

Signing of a Fish Framework Agreement

On November 12, 2018 Chief Darcy Gray and Marc Miller, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and Rémi Massé, Member of Parliament for Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia came together in Listuguj for the signing of the Listuguj First Nation-Canada Fish Framework Agreement.



Chief Gray, M.P. Marc Miller, and Rémi Massé

The Agreement outlines Listuguj's fish interests, positions parties to explore innovative fish arrangements, and reaffirms the parties' commitment to advance Listuguj's fishing rights. The Agreement will also help establish a process to help strengthen a nation-to-nation relationship between the Government of Canada and Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government.

"The Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government recognizes that fishing is our inherent right that stems from our traditional way of life ... As an elected government, we will continue to exercise our jurisdiction over and responsibility for our fisheries as a community. Usgaqa'nminew aq ango'tesnug – our fisheries belong to us and we will take care of it," Chief Darcy Gray.

More directly, there will be a negotiations' table between the LMG and Canada. Talks will focus managing the Lobster Fishery. This project is called Ge' Mawiagnutma'tinej Jagejewei. Stay tuned for community sessions to be held in the New Year!

Commercial Potential for Scallops

KIRT Dedam, Fishery Manager

Four years ago, in November of 2014, Natural Resources launched the Giant Sea Scallop pilot project by seeding approximately 25,000 wild spat up to a depth of 100 feet of water. The three large aquaculture sites are located in Gespe'gewa'gi territorial waters just off the shore near Carleton, QC. The scallop sites have been carefully monitored and maintained by Listuguj fishers.

The data collected from the project has shown that the aquaculture sites are capable of growing the Giant Sea Scallop species. This means that there is potential for other aquaculture projects within the sites. The end goal is to grow

marketable sized scallops that could sustain a commercial sized operation where scallops could be sold to local and global markets with our very own Listuguj brand. The LMG is developing a business plan for Aquaculture Projects to be launched in 2019.



Lobster Fishery Opens with Ceremony

It's important to do things in a good way and to follow protocol. Yes, we need to get a license, but we also need permission from the water, from jagejg, from our ancestors. We need their permission to go out there and harvest this fish for our people so that we can continue to feed our people, so that we can continue to be sustained by the fishery ...

Before any fishery begins it is important to light sweetgrass and offer tobacco. It is important to ask for the safety of our fishers. These ways have sustained our people since time immemorial, since our Creation. *Fred Metallic, Natural Resources.*



Fishers, rangers, community members and ceremonialists (Carleton Wharf, September 22, 2018)

Jagejewei Fishery Governance

DENNY Isaac, Fishery Coordinator

Every fall, the Fisheries Department manages the lobster food fishery and coordinates the distribution of freshly cooked lobster to the community. Fishing began on September 22, 2018 with a soak day, and ended on October 6, 2018. Nine (9) Fishers, including the LMG's Listuguj 1 vessel, captained by Josh Barnaby, fished 249 tags. This season, the LMG cooked and distributed over 5,000 lbs of lobster for the community!

This season we celebrated an LMG first, as the Fisheries Department issued our very own tags, branded "Gespe'gewa'gi Fisheries", which symbolizes a small step towards governing our own Fisheries. The Lobster Fishery is guided by four main principles: Ango'tmuq, Apajignmuen, Gepmite'tmnej, and Weltetmeg.



Managing a successful fishery requires knowledge and expertise in different management areas, the support and dedication of personnel, and the sharing of roles and responsibilities. We would like to thank all the staff for their dedication in moving this fishery forward.

Class IV Captain Training

Listuguj Fisheries received AICFI training dollars to conduct additional training for the 2018-2019 year. Our goal is to provide Class IV Captain training to Listuguj Fishers. Our objective is to increase our capacity to captain our vessels. Fishers need sufficient sea-time hours and the necessary basic training in order to be eligible for the Class IV Captain training. The course will be offered in Listuguj and is scheduled to begin in January and will run until March 2019. Contact Natural Resources for more information about this training.

East Coast/West Coast Summit

Mawiomi ugjit Nemajewegaqan

On September 25th Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government hosted an "East coast/West coast Summit", mawiomi ugjit nemajewegaqan.

The purpose of the event was to launch the LMG's fishery governance project entitled "Ge' Mawiagnutma'tinej Jagejeweï". Second, a contingency from BC participated at the event, and spoke with Chief and Council to gather support for a court case that may also affect how Mi'gmaq constitutional treaty rights are interpreted by government.

This day-long community event began with an excursion on the Chaleur Bay so that our guests could experience the lobster fishery first hand. The community portion of the event took place at the Listuguj Bingo Hall with approximately 40 people in attendance. Following the opening welcome and prayers, there were presentations and remarks from Chief Darcy Gray; Cliff Atleo lead negotiator for Ahousaht Nation; Gary Metallic, LMG Councilor; Fred Metallic, Director of Natural Resources; Denis



Gros-Louis, Aboriginal Resource Manager, DFO (Quebec Region); and Zachary Davis of Pape Salter Teillet and legal counsel to the LMG. The day concluded with a feast prepared by Twist of Heaven Catering.

Chief Darcy Gray provided

background to the project Ge' Mawiagnutma'tinej Jagejeweï emphasizing that this project has taken commitment from the leadership, from fisheries, and from community members and leaders in the territory.

Over several years, the LMG has been engaging with community to find out how the community wants the lobster fishery managed.

"The message we got rang loud and clear ... the lobster fishery has to be based on our law, our principles and values, and that's how we need to move forward," affirmed Chief Gray.

The event provided an opportunity for dialogue amongst Indigenous leaders, negotiators, and community members from the East and West Coasts of Turtle Island.

"The [salmon] law was not developed by a few individuals, rather it happened with the community, it was community driven. The LMG and the tribal council were instrumental in adopting the law. If Canada challenged, they would have to challenge our inherent jurisdiction and our authority, our authority doesn't come from the British King, doesn't come from the French King, our authority comes from creator. It's a creator given authority. That's how we based our law," Gary Metallic.

"Today we are being asked by government to include 'commercial and recreational interests' in discussions and negotiations between First Nations and government. This is not acceptable, this erases any notion that we are sovereign people, to be nation to nation when we talk with Canada with regards to aquatic resources, harvesting those resources and the management of those resources."
Cliff Atleo, Ahousaht Nation.

Ge' Mawiagnutma'tinej Jagejewei

FRED Metallic, Director of Natural Resources

When we talk about Mi'gmaq law and fisheries what usually comes to mind are the rules (when you can go fishing, where you can and what happens if you break the rules). However, Mi'gmaq law is much more complex than the rules and behaviours of fishers. Our law involves ta'n teliangitassin (how we think about fish and fishers in this case), ta'n teliagnutmatigw (how we debate fisheries issues and concerns), and how we understand the concept of tplutaqan (law).

In 1995, Listuguj adopted the law on fisheries. The development of this law required engagement with fishers, women, elders, children, band council, tribal council, knowledge holders and ceremonialists. Many community members were involved in the expression and deliberate writing of that law.

At the time, it was determined that the 'law' needed to respond to the current world; a world where

Mi'gmaq have a right to fish, a right to manage and govern their fisheries in accordance with Mi'gmaq principles, values and traditions. The law on fisheries up to this point has served our community and the salmon fishery well.

We are exploring how our Mi'gmaq law can inform the way we manage the lobster fishery, how the rules are enforced, and how the resource is used.

Today, we are exploring how our Mi'gmaq law can inform the way we manage the lobster fishery. As the law states "we the Indigenous peoples of Gespe'gewa'gi are vested with sacred responsibilities for stewardship of the land, waters and all living beings."

In the winter of 2019, the Natural Resources directorate will conduct research and engage community member in a process to determine the applicability of this law in the lobster fishery. The long-term goal of this initiative is to contribute to Listuguj's ongoing efforts to reclaim inherent jurisdiction and governance over those resources found within our Gespe'gewa'gi territory, our lands and waters.

Fisheries Update

2018

The LMG Fisheries has grown over the years. The LMG manages and participates in the fishery for the following species: snow crab, shrimp, turbot, rock crab, lobster, mussels, cod, halibut and salmon. This season there were challenges fishing the quota because of the measures put in place by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to protect the right whales. The number of right whales has declined over the years. There are estimated 400 right whales still remaining.

Snow Crab: the Listuguj Fisheries managed and fished the majority of the snow crab quota for the 2018 season. The LMG used its own fleet to fish 75% of its quota, which created employment opportunities for Listuguj community members. The LMG used 7 of its own vessels to fish the quota, and an additional 5 vessels were 'rental boats'.

Shrimp: The shrimp fishery is LMG's longest fishery, the season begins in April and ends in October. Over the 2018 season, Listuguj Fisheries fished 100% of the total shrimp quota utilizing its own vessels and rentals. The Shrimp fisheries takes place in three zones – the Estuary, Sept Iles, and Anticosti. Jobs were created (more than half of those employed in the shrimp fishery are Mi'gmaq).

