

Gone fishing...

Boats have already been heading out on the water for the 2016 fishing season. They go for days at a time, to where you can't see land in any direction. The snow crab season opened mid-March, and the shrimp season started in April.

This marks the 15th season Listuguj has been participating in the commercial fisheries. With two boats entirely run by First Nations crew and 12 boats in total, the operation has been growing steadily. "It was a learning curve for everybody," said Chris Metallic, the Commercial Fisheries Coordinator with the Natural Resource Directorate. "Although we had been participating in fishing salmon and other things, we still had to adjust to the commercial aspect of the fishery."

In 1999, the Marshall Decision reaffirmed the Mi'gmaq right to fish in the Supreme Court of Canada. After that, Listuguj began taking the steps to enter the commercial fishery. Among the first community members to be involved was Blayze Isaac who started as a deckhand.

As a kid he would often head down to the beach with a fishing pole, but he never imagined it would be a job. "I was a land lover, kind of thing," he said. He had been working in the woods when the opportunity to take a deckhand course came up in 2001. He took it, and went out on the water for the first time.

First Nation fishing operations are run a little differently than the privately owned operations founded at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, or elsewhere in the Gaspésie. The boats and licenses are communally owned — which non-native fishermen sometimes don't quite understand.

"It doesn't go to one person, it doesn't go to one family. Unlike non-native fishermen — their whole family benefits, whoever they hire," said Metallic. "That's not the case here for Listuguj. What we do is we hire people from different families, and all different families benefit from it ... It's a communal license, meaning it belongs to everybody." But good jobs have been created.



Among the highest around. And 62 people are employed during the season. Listuguj, combined with other First Nations fishing in the region also create jobs for local people in Matane, Fox-River, Ste Therese, etc. Ways to expand the quotas are also always being explored, but as of now, the Listuguj Fishery holds the largest quota for snow crab and shrimp on the east coast says Metallic. Other species, like halibut and turbot are also fished. This is the second year in an attempt to grow scallops as well.

This is a significant change from when Isaac first headed out on a crab fishing boat, 15 years ago. He's now Captain of the Maqatgwig. Isaac admits that the first year as a captain was stressful — taking care of everyone, and hoping to find the right spots to set traps. Now, into his third season, it's second nature, he said.

As the captain, he often stays on the boat when it's docked, and lets his crew go home. And even though the job is hard on the body, he still loves it. "You're getting paid for something that you like," he said over the phone before one of the few occasions during the season when he gets to go to Listuguj.

He plans to take a break for a few days, and then "head back home," he said. "Well, not home, but to my boat. Back on my boat — it's pretty much home to me."



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Protect the fishery for future generations

By Dr. Fred Metallic,
Director of Listuguj Naturals Resources

The Mi'gmaq have been fishing within Gespe'gewa'gi territorial waters for countless generations and more recently, the courts and government have begun to recognize Mi'gmaq have a right to access fishery resources and to make a moderate livelihood. What does this mean? Even though we harvest approximately 1.7 million lbs. of crab and 4.5 million lbs. of shrimp (estimated gross revenue of

8-9 million dollars with over 60 direct jobs in Listuguj) the development of the fishery goes beyond making a moderate livelihood.

The development of the fishery aside from its economic value is also important from a cultural and political perspective. We see ourselves as fishermen and fisherwomen, as Treaty quota holders with a cultural responsibility to protect the fishery for future generations. And even though the fishery generates

revenues for much needed community programs (from health to education) the fishery is a source of pride, identity and self-determination.

Self-determination in the sense that we are re-establishing our place within the fishing Industry as a major player and our involvement goes beyond harvesting. We are looking to be more involved in the overall management and governance of fisheries resources found within our territorial waters. The development of the fishery means we are contributing to Listuguj's goal of self-determination.

What do we do on a nice day?



We celebrate Mother's Day

Saturday May 7th 2016 at the Bingo hall.

Doors open at 5 and the event ends at 10.

The event is a fundraiser to take elders to St Anne du Beupre and towards the Veterans Lodge.

A basket is being raffled as well. The proceeds are going to Carter Cyr.



Mrs Joyce Germain and her kindergarten class enjoy a healthy walk



This boat will be on the water for the upcoming salmon season



Salmon fishing guides Ronnie "Lexi" Martin and Rene "Cool" Martin practice with their recurve hunting bows getting ready for the fall season.

In early days we were close to nature. We judged time, weather conditions, and many things by the elements--the good earth, the blue sky, the flying of geese, and the changing winds. We looked to these for guidance and answers. Our prayers and thanksgiving were said to the four winds--to the East, from whence the new day was born; to the South, which sent the warm breeze which gave a feeling of comfort; to the West, which ended the day and brought rest; and to the North, the Mother of winter whose sharp air awakened a time of preparation for the long days ahead.

We lived by God's hand through nature and evaluated the changing winds to tell us or warn us of what was ahead. Today we are again evaluating the changing winds. May we be strong in spirit and equal to our Fathers of another day in reading the signs accurately and interpreting them wisely. May Wah-Kon-Tah, the Great Spirit, look down upon us, guide us, inspire us, and give us courage and wisdom. Above all, may He look down upon us and be pleased."

Unknown Speaker addressing the National Congress of American Indians in the mid 1960's



University opens doors to Mi'gmaq Culture

As part of the many ongoing attempts to incorporate Mi'gmaq and First Nation's culture, the University of New Brunswick held its second annual Pow Wow on April 6. Natasha Martin-Mitchell, from Listuguj, was one of the committee members. "Everything worked out the way we had hoped," she said. "We had great attendance, it looked like everyone had a great time."

The live stream also turned out to be a hit. People from all over logged in to see the ceremonies. Others from Listuguj, like Craig Isaac, danced.

The Pow Wow, and all the other First Nation's driven initiatives are coming out of the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre. As the director, and former Chief of Tobique First Nation, David Perley and his wife Imelda Perley - the Elder in Residence - have been working to make the University more inclusive.

"Everything that we're doing here is based on a vision that's been formulated in consultation with the elders of First Nations communities, and First Nation education directors, and so on," said

David Perley.

Perley said there are three main components to what they're trying to achieve at the university. (Read about them online in the full story on news.listuguj.ca) For the Project Coordinator of the Pow Wow, Starlit Simon of Elsipogtog First Nation, the recent changes have been "refreshing."

"Now it's kind of like everyone is so interested," she said. "Everybody wants to know, they want to know more about our history, more about our culture."

For Martin-Mitchell, these trends and the diversity of people who attended the Pow Wow is directly meeting the goal. "That's what we wanted," she said. "Sharing our culture with other nations, right."

Martin-Mitchell and her husband Brandon Mitchell — also from Listuguj — are both graduating on May 19th from the Bachelor of Integrated Studies Program, but will remain a volunteer at the MWC.



*Craig Isaac is known for his spirited dances. He was on the Listuguj Mi'gmaq to support the UNB cultural event, one of the few winter powwows in the province.
Photo by: Lucy Peter-Paul*

"There's more to come from the MWC," she said. "We have other things up our sleeves."

See more photos online: newslistuguj.ca



Is the Indian Act against Indians?

Pamela Palmater: Under the Indian Act, all First Nations have had their Indian status registration of individuals and their band membership controlled by the Federal Government since the Indian Act in 1876. But for tens of thousands of years long, pre-Indian Act, we were always in control of our own citizenship and what it was to be a Mi'gmaq, and who got to live in which of the Mi'gmagi districts.

That was never controlled by the Federal Government so we have a long history of controlling our own citizenship, but that got interfered with by the Indian Act.

Nuji: What is the Canada's ideology in deciding who is or is not an Indian.

P.P: The whole purpose of the Indian Act in setting up a registration system was for the express purpose of eliminating Indians over time. They designed a formula, literally to breed Indians out of existence.

Their two policy objectives are to take all of our lands and resources, but also to reduce any financial obligations that come out of Treaty commitments. Canada associates Treaty beneficiaries with registered Indians and they figured the best way to get rid of Treaties: get rid of Indians, then they have no beneficiaries.

Nuji: What smallpox and contaminated blankets failed to do, eliminate us, do you think mathematics could do it?

P.P: That's the thing. They only had two ways of trying to get rid of us. Physically eliminate us, scalping, sterilizations and smallpox blankets or assimilate us over time — residential schools, take away your language and culture, make you hate yourselves so that you don't want to be a part of your community, and Indian status is the final nail in the coffin, essentially. It's for all of those who managed to survive.

The idea is to legislate them out of existence, and because of the Indian Act there is an extinction date for each First Nations where there will be no more status Indians.

We will all still be here, we are the fastest baby-makers in Canada, our populations are growing, but for legal and political recognition and whether or not were allowed to identify with our communities, occupy territories have Aboriginal Treaty and Rights recognized...that will be significantly impacted by the Indian Act, if we let it continue.

Read about what's being done, and why it's important to discuss membership and identity, online at news.listuguj.ca

Mi'gmaq lawyer and University teacher Dr. Pamela Palmater was visiting Listuguj to share information about Membership Codes. Her Doctoral thesis on Indian Status/Band Membership/Self Government Citizenship lifts the veil on Canada's intent in controlling who is and who is not Indian.

Nujignua'tegeg met with Dr. Palmater. Here is an extract of the interview. The full interview will be available on our YouTube channel.

Nujignua'tegeg: Have we - and if we did - when did we lose control of Membership Codes?

The Joe Robert Memorial Scholarship

The deadline is coming fast. The Joe Robert Memorial Scholarship will go to one male and one female Listuguj Mi'gmaq High School graduate who maintains a high average in academics and is a participant in some form of athletics. Athletics can be anything from, but not limited to Hockey, Dance, Soccer, Basketball or Gymnastics.

Students must have an average of 70% or higher for the entire school year with no grades below 60%. Students must also submit a 250 word paper illustrating the positive impacts that athletics has had on their lives.

Deadline for applications will be June 3, 2016.

If you have any questions please contact Mike Isaac at misaac@listuguj.ca or at 506-790-4384.



LMDC 20th Anniversary Dinner

Tuesday May 6

Listuguj Community Development Centre (Bingo Hall)

Doors open at 5:30-

Dinner is at 6:00

Door prizes will be presented.

Contact LMDC: 418 788-1347



Did you want to learn more about traditional teachings and ceremonies? We are starting a new initiative to start March 30th which will meet every Wednesday night from 7-8 pm, here at the Families First office at 37 Gaspe Highway

The Teachings are:

- 1) March 30 - Andicline Bundle Teachings
- 2) April 6 - Yoga, Breath & Heritages
- 3) April 13 - Sundance Teachings
- 4) April 20 - Women's Energy
- 5) April 27 - Gathering of Medicines
- 6) May 4 - End of Program Celebrations

Week of May 8th - gathering of materials to build a wigwag lodge. This is in preparation for a 3 day Fast week which will start on the 20th.

For additional information, you can contact

Christine or Tina at (418) 788-2010

Please send us your announcements & birthday wishes for next issue: deadline May 4th
Visit our digital platforms and share them with your contacts.