

**NWRT Interim Progress Report
Submitted January, 2014**

1. NWRT Project Number: 3-13-24

2. Project Title:

Community consultation and traditional knowledge studies on Arctic char in Qikiqtarjuaq area with emphasis on changes during the last 15 years.

3. Project Leader:

Dr. Ross Tallman
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Freshwater Institute
501 University Cres., Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N6
Ph: (204) 983-3362
Fax: (204) 984-2403
E-mail: Ross.Tallman@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

4. Summary:

Qikiqtarjuaq is an island community, located on the north shore of Baffin Island along the Davis Strait at the northern end of Auyuittuq National Park. Arctic char is an important subsistence and commercial fish and is an important factor in maintaining traditional lifestyles for the community. As compared to other Arctic char fisheries in Nunavut, only few studies have been done in Qikiqtarjuaq community fisheries areas. Local community has observed changes in Arctic char size and ecology in their fishing areas during recent years. Such types of changes have already been observed in other areas of the region. Research on larger Arctic Char being caught in Qikiqtarjuaq area and exploring new Arctic char commercial fishing opportunities is also a Baffin Regional Wildlife Priorities for 2010-2013. The objectives of this proposed study is to consult the community, collect and document traditional ecological fisheries knowledge from Qikiqtarjuaq on biology and ecology of Arctic char in adjacent community fishing areas with emphasis on changes occurred during last 15 years. A combination of methodologies including consultation workshop, structured specific questionnaire and semi-directed conversation will be used to collect desired information. This consultation and TEK information will be used as a base line for proposing and designing further scientific research on Arctic char stock in adjacent community fishing areas. The information collected will provide basis for developing effective management of Qikiqtarjuaq char fisheries in coming years.

5. Project Objectives

The objectives of this proposed research are to consult and collect traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) from Qikiqtarjuaq community on the Arctic char in adjacent community fishing areas with emphasis on changes that have occurred during the last 15 years and use this consultation and TEK information as base line information for proposing and designing further scientific research.

6. Materials and Methods

Study area

Qikiqtarjuaq, home to 562 inhabitants, is an island community, located on the north shore of Baffin Island along the Davis Strait at the northern end of Auyuittuq National Park. Qikiqtarjuaq is home to marine mammals including walruses, polar bears, seals, narwhals, belugas and occasional bowhead whales. Arctic char is an important subsistence and commercial fish for the community of Qikiqtarjuaq. The community of Qikiqtarjuaq traditionally harvests char from lake and river systems around Qikiqtarjuaq including Natluksiak Lake, Nudluit Lake, Tunusuk Lake, Avaligut Lake, Kagniliajuk Lake within and outside the boundaries of Auyuittuq National Park.

Methods

A combination of methodologies are being used to collect local knowledge about changes in Arctic char population. We are using a questioner having structured specific questions to be asked in a specific order, It includes general questions about climate and ecosystem level changes while gathering detailed information on the main topic that includes Arctic char population, stocks, size and fishery changes, changes in diet, habitat, spawning and migration patterns. To address any other significant issue interviewee will be encouraged to add their own responses and address any other related issues. Depending on the available information, qualitative information may be quantified.

7. Project Schedule:

The project is not progressing according to initial schedule because of administrative reasons and changes in regulations. Project is rescheduled as follow.

Output or step	Start date (dd/mm/yyyy)	End date (dd/mm/yyyy)
Development and approval of cost sharing collaborative agreement	15/06/2013	15/10/2013
Development of interview material & questioner	15/09/2013	15/11/2013
HTO consultation	15/09/2013	15/11/2013
Traditional knowledge talks and interviews	1/02/2014	15/02/2014
Data analysis & Preliminary report	15/02/2014	25/02/2014
Consultation on analysis	25/02/2014	15/03/2014
Final writing and poster	15/03/2014	30/03/2014

8. Preliminary results/discussion:

Under the project, literature survey and development of questioner for traditional knowledge survey is ongoing. Project team is in consultation with the local community/HTO to rearrange the schedule and conduct knowledge survey in December 2013. Preliminary results will be available in January 2014.

9. Reporting to communities/resource users:

In December 2012, a community meeting was held with Nattivak Hunters & Trappers Organization at Qikiqtarjuaq, to discuss possibilities of further research on impact of climate change on surrounding ecosystems and Arctic char.

Research team is in consultation with the local community through HTO for developing local knowledge interview questioner and rearrangement of schedule. A preliminary interview questioner is under discussion with local HTO.