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ASSESSMENT OF ATLANTIC SALMON, (Salmo salar), IN THE MARGAREE RIVER, 1989

by

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ABSTRACT

A mark-recapture experiment indicated that fall MSW returns in 1989 exceeded those in 1988, while 1SW fall salmon returns were less than 1988. Creel survey estimates of angling catch support these trends.

Numbers estimated to return in the fall exceeded spawning requirements.

Lower than average 1SW salmon returns in 1989 suggest lower than average MSW returns can be expected in 1990.

RESUME

Une expérience de marquage-recapture a révélé que par rapport à 1988, les remontées automnales de saumon en 1989 ont été supérieures dans le cas des redibermarins et inférieures pour ce qui est des unibermarins, ce que confirment les estimations de prises sportives provenant des enquêtes par interrogation directe.

Le nombre estimé de remontées d'automne était supérieur aux besoins de géniteurs.

Les remontées d'unibermarins ayant été inférieures à la moyenne en 1989, on peut s'attendre à ce qu'il en soit de même pour les redibermarins en 1990.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to provide an assessment of the Margaree River Atlantic salmon stock in 1989 and concentrates on the fall run.

The Margaree River is located on Cape Breton Island, Inverness County, Nova Scotia (Fig. 1). Two principal branches, the Northeast Margaree and Southwest Margaree, meet at Margaree Forks to form the Main Margaree which flows into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Most of the Atlantic salmon angling occurs in the Main Margaree and Northeast Margaree rivers. Margaree River salmon stocks are composed of two runs: the summer run enters the river up to the end of August; and the fall run, after September 1.

Since 1979, efforts to increase the summer component of the Atlantic salmon stock have consisted of regulatory restrictions and introduction of hatchery-reared progeny from early-run fish. Anglers have been required to release MSW salmon during the early-run (before September 1) since 1979. From 1985-1989, all MSW salmon were released regardless of date caught. In 1984, there was a reduction in the Salmon Fishing Area 18 commercial fishery from eight to three weeks. There was no Salmon Fishing Area 18 commercial fishery from 1985-1989.

METHODS

LANDINGS

Angling records from 1947-1989 were provided by fishery officers, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Margaree Forks, Nova Scotia. These landings have been updated using historical files which previously had not been edited. Hence, there are some differences between this and previous CAFSAC documents. The reason for this discrepancy is that fish previously reported as size or weight not specified had been assigned to 15W catch. These unspecified fish have now been portioned into 15W and MSW categories based on the proportion of known sized salmon (Chaput and Claytor 1988). Sport catches for 1984-1988 were also obtained from Nova Scotia license card returns (LIC) (O'Neil et al. 1985, 1986, and 1987, S. O'Neil, DFO Halifax, Nova Scotia). Preliminary 1989 license card returns were obtained from S. O'Neil, DFO Halifax, Nova Scotia. Seasonal LIC catches are determined as described by (Claytor and O'Neil 1990). Angling catches from creel surveys conducted from 1987-1989 are also presented (Claytor and O'Neil 1990). Commercial landings for Salmon Fishing Area 18 (1967-1984) are also reported (Claytor and Chaput 1988).

SPAWNING REQUIREMENTS

The required number of spawners was calculated using the method (Method 2) recommended by Randall (1985) for the Miramichi River. The number of spawners required to meet egg deposition requirements was calculated presuming that all egg deposition came from MSW salmon. The numbers of 1SW salmon required were calculated assuming that at least one male spawner was needed for each female MSW salmon.

The characteristics used to determine the spawning requirements were essentially those given by Gray and Chadwick (1984) and are repeated below:

Egg deposition rate = 2.4 eggs/m^2 (Elson 1975) Rearing area = $2,797,600 \text{ m}^2$ (Marshall 1982)

Fecundity MSW = 1,764 eggs/kg (Elson 1975) 1SW = 1,764 eggs/kg (Elson 1975)

Mean weight MSW = 4.9 kg (Marshall 1982) 1SW = 1.7 kg (Marshall 1982)

Sex ratio male/female MSW = 25:75 (Marshall 1982) 1SW = 89:11 (Marshall 1982)

Eggs per MSW = 6,482 eggs = 1,764 X 4.9 X .75 1SW = 330 eggs = 1,764 X 1.7 X .11 Spawning requirements for the Margaree River were found to be 1,036 MSW and 579 1SW salmon. These figures were derived as given below:

(1) egg requirements = $2.4 \text{ eggs m}^{-2} \text{ X } 2,797,600 \text{ m}^{2}$ = 6,714,600 eggs

(2) eggs/MSW salmon = 8,643 eggs/MSW X .75 (females) = 6,482

(3) required number of MSW = $6,714,600 \div 6,482$ = 1,036

> number of female MSW = $1,036 \times .75$ = 777

...

number of male MSW = 259 = 1,036 - 777

number of male 1SW = 518 = 777 - 259

number of 1SW = $582 = 518 \div .89$

Using these values, MSW salmon account for 100% of the egg deposition requirements and 97% of the total egg deposition.

EGG DEPOSITION

In previous assessments (Claytor and Chaput 1988) total egg deposition from 1SW and MSW salmon was calculated as described below:

$$\frac{\text{Sport catch (SC)}}{\text{Sport catch (SC)} + \text{Spawners}} = \frac{\text{Exploitation rate (ER)}}{\frac{\text{SC (1 - ER)}}{\text{ER}}} = \text{Spawners}$$

For 1947-1986, DFO estimates of sport catch are used but for 1987-1989 creel survey estimates are used to calculate egg deposition. Exploitation rates for 1SW and MSW salmon 20.6 and 37.9%, were those determined by Hayes (1949).

For years in which there were hook-and-release regulations, 1979-1989, the MSW salmon caught and released were added to the number of spawners calculated as above. This factor assumes there is no mortality as a result of hook and release.

For all years, egg deposition was calculated as the number of 1SW or MSW spawners times the eggs per 1SW or MSW fish (see above). The eggs obtained from broodstock collections were subtracted from the above egg deposition values.

For 1987-1989, egg deposition was estimated from returns estimated using creel survey angling estimates (Claytor and O'Neil 1990).

HATCHERY RETURNS

Proportions of hatchery and wild fish returning to the Margaree River were determined from angler logbooks, creel survey, angler spot checks, broodstock collections (Hatchery and McKenzie pools, Fig. 1), and trapnet captures. All hatchery fish released to the Margaree River were adipose fin clipped, allowing hatchery or wild origin to be readily identified.

FORECAST

At present there is no reliable method of forecasting available for Atlantic salmon in the Margaree River. Assuming a relationship exists between 1SW (year, i-1) and MSW salmon (year i) a qualitative statement concerning relative returns in 1990 can be made based on creel angling catch estimates for 1988 and 1989.

BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Length-at-age characteristics for 1984-1989 have been determined from angling, broodstock and trapnet samples collected in those years.

DISTANT FISHERIES

Coded wire tags (CWT) and carlin tags applied as part of Margaree assessment and enhancement activities have been returned from commercial fisheries in Quebec, Newfoundland and Greenland.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

LANDINGS

Commercial landings for Salmon Fishing Area 18 (1967-1984) are presented in Table 1, DFO Sport catch statistics (1947-1989) in Table 2, and Nova Scotia license cards (1984-1989) in Table 3. Seasonal license LIC and DFO statistics are shown in Table 4. Seasonal creel catches are shown in Table 5.

Total, 1SW, and MSW catches estimated by DFO were about 60% lower in 1989 than 1988 (Table 2). Catches estimated from license returns were 50% lower for 1SW and 30% lower for MSW salmon than 1988 (Table 3). In contrast fall 1989 creel catch estimates for 1SW salmon were 74% lower but MSW estimates were 74% higher than fall 1988 estimates (Table 5). Because creel estimates better

represent the fishery than either DFO or LIC (Claytor and O'Neil 1990) it is concluded that at least for the fall season 1SW catches declined but MSW catches increased in 1989 compared to 1988. These trends suggest that 1SW fall returns declined but MSW fall returns increased in 1989 compared to 1988 but were not as high as 1987 (Table 5).

SPAWNING ESCAPEMENT

Population estimates based on mark-recapture experiments for fall 1988 and 1989 indicate that spawning requirements of 1036 MSW and 579 1SW salmon were exceeded by fall returns in those years (Table 6). Creel surveys and mark-recapture experiments indicate that exploitation rates can vary in the fall from 7-14% for MSW and 7-16% for 1SW salmon from one year to the next (Claytor and O'Neil 1990 Table 7). Variability of these rates is important because prior to 1987 spawning escapement was estimated by applying exploitation rates of 20 and 40% to DFO angling catches. The results from the last two fall seasons indicate these rates are too high for the fall season and that the average fall exploitation rate is about 12%. This rate likely applies to both 1SW and MSW salmon because population estimates and creel catch estimates indicate that exploitation rates for these fish are similar within years, although 1SW were 1-2% higher than MSW (Claytor and O'Neil 1990). Because creel catch estimates better represent the fishery, under current regulations, than either DFO or license returns, future assessments of fall returns will be based on creel catch estimates and a 12% exploitation rate, with upper and lower limits calculated using extremes in exploitation rates.

Applying a 12% exploitation rate to fall creel estimates since 1987 (Table 5) indicates that returns estimated in this way will vary from mark-recapture estimates by -46 to +25% (compare Table 6).

Currently, there is no completely satisfactory means of estimating summer returns. However, a relative comparison can be made by examining creel estimated angling catches (Table 5). These comparisons indicate that summer MSW returns have been declining since 1987 and 1989 summer 1SW returns are 50% of 1987 and 1988 values.

Before evaluating these summer returns with respect to spawning requirements it will be necessary to determine the exploitation rate on summer returns and independently determine summer angling catch by a creel survey. It will also be necessary to establish some criteria for summer spawning requirements.

Egg depositions determined from historical DFO angling catch and creel catch estimates are presented in Table 7.

FORECAST

If we assume that angling catch is a relative index of river returns and that there is a proportional relationship between 1SW salmon catch (year i-1) and MSW salmon catch (year i) then it appears from creel catch estimates since 1987 that numbers of MSW salmon (year i) are nearly equivalent to 1SW salmon (year i-1). If this trend continues for 1989-90 lower than 1987-1989 average MSW returns can be expected in 1990. These returns are expected because 1SW salmon returns in 1989 are at least 50% of those in 1987 and 1988 (Table 5).

HATCHERY CONTRIBUTION

Hatchery releases are shown in Table 8. The proportion hatchery released MSW salmon in the summer run is 30-40% and 30-60% for 1SW salmon. In the fall 90% of 1SW and MSW salmon returns are wild (Tables 9, 10).

BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Average 1SW and MSW salmon lengths were similar for 1987-1988. As in previous years the majority of Margaree smolts are 2+ smolts. Repeat spawners accounted for < 1% of 1SW and 7% of MSW samples in 1988 (Tables 11).

DISTANT FISHERIES

Fish tagged since 1986 as part of Margaree assessment and enhancement projects have been recovered in distant fisheries in Quebec, Labrador, Newfoundland and Greenland (Table 12).

CORRECTION TO 1988 MARGAREE ASSESSMENT CAFSAC 88/75

The headings for Table 14 of the 1988 assessment CAFSAC Res. Doc. 88/75 should read 1) Logbook anglers 100% reported; 2) Non-logbook anglers 67% reported; 3) Adjusted tag return from non-logbook; 4) Total estimated tags caught.

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Table 1. Commercial salmon landings for Salmon Fishing Area 18 (1967-1984) in Ig.

| | F | Northumberland isheries Statist | | | | lf Cape Breton- es Statistical | | Gulf NS Zone 6 |
|------|-------|------------------------------------|--------|----------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Year | 11 | 12 | 13 | Subtotal | 2 | 3 | Subtotal | total (kg) |
| 1967 | | 10,503 | 29,885 | 40,388 | 10,728 | 2,124 | 12,852 | 53,240 |
| 1968 | 1,175 | 9,495 | 14,949 | 25,619 | 10,480 | 2,057 | 12,537 | 38,156 |
| 1969 | - | 9,968 | 11,050 | 21,018 | 7,831 | 1,598 | 9,429 | 30,447 |
| 1970 | | 4,605 | 13,015 | 17,620 | 12,760 | 114 | 12,874 | 30,494 |
| 1971 | | 1,689 | 5,597 | 7,286 | 4,485 | 255 | 4,740 | 12,026 |
| 1972 | | 5,155 | 18,714 | 23,869 | 7,026 | 996 | 8,022 | 31,891 |
| 1973 | | 2,562 | 15,788 | 18,350 | 8,043 | 1,297 | 9,340 | 27 ,69 0 |
| 1974 | | 5,742 | 17,437 | 23,179 | 11,213 | 3,045 | 14,258 | 37,437 |
| 1975 | | 2,080 | 9,824 | 11,904 | 10,670 | 1,057 | 11 <i>,7</i> 27 | 23,631 |
| 1976 | | 1,606 | 5,845 | 7,451 | 9,954 | 956 | 10,910 | 18 ,3 61 |
| 1977 | | 4,137 | 9,171 | 13,308 | 11,490 | 1,423 | 12,913 | 26,221 |
| 1978 | | 2,940 | 15,907 | 18,847 | 10 <i>,69</i> 1 | 678 | 11 ,3 69 | 30,216 |
| 1979 | | 169 | 4,549 | 4,718 | 3,117 | 82 | 3,199 | 7,917 |
| 1980 | | 2,534 | 11,932 | 14,466 | 9,088 | 858 | 9,946 | 24,412 |
| 1981 | | 1,822 | 8,283 | 10,105 | 4,978 | 479 | 5,457 | 15,562 |
| 1982 | | 2,805 | 13,680 | 16,485 | 8,704 | 1,475 | 10,179 | 26,664 |
| 1983 | | 1,863 | 9,770 | 11,633 | 11,621 | 1,026 | 12,647 | 24,280 |
| 1984 | | 1,097 | 7,850 | 8,947 | 5,291 | 902 | 6,193 | 15,140 |

Table 2. Salmon angling catch on Margaree River (1947-1989) as compiled by Department of Fisheries and Oceans fisheries officers (DFO statistics).

| | | | MSW | | |
|---|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------|------------|
| Year | 154 | Retained | Released | Total | Total |
| 1947 | 36 | 364 | | | 400 |
| 1948 | 106 | 704 | | | 810 |
| 1949 | 42 | 340 | | | 382 |
| 1950 | 113 | 326 | | | 439 |
| 1951 | 21 | 449 | | | 470 |
| 1952 | 84 | 207 | | | 291 |
| 1953 | 50 | 298 | | | 348 |
| 1954 | 70 | 306 | | • | 376 |
| 1955 | 53 | 258 | | | 311 |
| 1956 | 28 | 91 | | | 119 |
| 1957. | 36 | 136 | | | 172 |
| 1958 ² | N/A | N/A | | | 334 |
| 1959 ² | N/A | N/A | | | 235 |
| 1958 ² 1959 ² 1960 ² | N/A | N/A | | | 140 |
| 1961 | 33 | 56 | | | 89 |
| 1962 | 46 | 410 | | | 456 |
| 1963 | 8 7 | 212 | | | 299 |
| 1964 | 120 | 289 | | | 409 |
| 1965 | 86 | 254 254 | | | 340 |
| 1966 | 92 | 165 | | | 257 |
| 1967 | 100 | 271 | | | |
| 1968 | 65 | 203 | | | 371 268 |
| 1969 | 218 | 141 | | | |
| 1970 | 86 | 217 | | | 359 303 |
| 1971 | 21 | 94 | | | |
| 1972 | 42 | 74 105 | | | 115 |
| 1973 | 166 | 117 | | | 147 |
| 1974 | 60 | 107 | | | 283 |
| 1975 | 36 | 64 | | | 167 |
| 1976 | 35 % | 82 82 | | | 100 |
| 1977 | % 69 | ∞ 141 | | | 178 |
| 1978 | 25 | | | | 210 |
| | | 158 | 4.5 | | 183 |
| 1979 | 604 | 63 | 19 | 82 | 686 |
| 1980 | 173 | 143 | 2 | 140 | 318 |
| 1981 | 899 | 105 | 34 | 139 | 1,038 |
| 1982 | 692 | 103 | 76 | 179 | 871 |
| 1983 | 69 | 109 | 43 | 149 | 221 |
| 1984 | 148 | 12 | 109 | 121 | 269 |
| 1985 | 223 | 0 | 313 | 313 | 536 |
| 1986 | 295 | 0 | <i>7</i> 54 | 754 | 1,049 |
| 1987 | 353 | 0 | 408 | 408 | 761 |
| 1988 | 435 | 0 | 580 | 580 | 1,015 |
| 1989 | 179 | 0 | 244 | 244 | 423 |

 $^{^{2}}$ Information regarding 1SW and MSW salmon for 1958-1960 are not available.

Table 3. Salmon angling catch on Margaree River, 1984-1989, based on Nove Scotia license stubs. N/A, not available.

| | | 154 | | | | MSW | | | Effort | | Percentage | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------|----------------|----------------|---------|---------------------------|----------------|------------|-----|
| | No. of Anglers | Retain | Release | Total | Retain | Release | Total | Unknown | Rod- days ¹ | CUE | 154 | MSW |
| 1984 Obs Est | 678 | 185 190 | 48 50 | 232 241 | 9 | 285 284 | 294 303 | 4 | 5,956 6,669 | 0.089 | 44% | 56% |
| 1985 Obs Est | 793 | 371 399 | 102 110 | 473 509 | 0 | 1,130 1,215 | 1,130 1,215 | 3 | 7,324 7,824 | 0.219 0.221 | 30% | 707 |
| 1986 Obs Est | 1,131 | 622 650 | 126 132 | 748 782 | 0 | 2,522 2,636 | 2,522 2,636 | 2 2 | 9,724 10,232 | 0.336 0.334 | 23% | 77 |
| 1987 Est | 1,441 | 826 | 151 | 977 | 0 | 1,857 | 1,857 | 0 | 12,887 | 0.220 | 34% | 66% |
| 1988 Est | N/A | 784 | N/A | N/A | 0 | 2,017 | 2,017 | N/A | 15,080 | 0.163 | 29% | 71% |
| 1989 ² | N/A | 368 | 123 | 491 | 0 | 1,454 | 1,454 | N/A | 14,982 | 0.122 | 20% | 809 |

 $^{^{1}\ \}mbox{Rod-days}$ are defined as one angler fishing for any portion of one day.

² Preliminary

Table 4. Seasonal 15W catches according to Nova Scotia licence stubs 1984-1989 and DFO sport catch. NSW releases are not available by season for STUBS.

| | | | 1sw | | | MSW | |
|---------|------|--------|------|--------------|--------|------|--------------|
| License | Year | Summer | Fall | Percent Fall | Sunner | Fall | Percent Fall |
| License | 1989 | 194 | 174 | 47% | | | |
| | 1988 | 474 | 310 | 40% | | | |
| | 1987 | 612 | 215 | 26% | | N/A | |
| | 1986 | 396 | 254 | 39% | | | |
| | 1985 | 243 | 156 | 39% | | | |
| | 1984 | 120 | 68 | 36% | | | |
| FO | 1989 | 130 | 49 | 27% | 80 | 164 | 67% |
| | 1988 | 287 | 148 | 34% | 293 | 287 | 49% |
| | 1987 | 268 | 85 | 24% | 123 | 285 | 70% |
| | 1986 | 196 | 99 | 34% | 297 | 457 | 61% |
| | 1985 | 116 | 107 | 48% | 144 | 168 | 54% |
| | 1984 | 81 | 67 | 45% | 27 | 94 | 78% |

Table 5. Seasonal creel catch estimates from 1987-1989.

| | | 1SW | | | MSW | | |
|------|------------------|------|-------|------------------|------|-------|--|
| Year | Summer | Fall | Total | Summer | Fall | Total | |
| 1989 | 1511 | 57 | 208 | 152 ¹ | 311 | 463 | |
| 1988 | 367 | 222 | 589 | 190 | 178 | 368 | |
| 1987 | 306 ¹ | 97 | 403 | ₂₄₂ 1 | 561 | 803 | |

¹ Estimated from creel correction factors (Claytor and O'Neil 1990, Table 2).

Table 6. Fall population estimates based on mark-recepture for 1988 and 1989 on the Margaree River (Claytor and O'Neil 1990), compared to estimates based on creel estimated angling catches and 12% exploitation rate (ER). Estimates in parentheses show range in population estimate using highest and lowest exploitation rates estimated in Claytor and O'Neil (1990).

| Year | Sea-age | Mark- Recapture | Creel % 12% ER | Percent Difference |
|------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1989 | 1sw | 872 | 457 (356- 872) | -46 |
| | MSW | 3973 | 2592 (2221-4443) | -35 |
| 1988 | 154 | 1482 | 1850 (1388-3171) | 8 |
| | MSW | 1314 | 1483 (1271-2543) | 13 |

Table 7. Estimated Atlantic salmon egg deposition in the Margaree River A)from 1947-1986 using non-adjusted DFO statistics. Section B provides egg deposition based on spanners calculated from creel catch estimates and seasonal exploitation rates in Table 5. Exploitation rates (20.6 and 37.9%) used in past assessments have been used to estimate potential MSM and 15M salmon spanners. Fecundity rates used to calculate egg deposition were 6,482 eggs/MSM and 330 eggs/ISM. Egg deposition requirements are 6,714,600 eggs. * indicates years in which spanning requirements have been met. N/C, no collection made; N/A, data not available.

| A) | | | | Eggs X 10 ⁶ | | | |
|------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Year | Collected for hatchery | MSW (20.6) | 15W (20.6) | Total | MSH (37.9) | 15H (37.9) | Total |
| 1947 | 5.00 | 9.09 | 0.05 | 4.14 | 3.87 | 0.02 | - |
| 1948 | 4.50 | 17.5 9 | 0.13 | 13.22* | 7.48 | 0.06 | 3.03 |
| 1949 | 2.80 | 8.49 | 0.05 | 5.75 | 3.61 | 0.02 | 0.83 |
| 1950 | N/C | 8.14 | 0.14 | 8.29* | 3.46 | 0.06 | 3.52 |
| 1951 | N/C | 11.22 | 0.03 | 11.24* | 4.77 | 0.01 | 4.78 |
| 1952 | N/C | 5.17 | 0.11 | 5.2 8 | 2.20 | 0.05 | 2.24 |
| 1953 | N/C | 7.45 | 0.06 | 7.51* | 3.17 | 0.03 | 3.19 |
| 1954 | N/C | 7.65 | 0.09 | 7.73* | 3.25 | 0.04 | 3.29 |
| 1955 | 0.50 | 6.45 | 0.07 | 6.01 | 2.74 | 0.03 | 2.27 |
| 1956 | 3.50 | 2.27 | 0.04 | • | 0.97 | 0.02 | - |
| 1957 | 0.90 | 3.40 | 0.05 | 2.54 | 1.44 | 0.02 | 0.56 |
| 1958 | 1.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A | . N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 1959 | 0.50 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 1960 | 1.50 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 1961 | 2.00 | 1.40 | 0.04 | - | 0.59 | 0.02 | - |
| 1962 | 0.30 | 10.24 | 0.06 | 10.00* | 4.35 | 0.02 | 4.08 |
| 1963 | 1.10 | 5.30 | 0.11 | 4.31 | 2.25 | 0.05 | 1.20 |
| 1964 | 0.40 | 7.22 | 0.15 | 6.97* | 3.07 | 0.06 | 2.73 |
| 1965 | 0.60 | 6.35 | 0.11 | 5.86 | 2.70 | 0.05 | 2.14 |
| 1966 | 0.40 | 4.12 | 0.12 | 3.84 | 1.75 | 0.05 | 1.40 |
| 1967 | 0.20 | 6.77 | 0.13 | 6.70 | 2.88 | 0.05 | 2.73 |
| 1968 | 0.40 | 5.07 | 0.08 | 4.75 | 2.16 | 0.04 | 1.79 |
| 1969 | 0.35 | 3.52 | 0.28 | 3.45 | 1.50 | 0.12 | 1.27 |
| 1970 | 0.20 | 5.42 | 0.11 | 5.33 | 2.30 | 0.05 | 2.15 |
| 1971 | 0.05 | 2.35 | 0.03 | 2.33 | 1.00 | 0.01 | 0.96 |
| 1972 | 0.10 | 2.62 | 0.05 | 2.58 | 1.12 | 0.02 | 1.04 |
| 1973 | 0.10 | 2.92 | 0.21 | 3.03 | 1.24 | 0.09 | 1.23 |
| 1974 | N/C | 2.67 | 0.08 | 2.75 | 1.14 | 0.03 | 1.17 |
| 1975 | 0.05 | 1.60 | 0.05 | 1.59 | 0.68 | 0.02 | 0.65 |
| 1976 | N/C | 2.05 | 0.12 | 2.17 | 0.87 | 0.05 | 0.92 |
| 1977 | N/C | 3.52 | 0.09 | 3.61 | 1.50 | 0.04 | 1.53 |
| 1978 | 0.10 | 3.95 | 0.03 | 3.88 | 1.68 | 0.01 | 1.59 |
| 1979 | N/C | 2.17 | 0.77 | 2.94 | 0.99 | 0.33 | 1.32 |
| 1980 | 0.10 | 3.64 | 0.22 | 3.76 | 1.55 | 0.09 | 1.55 |
| 1981 | 0.05 | 3.69 | 1.14 | 4.79 | 1.70 | 0.49 | 2.13 |
| 1982 | 0.20 | 4.96 | 0.88 | 5.64 | 1.59 | 0.37 | 2.57 |
| 1983 | 0.10 | 4.08 | 0.09 | 4.06 | 1.89 | 0.04 | 1.83 |
| 1984 | 0.10 | 3.73 | 0.19 | 3.82 | 1.99 | 0.08 | 1.97 |
| 1985 | 0.15 | 9.85 | 0.28 | 9.98* | 5.35 | 0.12 | 5.32 |
| 1986 | 0.15 | 23.73 | 0.38 | 23.95* | 12.90 | 0.16 | 12.91 |

| B) | | | | Eggs X 10 ⁶ | | | |
|------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Year | Collected for hatchery | MSW (20.6) | 1SH (20.6) | Total | MSW (37.9) | 15W (37.9) | Total |
| 1987 | 0.15 | 25.3 | 0.6 | 25.8* | 13.7 | 0.4 | 14.0* |
| 1988 | 0.30 | 11.6 | 0.9 | 12.2* | 6.3 | 0.5 | 6.5* |
| 1989 | 0 .3 0 | 14.6 | 0.3 | 14.6* | 7.9 | 0.2 | 7.8* |

Table 8. Numbers of salmon smolt and part released to Margaree River since 1975. WMR, Margaree, RB, Rocky Brook; CCB, Cobequid; MER, Mersey.

| - | | | Smo | lt | | Parr | | | | | |
|------|---------------------|--------|--|--------|---------------------|--------|-------|-----------------|----|--|--|
| | Rearing location | 2+ | | 1+ | | 1+ | | 0+ | | | |
| Year | | MAR | RB | MAR | RB | MAR | RB | MAR | RB | | |
| 1976 | MAR | 8,971 | | | | | - | | | | |
| 1977 | MAR | | | | | 5,022 | | | | | |
| 1978 | COB | | 15,250 ₁ 15,927 ¹ | | | | | | | | |
| 1979 | COB | | 15,927' | | | | | | | | |
| 1980 | COB | | 14,960 | | | | | | | | |
| 1981 | COB | | 15,950 | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | MER | | | 8,481 | | 1,098 | | | | | |
| 1983 | COB | 13,486 | | | | | | 9,853 | | | |
| | MAR | 3,783 | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| 1984 | MAR | | | | 10,195 ² | | | | | | |
| | MER | | | 14,483 | | | | | | | |
| | COB | 11,210 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1985 | MAR | | | 2,669 | 1,303 | 5,882 | 834 | | | | |
| | COB | 13,660 | | | | 7,820 | 5,860 | | | | |
| 1986 | MAR | • | | 2,105 | | 8,754 | | 25,000 | | | |
| | COB | 8,820 | 9,684 | | | | | 6 ,7 50 | | | |
| 1987 | MAR | 6,369 | - | 8,599 | | 5,400 | | 40,000 | | | |
| | COB | 18,337 | | | | | | 12,4 2 9 | | | |
| 1988 | MAR | 4,136 | | 22,313 | | 2,201 | | 40,000 | | | |
| | COB | 12,785 | | - | | | | 6 ,3 00 | | | |
| 1989 | MAR | 2,600 | | 13,000 | | 10,000 | | 150,000 | | | |
| | 008 | 18,500 | | • | | • | | 6,000 | | | |

¹ Millbank broodstock

² Rocky Brook X Margaree broodstock

Table 9. Mumbers of wild and hatchery salmon from summer and fall sampling on Margaree River in 1989.

| | 1 | SH | MS | SW |
|--------------------------|------|----------|------|----------|
| Season | Wild | Hatchery | Wild | Hatchery |
| SLMMER | | | | |
| June 1 - August 31 | | | | |
| Angling | 12 | 20 | 23 | 17 |
| Broodstock | 15 | 21 | 39 | 24 |
| Trapnets | 3 | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| Summer Total | 30 | 42 | 69 | 41 |
| FALL | | | | |
| September 1 - October 15 | | | | |
| Angling | 8 | 2 | 38 | 4 |
| Trapnets | 73 | 3 | 322 | 19 |
| Fall Total | 81 | 5 | 360 | 23 |

Table 10. Percentage of wild and hatchery fish returning to Margaree River in 1987 - 1989. Percentages are based on angling, broodstock, and trapnet samples.

| | 1 | SW | MS | W |
|---------|-------------|----------|------|----------|
| Season | Wild | Hatchery | Wild | Hatchery |
| 1989 | | | | |
| SUMMER | 42% | 58% | 63% | 37% |
| FALL | 94% | 6X | 94% | 6% |
| TOTAL | 70% | 30% | 87% | 13% |
| 4 | | | | |
| 1988 | | | | |
| SUMMER | 74% | 26% | 69% | 31% |
| FALL | 97% | 3% | 98% | 2% |
| TOTAL. | 82% | 18% | 83% | 17% |
| | | | | |
| 1987 | | | | |
| SLIMMER | 37% | 63% | 60% | 40% |
| FALL | <i>69</i> % | 31% | 96% | 4% |
| TOTAL | 45% | 55% | 85% | 15% |

Table 11. Mean fork lengths and percentage of two year old smolts in wild Margaree River Atlantic salmon samples, 1987-1988. N, sample size.

| | | | | Percent 2 Year | | |
|---------|------|-----|--------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Sea-age | Year | N | Sunner | Fall | Total | 2 Year Smolts |
| 154 | 1987 | 54 | 54.2 | 54.7 | 54.4 | 55 |
| | 1988 | 280 | 54.8 | 56.1 | 55.7 | 67 |
| MSW | 1987 | 129 | 75.1 | 77.7 | 77.0 | 71 |
| | 1988 | 178 | 76.1 | 77.4 | 77.2 | 84 |
| REPEAT | | | | | | |
| 154 | 1987 | 2 | | <i>6</i> 9.0 | <i>6</i> 9.0 | 0 |
| MSW | 1987 | 7 | 90.0 | 89.8 | 89.9 | 80 |
| | 1988 | 33 | 92.4 | 92.5 | 92.4 | 81 |

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Table 12. Summary of maiden tag recaptures from smolt and adult releases in the Margaree River 1986 to 1989.

| Release Year | Stock | Stage | No. Tags Applied | Tag Type | Series | Greenland | | | | | <u> </u> | | | | | | | Quebec | Total | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|--|-----------|----|----|----|----|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------|-----------|---------|
| | | | | | | 14 | 18 | 1C | 10 | 1E | 1F | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 09 | Returns |
| 1986 | Rocky Brook | 2t smolt | 7311 | СИТ | 55 0/0 | | 2 | | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | 11 |
| 1986 | Rocky Brook | 2t smolt | 3376 | CMT | 62 2/23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1986 | Rocky Brook | 2t smolt | 1992 | CMT | 62 2/25 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 1987 | Lake O'Law | 1t smolt | 995 | CMT | 55 16/7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1987 | Lake O'Law | 1t smolt | 1107 | CWT | 55 16/8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1987 | Manganee River | 2t smolt | 10000 | CMT | 55 16/16 ₁ 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 1987 | Margaree River | 1t smolt | 8599 | CMT | 55 16/16, j | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1987 | Lake O'Law | 1t smolt | 3080 | CMT | 55 16/17 ¹ | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| 1987 | Mangaree River | 2t smolt | 933 | Carlin | P22299 P22500 - P23199 P23300 - P23499 | | 1 |]1 |]1 | | | | | | | | | | |] 3 |
| 1987 | Margaree River | MSW | 138 | Carlin | zz23000 23137 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 1988 1988 | Margaree River Margaree River | 2t smolt MSW 1SW | 4116 340 | CWT Carlin | 55 16/12 zz23138 - 23299 zz23401 - 23581 | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 1 | 3 |
| 1989 | Mangaree River | MSW 1SW | 425 | Carlin | zz23583 - 23999 zz23300 - 23309 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

¹ May also be Nepisiguit River origin as same series used for those released

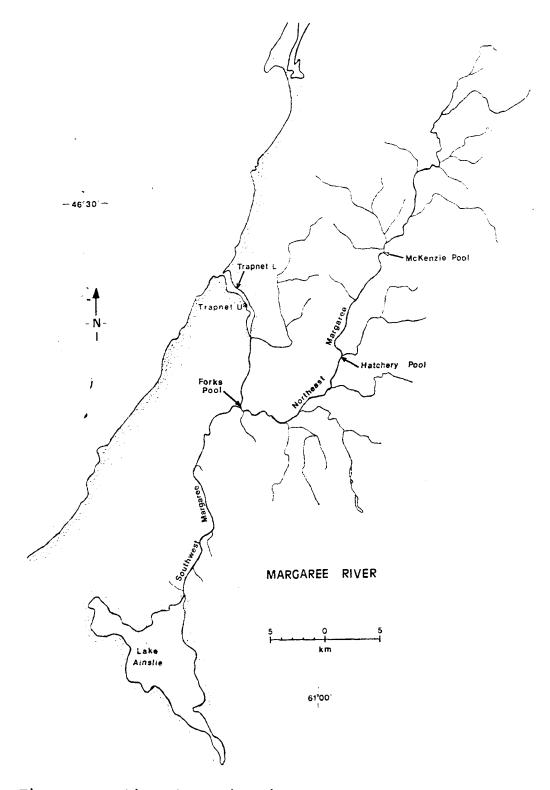


Fig. 1. Location of sampling sites on Margaree River.