

NEWS

Briefs

Char season ends

The Arctic char's annual migration season is coming to an end.

On Sept. 4, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board fisheries biologist Nathan Millar said the char travel every year from the ocean to their fresh-water spawning grounds.

While the harvest is usually a tradition in Beaufort communities including Aklavik and Fort McPherson, this year marks the second time the GRRB has called for a voluntary ban on char fishing.

According to GRRB figures, the char population in the Rat River has continued to decline from the estimate of 12,000 in 2002 to 3,500 in 2006.

While the GRRB's ban officially ends for this year on Sept. 15, it is likely the fish will have arrived in their spawning and wintering grounds called fish holes by then.

Those areas are covered by the voluntary ban year-round.

The GRRB's ban is expected to be renewed in 2008.

— Philippe Morin