Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada

Canadian Stock Assessment Secretariat
Research Document 99/82

Secrétariat canadien pour l'évaluation des stocks
Document de recherche 99/82

Status of the Exploits River stock of Atlantic salmon *(Salmo salar L.)* in 1998

C. E. Bourgeois, J. Murray and V. Mercier

Science Branch
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
P.O. Box 5667
St. John's, NF
A1C 5X1

ISSN 1480-4883
Ottawa, 1999
Canada

Abstract

The Exploits River was the site of an Atlantic salmon enhancement colonization program from 1957-1993. Counts at fishways and angling data provided the basis for assessing the status of the salmon population and determining percent of conservation egg deposition achieved. The 1998 freshwater escapement to the Exploits, of 29,052 was 120% of the average 1992-97 escapement and 363% of the 1987-1991 mean. In 1998 the Exploits River received 63% of its conservation egg deposition. A total of 1,218 small salmon were retained in the recreational fishery with a total of 1,802 hook-and-released fish. The Exploits River in addition to a conservation egg deposition has a management target of 13,000 spawners which was achieved in 1998 and is used to manage the recreational fishery. This requirement is addressed within the context of the Exploits River achieving its conservation egg deposition.

Résumé

De 1957 à 1993, la rivière Exploits a fait l'objet d'un programme de mise en valeur par colonisation du saumon de l'Atlantique. Le dénombrement aux passes migratoires et les données de la pêche à la ligne ont servi de base à l'évaluation de l'état de la population de saumon et à la détermination du pourcentage de la ponte par rapport aux objectifs de conservation. En 1998, l'échappée en eau douce vers l'Exploits comportait 29 052 saumons, soit 120 % de la moyenne de l'échappée des années 1992 à1997 et 363 % de celle des années 1987 à 1991. En 1998, la ponte dans la rivière Exploits a atteint 63 % des objectifs de conservation. En tout, 1 218 petits saumons ont été conservés par les pêcheurs récréatifs avec un total de 1 802 capturés puis remis à l'eau. À l'objectif de ponte de conservation dans la rivière Exploits, s'ajoute un objectif de gestion de 13 000 géniteurs, lequel a été atteint en 1998 et est utilisé pour gérer la pêche récréative. Ce besoin est géré dans le contexte de l'atteinte des objectifs de ponte de la rivière Exploits.

Introduction

The Exploits River is the largest watershed in insular Newfoundland, encompassing a drainage area of 11,272 km^2 (Porter et al. 1974). The river flows in a northeasterly direction, entering the ocean in SFA 4 (Fig. 1). Prior to the inception of enhancement activity (O'Connell and Bourgeois, 1987) less than 10% of watershed area was available to anadromous Atlantic salmon due to the presence of natural and man-made obstructions (Taylor and Bauld, 1973). The Exploits River requires 95.9 million eggs (56,670 small salmon) to meet its conservation egg deposition requirement (Table 1). However, to date, only 53% of the colonizable habitat within the watershed has been stocked.

The intent of this document is to review the status of the stock in 1998.

Background

Stocking Activities

For details of the fry stockings conducted in the various sections of the Exploits River (Fig.2), refer to Tables 2 - 4. With respect to the middle Exploits, 187,668 m^2 (egg requirement 45,040,320) of river habitat (Table 1) did not receive the required five years of stocking to establish a self-sustaining run.

Management measures implemented in 1992, which remained in place for 1998

1. Moratorium on commercial salmon fishing in insular Newfoundland.

2. Moratorium on the northern cod fishery affecting Salmon Fishing Areas (SFA's) 1-9 implemented on July 15, 1992. This measure eliminated by-catch of salmon in cod fishing gear.

Other management measures

In 1994, due to the low egg deposition in the upper Exploits (Table 4) and expected low returns in 1995 from the last year of fry stocking, concern was expressed with respect to future returns to Red Indian Lake fishway. The increase in angling effort and catch (Table 5) realized on the Exploits in 1994 further reduced the rate of increase of spawners in the upper Exploits. In an effort to increase escapement at Red Indian Lake in 1995 DFO included in the Exploits River Management Plan an adult transfer from Grand Falls to a location within Red Indian Lake. The requirement for this transfer remained in place for 1998.

Industrial Activity

In September of 1995 Abitibi-Price, the operators of Grand Falls pulp and paper located in Grand Falls immediately downstream of the Grand Falls fishway, began operation of an Aeration Settlement Basin as a secondary waste water treatment process. This process reduced the Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) within the effulent.

In the fall of 1996 Abitibi-Price altered the forebay/penstock intakes at the Grand Falls generating station. Prior to this construction the forebay emptied water to three penstock pipes through a series of trash racks. The new construction in 1996 altered this arrangement to remove these penstocks and create an approximate 1,700 foot long canal. Associated with this construction was the installation of a set of louvres and associated bypass to deflect smolt and kelts from this canal. A monitoring program to test the fish guidance efficiency of the louvre array was conducted in 1997 – 1998 yielding fish guidance efficiencies of between 25 – 35%.

During 1998 Abitibi Consolidated personnel were on strike from June 15 – November 18 during which time the milling process was shut down. During July – November mill effluent was at a minimum.

During 1996 – 1998 the escapement of fish at Grand Falls has achieved the three highest percentages of the run enumerated at Bishop Falls.

Methods

Adult Counts

Fish are enumerated at three fishway locations on the Exploits; i) Bishop Falls fishway which enumerates all fish entering the river at the community of Bishop Falls on the main stem of the river in the lower Exploits ii) Grand Falls fishway on the main stem of the Exploits at the community of Grand Falls-Winsor which enumerates all fish entering the middle and upper Exploits and iii) Red Indian Lake fishway at the outflow of Red Indian Lake which enumerates all fish entering the upper Exploits (see Fig. 2).

Fry Stocking

Fry stocking was conducted in riverine habitat utilizing mainly helicopters with some distribution via vehicle (in accessible locations). Stocking was conducted such that the habitat that was stocked received 75 fry per 100m^2 of habitat. Fry were stocked along the river banks in areas of low flow with depth less than 30 cm in areas where gravel/cobble substrate was present. If suitable habitat was available, fry were stocked at one quarter kilometer intervals on opposite sides of the river. The number of fry released in individual drops ranged from 5,000 - 50,000 depending on the available

habitat to be stocked. Releases in excess of 25,000 fry/drop were only conducted on the main stem of the middle Exploits.

Angling Creel

In 1998 an angling creel was conducted for the area below Bishop Falls. The creel was designed to collect angling data from 0600 – 2200 hours for the entire angling fishery (i.e. complete coverage). Data were collected for two time periods (0600 – 1400 hours and 1400- 2200 hours) at two locations. However due to illness coverage was incomplete (see appendix 1). In addition to the latter statement it is possible fish were angled outside the hours of 0600-2200. No adjustments were made for the latter.

Adjustments were conducted as follows; (i) data were adjusted by percent of coverage by week for retained, hook-and-released and effort and (ii) hook-and-released fish of unknown size were allocated to the small and large components by week based on the percentage of known size within the components.

Angling Statistics

Angling catch and effort data prior to 1994 were supplied by DFO staff and from 1994 to 1996 the data were collected by DFO staff and River Monitors. In 1997 angling data below Bishop Falls was collected by DFO staff and river monitors up to the mid-season review. The angling statistics collected for below Bishop Falls were adjusted to determine the 1997 angling statistics. Prior to 1994 angling statistics were reported for seven locations (Bourgeois et al. 1998). Due to recent changes in data collection angling data for the Exploits River will in future be presented for the lower, middle and upper sections of the Exploits.

Angling data for the area from Bishop Falls to Grand Falls was collected by a DFO student program in 1998. Coverage was complete from up to and including the week ending August 16, when the retention fishery closed. Data for retained fish was complete however not all data was collected from August 17 – September 6 for hook-and-released fish and effort. No adjustments were made to estimate the numbers of hook-and-released fish angled during this period. (Appendix 1).

Angling exploitation rates for above and below Bishop Falls are calculated as follows; Below Bishop Falls fishway = angling below Bishop Falls fishway / (count at Bishop Falls fishway + angling below Bishop Falls fishway + known removals); Above Bishop Falls fishway = angling above Bishop Falls fishway / count at Bishop Falls fishway

Biological Characteristics

Biological characteristic data presented in Tables 6 and 7 were collected from various locations within the Exploits watershed as detailed in the various tables.

Egg Depositions

Habitat determinations and conservation egg depositions are detailed in Table 1. Conservation egg requirement was calculated based on 2.40 egg/m^2 and 7 smolts/ha of standing water. Smolt production of 7 smolt/ha was divided by 1.9% to convert this to eggs (O'Connell et al., 1991).

Spawning escapement was calculated by subtracting angling catches and known removals from counts at fishways without inclusion of an estimate for poaching and disease but including a 10% hook and release mortality. In 1992 and 1993 spawning surveys on various tributaries of the lower Exploits were utilized in calculating egg deposition.

Egg deposition is calculated based on a length fecundity relationship based on mean length of female fish. Data collected from broodstock from 1984-1991 were used to determine mean female length and percent female fish in the run. For 1992 to present biological characteristics were applied to individual years where available.

The equation " Total Eggs = 14.67 *Mean Fish Length – 5335.4" was solved to determine the mean number of eggs/female fish.

In order to calculate the egg deposition in areas where fry stocking occurred, an estimate of egg-to-fry survival of 20% (Sturge, 1968) was used to back calculate fry to eggs. Sturge (1968) gave a range of 10-30% for egg-to-fry survival and indicated that a figure of 20% appeared to be a reasonable value.

Egg depositions for the various sections of the watershed was calculated by apportioning the recreational catch based on previous angling history.

A ten percent mortality figure was applied to hook-and-released fish.

1998 Management Plan for Exploits River

The following Management Plan was announced for the 1998 angling fishery:

Exploits River and tributaries below Grand Falls

> Catch-and-retain angling June 21 - August 16. No quota
> Catch-and-release angling only August 17 - September 1
> Main stem - Stoney Brook to Grand Falls closed to all angling for entire season
> An in season review in late July would determine if a spawning escapement of 13,000 would be achieved and if not angling would revert to catch-and-release only before August 16.

Exploits River above Grand Falls

> The main stem of the river from Grand Falls to Red Indian Lake, and all tributaries above Red Indian Lake Dam, will be open only for catch-and-release angling for the entire season.
> Tributaries between Grand Falls and Red Indian Lake will be open for catch-and-retain angling June 21 - August 16. Catch-and-release angling only August 17 - September 1.

In addition it was agreed that an adult transfer from Grand Falls to Red Indian Lake would take place.

Management Target

The recreational fishery on the Exploits River was managed by a management target of 13,000 spawners. The rationale for this target was due to previous enhancement efforts and the unlikelyhood of the Exploits River achieving its conservation target in the near future.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 details the accessible rearing area and conservation egg deposition requirement for the Exploits River. The use of fixed parameters, such as 2.40 eggs/m^2 of fluvial habitat and 7 smolts/ha of standing water habitat, has certain limitations (see O'Connell & Dempson, 1991 for discussion on this topic).

Fishway Counts

Table 8 details the 1975 - 1998 counts from the various fishways on the Exploits while Tables 6 - 7 detail smolt and adult biological characteristics.

Freshwater Escapement

The 1998 freshwater escapement of 29,052 (count at Bishops Falls fishway + retained angling below the fishway + 10% of hook-and-released fish below Bishops) to the Exploits was 120% of the 1992-97 escapement and 363% of the 1987-1991 mean and 253% of the 1982-1986 mean. The 1992-1998 freshwater escapement plus bycatch(unknown) is equal to watershed adult production.

Recreational Fishery

In 1998 an angling creel, utilizing students, was conducted on the Exploits River for the area downstream of Bishop Falls to better determine the angling catch for this section of the watershed (see appendix 1 for details). Angling below Bishop Falls plus the

count of adults at Bishop Falls fishway is equal to freshwater escapement (watershed production) for the Exploits River. Angling statistics for this section of the watershed were collected by DFO staff/students in 1997 and 1998 and will be very important in future years to determine freshwater escapement for the Exploits River when angling statistics will be generated through the license stub return method.

For the area below Bishop Falls the 1998 retained catch was 34% of the 1997 catch with the hook-and-released catch being 124% of the 1997 catch. For 1992-97, the 1998 retained catch was 49% and the hook-and-released catch was 71% of the six year mean respectively.

Table 5 details the angling statistics for the Exploits watershed which revealed a total angling catch 3,020 (1,218 small retained and 1,802 hook-and-released). In 1995 the recreational fishery was managed by a retention season and a retention quota while in 1996 the fishery was managed by a retention season making comparisons with previous years difficult. The 1997 season prior to the closure of the retention fishery was only managed by season dates. The 1998 recreational fishery was managed by a retention quota for various parts of the season, season dates and through the limitation of hook-and-release angling. The 1998 total recreational catch was 68% of the 1992-1997 and 243% of the 1987-1991 mean total catches respectively.

Run Timing

Run timing (cumulative percent of run to date) for Bishop Falls fishway is presented in Table 9. The average date for 1987 - 1998 for 50 percent of the escapement to Bishop Falls fishway is the week of July 20-27 which is the appropriate date to conduct a midseason review.

Egg Deposition and Percent of Conservation Egg Achieved

With the change in the collection of angling data that commenced in 1997 the task of calculating egg depositions for the various sections of the watershed has become very problematic as angling data is not broken down by watershed section. Angling data only exists for the middle Exploits from 1994 onwards. With the 1995 and 1996 management plans for the recreational fishery being different from 1994 three years of data exist none of which are comparable. Additionally the recreational fishery within the middle Exploits is just developing and use of previous data is likely not appropriate. Therefore the % of conservation egg deposition for the total watershed will be accurate while the egg deposition for the various sections of the watershed are estimates.

Total Watershed

In 1998 the Exploits River watershed achieved 63% of its conservation egg deposition. The mean value for 1992 to 1997 was 48% with the mean value for 1987-1991 being

30%. The 1996 and 1998 egg depositions achieved 69% and 63% of the conservation egg deposition which are the highest recorded for the watershed.

Lower Exploits

Table 2 details the number of spawners and subsequent egg deposition and % conservation egg deposition achieved for the lower Exploits for the period 1957-1998.

In 1998 the lower Exploits achieved 192% of its conservation egg deposition which is 125% and 392% of the 1992-1997 mean and the 1987-1991 mean respectively. The egg deposition for Great Rattling Brook can no longer be calculated due to cessation of the count at Camp 1 fishway in 1997.

Middle Exploits

The middle Exploits requires a deposition of 64.2 million eggs to meet its total conservation requirement (Table 1); however 187,668 $100m^2$ of habitat in the main stem of the river (egg requirement $45x10^8$) have not received adequate stocking to be producing a self-sustaining run of adults. Furthermore it is questionable if smolt production in the order of 3 smolts per unit should be expected from this habitat (the main stem of the middle Exploits River is fast flowing and 1 - 2 metres deep in many areas).

The middle Exploits received 43% of its conservation egg deposition in 1998 (Table 3) which is 147% and 347% of the 1992-1997 mean and the 1987-1991 mean respectively.

Figure 3 details the count at Grand Falls and the percent of the fish released at Bishop Falls that were enumerated at Grand Falls. Since 1994 approximately 40% of the fish passing through Bishop Falls were enumerated at Grand Falls which is indicative of the increasing adult production in the area above Grand Falls (see text Table below).

Time period	% of count at Bishop Falls enumerated at Grand Falls
1975-1978	3.3%
1979-1983	26.8%
1984-1988	26.8%
1989-1993	31.5%
1994-1998	42.8%

The returns to Grand Falls in 1998 were the offspring of the natural spawners from 1992-1993 (6,615 in total) and fry stocking in 1993 (4^+ smolt component).

Upper Exploits

The upper Exploits requires an egg deposition of 15.4 million eggs but only received 6% of this conservation requirement in 1998 (Table 4). With the cessation of stocking in 1991 and extremely low natural egg depositions in 1990-1994 returns during the next few years are expected to be very low. The 1998 returns of 453 fish are resultant from 1992 and 1993 natural egg depositions (141 and 585 spawners respectively). The authors strongly recommend that all measures be undertaken to increase the egg deposition in the upper Exploits.

Stock Development

The Exploits watershed was the site of very intensive stock enhancement from 1957 - 1993 primarily focused on developing runs of salmon to areas of the watershed previously inaccessible to anadromous Atlantic salmon. During the 1959 - 1963 time frame mean escapement through Bishop Falls was 1,100 adult salmon with the 1992 - 1997 mean being 24,135. This is indeed a tremendous accomplishment, however the conservation egg requirement in terms of adults (small salmon) is 56,670 salmon. As a result of management changes that have occurred since the project's inception the only management option left to increase spawning escapement is through regulation of the recreational fishery. The recreational fishery on the Exploits River (Table 5) operated prior to 1995 without any restrictions except control of the season dates. An important consideration of the last management change (i.e. the moratorium on commercial salmon fishing) was to ensure that no reallocation of fish occurred between the commercial and recreational fisheries which failed on the Exploits River (see text table below).

Time Frame	Mean Retained Catch	Mean Hook-and –Released Catch	Total Recreational Kill	Mean Spawning Escapement
1975 – 1976	1,777	0	1,777	10,350
1977 – 1981	1,683	0	1,683	6,254
1982 – 1986	2,133	0	2,133	9,132
1987 – 1991	1,241	0	1,241	2,934
1992 – 1997	2,476	2,267	2,703	21,270

As a result of increased spawning from 1992 to 1997 coupled with the cessation of fry stocking in 1993 the future development of the Exploits stock needs addressing. The stock must now be managed in a fashion to achieve its conservation egg deposition. Based on the 1992 – 1997 spawning escapement the watershed is achieving approximately 48% of its required egg deposition. In an effort to assure additional spawners the present management target of 13,000 adults must be increased to ensure timely development of the Exploits stock. Recruit to spawner ratios (see Bourgeois et. al 1997) for the Exploits stock indicate that a recruit to spawner ratio of 1:1 is very easily achievable. With a view to increasing spawner escapement without total closure

of the recreational fishery a required spawning escapement for the 1999 - 2001 time frame of 18,000 adults appears to be easily achievable.

Management Considerations

Increase the required spawning escapement from 13,000 adults to 18,000 adults for the 1999 season.

One of DFO'S objectives on the Exploits River is to increase spawning escapement above Red Indian Lake. To further address the escapement above Red Indian Lake it is recommended that at least 1,000 adults be trucked from Grand Falls fishway to Red Indian Lake.

Continue an angling creel for the section of the watershed below Bishop Falls for 1999. This will provide three years of recreational fishery data (1997-1999) for the area below Bishop Falls. These data are critical for determination of freshwater escapement for the Exploits River in future years when the license stub system will provide the angling data for the Exploits River. Comparisons will be made to better refine creel data with license stub data as 47% of the total Exploits River catch and 48% of the retained catch was angled below Bishop Falls for the 1992-1998 period.

References

Bourgeois, C. E., J. Murray and V. Mercer. 1997. Status of the Exploits River stock of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) in 1996. DFO Atl. Fish. Res. Doc. 97/32.

Bourgeois, C. E., J. Murray and V. Mercer. 1998. Status of the Exploits River stock of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) in 1997. DFO Atl. Fish. Res. Doc. 98/104.

O'Connell, M. F., and C. E. Bourgeois. 1987. Atlantic Salmon Enhancement in the Exploits River, Newfoundland, 1957-1984. N. Am. J. Fish. Manage. 7:207-214.

O'Connell, M. F., and J. B. Dempson. 1991. Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) target spawning requirements for rivers in Notre Dame Bay (SFA 4), St. Mary's Bay (SFA 9), and Placentia Bay (SFA 10), Newfoundland. CAFSAC Res. Doc. 91/18. 14p.

O'Connell, M. F., J. B. Dempson, and R. J. Gibson. 1991. Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) smolt production parameter values for fluvial and lacustrine habitats in insular Newfoundland. CAFSAC Res. Doc. 91/19. 11p.

Porter, T. R., L. G. Riche, and G. R. Traverse. 1974. Catalogue of rivers in insular Newfoundland. Vol. D. Resource Development Branch, Newfoundland Region. Data Record Series No. NEW/D-74-9: 353p.

Sturge, C. C. 1968. Production studies of the young stages of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) in an experimental area of Indian River, Notre Dame Bay, Newfoundland. M.Sc. Thesis, Dept. Biology, Memorial Univ. of Newfoundland. 134p.

Taylor, V. R., and B. R. Bauld. 1973. A program for increased Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) production on a major Newfoundland River. Int. Atl. Salmon Found. Spec. Publ. Ser. 4: 339-347.

Table 1: Rearing area and conservation egg deposition for sections of the Exploits River.

Exploits River	Riverine Habitat (m^2)	Lacustrine Habitat (ha)	Target Egg Deposition
Lower	57,552	6,915	16,360,112
Middle	234,873	21,178	64,171,941
main stem	187,668	0	45,040,320
tributaries	47,205	21,178	19,131,621
Upper	55,437	5,665	15,384,617
Total	347,862	33,758	95,916,670

Table 2. Egg depositions Lower Exploits.

Year	No. Fry Stocked	No. Spawners	Total Eggs	% Conservation Target Achieved
1958		786+	1,330,274	8
1959		1,334	2,257,742	14
1960		1,677	2,838,255	17
1961		1,203	2,036,029	12
1962		1,212+	2,051,262	13
1963		1,269	2,147,732	13
1964		1,886+	3,191,980	20
1965		1,371	2,320,363	14
1966		1,412+	2,389,754	15
1967		2,033	3,440,771	21
1968		2,021+	3,420,462	21
1969		1,454	2,460,837	15
1970		1,222+	2,068,186	13
1071		1,229	2,080,033	13
1972		843	1,426,744	9
1973		*	*	*
1974		2,647+	4,479,942	27
1975		8,826	14,937,652	91
1976		2,987	5,055,378	31
1977		5,027	8,507,996	52
1978		2,810	4,755,813	29
1979		5,482	9,278,066	57
1980		4,611+	7,803,933	48
1981		5,401	9,140,976	56
1982		5,135	8,690,782	53
1983		3,252+	7929175	48
1984		11,857	20,067,498	123
1985		9,664	16,355,933	100
1986		5,777	16,355,933	66
1987	195,127	3,466	10,220,961	62
1988	870,979	2,796	9,685,188	59
1989	990,614	2,620	7,571,870	46
1990	627,525	2,324	7,397,832	45
1991	692,911	3,079	5,593,484	34
1992	76,480	9,721	16,452,404	101
1993	0	15,162	25,661,079	157
1994	0	8,683	16,811,545	103
1995	0	9,106	19,760,891	121
1996	0	15,869	34,394,574	210
1997	0	6669	14,454,434	88
1998	0	14473	31,368,875	192

+ = partial count * = no data

Table 3. Details of egg deposition Middle Exploits.

Year	No. Fry released	No. Spawners	Total Eggs	% Conservation Target
1967	0	0	768600	1.2
1968	153720	0	841700	1.3
1969	168340	0	1644600	2.6
1970	328920	0	1479730	2.3
1971	295946	0	1612530	2.5
1972	322506	0	2053445	3.2
1973	410689	0	1779000	2.8
1974	355800	31	1151541	1.8
1975	212610	650	8318580	13.0
1976	1292625	79	6959439	10.8
1977	1346786	27	6909123	10.8
1978	1366410	0	3629785	5.7
1979	725757	47	9486634	14.8
1980	1870494	2246	10924779	17.0
1981	902694	2586	11323125	17.6
1982	788254	1229	5434846	8.5
1983	385322	810	6273147	9.8
1984	792193	3750	13244055	20.6
1985	507902	2981	11068070	17.2
1986	511734	0	5333120	8.3
1987	1066624	80	5472359	8.5
1988	1048799	5	7868733	12.3
1989	1570892	0	8758425	13.6
1990	1751685	2	7441949	11.6
1991	1487248	267	10067154	15.7
1992	1605761	1441	12578250	19.6
1993	1692970	5174	14769418	23.0
1994	0	5947	11514253	17.9
1995	0	5453	15565836	24.3
1996	0	12629	27372177	42.7
1997	0	5500	11920736	18.6
1998	0	12683	27,489,217	42.8

Note: Egg target is 64 million (45 for main stem and 19 for tributaries)

Table 4. Details of egg deposition Upper Exploits.

Year	No. Fry Released	No. Spawners	Total Eggs	% Conservation egg Deposition
1975	0	0	952665	6.19
1976	190533	0	892390	5.80
1977	178478	0	155580	1.01
1978	31116	0	0	0.00
1979	0	0	0	0.00
1980	0	0	3,326,500	21.62
1981	665300	0	4460735	28.99
1982	892147	0	2041055	13.27
1983	408211	0	1992570	12.95
1984	398514	0	4403050	28.62
1985	880610	0	8189350	53.23
1986	1637870	0	11078265	72.01
1987	2215653	0	14895245	96.82
1988	2979049	0	19275305	125.29
1989	3855061	0	18345255	119.24
1990	3669051	0	13471645	87.57
1991	2694329	28	47389	0.31
1992	0	141	238637	1.6
1993	0	585	990089	6.4
1994	0	633	1071327	7.0
1995	0	1102	1865091	12.1
1996	0	1846	4001032	26.0
1997	0	698	1512850	9.8
1998	0	453	981,835	6.4

Table 5. Angling statistics for Exploits River.

Year	Lower Exploits Below Grand Falls	Middle Exploits Grand Falls to Red Indian Lake	Upper Exploits Above Red Indian Lake	Total Retained Catch	Total Released Catch	Total Effort
1975	1,619			1,619		5,702
1976	1,934			1,934		5,775
1977	1,852			1,852		6,944
1978	1,840			1,480		5,031
1979	1,431			1,431		8,363
1980	1,790			1,790		7,427
1981	1,861			1,861		7,515
1982	1,733			1,733		9,630
1983	1,353			1,353		5,079
1984	2,424			2,424		9,459
1985	2,998			2,998		8,600
1986	2,057			2057		8,123
1987	1,935			1935		5,891
1988	1,731			1731		6,181
1989	577			577		3,813
1990	917			917		5,869
1991	1,045			1045		5,931
1992	1,408			1408	199	4,347
`1993	1,655			1655	3,039	7,896
1994	2,962	110	0	3072	1,175	16,330
1995	1,334	2	0	1,336	1,603	10,089
1996	1,787	128	0	1,915	3,313	11,987
1997	2,891	105	0	2,996	2,169	No data
1998	1,088	130	0	1,218	1,802	No data

Table 6. Biological characteristics of Exploits River smolt.

YEAR	FORK LENGTH			WEIGHT			RIVER AGE		
	MEAN (NO.)	S.D	RANGE	MEAN (NO.)	S.D	RANGE	MEAN (NO.)	S.D	RANGE
1984	16.4(954)	2.3	12.0-26.8	57.6(39)	9.4	38.2-76.8	3.5(938)	0.6	2.0-6.0
1985	16.6(280)	1.9	10.6-26.7	42.7(252)	15.8	12.4-169.0	3.2(276)	0.5	2.0-5.0
1986	15.4(1378)	2.3	6.70-26.7	34.1(1212)	14.8	7.8-207.0	3.6(1299)	0.7	2.0-7.0
1987	17.3(779)	2.3	10.8-28.4	51.3(776)	22.4	15.6-228.1	3.4(780)	0.7	2.0-6.0
1988	16.3(823)	3.1	10.3-26.7	46.4(823)	29.7	12.8-333.8	3.7(805)	0.8	2.0-7.0
1989	15.7(600)	2.8	10.1-26.3	43.6(593)	23.2	13.7-176.8	3.4(613)	0.7	2.0-5.0
1990	16.2(557)	3.0	8.8-33.9	46.7(555)	27.8	8.1-246.0	3.4(552)	0.7	2.0-5.0
1991	17.5(100)	2.8	12.3-28.4	52.2(100)	27.3	21.6-190.7	3.3(98)	0.7	2.0-5.0
1992	16.5(173)	1.5	12.9-21.6	42.3(170)	11.7	18.2-104.6	3.4(173)	0.6	2.0-5.0
1993	16.6(201)	1.9	12.8-23.0	46.4(201)	16.0	20.6-119.0	3.3(197)	0.6	2.0-5.0
1994	15.9(215)	1.8	9.2-21.0	38.3(215)	12.4	10.7-79.0	3.5(214)	0.6	1.0-5.0
1995	15.7(189)	1.9	11.2-23.7	34.6(199)	14.5	13.2-124.4	3.2(199)	0.7	1.0-5.0
1996	16.2(265)	1.7	12.6-21.7	39.9(265)	12.6	17.4-99.5	3.4(266)	0.6	2.0-5.0
1997	14.8(278)	1.8	8.7-21.0	34.1(278)	11.9	7.1-93.0	3.2(276)	0.6	2.0-7.0
1998	15.8(206)	1.8	7.9-21.4	38.4(206)	12.5	5.4-96.1	3.3(2040	0.6	2.0-5.0

Sample Locations
1984 - Bishops Falls forebay, Lake Ambrose, Lloyd's River
1985 - Bishops Falls forebay
1986 - Bishops Falls forebay, Badger Brook, Great Rattling Brook, Stoney Brook, Little Red Indian Brook, Red Indian Lake, Noel Paul's Brook
1987 - 1990 Bishops Falls forebay, Badger Brook, Great Rattling Brook, Stoney Brook, Little Red Indian Brook, Red Indian Lake, Noel Paul's Brook, Three Brooks, Little Rattling Brook, Greenwoods Brook
1991 - 1993 & 1995 Bishops Falls forebay
1994 - Bishops Falls forebay, Stoney Brook
1996-98 Bishops Falls forebay

Table 7. Biological Characteristics Exploits River Adults.

Year	Life Stage	Fork Length			Weight			River Age		
		Mean (no.)	S.D.	Range	Mean (no.)	S.D.	Range	Mean (no.)	S.D.	Range
1984	1SW	49.63 (1735)	2.77	39.00-60.00	1.18 (1735)	0.21	0.51-2.40	3.22 (1501)	0.46	2-5
	Repeat	56.17 (65)	4.99	46.50-76.00	1.83 (65)	0.60	0.80-4.80	3.32 (53)	0.55	2-5
	2SW	65.00 (1)			2.20 (1)					
	small	49.91 (1960)	3.00	38.50-62.00	1.21 (1958)	0.24	0.55-2.80	3.22 (1550)	0.46	2-5
	large	67.56 (8)	4.95	63.00-76.00	2.97 (8)	0.90	2.20-4.80	3.00 (3)	0.00	3.00
1985	1SW	50.96 (3604)	2.75	37.00-67.00	1.35 (3604)	0.21	0.55-2.96	3.46 (3111)	0.56	2-7
	Repeat	54.11 (102)	3.38	48.00-63.00	1.56 (101)	0.30	0.98-2.64	3.25 (80)	0.52	2-4
	2SW	53.50 (1)			1.40 (1)					
	small	51.10 (3851)	2.80	37.00-62.50	1.36 (3850)	0.22	0.55-2.96	3.45 (3188)	0.57	2-7
	large	64.40 (7)	1.73	63.00-67.00	2.22 (7)	0.41	1.60-2.84	3.50 (4)	0.58	3-4
1986	1SW	52.23 (243)	5.17	41.10-66.50	1.42 (238)	0.44	0.65-2.90	3.56 (242)	0.60	2-5
	Repeat	66.74 (69)	6.43	44.30-81.00	3.00 (68)	0.74	1.00-4.30	3.19 (67)	0.47	2-4
	2SW	68.10 (21)	2.48	64.50-73.80	3.13 (21)	0.42	2.60-3.99	3.14 (21)	0.57	2-5
	small	52.25 (2505)	3.13	29.90-62.90	1.45 (285)	0.44	0.45-3.20	3.54 (259)	0.60	2-5
	large	69.22 (80)	3.30	63.00-81.00	3.24 (79)	0.47	2.35-4.30	3.17 (72)	0.50	2-5
1987	1SW	50.13 (456)	6.42	27.70-74.00	1.22 (413)	0.54	0.40-3.85	3.47 (394)	0.61	2-6
	Repeat	63.40 (124)	6.81	38.30-77.00	2.50 (96)	0.84	0.50-4.60	3.31 (97)	0.57	2-5
	2SW	68.90 (3)	4.55	64.00-73.00	2.80 (1)			2.50 (2)	0.71	2-3
	small	51.29 (4225)	3.88	23.00-62.90	1.27 (507)	0.49	0.10-2.60	3.48 (443)	0.64	2-6
	large	69.61 (110)	3.59	63.00-78.00	3.30 (72)	0.61	2.00-4.60	3.25 (56)	0.58	2-4
1988	1SW	48.58 (475)	5.66	34.60-67.10	1.12 (426)	0.38	0.45-2.60	3.50 (448)	0.65	2-6
	Repeat	58.09 (35)	7.24	39.00-74.00	2.03 (31)	0.86	0.65-4.50	3.61 (28)	0.79	2-6
	2SW	66.20 (4)	6.13	60.50-72.80	2.87 (4)	0.90	2.10-3.99	3.25 (4)	0.50	3-4
	small	50.59 (5104)	3.74	25.40-62.50	1.12 (566)	0.45	0.30-2.40	3.65 (531)	0.83	2-8
	large	69.22 (16)	4.78	63.10-81.00	3.17 (16)	0.71	2.20-4.50	3.50 (6)	0.55	3-4
1989	1SW	51.97 (387)	5.68	37.60-68.80	1.38 (376)	0.42	0.55-3.00	3.53 (323)	0.63	2-7
	Repeat	56.73 (37)	8.08	41.00-75.00	1.87 (36)	0.75	0.70-4.20	3.33 (30)	0.55	3-5
	2SW	67.17 (3)	3.41	65.00-71.10	2.73 (3)	0.53	2.25-3.30	3.00 (3)	0.00	3-3
	small	52.45 (4332)	3.68	25.00-62.50	1.29 (479)	0.46	0.30-2.30	3.75 (398)	0.93	2-9
	large	67.01 (21)	3.10	63.00-75.00	2.78 (21)	0.55	2.00-4.20	3.42 (12)	0.51	3-4
1990	1SW	53.00 (340)	5.58	40.50-67.00	1.38 (338)	0.41	0.58-2.66	3.49 (320)	0.62	2-6
	Repeat	61.95 (52)	6.75	44.10-80.20	2.30 (52)	0.87	0.62-5.20	3.36 (44)	0.49	3-4
	2SW	66.50 (3)	2.60	63.50-68.00	2.85 (3)	0.45	2.34-3.12	3.67 (3)	0.58	3-4
	small	52.92 (3801)	3.63	29.20-62.90	1.41 (739)	0.37	0.20-2.66	3.56 (364)	0.75	2-9
	large	66.81 (36)	3.92	63.00-80.20	2.79 (34)	0.75	1.90-5.20	3.42 (24)	0.50	3-4

1991	1SW	52.51 (227)	5.47	35.00-64.10	1.43 (227)	0.40	0.50-2.40	3.60 (212)	0.65	2-6
	Repeat	56.57 (20)	3.20	47.40-61.50	1.82 (20)	0.27	1.10-2.30	3.72 (18)	0.75	3-5
	2SW	66.70 (1)			2.65 (1)					
	small	51.10 (1377)	4.42	26.60-61.80	1.36 (1372)	0.29	0.20-2.40	3.84 (273)	0.97	2-8
	large	64.60(3)	1.90	63.00-66.70	2.47 (3)	0.16	2.35-2.65	4.00 (1)		
1992	1SW	54.08 (243)	4.86	38.70-65.70	1.59 (243)	0.38	0.65-2.90	3.50 (423)	0.70	2-6
	Repeat	59.59 (40)	4.63	54.00-74.80	2.11 (40)	0.59	0.15-4.35	3.54 (52)	0.61	2-5
	2SW	68.57 (3)	3.86	64.20-71.50	3.27 (3)	0.64	0.25-3.80	3.17 (6)	0.41	3-4
	small	52.51 (1078)	3.68	29.00-62.80	1.48 (1077)	0.28	0.40-2.60	3.62 (271)	0.81	2-8
	large	68.20 (10)	4.29	63.00-74.80	3.04 (10)	0.90	1.35-4.35	3.63 (8)	0.74	3-5
1993	1SW							3.40 (94)	0.54	3-5
	Repeat							3.40 (10)	0.70	2-4
	small									
	large									
1994	1SW	54.43 (387)	2.99	46.00-63.00	1.69 (207)	0.35	0.91-2.90	3.38 (393)	0.62	2-5
	Repeat	58.75 (20)	3.27	51.00-63.00	2.19 (12)	0.62	1.36-2.99	3.20 (20)	0.62	2-5
	small	54.54 (407)	3.06	46.00-62.50	1.69 (216)	0.35	0.91-2.90	3.39 (403)	0.71	2-9
	large	63.00 (4)	0.00	63.00-63.00	2.87 (4)	0.25	2.49-2.99	3.25 (4)	1.26	2-5
1995	1SW	53.63 (56)	3.06	49.00-61.00	1.76 (32)	0.38	1.27-2.63	3.21 (56)	0.62	2-5
	Repeat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	small	53.63 (56)	3.06	49.00-61.00	1.76 (32)	0.38	1.27-2.63	3.21 (56)	0.62	2-5
	large									
1996	1SW	54.26 (56)	3.73	43.00-63.00	-	-	-	3.22 (59)	0.62	2-5
	Repeat	60.00 (5)	2.24	57.00-63.00	-	-	-	3.40 (5)	0.55	3-4
	small	54.45 (59)	3.70	43.00-61.00	-	-	-	3.25 (59)	0.60	2-5
	large	63.00 (2)	0.00	63.00-63.00	-	-	-	3.00 (2)	0.00	3-3
1997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	1SW	54.33(157)	3.42	46.50-63.00	-	--	-	3.14(156)	0.47	2-4
	Repeat	66.60(3)	5.75	60.00-70.50	-	-	-	3.67(3)	0.58	3-4
	small	54.29(161)	3.35	46.50-62.50	-	-	-	3.15(156)	0.48	2-4
	large	67.60(3)	4.03	63.00-70.50	-	-	-	3.33(3)	0.58	3-4

-samples from 1984-1992 were Noel Paul's broodstock
-samples were collected from Grand Falls each year and from Great Rattling Brook from 1986-1990
-1993 samples from Camp 1, Grand Falls & Red Indian Lake fishways
-1994 - 1996 & 1998 angling samples from Lower Exploits and fishway mortalities

Table 8 . Counts at various counting facilities on the Exploits River.

Year	Count at Bishop Falls			Count at Camp 1			Count at Grand Falls			Count at Red Indian Lake		
	small	Large	total	small	large	total	Small	large	total	small	large	total
1959	886	119	*1005									
1960	1013	157	1170	94	9	103						
1961	839	118	957	319	53	372						
1962				1037	31	1068						
1963	1202	65	1267	491	37	528						
1964				1752	116	1868						
1965	1228	203	1431	587	190	777						
1966	829	506	*1335	942	470	1412						
1967	1372	710	2082	822	382	1204						
1968				1334	687	2021						
1969	979	498	1477	892	290	1182						
1970				1023	199	1222						
1971	961	300	1261	902	261	1163						
1972	794	113	907	495	234	*729						
1973	205	89	294									
1974	2538	411	2949				64	0	*64			
1975	9218	1439	10657	5531	505	6036	319	21	340			
1976	3991	460	4451	2935	117	3052	128	5	133			
1977	6148	581	6729	4300	271	4571	244	9	253			
1978	3790	303	4093	2704	81	2785	132	6	138			
1979	6715	277	6992	3925	124	4049	501	8	509			
1980				4597	426	5023	3062	23	3085			
1981	8114	1695	*9809	4264	514	4778	3809	227	4036			
1982	7605	181	7786	2796	122	2918	2321	67	2388			
1983				2952	302	*3254	2182	37	2219			
1984	17219	529	17748	6300	111	*6411	4993	50	5043			
1985	16652	183	16835	5985	38	6023	4992	11	5003			
1986	9697	355	10052	3072	174	3246	2243	67	2310			

1987	9014	310	9324	2327	41	2368	2211	41	2252			
1988	8974	147	9121	3433	10	3443	2535	34	2569			
1989	7192	89	7281	1694	14	1708	2737	70	2807			
1990	6629	122	6751	1057	15	1072	2697	118	2815			
1991	5245	99	5344	1060	40	1100			1614	29	0	29
1992	12538	314	12852	3520	242	3762	2609	64	2673	138	3	141
1993	21319	627	21946	5615	312	*5927	5658	101	5759	571	14	585
1994	16168	916	17084	2488	333	*2821	6430	196	6626	611	25	636
1995	15714	941	16655	2719	394	*3113	N/A	N/A	6523	774	44	818
1996	29761	2053	31814	4502	578	*5080	13489	906	14395	776	20	796
1997	13547	881	14428	N/A	N/A	N/A	5762	534	6296	170	24	194
1998	26442	1958	28400	N/A	N/A	N/A	12065	1217	13282	421	33	454

Table 9. Cumulative percent of run to date for Bishops Falls fishway 1986-1998.

Date	Julian Day	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
June 9	160	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
June 15	166	0.12	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.20
June 22	173	0.97	0.24	0.76	0.15	0.07	0.10	0.59	0.28	0.38	3.02
June 29	180	4.65	2.58	3.02	2.38	0.34	0.32	1.41	2.31	2.50	14.2
July 6	187	15.08	5.50	17.13	15.63	1.63	2.24	14.29	15.74	16.38	44.0
July 13	194	43.14	30.78	43.83	39.37	7.24	21.52	31.35	39.29	46.61	**68.4**
July 20	201	**72.33**	**59.51**	**65.16**	**60.73**	29.12	47.32	45.94	**62.54**	**65.68**	82.5
July 27	208	87.67	81.43	79.55	77.34	**53.87**	**75.12**	**71.56**	75.94	81.69	90.5
Aug. 3	215	94.38	91.23	88.68	86.30	71.71	89.12	85.30	88.25	89.59	95.3
Aug. 10	222	97.13	96.26	93.34	91.57	80.00	95.16	93.99	93.49	93.74	97.3
Aug. 17	229	98.29	98.43	96.87	95.01	88.94	97.87	97.22	96.48	96.72	98.3
Aug. 24	236	98.80	99.52	99.00	98.06	94.40	99.24	98.79	97.71	98.08	99.1
Aug. 31	243	99.16	100.00	100.00	99.79	97.38	99.88	99.53	98.72	99.09	99.8
Sept. 7	250	99.44			100.00	98.95	100.00	99.79	99.22	99.86	100.0
Sept. 14	257	99.67				99.87		99.98	99.76	100.00	
Sept. 21	264	99.97				100.00		100.00	100.00		
Sept. 28	271	100.00									
Oct. 5	278										
Oct. 12	285										

Bolded numbers indicate the week of 50% of the run.

Appendix 1. Exploits River angling creel 1998.

		Raw data				Adjusted			
Week	%	Rods	Retained	Released		Rods	Retained	Released	
Ending	Coverage		small	small	large		small	small	large
21-Jun	100	327	40	83	4	327	40	83	4
28-Jun	93	1205	146	443	1	1296	157	476	1
5-Jul	96	1658	156	264	3	1727	163	275	3
12-Jul	100	1828	146	69	2	1828	146	69	2
19-Jul	89	1024	33	17	0	1151	37	19	0
26-Jul	93	460	8	0	0	495	9	13	0
2-Aug	100	246	3	12	0	246	3	12	0
9-Aug	96	74	2	3	0	77	2	3	0
16-Aug	100	72	0	0	0	72	0	0	0
23-Aug	61	36	0	0.98	0.02	59	0	2	0
30-Aug	61	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
6-Sep	0	0	0	0	0				
7-Sep	0	0	0	0	0				
		6931	534		10.02	7279	556	951	11+

+ total large released

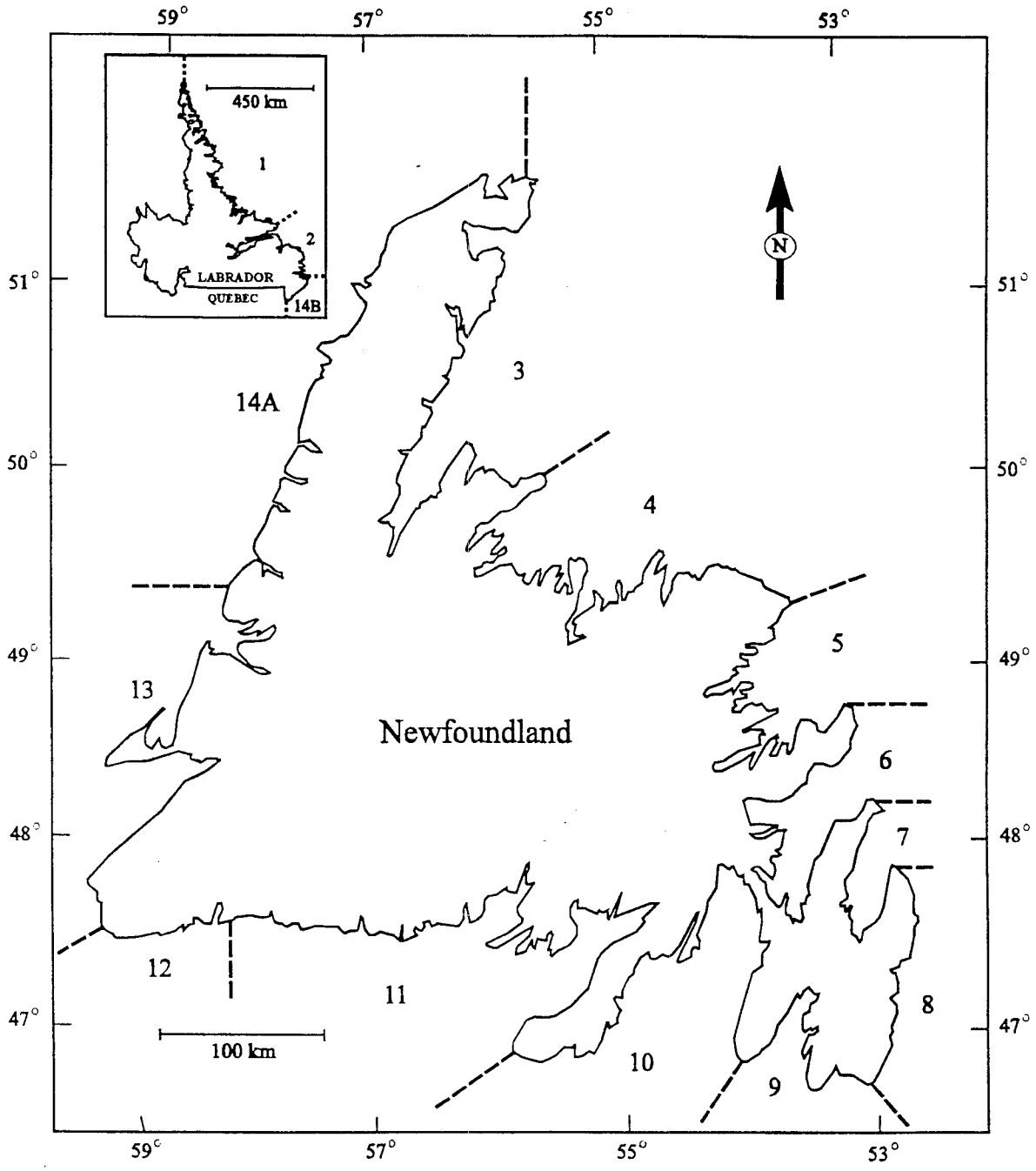

Fig. 1. Map showing the 14 Salmon Fishing Areas of the Newfoundland Region.

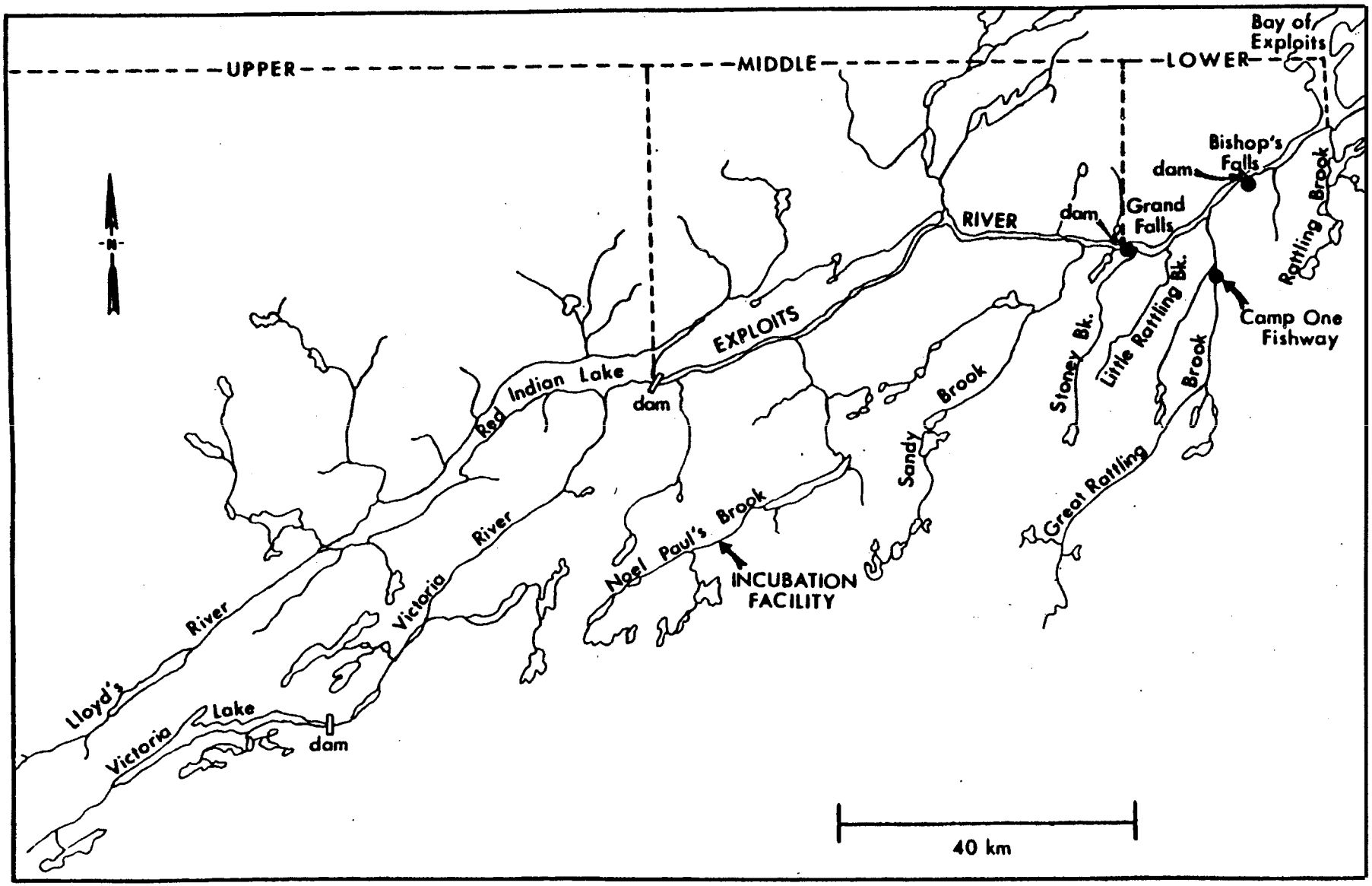

Fig. 2. Detailed map of the Exploits River system.

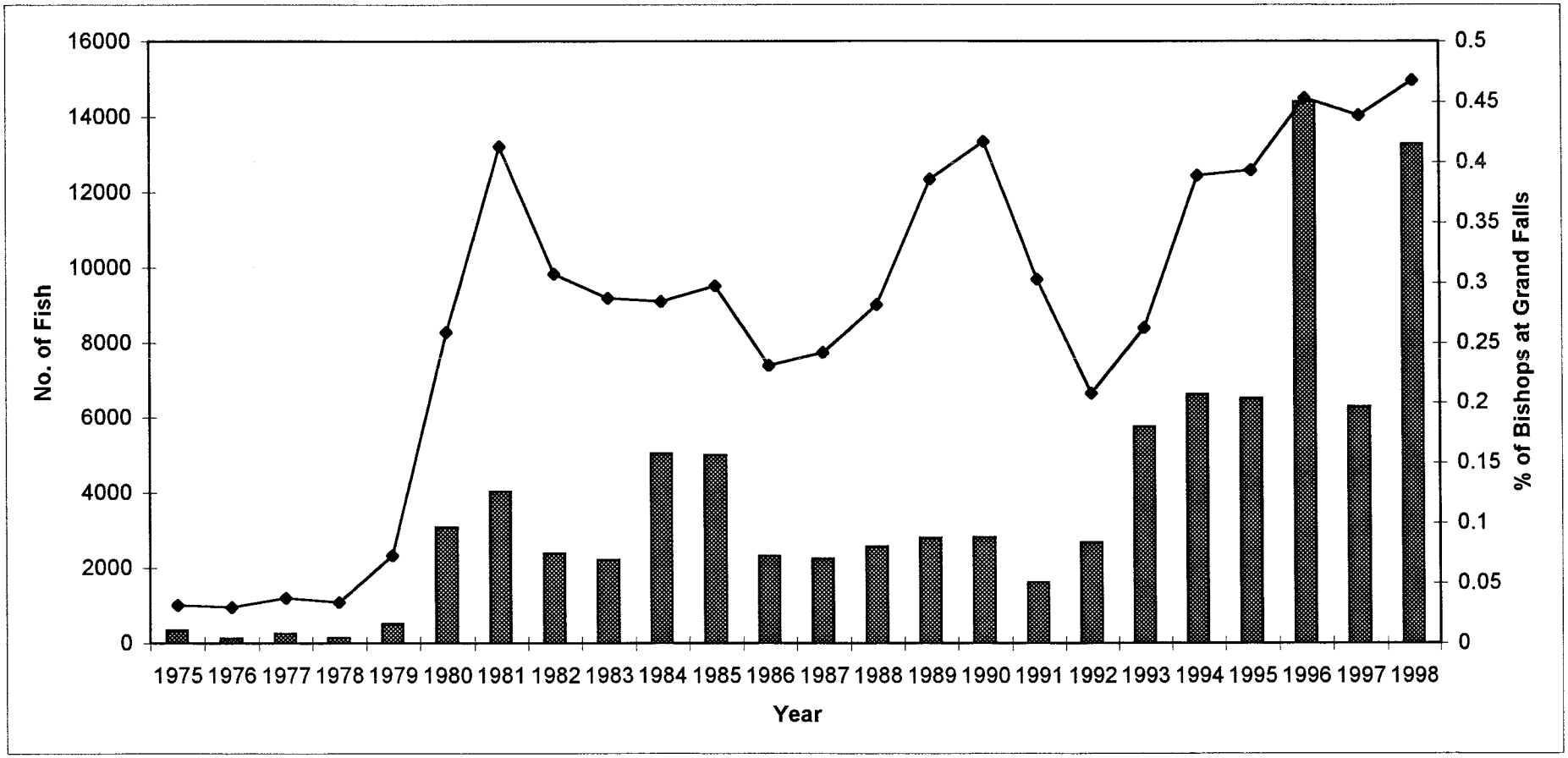

Figure 3. Count of fish at Grand Falls and % of run at Bishop's enumerated at Grand Falls.