



# *SRSF Coastal Fisheries Ecosystem Project*



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## **CONSENT FORM**

Social Research for Sustainable Fisheries (SRSF) is a partnership involving the Guysborough County Inshore Fisherman's Association (GCIFA), GCIFA's affiliates, and researchers with St. Francis Xavier University. SRSF is conducting a multi-step study of Richmond and Guysborough County fisheries ecosystems, with a special focus on Chedebucto Bay and surrounding areas.

The purpose of this study is to document thoroughly characteristics of family and fishing histories, fishing practices and local knowledge about the fishing grounds. In our opinion, this research will contribute to better understanding local knowledge about fisheries and fishing grounds.

This research and the SRSF community-university partnership is funded through a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada's Community-University Research Alliances programme.

Step I of this study, a telephone survey, has been completed. During Step I, those interviewed were asked to name persons, other than themselves, whom they considered especially knowledgeable about the local fishing grounds. You have been identified by local fishermen as very respected and among the most knowledgeable about the local grounds. If possible, we would like to work with you on developing an understanding of key attributes of and changes in the local fishing grounds.

All information provided by you will be treated as strictly confidential and will not be associated in our reporting of results with your name. Of course, you may refuse to answer any of the questions asked or choose to end the interview at any point in time.

Our work with you will involve several interviews spread over the next weeks discussing the following:

- developing an outline your family's involvement in fishing.
- developing a detailed description of your life in fishing.
- working with you to develop an understanding of the attributes of and changes in the local fishing grounds.

With your permission, the interviews will be tape recorded. Once transcribed the tapes of the interviews will be returned to you. In addition, you will be asked to assist us through the use of locational aids such as nautical charts.

All participants in this study will receive a complete copy of the report developed from the findings. As well, we will be asking you to review and check information and documents developed during the interviews.

In addition, copies of all of the information gathered, including research and interview notes, transcriptions and nautical charts, will be stripped of any personal identifiers and securely stored with the Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association and the St. Francis Xavier University, Social Research for Sustainable Fisheries research office, and eventually with permission, the university's archives.

Access to this information will be limited through the following measures:

- Access to this information will only be provided once all research partners have reviewed requests for access and agreed to allow access.
- Reproduction in any form of the information will only be permitted through the general agreement of all research partners.
- Reports and other outcomes from this research will be developed in partnership with the research staff of the Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association.
- Reports and other outcomes from this research will not be released for public consideration until all partners in the research agree that the terms and conditions of the collaboration have been satisfied.
- Each of the research partners will receive, archive and make available copies of any reports and other outcomes developed from this work.

Should you agree to participate in this study, you are asked to sign and date this consent form. The provision of your signature indicates that you have been informed about and understand the goals and intentions of this research, and that you are agreeing to participate with this understanding.

The SRSF research team members who will be working with you are also required to sign and date this consent form in your presence. Their signatures indicate that they have provided you with an informative outline and understanding of the research's goals and intentions.

Again, including your knowledge and experiences within our study will contribute substantially to developing a better understanding of the Guysborough and Richmond Counties small boat fisheries and ecosystems.

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Participant's Signature

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Date

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SRSF Researcher Signature

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Date

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SRSF Researcher Signature

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Date