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# Status of Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar L.) in Gander River, Notre Dame Bay (SFA 4), Newfoundland, 1997 

by

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#### Abstract

The status of Atlantic salmon in Gander River in 1997 was determined using counts of small and large salmon from a counting fence located on the main stem just above head of tide, recreational fishery data, and biological characteristics information. Total returns of small salmon in 1997 decreased by $56 \%$ from 1996 and were the lowest since the implementation of the commercial salmon fishery moratorium in 1992. Returns of large salmon in 1997 however increased by $7 \%$ over 1996 and were the second highest of the moratorium years. The percentage of conservation egg requirement achieved in 1997 ( $63 \%$ ) was the lowest of the moratorium years.


#### Abstract

Résumé

L'état du saumon de l'Atlantique de la rivière Gander en 1997 a été déterminé à partir des dénombrements des petits et grands saumons à une installation de comptage située sur le cours principal, tout juste en amont de la limite de marée, des données de la pêche récréative et de renseignements sur les caractéristiques biologiques. Les remontées totales de petits saumons de 1997 ont diminué de $56 \%$ par rapport à 1996 et sont les plus faibles notées depuis l'imposition du moratoire sur la pêche commerciale du saumon en 1992. Les remontées de grands saumons de 1997 ont cependant été supérieures de $7 \%$ à celles de 1996 et les deuxièmes plus élevées de la période du moratoire. Le pourcentage de la ponte nécessaire à la conservation atteint en 1997 ( $63 \%$ ) a été le plus faible de la période du moratoire.


## Introduction

The Gander River, with a drainage area of $6,398 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$ (Porter et al. 1974), is the third largest in insular Newfoundland. The river is located in Salmon Fishing Area (SFA) 4 (Notre Dame Bay) (Fig. 1). In addition to being one of the most important Atlantic salmon angling rivers in insular Newfoundland, the river has historically supported a relatively large angler guiding and outfitting industry.

In response to concerns from angler groups that returns to the river were declining, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in cooperation with the Gander Rod and Gun Club and the Gander Bay-Hamilton Sound Development Association, initiated a 3-year study to determine the status of the Gander River Atlantic salmon population in 1989. The results of this study (O'Connell and Ash MS 1992) showed that for the period 1989-91, Gander River received only $36-44 \%$ of its conservation egg requirement.

In this paper, we examine the status of Atlantic salmon in Gander River in 1997, the sixth year of the commercial salmon fishery moratorium. Counts obtained from a counting fence are used in conjunction with recreational fishery data and biological characteristics data to calculate total river returns and egg deposition. Status of stock is evaluated against a conservation egg requirement (calculated in terms of fluvial and lacustrine habitats) derived for Gander River.

## Management Measures, Past and Present

The introduction of the commercial Atlantic salmon fishery moratorium in insular Newfoundland in 1992 followed a major management plan introduced in 1984 (O'Connell et al. 1992a; May 1993), which was modified in 1990 and 1991 to include a commercial fishery quota in each SFA (O'Connell et al. MS 1992b). Elements of this management regime continued into the moratorium years. In addition to the closure of the commercial Atlantic salmon fishery in 1992, a moratorium was placed on the Northern Cod Fishery, which should have eliminated by-catch in cod fishing gear in SFAs 1-9. This moratorium remained in effect in 1997.

A quota on the number of fish that could be retained in the recreational fishery was introduced in each SFA in 1992 and 1993. The quota was assigned for each SFA as a whole as opposed to individual river quotas. Only hook-and-release fishing was permitted after the quota was caught. Recreational fishery quotas were eliminated in 1994. In place of quotas, for insular Newfoundland, the season bag limit for retained small salmon was lowered from eight to six fish, three to be caught prior to July 31 and three after that date. Hook-and-release fishing only was permitted after the bag limit of three was reached in each time period. These measures remained in effect in 1995-97. As in previous years, retention of large salmon was not permitted in insular Newfoundland. Rivers in SFA 4 were closed to retention of small salmon on July 28 when an in-season review projected that overall returns would be substantially lower than expected. Hook-and-release fishing only was permitted (only in the AM) at that point; however, on August 1 , low water levels and high water temperatures forced the complete closure of several rivers in SFA 4, including all tributaries of Gander River, until the end
of the season. On August 20, the main stem of Gander River and all SFA 4 rivers except those closed for low water levels and high water temperatures, were opened to all day hook-and-release fishing. In 1997, there was a fall hook-and-release fishery in the main stem of Gander River below Gander Lake during September 2-30, a similar fishery occurred in 1995 (September 9-October 8) and 1996 (September 3-September 29).

## Methods

Recreational fishery data and counts of adult salmon in 1997 were compared to two pre-salmon moratorium means (1984-89 and 1986-91) and to the 1992-96 mean during the moratorium. The 1984-89 mean corresponds to years under the major management changes in the commercial fishery in the Newfoundland Region, cited above. The 1986-91 mean incorporates the quota years of 1990 and 1991. The mix of management measures in effect during 1984-89 on the one hand and the imposition of commercial quotas in 1990 and 1991 on the other, should be kept in mind when making evaluations based on the 1986-91 mean.

## Adult salmon counting equipment

The location of the counting fence is shown in Fig. 1. Counts of adult Atlantic salmon were obtained with a positive image closed-circuit television (CCTV) system, which was operated in the boat passage in the counting fence, and by viewing VTR tapes. Visual counts were simultaneously conducted in the boat passage in order to categorize fish as small ( $<63 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) or large ( 263 cm ) salmon. Counts were also obtained with a conventional adult trap installed in the counting fence. Counts for Salmon Brook were obtained with a conventional adult trap installed in the fishway.

## Recreational fishery data

Prior to 1997, catch and effort data for each river were collected by Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) River Guardians and processed by DFO Science Branch staff, according to procedures outlined in Ash and O'Connell (1987). Rivers with counting facilities had information separated above and below the counting facilities. No data were available from River Guardians for Gander River in 1997. Data for 1997, which at this stage have to be regarded as preliminary, were derived from the License Stub Return System (O'Connell et al. MS 1998a). It was not possible to apportion information above and below the counting fence with the License Stub. This was accomplished by applying the mean values for above and below for the period 1993-96 to the estimate for the entire river from the License Stub Return.

The License Stub Return System for collecting recreational fishery data represents a complete departure from the previous DFO River Guardian method. Details on the methodology employed in the Stub Return System and a comparison of stub data with DFO River Guardian data for 1994-97 are provided in O'Connell et al. (MS 1998a). Overall, estimates of released small and large salmon from the stub were substantially higher than estimates from River Guardians while the two methods were closer with respect to estimates of small salmon retained. This has to be kept in mind when comparing
catches in 1997 with previous years. There is evidence that effort expenditure was under-reported by the stub method and hence this information will not be used in the present document. Analyses are currently being carried out to adjust for under-reporting. The stub estimate for the number of large salmon released for 1997 is incomplete.

## Biological characteristics

Biological characteristics information on adult Atlantic salmon in Gander River was obtained by sampling recreational catches. Information used in the calculation of egg deposition (mean weight and proportion female) for fish $<63 \mathrm{~cm}$ in length (small salmon) is shown in Table 1. Because the sample sizes for weight and proportion female in 1987 were small, the means for the pre-moratorium years 1984-91 were used to calculate egg deposition in that year. Similarly, the means for the moratorium period (1992-97) were used for 1997.

A mean weight of 3.13 kg and a proportion of female value of 0.77 (O'Connell et al. MS 1997a) was used to calculate egg deposition for fish $\geq 63 \mathrm{~cm}$ in length (large salmon) for all years.

Fecundity was determined from ovaries collected in the recreational fishery. Ovaries were stored in Gilson's fluid until ovarian tissue had broken down after which time eggs were transferred to $10 \%$ formalin. Eggs, which for the most part were in early stages of development, were counted directly. The following annual relative fecundity (eggs $/ \mathrm{kg}$ ) values were available for small salmon for Gander River:

| Year | Eggs/kg | $\mathbf{N}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1984 | 1,811 | 60 |
| 1985 | 1,524 | 73 |
| 1986 | 1,656 | 34 |
| 1987 | 1,811 | 13 |
| 1988 | 2,020 | 31 |
| 1989 | 1,989 | 29 |
| 1990 | 1,739 | 128 |
| 1992 | 1,831 | 77 |
| 1993 | 1,638 | 25 |
| Mean | 1,752 | 470 |

The mean for all years combined was used in 1987, 1991, and 1994-97. The same relative fecundity values were used for both small and large salmon.

## Total river returns, spawning escapement, and egg deposition

Calculations were performed for small and large salmon separately. Total egg deposition was obtained by summing depositions for small and large salmon.

## Total river returns

Total river returns (TRR) were calculated as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{TRR}=\mathrm{RC}_{\mathrm{b}}+\mathrm{C}+\mathrm{HRM}_{\mathrm{b}} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where,
$\mathrm{RC}_{\mathrm{b}}=$ recreational catch below counting fence
$\mathrm{C}=$ count of fish at counting fence
$\mathrm{HRM}_{\mathrm{b}}$ = hook-and-release mortalities ( $10 \%$ of hook-and-release fish) below counting fence in 1993-96 (see O'Connell et al. MS 1997b)

A partial count of small and large salmon was obtained at the counting fence in 1992. High water levels caused a delay in counting fence installation until July 1. During the period of delay, fish were counted upriver at the Salmon Brook fishway and also there were some angling catches. The numbers of small and large salmon entering Gander River prior to July 1 in 1989 and 1990 represented on average $4.8 \%$ and $7.5 \%$ of the total counts. The total counts of small and large salmon for 1992 were adjusted using these percentages and daily counts estimated as the the product of the average proportion of total count (for 1989-90) on a daily basis and estimated total count. Information for 1991 was not used because in that year timing of adult migration was later than in 1989 and 1990 (O'Connell and Ash MS 1992). A similar approach was used to adjust the counts of small and large salmon at the Salmon Brook fishway in 1990. In that year, counts were not obtained during the last two weeks of the run prior to the cessation of counting operations because of extremely low water conditions. The average percentage of small and large salmon counted at the fishway up to August 16 during the period 1984-91 (exclusive of 1987) was 95 and 90.

## Spawning escapement

Spawning escapement (SE) was calculated as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{SE}=\mathrm{FR}-\mathrm{RC}_{\mathrm{a}}-\mathrm{HRM}_{\mathrm{a}} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where,
FR $=$ fish released from counting fence
$\mathrm{RC}_{\mathrm{a}}=$ recreational catch above counting fence
$\mathrm{HRM}_{\mathrm{a}}$ = hook-and-release mortalities ( $10 \%$ of hook-and-release fish) above counting fence in 1993-96 (see O'Connell et al. MS 1997b)

## Egg deposition

Egg deposition (ED) was calculated as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
E D=S E \times P F \times R F \times M W \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where,
$\mathrm{SE}=$ number of spawners
$\mathrm{PF}=$ proportion of females
$\mathrm{RF}=$ relative fecundity (No. eggs $/ \mathrm{kg}$ )
MW = mean weight of females
The phenomenon of atresia occurs in Atlantic salmon in insular Newfoundland (O'Connell and Dempson MS 1997). Since the egg deposition calculations above were based on eggs in early stages of development, they should be regarded as potential egg depositions.

## Conservation egg deposition and spawner requirements

The conservation egg deposition and spawner requirements for Gander River were developed by O'Connell and Dempson (MS 1991). The egg requirement for classical fluvial parr rearing habitat (Elson 1957) was $240 \mathrm{eggs} / 100 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ (Elson 1975); the requirement for lacustrine habitat was 368 eggs/ha (O'Connell and Dempson 1995). It should be noted that Gander Lake was not included in the calculation of the egg deposition requirement.

Accessible rearing habitat and conservation egg and spawner requirements in terms of fluvial and lacustrine habitats were as follows:

|  | Lacustrine | Fluvial | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Accessible habitat | $21,488 \mathrm{ha}$ | 159,560 units |  |
| Eggs (No. x 10 ${ }^{6}$ ) | 7.917 | 38.294 | 46.211 |
| Small salmon (No.) | 3,739 | 18,089 | 21,828 |

The adult conservation spawning requirement was calculated in terms of small salmon only. Egg deposition from large salmon was considered as a buffer.

## Net marks

Since 1994, adult salmon entering the adult trap installed in the counting fence have been examined for the incidence of net marks.

## Results

## Recreational fishery

Catch and effort data are presented in Appendix 1. Catches for all years prior to 1992 represent retained catch for the entire angling season. Total catch for 1997 (retained plus released fish) is compared to years prior to 1992 and 1992-96. There was no estimate of released fish during the period of retention of catch in 1992 which could impact on comparisons. Calculation of catch per unit of effort (CPUE) in terms of retained fish only was not possible since effort figures apply to both retained and released fish collectively. For reasons pointed out above, effort and CPUE information are not available for 1997.

The total catch of small salmon (retained plus released fish) in 1997 decreased from 1996 (56\%) and the 1984-89 ( $22 \%$ ) and 1992-96 (39\%) means but increased slightly over the 1986-91 (6\%) mean. The number of small salmon retained in 1997 was the lowest of the time series. The number of small salmon released in 1997 decreased from 1996 (29\%) and the 1992-96 mean ( $12 \%$ ); the number of large salmon released (partial estimate) was the highest on record.

Thirty-eight small and 3 large salmon were released in the fall hook-and-release fishery in 1997; effort expenditure was 100 rod days. In 1996, 128 small and 17 large salmon were released; effort expended was 231 rod days. In 1995, 30 small and 9 large salmon were released with an effort expenditure of 158 rod days.

## Counts at counting fence and fishway

Counts of small and large salmon for the Gander River counting fence for the period 1989-97 are shown in Table 2 and Fig. 2. The count of small salmon in 1997 decreased from $1996(56 \%)$ and was the lowest of the moratorium years (decreased by $51 \%$ from the 1992-96 mean); the count however was higher than the pre-moratorium mean for 1989-91 (45\%). The count of large salmon was the highest since 1992, increasing slightly over that of 1996 (7\%) and decreasing slightly from the mean for 1992-96 (4\%). The distribution of daily counts of small salmon in 1997 was relatively flat compared to other years since 1992 (Fig. 3). The peak daily count in 1997 occurred in early July compared to late June in 1996. The peak count for large salmon occurred in late July, and in contrast to the other years, most returns were concentrated in August. The median daily count of small salmon in 1997 was encountered around the third week of July in 1997 compared to the first week of July in

1996 (Fig. 4). The median for large salmon in 1997 was the latest of the moratorium years and occurred approximately 12 days later than that of small salmon. The number of days between the medians for small and large salmon was highest in 1997 while in 1992 and 1993 the medians coincided.

Counts of small and large salmon for the fishway located in Salmon Brook tributary for the period 1974-97 are shown in Table 3 and Fig. 2. The count of small salmon in 1997 decreased from 1996 and the means ( $51,57,35$, and $63 \%$, respectively). The count of large salmon in 1997 increased slightly over 1996 (6\%) but was well above the 1984-89 (437\%) and 1986-91 (804\%) means; the 1997 count increased by 17\% over the mean for 1992-96.

## Total river Returns, Spawning escapement, and percentage of conservation requirement achieved

Total river returns, spawning escapement, potential egg deposition, and percentage of conservation requirement achieved for Gander River in 1989-97 are presented in Table 4. The percentage of conservation egg requirement achieved for 1989-97 is also shown in Fig. 5. Less than $50 \%$ of conservation requirement was achieved for small salmon in terms of egg deposition prior to the moratorium. During the moratorium, target conservation egg requirement was achieved in 1992, 1993, and 1996, although the years 1994 and 1995 were close to requirement at 91 and $95 \%$. The lowest percentage of conservation egg requirement achieved was in 1997. The conservation requirement for small salmon was met only in 1993. The highest proportionate contribution to total egg deposition by large salmon occurred in 1992 followed by 1997.

## Net marks

The numbers of small and large salmon examined for net marks and the numbers and percentages bearing net marks in 1994-96 were as follows:

| Year | Small salmon (No.) |  |  | Large salmon (No.) |  |  | Total (No.) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Examined | Marked | $\%$ | Examined | Marked | $\%$ | Examined | Marked | $\%$ |
| 1994 | 223 | 36 | 16.1 | 10 | 1 | 10.0 | 233 | 37 | 15.9 |
| 1995 | 233 | 16 | 6.9 | 13 | 6 | 46.1 | 246 | 22 | 8.9 |
| 1996 | 407 | 52 | 12.8 | 34 | 2 | 5.9 | 441 | 54 | 12.2 |
| 1997 | 162 | 27 | 16.7 | 33 | 4 | 12.1 | 195 | 31 | 15.9 |

The highest percentage of small salmon with net marks occurred in 1997 while for large salmon it occurred in 1995. For small and large salmon combined (total), the incidence in 1997 was the same as in 1994, the highest of the four years.

## Discussion

O'Connell et al. (MS 1997b) used an analysis of trends in numbers of small salmon recruits and spawners to provide an estimate of anticipated total returns to Gander River in 1997. Approximately 29,640 small salmon (with estimated upper and lower values of 16,080 and 39,580 ) were expected to return in 1997. However, actual returns of 10,591 small salmon fell below the lower value. The lower than expected returns for Gander River in 1997 was consistent with observations for other rivers with counting facilities in insular Newfoundland, particularly on the Northern Peninsula and northeast and east coasts. For detailed analyses examining possible reasons for the overall low returns of small salmon in insular Newfoundland in 1997, which includes information and discussion for Gander River, see Dempson et al. (MS 1998) and O'Connell et al. (MS 1998b).

The occurrence of net marks was likely the result of encounters with illegal and legal fishing gear in coastal waters and illegal gear in the river below the counting fence. It is not possible to accurately estimate the extent of such removals. Therefore total returns considered in the context of being equivalent to total production during the moratorium have to be regarded as minimum values.

Cautions associated with the parameter values used to calculate the conservation egg requirement have been discussed previously by O'Connell and Dempson (1995) and will not be dealt with here.

## Acknowledgements

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Table 1. Biological characteristics data for female small salmon and with sexes combined plus unsexed fish by year and for pre-moratorium (1984-91) and moratorium (1992-97) periods for Gander River (SFA 4), Newfoundland. WW = whole weight (kg); FL $=$ fork length $(\mathrm{cm}) ; \mathrm{RS}=$ repeat spawning grilse.

| Year | Sexes combined plus unsexed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Females |  |  |  |  |  | $\%$ <br> Female | N |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\overline{\mathrm{X}}$ WW | SD | N | $\overline{\mathrm{X}} \mathrm{FL}$ | SD | N | \% RS | N | X WW | SD | N | X FL | SD | N |  |  |
| 1984 | 1.54 | 0.35 | 109 | 51.3 | 3.80 | 109 | 2.8 | 3 | 1.54 | 0.39 | 71 | 51.1 | 3.89 | 71 | 65 | 71 |
| 1985 | 1.62 | 0.33 | 111 | 51.0 | 3.66 | 113 | 1.8 | 2 | 1.63 | 0.34 | 82 | 51.0 | 3.59 | 84 | 74 | 84 |
| 1986 | 1.61 | 0.35 | 51 | 52.1 | 3.27 | 51 | 11.8 | 6 | 1.76 | 0.30 | 32 | 53.1 | 2.90 | 32 | 82 | 32 |
| 1987 | 1.49 | 0.37 | 19 | 50.6 | 3.50 | 19 | 0.0 | 0 | 1.47 | 0.40 | 15 | 49.8 | 3.45 | 15 | 79 | 15 |
| 1988 | 1.63 | 0.33 | 40 | 52.6 | 3.56 | 40 | 5.0 | 2 | 1.61 | 0.33 | 33 | 52.4 | 3.74 | 33 | 83 | 33 |
| 1989 | 1.60 | 0.38 | 187 | 52.8 | 4.11 | 186 | 9.4 | 17 | 1.66 | 0.39 | 89 | 53.5 | 4.13 | 88 | 83 | 89 |
| 1990 | 1.80 | 0.47 | 245 | 53.7 | 4.07 | 245 | 5.4 | 13 | 1.84 | 0.48 | 170 | 54.0 | 4.24 | 170 | 73 | 170 |
| 1991 | 1.70 | 0.46 | 142 | 52.8 | 3.93 | 141 | 0.7 | 1 | 1.66 | 0.47 | 110 | 52.3 | 3.90 | 109 | 85 | 110 |
| 1992 | 1.80 | 0.44 | 149 | 54.3 | 3.80 | 172 | 0.0 | 0 | 1.78 | 0.44 | 87 | 54.6 | 4.02 | 108 | 65 | 109 |
| 1993 | 1.86 | 0.41 | 144 | 55.1 | 3.98 | 145 | 5.6 | 8 | 1.85 | 0.39 | 73 | 55.0 | 3.28 | 73 | 70 | 73 |
| 1994 | 1.75 | 0.49 | 196 | 53.6 | 4.18 | 196 | 7.5 | 13 | 1.83 | 0.46 | 101 | 54.1 | 4.25 | 101 | 73 | 101 |
| 1995 | 1.73 | 0.51 | 76 | 52.5 | 4.73 | 73 | 2.7 | 2 | 1.72 | 0.51 | 48 | 52.1 | 5.13 | 46 | 66 | 48 |
| 1996 | 1.95 | 0.57 | 105 | 54.6 | 4.40 | 120 | 5.9 | 7 | 1.95 | 0.56 | 68 | 54.6 | 4.35 | 71 | 70 | 71 |
| 1997 | 1.59 | 0.38 | 24 | 54.2 | 4.73 | 202 | 26.0 | 50 | 1.58 | 0.40 | 14 | 54.1 | 4.11 | 14 | 78 | 14 |
| Pre-moratorium |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1984-91 | 1.66 | 0.42 | 904 | 52.5 | 4.01 | 904 | 4.9 | 44 | 1.6899 | 0.431 | 602 | 52.6 | 4.10 | 602 | 77 | 604 |
| Moratorium |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1992-97 | 1.81 | 0.47 | 694 | 54.2 | 4.33 | 908 | 9.2 | 80 | 1.83 | 0.47 | 391 | 54.2 | 4.21 | 413 | 69 | 416 |

Table 2. Counts of Atlantic salmon at the Gander River counting fence, 1989-97. Adjusted counts are bold and in italics.

| Year | Small | Large |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1989 | 7743 | 473 |
| 1990 | 7520 | 508 |
| 1991 | 6445 | 670 |
| 1992 | 18179 | 4162 |
| 1993 | 25905 | 1734 |
| 1994 | 18080 | 1072 |
| 1995 | 22002 | 1121 |
| 1996 | 23665 | 1753 |
| 1997 | 10474 | 1883 |
| $\overline{\mathrm{X}} 86$-91 | 7236 | 550 |
| 95\% LCL | 5512 | 289 |
| 95\% UCL | 8960 | 811 |
| N | 3 | 3 |
| $\overline{\mathrm{X}} 92-96$ | 21566 | 1968 |
| 95\% LCL | 17309 | 394 |
| 95\% UCL | 25824 | 3543 |
| N | 5 | 5 |

Table 3. Counts of small and large salmon at Salmon Brook fishway, 1974-97. Partial counts are in parentheses and are not included in the means. Adjusted counts are bold and in italics.

| Year | Small salmon | Large salmon |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1974 | 857 | 9 |
| 1975 |  |  |
| 1976 |  |  |
| 1977 |  |  |
| 1978 | 755 | 52 |
| 1979 | (404) | (6) |
| 1980 | 997 | 15 |
| 1981 | 2459 | 33 |
| 1982 | 1425 | 18 |
| 1983 | 978 | 12 |
| 1984 | 1081 | 38 |
| 1985 | 1663 | 26 |
| 1986 | 1064 | 12 |
| 1987 | 493 | 9 |
| 1988 | 1562 | 24 |
| 1989 | 596 | 24 |
| 1990 | 345 | 8 |
| 1991 | 245 | 2 |
| 1992 | 1168 | 101 |
| 1993 | 1560 | 87 |
| 1994 | 968 | 83 |
| 1995 | 1600 | 125 |
| 1996 | 946 | 112 |
| 1997 | 465 | 119 |
| - |  |  |
| X 84-89 | 1076.5 | 22.2 |
| 95\% LCL | 572.9 | 11.2 |
| 95\% UCL | 1580.1 | 33.2 |
| N | 6 | 6 |
| - |  |  |
| X 86-91 | 717.5 | 13.2 |
| 95\% LCL | 190.5 | 3.7 |
| 95\% UCL | 1244.5 | 22.6 |
| N | 6 | 6 |
| X 92-96 | 1248.4 | 101.6 |
| 95\% LCL | 857.2 | 80.0 |
| 95\% UCL | 1639.6 | 123.2 |
| N | 5 | 5 |

Table 4. Total river returns, spawning escapements, and percentage of conservation requirement achieved in terms of small salmon and eggs for Gander River, 1989-97.

| Year | Total returns (No.) |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Prop. } \\ & \text { Large } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Spawning escapement (No.) |  | Egg deposition (Millions) |  | \% cons. req. achieved |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Eggs per } \\ & 100 \text { sq. m } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Small | Large |  | Small | Large | Small | Large | Small | Eggs |  |
| 1989 | 7743 | 473 | 0.058 | 6570 | 473 | 18.005 | 2.264 | 30.1 | 44 | 127 |
| 1990 | 7740 | 508 | 0.062 | 6585 | 508 | 15.381 | 2.126 | 30.2 | 38 | 110 |
| 1991 | 6745 | 670 | 0.090 | 5565 | 670 | 13.757 | 2.825 | 25.5 | 36 | 104 |
| 1992 | 18179 | 4180 | 0.187 | 17143 | 4180 | 36.317 | 18.422 | 78.5 | 118 | 343 |
| 1993 | 26205 | 1734 | 0.062 | 24739 | 1725 | 52.477 | 6.800 | 113.3 | 128 | 372 |
| 1994 | 18273 | 1072 | 0.055 | 16106 | 1068 | 37.697 | 4.504 | 73.8 | 91 | 264 |
| 1995 | 22266 | 1121 | 0.048 | 19606 | 1114 | 38.994 | 4.696 | 89.8 | 95 | 274 |
| 1996 | 23946 | 1753 | 0.068 | 20822 | 1746 | 49.796 | 7.362 | 95.4 | 124 | 358 |
| 1997 | 10591 | 1883 | 0.151 | 9519 | 1868 | 21.058 | 7.877 | 43.6 | 63 | 181 |



Fig. 1. Map showing the Gander River watershed and location of the counting fence (square symbol). Inset shows the Salmon Fishing Areas in Newfoundland and the location of Gander River.

Gander River
Counting Fence (Small)


Gander River
Counting Fence (Large)


## Gander River

Salmon Brook-Fishway (Small)


Gander River
Salmon Brook-Fishway (Large)


Fig. 2. Counts of small and large salmon at the Gander River counting fence and at the fishway located on the Salmon Brook tributary, 1974-97. The thin horizontal line represents the 1984-89 mean, the broken line the 1986-91 mean, and the thick solid line the 1992-96 mean. $\mathrm{A}=$ adjusted count; $\mathrm{P}=$ partial count, not included in the means.

## Gander River <br> Counting Fence



Fig. 3. Daily counts of small and large salmon at the Gander River counting fence, during the moratorium years, 1992-97.

## Gander River Counting Fence





Fig. 4. Daily cumulative percent of small and large salmon at the Gander River counting fence, during the moratorium years, 1992-97. Dates of median counts are also shown.


Fig. 5. Percentage conservation egg requirement achieved for Gander River, 1989-97.

Appendix 1. Atlantic salmon recreational fishery catch and effort data for Gander River, Notre Dame Bay (SFA 4), 1974-97. Ret. = retained fish; Rel. = released fish. The 1997 data, obtained from the license stub return, are preliminary.

| Year | Effort <br> Rod Days | Small ( $<63 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) |  |  | Large (>=63 cm) |  |  |  | Total (Small + Large) |  |  | CPUE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Ret. | Rel. | Tot. | Ret |  | Rel. | Tot. | Ret. | Rel. | Tot. |  |
| 1974 | 5153 | 2270 | . | 2270 | 19 |  | . | 19 | 2289 | . | 2289 | 0.44 |
| 1975 | 6670 | 2976 |  | 2976 | 38 |  | . | 38 | 3014 | . | 3014 | 0.45 |
| 1976 | 6633 | 2374 |  | 2374 | 132 |  | . | 132 | 2506 |  | 2506 | 0.38 |
| 1977 | 6939 | 2269 | . | 2269 | 927 |  | . | 927 | 3196 | . | 3196 | 0.46 |
| 1978 | 8322 | 3332 |  | 3332 | 389 |  | . | 389 | 3721 | . | 3721 | 0.45 |
| 1979 | 7217 | 4199 |  | 4199 | 318 |  | - | 318 | 4517 |  | 4517 | 0.63 |
| 1980 | 6384 | 2664 | . | 2664 | 268 |  | . | 268 | 2932 | . | 2932 | 0.46 |
| 1981 | 10643 | 4578 | . | 4578 | 249 |  | . | 249 | 4827 | . | 4827 | 0.45 |
| 1982 | 8026 | 2176 | . | 2176 | 205 |  | . | 205 | 2381 |  | 2381 | 0.30 |
| 1983 | 6934 | 2033 | . | 2033 | 239 |  | . | 239 | 2272 | . | 2272 | 0.33 |
| 1984 | 7590 | 2028 | . | 2028 | 13 |  | . | 13 | 2041 | . | 2041 | 0.27 |
| 1985 | 10207 | 3358 |  | 3358 | * |  | . | 0 | 3358 | . | 3358 | 0.33 |
| 1986 | 9740 | 2361 |  | 2361 | * |  | . | 0 | 2361 | . | 2361 | 0.24 |
| 1987 | 6384 | 1444 | . | 1444 | * |  | . | 0 | 1444 | . | 1444 | 0.23 |
| 1988 | 7943 | 2686 | . | 2686 | * |  | . | 0 | 2686 | . | 2686 | 0.34 |
| 1989 | 6290 | 1173 | . | 1173 | * |  | . | 0 | 1173 | . | 1173 | 0.19 |
| 1990 | 7118 | 1155 | . | 1155 | * |  | . | 0 | 1155 | . | 1155 | 0.16 |
| 1991 | 5853 | 1180 | . | 1180 | * |  | . | 0 | 1180 | . | 1180 | 0.20 |
| 1992 | 6273 | 1268 | 525 | 1793 | * |  | 3 | 3 | 1268 | 528 | 1796 | 0.29 |
| 1993 | 9073 | 1271 | 1950 | 3221 | * |  | 92 | 92 | 1271 | 2042 | 3313 | 0.37 |
| 1994 | 11287 | 2122 | 448 | 2570 | * |  | 39 | 39 | 2122 | 487 | 2609 | 0.23 |
| 1995 | 12215 | 2598 | 612 | 3210 | * |  | 74 | 74 | 2598 | 686 | 3284 | 0.27 |
| 1996 | 12347 | 2974 | 1153 | 4127 | * |  | 73 | 73 | 2974 | 1226 | 4200 | 0.34 |
| 1997** |  | 990 | 821 | 1811 | * |  | 152*** | 0 | 990 | 821 | 1811 |  |
| 84-89 X | 8354.0 | 2321.2 | . | 2321.2 |  | . | . | . | 2323.8 | . | 2323.8 | 0.28 |
| 95\% CL | 1998.7 | $1003.6$ |  | 1003.6 |  |  |  | . | 1002.1 | . | 1002.1 | 0.07 |
| N | 5 | 5 | 0 | 5 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| 86-91 ${ }^{\text {X }}$ | 7388.8 | 1711.0 | . | 1711.0 |  | . | . | . | 1711.0 | . | 1711.0 | 0.23 |
| 95\% CL | 1910.7 | 931.9 | . | 931.9 |  | . | . | . | 931.9 | . | 931.9 | 0.09 |
| N | 5 | 5 | 0 | 5 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| 92-96 $\overline{\mathrm{X}}$ | 10239.0 | 2046.6 | 937.6 | 2984.2 |  | . | 56.2 | 56.2 | 2046.6 | 993.8 | 3040.4 | 0.30 |
| 95\% CL | 3197.5 | 957.1 | 782.1 | 1075.8 |  |  | 43.9 | 43.9 | 957.1 | 814.4 | 1112.6 | 0.07 |
| N | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |  | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |

1987 DATA NOT INCLUDED IN MEAN.
in the above table a period indicates no data for that year.
CPUE IS BASED ON RETAINED + RELEASED FISH FOR 1992 - 1997 AND ON RETAINED FISH ONLY PRIOR TO 1992.

* NOT ALLOWED TO RETAIN LARGE SALMON IN INSULAR NEWFOUNDLAND
**DATA FOR 1997 WERE OBTAINED FROM THE LICENSE STUB RETURN AND ARE PRELIMINARY.
***PARTIAL

