



Figure 8: Study participants' reported site-specific Fishing values in the Project Footprint, LSA, and RSA.

4.4 FISHING

This section (Section 4.4) discusses the importance of, impacted baseline for, and Project-related impacts to, the Fishing VC within the Study Area. It draws primarily from data collected during semi-structured interviews.

4.4.1 Site-Specific Values

Table 4: Site-specific values for the Fishing Valued Component reported within the Project Study Area, by Activity Class.

Activity Class	Footprint, including 250 metre buffer	Within the Local Study Area (LSA)	Within the Regional Study Area (RSA)
	# of reported values	# of reported values	# of reported values
Cultural	0	1	1
Environmental	0	5	5
Subsistence	12	93	93
Total	12	99	99

Description of Documented Fishing Values

The following Fishing values were mapped in the Project Study Area, and are organized by Activity Class. Mapped data specific to the Fishing VC include:

- **Cultural** values including: a site where char is processed;
- **Environmental** values including: important hunting areas and animal habitat;
- **Subsistence** values including: catch sites for char, lake trout, and cod; a site where char is processed and dried; and sites where clams are collected.

4.4.2 Importance

During interviews, both Igloolik and Hall Beach community members described fishing as a core cultural practice that is an important component of everyday life. Fishing takes place throughout the year, often alongside other harvesting activities such as walrus and caribou hunting. The following quotes describe some of the connections between fishing and other harvesting practices, demonstrating how different activities

take place concurrently and together make up a web of cultural practices that are linked to specific places on the land and water.

I been going here when I was young by snowmobile. That's the best spot, one of the best spot to go for fishing, and at the same time, we would go for caribou hunt on this area ... As soon as we land to Baffin Island, there would be fish, caribou on land. (I17, 28-May-19)

And also during that time when they were actually hunting in this area during that time, they also fished every spring in this lake and in the fall, there's a little creek up here [south shore of Foster Bay]. They would build a, a weir. (I18, 28-May-19, interpreted from Inuktitut)

Everywhere we go there are fish, and there is caribou all over back then. There were plenty and there were a whole lot of ringed seals and bearded seals. But in wintertime the men used to go out walrus hunting so if there was a floe edge somewhere down here they would go down to the floe edge and we young ones were not supposed to go down to the floe edge but we were able to go to the fishing nets, check the nets, and they had fox traps everywhere and wolf traps. (I20, 28-May-19)

Study participants described the coastline of Baffin Island and eastern Foxe Basin as being an area of abundance for highly valued fish species such as char and cod. One participant spoke of fishing for char at Iqalugasugvik and Ukiuliqsiurvik, while another identified Ikpikitturjuaq as an important fishing area. Summertime was described as a time of particular abundance for char; however, as previously noted, Igloolik and Hall Beach community members fish year-round.

Oh yes, we did a whole lot of fishing there [at Ikpikitturjuaq] in the winter time, they had nets set up over here. We travelled by dog team, I don't know how long of the year, and nets under the ice. Yeah, somewhere on these lake. I don't know exactly where. And, uh, summertime there are fish everywhere. (I20, 28-May-19)

Every summer, all the coastline area [north of Hall Beach], the beach area, however you call it, is — there's a lot of fish anywhere, all around, so when you ... It was all around in this area, you — you'll catch fish ... this summer, they will — people will be putting their nets out in — in the area, and they will definitely catch fish... Yeah, char. (H09, 24-May-19,)

We go up there [Iqalugasugvik] for fishing all year round ... That's Iqaluit, in which we call it Iqaluit just like Iqaluit, Frobisher Bay. (I17, 28-May-19)

Study participants commonly fish in both freshwater and marine environments. Several referenced fishing in freshwater lakes, at the mouths of rivers, and in bays and inlets on the eastern side of Foxe Basin, including Ikpikitturjuaq. Others shared fond memories of fishing for sea run char in tide pools when the tide is out.

This, these lakes [Asta Lake and Gifford River] flow down this way all the way down, yeah. This is the fishing spot. Both in here, further out ... There's a deep river going this way all the way, all the way to the ocean on that side, so both people from Igloolik and Arctic Bay would fish. Both people from Arctic Bay and Igloolik fish there. (I08, 26-May-19, interpreted from Inuktitut)

Whenever the tide goes out, that place becomes with lots of little lakes on the ocean, when the main water goes down, the leftover little puddles they have lots of Arctic char. That area. You don't need nets or hooks. you just run in the water and throw them out. You would catch fish with no wounds. No spear wounds, nothing. Just grab them and throw them on the land. (I22, 29-May-19, interpreted from Inuktitut)

Igloolik and Hall Beach community members use a range of different fishing methods depending on where they are fishing and the time of year. During interviews, study participants mentioned using spears, nets, weirs, and hooks (rod and reel).

There is lots of fish there too. Actually this — since Bay Inlet is full of fish, everywhere. All the coast starting from this shore all the way. All the shores have fish. Some you just have to net; some you can reel. (I25, 29-May-19)

There were fish on the beach, but it was funner when we were throwing hooks into the water and catching them. We would have nets. And caribou. And seals. (I07, 27-May-19)

Whenever I am netting fish, I used to catch cod fish too over there. So, there is many all over the place but there is few good ones and this is one of them [South of Cape Lilly]. (I25, 29-May-19)

As the quote below demonstrates, fishing is so deeply engrained in Study participants' culture that there are place names associated with it:

She grew up in Nirliviktuuq, but — she was born in Nirliviktuuq, but living, grew up in Kapuiviit area. Kapuiviit means the place of spearing the fish. And the lake itself here is the actual Kapuiviit I think. (I21, 28-May-19, interpreted from Inuktitut)

Importantly, participants also noted that some fishing areas are preferred over others and returned to year after year because the fish taste better in certain places. In the quote below, Iqalugasugvik (Asta Lake) is identified as one of the best places for harvesting char.

We go up here to fish, to the lake here. We go up there to fish ... Yeah, that's the best char around. You just eat. Different area[s] have different taste. This one is really good. (I03, 26-May-19)

4.4.3 Project Interactions

Igloolik and Hall Beach community members expressed a number of concerns about the potential Project interactions with Fishing values in preferred harvesting areas.

Specifically, they identified concerns about impacts on fish populations and fish migration routes in and around Ikpikitturjuaq, which is a high-value area for harvesting arctic char.

He's worried about the fish. In all that area, because there's fish all over in this area [Ikpikitturjuaq]. That's what he's worried about ... He wanted to go in that area in the spring, but it's too late now. There's nothing else much that he's worried about, except the fish, and the dust, because the dust goes all over the place. (I15, 28-May-19, interpreted from Inuktitut)

...His biggest concern is the fish [routes]. And they have, that area [in the vicinity of the southern shipping route] have one of the best fish, and when he say fish it is char and his biggest concern is the fish. (H10, 24-May-19, interpreted from Inuktitut)

At the time, they were first talking about it [the southern port and shipping route], there was opposition because of such an abundance of fish in there at the time... (I11, 27-May-19)

During interviews, community members also expressed concerns about the impact of dust on fish health. The potential for windborne dust to impact fish in a number of watersheds surrounding the Project was identified by a number of participants during the verification meetings. One Study participant described how dust from the loading of ships at the Nanisivik port affected cod when that mine was still operating, highlighting the need for appropriate studies and mitigation in the context of this Project.

And when they're offloading – when they were loading the ships in Nanisivik, they used to have to wait and if there's too much wind, they used to have to wait until the wind dies down because at that time, once the dust hits the ocean, you could see the little flickers of the iron ore on the, on the water. When that happens, the cod would come up and eat – try and eat those and they would actually eat the flickers of iron and then, and then, and then they would die. And they would all be belly up when they're dead and the birds and seals would be all gathering to eat the dead cod. That's a – it is utmost important that all these baseline studies and research and samples are done before, before the railroad is built. (I08, 26-May-19)

Another participant mentioned concerns about acoustic disturbances to fish, which have potential to be impacted by the noise produced by Project-related marine traffic around Ikpikitturjuaq and along the Southern Shipping Route.

She feels that they [fish], they may be affected by the noise of the ships... (I02, 25-May-19, interpreted from Inuktitut)

In light of the proposed Project and its constituent components and activities, it is likely that the Project will interact with Study participants' Fishing values in the Study Area.