



MAMKA QUARTERLY

Message from the Co-Chairs

Greetings everyone, hope the long winter was enjoyable to all. MAMKA as an organization, like people, welcomes the changing of the season and looks forward to moving forward with our slate of 2008 projects and tasks. This edition presents information on some of our activity and foreshadows some of upcoming projects. The spring and summer months is the time when most of our oceans activity is carried. We thank in advance the staff of MAMKA, our partners and others that collaborate with us on these projects. No doubt, future editions of MAMKA quarterly will highlight specifics of the work that MAMKA will be doing in the coming months.

Misel Joe (Chief, MFN)

Brendan Sheppard (President, FNI)

Inside this issue:

Message from the Co-Chairs	1
MAMKA Commercial Fisheries	1
American Eel Project Update	2
Banded Killifish Project Update	2
MAMKA Staff Training	3
Aboriginal Traditional Ecological Knowledge	3
Did You Know?	4

MAMKA Commercial Fisheries

2007 proved to be a very successful year for MAMKA's ongoing economic development initiative, "the commercial fishery". Unlike most commercial fishing operations, MAMKA's participation in the commercial fishery is primarily focused on job creation and all revenues from such activity are being invested back into the commercial fishery. The revenues that were generated in 2007 are being invested in MAMKA's ongoing project developments for the 2008/09 fiscal year. Specifically, MAMKA economic development revenue has added approximately \$48,000 to MAMKA's operational budget and created 6 jobs within the aboriginal community. With the 2008 commercial fishery about to begin, MAMKA is looking forward to another successful year and hopes to create several new employment positions within the commercial fishery. For further information on MAMKA commercial fisheries activity and/or employment prospects please feel free to contact you local MAMKA office.



MAMKA will be changing the MAMKA Quarterly Mailing procedures for the 2008-2009 year. MAMKA will now only mail two newsletters per year and distribute two newsletters online. The purpose of this is to reduce resource consumption.

American Eel Project Update

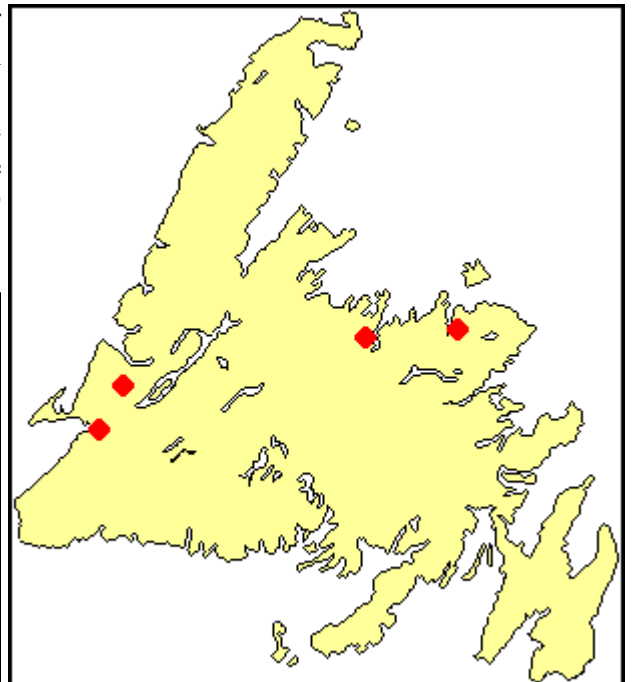
MAMKA sampled for American eel in selected rivers and estuaries of St. George's Bay, Burgeo area, Exploits Bay, Gander Bay, and Bay D'Espoir. The MAMKA field units worked from September 17 to October 26 setting and checking fyke nets in the selected study areas. American eels collected in the fyke nets were measured, weighed, and the body colour was documented. MAMKA also collected 40+ samples in the St. George's River area to determine if total body length can be used as an indicator of sex. MAMKA determined that total body length can be used as an indicator of sex. The study indicates that eels under 425 mm are most likely to be males and eels over 475 mm are most likely to be females. Eels between 425 mm and 475 mm can potentially be male or female. Additional information on the American eel and the MAMKA American eel project can be obtained from the MAMKA website.

(www.mamka.ca/americaneel.htm)



Banded Killifish Project Update

During this field season MAMKA continued to sample for and document Banded Killifish (*Fundulus diaphanus*) in selected areas of Newfoundland. MAMKA has sampled in the rivers and estuaries of the St. George's Bay, Bay of Islands, Exploits Bay, Gander Bay, and Bay D'Espoir. This year MAMKA has located several undocumented populations in rivers/estuaries belonging to St. George's Bay, Exploits Bay, and Gander Bay. The newly located Banded Killifish populations in the Exploits Bay and Gander Bay are very important because no other population have been documented in the areas. MAMKA will continue to sample and document the Banded Killifish in Newfoundland during the 2008-2009 field season.



MAMKA STAFF TRAINING

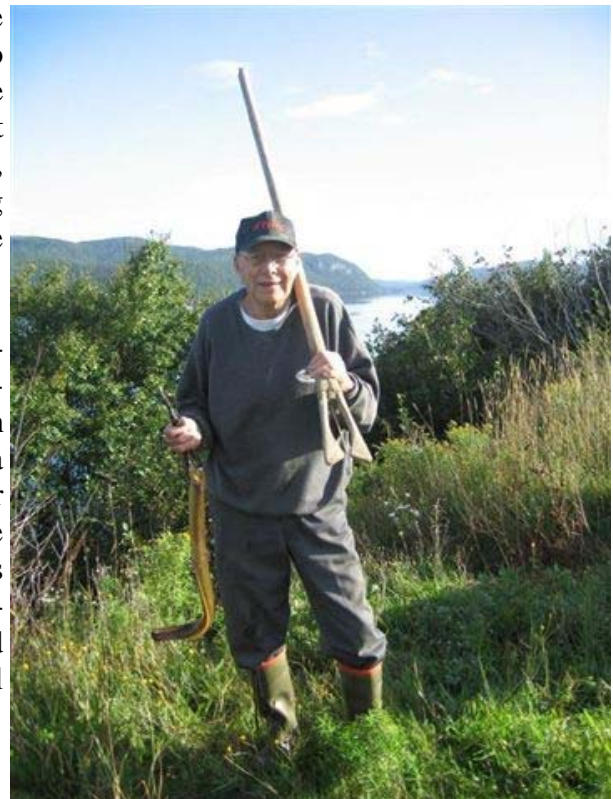
In February of 2008, MAMKA sent field staff members Dean McDonald and Stewart Ethridge to British Columbia's Malisipina University to attend its Fisheries Field Technician Certificate Program. The six week program was developed to provide groups such as MAMKA and the aboriginal community with the necessary skills to develop and implement environmental assessment, monitoring and restoration projects. The primary focus on the study was on aquatic ecosystems biology and habitat. Specific training included: fisheries field study methodology; species identification and documentation; habitat identification and documentation; habitat restoration; etc. The skills obtained by both individuals will be an asset to MAMKA's ongoing and future projects across the Island. Congratulations to both individuals for successfully completing the program.

Aboriginal Traditional Ecological Knowledge

MAMKA has been actively working to implement its mandate of facilitating aboriginal inclusion in governmental processes. Although MAMKA remains primarily "Ocean based", it is working to expand its mandate to include other stakeholders and stakeholder processes on behalf of the aboriginal community. In the winter of 2008 MAMKA was contracted to develop Parks Canada's Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) Protocols for the island portion of Newfoundland and Labrador.

What is ATK? Mi'kmaq ATK is as much about spirituality as it is about the ecology of the natural resources and use of the land for the purpose Mi'kmaq survival in all aspects of life and it is what defines the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq as a people. Fortunately, for the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq, select individuals and community elders maintained their close ties to the land, language and oral history which have enabled the Mi'kmaq to hold onto its oral history and much of its traditional values and knowledge. Both the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) and the Miawpukek First Nation (MFN) have been working to document and safe guard this information for its future generations. As well, there has been increasing interest from the non-aboriginal community including government, academic institutions, and the private sector in learning and/or profiting from the knowledge and wisdom to be found within ATK.

These MAMKA developed protocols are intended to ensure the ethical inclusion of aboriginal interests in the development of implementation of Parks Canada programs in the future as it relates to both Gross Morn and Terra Nova National parks Canada. As well, MAMKA will be further serving the aboriginal community by facilitating future ATK projects between Parks Canada and the communities of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians and the Miawpukek First Nation. For further information on ATK and MAMKA's role please feel free to contact your local MAMKA regional office.





Eel harvester checking a fyke net

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/wey)
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

Seagull - gloqontiej - pronounced (ge/lo/hgonn/di/ech)
Beach Sand - atuomg - pronounced (a/du/omk)
Bottom of Lake - lampo'q - pronounced (lam/poohk)

Did You Know?



Did you know that A tap, leaking at a rate of only one drop per second, can waste more than 25 litres of water a day that's about 10,000 litres a year.



Did you know that An automatic clothes washer can use from 150 – 250 litres of water for each cycle. That's about 20% of total indoor water use.

Information provided by ACAP Humber Arm



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