

July 27, 2018

Charlie LeBlanc, President
New Brunswick Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 549
Moncton, NB E1C 8L9

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Thank you for your letter of May 14th, 2018 regarding the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation Resolutions arising from your organization's 2018 Annual General Meeting held in Fredericton.

Please see attached the Department of Energy and Resource Development's (ERD) responses to the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation's 2018 resolutions. To appropriately address each resolution, a specific response has been prepared for each resolution and attached to this cover letter.

If you wish to discuss these resolution topics in more detail, Mr. Kristian Moore – Executive Director of Regional Operations, Fish, Wildlife and Forest Fire Management of ERD's Natural Resources Division, would be pleased to meet with you. You can arrange a meeting by contacting Kristian's assistant, Ms. Kim Dunphy, by calling (506) 453-2189.

Thank you for bringing these issues to my attention on behalf of your membership, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Kristian.

Sincerely,



Rick Doucet

cc: J. Kristian Moore, Executive Director of Regional operations, Fish, Wildlife and Forest Fire Management, ERD



RESOLUTION: W-03-18

TITLE: Resolution to Increase Moose Licenses

Be it resolved that:

The Department of Energy and Resource Development increase the draw allocations for each zone of the province, where, based on population estimates and Maximum Allowable Harvest, an increase in available licenses for a particular zone is warranted.

ERD Response

The Department of Energy and Resource Development manages the moose hunt with a goal of allowing as much recreational hunting opportunity as the moose population can provide, while maintaining sustainability so that future hunting opportunity can be maintained. Moose populations have increased in some parts of the province in recent years, and the Department has increased the allowable moose harvest, and the number of resident moose hunting licences, accordingly. Over the past 10 years (2008-2017), the moose harvest has increased by 71%, from 2231 to 3817 moose. This management goal, which achieves the intention of your organization's resolution, will be continued moving forward.

RESOLUTION: W-04-18

TITLE: Request Research/Management Program for Wild Turkeys

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The NBWF petition the DERD to initiate a research program to determine the population of wild turkeys in the Province and initiate a management plan with the objective of opening a sustainable hunting season for these challenging game birds in areas that can support a hunt.

ERD Response

Turkeys are not a native species to New Brunswick but turkeys have been observed in various parts of the province in recent years, particularly in southern and western NB. The arrival of these exotic birds is partly the result of illegal releases of captive turkeys, and partly due to movements from wild turkey populations re-introduced into the State of Maine. It is estimated that up to 1,000-2,000 turkeys may currently exist in these areas. Such a small population would provide very little recreational hunting opportunity, and would generally not be sustainable, especially if future population growth was desired. The Department of Energy and Resource Development does not envision directing any resources towards active monitoring and management of turkeys in New Brunswick at the present time.

RESOLUTION: W-05-18

TITLE: Amend and re-submit 2001-4 Any Calibre Rifle for Varmints

Therefore, be it resolved:

To amend and resubmit to ERD the NBWF resolution 2001-4 which had been submitted by Sussex Fish & Game Association and adopted by the NBWF in 2001 and currently reads:

"2001-4. Any Calibre Rifle for Varmints – therefore be it resolved that the holder of a valid varmint license be permitted to hunt with a rifle of any caliber with a bullet weight of 100 grains or less."

As

Any Calibre Rifle for Varmints - therefore be it resolved that the holder of a valid varmint license be permitted to hunt with a rifle of any caliber during the varmint only season.

ERD Response

The Department of Energy and Resource Development has particular concern for the use of large calibre firearms to poach big-game animals immediately prior to, during and immediately after their open hunting seasons, which run from the last week of September until the end of November. Resolution W-05-18 seeks to allow varmint hunting license holders to be in possession of a large calibre firearm during the March to mid-September period, which is not a time-frame when poaching of big-game animals is a major concern. Therefore, the Department will consider changing the Hunting Regulation to allow varmint hunting license holders to be in possession of any calibre firearm for the purposes of hunting varmints during the varmint hunting season prescribed in the regulation.

RESOLUTION: W-07-18

TITLE: Antler Sheds

Be it resolved that:

The NBWF petition the Department of Energy and Resource Development, to allow the sale of moose and deer antlers sheds by the holder of a New Brunswick Trapping or Hunting License.

ERD Response

The New Brunswick *Fish and Wildlife Act* prohibits commercial trade in most by-products of big-game animals (white-tailed deer, moose and black bear), as these species are regulated primarily to support recreational hunting opportunity. Commercial trade in wildlife species in which the current demand for the species exceeds the supply of the species is viewed as a threat to conservation. For both moose and white-tailed deer in New Brunswick, public demand for hunting greatly exceeds the supply of animals. The only by-product allowed in the commercial marketplace is the hide/pelt of each of these three big-game species. The hides/pelts of these species are: 1) traditionally traded items; 2) traceable through mandatory registration and tagging of the hide/pelt and 3) saleable only through licensed Hide Dealers who must maintain and report trade records. These regulated controls and tracking mechanisms make the entry of illegally harvested items into this trade difficult and help ensure this trade does not pose a conservation risk for these species. In the case of shed antlers of moose and white-tailed deer, the *Fish and Wildlife Act* allows the personal use of these by-products but prohibits commercial trade as there are not any established mechanisms to identify and track individual by-products in the marketplace. It would be difficult to keep entry of "modified" antlers from non-shed sources out of the commercial marketplace, making the unregulated trade in these by-products a conservation risk. The Department of Energy and Resource Development does not support this resolution.

RESOLUTION: W-09-18

TITLE: Make Drones Illegal When Hunting

Be it resolved that:

The Province of New Brunswick make the necessary changes to the Fish and Wildlife Act to explicitly name drones as illegal for use in hunting and trapping in the province of New Brunswick.

ERD Response

Recreational drone aircraft have become more readily available to, and popular with, the public in recent years. Under Subsection 43(1) of the New Brunswick *Fish and Wildlife Act*, it is an offence to use an aircraft in connection with hunting, except as a means of transportation. Under federal legislation, the definition of aircraft very clearly includes drones. As a result, the *Fish and Wildlife Act* currently meets your organization's resolution to name drones as illegal for use in hunting in New Brunswick. Thus, the Department of Energy and Resource Development does not see a need to amend the *Act*; however, the Department will amend wording to the annual Hunt and Trap guide to clarify to clients that drones are considered to be aircraft, and are therefore subject to the *Act's* prohibition against the use of aircraft while hunting.

RESOLUTION: F-02-18

TITLE: Change of Fishery Closing Date

Be it proposed that:

The closing date for Atlantic salmon fishing on the Little Southwest Miramichi River upstream of Cleland's pool be changed from September 15th to September 30th.

ERD Response

Changes to the salmon fishing season would need to be made by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). We expect DFO would consult our department.



Gulf Region
343 Université Avenue
Moncton, New Brunswick
E1C 5K4

2018-701-00010
EKME # 3902375

MAY 02 2018

Mr. Charlie LeBlanc, President
N.B. Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 549
Moncton, New Brunswick
E1C 8L9

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Thank you for your letter dated March 22, 2018, where you remind my office about the resolutions that the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation (NBWF) communicated to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) in May 2017.

Following your most recent letter, I instructed staff to look for your 2017 letter and unfortunately, I regret to say that it could not be located. I deeply regret this situation which was possibly caused by numerous movements among the staff at the Gulf Region's Regional Director General's office. I would like to offer my apologies for this unfortunate event.

That being said, I take note of the resolutions you brought forward, and I am happy to say that since the time the NBWF made the resolution F-02-17 regarding restoring fish habitat protection, the Government of Canada has been working on this file, by proposing amendments to the *Fisheries Act* (C-68) that would repeal the prohibition causing serious harm to fish and replacing it with prohibitions against causing the death of fish (other than by fishing) and the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. New tools are also enabled to protect fish and fish habitat, including ecologically significant areas, as well as measures relating to authorization and permitting of work, undertakings and activities, establishment of standards and codes of practice, creation of fish habitat banks by proponents of a project and the establishment of a public registry.

Concerning the resolution F0-03-2017, I would like to assure you that the Department will continue to work on recommendations from the Atlantic Salmon Advisory Committee (ASAC). Subsequent to launching the DFO Forward Plan for Atlantic salmon in the summer of 2016, DFO implemented a number of measures, such as:

- The Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture, which brings together the resources and insights of many organizations, international scientists and other experts to better understand the science behind the declines of these stocks.

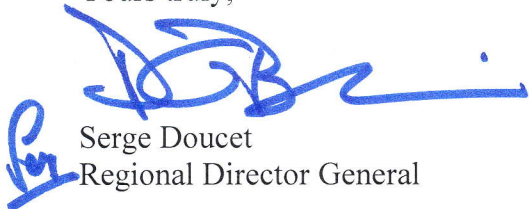
- Working with members of ASAC, the Department revised the *Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy* in 2017 to put more clarity and emphasis on conservation.
- Last year, DFO also initiated a process to implement precautionary approach management in the Atlantic salmon fisheries in the Gulf Region. New limit reference points were defined for the main salmon rivers of the Gulf Region, and the work will continue in 2018 towards the definition of upper stock reference points and harvest decision rules for the recreational fishery on the Miramichi River system.
- Work is also ongoing regarding the transformation of the New Brunswick licence and management regime towards a system that aims at favouring anglers' participation and involvement, as well as better controlling the harvest of grilse in the recreational fishery when the stocks are deemed able to sustain it. I want to thank you for the participation of NBWF on this important work.
- Presently, our officials are also working with ASAC members again, to develop a two-year plan of specific initiatives with the goal to restore and maintain healthy salmon populations. Under DFO headquarters leadership, a group composed of DFO staff in Ottawa and in regions, stakeholders and Indigenous groups, have started regular conference calls on this file. The NBWF is invited to take part in this discussion, and although your organization has not participated yet, the door is still open. You can get in touch with your DFO Resource Management regional contact, Frédéric Butruille at 506-851-7358, if you would like to connect with this group.

Concerning the resolution F-04-17, the Saint John River watershed falls under the responsibility of the Maritimes Region of DFO and I will make sure that my counterpart receives a copy of this resolution. I would also advise you to bring this topic to the discussion at the next Saint John River Management Advisory Committee in July 2018, which is the proper forum where this question should be debated.

Once again, I sincerely regret that staff in my office could not find your letter from 2017. However, if you are still interested to meet with me along with appropriate DFO representatives to discuss the NBWF resolutions or other related topics, please contact Tina Richard at 506-851-7751, and I will ensure to make room in my calendar so we can meet this spring.

Thank you for your interest regarding Atlantic salmon, its habitat and its management.

Yours truly,



Serge Doucet
Regional Director General



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Gulf Region
343 Université Avenue
Moncton, New Brunswick
E1C 5K4

JUN 14 2018

2018-701-00014
EKME # 3922336

Mr. Charlie LeBlanc, President
The New Brunswick Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 549
Moncton, New Brunswick
E1C 8L9

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Re: NBFW Fisheries Resolution

Thank you for your letter dated May 14, 2018, containing two fisheries resolutions from the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation related to angling.

I will forward your letter to my staff to assess the impact of these management measures modifications on the salmon and trout resource. My office will contact you once these resolutions have been evaluated, and also to organize the follow-up, including a meeting in person, to which I would be happy to participate if time allows.

Thank you for writing.

Yours truly,

SJS

Serge Doucet
Regional Director General