



Goose Cove



Max Sexton Goose Cove

--Photos by Kathleen Tucker--

A Fishing Family

Max Sexton was a trap fisherman who fished with a crew of four. By the end of the fishery he and his crew were fishing with three traps, but the Moratorium put an end to that in 1992.



The view from Max Sexton's home in Goose Cove

Max Sexton was born in Goose Cove in 1947 and his father was Wilfred Sexton. The Sextons came from Fogo Island, but as far back as Max can remember his family lived in Goose Cove. His grandfather was a fisherman and his father and brothers fished. Max married Corinne Byrne from Conche and they have three daughters and a son Jason, who is involved in the inshore crab fishery. Max, who is 68 years old, still fishes with his son whenever the opportunity permits.

Salmon Fishery

The salmon fishery was big in Goose Cove and was going on at the same time as the cod fishery.

Fishing families

The primary trap fishing families at Goose Cove were:

- Sextons
- Murrins
- Fitzpatrick's
- Reardons



Looking out through the narrows at Goose Cove

Merchants

The McDonald family were the merchants at Goose Cove.

Families from Ireland Bight who resettled in Goose Cove

- Reid
- Dawe
- Cull

Local Names

Greenwood Cove on the map is called Big Cove by local fishers.



Max Sexton in his store.

The Draw System

An interesting take on the Draw System at Goose Cove was that on the night of the draw a fisherman might draw a blank berth. This meant there were more fishermen than berths, so when a fisher drew a blank berth, it meant he had to find a berth for himself outside of the Draw. There were a lot of fishermen with cod traps, but a limited number of berths.

Photo Essay
Trap Fishing at Goose Cove
Contributed by Angela Kean
--Photos by Allan Bock--



John Murrin and nephew Daniel Bock in 1991



At Murrin's Cove L-R Wade Troy, Bill Murrin and Pierce Murrin hauling a trap



John and Pierce Murrin drawing up the fish



Drawing up the fish. Pierce and Bill Murrin, with nephew Daniel Bock looking on.



John and Bill Murrin and Wade Troy, dipping cod from the trap

Trap Berths

1. Devil's Cove (used to belong to Ireland Bight, but after resettlement Goose Cove appropriated it).
2. Reid's Berth fished by Garland Reid
3. Dawe's Berth
4. White Point Cove, 2nd draw
5. Starks's Head (second best berth at Goose Cove), fished mainly by the Sextons.
6. Big Head (in Stark's Bight)
7. Old Burnie
8. Hawk's Nest
9. High Rock (this was a high, square rock)
10. Harvey's Cove. 2nd draw.
11. Big Cove (Greenwood Cove on the map)
12. Murrin's Cove (the best berth), fished first by John Murrin and later his son Pierce.
13. Pumley Cove. Fished by Fitzpatricks.
14. Hauling Cove. 2nd draw.



Figure 1 Goose Cove nautical chart