QUALITY-RELATED FACTORS

PCBs DDTs Hg

Overall, contaminant levels in Arctic Char are low, and tend to be much lower in those that migrate to sea.

The red colour of Arctic Char flesh comes from some of the marine prey that they eat.

Arctic Char are high in nutritious omega-3 fatty acids.

Many factors shape the access, availability, quality, and stability of Arctic Char.

CLIMATE CHANGE

PRECIPITATION

WIND

Warming termperatures can affect freshwater habitats, including reduction in stream flow.

Changing weather conditions can affect fishing access.

TIMING OF BREAK-UP

SEA CONDITIONS

Salmon may interact with Arctic Char in both freshwater and marine habitats.

Salmon are being caught in the same nets as Arctic species.

Shifts to deeper waters may decrease harvester's access.

CHANGES IN HABITAT USE

Some Arctic Char may move deeper and farther off-shore in summer as climate change progresses.

INTERACTIONS WITH UNUSUAL SPECIES

Salmon may compete for food.

The occurrence of salmon is increasing in the Canadian Arctic and more species of salmon are appearing.

DIET

Arctic Char eat a wide variety of marine prey.

Amphipods (small, shrimp-like animals) are important diet items for Arctic Char everywhere.

The diet of Arctic Char may change as species like capelin become more abundant.

Preference for cooler waters may help Arctic Char maintain their growth rate.

ARCTIC CHAR LIFE CYCLE

Some resident and landlocked Arctic Char spend their entire lives in freshwater.

WINTER freshwater

FALL migration

SPRING migration

SUMMER marine feeding

Sea-run Arctic Char spawn and overwinter in freshwater habitat.

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