

# Consultation Newsletter Wolastoqey Nation

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Issue 4



## WNNB Update

The Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick (WNNB) consists of:

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- Fisheries Biologist: Dr. Colin Curry (Colin.Curry@wtci-nb.ca)
- Atlantic Link Liaison: Stone Bear (Stone.Bear@wtci-nb.ca)

WNNB is currently looking for an Environmental Monitor for a short term contract position.

### Inside this issue:

WNNB .....	1
SRP.....	1
Salmon Recovery.....	2
Sisson.....	3
Mt. Carleton.....	3
Fundy Isles.....	3
Mactaquac.....	4
Community.....	4
Field Monitoring.....	4

## Strategic Rights Plan Study - Update

Pre-planning and historical context (Phase I&II) are now wrapping up for the Strategic Rights Plan (SRP) and we are now entering Phase III of the study which will:

*Document where things are today with regards to how and to what extent the Wolastoqey are currently engaged in Traditional Uses and what barriers we currently face in pursuing harvesting, etc.*

This phase of the project will include heavy community input and will include Community Working Groups (up to 5 community members the plus Resource Development Consultation Coordinator) who will help shape the outcome of the study by identifying gaps and verifying the information collected by the Wolastoqey project team (see June 2017 newsletter for more information on project team).

**Additionally, community sessions and a community survey will be conducted between October – November 2017.** The survey will be completed in two ways: door to door (the aim is to reach at least 20% of the households in each community) and an online survey (in an effort to reach off-reserve members). To encourage participation, a cash offering will be given to each household that participates (houses will be selected by random draw). Additionally, those off-reserve members who complete the online survey can qualify for a cash prize draw.

The intent of the survey is to help determine:

- How many members are currently engaged in Traditional Use;
- The extent of harvest and consumption (or other use) of items gathered through Traditional Use;
- The extent to which individuals and families are no longer able to engage or benefit from Traditional Use.

An example question: on average, over the past two years, how often have you had a meal of any of the following traditional foods? (list of foods will include: moose, deer, hare/rabbit, duck, bear, etc.)

# Salmon Recovery in Fundy National Park

The Inner Bay of Fundy Salmon population was listed as an Endangered Species federally under the Species at Risk Act in 2003.

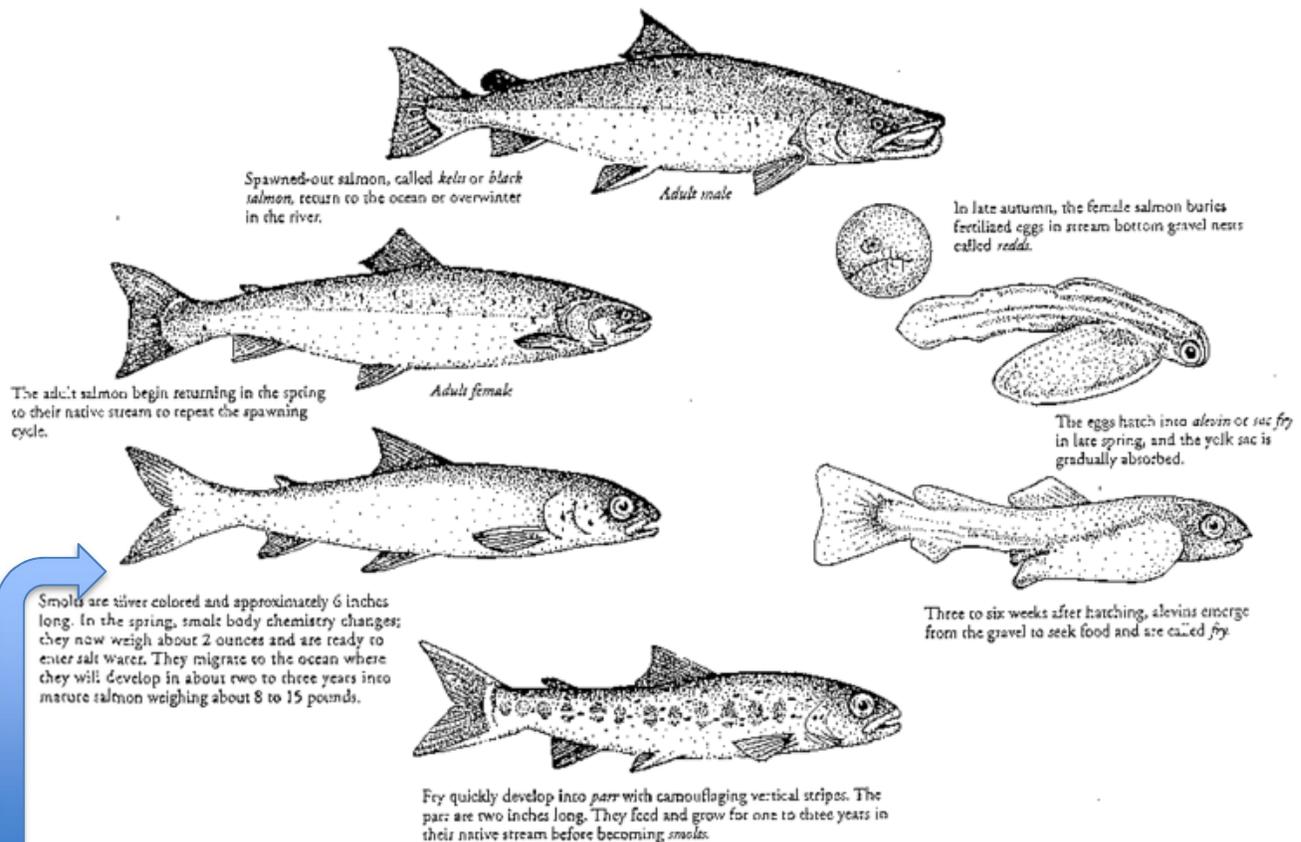
Beginning in 2007, Parks Canada teamed up with Fort Folly First Nation in an effort to recover Inner Bay of Fundy Salmon. The Fundy Salmon Recovery team collects smolts and puts them into a sea cage until they reach a mature age (which dramatically increases the rate of survival to adult). The benefit of this approach is to produce large numbers of adult salmon for release back to the rivers and to build very large smolt runs which may increase survival of the species. A live release of the salmon will occur this year mid-October 2017 in Fundy National Park.

WNNB and the community Consultation Coordinators would like your feedback/input on the creation of a pilot project similar to the project involving Fort Folly, except within a branch of the Wolastoq. This would include a risk analysis of possible impacts. The main reasons for considering this project include:

- the Outer Bay of Fundy Salmon (which includes Atlantic salmon in the Wolastoq) are being proposed to be listed as Endangered on the Species at Risk Act (with fewer than 500 adult returns)
- the Wolastoqey communities have not had any Food, Social or Ceremonial (FSC) allocations for Atlantic salmon on the Wolastoq since August 1997
- Status quo does not appear to be working (no real progress on populations for 20 years)

Please talk to your community RDCC (see page 4 for contact details) or WNNB's Fisheries Biologist if you would like more details.

## Life Cycle of the Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*)



Smolt phase

## The Sisson Project (Tungsten and Molybdenum Mine)

The Sisson Project received provincial approval in December 2015 and federal approval in June 2017.

A meeting was held in September 2017, with Environment Canada and Climate Change (ECCC) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) regarding the draft consultation plan to add the Sisson Mine Tailings Area to the *Metal Mining Effluent Regulations* and the fish habitat compensation plan.

Community meetings are expected to occur in the fall and winter regarding the federal permits.

## Mount Carleton Snowmobile Hub

A Traditional Use Study (TUS) is currently being conducted to help the Wolastoqey determine the impacts to inherent rights by the proposed Snowmobile Hub Project. The snowmobile hub will include 900 m of trail, new bridges, a refueling station and two buildings for grooming machines. There will also be a discovery centre which will include historical information on Wolastoqey use of the provincial park. The TUS is expected to be finished by end of October 2017.

Anyone with past/present use in Mount Carleton Provincial Park, such as medicine gathering, harvesting and/or ceremonial use can contact their community RDCC to set up a potential interview.

## Fundy Isles Submarine Cables Replacement Project

A TUS is being completed on NB Power's proposed Fundy Isles Submarine Cables Replacement project which includes installing new submarine electrical cables from Deer Island to Campobello Island (3.5 km length) and from Campobello Island to Grand Manan Island (16.4 km length). It also includes the modification of four land-based overhead to underground riser stations.

A number of interviews have been completed with fishery directors and captains to determine potential impacts of the project to communal commercial fisheries as well as Food, Social, Ceremonial (FSC) fisheries in the Bay of Fundy.

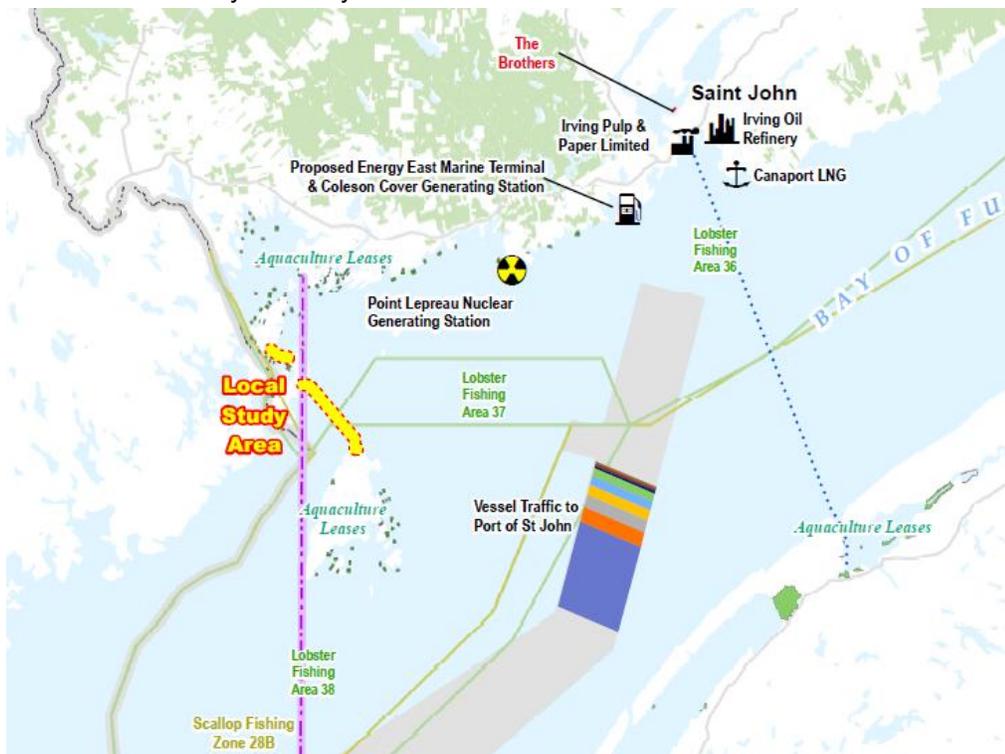


Figure of proposed project (Local Study Area) as well as other projects in the region

# Mactaquac Fish Passage Update

Representatives from WNNB, Oromocto, St. Marys, Kingsclear, as well as the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians attended the third workshop on fish passage for the Mactaquac Project on September 14, 2017. This event reviewed the status of various scientific projects related to fish passage and provided participants with an update on timelines for the Mactaquac Project (the Environmental Impact Assessment registration is now expected in mid-2019).

WNNB submitted technical questions regarding fish passage and re-stated the Wolastoqiyik preference for Option 3 (dam removal). WNNB highlighted the need for an adaptive fish management plan encompassing the entire Wolastoq River Watershed, and identified critical research gaps that must be addressed to develop effective fish passage solutions. The next step in the process is to develop criteria for prioritizing species for passage, and WNNB is developing a set of proposed criteria in close collaboration with Kingsclear First Nation. A focused workshop with NB Power will be held in late October to present and discuss these proposed criteria.

## Community Update

Discuss ETFs, Meetings, Upcoming Meetings, etc. Community Specific

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## Interested in Environmental Field Monitoring?

The Wolastoqey Nation is looking to create a database of potential environmental field monitors, archaeological field monitors and persons interested in working in either field.

If you would like your resume to be included in the database, please send a copy of your resume to your community RDCC (see below for names). Please indicate in a general cover letter your level of experience and if you are willing to work throughout New Brunswick (or if you would like to stay within a certain region).

### Contact Information:

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter and would like more information, please contact your community RDCC.

- Madawaska – Russ Letica (506-735-1744) email: [leticaruss@yahoo.com](mailto:leticaruss@yahoo.com)
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