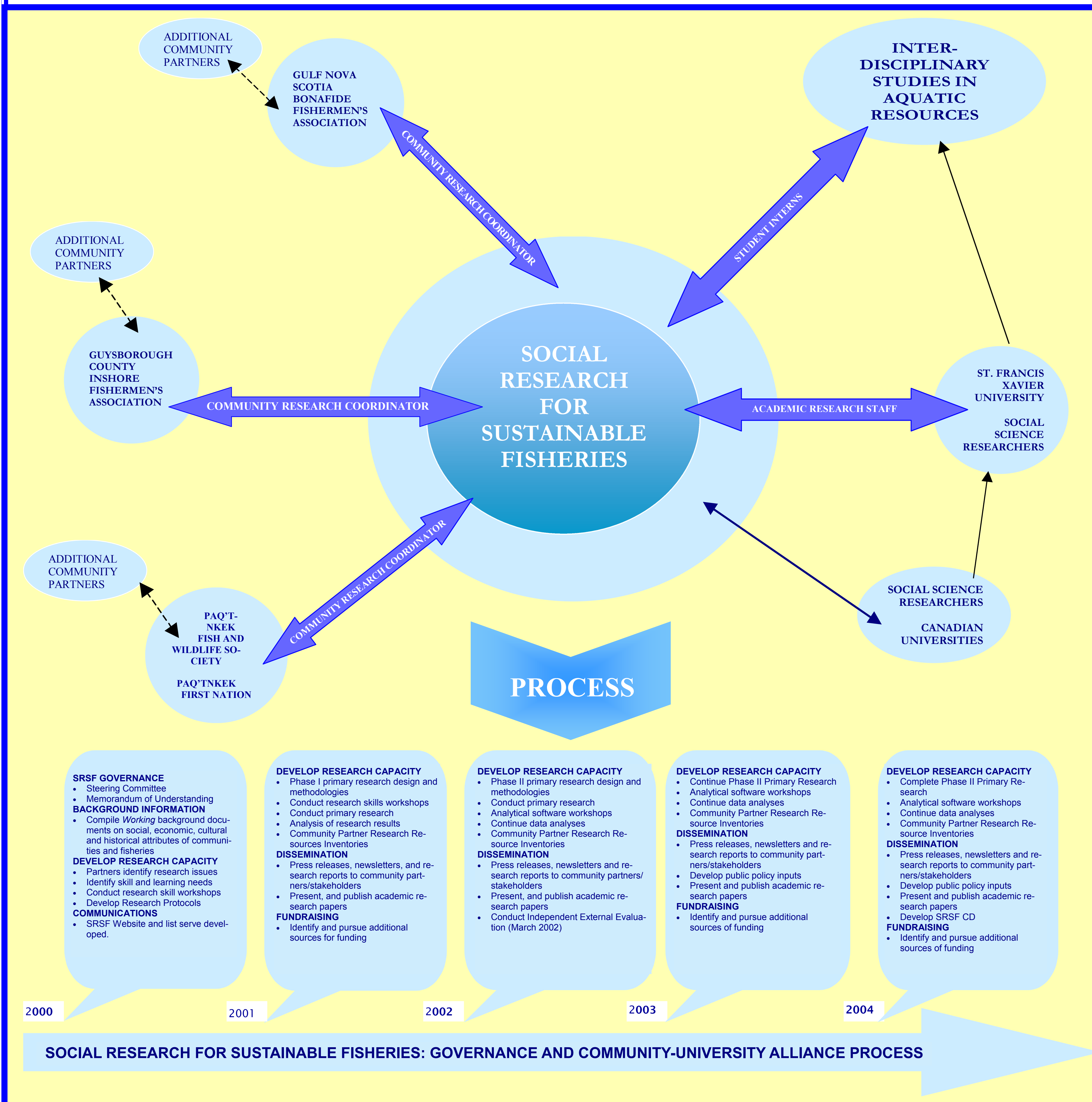
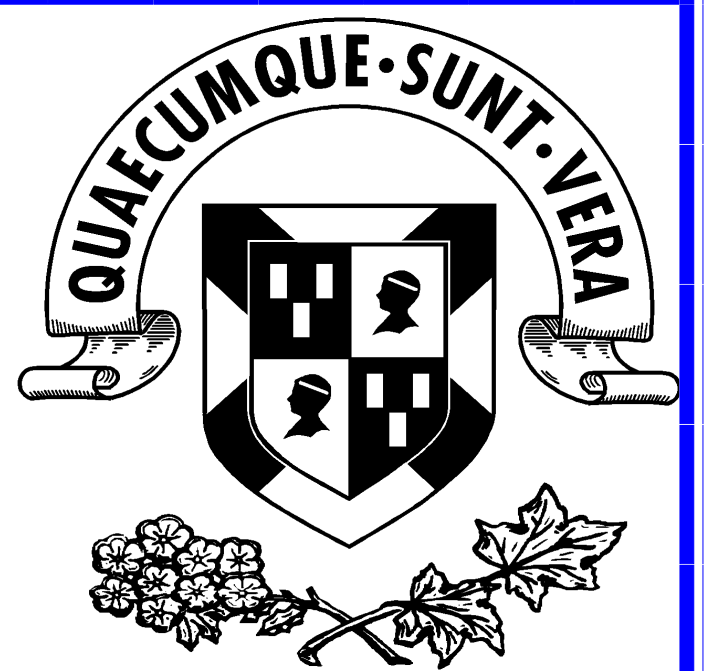




Social Research for Sustainable Fisheries (SRSF)

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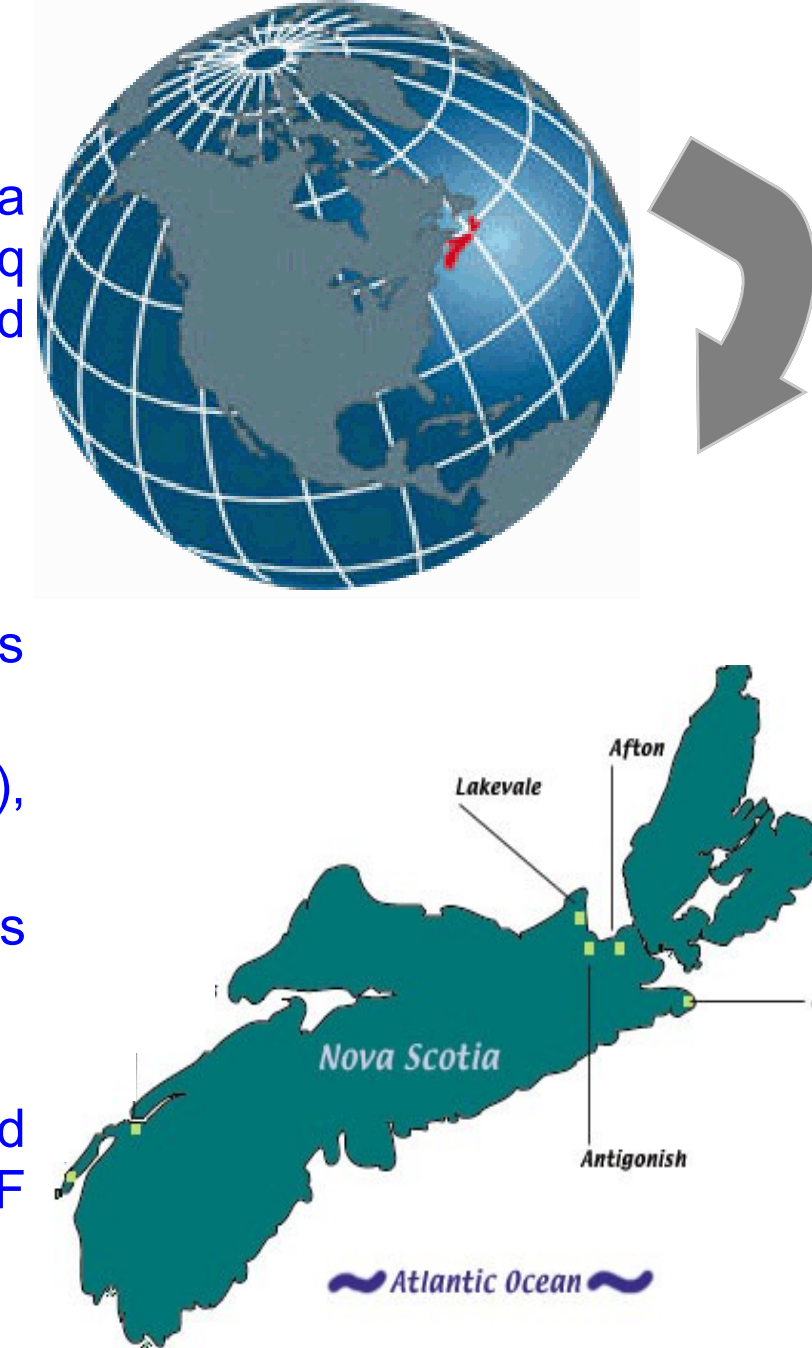


What is SRSF?

Social Research for Sustainable Fisheries (SRSF) is a community-university research alliance of Mi'kmaq and small boat fisheries community organisations and university researchers. The partners are:

- Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fishermen's Association (GNSBFA)
- Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association (GCIFA)
- Paq'tnkek Fish and Wildlife Society (PFWS), Paq'tnkek First Nation
- Interdisciplinary Studies in Aquatic Resources (ISAR), St. Francis Xavier University

Additional fisheries, community organisations and university-based researchers are linked with SRSF through relations with these core partners.



The Objectives of SRSF

- to develop fisheries-focused social research linkages between university researchers and community organizations,
- to build the social research capacity of the community organization partners,
- to initiate fisheries social research activities that examine the concerns of the partner organizations,
- to encourage an outcomes orientation in the conduct and dissemination of research,
- to foster collaboration between Mi'kmaq and small boat fish harvesters,
- to provide ISAR students with social research experience,
- to empower partner organization participation in marine resource management and policy development.



Summer student interns orientation to partner organisations and projects. Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fishermen's Association office, Lakeville (May 2001)

A RESEARCH RICH RESULTS PROCESS



Community Partners

Each community partner has a Community Research Coordinator (CRC) supported by SRSF. Partner research issues were identified by their memberships. A top priority is the prompt communication of research results to both partner memberships and the broader community.

SRSF StFX Research Group

Project Director
Anthony Davis

Senior Research Fellow
Ratana Chuenpagdee

Post Doctorate Fellow
John Wagner

Project Officer
Krista MacEachern

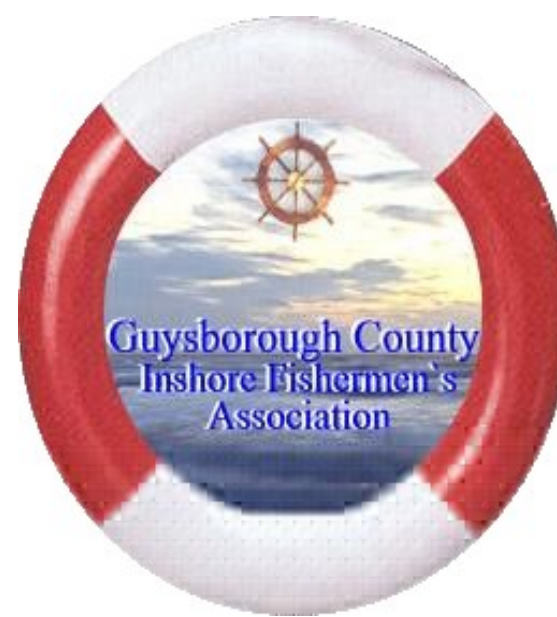
Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association (GCIFA)

Community Research Coordinator: Virginia Boudreau

The GCIFA research concerns focus on the sustainability of small boat fisheries, particularly the lobster fishery in and around the Chedabucto Bay. Documenting harvesters' local ecological knowledge, as a step towards rebuilding the fisheries in their areas is a major focus.

Background and primary research activities:

- Compiling commercial catch data for key species over the past century.
- Documenting changes in the fishing industry using data on gear types, boats, licenses and fish harvesters.
- Gathering environmental and ecological information pertaining to key species.
- Documenting fisheries management and policy changes.
- Documenting the social and economic contributions of the fishery to Guysborough County.



SRSF Governance

As an alliance, SRSF is governed by a Steering Committee composed of community partners, the StFX research group and three university researchers. Agendas, work-plans, and timetables are arrived at through a consensus decision-making process.

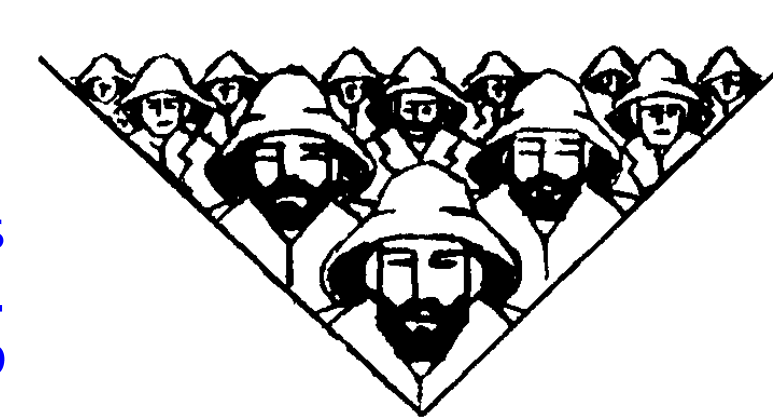
Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fishermen's Association (GNSBFA)

Community Research Coordinator: Kay Wallace

The GNSBFA research concerns focus on various fisheries issues, such as groundfish predation on juvenile lobster. Documenting harvesters' local ecological knowledge, as a step towards rebuilding the fisheries in their areas is a major focus.

Background and primary research activities:

- Compiling commercial catch data for key species over the past century.
- Documenting changes in the fishing industry using data on gear types, boats, licenses and fish harvesters.
- Gathering environmental and ecological information pertaining to key species.
- Documenting fisheries management and policy changes.
- Documenting the social and economic contributions of the fishery to Nova Scotia's Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence communities.



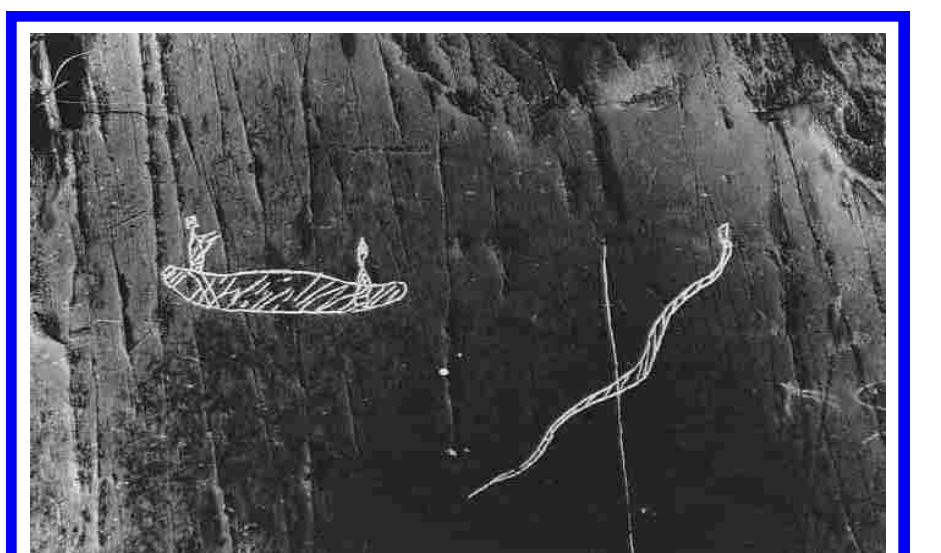
Paq'tnkek Fish and Wildlife Society (PFWS)

Community Research Coordinator : Kerry Prosper

The PFWS research concerns focus on rediscovering and documenting the relationship between the Mi'kmaq and the American eel (*Kat* [ka:taq]), an important aspect of Mi'kmaq culture. Their research activities include documenting traditional ecological knowledge and building community-level resource management and education capacity.

Background and primary research activities:

- Compiling Mi'kmaq words related to eels, resource management and governance
- Documenting Mi'kmaq *Kat* legends and stories
- Documenting environmental and cultural knowledge
- Recording land use changes within local watersheds
- Compiling commercial eel fishery data
- Compiling scientific, environmental and ecological data pertaining to *Kat*



Mi'kmaq man and woman in a canoe, serpent Fairy Bay, Kejimikujik National Park, NS Olive and Arthur Kelsall, 1946-1955 Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax NS

Petroglyphs in Nova Scotia that are thousands of years old, illustrate the traditional Mi'kmaq worldview in which humanity exists as a harmonious part of nature. The horned serpent, *Jipjika'maq*, is spoken of in many legends as a great force in the worlds of both land and water. The serpent's actions described in the legends are similar to those of the eel.