

Q79A

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
DEPARTMENT OF FOLKLORE
Boatbuilding Questionnaire
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In Newfoundland, where fishing and water-borne transportation have always been of great importance, boats represent an integral part of the culture. Boats can be found in nearly every coastal community, and, in many places, boatbuilding traditions can be traced back hundreds of years. Even though boatbuilding and boat use are widespread in the province, little information has been collected and preserved about the details of boatbuilding.

By answering the following questions you can provide valuable data that will aid scholars in the study of boatbuilding in Newfoundland.

Please answer each question as fully as you can, giving details whenever possible. If you need more space for your answers, or want to add additional comments, use separate pieces of paper.

If you are not familiar with boatbuilding in your home community, feel free to send a copy of this questionnaire to someone in the community who is more knowledgeable. Completed questionnaires may be sent directly to the Department of Folklore, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, A1C 5S7.

All information will be permanently filed in the Memorial University of Newfoundland Folklore and Language Archive.

YOUR NAME: _____

HOME COMMUNITY: _____

BIRTHDATE: _____

PRESENT ADDRESS: _____

PRESENT TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

1. In your home community, when a fisherman needs a new boat, what course of action does he generally take? (Check one)
 (a) builds one for himself
 (b) hires someone in the community to build one for him
 (c) hires someone in another community to build one for him
 (d) searches around the bay for a new or used boat
 (e) other (Please explain) _____

2. Which of the following best describes your community? (Check one)
- (a) it is an active boatbuilding community
- (b) it is a community where boatbuilding skills are dying out
- (c) it is dependent upon other communities for boats
- (d) other (Please explain) _____
-
3. Approximately how many fishermen live in your home community?
- _____
4. Approximately how many boats are kept in your home community?
- _____
5. Which of the following boat types are used by residents of your community? (Check as many as apply)
- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> trap skiff | <input type="checkbox"/> punt | <input type="checkbox"/> speed boat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flat | <input type="checkbox"/> motor boat | <input type="checkbox"/> rodney |
| <input type="checkbox"/> row dory | <input type="checkbox"/> long liner | <input type="checkbox"/> skiff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cod seine skiff | <input type="checkbox"/> jack boat | <input type="checkbox"/> dinghy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bully boat | <input type="checkbox"/> schooner | <input type="checkbox"/> sail boat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wherry | <input type="checkbox"/> snapper boat | <input type="checkbox"/> smack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cape Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> motor dory | <input type="checkbox"/> shallop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (please explain) | _____ | |
-
6. Which of the following boat types are regularly built by residents of your community? (Check as many as apply)
- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> trap skiff | <input type="checkbox"/> punt | <input type="checkbox"/> speed boat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flat | <input type="checkbox"/> motor boat | <input type="checkbox"/> rodney |
| <input type="checkbox"/> row dory | <input type="checkbox"/> long liner | <input type="checkbox"/> skiff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cod seine skiff | <input type="checkbox"/> jack boat | <input type="checkbox"/> dinghy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bully boat | <input type="checkbox"/> schooner | <input type="checkbox"/> sail boat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wherry | <input type="checkbox"/> snapper boat | <input type="checkbox"/> smack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cape Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> motor dory | <input type="checkbox"/> shallop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (Please explain) | _____ | |
-
7. Of all of the boat types represented in your community, which one is the most numerous? _____
- _____
- Approximately how many of this type are in the community? _____

8. During the fishing season, where do fishermen in your community keep their boats? (Check as many as apply)
- (a) on a mooring in the harbour
 (b) tied up at a wharf
 (c) tied up at a fishing stage
 (d) hauled out daily on a launch-way
 (e) hauled out daily on the shore
 (f) other (please explain) _____
9. Where is boatbuilding carried on in your community? (Check as many as apply)
- (a) in stores (store rooms)
 (b) outside, on the shore
 (c) outside, on the property of the builder
 (d) in buildings used only as boatshops
 (e) in garages
 (f) in basements
 (g) other (please explain) _____
10. If you had to select one person as the best boatbuilder in your community, who would that person be? _____
 What types of boats does this person build? _____

11. If you had to select a person as most knowledgeable about the history of boatbuilding in your community, who would that person be? _____
12. Are there any persons in your community who work full-time as boatbuilders? yes no
 If YES, what are the names of these individuals? _____

13. Are there any boatshops or boatyards in your community which employ two or more full-time employees? yes no
 If YES, give names of shops or yards. _____

14. Which of the following is most typical of the way boatbuilders in your community go about their work? (Check one)
- (a) builders work alone
 (b) builders hire one or more helpers
 (c) Builders receive occasional assistance from friends and neighbors, but work alone most of the time
 (d) other (please explain) _____

15. In your community, how does a person usually go about learning about how to build a boat? (Check one)

- (a) obtains information from father or other male relative
 (b) goes to the most skilled builder in the community for assistance
 (c) takes a course from the College of Fisheries
 (d) visits boatbuilders in other communities
 (e) learns by trial and error
 (f) other (please explain) _____
-
16. When designing a boat to be built and, later, projecting a design to full-size, builders use various methods. In your community do boatbuilders use any of the following? (Check as many as apply)
- (a) wooden half-models
 (b) full-size moulds for timbers
 (c) gates
 (d) three-piece adjustable moulds (hollow mould, rising square, and breadth mould)
 (e) blue prints or plans drawn on paper
 (f) other (please explain) _____
-
17. In what way do builders usually obtain wood for boatbuilding? (Check one)
- (a) they go into the woods, in their community, and cut trees
 (b) they go into the woods, in another community, and cut trees
 (c) they hire someone to cut trees for them
 (d) they purchase wood from a sawmill
 (e) other (please explain) _____
-
18. What woods do boatbuilders in your community use for boat building? (Check as many as apply)
- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> spruce | <input type="checkbox"/> balsam fir | <input type="checkbox"/> birch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> oak | <input type="checkbox"/> var | <input type="checkbox"/> cedar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> larch | <input type="checkbox"/> pine | <input type="checkbox"/> juniper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (please explain) _____ | | |
-
19. After trees are cut into boards, boatbuilders sometimes dry the boards before moving on to build a boat. In your community, which is the most common procedure for drying boards? (Check one)
- (a) boards are used immediately, without drying
 (b) boards are dried less than one month
 (c) boards are dried 1-3 months
 (d) boards are dried 4-6 months
 (e) boards are dried 7-12 months
 (f) boards are dried longer than 12 months

20. Which of the following woods are most commonly used for planking in your community? (Check as many as apply)

spruce balsam fir birch
 oak var cedar
 larch pine juniper
 other (please explain) _____

21. Which of the following woods are most commonly used for timbers? (Check as many as apply)

spruce balsam fir birch
 oak var cedar
 larch pine juniper
 other (please explain) _____

22. Which of the following woods are most commonly used for stems, keels, and stern posts? (Check as many as apply)

spruce balsam fir birch
 oak var cedar
 larch pine juniper
 other (please explain) _____

23. In your community, what types of fastenings are used to attach planks to timbers? (Check as many as apply)

common sttel nails common steel finish nails
 common galvanized nails galvanized wire nails
 galvanized boat nails copper rivets and burs
 bronze screws stainless steels screws
 Everdur screws copper boat nails
 other (please explain) _____

24. Do any of the following boatbuilding materials have to obtained outside of your home community? (Check as many as apply)

engines fastenings paint
 caulking material lumber oars
 oar locks chafing gear propellers
 shafts other (please explain) _____

25. What fisheries are pursued by fishermen from your home community? (Check as many as apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> lobster	<input type="checkbox"/> crab	<input type="checkbox"/> cod trap
<input type="checkbox"/> cod-hand line	<input type="checkbox"/> cod--trawl	<input type="checkbox"/> capelin
<input type="checkbox"/> squid	<input type="checkbox"/> salmon	<input type="checkbox"/> herring
<input type="checkbox"/> turbot	<input type="checkbox"/> hake	<input type="checkbox"/> halibut
<input type="checkbox"/> sole	<input type="checkbox"/> scallops	<input type="checkbox"/> shrimp
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please explain) _____		

26. On the average, during what month do fishermen put their boats in the water to begin the fishing season, and during what month do they take their boats out of the water to end fishing?
- Begin during: _____ End during: _____
27. Are boats given names in your community? yes no
- If YES, what types of boats are given names? (e.g. trap skiffs, long liners, etc.) _____
28. If Yes, give examples of boat names: _____
29. Often, boats built in a particular harbour or region are recognized as originating from that harbour or region because of certain distinctive characteristics. Do boats built in your community have characteristics that distinguish them from boats built elsewhere? (You might want to consider such factors as: quality of workmanship, seaworthiness, colours, stem profile, length vs. width, inside or outside rudder, etc.)
- yes no
- If YES please explain in detail. _____
30. Sometimes certain ceremonies are attached to the launching of obats, such as the breaking of a bottle or liquor over the bow, or a party held on launch day. Are any boat launching ceremonies practised in your community? yes no
- If YES, please describe in detail. _____
31. Aside from your community, what community in the area has the best reputation for being the home of skilled boatbuilders?
- _____

Do builders in this community have a better reputation than builders in your community? yes no

If YES, why? _____

32. Please add any further information about boatbuilding in your community that you think would be helpful. _____

