

Freshwater–Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corporation

Date: January 25, 2012 Meeting: Monthly
Place: Stroud Building, Glovertown Time: 7:30 PM

Present:

Jeff Roberts	Kevin Stroud	Gordon Stewart	Bill Blandford
Paul Stewart	John Baird	Scott Pritchett	John Hollohan
Austin Stewart	Dave Parsons	Howard Elms	Alice Hollohan

Motion: To adopt the agenda as discussed

Moved by Scott Pritchett Seconded by Alice Hollohan
Carried

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the special meeting of September 29.

Moved by John Hollohan Seconded by Scott Pritchett
Carried

Business Arising

Hook and Release - Terra Nova River

A discussion took place on current problems with hook and release in the fishway area of Terra Nova River and how they can be fixed. Some anglers have been observed practicing hook and release without due care to ensure fish are not injured or killed. Dead fish have been observed floating downstream of hook and release areas. Anglers have been observed releasing more than the maximum of two permitted per day. Another concern is that pools are being hogged and not properly shared among all anglers.

Various options were discussed as to how to solve this problem including (1) convert the pools to retention angling, (2) close the pools to all angling, and (3) ask DFO for stronger enforcement in this area. It was acknowledged that enforcement of the area is extremely difficult due to its isolation. It was suggested that anglers should take action themselves to provide evidence to DFO that regulations are being broken.

FABEC was contacted by Ward Samson of the NL Wildlife Federation about a proposal to do a scientific study on the Terra Nova River of the effects of hook and release on salmon survival and spawning. NLWF is also planning to do a survey of angler attitudes with respect to hook and release of salmon.

Motion: Proposed NLWF Study(s)

(1) To offer to cooperate with NLWF to include Terra Nova River (and other FABEC rivers?) in the angler survey by using FABEC summer students to conduct angler interviews.

- (2) To offer support in principle to NLWF's proposal to conduct a scientific study of the effects of hook and release angling on salmon. Before offering full support, FABEC would like to review the detailed proposal and collect local input as well as views of DFO and other appropriate agencies.

Moved by Paul Stewart Seconded by Dave Parsons
Carried

Salmon Management Plan on Terra Nova River

Further to the ongoing discussion regarding the salmon management plan for the Terra Nova River, a request will be sent to Martha Robertson, DFO biologist, for weekly salmon counts over a 10-year period. Also request weekly data on trout returns, water flow, water height, and water temperature.

Lands Management – Cabin Development Areas

FABEC has received correspondence from Jonathan Grandy of the Lands Management Division following up on FABEC's recommendations (letter sent June 17, 2011) respecting cabin development on Middle Brook and Terra Nova River watersheds. Mr. Grandy requested a map delineating Middle Brook and Maccle's Brook watersheds.

Trout Management on Middle Brook

The Dept. of Natural Resources responded positively to FABEC's request that the access road to Rodney Pond be decommissioned after forestry operations cease in the area. The purpose of our request was to prevent overfishing of the watershed's unique and vulnerable trout population due to easy access for vehicles.

Biologist Rob Perry with the Department of Environment and Conservation has been studying the trout population in the Middle Brook watershed. FABEC will invite him to a meeting to do a presentation on his research and to discuss management options for improving the sustainability of the population. It is felt that a minimum size angling regulation similar to Jonathan's pond will allow for more fish to mature to spawning age.

Status of Planned Decommissioning of George's Pond Road

In August 2010 FABEC sent a letter to DNR's Regional Ecosystem Manager requesting an update of the decommissioning of the George's Pond access road as per the Five-Year Forestry Plan for District 4. No official response has ever been received although this was a subject of considerable discussion during last year's planning team meeting for the new Five-Year Plan. Verbally FABEC was informed that, due to the opposition from cabin owners, a political decision will be necessary to resolve this issue.

It was decided to send another letter to the Regional Ecosystem Manager and the District 5 Manager requesting an update on the status of the decommissioning.

HST Licence

FABEC has applied for an HST licence.

2012 Summer Program

Last year FABEC applied for DFO stewardship funding to help with the costs to hire a person to supervise summer students working on the fishway counting and river monitoring operations. As the program did not operate, this application was not successful.

FABEC has now applied to the Province for assistance to hire a summer supervisor under the JCP program. The contact person for the application is Patricia Osmond, Client Office with the Department of Advanced Education and Skills in Gander. An answer on this application is expected by March.

We have also applied for regular summer student funding.

2011 Angler's Guide

Due to a number of questions arising on salmon angling regulations for Terra Nova River, the following email was sent to Erin Dunne of DFO.

“The Freshwater-Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corp (FABEC) would like to bring to your attention four issues regarding the salmon angling regulations for Terra Nova River.

1. The Angler's Guide 2011-2012 contains the following statement, *“Watershed above the upper end of the old Terra Nova Lake dam (identified by DFO signs) where the Terra Nova River runs into Terra Nova Lake, including the main stem of the river. This includes Mollyguajeck Lake to Mount Sylvester to Namedock”* The location described for the old Terra Nova lake dam is incorrect and confusing. The actual location of the former dam is at the outflow of Terra Nova Lake (i.e. where it empties into Terra Nova River). We recommend this wording be changed as follows: *“Watershed above the old Terra Nova Lake dam (identified by DFO signs), including the main stem of the river. This includes Mollyguajeck Lake to Mount Sylvester to Namedock.”*
2. Beginning in 2009 the Angler's Guide changed George's Brook and Butt's Brook from a Class IV designation to Class III without FABEC's input or knowledge. Please explain why and how this change was made.
3. Penney's Pool used to have a Class IV designation for the entire season. But for a number of years, it has been DFO practice to allow retention angling after July 10 although this is not referenced in the Angler's Guide. This change occurred without FABEC's prior knowledge or input. We have not taken a position against this measure but would like to know why and how it came about.
4. Whereas DFO used to permit 4 salmon to be hooked and released per day on Class IV rivers, the Angler's Guide now limits this to 2 per day. Please explain when, why and how this change was made.

We would appreciate a response from you on these issues.

Thank you, John Baird, Freshwater Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corp.”

Overnight Camping at Spencer's Bridge

Concern was raised that the size of the new boat landing constructed next to Spencer's Bridge will increase the problems of overnight camping by people in trailers and RVs.

Motion: To write a letter to the Glovertown Town Council requesting a "NO OVERNIGHT CAMPING" and "NO DUMPING" sign be placed at the boat landing. Also request the Town to place garbage receptacles at the site and collect the garbage weekly.

Moved by Paul Stewart Seconded by Dave Parsons
Carried

Next regular meeting will be 7:30 PM, Wednesday, February 29th at the R. E. Stroud Building, Glovertown.