

For Immediate Release



Date: 24 October 2014

## **The Striped Bass Association is Opposed to the Shubenacadie River Alton Gas Development**

The Striped Bass Association is opposed to the Alton Gas development until the risks of waste brine release into the river are fully understood and the conservation of Striped Bass and its ecosystem are completely guaranteed.

- 1) The Shubenacadie-Stewiacke watershed is the single most important ecosystem for Striped Bass, and the only remaining confirmed spawning habitat for this species in the Bay of Fundy and Nova Scotia. This is the last stronghold of Striped Bass according to current science, and, as a result, this species is designated as endangered by COSEWIC.
- 2) There is inadequate science on the effects of industry on this watershed to support any development that has potential to affect Striped Bass or the organisms that support its life cycle.
- 3) This is the only waste brine discharge operation where brine is released into a river system. Risks associated with additional brine released into this ecosystem are unknown.
- 4) There are greater than 7,000 Striped Bass recreational fishers in the province of Nova Scotia and this fishery is worth an estimate of \$9.8 million per year to the economics of the Province.
- 5) This recreational fishing resource and the economic, cultural, and community importance of it should not be traded for a development that has a high potential to harm Striped Bass or its ecosystem especially when based on unknown risk, untested monitoring in this watershed, and inadequate science surrounding the unnecessary discharge of waste brine.

Striped Bass Association Executive