

A new look at the Atlantic salmon

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation presented a documentary on Atlantic salmon earlier this year which takes a fresh look at one of the most important fish in Canadian inland waters.

The film depicts the entire life cycle of the Atlantic salmon: it gives a detailed description of the biological and extensive structural measures taken to ensure its survival and its optimum development; it explains the salmon protection policy and lastly it shows the economic importance of the salmon, both as a recreational and a commercial resource, especially in Newfoundland, Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec.

The Atlantic Salmon was filmed by SDA Productions Limited for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, with the co-operation of the Quebec Department of Tourism, Fish and Game and the International Atlantic Salmon Foundation. It is distributed by the National Film Board of Canada.

The film, which recently won the Canadian Public Relations Society's 1979-80 award of excellence, features rare underwater cinematography of the life cycle of the salmon.

Life cycle of salmon

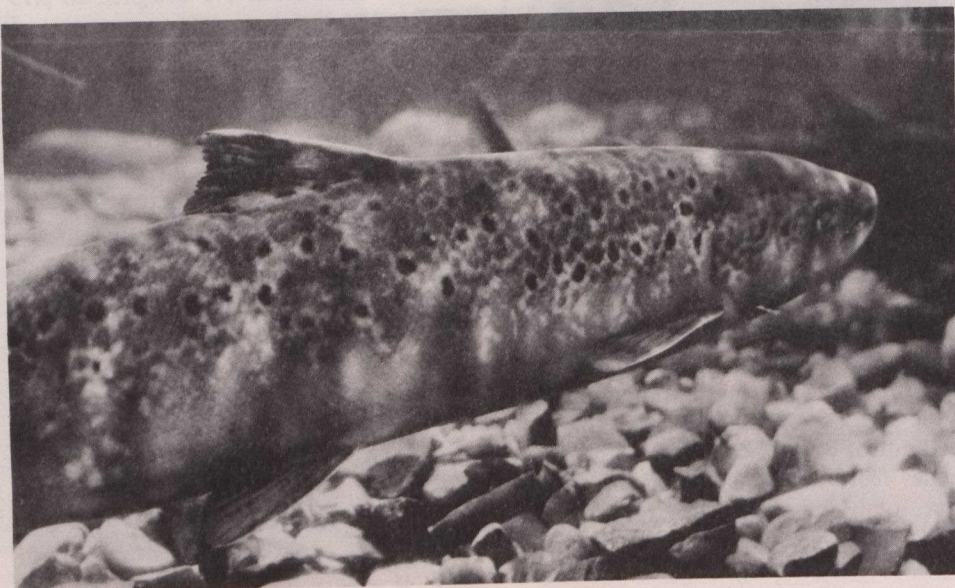
Every autumn, thousands of adult salmon ascend hundreds of Canadian rivers and surmount difficult obstacles to spawn at the source of the rivers in which they were born. The female lays up to 10,000 eggs, which are then fertilized by the



A smolt

male and covered with gravel to protect them from predators. Unlike the Pacific salmon which die after spawning, the Atlantic salmon return to the sea (and are then called "kelts"). A certain number of them will return to spawn a second time before dying.

In spring, the waters come to life and the "fry" can be seen emerging from their eggs, still carrying their yolk sac. Later the salmon's distinctive markings appear on the small parr: they are now "smolts". About two years later, equipped to live in salt water, the "samlets" find their way to the sea. And two or three years later they will return to spawn in the same place where they were born.



A picture taken from the NFB film, The Atlantic Salmon.

Barque located in Arctic

A Canadian underwater explorer has located the wreckage of a three-masted barque that sank in 1853 off Beechey Island in the Canadian Arctic.

Dr. Joseph MacInnis and a party of explorers have discovered the wreckage of the *HMS Breadalbane* which was being used as a re-supply vessel in the search for Sir John Franklin when it was crushed in the ice and went down.

The wreck was found in 50 fathoms (300 feet) of water; the ship was intact and the masts were upright.

It was the third attempt on the part of Dr. MacInnis to find the vessel. The expedition was funded by Nordair, the Canadian Coast Guard, the National Geographic Society, IBM and Dome Petroleum.

Wildlife centre opened

Federal Environment Minister John Roberts recently opened the Prairie Wildlife Interpretation Centre located near Webb, Saskatchewan southwest of Swift Current on the Trans-Canada Highway.

With students interpreting the region's ecology and the history of man's use of the grasslands, the centre shows visitors the full range of grassland characteristics on trails that lead through a wheat field, a creek valley, tree grove and marsh. Some 45 species of mammals, more than 450 species of plants and grasses and up to 270 species of birds have been identified on the 1,100-acre site by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

In addition to an abundance of natural life, the site offers a glimpse of prairie history. Visitors may view sections of the original CP Rail railbed, as well as teepee rings left by pre-European plainsmen.

The Prairie Wildlife Interpretation Centre is the most recent addition to a series of Environment Canada centres designed to provide opportunities for direct contact with natural phenomena, typical of a specific region. The existing four centres interpret: the wet interior British Columbia forest, a large freshwater marsh and the valley environment at Creston, British Columbia; the hardwood forest region and a marsh at Midland, Ontario; the migration and population management of snow geese at Cap Tourmente, Quebec; and the Atlantic coastal region at Percé, Quebec.