



Collaboration for
Atlantic Salmon Tomorrow

CAST to Test World-First Tracking Technology on Miramichi River to Save Wild Atlantic Salmon

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FREDERICTON and MIRAMICHI RIVER NB: Canada's Ocean Supercluster today announced Ocean Aware, a project focused on new technology, research and conservation. CAST – Collaboration for Atlantic Salmon Tomorrow – will be the first to test Innovasea's new marine tracking devices.

Traditional pop-off tracking tags for fish have limited battery life and are best suited to larger fish like sharks. These tags do not have real time tracking aboard ships. Often, signals are lost and so is vital data that helps scientists understand why so many wild Atlantic salmon are not returning to the Miramichi. The new technology from this project will involve real time tracking of fish from ships at sea. Most important is that the new tracking technology will be able to communicate that a fish has died as well as the location of the fish. Where and why fish mortality is occurring after leaving local rivers for the ocean is a key question that scientists are looking to answer. The project has potential wider application on endangered and at-risk species of marine life and their movement around energy structures like offshore drill rigs and wind energy towers as well as shipping lanes.

Ocean Aware is a collaboration of 8 partners that is outcome focused on world class technology driving new sources of marine life data and ecosystem information.

The partners include:

1. Canada's Ocean Supercluster
2. Innovasea Marine Systems Canada Inc.
3. Ocean Choice International
4. Emera Incorporated
5. Nova Scotia Power Incorporated
6. Irving Shipbuilding Inc.
7. Dartmouth Ocean Technologies Inc.
8. Xeos Technologies Inc.

QUOTES

Dr. Tommi Linnansaari has a M.Sc. in Fisheries Science from University of Helsinki, Finland, and his Ph.D. in Biology from UNB. He currently holds the Atlantic Salmon Research Chair and he is the research coordinator of the Collaboration for Atlantic Salmon Tomorrow (CAST) non-profit research consortium.

“The real winners today are wild Atlantic salmon on the Miramichi! A robust data base that accurately tracks the movement of wild Atlantic salmon once they leave their home river is vital to solving the puzzle of declining fish populations. These new data recorders will be the “black boxes” for scientists looking to understand and solve the problem of declining salmon stocks. Is it predation, climate change, lack of ocean nutrition, overfishing? This new technology - and the opportunity to work with 8 great partners that share our passion for conservation - is the best news for wild Atlantic salmon!”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzsK9HM2a4A&feature=emb_logo

Mark Hambrook – President of the Miramichi Salmon Association

Born and raised on the Miramichi in Renous, over the course of his 35-year long career in salmon conservation, Mark Hambrook’s knowledge and experience has been extended to numerous rivers and organizations interested in salmon conservation. He has become a recognized leader in salmon management throughout North America. A graduate of the University of New Brunswick, Mr. Hambrook began his career as a biologist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), where he was subsequently employed for more than 18 years. Today he is an active participant in CAST efforts to grow wild Atlantic salmon populations on the Mriamichi.

“This is great news for salmon that were born on and fight hard to return to the Miramichi River. Understanding the journey of these incredible fish will be a breakthrough for saving the fish and a way of life for generations on the river. This data will guide conservation and regulations to protect wild Atlantic salmon into the future.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8mwkdPpxZU&feature=emb_logo

ABOUT CAST

CAST is a non-profit partnership of scientists, environmental groups like the Miramichi Salmon Association as well as industry participants. 100% of its time and money is focused on research and saving wild Atlantic salmon before it’s too late. Today CAST is working on four science projects on the Miramichi river. Data collection has been a priority since our work began in 2014. Our hope is that CAST will serve as a positive partnership model for Eastern Canada’s wild Atlantic salmon rivers. CAST scientists are research leaders from the University of New Brunswick, Canadian Rivers Institute and Laval University.

<https://oceansupercluster.ca/ocean-aware-project-announcement-news/>

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