

# Freshwater-Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corporation (FABEC)



P.O. Box 153  
Glovertown South, NL  
AOG 2MO

Date: April 27, 2016

Meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting

Place: Glovertown Lions Club Building

Time: 7:00 PM

Present:

Kevin Stroud	John Hollohan	John Baird	Paul Stewart
Max Feltham	Gil Stone	Dennis Lilly	Rod Cox
Ken Sheppard	Dr. Geoff Veinott	Ed Stewart	Harvey Garrett

Agenda:

- Guest speaker- Dr. Geoff Veinott, Research Scientist Salmonid Section, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- President's Annual Report on activities.
- Treasurer's Financial Report.
- Mollyguajeck Falls 2015 Project Report.
- Election of officers.

Guest speaker:

The guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Geoff Veinott, Research Scientist Salmonid Section, Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Dr. Veinott presentation addressed the health of Atlantic salmon in NL, the 2015 stock status, achieving conservation levels and salmon scale samples and the scientific value from reading scale samples.

President's Annual report on activities:

## **THE FRESHWATER-ALEXANDER BAYS ECOSYSTEM CORPORATION (FABEC) Annual Report– April 27, 2016**

### **Fishway Counts**

#### Terra Nova River

2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	Avg 2010-14	Avg 1992-2013	Avg 1984-91
5,168	3,837	4,185	4,119	5,175	4,380	2,837	1,323

#### Middle Brook

2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	Avg 2010-14	Avg 1992-2013	Avg 1984-91
3,739	3,116	2,994	2,719	2,564	2,786	1,780	863



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### **Summer Project Activities**

- Contracted with DFO in 2015 to operate salmon counting fences on Terra Nova River and Middle Brook.
- Employed a fishway attendant and student assistant for each of the two counting traps.
- Employed five students as river monitors for upper Terra Nova River (2), Macclé's Brook (2), and Middle Brook (1).
- Contract with DFO to operate Terra Nova and Middle Brook fishways again in 2016.
- Have applied to hire student monitors again in 2016.

### **Mollyguajeck Fishway Project**

FABEC was successful in undertaking a fishway assessment project at Mollyguajeck Falls in 2015. The purpose was to assess how well the fishway is working to accommodate salmon migration to the upper Terra Nova watershed and to what degree the upper fishway is being colonized with a natural salmon population.

Financial and in-kind support for the project was provided by the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF), Terra Nova National Park, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Towns of Glovertown, Terra Nova and Traytown. The total project cost was \$79,880, including cash expenditures of \$53,798 and in-kind contributions of \$26,082. The project employed four staff to monitor the fishway and record the number, size, and species of fish migrating upstream through the fishway.

Unfortunately, low water levels after mid-August impeded salmon moving through the trap, therefore an accurate count was not obtained. A total of 297 salmon were counted, of which 261 passed through before August 17.

While the project failed to provide an accurate salmon count, it very successfully demonstrated the fishway's deficiencies in accommodating migration when water levels are low. As a result, DFO has decided to carry out structural modifications to the fishway and is now preparing tenders for this work. It is likely the work will be undertaken in the spring of 2017.

### **Middle Brook Cabin Development**

For several years FABEC has been lobbying Crown Lands to put a freeze on cabin development in the Middle Brook watershed above Square Pond. Our position has been supported by the Inland Fisheries branch of the Wildlife Division, the Town of Gambo, and the local Forestry office of the Department of Natural Resources, which uses the referral process to refuse cabin applications in the area. However, a positive response has never been received from Crown Lands.



Upon learning that a new cabin was recently approved on Second Burnt Pond, we have stepped up our efforts. A letter was sent to the Minister, Eddie Joyce, and two weeks ago and copied to the two MHAs for the area. As yet, no response has been received.

### **Middle Brook Trout Assessment Project**

Robert Perry, the trout biologist with the Wildlife Division, had offered to undertake an assessment of trout stocks in the upper Middle Brook watershed beginning this summer. If the outcome was as he expected (i.e. that population numbers are down due to overfishing), Robert had offered to work with FABEC to develop a stronger trout management plan for the watershed. Unfortunately, Robert has now been informed that the Inland Fisheries program will be terminated entirely within two years, therefore he does not see the point of initiating this work.

### **MOUs with Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd. (CBPPL) and DNR**

In 2015 FABEC signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with Corner Brook Pulp and Paper on a new access road constructed into the Pussel Pond area from the TCH near Square Pond. The company has agreed to decommission the road permanently after harvesting and silviculture work is completed. This will be done by removing a bridge about a kilometre from the highway, ditching the access at the TCH, and decommissioning 200 metres of road on the inner side of the bridge. In the interim, when logging is complete, the company will install a gravel barrier outside of the bridge.

The company also agreed to meet with FABEC annually to report on activities in our area. Barry Elkins of CBPLL attended our meeting in November, and along with Faron Knott, gave a tour of the harvesting operation on Pussel Pond Road.

FABEC also has an MOU with the Gambo Forestry Office to reroute a proposed long-term road farther from the south end of Rodney Pond. We were concerned about what the road's long-term effect would be on the sensitive aquatic habitat in this area. In addition, the Department will remove the current road to Rodney Pond after silviculture has been completed.

### **Lands Act Review**

In 2015 FABEC has presented a written submission to the Department of Municipal Affairs citing our concerns about the impact of cabin development in backcountry areas. We recommended that more stringent planning should be undertaken in deciding where cabins will be permitted. The development of plans for cottage development areas should be an explicit requirement of the Act, and the planning process should allow for public participation similar to the development of five-year forestry plans. We do not have any update on whether this has been considered in the formulation of the new Lands Act.



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### **Placentia Bay Salmon Farming Proposal**

The salmon farming proposal by Grieg Aquaculture of Norway for Placentia Bay (11 sites, 2 million salmon per year) has raised a lot of alarm concerning potential impacts on wild salmon and other species in the region. FABEC has submitted letters to the Provincial and Federal Ministers of Environment asking either for (1) a moratorium on sea based salmon farming until an independent study has been carried out of possible impacts or (2) a full environmental impact assessment of the project under federal and provincial legislation.

The Provincial Minister's decision on the proposal was due on April 26.

Motion: To adopt the President's Annual Report as presented

Moved by John Baird

Seconded by Harvey Garrett

Carried

### Treasurer's Annual Report:

The treasurer's annual financial report was presented and it highlighted general operating revenue/expenses for the year plus separate operating revenue/expenses for the 2015 Mollyguaieck Fall Fishway project and the Summer Student River Monitoring Program with Service Canada. FABEC was successful in completing all projects within budgets for the year.

Motion: To adopt the Treasurer's Annual Report as presented

Moved by Harvey Garrett

Seconded Kevin Stroud

Carried

### Mollyguaieck Falls 2015 Annual Report:

The final report for the MFF 2015 project was presented by John Baird and it is available on the FABEC web site. There was a slide show presentation of pictures taken during the project. Additionally, this project was possible only through the support of the project's major sponsors as follows:

- ✓ The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF)
- ✓ The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- ✓ Terra Nova National Park
- ✓ Town of Glovertown
- ✓ Town of Traytown
- ✓ Town of Terra Nova
- ✓ Freshwater-Alexander Ecosystem Corporation (FABEC)

### Election of Officers:

The election of officers was conducted by Gil Stone.

Motion: To dissolve the old executive

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Moved by Gil Stone  
Seconded by Paul Stewart  
Carried

## Nominations:

- President.....John Baird.....Accepts
- Vice-President.....John Hollohan.....Accepts
- Treasurer.....Kevin Stroud..... Accepts
- Secretary.....Harvey Garrett..... Accepts
- Public Relations Officer.....Paul Stewart..... Accepts
- Directors-   Gil Stone
  - Max Feltham
  - Alice Hollohan
  - Fred Jeans
  - Wayne Holloway
  - Scott Pritchett
  - Rudy Davis
  - Chris Warford
  - Ed Stewart
  - Dennis Lilly

The **next** monthly meeting will take place at **7:00 PM, Wednesday June 1, 2016** at the Development Association Building in Glovertown.