
**Recreational Fisheries Advisory Council
Minutes of the 2012 RFAC Meeting****Area 1**

Date Prepared: November 2012*Inverness, Victoria, Cape Breton and Richmond Counties*

The RFAC meeting for Area 1 was held on November 1, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in Sydney, Nova Scotia. In addition to Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture staff, there were 54 people in attendance. Darryl Murrant, Manager, Inland Fisheries Division chaired the meeting while biologists John MacMillan, Jason LeBlanc, Tara Marshall, technicians Reg Madden and Cathy Munro, hatchery managers Sean Neary and Steve Thibideau, manager Al McNeill, Director Don MacLean, and Coastal Resource Coordinator Nicole Sampson from the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture were also present. Fishery Officer Pat Young from Conservation and Protection, Fisheries and Oceans was also present. The meeting began at 6:30 pm with a brief introduction of those present, and a review of the agenda by the Chair.

2012 Regulation Changes and Proposed Changes for 2013

Al reviewed the 2012 regulation changes from page 3 in the Angler's Handbook. These changes included: (1) River Denys, Inverness County: The entire River including tributaries and River Denys Basin is now open May 1 to September 30. The bag limit is 3 speckled trout, only one of which could be >35cm and it is still catch and release only during September, (2) The Cape Breton Highlands Special Trout Management Area is now open from January 1 until September 30 for speckled trout. The bag limit remains 10 per day, only two of which can be over 24.5 cm, and (3) In the Bras d'Or Lakes, a minimum size limit of 35cm all year for rainbow trout was implemented. Brown trout can also be retained all year in the Bras d'Or Lakes in the area currently open for rainbow trout. From Oct 1 to March 31 there is a bag limit of two trout (brown or rainbow) per day.

Al also reviewed the Proposed changes for 2013 on page 5. Al noted that the first proposed change – a review of spawning season restrictions for smallmouth bass would be covered in Jason LeBlanc's presentation.

Other proposed changes for 2013 included:

(1) Opening the Cape Breton Highlands Special Trout Management Area all year. An angler raised concerns that opening this area in September, during spawning season, may have negative impacts. John MacMillan explained that recruitment in this area is high resulting in high densities of fish. Populations could benefit from increased harvest.

(2) Opening a winter fishery for white perch on Lake Ainslie. Jason LeBlanc indicated that we would not be opening Lake Ainslie for a winter perch fishery primarily because of a high likelihood of speckled trout by-catch and concerns that both trout and white perch populations are already under stress from invasive smallmouth bass, warm summer temperatures and annual algal blooms.

(3) Providing an extended season for brown trout on Salmon River Mira. Anglers in favour of this change suggest that there is a good population of brown trout on that river and a closure of the salmon season restricts their access to other species. It was suggested that similar requests in other areas have

been made so anglers could have access to Atlantic salmon while angling for trout. Al McNeill committed to ongoing discussion on this request with Federal Fisheries, who manage Atlantic salmon.

Licencing Update / 2010 Sportfish Survey Results

Al provided licence sales data for 2011 and past years. Total general fishing licence sales in 2011 were 62,997 which was a small decline from 2010, but still over 20% of 2005 sales. Salmon licences were up slightly in 2011 at 2,575. Salmon licence sales have been very consistent between 2,200 and 2,500 since 1998, reflecting the popularity of this fishery in spite of the fact that many rivers are currently closed to angling.

Al discussed progress the Department has made on a number of licencing issues that have been raised in past RFAC meetings as well as some concerns brought forth by the Nova Scotia Salmon Association and other groups. These included regulation changes to reduce anglers fishing intentionally for a species during the closed season for that species under the guise of angling for another species which has an open season in the same waters. Al said the problem still exists but the Department and DFO are trying to find solutions to trouble spots without closing the entire season. Discussions have taken place with DFO during the spring ZMAC meetings to consider the impact of closing certain salmon pools to all angling during the summer months on selected rivers where problems are occurring. DFO has consulted on these closures with anglers on the St. Marys, LaHave and Medway and come up with a list of pools which were closed in mid-June.

Al provided a brief overview of the current state of electronic licencing and reporting. The Department has been working with the Departments of Natural Resources and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations to build an electronic licencing system. Although this has been delayed, currently, the Province has hired a consulting company to review the existing Business Case and data collected and propose a solution to provide the capability for online purchasing and reporting for hunting, fishing and trapping licences. This will not be implemented in time for the 2013 angling season, but the Department is hopeful it will be ready for 2014.

Other licencing issues were difficulties in purchasing a licence from a vendor late in the season, and under-reporting of catch and effort (poor returns for General and salmon licence stubs). To resolve these problems, since 2011, all Department of Natural Resources field offices will ensure general fishing licences are available until the end of the general fishing season in September. In 2011, six prizes were awarded to randomly selected anglers who submitted their licence stub (report card) to the NSDFA by the end of December for both general and salmon licences. We hope this incentive will increase the number of licence stub returns and will continue it this year.

Al reviewed several requests the Department has received about new types of licences. Two groups have requested a catch and release licence be made available for Atlantic salmon. A request was also received to provide a reduced rate for seniors for Atlantic salmon licences similar to the general fishing licence. Requests to consider a new concept of a "family licence" as well as increasing the minimum age to require a licence from 16 to 18 were also received. Al also explained that the Province is working with DFO to try to find a way to licence anglers who fish in saltwater for trout. Currently, the Province does not have the authority to require anglers to have a licence while fishing in tidal waters for trout as long as there is a season open. Unlicensed anglers in tidal waters are not contributing to the Sportfish Habitat Fund, fisheries management or the stocking program.

An angler questioned whether, requiring a licence in tidal waters, was an attempt to gain jurisdiction for fisheries management in tidal waters which is a Fisheries and Oceans mandate. Al reiterated that the Province is only interested in the species it currently manages.

John Hart, on behalf of the Margaree Salmon Association, suggested the creation of a catch and release licence and acknowledged their support for electronic licencing utilizing the Wildlife Resources Card currently used by DNR.

Al provided a few selected results from the 2010 survey of Sportfishing in Canada for Nova Scotia anglers. He indicated that a draft report has been received by the Department and will be finalised and published in the new year.

The Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund received a budget of \$311,024 in 2012, based on 2011 licence revenues. Twenty-five community groups were involved in 2011. Total funds to Adopt-a-Stream were \$290,000 in addition to \$100,000 in funding from the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission. Three other projects received funding in 2012, the West River Sheet Harbour Lime doser project, and two barrier-free projects designed to increase accessibility to handicapped anglers. Al reminded those present that the Sportfish Habitat Fund provides money to projects that improve angler access to the resource such as boat ramps and fishing piers, and encouraged anglers to review the on-line application and consider submitting projects before the March 1, 2013 deadline.

Al also provided the names of the nine groups which qualified for the 2012 Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund for Nova Scotia. The call for proposals for 2012 closes on Dec 14, 2012. Interested groups can visit the website: www.salmonconservation.ca for details and to find out which projects were funded in 2012 and earlier.

Hatchery Report / Trout & Salmon Enhancement

Darryl Murrant, Manager of Fisheries Enhancement, gave a brief overview of the provincial fisheries enhancement programs. The Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture operates three hatcheries, Fraser's Mills Hatchery in Antigonish Co., McGowan Lake Hatchery in Queens Co., and Margaree Hatchery in Inverness County. He distributed the Spring and Fall stocking lists and noted they are both on the Departmental web site, <http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/sportfishing/>.

Spring Trout Stocking

In an effort to sustain the very popular recreational trout fishery, each spring the hatcheries stock approximately 200 lakes across Nova Scotia. Most of these are stocked with brook trout; additionally, over 20 lakes are provided with rainbow trout from the Fraser's Mills Hatchery. In recent years much of this stocking activity has been directed to lakes in populated centers, providing recreational angling opportunities to an increasingly urban population and helping to maintain an important sportfishing industry. There are now over 25 wheelchair accessible, barrier-free facilities in Nova Scotia. Most are located on sites that receive trout from the hatcheries. Last year trout were made available to support over 40 of the Department's Learn to Fish projects. As well, approximately 50 trout fishing derbies sponsored by volunteer organizations received trout from the hatcheries.

Fall Trout Stocking

Trout stocking with finger-sized juvenile trout is carried out in October and November. Lakes stocked in the fall are typically more remote than the spring-stocked lakes, but still have significant fishing pressure. These fish are presumed to grow for a season before becoming large enough to contribute to the creel. Approximately 175 lakes receive brook trout in the fall. Most brown trout stocking takes

place at this time of year. The majority of brown trout stocking takes place in rivers where the fingerlings have access to estuaries where they can grow quickly.

Winter Rainbow Trout Stocking

Winter is long and cold. Nova Scotians are encouraged to remain active all year and many do so by getting out and enjoying time ice fishing for rainbow trout. Twenty lakes, including the Bras d'Or Lakes, are stocked in November and December in anticipation of the winter season.

Harry Vickers asked if we are still stocking triploid rainbow trout and the status of a previous request to stock rainbow trout in a small pond near Florence. Darryl indicated that recently there have been some issues with triploid performance in the hatchery so the current program utilizes diploid (all female) and that the hatchery is currently at its maximum limit for rainbow production so cannot consider additional sites. Dave Harding suggested reducing the number of speckled trout stocked to allow for an increase in the number of rainbows. It was also noted that several rainbow trout were caught in the Mira and Salmon rivers.

Atlantic Salmon Enhancement Program

2012 was the sixth year that the Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture has been working to support the Atlantic salmon and enhance the fishery. Last year, fall parr were provided for the Waughs River, Colchester Co., St. Francis Harbour River, Guysborough Co., Margaree River, Inverness Co., Baddeck and Middle Rivers, Victoria County. It is unlikely that the fall salmon season on the Baddeck and Middle Rivers would have been permissible without the stocking program.

Record rainfall in September and October made broodstock collection very difficult. Successful collections took place on Waughs' River, Middle River and Margaree River; although the target numbers weren't reached on the Margaree. Broodstock were not able to be collected from the Baddeck River or St. Francis Harbour River.

In addition to providing brook trout for local watersheds and selected sites on Cape Breton Island, the Margaree hatchery typically supplies 130,000-160,000 parr each fall and 30,00-40,000 Atlantic salmon smolt in the spring, for the Margaree River. The value of the Atlantic salmon fishery to the Margaree community is estimated to exceed \$4,000,000.00 per year.

The N.S Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture has been working with DFO, for the past few years, to find ways to expand the number of rivers where Atlantic salmon populations can be enhanced from the Margaree hatchery. It is hoped that this issue will be resolved over the next few months.

Community Based Enhancement Facilities

A number of community- based fishery organizations operate small scale hatcheries or incubation boxes. Trout and, in some cases, salmon eggs are delivered to these in late winter. The fry hatch in early spring and when they have developed to the point where they are able to begin feeding on their own, they are released. This usually takes place in early to mid-May. Over the last few years there were operations in New Waterford, Port Morien, Coxheath, Isle Madame, Mulgrave and Tatamagouche.

Fish Friends

Fish Friends is an excellent educational program, sponsored by the Nova Scotia Salmon Association and maintained through the hard work of many dedicated volunteer organizations. Aquarium units are set up in participating school class rooms and teachers are provided with educational material about the salmonid life cycle. Children get to watch the eggs hatch, and the fry develop. They feed them for a few weeks and then release them into a local stream. Last year the hatcheries were able to provide eggs to approximately 60 Fish Friend projects.

Review of 2012 Field Activities

Coldwater Species Management

John MacMillan provided an update of the salmonid (cold water) species program and the projects that were funded under the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative (FFRC). The data collected over the past ten years in the Cape Breton Highlands was reviewed. Trout habitat in the Cape Breton Highlands is unique due to the fact that there is limited competition from other fish species and there is an abundance of good spawning and rearing areas. In this situation trout will tend to over-populate and stunting will result and the anglers catch is usually comprised of small trout. Fishing opportunities have been expanded in this region to include year-round angling with a bag limit of ten trout per day for Cape Breton Highlands Special Trout Management Area. The length limit of 254mm or 10 inches is no longer a part of the regulations in this Special Trout Management Area.

One angler raised a concern about angling occurring during the spawning period in September and October. John explained that limited recruitment does not seem to be an issue that has impacted the number of trout in highland lakes.

Striped bass in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence have been designated as threatened under the Species At Risk Act (SARA). As a result, the fishery has been closed. The only known spawning population in the Gulf is located in a small section of Miramichi Harbour. A recovery target of 31 thousand spawners has been used as a benchmark to gauge the population status in the Gulf. The recovery target has been exceeded in three of the five years from 2006 to 2010. Preliminary data from the 2011 assessment indicated that the population has once again exceeded the recovery target. The status of striped bass in the Gulf will be reviewed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and based on the new information a change in status may occur. If the status for striped bass in the Gulf is changed a recreational fishery may be a future consideration. Anglers have expressed interest in an opportunity to catch stripers in the Gulf of St Lawrence.

Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative

The Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative (FFRC) was established five years ago to facilitate applied research with universities and government agencies. This initiative was set up to address fisheries management questions and the interests of anglers and the Inland Fisheries Division. In 2012, a total cash investment of 30k dollars was made toward FFRC projects and a total in-kind was 136k dollars. In-kind contributions were associated with labour, supervisory, and equipment from partners. In 2012, the following six FFRC partnerships received funding : 1) Freshwater Fish parasite distribution, Dr. David Cone, St Mary's University, 2) Evaluation of stream restoration, Kris Hunter, St FX University, 3) Impacts of Invasive species on fish populations, Danielle Quinn, Acadia University, 4) Revising FINS

database, Dr. Trevor Avery, Acadia University, 5) Striped Bass tracking, Colin Buhariwalla and Dr. Mike Dadswell, Acadia University, and 6) Cornwallis Trout assessment, Dr. Ian Spooner, Acadia University.

Aaron Spares, PHD Candidate, from Dalhousie University, has conducted research on sea trout in the Antigonish region. This project was funded through the FFRC previously. Forty trout have been measured and tagged with temperature/depth acoustic tags. Receivers that are used to detect a tagged trout were placed throughout the harbour and inflowing West and South Rivers. Some of the tagged trout show and extensive use of the harbour waters on both sides of the border of the West River management Area. Anglers from the Antigonish Rivers Association recommended that a reduction in daily bag limit to two sea trout for the South River side of the harbor. John indicated that a change in bag limit from five trout to two trout may reduce harvest by reducing fishing activity on the South River Side of Antigonish Harbour.

Dr. David Cone, St Mary's University is collecting information on common trout parasites that inhabit lakes and rivers throughout Nova Scotia. Two brochures on the black spot and the gill maggot parasite have been developed. Another on internal parasites is planned for this year. Brochures are used to inform and facilitate the collected of information from anglers on the distribution of common parasites.

Kris Hunter, Saint Francis Xavier University, is working on the second year of a long-term study on the impacts of commonly used in-stream restoration initiatives to improve habitat for trout and salmon. For the first five years the eight sites will be monitored on an annual basis to assess habitat and fish populations. In year five, four of the eight sites will be restored and monitoring will continue for another five years post-restoration. Long term studies are needed to evaluate annual natural fluctuations in order to obtain a true picture of the impacts of restoration.

Danielle Quinn, Acadia University, is using information of fish species distributions to evaluate potential impact of invasive smallmouth bass and chain pickerel on native sportfish populations. Dr. Trevor Avery, Acadia University, is working on updating our current lake survey database that contains habitat and fish species information on 1200 lakes. Eventually the lake survey data will be available to anglers and researchers via a web-based portal.

Colin Buhariwalla and Dr. Mike Dadswell, are undertaking a striped bass tracking project in Cape Breton. The two known spawning locations in the Maritimes are the Mirimichi River and Shubenacadie River. Spawning occurs in mid-May to mid-June and at temperatures close to 12 C. Growth is rapid and males mature at 2-3 years and females mature at 3-6 years. Very little is known about the origin of stripers that frequent waters of Bras d'Or Lakes and in Cape Breton rivers and estuaries. Some may be long distance migrants from USA and use this region as a feeding area and/or there may be a small spawning population in Cape Breton. With the help of many volunteer anglers, bass were caught and measured, sampled for DNA, and an acoustic tag was inserted in the body cavity. Acoustic tags put out signals (sounds) that are detected by receivers that are in place in the Bras d'Or Lakes, Maritimes and along the Eastern Seaboard. The receivers collect information on a wide variety of fish species as a part of the larger Ocean Tracking Network initiative. Colin B. wanted to specifically thank Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife, G. MacKinnon, N.Lee, A. Murphy, A.Pyke, P.Young, P. Wukitsh, and the many other anglers who helped with the project. The 2013 field season will be the 2nd year of this project and the data will provide insight as to the origin of Cape Breton stripers and health and status of this population.

Dr. Ian Spooner, Acadia University, provided supervisory support and office space for a student at Acadia University to assess sea run speckled trout and brown trout populations in the Cornwallis River. Fyke netting, angling, and electrofishing were used to capture trout.

The new lake Inventory Program is an updated version of our Lake Survey Program. New Geographic Information Systems (GIS) equipment has been used by Reginald Madden, Fisheries Technician, to collect high quality data and produce bathymetric maps of lakes in Nova Scotia. Sampling methodologies have been improved to increase efficiency. The plan is to sample five to ten lakes each year and add to the current database of lakes in Nova Scotia.

Smallmouth Bass and Invasive Species Management

Jason LeBlanc provided a review of the current smallmouth bass angling regulations for RFA 1. This RFA is closed to angling for smallmouth bass except Lake Ainslie and Blacketts which are open from April 1 to October 31. The bag limit for smallmouth bass in these two lakes is 25 fish/day as part of our aquatic invasive species management program. Chain Pickerel angling is permitted on Blacketts Lake until October 31 since the season is open for smallmouth bass. The bag limit for chain pickerel is also 25 fish/day.

Jason also provided a summary of field activities on Lake Ainslie where smallmouth bass nesting surveys have shown an increase in the number of nests, particularly in the southern end of the lake. Research will continue on how this species utilizes lake habitat and on the impacts that invasive bass may have on local fish communities.

An Inland Fisheries Working Group, made up of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, the Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers, the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the Responsible Bass Anglers of Nova Scotia has been meeting to develop workable solutions for aquatic invasive species issues in Nova Scotia. Specifically, the purpose of the WG is to provide a forum for the exchange of aquatic invasive species (AIS) information and enhanced planning, cooperation and coordination of existing and future AIS activities in Nova Scotia as they relate to the recreational sport fishery. The Working Group has been able to maximize the combined efforts of provincially based sportfishing organizations and has recommended to the Department that developing and implementing an AIS Management Plan for the sportfishing sector in Nova Scotia should be a priority for 2013.

Amendments to the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act in November 2010 enabled the development of regulations to better address AIS in Nova Scotia. The regulation will prohibit the “possession of live fish” in starting in 2013. Some exemptions will apply whereby current activities already licenced or permitted will be able to continue. This regulation is necessary to address the long standing issue of illegal introductions of invasive species in Nova Scotia by providing an enforceable regulatory tool. Some anglers raised concerns that they would no longer be permitted to use live bait. Jason responded by saying that mis-use of live bait by anglers is an important pathway for introductions of aquatic invasive species in many areas but that the primary pathway in Nova Scotia continues to be illegal releases. Consequently, at this time no changes are being considered for the use of live bait in Nova Scotia. Several species are already not allowed as bait in Nova Scotia, as per the Maritime Provinces Fishing Regulations, including smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, brown bullheads, white and yellow perch, goldfish or any fish not captured in Nova Scotia waters. Anglers are encouraged to check their bait carefully to ensure they do not possess any of these prohibited species.

Jason LeBlanc also summarized Departmental priorities for 2012 – 2017 for aquatic invasive species management which include: (1) implementing Live Fish Possession Regulations, (2) continue to monitor and document the expanding distribution of smallmouth and chain pickerel in NS, (3) conduct and support research focused on assessing the impacts of aquatic invasive species introductions on native species, (3) develop early detection and rapid response plans, (4) continue to be leaders on aquatic invasive species Issues in the region, and, (5) develop an aquatic invasive species management plan for the sportfishing sector.

Cathy Munro provided an overview of a project with the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources and the Aboriginal Guardian Program. The project involved trap-netting in the Seven Mile Brook area to determine if invasive chain pickerel and smallmouth bass were moving upstream from Blackett's Lake. Preliminary data suggest chain pickerel are present in the lower portions of the stream. Additional sampling will continue in 2013 to investigate the extent of their spread within the Sydney River watershed. Keith Christmas spoke to the importance of collaborations such as this project and the concerns Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources have about invasive species. Keith and Cathy thanked those involved in the project. Jason LeBlanc said we will consider doing more work here next year, possibly some electrofishing.

There was a question raised if the Department had any plans to remove the bag limits on invasive species.

Jason replied that although it seems like that could help, research has shown that invasive fish species cannot be eliminated from a waterbody through angling removals alone.

One angler remarked that water temperatures are now warmer in the lakes and asked if this means there will be more smallmouth bass. Jason replied it's possible as bass prefer warmer water than trout.

Education / Extension Programs

Tara Marshall reviewed the education and extension programs that were completed in 2012. Tara explained the L2F (learn to fish) program and gave an overview of the participation rates since 2006. Tara reported on the number of 2012 L2F programs in the province and gave a breakdown for each Recreational Fishing Area by county. She explained that the program is booked for 2013. Tara highlighted the participating schools in specific Recreational Fishing Areas and talked about the Scouts and Girl Guide groups in the area taking advantage of the L2F program.

Tara reviewed the number and location of summer Fisheries Science Recreation Day Camps that took place throughout the province and mentioned that all summer camps were interested in the L2F program.

Tara reviewed the educational partnerships and programs with Department of Natural Resources throughout the province. Family L2F events were held at Shubenacadie Wildlife Park to celebrate National Wildlife Week. The L2F program was delivered in Lower Sackville to celebrate Kids in the Forest Day. Tara explained the Fishing Tackle program and the participating parks where it is available. She gave an overview of the Fishing Workshops delivered by Department of Natural Resources Education Officers as part of the Parks Education program. Tara also mentioned that she delivered a family L2F program at Smiley's provincial park.

Tara also explained the L2F programs delivered with IWK Children's Hospital, Mental Health Division and First Nations. Tara reviewed the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) program. She explained

the classes she instructed at the New Brunswick BOW workshop, the Nova Scotia BOW workshop and provided some data presented at the International BOW Coordinator's Conference. Tara also spoke about a survey that the BOW Board of Directors is working on to get some feedback from participants regarding fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation pursuits.

Tara also reviewed the Family Fishing Adventures Contests for youth and talked about the upcoming Free Winter Sportfishing Weekend. Tara thanked all the volunteer instructors and sponsors for the L2F program.

Discussion/Agenda Items from the Floor

Gary Gibson suggested that new anglers should be educated on angling etiquette, ethics and handling fish. Al McNeill noted that there is some information provided to anglers in the Anglers Handbook.

Ray Tynski indicated that he was looking for a cooling unit for the Fish Friends program if anyone knew where he could get one.

An angler raised concerns that a company was attempting to restrict boats on Grand Lake and that a meeting request has been sent to the proponent to discuss the issue.

James Langley asked about temperature data for River Denys. He suggested that the river experienced extremely high temperatures and should have been closed to angling. Gordie MacKinnon asked if any areas have been closed before due to high temperatures. John MacMillan indicated that closing areas because of high stressful conditions could be an option but that 2012 was very warm in many areas.

Gary Gibson expressed concerns about harvest of "black salmon" by First Nations. Darryl Murrant suggested that the issue could be better discussed at an alternate meeting and Keith Christmas added that the issues were being looked at. Gary thought the First Nations participation in the Blackett's Lake project is good.

Lenny DeCoste, on behalf of the Richmond Wildlife Association, proposed that DFO implement a regulation to require the use of floating lines and floating leaders while salmon fishing on the Margaree River. The reason for this request is to stop illegal jigging for Atlantic salmon.

John Hart, on behalf of the Margaree Salmon Association, requested that when the salmon season is open on a river which has a listed salmon season that anglers must be in possession of a valid salmon licence. They suggested that very few people target trout on the scheduled portion of the Margaree River after June 1. MSA would like this implemented for the 2013 season.

Dave Harding asked why anglers can use power bait in areas where live bait is prohibited. Al McNeill replied that there is a legal definition of bait, hooks, etc., which we will be discussing with our provincial and Federal colleagues in the next few months.

Some anglers commented on what they believe is high by-catch of speckled trout during the winter rainbow trout season on the Bras d'Or lakes.

Dave Harding suggested that someone should conduct research on grass shrimp in the Bras d'Or lakes as it represents important forage for trout.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm