

Eel Recovery Project Components

- 1. Weekly standardized surveys
- 2. Mapping of dead/injured eels
- 3. Necropsy
- 4. Fish tagging and acoustic telemetry



Biocultural Restoration

Restoring human and cultural relationships to the eel, while also restoring the eel population and ecosystem they live in

Biocultural Restoration in Akwesasne

Traditional Teachings

- Eel community workshop
- Medicine – uses and preparation
- Food – methods of cooking eel

Outreach

- Kahnawake fishing derby – safe hook removal
- Social media posts
- Person-to-person

Research

- Eel contaminant study (2022-2024)
- What are safe levels of consumption for eel?



Importance of engaging with Indigenous groups in a meaningful way

- Sharing ways of knowing – different perspective than Western culture
- Responsibility to nature - shared stewardship
- Capacity building
- Empathy and emotional connection to a fish brings value to science



Eel Symposium February 2024

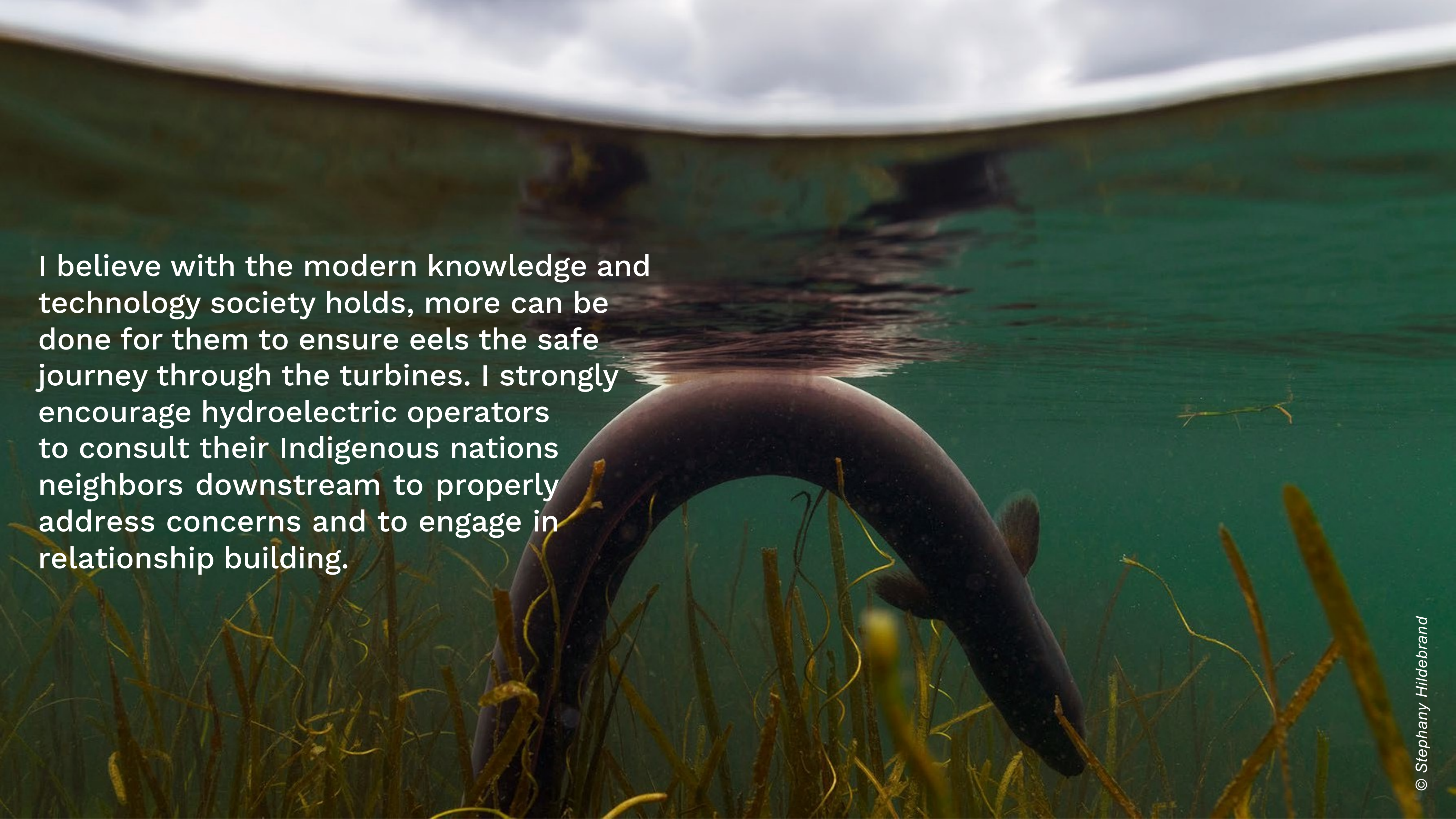
Meeting of Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Indigenous Groups



© Stephany Hildebrand



© Stephany Hildebrand

An underwater photograph of a dark eel swimming through a dense field of yellowish-brown seaweed. The eel is curved, moving from the left towards the right. The water is a deep, dark green color. The background shows a curved horizon line under a cloudy sky, suggesting the eel is near the surface.

I believe with the modern knowledge and technology society holds, more can be done for them to ensure eels the safe journey through the turbines. I strongly encourage hydroelectric operators to consult their Indigenous nations neighbors downstream to properly address concerns and to engage in relationship building.

Nia:wen



© Stephany Hildebrand

Courtney Holden, cholden@riverinstitute.ca

Tekaherha Logan Lazore, logan.Lazore@Akwesasne.ca

St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences, Cornwall, Ontario

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Akwesasne, Ontario



Sharing the
excitement of
scientific discovery.

