



Year End Message



this great species reaches a healthy and thriving population.

When I became Chairman at the Annual Meeting this past spring, I pointed out the two major concerns I saw at that time, being (i) the Smallmouth Bass issue in Miramichi Lake; and (ii) the situation on the Northwest Miramichi system. Both are being addressed to some degree but we must keep a "tight line" on the issues and be a force to cause government to get the job done in both instances.

On another front, I am pleased that Bill Taylor and the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) have committed to conduct a comprehensive economic analysis of the value of wild Atlantic Salmon. I believe I can commit MSA if called upon to help with this initiative in any way possible. On the Miramichi - especially at this time - people will no doubt be surprised at the salmon fishery's contribution to the

economy. It may well be larger than the forestry sector: for sure larger than mining.

At our fall Directors Meeting in Freeport, MSA passed a motion to call upon the federal government to ban the use of gill nets and the use of barbed hooks in the recreational fishery on the Miramichi system, including the estuaries. As we all are aware, gill nets are indiscriminate killers - there is no selection process with this method of fishing. For several years now, MSA has had a resolution on record encouraging the use of pinched barbed or barbless hooks. There are those who continue to want to fish with barbed hooks, be they single or double. It seems to me that a single barbless hook will do less damage to a fish being released than the alternative. Keep in mind that the spring salmon fishery on the Miramichi is regulated by use of a single barbless hook, and in Newfoundland, totally barbless hooks.

As the year winds down, I want to wish all a happy and safe Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year with our rivers abundant with salmon. And in the spirit of the season and giving, please remember that MSA is always in a "fundraising mode" so I would encourage each and every one to assess your financial situation with a view to supporting your river conservation. You may even be able to save money as any donation will result in your receiving a receipt for income tax purposes!

Manley Price, Chairman



Presidents Report

by Mark Hambrook

The salmon run to the Miramichi was much better than expected in 2010, and like the Pacific sockeye salmon, have Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) scientists baffled as to the reasons. The Atlantic salmon forecast model for the Miramichi tries to predict the number of large salmon returning each year by looking at the number of grilse returning the year before. The relationship between grilse and salmon is based on the fact that when the young salmon smolts migrate to the ocean, in the case of the Miramichi, the males mostly come back to spawn after one year in the ocean as grilse (2 kg) and the females mostly come back to spawn after two years in the ocean as salmon (4 kg). From looking at many years of data, for every three grilse that come back in a given year, there will normally be one virgin salmon coming back the following year. Since some salmon can live to spawn over several years and these numbers have increased since the closure of the commercial salmon fishery, the number of repeat spawners now accounts for about 35% of the total number of large salmon returning. The new ratio from the data set to predict the total number of large salmon (virgin and repeats) returning is now roughly two grilse in a year will produce one salmon the next year.

In 2009, the Miramichi River experienced a good run of large salmon in the Southwest Miramichi and a mediocre run of large salmon in the Northwest

Miramichi. Both branches had poor runs of grilse in 2009 and therefore DFO predicted poor salmon returns in 2010. DFO doesn't try to predict the number of grilse returning each year, although we have smolt numbers leaving the Southwest Miramichi for the past 10 years, because the variability of marine survival from year to year is high and difficult to predict.

The good news is that the DFO index traps in 2010 indicated a better than normal year for the Southwest Miramichi and one of the best years in the past decade for the Northwest Miramichi for both salmon and grilse. One of the unknown factors is how many salmon died due to the extreme warm water conditions during the summer of 2010. Certainly the restrictions on angling in the Northwest Miramichi for part of the season in 2010 would have positively impacted the salmon there.

We will anxiously await the official DFO numbers that will be presented in January 2011 to see the estimate of how many salmon made it to the spawning grounds in 2010 and the prediction of large salmon returns for 2011. The really good news for the Southwest Miramichi is that the smolt run in 2010 was twice as high as the official target and the largest run since the MSA started counting smolts over 10 years ago. This should translate to a good return of grilse in 2011 (although my crystal ball doesn't always work well either).

Record Smolt Production on the Southwest Miramichi!!!

By Jenny Reid - Biologist, Miramichi Salmon Association

The year 2010 was a record breaking year for smolt production on the Southwest Miramichi, producing approximately 2.2 million smolts - up from a record high of 1.5 million smolts in 2007. The target for the Miramichi River system is 3.0 smolts per 100m² and the smolt run in 2010 appears to have doubled that target, achieving smolt production in the order of 6.2 smolts per 100m². We physically handled over 65,000 smolts through the Millerton smolt traps, more than twice the number for a given smolt season. This kept our staff very busy on the traps each day and they became very efficient at sorting the smolts from the other fish species. The reasons for the high numbers of smolts are unclear but may be partially due to the relatively mild winter and easy ice-out this spring compared to other years. The Southwest Miramichi in general has had good fry and parr production in the past few years which likely contributed to the high smolt numbers leaving the river.

Interestingly, on the Dungarvon and Cains Rivers where we have smolt wheels set up to measure production from those rivers, we did not see a doubling of smolt production like we did on the Southwest Miramichi as a

whole. However, the Dungarvon River had an estimated smolt production of 71,000 smolts (3.2 smolts per 100m²). This is the same as the record high for the Dungarvon in 2007 and on the Cains, no estimate was available because of the low number of tags that were recaptured due to the low efficiency of the smolt wheel. However, from the information we have, it appears that the Cains River may have produced more smolts than in other years from 2002-2009. Due to the low water conditions, the smolt wheels did not fish as efficiently as in other years and it may have been that some smolts moved out of the tributaries before the smolt wheels were in, or moved through other parts of the river channel beside the smolt wheel. However, we did have all the traps in much earlier in 2010 than in other years and we did not appear to miss many smolts at Millerton based on the daily catch.

It is hoped that the increased smolt production in 2010 will have an increased number of grilse coming back in 2011 and an increase in two sea-winter maiden salmon in 2012! Time will tell - we'll have to wait and see!

Kelt Tracking Updates 2010

by Jenny Reid

Kelt survival out of the river was high, 90% of the tagged kelts made it to the mouth of the river. The kelts that made it to the mouth passed between May 2-14th, between four and eighteen days after they had been angled at Quarryville or Red Bank. The kelts moved through Miramichi Bay May 2-21st, 2010. Of the 45 kelts that made it through the outer array, seven kelts passed through the Strait of Belle Isle on their way to Greenland. The kelts that went through the Strait of Belle Isle are likely alternate spawners. These kelts will recondition in the ocean in 2010 and may return to spawn in 2011.

The kelts that exited the estuary but were not picked up by the receivers at the Strait of Belle Isle may have exited through the part of Cabot Strait not covered by receivers, may be reconditioning the Gulf of St. Lawrence or may have died at sea.

Nine kelts returned back to the Miramichi River, to spawn in 2010. The kelts that returned back to the Miramichi in 2010 are consecutive spawners, which recondition in the ocean for part of the summer and return in the summer or fall of 2010 to spawn again. All of the kelts that returned were tagged as salmon and returned to the river between June 22 and July 14th, 2010.

Most of the returning kelts entered the river and traveled quickly through the lower tidal section of the river. However there were three kelts that made some interesting movements. One kelt was captured at the DFO Southwest trap on July 13th, 2010. DFO staff noticed it since it still had stitch marks on the belly where the tag had been inserted. Another kelt was picked up in the Bay du Chaleur on a receiver for a smolt tracking study on July 12, 2010, it moved into the Miramichi River that day and made it's way up the Southwest. Another kelt entered the river on July 6th, went up the Northwest on July 9th held for the summer then on September 26th moved downstream and up the Southwest. This kelt was originally tagged on the Southwest Miramichi.

We will not know entirely how many kelts successfully returned until 2011 when the kelts that went to feed off the coast of Greenland return.

MSA Welcomes The Honourable Bruce Northrup New Minister of Natural Resources



During the provincial election on September 27, 2010, Bruce Northrup was elected to the 57th New Brunswick Legislative Assembly for the second time, and two weeks later was sworn in as Minister of Natural Resources. On behalf of all MSA directors and members,

we congratulate the Honourable Bruce Northrup for the distinction he has received and the responsibilities he has accepted, and we welcome the opportunity to work closely with him on matters of mutual interests pertaining to the Miramichi River and its precious resources.

Prior to this new portfolio and since his election in September 2006 as the Progressive Conservative member representing the electoral district of King East, he served as official Opposition critic for issues relating to energy and NB Power, and was the critic for interest related to the Department of

Natural Resources. He was also the official Opposition whip. Needless to say, we have a man at the DNR helm with a great level of experience.

Born in Sussex, New Brunswick, where he has lived most of his life, Minister Northrup has been actively involved in that community with various charities and sports activities. He has coached baseball, soccer and minor league hockey, leading the New Brunswick Canada Games Hockey Team in 1983 and the Atlantic Midget Sussex-Kennebecasis Valley Rangers to win the Minor AAA championship in 2006. He is past president of the Sussex Minor Hockey; past vice-president of the Sussex area Children's Wish Foundation; co-chair of the Sussex-area Relay for Life; town councilor from 1986 to 1989; and member of the Sussex Rotary Club.

Members of the MSA Executive Committee look forward to formal communications and a meeting with Minister Northrup at which time the full range of our conservation priorities can be discussed with him.

MSA Annual Boston Dinner Saturday, February 5th, 2011

The Boston Dinner Committee hopes you can join us at the Miramichi Salmon Association's Annual Dinner and Symposium on Saturday, February 5, 2011. The event, as in the past, is at the Burlington Marriott in Burlington, Massachusetts (near Boston).

The Miramichi Salmon Association needs your support for its conservation efforts now more than ever. The Boston Dinner is essential to MSA fund raising goals. Goods and services typically exceed \$80,000 in value and include original art, prime Miramichi angling trips, guided saltwater excursions, fishing gear, and outdoor clothing. You can contribute to the Kelt tracking program that supports the Ocean Tracking Network effort directed by Dr. Fred Whorisky, one of our symposium speakers. Check the MSA website for trip details to set your bidding strategy for all the Miramichi angling opportunities at this year's dinner.

Directors Vaughn Anthony, Andy Goode, and Marty Vickers to be honored

Dr. Vaughn C. Anthony

Vaughn has been a valued member of the MSA Board of Directors, having had an impressive career in stock assessment and practical participation in international fisheries management that stretched over 30 years. All of his accomplishments - many honors and awards for his work cannot be listed here. Vaughn was a leader of the Fisheries Assessment Task force for the National Marine Fisheries Service. He was also Director of Marine Research, Maine Department of Marine Resources, and served on the Board of Directors for the Maine Council of Atlantic Salmon Federation and Fisheries Initiative Committee for Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine.

Andrew Goode

For the past 12 years, Andy has been Vice President of US Programs for the Atlantic Salmon Federation. Currently living in Freeport Maine, he has been instrumental in shaping the Penobscot River Restoration Project to remove dams on the main stem of the river that when implemented, will give Atlantic salmon access to 1,000 miles of free flowing river. Andy coordinated conservation programs for Orvis and worked for The Nature Conservancy. He tells us "*It's hard to believe I attended my first Boston dinner almost 35 years ago*".

Martyn A. Vickers, MD

Marty has been a major contributor to the MSA Board of Directors for many years where he contributes his expertise and strong commitment to that role. His writings, fly tying and practice of unique fishing techniques attest to his love of the Miramichi. A renowned urologist, he is presently an Associate Professor of Urology at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center and staff urologist at Penobscot Bay Medical Center in Rockland, Maine. He was elected to Who's Who in American Medicine and selected by his academic peers as one of the best doctors in America.

Be sure to attend the Saturday afternoon Symposium for the latest updates pertaining to the Miramichi River and other important angling topics. This year's panel includes Dr. Fred Whorisky, Rip Cunningham and Jack T.H. Fenety scholarship recipient, Nathan Wilbur.

Please make dinner reservations or get additional information by calling Nola Chiasson at the MSA South Esk Office at 506-622-4000. Hotel reservations at the Boston Marriott Burlington may be made at 781-229-6565. To obtain the MSA reduced group rate, make your reservations by January 14, 2011 and be sure to tell them you are attending the MSA function.

Fredericton Conservation Dinner - A Success Story!

On September 15, 2010, the MSA's Fredericton Conservation Dinner attracted 515 anglers, conservationists and friends of the Miramichi River to an outstanding evening in support of the wild Atlantic salmon. The dinner produced net proceeds in the six figures - \$101,000!- which will go towards sustaining MSA operations and its conservation initiatives.

The fact that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Honourable Gail Shea, joined us on this occasion as guest speaker, at a time when we badly need national leadership to bring action to the serious decline of Atlantic salmon stocks, was indeed an honour. It was inspiring to hear in her own words "*I value highly the partnership we have with the Miramichi Salmon Association and I am committed to working with you*". We are all fortunate to serve as stewards of one of the world's great rivers, and it is essential that we also work together with DFO in preserving wild salmon runs in the Miramichi.

MSA Membership Really Does Make a Difference

The Miramichi Salmon Association respects the long and rich legacy of the Miramichi River and its precious resource, accepting the responsibility to help sustain that heritage. The goal in the months and years ahead is to work towards the preservation and enhancement of the wild Atlantic salmon, and for the protection of its habitat in the Miramichi watershed. The challenge to save the Atlantic salmon has never been so great.

The MSA is constantly working to build its membership. There is a great strength in numbers, and every member can help. Each membership, whatever the category, is an extremely valuable addition to the MSA roll. Along with this Salmonletter, you will find a membership application form which we hope you will share with family and/or friends. Watch for future announcements as to the benefits of being an MSA member through NB merchants!

MSA Welcomes New Life Member

It is a great pleasure to welcome Mr. Brian Johnson as a new Life Member of the Miramichi Salmon Association. His special gift is a significant contribution to the MSA Endowment Fund; even more importantly, his presence on our membership roll clearly adds to the underlying strength of the MSA's conservation influence and representations. The MSA is intent on setting the roots of this organization as deeply as possible, and such participation will help to consistently nurture that goal.

In late October, Brian visited the Salmon Conservation Centre and enjoyed a tour through the facilities with Chairman Manley Price and President Mark Hambrook, both relaying to Brian the role of MSA, and in particular explaining the various MSA field programs.



Our Life Member roll now stands at 336. While we refer to these as Life Memberships, they are in reality perceived to be continuing commitment to the cause of Atlantic salmon conservation. *"My membership is a life-long commitment for my support for the MSA to enhance the treasure of the Miramichi River the wild Atlantic Salmon"*, said Johnson.

An avid supporter of the MSA for several years, Brian Johnson, owner of Kingswood Park in Fredericton, has been extremely generous in donating golf passes to our various dinner auctions. We are truly pleased to have him join the MSA ranks.

You Can Be the Winner of this Beautiful Oak Ledge Canoe!

Oak Ledge Canoes is located in Storeytown, New Brunswick (near Doaktown) on the banks of the Miramichi River. As master canoe builders, Norm Betts and his crew build traditional cedar rib and planked canoes. They obviously take great pride in their work and welcome you to stop by to take a look for yourself either in person when in the area or visit their website at www.info@oakledge.ca.

Sincere appreciation is extended to Mr. Earl Brewer of Fredericton, NB for his donation of the "Miramichi Lady" canoe handcrafted by Oak Ledge Canoes. This 18ft. canoe is valued at \$3,500 and could be your pride and joy on the Miramichi River should you be the successful winner! Tickets are now on sale with draw to be conducted February 5, 2011. Tickets are \$100 each; only the first 2,000 sold will be honoured, so don't delay - fill out the enclosed ticket and send it with your payment to either of the MSA offices (listed on page 8). Visa or MasterCard also accepted by calling the offices. You may also submit online at www.miramichisalmon.ca

We thank you in advance for your generous support of this fundraising project. All monies raised will be strictly dedicated to MSA's conservation efforts on behalf of the Atlantic Salmon and the Miramichi River. Good luck!

First Cast MSA Pilot Program Deemed a Huge Success!

Organizers of the First Cast MSA owe a huge debt of gratitude to all those volunteers who worked so effectively as a team to pull off a most successful start of this program on the weekend of July 31 - August 1. Kudos go up and down the ladder for all of your efforts, which bode well for encore performances in the 2011 fishing season.

Saturday morning got off to a terrific start as we greeted five pairs of mentors with their apprentices at the Atlantic Salmon Museum in Doaktown. Two pairs included individuals from the Big Brothers chapter of Fredericton. One of the mentors had fished before, albeit was eager to learn more; the other had never had a fly rod in his hand. Truly an amazing experience to see how all of them took to the exercise with such zeal and enthusiasm! Three other pairs included two of our own members, one with his 14 year old grandson, the other with his 9 year old nephew.



Participants practice casting on dry land first.

The morning was spent under the direction of Museum Executive Director Linda Gaston and her husband Bev, doing a truly remarkable job in a First Cast presentation slide show which delved into MSA's partnership with the Museum concerning conservation of the species, and how we as individuals make a big difference by joining forces to preserve and protect the Atlantic Salmon through our conscientious presence on the river. Appreciation is expressed to Jenny Reid for her professional contributions to making this slide show something that can certainly be applied to all future First Cast MSA events. The morning wrapped up by Bev Gaston leading us on a tour of the Museum, and transitioned through lunch by having all attendees see excerpts of the terrific Joan Wulff video on Dynamics of Fly Casting.

That afternoon was spent riverside with Vince Swazey's instruction on fly casting and river etiquette. Participants progressed from use of the Wulff Fly-O's to use of full sized rods, working one-on-one with Vince and casting in the river. Sincere appreciation is expressed to MSA members Don Bell, Manley Price, David Wilson and George Linton who so generously donated some of their fishing equipment to this program. I'm happy to report that it was all used for the fluid operation of fly casting instruction Saturday, and then essential to our full day of fishing at my camp in Gray Rapids on Sunday, where four of the pairs completed our two-day event under the most able and patient guidance of volunteers, Jim McQuaid, Hilary Howes, George Linton and Vince Swazey.

Special thanks is also extended to Kenny Kyle for his untiring assistance in executing the coordination essential to procure the participation from Big Brothers of Fredericton. As well, a major "shout-out" to Nola for performing the many days of coordination "in the trenches" in providing staff support for our cause, which included the successful processing of the grant received from the Wildlife Trust Fund which paid for the basic supply of manuals, fly tying booklets, and Fly-O's.



First Class MSA participants

I am sure I speak for all volunteers in stating that the rewards received in the heart-warming responses from the attendees made this a special experience that I trust will be motivation to repeat for subsequent episodes of First Cast MSA.

With great respect and gratitude,

Paul Valeri, Chair
First Cast MSA

Director's Profile Ross Bingham



At the Annual General Meeting in May 2004, Ross Bingham, Q.C. was nominated to the MSA Board of Directors. Six years later, at the AGM in May 2010, Ross was elected to become the official Consulting Solicitor for the Miramichi Salmon Association. That esteemed office is a way for

MSA to have the valuable benefit of obtaining free legal advice, and we thank Ross sincerely for accepting this important role.

Born and raised in the City of Moncton, Ross attended Dalhousie University in Halifax where he received a Bachelor of Commerce with a major in accounting in 1964, then later in 1967 obtained a Law Degree from Dalhousie Law School. Admitted to the New Brunswick Bar in 1968 and the Nova Scotia Bar in 1969, Ross has practiced primarily in the field of Corporate, Commercial, Wills, Trusts and Real Estate Law. He is past president of the Moncton Barrister's Society, a member of the Law Society New Brunswick, the Law Society of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Bar Association and is currently senior partner and managing partner of the law firm of Bingham Law•Droit.

Also a leading volunteer force in his community, Ross currently serves as Chair of the Greater Moncton YMCA Foundation; is an active member of Central United Church; and is involved with the development of the Community Peace Center in downtown Moncton.

Together with his wife Bonnie of 42 years, they have three adult children Todd, married to Helen Roy with two children Patrick and Emily; daughter Kelsey who has been practicing law with the Bingham Law Droit firm for the past ten years; and Alexander (Sandy) who for the last decade has resided in Ireland and is married to a native Limerick lass, Jane Shea.

Introduced to fishing at the early age of 11, Ross made his first trip to Square Forks in the days when one went in by buckboard for four to five days at a time. The following year, he caught his first two grilse at the falls pool on the north branch of the Sevogle at Square Forks and has been an avid salmon and trout angler ever since. In the earlier years, he fished mainly on the northwest branch until the 1980's when he also took a liking to fishing on the main southwest branch. Currently, he is a member of both the Maple Leaf Fishing Club at Blackville and the Cains River Lodge Club in Upper Blackville; and a past member of the Albert Fishing Club.

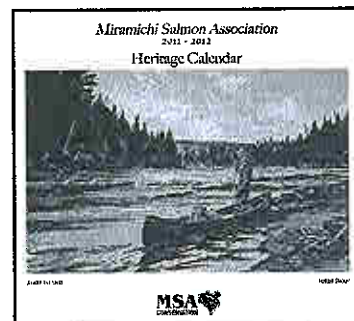
A friend of the Miramichi throughout his lifetime, Ross shares a deep commitment for salmon conservation and has generously devoted his time and talent to the MSA cause. He brings knowledge, experience and expertise to his role as director and we are proud to express our respect and appreciation for his service and support. An extensive world traveler, Ross has been heard to say *"Throughout my travels I have spent some of my most enjoyable time in the Miramichi interacting with the people, family and friends, and enjoying the beautiful surroundings. I'm a firm believer of the old saying "It is not all of fishing to fish"."*

The Perfect Gifts for the Angler!

The 2011/2012 MSA Heritage Calendar is now available! The calendar contains beautiful illustrations of paintings from various artists depicting scenes of the Miramichi watershed. It is a magnificent production (and you will probably want to frame some of those pictures well after the calendar has expired.) Priced at \$15; only 2,000 have been printed and are expected to sell quickly.

Memories of the Miramichi DVD is now available! This 35 minute film has been designed by Theodore Rogwoski as he voyaged 65 miles of the Miramichi River from Boiestown to tidewater by canoe with boatmen Dewey Gillespie and Vince Swazey. This wonderful DVD allows the viewer to visit with anglers, see riverside highlights and fly at 500 feet to explore this majestic river. Myths, legends and even some true stories will have you heading to the Miramichi River to experience it yourself. On sale now at \$20, plus shipping and handling.

Both of the above items will make a great gift for the avid fisherman, historical enthusiast or for anyone interested in preserving the Miramichi River and its environment. Calendars and DVDs can be purchased through the MSA website or offices.



The Last Day

By Squirrel Tail

This wasn't the first time that my companions and I were spending the last day of the season in search of a trophy salmon. But, there were a couple of newcomers to our group. The hardest was a Baptist minister who would hit the river at first light and quit only when the guides started toward camp. The other lad was born in Japan and immigrated to the US at a young age. He had recently retired from an orthopedic practice and now wished to experience the tranquility and thrills of Mother Nature, and maybe even play a few hands of cribbage. All of us had caught Atlantic salmon in this pool, but catching had been scarce the past two days and time was running out. The dress of the day was Long Johns, heavy woolen socks, woolen pants and shirt, ski parka, woolen ski hat, and heavy neoprene waders.

The mist rose late off the chilled waters. Our rush to Vickers' Pools was slowed by the frigid North wind and the frosty grass. The water temperature was 43 F; the wind/chill temp was 15 F. The guides on my rod would freeze up after every third or fourth casts and I would then dunk my rod into the river to melt them. Not a fish was moving. No new fish were entering the pools. After an hour of futility, my hands and spirit were numb. The dream of steaming hot coffee, only yards away, aided my climb up the river's bank. Yes, I would return once the fish started to move or the sun hit our side of the river!

The river remained still. The double strength java and a homemade donut were history when I moseyed out to the lookout. The minister and doctor were still at it, more power to them. As I scanned the pools, I saw my first fish of the day. He had rolled twice opposite from two large rocks that were located thirty yards below Johnson's Rock. These were lazy rolls, this fish was holding in this spot. Sure enough, this was the exact spot where I had hooked two grilse about forty years ago. I was just a kid and my uncles were putting a new roof on the lodge. Uncle Francis spotted the fish and told me to go give them a try with a dry fly. It was a black Wulff with a red body and it had their number. It's funny how clearly you can remember events that happen on a river. Well, I just had to give this fish a try. On went a Hazel Bomber. On the tenth cast, the fish rolled, but not for my fly. Next I tried a Popcorn Bomber. No luck. Well, it was about noon, so I thought I would give him a rest and I'd get some lunch.

After lunch, we began to close up the lodge and cottages. The boats were put away and the motors were winterized. A few shutters were put on the windows and the rugs and floors were vacuumed. The ashes in the stove were dumped on the garden along with a bag of limestone. It was now about 2:30 PM. I headed back to that holding rock. This time I had a big white Wulff. No luck. Then he rolled again. On went the Whiskers. No luck. Time for more work around the cottages and a little snack.

The Vickers' Pools signs were taken down, the trout in the pond were fed, most of my bags were packed, and all my rods but one were broken down and made ready for the sad trip home. It was now 5 PM. The only fish we had seen that day was the one that was tormenting me. We decided to hit the river for one last shot. The boys gave me the first crack at the rolling fish. As I moved into position, the fish jumped. I don't think I spooked him. I just think he wanted to say goodbye and nice try. He was gone. Man, I thought I owned that fish!

My soul had had enough. I looked up the river and there stood my buddies, thigh deep and pounding the water. No sir, I just couldn't make another cast. I gave it my best and now it was time to have a little refreshment and finish packing. As I backed out of the pool, I heard a jumping fish coming over the bar. Within another minute, there was another fish. This went on for the next few minutes as I headed toward shore. Now the whole pool was alive with salmon, big salmon, trophy salmon.

I headed up the bank, but instead of turning toward the cottage I swung upriver to be above my companions. Back into the river I went. My arm was again whole. More fish were coming into the pool. I hollered to Irving, "What the hell should I put on?" "A big Black Bear with a red butt," was his reply. On it went. It was now about 7 PM. The sky was growing dark and the lights in the lodge were on. No one had hooked a fish, but no one had quit. The wind started to blow and the pools again became still. Yes, it was time to leave. We slowly withdrew from paradise. We agreed that we had never seen so many fish in Vickers' Pools or anywhere else. Man, this river's future looks bright! Spring fishing should be great! Next fall could be spectacular!

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