



St. Anthony Bight



Gord Pilgrim St. Anthony Bight



A picture of St. Anthony Bight. Photo by Alwyn Sansford

Gordon (Gord) Pilgrim was born in 1931 to Charles and Sarah Pilgrim. He lived in St. Anthony Bight all his life, as did his father Charlie and his grandfather Henry. Gordon had one sister, Mabel, who married an American and lives in the United States.



Leonard Tucker and Gord Pilgrim identify trap berths in St. Anthony Bight

John Pilgrim St. Anthony Bight



John Pilgrim's ancestral home at St. Anthony Bight. Photo by Kathleen Tucker

Trap Berths

1. Cranky Point
2. Trawl Cove. Fished by Adam Pilgrim. John Pilgrim's father's name was Ephraim Pilgrim. Adam was Ephraim's uncle, and they worked traps together.
3. Northwest Shoal. Fished by Jack Pilgrim.
4. Silver Point.
5. Corner of the Island. Fished later on.
6. Green Cove.
7. Highland Cove. Fished by Jake and Rube Simms, sometimes.
8. Cox's Point.
9. Bear Gulch.
10. Pissimor Cove. Fished by Harrison Simms (salmon berths on either side).
11. Charlie Payne's Island.
12. White Point. Fished by Gordon Pilgrim, his father, and his uncle George Pilgrim.
13. Swiler's Cove. Fished by Jack Pilgrim. Wilson was the skipper.
14. Cod Seine Hole (local fishermen referred to it as Cotchin Ho'). Fished by Adam Pilgrim.
15. Big Cove. Fished by the older men, prior to the draw.

Hook and Line fishermen could fish anywhere.

Photo Essay
The Fishery at St. Anthony Bight
Contributed by Alonzo Pilgrim
--Photos by Marvin Friesen--



The following photos were taken by Marvin Friesen (pictured left, with wife) at St. Anthony Bight in 2008. Contributed by Alonzo Pilgrim (right)



Figure 1 Joyce Simms pronging fish.



Figure 2 Simms crew spreading fish.



Figure 3 Gilbert Simms spreading fish.



Figure 4 Joyce, Clem and Gilbert curing fish.



Figure 5 Gilbert Simms knitting a seal net in his kitchen.



Figure 6 Clem Simms knitting twine for a cod trap.



Figure 7 Mrs. Friesen looks at salted cod fish.



Figure 8 Gilbert Simms building a punt, with Gerald Pilgrim and Herbert Simms looking on.



Figure 9 Penney Premises Great Brehat. Checking a cod trap.



Figure 10 Putting away fish. Herbert Simms, center.



Figure 11 L-R Patsy & dad, Clarence. Gord, George & Frank Pilgrim barking twine.



Figure 11 Fish spread, front to back: Wilson Pilgrim & crew, George & Charlie Pilgrim & crew, William Pilgrim.



Figure 12 Truman & Herbert Simms holding salted cod fish. Joyce & Gilbert Simms carrying salted fish on a handbar.



Figure 13 Dogs hauling seals from the cove



Figure 14 Fishing activities in the 1980s



Figure 15 Fishing stages and boats in 1990.



Figure 16 Trap skiff heading out to a cod trap, 1990



Figure 17 St. Squid jigging in 'the bottom', 2004.



Figure 18 Clarence Pilgrim holding a salmon.



Figure 19 Going out to the cod trap. L-R, Lonnie, Alonzo, Keith and Gord Pilgrim.

Trap Berths

1. Upper Cranky Point, up above Old Man's Neck, belonged to the Bight, although some fishermen in St. Anthony claimed it was theirs. Fished by Tom Pilgrim.
2. Trawl Cove. Fished by Adam Pilgrim and his nephew, Ephraim Pilgrim.
3. Northwest Shoal. Fished by Jack Pilgrim and his father, Wilson.
4. Silver Point. It was added later in the Draw.
5. Corner of the Island. Fished later on. A salmon berth and later, a trap berth for cod. It was right out in front of the community by the wharf.
6. Green Cove. It was originally a salmon berth; Gord cannot remember who trapped it.
7. Highland Cove: a rifle shot from Green Cove. Sometimes fished by Jake and Rube Simms.
8. Cox's Point. Used for salmon but later used for trap fishing.
9. Bear Gulch. Used as a salmon berth but later used for trap fishing.
10. Pissamor Cove. Fished by Harrison Simms (salmon berths on either side).
11. Charlie Payne's Island. Fished (possibly) by Tom Simms and, later, Harrison Simms.
12. White Point. Fished by Gordon Pilgrim, his father, and his uncle George Pilgrim.
13. Swiler's Cove. Fished by Wilson (the skipper) and Jack Pilgrim.
14. Swiler's Point. Fished by Tom Pilgrim. This was the most desired berth of all. Gord remembers they drew this berth one year, and what made this berth memorable to him was that a whale—likely a humpback—got tangled in their trap. "He was as long as the boat, which was 26 feet long," recalls Gord. The whale drowned and ruined the trap in the process. They had to cut the trap off the whale and make a new one.
15. Cod Seine Hole (local fishermen referred to it as 'Cotchin Ho'). Fished by Adam Pilgrim.
16. Big Cove. Various fishers. Traditionally fished by St. Carols fishermen prior to the Draw.



Figure 20 St. Anthony Bight nautical chart