

EASTMAIN-1-A/SARCELLE/RUPERT PROJECT

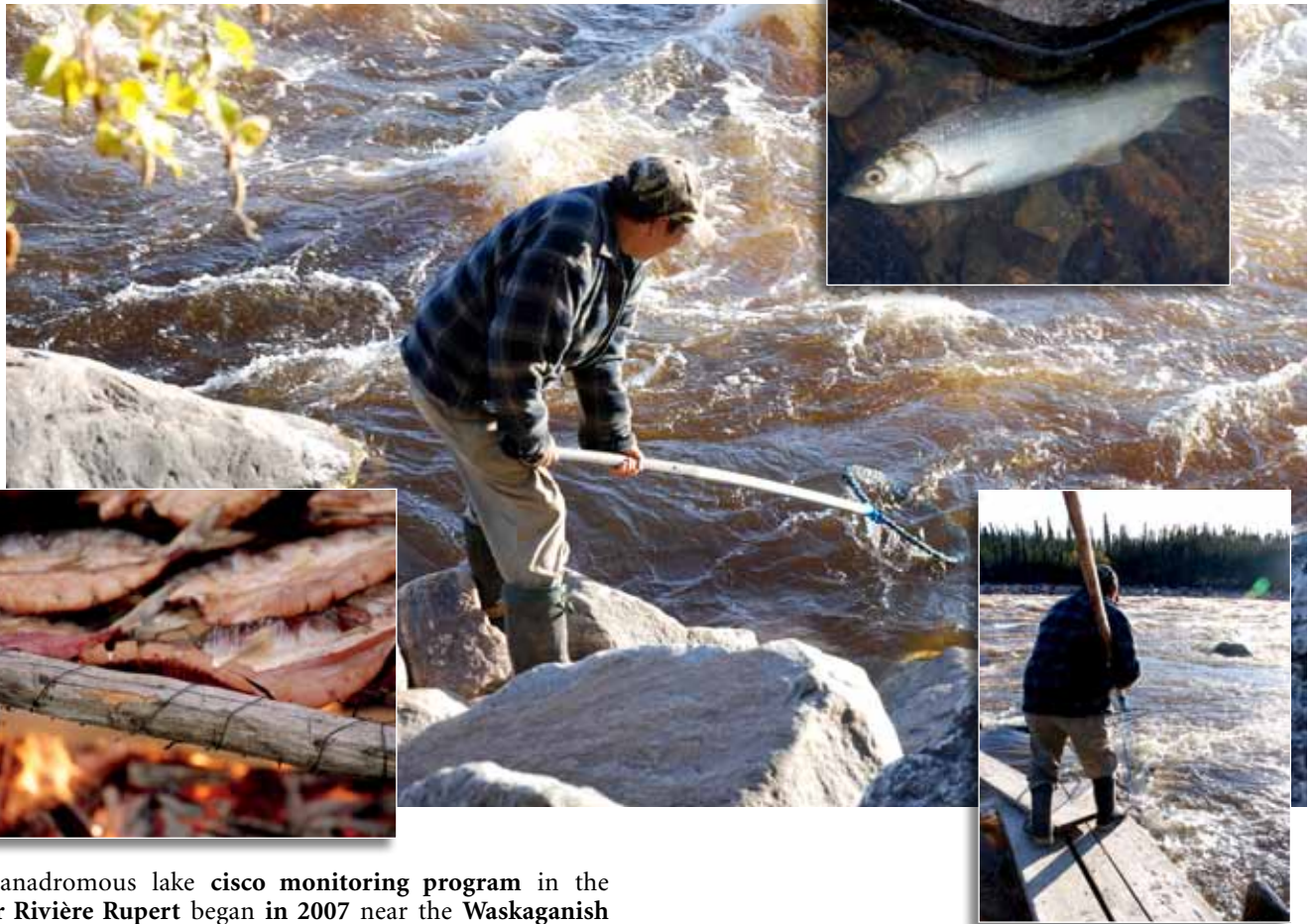
Lake Cisco

Lake cisco have been present at the Smokey Hill rapids for generations and this has resulted in the establishment of a **traditional fishery that is extremely important to the Waskaganish Crees.**

This information bulletin presents the environmental follow-up activities on the cisco.

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The anadromous lake cisco monitoring program in the lower Rivière Rupert began in 2007 near the Waskaganish community.

Environnemental follow-up activities on the cisco

The activities in this follow-up include describing the **spatial distribution of spawners** in fall in the lake cisco spawning grounds downstream of the Smokey Hill rapids (KP 24.5) and checking for **cisco presence upstream** of the Smokey Hill rapids to verify whether the fish are **able to migrate through them**. The following spring, the **downstream drift of cisco larvae is verified** at KP 10.6 in the Rivière Rupert and the total number of larvae is estimated.

2010 is the first year of monitoring under postdiversion conditions after the partial diversion of the Rivière Rupert. The **larval drift study in spring 2010** is still linked to prediversion conditions because the **cisco eggs were deposited in fall 2009 under natural flow conditions**.

In order to have follow-up results comparable to the Rivière Rupert, follow-ups are also conducted on the Rivière Broadback. In 2010, a **spring larval drift study and calculation of a lake cisco abundance index** in fall were conducted in the Rivière Broadback. Studies were also completed in 2008 for larval drift and in 2009 for the spawner abundance index.

A number of other complementary activities were added during the follow-up to document the cisco population.

Smokey Hill liaison committee

Since December 2010, the **Smokey Hill liaison committee**, composed of members from the Waskaganish community, from the Niskamoon Corporation, from the Société d'Énergie de la Baie James and Hydro-Québec, endeavors to **promote the sustainability of this traditional activity by implementing necessary site enhancements**.

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