



Hammond River Angling Association



Headlines

Spring 2009

Newsletter Change for “The Greener Good”

The newsletter that we have all come to know and anticipate is changing. This change is brought on by the increased concern of waste through its production. The HRAA will no longer be sending out hundreds of mailed newsletters. However limited black and white newsletters will be sent to those who request them. The newsletter will now be available in full colour on the official HRAA website, www.hraa.ca. Also limited colour copies of the newsletter will be kept in the HRAA office.

HRAA announced as ASF Affiliate of the Year for 2008

By Tom Benjamin



*Extracted from the Telegraph-Journal Friday
March 27th, 2009 Photo: Noel Chenier*

It was a great honour for the Hammond River Angling association to be named as the 2008 Affiliate of the Year in a recent announcement by ASF President Bill Taylor.

The ASF has 117 affiliate organizations throughout its network of seven regional councils in eastern Canada and Northeastern USA. The HRAA is on one of the 26 affiliates of the NB Salmon Council. HRAA President Barry Carr received the plaque for the award, as well as \$1,000 cheque to support our programs in an event March 28. The

venue was the joint NB Salmon Council – ASF fundraising dinner at Fox Creek Golf Club in Dieppe. The dinner was organized in conjunction with the Dieppe Fly Forum. The dinner was sold out, with

several HRAA members and supporters on hand to witness the event. A plaque denoting the award will be hung in the HRAA Conservation Centre.

It was part of an active and successful weekend for HRAA volunteers. A strong contingent of volunteers sold Trout Draw tickets throughout the two days of the event, raising close to \$2,000. And, Dieppe Fly Club president Jacques Heroux also made a presentation of a cheque for \$1,000 to HRAA Executive Director Tom Benjamin. The Dieppe club, also an NBSC affiliate, donates the profits from its annual fly show to other non-profit organizations in the area.

New Biologist Joins HRAA

We're pleased to announce that Sean Doyle has joined the staff at HRAA as a watershed biologist. Sean, a long-time resident of King's County, has an MSc in Biology from UNB and graduated from Kennebecasis Valley High School. He has extensive experience with marine and freshwater environments, and is an active fly-fisherman and tyer. (You'll find him at the vice during HRAA's Fish and Jam most Wednesday evenings.)

Sean knows the Hammond well, from years of fishing the river system. He also worked extensively with UNB's Dr. Matt Litvak on sturgeon research on the lower Hammond River.

Sean, his fiancée Julie, and young son Owen are currently living on the Kingston Peninsula.



Extracted from the Telegraph-Journal, 07 April 2009, written by Andrew McGilligan.

The Hammond River Angling Association

presents

Third Annual Fun For All
Fishing Derby

For youth, families and adults.

Saturday, June 6, 2008

Fisher Lake (Rockwood Park), Saint John

(Rain date Sunday June 7)

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Possession limit is five fish per day, but we encourage catch-and-release angling.

Prizes for Lucky Anglers!

No fishing license is required during this event.

Fishing will be from shore only, no boats permitted. Bait will be available for sale during the event.

All funds raised will be used to support the education and environmental programs of the Hammond River Angling Association.

Refreshments will be on sale.

Brought to you by HRAA and HRCF



Message from the President, Barry Carr

We have another busy season beginning for HRAA, with our many program and projects beginning to take shape. And, we need to continue our vigilance on the river, working with local all stakeholders to be sure the river is treated with appropriate respect in every case.

With the opening of fishing season this year, as with every year, the HRAA is concerned with the well-being of our black salmon (Kelt) population. Although strict guidelines dictate that the season is closed to salmon fishing, accidental hook-ups often take the lives of these hungry and weakened individuals. There are many ways to improve the chance of survival in accidentally caught salmon and we would love to have a chat with any local angler who wants to better understand proper catch and release techniques. If you're fishing an area that could potentially hold salmon, using a single barbless hook will greatly improve the survival rates for accidentally-hooked salmon.

The HRAA has recently undergone some staff changes and reorganization that position us for another successful year. Planning is well underway for our many programs, and we're pleased that many staff are interested in coming back again to work with our very successful Kids r Cool for Conservation summer program.



President Barry Carr receiving ASF Affiliate of the Year award for 2008 on behalf of the volunteers, executive and staff of the HRAA!

And, there will be some new opportunities as well. We are also excited to begin the development of a new project with PALS Hampton. Through this project, students from PALS will construct an artistic structure using willow trees guided by the voluntary contributions of local artist Alison Murphy.

We have recently completed our watershed management plan. It took a great deal of development, but we now have a comprehensive record of data and concerns for every reach of our valued watershed. We will use this resource as a framework for future efforts in our restoration strategies to promote a more structured and priority-driven plan of action. Staff are currently developing the salmon management plan that will be used to guide our efforts in fisheries activities. We are looking for input from many experienced salmon researchers to guide the development of this crucial document.

And, this is a key time for some of our significant fundraising projects. Please remember to buy your tickets for the Annual Anglers Draw, with the draw date coming up on April 25. And, our Annual Dinner is taking shape, with something for everyone at the live and silent auctions. Looking forward to seeing you at the dinner again this year!

Upcoming Events

Annual Fishing Derby planned for June 6

HRAA's popular fishing derby will be held again this year on June 6 at Rockwood Park.

This youth-oriented event is set to coincide with NB Fishing Days, when no license is required to fish New Brunswick waters. This year the event will move to Fisher Lake, instead of Lily Lake, due to the construction underway near the Lily Lake Pavilion.

As usual, the event will include trout being stocked into the lake, with prizes offered for participants. This is the third year for the event, after its initial startup by Arnie Boer. Arnie will be back in time to assist this year's event chairman, Wayne Love.

The event is one of several HRAA activities generously sponsored by Cooke Aquaculture! In the event of rain, the event will be moved to Sunday, June 7.

Annual Dinner

It's that time of year again, tickets for the 14th annual dinner are now available. The event is scheduled for May 9th, 2009, at Saint Mark's Church. This year the meal will be a roast beef buffet, with all the trimmings. The events will be starting at **6:30 PM** this year, with First Cast and Smoked Salmon Reception, followed by the roast beef buffet at **7:30 PM**. Tickets are \$45.00 a plate and can be purchased through the conservation office (832-1230).

Coffeehouse April 25

On April 25th HRAA will be hosting the first coffeehouse of the spring! The trout draw for raffle will take place during the festivities. Be sure to check you weekly e-letter for further information on the coffeehouse.

Trout Draw- Annual Trout Raffle Tickets now available!

Our very popular Annual Anglers Draw tickets are now available, with a fresh assortment of prizes. This year's selection, (thanks to the great organizing efforts of Jim Gillespie), include:

- A shark fishing trip for two off the coast of Nova Scotia-- a thrilling fishing opportunity!
- A 12-foot Sylvan aluminum boat with a Yamaha outboard, just what you need to hit the lakes this spring.
- A pair of Saga scooters....beat gas prices with scooters that get 110 miles per gallon.
- Shopping spree valued at \$6,000 from Goldsmith Studio.
- Salmon fishing at its best on the Restigouche, with knowledgeable guides on this world-class river.
- A deluxe moose hunting trip for one person to Newfoundland.
- Or, \$4,000 in cash.

Prizes offer something for everyone. Draw is to be held at a coffeehouse April 25, get your tickets early! Drop in to the Conservation Centre for your tickets. A PDF file of a color poster outlining the raffle is attached. (It's also on our website, located under "downloads").

Latest Accomplishments

Kids-R-Cool 4 Conservation

We are pleased to announce that our Kids R Cool camp will be up and running again for the 9th straight year and we are ready to accept registrations! The summer of 2008 proved to be a great success with a total of 1357 camper days over the course of ten weeks. A special congratulation to the 2008 winner of the **Warren Duncan Bursary**, Callum Young. Callum showed true leadership in the environmental field while maintaining a fun and energetic attitude toward his job and environmental education. The award was presented at the 2008 Annual General Meeting.

It is our belief that educational programs are extremely valuable to the river system because, not only are the youth that they reach the future anglers of the Hammond, but they are future land owners, land developers and recreational users of the river. Our program was made possible again this year by funding from the New

Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund (WTF) and a generous donation from PCS (Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan). This program would not be possible without contributions from these groups.

Watershed Management Plan

The new watershed management plan is completed! HRAA staff have completed an impressive 200+ page plan outlining the entire watershed separated into 22 eco-reaches. The document will act as a 5 year operational plan for the scientific research and restoration of the Hammond River watershed. The plan can be seen in full colour at the association. The plan also highlights the history of the association, and the history of fishing on the Hammond River.

Extracted from section II A. of the Watershed Management Plan.

Salmon angling on the Hammond River had become very popular by the mid 1970's and the global environmental movement had begun. These two factors created a spark within a group of forward minded anglers to take an interest in the future of the Hammond River and its resources. In the fall of 1977, this small group of early conservationists, having decided that it was the time to act, drew up a tentative constitution and by-laws, called a public meeting and elected officers and directors of the Hammond River Angling Association. The 55 individuals that attended that 1st meeting recognized the need for an association to speak with a united voice on all matters affecting the river.



Angler casting across the Smithtown pool, during the time when Atlantic salmon were of great abundance in the system. *Photo Unknown*

Among its early successes were the contributions the HRAA made to prevent a sewage treatment plant being constructed on the lower part of the river. Another huge success included having the river scheduled as “fly fishing only” by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The HRAA increased visibility and activity throughout the 1970s. Some of this work included erecting pool signage, at which time a large “salmon angling etiquette” sign was prominently positioned at Crowley’s Pool. HRAA began running summer programs with staff in the 1980’s, developing programs such as Fish Friends in cooperation with ASF. A significant milestone in the organization’s history was the

construction of the Conservation Centre in 1997, made possible by the massive efforts of dedicated volunteers and significant corporate donations. One major component was the donation of the land that the building occupies, by J.D Irving Limited.

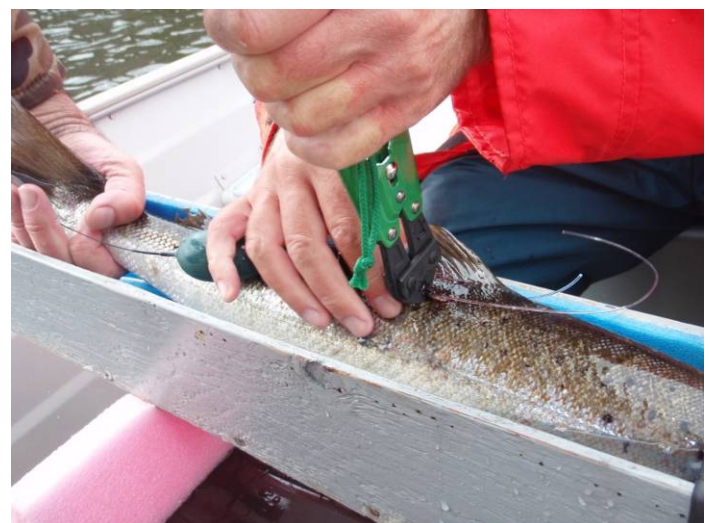
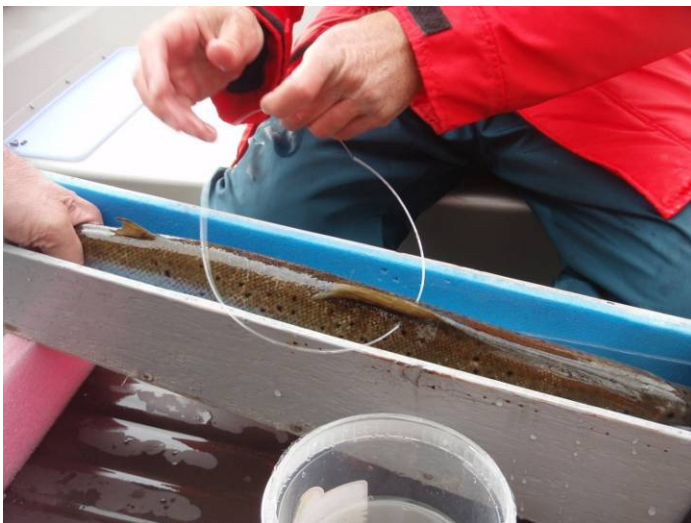
From its very inception, the Association has been active in promoting sound conservation practices including anti-pollution measures, habitat restoration, and school education aimed at promoting angling (Figure) and other recreational opportunities on the Hammond. Today, the HRAA is a well known watershed group, renowned for its habitat restoration work, research, environmental monitoring projects and its comprehensive education and public outreach programs. The HRAA has developed partnerships with all levels of government, stakeholders throughout the watershed, local landowners, multiple funding bodies, schools from Grand Bay to Sussex, environmental consulting groups, developers, and other watershed groups.

Hammond Kelts Receive Cutting-Edge Technology

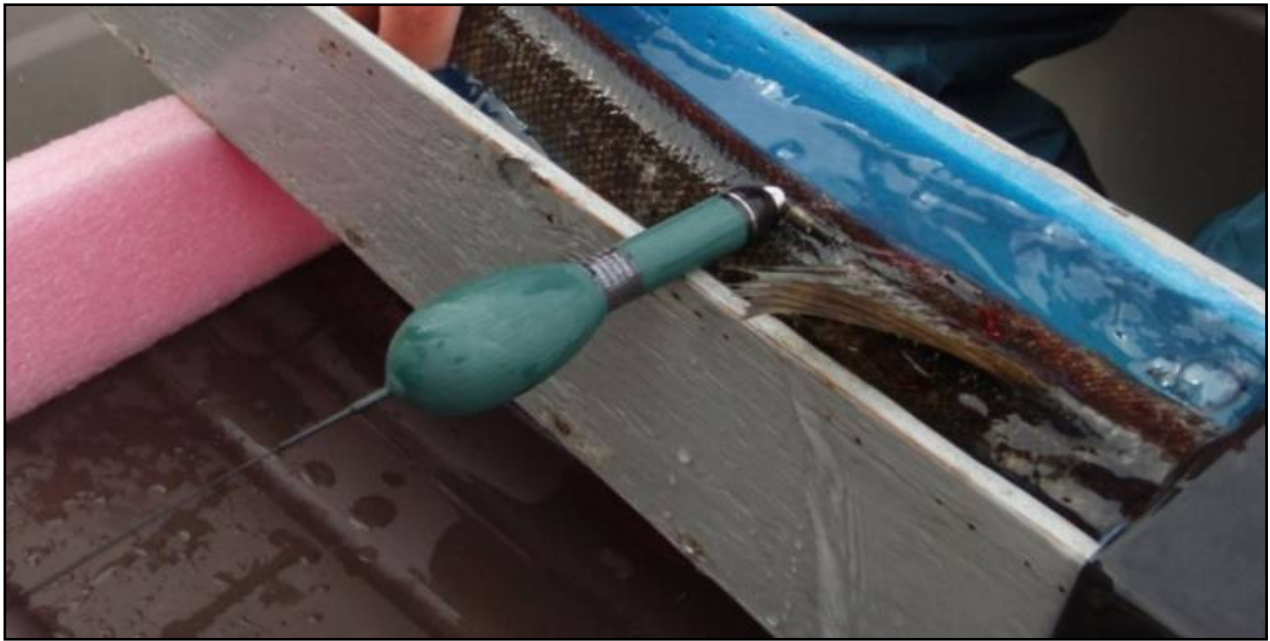
The Hammond River Angling Association was pleased to assist DFO researcher Gilles Lacroix in tagging black salmon (Kelts) earlier this month. Gilles has recently been testing pop-up satellite archival tags for use on adult salmon. These tags use modern technology to measure water temperature and depth, as well as latitude and longitude every 30 minutes. After four months days of data collection, the tags automatically detach, surface, and upload their data via satellite. Not surprisingly, this information doesn't come cheap, at \$4200 USD per tag plus data acquisition, processing and interpretation the HRAA was happy to assist in the collection of sample fish. DFO currently has 4 tags in operation on the Hammond, and we hope to see more in the future. Gilles also collected tissue and scale samples for genetic and stable isotope analysis.



The research project by DFO is part of a significant project aimed at tracking Kelt migrations of Inner Bay of Fundy salmon. The Hammond is considered outer Bay, versus Inner bay, and our fish are being used as a control group for the experiment. The intent of the project is to identify the marine habitat used by the IBoF fish, which are currently listed under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). Currently, adult returns to IBoF rivers stands at less than one per cent, so it is critical to understand their migration patterns.



Tagging Process of a Kelt from the Hammond River system. These tags will provide valuable information into the behaviour and habitat of our outward migrating salmon populations. *Photo S. Doyle*



Modern tracker placed on a large Kelt leaving the Hammond River system. *Photo S. Doyle*

This is the first use of the pop-up tags on salmon. The technology was developed and used successfully on larger species like blue fin tuna. Recent changes in technology have enabled the designers to greatly reduce the tab size, so that it can be used on salmon. And, even with salmon, testing on aquaculture fish has shown that the tags are carried more successfully on larger fish. In the Hammond portion of the project, all the fish tagged were in excess of 60 cm, with the largest fish, a female measuring 75 cm.

Final Note

NOTICE

**A MEETING OF ANGLERS INTERESTED
IN FORMING A
HAMMOND RIVER ANGLING
ASSOCIATION**

Will Be Held
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2, 1977 At 8:00 P.M.
In The
Quispamsis Elementary School

*Clipping extracted from Telegraph Journal, 1977.
The early formation of the highly successful HRAA!*

Hammond River Angling Association, formed, maintained, and successful by volunteers! As the association moves into its busiest time of the year, the continued support of dedicated volunteers is greatly needed. Much of the events and activities hosted by the association rely heavily on the assistance of volunteers. Items requiring assistance vary greatly from assisting with manual grounds maintenance, to helping staff perform a variety of scientific surveys with salmon and their habitat. If you are looking for some great volunteer experience to boost a résumé or just to fill in some time helping the association and the environment, feel free to drop by or phone us and we will be more than willing to match you up with a suitable activity! And as always watch your weekly e-letters for upcoming events!

Special Thanks to our many sponsors!



Your Environmental Trust Fund at Work



NB Wildlife
Trust Fund



Fonds de Fiducie de la Faune
du Nouveau-Brunswick





Hammond River Angling Association's Annual Angler's Dream Draw

Winner will be eligible to choose **ONE** of the following **SEVEN** prizes:

- 1** SHARK FISHING trip for six people for two days, off the coast of Nova Scotia. Prize includes accommodations and a travel allowance
- 2** A Sylvan **BOAT** and **MOTOR** package, ideal for fishermen, with a 12-foot aluminum boat and an 8 hp. two stroke Yamaha outboard
- 3** Two **SAGA SCOOTERS**, Spark 50 models that will give you 110 miles per gallon from Cruisers Custom Cycle
- 4** For the ladies: a \$6000 **DIAMOND RING**, or shopping spree at Goldsmith Studio
- 5** A Restigouche **SALMON FISHING** trip at Larry's Gulch for four people (two shared rods) for two nights
- 6** A **DELUXE MOOSE HUNT** to Newfoundland at Adventure Quest Lodge, including your hunting license and a travel allowance
- 7** **\$4,000** cash!

Draw will take place at the HRAA Conservation Centre Saturday Evening, April 25th, 2009
Lottery license # 024785656003. Some limitations apply. Prizes may not be exactly as shown.

Hammond River Angling Association

10 Porter Road, Nauwigewauk NB, 832-1230, hraa@nbnet.nb.ca

Tickets **\$10** each, **3** for **\$20**

