



# NORTH SHORE

Mi'kmaq Tribal Council

# FALL BULLETIN

## 2025

### ANQOTUM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

#### MIKIJKJ MONITORING

Our NSMTC Anqotum Resource Management team has launched a new two-year project focused on monitoring mikijkj (wood turtles) and cataloguing their habitat in the Miramichi region. A culturally significant species for the Mi'kmaq, mikijkj are listed as Threatened under the Species at Risk Act and by COSEWIC.

Staff are surveying riparian areas, documenting nesting and feeding sites, and using both Indigenous Knowledge and field data to support conservation planning. Protecting mikijkj strengthens the health of our river systems and honours our responsibility to this important species.

#### KOMKUTAMU RESEARCH

NSMTC Anqotum continues its work to better understand komkutamu (Atlantic sturgeon). This species is listed as Threatened by COSEWIC in the Miramichi watershed.

With support from community fishers, our field team tagged three komkutamu in 2025. Tagged sturgeon are tracked through acoustic receivers maintained by the Atlantic Salmon Federation and Canadian Rivers Institute. This work will establish the first baseline population data for komkutamu in the Miramichi, helping guide future protection and recovery efforts.

#### PROMOTING LIFELONG LEARNING

The NSMTC Promoting Lifelong Learning (PLL) program continues to engage children and youth in our communities through hands-on environmental education. Designed for Grade 4 students at First Nation-operated schools, PLL introduces key environmental science topics such as aquatic monitoring, conservation, and species at risk.

As part of our Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk project, the fall 2025 sessions were delivered at the Anqotum Building in Natoaganeg. Students from three schools participated in interactive activities focused on stewardship and culturally significant species at risk, including plamu (salmon), mikijkj (wood turtle), komkutamu (sturgeon), and kataw (eel). These sessions help build early awareness of the importance of protecting the land and waters that sustain our communities.





## **ATLANTIC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

The 2025 Atlantic Emergency Management Conference was held September 2-4 in Charlottetown, PE. Hosted by NSMTC's Anqotum Resource Management team in partnership with the Wolastoqey Tribal Council and the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, the conference brought together regional and international speakers under the theme Braving the Uncertain.

The event highlighted emergency management capacity across Atlantic Canada and explored collaborative approaches to future challenges.

Interested in the Atlantic Emergency Management Conference? We will be announcing our 2026 event this coming spring!

## **COASTAL FOOD WEB STUDY**

Earlier this season, our senior biologist and field technicians collected marine sediment and aquatic samples from Marsh Creek and the Little River estuary. By

comparing results to existing data, we are mapping food webs and examining how species and habitats interact in developed coastal areas. This project is conducted in partnership with ACAP Saint John as part of a broader study on industrial coastal impacts.

## **SPAWNING PLAMU**

Our team assisted the Miramichi Salmon Association with spawning plamu as part of their annual stocking program. Nearly one million eggs were produced this year from plamu collected from the Miramichi River. The eggs are being cared for at the Miramichi Fish Hatchery and will be released into their natal waters as first-feeding fry. This work supports long-term plamu restoration efforts.

Photo credit: Nelson Cloud

Pg. 1: Mikijkj (header); Biologist Ethan Augustine and Senior Field Technician Nelson Cloud after tagging a komkutamu caught by fisher Jeff Larry (upper right); Anqotum Field team left to right: Katie Augustine, Taylor Colford, Ethan Augustine, and Joe Augustine monitoring mikijkj.

Pg. 2: Stephen Saddler, Arcurri Group, presenting at the 2025 Atlantic Emergency Management Conference.

