

**U.S. Atlantic Salmon Assessment Committee**  
**BRIEF of Annual Report of Report No. 20 - 2007 Activities**  
Portland, Maine March 11 – March 14, 2008

1. **Status** of US Stocks 2007
  - a. Returns to US = **1,255 adult salmon**: rank 27<sup>th</sup> in 41 year time series
    - i. During Marine Phase 1991 to present: returns average =1,817; median = 1,636  
2007 returns ranked **14<sup>th</sup> in 17 year** time series
    - ii. Benchmark - Conservation Spawning Escapement = 29,000 spawners – 2007 returns were **4.3% of CSE**
  - b. Contributions of each stock complex to total US returns - Central New England (9%), Fundy (1%), Gulf of Maine (81%), Long Island Sound (10%).
    - i. Penobscot River population accounted for 74% of total
    - ii. US sea age composition. - **24% 1SW** and **76% multi sea winter (MSW)**
      1. MSW mostly 2SW - only three 3SW fish and one repeat spawner
    - iii. Origin of returns - **74% hatchery smolt** origin and **26% naturally-reared** from fry or parr stocking and natural reproduction.
  - c. Large River Returns –
    - i. Connecticut R. -141: 122 (87%) naturally reared and 19 (13%) smolt stocked
    - ii. Merrimack R. - 74: 14 (19%) naturally-reared and 60 (81%) smolt stocked
    - iii. Penobscot R. - 925: 123 (13%) naturally reared and 802 (87%) smolt stocked
2. **Hatchery** Production 2007
  - a. A total of **13.5 million juvenile salmon stocked** in 15 river systems
    - i. Total is typical of the decade
    - ii. Fry stocking – 12.4 M stocked in 15 systems
    - iii. Parr stocking – 364K stocked in 5 systems (Connecticut, Pawcatuck, Penobscot, Narraguagus, Machias)
    - iv. Smolt stocking – 772K smolts in 5 systems (Connecticut, Pawcatuck, Merrimack, Penobscot, Dennys)
      1. 560K in the Penobscot River
    - v. **Adult stocking – 3,877** stocked in 9 systems, most excess to holding capacity
      1. mature adults - Sheepscot, East Machias, and Machias rivers and Hobart Stream (**produced redds**)
      2. support sport fishery - Merrimack River
3. Other Highlights
  - a. Recreational Fishery – Penobscot River fall fishery catch and release – 90 licenses sold
    - i. 31 documented in river – 3 caught and released
  - b. Commercial Farm production - 2,715 metric tonnes (60% of 2006 total)
    - i. Production in four the last six years < 50% of 13,202 t produced in 2001
4. Emerging Issues
  - a. **Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus (IPNV)** - isolated from Connecticut River Atlantic salmon - all eggs and broodstock at the facility and eggs transferred to another facility destroyed
    - i. **USASAC statement about pre-planning for IPN:** *IPN may represent a critical threat to Atlantic salmon recovery. The introduction and discovery of IPN at any hatchery facility will result in loss of genetic diversity and the loss of one to three year classes. Current procedures for screening and isolating fish are inadequate to protect against an IPN outbreak. Options for IPN mitigation, prevention and screening need to be investigated immediately and this should be a fish health priority.*
  - b. *Didymosphenia geminata* (didymo or rock snot) was detected in the White River, Connecticut River watershed, upstream of the White River National Fish Hatchery in 2007. Hatchery discontinued river water use and chilled well water.
    - i. USASAC members compared and shared field disinfection protocols