

Ministry of
Natural Resources

Ministère des
Richesses naturelles



Kingston Area Office
51 Heakes Lane
Kingston, ON K7M 9B1
Telephone: (613) 531-5700
Fax: (613) 531-5730

Le bureau du district de Kingston
51 Heakes Lane
Kingston, ON K7M 9B1
Téléphone : (613) 531-5700
Télécopie : (613) 531-5730

In response to your inquiry about the Salmon River fisheries classification, I would like to offer the following background information.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) ensures that healthy fish communities are maintained to continue to offer quality fishing and viewing opportunities for years to come.

To help provide sustainable benefits, the MNR determines the thermal regime of a watercourse or water body in order to properly manage the fisheries within the system.

There is a wide variety of fish species that inhabit the Salmon River. The fish community consists of sportfish, panfish and an assortment of baitfish species. MNR takes all fish species into consideration when determining whether the system is a warm or cold water system.

The Salmon River consists of fish species such as walleye, northern pike, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed and rock bass. Based on these species, baitfish species and known water temperatures in the river, we have determined that the Salmon River is a warm water system. This classification is further supported by the presence of a self-sustaining walleye population, which is only found in warmer environments as they do not thrive in coldwater systems.

We are aware that salmon have been seen in the Salmon River. Chinook Salmon, a non-native pacific salmon, are stocked in Lake Ontario and some tributaries to offer enhanced fishing opportunities. It is possible that the Chinook Salmon migrate up the Salmon River in the fall as they are known to do so in the Trent River, Moira River and Napanee River which are also associated to the Bay of Quinte. All of these rivers are classified as warm water systems even though salmon are known to migrate up the rivers. MNR does not have an objective to manage for wild production for Chinook Salmon and as a result, we are not managing the river for production of this species alone.

MNR has fish timing window guidelines that are appropriate for all types of fish communities. These timing windows are designed to protect all life stages from negative impacts. Since the Salmon River is a warm water system, the work in water timing window that would best protect the fish community is July 1st to March 31st of any year. Warm water fish species spawn in the spring and early summer. This work in water window protects the important life processes as it does not allow work to occur in the water from April 1st to June 30th of any year.

MNR would welcome the opportunity to work with the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte to gather and share information on the fishery of the area to increase our joint understanding of this valuable resource.