



February 20, 2012

Attention FISH FRIENDS teachers!

It is a pleasure to be writing this message to you in my new position as chair of the NB Salmon Council (NBSC) Fish Friends program. As you may be aware, the NBSC assumed the reins for this wonderful program from the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) in 2011. I have been working closely with Geoff Giffin of the ASF to get to know the many dedicated volunteers around the province and to ensure we have a smooth transition to this year's program.

It is hard to believe but the Fish Friends season is almost upon us! Eggs are developing at the hatcheries as I write this memo and they will be ready for delivery in the coming weeks. By now, I expect that you have been contacted by your local volunteer to confirm your participation in this year's program. If not, please take a few moments to confirm your participation in this year's program with your local Fish Friends volunteer.

Your salmon eggs are due to be delivered by volunteers during the two weeks immediately following the March Break (i.e. primarily March 12-16 and continuing March 19-23). Therefore it is important that you do the following prior to the beginning of March Break – i.e. **NO LATER THAN** the week of FEBRUARY 27th – March 2nd:

1. Thoroughly clean and sterilize the aquarium, rocks, filter, coil, etc.
2. Set the tank on a very sturdy table. Remember that the tank full of water weighs several hundred pounds.
3. Set the tank on a base of insulating Styrofoam. It must be insulated on all sides. Insulating on all sides provides two benefits – 1) it stabilizes water temperature and prevents the chiller from working too hard, and 2) provides darkness for the eggs which is very important at this stage of development.
4. Ensure that the chiller is properly supported such that it is not hanging by the coil, which puts weight on the glass side of the tank. This could cause a break in the tank.
5. Gently place the rocks on the bottom of the tank.
6. Add enough water to cover the coil.
7. Check the chiller air intake screen to make sure it is clean. When clogged with dust, this can overwork the chiller making it difficult to maintain temperatures. If necessary, clean the air intake screen with a vacuum cleaner.
8. Turn the chiller and filter unit on and be sure to cover the water intake with mesh or a small foam filter so as to prevent the fry from getting pulled into the filter unit.
9. Set the temperate at ~ 4 degrees Celsius.
10. Insert new filter packs and let the system run over the March Break in preparation for the delivery of the eggs.

For more detailed information about the preparation and setup of the tank, you may refer to the ASF website at:

http://www.asf.ca/fish_friends.php?type=friends_tank

If you have any questions, please call or email your area volunteer or feel free to contact me by phone or email – my contact info is provided below.

Thank you for your continued support for the Fish Friends program. The NB Salmon Council appreciates the time and energy you put into ensuring that your students are learning important lessons about wild Atlantic salmon, our rivers and our environment.

Have fun with the fish!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Alexander", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Don Alexander
Chair, Fish Friends Program, NB Salmon Council
Email: dkalex@xplornet.ca
Phone: 506-955-8098