

PABINEAU FIRST NATION SALMON COUNTING FENCE REPORT 2003/2024

The salmon technicians/monitors started employment at the salmon counting fence on July 10, 2023. Fencing material and box trap material was hauled to the salmon counting fence site and workers began to re-drilled the holes on post and angle irons and work on post to fit thumper to pound post in riverbed. Also, they set up the computer and installed a hobo water data logger on the right side of Prisk Island just before the fence. Data logger installed in 3.76 m/s water velocity and 28 inches in depth.

By July 25, 2023, the fence was in operation and catching salmon in aluminum box trap. However, out of the 120 days of counting fence operations, 72 day were rainy days and due to these rainstorms, the salmon counting fence was not in operation because of very high water levels. Therefore, our total Fish count is 33 Grilse and 70 Salmon: for a grand total of 103 Fish. (See total Fish count in Excel link below)

Copies of communications materials produced within this project.

Salmon warm water protocol displayed on Pabineau's digital signage located in front of PFN administration building. (See picture below.)



Warm Water Protocol Signage was created for anglers and will be posted in 2024 at many fishing areas along the Nepisiguit River, Middle River, Bass River, Little River, Tedagouche River, Nigadoo River, Charlo River, Upsalquitch River and Benjamin River.

Warm Water Protocol activation commenced on July 1, 2023; see notice below:

GLF Notice / Avis GLF (DFO/MPO) <DFO.GLFNotice-AvisGLF.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>

Fri 2023-06-30 4:28 PM

Good afternoon,

Please be informed that according to the warm water strategy in place for the Nepisiguit River, starting tomorrow (**July 1, 2023**), one section of the system will be closed to all angling between 11 AM to 6 AM the following day (morning fishing only) due to poor water conditions. This fishing restriction will remain until conditions improve. Notice to anglers, as well as detailed descriptions of the closure, are available on DFO's recreational fisheries website at the following link: [Angling restrictions in effect reducing angling hours on the Nepisiguit River \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/angling-restrictions-in-effect-reducing-angling-hours-on-the-nepisiguit-river)

Thanks for passing this information to your salmon fishing contacts.

Regards,

Venyse LeBlanc

Regional Fisheries Management Advisor | Agente régionale de la gestion des pêches
Fisheries and Harbour Management | Gestion des pêches et des ports
Gulf Region | Région du Golfe
Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada
343 Université Ave, PO Box 5030, Moncton, NB E1C 9B6
Venyse.LeBlanc@dfo-mpo.gc.ca | Tel : (506) 874-1678

Warm Water Protocol deactivation commenced on August 2, 2023; see notice below:

GLF Notice / Avis GLF (DFO/MPO) <DFO.GLFNotice-AvisGLF.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>

Tue 2023-08-01 3:00 PM

Good morning everyone,

Please be advised that the section of the Nepisiguit River that was previously closed is reopening tomorrow (August 2, 2023). The water temperatures have improved over the past two days.

Notice to anglers, as well as detailed descriptions of the closure, are available on DFO's recreational fisheries website at the following link: [Reopening of angling on the Nepisiguit River \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reopening-of-angling-on-the-nepisiguit-river)

Regards,

Venyse LeBlanc

Regional Fisheries Management Advisor | Agente régionale de la gestion des pêches
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Wild Salmon Watershed launched in Pabineau First Nation. Participants to this launch event were members of: PFN, NSA, ASF, DFO, GINU and Rogers Communications. The wild salmon watershed launch was recorded by Rogers Communication and aired on television on September 25, 2023.

Did presentation on salmon activities done by Pabineau at the Wild Salmon Watershed 2023 Network Gathering in NS.

Atlantic Salmon Federation posted information on the WSW launch event on their website.
[ASF - Wild Salmon Watersheds Program Launch and Free Lunch](#)

On January 10 and 11, 2023 attended Eastern New Brunswick Coastal and Inland Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting in Moncton NB.

At this meeting, I (Robert Kryszko) communicated to committee that the striped bass population is affecting the salmon population in the Nepisiguit River and other rivers in Pabineau's Mi'gmaq territory. Recommended to committee to consider 25,000 to 50,000 commercial striped bass fisheries for the Pabineau First Nation. Recommendation noted by committee.

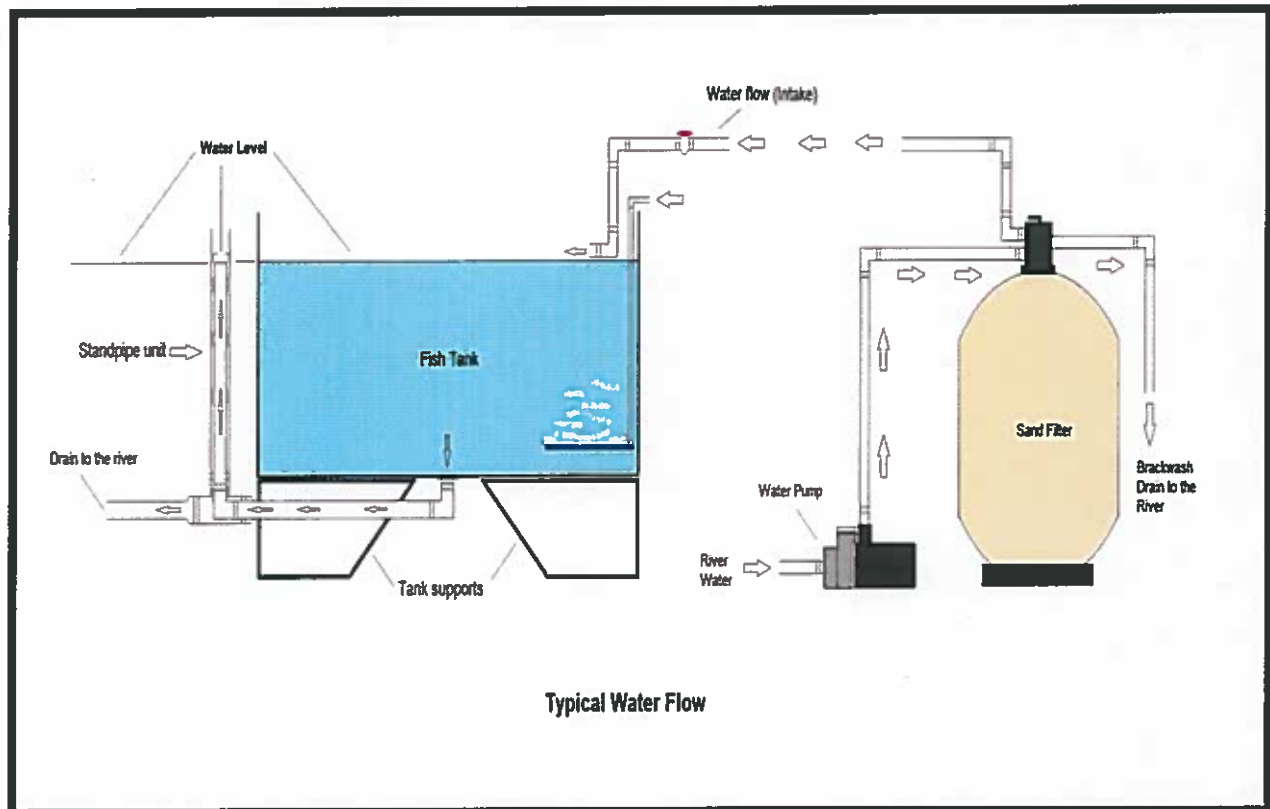
I also recommended that the Nepisiguit River warm water protocol (wwp) temperature threshold be changed to 18 degrees celsius for activation; instead of 20 degrees celsius. In addition to the temperature threshold for the section 52 electrofishing permits be dropped back to 20 degrees celsius; instead at 22 degrees celsius. Reason for the reduction in temperature thresholds is to consider the species welfare and how much time it takes for the salmon to recover from catch and release activities from anglers and scientific studies; such as, electrofishing.

Report on broodstock collection and fertilization 2023/2024

Special Research and Programs Coordinator submitted a section 52 request (scientific permit request application) to DFO and was approved for a broodstock collection of 29 female salmon, 29 male salmon and 20 male grilse; for a total of 98 fish.

However, due to constant rainstorms causing high water conditions our broodstock program did not reach the quota outlined in section 52 permit. Instead, the total broodstock collection was in the amount of 18 fish total: 8 female salmon and 10 male salmon.

Water flow to streamside fertilization operations: see diagram below:



Streamside Fertilization tanks and equipment is located near salmon counting fence.

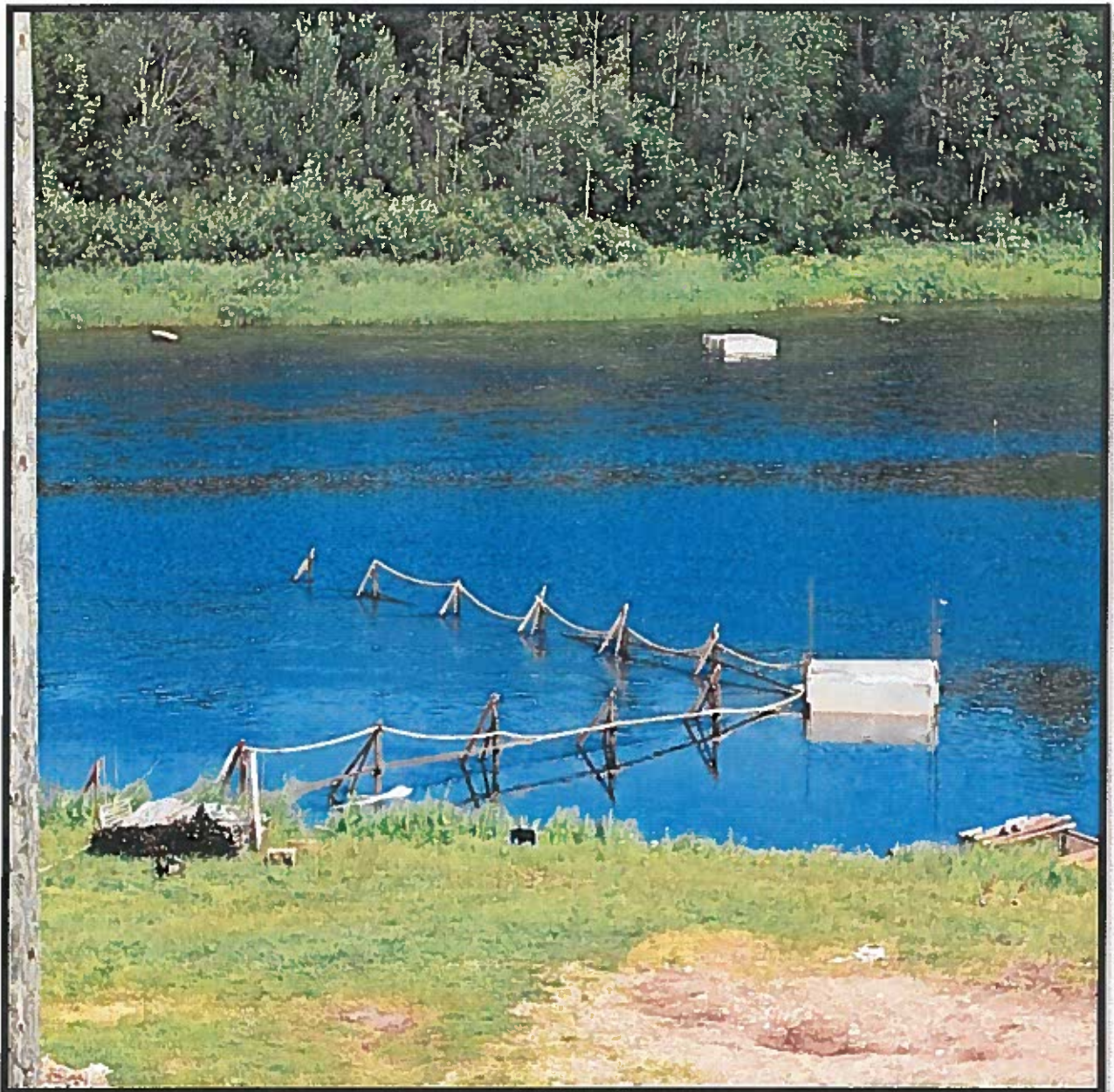
Conducting Monitoring Activities.

Summary report of all monitoring activities including, but not limited to;

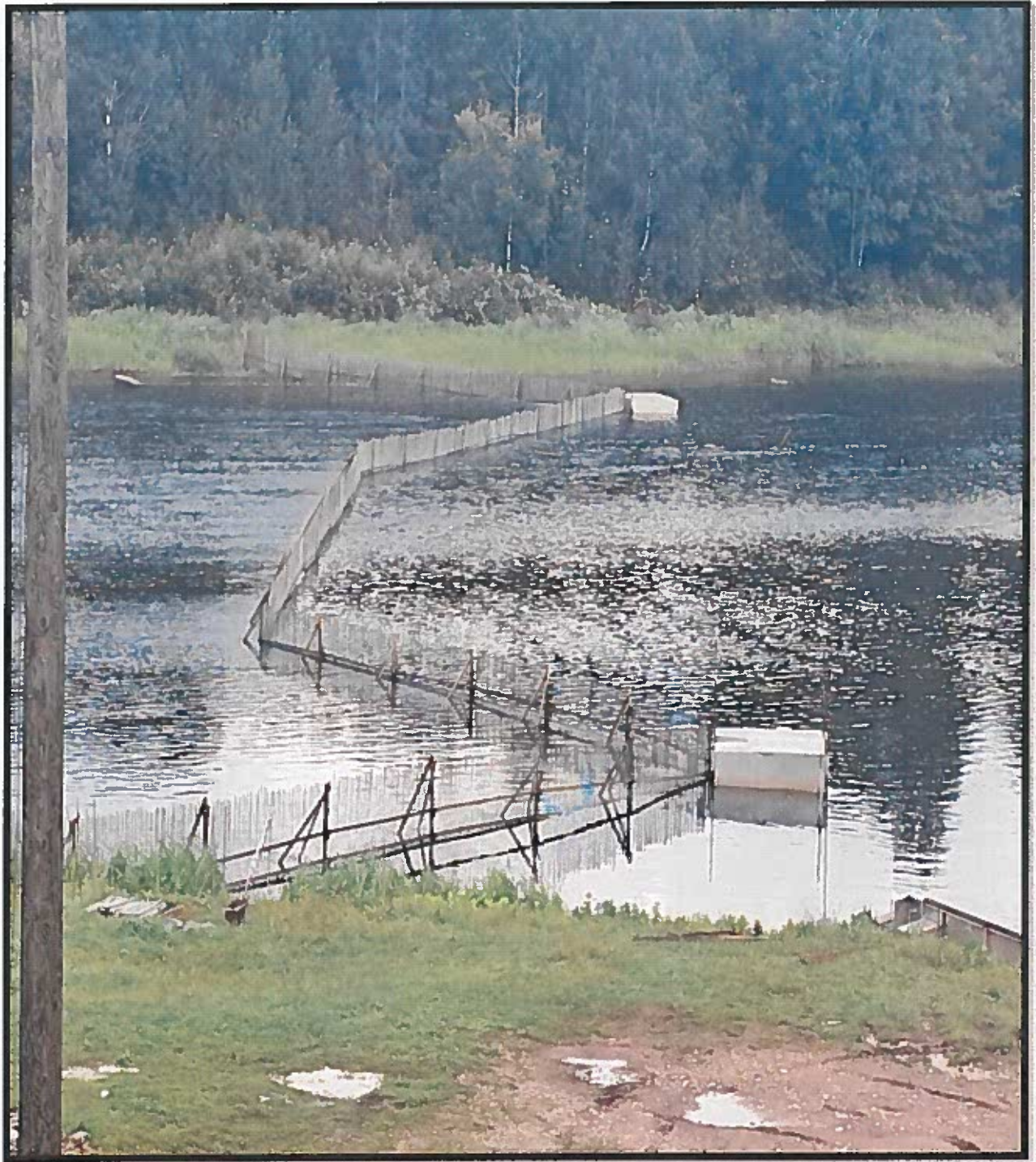
Salmon monitors patrol from salmon site to Pabineau Falls to check for illegal angling, dumping and campfires (during forestry closures).

Number of monitoring activities,

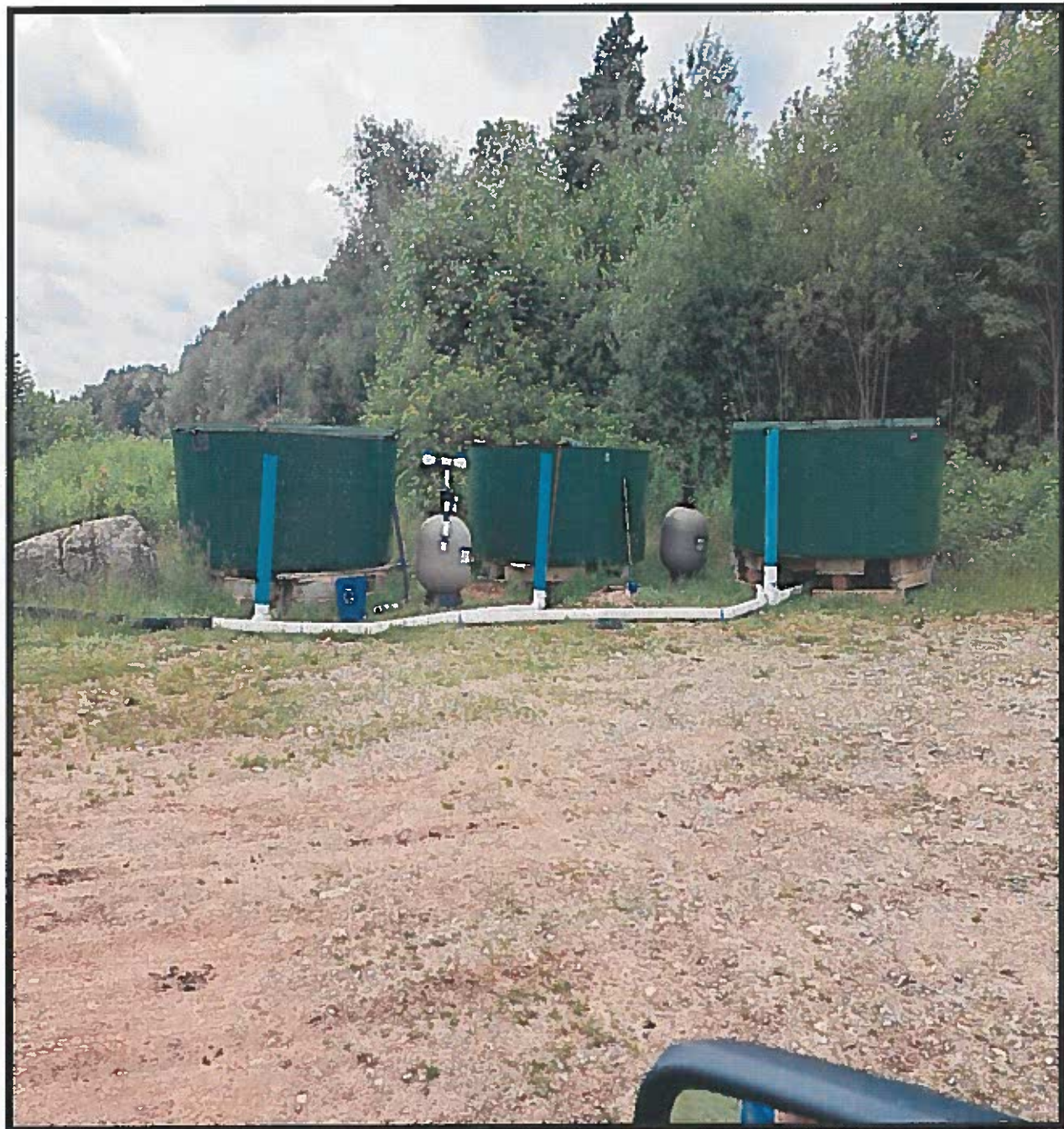
1. Installing of aluminum traps and Installing post/angle irons and channel iron to aluminum traps.



2. Installing channel iron, angle iron and conduits in 49 sections; each section is 10 feet long.



3. Monitor broodstock salmon in the streamside fertilization tanks and monitor the streamside fertilization equipment on site 24/7.



The number of potential issues encountered.

1. July 10, 2023. The Barricade to stop ATV's from entering river was torn/ripped open by someone.



the number of fishers encountered,

Total number of fishers/visitors/tourist encountered at counting fence recorded in visitor book is 324 fishers.

Total number of fishers/visitors/tourist encountered on patrol to Pabineau Falls, Pabineau Falls Lower Crossing pool and Pabineau Falls Upper Crossing pool is approximately 100 per week.

and the promotion of conservation and sustainable environmental practice awareness.

Salmon monitors/technicians made aware to all visitors that came to salmon counting fence location and Pabineau Falls Lower and Upper Crossing pools about the warm water protocol (if activated or not and share temperature thresholds that activate the protocol; in addition to information on SARA and COSEWIC towards Atlantic salmon status listings.

Also, 3 garbage cans were placed in the Pabineau Falls area. (one on rocks by foot-trail going to Lower Crossing pool and 2 garbage cans on road parking area). Garbage cans were cleaned out daily by salmon monitors/technicians.

All potential issues encountered.

1. The July 10, 2023, barricade issue was reported to Special Research and Programs Coordinator, Chief and Council. Since no ATV's or other vehicles were entering the river, it was decided that we have the salmon monitors/technicians put up the barricade (the very next day) and monitor the area more frequently.

Barricade was put up by salmon technicians on July 11, 2023.



2. issues that threaten the population of Atlantic salmon life stages were documented and made aware to C & P Beresford department and DFO representatives; such as, Marc Godin and Luc Leg re).

A potential issue Pabineau salmon monitors/technicians encountered is the striped bass presence at counting fence. This is our 2nd year that striped bass was recorded at counting fence. Also, salmon monitors/technicians hear from anglers that striped bass are hooked and landed at Pabineau Falls Upper and Lower Crossing Pools and in Chain of Rocks Pool located approximately 10 kms above Pabineau Falls.

The Atlantic salmon migration route in Nepisiguit River is 30 kms long (from Highway 11 bridge in Bathurst NB to Nepisiguit Falls Power Dam). Striped Bass are travelling approximately 20 kms of that 30 kms salmon migration route searching for food; such as, salmon frye, parr and smolt.

The striped bass is a threat to salmon; therefore, a threat to Pabineau's usage of the salmon for food, social and ceremonial.

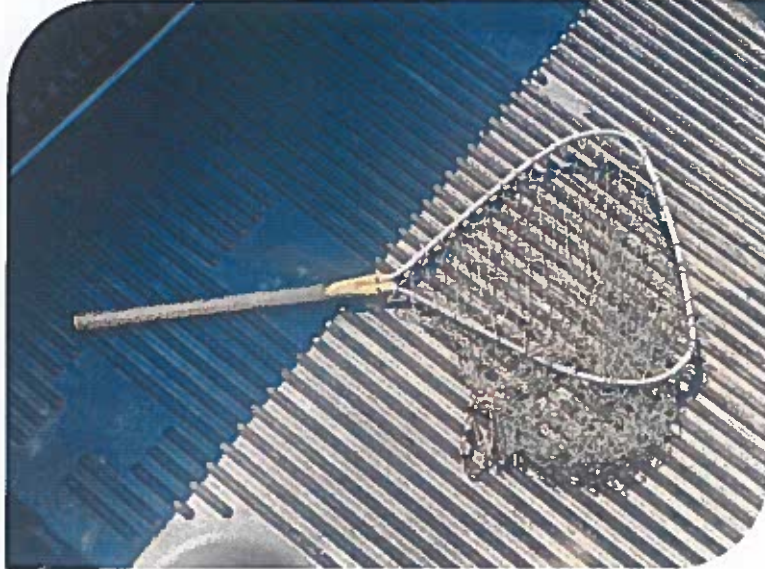
Resource Management Officer Technician (RMOT)

Summary report of all monitoring activities including,

The number of monitoring activities.

1. Monitor/observe/document and report potential illegal activities to C & P Beresford forthwith.
2. Monitor/patrol rivers listed in AFS agreement.
3. Monitor conservation areas in rivers listed in AFS agreement.
4. Promote conservation and sustainable environmental practice.
5. Monitors are highly visible on land and water using boats, canoes and walking the river.
6. Observe, record and report potential fisheries and habitat issues.
7. Use side-by-side and/or project truck for access to river for monitoring purposes.
8. Meet members of Pabineau to collect important catch information.
9. Record number of potential issues encountered and what was done about it.
10. Inform members and the public of Warm Water protocol when activated and de-activated.
11. Information sharing with stakeholders and general public.

The number of potential issues encountered,
Fishing net encountered at Chain of Rocks on July 24, 2023. Reported it to C & P Beresford.



the number of fishers encountered,

The RMOT (FSC Fishery Monitors) engaged, scheduled and met with Pabineau First Nation members to collect/document/record and report catch information to Project Coordinator. See catch report in product P-1.

Anglers were encountered sporadically in Nepisiguit River throughout the fishing season at Pabineau Falls Lower & Upper Crossing, at the Pass and Merry-Go-Round by Pumphouse, Meadow Landing, Chain of Rocks, Gray's Ledge, Cable Pool, Long Hole Pool and near the Nepisiguit Power Dam downstream near Knights Brook. The number of fishers Pabineau FSC (RMOT) Monitors encountered throughout season is approximately 30 anglers' total.

Anglers were encountered sporadically in Unsalquitch River, Tedagouche River, Benjamin River and Charlo River throughout fishing season as well. The number of fishers Pabineau FSC (RMOT) encountered throughout the season is approximately 40 in all.

and the promotion of conservation and sustainable environmental practice awareness.

RMOT monitors attended a Marine Environmental Hazards Response Dialogue – Community Info Session on January 17 and 18, 2024. The session was put on by the North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council and the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) Atlantic. Topic: Environmental Preparedness and Response.

CCG community info session meeting participants

Total participants at meeting: 34



Training: C.A.B.I.N.

The FSC Fishery Monitors (Amy Rose Aubie and Troy Sewell) enrolled into an on-line course called, "Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (C.A.B.I.N.)" Field Technician Training component".

Amy Rose Aubie and Troy Sewell attended training on Contaminated Site Environmental Sampling.

Training completed September 26, 2023. Training offered by Eel River Bar First Nation.

NarCan training at Pabineau First Nation community hall on January 19, 2024. RMOT monitors Amy Rose Aubie and Troy Sewell attended this life saving training session from 9:30 am to 12pm. NarCan package will be carried in FSC Monitoring Truck and will be there when (if) needed. Training offered by Pabineau Health Center.



25 participants at NarCan training



Troy Sewell attended Crisis Response Training – October 16th – 19th 2023 (Troy Sewell attended the training located in Fredericton, NB)

Amy Rose Aubie attended Scuba Diving Training – October 23rd – 27th 2023 (Amy-Rose Aubie attended the course located in Campbellton, NB & Atlas Park, Pointe Verte, NB)

**Prepared and submitted by Robert Kryszko,
Pabineau First Nation
Special Research and Programs Coordinator**