

Holman Charr Newsletter

Vol. 2:

The Holman Charr Working Group

Members of the Holman Charr Working Group ("WG") met in Holman June 2 & 3, 1997: Joseph Haluksit, Joe Kuneyana, Adam Inuktalik, Dan Klengenber, Pat Ekpakhoak (FJMC), Irene Akhiatak, Don Dowler (FJMC), Mike Papst (DFO) and Lois Harwood (DFO). Other members of the WG that were not at the most recent meeting, but who attended last year's workshop, were: Mark Ekootak, Jack Akhiatak, John Kuneyana, George Okheena, and Mae Cockney (FJMC).

Goals of the Working Group

To review and discuss local information and scientific data on the Holman charr fisheries,

To discuss the status of the Holman charr stocks and fisheries, and options for their management

To update the Holman Charr Fishing Plan and to determine ways and means to implement the Fishing Plan, and,

To determine ways and means to include local knowledge in the management of the charr.

Working Group Activities: June 1997

The Holman Charr Working Group held their third meeting in Holman on June 2 & 3, 1997. They discussed the results of charr studies at the Kuujjuua River and Fish Lake, the coast, and Prince Albert Sound. Data up to and including 1996 were reviewed.

At workshop, the WG (1) reviewed information on the number of charr harvested in 1996 and harvest locations, (2) compared the 1996 harvest to the 1996 Fishing Plan; (3) reviewed and planned

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projects and activities for the 1997 season; and, finally, (4) discussed and prepared the Holman Charr Fishing Plan for 1997-1999.

A Public Meeting was held on June 3, 1997 and was attended by 75 adults from the community, including the WG. The Working Group put forward its recommendations from the previous two day's workshop, and posters about the charr projects were presented. The WG congratulates Elsie Klengenber, Ida Kuneyana, and Adam Inuktalik who won the door prizes. Also everyone went home with a souvenir or two to promote the Fishing Plan. To all of you who came out to the meeting, thanks for your participation and support.

Harvests in 1996

The total harvest of charr from the coast in summer 1996 was about 5500 (which is similar to the 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 annual harvests from this area).

The harvest from Fish Lake in 1996 was about 1000 (compared to 2500 per year before the closure). Thanks to the people who followed the Fishing Plan recommendation of 25 charr per household in 1996.

The harvest of charr from Prince Albert Sound in 1996 was 1880 charr, considerably lower than the totals taken in each of 1994 (3500 charr) and 1995 (5500 charr). Catches at the Kagloryuak were lower in 1996, although the WG members felt this was due to the HTC fishermen starting late. The WG will be keeping a close eye on Kagloryuak fishery to ensure this river is not overfished.

Results from Charr Studies, 1992-1996

Using results from the summer coastal fishery, there was a gradual increase in the length of charr caught, and no change in the average age of charr caught, between 1993 and 1996.

For Fish Lake, the results show a gradual increase in the average length of charr caught, and no change in the average age of charr caught, between 1991 and 1996. Also, there was quite a striking increase in the Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) in 1996. Good news!

For Prince Albert Sound, trends were less clear, thought to be because the fisheries were studied by different people in different areas and sometimes at different times. However there were no obvious changes in average age or average length of the charr harvested from the Sound.

The Holman Charr Fishing Plan for 1997-1999

Based on a careful review and discussion of the needs of the community and the results from the 1992-1996 studies, the WG recommends the following Fishing Plan:

Holman Coast: Total harvest should not increase over the 1996 level (5500 charr). Remember, at least half of the charr caught here are from the Kuujjuua River stock, and fall/winter charr will be available from Fish Lake (25 per household) and Prince Albert Sound (30 per household, see below).

Fish Lake: Continue with the limit of 25 charr per household for at least the next three years. It is important to keep the fishing to a minimum so the charr stock can continue to recover. Fish Lake would be open from October 1 - November 1 (only) and all catches would be carefully monitored.

Prince Albert Sound: The HTC will be applying to FJMC for funding to conduct two charr studies in Prince Albert Sound. One will try to locate the overwintering sites used by the silver charr in Tahiryuak Lake, which could provide another source of charr for the community to help lighten the pressure on the Kuujjuua/Fish Lake. The other study will be to closely monitor charr catches at the Kagloryuak River.

As part of those studies, the HTC is hoping to catch 1500 charr from Tahiryuak Lake (Kuuk) and 1500 from the Kagloryuak River, which will then be brought to Holman for distribution to the community. If all goes well, the target would be

to provide each household with an additional 30 winter charr per household.

The WG recommends that the total annual catch of charr from Kagluk not exceed 500 charr, the total take of charr from Kagloryuak not exceed 3500 charr, and the total take from Kuuk not exceed 1500 charr. "Total take" means catching charr for *any* purpose, whether for subsistence, commercial or sport. The HTC would be responsible for deciding on how the take for each river would be allocated to the different uses.

Household Needs Survey

The Charr Household Needs Survey is scheduled to start during late June 1997. Two persons from the community will visit your home and conduct a short interview with you. The main purpose is to determine how much charr each household needs. Thanks for your participation in this study as well.

If you have any questions or comments on the Fishing Plan or other charr matters, please contact the HTC or Charr Working Group.