

# Freshwater–Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corporation

Report to the 17<sup>th</sup> AGM  
April 27, 2011

## Report on Activities

(1) Counting Fence Contract

FABEC contracted with DFO to operate salmon counting fences on Terra Nova River, Middle Brook, and Salmon Brook. Employees included three fishway attendants and three student assistants. Kevin Stroud and Fred Jeans oversaw these projects for FABEC.

(2) River Monitoring Project

FABEC joined forces with the Alexander Bay-Terra Nova Development Association to operate a river monitoring project on Terra Nova River and on Gambo River/Mint Brook. Three students were employed on Terra Nova River and two students on Gambo River. Kevin Stroud and Fred Jeans oversaw these projects for FABEC.

(3) Green Team River Enhancement Project

FABEC was successful in applying to the Conservation Corps for a Green Team habitat restoration project for Terra Nova River. The purpose of this was to enhance salmon and trout habitat in small tributaries on and close to Terra Nova River. It identified and removed obstructions to fish movement and habitat and included public education activities on the value of river enhancement.

The project was completed on August 20. Streams cleaned up included Penney's Brook (i.e. from TCH to saltwater), Wyatt's Brook, Lower Indian Brook, Honeybunch, and Spar Brook from bridge to the pond. Gil Stone oversaw the Green Team with help from Gus Butt.

FABEC contributed \$3,000 to project costs. The remaining funds and project management were provided by the Conservation Corps of Newfoundland and Labrador. FABEC expresses its appreciation to the Conservation Corps for this very worthwhile project.

(4) Georges Pond Access Road

The Department of Natural Resources met with FABEC (Kevin Stroud, John Baird, Fred Holloway) in April to discuss the commitment in the District 4 Forest Management Plan to decommission the George's Pond access road. FABEC informed DNR that we expected that this commitment would be met as originally intended. It is noted that FABEC originally asked that this road be decommissioned because this area contains sensitive spawning habitat and was historically an important caribou area.

DNR asked if we would object to the road being decommissioned in two stages rather than all at once. We asked them to put this request in writing so it could be considered at the next FABEC meeting. No further communications were received. In the fall, we became aware that the inside portion of the road from George's Pond to the end of the road had been decommissioned. We recently learned that no decision has been made on decommissioning of the remaining section of the road.

(5) Glovertown Council Notice to Residents on Shoreline Infilling

The Town of Glovertown circulated a household notice stating that no further filling-in around freshwater and saltwater shorelines would be permitted unless a permit is first acquired from the Department of Environment and Conservation. FABEC commends Council for taking this action to preserve the town's biologically important and scenic shoreline.

(6) Upper Terra Nova Fishway

The new Terra Nova Upper Fishway was opened for salmon passage on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Decommissioning of the temporary access road to the fishway site was also completed before winter. FABEC commends DFO for undertaking this expensive project, which will ensure ongoing migration of salmon to the upper reaches of the river. We are also pleased that the access road to the fishway was decommissioned thereby ensuring better protection of this sensitive site.

(7) Crown Lands Cottage Development Areas

Crown Lands officials met with FABEC at our September meeting in response to an invitation from us to discuss planning for new cabin development in the Gambo River/Middle Brook watersheds. The Lands Division has approved 12 new cottage lots on Gambo Pond and is looking for other cottage areas in the vicinity. According to the officials, the "Gambo Pond cottage planning area" has a carrying capacity of 3,000 cabins. There was no information provided on what these criteria are. Presently there are 252 cabins within 150 metres of the Gambo Pond shoreline.

FABEC requested a freeze on cabin development in Middle Brook watershed between Rodney Pond and First Burnt Pond. We were advised to send a letter to Director of Land Management, Reg Garland. The minutes from the meeting were forwarded to the Division.

(8) DFO Stewardship Funding

Dave Ball, Field Supervisor with DFO presented information on DFO's funding program for local stewardship groups. In order to be considered for funding for 2011, we were advised to submit an application no later than mid-December. We submitted an application in December for funds to hire a summer supervisor for the DFO counting fence contract and student river monitors. We were later informed that the funding program was being reviewed and no applications will be considered this year.

(9) Salmonid Council AGM

Kevin Stroud and John Baird attended the AGM of SCNL held at Camp Hancock, Square Pond.

(10) DFO Eel Study on TNR

John Murray, a biologist with DFO, did fieldwork as part of a study to compile a DNA baseline on lamprey eels on Terra Nova River. Approximately 70 juvenile eels were collected in an electrofishing survey.

(11) DFO Habitat Workshop & Salmon Advisory Committee

DFO held a habitat workshop in St. John's on November 17. The salmon advisory committee met on November 18. Gil Stone represented FABEC at both events.

(12) Brookes on Brooks Program

Dave Coté of Terra Nova National Park reported that the Park is working on improving culvert installations on in the park. An educational video was produced on how this can remove barriers and improve fish migration. The Park shows the video at schools and other venues. The video can be seen on You-Tube at the following site:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaUsBIWCx3o>

The Park is willing to help local communities by inspecting culverts and making recommendations for how to make improvements.

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Statement of Income January 1 - December 31, 2010		
Fisheries & Oceans Contract	\$45,770.00	
Service Canada - Student Employment Program	<u>16,101.00</u>	
		\$61,871.00

Statement of Expenses January 1 - December 31, 2010		
Salaries & Benefits	\$48,022.52	
Workers Compensation	1,041.32	
Liability Insurance	1,000.00	
Credit Union Service Charges & Interest	249.63	
Development Association	1,000.00	
SCNL - Membership & Conference Fees	525.00	
Green Team Project	3,000.00	
Eastlink website	10.00	
Employee expenses – reimbursed	135.00	
Salmon Advisory Board meeting expenses	394.25	
Member expenses reimbursed	200.90	
HST owing (estimate)	<u>5,265.00</u>	
		\$60,843.62

Bank Balance - Jan 1, 2010	\$4,380.71
Bank Balance - Dec 31, 2010	\$10,603.92
Adjusted for HST Owing	\$5,338.92