— $ harvest
regs
— send ee

wild / native
wild horses — !
non-native
— moose CO

wild / hatch
diff ?
— Madison — not > 50% now
$756 — 30 / da exp
Henrys Fk.

no / angler NH
CT
MA
ID — why ? — polarizism — IP illustrative
NV —
CO

elitist — common way
hardware flinger
bait worm dunker
meat fisher
demonize

bree vs. beer

Wednesday
— N.H. — Dublin Pond,
— only in brook trout — 03055-2280, Burpee — ?
Nother Isle
— Salmon Conn. 1799
Merrimack — 1830 Thoreau
wild / native

catch. costs / $ license
budget
divert
— rec. — — L. Ontario
put-take — l.l. salmon — strains, Newfoundland
— put - grow — strains,
survival
invest fits
protect — enhance
< restore
— 50% A put-take, ?.
— how %, angler days
— value
% angler benefits
. private enterprise
competitive system
— Ford now
still some out Model-T

NEA 75
— re. dates
tickets

— Earl Hoover

— Dublin Pond

— summary speaker Ted Williams
— MA
— wetlands

cost / benefit
Put-Take / Put-Grow - w/ catchable ca. 8" \ ("steelhead" ... "At-salmon" ... "smolts" - Nantucket L.

50%.' 60%
wt. stocked / return

WY - Miracle Mile

1 lb. stock 5-6 return
>10 " C&R

sp. composition 4/lb

RB 22% - wild + hatch (catch-size (walleye)
BT 78%

x̄ size 16" BT (
17" RB . 2 lb.
"like wild"
1-2 yrs after stocked

reserv
4-5/lb.
. yr. - ...
8.2 x

Catch
BT 35%
RB 65%

C&R
(>6:1 1.2 x BT
6.5 x wild RB
8.2 hatch

*74% nonresidents

Coldwater Fisheries Coalition, Inc.
New England Wild Trout Symposium
April 10, 1999

8:00-8:30	Continental breakfast
8:30-8:40	Welcome / Opening remarks Bill Koury, President CFC, Inc.
8:40-9:00	Techniques of Inventory and Monitoring Trout populations. Forrest Bonney, Fisheries Biologist Maine Fish and Wildlife.
9:00-9:20	Habitat Assessment / Restoration and Protection. Steve Roy, Director of Fisheries, Green Mountain National Forest.
9:20-9:40	Management Strategies, Selecting the Proper Harvest Restrictions. Still searching.... any volunteers?... any suggestions?
9:40-10:00	Coffee Break
10:00-10:20	The Impact of Cultured Fish. "Loss in Fitness" Outbreeding Depression Caused by Stock Transfers. Dr. David Philipp, Univ. of Ill. / Illinois Natural History Survey.
10:20-10:40	Cost Analysis of Fisheries and determining the Value of Fish to Anglers. Dr. Brian Roach, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, Univ. of Maine.
10:40-11:00	Building Public Support for Wild Trout Programs - Lessons Learned in Idaho. Virgil Moore, Exc. Dir. Idaho Fish and Game.

* Virgil's availability has not be confirmed yet. with the promotion for Director of Public Relations to Exec. Director, he may not have time to commit. Someone from Idaho will be available ? Chip Corsi

11:00-11:45	Panel Discussion: Integrating the Elements of Successful Wild Trout Management. All Speakers from the Morning session plus as many New England State Fisheries Chiefs as possible and Dr. Behnke. Moderator, Sam Aldridge.
11:45-12:15	Buffet Lunch
12:15-1:00	Lunch Time Speaker "In Praise of Wild Trout....." (or some such emotional / ethical appeal for wild trout management) M. R. Montgomery, author/ Boston Globe columnist.
1:15-2:00	Keynote Address "An Overview of Wild Trout Management in the US, or Current status of Wild Trout, or a topic to be named later.... Dr. Robert Benhke, Dept. of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University.
2:00-2:30	The History of New Hampshire's Trout and Coldwater Resources. Dick Stewart, Author / Publisher / Conservationist.
2:30-2:45	Coffee Break
2:45-3:15	Genetic Analysis of "Brook Trout" Samples From the Headwaters of the Four Watersheds of the White Mountain National Forest .... Do Aboriginal populations remain? Dr. Roy G. Danzmann, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Guelph, Ontario. or perhaps Dr. John Epifanio, Conservation Geneticist, Trout Unlimited.
3:15-3:45	Management Options for Wild Trout on a National Forest. Kathy Starke, Biologist, White Mountain National Forest.
3:45-4:15	Upper Connecticut River Strategic Management Plan. Scott Decker, Biologist, New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept.

4:15-4:45	Panel Discussion: Projects, Plans and Goals. The Future of Wild Trout in New England. Presenters from the afternoon session and a moderator from the CFC.
4:45- ?	Reception

Other speakers are still being contacted including Ken Cox, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife biologist who is heading a project to restore trout populations in the Main body of the Deerfield River using wild stocks from tributary streams. I have yet to speak with him directly . but I think a discussion of his project would fit nicely into the afternoon session.

Also, Forrest Bonney of Maine F&W (see morning program) has some interesting information on Maine's attempts to "engineer" cultured fish from wild stocks, decreasing inbreeding and therefore producing greater genetic variability...i.e. better survival with less impact upon wild populations (please forgive what may be an inaccurate summary).

The two projects above might fit nicely with a presentation along the lines of "Fish Culture Techniques Applied to Wild Trout Management."..... I can hearing the Hissing!...However, this symposium is meant to foster cooperation. Sharing concerns and informational exchange could be a great first step towards solving some of our region's problems and conflicts in wild trout restoration.

I am still looking for a speaker who might bring this final topic all together. If you have any suggestions please call.

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7 Dec 98

Dr. Behnke,

Thanks for your notes and calculations from the various state fisheries programs. The cost of hatchery trout is information we are working hard to disseminate within our Sporting community. Item V. in our "Vision for the Future" document (an enclosure in this Speaker's Packet) actually describes a simplified example of the cost of "catchable" trout. Our sample calculation uses grossly underestimated costs per pound, but none the less demonstrates the point. Now that real data is available from the Trout Unlimited Hatcheries Assessment program – ~~the~~ economic argument for wild trout becomes even more compelling.

(over)

❖ 85 Spring Street • Medical Office Building - 4th Floor • Laconia, NH 03246 • Fax 603/527-2873 ❖

I hope the enclosed speaker packet proves useful. When you decide upon a title just drop me a note so that I might complete a final draft of the program.

Any comments or suggestions regarding the content or organization of the Symposium would be welcome and appreciated.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Sean

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S
COLDWATER FISHERIES COALITION, INC.
PO Box 0085 Windham, NH 03087-0085 telephone 603-432-0916 NHCFC@aol.com

Trout Unlimited Ammonoosuc Chapter
Trout Unlimited Basil W. Woods Jr. Chapter
Trout Unlimited Merrimack River Valley Chapter
Trout Unlimited Upper Valley Chapter
Trout Unlimited Squan-A-Tissit Chapter

New Hampshire Wildlife Federation
Manchester Flycasters
New Hampshire Flyfishers Association
New England Saltwater Flyrodders
Pemigewasset Fish and Game

5 December 1998

Dear Dr. Behnke,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Coldwater Fisheries Coalition's First New England Wild Trout Symposium.

New Hampshire's Coldwater Fisheries Coalition, Inc. (CFC) is a non-profit alliance of conservation organizations, sportfishing clubs and concerned individuals who have joined forces to protect and restore naturally reproducing salmonid populations in New England. We now represent over 2,500 conservationists/anglers through organizational and individual memberships.

For those not familiar with the mission and history of the CFC, I have enclosed a copy of our initial "Vision for the Future" document presented to New Hampshire Fish and Game in April 1997. This document (once titled the "Wild Trout Manifesto"), is the distilled scientific and philosophical product of fourteen months of informational exchange between numerous organizations and individuals.

The "vision" document largely defines the CFC's ideals and mission, however our conviction is more evident in the attached summary of our first year's accomplishments.

Now that you are better acquainted with the CFC, let me share our plans for the New England Wild Trout Symposium. The one day Symposium is scheduled for 10 April 1999 at the Center of New

New Hampshire's
COLDWATER FISHERIES COALITION, INC.
PO Box 0085 - Windham, NH 03087-0085 - Tel. (603) 432-0916 NHCFCinc@aol.com

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

(Adopted April 1997)

Natural reforestation, the Clean Water Act and other circumstances, have made New Hampshire's cold water resources healthier now than at any time in the past 50 years. For these reasons, we believe that emphasis on stocking catch-able size trout in "put and take" fisheries should be reconsidered. A healthier, more natural fishery can be achieved at lower cost by redirecting resources toward developing and restoring wild (native or naturalized) salmonid fisheries in many of New Hampshire's waters.

Historically, large populations of native salmonids existed in New Hampshire. Many strains, and some species, are now extinct due to introduction of non-native fish species, damming, pollution, habitat degradation and other human activities. Despite this unfortunate legacy, there are many bodies of water in the state, which can, and in some cases do, support substantial, healthy wild trout populations.

Our border states, Vermont and particularly Maine, have preserved or developed a number of wild salmonid fisheries under habitat conditions demonstrably no better than those in New Hampshire. Further, where these fisheries exist, they have provided substantial benefits to the local/regional economies through visiting angler expenditures on licenses, lodging, restaurants, fishing tackle and guide services. In summary, we believe wild salmonid fisheries are biologically and economically desirable and feasible in New Hampshire.

To advance the goal of preserving, developing and enhancing wild salmonid fisheries, we propose that New Hampshire Fish and Game and its commissioners, the Governor and legislature consider:

I. **Identification, protection and enhancement of existing native salmonid populations and habitats to preserve the remainder of New Hampshire's salmonid genetic heritage.** Protection initiatives should focus on habitat improvement and preservation coupled with biologically sound and socially acceptable harvest restrictions.

II. **Identification, protection and enhancement of existing naturalized (wild, non-native) salmonid populations and habitats through initiatives described above.**

III. **Wild trout management: Targeting significant stretches of New Hampshire streams for development of wild trout fisheries.** Many New Hampshire streams

have already been targeted for recovery of naturally reproducing Atlantic Salmon runs. Some of the same streams would likely sustain healthy wild trout populations (or presumably they would not be on the Atlantic Salmon recovery list). Other streams not on the Atlantic Salmon recovery list already have populations of wild trout - these merit consideration for special regulations aimed at fishery enhancement.

We believe it is prudent and appropriate to manage wild trout populations in the same fashion that game animals are managed - i.e., through habitat protection and harvest restriction appropriate for maintenance of a healthy, self - sustaining population. Some specific recommendations for regulation changes that New Hampshire Fish and Game might consider are as follows:

A. Size and creel restrictions without regard to fishing method. Examples include slot limits, minimum size limits, and maximum size limits.

B. Size and creel restrictions with regard to fishing method (e.g., single point hook artificial lures only, fly-fishing only, etc.).

C. Strictly catch and release fishing on fragile wild fisheries or where there is angler demand and the fishery would respond with larger fish and/or higher catch rates.

D. Special regulations on certain stretches of streams harboring critical spawning and nursery habitat for native brook trout populations.

IV. **Put and grow management: stocking of trout fry/fingerlings (which are considerably less expensive to produce than catch-able size trout) on waters incapable of supporting natural reproduction (most ponds, some lakes and streams) but capable of sustaining holdover fish.** With harvest restrictions, this "put and grow" management technique has worked well to produce trophy fish on tail-water fisheries and still waters with little or no spawning habitat (e.g., Green River, Utah; Richardson Lakes, ME; Squam Lake, NH).

V. **Put and take management: designating certain still waters and stretches of New Hampshire streams to be managed as "put and take" trout fisheries.** Because of their high cost, we recommend only those fisheries sustaining a high rate of return to the creel (e.g., harvest of greater than 50% of stocked fish) be stocked with catch-able size trout. An analysis of some currently stocked water bodies might reveal the following:

A. Production cost per catch-able size trout = $1.00 (economic studies have shown that catch-able trout can cost up to $3.00 per pound to produce)
B. Percentage of stocked trout returned to the creel = 50%
C. Cost per creeled trout = $1.00 /0.50 = $2.00

D. New Hampshire creel limit = five fish per day
E. Cost per creel limit = 5 x $2.00 = $10.00
F. 1997 New Hampshire fishing license fee = $23.25
G. Number of creel limits "purchased" by license fee = 2.3 (12 fish)

The economics are compelling: each angler taking more than 12 stocked catch-able size trout per season is exceeding the number of fish "purchased" by his license fee. A warmwater species or wild trout angler, on the other hand, is subsidizing "put and take" trout fishing with his or her license fee. We encourage New Hampshire Fish and Game to undertake a similar analysis with New Hampshire's own specific production cost and harvest data.

VI. **Some New Hampshire waters currently managed for salmonids are better suited to warmwater species such as bass, pickerel, etc.** Precious resources (money, labor, etc.) should not be devoted to marginal "put and take" trout fisheries that could better be managed as sustainable wild warmwater species fisheries.

VII. **Identifying, by accepted sampling methods, streams with the potential for improved self-sustaining wild trout fisheries and implementing (hopefully by 1998) management changes aimed at enhancing/creating wild trout fisheries on designated stretches of New Hampshire streams.** We recommend these streams, if biologically suitable, be considered:

A. The Connecticut River and its tributaries from the First Lake dam south to North Stratford.
B. The Ammonoosuc River and its tributaries upstream from its confluence with the Zealand River.
C. The Saco River and its tributaries upstream from the Route 16 bridge in Conway.
D. The Wild River and its tributaries upstream from the Maine border.
E. The Sugar River and its tributaries.
F. The Cold River in Cheshire/Sullivan counties and its tributaries.
G. The East Branch of the Pemigewasset River and its tributaries.
The Pemigewasset River from the Ayers Island Dam downstream to the Boscawen boat ramp.
I. The West Branch of the Peabody River and its tributaries.
J. The tailwater fisheries on the Connecticut River below the Moore, Comerford, and McIndoes dams.
K. The Gale River and its tributaries.
L. The Contoocook River and its tributaries upstream from Henniker.
M. The Bearcamp River and its tributaries.

VII. **Implementing management changes aimed at enhancing/creating wild or '(put and grow" fisheries on the following New Hampshire ponds previously selected by New Hampshire Fish and Game:**

A. Boundary Pond, Pittsburg
B. Profile Lake, Franconia Notch

C. Upper Hall Pond, Sandwich
D. Sky Pond, New Hampton
E. Willard Pond, Antrim

IX. **Assessing the effect of management/regulation changes by documenting wild trout populations prior to the changes and annually during the ensuing 5 - 10 years.**

X. **Developing educational programs and materials that can be presented to the angling and non-angling public explaining the biological, aesthetic and economic benefits of healthy, self sustaining wild trout populations.**

XI. **Appointment of a Fish and Game Fisheries Habitat Manager who would oversee and promote development and maintenance of healthy wild salmonid fisheries.** He or she should have a solid understanding of trout biology, be provided with resources sufficient to achieve the stated goal, and should be managerially astute in order to effectively work with departmental biologists, the angling and non-angling public, land owners and government.

In summary, the Coldwater Fisheries Coalition wishes to offer New Hampshire Fish and Game a unified voice of public support for biologically sound and economically attractive wild trout management policies. We pledge our cooperation and support by volunteering assistance in fieldwork, public education and habitat improvement. We wish to foster a shared stewardship for New Hampshire's precious coldwater fisheries.

"Let us give nature some chance to work; she understands her business better than we."
Michel E. Demontaigne, 1588

"The recreational value of game is inverse to the artificiality of its origin".
Aldo Leopold

Find us on the Web at **http://members.aol.com/NHCFCinc**

CFC, Inc. accomplishments to date;

1. April 97-Slide presentation to the NH Fish and Game Commission- "New Hampshire Coldwater Fisheries: A Vision For the Future." Accompanying document with over 500 signatures presenting our mission, a request for wild trout management, and habitat protection / restoration.

2. Received $5,000.00 from National Trout Unlimited to channel to New Hampshire F&G to establish an Upper Connecticut River Habitat Management Plan (UCRHMP).

CFC representatives Bill Koury, John Hansel and Dick Sturtevant attended and actively participated in the initial meetings organized to discern the critical habitat and fisheries management issues.

The CFC continued to work closely with New Hampshire Fish and Game Regional Biologist Scott Decker as he forged the Upper Connecticut River Fisheries Management Plan which houses the Habitat Management Plan. The resulting document reflects much of the CFC's vision for the protection and expansion of wild trout populations and healthy coldwater habitat.

3. Participation in White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) ten year Forest Plan Revision.

a. CFC represented at Public Planning Groups.
b. Letter to Donna Hepp, Regional Forest Supervisor, stating CFC's positions / ideas and requesting representation in the Technical Working Group addressing fisheries for the revision plan.

4. Provided Volunteers to assist New Hampshire Fish and Game with angler surveys on the five ponds with new harvest regulations.

5. The CFC, with project partners Ammonoosuc Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the White Mountain National Forest Service are currently completing a genetic inventory of the brook trout populations in the headwaters of the four watersheds on the WMNF (Saco, Connecticut, Androscoggin and Merrimack). The project's goal is to determine whether aboriginal populations of brook trout remain in these headwaters. One hundred samples were obtained by project partners this summer and are currently being analyzed by the project geneticist. This is the valuable first step towards revision plan proposals to recover and expand these native fisheries.

6. Hosted John Epifanio, Ph.D., Conservation Geneticist for Trout Unlimited, to address the CFC regarding Trout Unlimited's recently revised "North American Salmonid Policy: science-based guidance for 21st century coldwater conservation." The policy is a road map for addressing the four main areas of coldwater fishery conservation; Habitat, Hydrology, Harvest and Hatcheries.

In addition , immediate and future plans include;

1. Lobbying for a Fishing License "Habitat Stamp" to fund coldwater habitat protection and recovery. We are currently working closely with Rep. Dennis Abbott who will sponsor the bill and shepherd it through the legislature.

2. Hosting the first New England Wild Trout Symposium In Manchester New Hampshire on April 10, 1999. This is the day immediately preceding the 55th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference at the same location.

3. Continue to work with NH Fish and Game to identify waters for wild trout management.

Hampshire Holiday Inn in Manchester, New Hampshire. This is the day preceding the 55th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference which is scheduled for April 11-14 at the same location.

The goal of our symposium is to generate enthusiasm for the protection and restoration of wild trout throughout New England. Our target audience includes conservationists/anglers as well as State and Federal Fisheries biologists/administrators. We hope to foster a pleasant environment to exchange information and ideas, discuss current projects and identify solutions to the challenges of wild trout management in our region.

The third enclosure is a first draft of the Symposium program. Please understand, that while the named speakers have committed, the specific titles of their presentations are at this juncture only implied or paraphrased to lend some structure to this early draft. More specifically, when you have chosen your topic or title- call me, and I will amend the program. I will send updated programs to all speakers as the symposium solidifies since changes may impact upon the scope of individual's presentations.

From the program draft one can glean the general arrangement to be:

Morning- discuss the components of a wild trout management program of general application.

Lunch speaker- the emotional / ethical "Why bother with wild fish"

Keynote address- "Current state of wild trout" by Dr. Behnke

Afternoon- Discussion of regional history, challenges, research projects and plans.

After you review the program, Please call me with any questions, suggestions, topic / title changes or other ideas.

I will contact you in January to discuss travel plans and lodging needs. Thank you again for participating.

Sincerely,

Sam Aldridge
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p.s. forget trying to send me email. I am having trouble accessing my server, and have not been able to retrieve any messages since June! I am sure I could fix it if I just made a few calls, but I am too busy typing letters like this one. Just call for now and I will let you know when the email is working again.