

just the facts

Atlantic Cod *Gadus morhua*

Peju



Ekinu'tmasimk



Kikmanaq telua'tijik



Koqoey wjit weji-ksalu'kik

- Peju'k eymu'tijik msit tami Pitu'poq aqq ekwitamalujik toqa'q aqq kesik mkumi-iktuk, katu kisi-ktanujik te'sipunqek.
- Siwkw aqq kesik Peju'k wela'kwe'l elta'jik kikjuk qasqe'k aqq kisi-kwitamalujik ewe'wmumk waqatikn. Ne'po't punamuju kejitumk epukjik Peju'k piskweta'taq.
- Peju'k ne'po'jik ewe'wmumkl jikl, mpitn-iktuk, ewe'wut a'papi'j, poqmatiknatkw, a'pi kiswa tepkik nikoql.
- Sata'siw, salawa'tasik kulkwi'suey, weti'k kiswa koqoey kesasek ewe'wmumk wjit waqatikney.
- Kaqpesaq, alanjik aqq kaplanjik piskweta'tij, kejitumk Peju ktauksin.
- Toqa'q nipi'jk sa'se'wamkwita'tij, pikwelkik Peju'k eymu'tijik.
- Kekkue'k ta'n tujiw na'kwek ketanuj. Atelkik Peju'k pem-piskiaq jel mu miaw-na'kwek.
- Peju telu'tut "Apaqtukewey ka'qawej". Mita maqalqutnat, ta'n pasik koqoey kistik.
- Mu metue'nuk tel-mno'tuj juji'k peju ketu'-wissukwamk kiswa malqumuj. Ktu'-mno'tuj weti'k peju pasik kwejaqama'lut kiswa ekwija'lut pilsapu.
- Mu te'sik Peju Pitu'poq nnkutey nike'amskwes.

Pemi-aji-tkle'jijik Peju'k tela'luek pemi-aji-wetqane'k wsitqamu, naji-kisupa'q aqq mejikapua'q sam'qwan. Ktikipunqek ne'pe'kip peju, etlite'tm na'msiteweyaq etuk. Joe Googoo

"Peju naskik piskaqn, pittek wtlamiluk aqq amujpa menaqaj waqama'tumk. Ta'n tujiw kaqtiana'lut peju pitkmatmn squn aqq wius piskaqn-iktuk. Kaqi-pitkmatmn na sepusepilmn aqq kwejaqma'tu'n. Wuliass kisi-tl-lukwalk peju nika' mita wik na. Mna'q mestmu tujiw nutqweyanek. Nikmaq mu ketlamsitui'k Peju naskik piskaqn, te's pipanimijik, tal-kisnaskitew peju piskaqn?| -Susie Marshall

Na'tamiaw nesiskekipunqekl kis pmiaql ne'po'p peju te's paqaseken kmukn. Nike' kiskuk tetuji-awije'jijik jel wla'sitesk newtute'j newtipunqek.

Peju'k na kepmitet'asijik. Eymu'tipnik te's nuta'n. Mimaju'na'tipnik wenik kesik aqq tetuji-kaqi'sk malqumupnik nnkutey kataq.

Wejkwa'taqnik, Peju'k ketanupnik pem-la'timk Minikuk naji-Se't A'newimk aqq sa'se'wimkipnik wjit tapatat, amali-ika'taqne'l, wius aqq koqoey piluey nuta'mk.

Wejkwa'taqnik Mi'kmaq ketana'tijik Peju'k aqq kaqi-nenua'tijik tel-milamuksultijik nme'jk eymu'tijik Pitu'poq. Ula keknu'e'k kinu'tmaqnetek ta'n telo'ti'tij kiskuk Mi'kmaq Unama'kik.

Ke'sk mna'q kaqianukek teli-ktanuj Peju'k, Peju wsukuni ewe'wasikip wjit waqatikn jakejua'pi'k kiswa esmut waisisk. Waqn'tal ewe'wmumkipn wjit epkenmumk ika'taqnn. Wa'qi ewe'wmumkipn nepilsimk wjit keltaqpilaqnn kiswa sekipilmn o'pliske'k kiswa teme'k kkat kiswa kpitnokm. Mimey wejiaq wmustek kuta'tumkip sam'qwan-iktuk ewipuna'tekemk ta'n tujiw mn'tmu'k ketanuj.

Wejkwa'taqnik Mi'kmaq ketana'tijik Peju'k. Pikwelk wen mikwite'tk apoqnmua'tiji wuniskamijik salawa'la'tijik Peju'k aqq pipanimujik wjaqama'tunew Pejuatpl ke'sk mna'q sa'qewianuk.

Nuji-kwitamtijik mesko'ttijik teli-awije'jit Peju. I' pikwelkipnik, nika' awisiw ne'pa'tijik wjit wikmawaq. E'nu'k Peju'k ma' l'mu'k knjijannaq ktananew elmi'knik nnkutey tel-lukutipnik kniskamijinaq wejkwa'taqnik.



Ktu' kinu'tmasin me' lie:



just the facts

Atlantic Cod *Gadus morhua*

Peju



ALL The Facts

- Peju is found throughout the Bras d'Or Lakes and are usually harvested in the fall and winter through the ice, but can be harvested in other seasons.
- In spring and fall, Peju move close to shore in the evening and are caught with bait. Catching a tomcod is a sign that cod will soon follow.
- Peju are caught by jigging, hand lines, rod and reel, gill nets, and night spearing.
- Squid, smelt, bean pork, worms, and anything shiny can be used as bait.
- Smelt, herring, and capelin signal harvest time.
- When leaves begin to change colour in fall, Cod are abundant.
- Time of day is important when harvesting. Cod are more abundant at dusk than during the day.
- Cod is often called "the crow of the ocean." Their large mouths lets them eat a wide variety of food.
- Parasites are not considered a problem in preparation or in eating. To remove worms, Cod is boiled or put in fresh water.
- The Peju population in the Bras d'Or Lakes is very low.



What Our People SAY

"The Cod population is decreasing because of global warming, warmer waters, and pollution. I caught one last year and I think it was the last one."
-Joe Googoo

"Peju wear a sock, it is inside and you have to be very careful to clean it well. When you empty its stomach you pack the sock with its liver and meat. After you finish filling it, you tie it up and boil it. I wish I could have a fix of Cod right now because it is delicious. I haven't had it since I was young. My family doesn't believe me when I say a Cod wears a sock, they always ask, how could a Cod wear a sock?" – **Susie Marshall**

About 30 years ago you would catch a Peju with almost every cast. These days you're lucky to catch one once a year.

Peju are considered sacred. They were always there when needed. They kept many families alive during winter and were eaten as often as eel.

Historically, Peju were harvested on the way to the St. Anne's Mission in Chapel Island and traded for potatoes, produce, meat, and other necessities.



WHY We Love Them

Mi'kmaq have harvested Cod for many generations and have a local and intimate understanding of many of the fish species in the Bras d'Or Lakes. This knowledge is an important part of Mi'kmaq culture in Unama'ki today.

Before the Cod fishery collapsed, Peju tails were used as bait for lobster or as pet food. Bones were used in gardens as fertilizer. Skins were used medicinally for wraps and casts. Oil from the stomach was used to calm the water when harvesting oysters.

Cod harvesting is linked to the Mi'kmaq past. Many remember salting Cod with their grandparents and asking to boil the heads before they spoiled.

Harvesters are very sad about the scarcity of Peju. Once plentiful, they are now seldom available to harvesters or their communities. Loss of Cod means future generations may not be able to harvest them as we did in the past.



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UNAMA'KI

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