



SOCC

Save Our Char Committee

News Release – November 24th, 2010

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 new information on the Parker's River counting fence numbers for the past year and the results of the Fishers survey for 2009. The committee is appealing to the public to come out to a series of Information sessions and discuss the committees 5 Year Strategic Recovery Plan.

The numbers are in for the 2010 season and are consistent with the 2009 results. The task of counting and distinguishing among each fish revealed approximately 292 Arctic Char, 215 Atlantic Salmon and 211 Brook Trout. The primary focus is the Arctic Char numbers and from local consultation these numbers are still low. It will require further counting and scientific analysis to see if the stock can rebuild itself.

"It's really exciting to see the results because they give us a new database of information we have never had before" stated Amy Cull, SOCC Coordinator. "We have worked very hard as a group and with our important partners to ensure that our plan for recovery is moving forward."

The SOCC is now focusing on community involvement and have set up three information sessions throughout the region. This will give the public an opportunity to get an overview of the committees work to date and future plans in trying to save these rare Arctic Char. **The Information Sessions have been scheduled for:**

7pm, November 30th, 2010 at the Town Hall in Raleigh.

7pm, December 2nd, 2010 at the Lions Club in St. Anthony.

7pm, December 3rd, 2010 at the Fire Hall in Cook's Harbour.

The SOCC wants to reiterate that it would be a tremendous help to the committee if more people contributed to this community project. They are calling on all residents who have an interest in the rare Arctic Char at Parker's River, also known as Western Brook, or other rivers

surrounding Pistolet Bay to take some time to come out to these sessions. The information gathered to date is very interesting and attendees will be amazed at underwater video coverage of the Arctic Char and other species in the river.

“I encourage everyone to attend our information sessions and become involved in what’s happening right here in our own backyard, added Ms. Cull.”

The Save Our Char Committee also continues to work with the 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. You can visit the SOCC webpage at www.nedc.nf.ca/SOCC.asp.

For further information please contact the SOCC Coordinator, Amy Cull, at (709) 454-0048

Media Contact:

**Amy Cull, SOCC Coordinator
(709) 454-0048/6486**