

# Fish Stocking Program



Department of Natural Resources  
July 2015

# Fisheries Management and Stocking

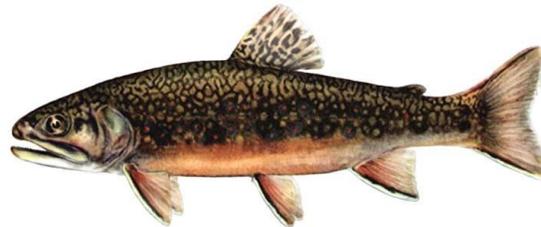
- Although not the primary DNR management strategy, stocking fish is sometimes warranted to maintain populations or enhance recreational fisheries.
- In order to minimize negative impacts to natural populations and optimize benefits to anglers, our program is based on biological principles and the *DNR Fish Stocking Policy* and internal working Guidelines.



# Fisheries Management and Stocking

## Stock fish that are:

- Native to New Brunswick (currently only brook trout and landlocked salmon are stocked as either fall fingerlings, spring yearlings and/ or over mature brood stock);
- Of wild NB strain;
- Genetically-appropriate for the receiving water;
- Certified disease free.



## Stock lakes that:

- Have suitable conditions to support the stocked fish at the appropriate rate;
  - physical, chemical, biological
- Have previously supported the fish species being stocked;
- Are accessible to the public.

# Fisheries Management and Stocking

## Do not stock lakes:

- That are naturally providing an acceptable recreational fishery;
- Where habitat conditions and/or fish communities are not appropriate;
- Where previous stocking efforts have been unsuccessful;
- Specifically for fishing tournaments or for commercial benefit.
- With unique or rare species present.

## *Predators*



## *Competitors*



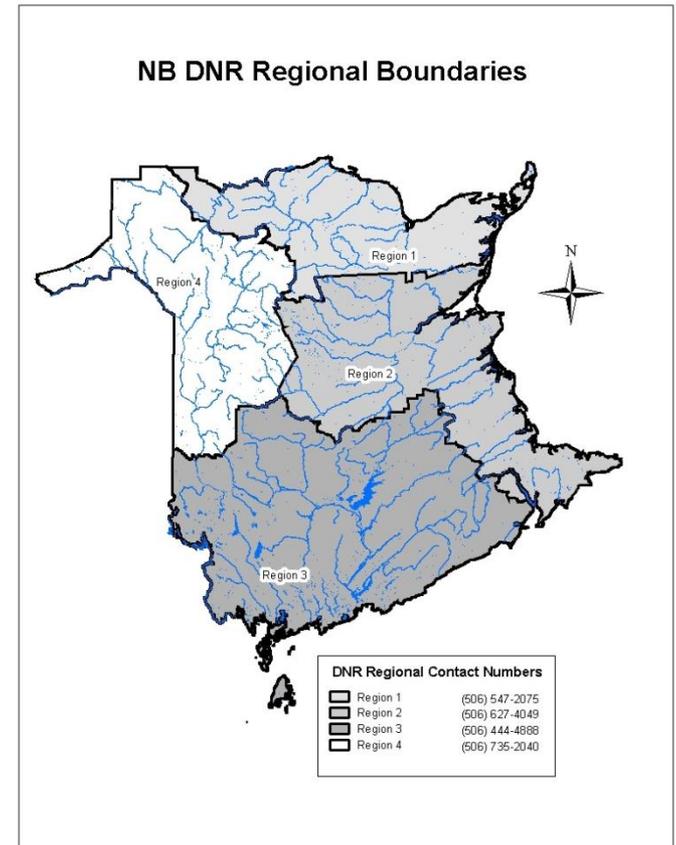
# Current Fish Stocking Program

- Stocking was initiated by DFO in 1870's.
- DNR started rearing & stocking fish in 1976.
- DNR provincial fish hatchery decommissioned in July 2004.
- In 2005, a decision was made to continue a DNR fish enhancement program through:
  - a \$5 Fish Stocking Conservation Fee was applied to fishing licenses (except Crown Reserve and Day Adventure Licenses);
  - contracts with external facilities.
- Annual program targets are:
  - 160,000 brook trout (55 to 60 lakes)
  - 40,000 landlocked salmon (20 to 25 lakes)



# Public stocking requests

- A group or individual interested in having a particular body of water stocked by DNR should first contact the appropriate Regional Office.
- The Regional Fisheries Biologist may be able to explain why the body of water is not currently stocked and whether it should or should not be stocked.



# Public stocking requests

- If the required assessment data is lacking, the proponent may either:
  - request DNR survey the body of water. This will be undertaken on a priority basis as time and workloads permit, or
  - Expedite the assessment process by having a qualified Fisheries Biologist conduct the required surveys. Completion of assessment work does not guarantee approval – still requires DNR review.



# Public stocking requests

- It is illegal to transfer or introduce fish into a waterbody without authorization. This includes bait fish and releasing aquarium or pond fish into natural waters.
- Authorization involves obtaining a federal Introduction & Transfers permit. These applications are reviewed by various departments.

