



April 13 (Reston, VA) the **Connecticut River Salmon Association** headquartered in South Windsor, Connecticut, has been selected for National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) **2010-2011 Conservation Achievement Award** in the **Education** category. The Association is receiving this prestigious award because of their support and efforts to restore Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut river basin. The restoration program is managed under a federal act which established a compact with US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and the basin states Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. The Connecticut River Salmon Association will receive the award on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at NWF's annual meeting in Washington DC, which is part of the organization's 75th anniversary celebration.

"It's through the guidance and teachings from groups like the Connecticut River Salmon Association that all generations can learn how to help ensure a wildlife heritage for the future," said Larry Schweiger, President of the National Wildlife Federation. "The Coalition's enthusiasm for preserving the Atlantic salmon is making a difference in the Connecticut River basin and has encouraged others to join their forces."

The Connecticut River Salmon Association operates its Salmon-in-Schools program in 57 cities and towns across the State of Connecticut. Under the program, CRSA provides guidance and teacher education and training, technical assistance and materials. This year alone, the Connecticut River Salmon Association's Salmon-in-Schools Program reached more than 6,000 students in 73 schools, with delivery of 19,000 eggs. In one school in Lyme, Connecticut, every student in the school has "salmon assignments" at some point in the year, and they all participate in the fry stocking of the eggs.

The Connecticut River Salmon Association's Grants Program is another valuable adjunct to the restoration effort. With the help of these grants funds, DEP Senior Fisheries Biologist Steve Gephard and Spanish colleagues were able to study salmon behavior in Spanish rivers comparable in latitude to the Connecticut River. Other examples of CRSA grants include funds for radio tags for Westfield River salmon and the installation of key equipment for fish passage at Rainbow Dam.

The National Wildlife Federation is America's conservation organization protecting wildlife for our children's future.

For a photo of the Connecticut River Salmon Association receiving their award, contact Lynn Hamilton, NWF, 703-438-6093.