

**North American Commission**

**NAC(08)8**

*Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund*



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In February 2005 the Government of Canada announced creation of the \$30 million CAD Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund with the goal of helping to achieve healthy and sustainable wild Atlantic salmon populations and salmon habitat in New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Québec.

Following the announcement the Government negotiated an agreement with *The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation* ([www.salmonconservation.ca](http://www.salmonconservation.ca)), a non-profit, charitable organization, to administer the fund. The objectives of the Foundation include fostering partnership among community groups, First Nations, Aboriginal groups, federal and provincial government agencies and others to improve conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and salmon habitat. Foundation intends to fund high-quality initiatives proposed by partnerships among groups working at the community level.

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation is an inclusive and volunteer based organization consisting of a Board of Directors assisted by six advisory committees. There is an advisory committee in each of the five provinces served by the Foundation, which are responsible for identifying province-specific conservation priorities and recommending to the Board projects which could be funded in the province. In addition, the Foundation has created a Central Advisory Committee to assist the Board in developing overall conservation priorities and processes, as well as to review funding proposals of broad conservation benefit or application.

Categories of eligible projects include: development of salmon and salmon habitat conservation plans; conservation, rebuilding and restoration of wild Atlantic salmon and salmon habitat; restoring access of wild Atlantic salmon to salmon habitat; and public education and awareness of the importance of conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and its habitat.

In March 2008 the Foundation launched its first round of funding applications with a total of \$300,000 available for award in 2008. Proposals for funding were submitted through the ASCF website with over fifty applications for funding received from conservation groups and Aboriginal organizations in the five provincial constituencies. Eligible applications were reviewed by the advisory committees in May and the results of the 2008 round will be announced in mid-June.

The Foundation plans to initiate its second call for proposals in November 2008 with the goals of announcing successful proposals by March 2009 in order to allow adequate lead-time for summer and fall conservation activity. Subsequent calls will normally be held in the fall.