



Natural Resources and Energy Development

ANNUAL REPORT
2022–2023

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Province of New Brunswick
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Transmittal Letters

FROM THE MINISTER TO THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

Her Honour The Honourable Brenda Murphy
Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the annual report of the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Mike Holland
Minister

FROM THE DEPUTY MINISTER TO THE MINISTER

Honourable Mike Holland
Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development

Sir:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing operations of the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development for the fiscal year April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Embleton
Acting Deputy Minister

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Minister's Message

As New Brunswickers, we are fortunate to live in a province with such rich natural resources.

From forests to trails, wildlife and waterways, I am proud of the work the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development continues to do managing our resources in a sustainable manner. The outdoors is a part of our cultural fabric in New Brunswick, and I am privileged to take part in the exciting contributions we are making in terms of conservation and to the provincial economy.

Five years ago, I spoke at length about how our Forestry Management Plan could foster both conservation and economic development for our province.

Sustainable forest management uses sound forest science, a world-class research network and modern processing facilities which has allowed New Brunswick to be one of the largest producers of sustainable wood products in the country.

Since 2019, our government has led a provincial initiative to double the amount of protected land in New Brunswick and has achieved the target of 10 per cent protection. New Brunswickers now have 552 Nature Legacy protected areas, totaling 384,789 hectares to enjoy. My gratitude goes out to all stakeholders and those who nominated areas, shared local knowledge, or offered information to support decisions.

This year we announced a new class of resident moose licence, giving New Brunswick hunters a chance to win a licence while supporting a non-profit organization. The Conservation Fundraising Moose Licence allows one licence per year, which is awarded by a random draw through a New Brunswick hunting or fishing group as part of their fundraising efforts.

New Brunswickers have seen some challenging times recently with rising costs. That's why we launched, in partnership with NB Power, the Enhanced Energy Savings Program. The department committed \$40M bringing government's total expected contribution to \$70M in this multi-year program. The initiative assists people who need it most, whether they be homeowners or renters, by making their homes more energy efficient to help lower their monthly power bills.



Honourable Mike Holland

Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development

Deputy Minister's Message

The Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development plays a vital role in our province. Our department is committed to ensuring responsible development and management of our province's most valued resources. The department contributes to the provincial economy by supporting job creation and growth in the forestry, energy, mineral, environmental and fish and wildlife sectors.

During the 2022 – 2023 period, our department was pleased to see several collaborative efforts come to fruition. Our work on several important files such as the Nature Legacy, the *Private Woodlot Sustainability Act*, and the Enhanced Energy Savings Program demonstrate our commitment to conservation, economic growth and helping New Brunswickers manage their costs of living. We continue to actively pursue the necessary balance between the development and protection of our natural resources.

We continue to promote New Brunswick Fish Days, held during February and June. During these days, residents and non residents alike may fish inland waters without a licence. This presents a perfect opportunity for New Brunswickers, young and old, to enjoy recreational activities, while spending time outdoors and exploring our province.

We are extremely proud of our departmental employees who assisted Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island with recovery work following Hurricane Fiona. Over 40 staff were dispatched as crews to support our neighbours in clean-up efforts.

Continued dialogue with First Nations, stakeholders and industry remains a priority for the department and we look forward to working with these groups to sustain, manage and evolve our valued natural resources.

We have been entrusted by the citizens of New Brunswick to protect our natural resources and I am proud of the hard work, professionalism, and dedication our staff have put forth. Our accomplishments are a direct result of the expertise of our team.



Kim Embleton

Acting Deputy Minister

Government Priorities

Delivering for New Brunswickers

ONE TEAM ONE GNB

One Team One GNB is our vision as an organization and a collaborative approach to how we operate. It is our path forward, and it represents a civil service that is working collectively across departments, professions, and sectors. Together, we are learning, growing, adapting, and discovering new and innovative ways of doing business. It is enabling us to achieve the outcomes needed for New Brunswickers, and we are working more efficiently and effectively than ever before.

As *One Team One GNB*, we are improving the way government departments:

- Communicate with one another,
- Work side-by-side on important projects, and
- Drive focus and accountability.

STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

The Government of New Brunswick (GNB) uses a Formal Management system built on leading business practices to develop, communicate and review strategy. This process provides the Public Service with a proven methodology to execute strategy, increase accountability and continuously drive improvement.

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Our vision for 2022 – 2023 is a vibrant and sustainable New Brunswick. To make progress towards this vision, we must focus on our government's priorities.

- Energize private sector,
- Vibrant and sustainable communities,
- Affordable, responsive and high-performing government,
- Dependable public health care,
- World-class education, and
- Environment.

Highlights

During the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year, the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development focused on these government priorities through:

- Achieving government's commitment of permanently protecting 10 per cent of New Brunswick's land and freshwater through the Nature Legacy initiative. These sites protect important habitats for wildlife and species-at-risk, they increase our natural resilience to climate change, and they are places where people can connect with nature.
- Re-designing the department's website and open data portal to provide enhanced transparency, ease of navigation, and enriched content relative to forestry and conservation in New Brunswick.
- Creating the *Private Woodlot Sustainability Act* to provide government with the ability to collect additional Crown timber royalties, which will be used to address key challenges in the private woodlot sector through the establishment of the Private Woodlot Sustainability Fund.
- Maintaining essential operations at three New Brunswick mine sites, which included conducting site security, water treatment, and environmental monitoring work, after Trevali Mining (New Brunswick) Ltd. entered receivership.
- Committing \$40M over three years to the Enhanced Energy Savings Program to help homeowners with a combined gross household income under \$70,000 to save money on their rising energy costs. The program, which is delivered by NB Power, offers a free mini-split heat pump and upgraded insulation to homeowners who use electric baseboard and oil heating.
- Promoting New Brunswick's angling and big game hunting opportunities at two international hunting and fishing trade shows, in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, reaching more than 75,000 individuals.
- Developing national standards using forest fire fuel layers in collaboration with Natural Resources Canada to build a wildfire projection model that includes infrastructure and risk modeling.

Performance Outcomes

Outcome #1

REDUCTION IN WORKPLACE RECORDABLE INCIDENT RATE (RIR) FOR ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES

Reduce the recordable incident rate (RIR) for workplace accidents and injuries by 10 per cent over two calendar years (by 2023) through targeted initiatives to improve safety culture within the department.

(RIR = number of employees per 100 full-time employees involved in a recordable injury or illness in a given year).

Why is it important?

The department is committed to a health and safety program that improves occupational health and safety, and prevents injury, accidents, and illness in the workplace. An active health and safety program protects employees, property, and visitors in the workplace. The department is required through legislation to ensure the health and safety of its employees. We are responsible to take every step possible to ensure employees return home at the end of each day without injury as a result of their workday.

Overall performance

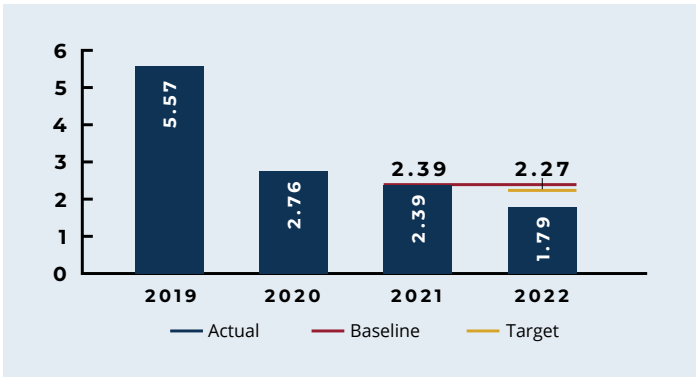
During the 2022 calendar year, the overall safety performance RIR was reduced from 2.39 to 1.79, which is a 25 per cent reduction.

What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

The department undertook a number of initiatives to reduce the RIR, including the following:

- Fall protection and rescue training provided for weather tower staff;
- Respectful customer interaction training provided to all staff;
- Quarterly health and safety review with regional managers;
- Timely response and actions initiated for all reported safety concerns; and
- Field level hazard assessment training provided.

Workplace Recordable Incident Rate



Baseline: Recordable incident rate of 2.39 (2021)

Target: 10% reduction in recordable incident rate from 2021 (2.27)

Actual: 25% reduction in recordable incident rate (1.79)

Outcome # 2

FULLY UTILIZED CROWN ANNUAL ALLOWABLE CUT

On an annual basis, the department aims to have all available Crown roundwood, as defined by the sustainable annual allowable cut (AAC), fully consumed by wood processing facilities.

Why is it important?

The volume of wood consumed each quarter provides insight on the wood flows through the year and it can be compared to consumption trends in previous years. Significant divergence from past trends may indicate required interventions (exports and temporary assignments) to help keep wood flowing to New Brunswick facilities.

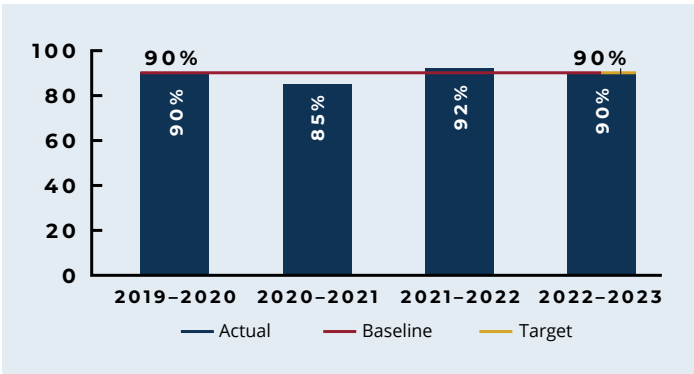
Overall performance

The annual volume harvested was 90 per cent of the AAC. Crown timber deliveries to wood processing facilities were affected negatively from trucking and harvest capacity issues related to rising inflationary costs in 2022 – 2023, resulting in a two per cent year-over-year decrease.

What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

The department has maintained actions from previous years to develop a process to better monitor wood flow trends and to improve and facilitate wood flow from Crown land. Export approvals and temporary assignments help the department work towards achieving the target of 90 per cent. These two measures allowed for approximately 621,728 m³ or 12 per cent of total Crown wood to flow. Temporary assignments and exports totaled 351,728 m³ and 270,000 m³ respectively.

Fully Utilized Crown Annual Allowable Cut



Baseline: 90% (2020 – 2021 Allocated Volumes)

Target: 90%

Actual: 90%

* Note: the 2021 – 2022 number is updated from the 2021 – 2022 report

Outcome # 3

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES ON NEW BRUNSWICK ROADS

In the renewed New Brunswick Climate Change Action Plan 2022 – 2027, the Province of New Brunswick committed to increasing the number of electric vehicles on the roads. The province has an action plan to achieve six per cent of new electric light-duty vehicles sales by 2025 and 50 per cent by 2030.

Why is it important?

Transportation continues to be a major contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in New Brunswick. Electrifying light-duty vehicles with available technology can help reduce emissions in the transportation sector.

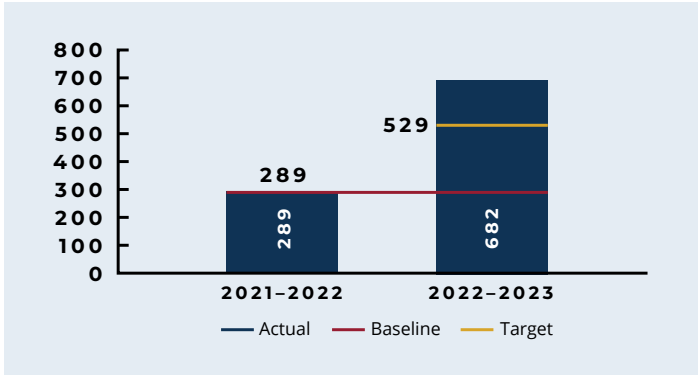
Overall Performance

In the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year, 682 electric vehicle and 178 home charger rebates were delivered. That brings the total delivered by NB Power to 971 electric vehicle rebates and 276 home charging rebates.

What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

The department secured funding from the Climate Change Fund for the implementation of a rebate program for electric vehicles and smart home chargers. The goal of the program is to incent the purchase of qualifying vehicles and home chargers. Administration, marketing, outreach and education were undertaken by NB Power. Supply chain issues continued throughout 2022 – 2023, however the province saw a significant growth in demand for electric vehicles, more than doubling the number of rebates delivered.

Incentives for electric and plug-in hybrid electric qualifying vehicles



Baseline: 289 incentives

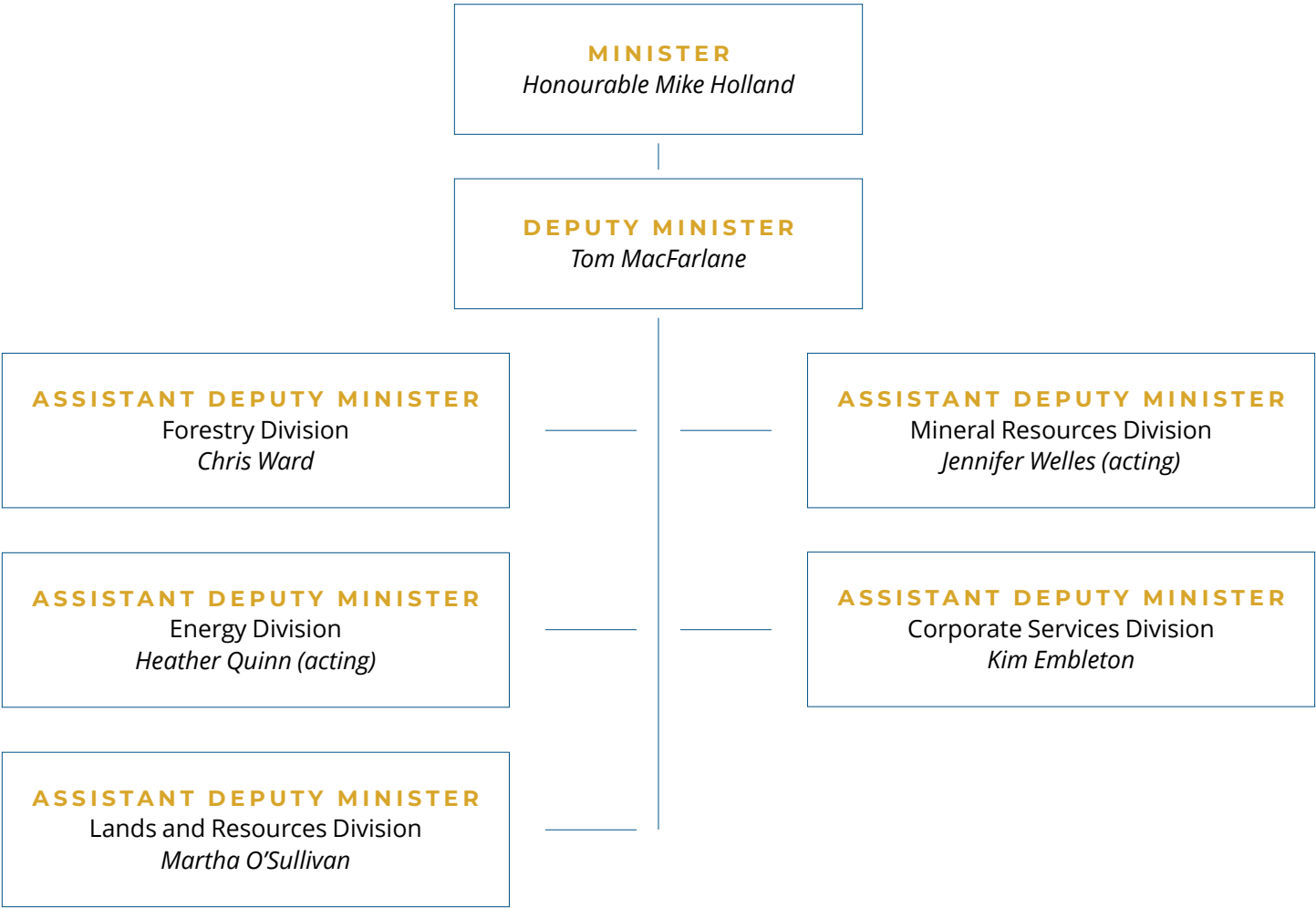
Target: 529 incentives

Actual: 682 incentives

Overview of Departmental Operations

The mandate of the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development is to support, manage and protect the forests, fish and wildlife of New Brunswick and to develop and manage the province’s energy and mineral resources.

HIGH-LEVEL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Division Overview and Highlights

The budget and expenses for the common administration of the Departments of Natural Resources and Energy Development and Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries are recorded in the 2022 – 2023 annual report for the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development. The common administration applies to the Corporate Services Division.

FORESTRY DIVISION

The Forestry Division is responsible for the sustainable management and protection of New Brunswick's forests. The Forest Planning and Stewardship Branch and the Forest Operations and Development Branch share these responsibilities.

The **Forest Planning and Stewardship Branch** is responsible for the acquisition and analysis of inventory data that characterizes forests and other terrestrial ecosystems. The branch leads the strategic planning and resource modelling for timber and habitat supply over time and is responsible for the monitoring and protection of forest health through integrated pest management. The branch also leads the conservation effort for the province's natural biodiversity, with programs for the identification and recovery of species at risk, and through the management of a network of protected natural areas.

Highlights

- Detected and treated 15,000 hectares of hot-spot spruce budworm populations as part of the ninth year of New Brunswick's 'early intervention strategy' developed through the Healthy Forest Partnership. During the same year 1,180 hectares of defoliation were detected through roadside and satellite-based technology. New Brunswick's early intervention strategy is working to keep spruce budworm populations low and prevent harmful outbreaks.
- Implemented an action plan for New Brunswick's most at-risk species that resulted in:
 - 10 species assessed by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk;
 - Advancing work towards recovery strategies and management plans for three species; and
 - Updates to the Prohibitions Regulation under the *Species at Risk Act*.

The **Forest Operations and Development Branch** is responsible for the operational oversight of silviculture, roads, harvest operations, and timber harvested from Crown lands. The branch also operates the Kingsclear Tree Nursery, where approximately 16 million seedlings are grown each year. The branch is engaged daily with the forest sector on operational issues, but also leads strategic forest sector initiatives on behalf of the department.

Highlights

- Established a new process to calculate timber royalties that takes commodity pricing into account.
- Organized a major operational trial conducted by FPInnovations to measure the incremental cost of harvesting forest biomass (specifically, logging residues such as branches, leaves/needles and unmerchantable tops) so improved estimates of availability can help develop the bioeconomy.
- Completed safety and environmental inspections of 2,500 culvert and bridge assets on designated forest access roads on Crown land with assistance from the Climate Change Fund.

ENERGY DIVISION

The Energy Division provides the regulatory structure for the managed development of the province's energy sector.

The **Energy Branch** is divided into three main areas: sustainability, electricity and petroleum; with sustainability crossing all aspects of branch activities. The branch is responsible to provide energy policies, regulations and legislation that allow the downstream energy sector to operate in the province and ensure everyone has access to safe and reliable energy at the lowest price possible without jeopardizing the continuity of supply.

The branch works closely with the Climate Change Secretariat to implement actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector and to develop more sustainable energy policies for the province that include renewable energy, energy efficiency, and smart grid. The branch assists in determining the impacts and opportunities of federal greenhouse gas legislation and monitors the New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board hearings to ensure provincial acts and regulations are working effectively.

Highlights

- Introduced legislative amendments to the *Petroleum Products Pricing Act* to reduce the volatility in petroleum prices for consumers and to align New Brunswick's prices with the rest of Atlantic Canada.
- Continued to work with NB Power, using funding from the Climate Change Fund to deliver an electric vehicle incentive program to New Brunswickers that has seen the highest uptake of electric vehicles in the province in a single year. In 2022 – 2023, 682 vehicle rebates and 178 home charger incentives were provided.
- Worked with NB Power to release a Request for Expressions of Interest for new renewable electricity projects. Successful projects will be in operation by July 2027 and will contribute to the transition to a net-zero electricity system.

LANDS AND RESOURCES DIVISION

The Lands and Resources Division is responsible for the administration and management of programs and activities within the Fish and Wildlife Branch, the Regional Operations Branch, the Forest Fire Management Branch, and the Crown Lands Branch.

The **Fish and Wildlife Branch** administers programs related to the sustainable use of fish and wildlife resources in the province and manages hunting, trapping and angling activities. The branch is also responsible for fish and wildlife-related licensing and conservation education activities.

Highlights

- Created the Conservation Fundraising Moose Hunting Licence, enabling the department to help support a non-profit organization representing the hunting and fishing community. Each year, a single non-profit organization is permitted to raise funds by selling raffle tickets; the winner is then eligible to buy a

moose licence, subject to the same conditions as other resident moose hunters.

- Stocked a total of 139,390 brook trout in 41 lakes throughout the province.

The **Regional Operations Branch** is responsible for activities and services associated with the operational delivery of forestry, fish and wildlife, forest fire management, and Crown land programs. The branch is divided into two regions, East Region and West Region. The regions are divided into 12 districts with 18 offices. The branch is also responsible for the department's land surveying duties.

Highlights

- Mobilized three teams of 54 regional staff to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island for a total of 896 days to assist in post-Hurricane Fiona recovery efforts.

- Increased Crown Land Inventory and Permanent Sample data collection for 1,450 plots, involving more than 85 staff over the course of the field season.
- East Region field staff spent 250-person days to support bird collection due to the unanticipated Avian Influenza experienced across North America, leading to the collection of over 3,200 gannets on New Brunswick's eastern coastline and 200 other non-gannet bird species to support federal testing and data collection.

The **Forest Fire Management Branch** is responsible for the coordination, education and administration of the provincial forest fire protection and suppression program, as well as coordination and support for departmental vehicles, departmental radio communications and small engine maintenance.

Highlights

- Developed a five-year strategic plan for the branch, which targets three pillars: Leveraging Relationships, Planning and Suppression and Fire Science Research.
- Renovated and upgraded the Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre with the latest technology and backup generator to support wildfire suppression with the most efficient and latest management practices.
- Piloted a weather tower refurbishment to mitigate climbing risk and reduce maintenance costs.

The **Crown Lands Branch** is responsible for management of the province's Crown lands, including coastal and submerged lands. The branch administers the legal responsibilities and manages initiatives associated with Crown lands of New Brunswick, including all recreational and commercial land transactions, such as leasing, purchases, sales and exchanges. The branch also administers recreational trail maintenance programs (non-motorized, ATV and snowmobile).

Highlights

- Received and processed 201 applications for Crown land.
- Issued 173 leases (renewals or new) and 110 licences of occupation for Crown land.
- Continued to make infrastructure investments on the DNRED-owned former railway line recreational trail:
 - The Shaw Creek stone culvert in Pembroke was replaced with a new bridge;
 - Several bridges received new decking/railing/ties;
 - Emergency repairs on the Oromocto Bridge due to arson; and
 - Several erosion sites were repaired along the Saint John River and Nashwaak Lines.

MINERAL RESOURCES DIVISION

The Mineral Resources Division provides the geoscience and regulatory structure for the responsible development of the province's non-renewable resources.

The division consists of the Geological Surveys Branch and the Resource Development Branch.

The **Geological Surveys Branch** consists of three sections: Geological Surveys North, Geological Surveys South, and Promotions and Information Services. The branch is responsible for collecting, interpreting, and disseminating geoscience information to support and promote non-renewable resource exploration and development, and to inform land management

decision-making. The branch provides advice to the public and private sectors regarding mineral, peat, aggregate, and petroleum resources; land use planning; and the impact of climate change, particularly in coastal zones. The branch actively promotes the province's mineral and petroleum resource potential to attract investment in the mineral and petroleum sectors by participating in national conferences and organizing the department's annual Exploration, Mining and Petroleum Conference. The branch also manages an extensive geological, mineral, and petroleum resources database; publishes geoscientific information about New Brunswick geology; and administers the Exploration Assistance Program to stimulate mineral exploration in New Brunswick.

Highlights

- Hosted the 47th annual Exploration, Mining and Petroleum Conference, which comprised a field trip and two days of oral and poster presentations on a variety of topics relative to minerals and energy in the province.
- Provided approximately \$399,000 in assistance to junior mining companies to help fund 21 exploration projects and approximately \$272,000 to 44 prospectors through the New Brunswick Exploration Assistance Program.
- Advanced several geoscience initiatives aimed at evaluating provincial critical mineral resources, including detailed assessments of selected mineral occurrences, and geochemical analysis of over 100 soil samples and reanalysis of approximately 1,600 stream sediment samples.
- Completed English and French versions of the *Journey Through Time: Places of Geological Significance in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island* map in collaboration with the Atlantic Geoscience Society.

The **Resource Development Branch** is composed of the Resource Tenure, Petroleum Resource Development, and the Mining and Mineral Resources sections. The branch provides oversight for the responsible exploration, development, and management of mineral and petroleum resources, as well as Crown peat and Crown aggregate resources, through the administration of departmental legislation.

Highlights

- Generated over \$3.5M in revenue from rents, fees, and royalties associated with mineral, hydrocarbon, Crown peat, and Crown aggregate resources in 2022 – 2023.
- Maintained 420 active leases, licences, and permits, as well as 101 active work authorizations.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

The Corporate Services Division provides direction and support in matters of human resources, financial services, policy, strategy, information and technology, and facilities management. The division consists of the Financial Services Branch, the Human Resource Services Branch, the Information Systems and Departmental Services Branch, the Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, the Regulatory Affairs Branch, and the Performance Excellence Branch.

The **Financial Services Branch** is responsible for the department's financial resources, including expenditure and revenue management, budgeting, accounting and financial reporting services, and supports departmental procurement.

Highlights

- Supported the GNB Enterprise Resource Planning team and the department with the implementation of phase one of Enterprise Planning and Budgeting Cloud Service.
- Supported the go-live of the Fixed Assets module within Oracle Fusion.

- Introduced the Financial Services newsletter, providing important information on financial topics, such as How to get an invoice paid and the NB First Procurement Policy.

The **Human Resource Services Branch** is responsible for providing all human resource management services, including recruitment and retention, classification, labour relations, human resource policies, employee engagement, organizational development, succession planning and administration of programs such as health and safety.

Highlights

- Coordinated numerous health and safety and employee experience initiatives.
- Created and coordinated new training for the management team on various supervision topics and delivered Respectful Communications training.

The **Information Systems and Departmental Services Branch** provides province-wide services to the department, including information technology, records management, information security, intranet management, facilities management, remotely piloted aircraft (drone) services and geographic information system services.

Highlights

- Developed a set of field applications for use by the Resource Development Branch when doing inspections on quarries, peat bogs and oil and gas installations.
- Completed the Regional Dashboard for use by regional staff to track field activities.
- Provided support for the relocation of the Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre, including technology updates.

The **Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Branch** provides strategy development, strategic planning, and support for federal-provincial-territorial activities. The branch is also responsible for trade policy analysis, economic forecasting, monitoring, research, statistical analysis, reporting and providing support to the forestry, mining and energy branches. Additionally, the branch is responsible for the management of ministerial correspondence.

Highlights

- Lead the coordination of the department's responsibilities for its role of Chair of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers.
- Published (on-line) Sectors in Review Reports for Forestry, Mining and Energy for 2020.

The **Regulatory Affairs Branch** provides leadership, coordination and support regarding the development of legislation, policy initiatives and proposals, and the Minister's legislative business. The branch also manages Agencies, Boards and Commissions, requests under the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and provides support on privacy matters. The branch, in conjunction with the Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, provides policy administrative support to the Department's Policy Management Committee.

Highlights

- Coordinated responses to 27 requests under the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- Supported the department with three legislative changes, nine regulatory changes, and other proposals.

The **Performance Excellence Branch** supports departmental programs to align efforts toward common goals, understand progress toward targeted outcomes, and conduct improvement projects to close gaps. This work is done by facilitators using process improvement, project management, change management, and other innovative techniques.

Highlights

- Worked collaboratively with Project Advisory Services and Crown Lands Branch to support the renewal of Crown Waterfront Reserves.
- Supported several strategic planning exercises across the department, including support for the Mineral Resources Division, Crown Lands Branch, and Forest Fire Management Branch, among others.

Financial Information

EXPENDITURES IN DETAIL 2022 – 2023 (\$)

ORDINARY PROGRAM	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS*	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Administration	8,031,000	375,100	8,406,100	7,724,000	(682,100)
Natural Resources	84,425,000	7,586,800	92,011,800	90,188,900	(1,822,900)
Energy and Mines	6,547,000	41,892,900	48,439,900	56,444,500	8,004,600
Land Management	2,728,000	525,200	3,253,200	3,192,800	(60,400)
Total 2022 – 2023	101,731,000	50,380,000	152,111,000	157,550,200	5,439,200

* Includes Supplementary Estimate of \$47,000,000

CAPITAL PROGRAM	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Mine Reclamation	250,000	–	250,000	–	(250,000)
Musquash Watershed Infrastructure	6,920,000	–	6,920,000	68,600	(6,851,400)
Sentier NB Trail Infrastructure	750,000	–	750,000	1,015,000	265,000
Total 2022 – 2023	7,920,000	–	7,920,000	1,083,600	(6,836,400)

SPECIAL PURPOSE PROGRAM	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Wildlife Trust Fund	1,400,000	–	1,400,000	1,715,800	315,800
Recoverable Projects	1,212,000	–	1,212,000	626,000	(586,000)
Trail Management Trust Fund	1,700,000	–	1,700,000	1,978,200	278,200
Total 2022 – 2023	4,312,000	–	4,312,000	4,320,000	8,000

REVENUE IN DETAIL 2022 – 2023 (\$)

REVENUE	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Conditional Grants - Canada	–	–	–	142,300	142,300
Return on Investment	126,000	–	126,000	102,400	(23,600)
Licences and Permits	7,488,000	–	7,488,000	7,181,600	(306,400)
Sales of Goods and Services	6,087,000	–	6,087,000	6,150,900	63,900
Royalties	70,294,000	–	70,294,000	106,683,900	36,389,900
Fines and Penalties	238,000	–	238,000	135,200	(102,800)
Miscellaneous	20,000	–	20,000	444,700	424,700
Total 2022 – 2023	84,253,000	–	84,253,000	120,841,000	36,588,000

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Capital Recoveries	50,000	–	50,000	50,500	500
Total 2022 – 2023	50,000	–	50,000	50,500	500

SPECIAL PURPOSE PROGRAM	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Conditional Grants - Canada	1,212,000	–	1,212,000	626,000	(586,000)
Return on Investment	15,000	–	15,000	82,800	67,800
Licences and Permits	3,210,000	–	3,210,000	3,561,400	351,400
Sales of Goods and Services	5,000	–	5,000	–	(5,000)
Miscellaneous	–	–	–	10,100	10,100
Total 2022 – 2023	4,442,000	–	4,442,000	4,280,300	(161,700)

Summary of Staffing Activity

Pursuant to section 4 of the *Civil Service Act*, the Secretary to Treasury Board delegates staffing to each Deputy Head for his or her respective department(s). Please find below a summary of the staffing activity for 2022 – 2023 for the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development.

NUMBER OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES AS OF DEC. 31 OF EACH YEAR		
EMPLOYEE TYPE	2022	2021
Permanent	416	422
Temporary	73	66
TOTAL	489	488

The department advertised 30 competitions, including 20 open (public) competitions and 10 closed (internal) competitions.

Pursuant to sections 15 and 16 of the *Civil Service Act*, the department made the following appointments using processes to establish merit other than the competitive process:

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT	NUMBER
Specialized Professional, Scientific or Technical	An appointment may be made without competition when a position requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high degree of expertise and training; • A high degree of technical skill; and • Recognized experts in their field. 	15(1)	1
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	Provides Aboriginals, persons with disabilities and members of a visible minority group with equal access to employment, training and advancement opportunities.	16(1)(a)	2
Department Talent Management Program	Permanent employees identified in corporate and departmental talent pools, who meet the four-point criteria for assessing talent, namely performance, readiness, willingness and criticalness.	16(1)(b)	1

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT	NUMBER
Lateral transfer	The GNB transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within Part 1, 2 (school districts) and 3 (hospital authorities) of the Public Service.	16(1) or 16(1)(c)	10
Regular appointment of casual/temporary	An individual hired on a casual or temporary basis under section 17 may be appointed without competition to a regular properly classified position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(i)	13
Regular appointment of students/ apprentices	Summer students, university or community college co-op students or apprentices may be appointed without competition to an entry level position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(ii)	0

Pursuant to section 33 of the *Civil Service Act*, no complaints alleging favouritism were made to the Deputy Head of the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development and no complaints were submitted to the Ombud.

Summary of Legislation and Legislative Activity

BILL #	NAME OF LEGISLATION	DATE OF ROYAL ASSENT	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
99	<i>An Act to Amend the Electricity Act</i> Chapter-20.pdf (gnb.ca)	June 10, 2022	<p>Amended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the Energy Efficiency Fund to be used for energy efficiency programs; • Provide authority to establish minimum electricity efficiency targets for NB Power; • Provide authority to establish energy efficiency reporting requirements by NB Power; • Provide authority to execute government energy efficiency policy priorities to address climate change; • Provide authority for an annual minimum amount of revenue to be directed into the Energy Efficiency Fund; and • To grow the green economy in the province and provide stability to the businesses that deliver energy efficiency programs in New Brunswick.
7	<i>Private Woodlot Sustainability Act</i> Chap-47.pdf (gnb.ca)	December 16, 2022	<p>Created to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide authority to adjust Crown timber royalty rates for the purpose of enhancing management of the private woodlot forest; • Create a Private Woodlot Sustainability Fund for administering the additional royalty revenue; and • Provide authority to the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development to use fund assets for the purpose of improving private woodlot management.
15	<i>An Act Respecting Petroleum Products Pricing</i> Chap-55.pdf (gnb.ca)	December 16, 2022	<p>Amended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure consumers are provided with the lowest price possible without jeopardizing the continuity of supply; • Reduce the extreme volatility of energy prices and enable New Brunswick wholesalers and retailers of petroleum products to recuperate their costs while providing consumers with fair market prices; and • Ensure New Brunswickers continue to have access to steady supplies of petroleum products.

NAME OF REGULATION	EFFECTIVE DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
Amendments to the Moose Hunting Regulation (94-47) under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Act</i>	April 5, 2022	Amended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a new class of resident moose licence, the conservation fundraising moose licence; and • Provide the Minister with the ability to issue one moose licence annually to a New Brunswick resident who is identified through a random draw, held by a New Brunswick hunting or fishing organization.
Amendments to the List of Species at Risk Regulation (2013-38) and the Prohibitions Regulation (2013-39) under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>	April 22, 2022	Amended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>) and Transverse Lady Beetle (<i>Coccinella transversoguttata</i>) as Endangered Species and to remove Bathurst Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum subulatum</i>), Bathurst population; and • Remove Bathurst Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum subulatum</i>), Bathurst population from the Prohibitions Regulation as a result of amendments to the List of Species at Risk Regulation.
Amendments to the List of Species at Risk Regulation (2013-38) under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>	July 27, 2022	Amended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Bohemian Cuckoo Bumble Bee (<i>Bombus bohemicus</i>), and Wrinkled Shingle Lichen (<i>Pannaria lurida</i>) as Endangered Species; and • Change the status of Beach Pinweed (<i>Lechea maritima</i>) and Monarch (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>) from Special Concern to Endangered, and Olive-sided Flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>) from Threatened to Endangered.
Amendments to the Timber Regulation (86-160) under the <i>Crown Lands and Forests Act</i>	August 30, 2022	Amended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the fair market value rates and the associated royalty rates of standing timber.
Amendments to the Moose Hunting Regulation (94-47) under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Act</i>	August 30, 2022	Amended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of non-resident moose licences available for the guide and outfitter draw from 75 to 95, increasing the overall number of non-resident moose licences to 120 annually; and • Reallocate any unclaimed non-resident moose licences from the guide and outfitter draw to the regular non-resident moose draw.

NAME OF REGULATION	EFFECTIVE DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
A new Energy Efficiency Regulation (2022-74) under the <i>Electricity Act</i>	November 3, 2022	<p>New regulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That sets energy efficiency targets for NB Power and provides for sustained funding to support long-term energy efficiency programs for all fuel types and sectors; and • Provide direction to NB Power to prioritize funding from the Energy Efficiency Fund towards non-electric energy efficiency programs, low-income households, First Nations, not-for profits, and all fuels.
Amendments to General Regulation (2006-41) under the <i>Petroleum Products Pricing Act</i>	December 16, 2022	<p>Amended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better regulate the setting of maximum prices; and • Allow the use of the New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board discretion for determining a component in the calculation of the daily reference price for diesel and furnace oil.
Amendments to the List of Species at Risk Regulation (2013-38) and the Prohibitions Regulation (2013-39) under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>	January 19, 2023	<p>Amended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the status of Canada Lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>) listing from Endangered to Special Concern and change the species' name Wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) to Eastern Wolf (<i>Canis sp. cf. lycaon</i>); and • Remove Canada Lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>) from the Prohibitions Regulation as a result of amendments to the List of Species at Risk Regulation.
Amendment to the Fur Harvesting Regulation (84-124) under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Act</i>	February 27, 2023	<p>Amended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulate the use of certified traps for live trapping of beavers and update the list of certified traps permitted for use in trapping other fur bearing species.

The acts for which the department was responsible in 2022 – 2023 may be found at:
<https://laws.gnb.ca/en/deplinks?subjectnumber=5>

Summary of Official Languages Activities

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development has continued to respect its Official Languages obligations by focussing on four sectors of activity. The following outlines the actions taken during 2022 – 2023 in each of the four areas of focus.

FOCUS 1

Ensure access to service of equal quality in English and French throughout the province:

- Employees were provided with the tools enabling them to be successful in respecting their legal obligation to offer service of equal quality in English and French in all locations.
- Linguistic profiles were respected through the recruitment process to make certain that the department is able to provide services in both English and French throughout the province.

FOCUS 2

An environment and climate that encourages, for all employees, the use of the Official Language of their choice in their workplace:

- Communication, correspondence, and interactions with employees such as performance appraisals, were delivered in the employee's Official Language of choice.
- The department continued to encourage the use of both Official Languages for small meetings. For all large meetings, the department promoted bilingual presentations, or separate English and French sessions.

FOCUS 3

New and revised government programs and policies will take the realities of the province's official linguistic communities into account:

- Correspondence and information were provided to the public in the Official Language of their choice.

FOCUS 4

Ensure Public Service employees have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the *Official Languages Act*, relevant policies, regulations, and the province's obligations with respect to Official Languages:

- The Deputy Minister, and other management team members, reminded employees of their legal obligation to offer services in the Official Language of choice of the client. Employees were also reminded of the Language of Service Policy and Guidelines and the Official Languages Toolkit.
- As part of the ongoing process for employee orientation and performance management, employees were required to read the policies related to Official Languages.

CONCLUSION

The department understands, promotes, and honours its obligations under the *Official Languages Act* and related policies. It strives to provide quality services to clients in both Official Languages. The department encourages and supports the use of both Official Languages in the workplace and invests in employee development through second language training. For a third consecutive year, the department did not receive any official language complaint and prides itself in this success.

Summary of Recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General

Section 1 – Includes the current reporting year and the previous year.

NAME AND YEAR OF AUDIT AREA WITH LINK TO ONLINE DOCUMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
	TOTAL
2021 V2 Chapter 2: Residential Energy Efficiency Programs – Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, NB Power Chap2e.pdf (agnb-vgnb.ca)	2

IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN
2.58 We recommend the department work with NB Power to develop a sustainable funding model for all fuel energy efficiency programs.	In Fall 2022, the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development filed the <i>Energy Efficiency Regulation</i> under the <i>Electricity Act</i> which establishes clear electricity efficiency targets and long-term funding for non-electric, low-income individuals and families, First Nations, and not-for-profits.
2.69 We recommend the department fully exercise its oversight authority over energy efficiency programs delivered by NB Power, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandating NB Power with implementation of the government's strategic directions on energy efficiency; and • Setting relevant short, medium and long-term performance expectations. 	In Fall 2022, the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development filed the <i>Energy Efficiency Regulation</i> under the <i>Electricity Act</i> which establishes clear electricity efficiency targets for NB Power and establishes clear reporting requirements. In addition, energy efficiency remains a component in the NB Power Mandate Letter and additional direction is provided as funding is offered by the province for things like the Enhanced Energy Savings Program.

Section 2 – Includes the reporting periods for years three, four and five.

NAME AND YEAR OF AUDIT AREA WITH LINK TO ONLINE DOCUMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS	
	TOTAL	IMPLEMENTED
2020 V1 Chapter 4: Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development – Follow-up: 2008 Timber Royalties Chap4e.pdf (agnb-vgnb.ca)	5	3
2019 V3 Chapter 7: Contaminated Sites Chap7e.pdf (agnb-vgnb.ca)	2	2

Report on the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*

As provided under section 18(1) of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*, the chief executive shall prepare a report of any disclosures of wrongdoing that have been made to a supervisor or designated officer of the portion of the public service for which the chief executive officer is responsible. The Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development received no disclosure of wrongdoing in the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year.

Appendix A: Silviculture

Production at the Kingsclear Nursery and the Atlantic Forest Seed Centre

YEAR	PRODUCTS			
	SEEDLINGS PRODUCED	SEED PRODUCED (KG)	SEED STORED (KG)	SEED STORED FOR CLIENTS (KG)
2022 – 2023	16,144,000	9	1,985	3,117
2021 – 2022	16,055,000	26	2,101	3,023
2020 – 2021	15,470,000	15	2,205	2,953

Crown silviculture by year (ha)

YEAR	PLANTING-RELATED ACTIVITIES		PRE-COMMERCIAL THINNING
	TREE PLANTING	PLANTATION TENDING	
2022 – 2023	9,404	13,199	12,934
2021 – 2022	9,578	16,877	14,672
2020 – 2021	9,847	13,308	14,786

Private land silviculture by year (ha)

YEAR	PLANTING-RELATED ACTIVITIES			PRE-COMMERCIAL THINNING
	SITE PREPARATION	TREE PLANTING	PLANTATION TENDING	
2022 – 2023	1,808	1,342	1,407	1,794
2021 – 2022	1,556	1,671	1,195	2,115
2020 – 2021	1,244	1,466	952	2,611

Appendix B: Crown Harvesting

Forest products harvested from Crown lands (m³)

YEAR	SPECIES GROUP	LICENCEES AND SUB-LICENSEES	FIRST NATIONS	SPECIAL PERMITS	TOTAL
2022 – 2023	Softwood	3,487,460	209,457	2,139	5,382,624
	Hardwood	1,596,181	62,725	24,662	
2021 – 2022	Softwood	3,470,559*	202,093	6,715	5,490,015*
	Hardwood	1,722,968*	59,886	27,794	
2020 – 2021	Softwood	3,185,203*	199,595	7,033	5,211,325*
	Hardwood	1,729,872*	57,137	32,485	

*updated from the 2021 – 2022 report

Appendix C: Fire

Area affected by fire in hectares (ha) 2022, 2021, 2020

YEAR		EAST	WEST	TOTAL
2022	Fires	89	125	214
	ha	53	123	176
2021	Fires	62	118	180
	ha	812	219	1,031
2020	Fires	205	257	462
	ha	1,081	308	1,389

10-year average: 274 fires, 476.3 ha

2022 fires by cause

CAUSE	NUMBER	HECTARES
Human/Industry	209	174
Lightning	5	2

Appendix D: Fish and Wildlife

Hunting licences issued

LICENCE TYPE ¹	DEER	MOOSE ²	BEAR	SMALL GAME	VARMINT	WILD TURKEY	MINORS ³
Resident	42,989	4,998	9,351	11,690	13,622	376	677
Designated Hunter	N/A	3,891	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non-Resident	256	101	1,892	410	22	N/A	N/A
Total 2022	43,245	8,990	11,243	12,100	13,644	376	677
Resident	43,838	4,731	9,569	12,113	12,161	349	661
Designated Hunter	N/A	3,621	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non-Resident	198	99	479	335	12	N/A	N/A
Total 2021	44,036	8,451	10,048	12,448	12,173	349	661
Resident	45,109	4,732	7,372	12,486	11,791	N/A	727
Designated Hunter	N/A	3,570	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non-Resident	99	98	58	140	5	N/A	N/A
Total 2020	45,208	8,400	7,430	12,626	11,796	N/A	727

¹ 9,100 licence bundles were sold in 2022 – 2023.

² Resident moose hunters may designate a hunter to accompany them.
The bag limit for the party remains one moose.

³ The equivalent of a small game licence for person aged 12 to 15 years.

Angling licences issued

SPECIES	2022	2021	2020
Salmon	12,320	11,574	9,334
Angling (except Salmon) ⁴	48,430	53,218	57,377
Total	60,750	64,792	66,711

Details of licences issued, 2022

ALL SEASONS	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Salmon	9,918	2,402
Angling (except Salmon) ⁴	45,056	3,374
CROWN RESERVE ⁵		RESIDENTS ONLY
Miramichi		1,187 / 1,053 Rod Days
Restigouche		584 / 960 Rod Days

⁴ Includes ice/winter fishing licence sales.

⁵ Regular stretches