

KMK Newsletter

July 2024



MESSAGE FROM KMK

Wli Nipk! Happy Summer! We're working to continue our seasonal newsletters again this year, with this being our third issue of 2024.

Our newsletters provide updates on what our team has been working on over the past few months, so if you see anything that you'd like to learn more about, as always, please feel free to reach out to our team!



Assembly Meets with NS Government

On June 13th, the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs met with Premier Houston and the Nova Scotia executive cabinet in Millbrook. During the half-day meeting, the Chiefs and ministers discussed mental health and addictions, Mi'kmaw language and culture, and economic and community development.

"It is important that as leaders in this province, we do our part to uphold the nation-to-nation relationship established centuries ago by our ancestors. It is vital to discuss important items to help us better understand the vision of where we want to go in the future and how we can do so together as treaty partners." - Chief Sidney Peters, co-Chair, Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs.

This is the 10th time the Chiefs have met with the Provincial cabinet and the second time meeting specifically with Premier Houston and his full cabinet.



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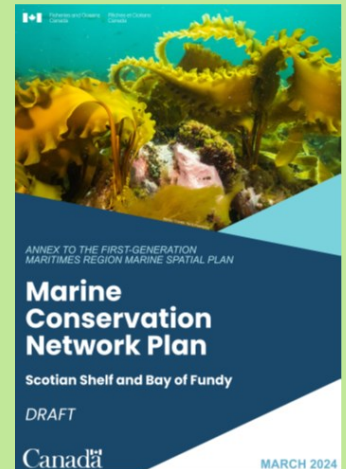
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Marine Protected Areas

Marine ecosystems are under increasing pressure from a wide range of human activities and environmental changes. Around the world, marine protected areas (MPAs) are recognized as a valuable tool for the protection of marine ecosystems. MPAs can help to achieve a better balance between human use and conservation in our oceans.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), in collaboration with the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and Parks Canada, is leading the development of a national marine conservation network on behalf of the Government of Canada. KMK is working with DFO to provide advice and feedback on the selected sites shown below. While we are working on co-governance of some sites we are also interested in hearing community opinions about the map as a whole, including any placenames or areas you would like to see included as either Mi'kmaw-led sites or protected generally.

Thoughts and submissions can be made directly to our Marine Protected Areas Coordinator, Bec Borchert at rborchert@mikmaqrights.com or you can submit your feedback anonymously and directly to DFO @Marine conservation network sites for the Scotian Shelf-Bay of Fundy Bioregion. (dfo-mpo.gc.ca).



Mi'kmawitasik Has Launched



Many community members have been eagerly awaiting the launch of Mi'kmawitasik, the new Assembly-endorsed authenticity brand for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Applications are now being accepted for membership. Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Artists, Crafters, Performers, Cultural Tourism Operators, and Entrepreneurs are invited to apply to become part of Mi'kmawitasik. The goal for this exciting project is to ensure that when tourists and consumers see this brand, they know that what they are purchasing is authentically Mi'kmaq.

There are many benefits for becoming a member of Mi'kmawitasik:

- Use of this trademarked logo on marketing materials such as business cards and product labels
- A personalized profile on the Mi'kmawitasik website
- Increased visibility through various Mi'kmawitasik marketing and social media channels
- Ongoing opportunities for collaboration and access to funding

Applications are based on:

- Weta'peksin - verification of ancestral connection to one of the 13 Mi'kmaw communities in NS
- Cultural Authenticity - transparency regarding your cultural knowledge and creative expression
- Nationhood - willingness to support and uphold Mi'kmaw values

Applications can be obtained by attending a community orientation session, visiting www.mikmawitasik.ca or by contacting Carolyn Stevens at cstevens@mikmaqrights.com.

Governance Updates

Justice

In June, KMK Justice Advisors completed their most recent round of engagement with community members and Mi'kmaw organizations with lived experience within the justice system. From their engagement, they drafted a 45-page report, including 83 recommendations to the Province of Nova Scotia to help inform the development of an Indigenous Justice Action Plan. The report and recommendations were approved by the Assembly by consensus on June 27, 2024 and shared with the province for inclusion in their upcoming action plan.

We thank all Mi'kmaw organization staff members and community members who shared their stories with us over the last six months. Your contribution has helped us share with the province the major issues and changes needed to their justice system to better support Mi'kmaq moving forward.

Assembly of First Nations

The Governance Team is supporting the Regional Chief of Nova Scotia's office and the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs at the 45th Annual General Assembly of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) from July 9-11, 2024. This year, the Assembly Chiefs are putting forward nine resolutions to the AFN on issues related to fisheries, housing, cannabis and community safety, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and Education. We look forward to supporting the Assembly in their advocacy for federal support of Mi'kmaw interests in NS through AFN Resolutions and in their meetings with Ministers.

Urban Parks

KMK's Governance Team is continuing to work with Sipekne'katik First Nation, Parks Canada, the Provincial Department of Environment and Climate Change, Halifax Regional Municipality, and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust on the potential establishment of a National Urban Park at Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes. Over the summer, KMK will be collaborating with Sipekne'katik First Nation and several Mi'kmaw organizations to conduct studies in the area and speak with community members, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers to understand historic, current, and future Mi'kmaw use of the area, understand the plant and animal populations in the area.

In June, members of the Governance Team attended a portaging trip with other project partners to identify potential portage routes between the numerous lakes and ponds within the potential park boundary.



MOOSE WEBINAR
JULY 15th - 6:30PM

Open to Mi'kmaw community members who wish to talk about the health of the moose population in the Cape Breton Highlands.



Moose

On July 15th, we will be hosting a webinar to talk to Mi'kmaw community members about the health of the moose. We know how important this species is to the Mi'kmaq so we really hope you can join the conversation!

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89608976356>

MEKITE'LMULEK 2024 Grads



Maw-lukutjik Saqmaq
Assembly of Nova Scotia
Mi'kmaq Chiefs

Kitpu Aviation Launch

On June 27th, several Chiefs attended the launch of Kitpu Aviation, where Wagmatcook First Nation partnered with Breton Air to create the first majority owned Mi'kmaq aviation company in Canada.

Kitpu Aviation is a full service Fixed Base Operator (FBO) offering services to corporate and government aviation partners flying into Cape Breton Island. Congratulations to Chief Bernard and Wagmatcook First Nation on this exciting new venture!



Energy and Mines Update

The Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind in Nova Scotia & Newfoundland is ongoing as both committees continue engagement efforts. The committee has identified several Proposed Development Areas (PDAs) where offshore wind projects could be located. These locations include Emerald Bank, Sable Island Bank, Middle Bank, Eastern Shore, Canso Bank and Sydney Bight. Engagement with the Mi'kmaq Communities also continues as the committee works to write their report to the Minister of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

The committee has now visited Potlotek, Eskasoni, Pictou Landing, Wagmatcook and Glooscap.



Forestry Update

Sherilyn, a member of KMK's consultation team led a four-day tree marking course on Mi'kmaq land values, relating to forestry and stand layout. Course content was planned developed with an L'nu lens. Sherilyn was able to illustrate how lands are laid out within the Mi'kmaq Forestry Initiative and what values we hope to achieve through this work.

Archaeology and Research Update

Mi'kmaw Forestry Initiative (MFI)

We have been busy this Spring with MFI, supporting the integration of archaeology into forest stewardship planning. We have been sharing our skills to help the MFI team better identify cues in the landscape, such as geological features and landscape formations and how they could indicate a site of archaeological potential.

The MFI team also shared how they consider diverse values when creating tree harvesting plans, such as supporting and promoting biodiversity, Species at Risk, protecting the integrity of waterways and wetlands, and encouraging forest species of Mi'kmaw cultural significance. Part of our work included envisioning our contemporary forests as places where people lived, cultivated and harvested food, established safe travel ways and scouting locations, and held gatherings. Guided by the principles of Netukulimk, our team is working to demonstrate how one can step lightly on the landscape to respect and honour the past, while providing livelihood opportunities in the present through forest stewardship and tree harvesting. Our collaborative approach aims to document these sensitive landscapes using archaeological methods to weave together a forest's history of use with contemporary forestry methods.



Top: MFI Fieldwork

KMK-Parks Canada Collaborative Technical Teams

KMK participates in two separate collaborative technical teams with Parks Canada - NS Mainland and Cape Breton Field Units. These teams bring together technical specialists to discuss topics such as archaeology, forestry, wildlife and community engagement.

The main projects the KMK-Mainland Field Unit Collab Tech Team has been working on are the Elapultimk Mi'kmaw Youth Archaeology Camp in Kejimkujik (July 15-26), the Friends of Kejimkujik Trail, Jake's Landing Bridge and river sediment coring research, as well as a few small projects at Fort Anne and Citadel Hill. The Archaeology Camp is intended to introduce Mi'kmaw Youth to archaeology under Mi'kmaw leadership (archaeologists, camp counsellors and activities leaders are ALL Mi'kmaw).



Photos from work on Franey Mountain

KMK-Cape Breton Field Unit Collab Tech Team is receiving regular updates from the field on the shovel testing designed to support the renewal and realignment of the Franey Mountain hiking trail. Although, Franey Mountain testing has not produced any new site records so far, the testing will confirm the trail will not damage any Mi'kmaw sites.

The team in Unama'ki has also been working the *Stories of Pastukopa'jitek*, a project to record Mi'kmaw histories of the area to help address the gaps in the Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) for the St. Peter's Canal National Historic Site. If you, or someone you know, has a story that can be shared about the Mi'kmaw history of Pastukopa'jitek, we would love to hear from you at info@mikmaqrights.com.

Transportation Updates

There are a number of transportation projects happening across Nova Scotia, and our Consultation Team has been advised of the work, for a number of reasons. Here are some of the projects that may be of interests to readers:

Highway 103 Hubbards to Chester (Exits 6 to 8) Twinning: The design work for the highway, access roads and structures is ongoing. Construction on the new westbound bridge at Exit 7 began in June 2024. Clearing is scheduled for winter 2025, while subgrade and bridge construction work is expected to start in the spring of 2025.

Highway 103 Argyle Interchange (Exit 32 & 32A): The design work for the Highway 103 Argyle Interchange Project is currently underway and will continue through 2024, with construction scheduled to begin in the spring of 2025. NS Department of Public Works (NSDPW) have been conducting environmental and archaeological surveys since 2022 which will continue throughout 2024.

Highway 104 Taylors Road to Paqtnkek Twinning: NSDPW has contracted CBCL to begin the detailed design work for the Highway 104 Taylors Road to Paqtnkek Twinning Project. The design work is planned to continue, with a final design expected by end of 2024. The construction of 3 priority structures is scheduled for 2024, two at the Pomquet River and one over the Afton River. Regular engagement meetings have been occurring with Paqtnkek Chief and Council and we plan to continue to meet over the course of the project.

Highway 107 Exit 21– East Chezzetcook Interchange Ramps / Intersection Modifications: The project is in the design phase, with the design work of the new ramps and intersection upgrades underway and will continue throughout 2024. Construction is planned to begin in 2025. Five wetlands were delineated in the environmental screening, one watercourse was mapped, and one drainage was observed. Archaeological work was conducted within the project area and additional shovel testing will be completed this summer.

Highway 101 Cambridge Interchange and Connector Roads: Clearing of the Right of Way was completed in early 2024. The interchange bridge structure and subgrade work for the ramps and roundabouts will be tendered this summer with work expected to be completed in summer 2025. The North Connector (Randolph Rd north of Highway 101) subgrade as well as two structures will be tendered in fall of 2024 with work expected to be completed in fall 2025.

Highway 103 Upper Tantallon to Hubbards (Exits 5 to 6) Twinning: Approximately nine kms of newly twinned highway from Ingrauport to east of Exit 6 (Hubbards) was opened to the public in fall 2024. The remaining two kms of highway is scheduled to be opened in early summer 2024. Minimal outstanding work associated with this project remains, including the completion of wetland monitoring at several partial-infill locations and fish habitat offsetting to meet the terms and conditions of NSECC Wetland Alteration Approvals and DFOs Fisheries Act Authorizations.

Highway 107 Sackville-Bedford-Burnside Connector: The Highway 107 Sackville-Bedford-Burnside Connector Project is in the final year of construction. The new highway is expected to be completed in fall of 2024. NSDPW and its consultants will continue to monitor the wetlands and watercourses on an annual basis. The monitoring program will continue for several more years and upon its completion, a final report will be submitted to NSECC for their review.

Effective:
June 1, 2024
until further
notice

SALMON FISHING RIVERS

For the communities of:
Annapolis Valley, Bear River, Eskasoni,
Glooscap, Potlotek, Wagmatcook,
Wasoqopa'q and We'koqma'q

Netukulimkewe'l - Taking Responsibility

The low number of salmon returning to rivers in Nova Scotia is concerning. On the Gulf of St. Lawrence side of Nova Scotia, salmon populations are doing better. Currently, the Mi'kmaq are the only individuals retaining salmon for Food, Social and Ceremonial needs. As Mi'kmaq, we have an important role & responsibility in managing the salmon population for the next seven generations. This includes only taking salmon from rivers that meet and exceed conservation requirements and reporting your catch. Please provide details regarding your catch to your community fishery office, UINR or MCG and include river, capture date, size & sex of salmon. Treat the salmon with respect and return what you are not using to the earth.

Summer Shutdown

All KMK offices will be closed from July 19 to August 5, 2024 for our summer shutdown.

We wish you all a happy and safe summer!



SALMON FISHING RIVERS

Status Card must be carried as proof of identity when fishing

Salmon can be harvested from the Margaree River. Only grilse can be harvested from the Mabou River.

Area 18 - Gulf Shore Nova Scotia (Cape Breton)

Margaree River & tributaries (smaller rivers off the main river) consistently exceed conservation requirements. Harvest of large (>63cm; >24.4 inches) & small/grilse (35.5 to 63cm; 14 to 24.4 inches) is acceptable. In the Mabou River, the status of Atlantic Salmon is unknown therefore the harvest of small/grilse (35.5 to 63cm; 14 to 24.4 inches) is necessary to allow the larger, egg-bearing female salmon to reproduce.

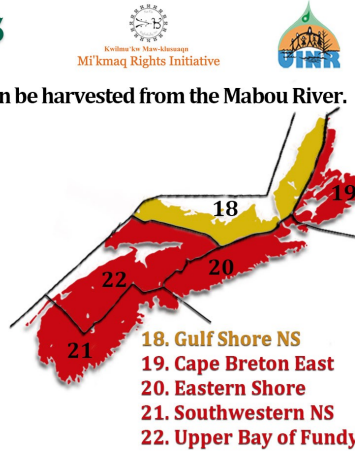
Spearing, snaring, dip netting, angling and fly fishing during the day and night with a light source is allowed. Community harvesting efforts using a seine, weir, or trap (maximum 1 trap per river) are also acceptable methods. Gill nets are not allowed for conservation reasons and injures fish.

Area 18 - Gulf Shore Nova Scotia (Mainland)

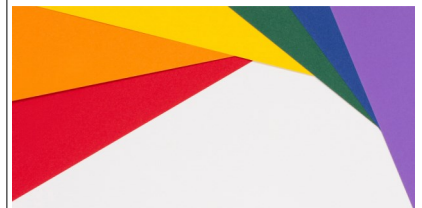
Access to salmon in this area is reserved for the communities of Paqtnkek, Sipekne'katik, Pictou Landing and Millbrook. Fishers who wish to fish mainland rivers for salmon should contact those communities and/or the Mi'kmaq Conservation Group.

Areas 19 - 22

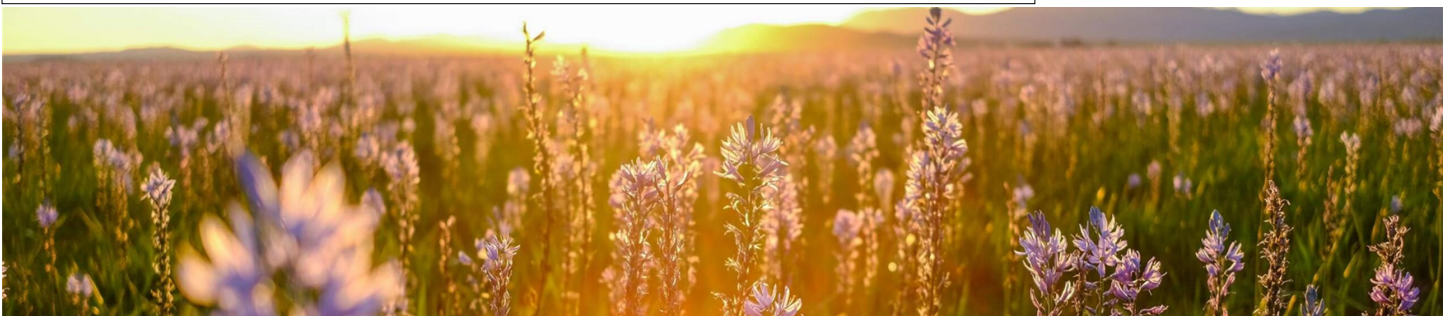
The salmon populations in these areas **DO NOT MEET CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS**. This includes the Grand River, Middle River, Baddeck River, Skye River, the North River. Snorkel surveys are completed in the North River in the summer and fall to determine if there are enough salmon to harvest. Updates will be provided by UINR.



- 18. Gulf Shore NS
- 19. Cape Breton East
- 20. Eastern Shore
- 21. Southwestern NS
- 22. Upper Bay of Fundy



PRIDE
Month



N'multis aqq Wela'lin

To stay up to date, check out our website at www.mikmaqrights.com, find us on Facebook @Mi'kmaqRights Initiative or follow us on Instagram @KMKNO1752.