

Margaree Salmon Association Annual General Meeting,
Friday, October 7, 2022 at 7 pm.(St. Patrick's Hall)

Attendees:(sign in sheet):Gioia Usher,Kyle Usher, Greg Lovely,Paul MacNeil,Joel Robinson,Jack Aikens,Keith Christmas,Aaron,Allen,Patrick Poirier,Pat Wall,Lester Wood,John Hart,Eugene LeBlanc,Wayne Cleveland,Lloyd Withers,Jean Haley,Susi Moore,Alan Moore,Peter Mancini,Julia Campbell,Rod Bird,John Stinson,Richard H. Lee Jr.

-Call to order and the President's address:Bill Haley brought the meeting to order at 7pm.He started the meeting reminding the members that we are on unceded Territory of the Mikmaq people.Bill then went on to inform the membership of the many projects that MSA has participated in this year.Some of these activities include;tree propagation and planting,habitat remediation,including a large project below Doyle's bridge,acoustic tagging with DFO,assisting with work on a smolt wheel and trapnet installed by DFO.MSA also helped to deploy temperature loggers throughout the watershed.There were UNB and Dal PHD students here placing acoustic tags in smolt and doing a study to measure stress hormone levels in smolt caught in a smolt wheel,versus other means of capture.

DFO did their usual electrofishing survey to evaluate numbers of salmon fry and parr at standard sites (8-10), and the results were great.The only site of concern was Trout Brook in Lake Ainsley,where numbers were low.This is likely because of the numbers of invasive smallmouth bass that were illegally introduced several years ago.

Bill then introduced the membership to Aaron Allen,our new Conservation Coordinator. This being Bill's last Board meeting as President said he very much enjoyed his years as MSA'S President and thanked the board for all their hard work.

-Adopting the minutes of the last annual meeting: motion(Greg Lovely)..second(Peter Mancini)...mc

After this,Lester Wood wanted to talk about last year's minutes and Greg reminded Lester that he was out of order and that once a motion has been voted on,the issue is closed.

-Adopting the minutes of any special meeting held since the last annual meeting:There were no Special meetings in 2022.

-Receiving and adopting the treasurer's financial statement and auditor's report.

motion(John Stinson)...second(Peter Mancini)

Before the membership voted to accept the Treasurer's report,Lester Wood wanted questions answered.Lester's concerned that operational money was from memberships only, and not enough

is generated, therefore he is concerned about using investment revenue for operations, which if not within certain limits might be taxable and could jeopardize charitable status.

John Stinson reminded Lester that so far what he has been doing for MSA seems to be working. Bill asked Lester what he wants done and he said he just wanted to note his concern. Bill thanked him for his comments. Pat Wall then asked a question about insurance. John explained the insurance was for office contents and Directors liability and also insurance for MSA'S Habitat Remediation Crew. Pat was satisfied and thanked John. Bill then asked the membership to vote on accepting John Stinson's Treasurer's report and they did so unanimously.

-Reports from affiliation representatives: There were no reports this year

-Report of the resolutions committee and call for adoption of each resolution: There was only one resolution this year and it was to "Ban the use of all types of sinking lines" for recreational angling in the Margaree River. There was so much information that the committee did not know about, for example the legal use of split shot addition to leaders, sinking leaders, sinking fly lines, that this subject was tabled until we have a more comprehensive understanding.

-Reports of other committees: Greg informed the membership of the thermal imaging drone work that was done on 38 kms of the Margaree River this year and how the information will help guide our habitat remediation activities. We had planned on doing eDNA studies to better understand the range of smallmouth bass in our watershed. Either Kellie Whit from Cape Breton University or Andrew Lowles from Nova Scotia Inland fisheries can help us accomplish this next year. MSA is having a CABIN study done this year and will revisit all the sites that were done six years ago. We look forward to the results of all this work, hoping it shows the Margaree River remains an extremely healthy system.

-Nominating Committee and call for further nominations from the floor (three times)
Bill put forward the names of 3 people that have accepted nominations for MSA Board positions. These are Paul MacNeil for President, Julia Marie Campbell as second Vice President, and Gioia Usher as Director. Bill then asked if there were any further nominations from the floor three times and there were none.
Bill then closed nominations.

-Election of officers

Motion to accept Paul MacNeil as MSA President (Bill)..second (Susi)..mc

Motion to accept Julia Marie Campbell as Second Vice President (Bill)...second (Pat)..mc

Motion to accept Gioia Usher as Director (Bill)..second (Julia)..mc

Guest speaker (Pat Wall)

Pat Wall gave us an interesting story of how a boy growing up in Salmoniere a small Newfoundland community, ended up being one of the founding members of the Margaree

Salmon Association. Pat's love of salmon fishing began early and as his interest grew, so did his interest to give back by volunteering on several organizations and meeting like minded individuals throughout his life. Pat has served on the Boards of Nova Scotia Salmon Association, Wild Salmon Unlimited, the Margaree Salmon Association, just to name a few. Pat fell in love with his wife Annie from Margaree and the river and he still beams when he talks about the people he has met who volunteered their time to make the Margaree what it is today. Nova Scotia Joint Stocks accepted the proposal that the Margaree Salmon Association become a not for profit conservation organization in 1982. There have been many obstacles over the years, such as poaching, commercial fishing, and plenty of controversy. Through it all, the MSA has persevered and continues to work hard to help maintain one of Pat Walls favorite rivers, the Margaree.

-New business: Peter Mancini opened the floor to the MSA members that would like to communicate concerns, questions to the MSA Board and asked that we keep this part of the meeting to 15 minutes.

John Hart started by reminding everyone present that the MSA Mission statement says we are to protect Atlantic salmon. It is with this in mind that John wishes we would consider lowering the temperature threshold for the Margaree River Warm Water Protocol to 19 C. Also he would like a lower water threshold as read by the hydrometric station to be considered when deciding to close the river to recreational angling. John would also like to resurrect the River Watch Program.

Susi Moore wondered if large nets for netting salmon could be left at pools along the Margaree river to help land Atlantic salmon. Bill said that a lot of anglers carry their own nets now and if left in the woods would likely be stolen.

A suggestion of garbage cans along the river might help prevent the build up of garbage along the river. John Hart said a lot of river organizations have regular clean ups.

This is something MSA is looking into.

Rod Bird reminded the members that if they wish to contact MSA they can do so at any time, and Julia also said that most of our meetings are hybrid and that we would gladly send out a link to ZOOM, so any member can join us to express their concerns.

-Adjournment of business meeting: motion (John Stinson)