



Annual Report 2019-2020

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NEW BRUNSWICK



Conservation Council *of* New Brunswick
Conseil de conservation *du* Nouveau-Brunswick

Table of contents

- ▶ Marine Conservation
- ▶ Climate and Energy Solutions
- ▶ Freshwater Protection
- ▶ Forest Protection
- ▶ Learning Outside Project
- ▶ Celebrating 50 ears of Environmental Action
- ▶ Financials





Marine Conservation

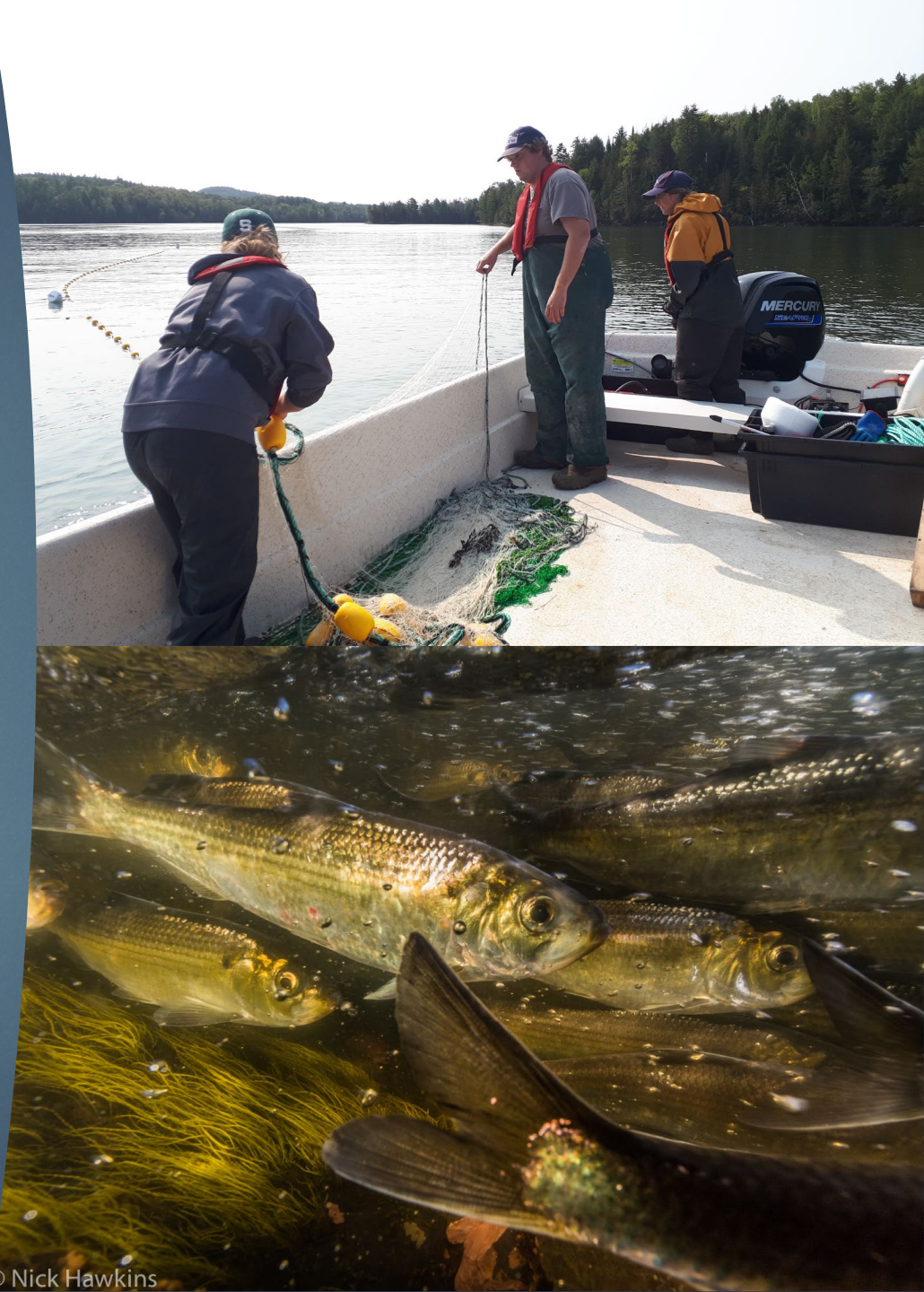
Protecting Our Coastal Waters

Highlights from 2019-2020

- Worked closely with the Peskotomuhkati Nation on restoration of the Skutik (St. Croix) River
- Pushed for effective and strategic Marine Conservation initiatives
- Monitored the Salmon Aquaculture industry, fought expansion efforts and pushed for strong and effective regulation
- Supported the expansion of marine debris and ghost gear efforts on all coasts
- Expanded capacity in French and along the Gulf of St Lawrence and Northumberland Strait coast
- Promoted a “Better Than Normal” recovery in response to COVID-19
- Pushed for improvements to environmental laws and regulations

Skutik River Restoration: Strengthening the food webs of the Bay of Fundy

- ▶ Working with Peskotomuhkati Nation and many other partners in Canada and the US to design and implement a plan to restore fish runs on the Skutik and other rivers in Peskotomuhkati Territory
- ▶ Restored fish (starting with Gaspereau) provide a needed source of food for whales, birds, and groundfish. Gaspereau fell as low as 900 fish in 2002, runs are currently at 600,000 with much room to grow.
- ▶ NB Power is removing the Milltown Dam, the first barrier facing migrating fish
- ▶ 87% of St Stephen and area residents support the plan to remove Milltown Dam.





Marine Conservation

- ▶ Working on Northumberland Strait, Gulf of St. Lawrence and Bay of Fundy coasts to find the right solutions to better protect sensitive waters and sea bottom
- ▶ Worked with coastal tourism operators, CPAWS NB, and other partners to promote and celebrate significant natural areas
- ▶ Collaborated with regional partners to secure MPA Network standards and other policy changes to ensure protections are strong and consistent
- ▶ Continued to monitor and promote the Musquash Marine Protected Area, including the Musquash Paddle with record attendance in 2019.



Getting our laws in order

- ▶ Engaged Government on a variety of developments including:
 - ▶ Fisheries Act modernization
 - ▶ Oceans Act modernization
 - ▶ Proposed Aquaculture Act
 - ▶ Impact Assessment Act
 - ▶ Marine Protected Area Standards



A large crowd of people, mostly young adults, is gathered for a climate protest. The scene is filled with individuals of diverse backgrounds, some holding up signs and others with their arms raised. The overall atmosphere is one of active participation and concern. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Climate and Energy
Solutions

pour

Il n'y a pas de
PLANÈTE B

LE CLIMAT
EST EN TRAIN DE
CHANGER!!!
POURQUOI CHANGÉONS-
NOUS PAS? PENSEZ-

NOUVEAU
LEÇON
NICE EDWARD

HOPE

Highlights from 2019-2020



- ▶ Published Health and Climate-focused EcoAlert Magazine
- ▶ Launched new website portal for climate action, For the Love of NB
- ▶ Bilingual video series with real New Brunswickers showing how climate change is already affecting the things we love doing here (gardening, fishing, skiing, skating, fiddlehead picking, making maple syrup, etc.)
- ▶ Published six-part series, After the Flood, telling stories of NBers affected by 2018 and 2019 flooding and linked to our June 2019 report on climate change and health
- ▶ Meetings/calls/zooms with Minister of Environment + Dept. staff to pressure progress on N.B.'s Low Carbon Action Plan



Highlights from 2019-2020

- ▶ Supported youth-led climate strikes through organization assistance, promotion, storytelling and photography.
- ▶ Helped New Brunswickers with tips to save energy while at home during pandemic lockdown/working from home amid COVID-19
- ▶ Submitted comments on N.B.'s proposed carbon pricing system for consumers and industry, conducted several media interviews explaining what works and what doesn't with NB's now-approved systems.
- ▶ Gave dozens of interviews holding provincial government accountable for inaction on climate change, including N.B.'s participation in carbon tax lawsuits, failure to act on action plan, failure to step up support for homeowners and small business becoming more energy efficient.





1,062
No Shale Gas
letters sent



6
youth-led climate
rallies supported



150,000+
NBers reached over social
media through For the Love
of NB campaign



30+
Interventions &
interviews in the
media on climate
change issues in
N.B.



20+
Meetings/Calls with
Minister + Dept. staff
on low carbon action
plan



GEORGIA
loves making maple syrup.

For the Love of New Brunswick

- ▶ New web portal serves as one-stop shop for climate change information and ideas for action, based on a year's worth of research aimed at how to better communicate to women on these issues: www.conservationcouncil.ca/loveNB
- ▶ Bilingual video series showing how and why climate change is affecting the things we love doing in New Brunswick.
- ▶ Breaks down, in simple language and with top shelf infographics, how and why climate change is already affecting New Brunswick and projections over next 10-30 years.
- ▶ Aimed at giving New Brunswickers the knowledge and confidence to talk about climate change with friends, family and elected officials
- ▶ Citizens Action section loaded with tips and ideas for reducing carbon pollution at home, daily life
- ▶ Government Action page helping New Brunswickers climate action to elected representatives
- ▶ Paired with continued testing of innovative ways to help Brunswickers and climate action spread message via



BILL & HELEN
are doing **their** part.



LOUISE
loves gardening



Working to Protect N.B. Water for 50 Years

What we're doing and what more needs to be done



A Strong History of Water Protection

- ▶ Saint John River (1969)
- ▶ Environ. Protection Act (1980)
- ▶ Underground Storage Tanks (1987)
- ▶ Bay of Fundy
- ▶ Bay of Chaleur/Northumberland Strait work
- ▶ Clean Water Act (1989)
 - ▶ Lakes and rivers (2002)
- ▶ Shale gas and water (2010-16)
- ▶ Comprehensive watershed-based protections , i.e. water classification plus new legislation (2016-2020)

Setting the stage for improvement

- ▶ Designed to overcome resistance within government that Clean Water Act was all we needed
- ▶ Undertook comprehensive public opinion survey 1st quarter, 2017
- ▶ 500+ citizens surveyed
- ▶ Results used to both inform our communications strategy and to help empower government
- ▶ Used these results designing new survey, August 2020

Top Line Messages

- ▶ 79% of those asked said they were worried about pollution going into rivers, lakes and streams
 - ▶ both that allowed by the Department of Environment and illegal dumping and runoff
- ▶ 76% are concerned about water quality in their lakes, rivers and streams
- ▶ 70% of New Brunswickers strongly believe governments are mismanaging fresh water
- ▶ 44% of respondents say they have experienced a boil-water advisory
 - ▶ about double the national average
- ▶ 77% of respondents believe they are not at risk of flooding or drought
 - ▶ 28% believe that their family is likely or very likely at risk of flooding

We asked New Brunswickers what they love about their water



Full polling results available at: conservationcouncil.ca/our-programs/freshwater-protection/

We asked New Brunswickers what worried them the most?



Full polling results available at conservationcouncil.ca/our-programs/freshwater-protection/

What are the risks to water in NB?

- ▶ Climate change
 - ▶ flooding, drought
- ▶ Large-scale clearcutting
- ▶ Pollution release
 - ▶ sewage
 - ▶ nutrient and chemical run off from farms
 - ▶ forestry pollution, including herbicide runoff
- ▶ Roads and highways
- ▶ Loss of shorelines
 - ▶ wetlands, salt marshes, caused (mostly) by improper development

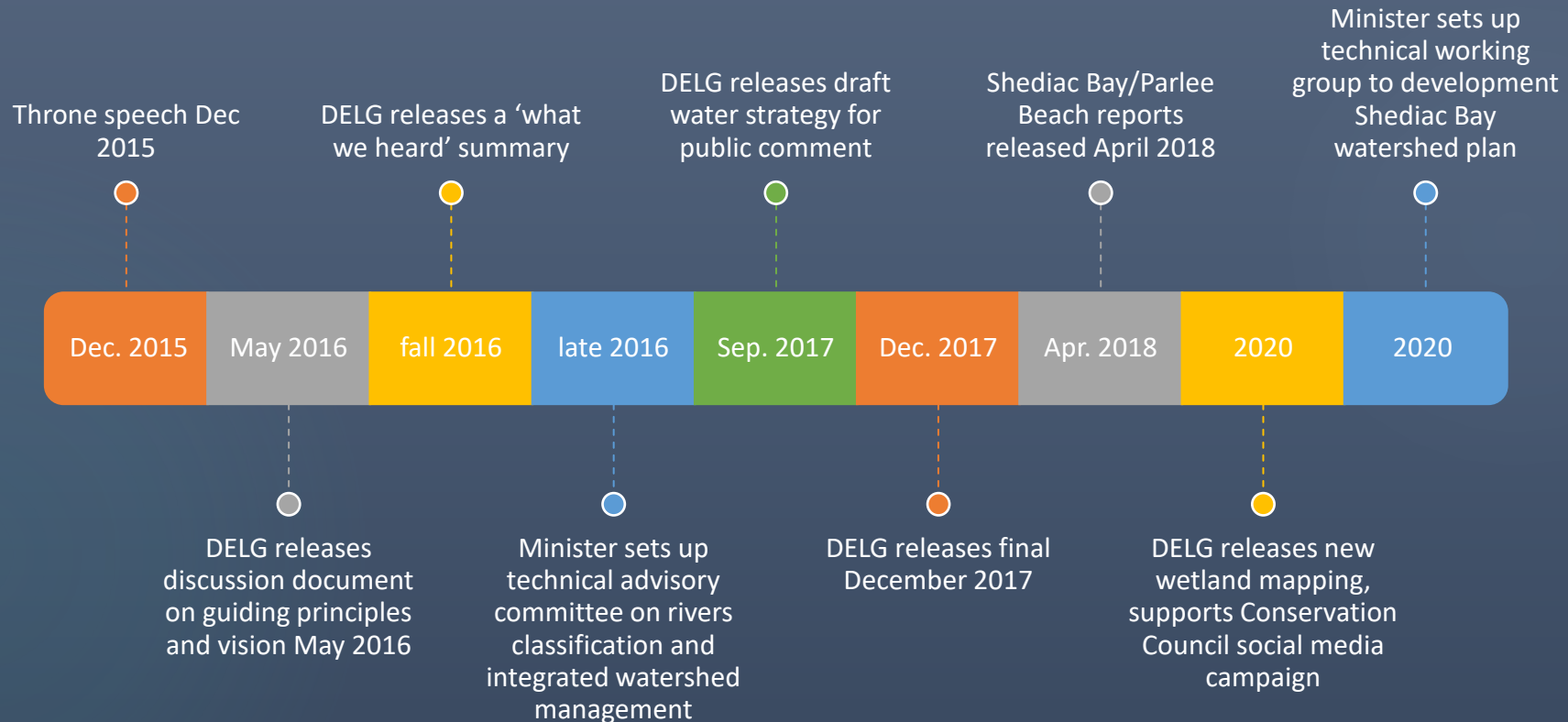
What does N.B. need to protect freshwater?

- ▶ Modern, comprehensive water protection strategy and regulations/legislations
- ▶ Watershed-based integrated management plans, and, in some instances sub-watershed plans
- ▶ Strategic partnership with federal government departments like Environmental and Climate Change, Fisheries and Oceans

Reasons for optimism


- ▶ Fracking moratorium — hanging tough
- ▶ Minister approved report from Technical Working Group — key policy recommendation were call for new legislation developed to drive watershed-based protection and regulations for enforceable water quality standards
- ▶ Release of Parlee Beach reports
- ▶ DELG set up technical working group to guide Shediac Bay watershed plan — tentatively plan to release draft by end of 2020

Timeline of the current water strategy



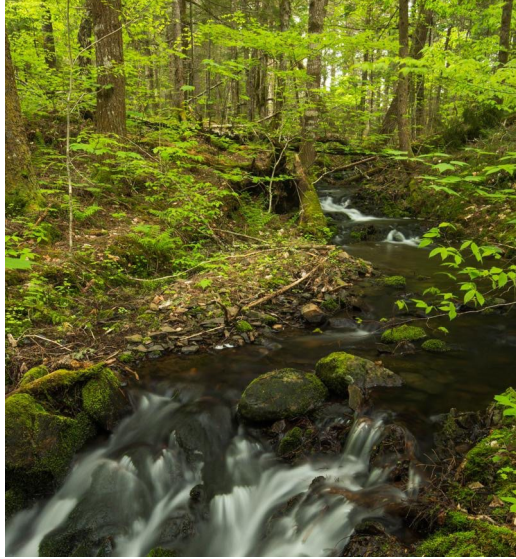
Reasons for pessimism

- ▶ Forest management plans
- ▶ (Some) business opposition
- ▶ Under-resourced departments
- ▶ Recycled, outdated ideas
- ▶ Pandemic — delayed everything



Moving Forward: Key Activities Freshwater 2020-21

- Release of report card on provincial water strategy — recently hired a snap researcher/writer, Kristyn Lyons!
- Work collaboratively with First Nations
- Meet with Minister(s) and officials
- Brief opposition MLAs
- Work collaboratively with groups along St. John (Wolastoq) River re: Canada Water Agency
- Work collaboratively with watershed caucus of the NBEN on roving wide push for new water legislation
- Respond to ECCC regulation re plastics (Oct, 2020)



Forest Conservation: Protecting our Crown Forest

Highlights from 2019-2020

Letter campaign for more protected areas achieved commitment from Province in October 2019 to increase Natural Protected Areas to 10%(from 4.6) by end of 2020.

Helped NBers push candidates during Provincial Election to commit to reaching conservation goals under Pathway to 2020

Meetings with Minister of Natural Resources and Dept. staff on need for new *Crown Lands and Forests Act* to ensure healthy Acadian forest and sustainable forestry communities in era of climate change

Supported private woodlot owners, First Nations, and allies in ENGO community call for forest reform in N.B. to achieve models that work for all New Brunswickers

Pressure from phase out herbicides campaign led to debate in Legislative Assembly in winter 2019 and formation of legislative committee to study issue and make recommendations to Government.

Worked with allies to hold Minister of Natural Resources accountable for failing to uphold legal duties within *Species At Risk Act*

Our book, *The Great Trees of New Brunswick, Vol. 2*, reached best-seller status In province and continues to be one of our most-loved and shared posts on social media.

Numerous presentations and research by active volunteers of forestry committee, SE Chapter



2,500+
NBers wrote
for more
protected
areas



87% of
NBers want
more forest
& water
protected



20+
Meetings/
calls with
Min. of
Natural
Resources +
Dept. staff



3,700+
#StopSpray
letters since
2016



1 600+
NBers wrote
#StopSpray
Letters in
2019-20

Protected Natural Areas/Pathway to 2020

- ▶ Worked with partners, including CPAWS NB, Nature NB, Nature Trust of NB, to lobby provincial government to do its part, and inform New Brunswickers about, hitting Canada's Pathway 2020 commitment.
- ▶ Helped more than 2,500 NBers write their MLA calling for more protected areas as part of Pathway to 2020
- ▶ Achieved commitment in Fall 2019 from provincial government to protect 10% (up from 4.6%) of land in NB by end of 2020.
- ▶ Amid COVID-19 pandemic, ensured Pathway to 2020 goals remained government priority by helping NBers call for more nature protection during Federal and Provincial Elections.
- ▶ Co-signed letter calling on Minister of Natural Resources to uphold legal duty in *Species At Risk Act* after new report showed successive govt's have failed to do so.

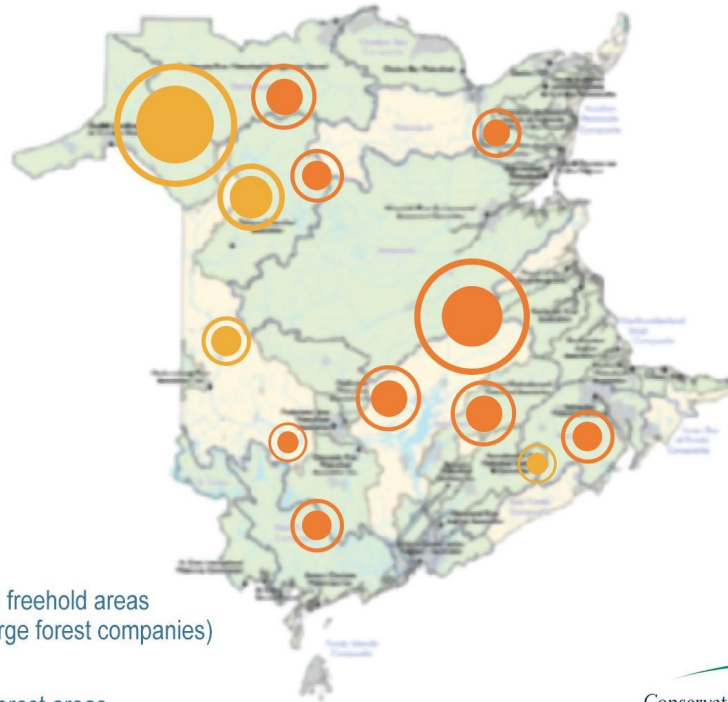


WHAT CONCERNS NEW BRUNSWICKERS ABOUT THEIR FOREST

Endangered species
Lacking protected areas
Low rivers and streams
Clearcuts
Climate change
Roads
Fires
Glyphosate
Pollution

Source: Conservation & Forestry Survey Report, Sept. 2020. Available at conservationcouncil.ca

2020 herbicide spraying hotspots in N.B.



-  Sprayed industrial freehold areas
(land owned by large forest companies)
-  Sprayed Crown Forest areas



Source: GIS Forest Vegetation Management Program (Activity Map) for 2020 hosted by GeoNB from the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development

New Brunswick forestry practices need to change

N.B. Election 2020: Questions to ask local candidates

Will you commit to developing a new *Crown Land and Forests Act* that works for all New Brunswickers, creates well paying jobs, is fair for private woodlot owners, protects water and nature, and keeps people working, hunting, fishing and enjoying the woods for years to come?

Will you commit to ending the old-fashioned and unnecessary practice of spraying glyphosate-based herbicides in large tree plantations on Crown land?



Learning Outside Project

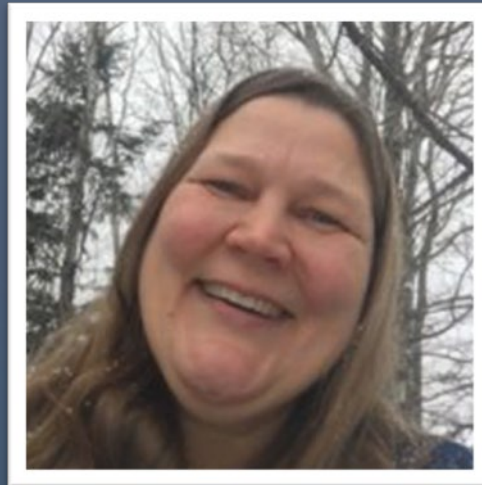
Funded by:



Learning Outside Team



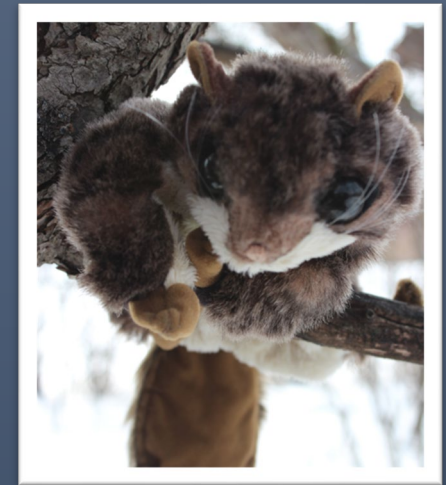
Nadine
Project Director



Jonna
Project Coordinator



Maegan
Youth Group Leader &
summer assistant



Sekskatu
One of our helpers

Learning Outside school activities

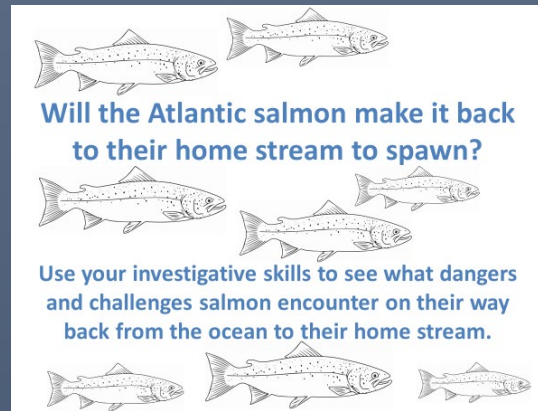
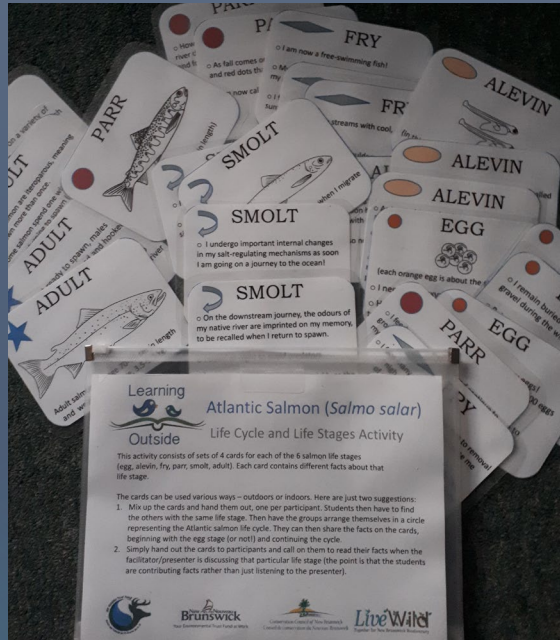
- 25 class activities
- 4 school group activities
- 1 UNB dept. activity
- 1 daycare activity
- Spring 2020 – social media posts w/info, activities

Creating microhabitats:
a very popular activity in every season

Topics included:

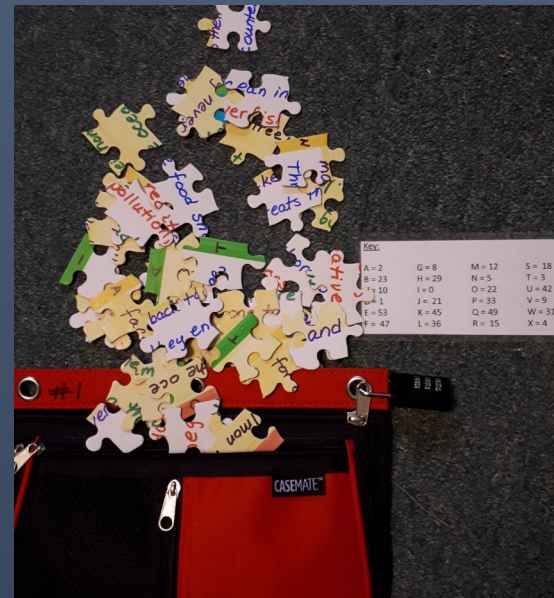
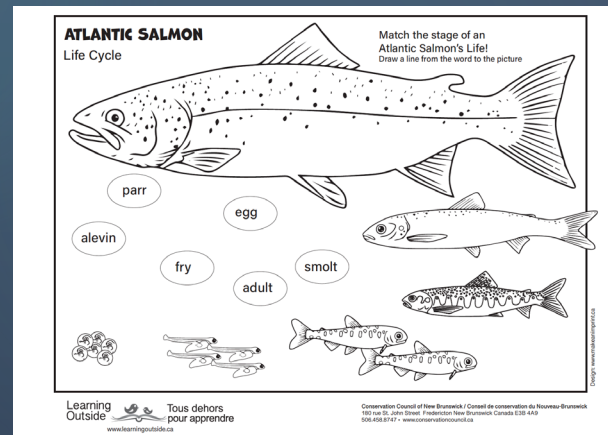
- All about seeds
- Sea turtles / ocean plastics
- Atlantic salmon
- Nature trail exploration
- What plants need
- Nature journals
- Habitats
- Animals tracks
- Adaptations to winter
- Beavers
- Snowshoe hares
- And more ...





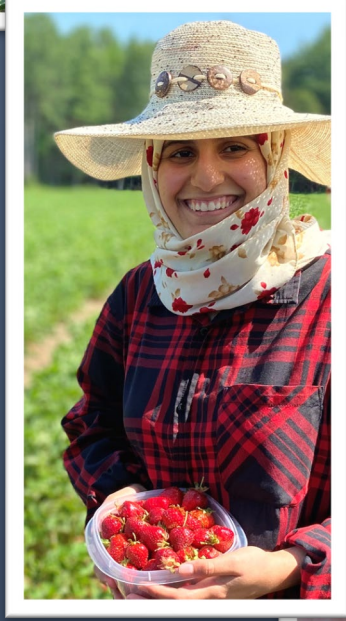
Atlantic Salmon Educational Modules

- ▶ 2019: International Year of the Atlantic Salmon
- ▶ Activities & educational materials for elementary, middle and high school
- ▶ Outdoor, plus some indoor activities
- ▶ Active running & tag games, life cycle games and activities
- ▶ Puzzle challenge game
- ▶ Slide presentation
- ▶ Colouring page



Youth Environmental Group

- Waterfall hikes
- Musquash paddle
- Berry picking
- Frog walk
- Dog walk
- Virtual meetings
- In-person meetings outside



Celebrating 50 years of protecting our land, air, forests, water and ocean



50th Anniversary Gala
Beaverbrook Art Gallery,
Oct. 12, 2019













Just some of our Eco-Hero Award Winners



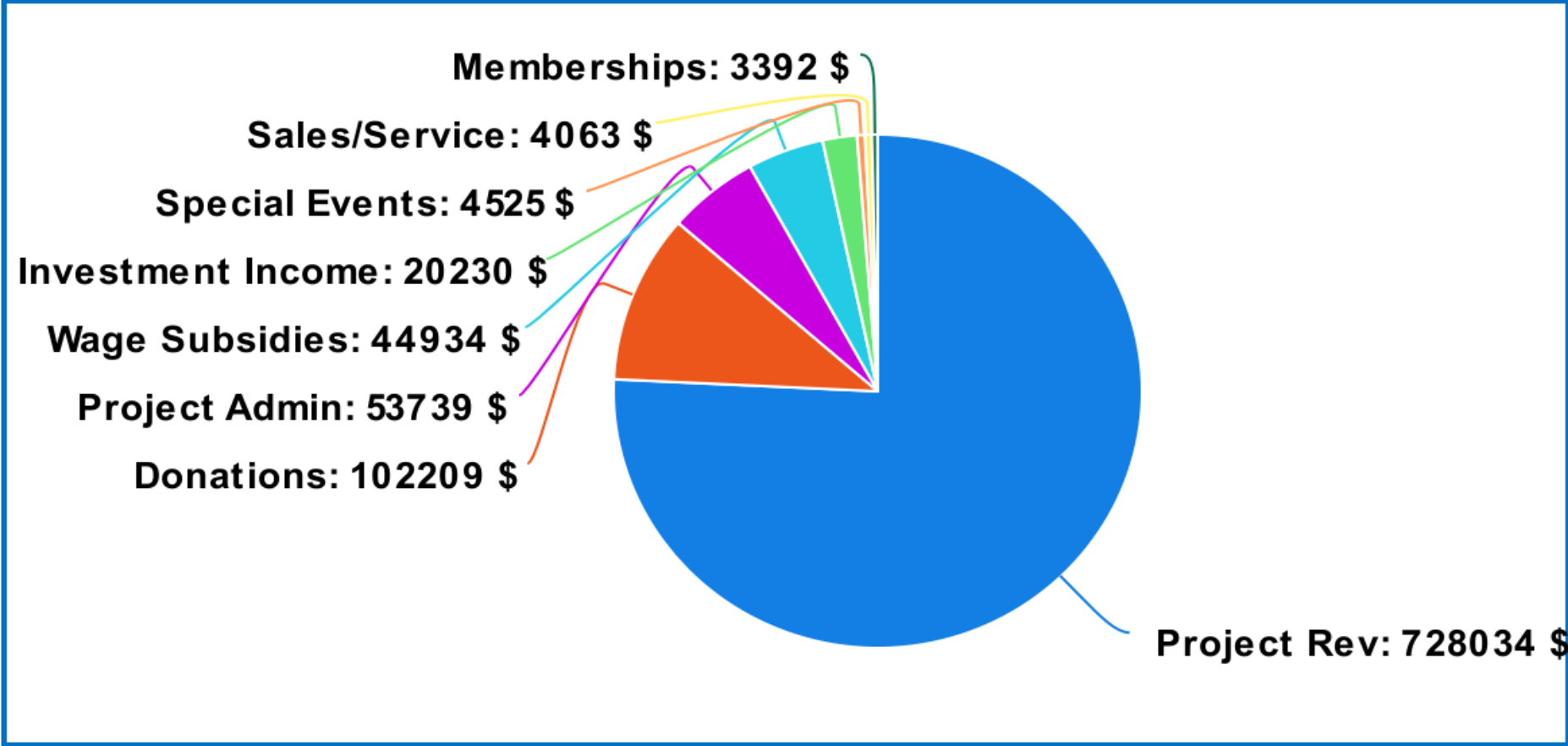
Conservation Council of New Brunswick



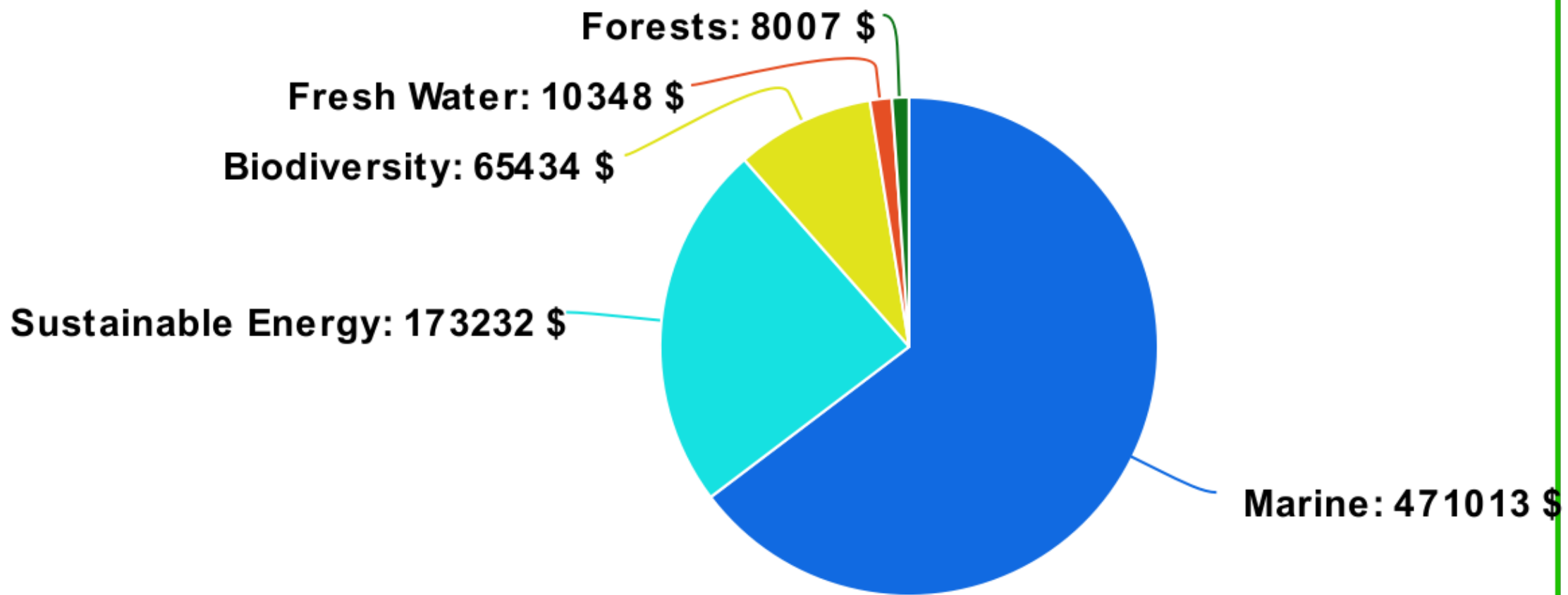


Report from the Treasurer 2019-20: Audited Statements

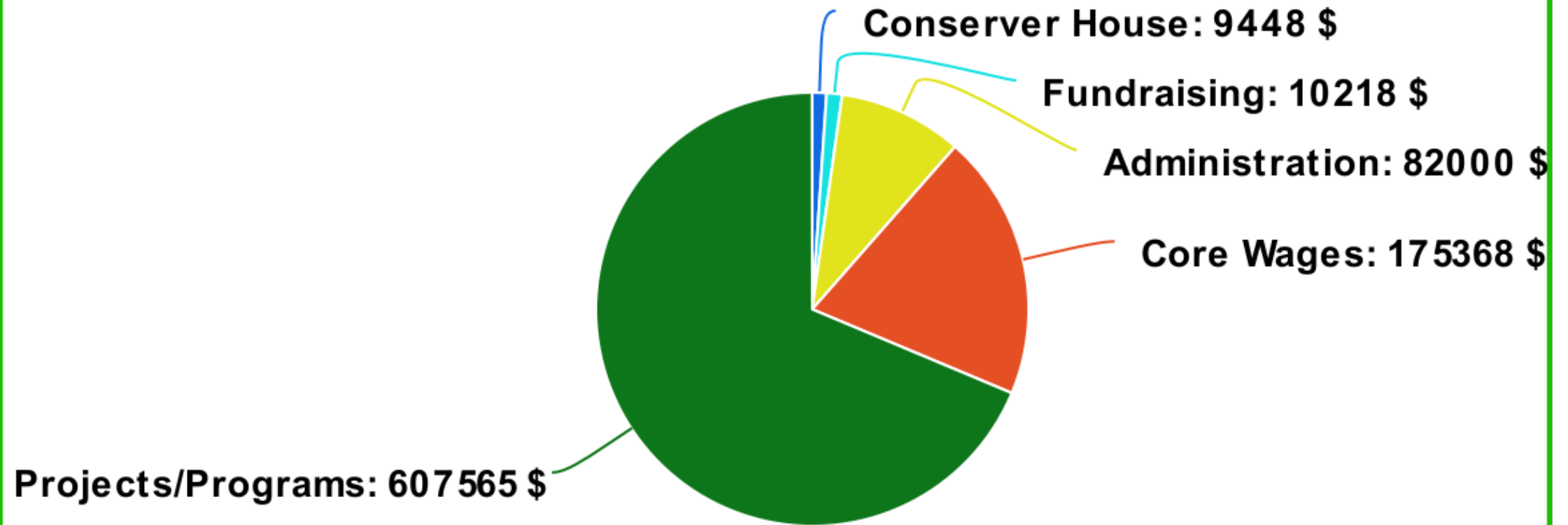
Income Sources



- Project Rev
- Donations
- Project Admin
- Wage Subsidies
- Investment Income
- Special Events
- Sales/Service
- Memberships



Expenses



Donations

