
**Recreational Fisheries Advisory Council
Minutes of the 2014 RFAC Meeting****Area 4****Date Prepared:** December 1, 2014*Digby, Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth Counties*

The annual RFAC meeting for Area 5 was held on 5 November, 2014 at the NSCC Shelburne Campus, Shelburne, Nova Scotia. In addition to Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture staff, there were 11 people in attendance. Andrew Lowles, Sportfish Development Officer chaired the meeting and was joined by Darryl Murrant, Manager of Fisheries Enhancement, biologists John MacMillan and Jason LeBlanc, Al McNeill, Manager of Resource Management, and Coastal Resource Coordinators, Amber Creamer and Jennifer Mosley. The meeting began at 6:30 pm with a brief introduction of those present, and a review of the agenda by the Chair.

Licensing Update

Al provided licence sales data for 2013 and past years. Total general fishing licence sales in 2013 were 66,745 which was a slight decrease from 2012 and an increase of over 35% of 2005 sales. Salmon licences were up slightly in 2013 at 2,532. 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.

2014 Regulation Changes and Proposed Changes for 2015

Al explained the process by which we change sportfishing regulations and reviewed the 2014 regulation changes from page 3 and the proposed changes for 2015 on page 5 in the Angler's Handbook. A new Special Trout Management Area was developed on Big Meadow Brook, Tusket River in 2014. John MacMillan indicated that anglers have reported better fishing there and that could be a good indication that the population may respond positively to the regulations.

John MacMillan also reviewed proposed regulations for the upper Medway and Mersey rivers. Anglers have requested a reduction in the bag limit for trout on waters formerly owned by Bowater-Mersey Inc. John noted that due to limited access to the area it was difficult to obtain enough angler catch data to assess the current population. Several anglers suggested that angling activity in the area has increased but is under reported and that poaching is an ongoing issue. There was general consensus that anglers would support access to that area but regulations should be implemented to reduce exploitation. Brian Dulude suggested that we review the trout regulations for neighboring watershed in Keji Park.

Jason LeBlanc reviewed the proposed lakes for inclusion in Special Management Areas for smallmouth bass and those starting in the 2015 angling season were discussed. These included West Horseshoe Lake, Shelburne County, Ponhook and Molega lakes, Queens County and Kemptback Lake, Yarmouth County. Special Management Area regulations for smallmouth bass include extending the angling season until December 31 but from April 1 to May 15 no smallmouth bass may be retained (spawning season). The bag limit is reduced to 3 and all bass over 35 cm (13.8 in) must be released. The primary goal of these regulations for smallmouth bass is to shift (or maintain) the size structure of bass in these

lakes to favor growth and higher mean sizes in selected populations, thereby increasing the proportion of larger bass.

Jason explained where it was felt these regulations could benefit bass populations the most and indicated that Kemptback Lake was a good location. There were no objections to including Kemptback Lake, Yarmouth County for these regulations. Currently, about 57% of smallmouth bass weighed in at local tournaments exceed 35 cm. Special smallmouth bass area regulations are intended to maintain that higher proportion of larger bass. PonHook and Molega lakes, Queens County were also considered but will not be included for special smallmouth bass area regulations. Smallmouth bass populations there seems unstable given tournament sampled sizes ranges from 20-60% over 35 cm, with the most recent sample at 37%. Additionally, these two lakes are within the Medway River watershed where concerns were raised that larger fish sizes expected from regulation changes increase potential threat to vulnerable southern uplands Atlantic salmon populations. West Horseshoe Lake, Shelburne County will also not be added to special smallmouth bass area regulations due to limited access and reduced angling opportunities.

One angler's only concern with special smallmouth bass regulations was that it limited anglers to retaining bass < 35 cm. Vinal Smith asked why we don't allow more small fish to be harvested from special bass management areas. Jason said we tried that in high harvest lakes such as Gaspereau Lake but it did not work. Bass anglers just don't harvest enough bass to make a difference. Vinal said that, as a guide it would be good to keep one large fish (over 16").

Sportfish Habitat Fund Report

The Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund received a budget of \$323,151 in 2014, based on 2013 licence revenues. Twenty-three community groups were involved in 2014. Total funds to Adopt-a-Stream were \$290,000 in addition to \$100,000 in funding from the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission. Four other projects received funding in 2014; the West River Sheet Harbour Lime doser project, and three boat launch/ barrier-free projects on Lake Ainsle, New Germany Lake, and Porters Lake. 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, 2015 deadline.

Al also provided the names of the seven groups which qualified for funding under the 2014 Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund for Nova Scotia. The call for proposals for 2015 closes on Dec 19, 2014. The Fund has done well in recent years, and as a result, Nova Scotia's share of available funding for 2015 is \$103,000. Interested groups can visit the website: www.salmonconservation.ca for details and to find out which projects were funded in 2014 and earlier.

There was a question about how the money generated by the Sportfish Fund is distributed around the province. Al explained the Adopt-a-Stream application, it's coordination and funding process and that each application is assessed based on merit, and indicated that three groups received funding from RFA 4 in 2014.

Horace MacPherson asked what portion of the Sportfish Habitat Fund is directed at Atlantic salmon versus brook trout. Another angler suggested that the money spent seems disproportional to salmon,

yet, the majority of licence sales is generated by trout anglers. Al explained that habitat improvements benefit both species. Brian Delude, on behalf of the Medway River Salmon Association, summarized their activities funded by the Sportfish Fund such as stream restoration, installing temperature loggers and monitoring pH (acidity). The Medway Salmon Association is perusing the development of a business case for liming and submitting a proposal to Ottawa for \$2,000,000.00 for liming the rivers in SW Nova Scotia.

Review of 2014 Field Programs and Field Work

Hatchery Report / Trout & Salmon Enhancement

Darryl Murrant, manager of the Fraser Mills Hatchery 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. Spring and fall stocking lists were made available and Steve noted they are both on the Departmental web site, <http://novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing/hatchery-stocking/>

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 59 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.

Representatives from the Medway Salmon Association indicated that they assisted McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery to adipose fin clip sea-run speckled trout which were released in the Medway River. They thanked Darryl and Mike McNeil for their ongoing support of the stocking program and for supplying eggs for both their community hatcheries and the Fish Friends Program.

Winter 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 trout. Twenty lakes, including the Bras d'Or Lakes, are

stocked with either rainbow or speckled trout in November and December, in anticipation of the winter season. Several other lakes which are stocked in the spring remain open year round, as well.

Atlantic Salmon Enhancement Program

2014 was the eighth year that the Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture has been working to support the Atlantic salmon and enhance the fishery. On Cape Breton Island, the Margaree Hatchery will provide fall parr for Margaree River, Baddeck River, Middle River and Mabou River. It is unlikely that the fall salmon season on the Middle River and Baddeck River (both stocked 2010-2014) would have been permissible without the stocking program. On the mainland, Fraser's Mills Hatchery will provide fall parr for Waugh's River. With assistance from many volunteers, successful broodstock collections took place on for West River Antigonish, West River Pictou (Fish Friends), Middle River, Baddeck River and Margaree River. Broodstock collection was attempted on Mabou River but water conditions were very high and no fish were captured.

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 30,000-40,000 Atlantic salmon smolt in the spring, for the Margaree River.

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. In addition to the Margaree River broodstock, salmon from Baddeck River and Middle River are now held at Margaree Hatchery to provide eggs for next year's production. Broodstock from West River Antigonish and West River Pictou (Fish Friends) are held at Fraser's Mills Hatchery.

Medway River Salmon Association asked how much it costs to produce an Atlantic salmon smolt. Darry indicated that it is difficult to assess in our hatcheries because we do so many other things. However, he added that the industry standard may be around \$3-4/smolt. There was general discussion around expanding the salmon program to the Medway River; perhaps community groups such as Wild salmon Unlimited can find way to recondition Medway River kelts to produce smolts in a private facility..

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 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 trout and salmon 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.

Promotion and Development programs

Sportfish Development Officer, Andrew Lowles reviewed the programs currently in place to help promote sportfishing Nova Scotia. Andrew began working for the Department in March and started into the Learn to Fish (L2F) Program upon arriving in Nova Scotia. Andrew explained the Learn to Fish components - classroom and fishing, and thanked the fish hatcheries for their hard work stocking fish for each event. In total, forty-nine sessions were delivered in 2014 to approximately 1,750 participants across the province. While the majority of the program is delivered to school groups, Andrew delivered sessions at IWK Children's Hospital, and to girl guides, scouts and 4-H clubs. Learn to Fish partnered with the Department of Natural Resources to deliver two days of Learn to Fish to more than 80 youth and parents at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park in celebration of National Wildlife week. Andrew wants to recognize the contributions of Mike O'Brien, Stephen Jollymore and everyone from the Hants West Wildlife Association, as well as Mark Weare, The First Cast Radio Show, Shimano and Pure Fishing Canada for their efforts in delivering the program and for the generous donations of equipment.

While every effort was made to run Learn to Fish in all reaches of the province, two Recreational Fisheries Areas remained under represented: RFA1 (Cape Breton), and RFA4 (Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens) . Additional effort will be made to recruit participation from these areas in 2015.

Andrew, along with Fisheries Education Assistant, Rebecca Blank instructed a number of modules of the Nova Scotia Becoming and Outdoor Woman (BOW) in September. The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture will continue to support BOW in the upcoming years.

A number of new initiatives are in place to promote sportfishing in Nova Scotia. Andrew will be creating six RFA-specific guides to sportfishing. These will be made available at Visitor Information Centers, at trade shows and by mail request. Going forward, Inland Fisheries will capitalize on electronic and social media to deliver messages quickly and effectively. The Fisheries and Aquaculture website will be revamped to a more user friendly format, program specific Facebook and Twitter accounts will be created.

Vinyl Smith commented that most of the L2F activities are for trout and would suggest they could target other species such as smallmouth bass. Andrew explained that utilizing the hatcheries maintains a high success rate for first time anglers but that opportunities to angle for other species can be considered. Vinyl noted that the NS Guide Association (Junior Guide Program) organized a bass event on Ten Mile Lake and was able to organize several boats to assist.

Greg Sutcliffe asked if we promote barbless hooks during L2F sessions. Andrew indicated that the program covers many types of tackle and techniques and encourage students to make informed decisions.

Invasive Species Initiatives

Jason LeBlanc provided an overview of some of the projects and invasive species initiatives the Department was involved in during 2014.

Ongoing initiatives on aquatic invasive species include: (1) documenting and monitor occurrences of AIS across the province; (2) participating on AIS national committees; (3) prioritizing enforcement activities around Nova Scotia's *Live Fish Possession Regulations*; (4) building capacity for control of AIS in Nova Scotia; (5) testing and evaluating an electrofishing boat as a potential control option for

specific situations; and, (6) developing a strategy (risk assessment & rapid response) which identifies options aimed at reducing the negative impacts of invasive species and conserves native species.

Cannon Lake Smallmouth Bass Project

Preliminary assessments suggest there is a well-established population of smallmouth bass in Cannon Lake, Queens, Co., NS, which is a headwater lake that flows into Loon Lake in Kejimikujik National Park. There is no evidence that smallmouth bass have emigrated downstream. However, this population poses an immediate threat to the freshwater ecosystem within Kejimikujik National Park as well as the upper Mersey river watershed where smallmouth are also not known to occur. This multi-year project will attempt to control smallmouth bass in Cannon Lake using various techniques such as boat electrofishing, fyke nets and directed angling removals. Sampling in 2014 determined that bass are successfully reproducing in Cannon Lake but that large captures of yellow perch, white perch, suckers, bullheads and shiners suggest fish diversity is similar to pre-bass conditions. Plans for 2015 are to continue removals with assistance from Kejimikujik National Park to reduce the risk of bass colonizing adjacent Park waters.

There was some discussion about chain pickerel distributions. Vinal added the Jordan River is hard to access for fishermen. Chain pickerel are in the Mersey River as far as the #2 dam near Danny Hirtles house. Also in Herring Cove Brook. Someone reported catching pickerel between the two bridges in Milton.

Jordan River Watershed Chain Pickerel Project

Invasive chain pickerel have caused reduced angling opportunities throughout the Jordan River watershed in recent years however the extent to which they have colonized the system has not been documented. Angler logbooks were distributed to anglers who frequently target the watershed to assess changes in catch rates and document known occurrences of chain pickerel throughout the watershed. Preliminary results suggest a decline in angler activity and catch rates for brook trout.

A member of the audience asked about the status of pickerel in Jordan Lake. Jason stated that there have been no confirmed reports of pickerel in Jordan Lake but that a detailed assessment of the fish community will be conducted in 2015.

FINS – Fisheries Information of Nova Scotia Database

Jason provided an overview of progress made on a new database which will be used to manage, distribute and report on the biological, physical, and chemical data which supports sport fisheries. The project is divided into three phases: (1) data extraction, quality assurance and reorganization, and re-entry into new platform; (2) advanced searching, reporting and mapping functions; and (3) web-based client access. The project is expected to be completed over the next 14 months.

Coldwater Species Management

John MacMillan provided an update on the 2014 field activities related to speckled trout. Assessments were conducted to evaluate angler catches in two sea run trout fisheries on the East River of Pictou and the Barneys River. A creel survey was also conducted in the upper Mersey watershed. Staff assisted researchers involved in Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative Projects. Reports of the two creel surveys are available.

The Pictou County River Association recommended that special regulation be implemented for the East River of Pictou to improve the catches of sea run speckled trout. This system is under a delayed opening and with the assistance of many volunteers a total of 80 trout were tagged prior to the opening of the angling season on 15 May. Between 15 May and 8 June, anglers were counted and interviewed to measure activity and their catch at popular angling sites. Estimated total angler effort spent on the East River was 2013 hours and resulted in the harvest of 122 speckled trout. The population estimate for sea run speckled trout was about 500 fish. Minimum exploitation rate was estimated at 30% for the season. Twenty-nine percent of the angler catch of speckled trout was longer than 35cm in East River. In comparison, the percentage of large trout (>35cm) caught in the Special Trout Management portion of Antigonish Harbour was 64% in 2006 and 53% in 2007. The percentage of large (>35cm) sea trout caught in River Denys Basin was 6 in 2008 and 14 in 2010 prior to regulatory changes to reduce harvest. Differences in catchability of brown trout and speckled trout indicate that brown trout are much more difficult to catch than speckled trout and the population of brown trout in the East River is increasing. This study including a creel survey will be repeated in 2015. The PCRA commented that they support the continuation of the East River creel survey and population assessment again in 2015. John thanked Matt Dort and all the PCRA volunteers who helped with tagging and capturing trout this year. Lawrence Legere asked how long before the season did the Dept. tag fish. John answered as soon as the ice was off in March.

A request to delay the season opening for Barneys River was received by the Department to improve catches and protect downstream migrating Atlantic salmon kelts. An angler creel survey on Barneys River was undertaken between 15 and 20 April 2014 and these data were compared with catch information from that same time period during 1991-1997. This fishery is a popular brown trout fishery and a by-catch of few salmon occurs each year. Catch of speckled trout is consistently small relative to the catch of brown trout.

Colin Buhariwalla, has studied striped bass on the Mira River over the past two years and is now conducting a similar project on the East River of Pictou and Pictou Harbour. Striped bass in Northumberland Strait are located at the Northern end of their North American Distribution that extends as far South as Florida. In order to survive bass must seek out warmer waters in winter and that usually requires stripers to move into freshwater locations as saltwater cools to below zero to temperatures that are lethal to stripers. The Nova Scotia Power Trenton Plant produces a warm water outflow that discharges directly into the estuary of East River Pictou. Many striped bass inhabit this location during the cold winter months. A shut down of the Trenton plant in January 2013 resulted in the death of many striped bass from cold shock. Approximately 100 bass were collected and sent for genetic analysis. Although, most striped bass in Northumberland Strait come from one large spawning population in the Miramichi River, the results of genetic analysis on East River bass stripers suggested that they may be distinct from the Miramichi population. The purpose of the current research project is to determine if an additional spawning population of striped bass is present in the Northumberland Strait.

Concerns were raised at three RFAC meetings in 2013 regarding the potential removal of gates that reduced vehicle access to lands formerly controlled by Bowater-Mersey. A recommendation was made to reduce the bag limit on trout so that the potential increased in angler effort would not result in over-harvest of the trout resource. Information on the trout resource in this region is limited and in response the Inland Fisheries Division initiated efforts to collect baseline data on this fishery. Mike McNeil, McGowan Lake Hatchery took the lead and set up a creel survey with the assistance of DNR (Kerry Miller, Terry Beck, and Jennifer Innis) and enforcement staff. Dave Dagley and Queens County Anglers and Hunters Association were interested in participating in an angler logbook survey if access was permitted. Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources is undertaking assessments to

determine the ecological significance of this area and has decided to maintain gates/barriers on certain main roads to this region. Changes to access will be dependent after the assessment takes place. The ability to collect catch data and the need for regulatory changes can be reevaluated once the decision on access to this region is made.

There was concern that there are too many trails and the area is being overfished. One angler indicated he was in favour of some reasonable restrictive regulation. Another angler thought the department should consider implementing regulations similar to those in place at Keji Park.

Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative

The Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative (FFRC) was established several years ago to facilitate applied research with universities. This initiative was set up to address fisheries management questions and the interests of anglers and the Inland Fisheries Division. In 2014, a total cash investment of 30k dollars was made toward FFRC projects and a total in-kind was 134k dollars. In-kind contributions were associated with labour, supervisory, and equipment from partners. In 2013, the following five 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) Smallmouth bass trophic level and mercury assessment, Dr. Lind Campbell, St Marys University, 4) Striped Bass tracking in Mira River, Colin Buhariwalla and Dr. Mike Dadswell, Acadia University, and 5) Evaluation of DNA of speckled trout in small streams in Annapolis Valley, Dr. Daniel Rizzante, Dalhousie University.

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 Xavier University, 2013 was year three of a ten year study on water chemistry, habitat and electrofishing results will be assessed to evaluate 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.

Colin Buhariwalla and Dr. Mike Dadswell, are undertaking a striped bass tracking project in Cape Breton and in Pictou Harbour.

Dr. Daniel Rizzante, Dalhousie University, DNA of speckled trout from 16 sites in 14 streams on North Mountain, Annapolis Valley, was assessed. The purpose will be to evaluate populations upstream and downstream from barriers and assess the how different populations are based on their proximity from one another.

Dr. Linda Campbell, St Mary's University is evaluating mercury levels in fish in lakes and evaluating trophic levels of species within populations.

Strategic Planning Initiative

Al explained the Inland Fisheries Division has been working on a Strategic plan which will guide the activities of the Division and the recreational fisheries programs for the next five to ten years. Staff have reviewed earlier Divisional plans, plans from other provinces and states, and drafted a plan which includes overall goals, individual strategies and action plans as well as measurable outcomes. The key areas we are focusing on are: Responsible Governance, Fish and Fish Habitat, Shared Stewardship, Consultative and Collaborative Approach to Fisheries Management, Science-Based Decision making, and Fostering Angling Opportunities. Al said the next steps will involve completing the draft with the assistance of Policy Division staff, First Nations consultation, Anglers/general public consultation, and finally presentation to cabinet for approval and implementation.

Discussion/Agenda Items from the Floor

Horace MacPherson, Medway River Salmon Association, indicated that his fishing shop sold over 400 licences in 2014 and added that there is a lot of interest in angling on the Medway River. He generated a lot of interest from US anglers who want to fish for smallmouth bass and brook trout but the DFO closures on 22 km of river, in place to protect Atlantic salmon, are during the best times for those species and represents a missed opportunity. He feels that closing 10% of the river prohibits 80% of the best angling. He added that the closures should coincide with the most vulnerable periods for salmon (i.e, during low flow and high temperature periods). DFO is hindering the economic development opportunities in Queens Co. by restricting the development of legitimate trout (and bass) fisheries. They should have staff enforce restrictions on salmon angling on the Medway River, not simply close the trout fishery.

Queens County Fish and Game Association indicated that they are in favour of maintaining the pool closures. Rob Harlow suggested it would be deterrence to poaching if legitimate angling was permitted.

It was noted that chain pickerel are established in the lower Mersey River and that the donor sources may have been Bar Pond.

Horace MacPherson commented on the importance of attracting non-resident anglers to Nova Scotia and suggested the forthcoming strategic plan should look at that potential and market our sportfishery. Horace added that the strategic plan appears to be very positive and is encouraged by the direction the Department is going.

Mersey River Salmon Association is interested in participating in an angler logbook program to assess the proportion of fin clipped brook trout angled.

There was much concern expressed over trout fishery and access to the former Bowater lands. The general feeling was access roads should not be gated. Tax payers bought the land and there is no other area in the province where such a large parcel of crown land has restricted access. Currently there is only illegal access from OHV's and so little or no enforcement presence. Really just keeping law abiding anglers out and allowing law breakers on OHVs in. The department was advised to get a handle on the activity there and consider regulations if warranted.

Meeting adjourned 8:46 pm