



INFOCEANS

THE QUEBEC REGION BULLETIN — FEBRUARY – MARCH 2011/VOLUME 14/NUMBER 1



MINISTER GAIL SHEA MEETS WITH AQIP MEMBERS

Last January 27, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Honourable Gail Shea, met with members of the Association québécoise de l'industrie de la pêche (AQIP) during their annual meeting.

Reminding listeners that she grew up in a village in a fishing family, Minister Shea said she hoped to see progress continue in several priority sectors over the coming years, notably in the area of fishery modernization, the rationalization and the simplification of her department's policies and procedures, and the strengthening of key partnerships with all industry players. "Like you," she told the AQIP members, "we are working to develop an economically sound industry, one that is focused on the market and which offers fish harvesters, sector employees and processors sure and stable opportunities for a prosperous and sustainable future."



Minister Shea with Jean-Paul Gagné, centre, and Robert Langlois, respectively AQIP General Director and President.

CCGS *PIERRE RADISSON* IN THE BELLY OF AN ICEBREAKER

Since fall 2010 and until spring 2011, the mid-sized Canadian Coast Guard river icebreaker, the CCGS *Pierre Radisson*, has been undergoing a major refit of its engine rooms.

The six diesel propulsion engines, all three generator sets and the bow thruster will be removed from the ship's "belly" and replaced with new equipment. To do so, the hull had to be opened to shift all this mechanical gear, including engines as large as.

ENGINES

- Reconditioned Alco 251FV16 diesel engines
- Model 16C9 x 10½
- Power: 2950 HP

GENERATOR SETS

- Manufacturer by MTU
- Model 48V4000M23S
- Voltage: 460 V
- Power: 750 kW

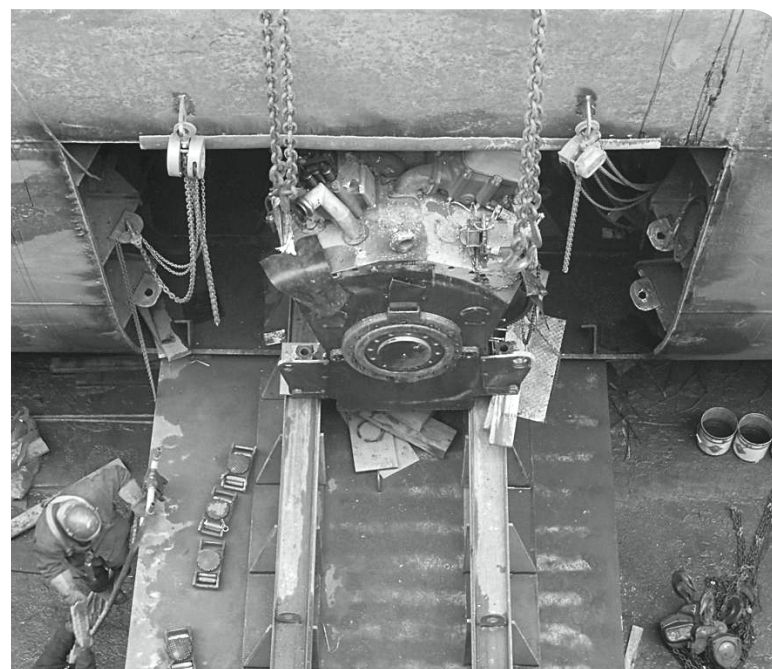
BOW THRUSTER

- Manufactured by Wärtsilä
- Model CT125H
- Maximum manoeuvring power: 500 kW

Built in 1978, the Canadian Coast Guard ship CCGS *Pierre Radisson* had mechanical problems and damage that had to be repaired. Other adjustments were needed to bring the ship into compliance with modern safety requirements. Once this refit is completed, the diesel engines, generator sets and bow thruster will work efficiently for several years to come.

The work being done at Chantier maritime Verreault Navigation inc. called for an investment of \$9.5 million, including \$2.2 million from Canada's Economic Action Plan. The ship should return to service in the waters of the St. Lawrence and the Arctic by summer 2011.

Nathalie Letendre
Communications



DFO D. CORBIN

Dispatches

(3)

(4)

From the wheelhouse

(3)

New publications

(4)

COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR TOURISM PURPOSES AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH

Beginning in the 2011 fishing season, the Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels du sud de la Gaspésie (RPPSG) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada will be innovating by setting up a pilot project involving commercial fishing for tourism purposes. This project will allow fisher/interpreters to reach a clientele that wishes to learn more about the wealth of the sea.

This mobilizing project connects two industries: the fishery and tourism. The main objectives of this partnership are to diversify fishing activities and to improve the economic viability of this industry. Another aim of this union is to promote the culture and heritage associated with inshore fishing on the Gaspé Peninsula.

A NEW CONCEPT?

Perhaps not, but it is certainly a new approach. An outing on the water will give visitors the opportunity to enjoy a tourism experience with accredited lobster harvesters willing to share their knowledge and passion for the sea, and to show visitors what their daily lives are like.

Every country has its own rules for managing commercial or recreational fisheries. An examination of the practices that exist in different areas of the world has shown that commercial fishing combined with a tourism component is a niche with excellent prospects for development on the Gaspé Peninsula.

NEW RULES

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Gaspé-Lower St. Lawrence Area has established a regulatory framework to support this new activity. The goal is to make sure that any measures taken comply with established policies and environmental rules to avoid putting pressure on the resource.

The marine resources harvested as part of this pilot project will have to be included in the participating harvesters' quotas. The harvesters will also have to abide by rules governing permitted species, fishing areas, bag limits, opening dates, gear and other management measures.

The harvesters who will participate in this pilot project will have to upgrade their skills as interpreters and make sure their boats comply with Transport Canada regulations for tourist passengers.

The pilot project will be funded until 2012 by various federal and provincial economic development organisations.

That trip around the Gaspé will be all the more interesting thanks to this new original way of enjoying the sea.



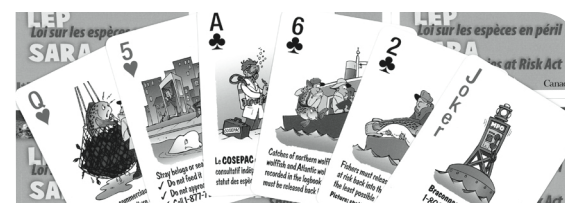
Danielle Laurin
Gaspé-Lower St. Lawrence Area

A ENTERTAINING TOOL ON SPECIES AT RISK

A highly interesting awareness-raising project has come into being on the North Shore: a bilingual card deck dealing with the *Species at Risk Act*. The cards bear amusing images and messages encouraging fish harvesters to adopt behaviours that can help species at risk survive. They also encourage fish harvesters to declare any species at risk caught incidentally.

At the beginning of the 2010 fishing season when the tags were distributed, fishery officers also discussed various aspects of the *Species at Risk Act* with the fish harvesters and gave them copies of the card deck.

At the Awards Gala for the winter fishing on the Saguenay contest in March 2010, fishery officer Brian Coss reminded listeners of the importance of returning species at risk to the water and spoke to the fish harvesters attending the event about this original awareness-raising tool.

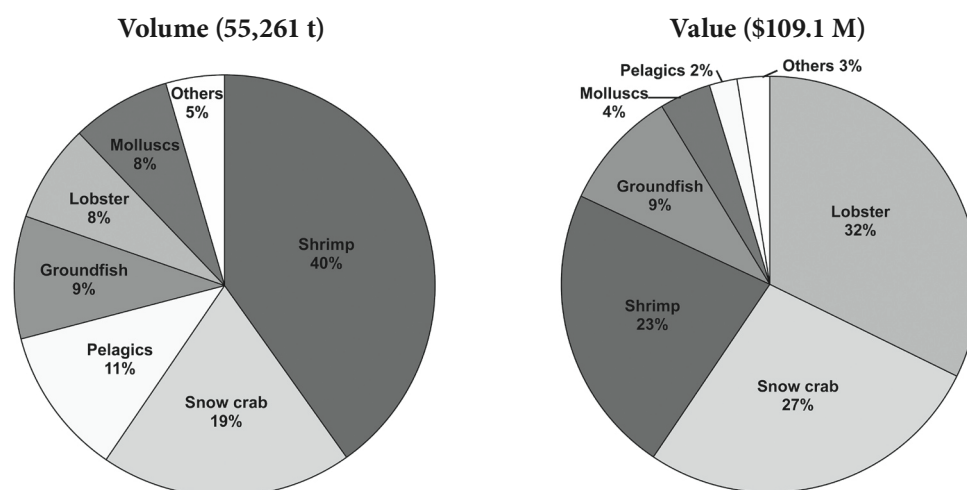


2010 COMMERCIAL FISHERIES: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

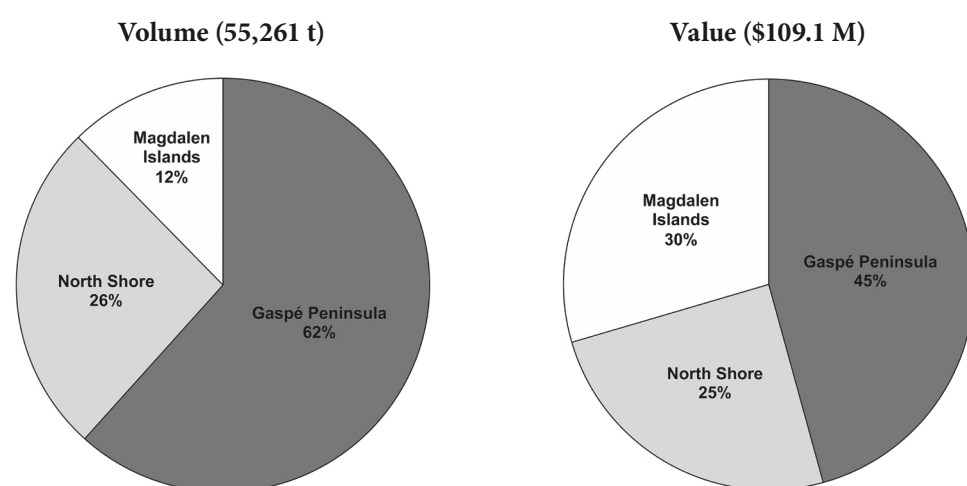
The preliminary results for the 2010 commercial fishing season in Quebec show total landings of 55,261 t with a value of \$109.1 million. It is important to point out that the landing value does not yet take into account supplementary purchase slips* and year-end discounts granted to some buyers. These data will be compiled within the next few months.

Shrimp, snow crab and lobster continued to be the main species landed, accounting for 67 percent of the volume and 82 percent of the value. Groundfish catches ranked fourth in 2010 representing 9 percent of both the volume and the value.

BREAKDOWN OF LANDINGS BY SPECIES



BREAKDOWN OF LANDINGS BY MARITIME SECTOR



Landing value totalled \$49.6 million on the Gaspé Peninsula (45% of all landings), \$32.1 million on the Magdalen Islands (30%) and \$26.8 million on the North Shore (25%).

Shrimp and snow crab are the principal species landed on the Gaspé Peninsula. Lobster is the largest catch on the Magdalen Islands while snow crab dominates catches on the North Shore.

It is important to point out that 2010 was marked by a 6-percent drop in landing volume and a 9-percent drop in landing value. The drop in landing volume is primarily attributable to lower snow crab catches. Spurred not just by lower volumes, the lower landing value is also due to falling snow crab (-8%) and lobster prices (-7%).

* Supplementary purchase slips (SPS) include all landings that were not reported on the general purchase slips. This information is based on estimates drawn from four different sources: direct sales to the public, personal consumption (fish harvesters and their families, sport fishing), fish processed by fish harvesters and fish used as bait.

Martial Ménard
Policy and Economics

PARTNERSHIP SPELLS THE FUTURE OF THE LOBSTER FISHERY ON THE GASPÉ PENINSULA

With many members of the Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels du sud de la Gaspésie (RPPSG) participating, the lobster harvesters of the Gaspé Peninsula held their fourth workshop last January 12 and 13 in Chandler.



These daylong workshops offered participants a forum where they could discuss their points of view regarding the industry sustainability plan, the foundation for much of their work for the next five years. It is important to point out that the desire to see the lobster fishery develop in a harmonious and sustainable manner is central to everyone's efforts.

For about a dozen years, lobster harvesters and Fisheries and Oceans Canada management in Gaspé have joined forces to move forward in implementing the recommendations made in the reports published in 1995 and 2007 by the Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (FRCC), the goal being to achieve the essential objective of ensuring that the lobster fishery continues to be a sustainable and stable fishery for the lobster harvester over the long term. The objective of reducing the fishing effort by 30 percent—an ambitious target—has nearly been reached and the resource is showing signs of stability in several sub-areas.

New conservation measures will begin in 2012 when the use of a model trap will be implemented and a uniform minimum catch size of 83 mm will be introduced for the entire sector. Other initiatives being studied are projects dealing with certification, traceability, the implementation of electronic logbooks and commercial fishing for tourism purposes.

Nevertheless, the working conditions of lobster harvesters are still precarious in terms of viability and the 2011 workshop served, notably, to build stronger ties yet between them and the Department.

In its development approach, RPPSG is working to carry out a project to support natural recruitment by seeding lobster. For now, this project is still at the research and development stage, but the scientific presentations made during the workshop augur well in terms of results.

Bringing together a group of some sixty participants, including harvesters, producers, First Nations' members, marketing specialists, scientists and managers, and mobilizing them all around a single vision—the conservation of a species—with the ultimate goal of coming to an agreement on the development of a specific fishery was a challenge for the Gaspé-Lower St. Lawrence Area.

The lobster fishery continues to be the main coastal fishery in the sector and more than ever we need to work together to deal with market issues and climate change while remaining vigilant in terms of conservation.

Vincent Malouin, Director
Gaspé-Lower St. Lawrence Area

FLOOD WATERS AND BREAKING WAVES THE CASE OF DECEMBER 6, 2010

The exceptionally high water levels predicted by the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) were confirmed last December 6 in the estuary and northwestern Gulf of St. Lawrence. At Rimouski, the tide reached a record 5.54 metres, a height never yet seen in the last 110 years, eclipsing the record of 5.44 metres recorded in 1914. An exceptional level was also observed at Québec City where water overflowed the river banks in several places.

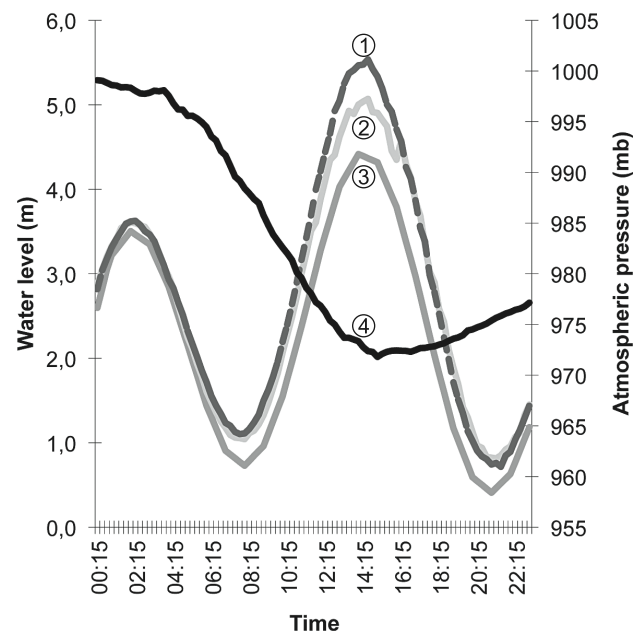
Low atmospheric pressure is the primary culprit responsible for variations in water levels. Low pressures cause winds to whip up waves. During the storm last December 6, three factors came together:

- There was a new moon, one of the times of the month when the tides are highest due to the alignment of the sun, moon and Earth;
- An exceptionally low pressure area—971 mb—passed over Rimouski. The low atmospheric pressure causes the water level to rise since there is less weight bearing down on the surface of the water; and
- Winds from the north created a current driving towards the south shore, which pushed the water level higher yet and generated high waves.

DAY-TO-DAY TEAM WORK

CHS provides a service forecasting high water and waves likely to affect coastlines in Quebec for the next 48 hours. In collaboration with the Canadian Meteorology Service, which produces atmospheric forecasts and wave forecasts, CHS contributes its knowledge about tides so that notices can be sent to Quebec's Ministère de la Sécurité publique (MSP). In turn, MSP informs the relevant governmental bodies, notably Transports Québec and coastal municipalities. CHS analyses water levels on a daily basis and compares them to the forecast to evaluate the influence of atmospheric conditions.

It is the waves that cause damage by eroding the coast. Normally, they break harmlessly on the beach. However, the higher the water level, the greater their influence. When water levels are high, the waves



Water levels and atmospheric pressure at Rimouski on December 6, 2010. The first line represents the water level ultimately reached and the second line, the forecast transmitted to Quebec's Ministère de Sécurité publique. The third line corresponds to the predicted level without the atmospheric influence. The superimposed line shows the variation in atmospheric pressure.

encounter unusual obstacles—either vegetation and loose soil or a protective wall and sometimes even a home.



M. DESROSIER

Denis Lefavre
Science

Dispatches

MINI-FORUMS FOR HARBOUR AUTHORITIES

Two mini-forums for harbour authorities were held in February 2011 in response to the wish expressed by some harbour authority representatives and the Regional Small Craft Harbour Branch.

The first of these mini-forums, held last February 1 and 2 in Sept-Îles, brought together representatives from Quebec's Anglophone harbour authorities. The second one, in Matane on February 22 and 23, brought together representatives from harbour authorities on the North Shore and the northern portion of the Gaspé Peninsula. A third mini-forum will be organised in fall 2011 for representatives from the Magdalen Islands and the southern portion of the Gaspé Peninsula.

A variety of topics are discussed during these meetings, notably issues surrounding the use of winches, cranes and conveyors, the legal agreements governing the occupation of harbour sites, regulations dealing with oil product storage reservoirs and environmental management systems.

These mini-forums give participants the opportunity to discuss topics that are important to them, best practices and their projects. In fact, the small size of the groups fosters discussion.

Holding these mini-forums regularly allows harbour authority managers to speak directly with sector representatives. In this way, they receive information on regional and national harbour authority advisory committees and on general issues pertaining to the harbour and harbour authority programs.

Lyne Beaumont
Small Craft Harbours

CAREER DAY IN HAVRE-SAINT-PIERRE

On October 21, 2010, a career day was held for the secondary 4 and 5 students at École Monseigneur-Labrie de Havre-Saint-Pierre. For the event, the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Conservation and Protection Branch based at Havre-Saint-Pierre manned an information stand presenting the mission of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the work accomplished by its fishery officers.

Throughout the day, officers Themy Alexandre Vallée and Louis-Philippe Supper explained the responsibilities, duties and tasks associated with the work of the fishery officer to the students. Several students expressed a great deal of interest in this career. Moreover, during an optional session in class, a more detailed presentation attracted several students who wanted to find out more about the profession.

The officers also worked to raise awareness and educate the members of the general public who attended the event about the mission of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



Themy Alexandre Vallée
North Shore Area

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES MEETING IN QUÉBEC CITY IN 2014

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Quebec Region, will host the 144th annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in 2014. People from throughout the North American fisheries community and from numerous countries around the world will be getting together to share their knowledge and discuss the main challenges that need to be met.

When the announcement was made in Pittsburgh last September, the selection committee said it was very impressed by the seriousness and quality of Québec City's candidacy. This will be the second time this prestigious meeting will take place in Québec City. The 2003 edition, organised jointly by the Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec and Fisheries and Oceans Canada and inspired by the theme *Worldwide decline of wild fish populations*, was a resounding success.

The American Fisheries Society aims to improve the conservation of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems and to foster sustainable development. It has some 10,000 members in 75 countries.

NEW MARKET FOR SEAL PRODUCTS

Since January 13, 2011, a cooperative arrangement permits the export of all seal products for human consumption to China. This new Asian market should open up great opportunities for Canada's seal industry.

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable Gail Shea, announced the arrangement during her visit to China. The market access agreement is the outcome of a full year of negotiations with the Chinese government.

The Government of Canada worked closely with Chinese officials to establish the necessary export conditions for edible seal products. This arrangement also opens the way to major markets for all Canadian seafood products.

In fact, last January the federal government hosted a seafood promotion event to showcase Canadian fish and seafood products to Chinese retailers in Beijing.

China is the third largest export market for Canadian seafood products with an average of over \$300 million in exports annually. The vast majority of Canada's exports to the People's Republic of China (up to 90%) consist of crab, shrimp, Greenland turbot, hake, herring, geoduck, capelin and mackerel.

New publications

FEATURED RESEARCH WORK

FEATURED RESEARCH WORK

The Fisheries and Oceans Canada Web site regularly presents new, easy-to-read articles on research work being conducted by the Department's scientific teams across the country.

Three new articles on projects in Quebec have been added in the last few months:

- *A Natural Food Storehouse for Whales - The Result of a Fragile and Unique Ocean Equilibrium*
- *To Catch a Scallop...*
- *Growing Number of Barriers to Eel Migration: A Web Tool to the Rescue*

NEW SCIENCE ADVISORY REPORTS ON THE INTERNET

The following science advisory reports are now available on the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat's Web site, www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas, in the CSAS Publications section, *Science Advisory Reports* (2005+), for 2010:

- Recovery Potential Assessment of Channel Darter (*Percina copelandi*) in Canada (2010/058)
- A Complement to the 2005 Framework for Developing Science Advice on Recovery Targets in the Context of the *Species at Risk Act* (2010/061)
- Status of American Eel and Progress on Achieving Management Goals (2010/062)
- Advice Relevant to the Identification of Critical Habitat for Copper Redhorse (*Moxostoma hubbsi*) (2010/072)
- Harvest Advice for Nunavik Beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*) (2010/074)
- Review of the Manicouagan Marine Protected Area (MPA) Ecological Monitoring Plan (2010/075)

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2011/VOLUME 14/NUMBER 1

Published by: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
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104 Dalhousie Street
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ISSN 1485-6069