

## First Nations Liaison

### Weekly Summary

**Completed by:** Austin Paul

**Dates:** June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

#### Activities Conducted

- Conducted active monitoring of tagged smolt on a section of the St. John River between, Long's Creek and Lower Prince William.
- Attended an orientation at the Mactaquac generating station.
- Attended a meeting at the band office of the Kingsclear First Nation. I had a discussion with Tyke Polchies about the surveys and seismic work being conducted near the community, who in turn, relayed the information to chief and council.
- Assisted and monitored surveyed transect lines near the dam on the southern river bank or river right.

#### Pertinent Tasks/ Work Methods

- Navigate a powerboat up to Prince William.
- Stop at predetermined G.P.S. way-points to monitor tagged salmon smolts with the use of a hydrophone and receiver. Fish are generally monitored in 2 ways: passive and active. Passive monitoring is carried out using stationary receivers; these receivers are anchored and buoyed to the river bottom and record the passing of tagged fish. Active monitoring (which is the method that we were using) is carried out using a portable hydrophone and receiver. When tagged fish are in the area, the receiver picks up a signal and displays the identification number of the fish with details regarding species and size. The end goal is to establish travel routes of smolt in the portion of the St. John River between the Mactaquac and Beechwood dams.
- Mactaquac- Assist the surveyors to flag in study corridors for brush clearing, in preparation of the machinery which will eventually be in the area. This aspect of the work involved using a Trimble surveying unit to find exact coordinates of way-points. Once the exact points were found, flagging tape was used to mark the center line. The outer borders of the study corridor were also marked with flagging tape for ease of identification. This process can be time consuming depending on the forest canopy as the Trimble unit needs a good satellite connection.

#### Potential Concerns

- Patrick “Tyke” Polchies expressed concern that ground disturbances be monitored by an archaeologist. Tyke is very familiar with my archaeological background and would like for me to be involved if possible.

### **Learning Opportunities/ Observations**

- I had the opportunity to learn more about the process of fish tagging and monitoring.
- It also became very apparent that one must check the fuel levels in a powerboat regularly.
- The work being conducted near the Mactaquac dam taught me that my internal compass is not quite as accurate as a survey-grade Trimble unit.
- I have observed that as expected, most of the area has been significantly impacted over the years. There is however, a component of the footprint, near the eastern aspect of transect 06 (LS-15-06-02) that is relatively undisturbed. I would be interested in monitoring any ground disturbances in this area.