The New Brunswick Salmon Council (NBSC) is comprised of 29 affiliates from within the province of New Brunswick.

The Council has been created a body corporate with the following objects and purposes:

To promote and encourage the protection, conservation and enhancement of Atlantic salmon for all user groups;

To provide public education, to foster an awareness of the value of Atlantic salmon and a realization that proper management is vital to the survival of this unique resource;

To encourage protection, restoration and proper management of the habitat necessary to the survival of Atlantic salmon; and

To co-operate with and support such agencies or organizations, whether public or private, which have objects and purposes similar to the Council.

New Brunswick at one time boasted of a vibrant Atlantic salmon population from the Bay of Fundy to the Baie of Chaleur. It is disgraceful and alarming that remnant populations exist south and west of the Miramichi and also that recently the numbers of salmon in the northern regions of the province are in a downward spiral. In 2014 there was not one river in the province which met spawning escapement, which is the minimum number of fertilized eggs being put into the waterways by wild Atlantic salmon that is required to maintain the species.

It is the vision of the NBSC that all rivers in the province of New Brunswick be rejuvenated with wild Atlantic salmon. You the members of this Ministerial Advisory Committee have a key role to play in gathering all the pertinent information to help Honourable Minister Shea reverse this downward spiral and to rejuvenate our rivers with wild Atlantic salmon.

In order to address this downward spiral we must determine the contributing factors of the decline. I will endeavour to address the cause with proposed solutions. I would like to point out the NBSC believes in a balanced environment, they are not advocating wild Atlantic salmon over other populations but maintain that all populations be managed in harmony. It is the belief of NBSC that a balanced environment is not what is currently occurring in Atlantic Canada.

First of all, in order to manage anything, we must be able to count it.

Gulf Atlantic Salmon Recovery – Action Items

Category	Sub Category	Issue	Strategy	Recommendation	Lead & Partner (See Glossary)
Freshwater & Tidal & Marine	**Regulations**	Necessity of Proper Management Plans to ensure the rebound of wild Atlantic stock and their survival into perpetuity for all user groups.	Gathering and acting on current and up to date science.	Gathering of science data	DFO
				Action on data in a timely manner	DFO
				Consultation with all user groups in a timely manner	DFO, NBSC, First Nations

Gulf Atlantic Salmon Recovery – Action Items

Category	Sub Category	Issue	Strategy	Recommendation	Lead & Partner (See Glossary)
Freshwater	**Populations**	Need accurate counts of both mature salmon and juveniles	Count fish with reliability	Counting Nets installed on index rivers Increase number of index rivers	DFO, affiliates on the index rivers
		Allocations to be determined for harvest based on abundance of fish in river preferably during the year of harvest.	Use installed counting nets to determine when the number of fish to meet spawning escapement for that year has been met.	When spawning escapement numbers are reached for that year, harvest can be allowed dependent on numbers counted.	DFO
				Tag for harvest can be purchased online when quantity have been reached Improve return of angler harvest statistics	DFO, DNR (Licensing)
				First Nations start their harvest after escapement has been met	DFO, First Nations
			Harvest using trap nets to facilitate multi sea winter populations being released for spawning. Grilse harvest only	Each First Nation: - Develop management plan to sustain their fishery on the river	All First Nations with salmon agreements for allocations
		Adequate spawning escapement must be obtained for each river before harvest is allowed in the year of the harvest	No harvest by anglers until spawning escapement is met for current year and until allocation for harvest by First Nations be allocated for year of harvest	Daily assessment of runs to determine when spawning escapement for year of harvest has been met	DFO, First Nations, affiliates on each river
	Harvest	Minimize mortality of returning adults	Communication and education plan	School Curriculum School Fly Fishing Club Catch and Release Videos Presentations	NBSC, affiliates of NBSC, ASF

Gulf Atlantic Salmon Recovery – Action Items

Category	Sub Category	Issue	Strategy	Recommendation	Lead & Partner (See Glossary)
Freshwater (continued)	**Harvest (continued)**	Minimize mortality of returning adults (Continued)	Implementing River Classification where harvest is based on abundance	Have accurate data to determine sustainable harvest allocations	DFO, affiliates of NBSC
			Reduce "Catch and Release" mortality	Education as per above	NBSC, affiliates of NBSC, ASF
				Pinched-barb hooks in rivers designated as catch and release only	DFO
			Department of Fisheries and Oceans in consultation with Ministerial committee determine regulation changes for 2015 angling season before April 1st.	Sell angling licenses only after regulations have been determined for 2015	DFO, DNR
	Predation	Overall risk of small mouth bass in Miramichi Lake to the health of the aquatic ecosystem in the Miramichi watershed	DFO recognize that the use of rotenol is the only obvious solution to eradicate the invasive species	DFO work closely with its provincial federal and NGO counterparts to implement a rotenal based reduction as soon as possible.	

Gulf Atlantic Salmon Recovery – Action Items

Category	Sub Category	Issue	Strategy	Recommendation	Lead & Partner (See Glossary)
Freshwater (continued)	**Habitat**	Water Quality and Quantity	Ensure wood roads are not contributing to sedimentation from erosion	Identify such roads and take corrective action with best management practices	All Lumbering companies
			Re-establish buffer zone limits to standard prior to 2012	Third party assessment	DNR
			Ensure all lumbering best practice management strictly reinforced	Third party assessment	DNR
			Eliminate negative impact on water quality of open pen aquaculture	Move operations inland with proper filtration systems	DFO
			Ensure best practice management for all mining operations	Third party assessment	DFO; Environment local governement
			Free flow of all river systems	Remove all hydro-electric dams when refurbishment required and provide effective up and down passage of juvenile and adult salmon at all other dams. Address the problem 0f winter / warm water discharge at Tobique storage reservoirs.	
			Minimize impact of human activity and development on aquatic habitat	Mandate proper sewage treatment facilities as well as standardized private systems	Dept of Environment
	Enforcement	Illegal harvest of wild Atlantic salmon	Increased protection Examine implementation of auxiliary programs	Use more technology (video surveillance, drones)	DFO, DNR
				Increase joint patrols - DFO / DNR	DFO/DNR
				Develop designated guardian program within First Nations with salmon management strategies	First Nations with salmon allocation agreements
				Educate public - Information enhancing public knowledge promoting personal stewardship and ownership of salmon resource	DNR, DFO First Nations, NBSC affiliates

Gulf Atlantic Salmon Recovery – Action Items

Category	Sub Category	Issue	Strategy	Recommendation	Lead & Partner (See Glossary)
Freshwater (continued)	**Enforcement (continued)**	Enforcement Officers are limited	Provide a presence of eyes and ears on the rivers overseeing their resource (wild Atlantic salmon) with a minimal effect on the resource	Enable anglers to participate in a catch and release fishery in rivers not meeting spawning escapement to ensure a protection presence. Honest anglers who take ownership of the resource see and report poaching violations as well as erosion problems	NBSC affiliates, anglers
Freshwater (continued)	**Population Enhancement**	Numbers of wild Atlantic salmon being too far below spawning escapement requirements	Increase numbers with supplementation programs utilizing best practices of minimizing time in captivity	Collection of wild smolt for rearing	DFO, NBSC affiliates
				Grow-out of smolt to sexual production stage	
				Stocking of offspring from captive smolt to their rivers of origin	
				Explore new grow-out methodologies in natural environment	
				Stock river specific unfed fry in vacant habitat	

Gulf Atlantic Salmon Recovery – Action Items

Category	Sub Category	Issue	Strategy	Recommendation	Lead & Partner (See Glossary)
Tidal	**Predator / Prey**	Maintain striped bass at sustainable populations not grossly in excess of numbers required for survivability as currently exists	Reduce numbers of striped bass which greatly exceeds their spawning escapement requirement	Increase angler allocation	DFO
				License a commercial striped bass fishery for First Nation communities, based upon scientifically proven abundance, who reside in areas of striped bass. This could also compensate those First Nations for the loss of wild Atlantic salmon during their recovery stage and could be used for food and ceremonial purposes for First Nations residing in areas where this species has been traditionally part of their culture	DFO, First Nation Communities in traditional striped bass habitat
		High mortality of smolt through estuaries and bay zones during migration of sea bass	To determine impact of striped bass predation on salmon smolt	Stomach content (diet of bass); analyze tracking data of bass and smolt	DFO
	Commercial By-Catch Damage	Accidental mortality of salmon from being handled in gaspereau fishery	Reduce incidental mortality of salmon both in gaspereau nets and as a result of handling after they are released from gaspereau nets due to scale loss	Redesign gaspereau trap nets so that salmon cannot enter them	DFO, commercial fishers, NBSC where appropriate
		Interception in shad gill nets in the Northumberland Strait. Other interceptor gill nets		Elimination of these nets Change to trap nets	DFO

Gulf Atlantic Salmon Recovery – Action Items

Category	Sub Category	Issue	Strategy	Recommendation	Lead & Partner (See Glossary)
Marine	**Assessment of the population of forage fish in ocean**	Is the forage fish population in ocean being overharvested by man leaving inadequate populations for the food chain	To ensure adequate populations of forage fish for food chain. Technology has moved fishing in the ocean to a science. With radar devices entire schools of fish can be harvested. Base allocations on these fish in the ocean into harvest based abundance	Conduct proper up to date assessment of forage fish	DFO
	Where and when is mortality of salmon occurring in the marine environment	Information on salmon movement and behavior in ocean required	To accumulate precise data on salmon migration routes	Continue and expand ocean tracking telemetry for both smolt and adult salmon win win economic opportunity	DFO, ASF, NBSC affiliates
	Predation	Seal Predation	Harvest of grey seals in provincial gulfs, bays as well as Gulf of St Lawrence. This harvest should be based upon abundance	Win / Win economic opportunity Eel Ground First Nation have a business management plan to harvest Grey Seals, putting the environment in equilibrium	DFO, Eel Ground First Nation
	Mixed Stock Fishery	Interception of salmon destined for underpopulated rivers	Salmon migrating to their home rivers must not be intercepted	Fisheries conducted off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador and St. Pierre de Miquelon converted from gill net to trap net fishery only harvesting grilse	DFO, First nations
				Collaborate with Greenland to harvest based on abundance - If they do not allow adequate salmon to return to their rivers of origin to spawn they are signing a death knoll for their own fishery	NASCO, DFO, Greenland, ASF
				Elliminate all interception fisheries of North American stocks	
				Elimination of all commercial fisheries by all nations.	

Gulf Atlantic Salmon Recovery – Action Items

Category	Sub Category	Issue	Strategy	Recommendation	Lead & Partner (See Glossary)
Marine	**Aquaculture**	The science on the devastating impacts of open-pen aquaculture on wild Atlantic Salmon has grown considerably over the past few years and leaves little doubt of its harmful effects. A summary of the science can be found in NBSC's Open Pen Aquaculture Policy	DFO apply the precautionary approach to the rearing of Atlantic salmon in aquaculture	Remove the Aquaculture portfolio from DFO and place it under a more appropriate government body such as Agriculture.	
				End Open-pen finfish culture on the Atlantic Coast of Canada by the year 2020, which is within one life cycle of the Atlantic Salmon	
				In the interim, place a moratorium on new, or expansion of existing finfish aquaculture	
				Adopt regulatory measures that, at a minimum, are consistent with resolutions and protocols adopted by NASCO and its Regional Commissions	
				Cease compensation to industry for loss by disease or any other cause related to current practice in open net-pen feedlots. Since land-based operations provide a disease freer alternative to open-pen aquaculture environments and therefore reduce the high compensation costs for mortality paid by the public, ongoing compensation payments to industry should be from a 100% industry funded insurance program. under the current CFIA program.	

GLOSSARY

DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
ASF	Atlantic Salmon Federation
NBSC	New Brunswick Salmon Council
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization