

AMERICAN EEL MI'KMAQ LOCAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE STUDY
Phase I – Household Study

Household # _____(pre-record)

Introductory Remarks

Recently a letter and some information was sent to you by the *Paqtnkek Fish and Wildlife Society* that introduced a study that we are conducting. This study concerns gathering and preserving Mi'kmaq people's knowledge of and experiences with the American Eel (*Kat*). Our purpose is to document the Mi'kmaq peoples use and knowledge of eel so that we can better understand traditional resource use and management practices. We also think it important to rediscover and to preserve the cultural tradition of eel harvesting and use among the Mi'kmaq.

For the past couple of years we have been working in partnership with 'Social Research for Sustainable Fisheries (SRSF)' at St. Francis Xavier University. SRSF is an alliance of community organisations and university social researchers concerned with understanding and supporting the sustainability of fishing and fishing people. As a part of this research partnership, *the Paqtnkek Fish and Wildlife Society* has been researching eel and its relationship with the Mi'kmaq people by looking at historical records, government documents, legends and the Mi'kmaq language. It is now important to deepen our understanding through interviews with the Mi'kmaq.

The interviews will gather information about eel fishing, preparation and use. All information gathered will be held in strict confidentiality and anonymity. All information will only be used within the guidelines set out by the Mi'kmaq Ethics Committee in their approval of this research. Once this research is completed you will receive a copy of the preliminary research findings report.

Do you agree to participate in this interview?

Yes _____ No _____ (If No, please ask for reasons why not and record these in this space)

If Yes

Introduce and Read the Consent Form. Following this request that **ALL** participating adult members of the household sign and date the Consent Form. Make sure that **two** forms are signed and dated so that a copy can be left. Once this is completed conduct the interview(s).

The interview will begin with a few basic personal questions....

1. Household Member Number	2. Would you Please tell me, in What Year were You Born?	3. Gender 1. Male 2. Female	4. Social Relations of Household Members (use the kin list to record relations)	5. Where were you Born? (record place name in space below)	6. Where were you Raised? (record place name(s) in space below)	7. Have you (Has This Person) Ever Fished Eel? 1. Yes 2. No (If No, Go To Q. 18)	8. (If Yes) Where Do or Did you (they) Fish Eel? (write in the names of places in the space provided)	9. When Did You Last Fish for Eel? 1. In the last Year? 2. In the Last 5 Years 3. In the Last 10 Years 4. More Than 10 Years Ago	10. At What Time of the Year Did You Fish for Eel? 1. Summer 2. Winter 3. Both	11. How Have You Fished For Eel? (list techniques in the space below)
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Household Member Number	12. What Do/Did You Do With the Eel You've Caught? Do/Did you... 1. Take it Home to Eat? 2. Sell It? 3. Give it Away? 4. Use it For Ceremonies? 5. Use it For Medicinal Purposes? 6. Use Eel for Purposes Other Than Food (e.g., skins) (Note: record the numbers for all uses)	13. Who Did you First Go Eel Fishing With? (Note: record whether father, brothers, father's father and so on)	14. Who Would You Say Showed You the Most About Fishing Eel? (Note: record relationship, not name, as in father, father's brother, father's father and so on)	15. What Other Members of Your Family Have Fished or Now Fish for Eel (Note: record relationship as in father, father's brother, father's father and so on)	16. Where was you father raised?	17. Where was your mother raised?
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Household Member Number	18. Have you Ever Eaten Eel? 1. Yes 2. No <i>(If No, Go To Q. 27)</i>	19. (If Yes) When Have You Eaten Eel? 1. In the Last Year? 2. In the Last 5 Years? 3. In the Last 10 Years? 4. More Than 10 Years Ago?	20. When During the Year Did or Do You Usually Eat Eel? During the... 1. Winter 2. Spring 3. Summer 4. Fall 5. Year Around 6. Whenever Available	21. What Eels Do You Prefer to Eat? Do you Prefer... 1. Winter Caught Eels? 2. Summer Caught Eels? 3. Both	22. Where Do/Did You Usually Get the Eels? 1. Caught them 2. Bought them 3. Given Them by a Family Member 4. Given Them by a Friend 5. Other (specify)	23. What Do/Did You Usually Do With the Eels you Received? Did you... 1. Take Them Home to Eat? 2. Sell Them? 3. Give Them Away? 4. Use Them For Ceremonies? 5. Use Them For Medicinal Purposes? 6. Use Them For Purposes Other Than Food (e.g. skins) <i>(Note: record the number for all uses)</i>	24. Where Do/Did You Usually Eat Eel? Do You Eat Eel... 1. In Your Own Home? 2. In Grandparents' Homes? 3. In Parent's Home? 4. In the homes of Relatives? 5. In the Homes of Friends? 6. Other (specify)	25. Who Usually Cleaned the Eel?	26. Who Usually Cooked the Eel?
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Household Member Number	27. Other than yourself, who would you say knows a lot about Eel Fishing among the Mi'kmaq? (record their name and place of residence)	28. Is there anyone else in addition to this person who you think knows a lot about Eel Fishing? (record their name and place of residence)	29. How would you say you have come to know the 1 st person mentioned? 1. a relative 2. a friend 3. fished with 4. fishing reputation 5. fishing success 6. reputation as a community leader 7. other (Note: may select more than one and ask for specifics when selecting 'other'.)	30. How would you say you have come to know the 2 nd person mentioned? 1. a relative 2. a friend 3. fished with 4. fishing reputation 5. fishing success 6. reputation as a community leader 7. other (Note: may select more than one and ask for specifics when selecting 'other'.)
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Household Member Number	31. Other than yourself, who among the Mi'kmaq would you say knows a lot about preparing and cooking Eels? (record their name and residence)	32. Is there anyone else among the Mi'kmaq other than this person who you think knows a lot about preparing and cooking eels? (record their name and residence)	33. How would you say that you have come to know of the 1st person that you have mentioned?	34. How would you say that you have come to know of the 2nd person who you have mentioned?
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