

First Nations Liaison/Field Monitor Report

Completed by: Austin Paul

Report covering the period from: July 15th – July 29th, 2016

Dates: July 18th, 19th, 22nd, 25th, 26th and 27th, 2016

Activities Conducted:

A striped bass feeding study is being carried out by the Canadian Rivers Institute near the Mactaquac Generating Station.

Pertinent Tasks

- Active angling was carried out from the shore.
- When striped bass were hooked and landed, they were placed in a tank filled with fresh water, ethanol and clove oil, which acts as a sedative.
- Once the fish had been sedated, they were weighed, measured and fitted with an identification tag below the dorsal fin. A clipping of the caudal fin and scale samples were taken for genetic studies.
- We analyzed the stomach contents of the bass using a specially designed stomach pump before returning the fish to the river.
- So far, the stomach contents of the bass consisted of mainly gaspereau (alewives and blueback herring), although recently, a striped bass had a small yellow perch in its stomach.

Interests and Potential Concerns from a First Nations Perspective

The striped bass work is non-invasive and does not pose a threat to any archaeological and/or traditional land use sites. Our team had been notified that 3 of our tagged striped bass had washed up dead downriver, as such, we have decreased the power used by our stomach pumping equipment and process the fish as quickly and carefully as possible to limit the amount of stress that the fish are subject to. Since we have altered our working methods, we have not heard of any incidental deaths. As the first nations field monitor, I participate and monitor 95% of the work associated with the bass study and am always looking to improve our study methods.

I have been saving tissue samples of any striped bass that have been caught on my own time and will be sending the samples to the Canadian Rivers Institute for mercury analysis. When the data has been processed, I will forward the results out to all of the consultation coordinators in Wolastoqiyik territory.

Photographs



Above: This is the largest striped bass that our team has landed thus far. The fish weighed 30 pounds 4 ounces and had a length of 104cm. It was caught on a 3 ounce buck-tail jig, using 50 braided fishing line.



Above: Ancient technology and modern technology pair up in the pursuit of Mokahk (striped bass).

Dates: July 25th, 26th, 27th, 29th, 2016

Activities conducted

Muskellunge studies at the fish hatchery below Kingsclear First Nation. This work was carried out by the Canadian Rivers Institute in support of the Mactaquac Aquatic Ecosystem Study.

Pertinent Tasks

- Muskellunge that are incidentally caught in the fish lift at the Mactaquac Generating Station are transported to the fish hatchery where the fish are sorted.
- CRI staff sedate the muskellunge and follow the same procedure as was mentioned in the striped bass study: the fish are weighed, measured and tagged before pumping the stomach and analyzing the contents.
- The Muskies are then returned to the Wolastoq, where the movements can be tracked.
- Thus far, only the remains of gaspereau (alewives and blueback herring) have been found in the stomach contents of the muskies.

Interests and Potential Concerns from a First Nations Perspective

The muskellunge work is non-invasive and does not pose a threat to any archaeological and/or traditional land use sites. No incidental deaths occurred as a result of the study.

Photographs



Above: A C.R.I. staff member pumping the stomach of a muskellunge.

Date: July 21st, 2016

Activities Conducted

Archaeological surveys in the proposed project development area associated with the Mactaquac Project. This work was carried out by Stantec Consulting.

Pertinent Tasks

- We began our survey by studying historical aerial photographs of the project development area (PDA) in order to establish the locations of historical structures associated with old farms.
- A pedestrian survey of the high and medium potential archaeological buffers was carried out: no pre-contact artifacts were found although we did identify the stone foundations of structures that were visible in the historical aerial photographs (pre-dam).
- While surveying the area near the old salt shed, we found the skull of a 9 point buck. There was no shortage of deer beds under the canopy of sumac trees which are abundant in the area. The fields adjacent to KFN appear to be great for hunting, especially with a bow.
- This survey is on-going and will resume in the month of August.

Interests and Concerns from a First Nations Perspective

Although the area that is encompassed within the PDA had been altered by the construction of the dam and transmission lines, we were able to find areas that appeared not to have been significantly altered. It is possible that these unaltered areas may yield pre-contact artifacts; however this can only be confirmed when sub-soil testing is carried out. The landscape morphology is indicative of the possibility of finding very ancient sites. There are flat terraces present in the area that may have been appealing when overall water levels were much higher. These terraces will receive special attention as the study progresses.

Photographs



Above: A Stantec employee recording field notes on a Flint device.

Upcoming work

The week of August 1st -5th, 2016 will be spent conducting the striped bass feeding study at the Mactaquac Generating Station. Field work during the week of August 8th - 12th, 2016 will consist of more work with the striped bass study, a vegetation and wetland survey and continuing the archaeological impact assessment of the project development area adjacent to the Kingsclear First Nation. All of the work that is scheduled to take place does not involve any ground disturbances and is unlikely to impact any culturally sensitive locations. NB Power and its contractors follow provincial requirements for

Heritage Conservation as contained in the Heritage Conservation Act and its associated regulations. One of the roles performed by the project's First Nations Liaison/Field Monitor is to watch for potential impacts on such sites and to report them to the project's management team and the Maliseet Consultation Coordinators.