



**Paq'tnkek Fish and Wildlife
Society
RR #1 Afton
Antigonish County, NS
B0H 1A0
*Consent Form***



The Paq'tnkek Fish and Wildlife Society in collaboration with the St. Francis Xavier University on the Social Research for Sustainable Fisheries (S.R.S.F.) are beginning Phase II of The Mi'kmaq and The American Eel Project. Phase II will examine in depth the findings from a survey that was conducted in the Paq'tnkek community last summer. The findings were summarized and discussed in the report: The Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaq and Kat (American eel – *Anguilla rostrata*) released in August 2002. Each household in the Paq'tnkek community was delivered a copy of the report for their review.

The findings discussed in the report point out some important aspects about the Paq'tnkek community's relationship with *Kat*. Our plan is to further investigate this rich cultural relationship through conducting a number of detailed interviews focusing on the fishing practices associated with the eel amongst our people.

As a result of our survey you have been identified as being a knowledgeable person associated with fishing eel. We feel you hold important cultural knowledge and memories of our relationship with *Kat*. Any knowledge you wish to pass on to us in regards to our project will help our community develop an understanding of our relationship with *Kat*. You will also be playing a vital role in preserving and revitalizing our cultural connections and have a great influence on any future decisions our community makes in regards to the management of *Kat* and other natural resources

If you agree to participate, we will conduct a detailed interview designed to document your family history, movements, stories and any experiences you or your present and past family or friends may have encountered while fishing eels. This type of detailed interview will require a number of visits to fully document whatever information you may wish to share with us.

The information you provide us will assist in our preservation of our knowledge and help our children to understand our traditional ways. The stories we collect from you may also be used for future educational purposes as a means to promote, preserve and revitalize our culture. If at any point, you wish us not to record or use specific information inform us and we will gladly omit the section(s) information from our notes and recordings.

We are also requesting your permission to use an audio tape recorded during our interview sessions. Notes will also be taken during our conversations as a reference to the recordings. Once our sessions are completed, our conversations will be transcribed into a written document form. You will be provided with a copy of this document and receive a copy of the audio tapes for your review. During a portion of our interview process we will be using nautical charts to

help document the local areas where you or someone else you know have fished eel before. We will also inquire about various trails used to access the ocean and rivers, occupancy sites, fishing sites, etc. These sites or areas will be documented on the nautical maps with various distinct symbols.

Overall, our aim is to preserve your oral testimony of our past relationships to *Kat* and the environment. With your permission we would like to use the information you share with us to help educate our children and our children's children about their cultural background.

All information gathered from these interviews will be held in strict confidentiality and used within the guidelines set out by the Mi'kmaw Ethics Committee in their approval of our project. These completed interview materials and information will be stored at the Paq'tnkek Fish and Wildlife Society office and the SRSF office at St. F. X. University.

This consent form was developed to ensure the confidentiality of the person and/or person(s) agreeing to participate in the interview. Signing this consent form will enable us to use your information and experiences in developing a better understanding of the cultural relation between the Mi'kmaq and the *Kat* (American eel). But, none of the information supplied by any individuals will be publicly associated with that person unless so desired by the individual in terms of your preference. Of course, you may choose not to answer particular questions or stop the interview at any time should you become uncomfortable.

Would you like to participate in a detailed interview? Yes or No

Participant Signature: _____

I, _____ agree to participate in the Paq'tnkek Fish and Wildlife Society/SRSF Eel Detailed Interview and agree to allow the above mentioned society to use the information gathered, within the terms and conditions outlined, for the purposes of furthering their research concerning the cultural relationship between the Mi'kmaq and *Kat*.

Date: _____

Interviewer's Signature: _____

Interviewer's Signature: _____