



A LOOK AT MIRAMICHI SALMON NUMBERS FOR 2010 *by Mark Hambrook*

In early May this year, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) released to the Miramichi Watershed Management Committee the 2010 salmon numbers for the Miramichi River. The numbers reflect what most people suspected – that the grilse numbers were quite high in 2010 and the large salmon numbers were down a little from the previous year, but not as bad as expected.

The Miramichi River had 50,000 grilse and 17,000 large salmon returning in 2010, which represents about 80% of the overall conservation target. The Southwest Miramichi comprises about 2/3 of the watershed, while the Northwest Miramichi represents the remainder. When we look at the numbers for each branch, the Southwest Miramichi had 32,000 grilse and 13,000 large salmon, representing 92% of the conservation target after removals; the Northwest Miramichi had 18,000 grilse and 4,000 large salmon, representing 53% of the target after removals. The prediction for 2010 had the Northwest at only 25% of the target and the Southwest at 50%, so why the difference?

The model that DFO uses to predict the number of salmon returning is based on a statistical relationship between the number of grilse returning in a year and the number of large salmon returning the following year. This ratio means roughly two grilse in a given year results in one large salmon the following year. This ratio is based on years of data. Since all of the males and some of the females return as grilse for the first time, and the balance of the females return the following year as salmon for the first time, the ratio of 2:1 makes sense. What also has to be factored in is the number of repeat spawning males and females that become large salmon and are counted in with the virgin salmon in the “large salmon” category. Based on the poor returns of grilse in 2009, at only 11,780 for the whole Miramichi, the prediction was dire for 2010. However, the returns in 2010 didn’t follow any previous pattern and the resulting salmon numbers were not too bad, the third worst in the past 10 years; the number of grilse was the highest recorded since 1996. An important component to the large salmon run was the number of repeat spawners observed at 52%, the highest number of repeat spawning salmon recorded in recent years. This helped to boost the egg numbers.

In the DFO report, no predictions were made for 2011 considering the variances in 2010, but they did provide an outlook for 2011. The outlook is optimistic as more 2-Sea-Winter virgin salmon should be returning in 2011, but there is no prediction for grilse or repeat spawning salmon since there is no model in place to accurately predict this component of the run. In support of the DFO outlook, the Greenland native fishermen reported higher numbers of salmon off the coast of Greenland last fall which would indicate more 2-Sea-Winter salmon available in 2011. It is interesting to note that the MSA smolt program in 2010 recorded the highest number of salmon smolts migrating from the Southwest Miramichi to the ocean since counting began in 2000. The hope is that more smolts in 2010 will produce more grilse in 2011, but that is not always what happens. Until we understand where the mortalities in the ocean are occurring, we can only hope. Indicators are good and optimism prevails, so get out on the water and I hope you have great fishing in 2011.



TAKING REAL ACTION TO PROTECT SALMON STOCKS

by Manley Price

Having just entered into the bright salmon season on the Miramichi River, it is good for a volunteer organization like the MSA to do a reality check. What are we trying to achieve? Do we have goals that are

within our reach? Are we making progress?

Those are the kinds of questions that MSA Directors are continually asking themselves. Most recently, at a Board Meeting in Boston earlier this year, a clear definition of the highest priority emerged, that being the issue of eradicating the Smallmouth Bass in Miramichi Lake; thus the following Resolution was formulated by Bud Bird and Mark Hambrook.

Miramichi Lake - Eradication of Smallmouth Bass Priority Resolution from the MSA Board of Directors February 4, 2011

1. The Atlantic salmon resource in the Miramichi River is seriously threatened by the risk of smallmouth bass escaping from Miramichi Lake into the river waters.
2. Despite strong and extensive efforts by DFO and others to contain the bass within the lake and to exterminate them by physical means, there is clear evidence that the bass will continue to survive and the threat will continue to exist indefinitely.
3. The only certain method of exterminating bass permanently is by treating the lake with a scientific application of Rotenone based on similar measures taken in many such lakes across North America.
4. Timing is urgent, as once escape takes place the threat to the river will quickly become out of control and irreversible.
5. The Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans holds

responsibility for the conservation of Atlantic salmon and thus for the Rotenone treatment of Miramichi Lake.

6. At the present time, the Minister of DFO does not have environmental authority to take such action, and a regulation change (Order in Council) under the Fisheries Act will be required to provide such authority.
7. Action has been initiated within DFO during 2010 to bring about such a change in regulation, and the current status of that process is unknown.
8. It is essential that this regulation change be expedited quickly so that the Minister of DFO can, during 2011, authorize the use of Rotenone in Miramichi Lake.
9. It is similarly essential and urgent that once such authority has been established, the Minister of DFO implement the application of Rotenone in Miramichi Lake in September of 2012.
10. This course of action is considered the highest single priority for Atlantic salmon conservation in the Miramichi watershed and is of the utmost urgency.
11. The combined forces of the Miramichi Salmon Association, the Miramichi Watershed Management Committee, the New Brunswick Salmon Council, the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation stand prepared to fully support the Minister of DFO in this critical and compelling conservation action.
12. The estimated cost of this action will be approximately \$1 million; the effect of it upon future generations of Atlantic salmon in the Miramichi watershed will be *priceless*.

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As well, another extremely important priority for MSA in a visionary act of conservation leadership - is to encourage the First Nations communities on the Miramichi River to ban the use of gill nets in its fishery, opting for their use of exclusive trap nets. The use of this preferred approach provides for their

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TAKING REAL ACTION TO PROTECT SALMON STOCKS - CONTINUED

right to harvest, yet allowing them the opportunity to release large female salmon bearing eggs. Using trap nets in the Native food fishery is a very responsible management measure.

MSA Chairman Emeritus Bud Bird and President Mark Hambrook, in continuing their dialogue with DFO Minister from last fall, had the opportunity to again meet with the Honourable Gail Shea and her Deputy Minister Madame Claire Dansereau and other key DFO officials in Ottawa on March 25th where they presented these two priority proposals – the eradication of smallmouth bass from Miramichi Lake and the idea of conducting a pilot review of the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy with respect to two First Nations on the Northwest Miramichi. Our directors have unanimously expressed their strong

support for these important initiatives, and feel we should offer our services to cooperate with DFO in any way we can to advance these compelling issues. Mark has now had a meeting with the Chiefs of both First Nations on the Miramichi River in the hopes that they will also work with us and DFO over the coming months. It is our goal that we will be able to achieve successful results together with these groups.

So, when we – MSA members and directors alike - ask ourselves what can we do to take real action to protect and sustain our Salmon stocks, these are the kinds of things we can and will focus on to try to make a difference in the long term recovery of wild Atlantic Salmon stocks in the Miramichi watershed.

MSA WELCOMES THE HONOURABLE KEITH ASHFIELD NEW MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS

After the federal election on May 2, 2011, and the result of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cabinet shuffle two weeks later, the MSA is extremely pleased to acknowledge the Honourable Keith Ashfield for the distinction he has received and the responsibilities he has accepted in his new role of Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. We welcome the opportunity to work closely with him on matters of mutual interest in the future.

The son of Nora Locke and the late Jack Ashfield, Keith Ashfield was first elected to represent the federal constituency of Fredericton on October 14th, 2008. On October 30th, 2008, he was appointed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper as the Minister of State for Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

(ACOA), and on January 19th, 2010, the Prime Minister again called upon Keith Ashfield to also serve as the Minister of Canada Revenue Agency; the Minister of Atlantic Gateway and Regional Minister for New Brunswick, as well as continue his portfolio as ACOA Minister.

Prior to his election to the Parliament of Canada, Keith was elected three times to the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. In the Progressive Conservative government under Premier Bernard Lord, Keith served as the Legislature's Deputy Speaker from 1999 to 2003 and as provincial Minister of Natural Resources from 2003 to 2006. From 2006 to October 2008, he sat in Opposition. Keith has been actively involved with the Progressive Conservative Party of

New Brunswick and for many years served as its director.

Before entering provincial politics, Keith was active in school trustee associations at the local, provincial and national levels. He has held senior positions in local companies, and has owned and operated his own businesses. He studied Business Administration at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. Keith and his wife, Judy, currently reside in Lincoln, NB. They have two grown children, Tara and Seth.

The MSA looks forward to formal communication and a meeting with Mr. Ashfield at which time the full range of our conservation priorities can be discussed with him and again, sincerely welcomes him to this important role as DFO Minister.



UPCOMING EVENTS - PLEASE JOIN US!

Annual Miramichi Salmon Classic

The Miramichi Salmon Association is pleased to host its sixth annual "Miramichi Salmon Classic" **July 10 to 13, 2011** with three days of angling on **the Miramichi River**, offering an experience to fish the Little Southwest Miramichi, Renous, Dungarvon, Southwest Miramichi and many other classic tributaries.

The Classic will kick off on Sunday, July 10 with registration starting at 3:00 PM and meet and greet at the Rodd Miramichi Hotel. A reception for everyone is at 5:30, followed by dinner at 7:00 PM and a Live Auction. *Please note that the banquet is also open to the general public.* If you cannot participate in the entire Classic, you are most welcome to join us on this occasion for the reception, dinner and auction. Ticket price for banquet only is \$50. Please come and welcome visiting anglers to the area with true "Miramichi hospitality"!

All fishing will take place in the mornings and evenings, starting on Monday, July 11th and ending at 11 am on Wednesday, July 13th. Lunch will be provided on Monday and Tuesday (locations to be determined), with a final barbeque at the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre at noon on Wednesday.

The Miramichi Salmon Classic fee is **\$350 CDN** and includes 2 and a half days of fishing, a three-day hook and release license, volunteer guide service and ticket to the banquet. Transportation and accommodations is the responsibility of the participants. A variety of motels, cabins and outfitters is posted on the MSA website at www.miramichisalmon.ca.

Annual MSA Fredericton Conservation Dinner Honours Bruno Bobak

MSA's 16th Annual Fredericton Conservation Dinner on **September 20, 2011** will again be honouring an individual who has served the cause of salmon conservation with great distinction. We are pleased and proud to convey that honour to Mr. Bruno Bobak. Bruno has been a Life Member of the MSA since 1998, and among his other honours was invested into the Order of Canada in 1996.

Since 1996, the Fredericton Conservation Dinners have been a tribute to greatly deserving people. As a wonderful bonus to that main purpose, these events have been immensely successful in terms of fund-raising for future MSA work. There is a strong spirit of cooperation and commitment clearly evident among all who share in these events. We especially thank Bruno Bobak for his role in serving as a fine steward of one of the world's great rivers and its precious Salmon resource, and his beautiful portrayal in his many fine art pieces. Tickets are on sale now at \$100. Please call Jo-Anne Linton at 506-457-2220.

Canoe Draw!

You can be the winner of a beautiful Oak Ledge Canoe! You will find a ticket enclosed in this publication for a draw to be conducted at the Fredericton Dinner on September 20, 2011. Sincere appreciation is extended to Mr. Earl Brewer of Fredericton, NB for his donation again of the "Miramichi Lady" canoe handcrafted by Oak Ledge Canoes, an 18ft. canoe, in Fiddlehead Green colour is valued at \$3,500. Tickets are \$100 each and only the first 200 sold will be honoured, so don't delay – fill out the enclosed ticket and send it with your cheque to either of the MSA offices (listed on back page). Visa or MasterCard also accepted by calling the offices.



ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Chairman's Report

The Year 2010 was a busy one for the MSA. As a conservation organization, we accomplished a lot of things, as the following committee reports will describe. In my first seven months in the role of Chairman of MSA, I am pleased to see that some changes were put in place.

It started out with an early spring. We had a great grilse year and the number of salmon was respectable, in fact, much better than the forecast. However, the river and the Salmon are unpredictable, and on June 30th, DFO imposed a catch-and-release only policy on the Northwest Miramichi. A lot of anger and misunderstanding resulted with the regulation change. DFO took this measure because its prediction was that spawning escapement was going to drop below 25% (the trigger to close the system). This decision was made by DFO based on its science. In the end, later in the season, DFO index traps indicated a better than normal year for the Southwest Miramichi and one of the best years for the Northwest branch for both salmon and grilse. It seems that restricting the angling on the latter was a good measure.

I thank the members of the MSA Board of Directors for their continuing participation, expertise and guidance. We were fortunate to have some new directors join us in 2010, namely Brock Curtis of Blackville, NB; Jacqueline Girouard of Ste-Marie-de-Kent, NB; Katherine Hughes of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Dr. James McQuaid of Miramichi and Rick Pryde of Florenceville, NB. We have implemented some changes to various sub-committees and directors have stepped up to the plate to fill those roles. I thank all MSA members for their support and commitment, as well as Mark Hambrook and staff

Jenny Reid, Nola Chiasson and Jo-Anne Linton for their management skills and administrative services. Special recognition goes out to all the members of the dinner committees and donors who so generously contribute to our auctions; these events are paramount in our fundraising efforts and resulted in a total net revenue of \$246,000 in the 2010 season. Each dinner has been a success in its own right. The fact that Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada at that time was the special guest speaker at our fall dinner was indeed an honour, and it was inspiring to hear in the Minister's own words that she highly values the partnership that she and her department has with the Miramichi Salmon Association and is committed to working with us. Likewise, MSA looks forward to a good working relationship with DFO.

One area that I do wish to see improvement in is to more fully engage our youth so that they may come to understand and appreciate the Miramichi River. MSA has educational programs in place; we lend equipment and gear to "Fishing Clubs" in various high schools in the province; we have recently implemented a "First Cast" program for children, some of whom would never have the chance to fish otherwise. So we are making strides in this area, but it is essential to continue welcoming the younger group so that they will keep the river alive and healthy for other generations after them.

I look back at 2010 with great pride and look forward to next year. We are fortunate to share and enjoy our great river and its valuable resources. It is the responsibility of each of us to keep this river and its stocks as healthy as we can.

President's Report

The MSA had a busy year in 2010, in more ways than one! Staff biologist Jenny Reid and her husband became proud parents to a healthy baby boy late December, and on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I wish the new family our sincere congratulations. We look forward to having Jenny come back to work with us in due course.



ANNUAL REPORT 2010

President's Report - Continued

The concern of invasive species in Miramichi Lake kept us extremely busy taking measures to keep the smallmouth bass from entering the Miramichi river system. The Miramichi Watershed Management Committee (MWMC) has developed and advanced the Northwest Miramichi Plan.

Mark advised that he is excited about the kelt tracking program. After enough data is gathered, it is hoped that it will determine the reasons for the high fatality of fish in certain areas.

The Miramichi River and MSA was included in a major international film production called "Lost at Sea" that documents the problems facing the Atlantic salmon in the ocean and explains the research work that is being done on both sides of the Atlantic to address this issue.

Much of the film work is done on rivers in Europe and in the ocean. Thank you to those Directors who contributed to the financing of this Miramichi segment of the video.

Education programs continue to be of high importance to the MSA. Programs at the elementary and high school levels remain a priority; school tours continue at the hatchery and the implementation of the new First Cast MSA program (mentioned previously in the Chairman's Report) allow apprentices and mentors the opportunity to learn the art of fishing.

First Nations had elections in May and Chief Freeman Ward was elected as new Chief of Metepenagiag and Chief George Ginnish was re-elected at Eel Ground, and I look forward to working with them.

Membership Report

The membership committee, co-chaired by MSA Directors Bob Kenny in Canada and Stephen Hibbard in the United States, are constantly working to build MSA membership. There is great strength in numbers, and every member can help. MSA membership really does make a difference. One of the most important things members can do is to constantly remind governments and the general public that the Atlantic salmon and the Miramichi River are symbols of a healthy environment. Taking good care of these resources is fundamental to sustaining our environmental

heritage. We also rely on our existing members to recruit new ones – so we ask again to please speak with your friends, neighbours, fishing companions. We hope that one day everyone who fishes the Miramichi River will be a member of the Miramichi Salmon Association!

At year-end 2010, MSA had 920 active members in a variety of membership categories. There has been a good response to the Life Member Program with the addition of thirteen new Life Members, four Pledged Life Members fulfilled their commitment in 2010 resulting

in a total of 338 in this category. Fifteen people pledged to become Life Members for a total of 31 at this level. MSA has several other membership categories, and each membership, whatever the level, is an extremely valuable addition to the MSA roll.

The Miramichi River is one of the best salmon rivers in North America. Your membership dues are crucial to the MSA operations - please help us continue our programs so we can see the River grow for our future generations to enjoy. Thank you for your cooperation.



ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Finance Report

Finance Committee chairman Carl Ash, FCA reports that the Miramichi Salmon Association, from an organizational viewpoint, is a complicated entity, made so by the participation of members raising funds in two tax jurisdictions. Additionally, the lease arrangements with the Miramichi Watershed Management Committee for the operation of the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre adds another layer of complexity. Because of these factors, the Miramichi Salmon Association is made up of three legal entities: Miramichi Salmon Association, Inc.; a Canadian registered charity; Miramichi Salmon Association (U.S.) Inc., a US registered charity; and Miramichi Fisheries Management Ltd., a NB limited company which operates the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre, formerly DFO's South Esk fish hatchery. Although the three legal entities that make up the MSA have individual financial statements, approved by the Board of Directors, a consolidated statement better demonstrates the size, scope and results of operations. The following is the consolidated statement of operations for the Miramichi Salmon Association for the year ended December 31, 2010. to keep this river and its stocks as healthy as we can.

Consolidated Statement of Operations - Year Ended December 31, 2010

	2010	2009
<i>Revenue</i>		
Fundraising dinners (net)	\$245,877	\$184,397
Maintenance contract	95,000	-
MSA (U.S.) Inc.	80,089	65,252
Membership and donations	43,015	43,422
Government grants	153,960	128,921
Fish sales	181,770	232,242
Investment income	-	46
Rental income	28,663	27,864
Miscellaneous Income	9,616	6,599
Miramichi Watershed Committee Joint Income	14,623	21,355
	852,613	710,098
<i>Expenses</i>		
Salaries and benefits	356,905	337,047
Office expenses	105,833	86,778
Publicity and newsletter	10,904	8,370
Travel	10,032	11,187
Fund raising expense	6,306	4,789
Operations	262,301	201,859
River projects	115,230	115,482
Scholarship	10,200	10,200
	877,711	775,712
<i>(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses</i>	(\$25,098)	(\$65,614)



DIRECTOR'S PROFILE - *Debbie Norton*

Since joining the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting in May 2003, Debbie Norton has proven to be a force of active assistance in the affairs of the Miramichi Salmon Association. As well, her contributions include serving as President of the Northumberland Salmon Protection Association; President of the Miramichi Watershed Management Committee; Secretary of the New Brunswick Professional Outfitters and Guides Association; and most recently, being appointed as Secretary Treasurer of the New Brunswick Salmon Council.

Debbie is truly a Miramichi Salmon professional. Together with her husband Dale, they own and operate Upper Oxbow Outdoor Adventures which has been in her family for five generations since 1823, situated on the banks of the Little Southwest Miramichi. Debbie is very proud of this continuing family

connection, and states "I know that our family home at Upper Oxbow and the wild Atlantic salmon will always be held in reverence as a result of similar values being passed on to our children Bobby and Betsy, and now our two-year old granddaughter Abbi".

By training, Debbie has a Bachelor of Physical Education, a Bachelor of Education, and a Masters of Education from University of New Brunswick. She has been a teacher and guidance counsellor at North and South Esk Regional High School in Sunny Corner for many years. Indeed, she has a very busy life in both respects – outfitting and teaching – and the Miramichi area is fortunate to have the benefit of her dedication.

The MSA is proud to express its recognition and appreciation to Debbie Norton for her important work and

contribution on our behalf. With her great love for the Atlantic Salmon and the Miramichi River, and her deep commitment to conservation of these resources, Debbie brings knowledge and experience to her role as an MSA director. She is an ideal individual to help direct the MSA's future performance, and we are pleased to have her in our ranks.



Debbie Norton presenting "Friend of the Miramichi River Award" to Mr. Ed Sherrard at the NSPA Dinner in Miramichi on February 15 in his honour. Congratulations Ed! Well deserved!

FIRST CAST MSA - *July 23rd and 24th*

MSA is pleased to host the second annual First Cast MSA. This two-day event at no cost to participants, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, July 23 and 24, provides an opportunity for current MSA members to help draw new anglers of all ages to the sport of flyfishing. The first day commences at 8:30 AM and runs through to 4:00 PM at the Atlantic Salmon Museum in Doaktown. The "conservation and river etiquette" session is a full morning, while the "fly casting instruction" is in the afternoon. Sunday session (8:30 to 5:00) will be on the river in Gray Rapids at the camp owned by MSA Director and First Cast Chair Paul Valeri.

This year's program has solid interest from

the general public, as well as the Miramichi and Fredericton chapters of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. If you would like to join us on this occasion, please give the MSA office a call to register. We would love to have you join in sharing the simple pleasure of spending time on the river, absorbing the beauty of it all and enforcing why is it so important to protect the Atlantic Salmon species.

The organization of First Cast MSA does not stop at the end of the day of such an event. It is an ongoing effort, and volunteers were active throughout the winter months speaking at various gatherings, such as Rotary Club meetings, etc., to get the message out

that this program is in place. It is most encouraging that this has resulted in a new awareness whereby people have been generous enough to contribute to its costs. Two sponsorship levels have been established, the "Mentor" level at \$50, and a "Fishguard" level at \$100. These contributions are greatly appreciated. Additionally, we are in need of more donations of fishing gear (including rods, reels, lines and waders) so if you have any extra stored away in your camps or basements, please consider donating them so that a new "angler", some of whom may otherwise not have the opportunity to experience the joys of the Miramichi River, can put them to good use. Thank you sincerely.



THE LORE OF THE MIRAMICHI

The culture of salmon fishing is more than just a magnificent fish. It also involves people, camps and lodges, stores and shops, museums and other institutions. The Salmonletter periodically will feature an article to portray the depth and breadth of the lore of the Miramichi ... here is another one.

BURNT HILL

By Merlin Palmer, Camp Manager

In my opinion, there isn't a more beautiful spot on the Miramichi River than Burnt Hill. It is situated in the Valley with high hills on both sides. You drive into Burnt Hill by car and cross the river by canoe. The camps are on the opposite side of the river. In the early years it was only accessible by canoe.

Joe Jefferson, a silent movie actor from the US, owned Burnt Hill in the 1800's. He built a rough camp known as the "Old Fish House". He sold this around 1905 to Dr. Charles Chase, a dentist from Massachusetts who came for the month of July each year. In 1946, he replaced the "Old Fish House" with two log camps (unfortunately to later be completely destroyed by an ice jam in 1986); in 1950

he sold to Messrs. F. C. Dumaine, T. P. Sullivan and L. Morse. The trio owned Burnt Hill until the 1980's when they sold to U.S. residents William Bullock and Ash Allen. This pair built two new lodges, in 1986 and 1995 respectively, and in 1999, they sold to J.D. Irving, Limited who owns it to this day.

Depending on the water conditions, there can be as many as nine fishing pools. The "Upper Pond" is the high water or late fall pool. The "Mouth of the Brook" is the honey of all the pools and everyone congregates to this one. The cool water from Burnt Hill Brook comes into the Miramichi River here. "Flat Pool" is below the Mouth of the Brook. "Trout Hole" is the next pool, a very good pool,

next is "Camp Pool". Then we move down to "Orrs Rock" and "Cocktail Pool" below that. The next pool downriver is the "Lower Pond". It is just below the Lower Lodge. You can sit in the screened veranda and watch the fish jump, the sound of the water may lull you to sleep. The last pool is the "Lower Pitch" which has good fishing virtually all season long.

Burnt Hill is a very quaint and peaceful place, no televisions or telephones. You can sit and watch the eagles and ospreys; you may see a deer or moose crossing or an old bear with her cubs. The lodges are comfortable, the scenery beautiful, the fishing good - the peace and quiet out of this world!

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE NB WILDLIFE TRUST FUND

Get Your Conservation Plates

The New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund (NBWTF) is a fund to provide financial assistance in the province to help enhance and improve the habitat of our fish and wildlife. Since its creation in 1997, approximately \$1 million per year has been invested in projects to improve fish, wildlife biodiversity and for education programs.

A modest conservation fee, now incorporated into the fees for hunting, trapping and fishing licenses, is put directly into the NB Wildlife Trust Fund each year. Through the application process, MSA has had the benefit of NBWTF funding over the years to help in some of its programs. New Brunswickers can also show their support by purchasing a special Conservation license plate.

The initial cost is \$32, of which \$7 goes directly to the NBWTF. After you have purchased the plate, there is an

annual \$7 fee that goes directly to the NBWTF. Ask your car dealer to install a Conservation license plate or purchase one at any Service New Brunswick location which will identify yourself as a proud supporter of New Brunswick's wildlife. You have a choice of four designs - in addition to the Atlantic Salmon, you may also choose the Deer, Chickadee or Purple Violet.





A CALL FOR MIRAMICHI STORIES

For all of us, a lasting contribution we can offer to the Miramichi are our stories. Stories spread the word about the Miramichi River and its precious resource, the Atlantic Salmon. What do your stories have to do with conservation? Telling stories is how we understand ourselves and the world around us. As we collect stories, our understanding and appreciation of this great watershed will become even deeper.

One of the greatest gifts in storytelling is the capacity to see the extraordinary in the ordinary and share it with others. Lessons and passion live on through writing and the people touched by it. It is a way to share what is learned. We invite our members to please send in your stories as they relate to your river or fishing experiences. We will be pleased to publish some in future issues of the Salmonletter. Please email Jo-Anne Linton at jlmsa@nbnet.nb.ca or mail to the Fredericton office address. Thank you.



MSA MEMBERS – LOOK AT THE BENEFITS!

MSA members can now enjoy the benefit of discounted rates at certain retailers and businesses that also appreciate your support of MSA. Check the MSA website regularly for updated lists as new businesses join this initiative! One of the main strengths of any organization is the size and the spirit of its membership. We thank you for your enrollment and ask that you spread the word to your friends.

MSA MEMBERSHIP REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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