



## Message from the Association's Manager



## Salt Marsh and Smelt Research Project

The Association is participating on a project on the mapping and assessment of salt marshes in southeastern New Brunswick. This program is led by the *Université de Moncton* in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. As part of this project, the SBWA conducted smelt spawning ground surveys in several rivers and streams this spring. Smelt swim upstream during the spring tides to the salt water limit. They then lay their eggs among the rocks and gravel on the riverbed.

The field team was able to confirm the presence of spawning grounds on the Scoudouc and Shediac Rivers, as well as on several small streams along the coast. There are spawning grounds in several of our coastal communities such as Grande-Digue, Shediac Cape, Boudreau-ouest and even in the municipality of Shediac.

Winter smelt fishing in Shediac Bay is a tradition for many. It is important to continue to protect and improve the environment of all waterways in order to continue to benefit from this resource.

## Annual General Meeting - Save the Date

The AGM is scheduled for this fall on Wednesday, September 29th at the Notre Centre in Grande-Digue. More details will be posted on our website and Facebook page in September.

Rémi Donelle was the Manager of the Shediac Bay Watershed Association from 2013 to June 2021. A board of directors, consisting of 20 citizens from the region, is responsible for administering the organization.

This will be my last newsletter as Manager of the Shediac Bay Watershed Association. I have accepted a new job with Parks Canada on their resource management team.

I have had the opportunity to work on a wide variety of projects over the past eight years. The Association has grown a lot since I arrived, with more partnerships, budgets and staff.

I want to thank the volunteers on the Board of Directors and the partners for their support. I leave a good team behind to continue the work of the Association. Jolyne Hebert is the new Manager and she will continue the projects to improve the environment of our waterways and the bay.







## Dune Protection and Restoration at Belliveau Beach

The SBWA was contacted by a citizen this winter with concerns about the degradation of the dune at Belliveau Beach in Pointe-du-Chêne.

This spring, an educational program was put in place with funding from the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund. Snow fences have been installed at the main public entrances to Pointe-du-Chêne to prevent the trampling of Beachgrass. This grass holds the sand in place

but dies when trampled frequently. The fences will prevent the dune gaps from widening.

Marram grass plants have been transplanted behind the fences to speed up the process of dune recovery.

Also, several signs have been placed along the beach to raise awareness of the fragile dune ecosystem. An interpretive sign will be placed

at the entrance from Fernwood Street.

Thanks to the Belliveau family who gave permission to access the land and to Parlee Beach Provincial Park who provided sections of fence.

## Grande-Digue Spring Cleanup - 29 Bags of Garbage Collected on 14 km of roads!

The second edition of the Grande-Digue Spring Cleanup took place on May 29. The 2020 edition was cancelled due to sanitary restrictions.

With the help of the Knights of Columbus of Grande-Digue, volunteers cleaned garbage from the ditches around Grande-Digue. In total, 29 bags

of garbage were collected on 14 km of roads! The bottles and cans were donated to the 'Pépère boîte à lunch' fund for the schools.

Thank you to the Kent Solid Waste Commission who provided the garbage bags, gloves and equipment for this activity.





## Participation in a Living Shorelines Restoration Project in Cap-Pelé

Association employees participated in a hands-on coastal restoration workshop organized by VisionH2O, the Cap-Pelé watershed group. The goal of the project was to stabilize a cliff with vegetation to reduce erosion.

A presentation was given remotely by Rosmarie Lohnes, a coastal restoration specialist from Helping Nature Heal. The techniques she described were put into practice. Rolls of sod were secured to the cliff with live stakes that will produce shrubs. Several shrubs and native plants were also planted on the site. The roots will hold the soil. Although some erosion is inevitable, it will be greatly reduced.

A public workshop on coastal restoration will be held this summer with other neighbouring environmental groups, the Pays de Cocagne Sustainable Development Group and Vision H2O, as well as the Acadian Peninsula Regional Services Commission. The practical workshop will be held in Cocagne on August 26. More details will be available soon on our Facebook page.




### Contact Info

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For more information please visit our website or follow our Facebook page:

 [shediabayassociation.org](https://shediabayassociation.org)  
[www.facebook.com/shediabaywatershedassociation](https://www.facebook.com/shediabaywatershedassociation)

### Current News

#### Contributors:

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## Featured Species - Rainbow Smelt



Photo credit: OBAKIR

The rainbow smelt *Osmerus mordax*, also known as the American smelt, is a fish that lives in salt, brackish or fresh water. They feed mainly on crustaceans, aquatic insect larvae and small fish.

It is an elongated and slender fish that usually measures less than 20 centimetres, but can reach 35 centimetres. Its life span can reach 6 years. It is recognizable by the multicoloured reflections on its back, ranging from pale green to olive green, which adds a bit of colour to its silvery-white body.

In early spring, thousands of smelts leave the sea to swim up streams and rivers to breed. It is estimated that a single female can lay between 2,000 and 16,000 eggs during this period. Of these, only a few will hatch.

This year, the *Université de Moncton*, in collaboration with the Shediac Bay watershed Association, Vision H2O and EOS Eco-Energy has undertaken a study to assess the presence of smelt eggs in various rivers and streams in southeastern New Brunswick. The study will provide a better understanding of what is considered suitable smelt breeding habitat.

**Class:** *Actinopterygii*

**Order:** *Osmeriformes*

**Family:** *Osmeridae*

**Genus:** *Osmerus*

**Species:** *Osmerus mordax*



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This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



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Climate Change Canada

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