

Fall Bulletin

Ghost Gear Retrieval

Ghost gear refers to any fishing gear that has been lost or discarded within the water. Anqotum staff are to be trained as open water divers and remotely operated underwater vehicle operators over the Fall months. This training will be monumental for the Anqotum team, who will be diving to depths below 60ft to search and recover lost fishing gear. Removing this gear from the oceans will alleviate some stressors in our oceans and, in turn, create healthier, more abundant fish stocks and reduce the risks of entanglement to marine mammals such as the endangered Northern Right Whale.



Anqotum's New Additions!

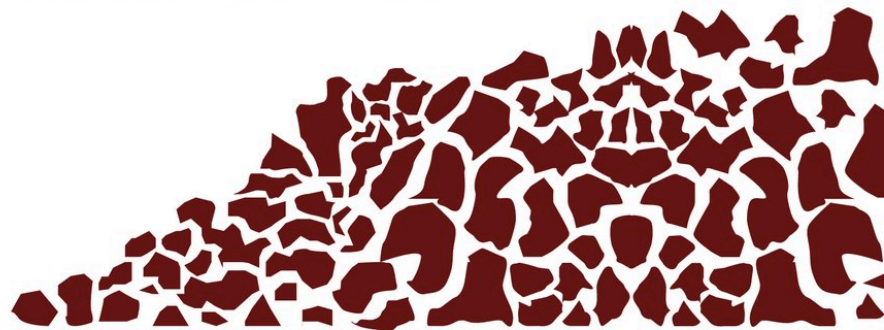
From left to right, Ethan Augustine has been brought on full-time as the Senior Biologist at Anqotum. While Joe Augustine, a former summer student, is joining on full-time as a Junior Research Technician.

Gaspereau Trap Door Escape Mechanism

Throughout the summer months, Anqotum, in collaboration with Eel Ground's Commercial Gaspereau and Striped Bass Fishery, tested a new trap door mechanism for Gaspereau fishers. The design is meant to still allow for small fish like Gaspereau to actively pass through it, while impeding passage of larger fish like Atlantic Salmon and Striped Bass from moving into the trap. This is done to conserve the health of Atlantic Salmon that get caught as bycatch and that could suffer injuries from the fins of spiny fish such as Striped Bass. While the results are looking promising, another testing season, in the height of the Gaspereau migration, is needed.

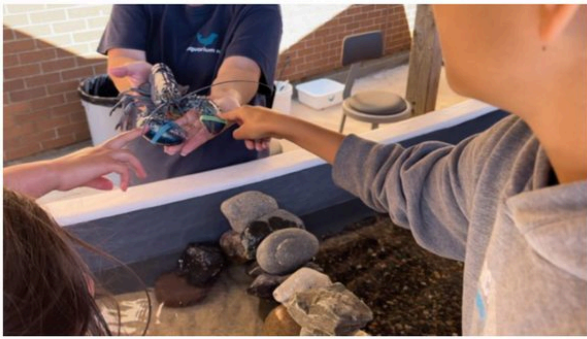
Little Southwest River Monitoring

The Little Southwest Miramichi River Oxbow Restoration project was completed in August 2017, with the goal to address erosion and sedimentation into the watershed near Metepenagiag. Post-construction effectiveness monitoring has occurred each year since, apart from 2021. This past September, Anqotum technicians carried out activities to assess and document any geomorphic or benthic population changes that resulted from the restoration work. Post restoration monitoring covers six sites and includes photo monitoring, cross-sectional surveying and CABIN sampling of over 1200 Benthic Macroinvertebrates. All of the data is undergoing analysis at this moment.



Promoting Lifelong Learning - Aquarium Visit

This September, Anqotum had the opportunity to take children from Natoaganeg First Nation and Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation to the Aquarium in Shippagan New Brunswick for a full day of hands-on activities. At the Aquarium, the kids learned everything you need to know about animals such as lobsters and seals, plus got to compete in an aquatic species scavenger hunt for some awesome prizes!



Miramichi Lake - Baseline Data Collection

In anticipation of the Smallmouth Bass eradication project, Anqotum staff have been actively collecting samples and data to monitor water chemistry and vital information which will play an important role in the recovery of Atlantic Salmon in Miramichi Lake and the Miramichi River. Staff have also spent this fall sorting and identifying benthic macroinvertebrates, which will create a baseline for the health of the ecosystem before the eradication.

