



# NSFAH Journal



September 2012

## From the Desk of the President

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To receive a copy of the NSFAH monthly E-Newsletter simply fill out the contact form at the Federation website, include your name and email address...it really is that simple!

### Meetings with the Wildlife Division

Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup> marked a new direction in the relationship between the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters and officials in the Wildlife Division. It was the first regularly scheduled meeting to discuss issues of mutual concern. The meetings are scheduled for the week prior to the Federations Board meetings in June, September & December. This gives the Federation the opportunity to hear the latest developments from DNR regarding ongoing and emerging issues and to then pass this information on to the Board the next week.

Our first meeting was very informative and we discussed the nature of these meetings and our expected outcomes. We hope they will emulate the Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee in becoming a forum for the exchange of information and views and for identifying potential problems and resolving them before they escalate into confrontational situations.

DNR representation will change based on topics of discussion with the Director of Wildlife and the President of NSFAH co-chairing. The Federation will be represented by the President and Executive Director, with additional representatives based on subject matter to be discussed.

### NSFAH Annual Dinner & Auction

Our dinner & auction scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> is sold out and we want to thank all those who purchased tickets.

As you know this event is one of our major fund raisers of the year and it is only possible because of the tremendous support we receive through donations of auction items. Each year businesses small and large step up and support our organization and the advocacy and conservation work we do. In return all we can do to thank them is to add a "link" to their web site on ours. You can find these "**Federation Supporters**" on our web site:

<http://www.nsfah.ca/links/>

### We ask our members to support those that support us!

If there are any supports we missed in our links page please let me know and I'll add you to the list. If anyone still has donations for this years' auction please contact our Executive Director, Tony Rodgers at 477 8898.

**Wilf Woods**  
President  
Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters

## Significant Changes for 2012 Hunting Seasons

This is a summary prepared for the information and convenience of anyone who plans to hunt or trap in Nova Scotia during some of the 2012 hunting seasons. The original Wildlife Act and Regulations should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law. These laws are subject to change at any time.

### Hunting

1. The validity of Wildlife Resources Cards has been extended. If your Wildlife Resources Card shows an expiry date earlier than December 2015, it will remain valid until December 31, 2015. You are not required to renew at this time.
2. The holder of a Moose licence can now name up to 4 companion hunters.
3. The Moose Hunting Licence and Companion Moose Hunting Licence will now serve as a storage permit for the moose meat harvested under that licence.
4. The boundary of Moose Management Zone 1 has been redefined to exclude Zone 5 such that Zone 1 and 5 are now discreet Moose Management Zones.
5. There are now four separate one-week seasons for Moose hunting in Moose Management Zone 5 (Pollets Cove-Aspy Fault Wilderness Area).
6. The use of motorized vehicles in Moose Management Zone 5 (Pollets Cove-Aspy Fault Wilderness Area) is now prohibited.
7. The 3 day Moose hunt in December (Season 5) will be open in Moose Management Zones 1 and 5.
8. [Deer harvest reporting](#) is now mandatory. Reports can be submitted online at or by completing the report form attached to this summary.
9. There will be no Bonus Deer Hunting Stamps available in 2012.

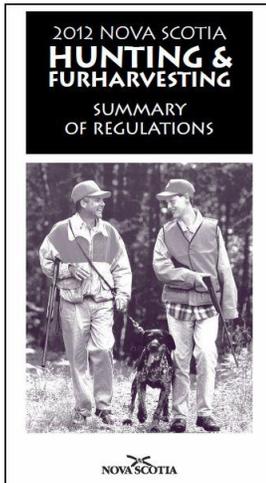
10. The number of Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamps has been reduced this year in most Deer Management Zones.

### Fur Harvesting

1. The most current list of [approved body gripping traps](#) is available online or by contacting your local DNR office.
2. A voluntary collection of coyote carcasses from fur harvesters is requested again this year.
3. All otter pelts must be stamped before export and the carcasses turned into your local DNR office.

### Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

1. The possession limit of Barrow's Goldeneye has decreased from two birds to one.
2. There will be an early goose hunting season to allow additional harvest opportunity. The early goose hunting season (all zones) will begin September 4, 2012. Zone 1 season will end on September 18, 2012. The season in Zones 2 and 3 will end September 24, 2012.
3. The restriction of hunting on farmland only during the September goose seasons has been removed.
4. In response to long-standing requests from hunters and hunter groups to shift seasons to a later time period, there are changes to duck hunting season dates in migratory bird hunting Zones 2 and 3.
5. Hunters are encouraged to check the 2012-13 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations Summary for more information. [The Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations Summary for Nova Scotia](#) is available online and at your local Canada Post Office.



### [2012 Regulations Booklet](#)

*For more information,  
contact your nearest DNR  
office or check the NS  
DNR website at:  
[www.gov.ns.ca/natr/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/)*

## Habitat Conservation Fund - 2012

The Habitat Conservation Fund, which receives monies from the mandatory purchase of Habitat Stamps, will be supporting 15 projects this year, totalling \$181,792.00.

Since 2001, more than \$1.5 million has been invested in wildlife conservation through the sale of the stamp to hunters and trappers across the province.

[More information can be viewed here.](#)

## Atlantic Salmon Index Rivers

Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) returning to some rivers of the Maritime provinces are captured and counted at monitoring facilities. Salmon are captured using various methods. Counts of salmon at barrier fences, counting fences, fish-ways and at dams usually represent the total run size of fish at that point in the river. Counts at trap-nets in estuaries represent partial counts to the river.

Cumulative counts of Atlantic salmon at specific dates, compared with counts in previous years, provide an in-season index of the abundance to date and anticipated abundance for the year.

Counts of Atlantic salmon are presented for two size groups:

Salmon - fork length  $\geq$  63 cm

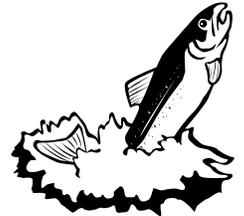
Grilse – fork length < 63 cm.

The locations of the counting facilities can be viewed on the map link. By going to the map, time series graphs of counts of salmon or grilse for a selected time period at each facility can be viewed.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada:

[Site Map Locations.](#)

A summary table of cumulative counts to date for all index rivers can be viewed by selecting salmon or grilse in each province. By selecting an individual site in the table, a graph of the time series of counts for that site can be viewed.



[Cumulative Counts available here.](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions Re: Recreational Boaters

### Frequently Asked Questions about The Proof of Competency Requirement for Boaters.

In 1999, the government of Canada introduced a proof of competency requirement for operators of recreational watercraft. While the law was fully phased in on September 15, 2009, recent RCMP boating checks show many boaters still have questions about whether they need to carry proof of competency.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q: Who needs proof of competency?**

A: As of September 15, 2009 anyone who operates a powered recreational watercraft (any boat with a motor) must carry proof of competency on board.

There are no exceptions! Even if you are over 65, fishing on a private lake, and your boat only has an electric trolling motor, the law requires you to carry proof of competency.

**Q: What is proof of competency?**

**Q: Is the Pleasure Craft Operator Card the same as a boating license?**

**Q: How do you get a Pleasure Craft Operator Card?**

**Q: What is the penalty for not carrying proof of competency?**

**Q: Why was this law introduced?**

[Click here for the answers to the above questions.](#)



## Trappers Association of Nova Scotia

The lucky winner was drawn during the weekend rendezvous for the 2012 Moose Hunt.

The lucky winner for the trip to Newfoundland is Myles MacDonald of Windsor, NS. Congratulations Myles!

## Sighting In Your Rifle

With the 2012 Fall hunting seasons fast approaching, sighting-in your favorite rifle is one of the most important preparations you can do prior to your trips afield. The first step in sighting-in your rifle is to give it a thorough cleaning. A rifle's accuracy will often improve with a good, complete cleanup. Next, check the screws on the action, sights, scope mounts, and scope rings. A loose screw can result in poor accuracy in the field.

If you have discovered any loose screws or major scope alignment issues, consider bore-sighting your scope once repairs have been completed. Bore-sighting your scope and rifle will ensure that the first shots fired will be on the paper at 25 or 50 yards, and you will not waste ammunition. Most private rifle ranges in Nova Scotia have a bore-sighting device, called a collimator, which you can use by following simple instructions. A gun shop or gunsmith may bore-sight your rifle for you as well.

If you cannot find a bore-sighter, and your rifle is a bolt-action type, set up a bullseye target at 25 yards. Remove the bolt from the rifle and place the rifle on a solid rest. Look through the barrel and place the bullseye in the center of the barrel. Your eye will automatically center the smaller circle (the bullseye) inside the larger circle (inside of the barrel).

Now ease your face up until you can see through the scope. If the scope cross-hairs are centered in the bullseye, you will be able to hit the target. If they are not centered, you should adjust the scope until the cross-hairs are centered in the bullseye. When you are bore-sighting by this method you must move the scope adjustments *opposite* the direction you want the cross-hairs to move. For example, if your cross-hairs are low, you will move the vertical scope adjustment screw in the direction that says *down*. If the cross-hairs are to the right of the bullseye you must move the horizontal adjustment in the direction that says *right*.

Now your rifle is ready for sighting-in with the correct, live ammunition.

Both public and private shooting ranges will have benches to sit at for sighting-in. If you will not be using one of these facilities, use a small table. You must be comfortably seated for sighting-in. Place the forestock of the rifle on a solid rest. Sand bags work well or a block of wood covered with an old towel will do. *Never* rest the barrel itself on this front rest. You will also need a rear rest for the buttstock. Again, sand bags or a smaller block of wood with a rolled up towel on top will work well.

The secret to accurately sighting-in is to build up a front and back rest that will support your rifle without you having to hold it in place. Make adjustments in your rests until the cross-hairs of the scope are centered on the target. Place your front hand on the stock behind the front rest.

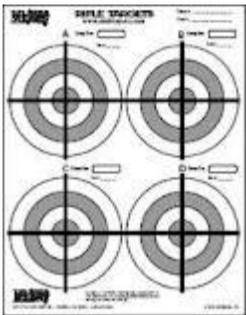
Now carefully load a single cartridge. Move your body and the padding under the buttstock until the cross-hairs are centered on the target. Breathe slowly and naturally. Relax and squeeze the trigger. Do not get up from your seat or move around. Try to stay as still as possible and fire two more shots.

Now you should have a "group" of three shots on the target that are fairly close together. This group may not be in the center of the target. Determine the center of the group. If the center of your group is one inch low and two inches right of your point of aim, you must use the scope adjustment screws to move the center of the group one inch up and two inches left. In this case, you move the scope adjustment knobs in the direction indicated on the knobs i.e., *up* to move the group center up, and *left* to move the group center left.

Fire another three-shot group. Do not rush your shots. Allow time for your rifle barrel to cool. A hot barrel will not shoot to the same place as a cold barrel. You will be hunting with a cool or cold barrel.

....continued on page 5

*Make adjustments in your rests until the crosshairs of the scope are centered on the target.*



## NSFAH Fundraising Banquet & Dinner

The Nova Scotia Federation of anglers and Hunters will hold its **8th Annual Fundraising Banquet** on Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at St. Mary's Boat Club, 1641 Fairfield Rd., Halifax.

Live and silent auction items will be available to bidders. Doors open at 6 pm and dinner is served at 7:30 pm.

Tickets are \$40.00 single and a table for 8 - \$300.00.

You can purchase your tickets by going to the Federation's web site [www.nsfah.ca](http://www.nsfah.ca) click the "Donate" button and enter in the amount for the tickets or tables required or contact Tony Rodgers at 477-8898.

To help the Federation, anyone with auction items can call Tony to arrange pick up.

Thank You for your support.

## National Wild Turkey Federation Meeting

The provincial meeting/election will take place on September 16, 2012 at the Maritime Inn, 158 Main Street, Antigonish.

The meeting will begin at 12:00 Noon. Don't be late.

We will discuss Nova Scotia's involvement, where we are with the government and getting birds on the ground as well as the future of NWTF in NS.

For more information, contact Justin Blouin at the contact information on the right.

**NWTF Annual Meeting**  
**September 16, 2012**  
**12:00 Noon**  
**Maritime Inn**  
**Antigonish, NS**

**Justin R. Blouin**  
**Regional Director, MA, ME, NH, VT & Atlantic**  
**Canada**  
**National Wild Turkey Federation**  
**(207)577-5012 (Cell)**  
**(207)407-1039 (Office/Fax)**  
**[jblouin@nwtf.net](mailto:jblouin@nwtf.net)**

*Continued from page 4.....*

### *Sighting in Your Rifle*

After this second group, you may need to make further adjustments with the scope. Continue to fire three-shot groups and make adjustments until your three-shot group is centered at 25 yards on your point of aim.

Move the target to 100 yards and repeat the process. Cartridges such as the .270 and .30-06 will place your shots about 2½ to 3 inches higher than you aimed the cross-hairs. If your rifle is sighted-in 2½ to 3 inches high at 100 yards, you will be sighted-in to about 250 yards. By sighted-in, we mean that your bullet will never rise or fall more than 4 inches from the intersection of the scope cross-hairs.

If you use this method of calibrating your sights, you should be able to correctly place a shot on any game animal out to 200 yards by simply holding the cross-hairs in the middle of the vital zone and squeezing the trigger.

It is obvious, but this point bears repeating: practice, practice, practice! Your Nova Scotia big game hunt may provide one shot, in a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Make sure that your marksmanship is up to the challenge.

Got to the DNR website for a complete listing of the public rifle ranges near you, or simply contact your local DNR office for more information.

[Public Rifle Ranges.](#)

**Remember, you must contact DNR to book a public rifle range!**

## **Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters**

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The NSFAH Journal is published monthly, except during hunting season. If you or your club has an article to submit, send along before the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month to ensure your information is inserted.

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.nsfah.ca](http://www.nsfah.ca)

## **The Trading Post**

The Trading Post is a free service offered by The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters through its monthly electronic newsletter, The NSFAH Journal. The Trading Post acts solely as a communications link between Buyers & Sellers and is not responsible for any agreements reached between Buyers & Sellers, nor is it in any way responsible for the quality, condition or price of goods offered.

If you would like to place an ad in future issues of the NSFAH Journal, send a brief description of the item and your contact information by e-mail to: wilfredwoods@eastlink.ca

Use the title "Trading Post" in the subject line of the e-mail. Ad must be received at least 5 days before the 1st of the month of publication.

[Trading Post Terms of Use.](#)

**For Sale:**

16 foot Great Canadian fiberglass canoe for sale. Painted camo and is in good shape with aluminum gunnels. I'm asking \$450.00 firm. (902) 530-2389.

**For Sale:**

I have a PSE Nova for sale. 60 to 70lb draw. Wisker biscuit, 3pin sight and arrows. Would like to get \$300 obo. (902) 689-2796. Thanks .

**For Sale:**

Browning BT-99 standard grade Trap gun 12 gauge 2 3/4" in excellent condition \$1000 Greenfield NS. (902) 701-2035.

**For Sale:**

SAVAGE DOUBLE BARREL SHOTGUN: Fox model, in excellent condition. \$450. Phone (902) 365-5611. Coldbrook.

**For Sale:**

100+ rounds of 35Rem ammo, dry and clean. FREE FREE FREE. (902) 477 6926.

**For Sale:**

10 foot Princecraft Jon Boat. Well used but not abused. No leaks. Asking \$625.00 (902) 401-7235.

## **Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters Affiliate Club Listing**

**All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia**  
**Archery Association of Nova Scotia**  
**Bowhunters Association of Nova Scotia**  
**Bowhunters Instructors Association of Nova Scotia**  
**Bras D'or Wildlife Association**

**Cape Breton Wildlife Association**  
**Conservation Enforcement Officers Association of Nova Scotia**  
**Delta Waterfowl Association**  
**Digby East Fish & Game Association**  
**Halifax Wildlife Association**

**Hants West Wildlife Association**  
**Kings County Fish & Game Association**  
**Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers**  
**Lansdowne Outdoor Recreation Development Association**

**Lunenburg County Wildlife Association**  
**Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters**  
**Nova Scotia Guides Association**  
**Nova Scotia Houndsmen Association**  
**Nova Scotia Bear Hunters Association**

**Mic Mac Rod & Gun Club**  
**Port Morien Wildlife Association**  
**Queens County Fish and Game Association**  
**Bluenose Longbeards Association, NWTF**  
**Shelburne County Fish & Game Association**

**South Shore Wildlife Association**  
**The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia**  
**Traditional Archers Association of Nova Scotia**  
**Trappers Association of Nova Scotia**  
**West Pictou Wildlife Association**