

A close-up photograph showing a person's hands holding two Canadian River Herring (Gaspereau) fish. The fish are dark, slender, and have a slightly curved body. They are being held over a rocky stream bed with some green grass and small plants. The background is slightly blurred, focusing on the fish and hands.

Overview of Canadian River Herring (Gaspereau) Fisheries Management

J. Cournane

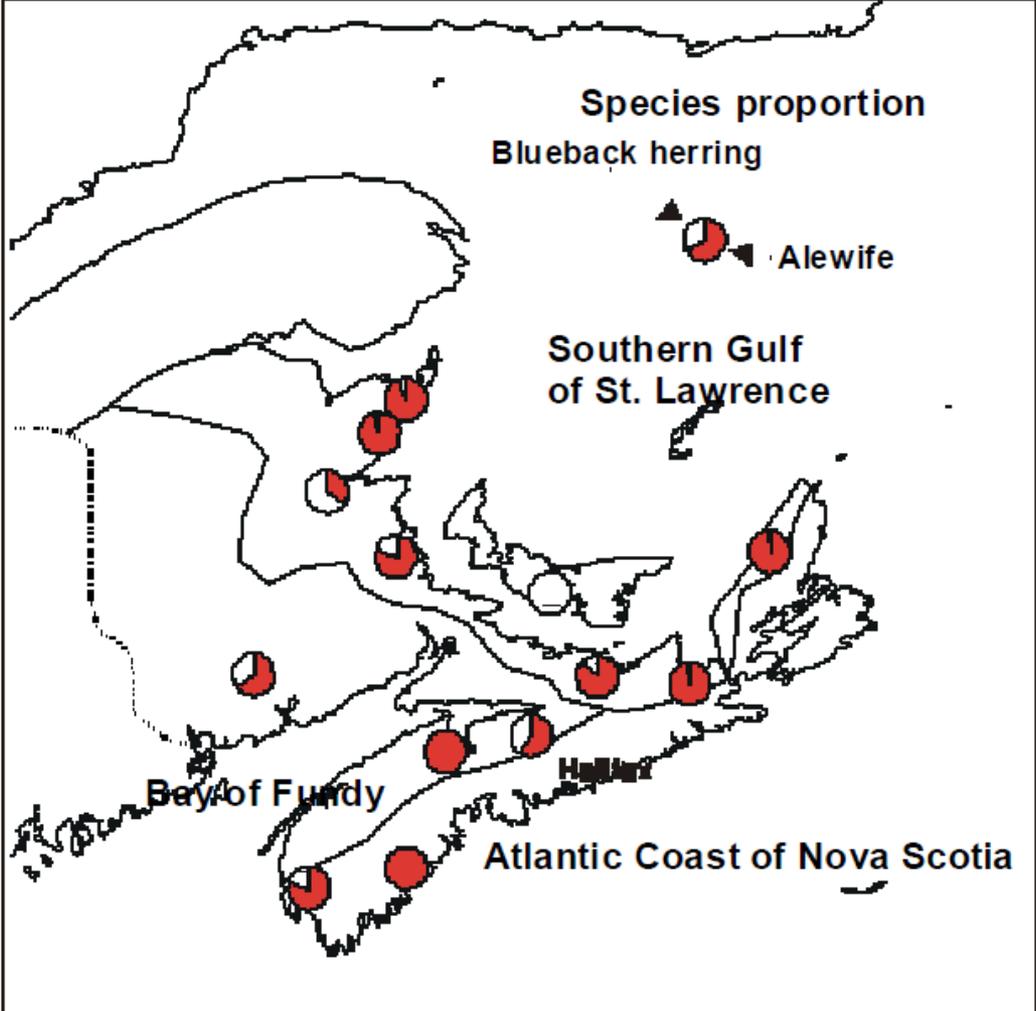
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Alewife and Blueback Herring Proportions by Location



DFO Stock Status Report D3-17 2001

River Herring Fisheries in the Canadian Maritimes

Multiple gear types depending on fishing locations including gillnets, trap nets, dip nets, tip-traps, and square-nets.

Most fisheries are < 100 mt per year with a few larger fisheries > 1000 mt (Saint John River, Bay of Fundy, NB and Miramichi River, southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, NB).

Catch reporting includes **logbooks and dealer records**, but these methods of reporting are **not ubiquitous in all fisheries**.



Gaspereau River, NS



River Herring Fisheries in the Canadian Maritimes

In most fisheries, the **management objective** is to **maintain harvest near long-term mean levels**.

Effort controls to achieve this objective include licenses, permits, limiting new entrants, temporal closures, and fishing seasons or some combination.



River Herring Fisheries in the Canadian Maritimes

Gaspereau landings (t)

Year	70-79 Avg.	80-89 Avg.	90-99 Avg.	1997	1998	1999	2000
Southern Gulf	3704	4848	3945	3030	4222	3795	1944
Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia	1279	893	907	989	918	586	n.a.
Bay of Fundy	4184	1836	1580	1551	1780	1724	n.a.
Total	9167	7914	6427	5670	6920	6105	n.a.

n.a. means not available

Table from the DFO Stock Status Report D3-17 2001

River Herring Fisheries in the Canadian Maritimes

Specific reference points include:

- **St. John River Stock** is managed at **Mactaquac Dam** based on a **fixed escapement target** derived from stock and recruitment data
- **Bay of Fundy and Atlantic coast (exploitation level of 0.65)**
- **Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence:** fishing mortality level that does not exceed natural mortality rate (**exploitation rates of 0.33 – 0.39**)

Mactaquac Dam, St. John River, Bay of Fundy, NB



J. Courneau

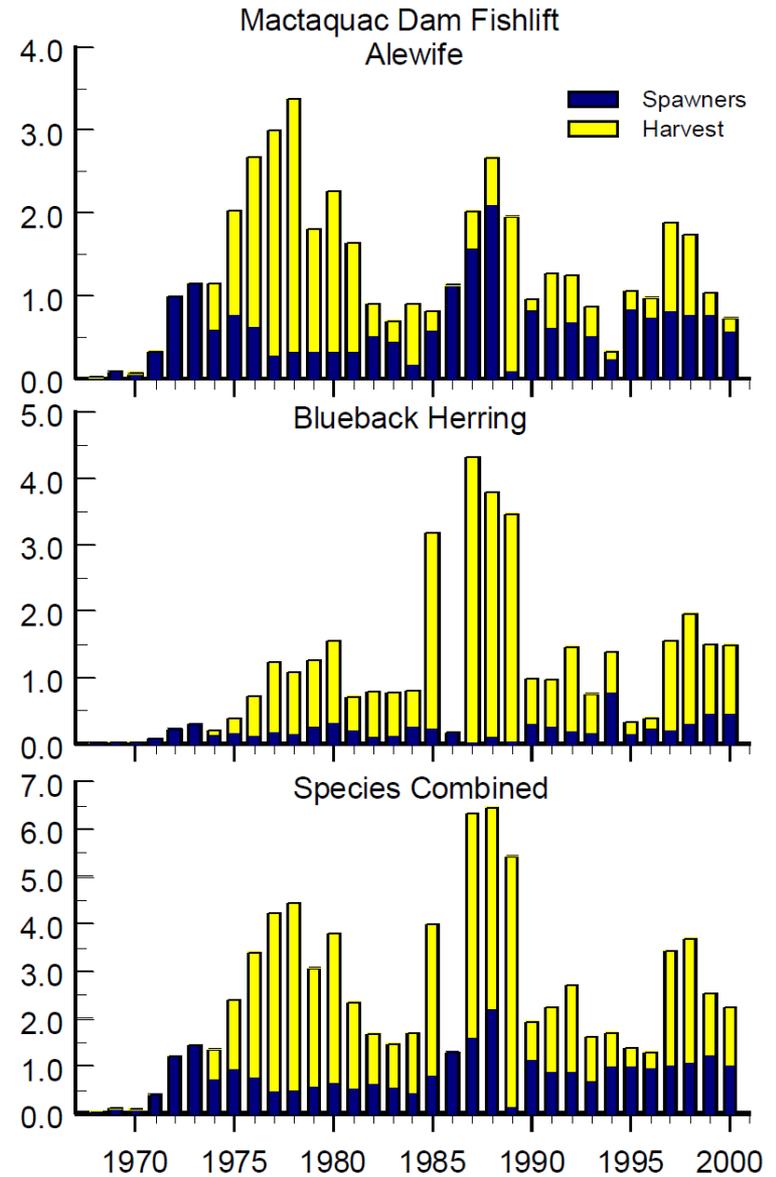


Figure from the DFO Stock Status Report D3-17 2001

Current Integrated Fishery Management Plan

- A **six-year management plan (2007-2012)** for coastal and inland waters of eastern New Brunswick, including all watersheds between Dalhousie and Baie-Verte.
- **Implemented in conjunction with annual updates** to allow **adjustments of specific fisheries management measures** linked to fishing areas, fishing seasons and catch limits.
- There are **129 commercial license holders** using trap nets and gill nets in this fishery.

Richibucto River, Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, NB



Thank you!

Government of Canada
Canadian Fishermen
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Dalhousie University

