

Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte Fish Consumption Survey

Introduction

Hi, I am Megan Murphy, I am the Environmental Services Supervisor for the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (MBQ). As a Mohawk woman, born and raised on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory and a person wholeheartedly connected to our land, water, and wildlife, I am happy to hold this position in our community. Part of my role often involves explaining our community's traditional connection to the local land, water, and wildlife, both historically and presently, to ensure our values are considered. As our community continues to hold onto our traditional values and practices while evolving and adapting to the current times, my goal is to be able to best represent our current community when I speak to and advise on our connection to the local land, water, and wildlife.

Representing our community's traditional connection to the land, water and wildlife has been a priority for MBQ through our work on the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP). The BQRAP was established in the mid 1980's as a response to the International Joint Commission recognizing the Bay of Quinte as an Area of Concern in the Great Lakes system, meaning the quality of the ecosystem was drastically declining. Human activity in and around the Bay of Quinte was contributing to excess nutrients, persistent toxic contamination, bacterial contamination, and the loss and/or destruction of fish and wildlife habitat. Some uses of the Bay of Quinte like drinking water, fishing, and recreation were, and continue to be impaired due to the negative effects of human activity. The establishment of the BQRAP, put the Government, Industry, stakeholders and public into action to reduce the negative human impacts on the Bay of Quinte and to work toward restoring Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI's) so the health of the ecosystem would return. MBQ has been part of the BQRAP by sitting on the Bay of Quinte Restoration Council (coordinated by Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Ministry of the Environment and Conservation and Parks) and participating in specific BUI Working Groups, such as the Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption. The quality of the Bay of Quinte has greatly improved due to the work of the BQRAP and all those involved. MBQ's involvement has allowed our cultural and traditional perspective, and connection to the Bay of Quinte to be considered in decision making. To learn more about the BQRAP visit <https://www.bqrap.ca/>.

To best represent our current community when I speak to and advise on our connection to the local land, water, and wildlife for the BQRAP and related work, I am hoping to have community involvement and input in the following survey.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and provide your story about your connection to our home. The information provided will be collected and stored by MBQ only. A summarized portrayal of the information will be communicated through our BQRAP and related work to ensure our perspective is considered. Your cooperation in completing this survey is valued and we appreciate any knowledge that you are willing to share.