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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

THE MIRAMICHI RIVER NEEDS YOU



Come join one of the largest, most complex conservation operations in New Brunswick history and help eradicate smallmouth bass from the Miramichi watershed

WHERE: Miramichi Lake & Southwest Miramichi River, New Brunswick

WHEN: Summer 2021

WHAT: Supporting the application of rotenone to Miramichi Lake, Lake Brook, and a portion of the Southwest Miramichi River

WHY: To eradicate invasive smallmouth bass from the Miramichi watershed

COMMITMENT: Several days in mid-August and mid-September, not including training requirements that will vary depending on volunteer position.



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Background: In 2008 an angler on Miramichi Lake, a headwater tributary of the Southwest Miramichi River, caught a smallmouth bass. These non-native species were not known to occur in the Miramichi watershed prior and New Brunswick conservation officers launched an investigation to find the source of an illegal introduction.

Years of effort by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to contain the fish in the lake failed and smallmouth have spread through Lake Brook into an approximately 15-kilometre stretch of the Southwest Miramichi River.

A collection of Indigenous organizations and non-government agencies, led by the North Shore Micmac District Council have stepped forward to take action. In August and September 2021, we are planning to use the Health Canada approved pesticide Noxfish Fish Toxicant II to eradicate smallmouth bass from the project area. The active ingredient, rotenone, is the most commonly used tool worldwide to address invasive fish. Over decades of use it has proven to be safe, effective, and does not have long-term negative environmental consequences.

Federal and provincial regulatory processes are nearing completion and our Working Group is logistically preparing; we need the assistance of approximately 70 people to carry out the eradication.

Opportunities: The treatment will be led by experts on the use of rotenone, but we need people to help. We are looking for backpack sprayers, boat crew, drip station attendants, clean-up crew, logistics support staff, and more. The project team will work with interested volunteers to find a suitable role for each person, considering physicality, preference, and availability. Most participants will need to complete a pesticide use 1-day training course, which we will organize as a group. All training and required safety equipment will be included. Meals and lodging will be provided when required.

To learn more about this project visit www.miramichismallmouth.com

To volunteer contact Neville Crabbe: ncrabbe@asf.ca

Deadline to express interest: June 1, 2021