



Moncton, NB

Contact: Charles LeBlanc

January 20, 2016

Email:

cleblan618@rogers.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(C)

Tel: (506) 866.4345

Wise Use of Our Salmon Resources

Wildlife president says the wise use of our natural resources is a cornerstone of conservation policies. "That phrase was number one with the Federation when it was organized in 1924 and it remains true today, especially for Atlantic Salmon" said NB Wildlife Federation President Charles LeBlanc today.

LeBlanc also stated "Our Federation believes in science-based river-by-river management of Atlantic salmon, and the wise use of our natural resources, including the retention of grilse where there is abundance. We share that view with those that promote hook and release angling as a conservation measure. However, we also believe there are some rivers where there is an abundance of male grilse that contribute little to egg deposition and should be available for retention by our anglers. The established watershed management approach provides the policy framework for this determination."

This is the message LeBlanc left with DFO Minister Hunter Tootoo at his meeting with the recreational fisheries stakeholders in Moncton last week.

As indicated at the meeting, the NBWF's immediate concern is over the management measures for the recreational fishery which were introduced last year, and the polarized voices now coming forward from the various angler groups. LeBlanc said "Time is of the essence in addressing these matters before the 2016 season and we look forward to timely meetings with DFO to discuss this year's fishing regulations."

NBWF's view is that the Atlantic salmon management framework has already been established through the Wild Atlantic Salmon Policy, the Maritime Provinces Stewardship Strategy, and the Integrated Atlantic Salmon Fishery Management

Planning process. All of those need updates, but the main principles are set out in those documents said LeBlanc.

Consistent with this policy framework, the NBWF also shares concerns over the huge drop in salmon anglers on our rivers last year as a direct result of the blanket application of the hook and release measures introduced last year. It not only hurt the economies of our local river communities, but it also took the eyes and ears off the river. The presence of anglers on our rivers is a great deterrence to poaching. Also, fewer anglers means fewer of our youth are learning to enjoy salmon angling. It is our youth who are the future of conservation. If they do not learn about our natural resources, they will not learn about conservation said LeBlanc.