



From the President's Corner

By Jack Parker



Another magnificent summer heads south while our fall social meetings resume with a potluck supper followed by one of Dan Bonville's super slide shows at 6pm, Tuesday, September 17, at the Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Saco, Please plan to appreciate the food and fun. If you can't bring food, come anyway! New members and guests are especially welcome. Don't be shy!

Thanks to members who've been busy with club projects this summer. Harvey Patry and Nick Sabilia manned a table representing SRSC at the recent Trout Unlimited national convention in Portland. With John Blunt's permission they helped our treasury by starting the annual Grant's Camp raffle there while also signing up some new members. Nick also has worked on hatchery projects along with Dave Fenderson, Al Hodson, Dick Neal and many others. Mark Woodruff, John Cadwallader, Dan Bonville, RJ Mere, and our directors continue to do the many other things that make our club work.

Director Chuck Clark is again heading up the Maine Youth Field Day on Saturday, September 7th at the York County Rod and Gun Club in Goodwin's Mills. This is a field day for up to 150 southern Maine youths to participate in outdoor sporting activities.

Many outdoor organizations and area businesses sponsor this event which is endorsed by the Maine Department of IF & W. Congratulations to Chuck who works all year in organizing this worthwhile event.

Habitat Surveys

By Mark Woodruff



Thanks to Dick Neal, Fred Pierce, Jack Parker, and Tom Knobloch for another important summer of habitat surveys. The surveys were done to quantify among other things the location, dimensions, substrate, and percent fry stocking area of streams in the Saco River Watershed. The data will be used by Paul Christman of the Atlantic Salmon Commission to make fry stocking recommendations.



Dick, Fred, and Jack surveyed Swans Pond Brook. With its headwaters in Lyman and flowing through Dayton and Biddeford this tributary contains important fry habitat because of its location. Outgoing smolts must pass only one hydroelectric dam - Cataract. If spawning habitat exists, the stream is particularly appealing. Let's face it, if you were an adult salmon returning from a long journey at sea wouldn't you want to check into the first available stream?

Tom and I surveyed Pease Brook in Cornish and Berry Brook and Red Brook in Dayton. We found Pease Brook to be heavily wooded with long series of alternating riffles, plunge pools, and runs. The big surprise was the 46 degree water temperature in Pease compared to the 80 degree water temperature in the Saco River! The temperatures were recorded the week after the August heat wave.

Berry Brook showed some promise in a stretch about 1000 feet downstream from our stocking point. Here the stream leaves its sandy meanders and tumbles over bedrock falls and boulder and cobble riffles and runs. The water temperature in Berry Brook was 58 degrees while the Saco River was 78 degrees.

Red Brook was the biggest let down: there was no flow. Whether this was due to poor rainfall during the summer, an upstream impoundment, or natural conditions we were unsure. The water in the stream- bed had a very tannic (red) color as if it had washed through an old saw dust pile.

The two-year-old habitat survey program has walked a total five streams. We will use the observations when planning our stocking sites in 2003. If you are interested in participating next summer, contact Mark Woodruff by email at markw@sacoriver.net.

The following was submitted by Ed Baum.

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization



Organization pour la conservation do saumon de l' Atlantique Nord

To: All Delegates

From: Secretary

Re: West Greenland Fishery for 2002

Under the NASCO Management Programme for the 2002 fishery at West Greenland, it was agreed (as in 2001) that information on the fishery would be made available. The first harvest period under the programme was scheduled to commence around 12 August. However, as you may be aware, a recent agreement between NASF and KNAPK (the fisher- men's organization in Greenland) has suspended commercial salmon fishing at Greenland in 2002.

The catch will be a subsistence harvest only. Attached are a Press Release and Memorandum concerning the agreement which have been sent to NASCO by one of our NGOs, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, which was involved in negotiating the agreement. We have not been shown the agreement itself.

Some delegates have noted the descriptions (see attached) of the agreement as a "major victory", "historic" and "wonderful", and have therefore asked how the agreement adds to or subtracts from the NASCO Programme. Both allow for a subsistence fishery. The Press Release does not specify the extent of the subsistence harvest permitted. It has in the past, been estimated at 20 tonnes (but was considerably less last year). The NASCO Programme allows nothing more if abundance is low, but allows a further 18 or 35 tonnes if abundance is at a medium or high level respectively. Last year it was at a medium level. Our understanding is that if abundance remained at the same level this year the difference between the two agreements would therefore be 18 tonnes. Of course, it is impossible to know whether that additional harvest allowed under the NASCO Programme could or would have been taken. Only about a third of last year's quota was taken. Perhaps for understandable reasons, as it is a Press Release, the ASF/NASF statements about the NASCO Programme are unfortunately over-simplified.

This initiative, which includes financial payments and assistance in developing alternative employment opportunities, can be seen as an interesting parallel effort between the public

and private sectors to achieve a mutually acceptable result. Such agreements can contribute to conservation as long as the fish are not subsequently harvested elsewhere. The longer-term implications of paying fishermen not to take quotas are more difficult to quantify and will include social and economic aspects, the impact on subsequent NASCO negotiations and future lack of biological and fishery data. The Chinese say: "May you live in interesting times". It seems we do.

Greenland to Help Save the Wild Salmon of Europe and North America

St. Andrews... Greenland's commercial fishermen have taken an historic stand to help restore threatened stocks of wild Atlantic salmon.

They have agreed to join their Government and salmon conservation organizations on both sides of the Atlantic in protecting the salmon while the fish are migrating through northern waters. The shoals of salmon will now have a much better chance of returning to their home rivers in Britain, Ireland, continental Europe and North America.

Weeks of negotiations ended in a five-year agreement signed by Leif Fontaine, Chairman of KNAPK (the commercial fishermen's organization in Greenland) and Orri Vigfusson, international Chairman of the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF). The agreement suspends all commercial salmon fishing and allows only an annual subsistence harvest that will be strictly limited.

In return for volunteering to forego their rights to harvest salmon the fishermen will find alternative work in a number of new development projects to be introduced along the Greenland coast. NASF and KNAPK have already implemented a number of successful sustainable fishing programs for lumpfish and snow crab. Under this new agreement KNAPK, NASF and the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF), with financial support from the Department of Interior and the Department of State in the U.S., will identify and invest in alternative fisheries development programs for Greenland fishermen.

The Greenland Home Rule Government has already announced its enthusiastic endorsement of the salmon agreement. The Greenland negotiating team included Leif Fontaine, Siverth Amondson and Toennes Berthelsen. The coalition of salmon conservationists included Orri Vigglisson (NASF), Bill Taylor (ASF), Buff Bohlen, (former US State Department official), and Jerry Clark (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation).

This agreement, in which commercial salmon fishermen are leading the way towards the restoration of wild salmon stocks, demonstrates the dramatic change that has taken place in the attitudes of professional netmen. They have seen the precipitous decline in wild salmon populations and are offering to help restore the species to abundance. Fewer than 200 wild Atlantic salmon remain in the U.S. where they are protected under the Endangered Species Act, while in Canada and Europe scientists warn that many stocks are well-below safe biological levels.

"Most people have no idea of the depth of the crisis facing wild Atlantic salmon because the situation has been masked by the huge quantities of artificially-reared salmon that reach fishmonger's slabs from fish farms," said Orri Vigfusson, Chairman of NASF. "So this splendid agreement may have come just in time. But make no mistake, This Agreement has check points. If the commercial fishing of mixed stocks of salmon that is still going on in Ireland, Scotland, and Norway does not soon stop the Greenlanders could go back to fishing at short notice. Why should they show respect for a threatened species while the governments of other countries ignore the salmon's plight.

"Most governments are now working with us. Washington, Ottawa, Whitehall, Belfast, Paris, Madrid, and Bonn have already decided that interceptory mixed stock salmon fishing has to stop before real restoration programs can begin. The Fisheries Ministers in Dublin and in Edinburgh must also join this impressive conservation initiative. We do believe, however, that there are hopeful signs of a change of heart in both Scotland and the Irish Republic," concluded Mr. Vigfusson

"A conservation agreement with Greenland became very pressing after the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) agreed in June, against the advice of scientists, to allow Greenland fishermen a commercial harvest of 55 tonnes (20,000 salmon) in 2002," said Bill Taylor, ASF President. "This agreement means the suspension of the last commercial fishery targeted at North American wild Atlantic salmon", concluded Mr. Taylor, "and will do much to bolster salmon conservation and restoration efforts throughout the North Atlantic."

The North Atlantic Salmon Fund was established in 1989, under the leadership of Orri Vigfusson of Ice- land, to raise awareness of the serious decline in salmon stocks and to press for urgent action to reverse this trend and restore stocks to abundance.

The Atlantic Salmon Federation based in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada is an international, non-profit organization that promotes the conservation and wise management of the wild Atlantic salmon and its environment.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation con- serves healthy populations offish, wildlife and plants, on land and in the sea, through creative and respectful partnerships, sustainable solutions, and better education.

(For further information Orri Vigfusson may be contacted in Iceland at 00 354 568 6277, Bill Taylor

in Canada +15065291034)

West Branch Trip Draws Near

By John Cadwallader

Reminder: The upcoming club trip to the West Branch of the Penobscot River is scheduled for September 19-25.

I'll start phoning people with communal meal assignments on Sunday, Sept 15, so I need to hear from you by that date if you want to be included in the meal plans. You're welcome to join our group at any time, but you'll be on your own for meals if you wait until after the 15th to contact me. I've been asked about the anticipated costs, which are minimal.

The campground charges \$8/person/night, a hot shower costs \$.50, and I may collect a buck or two per day to cover some of the common costs (dinnerware, coffee, etc.) Full details are in the August Newsletter, but if you have questions or need more info, contact me at 207-985-6199 or jyc@cybertours.com

Hope you all can join us.

Submit your short article for "The Salmon Run." General interest stories, recipes for fly tying or foods, comment and suggestions are welcomed. The editors reserve the right to edit all materials. Send to RJ Mere, 9 York St., Kennebunk, ME, 04043 or email to rjmere@gwi.net Editors: Dan Bonville and RJ Mere