

First Nations Liaison Field Report

Completed by Austin Paul

Date: December 10th, 11th, 2015

Activities Conducted

Muskellunge angling near the McKinley ferry for the purpose of tagging and tracking.

Pertinent Tasks

- Upon our arrival on site, we would organize and prepare our fishing gear. Large trolling rods were mounted to either side of the boat. Various different types of lures were used.
- We would let out line as the boat slowly patrolled the shallow areas of the river.
- Once a muskellunge was caught, it would be placed in a large cooler of fresh water and analyzed. At this time, a surgery would be performed to insert an acoustic tag in the stomach cavity of the fish as well as an identification tag under the dorsal fin.
- The temperature was very cold during the last few field outings and the fish proved to be too lethargic to bite any lures. No fish were caught during the study.

Interests and Potential Concerns from a First Nations Perspective

Traditional resource sites: All of the following information has been delivered through previous field reports, I apologize for the repetition. The area of focus (McKinley ferry) has always been a popular location for procuring fish resources. As was discussed in previous reports, a pre-contact archaeological site was identified in the area in the early field season of 2015. Suitable varieties of tool stone are present as cobbles along the banks of the river. The water levels were too high to allow for a pedestrian survey of the shoreline. As of yet, only one artifact has eroded out of the riverbank, a biface thinning flake (the bi-product of stone tool manufacture).

Moving Forward

Since the end of the field season I have been working out of the office conducting research for a report that I am putting together concerning the archaeological site at Meductic Flats N.B. which should be completed by April 2016. In the meantime I will be returning to further my anthropology studies at U.N.B. and will be returning to work with NB Power in May 2016. I would like to thank all of you for your time and input throughout the field season of 2015 and look forward to next year. Have an excellent holiday and I hope that you spend the winter well; in good comfort and cheer.

Austin Paul

First Nations Liaison and field monitor

Photographs



Above: The snow-capped spruce trees of Keswick ridge. It was a cold day to be fishing.



Above: A very foggy day on the Wolastoq, although my team was ambitious and determined, no fish were caught. The water surrounding our boat launches started to freeze over and fieldwork came to a halt.