

# Riffles & Pools



A Publication of Trout Nova Scotia ~ Dedicated to the Preservation of Nova Scotia Trout

## President's Message

There is an old saying in business that goes like this, "if you can measure it, you can manage it". As true and applicable as this concept is to business, it is no less relevant to the conservationist. The complexity of our world has had a significant impact on the habitat of brook trout and as a result, our trout populations are in a serious state of decline. Millions of dollars are spent annually by our governments, businesses, anglers and special interest groups like Trout Nova Scotia in the name of conservation. Yet does anyone really know what our return on this investment is, particularly as it relates to trout?

I pose this question not for fear of the answer but to point out that without a comprehensive plan for trout, it becomes challenging to set important targets aimed to protect and enhance our trout populations. How will we know if our conservation efforts are achieving desired results?

In our continuing efforts to be a voice for trout, Trout Nova Scotia will soon release a discussion paper on the Decline of Nova Scotia's Wild Brook Trout. Factors having a significant impact on the decline of our wild brook trout include water quality, management practices, angling and regulations, public education, changes in our environment and the introduction of non-native species. We offer a series of recommendations designed to improve wild trout populations. We will be asking our members, other conservation groups, government and communities throughout our region to review our discussion paper and to lend support in improving our wild trout populations.

The time has come for the development of a comprehensive and relevant trout plan that will require input from many stakeholders as well as adequate funding. Government, with the assistance of other stakeholders, must play an important but not exclusive role in the development, implementation, monitoring, and plan funding. Applying the principle of managing what you measure will require a focus on targeted results, realistic timelines and accountability by all stakeholders. For the benefit of trout, everything must be on the table and all stakeholders have to be willing to cooperate in the interest of conservation.

To be comprehensive, a trout plan has to have a focus on conservation of the species and its habitat. The plan would need to address angling regulations, stocking programs, natural resource management and exploitation, industrial waste and pollution, water quality, enforcement, urban development, public education and funding requirements. Of course all this only makes sense if we care about the preservation of species. The time to act is now and the way to getting started is to quit talking and begin doing. If not, the writing is clearly on the wall.

Anglers are, by and large leaders in conservation. Many anglers practice responsible fishing techniques including the use of single barbless hooks, voluntary catch and release while respecting seasons and spawning areas. Many of our leaders in government and government departments work tirelessly in the interest of conservation, as do many of our local business enterprises whose very livelihood is derived from our natural resources. George Bernard Shaw once said that "the reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man." As conservationists we can't afford to be reasonable.

In closing, we are looking forward to seeing you at this year's Sport and RV show as well as our AGM where officials from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will discuss the federal role in trout management and enforcement.

Yours in conservation,

Jim Horwich  
President



Photo © James Steeves



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

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## Trout Nova Scotia at Sport and RV Show

Trout Nova Scotia will once again have a booth at the Sport and RV Show taking place from March 12-15, 2009 at Exhibition Park in Halifax. Drop by the booth and talk with our directors. We'd love to hear from you!

## Trout Nova Scotia AGM

Trout Nova Scotia's AGM will once again take place in conjunction with the Sport and RV Show. It will take place in the Prospect Room at Exhibition Park on Friday, March 13 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. Trout Nova Scotia members wishing to attend the AGM can get in free to the Sport and RV Show after 12 pm on March 13 by presenting a valid Trout NS membership card. Remember to enter around back at the exhibitor's entrance. As part of the AGM, DFO officials will discuss their role in trout management and enforcement. Refreshments will be provided.

## Brook Trout Research Paper ([www.troutresearch.com](http://www.troutresearch.com))

A Research Paper on the Seasonal Movements of Brook Trout in the Upper Mersey River Watershed is now available. The final report looks at the trout telemetry study that took place in the Upper Mersey Watershed.

The objective of this study was to characterize the seasonal movements, habitats and growth rates of brook trout on an annual basis in a population that is not anadromous. A further objective was to study a population that mostly resides in a protected area within Kejimikujik National Park but with access to outside areas impacted by potential development and land use activities such as forestry. Parks Canada Fish & Wildlife Biologist, Gary Corbett was Project Supervisor. Reg Baird served as the Head Brook Trout Management Research Technician and spent countless volunteer hours gathering data both on and off the water.

The study area comprised the Upper Mersey River system and its tributaries flowing into Kejimikujik Lake. Parts of this watershed are included in the Kejimikujik National Park located in the south-western part of Nova Scotia.

Findings indicate brook trout move extensively within the watershed with individuals moving as much as 85 km over a ten month period (maximum life of a transmitter battery). Daily movements varied from 100m to 13 km over a 24 hour period. Growth rates as high as 1.6 mm per day and weight gains of 16.7 grams per day were recorded.

This is an extremely important piece of trout research. It was the first study of its kind in Nova Scotia that monitored daily fish movements and growth rates.

Special thanks to Trout Nova Scotia for their support of this study. The more we know about trout will result in improved management practices to protect this valuable resource.

The complete report outlining the results of the Keji Brook Trout Telemetry study can now be viewed online at Gary Corbett's website: [www.troutresearch.com](http://www.troutresearch.com)



## “In Celebration of Trout”

***Trout Nova Scotia’s  
2009  
Conservation Awards Reception  
&  
Silent Auction***

*Keynote Address*

### ***Nova Scotia’s Trophy Trout***

*An audio-visual presentation highlighting images of large Nova Scotia trout with discussion on where to find them and when to fish for them.*

***When:*** 1:00 P.M. Sunday, June 7th, 2009

***Where:*** Brewery Market

1496-98 Lower Water St. Halifax  
Courtyard 2 (South Arch Entrance)

***Price:*** \$30 (contact: [taylorg@halifax.ca](mailto:taylorg@halifax.ca))

***Hors d’oeuvres throughout the event & Cash Bar***

*Join us at a unique venue to support trout research and habitat restoration, to recognize our conservation heroes and... learn where to find the really big trout in Nova Scotia!*



Photo © James Steeves

Cornwallis River

## A Brown Trout Ramble #2

by George Taylor Email: [taylorg@halifax.ca](mailto:taylorg@halifax.ca)

I received a few calls with comments and questions from the first ramble in our last newsletter. One of my friends suggested I was correct in saying that one should leave the writing to those that can write. Another of those good friends suggested that I didn't give folks an e-mail address and no one likes to put someone down over the phone, so I included my email at the top of the article.

Strangers, now my new friends, were very positive and had specific questions. The most popular request was to elaborate on how to make a fly rod work more effectively with a line size larger or smaller.

Gaining flexibility for different fishing situations with only one rod was my suggestion. Today's graphite rods are more than able to handle larger and smaller line sizes. I know there's a science behind this so I expect one could find a number of articles if you were to search the Internet. One reader, a new fly fisher, suggested that his casting improved greatly when he put Joes' #7 line on his rod which calls for a # 5. He fishes from a canoe at close distances so I wasn't surprised. Give it a try, you may be surprised. Borrow a smaller and larger size line and get out in the spring on the first open water. If it works as I expect it will, then drop into the local fly shop and buy yourself an extra spool or two and a new line. If you take care of your fly lines you will be set for ten years of brown trout fishing.

A most positive response from a particular reader was concerning my previous ramble of the Cornwallis brown trout living in the drainage pipe. "Just tell another story," was his suggestion.

Again I'll take you back to late July 1973, early evening on the Cornwallis. We had a good two-foot lift of water that week and heavy winds. The now four feet long grasses from each bank moved slowly back and forth in the water. The river was narrow to start with at this location; adding the grass it measured about six feet wide. I geared up the rod. As best I can remember I checked the four pound tippet for knots and tied on a muddler minnow. The strike was so fast and the fish in the air so quickly that the shocked reaction broke the leader. Yes, I know better but when fishing earlier in the day a good brown rejected my Caddis fly on six pound test.

You just don't get many chances for a good brown and I may have just used mine up. After building a new leader with six pound tippet, I was back in business. When the second trout took hard and came out of water it was as shiny as a fresh spring salmon. The fish landed two feet up into the heavy grass and as quick as a weaver on a wheel, it worked its magic, bound up tight and broke off. It was a truly a big brown trout and any brown trout fisherman worth his weight in salt will tell you that these big trout are not easy to come by. As I tied on another fly, I remember thinking that a pair of sea run brown trout in the same riffle hooked in about eight casts would make a good story in itself. Then my thoughts went to the possibility that just maybe I've hit a school of sea run browns.

Enough was enough and it was time to get serious. I clipped my leader back and put on six feet of 10lb.test and a big muddler. Only after an hour of good presentations along the bank grass and my fourth rejection, did I cut back to eight lb test and then two more swirls behind the fly and I was back down to six.

# Thousands of Fish Killed in PEI from Nitrates (June-July 2008)

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In June of 2008, thousands of fish were found dead in several Island waterways due to nitrate-induced fish kills. "Unfortunately there's very little we can actually do to solve the problem. We just have to let it run its course," said Cindy Crane, a biologist with the Department of Environment.

Described as "anoxic events," the fish kills occur when nitrates and phosphates leach into Island waterways and cause extended growth of underwater plants and algae. When these plants begin to rot they take up all the oxygen in the water, leaving none for fish, eels or shellfish.

Nitrates are the major cause of these large-scale fish kills, said Environment Minister George Webster. "The heavy plant growth comes from nitrates from different sources — from fertilizer, animal manure and human activity in general," Webster said. But the problem seems to be getting worse. "We've had anoxic events many times in the past, but I would assume that the trend is escalating," Webster said. "There seem to be higher numbers and they are coming about the same time of year."

Crane, a specialist in surface water biology, said she's seen the problem escalating steadily over the last five years. But she believes determining how much nutrient each waterway can handle and trying to keep those rivers and streams at their proper nutrient levels could be a possible solution.

Webster said he is looking at the nitrate commission report for answers on what to do to cut the amount of nitrates in Island waterways. The nitrate commission spent a year looking into nitrate contamination in P.E.I. water and recently released its report calling on government to develop strategies to reduce the sometimes dangerous levels of nitrates. The commission called for upgrades to municipal sewage systems and a mandatory, province-wide order forcing farmers to rotate their crops every three years, among other recommendations.

Nitrate contamination stems mainly from large-scale potato farming and housing development, with most of the nitrates coming from agricultural fertilizers, septic systems and fertilizers applied to lawns and golf courses.

The following waterways reported hundreds of dead fish due to nitrogen contamination:

- Wheatley River
- Cardigan River
- Hunter River
- River Clyde
- Anderson's Creek in New London Bay
- French River
- Granville River
- Found's Creek
- Covehead Bay
- Brackley Bay
- Montague River
- Mill River
- Montrose River
- The following were added to this list Wednesday:
- Trout/Stanley River
- Grandview River
- Southwest River in New London Bay

The above information was obtained from an article by Teresa Wright that ran in The Guardian on July 31, 2008.

# Riparian Health Assessment Guide for Nova Scotia

By Brian MacCulloch, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

In the summer of 2006 I was asked "How do you do a Riparian Health Assessment (RHA) on a farm in Nova Scotia?" (One of the Beneficial Management Practices that the Department can provide funding for qualified farmers is RHA). My answer at the time was "I don't know! But that question has led a group of us down an interesting path where we can now explain with confidence how to do RHA.

Funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's "Greencover Canada Program-Technical Assistance Component (Nova Scotia)" was used to develop and test a protocol for assessing the health of a riparian area. We used the Cows and Fish (Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society) Lotic Health Assessment Score Sheet as a template. Digitally enabling the application on a hand-held GPS unit allows the user to rapidly assess the general health of riparian areas as they walk along a stream. The GPS records accurate location while a customized data entry form allows the user to easily select from on-screen menus.

The procedure for doing a RHA follows these steps:

1. Turn on the GPS unit
2. Walk through the riparian area of interest
3. Answer 12 short questions on the GPS
4. Download data and view on computer.

Each answer has a numerical score value which, when combined for the 12 questions, provides a health score between 0% and 100%. When we talk about riparian health in this context we are really talking function. An unhealthy area is not functioning properly when not providing adequate shade, not holding the bank together, not filtering runoff, etc.

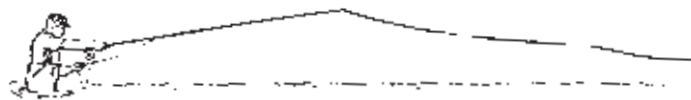
A riparian area that scores less than 60 per cent is regarded as unhealthy. A score between 60 per cent to 80 per cent is considered to be healthy with problems while a score above 80 per cent is viewed as a healthy riparian area. The GPS does much more than just record the answers to the questions. Your walking line actually becomes a GIS feature with a complete set of attributes which can be displayed on a map.



Through our testing phase and several related projects, we have assessed over 500 km of riparian areas in Nova Scotia, with additional work in PEI and New Brunswick. Our initial results are quite revealing. Using 248 km of riparian area data from a mainly wooded watershed in central Nova Scotia, we found 90 per cent to be healthy, 3 per cent healthy with problems and 7 per cent unhealthy. Prominent land use activities which contributed to the lower scores were forestry, agriculture, ATV use and other human activities. In a farming dominated watershed in the Annapolis Valley (147 km of riparian area), we found 60 per cent to be healthy, 17 per cent healthy with problems and 23 per cent unhealthy. The dominant land uses contributing to the lower scores were agriculture, followed by human/urban activity and forestry.

Throughout this project we have been training assessors, sharing information, presenting our process and results, and learning from anyone who is willing to talk about riparian health. A user's guide has been prepared to provide information on the process for anyone who may be interested. This document can be found at [www.extensioncentral.com](http://www.extensioncentral.com)

In the future we hope that Riparian Health Assessments become a useful tool for those working on water, resource stewardship, watershed, aquatic health and community planning initiatives. We live in a world where information is power and when used properly, better information leads to better decisions, which will lead to a better environment for future generations.





## See Yourself On The Big Screen!

Trout Nova Scotia is inviting everyone to send in your favorite trout fishing photos. We will display selected photos on the big screen at the Conservation Awards Reception being held on Sunday, June 7th, 2009, provided enough photos are received.

We are looking for all types of fishing pictures with small trout, large trout, kids, adults and even funny fishing pictures. Photos should be in digital format with not more than 5 pictures submitted per person.

**Pictures must be received prior to April 30, 2009.**

Please send your pictures by email to:

Bob Boudreau  
email: [salmon@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:salmon@ns.sympatico.ca)

# The Mayfly Experience

By Tim Owen



Photo Tim Owen

Many Eastern Nova Scotia lakes are blessed with an abundant hatch of Mayflies commonly known as the Black Quill (*Leptophlebia cupida*). These benign aquatic insects belong to the order Ephemeroptera which is derived from the Greek ephemeris for "short-lived" and pteron for "wing" referencing the short life span of adults. True to their order, the "Fly" as it is locally referred to, only occurs for a fickle and fleeting two weeks or so in late April and early May. Brief but intense, the "Hatch" brings the very best speckled trout fishing of the year and attention to timing, technique, equipment and fishing strategy means everything when it comes to translating effort into success.

I'm not sure how I managed to pull it off, but I've had the good fortune to have fished this Mayfly hatch for 35 seasons without missing a single year and I intend to continue this improbable run for some time to come.

Here's some hard earned advice to anyone with similar aspirations of achieving excellent Mayfly fishing:

Take vacation for the first two weeks of May. Taking extended vacation at this time of year is a "No brainer" for me. The start of the hatch is fairly variable between lakes and often is delayed by late ice out and cold weather. Conversely, warm spells accelerate the cycle and can dramatically reduce the hatch duration. The flexibility to pick your shots and fish peak days vs. staying home to look after family responsibilities when fishing is poor or the weather is foul, is simply precious.

Target remote Class "A" lakes. Always fish the wilderness brook trout waters that have a high abundance of Mayfly and plenty of quality fish as one of these elements without the other is academic. Keep in mind that generally speaking, smaller Mayfly waters are more fertile and tend to produce more and larger fish compared to big waters.

Use a canoe or row boat. Capitalize on the benefit of clean air and exercise derived from walking, portaging, paddling and rowing in stress free natural places. Don't rely on undependable outboard motors for propulsion when you can do it yourself in a personal sized human propelled watercraft. Noisy, polluting outboard motors are unnecessary in small Mayfly waters and take away from the peace and serenity of the wilderness fly fishing experience. Wide beam canoes and prams on the other hand, are responsive, stable and quiet fishing platforms that were seemingly designed for Mayfly fishing.

Use an anchor stop to avoid drifting into feeding fish or out of casting range. Mix it up by frequently taking a boat break and get on dry land to fish off small islands, rock piles and points which are very often the most productive areas of the lake.

Use quality tackle, flies, equipment and protective clothing. A cheap fly rod & reel; a wrong weight fly line; a leader that is too thick or short; no rain gear or a dearth of warm clothes; are all prime examples of the negatives that can quickly ruin a Mayfly fishing experience.

Chum. As counterintuitive as it sounds, feeding live Mayflies to trout actually compliments fishing an artificial fly. Why? Mayflies spend most of their short life cycle on land and are shoreline, not open water emergers. Newly hatched duns immediately climb and cling in masses to shoreline vegetation waiting to shed into spinners and generally are not available on the water until the spinners fall. Especially early in the hatch, it is usually necessary to gather up Mayflies by knocking the insects of the bushes into the water with a paddle and then scoop the surface with a small mesh dip net to capture them (or as a master angler good friend of mine does very efficiently, by using a long handled badminton racket). Transfer the flies on to wet evergreen boughs layered on the bottom of your craft. Frugally sprinkle some on the water to get fish surface feeding and inhaling your artificial fly in mistake of the real thing. Incorporating this traditional Mayfly fishing technique often means the difference between catching lots of fish and getting skunked.



Photo Tim Owen

Photo Tim Owen



Use appropriate sized and coloured dry flies. Dry fly fishing is the ultimate form of angling and should be conducted whenever possible. I recommend fishing #14 or smaller flies until just before dark when larger dry patterns will work. Mayfly feeding trout can be highly selective and many anglers are frustrated by not matching fly size and color to the insects of a particular lake and stage of the hatch. They often wrongly blame their lack of success on the myth of fly glutted fish. Black Quill Mayflies range in size from #16 to #12 and vary in colour from light brown to dark dun. To accommodate these variations, it pays to have a good selection of different size, colour and style dry flies in thorax, comparadun and parachute patterns.

Target peak periods. Fishing is always best at first light and in the late evening unless there is a warm rain when trout tend to stay active all day long. Avoid starting too early in the afternoon especially on sunny breezy high pressure days when rising fish are still hours away as you'll get cold, bored and leave the lake long before the good fishing starts. Be prepared to stay until dark and make your way out with a flashlight being mindful that the largest fish tend to feed in the last hour of light.

Catching fish is not a bonus. The complete Mayfly experience means catching speckled trout, more often plenty of trout and if you choose, retaining a few for the exquisite table fare they provide.

Fish with confidence. Always fish with the mindset that you are going to catch fish in any and all conditions, one way or another. Don't worry about being a dry fly purist as Mickey Finns and Muddler Minnow patterns work very well during the hatch and sometimes even better than dry flies in certain circumstances. Consider having two fly rods; one rigged with a dry fly and one with a wet fly or streamer pattern. When wet fly or streamer fishing, use a heavier leader to allow for hook set and strain of a fish hitting a moving fly being trolled or hand stripped. Speckled trout will readily take wet flies during the hatch and casting or trolling one (or a pair) behind your canoe when fish aren't feeding on the surface makes perfect sense.

Be respectful and gracious. Keep the perspective that this important ancient biological spectacle benefits nature first and us second. Mayfly fishing is a special privilege that can't be taken for granted and fishing responsibly with courtesy for nature and other anglers is a must.

Photo Tim Owen



## Brown Trout (continued from page 4)

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The third fish that I hooked was not as big but made up for its size with the sprit of a wild horse. Determined not to let him get the upper hand I held tight and lifted the rod high. The speed in which this brown golden streak wound around the grass on the far side and covered the eight feet to put itself around a snag on my side was truly impressive. I can't believe anyone could have stopped him unless you had a salmon rod, short leader and 10 lb test tippet.

The next fish took a Mickey Finn inches from a flooded alder bush and then jumped up through it. After a few minutes, the fish played out, and I could pull this beautiful brown up to a limb so it was half out of water but there was just no way to land it. I wanted it in my hand so badly but it was not meant to be.

I hooked six beautiful fresh sea run brown trout that evening and absolutely did not have control of any of them. If they were salmon I'm confident I would have landed four and brook trout maybe all but with big fresh browns under long grass and in a narrow stream, I lost them all. The next day I was back but couldn't find a fish and have never hit a school of sea run browns again in my life. Looking back years later and even though I landed a few nice ones, this would go down as my best day of brown trout fishing.

I now want to reflect back on the leader and tippet that I was using and give my thoughts on this important part of your equipment. Some would say that the 6 pound leader was too light under the circumstances. The fish did reject flies on tippets of ten and eight. I'm always torn because the 10 pound brown, a fish of a lifetime, may be the next to take my fly.

Brown trout leader size is unquestionably a most difficult choice. They are the eagles of underwater vision day or night. How many times does a good brown trout come out from under a bank to reject your offer because it sees your leader? I would suggest many more times than you think or see. I watched ten different fish in the gin clear water on the upper Bow River come out for a look at my set up and then slide back under cover. In most of our Nova Scotia brown trout waters you would never have seen this deep movement or felt the rejection. I'm a believer that brown trout rejection is more the result of a visible leader rather than a wrong fly choice. Trust me when I say that a swirl behind your fly was not a miss but a last second rejection. When a brown trout moves in to kill prey, it does not miss.

In normal water conditions during daylight I start with a 6 pound tippet and usually end up going down to four. I'll live with more strikes and take my chances with a large fish. At night I'll start with eight pound test but I also believe that a night time brown sees your leader as well or better than a daytime brook trout. You may get lucky with a heavier leader if hidden by moving rough water. You may also have luck popping or ripping a big fly but don't count on it.

One thing you can do is add speed to the fly, not to make it life like but to hide your leader. Cast up river and across to the far bank and using the current to bag the line and speed it up, strip it in fast. A big brown may not get a good look at your leader and he has to make a quick decision as the fly speeds by. If you're worried that he can't catch the fly or the speed will cause him to miss, just trust and hold on. The strike can be intimidating.

The best tip I can give is to pick your days. The best chance to catch a brown over 15 inches is when you have heavy dirty water. Your fly is not as visible but using big flies with flash and bright colours will take care of that. The silt and dirt in the water is about the only thing that will help hide a leader. Give it one day for the water to just start to clear up and the advantage goes back to the brown trout.

In the next ramble I'll talk more on flies, water temperature and conditions as well as a night of brown trout fishing that left me bleeding and afraid for my life. Until then, do your part and take care of the earth and the brown trout will continue to show up in the spring.



## Q & A with Reg Baird



Photo © James Steeves

**Q:** Where to brook trout go in the summer?

**A:** Suitable summer habitat is the limiting factor in most Nova Scotia brook trout populations. Brook trout require cool, well oxygenated water in order to survive. The only sources of cool water in summer are found in our deeper lakes or spring-fed tributaries. During a hot, dry summer some of these refuges, which are small in size, can be stressed to the limit.

**Q:** How would you describe the Egg Laying Caddis Pattern?

**A:** An Egg Laying Caddis pattern should be considered more of a 'type' than a 'pattern.' You can convert any good caddis type to an egg-laying caddis by simply dubbing in a greenish yellow tip to represent the egg sac. It is said trout love to slurp down both fly and those delicious eggs all in one shot. Although I tend to question a trout's palate being that sensitive, I don't doubt that trout recognize the egg sac and know the second the fly hits the water to deposit those eggs, she is vulnerable.

**Q:** What is "Lake Turnover"?

**A:** Lake turnover is a normal event that happens each spring and fall in all our deeper lakes when the temperature at the surface reaches 4C (39F). At this temperature water reaches its greatest density and begins to sink thus gradually mixing with the water below as it drops deeper and deeper until the entire lake reaches a uniform temperature of 4C. Fish are activated by this turnover of highly oxygenated surface water. Note: "Turnover" is not to be confused with "thermal stratification" (another natural event that takes place when lake surface water reaches 10C). This will be explained in detail in an up-coming newsletter.



Photo © James Steeves

Sporting Lake Stream, Digby County

### Two-mouthed Fish Caught Near Oilsands Worries Natives Band Members Say Pollution May be Cause

In August 2008 a mutated fish was caught downstream from Alberta's oil sands region. The 2.5-kilogram Goldeye caught in Lake Athabasca near Fort Chipewyan has two mouths, one beneath the other. The fish was sent to a joint government-industry group that monitors the health of rivers and lakes.

Aboriginal communities downstream of the oil sands expressed concerns on the impacts industrial development is having on the fish and animals they eat and their drinking water. Elders believe pollution is responsible for high cancer rates and other health problems in the region.

Health Canada and the Alberta Cancer Board said earlier this year they plan to study cancer rates in the Fort Chipewyan area.

The above information was obtained from an article by The Canadian Press which ran on August 20, 2008.

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For membership information or to send  
in your membership, contact:

Reg Baird, Membership, Trout Nova Scotia,  
P.O. Box 8442 Stn. A, Halifax, N.S. B3K 5M2  
T 902-467-3126 F 902-467-0106  
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## Eastern Brook Trout Roadmap to Restoration

In 2005, a group of public and private entities formed The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture to address regional threats to brook trout, halt their decline and restore fishable populations.

The group spearheaded an assessment of brook trout populations (including threats to brook trout and their habitat) in the Eastern United States ranging from Maine to Georgia. Seventeen states are currently drafting strategies to prioritize policy changes and on-the-ground actions to improve water quality and restore brook trout populations and habitat.

Producing a report entitled Eastern Brook Trout: Roadmap to Restoration, it estimates that less than 9 per cent of the areas that historically supported brook trout in the Eastern United States are intact, 14 per cent are reduced and 43 per cent greatly reduced. 33 per cent of the study area purports that brook trout have been lost. Most successful brook trout populations are relegated to headwater streams, where forest cover is still prevalent.

The report optimistically states that the situation is not hopeless. Through a coordinated and focused effort, there is an opportunity to reverse the trend of brook trout decline by restoring habitat and improving water quality. This will benefit both brook trout and human habitat for generations to come.

The report is an excellent blueprint for any region contemplating brook trout restoration. The report could easily be adapted to assist in the preservation and recovery of brook trout populations throughout Nova Scotia and the rest of Atlantic Canada.

For more information on the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture and their report visit:  
[www.easternbrooktrout.org](http://www.easternbrooktrout.org)

