

LaHave River watershed project

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The LaHave River watershed is the 2nd largest watershed in Southwest Nova Scotia and is a DFO index river for the southern upland population of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*). This habitat has seen impacts on habitat and water quality through human activities including forestry, agriculture, and development pressures from the headwaters to the estuary. The main objective of the LaHave River Watershed project (LRWP) is to improve and maintain the water quality of the LaHave River Watershed through water quality monitoring, watershed planning and restoration efforts, and community outreach and education. Coastal Action initiated the LRWP in 2007, in response to increasing public concern over the health of the river. The goal of this project included the development of a watershed management plan and a long-term water quality monitoring program to assess the river's health. Project activities include monthly water quality monitoring, habitat assessment, restoration projects, and community outreach and education. Multiple sub-watershed plans have been developed for the LaHave River Watershed and restoration activities have been implemented. Community outreach and education have been delivered to a variety of audiences including high school students, college students, and the public through hands-on activities and presentations. The following presentation will speak to the evolution of the LRWP over time and how the project has adapted to changing practices to keep up with the state of the science within the field of aquatic habitat restoration.

Keywords: water quality, fish habitat restoration, old and new techniques, management of habitat.

Poster presentation