

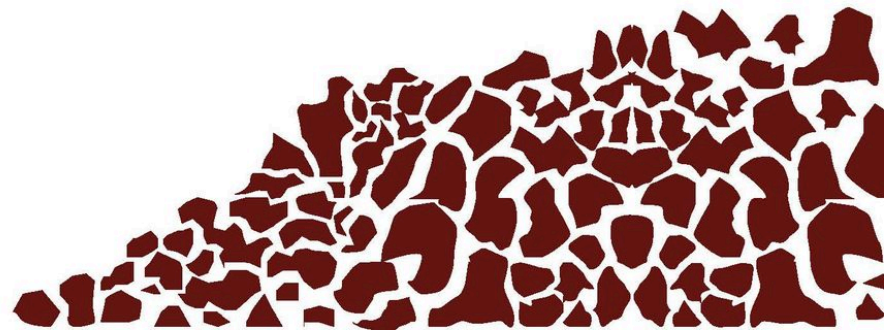


Congratulating new graduates at Anqotum!

- Ethan Augustine (Left), our senior biologist at Anqotum recently graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a Master of Science degree in Biology.
- Sofiya Chuyanova (Middle), a part-time technician at Anqotum recently graduated from New Brunswick Community College with a diploma in Environmental Technology.
- Christin Ward (right), a summer student at Anqotum recently graduated from Miramichi Valley High School.

Ghost Gear Retrieval

In the spring months, field technicians Taylor Colford and Katie Patles underwent training in collaboration with Natoaganeg Fishers and COJO Diving Inc. to become certified divers. This allowed our technicians to engage in ghost gear retrieval off the coast of Pointe-Sapin. Ghost gear refers to any fishing gear that has been lost/discarded in the open water. The removal of this gear not only improves the marine habitat, but also reduces risk of marine organisms becoming entangled and contributes to healthier fish stocks.



Eel River Bar Beach Clean-up

On June 8th, our summer students made their way to Ugpi'Ganjig First Nation (Eel River Bar) for a beach cleanup in light of World Ocean Day. This event was hosted by the Gespe'gewa'gi Institute of Natural Understanding (GINU), and all together the group collected 20 bags of debris scattered on the beach. From left to right: Katelyn Augustine, Miki Williston, Ivory Gadsden (volunteer) & Sofiya Chuyanova



Gaspereau Trap Door Escapement

In the first two weeks of June, the Gaspereau Trap Door Escapement project completed its second year of testing. Project lead Joe Augustine, in collaboration with fishers from Natoaganeg, placed a trap door on the openings of a commercial Gaspereau trap net. The goal of this door mechanism was to filter out larger fish, such as striped bass and atlantic salmon, while still allowing for small size fish to enter the trap. In doing this, we can reduce the number of salmon as bycatch caught in these nets.

Invasive Parasite of the American Eel

American eels have been known to carry the invasive swim-bladder parasite *A. crassus*. In the spring months, project lead Ethan Augustine, in collaboration with Dr. Mike Duffy of UNB, made multiple trips to the St. John Harbour to collect glass eels (juveniles) during the full moon tides. Glass eels were collected at various pigmentation stages and examined for these invasive parasites. The presence or absence of this parasite can give us insight on life stages and the parasite's infection rate. From left to right: Katie Augustine (summer student) and Ethan Augustine.

