

Save Our Char Committee

Recreational Person-to-person Survey

Angler Survey – Introduction

The following survey is being conducted by researchers from the Save Our Char Committee in conjunction with the Community University Research for Recovery Alliance (CURRA) in partnership with MUN. The research is aimed at gaining a better understanding of commercial and recreational fisheries in order to assess potential impacts on Arctic Char populations in the Pistolet Bay area. The Pistolet Bay area includes all inland waters flowing into Pistolet Bay and the ocean from Cape Norman to Cape Onion. The results of this research will be combined with biological assessments in the area in order to increase general knowledge of the area and help with fisheries management. We will make results of the survey accessible on the NORDIC website (www.nedc.nf.ca/SOCC.asp) and will present findings at town meetings in the adjacent Pistolet Bay area communities.

Participation in this survey is free and voluntary and participants are free to withdraw at any time or to refuse to answer any questions without explanation. Participants will remain anonymous and no names will be used in any reports or publications from this work.

Completed surveys should be returned in person to the researcher or by mail using the enclosed self addressed stamped envelope addressed to:

Carla Hedderson

Save Our Char Committee
c/o Department of Fisheries and Oceans
P.O. Box 5
St. Anthony, NL
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Ph: (709) 454 2585(DFO) or (709) 454 6049(Carla)

Demographics:

1. How old are you? _____
2. What community do you live in? _____
3. Where is your preferred spot to fish in Newfoundland? _____

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4. How many years have you fished recreationally? _____

5. How long have you fished recreationally in the Pistolet Bay area? _____

6. What species did you catch in this area? (check all that apply)

- salmon
- brook trout (mud trout, sea trout, brookies, trout, etc.)
- Arctic Char
- american eel
- cod
- mackerel
- other: _____

Questions pertaining to Arctic Char catches in the Pistolet Bay area:

1. What date do you usually start fishing for Arctic Char in:

- a. Winter _____ b. Spring/Summer _____

2. What date do you usually stop fishing for Arctic Char in:

- a. Winter _____ b. Spring/Summer _____

3. Where do you normally fish for Arctic Char in:

Spring: (check all that apply)

- Freshwater (Parkers and other brooks)
- Headwaters (Western Brook/Stock Pond)
- Marine (Cooks Hr/ Raleigh/ Billy's Hr)

Summer: (check all that apply)

- Freshwater (Parkers and other brooks)
- Headwaters (Western Brook/Stock Pond)
- Marine (Cooks Hr/ Raleigh/ Billy's Hr)

Fall: (check all that apply)

- Freshwater (Parkers and other brooks)
- Headwaters (Western Brook/Stock Pond)
- Marine (Cooks Hr/ Raleigh/ Billy's Hr)

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Winter: (check all that apply)

- Freshwater (Parkers and other brooks)
- Headwaters (Western Brook/Stock Pond)
- Marine (Cooks Hr/ Raleigh/ Billy's Hr)

4. If you've seen changes in the size of your Arctic Char catches in this area during your fishing career, what do you think is responsible?

5. When you first started fishing for Arctic Char in the Pistolet Bay area, what was the average size (lbs) of fish you caught in:

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Freshwater				
Headwaters				
Marine				

6. In the past two years that you have been fishing for Arctic Char in the Pistolet Bay area, what was the average size (lbs) of fish caught in:

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Freshwater				
Headwaters				
Marine				

7. When you first started fishing for Arctic Char in the Pistolet Bay area, what was a(n):

Good catch (fish/day) in:

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Freshwater				
Headwaters				
Marine				

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Average catch (fish/day) in:

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Freshwater				
Headwaters				
Marine				

Poor catch (fish/day) in:

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Freshwater				
Headwaters				
Marine				

8. In the last two years in the Pistolet Bay area, what was a:

Good catch (fish/day) in:

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Freshwater				
Headwaters				
Marine				

Average catch (fish/day) in:

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Freshwater				
Headwaters				
Marine				

Poor catch (fish/day) in:

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Freshwater				
Headwaters				
Marine				

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9. If you've seen changes in the size of the Arctic Char you catch during your fishing career in this area, what do you think is responsible?

10. Do you fish Arctic Char to keep, for catch and release angling, or both?

11. If both: what percentage of the time do you keep the fish you catch?

12. What kind of gear do you use to catch Arctic Char in the Pistolet Bay area (i.e. Artificial Flies, Lures, etc.)?

13. What kinds of gear have you seen used to catch Arctic Char in the Pistolet Bay area?

14. What is the best tide for catching Arctic Char in Headwaters and marine environments in the Pistolet Bay area?

15. When fishing for Arctic Char in the Pistolet Bay area, what other types of fish do you catch in:

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Freshwater				
Headwaters				
Marine				

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Questions pertaining to Arctic Char life history:

1. What characteristics do you use to distinguish between Arctic Char and other species of fish?

2. In what kind of bottom habitat (muddy, rocky, grassy...) do you expect to find Arctic Char in the Pistolet Bay area?

In what kind of water habitat (rapids, pools, estuary...) do you expect to find Arctic Char in this area?

3. Do you have any thoughts about what might trigger Arctic Char migrations to the sea in this area (water temperature, tides, currents)? What makes you think these things are important?

4. In your opinion, roughly what percentage of Arctic Char in the Pistolet Bay area rivers go to sea?

5. What sizes of Arctic Char tend to migrate to sea?

6. What months do Arctic Char spend in:

a. Freshwater: _____

b. Headwaters: _____

c. Marine: _____

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7. What do Arctic Char feed on in:

- a. Freshwater: _____
- b. Headwaters: _____
- c. Marine: _____

8. Do you have any idea when Arctic Char spawn? What makes you think they spawn around that time?

Questions pertaining to fisheries management:

1. How has the number of fishers in your area changed over time? (circle the one that applies)
- a. Increased by 50%
 - b. Stayed the same
 - c. Decreased by 50%
 - d. Other:

The current fisheries regulations for Arctic Char in the Parkers Brook state that the area or the river from the highway to the mouth of the river is closed year round.

2. What do you think about this regulation?

- a. Appropriate
 - b. Inappropriate
- Comments:
-

3. The bag limit for Arctic Char in the Pistolet Bay area is 12 Arctic Char or 5lbs + 1 fish, which ever limit is reached first of all species (brook trout, Arctic Char, speckled trout, and ouananiche) combined. What do you think of the bag limit?

- a. Too high
 - b. Good
 - c. Too low
- Comments:
-

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4. If you were the minister of fisheries and oceans and had a chance to improve things for the recreational Arctic Char fishery in the Pistolet Bay area, what would you change and why?

5. In terms of changes in the fishery over time, rank the following as increased, decreased, or no change:

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Freshwater				
Headwaters				
Marine				

6. Rank the following in terms of your assessment of their relative contribution to changes in the size of fish caught in the Pistolet Bay area during your career (0-6 with 0 [not important], 1 least important and 6 most important (if you have not seen a change in this aspect of the fishery leave blank)

- ___ season length
- ___ bag limits
- ___ monitoring
- ___ poaching
- ___ commercial fisheries by-catches (please rank each of the gears in terms of their relative importance to Arctic Char mortality)
 - ___ gillnet
 - ___ cod trap
 - ___ lobster
 - ___ purse seine
 - ___ etc. (please give us an example):
- ___ other:

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7. Rank the following in terms of your assessment of their relative contribution to changes in the size of daily catches in the Pistolet Bay area during your career (0-6 with 0 [not important], 1 least important and 6 most important (if you have not seen a change in this aspect of the fishery leave blank)

___ season length

___ bag limits

___ monitoring

___ poaching

___ commercial fisheries bycatches (please rank each of the gears in terms of their relative importance to Arctic Char mortality)

___ gillnet

___ cod trap

___ lobster

___ purse seine

___ etc. (please give us an example):

___ other:

8. The committee placed a counting fence at Parker's River from late June to early September. The purpose of the counting fence was to give the committee some idea of the number of fish migrating up the river. Listed below are the numbers we observed:

274 Arctic Char

189 Atlantic Salmon

224 Brook Trout

a. What do these numbers mean to you?

Arctic Char

Atlantic Salmon

Brook Trout

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- b. Did you think that this number would be more or less?

Arctic Char

Atlantic Salmon

Brook Trout

- c. Do you agree with the Committee applying to have this unique population of Arctic Char placed on the S.A.R.A. registry? (*The purpose of the Species at Risk Act (S.A.R.A.) is to prevent Canadian indigenous species, subspecies, and distinct populations from becoming extirpated or extinct, to provide for the recovery of endangered or threatened species, and encourage the management of other species to prevent them from becoming at risk.*)

Circle one of the following

Yes or **No**

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Many thanks for participating in this survey.

Remember – if you want to learn about the results from our research, follow the progress of this study and watch for updates on our results at:
www.nedc.nf.ca/SOCC

If you have any questions regarding the survey or have anything you would like contribute that wasn't asked, contact me at the previous contact information on the front page or by email:

carla_hedderson@hotmail.com

Thank-you for contributing to our research,



Carla Hedderson
SOCC Coordinator