

Summer Bulletin 2023

Eel Predation Study

In the summer months, Anqotum in collaboration with the Canadian Rivers Institute (CRI), underwent an Eel predation study. This project involved the capture of 45 juvenile American Eels via baited eel pots and fyke nets. Acoustic predation tags were surgically inserted into the abdomen of anesthetized eels. After being tagged, eels received adequate time to recover in fresh river water and then were released back into the main branch of the

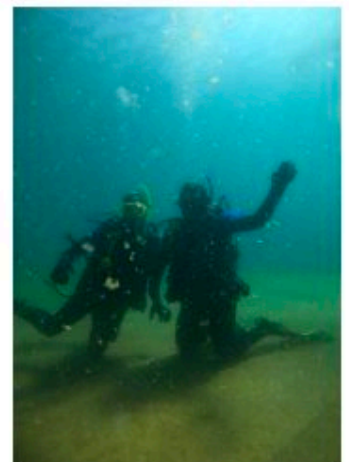


Ghost Gear Retrieval

One of the most intriguing projects Anqotum undertook this summer was the retrieval of lost and discarded fishing gear from the bottom of the Miramichi Bay. With the aid of Mako Diving & Marine Services and local

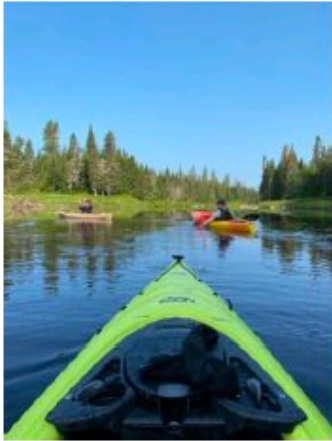


indigenous fishers, field technicians from Anqotum underwent 60 hours of locating, diving, and retrieving ghost gear. A total of 77 traps, along with copious amounts of rope and buoys were retrieved, totaling around 12 000lbs of discarded gear removed from our waters! Any bycatch that was stuck in traps was released back to its native habitat and



tagged traps were returned to the owners.

Miramichi Lake Water Monitoring



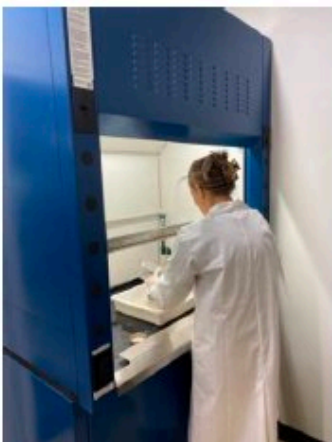
This summer Anqotum staff once again returned to Miramichi Lake to continue to monitor water quality parameters of the Miramichi River that feeds into the Lake. Across 11 sites, three separate water samples were taken each month to assess chlorophyll a, total phosphorus, ammonia & nitrates, and biological oxygen demand. Benthic macroinvertebrates were also collected via kick netting for future identification in the laboratory. Trained field technicians also underwent electrofishing of Lake Brook, a tributary of Miramichi Lake, to assess the presence of smallmouth bass in the area.

Community Outreach – Powwows

Throughout the summer Anqotum staff traveled to our member communities to participate in local powwows. Anqotum set up booths to engage in conversation regarding past and current projects, along with the conservation efforts done to preserve aquatic species at risk in our communities. Wind fans, sunglasses, brochures, and lots of other goodies were given out to people we engaged with, all cumulating with a draw at the end of each powwow to give away some Anqotum goods to a special winner.



Improved Laboratory Space!



One of the most vital tasks undertaken this year was the complete overhaul of our laboratory space in the main office. This involved outfitting the lab with full industrial-grade flooring, new stainless-steel tables, new laboratory cabinets, refrigerators, and freezers, along with increasing our Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) capabilities. The biggest addition to our lab space is our brand-new fume hood that has already been in repeated use by our technicians.