

# just the facts Ji'kaw

Striped Bass *Morone saxatilis*



Ekinu'tmasimk

- Mu Ji'kaw tetuji-ktanuksik Pitupo'q aqq sipu'l, mita awisiw piskweta'jik. Katu wen ktu'-ktanaj na'taqma'latal ne'wtejlilil te's newtipunqek pasik tetapiw tl-kwitamej ta'n eymlij.
- Ji'kaw ketanujik ewe'wmumkl poqmatiknatkw, nikoql kiswa a'pi. Waqatiknn ewe'wmumkl nkutey "Red Devil" waqatikn, kataq, sata'siwji'jk, weti'k aqq wskittukewe'l waqatiknn
- Ji'kaw we'jiaten Pitupo'q siwkw mi'soqo na'tamiaw Wikewiku's kiswa Keptekewiku's aqq jijuaqa kesik. Katu ji'kaw ne'pe'jk etl-kwitamen mkumi-iktuk, ma' wultesinuk pqwi'kn-iktuk.
- Ji'kaw we'jiaten ta'n kesikawitk sam'qwan kiswa ta'n kaspelaq etli-sika'laj, nkutey nike' qospemij'l kikjuk Pitu'poq ta'n etek pikwelk malqutmnaw.
- Ji'kaw elt nmiaten lampo'q etekl walpo'ql Wiaquj
- Walpo'q etek Tuitnu'jk keknue'k wjit milkilultijik Ji'kaw aqq na'te'l etl-na'taqma'lup mawkilik Ji'kaw Kanata, 26.8 kg teli-ksukulk..
- Kaqikwet Ji'kaw mu pikwelu'k ketanjik. Pasik etuk Waspu'k, kiwnikk, mujpejk, kitpu'k aqq muink ketana'tijik Ji'kaw.



Kikmanaq telua'tijik

Pemamkiaql maw-klu'kl wjit ekwitamaluj Ji'kaw.

L'nu'k ketana'tijik Ji'kaw wjit mijipjeweay aqq pasik ketanujik ta'n tel-nuta'mk. Mu wtupa'tik Ji'kaw na ma' ktana'tikl, katu jijuaqa na peji-ne'po't.

Te's newtipunqek Ji'kaw mu pekitqatmu'ti'k Pitu'poq. Mita mu eymu'ti'k msit tami Pitu'poq, tepiass waqamo'tmu'k ta'n etl-qatmu'ti'tij.

Mi'kmaq te's se'kk naji-ktana'tijik Ji'kaw kulaman ma' kmaqasene'k.

Mna'q pilua'sinuk ta'n teli-ketanuj Ji'kaw. Amujpa tapu'kl kiswa ne'siskl na'kwelk asua'sin jikeyajik i'mu'tinew. I'mu'ti'tij kisi-pkija'tekemk kiswa wisqa'tekemk na'taqma'lut. Te'sikiskik kisi-ne'pa'tesk Ji'kaw elmiaq piskweta'tij.

Pikwelkik wenik ta'n ketana'tijik Ji'kaw etl waqama'la'tijik qasqe'k aqq apaji-pqwaso'tu'tij koqoey mu nuta'tik smanew nme'jk.



Koqoey wjit weji-ksalu'kik

Ji'kaw na paqsasit tujiw sislakwa'lut kiswa epipnalut. Meskilultijik pamiw 75 cm na eltumkl paqsasikl.

Ji'kaw suel kis-tilima't nkutey putumknej.

Ekwitamte'wk weskuma'tij Ji'kaw luetaq apje'jit, a'qatkilk kiswa meskilk. Apje'jit ji'kaw na 24-30 cm telkilk, a'qatkilk na 50 cm telkilk, aqq meskilk pamiw 75cm telkilk.

Ji'kaw na meskilultijik nme'jk etl-mawiejik pemjajikiaq, piskweta'jik sipu'l naji-sika'lanew. Nme'jk ta'n eykik tke'snue'l Unama'kik wejita'jik Listukujji'jk, Sikniktik.

Pikwelk wen ta'n ketanajik Ji'kaw welte'lsit kisi-na'taqma'lan telkilk aqq teliknatl nme'jl sman wikmaq kiswa sman wenik wjit wi'kipaltimk kiswa mawio'mi.

Ktu' kinu'tmasin me' lie:



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Striped Bass *Morone saxatilis*



## ALL The Facts

- Ji'kaw are not harvested as often as other species due to their limited visits to the Bras d'Or Lakes and rivers, but harvesters are guaranteed to capture at least one Striped Bass per year if harvesting in the right location at the right time of year.
- Striped Bass are caught with rod and reel, spear, and nets. Bait includes the "Red Devil" lure, artificial eels, shrimp, bloodworms, and surface baits.
- Ji'kaw are seen in the Bras d'Or Lakes in late spring, staying there until the end of October and into November and sometimes in winter. If Ji'kaw are caught during ice fishing, they are often too big to fit through the hole in the ice.
- Striped Bass are found in fast-moving water and in areas where gaspereau are known to spawn, such as barachois ponds along the Bras d'Or Lakes, and where there is lots of food.
- Ji'kaw are also observed in the pools of Margaree River, on rocky bottoms with overhanging banks.
- A barachois pond in East Bay was identified as an area of importance to Ji'kaw of various sizes and was the site where the Canadian record for Striped Bass was landed at 26.8 kg.
- Adult Striped Bass have few predators. Seals, otters, porpoises, eagles, and bears are believed to be their primary predators.



## What Our People SAY

The best places to fish for Ji'kaw are sandbars.

Ji'kaw are used as food by the Mi'kmaq and only harvested when needed. If there is no desire for a Striped Bass feed, then it will not be harvested, unless by accident.

Striped Bass are in the Bras d'Or Lakes every year for a short time. Since they are not found throughout the Lakes, we should keep their habitats free of pollutants and silt.

Mi'kmaq harvesters rotate harvesting areas to allow species to replenish.

The time it takes to capture Ji'kaw has not changed. It may take two to three days of checking to see if it is present and when it is, it can be caught quickly or it can take a few hours. Ji'kaw can be caught every day when the run is coming in.

Most Ji'kaw are caught in the evening; however they can be caught during the day.

Many harvesters clean Ji'kaw on-site and return unused parts back to the water to feed other fish.



## WHY We Love Them

Ji'kaw are often filleted and then fried or baked. Fish larger than 75 cm are usually prepared as steaks.

Striped Bass has been described as having a flavour very similar to haddock.

Harvesters often speak of Ji'kaw as small, medium, and large. Generally, for Ji'kaw, small is under 50 cm, medium 24-30 cm, and large is greater than 75 cm.

Ji'kaw are large fish that school in coastal waters, coming to fresh water to spawn. The fish we find off the west coast of Unama'ki comes from a population of Ji'kaw that spawn in the Miramichi River in New Brunswick.

Many harvesters enjoy the sense of accomplishment of harvesting such large and powerful fish that can feed many people for feasts and powwows.



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