



September 27, 2018

Will Dubitsky, President
Coalition for Responsible and Sustainable Navigation
325 Lacasse Road
Ivry-sur-le-Lac, QC
J8C 2Z8

Dear Mr. Dubitsky,

I am writing on behalf of the Atlantic Salmon Federation to support a proposed study by the Coalition for Responsible and Sustainable Navigation on the Restigouche River. This incredibly important river which straddles the New Brunswick-Quebec border is home to some of the healthiest wild Atlantic salmon runs in the world and as a result is an important economic center for the entire region. Angling opportunities, combined with easy access and profound scenery, attract thousands of boaters to the Restigouche every year.

Unfortunately, this pressure from motorized vessels is leading to conflict between users, and having a negative effect on wild Atlantic salmon, other fish, and wildlife in the area.

Boating on the Restigouche is currently unregulated aside from the requirement that people possess a Pleasure Craft Operator Card. As a result, ASF members and staff have witnessed an escalation in the speed and size of vessels in recent years.

Wild Atlantic salmon, like all fish species, are sensitive to noise and disruption. Fish in pools that are being continually strafed by large boats can be seen scattering, expending crucial energy during the taxing warm weather months. As water levels drop, we believe there is a likelihood that adult and juvenile salmon are being struck and killed by passing boats.

As an evidence-based advocacy organization, ASF recognizes the limits of anecdotal observation in assigning cause and effect: in this case the relationship between boat traffic and the well-being of salmon, other fish species, and the river environment.

We would welcome and support a rigorous analysis of this situation on the Restigouche in the hope it may lead to enlightened policies and enhanced enforcement for the sake of the river, its people, and wildlife.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neville Crabbe".

Neville Crabbe
Director, Communications
Atlantic Salmon Federation

