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Mr. Tom Benjamin  
N. B. Salmon Council  
10 Porter Road  
Nauwigewauk, N. B.  
E9N 6X1

Dear Tom:

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the N. B. Salmon Council (AFS) and others information on re-commissioning the Flowers Cove Fish Culture Facility to restore and stock salmon and trout in Oromocto and Nerepis watersheds and other waters within the Saint John River basin. We will appreciate receiving your general letter of support, as well as any comments from the participants in attendance. Please address your letter to: Merlyn MacDonald, 4832 Route 123, Chipman, N.B. E4A 2C3.

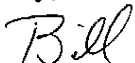
Reviewing my suggestions for controlling and/or eliminating smallmouth bass from Miramichi Lake the following actions should be considered by the scientific study committee and/or consultants:

- (1) Seek an immediate interim DNR and DFO ministerial policy directive directing fisheries managers to attack the problem.
- (2) Key to preventing further bass spread is to retain commercial fishermen from mid-May to mid-July to trap net the lake with no less than 50 trap nets per day; Ron Nowlan (Pokemouche) has had past experience here. Bass would be culled and other species released. It should be possible to capture nearly all the lake's fish larger than 12 cm which would provide some time to set a reclamation plan in motion. Several trap nets should also be set in the outlet channel to intercept downstream migrating bass; the nets could be temporarily lifted during the day to allow gaspereau spawners to reach the lake if that was necessary or considered important. Even with a complete loss of 2009 gaspereau run, the species would quickly recover given immature age classes still at sea.
- (3) The commercial fishermen could also set gill nets ( $\geq 2$  inch bar) to capture larger, mature bass prior to spawning. The largest white perch and larger white suckers would also be caught, but younger age classes would quickly repopulate the lake if reclamation were unsuccessful. Also, as a backup., non-bass species could be collected and temporarily retained at the Miramichi Conservation Center (hatchery) and/or placed in one of the many fishless strip mine ponds near Chipman.

- (4) Scuba diving teams and boat observers (including the commercial fishermen) should patrol the lake's shoreline during bass spawning season to locate spawning nests. The eggs and attending mature bass would be immediately culled.
- (5) The lake's entire outlet channel should be electrofished as soon as spring flow conditions permit. The outlet channel should also be considered for reclamation with a piscicide, preferably antimycin as this piscicide is undetectable to fish, simple to apply and is effective at 2 parts per billion concentration. Although registered in the USA, antimycin may not be registered in Canada but could a ministerial exception solve this? Antimycin can be expected to become nontoxic to fish in the lake within 7 to 10 days, another advantage over rotenone.
- (6) Bass habitats at the outlet's confluence with the Southwest Miramichi and suspected bass habitats at least 5 km below the confluence should also be electrofished to find and eliminate bass that may have migrated from Miramichi Lake.
- (7) Reclamation is absolutely necessary and should not be compromised by environmental managers who are unfamiliar with fisheries management principals. My suggestion should be to lower the lake's level during the summer months as much as feasible; also, to construct a simple, low level dam to block off outlet flows when the piscicide is applied to contain the chemical as long as possible in the lake. Perhaps the lake should be reclaimed in mid to late September 2009 to take advantage of homothermous conditions and avoid fall high water. A  $KMnO_4$  drip station would be set up near the outlet confluence to detox subsequent outlet flows; this, with the huge dilution from the SW Miramichi will ensure downstream fishes are not harmed. The remnant outlet flows would also be treated with piscicide using a drip station and backpacks at the same time as lake reclamation.
- (8) Even if we are not successful in total bass elimination, we will find out why and with adaptive management we should be able to identify improved course of actions and prevent such future happenings.
- (9) Lake resurveys (every 5 years or so?) in the Miramichi and Restigouche basins should be considered by appropriate government agencies.

Thanks again for the opportunity to address your group and the great lunch; and hope you have a healthy new year stuffed with happiness!

Sincerely,



William C. Hooper

c.c. Mary Sabine  
Tasha Robertson  
Debbie Norton  
Geoff Griffin  
Merlyn MacDonald  
Tim Paul