



ATLANTIC SALMON ANGLERS Your Views on Catch and Release are Important!

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) would appreciate your feedback on catch and release (also known as live release) of wild Atlantic salmon to guide our education, public awareness and advocacy programs. (Live release is the practice of safely releasing angled fish, so that they can go on to spawn and in many cases repeat their migrations).

All responses that provide a name and contact information will be put into a draw for a signed, custom-framed limited-edition ASF print, *Restigouche Evening*, by noted NB artist Bruno Bobak. (Value \$375).

Whether anonymous or not, your opinion is important. Please help by answering the following questions and submit them by April 15, 2010.

Status of the Salmon Populations

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) reports that wild Atlantic salmon and grilse abundance in North America fell from 1.8 million in 1975 to 625,000 in 2008. (Grilse are mature fish that spend only one year at sea before returning to their natal rivers to spawn. Grilse can be male or female. The ratio of males to females depends on the genetic makeup of specific river salmon populations. Of the 625,000 salmon and grilse that returned in 2008, there were at least 2.5 times as many grilse as large salmon).

However, grilse abundance declined precipitously in most rivers in 2009.

About You

I have been an Atlantic salmon angler for:

< 1 year 1-5 years 6 – 10 Years > 10 Years

I am:

male female

In which province do you fish for Atlantic salmon most often?

Newfoundland and Labrador New Brunswick Nova Scotia Quebec
 Prince Edward Island

Do you think that the practice of live release angling is an important contribution by anglers towards conservation of wild Atlantic salmon?

Yes No Comments

Do you consider grilse important to the health of salmon runs and the enjoyment of angling?

Yes No Comments

Do you voluntarily release salmon and grilse that the law allows you to retain?

() Yes () No

If you answered yes above, please fill out the line below:

I release:

() All () All but one () Some () Most Comments

The Techniques of Live Release

Are you confident that you are able to release angled fish safely to maximize their survival?

() Yes () No

If not, what would help you learn how to do this the most? Rank from 1 to 3.

- A video showing steps to safely release salmon and grilse
- A pamphlet describing steps to properly release salmon and grilse
- A session on live release with an expert angler/guide on the river
- Other suggestions

Potential Government Measures

Do you support the introduction of live release Atlantic salmon licenses as an option for resident and non-resident anglers in all provinces? Currently they are available in New Brunswick and Quebec.

() Yes () No () Comments

Would you be more inclined to purchase a live release license if it were to be offered at a lower cost than a regular license?

() Yes () No

To ensure that authorities have accurate data on the number of salmon and grilse that anglers kill and the number that they release, would you support mandatory return by anglers of an annual Atlantic salmon creel census to government?

() Yes () No

Barbless hooks are easier to remove from angled fish and they do less damage to young salmon (parr and smolt) that might inadvertently be caught. In Newfoundland and Labrador, barbless hooks are an angling requirement. Should they be required in all provinces?

() Yes () No () Comments

As a precautionary measure, would you support a reduction in tags in view of the continued challenges to wild Atlantic salmon and grilse survival throughout eastern Canada?

() Yes () No () Comments

Should non-resident (out of province and out of country) anglers be restricted to live release fishing?

Yes No Comments

The Science Behind Catch and Release

Did you know that peer-reviewed scientific studies conclude that live release works if done properly?

Yes No.

Research has shown that grilse:

can spawn repeatedly, grow bigger, and provide more formidable challenges to anglers.

maintain genetic diversity that salmon populations need to survive in the event of major loss of large salmon.

divert the attention of predators from larger salmon.

travel in shoals with large salmon, making them feel safer and behave more naturally, encouraging them to move further upstream to seed rivers.

Considering this information, will you be more inclined in the future to also release the grilse you catch?

I already release my grilse Yes No If no, why not?

The Final Word is Also Yours

Do you have other reasons why it is important to release grilse?

Yes No

If you answered yes to the above please state your reason(s).

If you would like to share other live release thoughts, opinions, or experiences, please do so in this space.

Comments

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey. Please return it to:

ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION -

email to savesalmon@asf.ca - fax to 506-529-4438 -

or mail to: P. O. Box 5200, St. Andrews, NB E5B 3S8