

## About Our Organization

The Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC) is a community based multi-stakeholder organization dedicated to the continual improvement of environmental quality of the Miramichi River ecosystem with emphasis on the Miramichi watershed.

MREAC was formed in 1989 as a response to a community concern around a local pulp and paper mill expansion. The committee remained intact following its initial phase to address other environmental issues on the Miramichi River watershed. In 1993, MREAC joined the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP),



Beach Seining—Miramichi Estuary



CMP Water Sampling—Napan River

which allowed for the hiring of full-time staff. The committee (approximately 35) directs volunteer and staff activity through guidance during the monthly meetings.

MREAC focuses on science based research and environmental projects in order to protect and manage the Miramichi River watershed. This watershed encompasses approximately 23% of the province of New Brunswick land mass (~13,465 km<sup>2</sup>), and embodies significant freshwater and estuarine habitats. The Miramichi River is world renown for its Atlantic Salmon fishing. Of special note it is the only spawning habitat of Striped bass in the isolated stock of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. There are many other reasons why the Miramichi River is an important river system that MREAC is committed to managing and protecting.

MREAC partners and works along side with a number of different groups, agencies and governmental departments. Some of these include:

- New Brunswick Department of Environment, Department of Natural Resources and Department of Health and Wellness
- Environment Canada and Fisheries and Ocean Canada
- New Brunswick Community College and the University of New Brunswick
- Canadian Rivers Institute
- Aboriginal Aquatic Resources & Ocean Management

## Project Examples:

- Swim Watch
- River & Air Watch
- Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP)
- Chemical Management Plan (CMP)
- Snow Monitoring
- Water Classification

## Facts about Miramichi

- *Miramichi River watershed encompasses 13,465 km<sup>2</sup>.*
- *Consists of coastal, estuarine and freshwater environments.*
- *Home to small population of the Species At Risk Piping plover.*
- *Most popular for Atlantic Salmon fly fishing, but also home to trout and bass species.*
- *Only known spawning habitat for the Southern Gulf of the St. Lawrence population of Striped bass.*
- *Commercial fisheries for lobster, oysters, mussels, gaspereau and smelt.*



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