

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.

Visit our Website

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



Vol. 31 July 2019

Conservation Report

Smolt Wheels

June has come and gone and we have had a very busy field season, and crew, here at the MSA! We are finished counting smolts and have now extracted our smolt wheels from the NW Miramichi River and the LSW Miramichi River.

Fry Release

Our fry, which we have reared and grown at the hatchery, are now being released into their natal rivers. A first-feeding fry is a recently hatched salmon which has absorbed its yolk sac and has just begun to eat solid foods. The MSA's trucks have been covering a lot of ground delivering the fry to Juniper, the Cains River, and to NW Miramichi tributaries for release. This year approximately 500,000 salmon fry were released.

Striped Bass Larval Study

In an effort to confirm spawning locations for striped bass, Ichthyoplankton samples were collected for our striped bass larval study in on the NW Miramichi River, SW Miramichi River, and the



Tabusintac River. The Northwest Miramichi estuary remains the only *confirmed* spawning location for striped bass in the Southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence. This study seeks to determine if striped bass are spawning in other estuaries, besides the NW Miramichi, thereby contributing to the increase in striped bass populations in the Miramichi watershed. The samples have been processed and larval bass and eggs have been identified in all three of the rivers we sampled. Full results will be available later this summer.

In this photo, MSA summer students carry out Ichthyoplankton sampling on the Southwest Miramichi river.

Bruno Bobak Memorial Art Contest Winner

This spring the MSA held its annual Bruno Bobak Memorial Art Contest. The contest was open to children in grades K-8. We received a number of impressive drawings from participants in schools in and around the Miramichi area. This year the winner of the contest was Jazmin Urbin from Max Aitken Academy (pictured



above), her drawing chosen by MSA director Alex Bobak, son of the late Bruno Bobak. Alex was also kind enough to donate a framed limited edition Bruno Bobak art print to the school of the winner. **Congratulations to Jazmin Urbin and to Max Aitken Academy!** The top 25 drawings are currently on display at the Atlantic Salmon Museum in Doaktown, NB. [Click here for full list of winners.](#)

(Photo:, MSA Events Coordinator Kate Flanagan presents Jazmin Urbin from Max Aitken Academy with a Bruno Bobak art print as a prize for winning the Bruno Bobak memorial art contest.)

The MSA Annual Photo Contest

Miramichi Salmon Association's
2019 Photo Contest

Sponsored by:



Contest runs June 1 – August 31, 2019
Visit www.miramichisalmon.ca to enter

Photo by Brian Somers

Be sure to get your photos in to MSA's Annual Photo contest. This years categories include Angling & Conservation, Miramichi Scenes, Miramichi People and Kids on the Miramichi. [Click here for Contest Details!](#)

Winning entries in each of the 4 categories will win a \$25 Bass Pro gift card.

To submit a photo click [HERE](#)

2018 Annual General Report

The MSA's 2018 Annual Report is now available. The Annual Report provides readers with a generalized summary of its annual operations, conservation programs, and membership support. **To view the report please click the link below.**

[Annual General Report](#)



2018 Annual Report

**Fun Weekend for all at
the MSA's "First Cast" event**



In this photo, First Cast participants enjoy a day on the Miramichi river. Photo courtesy of Big Brother, Big Sister Miramichi.

Despite the gloomy weather, the MSA's First Cast event was held on June 29th and 30th with a number of youths enjoying a day of fly fishing instruction followed by a day of fly fishing at a salmon pool in Blackville. A good time was had by all and a special thanks goes out to MSA director Paul Valeri, and MSA-US President Andy Dumaine for their volunteer efforts in this event. We would also like to thank the Atlantic Salmon Museum for their efforts in organizing and hosting this fun event.

Coming Changes in MSA's Leadership Team

As an MSA supporter, we wanted to let you know that the MSA has begun the process of succession planning as some of our older staff members begin to move aside and retire.

As of July 1st, Grant Hendry has retired for a second time – the first as a school teacher several years ago and now from his part-time Administrative support position with the MSA. We wish Grant a happy 2nd retirement and thank him for his excellent work. We are currently recruiting to back fill this position.

Also beginning July 1st, Stephen Tonning, current Director of Development and Communications, has moved into a half-time position with plans to completely retire by the end of the year. In the coming weeks we will begin to recruit for a new Vice-President to back fill this position, with the hopes that the successful candidate will in time prove capable of also assuming MSA President Mark Hambrook's role sometime in 2020, when Mark hopes to step aside and focus entirely on managing the MSA's hatchery operations in a half-time position. Plans are for the new Vice-President to be on board by September, thus ensuring a period of overlap and knowledge transfer before Stephen leaves at the end of the year.

These coming changes are being partly offset by Kate Flanagan's recent return from maternity leave, quickly stepping back into her previous position of MSA's Event and Membership Coordinator. We are also pleased that Butch Dalton has agreed to stay on in his part-time fundraising role based out of our Fredericton Office.

One constant is change.... but by anticipating and pro-actively managing its change, the MSA is ensuring it will have the required staff leadership in place to help Directors, volunteers and memberships alike build upon the MSA's 65- year history of protecting and conserving our treasured Miramichi salmon resource.

[Click here to View the Job Ad](#)

Weekly Video Conservation Updates now Available on the MSA YouTube Channel

If you are interested in our weekly

video river update by MSA President Mark Hambrook, you can click the link below. The weekly river update covers a variety of topics including information on MSA field programs, fishing conditions happenings on the river, and other topics of interest to MSA members.



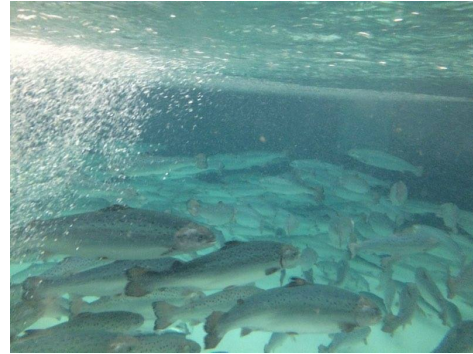
River Update

[YouTube Video Update](#)

Update on SAS Program

[Click here to see the full page ad from the CAST Group that recently appeared in the Telegraph Journal. CAST AD](#)

Wondering what exactly the Smolt to Adult Rearing program is? Check out this playlist of videos where MSA President Mark Hambrook interviews the Chair of Atlantic Salmon Research at UNB, Tommi Linnansaari and asks all the burning questions we all have about the SAS Program. [CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE FULL PLAYLIST](#)



Reminder to Anglers and Recreational Boaters

As a reminder to anglers and recreational boaters, we encourage you to be aware that disease can easily be spread from one river to another as in the case of didymo, which spread from rivers in Quebec to the Restigouche river system in New Brunswick in 2006. We encourage you to take the proper steps to disinfect your fishing gear. For information on how to disinfect your gear, this please click the link below.

Recently, there have been reports of small numbers of fish exhibiting signs of bleeding and/or ulceration being caught in Norway, Ireland and Scotland. These symptoms have been reported as being mainly along the area on the belly of the fish between the head and the tail. At the moment what is causing this trauma is unknown. We would like to advise any anglers coming from these countries to disinfect their fishing gear before fishing in New Brunswick.

[Disinfecting Procedures](#)

Upcoming MSA Events You Don't Want to Miss

[24th Annual Fredericton Dinner- Fredericton, NB - Oct 3, 2019](#)

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 today!](#)

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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