

Freshwater–Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corporation

Date: March 21, 2012 Meeting: Special
Place: Stroud Building, Glovertown Time: 7:30 PM

Present:

Kevin Stroud	Scott Pritchett	Gil Stone
John Baird	Fred Holloway	Dave Parsons
Bill Blandford		

Purpose of Meeting

In three of the past four years, salmon returns on Terra Nova River have risen significantly over historic levels. Whereas average returns counted through the Lower Fishway were 2,486 from 2002 to 2007, the average from 2008 to 2011 was 4,079. In 2011, 5,175 salmon were counted.

Due to these higher returns over historic levels, FABEC has agreed to facilitate a discussion of possible changes to the Terra Nova River salmon regulations. Currently the river is divided between Class III areas (season retention limit of 2 salmon) and Class IV areas (catch and release only). This management plan was put in place in the 1990's to ensure conservation and population rebuilding was first priority.

Three management options were discussed, ranging from maintaining the status quo to allowing the retention of an extra two salmon in some or all of the existing Class III areas if an in-season review in late July shows significantly above-average returns.

Discussion

The discussion focused on the pros and cons of changing the management plan. Despite above-average returns in the past four years, the members present concluded that it might be premature to increase the retention limit. It was felt that more time is needed to determine if the recent higher returns are indicative of a long-term trend or a temporary phenomenon.

Because only a few members were present, this discussion will be continued at the next meeting on March 28. However, the members present reached a consensus that the status quo (other than possibly adjusting boundary lines between Class III and Class IV areas) should be maintained.

Next regular meeting will be 7:30 PM, Wednesday, March 28th at the R. E. Stroud Building, Glovertown.