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# Status of the Rocky and Little Rivers Stocks of Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar L.) of the Newfoundland Region in 1999 

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#### Abstract

The status of Atlantic salmon in two systems, namely Rocky River and Little River are assessed. The 1999 escapement to Rocky River was 404 ( 327 small and 77 large) salmon which was $166 \%$ and $104 \%$ of the 1987-91 and 1992-1998 means, respectively. The 1999 escapement to Little River was 356 ( 307 small and 49 large) salmon which was $375 \%$ and 118\% of the 1987-91 and 1992-1998 means respectively. Egg deposition for each watershed was 39\% for Rocky River, and 38\%(preliminary due to fry stocking) for Little River of the required conservation egg deposition. The 1999 Rocky River smolt count of 8,625 is below the 1990-98 mean of 9,825 with sea survival to 1 SW salmon being $1.79 \%$, the lowest in the nine year series. The 1999 Little River smolt count of 1,177 is below the 1992-98 mean of 2,030.


## Résumé

L'état du saumon de l'Atlantique est évalué dans deux réseaux, notamment celui de Rocky River et Little River. En 1999, l'échappée vers Rocky River comportait 404 saumons (327 petits et 77 gros), correspondant respectivement à 166 et à $104 \%$ de la moyenne des échappées de 1987 à 1991 et de 1992 à 1998. L'échappée vers Little River en 1999 était constituée de 356 saumons ( 307 petits et 49 gros), représentant respectivement 375 et $118 \%$ de la moyenne des échappées de 1987 à 1991 et de 1992 à 1998. La ponte atteignait respectivement $39 \%$ pour Rocky River et 38 \% (chiffre provisoire en raison de l'alevinage) pour Little River de l'objectif de conservation requis. Les saumoneaux dénombrés dans Rocky River en 1999 (8 625) étaient moins nombreux que la moyenne de 9825 de 1990-1998, avec un taux de survie en mer des saumons unibermarins de 1,79 \%, le plus faible dans la série de neuf ans. Les saumoneaux dans Little River se chiffraient à 1177 en 1999, soit en bas de la moyenne de 2030 établie pour les années 1992-1998.

## Introduction

The watersheds discussed in this paper have all undergone enhancement/fry stocking activities.

Rocky River, in SFA 9 was the site of a colonization project where a run of Atlantic salmon was established. Little River, in SFA 11 is the site of an ongoing ranching project with associated fry stocking.

The intent of this document is to review the status of Atlantic salmon stocks in the Rocky River and Little River watersheds in 1999.

## Methods

## Biological Characteristics

Biological characteristics used in this document are those determined for individual stocks (see Tables 2,3,7, and 10).

## Habitat Determinations

Rocky River, the largest watershed on the Avalon Peninsula, encompasses a drainage area of $296 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$ (Porter et al. 1974) flowing to the sea in Salmon Fishing Area 9 (SFA 9) (Fig. 1). Prior to fishway construction in 1987, a natural falls at the mouth of this river, made this watershed inaccessible to anadromous Atlantic salmon. Rocky River requires 3.4 million eggs to meet the required conservation egg deposition (Table 1).

The Little River flows into the Bay d'Espoir in SFA 11(Fig. 1) approximately 4 km south of the Conne River. The watershed encompasses $183 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$ (Porter et al. 1974) with a complete obstruction at kilometre 4.8 on the main stem of the river which results in anadromous Atlantic salmon having access to less than $30 \%$ of the watershed. Little River requires 313,920 and 976,072 eggs for the accessible and inaccessible portions of the watershed for conservation (Table 1).

## Enhancement/Stocking Activities

The Rocky River was stocked with unfed fry from a controlled flow spawning channel from 1984 to 1987; unfed fry from 1995 to 1996 from a recirculation incubator; 90 day fingerlings from the latter source in 1995 and adult salmon in 1987. For the stockings from 1984 to 1987 the brood source was Little Salmonier River. For additional detail on stocking activities refer to Table 4.

Little River was stocked with unfed fry from 1989 to 1999 with the exception of 1995 and 1998. Eggs from Little River were incubated in deep substrate incubation boxes and in recent years in fiberglass troughs. For additional detail on stocking activities refer to Table 8.

## Recreational Fishery

Rocky River, since the introduction of anadromous Atlantic salmon, has not been open for a recreational salmon fishery.

Little River downstream of the obstruction has been closed to angling since 1989.

## Management Measures

Management restrictions implemented in 1992 that impacted marine exploitation of salmon are as follows:

1. Moratorium on commercial salmon fishing along the coast of insular Newfoundland.
2. Moratorium on the cod fishery in areas $2 \mathrm{~J}, 3 \mathrm{~K}$ and 3 L implemented on July 15 , 1992. In 1998 a limited inshore index cod fishery was permitted in Sept. - Oct. and in 1999 a limited 9,000 t (total allowable catch) fishery was permitted.
3. Moratorium on the cod fishery in SFAs 10-14A implemented in August of 1993 further reduced the by-catch of Atlantic salmon. In 1997 the cod fishery in SFAs 10 and 11 reopened with a TAC of 10,000 t: the quota was incresed to $20,000 \mathrm{t}$ in 1998 and $30,000 \mathrm{t}$ in 1999.

## Fecundity

Detail of a fecundity study conducted on Rocky River is in the following table:

| Year | Number of females <br> examined | Number of females <br> examined for egg <br> retention |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1994 | 19 | 19 |
| 1995 | 30 | 5 |

Female salmon examined for fecundity were sampled for fork length, whole weight and scale sampled. Fish were manually stripped of their eggs, fertilised and then counted directly. Fish examined for egg retention were sacrificed and any remaining eggs removed, kept separate, fertilised and then counted directly. Percentage of eggs retained were used to adjust the egg counts of fish that were released alive.

The authors have chosen to utilise a length-based relationship to determine egg deposition as fish length records are likely more accurate than fish weight records. An analysis of covariance revealed a significant relationship between the length of female fish and number of eggs ( $p<0.05$ ); however, no significant relationship was found with
year. As a result of this analysis of covariance, fecundity data from the two years were combined. Regression analysis of raw, and log transformed data revealed significant relationships for both and provided $\mathrm{R}^{2}$ values of .57 and .56 , respectively. Figure 2 displays the regression line and equation for the linear regression of total number of eggs on fish length.

The Rocky River egg deposition was calculated based on average number of eggs/cm of fish (female) fork length. Percentage females in the population was calculated using the sex ratio of broodstock for the particular year and mean weight of females collected from broodstock. Rocky River egg deposition in 1996-1998 was based on the combined fecundity data for 1994 and 1995 years.

Fecundity values for Little River are those determined for the Conne River in 1993.

## Egg Depositions

The conservation egg requirement was calculated based on $2.40 \mathrm{egg} / \mathrm{m}^{2}$ of fluvial habitat and 368 eggs/ha of standing water. Smolt production of 7 smolt/ha was divided by $1.9 \%$ to convert this to eggs, (O'Connell et al., 1991).

Egg deposition was calculated by solving the linear regression equation using mean length of female salmon.

In order to determine the egg deposition in areas where fry stocking occurred, an estimate of egg-to-fry survival of $20 \%$ (Sturge, 1968) was used to back-calculate the number of fry released to equivalent naturally spawned eggs. Sturge (1968), in his work, gave a range of $10-30 \%$ for egg-to-fry survival and indicated that a figure of $20 \%$ appeared to be a reasonable value. Parr were back calculated to eggs by dividing the number of parr stocked by 0.125 ( V. Pepper, pers. comm.) based on parr stocking data obtained from Black Brook. Assumptions are that natural egg to fry survival is $20 \%$ and that $40 \%$ of the wild fry survive to their first fall. Inherent in this calculation is that $80 \%$ of fry placed in grow out cages survive to 90 day fingerlings.

Spawning escapements were calculated from fishway/fence counts less known removals with a $10 \%$ mortality rate applied to hook-and-released salmon.

## Smolt Operations

In 1999, a smolt fence was operated on the Rocky River for the tenth year; Dates of operation and dates of first and last smolt listed below.

| Year | Dates of Operation | Date of First <br> Smolt | Date of Last <br> Smolt |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1990 | Apr. 26 - June 8 | Apr. 27 | June 8 |
| 1991 | Apr. 23 - June 19 | May 1 | June 19 |
| 1992 | Apr. 27 - June 16 | Apr. 29 | June 15 |
| 1993 | Apr. 28 - June 14 | May 4 | June 11 |
| 1994 | Apr. 29 - June 16 | May 1 | June 16 |
| 1995 | May 2 - June 14 | May 2 | June 14 |
| 1996 | Apr. 25 - May 22 | Apr. 26 | May 22 |
| 1997 | May. 5 - June 23 | May 6 | June 23 |
| 1998 | Apr. 24 - June 15 | Apr. 26 | June 15 |
| 1999 | Apr. 18 - June 14 | Apr. 20 | June 14 |

The Rocky River smolt fence operated from April 18 - June 14 during 1999 with the exception of one 86.5 hour period when rods were removed due to high water and associated debris. Rods were removed on April 28 at 2030 hours and the fence was operational at 1100 on May 2. Prior to removing rods on April 28 the daily count was 74 smolt; the adjustment for April 28 was to increase the daily total by $15 \%$. The adjusted count for April 28 was then used for April 29 - May 1. The count for May 2 from 1100 2400 was doubled to adjust for the period 0000-1100.

A smolt fence has operated on the Little River since 1992 and from April 19 - June 9 in 1999.

Smolt that were sampled had the following data collected; fork length, whole weight, scale sample and sex.

Smolt condition was calculated as weight/length ${ }^{3}$.

## Adult Counts

In 1999, as in past years, a trap was installed in the upper most pool of the Rocky River fishway which, was operated from June 28 - Sept. 22.

An adult counting fence operated on Little River from June 2 - Oct. 13 in 1999.

## Smolt to adult survival

Smolt to adult survival was calculated based on the portion of virgin 1 SW fish in the escapement. This was determined by removing the repeat spawners from the fish enumerated based on scale aeging.

## Fin-clipped smolt

As part of the 1995 enhancement activities on Rocky River, 50,000 fry were raised for 90 days in semi-natural conditions resulting in the release of 31,983 parr that were adipose fin-clipped. Evaluation of the $2^{+}$component of this stocking was undertaken in 1997 in part through the examination of $30 \%$ of the run for the presence of adipose finclips. Evaluation of the $3^{+}$component of this stocking was undertaken in 1998 in part through the examination of $28 \%$ of the run for the presence of adipose fin-clips.
Evaluation of the $4^{+}$component of this stocking was undertaken in 1999 in part through the examination of $24 \%$ of the run for the presence of adipose fin-clips.

## Spawning Distribution

In 1999 a redd survey was conducted on Rocky River to determine the spawning distribution of the adult fish.

## Results and Discussion

The use of fixed parameters, such as 2.4 eggs $\mathrm{m}^{2}$ and 7 smolts/ha of standing water, has certain limitations (see O'Connell \& Dempson, 1995 for discussion on this topic).

## Rocky River

## Egg Deposition

The 1999 freshwater escapement (total returns) of 404 ( 327 small and 77 large) adults to Rocky River was $166 \%$ of the 1987-1991 mean and $104 \%$ of the 1992-1998 mean. In 1999 Rocky River achieved 39 \% of it's conservation egg deposition (Table 4.).

## Smolt Count

In 1999, 8,321 smolt were enumerated in a partial smolt count; the adjusted smolt count was 8,625 . Adjustments made included 304 smolt for the April 28-May 2 washout.

This count (see Table 5) is $88 \%$ of the 1990-1998 mean smolt count. The 1999 smolt run was comprised of $1 \%$ age $2^{+}$, $77 \%$ age $3^{+}, 20 \%$ age $4^{+}$and $1 \%$ age $5^{+}$smolt (from the 1993-1997 egg depositions) (Table 3).

## Smolt-to-Adult Survival

Figure 3 displays smolt-to-adult survival from 1990-1998 which averaged 2.8\% and ranged from $1.79 \%$ to $4.2 \%$. In 1998 smolt-to-adult survival decreased to $1.79 \%$ and was the lowest value for the years when data are available. Table 5 details enumeration of the 1990-1999 smolt output. The 1999 adult returns were resultant from natural spawning and parr stocking in 1995 and 1996.

Figure 3 also displays the relative condition factor of the outmigrating smolt which was one of the highest values observed in 1997 but yielded the lowest smolt-to-adult survival rates observed to date.

Figure 4 reveals the relationship between virgin 1SW returns plotted against smolt condition.

## Egg-to-Smolt survival

Table 6 provides insight into the egg/fry-to-smolt survival on the Rocky River. At present it appears that egg-to-smolt survival has been improving since 1990 with the 1992 and 1993 egg depositions yielding the highest egg-to-smolt survival figures recorded to date.

## Spawning Distribution

The results of this survey revealed redds distributed throughout the system and all tributaries being utilized for spawning. Adult fish have access to the entire watershed with no clumping of spawners in particular areas.

## Parr Rearing

In 1997-1999 river age $2^{+}-4^{+}$smolts from the 1995 stocking of 31,983 reared parr were examined for survival yielding the following results;

| Year | \% of smolt run <br> examined | No. of fin-clips <br> observed | Estimated no. of fin- <br> clips |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1997 | $32.8 \%$ | 765 | 2,332 |
| 1998 | $25.6 \%$ | 608 | 2,375 |
| 1999 | $24.8 \%$ | 32 | 129 |
| Total |  |  | 4,707 |

These smolt had an average mean length and weight that was larger than the average for the wild smolt run (see Table 3).

Survival, to date, from fry and $1^{+}$parr to smolt was $9.4 \%$ and $14.7 \%$ respectively for the 90 day fingerlings.

## Predicted adult returns

Forecasts in terms of virgin grilse returns in year X + 1 have been made since 1994 for Rocky River and are listed in the text table below. Forecasts were made based on the range of smolt-to-adult survivals observed to date.

| Year | Prediction | Observed |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |
| 1999 | $268-511$ virgin grilse | 218 virgin grilse |
| 1998 | $410-740$ virgin grilse | 370 virgin grilse |
| 1997 | $300-496$ virgin grilse | 353 virgin grilse |
| 1996 | $189-323$ virgin grilse | 314 virgin grilse |
| 1995 | $234-318$ virgin grilse | 324 virgin grilse |

## Little River

Table 1 details the available habitat and the required egg deposition for the Little River watershed. The data are presented for the area above and below the obstruction since fry stocking occurs above the falls. In 1999 a fence count of 356 ( 307 small \& 49 large) adults was recorded. The 1999 returns are $374 \%$ of the 1987-1991 mean and $118 \%$ of the 1992-1998 mean.

In 1999 Little River achieved 38\% of it's required conservation egg deposition (see Table 8). Note figure is preliminary due to fry stocking.

Table 9 details the dates of counting fence operation and the number of smolt and parr enumerated for 1992-1999. Table 10 details the biological characteristics of smolt sampled in Little River. Of interest is the large number of parr enumerated at the fence each year. The fence site is located approximately 1 km upstream of the river mouth but is under tidal influence. This is suggestive that these parr are smoltifying downstream of the fence site.

In 1999, five salmon of hatchery origin were identified from Little River.
Smolt-to-adult survival figures were not calculated as they would not likely be indicative of the entire smolt output.

There were no fry were stocked in Little River in 1998.

## References

O'Connell, M. F., and J. B. Dempson. 1995. Target spawning requirements for Atlantic salmon, Salmo salar L., in Newfoundland Rivers. Fisheries management and ecology. 2:161-170.

Porter, T. R., L. G. Riche, and G. R. Traverse. 1974. Catalogue of rivers in insular Newfoundland. Vol. D. Resource Development Branch, Newfoundland Region. Data Record Series No. NEW/D-74-9: 353p.

Sturge, C. C. 1968. Production studies of the young stages of Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar L.) in an experimental area of Indian River, Notre Dame Bay, Newfoundland. M.Sc. Thesis, Dept. Biology, Memorial University of Newfoundland. 134p.

Table 1: Rearing area and conservation egg deposition for watersheds referenced in present study.

|  | Riverine habitat $\left(\mathrm{m}^{2}\right)$ | Lacustrine habitat (ha) | Conservation egg deposition |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rocky River | 10,823 | 2,191 | $3,404,730$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| Little River | 5,221 | 989 | $1,253,040$ |
| -accessible | 1,308 | 0 | 313,920 |
| -inaccessible | 3,913 | 989 | 939,120 |

Table 2. Biological characteristics of Rocky River adults.

| Year | No. <br> Sampled | \% Female | No. 2 Sea Winter Virgin | Mean <br> Length(cm) | Mean Weight(kg) | \% Repeat Spawners | Freshwater Age |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $2^{+}$ | $3^{+}$ | $4^{+}$ | $5^{+}$ |
| 1990 | 21 | N/A | 0 | 57.1 | 2.2 | 14 | 6 | 72 | 16 | 6 |
| 1991 | 32 | N/A | 0 | 56.9 | 2.2 | 9 | 15 | 58 | 27 | 0 |
| 1992 | 24 | N/A | 0 | 58.0 | 2.4 | 17 | 18 | 55 | 27 | 0 |
| 1993 | 32 | N/A | 0 | 56.5 | 2.2 | 13 | 3 | 69 | 24 | 3 |
| 1994 | 68 | 79 | 0 | 56.9 | 2.0 | 31 | 16 | 72 | 12 | 0 |
| 1995 | 111 | 86 | 1 | 56.0 | 2.0 | 22 | 14 | 77 | 9 | 0 |
| 1996 | 18 | N/A | 0 | 54.9 | 2.0 | 17 | 6 | 61 | 33 | 0 |
| 1997 | 41 | N/A | 1 | 59.6 | 2.5 | 34 | 13 | 85 | 2 | 0 |
| 1998 | 38 | N/A | 1 | 57.5 | 2.3 | 26 | 3 | 90 | 5 | 2 |
| 1999 | 32 | N/A | 0 | 57.1 | 2.3 | 41 | 20 | 44 | 36 | 0 |

Table 3 . Biological characteristics of Rocky River smolt.

| Year | No. <br> Sampled | \% <br> Female | Mean Length(cm) | Mean Weight(g) | Percentage at various Freshwater Ages |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | $2^{+}$ | $3^{+}$ | $4^{+}$ | $5^{+}$ | $6^{+}$ |
| 1988 | 28 | 57.1 | 17.5 | 54.5 | 0 | 64 | 36 | 0 | 0 |
| 1989 | 28 | N/A | 14.9 | 32.4 | 18 | 67 | 11 | 4 | 0 |
| 1990 | 101 | 84.2 | 17.3 | 46.5 | 1 | 66 | 29 | 4 | 0 |
| 1991 | 146 | 86.3 | 17.0 | 43.2 | 16 | 70 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| 1992 | 71 | 78.9 | 17.0 | 44.7 | 1 | 76 | 21 | 2 | 0 |
| 1993 | 88 | 71.6 | 18.9 | 58.2 | 13 | 57 | 24 | 6 | 0 |
| 1994 | 160 | 83.8 | 17.0 | 45.1 | 2 | 66 | 29 | 3 | 0 |
| 1995 | 124 | 77.4 | 17.0 | 44.8 | 16 | 77 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 1996 | 203 | 83.4 | 16.7 | 44.1 | 7 | 82 | 10 | 0 | 1 |
| 1997 | 110 | 75.5 | 17.2 | 46.3 | 11 | 76 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Finclip | 116 | 56.3 | 17.5 | 49.1 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1998 | 119 | 55.7 | 17.0 | 44.1 | 27 | 62 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| Finclip | 90 | 55.0 | 18.1 | 54.2 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1999 | 193 | 77.6 | 17.3 | 50.8 | 1 | 79 | 19 | 1 | 0 |
| Finclip | 3 | ? | 18.7 | 61.0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 |

Table 4. Details of egg deposition Rocky River.

| Year | Fry Stocked | Parr Stocked | Adults Stocked | Adult Count |  |  | Broodstock | Total Eggs | \% Conservation Egg |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Total | Small | Large |  |  |  |
| 1983 | 0 |  | 0 |  |  |  | 0 | 1,538,875 | 45 |
| 1984 | 307775 |  | 0 |  |  |  | 0 | 2,172,500 | 64 |
| 1985 | 434500 |  | 0 |  |  |  | 0 | 970,000 | 29 |
| 1986 | 194000 |  | 0 |  |  |  | 0 | 1,998,225 | 59 |
| 1987 | 399645 |  | 140 | 81 | 80 | 1 | 0 | 743,595 | 22 |
| 1988 | 0 |  | 0 | 319 | 313 | 6 | 0 | 1,011,527 | 30 |
| 1989 | 0 |  | 0 | 177 | 168 | 9 | 0 | 561,255 | 17 |
| 1990 | 0 |  | 0 | 418 | 401 | 17 | 0 | 1,359,420 | 40 |
| 1991 | 0 |  | 0 | 227 | 211 | 16 | 0 | 730,874 | 22 |
| 1992 | 0 |  | 0 | 283 | 237 | 46 | 0 | 961,811 | 28 |
| 1993 | 0 |  | 0 | 364 | 292 | 72 | 0 | 1,148,320 | 34 |
| 1994 | 0 |  | 0 | 177 | 158 | 19 | 62 | 857,862 | 25 |
| 1995 | 50,000 | 31,983 | 0 | 424 | 385 | 39 | 76 | 1,918,012 | 56 |
| 1996 | 162,231 | 0 | 0 | 401 | 356 | 45 | 0 | 1,163,295 | 34 |
| 1997 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 524 | 435 | 89 | 0 | 1,917,225 | 56 |
| 1998 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 553 | 423 | 130 | 0 | 1,834,473 | 54 |
| 1999 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 404 | 377 | 77 | 0 | 1,340,193 | 39 |

-The 1998 biocharacteristics for Rocky River egg deposition are the same as those used for 1996.

Table 5. Details of smolt enumeration Rocky River 1990-1999.

| Year | Smolt <br> Count | Smolt <br> Released | \% Smolt-to-1SWAdult <br> Survival |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1990 | 8287 | 8287 |  |
| 1991 | 7732 | 7732 | 2.47 |
| 1992 | 7813 | 7813 | 2.93 |
| 1993 | $5115^{*}$ | 5115 | 3.49 |
| 1994 | 9781 | 9781 | 2.30 |
| 1995 | 7577 | 7577 | 3.39 |
| 1996 | $14,261^{*}$ | 13,057 | 4.15 |
| 1997 | $16,900^{*}$ | 16,900 | 2.8 |
| 1998 | $12,163^{*}$ | 12,163 | 2.19 |
| 1999 | $8,625^{*}$ | 8,436 | 1.79 |

* Smolt count is an estimate due to fence washout

Table 6. Details of egg/fry to smolt survival for Rocky River.

| Year | egg to smolt <br> survival (\%) | Fry to smolt <br> survival (\%) | Smolt classes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1985 |  | 0.08 |  |
| 1986 |  | 1.3 | $5^{+}$ |
| 1987 |  | 1.6 | $4^{+}, 5^{+}$ |
| 1987 | 1.00 |  | $3^{+}, 4^{+}, 5^{+}$ |
| 1988 | 0.86 |  | $2^{+}, 3^{+}, 4^{+}, 5^{+}$ |
| 1989 | 1.04 | $2^{+}, 3^{+}, 4^{+}, 5^{+}$ |  |
| 1990 | 0.57 |  | $2^{+}, 3^{++}, 4^{+}, 5^{+}$ |
| 1991 | 1.02 |  | $2^{+}, 3^{+}, 4^{+}, 5^{+}$ |
| 1992 | 1.62 |  | $2^{+}, 3^{+}, 4^{+}, 5^{+}$ |
| 1993 | 1.28 | $2^{+}, 3,4^{+}, 5^{+}$ |  |
| 1994 | 1.31 |  | $2^{+}, 3^{+}, 4^{+}, 5^{+}$ |
| 1995 | 0.52 | $2^{+}, 3^{+}, 4^{+}$ |  |
| 1996 | 0.01 |  | $2^{+}, 3^{+}$ |
|  |  |  | $2^{+}$ |

Table 7. Biological characteristics Little River adults 1990, 1992 - 1996, 1998.

| Year | Life Stage | Fork Length |  |  | Weight |  |  | River Age |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Mean (No.) | S.D. | Range | Mean (No.) | S.D. | Range | Mean (No.) | S.D | Range |
| 1990 | 1SW | 51.41 (73) | 3.79 | 44.00-62.80 | 1.34 (73) | . 32 | .700-2.500 | 3.02 (62) | . 50 | 2-4 |
|  | Repeat | 57.40 (4) | 1.19 | 56.20-59.00 | 1.82 (4) | . 15 | 1.700-2.000 | 3.00 (4) | . 00 | 3 |
| 1992 | 1SW | 51.51 (89) | 2.53 | 46.50-59.00 | 1.48 (88) | . 22 | 1.100-2.200 | 3.00 (68) | . 42 | 2-4 |
|  | Repeat | 63.85 (12) | 6.45 | 53.50-73.00 | 3.05 (11) | 1.20 | 1.700-5.900 | 2.80 (10) | . 42 | 2-3 |
| 1993 | 1SW | 51.68 (154) | 2.81 | 40.90-59.10 | 1.486(154) | . 29 | 1.000-2.700 | 3.05 (144) | . 38 | 2-4 |
|  | Repeat | 60.55 (13) | 5.62 | 53.70-72.70 | 2.29 (12) | . 65 | 1.400-3.800 | 2.92 (12) | . 29 | 2-3 |
| 1994 | 1SW | 51.33 (62) | 2.93 | 41.80-60.20 | 1.33 (62) | . 25 | .800-2.200 | 2.95 (58) | . 35 | 2-4 |
|  | Repeat | 58.19 (8) | 7.42 | 48.70-71.00 | 1.97 (8) | . 82 | 1.300-3.600 | 3.14 (7) | . 69 | 2-4 |
| 1995 | 1SW | 51.17 (111) | 3.34 | 44.70-67.60 | 1.25 (111) | . 26 | .800-2.900 | 2.86 (108) | . 50 | 2-4 |
|  | 2SW | 68.00 (1) | - | - ${ }^{-}$ | 3.00 (1) | - | - | - | - | - |
|  | Repeat | 61.81 (7) | 5.49 | 55.50-70.80 | 2.24 (7) | . 71 | 1.500-3.300 | 3.00 (7) | . 58 | 2-4 |
| 1996 | 1SW | 53.12 (113) | 2.23 | 46.00-58.70 | 1.41 (113) | . 21 | .960-2.120 | 2.60 (110) | . 60 | 1-4 |
|  | Repeat | 66.50 (1) | - | - | 1.58 (1) | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1998 | 1SW | 51.5(105) | 4.32 | 42.4-69.8 | 1.40(105) | . 36 | .800-3.65 | 3.17(104) | . 49 | 2-5 |
|  | Repeat | 66.7(49) | 5.62 | 56.0-79.6 | 3.06(50) | . 78 | 1.65-4.7 | 2.68 (50) | . 68 | 2-4 |
| 1999 | 1SW | 53.75(69) | 3.01 | 47.4-60.1 | 1.5(69) | . 29 | .89-2.2 | 2.71 (69) | . 65 | 2-4 |
|  | Repeat | 66.35(250 | 6.91 | 55.2-77.8 | 2.7(25) | 1.0 | .48-4.4 | $3.14(21)$ | . 73 | 2-5 |

Table 8. Egg deposition rates for Little River 1987-1995.

| Year | Fence Count | Spawning <br> Escapement | Stocking |  | Natural Egg <br> Deposition | $\%$ <br> Conservation <br> Wild | Total Eggs <br> Below Falls | Conservation <br> Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1987 | Small | Large |  | Fry | Egg <br> Equivalents |  | 0 | 91,410 | $29 \%$ |
| 1988 | 65 | 3 | 67 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 92,774 | $29 \%$ | 91,410 |
| 1989 | 102 | 5 | 64 | 0 | 100350 | 90,046 | $28 \%$ | 190,396 | $15 \%$ |
| 1990 | 158 | 15 | 93 | 20070 | 204835 | 124,154 | $40 \%$ | 328,989 | $26 \%$ |
| 1991 | 55 | 6 | 31 | 40967 | 103715 | 42,294 | $14 \%$ | 146,009 | $12 \%$ |
| 1992 | 104 | 21 | 26 | 20743 | 656215 | 35,473 | $11 \%$ | 691,688 | $55 \%$ |
| 1993 | 169 | 11 | 75 | 131243 | 592360 | 102,325 | $80 \%$ | 694,685 | $55 \%$ |
| 1994 | 73 | 11 | 84 | 118472 | 0 | 114,604 | $37 \%$ | 114,604 | $9 \%$ |
| 1995 | 118 | 17 | 45 | 0 | 462640 | 61,395 | $56 \%$ | 524,035 | $42 \%$ |
| 1996 | 674 | 127 | 663 | 92528 | 729605 | 904,551 | $288 \%$ | $1,634,156$ | $130 \%$ |

Egg deposition for 1999 is preliminary due to fry stocking to be conducted later this year

Table 9. Details of smolt and parr enumeration Little River.

| Year | Dates of Operation | No. Smolt | No. Parr |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1992 | May 11-July 5 | 382 | 1,404 |
| 1993 | May 15-July 5 | 324 | 1,500 |
| 1994 | May 6- June 13 | 501 | 4,018 |
| 1995 | May 2 - June 22 | 2,712 | 1,586 |
| 1996 | May 1 - June 5 | 4,449 | 585 |
| 1997 | May 14 - July 8 | 2,521 | 336 |
| 1998 | Apr. 25 - June 16 | 3,320 | 739 |
| * the fence was | Apr. 19 - June 9 | 1,117 | 171 |

* the fence was out of operation from Apr. 29 - May 3

Table 10. Biological characteristics of Little River smolt.

| Year | No. <br> Sampled | \% <br> Female | Mean <br> Length(cm) | Mean <br> Weight(g) | \% at Age |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

Note: 1993 \& 1995 smolt samples were collected on a single day.
1996 samples collected over 5 days.
1997 samples collected May 22 - June 11
1998 samples collected May
1999 samples collected May 11- May 25


Fig. 1. Map showing the 14 Salmon Fishing Areas of the Newfoundland Region.


Figure 2. Fecundity relationship for Rocky River salmon.


Figure 3. Smolt-to-adult (1SW) survival and relative condition factor of Rocky River smolt.


Figure 4. Smolt condition in year $X$ versus 1 SW returns in year $X+1$.

