



# **BIG TRACADIE RIVER WATERSHED ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION STRATEGY**



**November 2024**

# Big Tracadie River Watershed

## Atlantic Salmon Conservation Strategy

November 2024

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## Contents

Acknowledgements .....	iii
Executive Summary .....	vi
1.0 Introduction.....	7
2.0 River Attributes and Access.....	7
3.0 Conservation Strategy Objectives for Atlantic Salmon on the Big Tracadie River watershed .....	10
4.0 River Setting & Climate.....	12
5.0 Bedrock and Surficial Geology.....	16
6.0 Land Use History, Land Cover and Land Use .....	18
7.0 Land Tenure.....	18
8.0 Beaver Dams .....	19
9.0 Habitat Conditions .....	21
9.1 Electrofishing Results – Lord and Foy River .....	27
9.2 Electrofishing Results – Big Tracadie River at Hwy 160 .....	28
10.0 Water Quality and Quantity .....	28
11.0 Conclusion .....	33
12.0 Summary of Recommendations .....	35
References .....	36
Appendix A: Fish Habitat Assessment Sheets – Lord and Foy and Big Tracadie Rivers .....	37
Appendix B: pH Results from the Big Tracadie River and Tributary Streams May 8 <sup>th</sup> 2024.....	42
Appendix C: General Chemistry and E. coli Results from the Big Tracadie Watershed .....	43
Appendix D: Electrofishing Data – Lord and Foy River.....	51
Appendix E: Electrofishing Data – Big Tracadie River .....	53



## List of Figures

Figure 1 Big Tracadie River Drainage Basin - Geographical Location.....	8
Figure 2 Big Tracadie River watershed and watercourses.....	9
Figure 3 Ecoregions .....	13
Figure 4 Big Tracadie River Watershed Land Cover/Land Use.....	14
Figure 5 Big Tracadie River Canoe Reconnaissance – pH sampling May 2024.....	15
Figure 6 Big Tracadie River Drainage Basin Bedrock Geology .....	17
Figure 7 Lord and Foy Electrofishing - Beaver Dam Upstream as a Natural Barrier .....	20
Figure 8 Habitat Surveys and Electrofishing Sites .....	22
Figure 9 Habitat Assessment - Big Tracadie Headwaters .....	23
Figure 10 Habitat Assessment - Lord and Foy River .....	23
Figure 11 Water Temperature Profiles - Tracadie River and Tributaries .....	25
Figure 12 Electrofishing on the Lord and Foy River.....	26
Figure 13 Atlantic Salmon Parr - Lord and Foy River .....	27
Figure 14 Water Quality Monitoring Sites - Big Tracadie River Watershed .....	29
Figure 15 Temperature Logger Locations - Big Tracadie River Watershed .....	31
Figure 16 Protected Land.....	32
Figure 17 Blueberry Fields Dominate Large Areas of the Watershed.....	33

## Executive Summary

In 2024, the Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC) was supported by the Foundation for Conservation of Atlantic Salmon (FCAS) to prepare an Atlantic salmon conservation strategy for the Big Tracadie River in northeastern New Brunswick. The watershed of the Big Tracadie River is large and supports a population of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*). MREAC staff and volunteers completed significant environmental monitoring and habitat assessment during the open water season of 2024. Both current and historical data is incorporated into the conservation strategy. Interviews with local recreational fishers, members of Le Club Chasse & Pêche de la Grand Rivière Tracadie (the Big Tracadie fish and game club), were conducted and proved invaluable.

Based on compiled data, visual observations, river monitoring, and communication with river stakeholders, the Big Tracadie River has habitat characteristics required to sustain a significant Atlantic salmon production. The production of juvenile Atlantic salmon, relative to several other watersheds of comparable scale in eastern New Brunswick, is significantly higher. Limiting factors to greater production and survival of Atlantic salmon are discussed. Some natural limiting factors will remain unsurmountable. Concern about the rapid and large-scale landscape conversion into blueberry production is the largest perceived threat. Recommendations are made relative to known limiting factors that can be addressed.

Future efforts should focus on maintaining the existing ecological values that sustain the current stock of Atlantic salmon and other indigenous fish species. Additional and ongoing monitoring of this keystone species is recommended. Regular and long-term assessments of fry and parr production should be monitored in the face of risk posed by large scale industrial level forest harvesting and blueberry agriculture along with their respective pest spray programs.

This and other comparable sized tributaries in eastern New Brunswick should be assessed further to determine the actual size of the annual spawning population. Resource protection through jurisdictional enforcement and citizen engagement should be enhanced as opportunities allow.

## 1.0 Introduction

The Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC) undertook the production of an Atlantic Salmon Conservation Strategy on the Big Tracadie River in 2024. The project was supported by the Foundation for Conservation of Atlantic Salmon (FCAS). Based on available watershed data, recent monitoring efforts, other research, and opportunistic interviews, MREAC herein presents this strategy.

The Big Tracadie River is located on the northeastern shore of New Brunswick on the Acadian Peninsula. The watershed consists of 549.7 square kilometres (Figure 1) and is comprised of three significant waterways with multiple smaller brooks, several of which are likely to host spawning Atlantic salmon. The larger branches are the Big Tracadie River (main branch), the Lord and Foy River and the Portage River. The project watershed boundary that includes all drainage into the mouth of the Big Tracadie river captures the Portage River drainage basin (Figure 2).

## 2.0 River Attributes and Access

Typical of eastern New Brunswick rivers the Big Tracadie has a large estuary and long inland tidal influence. The head of tide measured from the mouth of Big Brook to the Northumberland Strait is 22.6 kilometers. The meander length of the river's main branch from Big Brook up to the headwaters near Hwy 134 is approximately 62.6 kilometres, making a total meander length for the Big Tracadie River of approximately 85 kilometres.

The north-south Highway 134 briefly touches some of the extreme headwaters of the Big Tracadie drainage basin, while the east-west Highway 160 transects the upper watershed. As part of the Acadian Coast Drive, Highway 11 crosses the river's mouth near the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

MREAC survey teams travelled approximately 26 km on the waterway by completing a reconnaissance canoe run and two habitat assessments. The established (DNR/DFO) Stream Habitat Inventory protocol was applied on the two reaches that were habitat-assessed. Each assessment covered a minimum of one kilometer. Throughout the watershed, six temperature loggers were deployed at widely distributed locations. Three were located on the main branch, three others were deployed on the Lord and Foy, the South Branch Big Tracadie and on the Portage River. Only three of these loggers were successfully recovered. One of the missing loggers was harvested by beaver for a dam project just below the deployment site. The others went missing to upright mammals, best guess.

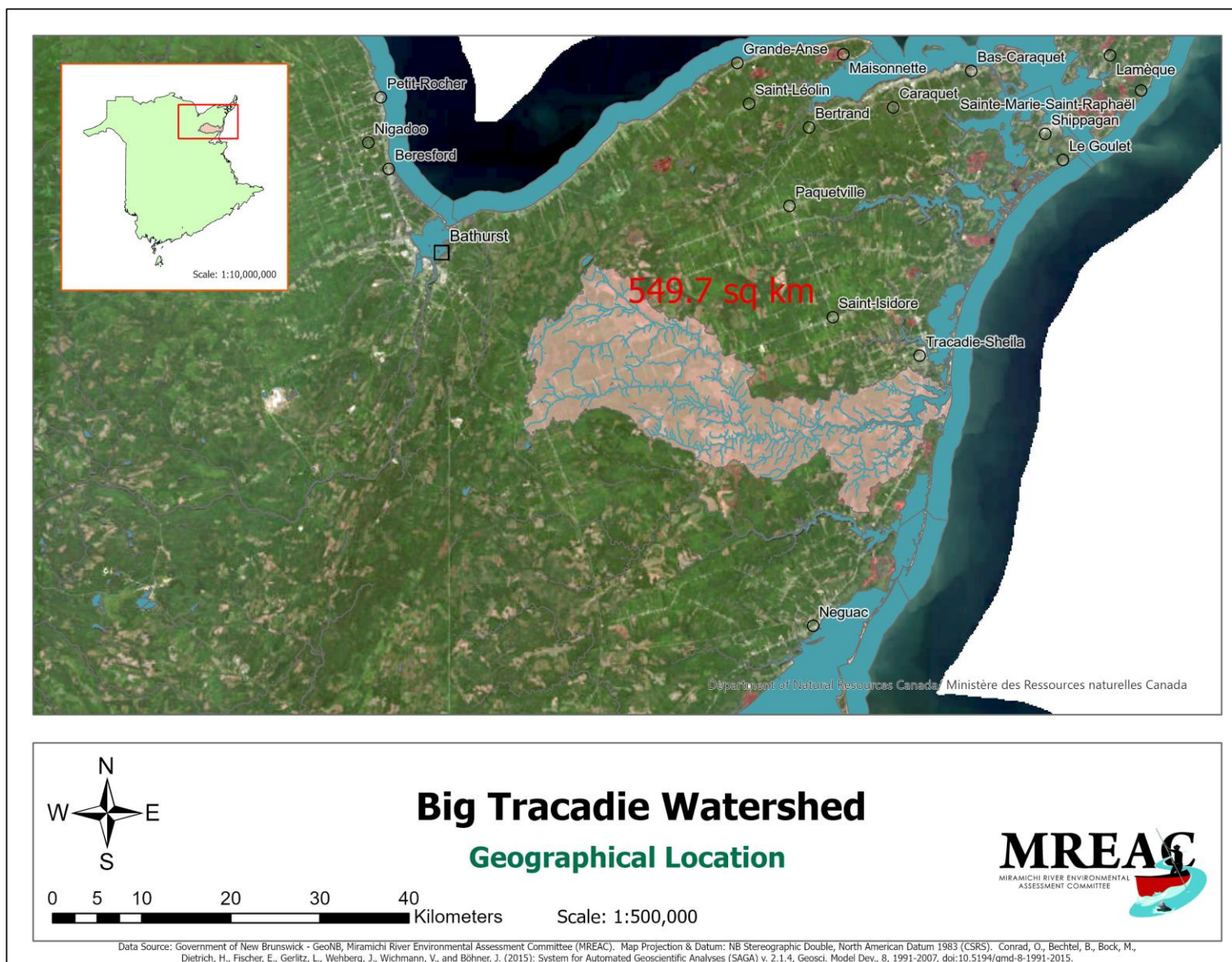
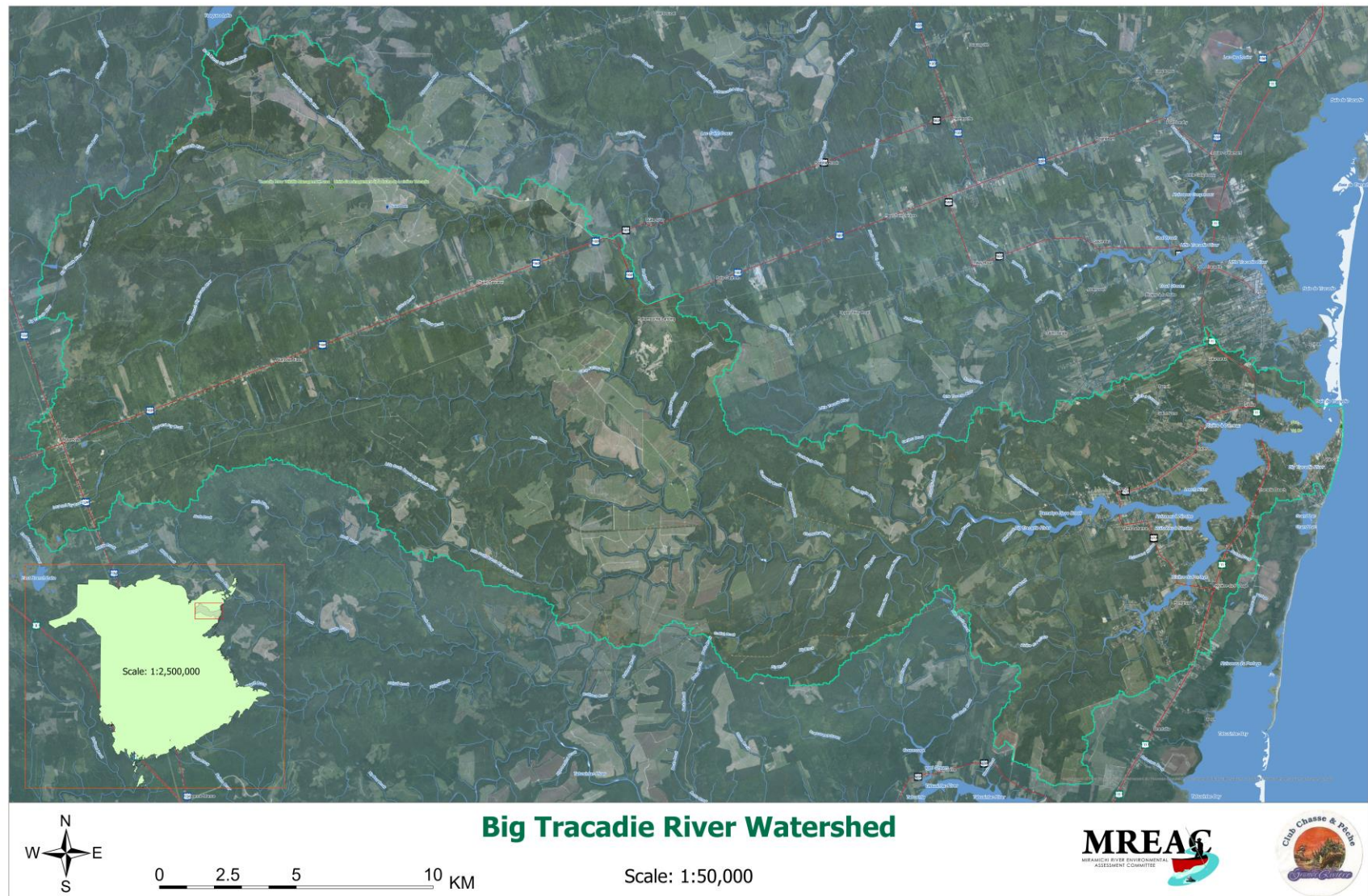


Figure 1 Big Tracadie River Drainage Basin - Geographical Location





Data Source: Government of New Brunswick - GeoNB, Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC). Map Projection & Datum: NB Stereographic Double, North American Datum 1983 (CSRS).

*Figure 2 Big Tracadie River watershed and watercourses*

The Big Tracadie River flows west to east and ultimately drains into the Northumberland Strait. The Big and Little Tracadie watershed is among a suite of waterways of the Acadian Peninsula cradled between the Tabusintac River (south) and the Nepisiguit River to the north. Each of these watersheds face challenges due to intensive resource harvesting, their relatively limited size, and other development pressures. On the Big Tracadie the urban and rural population is concentrated along the tidal waters. There is, however, a long ribbon community distributed along 22 kilometres of Hwy 160 that crosses the upper Big Tracadie watershed. Resource harvesting on the watershed has typically been industrial level forestry. More recently commercial blueberry operations are covering expansive landscape views. This sector, already large, is rapidly expanding and limiting opportunities for anglers, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts.

### 3.0 Conservation Strategy Objectives for Atlantic Salmon on the Big Tracadie River watershed

1. To maintain the ecological integrity and existing recreational fishing values that the Big Tracadie River currently possesses.
2. To conserve and protect existing Atlantic salmon stocks and their habitat.
3. To contribute to existing environmental knowledge and tap into the existing traditional knowledge through monitoring and interviews of recreational fishers.
4. To promote the cooperation and support of residents, landowners, recreational users, industrial users, and other interested parties in effective management of recreational fisheries resources.
5. To promote additional Protected Natural Areas on the Big Tracadie watershed in face of significant industrial forestry levels and rapidly increasing agricultural development.
6. To promote equity and fairness for all users in the application of management measures for recreational fishing.

7. To present a long-term strategy to conserve and maintain recreational fish and their habitat.
8. To encourage consultation between recreational resource users and developers that change natural landscapes into industrial or agricultural uses.
9. To promote and support more community-based monitoring and stewardship.

In discussions with Atlantic salmon anglers, in review of available resource information, and as confirmed by current electrofishing results, the Big Tracadie has significant resident Atlantic salmon. However, little monitoring occurs on the level of salmon angling and the river's potential in producing Atlantic salmon. In 2024, temperature monitoring, field surveys, habitat assessment, electro-fishing, and interviews were completed to support this conservation strategy. The scope of this 2024 work on the Big Tracadie River watershed cannot determine the current level of Atlantic salmon production. Nor do we know the number of returning Atlantic salmon to spawn annually. The technology referred to as "ARIS Sonar Population Tracking" should be considered for future application on the Big Tracadie to assess the numbers of returning spawners.

***Recommendation:*** *When feasible, the Big Tracadie River should be assessed using "ARIS Sonar Population Tracking" to determine the actual size of the annual spawning population.*

This report considers the river's limiting factors and considers approaches to sustain the existing level of salmon production and the prospect of enhancing that production.

Trout are the other target species of local fishers on the Big Tracadie. Salmon angling is concentrated in the spring and fall. Like most other rivers of this scale in eastern New Brunswick, summer heat and limited rainfall often limit salmon movement to a fall run. Low water levels and high-water temperatures are a deterrent to these cold-water fishes under mid summer conditions. Two habitat surveys completed in 2024 on the Lord and Foy and the Big Tracadie (main branch) showed that there are several naturally occurring pools and good conditions for resident juvenile salmon as well as adequate spawning conditions for returning salmon. (Appendix A)

## 4.0 River Setting & Climate

The Big Tracadie drainage basin is found in the Eastern Lowlands ecoregion (Figure 3). The lowland topography results in an even, low gradient river with an average drop of approximately 2.5 meters per kilometer from the headwaters to the head of tide .

As noted, the Big Tracadie River watershed covers 549.7 km<sup>2</sup> (Figure 1 Big Tracadie River Drainage Basin - Geographical Location). The basin consists of the main branch, several larger tributaries and numerous small brooks. Three of the larger tributaries were successfully monitored for their season-long temperature regime. The flow conditions in 2024 were low and temperatures warm due to the hot and dry summer weather. These conditions require the main salmon spawning run to occur later in the fall when water volumes are greater, and the water is cooler. Climate Normals from Bathurst New Brunswick (1991-2020) show a daily average July temperature of 19.1°C and a daily average January temperature of -10.6°C. The mean annual precipitation was 1117.7 mm. The past decade has shown that summer temperatures are on the rise, and this is in keeping with the expected climate change scenario.

Crown lands on the Big Tracadie River are largely managed by two industrial operations, namely industrial forestry and, more recently, blueberry agriculture.

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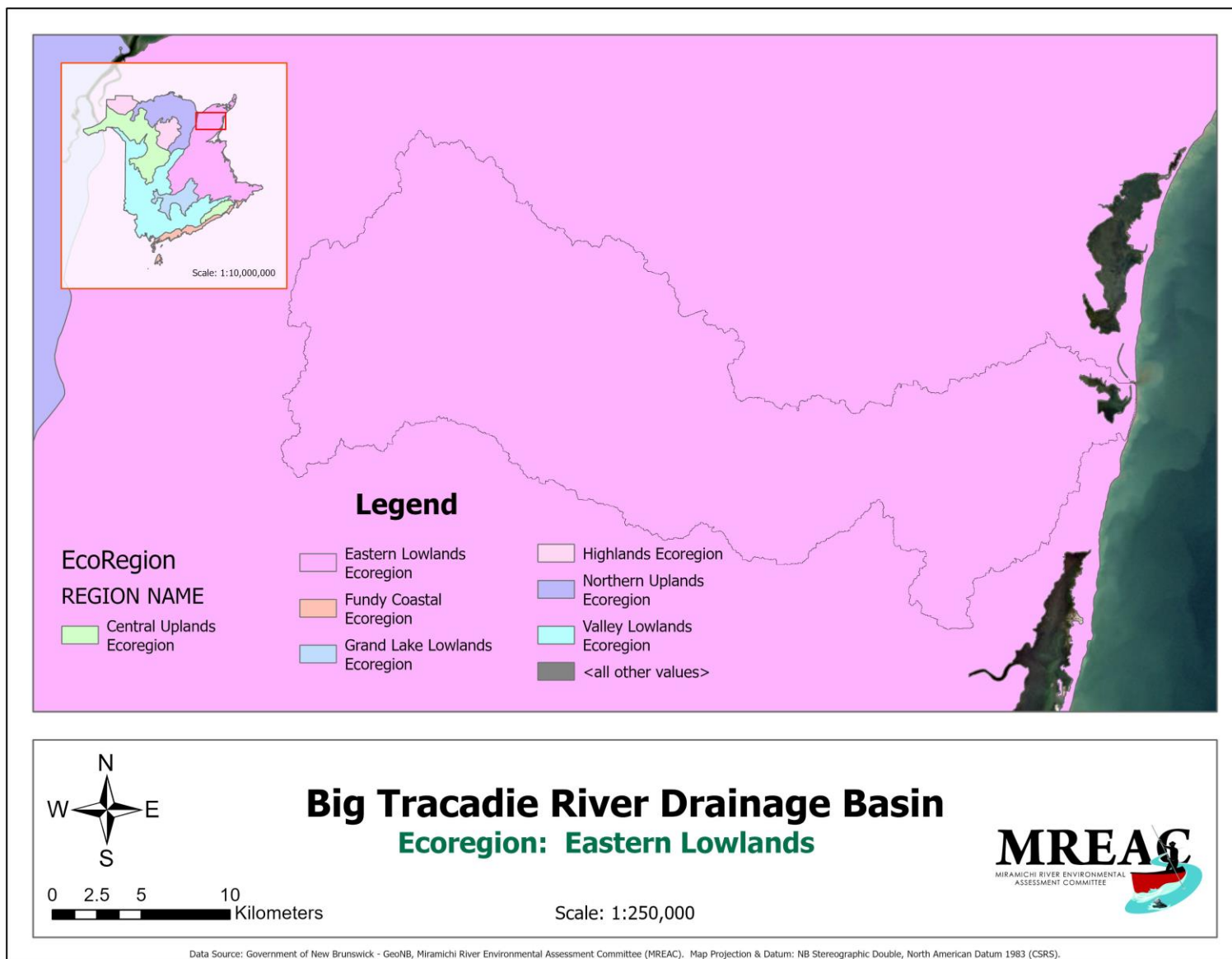


Figure 3 Ecoregions

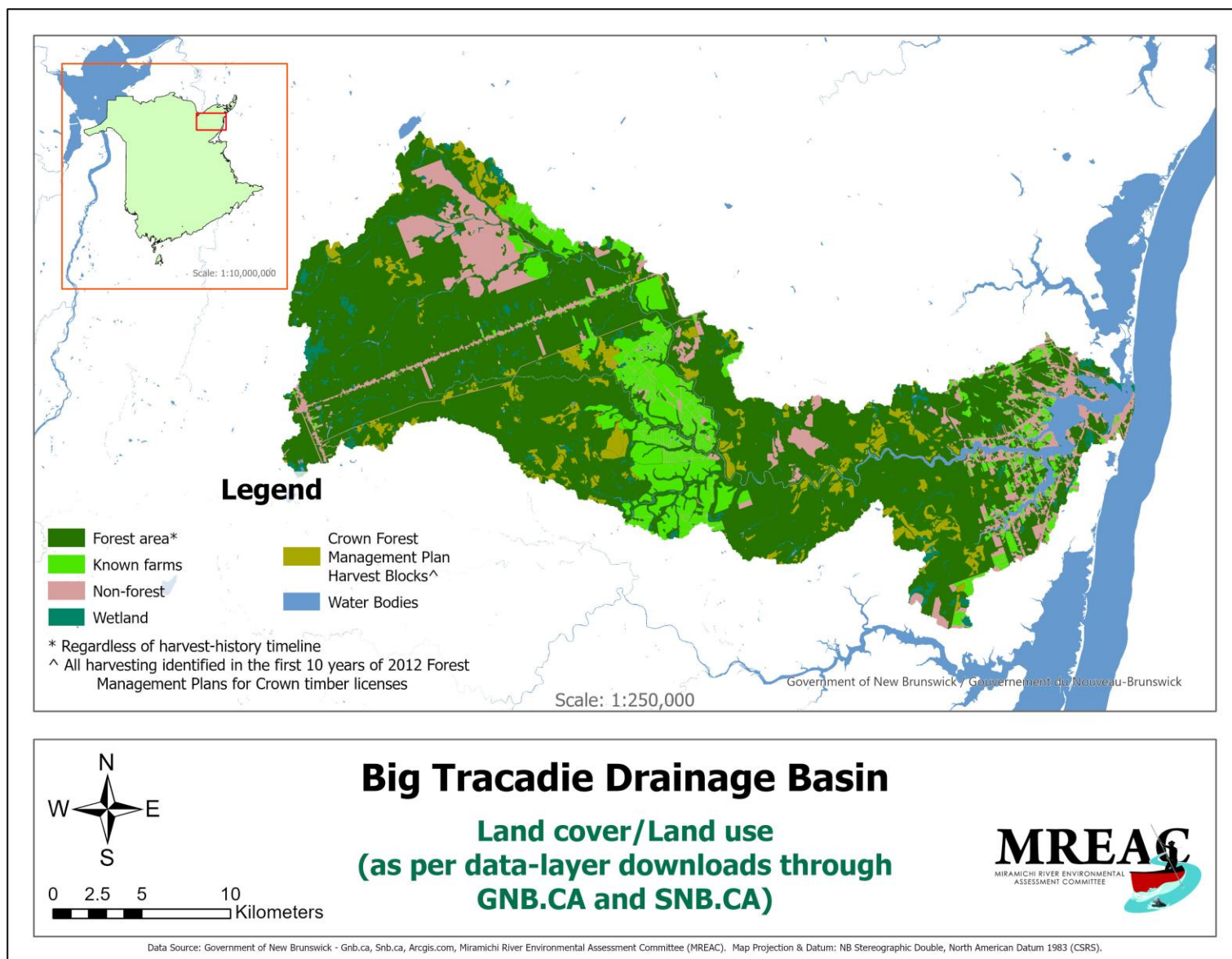


Figure 4 Big Tracadie River Watershed Land Cover/Land Use





*Figure 5 Big Tracadie River Canoe Reconnaissance – pH sampling May 2024*

## 5.0 Bedrock and Surficial Geology

The bedrock geology of the Big Tracadie drainage basin is typical to that of the eastern lowlands ecoregion which is generally composed of grey sandstone and red mudstone. The stratum dates to the Carboniferous (Pennsylvanian) geologic era. Exposed bedrock are a feature of some stretches of the river bottom with little other surficial material as a cover. More commonly the river has a cobble/gravel bottom and suitable habitat for the variety of resident aquatic species.

The surficial geology of the Big Tracadie River basin is primarily composed of silt, sand, gravel, rubble, loamy lodgement till, and minor ablation till. Once tidal influenced waters are reached the waterway becomes a depositional environment. Sandy bottoms and shoals become a common feature in these settings. Wetlands and bogs are more common in the headwaters but do not negatively impact water quality or clarity.

According to Natural Resources and Energy Development data, the watershed is divided between two main bedrock geologies, coded by the DNRED as "MNT-mc" and "RCH-mc". Both are largely sandstone.

MNT-mc: "Grey to greenish grey, fine- to coarse-grained sandstone, pebbly sandstone and quartz pebble rich conglomerate; minor dark grey and maroon mudstone and siltstone; sandstone is commonly brown-weathered, flaggy and plant-bearing."

RCH-mc: "Grey and brownish red, commonly micaceous, lithic and arkosic sandstone, pebbly sandstone, and intraformational mudstone-clast conglomerate; brownish red to brick-red and lesser grey, siltstone and mudstone."

RCH-mc is the bedrock geology of the coastal area of the Eastern Lowlands Ecoregion, generally, and MNT-mc of the inland area of the same, generally. The junction runs north-south across the watershed, dividing the watershed about 1 km downriver of the junction of the Big Tracadie with the Little South Branch Big Tracadie.

Extending into the upper watershed from the southwest and from the northeast directions are two narrow intrusions of dark grey tholeiitic diabase (coded as "CRQ-mi"), each approximately 0.25 km wide. Each of these intrusions terminates about 1 km from the Lord and Foy. The northern intrusion crosses the Route 363 near its intersection with Route 160, just outside of the watershed, and crosses the Big Tracadie shortly below its junction with Meadow Brook. The southern intrusion crosses the upper headwaters of the Little South Branch Big Tracadie.



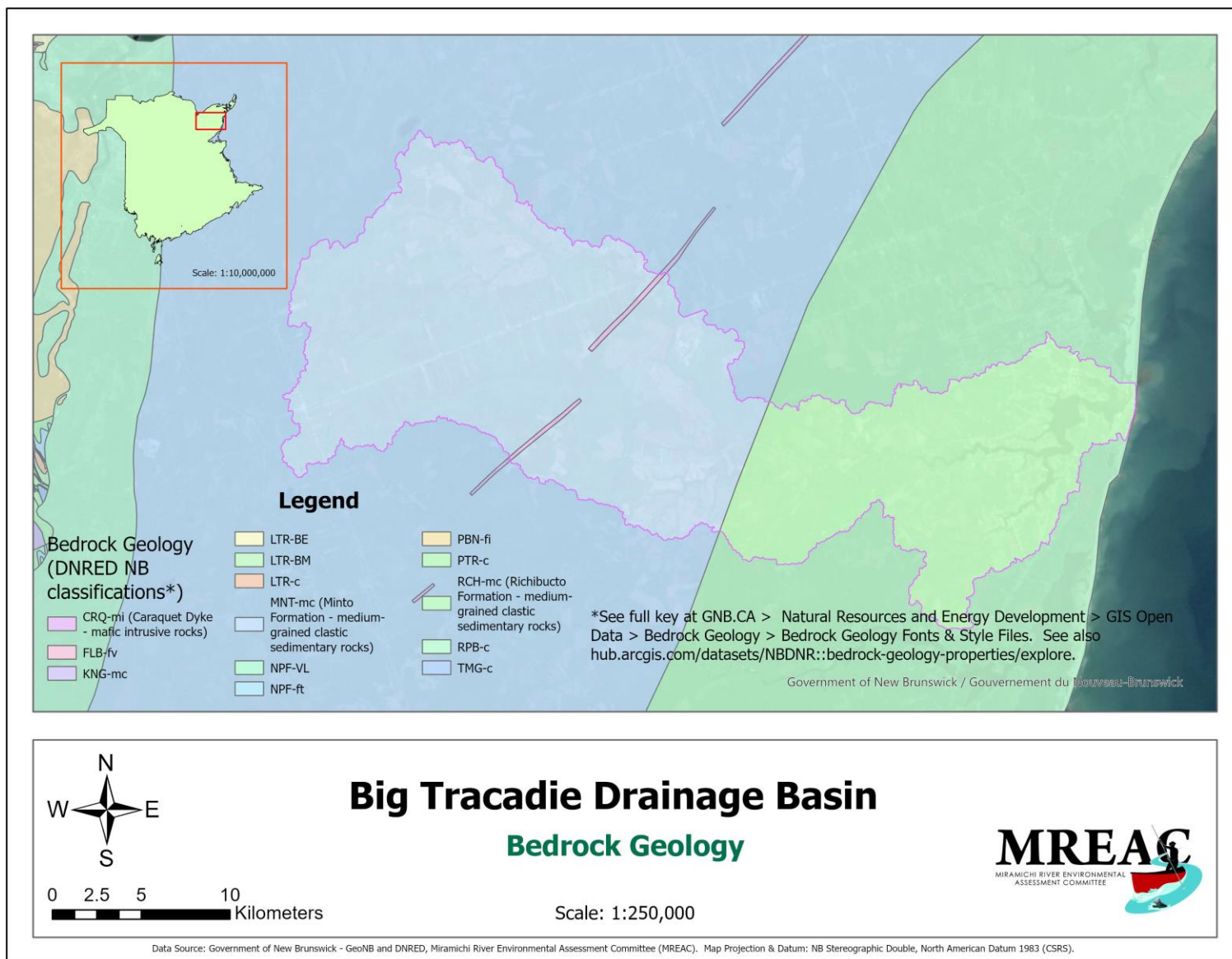


Figure 6 Big Tracadie River Drainage Basin Bedrock Geology

## 6.0 Land Use History, Land Cover and Land Use

The Big Tracadie River watershed has the unique and unenviable status of hosting a former “bombing range”. The area was used for practice bombing runs and artillery training during World War II and well beyond. The area was greater than 18,000 hectares of land west of the town of Tracadie-Sheila. Both the Army and Air Force used the area as a training firing range from 1939 until 1994. When established, the area required the expropriation of properties and removal of residents to other locations. While this area has been returned to the province (1997) there remain areas identified where there is some risk of encountering unexploded ordinances (UXO).

The predominant land-cover on the Big Tracadie River is forest cover and forestry remains a main economic activity on the watershed. Most of the forest harvesting is industrial scale with leased crown land worked by Interfor Corp. Industrial scale blueberry agriculture is quickly expanding with an already large footprint in the watershed. These activities have the greatest anthropogenic impact on the watershed. Private woodlots and smaller privately owned blueberry operations are also common. Both industry sectors have associated spray programs for respective pests. Both sectors also require a buffer zone along waterways. The “agriculture” status of blueberry operations has a 5-meter buffer rather than the 30 meters required in forest harvesting. The Tracadie Fish and Game club, in light of the rapidly expanding blueberry operations, would like to see the blueberry sector adopt wider buffer zones for their operations. They would also like to see regular third-party water quality monitoring following spray operations to determine potential habitat impacts. This monitoring, they feel, should be sponsored by the blueberry sector.

There is no active tracking of the level of recreational fishing activity and even less resource data available on Atlantic salmon. Anglers on the Big Tracadie target Brook trout during the summer months with little expectation of catching Atlantic salmon until the fall run. Recreational fishing for Striped bass fishing has grown dramatically in popularity on the tidal waters over the past decade with the explosion of the Striped bass population in the Gulf of St Lawrence. Striped bass have been caught by anglers as far upstream as Big Brook. The level of predation by Striped bass on Atlantic salmon smolt as they migrate to salt water is a major concern among Atlantic salmon anglers, including those on the Big Tracadie River.

## 7.0 Land Tenure

Much of the crown land on the Big Tracadie watershed is leased out to either industrial scale forestry or blueberry operators. Within the last two decades the blueberry sector on both private and crown lands has expanded rapidly, especially on the Big Tracadie River watershed.

There is a significant corridor of private land ownership along Hwy 160 where it crosses the west end of the Big Tracadie watershed. Another area of private land ownership is along the Tracadie-

Sheila coastal zone and estuarine waters. The split between crown and non-crown land is approximately 55%/45% respectively.

Private woodlot holdings come with the regulations of applying appropriate stewardship principles. These can be provided through the New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners. Forestry operations on crown land come with stewardship regulations, one being a 30m buffer along water ways. Blueberry production however comes under regulations related to agricultural practices. Regulations in this sector allow for a 5-meter buffer along watercourses.

It is noted that nationally, Canada has a target of protecting 30% of its lands by 2030. New Brunswick has a target of protecting 10% of its land area. Recent-year additions through the Nature Legacy Protected Areas initiative have apparently increased protected lands on the Big Tracadie to 12.2%. However, the Tracadie Fishing and Game club members noted that a significant area of protected land from the former Tracadie River Wildlife Management Area appears to be reclassified as agricultural land, with the major portion of the Wildlife Management Area sold off to a large blueberry grower, the sale date being back in 2014-Oct-10 according to SNB Property Assessment Online and SNB Real Property Online, with (possibly relevant) “changes of terms” in 2020-Jan-24 and 2023-Jun-01 in SNB document numbers 39809927 and 43896332, respectively. This property is dissected by the South Branch Big Tracadie and the main branch of the Big Tracadie River, known salmon-bearing streams.

It is the impression of the fish and game club that most industrial land deals are low profile and/or secretive to avoid public scrutiny. The Tracadie Fish and Game Club would like to have active engagement in a public forum when any landscape deals are proposed.

***Recommendation:*** *Strategies to promote the use of best management practices among private woodlot owners can be promoted through the New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners.*

***Recommendation:*** *Strategies to promote shoreline protection and river stewardship should include recreational users, full-time residents, camp and cottage owners.*

Stricter trespass regulations on leased crown lands for agriculture (i.e. blueberries) have also impacted traditional access to waterways. Requiring “written permission” from the landowner and crown land leaseholder is the new requirement. The prospect of getting written permission from industrial scale operations on crown land seems daunting at best. This is another point of frustration for recreational anglers.

## 8.0 Beaver Dams

Beaver dams were typically present on the Big Tracadie River and her tributaries. Low water levels in 2024 allowed these rodents to construct a dam near the mouth of the Lord and Foy



River, one of the larger tributaries. Active beaver dams were left untouched by MREAC staff. The Tracadie fish and game club have expressed interest in seeking approval for a beaver dam notching program to be conducted during the fall spawning run. The Miramichi Salmon Association currently have a WAWA permit to undertake just such a program. No inactive dams were encountered that presented problems to fish passage in 2024. The fish and game club have notched or removed inactive dams in past years.



*Figure 7 Lord and Foy Electrofishing - Beaver Dam Upstream as a Natural Barrier*

Very high river flows in 2023 removed several older, inactive dams based on the strength of flow conditions (Pers. Com. Gilles Sonier - trapper).

***Recommendation:*** *Permits for the annual notching of problematic beaver dams in the late fall during spawning season should be granted to the Tracadie Fish and Game Club to enhance salmon access to headwater spawning sites.*



## 9.0 Habitat Conditions

Past habitat assessment and habitat improvement projects by the former Association des Bassins Versants de la Grande et Petite Rivière Tracadie and the Tracadie Fish and Game Club are acknowledged. Habitat assessments and electrofishing results in 2000 by members of the fish and game club, supported by staff from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, found juvenile Atlantic salmon on the Tracadie River (main branch), South Branch of the Big Tracadie and the Lord and Foy River. Other brooks, the Clearwater and Frank Hyde, did not result in the capture of juvenile salmon. Electrofishing in 2024 confirmed the presence of juvenile salmon on the Big Tracadie (main branch) and the Lord and Foy.

Two detailed habitat surveys were completed in 2024. First, on a one-kilometer reach extending from the mouth of the Lord and Foy one kilometer upstream (Figure 8). The second reach extends from the Hwy 160 bridge crossing over the Big Tracadie River upstream, again for one kilometer. The results of both habitat assessments (Appendix A) showed physical conditions conducive to rearing Atlantic salmon. The data recorded on the “DNR&E / DFO – New Brunswick Stream Habitat Inventory” field forms show that the overall physical characteristics make for favorable conditions in the number and depth of pools, available shade, potential cover with woody debris, bank stability, available shade, vegetated riverbanks and overall environmental conditions. The substrate would allow for nesting activity (i.e. the creation of a salmon redd).

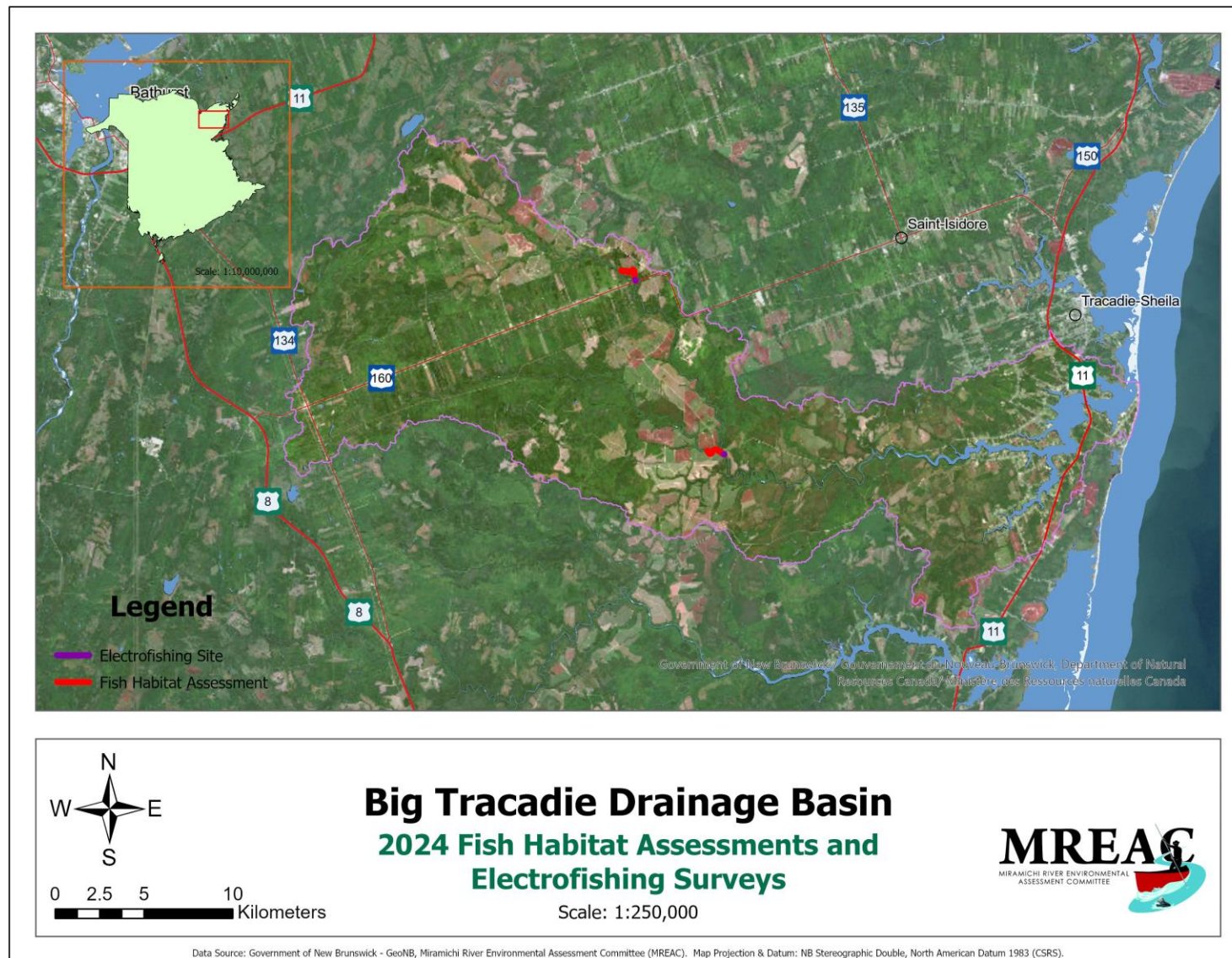
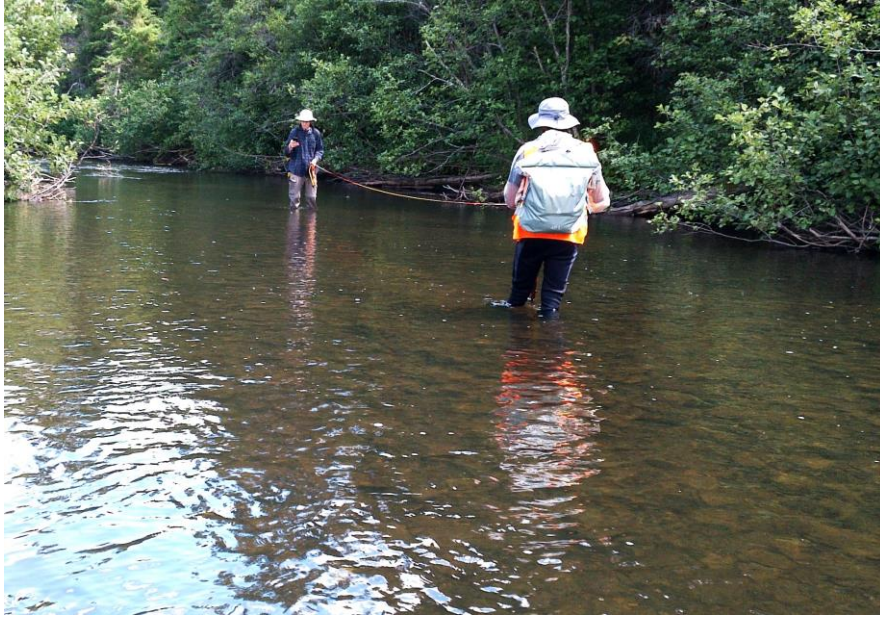


Figure 8 Habitat Surveys and Electrofishing Sites





*Figure 9 Habitat Assessment - Big Tracadie Headwaters*



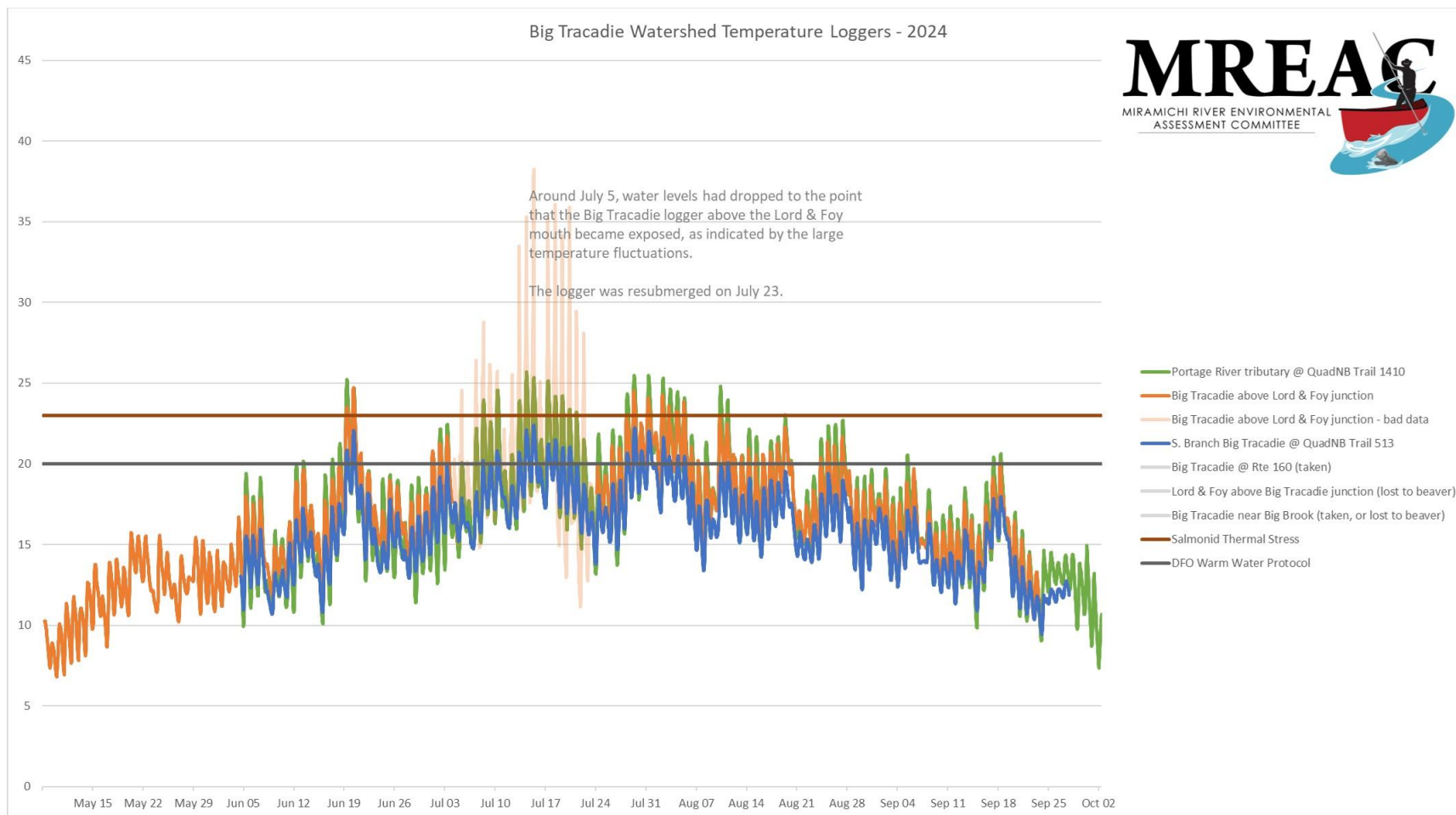
*Figure 10 Habitat Assessment - Lord and Foy River*

Water temperature loggers were deployed at six watershed sites, distributed on the main branch and two tributaries. Only three of these were successfully recovered as noted earlier. The data (Figure 11) show that the Portage River is the more variable with greater highs and lows throughout the monitoring season. The smaller and more shaded South Branch of the Big Tracadie showed the consistently lower temperature readings. All three stations exceeded the recognized stress level for salmonids for a number of days in mid July and again in late July.

Higher temperatures and low water levels of the summer normally prohibit an early run of Atlantic salmon. This was true in 2024. Testimonial evidence informed that the very high flows in 2023 resulted in salmon entering the headwaters earlier than normal. However, as a “fall-run river”, adult salmon and grilse are not as at-risk due to the stresses of low water and high temperatures. Resident juvenile salmon will seek out cooler water conditions to wait out the warm-water season. With a warming climate is becoming increasingly important to protect cold water sources to continue to provide refuges for juvenile salmonids.

The three temperature loggers recovered provide profiles that extend four to five months. All were deployed in the spring and extracted in the fall.





*Figure 11 Water Temperature Profiles - Tracadie River and Tributaries*

***Recommendation:*** *The Big Tracadie River watershed should be included in an annual comprehensive monitoring program of water temperature and other environmental parameters to monitor long-term trends with the intent of providing special protection of colder water streams and pools as fish refuges.*

Two electrofishing sites were fished by Mr. Rod Currie, fish biologist, on September 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> respectively. Mr. Currie was assisted by MREAC staff and volunteers. The electrofishing team (Figure 12) found the electrofishing results much better than anticipated and were encouraged by both fry and parr abundance (Figure 13). Electrofishing data is presented later in this report and with added detail in Appendix D and E.



Figure 12 Electrofishing on the Lord and Foy River





Figure 13 Atlantic Salmon Parr - Lord and Foy River

## 9.1 Electrofishing Results – Lord and Foy River

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	<b>Electrofishing results at Lord &amp; Foy near junction with Big Tracadie, Sep. 24, 2024</b>									
2	<b>Species</b>	<b>MicroFish 3.0 Population Estimate</b>							<b>Total catch over 3 runs</b>	
3		Per: 171.5 sq m			Per 100 sq m			Data adjustment required?*	171.5 sq m	Adjusted to 100 sq m
4		Max-likelihood	95 % confidence interval		Max-likelihood	95 % confidence interval				
5			Low	High		Low	High			
6	Fry	78	54	102	45.5	31.5	59.5	No	61	35.6
7	Parr	38	33	43	22.2	19.2	25.1	No	36	21.0
8	Brook trout	11	8	14	6.4	4.7	8.2	No	11	6.4
9	Sculpin	19	6	32	11.1	3.5	18.7	No	15	8.7
10	Three-spined stickleback	2	> 0	7	1.2	> 0	4.1	No	2	1.2
11	Lake Chub								17	9.9
12	Lamprey								7	4.1
13	Sucker								23	13.4
14	American eel								2	1.2
15										
16		* Part of a catch may be attributed to an earlier run if there is a non-descending catch pattern								
17										

The Lord and Foy electrofishing results were very encouraging, as the estimates above show. R.A. Currie (fisheries biologist) had not seen such productivity for a “long time”.

The electrofishing data analysis was completed using MicroFish 3.0, by Van Deventer, J.S., and Platts, W.S. 1989. This is a software program for generating population statistics from electrofishing data. The same analysis was applied to the electrofishing site on the Big Tracadie River at Hwy 160.

## 9.2 Electrofishing Results – Big Tracadie River at Hwy 160

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	<b>Electrofishing results at Big Tracadie above Rte. 160, Sep. 28, 2024</b>									
2	<b>Species</b>	<b>MicroFish 3.0 Population Estimate</b>							<b>Total catch over 4 runs</b>	
3		Per: 419.1 sq m			Per 100 sq m			Data adjustment required?*	419.1 sq m	Adjusted to 100 sq m
4		Max-likelihood	95 % confidence interval		Max-likelihood	95 % confidence interval				
5			Low	High		Low	High			
6	Fry	367	269	465	87.6	64.2	111.0	Yes	238	56.8
7	Parr	9	8	10	2.1	1.9	2.4	No	9	2.1
8	Brook trout	15	3	27	3.6	0.7	6.4	Yes	12	2.9
9	Sculpin	174	144	204	41.5	34.4	48.7	No	140	33.4
10	Three-spined stickleback	8	5	11	1.9	1.2	2.6	No	8	1.9
11	Lamprey	3	> 0	6	0.7	> 0	1.4	Yes	3	0.7
12										
13										
14		* Part of a catch may be attributed to an earlier run if there is a non-descending catch pattern								
15										

## 10.0 Water Quality and Quantity

Water quality monitoring on the Big Tracadie River watershed indicated that conditions are acceptable to support fish populations, including Atlantic salmon. Appendix C shows the results of two general chemistry suites of samples taken in 2024 from the Big Tracadie at Big Brook and at the mouth of the Lord and Foy River. These samples were analyzed at the RPC Laboratory (Fredericton). These results were compared to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment’s (CCME) Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life. No issues were noted. MREAC also sampled the Big Tracadie for cyanobacteria for both Algal Toxins Anatoxin-a and Microcystins. No cyanobacteria were detected.



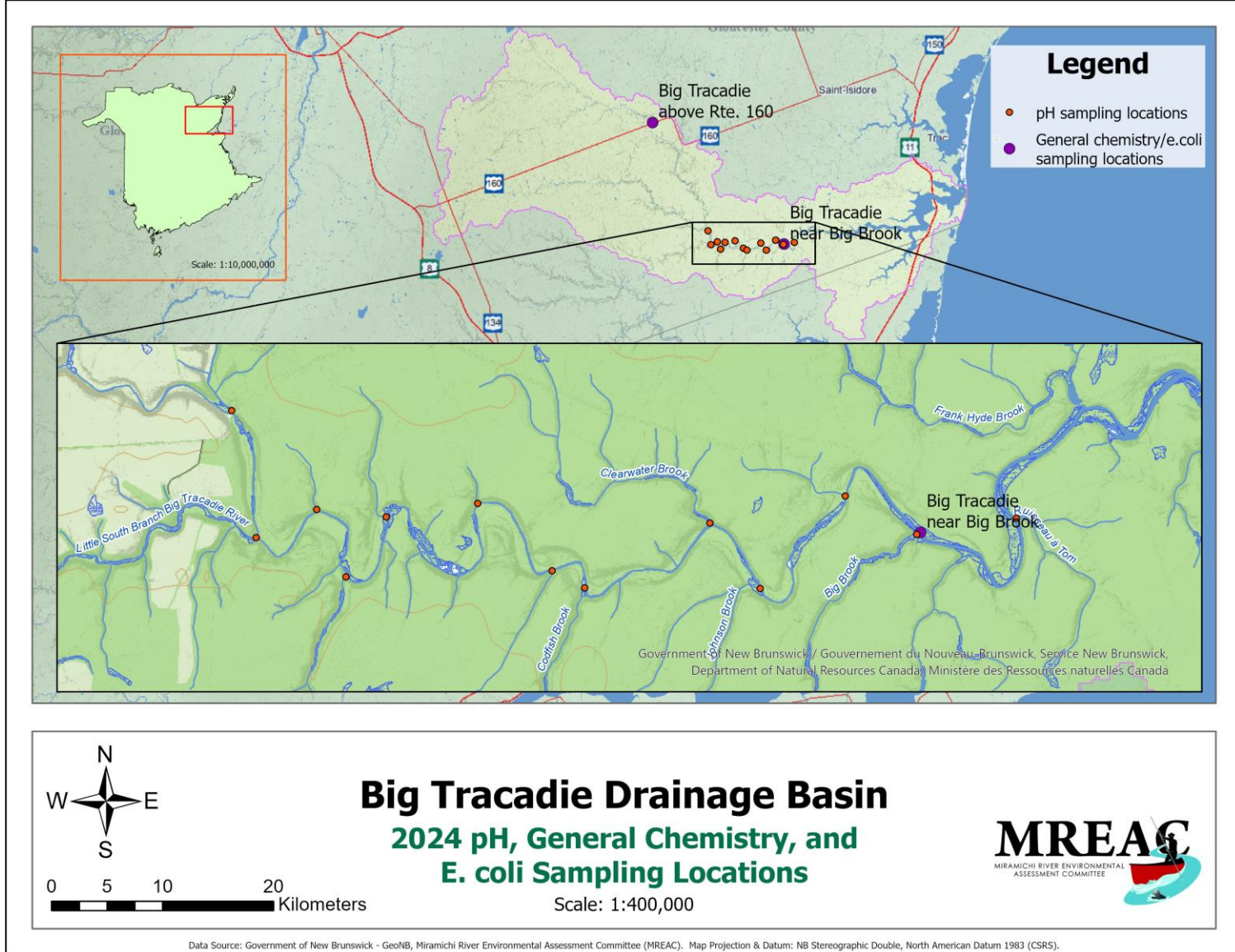


Figure 14 Water Quality Monitoring Sites - Big Tracadie River Watershed

Water temperature is an issue that has increasingly become a stress factor for Atlantic salmon in eastern New Brunswick rivers, including the Big Tracadie. Heat stress and low water conditions dictate a fall spawning run for both grilse and larger salmon. Water quantity is often another factor limiting fish movement. In 2024 low rainfall amounts resulted in very low-flow conditions. These are now typical conditions and spawning salmon respond in kind to enter freshwater to spawn only when conditions allow.

Other water parameters were taken throughout this project. Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels have been acceptable in repeated monitoring over multiple visits. The river's pH values are also within an acceptable range. Regular monitoring of these parameters was commonplace when the watershed association was active. These are no longer monitored on a regular basis.

***Recommendation:*** *The Big Tracadie River should be included in a comprehensive monitoring program of water temperature in eastern New Brunswick rivers to monitor long-term trends with the intent of providing special protection of colder water streams and pools as fish refuges.*

***Recommendation:*** *Monitoring of the Big Tracadie for dissolved oxygen, pH levels and conductivity should continue annually throughout the open water season.*

Sedimentation issues appear to be minimal. Industrial level forest harvesters comply with the 30m buffer zone along waterways. Some river fording sites were noted in the spring river reconnaissance, but none seemed to contribute significant sediment to the watercourse. As an indicator of lower sedimentation levels, there is no extensive delta where the waterway becomes influenced by tides. Results in 2024 from sampling the general chemistry of Big Tracadie River and her tributaries did not flag any specific compounds that would limit habitat conditions for Atlantic salmon. (See Appendix C.)

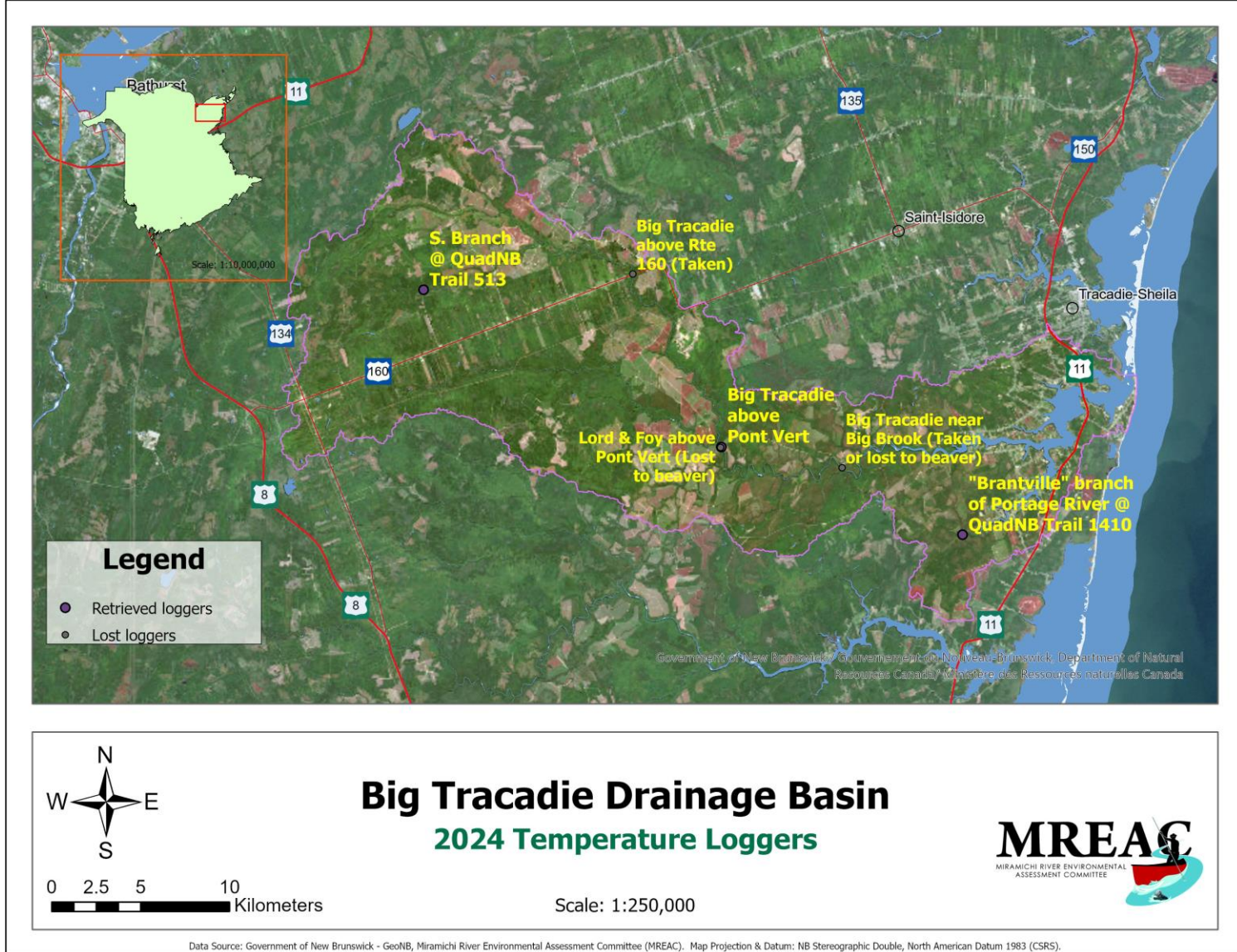


Figure 15 Temperature Logger Locations - Big Tracadie River Watershed



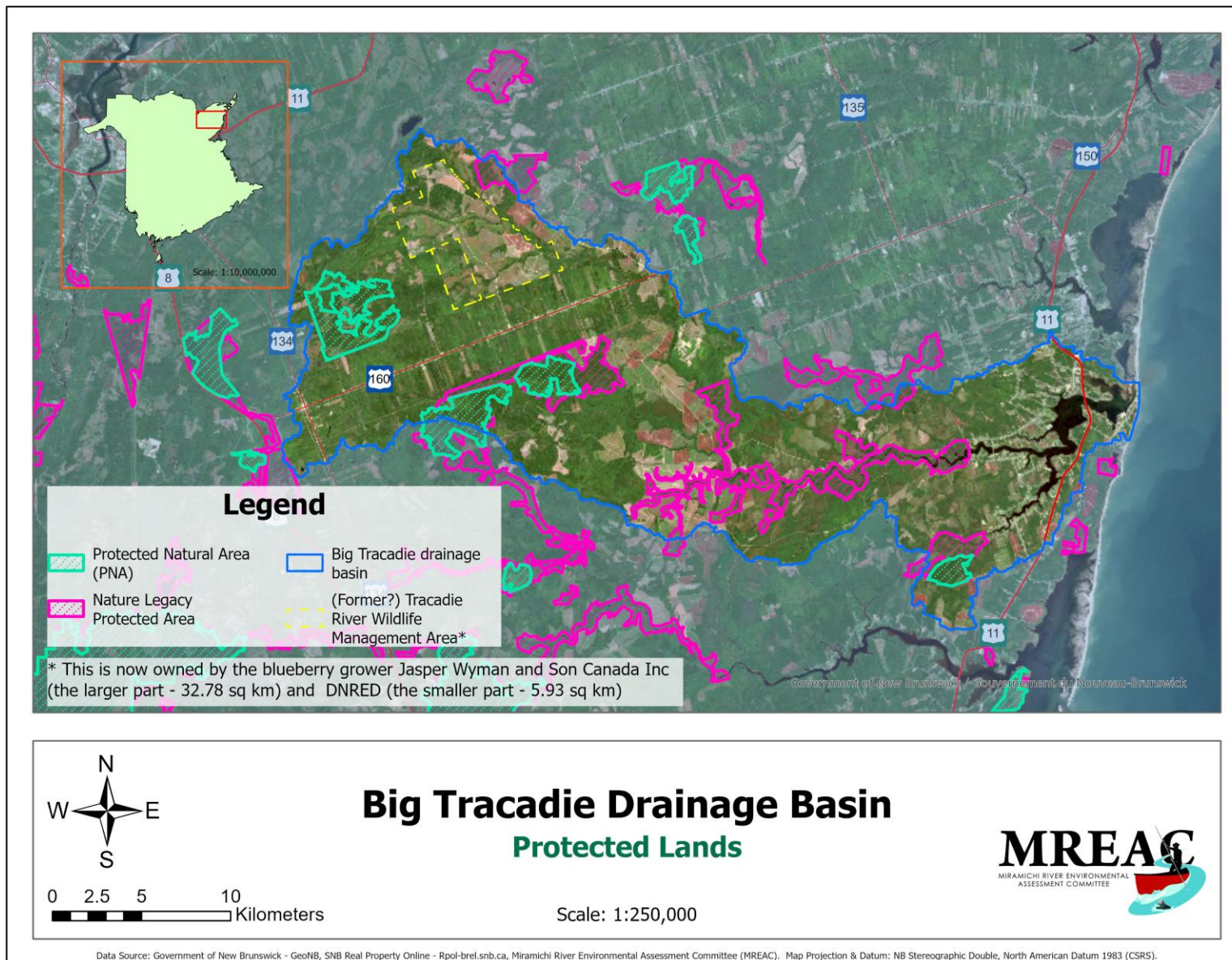


Figure 16 Protected Land





*Figure 17 Blueberry Fields Dominate Large Areas of the Watershed*

## 11.0 Conclusion

The Big Tracadie River watershed remains an intact waterway with an extant and stable Atlantic salmon population. The watercourse is not currently a significant destination for recreational salmon anglers due to its scale and relatively low profile. Local anglers are fine with the idea of having a ‘hidden jewel’ of a waterway without much external competition for angling waters.

Juvenile salmon productivity appears strong from results of monitoring in 2024. The threat of poaching of existing stocks is flagged as an issue via testimonial reports but its impact is unknown. The ‘catch and release’ regulation that now applies throughout New Brunswick has reduced salmon angling on the Big Tracadie as it has elsewhere in the province. The limited fishing pressure on this waterway suggests the available Atlantic salmon stock is not in peril from legitimate recreational angling.

MREAC monitoring and research on the Big Tracadie River was important to the development of this strategy as limited recent or historic information was available. These data are included in this strategy and display an intact and relatively healthy watershed,

Climate change impacts, as they increase, will be problematic on this waterway. Salmonids already suffer high temperatures during the peak heat of most summers. Larger Atlantic salmon and grilse are at sea for most of the warm water conditions. Habitat conditions for juvenile salmon will likely get more stressful in the face of warming conditions. Apart from high temperatures and often low water quantity during hot dry summers, other water quality parameters seem acceptable for Atlantic salmon survival.

Industrial scale forestry using clear-cutting methods is a major industrial use of the headwaters of the Big Tracadie watershed. Along with other rivers in New Brunswick, it continues to be “flashy”, with quickly rising and quickly falling water levels associated with larger rainfall events. The riparian zone along the Big Tracadie is in generally good shape and with a narrow channel that offers good shading and some pools. The accepted 5-meter buffer zone for agricultural operations, including blueberry operations, is problematic.

Based on the data, visual observations recorded, and personal communications, the Big Tracadie watershed appears to have a significant production of Atlantic salmon. While poorly known, the limited pressure from recreational fishers suggest that the existing salmon stock is currently secure. The prospect of seeding this waterway with salmon eggs from brood stock collected on the river should be explored. In the interim, implementing the recommendations from this conservation strategy will assist in stabilizing the Atlantic salmon stock over the shorter-term.

***Recommendation:*** *Seeding the Big Tracadie watershed with salmon eggs from brood stock collected from the river should be explored and implemented, if feasible.*

All this considered, the future of Atlantic salmon in eastern New Brunswick waterways, including the Big Tracadie River, seems more likely to be determined by far reaching and challenging global factors rather than local limiting conditions.

## 12.0 Summary of Recommendations

**Recommendation:** Permits for the annual notching of problematic beaver dams in the late fall during spawning season should be granted to the Tracadie Fish and Game Club to enhance salmon access to headwater spawning sites.

**Recommendation:** The Big Tracadie River watershed should be included in an annual comprehensive monitoring program of water temperature and other environmental parameters to monitor long-term trends with the intent of providing special protection of colder water streams and pools as fish refuges.

**Recommendation:** Monitoring of water quality should continue annually in late-winter, spring and throughout the field season as part of a watershed monitoring program.

**Recommendation:** Strategies to promote shoreline protection and river stewardship should include recreational users, full-time residents, camp and cottage owners.

**Recommendation:** When feasible, the Big Tracadie River should be assessed using “ARIS Sonar Population Tracking” to determine the size of the annual spawning population.

**Recommendation:** A real-time monitoring station should be installed in the Tracadie River watershed to track water temperatures and serve as the trigger to institute a “warm water protocol” as needed to reduce stress to salmonids.

**Recommendation:** Monitoring of the Big Tracadie for dissolved oxygen, pH levels and conductivity should continue annually throughout the open water season. .

**Recommendation:** Strategies to promote the use of best management practices among private woodlot owners can be promoted through the New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners.

**Recommendation:** Seeding the Big Tracadie watershed (main branch) with salmon fry taken from brood stock collected from the river should be explored and implement if feasible.

## References

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- <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/uxo/uxo-locations/practicing-uxo-safety-tracadie-range.html>



## Appendix A: Fish Habitat Assessment Sheets – Lord and Foy and Big Tracadie Rivers

04-98

DNR&E / DFO - NEW BRUNSWICK  
STREAM HABITAT INVENTORY

1 of 2

River: Lord's Fay  
No.           
Personnel: Neil/Malcolm/Harry  
No.

Start Point: Confluence  
Date: July 23 / 2024

End Point: N 47° 26.8' 46.2' W 65° 11.5' 44.1'  
GIS Map No.

Drainage Code:                                
Drainage Name: Tracadie River

Reach No.	Unit No.	Stream Type	Channel Type	Length (m)	Avg Width (m)		Substrate (%)							Avg Depth Wet Width (m)	0-50% Undercut Bank		0-50% Overhanging Vegetation		Large Woody Debris in Stream (m)	Flows *			Embeddedness (Criteria)	Comments	Checklist of Land Use Attributes (Comments)		
					Wet	Bank Channel	Bed-Rock	Boulder	Rock	Rubble	Gravel	Sand	Fines		L	R	L	R		Type	Flow (m/s)	Time				Temp (C)	
																										W	A
1		13	1	39	6	10.2	-	5	75	20	5	0	29	0	0	45	35	4	1	0.5	10:00 AM	15	21	1		1. ACTIVE BEAVER DAM 2. INACTIVE BEAVER DAM 3. WOODY DEBRIS (OBSTRUCTION) 4. MAN-MADE DAM OBSTRUCTION 5. ROCK DAM (SWIMMING POOL) 6. UNDAID STREAM CHANNELS 7. OBSTRUCTION IN STREAM 8. ROAD FORD  POLLUTION CAUSED BY: 9. FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY 10. FOREST INDUSTRY 11. CAMPSITES OR RESIDENTIAL 12. MINING 13. LITTER 14. OIL 15. AGRICULTURE WASTE 16. HEALTH HAZARD  17. CLEAR CUT TO STREAM EDGE 18. SELECTIVE CUT 19. BUFFER STRIP PRESENT  20. CATTLE CROSSING 21. EROSION FROM AGRICULTURE 22. SUSPENDED SILT NOTED 23. UNUSUAL STREAM SCOURING 24. LARGE BEDLOAD DEPOSIT 25. BANK EROSION - MODERATE 26. BANK EROSION - EXCESSIVE 27. STREAM DREDGING/BULDOZING 28. GRAVEL REMOVAL 29. CHANNELIZATION (BIFRAP, ETC) 30. STREAM DIVERSION  31. WATER WITHDRAWAL 32. REGULATED STREAM FLOW 33. CAM/COTTAGE PRESENT 34. RESIDENTIAL AREA 35. ACCESS - ATV'S 36. ACCESS - TRAILS 37. ACCESS - TRUCK/CAR 38. ACCESS - BOAT  39. ROAD CROSSING (BRIDGE) 40. ROAD CROSSING (CULVERT) 41. BOAT LANDING  42. ORGANIC LITTER 43. AQUATIC PLANTS ABUNDANT  44. GOOD SPAWNING 45. GOOD NURSERY 46. ATLANTIC SALMON OBSERVED 47. BROOK TROUT OBSERVED	
2		18	1	142	10	15.7	-	5	80	20	10	5	30	0	0	30	30	18	1	0.4	17.5	22	1				
3		3	1	32	6.8	13	-	10	60	20	10	0	0	0	25	20	-	1	0.22	17.5	23	1					
4		8	1	60	7.5	10.6	-	10	60	20	10	0	0	0	30	35	-	1	0.28	18.0	23	1					
5		3	1	32	10	15.5	-	10	55	25	10	0	0	0	30	35	18	1	0.15	18.1	23	1					
6		8	1	55	9	11	-	10	55	25	10	0	0	0	35	40	12	1	0.10	18.1	23	1					
7		3	1	52	7.5	15.6	-	10	55	30	5	0	0	0	35	20	12	1	0.4	18.1	23	1					
8		8	1	55	10.6	12.5	-	10	55	30	5	0	0	0	20	20	10	1	0.5	18.5	23	1					
9		3	1	37	10.8	12.8	-	10	55	30	5	0	5	5	25	25	3	1	0.4	18.4	23	1					

STREAM TYPE

FASTWATER

1. Fall  
2. Cascade  
3. Riffle (C/R/B)  
4. Riffle (R/B)  
5. Riffle (Sand)

POOLS

6. Sheet (ledge)  
7. Chute  
8. Run  
9. Rapid  
10. Midchannel  
11. Convergence  
12. Lateral  
13. Beaver  
14. Trench  
15. Plunge  
16.  
17. Bogus  
18. Eddy  
19. Geyser  
20. Log Structure  
21. Road Crossing

CHANNEL TYPE

1. Main (if measurement refers to main area of river)  
\* 2. Side Channel (water diverted by islands)  
\* 3. Split (if river is split into various different stream types)  
\* 4. Bogus  
\* Specify Left (L), Right (R) or Middle (M)

SUBSTRATE

1. Bedrock, Ledge  
2. Boulder  
3. Rock  
4. Rubble  
5. Gravel  
6. Sand  
7. Fines  
> 661 mm  
180 - 660 mm  
54 - 179 mm  
2.5 - 53 mm  
0.06 - 25 mm  
0.003 - 0.03 mm

FLOW TYPE

1. Survey stream  
2. Spring  
3. Brook / River Tributary  
4. Spring Seep

POOL RATING (reverse side)

CRITERIA NO.

% OF POOLS IN SITE (LETTER)



REACH NO.	SITE (50m Interval)	% SITE		SHADE (%)	STREAM BANKS										O <sub>2</sub> (mg/l)	pH	DEPTH						POOL RATING (CRITERIA ON OTHER SIDE)		POOL TAIL			
		RIFPLE RUN	POOLS		VEGETATION (%)				EROSION (%)								¼ (m)		½ (m)		¾ (m)		NO.	LETTER	EMBEDDEDNESS (CRITERIA) 1: ≤ 20% 2: 20% - 35% 3: 35% - 50% 4: ≥ 50%	MEAN SUBSTRATE SIZE (cm)	% FINE	% TURBU- LENCE
					BARE GROUND	GRASSES	SHRUBS	TREES	LEFT BANK (0 - 50%)			RIGHT BANK (0 - 50%)					Wet	CHANNEL	Wet	CHANNEL	Wet	CHANNEL						
									STABLE	BARE STABLE	ERODING	STABLE	BARE STABLE	ERODING														
1	1	100	-	40	-	-	100	-	50	-	-	50	-	-	10.32	8.04	29		23		16		-	-	1	8	10	100
2		100	-	20	3	15	80	2	30	15	2	45	5	0	10.52	8.04	30	137	56	147	40	155	-	-	1	8	5	5
3		100	-	15	10	20	60	10	25	25	0	25	25	0	10.52	8.04	31	143	41	161	30	144	-	-	1	8	5	100
4		100	-	20	5	15	80	-	25	25	0	25	25	0	10.33	8.0	37	97	23	84	16	66	-	-	1	8	5	0
5		100		20	10	80	-	40	10	10	30	5	10		"	"	12	41	12	43	20	53	-	-	1	7	5	100
6		100		15	-	5	95	-	30	20	-	45	5	0	"	"	29	76	36	93	37	94	-	-	1	7	5	0
7		90	10	15	-	5	95	-	30	20	-	45	5	0	"	"	7	79	25	68	62	110	2	b	1	7	5	0
8		100	-	15	-	15	85	10	30	20	-	30	20	-	10.2	7.8	16	63	20	59	21	55	-	-	1	7		
9		100	-	10	5	5	80	10	30	20	-	30	15	5	10.01	7.8	10	46	15	44	25	62	-	-				

REACH NO.	UNIT NO.	STREAM TYPE	WEIR WIDTH (m)	DEPTH (cm)			AVERAGE DEPTH SUM/4		COEFFICIENT (0.9 - SMOOTH) (0.8 - ROUGH)	LENGTH (m)	FLOAT TIME (sec)				COMMENTS (LOCATION)
				1/4 WAY	1/2 WAY	3/4 WAY	CENTIMETERS (cm)	METERS (m)			1/4 WAY	1/2 WAY	3/4 WAY	AVERAGE	

FORMULA (CMS)

$$C = \frac{W \times D \times A \times L}{T}$$

(m) x D (m) x A (m) x L (m)  
T (sec)

Where:

W = width, D = depth, L = length, A is coefficient for the stream bottom



DNR&E / DFO - NEW BRUNSWICK  
STREAM HABITAT INVENTORY

River: Lord's Key  
No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Personnel: Neil/Harry/Malcolm  
No. \_\_\_\_\_

Start Point: Green Bridge  
Date: July 23/24

End Point: N47°26.8462 W65°11.5441

Drainage Code: □□    □□    □□    □□    □□

Drainage Name: Tracadie River NB

[illegible]



[illegible]

FORMULA (CMS) =  $\frac{W \times D \times A \times L}{T}$  Where: W = width, D = depth, L = length, A is coefficient for the stream bottom



River  
 No.  
 River  
 No.

31-80  
40-84  
42-87

16/115/108.5/27.5/104/109.6  
DNR&E / DFO - NEW BRUNSWICK  
STREAM HABITAT INVENTORY

24/144/53-143 60-136 **1.1**

1. 1

River: Big Tracadie River Start Point: N 47° 32' 1510 WGS84 147 End Point: N 47° 32' 4117 WGS84 1124  
No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Personnel: Nail/Middle/Harry Date: Aug 7/2024 GIS Map No. \_\_\_\_\_

Drainage Cycles    □□    □□    □□    □□    □□

Drainage Name: Big Troncodine River

14/10 22/100  
23/100

RACE NO.	UNIT NO.	STREAM TYPE	CHANNEL TYPE	LENGTH (m)	AVG WIDTH (m)		SUBSTRATE (%)							AVG DEPTH (m)	8-10% UNDERCUT BANK		6-10% OVERHANGING VEGETATION		LARGE WOODY OBSTACLE IN STREAM (%)	FLOW*				CRITERIA#	COMMENTS	CHECKLIST OF LAND USE ATTRIBUTES (COMMENTS)				
					WET	RAVE CHANNEL	BED-ROCK	BOULDER	ROCK	SILT	GRAVEL	SAND	FIBER		L	R	L	R		TYPE	FLOW (m³/sec)	TIME	TEMP (°C)							
																							W				A			
1		8	1	250	10.5	13.2	-	-	-	20	75	5	-	37.6	-	-	5	5	55	1	2.5	12.50	24	1			1. ACTIVE BEAVER DAM 2. BEAVER DAM 3. WOODY OBSTACLE (OBSTRUCTION) 4. MANMADE DAM OBSTRUCTION 5. ROCK DAM (OBSTRUCTION) 6. BRUSHED STREAM CHANNELS 7. OBSTRUCTION IN STREAM 8. ROADBED			
2		3	1	50	17.5	22.5	-	-	-	20	75	5	-	11.8	-	-	5	5	2	1	2.1	12.50	24	1			POLLUTION CHANGES BY: 9. FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY 10. FISHING INDUSTRY 11. CHEMICAL OR INDUSTRIAL 12. MINING 13. LITTER 14. OIL 15. AGRICULTURE WASTE 16. WASTEWATER TREATMENT			
3		8	1	600	14	21.5	-	-	50	45	5	-	42.3	-	-	5	5	46	1	3.1	13.17	25	1			17. CLEAR CUT TO STREAM EDGE 18. SELECTIVE CUT 19. WINTER STRIP FOREST				
4		3	1	28	7.3	9.6	-	10	60	25	5	-	19.6	-	-	5	5	1	1	9.1	15.70	25	1			20. CATTLE CROSSING 21. BURNING FROM AGRICULTURE 22. SUBSIDIZED DIRT ROADS 23. UNIVERSAL STREAM CROSSING 24. LARGE BURNING OBSTACLE 25. BARE EROSION - MICROBIAL 26. BARE EROSION - MACROBIAL 27. STREAM EROSION/WALL DOING 28. GRAVEL BURNING 29. CHANNEL SEASON (BURIAL, ETC.) 30. STREAM DIVERSION				
5		8	1	72	12.8	14.5	5	5	40	30	15	5	60.6	-	-	5	5	1	1	4.4	14.00	25	1			31. WATER RETENTIONAL 32. INSULATED STREAM FLOW 33. CAMP/COTTAGE PERMIT 34. ENVIRONMENTAL AREA 35. ACCESS - ATYP 36. ACCESS - TRAILS 37. ACCESS - DRUG CAR 38. ACCESS - BOAT  39. ROAD CROSSING (BRIDGE) 40. ROAD CROSSING (CULVERT) 41. ROAD LANDING  42. ORGANIC LITTER 43. AQUATIC PLANTS ABUNDANT  44. GOOD BRANCHING 45. GOOD HUSKIE 46. ATLANTIC SALMON OBSERVED 47. BROOK TROUT OBSERVED				
STREAM TYPE																			CHANNEL TYPE				SUBSTRATE				FLOW TYPE		POOL RATING (see note 4)	
FASTWATER				POOLS																					CRITERIA NO.		% OF POOLS WITH (SEE NOTE)			
1. Fall	4. Short Bridge	16. Mid-Sound	14. Trench	18. Shady	21. Weed Debris	1. Main (if measurement taken to main side of river)	1. Redwood, Lodge	> 60 mm	1. Shallow stream	POOL DEPTH ≥ 1.5m	a = > 50%																			
2. Cascade	7. Chute	15. Convergence	15. Flange	19. Gravel	22. Man-Made Dam	* 2. Side Channel (water directed by islands)	2. Boulder	120 - 600 mm	2. Deeply shaded	1 + bottom cover ≥ 20%	b = > 10 to 20%																			
3. Riffle (shallow)	8. Run	12. Lateral	16.	20. Log Structure	M. Natural Obstruction	* 3. Split (if river is split into various different stream types)	3. Rock	30 - 120 mm	3. Spilling	2 + bottom cover < 20%	c = < 10%																			
4. Riffle (deep)	9. Rapid	13. Steeper	17. Dipnet	22. Road Crossing		* 4. Dipnet	4. Rubble		4. Shallow	POOL DEPTH < 1.5m	a = < 50%																			
							5. Canal	2.5 - 33 mm	5. Deep / Shallow Tributary	1 + bottom cover ≥ 50%	b = > 50%																			
							6. Sand	6.00 - 2.5 mm	6. Spring Drop	1 + bottom cover > 20%	c = > 20%																			

## Appendix B: pH Results from the Big Tracadie River and Tributary Streams May 8<sup>th</sup> 2024

	GPS Coordinates		Brook/river sampled	River Right/Left	pH	Temp - C	DO mg/L	SPC us/cm
1	N47° 26.84'	W65° 10.91'	Main branch Big Tracadie at Lord & Foy junction	n/a	8.24	7.8	10.96	74.9
2	N47° 26.161'	W65° 10.728'	Little South Branch	R.R.	7.4	7.6	11.85	60
3	N47° 26.305'	W65° 10.248'	Brook @ N47° 26.305' W65° 10.248'	R.L.	8.27	5.4		
4	N47° 25.942'	W65° 10.026'	Gionne Brook (local name?) - N47° 25.942' W65° 10.026'	R.R.	7.91	7.7	7.7	51.4
5	N47° 26.259'	W65° 09.702'	Ruisseau de la Mollasse	R.L.	8.14	6.8		
6	N47° 26.323'	W65° 08.977'	Brook @ N47° 26.323' W65° 08.977'	R.L.	8.03	7.3		
7	N47° 25.957'	W65° 08.400'	Brook @ N47° 25.957' W65° 08.400'	R.R.	8.09	6.4		
8	N47° 25.863'	W65° 08.146'	Codfish Brook	R.R.	7.86	9.5		
9	N47° 26.196'	W65° 07.151'	Clearwater Brook	R.L.	7.8	8.7		
10	N47° 25.843'	W65° 06.765'	Johnson Brook	R.R.	7.3	10	3.59	33.9
11	N47° 26.329'	W65° 06.080'	Albert Richardson Brook (local name?) - N47° 26.329' W65° 06.080'	R.L.	7.75	8.2		
12	N47° 26.116'	W65° 05.523'	Big Brook	R.R.	7.68	10.8	3	34.4
13	N47° 26.194'	W65° 04.737'	Ruisseau à Tom	R.R.	7.78	11.6		



# Appendix C: General Chemistry and E. coli Results from the Big Tracadie Watershed

Apr. 17, 2024 sampling - Across from GeoNB's *Big Brook* (here labelled as Isaie Pont):

Report/Rapport: 519077-ML-W1  
Date: 19-Apr-24  
Date Received/Reçu: 18-Apr-24

## CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS / CERTIFICAT D'ANALYSE

for/pour  
Miramichi River Environmental  
Assessment Committee  
21 Cove Road  
Miramichi, NB E1V 0A6

Attention: Harry Collins

**rpc**  
921 ch College Hill Rd  
Fredericton NB  
Canada E3B 6Z9  
☎ 506.452.1212  
📠 506.452.1395  
www.rpc.ca

Client Location: Tracadie

Microbiological Examination of Water/Qualité microbiologique de l'eau potable

RPC Sample ID/No. d'échantillon de RPC:			519077-1	
Client Sample ID/ID d'échantillon du client:			Big Tracadie - Isaie Pont	
Date collected/Date du prélèvement			17-Apr-24	
Time sampled/Heure du prélèvement			12:30:00 PM	
Analytes/Paramètre(s)	Method/Méthode	Date Analyzed/Date Analysé	Units Unités	
E. coli	MICRO10	18-Apr-24	MPN/100mL	48.8

This report relates only to the sample(s) and information provided to the laboratory.

Le présent rapport ne s'applique qu'aux échantillons et à l'information transmis au laboratoire.



Cathy Hay  
Microbiology Supervisor  
Applied and Experimental Bioscience



Morgan Armour  
Microbiology Technician  
Applied and Experimental Bioscience

Report ID: 519077-IAS  
Report Date: 24-Apr-24  
Date Received: 18-Apr-24

## CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

for  
Miramichi River Environmental  
Assessment Committee  
21 Cove Road  
Miramichi, NB E1V 0A6



921 College Hill Rd  
Fredericton NB  
Canada E3B 6Z9  
Tel: 506.452.1212  
Fax: 506.452.0594  
www.rpc.ca

Attention: Harry Collins

**Project #: Not Available**

Location: Tracadie

### Analysis of Surface Water

RPC Sample ID:			519077-1
Client Sample ID:			Big Tracadie - Isaie Pont
Date Sampled:			17-Apr-24
Analytes	Units	RL	
Sodium	mg/L	0.05	2.09
Potassium	mg/L	0.02	0.36
Calcium	mg/L	0.05	5.35
Magnesium	mg/L	0.01	0.98
Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	2	17
Chloride	mg/L	0.5	3.1
Fluoride	mg/L	0.05	0.14
Sulfate	mg/L	1	< 1
Bromine	mg/L	0.01	< 0.01
Ammonia (as N)	mg/L	0.05	< 0.05
Un-ionized @ 20°C	mg/L	-	< 0.001
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N)	mg/L	0.05	< 0.05
Nitrite (as N)	mg/L	0.05	< 0.05
Nitrate (as N)	mg/L	0.05	< 0.05
Nitrogen - Total	mg/L	0.2	< 0.2
Phosphorus - Total	mg/L	0.002	0.018
Carbon - Total Organic	mg/L	0.5	4.0
Colour	TCU	5	28
Conductivity	µS/cm	1	48
pH	units	-	7.4
Turbidity	NTU	0.1	1.0
<b>Calculated Parameters</b>			
Bicarbonate (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	-	16.9
Carbonate (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	-	0.040
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	0.2	17.4
TDS (calc)	mg/L	-	27
Saturation pH (20°C)	units	-	9.3
Langelier Index (20°C)	-	-	-1.93

This report relates only to the sample(s) and information provided to the laboratory.

RL = Reporting Limit

Brannen Burhoe  
Supervisor  
Inorganic Analytical Services

Krista Skinner  
Chemical Technician  
Inorganic Analytical Chemistry

Report ID: 519077-IAS  
 Report Date: 24-Apr-24  
 Date Received: 18-Apr-24

## CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

for  
 Miramichi River Environmental  
 Assessment Committee  
 21 Cove Road  
 Miramichi, NB E1V 0A6



921 College Hill Rd  
 Fredericton NB  
 Canada E3B 6Z9  
 Tel: 506.452.1212  
 Fax: 506.452.0594  
 www.rpc.ca

Attention: Harry Collins

**Project #: Not Available**

Location: Tracadie

### Analysis of Surface Water

RPC Sample ID:			519077-1
Client Sample ID:			Big Tracadie - Isaie Pont
Date Sampled:			17-Apr-24
Analytes	Units	RL	
Aluminum	mg/L	0.001	0.104
Antimony	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Arsenic	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Barium	mg/L	0.001	0.041
Beryllium	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Bismuth	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Boron	mg/L	0.001	0.003
Cadmium	mg/L	0.00001	0.00001
Calcium	mg/L	0.05	5.35
Chromium	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Cobalt	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Copper	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Iron	mg/L	0.02	0.12
Lead	mg/L	0.0001	0.0002
Lithium	mg/L	0.0001	0.0004
Magnesium	mg/L	0.01	0.98
Manganese	mg/L	0.001	0.030
Molybdenum	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Nickel	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Potassium	mg/L	0.02	0.36
Rubidium	mg/L	0.0001	0.0004
Selenium	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Silver	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Sodium	mg/L	0.05	2.09
Strontium	mg/L	0.001	0.033
Tellurium	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Thallium	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Tin	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Uranium	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Vanadium	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Zinc	mg/L	0.001	0.002



Report ID: 519077-IAS  
 Report Date: 24-Apr-24  
 Date Received: 18-Apr-24

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for  
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 Assessment Committee  
 21 Cove Road  
 Miramichi, NB E1V 0A6



921 College Hill Rd  
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 Tel: 506.452.1212  
 Fax: 506.452.0594  
 www.rpc.ca

### Methods

<u>Analyte</u>	<u>RPC SOP #</u>	<u>Method Reference</u>	<u>Method Principle</u>
Ammonia	IAS-M47	APHA 4500-NH <sub>3</sub> G	Phenate Colourimetry
pH	IAS-M03	APHA 4500-H <sup>+</sup> B	pH Electrode - Electrometric
Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	IAS-M43	EPA 310.2	Methyl Orange Colourimetry
Chloride	IAS-M44	APHA 4500-CL E	Ferricyanide Colourimetry
Fluoride	IAS-M30	APHA 4500-F- D	SPADNS Colourimetry
Sulfate	IAS-M45	APHA 4500-SO <sub>4</sub> E	Turbidimetry
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N)	IAS-M48	APHA 4500-NO <sub>3</sub> H	Hydrazine Red., Derivatization, Colourimetry
Nitrite (as N)	IAS-M49	APHA 4500-NO <sub>2</sub> - B	NED/sulfanilamide Colourimetry
Nitrogen - Total	IAS-M57	ASTM D8083-16	Combustion/Chemiluminescence
Phosphorus - Total	IAS-M17	APHA 4500-P E	Digestion, Manual Colourimetry
Carbon - Total Organic	IAS-M57	APHA 5310 B	Combustion/NDIR
Turbidity	IAS-M06	APHA 2130 B	Nephelometry
Colour	IAS-M55	APHA 2120 Color (A,C)	Single Wavelength Spectrophotometry
Conductivity	IAS-M04	APHA 2510 B	Conductivity Meter - Electrode
Trace Metals	IAS-M01/IAS-M29	EPA 200.8/EPA 200.7	ICP-MS/ICP-ES

# Aug. 19, 2024 sampling – Big Tracadie at Hwy 160 and Big Brook; Portage River headwaters

Report/Rapport: 533086-ML-W1  
Date: 21-Aug-24  
Date Received/Reçu: 20-Aug-24

## CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS / CERTIFICAT D'ANALYSE

for/pour  
Miramichi River Environmental  
Assessment Committee  
21 Cove Road  
Miramichi, NB E1V 0A6

**rpc**  
921 St. College Hill Rd  
Fredericton NB  
Canada E3B 6Z9  
☎ 506.452.1212  
📠 506.452.1395  
www.rpc.ca

Attention: Harry Collins

Client Location: Big Tracadie Watershed  
Microbiological Examination of Water/Qualité microbiologique de l'eau potable

RPC Sample ID/No. d'échantillon de RPC:				533086-1	533086-2	533086-3
Client Sample ID/ID d'échantillon du client:				Big Tracadie @ Hwy 160	Portage River (trib)	Big Tracadie @ Big Break
Date collected/Date du prélèvement				19-Aug-24	19-Aug-24	19-Aug-24
Time sampled/Heure du prélèvement				10:30:00 AM	11:45:00 AM	12:45:00 PM
Analytes/Paramètre(s)	Method/Méthode	Date Analyzed/Date Analysé	Units Unités			
E. coli	MICRO10	20-Aug-24	MPN/100mL	63	135	31

This report relates only to the sample(s) and information provided to the laboratory.  
Le présent rapport ne s'applique qu'aux échantillons et à l'information transmis au laboratoire.



Corrie Maston  
Acting Micro Supervisor  
Applied and Experimental Bioscience

Page 1 of/de 1



Morgan Armour  
Microbiology Technician  
Applied and Experimental Bioscience

Report ID: 533086-IAS  
Report Date: 30-Aug-24  
Date Received: 20-Aug-24

## CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

for  
Miramichi River Environmental  
Assessment Committee  
21 Cove Road  
Miramichi, NB E1V 0A6

**rpc**

921 College Hill Rd  
Fredericton NB  
Canada E3B 6Z9  
Tel: 506.452.1212  
Fax: 506.452.0594  
www.rpc.ca

Attention: Harry Collins

**Project #: Not Available**

Location: Big Tracadie Watershed

### Analysis of Surface Water

RPC Sample ID:			533086-1
Client Sample ID:			Big Tracadie @ Hwy 160
Date Sampled:			19-Aug-24
Analytes	Units	RL	
Sodium	mg/L	0.05	2.78
Potassium	mg/L	0.02	0.54
Calcium	mg/L	0.05	13.8
Magnesium	mg/L	0.01	1.89
Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	2	39
Chloride	mg/L	0.5	2.1
Fluoride	mg/L	0.05	0.19
Sulfate	mg/L	1	4
Bromine	mg/L	0.01	0.01
Ammonia (as N)	mg/L	0.05	< 0.05
Un-ionized @ 20°C	mg/L	-	< 0.001
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N)	mg/L	0.05	< 0.05
Nitrite (as N)	mg/L	0.05	< 0.05
Nitrate (as N)	mg/L	0.05	< 0.05
Nitrogen - Total	mg/L	0.2	< 0.2
Phosphorus - Total	mg/L	0.002	0.014
Carbon - Total Organic	mg/L	0.5	1.8
Colour	TCU	5	7
Conductivity	µS/cm	1	102
pH	units	-	7.8
Turbidity	NTU	0.1	1.0
<b>Calculated Parameters</b>			
Bicarbonate (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	-	38.7
Carbonate (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	-	0.230
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	0.2	42.2
TDS (calc)	mg/L	-	51
Saturation pH (20°C)	units	-	8.6
Langelier Index (20°C)	-	-	-0.79

This report relates only to the sample(s) and information provided to the laboratory.

RL = Reporting Limit



Matthew Norman  
Senior Chemist  
Inorganic Analytical Chemistry



Krista Skinner  
Chemical Technician  
Inorganic Analytical Chemistry



Report ID: 533086-IAS  
 Report Date: 30-Aug-24  
 Date Received: 20-Aug-24

## CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

for  
 Miramichi River Environmental  
 Assessment Committee  
 21 Cove Road  
 Miramichi, NB E1V 0A6



921 College Hill Rd  
 Fredericton NB  
 Canada E3B 6Z9  
 Tel: 506.452.1212  
 Fax: 506.452.0594  
 www.rpc.ca

Attention: Harry Collins

**Project #: Not Available**

Location: Big Tracadie Watershed

### Analysis of Surface Water

RPC Sample ID:			533086-1
Client Sample ID:			Big Tracadie @ Hwy 160
Date Sampled:			19-Aug-24
Analytes	Units	RL	
Aluminum	mg/L	0.001	0.027
Antimony	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Arsenic	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Barium	mg/L	0.001	0.072
Beryllium	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Bismuth	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Boron	mg/L	0.001	0.005
Cadmium	mg/L	0.00001	< 0.00001
Calcium	mg/L	0.05	13.8
Chromium	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Cobalt	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Copper	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Iron	mg/L	0.02	0.12
Lead	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Lithium	mg/L	0.0001	0.0006
Magnesium	mg/L	0.01	1.89
Manganese	mg/L	0.001	0.070
Molybdenum	mg/L	0.0001	0.0001
Nickel	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Potassium	mg/L	0.02	0.54
Rubidium	mg/L	0.0001	0.0007
Selenium	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Silver	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Sodium	mg/L	0.05	2.78
Strontium	mg/L	0.001	0.123
Tellurium	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Thallium	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Tin	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Uranium	mg/L	0.0001	< 0.0001
Vanadium	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001
Zinc	mg/L	0.001	< 0.001

SURFACE WATER METALS

Page 2 of 3

Report ID: 533086-IAS  
 Report Date: 30-Aug-24  
 Date Received: 20-Aug-24

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for  
 Miramichi River Environmental  
 Assessment Committee  
 21 Cove Road  
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### Methods

<u>Analyte</u>	<u>RPC SOP #</u>	<u>Method Reference</u>	<u>Method Principle</u>
Ammonia	IAS-M47	APHA 4500-NH <sub>3</sub> G	Phenate Colourimetry
pH	IAS-M03	APHA 4500-H <sup>+</sup> B	pH Electrode - Electrometric
Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	IAS-M43	EPA 310.2	Methyl Orange Colourimetry
Chloride	IAS-M44	APHA 4500-CL E	Ferricyanide Colourimetry
Fluoride	IAS-M30	APHA 4500-F- D	SPADNS Colourimetry
Sulfate	IAS-M45	APHA 4500-SO <sub>4</sub> E	Turbidimetry
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N)	IAS-M48	APHA 4500-NO <sub>3</sub> H	Hydrazine Red., Derivatization, Colourimetry
Nitrite (as N)	IAS-M49	APHA 4500-NO <sub>2</sub> - B	NED/sulfanilamide Colourimetry
Nitrogen - Total	IAS-M57	ASTM D8083-16	Combustion/Chemiluminescence
Phosphorus - Total	IAS-M17	APHA 4500-P E	Digestion, Manual Colourimetry
Carbon - Total Organic	IAS-M57	APHA 5310 B	Combustion/NDIR
Turbidity	IAS-M06	APHA 2130 B	Nephelometry
Colour	IAS-M55	APHA 2120 Color (A,C)	Single Wavelength Spectrophotometry
Conductivity	IAS-M04	APHA 2510 B	Conductivity Meter - Electrode
Trace Metals	IAS-M01/IAS-M29	EPA 200.8/EPA 200.7	ICP-MS/ICP-ES

## Appendix D: Electrofishing Data – Lord and Foy River

Lord & Foy, Big Tracadie watershed, New Brunswick, Sep 24, 2024										
Rod Currie, Greg Currie, Harry Collins, Neil Collins										
Conditions:		Temp ( C )	pH	DO (mg/L)	ductivity (µs/	Salinity (ppt)				
		11.1	7.83	11.52	85.4	0.05				
Area:	length (m):	30	width (m):	6.4	6	5	4.8	5.7	6.4	
	total area =		171.5 m2	Conversion factor:		x	0.583090379	=	100	m2
			171.5				0.583090379			
Modifications of data for MicroFish 3.0 processing (Run 4 omitted due to upstream disturbance. Data for non-descending patterns omitted, also.)										
Run:	1	2	3	4			Run:	1	2	3
Run time (seconds):	1134	1165	978	741						
Fry	28	23	10	15			Fry	28	23	10
Parr	21	11	4	5			Parr	21	11	4
Brook trout	5	5	1	4			Brook trout	5	5	1
Blacknose dace							Blacknose dace			
Redbelly dace							Redbelly dace			
Common shiner							Common shiner			
Lake Chub	5	9	3	4			Lake Chub			
Sculpins	7	4	4	0			Sculpins	7	4	4
Three-spined stickleback	1	1					Three-spined stick	1	1	
Lamprey	1	3	3	3			Lamprey			
Suckers	6	14	3	6			Suckers			
American eel		2					American eel			

MicroFish 3.0 formatted input:									
Lord & Foy, Big Tracadie watershed, New Brunswick, Sep 24, 2024									
1	1	Fry	.	.	28	.			
1	1	Parr	.	.	21	.			
1	1	Brook_trout	.	.	5	.			
1	1	Sculpin	.	.	7	.			
1	1	Three-spined_	.	.	1	.			
1	2	Fry	.	.	23	.			
1	2	Parr	.	.	11	.			
1	2	Brook_trout	.	.	5	.			
1	2	Sculpin	.	.	4	.			
1	2	Three-spined_	.	.	1	.			
1	3	Fry	.	.	10	.			
1	3	Parr	.	.	4	.			
1	3	Brook_trout	.	.	1	.			
1	3	Sculpin	.	.	4	.			
1	3	Three-spined_	.	.	0	.			
Electrofishing results at Lord & Foy near junction with Big Tracadie, Sep. 24, 2024									



Run	Atlantic salmon sizes				Atlantic salmon sizes - sorted descending				Brook trout sizes			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	113	114	90	113	133	124	90	113	140	147	140	236
	96	124	57	86	113	122	90	104	111	136		153
	55	122	60	104	107	116	88	100	74	133		62
	59	65	90	100	106	114	84	86	61	124		72
	64	61	59	58	104	101	66	81	65	54		
	82	77	84	81	103	89	61	75				
	62	54	57	58	102	89	60	60				
	60	55	56	59	96	87	59	59				
	78	89	61	54	93	87	59	59				
	93	78	59	75	93	85	58	58				
	86	58	88	51	92	81	57	58				
	103	81	66	58	88	78	57	58				
	85	87	58	59	87	78	56	58				
	107	68	50	60	86	77	50	56				
	106	53		54	86	74		54				
	63	89		54	85	68		54				
	62	59		58	85	65		54				
	60	85		53	85	65		53				
	57	87		51	82	61		51				
	86	101		56	81	61		51				
	55	56			80	59						
	62	74			78	59						
	104	58			64	59						
	57	59			63	58						
	85	54			63	58						
	80	61			62	57						
	92	57			62	56						
	133	53			62	55						
	54	51			61	54						
	102	65			61	54						
	54	59			60	53						
	55	53			60	53						
	85	116			60	53						
	87	78			60	51						
	93				60							
	60				59							
	57				57							
	56				57							
	52				57							
	55				57							
	63				56							
	60				56							
	56				55							
	61				55							
	60				55							
	61				55							
	88				54							
	81				54							
	57				52							

## Appendix E: Electrofishing Data – Big Tracadie River

Big Tracadie above Rte 160, Big Tracadie watershed, New Brunswick, Sep 28, 2024

Rod Currie, Harry Collins, et al

345 volts

Conditions:		Temp (C)	pH	DO (mg/L)	ductivity (µs/c	Salinity (ppt)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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MicroFish 3.0 formatted input:	Big Tracadie above Rte 160, Big Tracadie watershed, New Brunswick, Sep 28, 2024											continuation...
	1	1	Fry	.	.	96	.	1	3	Sucker	.	0
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	1	1	Brook_trout	.	.	4	.	1	4	Parr	.	0
	1	1	Sculpin	.	.	63	.	1	4	Brook_trout	.	2
	1	1	Three-spined	.	.	3	.	1	4	Sculpin	.	21
	1	1	Lamprey	.	.	1	.	1	4	Three-spine	.	1
	1	1	Sucker	.	.	2	.	1	4	Lamprey	.	0
	1	2	Fry	.	.	48	.	1	4	Sucker	.	0
	1	2	Parr	.	.	2	.					
	1	2	Brook_trout	.	.	3	.					
	1	2	Sculpin	.	.	31	.					
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