

February 5, 2007



Mr. Gary Spencer, President
New Brunswick Salmon Council Inc.
Post Office Box 533, Station "A"
Fredericton, NB E3B 5A6

Dear Mr. Spencer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the brook trout stocking program and the Salmon Council's support for the Charlo and Miramichi hatcheries' interest in providing brook trout for the stocking program. As you are aware our program will consist of annually stocking 160,000 brook trout to be reared at the "yet-to-be-determined" contracted hatcheries and 46,000 landlocked salmon from the Mactaquac Biodiversity Center.

The stocking program will be delivered in compliance with the Departmental Policy which has provision for lake stocking as well as stream stocking of sea-run brook trout. The Policy requires that we prioritize our enhancement efforts based on science and public benefits. While the lake stocking strategy is strongly supported by the scientific literature, stocking brook trout into streams presents biological, logistical and financial challenges associated with increased labour costs, inefficient use of hatchery rearing space and poor survival after release to the wild. Additionally, the production costs for rearing multiple trout strains would significantly reduce the numbers of fish available for public stocking.

In the past, we stocked a small number of rivers with sea-run trout with the short-term objectives of jump starting the local populations or supporting estuarial fisheries. In order to remain adaptive and address changing priorities, we intend to regularly evaluate the program including the use of alternate strains and stocking locations, including sea-run brook trout stocks.

Finally, let me confirm my intention to foster a strong working relationship with the New Brunswick Salmon Council in delivering our recreational fisheries program. The Department recognizes the importance of partnerships with user groups to achieve common goals. In that regard, I encourage you to collaborate with Charlo and Miramichi hatcheries towards preparing a detailed comprehensive submission for the "Request for Proposal" process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald Arseneault", written in a cursive style.

DONALD ARSENEAULT

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