



CNAES

HQP Research & Collaborative Exchange Funding

Visit report

A one-page report and photo (maximum 500 words) describing your visit. Include your original objective, and what you accomplished. This will be shared within the CNAES community.

1. Exchange information

Visitor: Vanessa Bourne, Master's Student at Laurentian University

Supervisor: Dr. John Bailey and Dr. John Gunn

Host: Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières - Fluvial Ecology Field Course

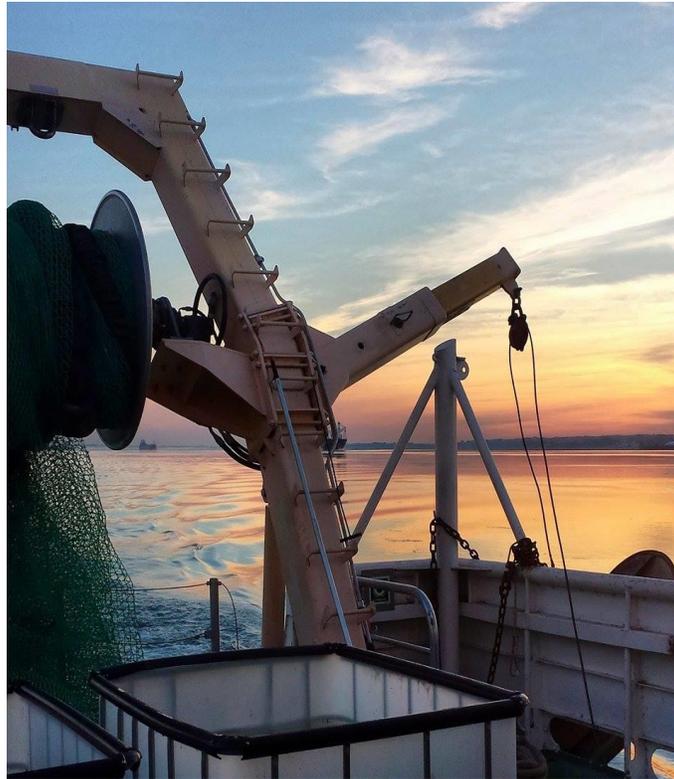
2. Goals

This field course was focused on fluvial ecology research in Lake St. Pierre. It required the participants to learn about the system being researched, create a research project, conduct field sampling, perform statistical analysis and present their findings. The field work portion of the trip was on board the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières aquatic research vessel, the Lampsillis while the in class portion was on the university campus.

The field work and analytical research skills that I gained during this course provided me with additional experience in assessing aquatic ecosystems. This additional knowledge will be valuable when completing my CNAES masters research thesis.

3. Description of the visit

The first day of the course was focused on introducing the Lake St. Pierre system. It is a fluvial lake located between Montreal and Quebec and is part of the St. Lawrence River system. The following two days were spent collecting samples using the Lampsillis research vessel. The following were sampled: fish, benthic macroinvertebrates, zooplankton, water chemistry, chlorophyll and light penetration. The first day of field work was spent sampling sites while traveling from the east end to the west end of Lake St. Pierre. That night was spent in Sorel than the following day was spent traveling back across the lake. On the fourth day of the course we created a research question and worked towards answering it. Our research goal was to determine if changes in water chemistry from varying water mass inputs effect the trophic position of fish in the food web. This question was answered using data collected in 2006 on the Lake St. Pierre system. This data included N15 and C13 isotope data as well as water chemistry data. The results of this experiment were presented on the last day of the course.



These pictures are both taken on the Lampsillis. The first picture is on the back deck of the boat where most of the instruments were deployed, including the trawl. The second picture was taken inside the ship. This picture is of the wet lab which was being used to look through benthic samples.