



MAMKA QUARTERLY

Message from the Co-Chairs

It is with great pleasure that we present this fifth edition of the MAMKA Quarterly.

MAMKA started as a new initiative of both the FNI and MFN in 2006 to address aboriginal issues relating to Ocean Management. As the colorful season of fall comes upon us, MAMKA has much to report in terms of our projects and activities. The MAMKA Quarterly is one way in which we present to you the mandate, activity and outcomes of MAMKA initiatives. We hope that you enjoy this edition and encourage any feed back or comments you have which can be directed to the address at the back of this newsletter. Rest assured they will be addressed in the appropriate manner with each respecting band and/or industry stakeholder.

*Misel Joe (Chief, MFN)
Brendan Sheppard (President, FNI)*

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MAMKA Activities: Fall 2007

The west coast office of MAMKA is currently engaged in documenting the American eel in western and central Newfoundland, sampling for banded killifish, documenting sewage outfall sites, and cleaning shorelines and riversides.

The south coast office of MAMKA is currently engaged in documenting the American eel in southern Newfoundland, sampling for banded killifish, conducting a spawning survey on the North West Gander, documenting sewage outfall sites, cleaning shorelines and riversides, and various river/habitat enhancement projects.



MAMKA west coast office field unit setting fyke nets to set sample for American eel

MAMKA is always looking for project ideas. If you know of an aquatic or marine issue that MAMKA can help address then please contact us (page 4).



Are you aware of education and employment opportunities related to marine and aquatic resources?

**Check out
WWW.MAMKA.CA**

Species Highlight: Atlantic Cod (*Gadus morhua*)

The Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) is one of 59 species of the family Gadidae. The cod family is the most numerous and best represented of fishes in the Canadian area. A marine fish which occurs mainly in cool waters in northern seas, the cod is soft-rayed, has three dorsal fins on its back and two anal fins behind its whitish-coloured belly, and generally has an elongated hair-like projection called a barbel on its chin. It is generally grey or green but may be brown or reddish, depending upon the habitat into which its colour will generally blend. The scales are small and smooth. The mouth is large with a projecting upper jaw and the gill openings are wide. The lateral line of the cod is pale, and the tail is slightly concave, almost square.



Photo Source: www.cbc.ca/gfx/pix/cod_fish_noaa.jpg

Generally cod average 2 to 3 kg in weight and about 60 to 70 cm in length. They usually do not exceed 30 kg, but there is one record of a cod that weighed about 96 kg and was more than 180 cm long.

Source: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/zone/underwater_sous-marin/atlantic/acod_e.htm

MAMKA Eelgrass Project

Eelgrass is a common name for a group or genus of plants called *Zostera* that grow under water in estuaries and in shallow coastal areas. MAMKA have expressed an interest in the monitoring of eelgrass bed's within local areas that are subject to the various environmental and/or research projects being undertaken by MAMKA. Specifically MAMKA's south coast office is proposing to undertake an extensive survey of the marine portion of Little River system to identify eel grass presence and condition.



Eelgrass

Although the Eel is considered by the Mi'kmaq people as a very important food supply and is used for ceremonial purposes it is not the reason why MAMKA is interested in eel grass. MAMKA undertook an extensive Aboriginal Traditional Ecological Knowledge study of the Little River System in which it was clearly demonstrated that the Little River system has been and continues to be of grave importance to the Mi'kmaq community as a traditional and cultural resource. As well, through the extensive conservation and enhancement work of the Miawpukek First Nation (MFN), grave concerns have been raised about the health of various species of fish such as Atlantic salmon and resident trout populations that are/were utilized by the Mi'kmaq community. MFN has done extensive work on conservation and enhancement within the Little River System as it related to river habitat and Salmon, MAMKA feels that more marine habitat related work is needed to understand the true ecological health of the entire system in hopes of conserving the natural integrity of the area.



Technician Dean McDonald looking for eelgrass Beds in Little River

Kelt and Smolt Tagging Program

In the spring of 2007, MAMKA assisted both DFO and MFN in a smolt and kelt (previous falls spawned salmon returning to the ocean) tag release program. It is not clearly known what level of smolt survive the initial introduction to the ocean or exactly how or where they migrate and when. This project is an effort of DFO and MFN to determine early survivability and migration patters of smolt in an effort to better understand why such a small number of smolt survive to return as adult grills or salmon. As well the project tagged kelts to determine the survival rate, migration and potential feeding patterns of kelt which return to the same river for repeat spawning.

The process involved radio tagging and releasing a number of smolt and kelt from both the Conne River and Little River smolt fences prior to migration. DFO, MFN and MAMKA staff were involved in an extensive radio tracking of the tagged fish throughout the Bay D'Espoir Estuary. The results of the effort have yet to be finalized and presented in a final project finding format by DFO. MAMKA will make the project findings available to the public on its website when the final report on the project is released by DFO.

MAMKA Commercial Fishery

In 2007, MAMKA, through AAROM (DFO Program) funding assistance, acquired 4 under 35' fishing enterprises in 4R and two greater than 45' commercial fishing licenses in 3PS.

Because of their respective adjacency, the FNI MAMKA office administers the 4R enterprises and the MFN MAMKA office administers the 3PS licenses. The 4R enterprises involve the harvest of lobster, crab, and groundfish, and the 3PS licenses involve the harvest of crab and groundfish. By all account, all the enterprises/licenses have had a good fishing season based on harvest rates.

As well, the MFN MAMKA office has implemented a Fisheries Mentoring Program which matches an experience fisheries mentor with younger trainees. The program objective is to orient and verse trainees with various aspects of commercial fishing such as net mending and repair, harvest techniques, and limited at sea



FNI Member Checking Lobster Pot

experience. Individuals successfully completing the program and expressing an interest in further pursuing commercial fishing will be enrolled in a MED A1 course with the Marine Institute in late fall 2007.



MFN Harvested Whelk



MFN Mentor Trainees Levi Burke & Levi Hinks JR



Mummichog taken from Stephenville Crossing

Mi'kmaq Alsumk Mowimsikik Koqoey Association (MAMKA)



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Mi'kmaq Alsumk Mowimsikik Koqoey Association is the Mi'kmaq translation to the Aboriginal Aquatic Resource & Oceans Management. Here is a tip on how to pronounce our organization's name.

Mi'kmaq (Mig/maw)
Alsumk (All/sum/k)
Mowimsikik (Moo/wem/see/gek)
Koqoey (Ka/oak/gue/vey)
Association

Please contact Roger Gallant (FNI) or Gary Hoskins (MFN) for more information on the articles within this issue of the MAMKA Quarterly.

Website: WWW.MAMKA.CA

Mi'kmaq Words

Fish with Net - a'piet - pronounced (aa/bi/et)
Fish for Trout - atoqwa'sue'get - pronounced (a-tohk-waa-su-ee-get)
River - sipu - pronounced (si/bu)

Did You Know?



Recreational boating in North America contributes up to ONE BILLION liters per year of hydrocarbon and oil pollution in coastal water. That's 15 TIMES the amount of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.



Chemicals present in fuel become up to 50,000 times more toxic when they react with sunlight—killing plankton and other species that are essential for a healthy marine environment.

Information provided by ACAP Humber Arm



MAMKA—Mi'kmaq Alsumk Mowimsikik Koqoey Association

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