



**MSA  
CONSERVATION**



**MIRAMICHI SALMON  
ASSOCIATION INC.**



## **Press Release**

5 May 2023

### **Tours Reopening at the Miramichi Fish Hatchery in 2023**

SOUTH ESK, NB - The Miramichi Fish Hatchery, located at the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre (MSCC) in South Esk, New Brunswick, has the distinction of being the oldest continuously operating fish hatchery in North America, celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The facility was constructed in 1873 by the federal government on Stewart Brook, a tributary of the Northwest Miramichi River, to address a decline in salmon stocks due to loss of habitat by dam construction for log drives and an intense commercial fishery. The facility's aim was to improve the survival rate of salmon from egg fertilization to first-feeding fry, a critical period during the salmon life cycle. In 1997, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans transferred the hatchery, and the responsibility for stocking salmon in the Miramichi River, to the local community through the Miramichi Watershed Management Committee. This umbrella organization is made up of several conservation groups, corporations, outfitters, and guiding associations from the region. The Miramichi Salmon Association operates the fish hatchery on behalf of the Committee.

"The conservation and stewardship efforts of the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre over the past 150 years are a major contributor to our region's recognition as a world class recreational fishing destination," says Jeff MacTavish, director of economic development and tourism for the City of Miramichi. "Having the distinction of being the oldest continually operated fish hatchery in Canada, the organization has demonstrated true dedication to maintaining our ecosystem and culture. Thank you and congratulations on celebrating this milestone!"

The Miramichi Fish Hatchery will be reopening for tours in 2023. Public tours were paused in 2016 to strengthen biosecurity. Since then, our fish-rearing buildings have seen upgrades and renovations to help us improve our biosecurity protocols. These types of improvements include foot baths, hand sanitizer stations, and upgraded infrastructure and equipment that can be disinfected (such as plastic, rubber, or aluminum) instead of wood or other porous materials.

The Miramichi Fish Hatchery includes five fish-rearing buildings: the Egg Building, the Quarantine Building, the Broodstock Building, the Small Green House, and the Grow-Out Building. Visitors will be able to tour the Egg Building, Broodstock Building, and Grow-out Building to learn about the Miramichi Salmon Association's conservation activities and the work being done at the Miramichi Fish Hatchery. Also located at the MSCC is the Miramichi Salmon Association main office, a Department of Fisheries and Oceans Conservation and Protection office, and an apartment used by students and researchers who are involved with salmon research on the Miramichi River.

**Main Office – 485 Route 420, South Esk, NB E1V 4L9**

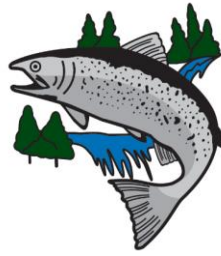
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The Miramichi Fish Hatchery will be open for school tours from May 1<sup>st</sup> until June 15<sup>th</sup>, and open for public tours from June 16<sup>th</sup> until August 31<sup>st</sup>. Public tours will take place each Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday at 11am and 2pm at a cost of \$10/adult and \$5/child (under 12). To help our operations run smoothly, we recommend that all visitors purchase or reserve their tour spot a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Hatchery tours will be approximately one hour. For the biosecurity of our fish, visitors will be asked to use our sanitation stations and any visitors who have recently been on the river may be asked to wear a provided smock.

“We are excited to welcome back community members and visitors to our hatchery facility,” said MSA President Robyn McCallum. “We have made necessary improvements to maximize fish health and biosecurity while offering education and awareness opportunities for the public. We thank the many supporters and funders who assisted us with these renovations and made our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary even more special.”

Thank you for recognizing the value of our hatchery and supporting our work to welcome visitors to this historic site. To reserve or purchase a tour spot, please call our office at (506) 622-4000 or visit <https://miramichisalmon.ca/tours/>.