

# Two fish in hot water

by Martin PM

I'm leaving to go up North.

But there is no such "up North"!

Imagine that for decades you were used to catching enough Arctic Char to feed your family.

But in the last 10 years you have caught less and less...



I caught only three!



In addition, what scientists believed to be one species of char...

Hi, I'm Arctic Char!

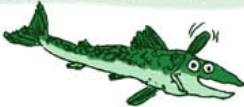


...was in fact **two**.

Hi, we are Dolly Varden!



The "new" species was even the most abundant one!



I'm Dolly too!



Ten years ago, when Inuit fishers began catching fewer fish, they asked scientists to work with them to help address this threat to their subsistence fishing.

Spencer Weinstein is a PhD student in aquatic ecology at the University of Waterloo. She is one of the scientists Inuit fishers are working with.



Scientists have long thought that the only char present in Coppermine River, where Kugluktuk fishers catch chars, was Arctic Char.

But, there's new DNA evidence showing that Dolly Varden is instead present much further east than we thought.

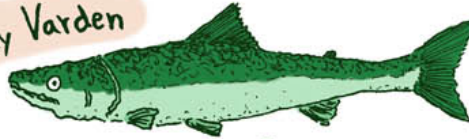


Fishers knew there were different kinds of char. They often referred to some of the longer, skinnier fish as Dolly Varden.



Flesh color may vary from dark to light red.

Dolly Varden



A more streamlined body and a longer head

Arctic Char



A longer body and a blunter, more pointed head.

Some evidence shows that, 50 years ago, Arctic Char was probably the most present in Coppermine River.



Understanding how Arctic Char and Dolly Varden will react to climate change differently will help the community protect this critically important food source.



Food security, and cultural well-being for the generations to come: that's the aim of the collaboration between Kugluktuk Inuit fishers and scientists.

