



Atlantic International Chapter

NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Fellow AIC Chapter Members:

I would like to update you on a little Chapter business that has occurred since the January Newsletter came out. In that newsletter I noted that Quebec will be hosting the 2003 Parent Society Meeting on August 10-14 in Quebec City. I also requested your help and support in making the meeting a success.

My first request was for a Raffle Chair, and Brandon Kulik graciously offered to step up and offer his. He has done a great job so far. Francis Bouchard is the local Raffle Chair in Quebec (he even knows French) and has been getting some really great prizes (like all expense paid fishing trips to Northern Quebec). Gabe Gries, Ron Huen and Kevin Dunham have volunteered to be Co-Chairs (I'm one too), get some prizes, and sell tickets at the meeting (we could always use more help though). The committee has commitments on fishing and rafting trips, sporting hardware, prints and artwork, and even the administrative assistant at my office, Lisa Rossignol, donated 5 ice fishing traps that were made right here in Old Town, Maine.

By the way, due to some local provincial ordinances regarding the running of a "raffle" in Quebec, it is no longer a "raffle", or so-called. We are strongly encouraging "cash donations", and we are showing our appreciation by including a portion of the donation receipt in a "drawing for door prizes" to be held at the meeting. Winners need not be present. So when you get those donation requests (wink-wink, nudge-nudge, say no more, say no more) in the mail be sure to fill them out and send them in. Oh, please don't forget the donation part.

Anyhow, we are still looking for some more great "door prizes", and help at the Annual Meeting to sell tickets... I mean collect "donations". It would be great to get some nice prizes from each of the states and provinces in the AIC that are representative of the area and/or are manufactured or produced in that state or province (e.g., artwork, sporting equipment, accommodations at sporting camps or resorts, field books, etc). If you can donate or obtain any prizes please contact someone on the Raffle Committee.

The local arrangements committee for the annual meeting is still looking for some help with session chairs and running of audio/visual equipment. Please contact Stephanie Lachance if you would like to help out at the meeting.

We will be holding our Annual AIC Business Meeting, including election of chapter

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There's still time to register for the 2003 meeting! THE AFS Annual Meeting—
August 10-14 2003!

officers, at the AFS Annual Meeting in Quebec City on Sunday, August 10 in the evening (check the meeting registration packet for exact time and meeting location). If you wish to place candidates in for consideration by the Nomination Committee please submit their names to our AIC Secretary/Treasurer, Steve Shepard. Also submit any resolution you may want to have considered by the membership to Steve so he can include it in the business meeting agenda.

On another note, it is no secret that current economic times are not that great, and all are being affected. Many state, provincial and federal budgets are being cut and this can lead to retrenchments and lay-offs. Some of our membership may have been impacted by this. If you are experiencing this first hand, remember, you are a member of this Chapter and Society, and a benefit is that it offers a great network of fisheries professionals who may be able to help find leads or even provide employment. Contact someone, and get moving again.

Thanks for all your support and help, and a special thanks to Kathryn Collet our current Vice President, Shawn Good our Web Master, and John Magee our News Letter Editor. Hoping you, your friends and family are having a warm, safe, relaxing, and fun summer.

Sincerely,

Larry Miller
President – Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Our Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting should prove to be a great one! Please check the AFS website for meeting information including the schedule of events, symposia times and locations, poster and platform session information, and even a searchable database of the posters and presentations. Click on:

http://www.fapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/AFS_congres/accueil.htm

NEWS IN THE REGION

VERMONT

Dam Removal will Reconnect Lower Lamoille River with Lake Champlain

On January 7, 2003, Governor Howard Dean announced that a settlement agreement had been reached concerning the relicensing of the four most downstream hydropower dams on the Lamoille River, owned by Central Vermont Public Service Corporation. The settlement addresses long standing issues associated with river flow manipulation, downstream fish passage and reservoir water level management. While three of the dams will continue to produce power for the entire term of a new 30-year license, the fourth and most downstream dam (Peterson) will produce power for the next twenty years and then be removed.

Because of its location, Peterson dam has far-reaching effects on many species of fish, mussels and other aquatic life within the Lake Champlain ecosystem that can only be corrected by removal. The connection between Lake Champlain and its tributaries is vital to a number of species that rely on both the lake and its tributary rivers for different parts of their life cycles, such as spawning, juvenile rearing and feeding.



Clifton Lamphere poses with a 164-pound sturgeon caught in Lake Champlain at the mouth of the Lamoille River, 1948. Courtesy of the Milton Historical Society. Spawning runs consist of only a few fish, and surveys have failed to document successful reproduction or the existence of juvenile fish in the Lamoille River.

Construction of Peterson dam in 1948 eliminated most of the historical spawning habitat used by landlocked Atlantic salmon, walleye, lake sturgeon and other fishes. The dam is the first barrier encountered by fish moving upstream from the lake. While the dam is

located 5.6 miles upstream from the river's mouth, the vast majority of this reach is slow, flat water with a sand or silt bottom. Only a short, 350-foot stretch immediately below the dam provides the necessary habitat with a rocky bottom and swift current. Dam removal will restore 2.9 miles of river and the historical habitat accessible from the lake. It will be critical to Vermont Department of Fish and



Peterson Dam as seen from down-

Wildlife efforts to restore walleye, landlocked Atlantic salmon, and lake sturgeon.

A detailed report, *Ecological Assessment of the Peterson Dam Reach of the Lamoille River*, is available upon request in electronic format.

Rod Wentworth, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Email: rod@fwd.anr.state.vt.us

June 18, 2003

ILLEGAL ALEWIVES DISCOVERED IN A SECOND VERMONT LAKE

Castleton, Vermont -- While fishing in the Neshobe Canal on Lake Bomoseen on Friday June 13, 2003, angler Charlie Mingo noticed several small silvery fish floating dead in the weeds. Charlie immediately saw that the dead fish appeared to be alewives, an exotic nuisance species that had been illegally introduced into nearby Lake St. Catherine in the late 1990's.

Charlie collected two of the dead fish and took them to Tom's Bait and Tackle in Bomoseen. Tom Evanoika, owner of the baitshop, confirmed the fish were alewives and called Shawn Good, a Fisheries Biologist with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Shawn, along with seasonal fisheries technicians John Piper and Ryan Smith, surveyed Neshobe Canal that afternoon and discovered 15 additional dead alewives floating in the canal.

"This is a very disturbing discovery," said biologist Shawn Good. "We have spent a great deal of time and energy over the past several years trying to inform the public about the serious ecological consequences of spreading alewives to other waters of the state. It appears that we have not gotten through to some individuals."

Alewives are a member of the herring family and are native to the Atlantic coastal waters. They have the ability to adapt and live their entire lives in freshwater. In inland lakes where they have become established, they have caused the decline of some native fish populations such as smelt and perch. Alewives compete with these fish for food. They are also known to eat the eggs and fry of fish such as bass, pike, and panfish.

Alewives also have been linked to reproductive failure in trout and salmon. "When trout and salmon eat alewives," said Good "They absorb an enzyme from the alewives called thiaminase which breaks down vitamin B1 (thiamin). This can cause a vitamin deficiency that can kill newly hatched fish - almost 100 percent in trout and salmon."

Biologists with the Fish & Wildlife Department have worked to keep alewives from getting a foothold outside of Lake St. Catherine. The outflow from the lake eventually enters Lake Champlain via the Mettawee River, near Whitehall, NY. Similarly, water from Lake Bomoseen flows to Lake Champlain via the Castleton and Poultney Rivers.

"If alewives are now living in Lake Bomoseen, the chance of them ending up in Lake Champlain is a real threat," said Good. "However, we don't know at this time whether the alewives that were found dead were part of an established population in Lake Bomoseen, or if they were discarded by an angler from a bait-bucket."

Although there is a nearby population of alewives in Lake St. Catherine, it is more likely that the dead alewives found on Lake Bomoseen came from out-of-state. It is illegal to use alewives as bait in the State of Vermont.

"Many camps in the vicinity of the Neshobe Canal on Lake Bomoseen are frequented by folks from other states, where using alewives as bait is a popular and legal practice because alewives are native to those states," said Good. "It is possible that an out-of-state angler brought these alewives as bait from their home state, not knowing that they were illegal in Vermont."

Vermont State Game Wardens are beginning an investigation in hopes of finding the individual who released alewives in Lake Bomoseen. If anyone has any information about this illegal introduction, please call 802-773-9101 in order to talk to a warden, or call OPERATION GAME THIEF toll-free at 1-800-75ALERT (1-800-752-5378).

For more information on the discovery of alewives in Lake Bomoseen, or impacts of alewives on Vermont's native ecosystems, please contact Vermont Fish & Wildlife's Pittsford District Office at 802-483-2172.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Fifteen Fisheries Biologists, Wetlands Biologists and Fish & Wildlife Technicians from the NB Dept. of Natural Resources & Energy participated in a 3-day Swiftwater Safety Operations (SSO) Level II Certification course on May 5-7th. The course was delivered by Mr. Jim Lavalley of Rescue Canada. This course is designed for technical field personnel who operate in low to medium risk moving water environments. The focus was on decision making as it relates to Occupational safety; Hazard awareness & avoidance; Self-rescue & rescue of teammates; and Job efficiency & effectiveness. The three days were spent on the Nashwaak and Oromocto River systems where the water was high, cold and fast - but not as bad as three weeks earlier when Mary Sabine (F&W) successfully dodged ice flows to complete the 5-day Swiftwater and



Boat Safety Operations course.

The group learned the proper techniques for wading, tethered wading & swimming, live-bait rescues, ferrying, anchoring, vectoring, trying to self-extricate from log jams



and foot entrapments, etc. In the end, it all came down to the aptly named "survival swim". Perhaps the two most important take-home messages were that 1) you can't have enough of the right safety equipment around you; and 2) in reality, good judgement should always prevail (i.e. contrary to popular opinion, counting fish is actually not worth the risks that are sometimes taken).

This SSO course is recognized by the International Rescue Instructor's Association and is taught in many countries. There are a number of different I.R.I.A. certified training courses available dependent on areas of interest and skill level. For more information, check out the web sites www.rescuecanada.com or www.iria.org

Participants:

Kathryn Collet, Charles Ayer, Dwayne Sabine, Peter Cronin, Rob Capozzi, Kevin Connor, Lee Swanson, Amanda Keddy, Krista McCoy-DeBouver, Denis Guitard, Rodney MacEachern, Pam Seymour, Steve Currie, John Blenis, Ed LeBlanc

MAINE

June 27, 2003

New laws get tough on illegal introductions

AUGUSTA, Maine -- New laws designed to prevent the illegal introduction of fish into Maine's waters should help the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife combat what has become an epidemic of illegal stockings of fish throughout the state. Governor John E. Baldacci recently signed L. D 1635, An Act Concerning Illegal Introduction of Fish in Maine Waters, into law this week.

"Illegal introduction of fish into Maine's waters are devastating some of Maine's native fisheries," said IFW Commissioner Roland D. Martin, "these new laws allow us to stop the illegal transportation or possession of live fish, and prevent an illegal introduction before it occurs."

Pike were recently discovered in Sebago Lake, and illegal introduction of fish into Maine's waters is occurring at alarming rate. These illegal introductions devastate native fisheries within a watershed. For instance, In Long Pond in Belgrade where pike were illegally introduced, annual trapnet catches of salmon by IFW biologists used to average over 50 salmon, but the catch plummeted to just four in 2000 and none in 2001. In 2001, the proportion of netted salmon showing scarring from pike attacks increased dramatically from the single digits in the early 1990's to 37% in 1999 to 75% (3 out of the 4) in 2000. Bass are also being moved illegally within Maine. From 1986 to

2000, there were 59 documented illegal bass introductions statewide.

The emergency legislation states that any legal fish, except baitfish and smelts, taken from inland waters shall be immediately released alive into the waters from which it was taken, or shall be killed at once. Failure to do so is now a class E criminal violation, and violators face a mandatory revocation of their fishing license.

This emergency legislation also makes it a criminal violation to possess live fish for stocking, breeding and advertising purposes without a permit, as well as for someone to introduce fish into inland waters without a permit. These penalties also include a mandatory license suspension and a fine of not less than \$1,000, and not more than \$10,000. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife does issue permits for stocking private ponds as well as permits for possession of live fish for breeding and advertising purposes, and will continue to do so under the new laws.

"These laws are an important tool for us in combating the epidemic of illegal stockings," said Colonel Tim Peabody of the Maine Warden Service.

The bill was passed by the 121st legislature as emergency legislation, it was signed by the governor on June 23, 2003, and it is now currently in effect.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ATLANTIC SALMON COMMISSION

The Atlantic Salmon Board is recruiting for Executive Director, Atlantic Salmon Commission. This is administrative work, developing, implementing, and coordinating a statewide Atlantic salmon restoration program. The Board is seeking a professional with proven leadership and administrative skills in the natural resource field, with demonstrated ability to develop consensus among people with diverse interests and implement effective collaborative large-scale conservation projects. Minimum qualifications: A ten (10) year combination of education, training, and/or professional experience that demonstrates in-depth administrative ability and general knowledge of fisheries management. Please send a letter stating your leadership point of view and why you are interested in the position. Provide examples of work that reflect the skills and abilities being sought by the Board along with a resume or curriculum vitae no later than August 7, 2003 to:

Karen Bickerman
172 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0172

The Executive Director is responsible for hiring and managing all other Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission (MASC) staff. The MASC is charged with restoration and management of Atlantic salmon throughout its original range in the State of Maine. With a staff of 15 full time and 9 seasonal people in four offices, the MASC is involved with all aspects of Atlantic salmon research and management in coastal and eastern Maine. The MASC conducts various Atlantic salmon research projects in collaboration with, and financial support from, NOAA. These projects include evaluating freshwater survival of stocked salmon, smolt migration studies, fishway effectiveness, and adult returns. The MASC also conducts research on juvenile salmon survival and the impacts of irrigation on habitat, hydrologic monitoring, and habitat protection.

The MASC manages the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan for Seven Maine Rivers, developed to guide State actions to protect Atlantic salmon habitat. The MASC is working with NMFS and USFWS to develop a Recovery Plan for Maine's Atlantic salmon, which is expected to be available for public comment in August 2003.

July 9, 2003

Pilot water chemistry enhancement study proposed for one of the eight Maine Atlantic salmon rivers

Orono, Me- NOAA Fisheries, in partnership with other government agencies and non-profit organizations, are in the process of implementing a study to increase calcium levels and hopefully increase Atlantic salmon smolt production on the Dennys River. The Dennys River in eastern Maine is one of eight rivers in Maine with federally listed endangered Atlantic salmon populations.

The study has emerged in response to recent water chemistry data, and information presented last March during a water chemistry workshop and forum. The forum was held in Orono, Maine hosted by Project SHARE, a non-profit organization dedicated to Atlantic salmon habitat restoration and enhancement in downeast Maine. The University of Maine, watershed councils, and federal and state agencies collected water quality data over several years. Parties involved in the collection of the water quality data have observed episodes of low pH and high aluminum concentrations in some of Maine's downeast rivers. In addition, fairly new physiology data has revealed very low smolt survival that may be attributed to low calcium, low pH and high aluminum concentrations.

With an estimated total of 23 – 46 Atlantic salmon returning in 2002 to the eight Maine rivers with endangered Atlantic salmon populations, the urgency to explore new strategies has led NOAA Fisheries to commit to a water chemistry enhancement study that would increase calcium levels in hopes of increasing Atlantic salmon populations and attempt to answer the question why smolt survival is so low. Every effort is being made to plan this project for the future as well as the present, and to involve all parties that have contributed data and research towards the development of the study. Preliminary plans are to initiate the study on a portion of the Dennys Rivers just outside the Town of Eastport, Maine. The site was selected based on the availability of existing data and assessment capabilities.

For more information on the water chemistry enhancement study please contact Dan Kircheis, Fisheries Biologist with NOAA Fisheries, at 207.866.7320.

Other AIC News

Many thanks to those of you who have submitted articles and reviews. The newsletter is our primary outlet for sharing information with those members who cannot attend our annual meeting, so it is important to spread the word about projects happening in your region.

As a reminder, I take submissions anytime throughout the year. You can contact me via e-mail:
Jmagee@gomezandsullivan.com
 or by phone: (603) 529-4400

Website News

Shawn P. Good
 District Fisheries Biologist (a.k.a. *The Webmaster – insert requisite oooh's and ahhh's here*)
 Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife

As many of you know, I've been managing the AIC website (www.fisheries.org/aic) for a couple of years now. So far, I believe I've developed a fairly decent website, but I've largely done this on my own with little input from other members in terms of structure. I would like to take this opportunity to point out that this is the *Chapter's* website, not mine, and I'm always looking for input, suggestions, and ideas on how to make the website better and more attentive to the needs of our members. One of the benefits of the AIC having it's own website, as I see it, is that it gives us an immediate means of information dissemination, and I'd like to urge our membership to begin taking better advantage of this site and it's potential. Up-

dating the website is really quite a simple task. So, when members have meeting announcements, job postings, additions to our bibliography, or any other pertinent information they would like to have available to our membership and other "surfers", then please send it to me and I will post it. I can take documents in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format, I can convert either to PDF, I can post data and spreadsheets for downloading. Perhaps you have some interesting photos of meetings or projects. Perhaps you have a contribution to the "Fishy Humour" page the possibilities are endless.

AIC Bibliography

To save on mailing costs, the bibliography is now available on the chapter website. New submissions (citation only—please do not email the actual document to Gabe) should be sent to the AIC bibliography coordinator, Gabe Gries at ggries@starband.net. They will then be posted on

National Chapter News

the website in both pdf and text format.

Well, of course, there is the 2003 Annual AFS meeting, but other AFS news can be found at:
<http://www.fisheries.org/WhatsNew.shtml>



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