

# KMK Newsletter

July 2025



## MESSAGE FROM KMK

Wli Nipk! Happy Summer! We're working to continue our quarterly newsletters with this being our third issue of 2025.

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!



## Anqotu'mu'k Apaqt ukjit msit'wen

Anqotu'mu'k Apaqt ukjit msit'wen means "to deeply look after the ocean for everyone." Our team at KMK recently attended an Oceans Week event in Iona to celebrate the collaboration between KMK, UINR and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, who are working together to make decisions about what types of activities are allowed to be carried out in the St. Ann's Bank (SAB) Marine Protected Area (MPA).

The SAB MPA is located just off of Unama'ki, near Scatarie Island and holds a vast amount of biodiversity. This MPA protects commercial fish stocks and larger animals that migrate through it every year—such as the leatherback sea turtle. Around a third of the SAB would have at one point been exposed land sometime in the last 13,000 years and would have been used by our Mi'kmaq ancestors. That is why it is so important today to protect this valuable and beautiful ocean space for the species who live there now.



This collaborative work has been building the foundation for governance arrangements for the Maw-lukutijik Saqmaq in our shared ocean spaces.

For more information, on the SAB MPA, please feel free to reach to Bec at our KMK Office.

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# Energy and Mines Update

## KMK Highlights Importance of Working Together at Mining Society AGM

KMK's Energy and Mines Advisor and Benefits Officer were invited to speak at the AGM of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, sharing their experiences and knowledge about working with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

This invitation came after the KMK team gave a well-received talk at the Nova Scotia Mineral Resource Forum in January 2025.

The Mining Society of Nova Scotia is the oldest mining society in NS, run entirely by volunteers, and focuses on supporting the local mining industry through events, technical talks, student outreach, and networking opportunities.

At the AGM, we took part in the keynote panel - "Discussion on Meaningful Engagement". This panel focused on why early and honest engagement with the Mi'kmaq is important, the value of working together, and how Indigenous involvement can strengthen mining projects. The presentation sparked lots of interest, with attendees asking questions, requesting meetings, and wanting to learn more about how to work respectfully with the Mi'kmaq.

Later in the event, NexGold's President & CEO, Kevin Bullock, spoke about the company's upcoming Goldboro gold mine, highlighting its one-of-a-kind Benefits Agreement with the Maw-lukutijik Saqmaq. He emphasized how early collaboration with the Mi'kmaq, through KMK, made a big difference in the project's development.

At the Awards Banquet, NexGold's VP of Sustainability, Deidre Puddister, was honoured with the Mining Society Medal for her outstanding work building strong relationships between the mining industry and Indigenous communities. We agree with the work that she was being recognized for and we presented the medal and gave her a small gift as a thank you.



The event was a great opportunity to show how building respectful partnerships with the Mi'kmaq can lead to better outcomes for everyone involved in Nova Scotia's mining sector.

# Justice Conference - June 17-19

Last month, we held a Justice, Mental Health and Addictions Conference, in partnership with Tajikeimik for Chiefs, Councillors, Grand Council members and representatives of Mi'kmaq organizations. This conference was an extension of our Nationhood Conference in February, and focused on justice.

At the Justice Conference we heard informative presentations from leaders in the fields of health and justice and gathered feedback to give directions on where we need to go with the justice file. The two-and-a-half-day conference was held at the Delta Dartmouth and had approximately 120 people in attendance. Day one focused on how Mi'kmaq health and wellness connects to justice, with presentations from Nik Phillips at Tajikeimik on their L'nu'k Mental Wellness and Healing Framework, as well as panel discussions on wellness for Mi'kmaq youth and culturally grounded approaches to mental health and addictions.

During day two, the conversation focused on the fundamentals of Mi'kmaq justice. We provided an overview of the Justice Engagement Report and Recommendations, heard from Dr. Jane MacMillan on the long and winding road to justice in Mi'kma'ki and learned about the Death in Custody Review Committee. A panel discussion was also had that day, led by some incredible community members working in the field of justice.



On day three, we had visitors from the Halifax Regional Municipality to talk about their Civilian Crisis Response Pilot project and two guests from outside Mi'kma'ki - Jerel Swamp, the Chief of the Rama Tribal Police in Ontario and John Langan, a traditional knowledge and language keeper from Keeseekoose First Nation in Saskatchewan.

Overall, discussions were impactful, powerful and we thank everyone who attended and shared their knowledge and experiences.

Presentations from the conference are available on KMK's YouTube channel for those who were not able to attend and want to check out the conversations - [youtube.com/@NSMikmaqRights](https://youtube.com/@NSMikmaqRights).

## Moose Update

We will be hosting a webinar next week to talk about the health of the moose population! Hope you can join us!

Here's the Zoom link to connect to the session:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87291064536>

**MOOSE WEBINAR**  
JULY 15, 2025 - 1:00PM

Let's come together  
- as the Mi'kmaq of  
Nova Scotia -  
to talk about the  
health of the moose  
population.

Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative  
Our Rights. Our Future.

UINK

# TRP Fisheries Update

## Strengthening Our Harvest and Governance

As part of our ongoing commitment to Mi'kmaw rights-based fisheries, this summer has seen strong and sustainable participation in both the Treaty Rights Protected (TRP) Lobster and Elver fisheries. Through coordinated efforts across communities, harvesters have continued to demonstrate stewardship, accountability, and Mi'kmaw jurisdiction on the water.

### TRP Lobster Fishery (Fall 2024- to date)

This year's TRP Lobster fishery continues to grow in strength, unity, and participation. During the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, over 170 Mi'kmaw harvesters from across Unama'ki and Mainland communities have been actively fishing under community-led management plans.

The TRP lobster fishery is operating throughout Mi'kma'ki including DFO Lobster Fishing Areas (LFAs) 26A, 26B, 27, 29, 30, 31a, 33, 34 & 35.

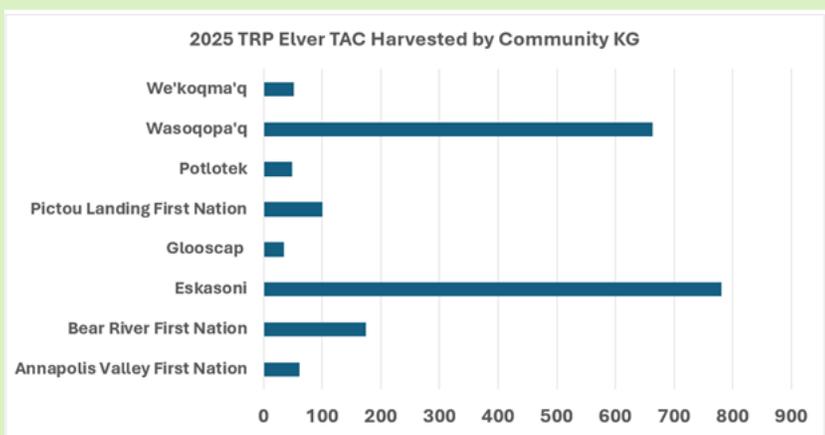
Community authorization, monitoring, and tag-based tracking have supported effective oversight and safe operations, with high compliance and minimal reported on the water and enforcement conflicts under community-monitored areas to date.

### 2025 TRP Elver Season

Our 2025 TRP Elver season has officially concluded, marking a landmark success in Mi'kmaw fisheries governance. Operating under the Netukulimk principle, eight Mi'kmaw communities coordinated a Nation-led, rights-based fishery that was both sustainable and peaceful.

- Approximately 750 harvesters were communally authorized to harvest elvers.
- 1818 kg of elvers were harvested, reaching 95% of TRP conservation based allocation.
- Over 83,000 acts of community engagement logged in real-time Vericatch app used for high-compliance reporting (80%+ compliance).

These fisheries continue to demonstrate our capacity to exercise our Treaty Rights through self-governed, community-designed management plans. We're proud to support this effort



alongside community harvesters, liaisons, monitors, the TRP Leadership Committee and the Fisheries Implementation Team (FIT), and thank all who contribute daily to upholding our responsibilities on the land and water.

*These are not mere fishing activities - they are powerful acts of Mi'kmaw governance.*

Treaty Rights Protected Fisheries



# Mi'kmaw Delegation Visits Scotland

This Spring, a delegation made up of several Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs and technical staff from KMK travelled to Orkney, Scotland, to learn more about in-stream tidal energy technology. The visit to Orbital Marine Technologies and its leading-edge tidal stream device, the Orbital O2, was an opportunity to see an in-stream tidal energy project in operations. Planning for this international exchange began nearly a year earlier, in collaboration with the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE), as part of a broader initiative to strengthen knowledge-sharing and to build capacity in marine renewable energy.



The Orbital O2, developed by Orbital Marine Power, has been operational for over a decade and provides clean energy to the Orkney community. With no commercially operating in-stream tidal devices currently in Canada, this experience offered a rare opportunity to observe the technology in action and provided valuable insight into the broader economic, environmental, and cultural impacts of this emerging sector. The Bay of Fundy, home to some of the world's most powerful tides, shares many similarities with the tidal currents off Orkney. This made the test site visit especially valuable, as it allowed the delegation to observe the Orbital O2 operating in conditions comparable to those in Nova Scotia. Seeing the technology in action provided critical insights and sparked meaningful discussions about how similar systems could operate in Mi'kma'ki.



"Experiencing the tidal device in person allowed us to understand its operation and potential impacts directly," said Patrick Butler, the Energy Lead for KMK. "The realities of tidal energy cannot be fully appreciated unless you've seen it in action. This kind of first-hand experience is essential as we explore what similar technologies could look like, here at home."

For KMK, this visit also reflects the ongoing commitment to exploring clean energy solutions that align with Mi'kmaw values, foster sustainable economic growth, and honour the environment and way of life in Mi'kma'ki. For over two decades, Mi'kmaw leadership in Nova Scotia has been at the forefront of sustainable and renewable energy. They have championed wind energy projects, supported community-led initiatives, invested into solar energy, and collaborated at the national level. All this work has been grounded in the principle of Netukulimk, where the Mi'kmaq live in balance with nature and ensure resources are used sustainably for current and future generations.

While wind energy has led development so far, interest in tidal stream technologies is growing. These innovations could offer new opportunities to support Mi'kmaw communities, while protecting the environment and cultural heritage. The potential for long-term and sustainable benefits makes tidal energy a compelling area for exploration. *Continued on next page...*



## Scotland Visit (continued)

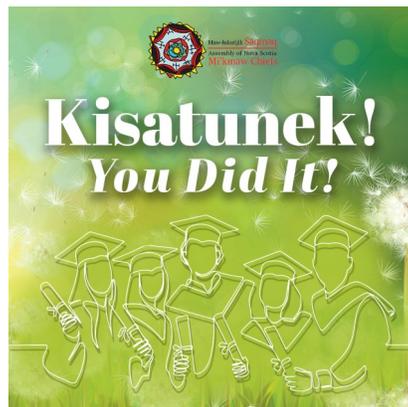
“The insights gained from this experience will undoubtedly help shape our approach,” said Heather MacLeod-Leslie, KMK’s Archaeology and Research Manager. “It’s about empowering the Mi’kmaq communities with knowledge, and an experience like this is a critical first step.”

Still, we are all very aware that the path forward must be approached with care and be guided by the knowledge and expertise of community members as well as those already leading in sustainable marine innovation.

The participation of KMK’s technical staff was essential to the success of the visit. Their role bridges cutting-edge global innovation with local realities. By bringing this knowledge back to Mi’kmaq leadership and communities, they are helping they help ensure that any future discussions around tidal energy are well-informed and grounded in understandings of, and respect for, Mi’kmaq rights, values, and priorities. KMK’s specialists in energy, benefits and archaeology were able to ask the technical questions that matter - assessing critical details such as environmental and archaeological impacts and long-term feasibility. These are the details that would ultimately determine whether a tidal energy is truly viable in Mi’kma’ki.

As the conversation surrounding renewable energy continues to evolve, the lessons from Orkney will serve as a valuable foundation. They will help inform how the Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia could potentially move forward with innovative energy projects advance technology while upholding cultural integrity and environmental stewardship.

A sustainable future is not just a goal—it’s a responsibility.



## Summer Shutdown

All KMK offices will be closed from July 25 to August 10, 2025 for our summer shutdown.

We wish you all a happy and safe summer!



## N'multis aqq Wela'lin

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