

First Nations Liaison (Field Monitor) Weekly Report

Completed by: Austin Paul

Report covering the period from August 5th-13th, 2015

Date: August 5th and 12th, 2015

Activities Conducted

Striped bass fisheries near the main spillway (tailrace) of the Mactaquac Generating Station working in conjunction with the Canadian Rivers Institute in support of the Mactaquac Aquatic Ecosystem Study.

Note: The Canadian Rivers Institute has all of the appropriate permitting requirements to conduct scientific fish studies in the areas encompassed between the Mactaquac Generating Station and Hartt's Island.

Pertinent Tasks

- Active fishing was conducted from the shore in order to acquire striped bass for tagging and tracking purposes.
- Once a bass was landed on the shore, it would be held in large cooler containing a solution of fresh water, ethanol and clove oil which acts as a sedative.
- Once the bass were properly sedated, a careful surgery was performed to insert either a radio or acoustic tag. The fish are then transported to a cooler full of fresh water until they become less lethargic. The fish is then placed back into the river and moved back and forth to allow fresh water to enter the gills. Once recovered the fish simply swims away.
- The goal of this particular study was to place an acoustic tag in striped bass that weighed at least 30 lbs. A total of 6 bass were caught, most of which were in the range of 12-15 lbs.

Interests and Potential Concerns from a First Nations Perspective

Traditional resource sites: The area near the MGS has been and continues to be a popular fishing location for First Nations individuals.

Traditional land use sites: Both historic and prehistoric Wolastoqiyik archaeological sites are located in the general area, indicative of an occupation extending deep into the past.

Photographs



Date: August 13th, 2015

Activities Conducted

Cobblestone Tiger Beetle surveys on Middle Becaguimic Island, near Hartland New Brunswick, working in conjunction with the Canadian Rivers Institute in support of the Mactaquac Aquatic Ecosystem Study.

Pertinent Tasks:

- Navigate the St. John River via watercraft to Middle Becaguimic Island.
- Conduct pedestrian surveys over all cobblestone beaches located on the island.
- The goal was to locate Tiger Beetles and simply record their numbers and locations. The Tiger Beetle is an endangered species, as such, we were not permitted to take samples or touch the insects.
- The northern side of the island was not very productive in terms of Tiger Beetles however; the southern side had a considerable population.
- The Beetles exhibit different color variations: brown, green and blue. The blue variant is rare, but was well represented on the island.

Interests and Potential Concerns from a First Nations Perspective

Traditional Resource Sites: Middle Becaguimic Island is somewhat small; however there are fiddlehead ferns on high ground. Various forms of fine grained tool stone are present as beach cobbles; this material is suitable for making flaked stone projectile points and cutting implements. There could very well be a bedrock outcrop in the area that may have been exploited by the ancestors of First Nations individuals.

Traditional Land Use Sites: The St. John River pools in various areas near Hartland, these areas would have been prime Salmon fishing locations at one point in time. The northern bank of the St. John River is composed of 3 undulating terraces. These terraces are well drained, flat and composed of glacial till, making the area very suitable for habitation. There are undoubtedly many archaeological sites within the area. While conducting the Tiger Beetle survey, I was also looking for evidence of pre-contact Native occupation. No traces of cultural material were found at this time.

Photographs

