

SUMMER BULLETIN 2024



GOVERNOR GENERAL'S NATOAGANEG VISIT

On June 6th, Governor General Mary Simon and her husband, Whit Fraser, visited Natoaganeg First Nation to learn about the Miramichi River. The Governor General spoke with leaders from Natoaganeg First Nation, the North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC)'s Anqotum Resource Management department, and the Atlantic Salmon Federation about the river's conservation challenges.



After the meeting, the Governor General and her team visited the wharf where Natoaganeg fishers land and process striped bass caught in the community's commercial fishery. During her visit, Governor General Simon empathized with the situation facing wild Atlantic salmon in the Miramichi, relating her experi-

ence growing up and working in a family-owned salmon camp on the George River in northern Quebec.

MEET OUR SUMMER STUDENT

We are thrilled to announce that Kayla Russell has joined the NSMTC Anqotum Resource Management team this season as our summer student! Kayla is currently studying Environmental Sustainability Studies at Acadia University in Wolfville Nova Scotia and hopes to one day work for an organization that focuses on environmental conservation, climate change adaptation, and stewardship.



Kayla grew up in Miramichi, and has always had an interest in aquatics, particularly swimming and boating. Kayla says working at Anqotum is her ideal summer job:

"I was looking to gain experience in fieldwork along with wanting to learn more about Indigenous knowledge and the species at risk that Anqotum works with."

This summer, Kayla will be assisting with our field programs, helping in our office with research and planning, and leading our 2024 Summer Science Camps.



PLAMU FIRST 2024 CONFERENCE

The North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council hosted Plamu First 2024 from April 22-24th at the Rodd Miramichi. This gathering brought together participants from First Nations, government, and stakeholder organizations to discuss a path forward for Miramichi salmon conservation. Conference partners and participants were able to share and learn through presentations and round table discussions.

Wela'lieg to everyone who participated, and to our dedicated Plamu First planning partners: the University of New Brunswick, the Canadian Rivers Institute, the Miramichi Salmon Association, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, the Miramichi Watershed Management Committee, and the New Brunswick Salmon Council. The NSMTC hopes to release a follow-up document to Plamu First 2024 later this summer.



SALMON SMOLT RESEARCH

NSMTC Anqotum Resource Management assists annually with Atlantic salmon research being conducted by partner organizations on the northwest branch of the Miramichi River. This work includes helping to collect, count, tag, and release juvenile salmon. The data obtained from this work gives us valuable insight into Atlantic salmon population trends.

Our team also participated in a pilot project this year to explore the viability of a smolt transport program. The project involved collecting smolts on the northwest branch of the river, loading them into oxygen-

ated tanks, and driving them to an area nearer to the estuary, past striped bass spawning grounds where smolt predation occurs.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

On June 5th, Field Technician Joe Augustine visited North & South Esk Regional's Science 8 and Personal Wellness 9 classes to discuss aquatic monitoring, conservation, and climate change. He also shared his education and career path to encourage students to enter the field of biology. We appreciate every opportunity to engage the next generation of conservationists!

L'NUI MENIKUK COASTAL CONSERVATION

Our department has been working closely with community members from L'nui Menikuk (Indian Island First Nation) as they continue work on developing a coastal conservation plan. Throughout May and June, the community hosted three conservation-planning workshops and an open-house event to learn about environmental partnerships and opportunities.



We have participated in valuable conversations about conservation needs specific to L'nui Menikuk's coastal landscape. Wela'lieg to everyone who continues to support this community initiative!

Photo credit: Nelson Cloud

Pg. 1: Chief George Ginnish with Piel Plamu at Plamu First 2024 (top); Pam Ryan with Governor General Mary Simon (bottom).
Pg. 2: Roundtable discussion at Plamu First 2024 (top); Elder Chris Sanipass at L'Nui Menikuk workshop (middle); Community members and conservation partners at L'Nui Menikuk open-house (bottom).

