

Since 1953 the Miramichi Salmon Association (MSA) has worked toward the preservation and enhancement of the wild Atlantic salmon. MSA continues to look to build its membership strength, so we encourage you, if not already a member, to please join our ranks. [Join us Now](#)

MIRAMICHI SALMON ASSOCIATION
Leading River Conservation Since 1953

THE LEAPER

MSA'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Your monthly resource for MSA conservation updates, Miramichi Watershed Information, upcoming MSA Events and much much more.

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Be sure to stay up to date with videos and photos by liking us on Facebook on Twitter:



Vol 8 March 2017

DFO Release Salmon and Striped Bass Estimates

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Gulf Region has released 2 important 2016 stock assessments reports; one on the stock status of Atlantic Salmon in the Gulf Region and the second on the abundance of Striped Bass in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. In a nutshell, estimates for the return of salmon and grilse to the SW Miramichi in 2016 were 14,100 (vs. 11,490 in 2015) and 11,100 (vs. 13,980 in 2015) respectively, resulting in egg deposition achieving 107% of the minimum conservation requirement. Returns of salmon and grilse to the NW Miramichi in 2016 were 4,000 (vs. 4,171 in 2015) and 4,100 (vs. 11,980 in 2015) respectively, resulting in egg deposition achieving only 72% of the minimum conservation requirement. The Striped Bass population of the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence has increased in abundance from less than 5,000 spawners in the late 1990s to an estimated 318,000 in 2016.

[Click here for the Salmon Report](#)

[Click here for the Striped Bass Report](#)

2017 Fishing Regulations Yet to be Released

No decision yet from DFO concerning the 2017 Regulations, which will determine whether there will be any retention (of grilse) allowed this coming season. What we have been told is that the Federal Fisheries Minister supports moving to

river-by-river management system, which allows for different regulations to be applied to different rivers based on science and the best conservation practices required to sustain river specific salmon stocks. This form of sustainable river management is being successfully used in both Quebec and Newfoundland-Labrador so with the Minister's support and push, we may soon see this positive fisheries management approach employed here in New Brunswick within the next year or so. But in the meantime, it looks like we have to wait a bit longer before we'll know what DFO has decided relative to Regulations for the upcoming 2017 season.



The 19th Annual NSPA/MSA Conservation Dinner Honoured Minister Bill Fraser

The Northumberland Salmon Protection Agency (NSPA) and the Miramichi Salmon Association (MSA) held their joint Conservation Dinner on Thursday March 23rd, 2017 at the Rodd Miramichi. Over 150 people attended the 19th annual Dinner, which included the presentation of



the NSPA's 'Friend of the River Award' to Bill Fraser, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure as well as Minister responsible for the Northern and Miramichi Funds. This prestigious award recognizes individuals and companies that have made significant and long-standing contributions to the ongoing effort to conserve the Miramichi River's iconic, yet seriously threatened, wild Atlantic salmon population. A long-time supporter of the MSA and NSPA, Minister Fraser most recently played a key role in helping to secure \$2.4 million in provincial funding support for the new Collaboration for Atlantic Salmon Tomorrow (CAST) program, in which the MSA is a lead partner. The NSPA/MSA would like to thank all those in attendance for their ongoing support and commitment to the conservation of our Miramichi salmon. **(Photo L to R: Mark Hambrook, Minister Fraser and Debbie Norton)**

New Salmon Tanks in Full Operation

Thanks to the newly formed initiative called CAST (Collaboration for Atlantic Salmon Tomorrow), six new 90,000 litre steel tanks lined with glass have now been installed at the MSA hatchery in South Esk. These tanks are being used for CAST's exciting 'Smolt to Adult Supplementation' (SAS) release project, which encompasses rearing wild

smolts to mature adults, thereby by-passing the very high 'at-sea' mortality that smolts are now suffering during their annual spring migration. Once grown, the adults will be released into a controlled and heavily monitored section of the same river from which they came.

[Click here for more information on CAST and its various salmon research and population enhancement projects.](#) (Photo: a view from the window into one of the new tanks.)



Don't Miss the MSA AGM and Ice Breaker Weekend April 28th-29th, 2017

Always a fun and informative weekend to kick off the start of another fishing season! Plan now to attend one or more of the following activities being held during the 21st Annual Ice Breaker weekend;

Science Day 2017- Salmon Habitat - 10:00AM-3:00PM, Friday, April 28: Come hear and ask questions about what's happening on the River. Click here to review times and a list of guest speakers. Event location - Woodsmen Museum, Boiestown, NB. Lunch provided. [Please register by clicking here.](#)

64th Annual General Meeting - 1:00PM, Saturday, April 29: All MSA members are welcome to attend this always informative Annual General Meeting of the organization. An MSA Board of Directors meeting will follow. Event location - Upper Miramichi Rural Community Center, Boiestown, NB.

21st Annual Ice Breaker Dinner & Auction - 4:30PM - 9:30PM, Saturday, April 29. Call the MSA today to reserve your \$60 ticket for this always popular event. Location - Woodsmen's Museum, Boiestown.

You can RSVP to any of these events by clicking here!

Upcoming MSA Events You Don't Want to Miss

[The Dieppe Fly Fishing Forum- Friday March 31st- Sunday April 2nd - CLICK HERE!](#)

[Miramichi Ice Breaker Weekend- Boiestown, NB - Friday, April 28th & Saturday April 29th, 2017 - CLICK HERE!](#)

[The Prospect Place Fishing Expo- Doaktown, NB - April 8th & 9th - CLICK HERE!](#)

[Miramichi Salmon Associations Pub Night in Fredericton- April 19th - CLICK HERE!](#)

[The 17th Annual Freeman Dunnnett Conservation Dinner - Moncton, NB - Thursday May 18th, 2017 - CLICK HERE!](#)

Miramichi Salmon Association's 2017 Photo Contest



2016 Best Overall Photo—© Humphrey Sheehan

2 Divisions

- MSA Members
- Non-MSA Members

Subject Categories

1. **Angling & Conservation** – includes fly fishing, equipment, salmon flies, live release, underwater shots, camps & lodges, boats and canoes, conservation activities, etc.
2. **Miramichi Scenes** – capturing the Miramichi landscape including sunrises, sunsets, wildlife, birds, trees, flowers, the river in all four seasons, waterfalls, salmon pools, etc.
3. **Miramichi People** – includes guides, outfitters, anglers, famous visitors, fly tiers, etc.
4. **Kids on the Miramichi** – kids learning to fish, catching or netting a fish, boating, etc.

Divisional Prizes (in each Subject Category)



Contest runs April 1, 2017 to July 31, 2017. Visit www.miramichisalmon.ca

Still not a member of the Miramichi Salmon Association?

Membership in the MSA is the perfect way to express your passion and support for the Miramichi River, for the Atlantic salmon who make it their home, and for the vital work being done by the MSA to protect and conserve both for today and tomorrow!

[Click here to sign up to day!](#)

If You're Not Already Receiving The Leaper Automatically Sign Up Here

Miramichi Salmon Association | 506-622-4000 | www.miramichisalmon.ca

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