

Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland Atlantic Salmon - Statement of Principles 2021

BACKGROUND

The Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland (SAEN) was founded in 1979, contemporaneously with Corner Brook based SPAWN, as a result of the dire state of Newfoundland and Labrador's Atlantic salmon stocks. SAEN was founded by concerned salmon anglers as a conservation group rather than an angler's club or lobby group and from the start has included members and directors with salmon science education and experience.

WHAT WE DO

SAEN has initiated and participated in numerous Atlantic salmon conservation and enhancement projects over the 41 years since its founding, raising and spending hundreds of thousands of dollars and generating tens of thousands of volunteer hours, all with the aim of improving our Atlantic salmon resources and ensuring that they will still be there for years and decades to come.

Past and current projects include:

- creation of a sustainable and viable salmon run on the Rocky River
- participation in the creation and expansion of enhanced salmon runs on the Exploits River
- reintroduced Atlantic salmon to the Rennies and Virginia River systems in St. John's
- helped develop and present children's educational programs through the Fluvarium at Long Pond, St. John's
- numerous riverbank clean ups
- participation in and submission to many Environmental Reviews of projects that threaten salmon and trout habitat
- leading a court challenge to ensure the Newfoundland and Labrador government followed its own regulations surrounding the environmental assessment process applicable to aquaculture projects
- develops and runs programs to introduce adults and children to the joys of fly fishing for salmon and trout
- works with Canada's veterans to use fly fishing and fly tying as a means of healing scars incurred in service to our country

- consults with regulatory authorities on salmon and trout angling policies and regulations
- promotes best practices for catch and release, including video demonstrations, available here: <https://www.saen.org/videos.html>

WHAT WE BELIEVE

- We believe in conserving, protecting and enhancing Atlantic salmon stocks in Newfoundland and Labrador
- We believe in a recreational fishery for Atlantic salmon conducted in a manner consistent with science based management
- We believe in catch and release angling as a management tool, done properly in accordance with best practices, bringing the fish in quickly, keeping it in the water and helping it revive
- We believe in science based environmental protocols, applied appropriately and consistently to reduce stress on salmon in rivers, whether angled for or not
- We believe that sea based open pen aquaculture is detrimental to wild salmon and that land based aquaculture should be adopted as a standard practice
- We believe in encouraging and teaching newcomers to our sport, to open their eyes and minds to the mental health benefits of fly fishing for wild fish in wild places
- We believe in barbless hooks, that every year enable thousands of small salmon parr to be safely released unharmed and allow adult salmon to be released with minimal injury
- We believe in welcoming visitors from “away” to our salmon rivers, to share on their long anticipated holidays much that we may take for granted just because it’s so close and so familiar
- We believe in following the law, including all angling regulations made to conserve, protect and enhance our salmon resources
- We are proud to be an affiliate of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and a supporter of its goals of conservation & habitat restoration
- We believe that the ultimate goal of our Association, and most salmon anglers wherever in the world they live, is to ensure that future generations, our children’s children’s children, have the opportunity to fish for wild Atlantic salmon in clean, productive and free flowing rivers