

First Nations Liaison (Field Monitor) Weekly Report

Completed by: Austin Paul

Report covering the period from September 30th - October 9th, 2015

Date: September 30th, 2015

Activities Conducted

Striped bass fisheries near the Mactaquac Generating Station. **Note:** The Canadian Rivers Institute has all of the appropriate permitting requirements to conduct scientific studies on the entire St. John River system, including the area between the generating station and Hart's island.

Pertinent Tasks

- Active angling was employed to catch adult striped bass for the purpose of tagging.
- Our goal has been to catch striped bass weighing over 30 pounds and surgically implant an acoustic tag in order to track the fish's movements throughout the river.
- Ten bass were caught, the largest of which was 23 pounds. We inserted identification tags below the dorsal fin of all captured bass, remove scale samples for genetic studies and released them back into the river.
- Seeing as no 30 pound bass were caught, no acoustic tags were implanted in any fish.

Interests and Potential Concerns from a First Nations Perspective

Traditional resource sites: Fisheries along the St. John River above Hart's Island is closed to all anglers. Striped bass are not on the endangered species list and congregate in large numbers below the main spillway of the Mactaquac Generating Station. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has allowed First Nations fishermen to fish for striped bass in this location.

Traditional land use sites: The area is in close proximity to the Kingsclear First Nation, as such, the entire area has been used by First Nations individuals.

Photographs





Date: September 5th-7th, 2015

Activities Conducted:

River sediment sample acquisition in the Mactaquac Head Pond near Woodstock, N.B.

Pertinent Tasks:

- Navigate watercraft to predetermined G.P.S. waypoints along the Mactaquac head pond.
- Sterilize all tools and sample jars with a solution of Nitric Acid.
- Drop a sediment grabber into the water. Once the grabber has reached the river bottom, a weight is dropped which clamps the jaws of the grabber shut. The grabber is then pulled back to the surface.
- A five centimeter coring tube is used to extract sediment profiles which are then placed in sterile jars, labeled and stored in a cooler.
- These samples will be used to analyze the constituents of the sediment cores.

Interests and Potential Concerns from a First Nations Perspective

Traditional resource sites: The area of the Mactaquac head pond is currently used for fishing and pleasure craft use. Traditionally the area had been used for travel, hunting, fishing and plant resource extraction. The submerged snowshoe islands were a source of Calmus root and black ash.

Traditional land use sites: The Woodstock area was heavily travelled by First Nations individuals for thousands of years. George Frederick Clarke identified and excavated sites in Grafton, Bulls Creek, Lanes Creek and a submerged island within the mouth of the Meduxnekaeg River. Below Woodstock is the submerged archaeological site at Meductic flats which marked the portage-head of the Maliseet Trail and contained both a village and cemetery.

Photographs



Date: October 8th, 13th, 15th, 2015

Activities Conducted

Attended community-based open houses related to the Mactaquac Project. The locations were: The Crowne Plaza in Fredericton, The Riverside Resort in Mactaquac and the Lions Club in Nackawic.

Pertinent Tasks

- The set-up and tear-down of displays related to the Mactaquac Project.
- Answer questions related to the Mactaquac Project in particular the First Nations engagement process and my role as the First Nations Field Monitor.
- Keep records of any suggestions or comments made by the public.
- One of my duties while conducting fieldwork includes the identification and preservation of archaeological sites within the project area. Seeing as I have identified a previously unrecorded archaeological site below the limits of the Kingsclear First Nation (identified by the discovery of a biface thinning flake- the byproduct of stone tool manufacture), I was asked to provide a display of pre-contact artifacts to promote discussions surrounding the topic of archaeology. The artifact that was discovered earlier in the year was photographed, assigned GPS coordinates and taken to Archaeological Services New Brunswick for further study. In accordance with the Heritage Conservation Act, the site will be registered using the Borden system; a Canada wide system designed for recording archaeological sites. Once registered under the Borden system, an alteration permit would be required for any work involving ground disturbances. This permit also outlines the need for First Nation consultation.

Questions

- How do First Nations individuals feel about the Mactaquac Project and what seems to be the preferred option? *Answer: There are mixed feelings about the project as a whole, some people support the idea, while others do not. There are proponents of all options: some people would like to see the river returned to its natural state while others see the economic value of building another dam.*
- What are the major concerns put forth by First Nations individuals? *Answer: The environment seems to be a paramount concern of many First Nations individuals. Fish passage is a major concern: both passage upstream and down. Finally, job creation is a major concern and interest. The idea was put forth that a proactive training program should be put in place to train First Nations individuals to fill the technical positions that would be needed to complete the Mactaquac Project.*
- Many questions were asked about the artifact display. The display had artifacts spanning the time period from 500 years before present to 12,000 years before present, as such, the discussions and questions varied considerably. I explained that I have been collecting artifacts from beaches for the last 7 years and that all of the artifacts are in the process of being catalogued by Archaeological Services and UNB. I also explained that it is my hope that my home community of Kingsclear First Nation will develop a facility to house the artifacts that I have acquired so that the younger generation may be inspired to learn more about their culture in the distant past.