

# MIRAMICHI SALMON ASSOCIATION INC.

## *ANNUAL REPORT*

2024



**MSA**  
CONSERVATION



MIRAMICHI SALMON  
ASSOCIATION INC.

## **Introduction**

- 02 Message from the MSA Chair
- 03 Message from the MSA US Chair
- 04 President's Report

## **Conservation**

- 05 Field Programs
- 09 Hatchery Operations

## **Advocacy**

- 10 River Management
- 11 Education
- 13 Communications

## **Fundraising**

- 14 Events
- 17 Campaigns

## **Finances**

- 18 Financial Update

## **Supporters**

- 19 Staff
- 19 Executive
- 19 Board of Directors
- 20 Life Members
- 23 Annual Members
- 24 Partners



MSA Senior Hatchery Technician  
Dylan Hyland feeding salmon fry.

Our MSA staff is committed to maintaining accurate records and reporting data. Please contact our office if you find any discrepancies in our 2024 Annual Report or have comments or questions.

## FOREWARD

The Miramichi Salmon Association (MSA) 2024 Annual Report highlights our work over the last year. Enclosed are summaries outlining our 2024 fieldwork, hatchery operations, events, communication projects, and financial activities. Thank you for taking the time to review this document. We hope you will help us continue our fight to conserve Atlantic salmon on the Miramichi River.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MSA CHAIR


As I look back on 2024, I am proud of our hard-working and dedicated staff in Fredericton and South Esk. Their commitment to organizing successful fundraising events, advocating to the government, executing essential field programs, and managing the daily operations of our hatchery has been outstanding. Our American counterparts at MSA US remain a crucial source of funding and support, strengthening our hatchery programs while also providing additional resources this year to maintain our Ludlow broodstock and hire two technicians to assist with spawning, egg care, fry care, and stocking. We are fortunate to have a dedicated board of directors and a membership that continues to stand firmly behind our mission of salmon conservation.

Unfortunately, 2024 was one of the most challenging salmon seasons on record. If you had a productive fishing trip, you were among a rare few. The striped bass population continues to decimate migrating smolt, and the impact has never been clearer. The grilse run was almost non-existent, with just eight hundred grilse recorded across the entire Northwest and Southwest Miramichi systems—a staggering 90% decline in only two years. Multi-sea-winter salmon

numbers were also at an all-time low, leaving outfitters and anglers facing an unprecedented season. The survival of Miramichi salmon is at a tipping point, and action is urgently needed.

Fortunately, MSA operates Canada's longest continuously running hatchery in South Esk, a facility with the capacity to provide the critical intervention required to help restore salmon populations. Our hatchery has often been compared to an emergency response unit, an ambulance or fire truck if you will... available during times of crisis to prevent irreversible loss.

The crisis is here, the alarm has sounded, and we must act now. We have an opportunity to lead one of the most significant Atlantic salmon recovery efforts ever undertaken. It is time to demand that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans take decisive and meaningful action, focus on collaboration and cooperation among our partners, and maximize the potential of our hatchery—together, we can make a significant impact.



Richard McGuigan, MSA Chair

## 02 INTRODUCTION

## MESSAGE FROM THE MSA US CHAIR

Similar to 2023, this past year was a very difficult one for salmon throughout most of Canada. Runs were down on most Gaspé rivers, and many of Newfoundland's rivers saw their lowest returns in memory. Clearly, ocean conditions during the winter of 23/24 were not good for Atlantic salmon. The reality of the situation in the Miramichi, though, is more complicated. In a nutshell, the unprecedented expansion of the striped bass population is proving very detrimental to salmon smolts trying to exit the estuary to begin their ocean migration.

The Canadian DFO has been reluctant to act for uncertain reasons that may include not understanding the full extent of the issue and/or that they are simply basking in the approval of the striped bass fishermen. A great deal of the conservation efforts put forth by the MSA have been in trying to convince DFO that they must act to protect salmon. Those efforts will continue and even be accelerated because there is no alternative but to win if you want to see a viable salmon fishery in the Miramichi. MSA US members are not Canadian citizens, but we still have a significant hand in these efforts.

One of the greatest benefits the US organization can offer is fundraising, both in terms of supporting the MSA's ongoing conservation work and in growing our long-term endowment, which will help fund the MSA's work in the future. I am proud to say that we are doing well in that regard, with giving by our members throughout the year, especially surrounding our Winter Event currently held in Falmouth, Maine.

I fished the Miramichi and Cains Rivers for salmon and brook trout about 70 days in 2024 and I plan to do it again in 2025. There is no question that the catching is not what it was – or what it could be – but the line still comes tight often enough that I am very much looking forward to the upcoming season.

Thank you very much for your support of the MSA US.



**Brad Burns, MSA US Chair**

## MISSION

For over seventy years, the MSA and its members have directed their capabilities and funds to protect the entire Miramichi River system. Our mission is exemplary, river-based leadership, stewardship, and conservation practices for the Miramichi Watershed to continuously preserve and balance its environmental integrity for the benefit of all native species, particularly the Atlantic salmon.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

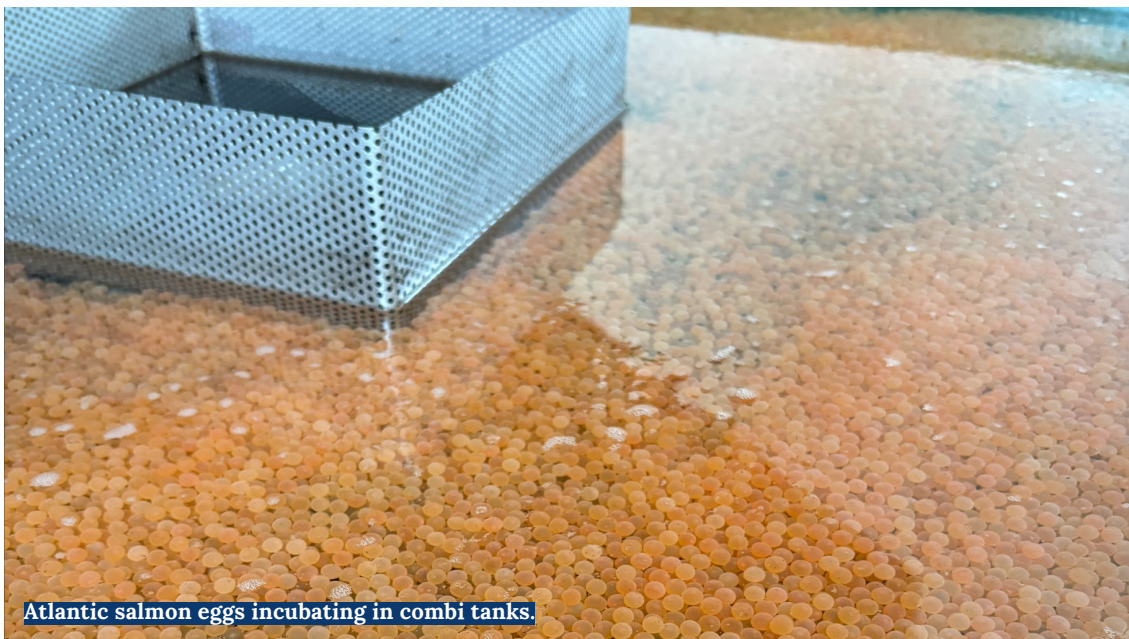
The Miramichi River has long been a source of inspiration, sustenance, and connection for our communities, but 2024 has reminded us just how fragile this precious ecosystem has become. This was a poor year for Atlantic salmon on the Miramichi and across much of their range. Low returns, diminishing stocks, and increasing pressures on the river's ecosystem reinforce the urgency of our work. As guardians of the Miramichi, we must confront these issues head-on to ensure the survival of this iconic species.

We need a firm and unwavering commitment from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to address these threats and take meaningful action. The Miramichi's challenges require bold solutions, and we call on DFO to prioritize the restoration of salmon populations. Managing the striped bass population and implementing scientifically grounded measures to support smolt survival must become immediate priorities. Without decisive intervention, the Miramichi salmon face a perilous future.

Despite the challenges, we draw strength from the passion and resilience of our members, volunteers, and partners. Together, we have the knowledge, resources, and determination to turn the tide. Let this be the year our collective voice is heard, and our actions lay the foundation for a brighter future for the Miramichi and its salmon. The time for meaningful change is now, and we are ready to lead the charge.



**William (Butch) Dalton, MSA President**



**Atlantic salmon eggs incubating in combi tanks.**

## FIELD PROGRAMS

### Smolt Estimates

During the spring run, the Miramichi Salmon Association conducts smolt population estimates on the Miramichi River. This valuable information helps conservation groups and regulators make important decisions about managing the Miramichi watershed.

Our annual smolt estimate is conducted using a mark-recapture system. For the last several years, the MSA has assembled two rotary screw traps on the Northwest Miramichi River and one on the Dungarvon River. Applying a 10% mortality rate to our population estimate (using the Bayesian method), it was estimated that 15,150 (95% CI 12,500 - 19,100) smolts migrated from the Northwest River in the spring of 2024. To compare, the 2023 smolt estimate on the Northwest Miramichi was 10,840 (95% CI 9,370 - 12,820). The Dungarvon 2024 estimate was deferred this year, with priority being given to the Dungarvon smolt collection for the experimental fry stocking project. The remaining smolts were insufficient to produce a meaningful estimate. We plan to conduct the estimate again in 2025.

### Fry Stocking

In June, the MSA successfully released 55,000 salmon fry in the Juniper area of the Southwest Miramichi River. These fry originated from the traditional annual broodstock collection carried out in the fall of 2023. Adult fish were taken to the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre and spawned. The resulting eggs were incubated over the winter and released as first-feeding fry into their natal waters.

Additionally, 90,000 SAS fry were released into the Southwest Miramichi River above Ludlow. Smolt-to-Adult Supplementation (SAS) is an alternative method of broodstock collection that involves gathering smolts from the wild, raising them to adults at the hatchery, spawning them, and then releasing the fry



MSA Senior Hatchery Technician Dylan Hyland and summer student Jansen Blacquier fishing a smolt wheel.

into their natal waters. With the decreasing number of adults returning to our river system, collecting smolts to grow to mature broodstock is another option to ensure supplemental fry stocking can continue on the Miramichi River.



MSA summer student Ally Taylor stocking salmon fry.

**Cold Water Restoration**

Cold water pools play a crucial role in providing salmon habitat, especially during warm water periods. The MSA and other conservation organizations are dedicated to reviving and improving these cold water habitats. In the past decade, the MSA has spearheaded projects to restore cold water at 11 distinct locations along the Miramichi River. The MSA field team annually revisits previous cold water habitat restoration sites to evaluate their functionality and perform any necessary maintenance. Activities at these sites involved clearing overgrowth and debris and monitoring temperatures. The temperature variances between the cold water pools and the main river were substantial, ranging from 1.8°C to 10.0°C. Fish were observed at all 11 sites, and snorkel surveys were conducted at Government Pool, Indiantown Brook, Burntland Brook, and Black Brook.

The MSA continues working on a novel cold water restoration program in partnership with Dr. Antóin O’Sullivan, O’Sullivan EcoHydraulics. This project aims

to strategically enhance cold water habitat using novel tactics. The project selects sites where restoration will be most impactful for Atlantic salmon. The next cold water pool restoration will take place in 2025. The Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk has primarily funded this project with in-kind support from the University of New Brunswick.

**Salmon Protection Barriers**

In 2024, the MSA maintained the salmon protection barriers on the Northwest Miramichi and Dungarvon Rivers. These barriers safeguard adult salmon during their journey upriver for spawning, and the information gathered from them is shared with the government and the public. We extend our gratitude to Ed Stewart, our foreman, and his teams for their unwavering commitment and hard work in ensuring the successful operation of these barriers. Collaboration with the NB Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development remains ongoing to uphold the functionality of the barriers.

2024 Cold Water Pool Restoration			
Restoration Site	Restoration Year	2024 Stream Obstructions	Snorkel Survey
Donnelly Brook	2014	5	No
Doak Brook	2015	2	No
Indiantown Brook	2015	1	Yes
Otter Brook	2015	9	No
Pat's Brook	2015	2	No
Parks Brook	2016	1	No
Hudson Brook	2017	2	No
Salmon Brook	2017	1	No
Burntland Brook	2018	3	Yes
Government Pool	2019	0	Yes x2
Black Brook	2022	0	Yes



### Juvenile Assessment

The MSA conducts an electrofishing initiative to analyze the distribution of juvenile Atlantic salmon in the Miramichi River. This program aims to identify potential stocking locations and assess the effectiveness of fry stocking and beaver dam management.

This summer, favourable conditions allowed for efficient juvenile assessments, thanks to cooler morning water temperatures facilitating productive early-morning fieldwork. MSA Biologist Lyndsay Jay-Keating and her team collected presence-absence data from 47 priority sites.

Additionally, the MSA supported the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Science Branch in their electrofishing program throughout September. DFO conducts surveys to monitor sites as part of a long-term assessment of juvenile salmon populations in the river. Together, the MSA and DFO electrofished an additional 52 sites.



MSA Biologist Lyndsay Jay-Keating and summer students Payton Schenkels and Cole Johnson electrofishing.



MSA summer student Maddox Boucher takes measurements of a fish.

The findings from the 99 sites assessed by the MSA and DFO continue to highlight the significant impact of our programs, especially fry stocking, on the population of young salmon in different Miramichi tributaries. The areas stocked in 2024 showed an abundance of fry during later surveys. Some new sites identified as potential stocking locations had sparse numbers of fry and parr, indicating that stocking efforts could be intensified in these areas.



### Broodstock Collection and Spawning

For many years, the MSA has been collecting mature broodstock from the Miramichi River to boost the production of juvenile salmon in specific areas that are not fully utilized or are inaccessible to naturally spawning adults. Unfortunately, in 2024, the traditional broodstock collection from the Southwest Miramichi River was unsuccessful. Despite the support from anglers, the broodstock collection from the Cains River did not provide an adequate number of adults for the program. Even after the efforts of MSA staff and volunteers, no salmon were sighted in the pool during the collection attempt in Juniper on October 4th. As a result, there will be no traditional fry stocking in 2025. The MSA expresses gratitude to the volunteers who contributed to the Broodstock Collection and Spawning program in 2024.

The MSA continued to facilitate spawning for Parks Canada and the Greater Kouchibouguac Watershed Association and

assisted Pabineau First Nation with over-winter egg incubation at the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre. Salmon produced through partnerships with other conservation organizations are stocked into their natal waters.

### Spawning Obstruction Management

The presence of beaver dams can obstruct the migration of adult Atlantic salmon upstream for spawning, limiting their access to crucial habitats in the upper parts of streams. Enhancing the accessibility of upstream habitat in specific streams could positively impact the survival of salmon eggs and the production of juvenile salmon. Beavers can repair active dams within 24 hours, underscoring the importance of strategically timing dam breaches to coincide with upstream salmon migration. In the Miramichi area, the MSA team successfully notched 34 dams, facilitating the essential migration of salmon during the spawning period.



### 2024 Dam Management

Location	Dams Breached
Betts Mills Brook	5
Big Hole Brook	5
Burntland Brook	2
Doak Brook	4
McKenzie Brook	3
Monaghan Brook	1
Muzeroll Brook	1
North Renous River	1
Otter Brook	1
Sabbies River	6
Salmon Brook	3
Six Mile Brook	2

## HATCHERY OPERATIONS

### Day-to-Day Operations

The Miramichi Fish Hatchery at the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre has five fish-rearing structures and multiple storage facilities. The Centre also houses the MSA's head office, an apartment for students and researchers, and a section leased by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Conservation and Protection Detachment.

Our daily responsibilities at the facility involve tending to the salmon, which includes feeding, observing their behaviour, monitoring water quality, administering anti-fungal treatments, extensive cleaning, maintenance tasks, and data collection. Throughout the year, we have various life stages of Atlantic salmon at our facility, each requiring specialized care to ensure their safety and well-being. Here at the Miramichi Fish Hatchery, we have an exceptional team dedicated to meeting the fish's needs daily.

Our hatchery is staffed seven days a week, all year round, with someone available around the clock for emergencies after hours. In extreme weather conditions like hurricanes, snowstorms, or high winds causing power outages, we have two large industrial generators and two small portable generators to ensure a continuous supply of water and oxygen for the fish. Maintaining the hatchery involves looking after a wide range of equipment. We have multiple alarms to monitor oxygen and water levels, enabling immediate staff response to any issues, regardless of the time of day.

### Research Programs

The MSCC is a central location for scientists to conduct vital research on Atlantic salmon within the Miramichi River. The hatchery is an exceptional resource, enabling fish biologists and aquatic scientists to pursue innovative research.

In the spring of 2024, researchers from DFO parked their mobile lab trailer at the MSCC to experiment on smolts and salinity. Our on-site apartment also housed students and researchers from UNB/CRI and ASF throughout the spring, summer, and fall as they conducted important work on the Miramichi River.

The hatchery continued supporting the novel Dungarvon fry stocking initiative by collecting and nurturing smolts until they reached adulthood, spawning the adults, and then releasing the resulting fry back into the Dungarvon River. The initial fry release for this program occurred in 2023, with stocking activities set to persist until 2028. Dr. Tommi Linnansaari from the University of New Brunswick leads this project.

### Hatchery Tours

To mark over 150 years of operation, the MSA reopened the Miramichi Fish Hatchery for public tours in 2023 and continued to offer them in 2024. Tours were available six times a week throughout July and August, with our exceptional team of summer students as guides. We were thrilled to share the facility's extensive history and significant work with all our visitors.



Hatchery Manager Holly Labadie gives a tour of the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre.



## RIVER MANAGEMENT

### **Warm Water Protocol**

During the 2024 angling season, the Warm Water Protocol Committee, led by DFO, convened to deliberate on guidelines for closing and reopening crucial cold water pools. The MSA actively participated in these meetings to represent stakeholders' interests and contribute to the decision-making process regarding the protocols. The angling season was marked by a notably dry and hot summer, leading to reduced water levels and elevated temperatures. As a result, the warm water protocol was in effect from July to August, causing an extended closure of the river. This closure posed challenges for anglers and lodges throughout the year. The MSA advocates installing additional temperature loggers across the watershed to facilitate a more targeted, section-by-section management approach.

### **Recreational Fisheries**

The MSA is a member of the Eastern New Brunswick Coastal and Inland Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee, overseen by DFO. This committee allows NGOs to contribute their input regarding the management and regulations of recreational fisheries. The committee convened in January of 2024, focusing on several key issues advocated by the MSA. These included implementing river management practices based on scientific findings, maintaining ecosystem equilibrium, increasing measures to combat poaching, and restoring the daily catch and release limit to four fish. The MSA's stance on these matters aligns with that of other conservation groups.

Furthermore, the MSA emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive approach to managing striped bass and Atlantic salmon populations. While acknowledging the positive recovery and growth of the striped bass population, the MSA remains mindful

of the broader ecological balance. Despite receiving ongoing recommendations, the regulations concerning Atlantic salmon and striped bass are reluctant to evolve. The increasing striped bass population is adversely affecting not only Atlantic salmon but also gaspereau, mackerel, smelt, and herring populations.



Salmon Brook on the Cains River.

### **Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Strategy**

Restore, Maintain, Thrive: Canada's national strategy to ensure the future of Wild Atlantic salmon, is a comprehensive plan developed by DFO to support the recovery and long-term sustainability of wild Atlantic salmon populations, which have been declining due to habitat loss, climate change, and other impacts. The strategy aims to coordinate efforts among governments, stakeholders, and conservation groups to restore critical habitats, reduce threats, and enhance salmon stocks. The MSA has expressed disappointment that the strategy, initially promised for release in 2024, has been delayed due to a lack of associated funding. This setback highlights ongoing concerns about the government's commitment to addressing wild Atlantic salmon's challenges and the urgent need for timely and adequately funded conservation measures.

## EDUCATION

### **Jack T.H. Fenety Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded annually to a graduate student conducting meaningful research about wild Atlantic salmon that is relevant to the Miramichi watershed.

The 2024 recipient was Alex Morgan, a student at the University of New Brunswick. Alex's project explores whether compact hyperspectral imagers can effectively capture data distinguishing between different fish species native to the Miramichi River system. Alex's research serves as a pilot study to assess the potential of using hyperspectral remote sensing to identify fish species.

### **Brian D. Moore Legacy Fund**

This legacy fund is an endowment fund to encourage the next generation of conservationists. It offers annual support for a project carried out by an MSA summer student.

The MSA announced Ally Taylor as the 2024 legacy fund recipient in April. Under this fund, Ally's project included producing communications highlighting the joint

UNB/MSA Dungarvon fry stocking research project, which compares novel and traditional methods.

### **Student Outreach**

The MSA embraces every opportunity to educate the next generation of conservationists. MSA's knowledgeable staff collaborate with schools across the province, facilitating environmental science and river conservation education. In May and early June, the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre opened its doors to elementary and middle school students for the Fish Friends program, offering tours of the Miramichi Fish Hatchery. Other student outreach initiatives from 2024 included hosting Mount Allison professor Dr. Josh Kurek's GENS4401: Biomonitoring class on September 12th, inviting Sara Lloyd's environmental science class from the New Brunswick Community College to join our field team with seining broodstock salmon in Juniper on October 4th, and hosting students from Blackville High School on October 18th to demonstrate salmon spawning.



MSA staff and NBCC students seining broodstock in Juniper.





**Bruno Bobak Memorial Art Contest 1st Place  
Winner, submitted by Danika McDonald.**

### **Art and Writing Contest**

For over 50 years, MSA education has focused on engaging the future generation of conservationists through school art and writing programs that promote river and salmon conservation and advocacy. The MSA would like to thank all schools that participated in our 2024 Bruno Bobak Memorial Art Contest and our writing and printing contests. Grade six student Danika McDonald from Max Aitken Academy was selected as our overall winner and awarded a framed Kim Stubbs art print.

### **First Cast**

MSA Director Paul Valeri coordinated the 12th Annual First Cast over the weekend of June 22nd and 23rd. This two-day educational program teaches children and adults the joys of fly fishing. The first day included classroom instruction graciously hosted at the Atlantic Salmon Museum, followed by a day of fishing in Blackville. Thank you to all the MSA volunteers who made this year's First Cast fun and enriching.

### **MSA Wild Salmon Grant**

Launched in 2023 and generously funded by J.W. Bud Bird through an endowment with the Miramichi Salmon Association, this grant provides \$5,000 annually to an Indigenous undergraduate student in their second, third, or fourth year at St. Thomas University. The grant supports academic or creative projects that raise public awareness about the Miramichi River watershed and the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon, incorporating the value of traditional Indigenous knowledge in preserving natural spaces. Eligible proposals may include elder story collections, Wabanaki language projects, creative works like artwork or music, journalism projects such as podcasts or articles, documentary films, research papers, or other innovative ideas aligned with the theme. This grant highlights the critical role of Indigenous perspectives in conservation efforts and fosters meaningful engagement with the Miramichi River ecosystem.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### The Leaper

The MSA's monthly newsletter is a vital communication tool for members, supporters, and the wider conservation community. It provides information to keep readers informed and engaged with the MSA's activities and goals. Each edition includes a monthly update from the MSA President, offering insights into current priorities, challenges, and successes. The newsletter highlights ongoing conservation initiatives, detailing efforts to protect and restore wild Atlantic salmon populations and their habitats. It also features information about upcoming events, fundraising activities, educational programs, important notices about river conditions, seasonal updates, and fish stock reports.

### Calendar

Our 2025 MSA calendar was circulated to 900 members and supporters as part of our end-of-season campaign. This year's calendar featured a curated selection of staff favourites from entries to the Brian Smith Memorial Photo Contest over the past decade, celebrating the beauty of the Miramichi River and its surrounding landscapes.

### Brian Smith Memorial Photo Contest

The photo contest offers amateur photographers a chance to showcase their finest images of the Miramichi River, its people, and its environment. This annual contest runs from April 15th to October 15th, with categories including Miramichi People, Angling, Miramichi Scenes, and Kids. We are pleased to announce the 2024 winners: Maggie Prorok (1st Place), April Fullarton (2nd Place), Will Doyle (3rd Place), and Ian Cavanagh (4th Place). Congratulations to our winners, and a special thank you to Bates Custom Laminating and Framing for generously sponsoring this year's prize packages.

### Miramichi River Stories

A video series celebrating the heritage, culture, and traditions of the Miramichi River community. It features guides, anglers, and MSA supporters sharing their personal stories and deep connections to the river. The project, led by MSA's Communications Committee Chair Greg Sprague and committee member Dawson Hovey, aims to document the voices and experiences that have shaped the river's history. The 2024 episodes include insightful interviews with notable individuals like Mervin Green, Norm Betts, Bradford Burns, and Emery Brophy. Each episode highlights their unique perspectives on fly-fishing, conservation, and their special bond with the river.

This series aims to inspire appreciation for the river's heritage and foster stewardship for its future, preserving the Miramichi community's traditions and values for generations.



Brian Smith Memorial Photo Contest  
1st Place Winner, Maggie Prorok



## EVENTS

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all MSA's members, supporters, sponsors, donors, and partners for their unwavering commitment and generous contributions to our fundraising efforts. Your dedication and support have been invaluable in helping us achieve our goals and make a meaningful impact in the community. Whether through your event participation, financial donations, or time and expertise, each of you has played an essential role in our success. Because of your collective efforts, we can continue to pursue our mission and create positive change. We genuinely appreciate your support and look forward to the continued growth and success we will achieve together.

Thank you for making a difference!

### **MSA US Winter Event**

The Miramichi Salmon Association launched its 2024 event calendar with the highly anticipated MSA US Winter Event on February 3rd. Co-chaired and hosted by Brad Burns and David Fenderson, the event was organized with the support of a dedicated dinner committee to ensure its success. This hybrid event allowed in-person and virtual attendees to participate, with a live Zoom broadcast bringing excitement to supporters unable to attend in person.

The evening featured various engaging fundraising activities, including a live auction, silent auction, and paddle raise, all aimed at supporting the MSA's vital conservation efforts. Guests were treated to a special presentation by Sir Michael Wigan, who shared insights into his conservation work in Scotland and a delicious buffet dinner. Attendees bid on many exciting auction items, including exclusive fishing trips, premium fishing gear, unique artwork, and other highly sought-after items.

The event was a resounding success, bringing together supporters from both sides of the border to celebrate the Miramichi River and its wild Atlantic salmon while raising critical funds for ongoing conservation initiatives.



### **MSA & Outfitters Curling Bonspiel**

MSA Director Manley Price organized this fun event at Doaktown Arena in March. Teams of four enjoyed friendly competition, door prizes, and a free one-year MSA membership. The event aimed to raise awareness for salmon conservation and attract new members. Thanks to everyone involved for making it a success!

### **Moncton Boat and Sportsmen Show**

MSA staff attended this event from March 22nd to 24th to engage with members of the angling community. Despite a large snowstorm, the show was well attended and gave our team an excellent opportunity to highlight the great work the MSA continues to do.

### IceBreaker Dinner & Auction

On May 4th, the MSA's IceBreaker Dinner returned to the Central New Brunswick Woodmen's Museum following the MSA's Annual General Meeting earlier that day at the Upper Miramichi Rural Community Centre. Both events saw an impressive turnout, demonstrating the unwavering support and enthusiasm of the MSA community.

This year's dinner was a sold-out event and the most financially successful IceBreaker in the history of MSA. Attendees enjoyed an evening of exceptional food, great company, and spirited fundraising, all supporting Atlantic salmon conservation. The success of the evening would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our IceBreaker Dinner Committee, chaired by Manley Price, with help from MSA Director Grant Ross and

MSA supporter Faith Matchett, whose efforts ensured the event ran seamlessly. The IceBreaker Dinner continues to be a cherished tradition for the MSA, providing an opportunity for supporters to come together, celebrate our shared passion for the Miramichi River, and raise vital funds to sustain the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon. Thank you to everyone involved in making this a successful event!

### Spring into the Season Raffle

The raffle prize, drawn live at the IceBreaker Dinner, was the highly coveted fishing trip package, which offered four rods for a two-day excursion at the picturesque Rocky Bend. This prize generated significant interest and contributed to the overall fundraising efforts. Thank you to all who participated in making this event a huge success!

### Moncton Mixer

This inaugural event, organized by the Moncton Dinner Committee and chaired by Mark Delaney, was held on May 23rd at the Canvas Hotel in Moncton. The event was an outstanding success, bringing together community members and supporters to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Dieppe Fly Tying Club. The evening was filled with lively conversation, delicious drinks, and tempting appetizers, creating the perfect atmosphere for networking and camaraderie. Guests had the chance to participate in a silent auction and raffles, with various exciting prizes up for grabs. The event attracted a fantastic turnout, and we hope that its success will pave the way for an even more significant and impactful gathering in 2025. We would like to thank everyone who attended and supported this special occasion, and we look forward to making the Moncton Mixer an annual tradition that will continue to foster connections and support for salmon conservation efforts.



Place setting at the IceBreaker Dinner & Auction.



### **Bud Bird Award in Salmon Conservation**

Launched in 2024, this award is the Miramichi Salmon Association's highest honour to be conferred.

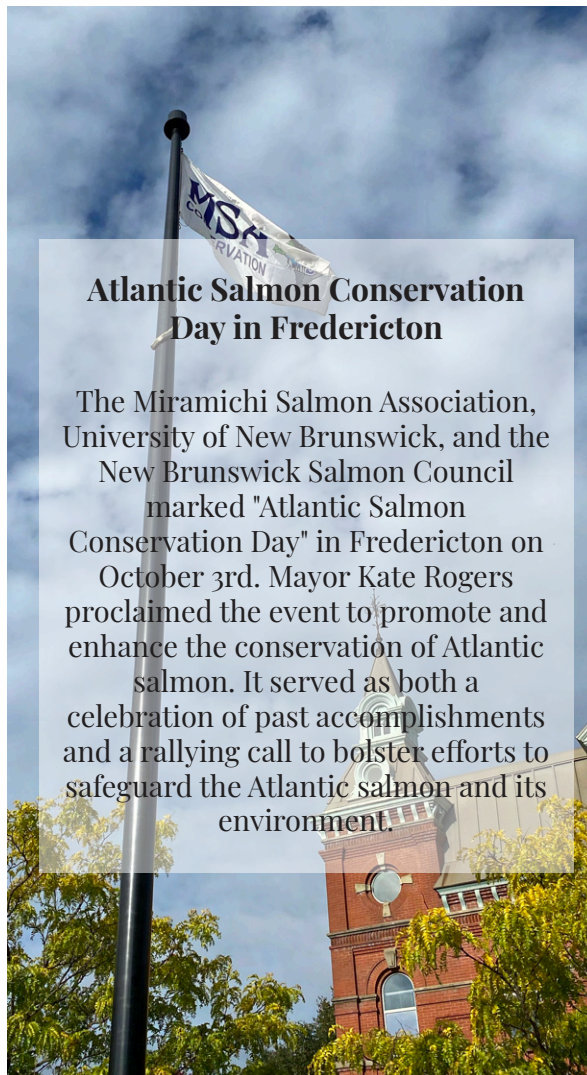
The award recognizes constructive and innovative leadership in any or all areas of activity that have an impact on the environmental protection and conservation of the wild Atlantic salmon species, including but not limited to volunteerism and/or the practice of advocacy, politics, Indigenous relations, climate action, academia, industry, business, or commercial river management. The first recipient of this prestigious award was Vince Swazey, a dedicated conservationist whose lifetime of service and

passion for Atlantic salmon embodies the spirit of the award. Vince's tireless work on behalf of the MSA and his advocacy for sustainable conservation practices have significantly impacted the river's health and the future of our salmon populations. Vince was presented with this award on October 3rd at a Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre reception.

### **MSA Fredericton Dinner & Auction**

The 27th year of this annual event took place on October 3rd at the Fredericton Inn. This event was organized by the MSA Fredericton Dinner Committee, chaired by Tristan Hovey, and was a tremendous success. Over 280 guests joined us to celebrate MSA's "Champions for Conservation", Mark Hambrook, Bud Bird, and Vince Swazey, for their life-long dedication to the MSA, Atlantic salmon, and the Miramichi watershed.

The Fredericton Dinner has always been one of our biggest events; this year did not disappoint. A highlight of the evening was the signature live auction, which included fishing trips to Millbrook Lodge, Country Haven Lodge, and the renowned Rocky Brook Camp. Thanks to the MSA's generous supporters, this event raised over \$120,000 for conservation work on the Miramichi River.



### **Atlantic Salmon Conservation Day in Fredericton**

The Miramichi Salmon Association, University of New Brunswick, and the New Brunswick Salmon Council marked "Atlantic Salmon Conservation Day" in Fredericton on October 3rd. Mayor Kate Rogers proclaimed the event to promote and enhance the conservation of Atlantic salmon. It served as both a celebration of past accomplishments and a rallying call to bolster efforts to safeguard the Atlantic salmon and its environment.



**Alex L'Heureux creating a painting live during the Fredericton Dinner.**

### **MSA Saint John Autumn Dinner & Auction**

This event was held on October 23rd at the Delta Brunswick Square in Saint John, marking another successful and memorable evening, with flawless organization by the Saint John Dinner Committee, led by Co-Chairs John C. Fitzpatrick and Gordon Mouland. During the event, the MSA was honoured to recognize Brad Burns, President of MSA US, for his unwavering support of the association and his

significant contributions to the conservation community. The evening featured a vibrant cocktail hour, a silent auction, a delectable buffet dinner, and an exciting live auction featuring premier fishing trips. We sincerely thank all who participated, as your generosity played a fundamental role in raising essential funds for the conservation of Miramichi River salmon. Your support ensures the continued success of our important conservation initiatives.



### **Carleton County Christmas Auction**

To conclude the year, the Carleton County Fundraising Committee once again hosted the annual Online Christmas Auction, which has become a highly anticipated event on our calendar. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our generous auction sponsors—McCain Fertilizer, Mountain View Packers, Covered Bridge Chips, and Valley Wealth Management—and all those who contributed auction items. This online fundraiser continues to be an important and enjoyable way to close out the year, and we are grateful for the ongoing support that makes it such a success. Your participation helps drive our mission forward, ensuring the continued vitality of our conservation efforts.

## **CAMPAIGNS**

### **End of Season Ask**

The MSA successfully launched this annual campaign in December. As part of this initiative, all current MSA members received an update letter from MSA President William (Butch) Dalton and a complimentary 2025 MSA Calendar. The campaign aims to raise funds by inviting supporters to make year-end donations. The donations are integral to ongoing conservation efforts on the Miramichi River in 2025 and beyond. Sincere thanks to all donors for their continued support.

### **Planned Giving**

At the MSA, we are committed to preserving the future of Atlantic salmon and the ecosystems that support them. The work we do today is not just for the present—it is for future generations. Our Planned Giving program provides a meaningful way for supporters to ensure their legacy and passion for salmon conservation endure long into the future. By including the MSA in their financial or estate planning, individuals become a key part of the MSA Trust, helping to secure the long-term sustainability of our critical conservation work.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### MSA Canada

The MSA achieved excellent fundraising results again this year, generating \$318,378 from events and contributions. The organization secured \$151,101 in various grants that support student salaries and conservation initiatives, including smolt population estimates, fry stocking, cold water pool maintenance, beaver dam notching, and juvenile population assessments. From this total, the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk provided \$25,500 to conduct cold water pool restorations on the Miramichi River.

Miramichi Fisheries Management, the organization managing the hatchery, has an annual shortfall. Nonetheless, the MSA understands this facility's significance as a conservation tool and persistently looks for

2024 Consolidated Revenue	
Membership	\$8,130
Fundraising/Donations	\$318,378
Government Grants, etc.	\$125,601
Hatchery Programs	\$31,274
Barrier Contract	\$232,244
Canada Nature Fund	\$25,500
Rental Income	\$49,580
Director's Revenue	\$8,790
MSA US Transfers	\$155,351
Investment Transfers	\$72,502

2024 MSA Endowment Gifts	
Brian D. Moore Campaign	\$1,000
Donations	\$7,975
Life Memberships	\$3,000

2024 MSA US Endowment Gifts	
Memberships	\$5,100
Fundraising/Donations	\$82,735

### 18 FINANCES

ways to raise funds to support its operations. The MSA financial statements were not audited before this publication. Allen, Paquet & Arseneau, LLP, will complete the 2024 audit in accordance with Canadian accounting standards.

### Investments

The MSA works with Mais Reynolds Financial Group to oversee our Canadian investments. Our combined portfolio has shown a significant growth of more than 16%. Mais Reynolds and the broader CIBC Private Wealth Group balance our necessity for revenue generation with our commitment to environmental protection, climate change mitigation, and social justice.

The MSA acknowledges past capital contributions from Bud and Peggy Bird, Bruno Bobak, Samuel E. Burgess, Rex Freeze, Jacqueline Girouard, Kevin Harris, J.D. Irving, the John E. Irving family, the Kaley family, the Laurie Savage family, Denis and Cecile Losier, Doug and Gloria MacDonald, Ernie and Susanne McFadzen, Frank and Julie McKenna, the McQuaid family, Hon. Michael E. Meighen, the Norton family of Upper Oxbow, Punchy Walker, David and Elizabeth Wilson Family Foundation, Scotiabank, and TD Bank Community Relations.

### MSA US

The MSA US made a substantial impact in 2024 by facilitating three key funding transfers: the annual transfer to the MSA for \$107,436, which goes towards our conservation programs and general operations, a transfer of \$33,825 to MFM to maintain the Ludlow fish throughout the year and spawn them in the fall, increasing our number of eggs for fry stocking next year, and a transfer of \$49,954 to MFM to cover the wages of two hatchery technicians for spawning, egg care, fry care, and stocking.

The MSA US financials are independent of the Miramichi Salmon Association, and their 2024 financial statements will be prepared and audited by Gary Plante, CPA.



## STAFF

### Office Staff

William (Butch) Dalton, President  
Lyndsay Jay-Keating, Biologist  
Gaby Dubois-Giasson, Finance Coordinator  
Jeff Russell, Program & Development Coordinator  
Tehillah Porter, Admin & Member Relations Coordinator

### Hatchery Staff

Holly Labadie, Hatchery Manager  
Dylan Hyland, Senior Hatchery Technician  
Gilles Chiasson, Maintenance Specialist  
Jillian Price, Spawning Technician  
Lucien Dubois, Spawning Technician

### Conservation Staff

Brody Hallihan, Conservation Technician  
Jesse Corcoran, Egg Care Technician  
Joneil Evans, Egg Care Technician  
Seth Nowlan, Spawning Obstruction Specialist

### Summer Students

Ally Taylor, University of New Brunswick  
Cole Johnson, Mount Allison University  
Jansen Blacquier, University of New Brunswick  
Maddox Boucher, The Maritime College of Forest Technology  
Payton Schenkels, Dalhousie University

### Barrier Staff

Edward Stewart, Foreman  
Bradley Smith, Dungarvon  
Christopher Munn, Dungarvon  
David Woods, Northwest  
Joseph Fowler, Dungarvon  
Matthew Sullivan, Northwest  
Paul Norrad, Dungarvon  
Ronald Jagoe, Northwest  
Terry Flanagan, Northwest

## EXECUTIVE

### MSA Officers

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Richard McGuigan, Chair  
Gordon Moulard, Vice Chair  
Bradford Burns, Vice Chair  
Joe Palmer, Past Chair  
Rick Pryde, Secretary-Treasurer  
Hugh Cameron, Legal Counsel

### MSA US Officers

Bradford Burns, President  
David Fenderson, Vice President  
Gary Plante, Treasurer  
Nathaniel Huckle-Bauer, Legal Counsel

### MSA Committee Chairs

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Gordon Moulard, Land-use  
Greg Sprague, Communications  
Kevin Harris, Strategic Planning  
Laura Gilks, Education  
Manley Price, Conservation Planning  
Richard McGuigan, Human Resources  
Rick Pryde, Finance  
Stan Knowles, Membership  
Stephen Tinning, Nominations  
Tristan Hovey, Development

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Chandler Dumaine  
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Chris Smith  
Christopher (Kit) Barrow  
Colin (Rip) Cunningham  
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Deborah Power  
Ethan Augustine  
Everett Taylor  
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Martyn Vickers  
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Stan Knowles  
Stephen Tinning  
Tristan Hovey  
Tyler Coughlan

Vincent Swazey  
Wayne O'Donnell  
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### Memorial Directors

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David Oxley  
David Wilson  
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Jim Hughson  
John Dillon  
Ralph Archibald  
Ted Reevey

**SUPPORTERS 19**



# LIFE MEMBERS

## Life

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Charles Wood  
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Chris Jensen  
Chris Smith  
Christian Michaud  
Christina Molt  
Christopher Arnold  
Christopher Barrow  
Christopher Lloyd  
Churchill Rood  
Ciaran and Hilary Baker  
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Colin Cunningham II  
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Derek Oland  
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Eric Hildebrand  
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Errol Amos  
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George Mumford  
George Peppin  
George Watson  
Georges Family Foundation  
Gianfranco Chiang  
Glen Davis  
Glen Umlah  
Glendon Abbott  
Glenn Beaumont  
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Graham Starratt  
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Grant Ross  
Greg Hartz  
Greg Munn  
Greg Sprague  
Gregg Gorham  
Gregory Petrini  
Gregory Thornton  
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Hadley Ford  
Hans Klohn  
Hans Olsen  
Harris Parsons  
Harry Foreman  
Harry Groome  
Harry McSheffery  
Hazel Swazey  
Hoagy Carmichael  
Hollie Matchett  
Howard Ludington  
Howard Rossbach  
Hugh Cameron  
Hugh Flemming  
Hunter Hallowell  
Hymie Surkis  
Ian Cavanagh  
Ian Hatheway  
Ian Oliver  
Ian Stead  
Irene McCardle  
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J. David Wimberly  
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Jacqueline Oland  
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Jacques Fiechter

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Jim Yerxa	Lee Stairs	Paul Taylor	Sandy Dunnett
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John McNally	Mark Coy	Ray Woodill	Steven Burns
John Mossman	Mark Delaney	Renate Bullock	Stuart Cragin
John Price	Mark Hambrook	Rex Garrett	Sue Moore
John Pugh	Mark Holleran	Rich Breuner	Susan Barrow
John Swan	Mark Watson	Richard Berlin	Susan Thorp Barrow
John Thorndike	Marshall Field	Richard Carpenter	Suzanne Irving
John Tobin	Marshall Hoffman	Richard Eusanio	Suzanne Wonham
John Vickery	Martha Bullock	Richard McGuigan	Tammy Ross
John & Sheila Fitzpatrick	Martyn Vickers	Richard Miller	Ted Reevey

Ted Silver  
 Ted Wojtech  
 Terrence L.S. Teed  
 Terry Wilson  
 Thomas Allen  
 Thomas Doyle  
 Thomas Evans  
 Thomas Lekborg  
 Thomas McKay  
 Thomas Stoneback  
 Thomas Tierney  
 Thomas Vander Salm  
 Thomas Weckman  
 Timothy Foster  
 Timothy Lyons  
 Todd Youmans  
 Tom MacLaren  
 Tom Merrick  
 Tom Vardy  
 Tony Spares  
 Travis Dickinson  
 Trish Ash  
 Tristan Hovey  
 Tyler Coughlan  
 Vince Swazey  
 Vincent Koehler  
 Virginia Hibbard  
 W. Peter Cherry  
 W. Ross Bingham  
 Wade Humphreys  
 Wallace Turnbull  
 Walter Buchan  
 Warren Cresswell  
 Warren Long  
 Wayne Fowler  
 Wesley Curtis  
 Whitehall Investments  
 William Apold  
 William Baker  
 William Barrett  
 William Bullock  
 William Clafin  
 William Comeau  
 William Haldane  
 William Heaney  
 William Henderson  
 William Hoel  
 William Knobloch  
 William McMackin  
 William Munger  
 William Pounds  
 William Stanley  
 William Utley  
 William C.D. Fraser

### **Pledged Life**

Edmond Cournoyer  
 Gaby Dubois-Giasson  
 Hugh Hawley  
 Jeff Knowles  
 Kole Renwick  
 Robert Ahearn  
 William Kean

### **Memorial Life**

A. Ross (Punchy) Walker  
 Allen Watts  
 Anne Harriman  
 Arthur Mitton  
 Bruce Howe  
 Bryant Freeman

Carl Andersen  
 Carl & Mildred Weiss  
 Charles Ferree  
 Charles Norrad  
 Charles Wade  
 Charles Winslow Pond  
 Clarence E.P. (Slip) Crauer  
 David Colter  
 Donald Curry  
 Donald Malcolm Neill  
 Edward Mitton  
 Edward Seward Stevens  
 Eldrid D. Bailey  
 Eric LeDrew  
 Freeman Dunnett  
 G. Guthrie Conyngham  
 George Connely  
 George McAvity  
 Gerry Cherry  
 Harold Gumble  
 Henrick Tønning  
 Herb Wade  
 Howard Brown  
 J. Louis Newell  
 J.E. MacKay  
 Jack Walsh  
 Jacques Page  
 James Wilber  
 Jeff McGuigan  
 Joan Barrett  
 John Behan  
 John Dillon  
 John Newell  
 John Schultz  
 John Stevens  
 John A.G. Page  
 John L. (Jack) McDowell  
 John Thomas Camicia  
 Joseph Cardoza  
 Joseph Hallihan  
 Joseph Sherer  
 Julian Crocker  
 Kingsbury (Crib) Browne  
 Lee Hallowell  
 Lesmere Kirkpatrick  
 M.D. Stairs  
 Max Dean  
 Michael Barrett  
 Murray Calhoun  
 Otto Burt  
 Parker Bancroft (Banty) Reid  
 R. Palmer Baker  
 Ralph Brenan  
 Reginald Coull  
 Richard Brace  
 Richard Cochrane  
 Richard Rossbach  
 Richard Seidel  
 Robert DeVilbiss  
 Robert Stoddard  
 Rolf Hofer  
 Tony Valeri  
 Victor Mainolfi  
 W.L. (Rex) Freeze  
 Warren Duncan  
 William Belden  
 William Gumble  
 William Patterson  
 William (Willie) Bacso  
 William M.R. Mapel  
 Wilmot (Will) Kenneth Webb

### **Corporate Life**

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 CIBC Wood Gundy  
 Dean Bar Salmon Club  
 Eastern Fence Limited  
 Fredericton Outfitters and Anglers, Ltd.  
 Glencore Canada Corporation  
 H J Crabbe & Sons Ltd.  
 International Paper Foundation  
 IP Canada Holdings (Rocky Brook Camp)  
 J.D. Irving  
 Kingswood Ventures Inc.  
 Outfitters and Anglers  
 Palmer Atlantic Insurance  
 Scotiabank  
 Slate Island Wilderness Lodge  
 TD Bank  
 W.R. MacKinnon (2001) Ltd.



**MSA Staff seining broodstock.**



# ANNUAL MEMBERS

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 Bev Bacon  
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 Bob Bowser  
 Brian Williams  
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 Charles Thomas  
 Clare Muttart  
 Claude LaBerge  
 Craig Carlin  
 Craig Woodard  
 D. Brent Corey  
 David Cronje  
 David Foster  
 David Secor  
 Dean Strang  
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 George Hendry  
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 Ian Franklin  
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 James Morell  
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 John Bagnall  
 John Flewelling  
 John Kovar  
 John Marsh  
 Jon Thompson  
 Karen Stilwell  
 Kevin Bonner  
 Laura Gilks  
 Leslie Palmer  
 Merlin Palmer  
 Michael Greer  
 Michael Pratico  
 Michael Sullivan  
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 Peter Mackenzie  
 Randy Arseneau  
 René Marineau  
 Richard Abbondanza  
 Richard Ostrowski  
 Rick Melanson  
 Robb Cotiaux  
 Robert Crowley  
 Roland D'Abadie  
 Ronald Briggs  
 Ross Sonier  
 Royall Victor  
 Shelley Ledrew  
 Stephen Anderson  
 Stephen Flewelling

Stephen O'Brien  
 Stephen Rosenfeld  
 Stephen Tweedie  
 Terry Bell  
 Thor Olesen  
 Tim Ryan  
 Timothy Politis  
 Tyson MacCormack  
 Wayne Power  
 Wesley Armour  
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 Alan Gmann  
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 Brian Richardson  
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 Bruce Gans  
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 Charles Bradbury  
 Chris Annett  
 Chris Avery  
 Clint Christian  
 Dan Farren  
 Daniel Estabrooks  
 David Dunn  
 David Rowe  
 David Sketchley  
 David Skinner  
 David Townsend  
 Dawson Hovey  
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 Dwight Perkins  
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 Frederic O'Donnell  
 Frederick Boyle  
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 Greg Woodill  
 Gregory McCormick  
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 Holly Labadie  
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 Jeremy Dorfschmidt  
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 John Fitzpatrick  
 John Hanson  
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 Kenny Whalen  
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 Mike Connolly  
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 Nick McPhee  
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 Paul Norrad  
 Paul Nuccio  
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 Raymond Asaph  
 Reginald Woods  
 Richard Debow  
 Richard Little  
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 Robert Nadeau  
 Robyn McCallum  
 Rod Currie  
 Ronald Scott  
 Sam Johnston  
 Sandra Hitchcock  
 Sheldon Anderson  
 Tony Harris  
 Troy Tracy  
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 Vincent Colletti  
 Wally Waller  
 Wayne Miller  
 William (Butch) Dalton  
 William Doyle

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 Claudine Philippe  
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 Lyndsay Jay-Keating  
 Norman Stewart  
 Omer MacKenzie  
 Phillip Hallman  
 Reggie Coughlan  
 Wilfred Harding

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 Kenmore Fishing Club (1970) Ltd.  
 Little Forks  
 Maple Leaf Lodge  
 Millbrook Fishing Lodge  
 Miramichi Anglers Association  
 Miramichi Country Haven  
 Mountain Channel Salmon Club Inc.  
 Newfound Outfitting Ltd.  
 Oriole Angler's Club Inc.  
 Push and Be Damned Camp  
 Reel - Ax Sports Chalets  
 Rocky Bend Fishing Club  
 Square Forks Fishing Club  
 Sutter Salmon Club  
 White Birch Lodge  
 Wilson's Sporting Camps

## Complimentary

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 Anne Goulet  
 Ashley Holmes  
 Bill Seretta  
 Bob Price  
 Bradley Clowater  
 Bradley Marin  
 Brian Pierce  
 Bruce Moore  
 Cathy Clowater  
 Chris Moir  
 Colles Stowell  
 David Eaton  
 David Ledlie  
 Deborah Osiowy  
 Ellen Hoster  
 Frederic Jennings  
 Gerry Zegers  
 Henry Putnam  
 Jack Cole  
 James Caccivio  
 Jayne Rudberg  
 Jordan Savage  
 Josie Pierce  
 Karen Svenson  
 Kayden Moir  
 Kelly Moir  
 Kelly Wilson  
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 Larry Bennett  
 Ledwick O'Donnell  
 Lenny Pierce  
 Macklin Williams  
 Malcolm Bowes  
 Melissa Ward  
 Michael Jones  
 Morgan Burns  
 Nolan Bond-Guerrier  
 Philip Munn  
 Rebecca Bowes  
 Ride Sullivan  
 Ryan Skidd  
 Sawyer Holmes  
 Sean Wallace  
 Sebastian Guerrier  
 Stephen Hobson  
 Tom Ackerman  
 Trevor Wellwood



MSA Staff fishing smolt wheels at Wayerton on the Northwest Miramichi River.

## CONSERVATION & FUNDING PARTNERS



Canada



Canadian  
Rivers Institute



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
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