

ASF and the International Atlantic Salmon Accord

ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

For more than 50 years, ASF has been a world leader in conserving wild Atlantic salmon. Today, we are a powerful organization with seven regional councils and more than 150 organizations in eastern Canada and New England, representing 40,000 dedicated volunteers. Advocacy based on sound science, intensive public awareness and education, and hands-on river restoration and enhancement are mainstays of our conservation efforts.

INTERNATIONAL ATLANTIC SALMON ACCORD

The Accord is a comprehensive plan to combat the threats to salmon at all life stages, in both its freshwater and marine habitats. To be successful in addressing the 7 priority issues of the International Atlantic Salmon Accord, ASF needs your help. For some rivers, this is the last call to action. The United States is in danger of losing its wild Atlantic salmon completely, and the threat of extirpation of wild salmon has crept into the Canadian Bay of Fundy.

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IN-RIVER PRODUCTION

To compensate for the unknown and very high mortality of salmon in the ocean, we must ensure optimum production of wild salmon in freshwater. ASF is developing techniques to improve natural production. We are researching downstream smolt migration to support our advocacy for fish passage, and we are fighting to remove dams, to install upstream and downstream passage, and to prevent any new dams that will disrupt the salmon's migration to spawning beds. We are encouraging communities to work together to ensure good land use practices and to prevent pollution in watersheds. We advise river

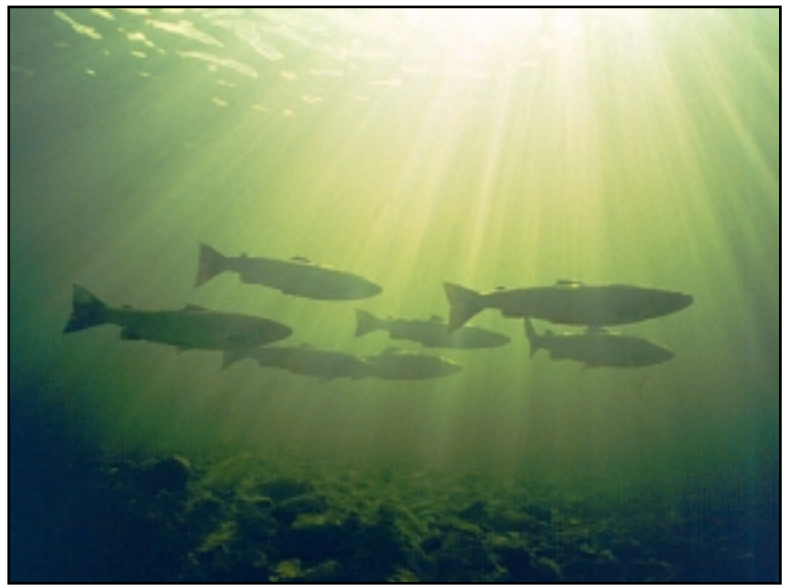


Photo: Gilbert van Ryckevorsel

associations on restoration and enhancement techniques and advocate sound conservation to municipal, provincial and state governments in co-operation with our affiliated organizations and regional councils.

THE IMPACTS OF AQUACULTURE

At our headquarters in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, ASF pioneered essential salmon genetics research that helped the salmon aquaculture industry develop, which in turn saved millions of wild salmon from harvest for food by nets in the ocean. The genetics program uses local stocks to mitigate dilution of the gene pool when farmed salmon inevitably escape and mate with wild salmon. ASF's research is providing vital information on the negative impacts that occur when farmed salmon escape into the rivers and interact with wild salmon. ASF is urging governments to legislate and enforce regulations to enable responsible aquaculture.

THE IMPACT OF FISHERIES TARGETED AGAINST OTHER SPECIES

Overfishing of species at the bottom of the food chain, such as krill, sand lance, herring and capelin, is removing important forage for salmon and other fish, birds and mammals and is disrupting the delicate web which sustains marine life. Post smolts and adult salmon are caught as by-catch in fisheries for other species. ASF adamantly urges the precautionary approach in managing industrial fisheries that target species upon which salmon feed. ASF, in partnership with other organizations, succeeded in encouraging government to impose a moratorium on an experimental krill fishery proposed for the Scotian Shelf. Gear restrictions are limiting by-catch. However, more data is required on by-catch and fisheries for forage and ASF must acquire it to support our public relations and advocacy campaigns.

LOW MARINE SURVIVAL

ASF is using high tech tracking devices to follow salmon in the Bay of Fundy to identify why survival of salmon populations is so low. The decline is so acute that the salmon strains of 33 rivers which empty into the inner Bay of Fundy are obvious candidates for listing under proposed endangered species legislation in Canada. The three-year research program, when adequately funded, will provide

scientists with data on where smolts go after leaving the rivers, when and where mortality occurs, where critical habitats and feeding areas are, and what impacts birds, seals, other predators and aquaculture are having on wild salmon. The long-term goal is to expand this research to rivers emptying into the North Atlantic where salmon populations have a different migration route than do the inner Bay of Fundy salmon. The data is vital in developing effective management plans.

THE IMPACT OF MIXED-POPULATION FISHERIES

ASF has played the lead role in the campaign to dramatically reduce commercial salmon fisheries off Canada's east coast that were intercepting fish from hundreds of rivers and driving the salmon toward extinction. We have eliminated nets where 10,000 once fished. We played a crucial role in the founding and the development of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, which now manages international salmon fisheries. We have made progress in limiting the Greenland fishery, which 20 years ago slaughtered a million large salmon, to a subsistence fishery. Our goal is to end all ocean fisheries, which indiscriminately kill salmon from many rivers as they feed in the ocean. ASF is spearheading international programs to monitor ocean fisheries and to provide safe havens for migrating salmon on their ocean feeding grounds.

WHAT ASF STRIVES FOR

IN THE RIVERS:

- Community involvement
- Good land use
- No barriers to free flow
- Upstream and downstream passage over dams
- Habitat protection, enhancement and restoration

BACK TO THE RIVERS:

- Precautionary management
- River specific management through community/government co-operation
- Live release
- Better assessment and adequate protection
- Endangered species protection for fragile populations



Photo: Tom Montgomery

PREDATION

ASF conducts research on the impacts of seals and birds on Atlantic salmon to guide its public policy. We participate in government reviews of regulatory policy respecting seals and sealing. We recommend an approach which considers the delicate predator/prey balance of the marine ecosystem and we support predator control only when valid data warrants it.

IN-RIVER EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

ASF and our regional councils have made good progress in achieving better consultation on watershed management plans which has, in turn, resulted in improved conservation and precautionary management. We constantly advocate live release in river fisheries and better assessment to determine conservation targets for individual rivers. Our public awareness programs have convinced thousands of people to angle sustainably and to return precious Atlantic salmon to the river to complete their spawning run.

TRANSCENDING FRESHWATER TO SALTWATER:

- Understanding of early migration problems
- Understanding of predator/prey relationships



IN THE OCEAN:

- Elimination of ocean harvest
- Safe havens on feeding grounds
- International co-operation in monitoring and protection
- No harvest at the bottom of the food chain



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THE INTERNATIONAL ATLANTIC SALMON ACCORD

A call for unity to save Atlantic salmon.

Created and launched in 1998 by the Atlantic Salmon Federation of North America and the Atlantic Salmon Trust of the United Kingdom, the Accord principles are supported by more than 30 organizations, representing 11,000,000 people throughout the North Atlantic. Time is of the essence. Scientific advice by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) indicated that the number of large salmon (two-sea-winter) in the ocean destined for North American rivers had plummeted from 800,000 in 1975 to 80,000 in 1999. Two-sea-winter salmon are predominately female and the primary source of eggs to seed North American rivers.



MIGRATING *through the new Millennium*

Programs of the ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION

The programs of the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) and its affiliated organizations offer hope to the wild Atlantic salmon at every life stage. The salmon's migration is inspiring, challenging and rewarding. So is the fight to save it. The ultimate reward for the growing ranks of wild Atlantic salmon conservationists will be the return of sparkling waters, teeming with silvery fish. This is the Atlantic Salmon Federation's hope for the new millennium.

ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION

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Explore the Atlantic salmon's world... Visit www.asf.ca

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE INTERNATIONAL ATLANTIC SALMON ACCORD

CANADA:

Atlantic Salmon Federation
Regional Councils
National Affiliates
(representing 500,000)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

World Wildlife Fund
National Audubon Society
Natural Resources Defence Council
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Centre for Marine Conservation
(representing 2,500,000)

EUROPE:

European Anglers Alliance

UNITED KINGDOM:

Association of Scottish District Salmon Fishery Boards
Atlantic Salmon Trust
Institute of Fisheries Management
National Anglers Representative Organization
Salmon and Trout Association
Scottish Anglers National Association

IRELAND:

Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea Trout Anglers
Ulster Angling Federation

NORWAY:

Norwegian Farmers Union
Norwegian Salmon Rivers

ICELAND:

North Atlantic Salmon Fund

FRANCE:

Association Internationale de Defense du
Saumon Atlantique

(representing 8,000,000)