

Hydlo and FRIENDS unplugged

Finding cisco? You bet!



Harry Erless



Sanders Weistche, Jeremy Moar and Roderick Blueboy scoop-net fishing on the south shore of Smokey Hill.



Hydlo and Friends is a program broadcast by JBCCS. Its hosts, Luke and Réal, discuss various matters related to Hydro-Québec activities on Eeyou Istchee lands. Swapping their mike for a pen, they invite you to explore various aspects of the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project.

"Finding cisco" declared a headline in the September issue of The Nation...and find cisco they did! The second year of fishing following the partial diversion of the Rupert ended on an encouraging note: from August to October, over 16,000 cisco were caught, mainly in the segment between the estuary and Smokey Hill. It was a busy summer indeed.

Following the cisco from the bay to the river

Considerable was done to monitor the arrival of the cisco in the Rupert. As of mid-July, Cree fishermen set their nets starting at Pointe Goyau, about 35 km north of Waskaganish. Then, on August 1st, the fishermen watched closely as the cisco migrated upstream, from the estuary to the foot of the Smokey Hill rapids, to see whether or not the river was providing any attraction for the species.



David Blackned, fishing in Rupert Bay

Building scoop-net fishing pools

Meanwhile, tallymen Clarence Cowboy and Sanders Weistche and their crews were building small pools at the north and south banks of the Rupert at the foot of the rapids, to get ready for the traditional scoop-net fishing season.

The pools proved to be extremely effective! At the end of the season, the scoop-net fishermen had harvested over 8,000 cisco, mainly in the pool opposite Gravel Pit. Most of the remaining fish were caught with gill nets. According to the two tallymen concerned, the fish were very abundant!



Clarence Cowboy, tallyman of trapline R11



What's next?

The members of the Smokey Hill Liaison Committee met in Val-d'Or on November 3 to discuss the last season and come up with suggestions for the 2012 season. The participants were

in unanimous agreement about the importance of continuing the work already started and of fostering interest among the younger generations. Bring on 2012!



Cisco: The Movie

Preparation of the fishing sites, fishermen hard at work, never before seen underwater video sequences of migrating cisco...a first! Available online, at www.hydloandfriends.com

For more information, scan this QR code.

