



A Backgrounder from

Atlantic Salmon Federation

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State of the Atlantic Salmon Populations North America - May 2010

Scientific information

- **Overall status in North America:** all areas are below their conservation limits
- In 2009, conservation limits were met in only 44% of 64 rivers assessed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Less than 50% of conservation limits achieved in 27% of rivers.
- Large salmon abundance in 2010 is expected to be low as a result of poor survival of 2008 smolt.

Small salmon returns

- 248,000 fewer small salmon returned in 2009 than in 2008
- this was the lowest return since 1994.

One year decline of small salmon (% lower than 2008):

- **Labrador**- 56%
- **Newfoundland** - 27%
- **Quebec** - 40%
- **Gulf of St. Lawrence** - 63% (includes Miramichi and Restigouche)
- **Scotia-Fundy** – 72% (includes all the endangered Inner Bay of Fundy rivers, and rivers on the open ocean coast of Nova Scotia where acid rain continues to impact Atlantic salmon runs)
- **USA** – 70%

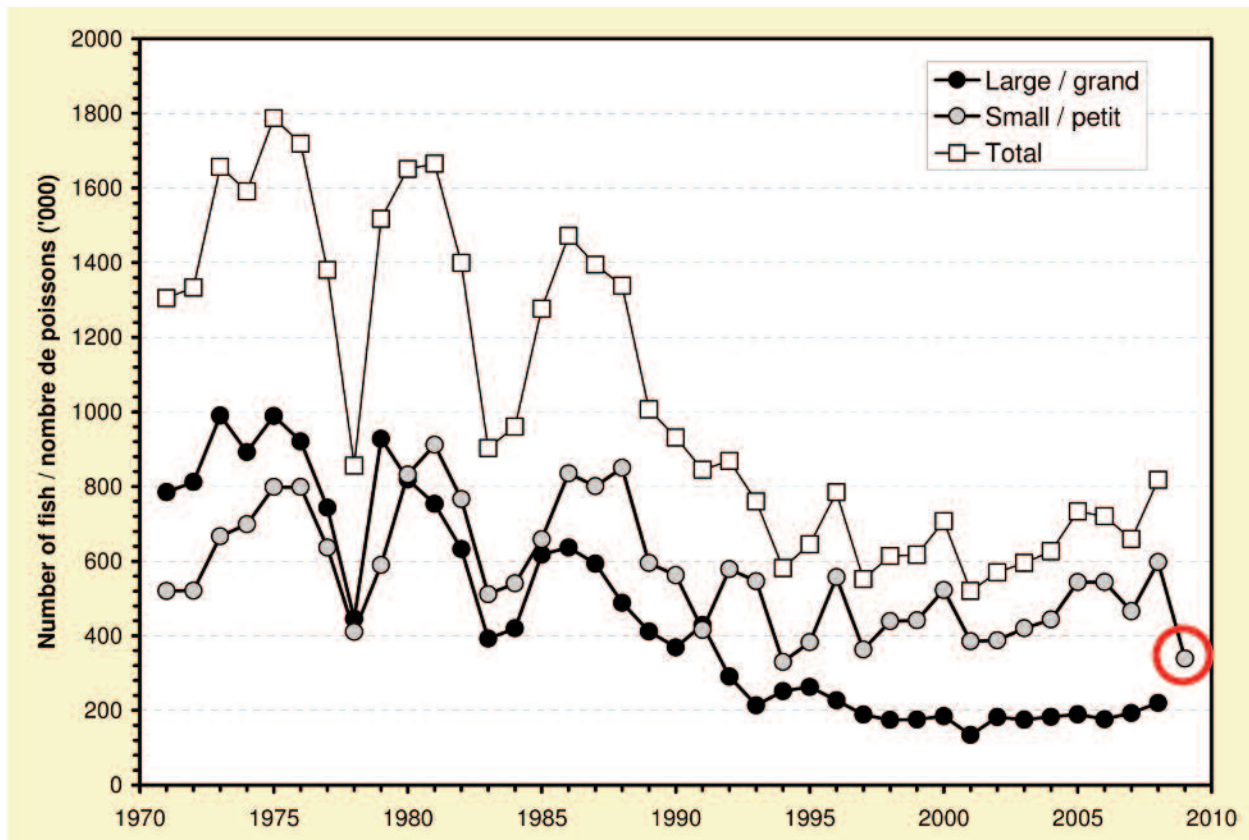
Percent of conservation capacity met for large salmon:

- **Labrador** - 73%
- **Newfoundland** - 83%
- **Quebec** - 73%
- **Gulf of St. Lawrence** - 81%
- **Scotia-Fundy** - 10%
- **USA** - 8%

Despite low numbers:

- Canada allowed the kill of 119 tonnes of large and small salmon (54,837) in 2009
- Aboriginal fishery killed 51.2 tonnes (approx 15,667 fish), 45% (approx. 7,050) of which were large salmon
- Recreational fishery killed 65.4 tonnes (28,656 small salmon and 3,464 large)
- Yet Canada has announced no significant management measures to decrease the harvests in any fisheries.
- In addition, Canada's salmon are killed in a subsistence fishery on their feeding grounds at Greenland (7,000 reported large salmon in 2009) and at St. Pierre et Miquelon, a territory of France (approx 1,000 reported salmon)

(Scientific information from International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES), and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, released in May 2010)



Atlantic salmon numbers have decreased sharply since 1975. In 2009, 248,000 fewer small salmon returned than in 2008, leaving small salmon numbers the lowest in 15 years.
 (Graph by Fisheries & Oceans Canada)

