



SOCC

Save Our Char Committee

News Release – November 5th, 2009

For Immediate Release

Saving our char one fish at a time:

Committee releases information on past year and future plans

The Save Our Char Committee (SOCC) is releasing information today on the Parker's River counting fence numbers for the past year and appealing to the public for future participation into surveys for recreational fishers in the local area.

The numbers are in for the 2009 season and give a basis for future counts. The task of counting and distinguishing among each fish revealed approximately 274 Arctic Char, 189 Atlantic Salmon and 224 Brook Trout. The primary focus is the Arctic Char numbers and from local consultation these numbers are low. It will require further counting and scientific analysis to see if the stock can rebuild itself.

“We are very happy to finally get some stock numbers to form as a basis for further research,” added Terry Simms, SOCC Chairperson. “We have worked very hard as a group and with our important partners to ensure that our plan for recovery is moving forward. I encourage everyone to view the Nordic website to follow up on SOCC activities and view pictures of the excellent work we are doing.”

SOCC is now focusing on another project for the fall. They will be distributing surveys to local recreational fishers in the surrounding area to get a better understanding about the background of these Arctic Char and the Pistolet Bay area.

The SOCC notes that it would be a tremendous help to the committee if people contributed to this project. They are calling on all people who ever fished at Parker's River, also known as Western Brook, any other river surrounding Pistolet Bay or in the bay itself to take some time to fill out this important survey. This survey is available by contacting the SOCC Coordinator, Carla Hedderson, at (709) 454-2585 or it can be printed directly from online at by visiting the SOCC webpage at www.nedc.nf.ca/SOCC.asp .

The Save Our Char Committee has been working with Nordic Economic Development Corporation to establish its own webpage via Nordic's website. Work on the webpage is an ongoing process with the continued addition of new information and ensuring the format allows for easy browsing for the public. The SOCC and Nordic welcome any feedback on the site for future revisions.

"Nordic staff has been working very hard to ensure that our partnership with the SOCC remains strong and that they have a voice in the community," stated Janice Pilgrim, Chairperson. "The addition of the SOCC page to our website shows our commitment to community groups and we are very proud to provide continued assistance in their important community activities."

The Save Our Char Committee continues to work toward the goals outlined in their 5 Year Recovery Plan. It is well on its way to fulfilling the goals outlined in the plan and will continue to seek public participation in its activities. For additional information on the SOCC and its activities please visit www.nedc.nf.ca/SOCC.asp where you can view all information regarding the group to date.

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