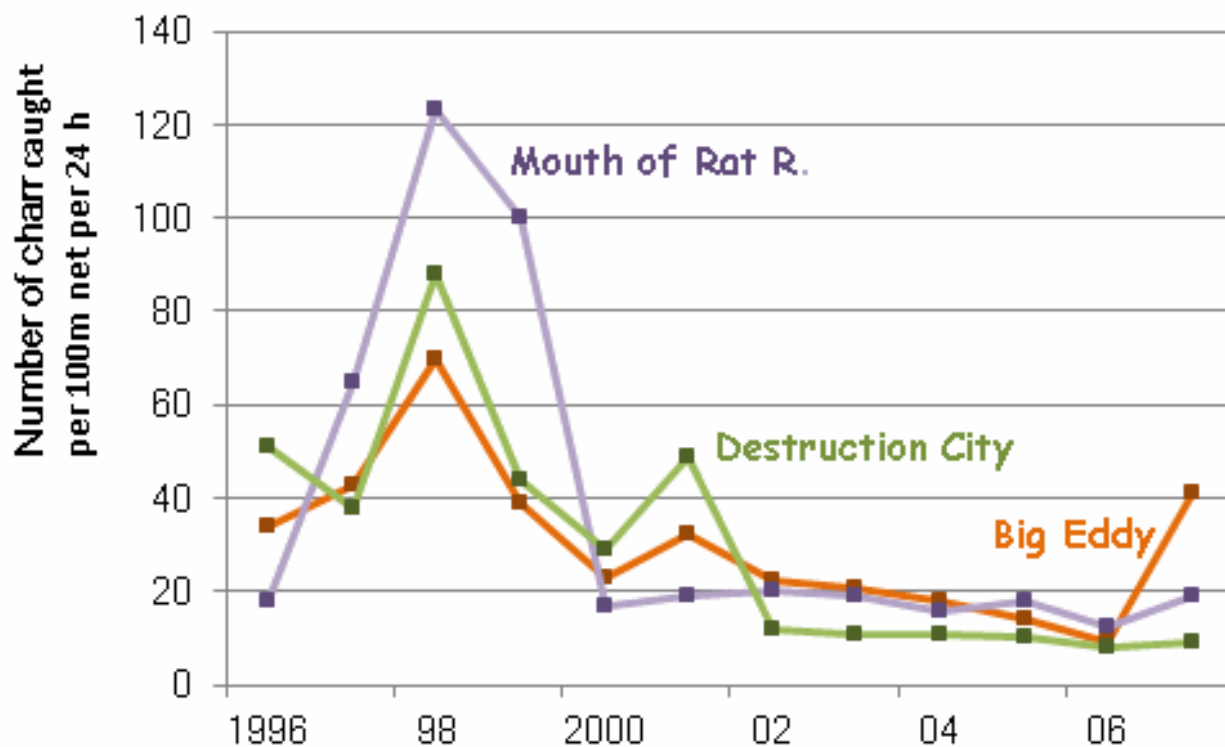


Dolly Varden Charr in the Rat River



Data Source: adapted from Harwood et al. 2009, Figure 6

What is happening?

- This graph shows the number of Dolly Varden charr caught in nets during the subsistence fishery at three locations between Aklavik and Fort McPherson. At all three sites the catch was highest in the 1990s and shows a decline starting in 2000.
- The numbers caught have been converted to a standard reference, called catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE), that is based on a 100 m net over a 24 h period.

Why is it happening?

- Concerns raised by community members triggered several studies in the 1980s to investigate the start of the decline in charr numbers.
- The cause of the decline in charr numbers is unknown but there is speculation that it may reflect over-fishing, natural predation and habitat or climate change.

Why is it important?

- Fishers from both Fort McPherson and Aklavik harvest charr for subsistence use and it is important for reasons of tradition, diet and culture.

References

- This graph was adapted from a report by Harwood, L.A., Sandstrom, S., and Linn, E. 2009. Status of anadromous Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*) of the Rat River, Northwest Territories, as assessed through sampling of the subsistence fishery (1995-2007). Can. Manuscr. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2891: vii + 52 p..
- The data were collected by local fish harvesters who were hired as monitors. Over the 13 years of the study the same monitors (in most years) collected the catch data using the same gear, seasonal timing and fishing locations.

Text revised: Feb.28, 2014 **Data originally added:** Feb 28, 2014