them new fangled zippered ones!"

The ripple of laughter heard from the lounge was just a prelude to the next morning. Shortly after breakfast our hung over sport, slipped on the moss covered rocks and went in the home pool all under. The current carried him about twenty yards down river where he crawled ashore puffing and blowing.

Charlie, observing all this from the bank turned to the assembled guests and commented; "Lawd Gawd, an Emerger!"

TNS bits

n bites

Summary Offence Tickets

Fisheries Enforcement Officers will soon be able to write tickets in the field for those who break the rules. This new initiative will be much like a traffic ticket, pay it now or contest it in court. This will help officers by cutting down on the need for court time surrounding straight forward offenses.

Enforcement NEWS

Funding that was taken away is now returned:

\$100,000 in funding for DNR Assistant Conservation Officers to undertake fisheries enforcement work this spring is in place again for 2003/2004.

Hopes are that this program will continue to be as successful as it has been in the past.



Questions & Answers with Reg Baird

Q. Do the words "tip", "tip-top" and "tippet" all have the same meaning?

A. Well almost. The word tip when applied to a fly line, refers to the short, level section of the line to which the leader is attached. When applied to a rod, tip refers to the top section of the rod. Tip-top is a commonly used term for the line guide at the tip end or top of the rod. Tippet refers to the smallest diameter section of a leader, usually the last eighteen to thirty inches.

Q. What is meant by "rod action"?

A. Rod action is a term used to describe the casting performance of a rod and performance is usually rated by two different characteristics. The first is how and where a rod bends under a load as it does when casting a line and the second is how quickly it recovers (ceases vibrating) from that bend, or "dampens", to use another term. A rod that bends mainly near the tip during a cast is described as fast action; one that bends into the mid section, medium action and one that bends into the butt section, slow action. Fast dampening rods are considered, fast action and slow dampening rods, slow action.

Q. What is a wind knot?

A. A wind knot is an overhand knot that forms in a tippet, seriously weakening it. Usually the result of poor casting technique but can happen to the best of casters in windy conditions. It is a good possibility the wind knot prompted the old saying; "the wind always blows on the water".



TROUT DID YOU KNOW ? with Gary Corbett

Dwindling trout stocks have meant that government resource managers and conservation-minded anglers have had to take steps to try to stop the decline. Regulations have been toughened up to include reduced creel limits, slot (size) limits, closed areas and catch and release requirements. Most of these changes reflect the need to release more trout back into the water for others to enjoy and to maximize spawning. The motto has come to be: "If you want to keep them you have to release them."

There are, however, many anglers who do not agree with releasing trout. Fishing is a primal instinct for them and harvesting is a way of life or a tradition. For some, it even goes farther; fishing puts food on the table and it is an economic issue. Others enjoy the taste of trout and few can disagree that they are delicious. Interestingly there are those who disagree with the catching and releasing of fish for pure sport. They call it senseless harassment believing that harm comes to the fish for mere entertainment for the angler. Lets make a logical examination of this issue.

Trout are penetrated by a sharp piece of steel and then played often to exhaustion. Does the trout feel pain, fear or emotion? After all, fish do have a brain and nervous system. Dr. James Rose of the University of Wyoming wrote an interesting article on this in a past issue of Flyfisher magazine. He writes that humans have massively developed cerebral hemispheres in the brain that allow conscious awareness of sensations, emotions and pain. Fishes have the simplest type of brain, of any vertebrates (animals with backbones - fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals). Fish lack developed cerebral hemispheres. The experience of pain, emotions and even awareness depend on well-developed cerebral hemispheres. Further, specific regions of the human cerebral hemispheres, especially the frontal lobes, generate the unpleasant emotional aspect of pain. The special frontal lobe regions that is essential for pain experiences to not exist in fish.

So the question remains - Why does a trout fight once hooked - is it not in response to pain? The answer can be found in the simple brainstem development and activity of fish. The brainstem and spinal areas are programmed to elicit responses in the same way that a fish would react to being caught by a predator such as an osprey or an otter. These responses have evolved to better preserve the species. He who fights lives to fight another day! So, is catch and release merely harassment? Well, the fish doesn't feel harassed; in fact it is not even aware of what is going on. It is just automatically carrying out what it is programmed to do. The important thing to consider is - by releasing more trout you are helping to ensure that the resource remains there for the future!

“ If you want to keep them you have to release them. ”

T's, Hats, Crests & Buttons

Our quality Trout Nova Scotia products are selling well. So much so that we ordered more. They are available by mail at the following prices.

T-Shirts \$18 Hats \$12 Crests \$5 Buttons \$2
all prices include post delivery.

Place your order with Claude Cochrane:
secretary@troutnovascotia.ca

Cool, Intermediate & Warm Water sites

Biologists with Inland Fisheries have been studying field sites within the province to identify cool, intermediate and warm water sites. For cold water species such as trout, temperature considerations can have profound effects on a population. There are many factors involved, but the results can add up to as much as a 60 times difference in size and quantity of trout between warm and cool water sites.

WANTED

New Editor for Riffles & Pools

After ten issues, you may have noted the editor was given a new job as President. If you have some computer skills, its a great opportunity to learn more! It can even be fun!

Get involved contact Jamie at:

president@troutnovascotia.ca

WEBSITE

TNS is still anxiously awaiting our new website. Lots of excuses but please be patient. Thanks.

www.troutnovascotia.ca

Improving your home or camp habitat:

1. Place buildings at least 30 m away from waterways & shorelines.
2. Pump out your septic every 3 - 5 years.
3. Reduce the size of your lawn and cut it less often.
4. Use phosphate - free soaps & detergents.
5. Protect & replant shoreline vegetation.
6. Slow down near shorelines as boat wake will contribute to lake edge erosion.
7. Keep your site well treed, avoid clearcutting to the shoreline.
8. Reduce water use.
9. Avoid using fertilizer, herbicides or pesticides near water.
10. Take precautions servicing equipment, avoid gas and oil spills.

Great Prizes

As part of this newsletter package you will find a book of raffle tickets. The proceeds from sales help TNS in many ways, please support us. If you would like more tickets they will be available at the Sports Show and TNS AGM. Draw Prizes:

Fenwick HMX Fly fishing combo \$275
from Pure Fishing & Fish'nFever
Delux Float Tube \$400 Mark Quade
Shimano Spin Cast Combo \$150 Ian Andrews
Wheatly Fly Box & 2 doz. salmon flies \$150
from Tom Lee, Lee Family Flies
Framed Wildlife Print \$150 Ella Cochrane
Merchandise \$150 John Clark, Halifax Trail Shop
Trophy Game Phot Book \$100 Sherman Hines
Reel & Line combo \$75 Reg Baird, Baird's Snow Country
Merchandise \$50 Corbett's Sporting Goods
Note Cards \$50 Jamie Steeves, Atlantic Stock Images

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 membership information or to send in your membership contact:

Reg Baird, Membership, Trout Nova Scotia, 647 Virginia Road, Clementsvalle, N.S. B0S 1G0
T 902-467-3126 F 902-467-0106 e mail: membership@troutnovascotia.ca www.troutnovascotia.ca

Associate (under sixteen): \$ 6.00

Regular Member : \$ 15.00

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