



INFO OCEANS

THE QUEBEC REGION BULLETIN — AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2012/VOLUME 15/NUMBER 4

PRIX D'EXCELLENCE FOR A MAGDALEN ISLANDS HARBOUR AUTHORITY

On August 1, 2012, the Harbour Authority of Pointe-Basse and Pointe-aux-Loups was awarded the Prix d'Excellence of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's *Small Craft Harbours Program* under the "Harbour Authority Achievement" category. At a ceremony held at the port of Pointe-Basse, the President of the Harbour Authority, Charles Poirier, accepted the award from the Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

The award recognizes the reconstruction work on a fishing gear warehouse, to which Harbour Authority offices were added. The work was carried out with the assistance of the Havre-aux-Maisons city councillor and was funded by Canada Economic Development, the Caisse Populaire Desjardins of Havre-aux-Maisons and fisher members of the Harbour Authority.

In 2008, the Department introduced the *Harbour Authority Recognition Program* to formally acknowledge the significant accomplishments and efforts of Harbour Authorities and their volunteers. The program includes two levels, the first being distinction awards managed at the regional level. The second level is the Prix d'Excellence awarded for distinction at the national level.

The awards are presented in three categories: Individual Commitment, Harbour Authority Achievement and Harbour Authority Environmental Stewardship. The Recognition Program highlights the important role played by Harbour Authorities in coastal communities.



DFO M. Papageorges

Minister Ashfield presenting the Prix d'Excellence to the Harbour Authority of Pointe-Basse and Pointe-aux-Loups. From left to right: Nicolas Arseneau, City Councillor; Joël Arseneau, Mayor; Charles Poirier, President of the Harbour Authority; and Minister Ashfield.

Luc Boucher
Small Craft Harbours

MAURICE LAMONTAGNE INSTITUTE MARKS 25 YEARS ACHIEVEMENTS TOWARDS SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE WATERWAYS

For the past 25 years, several events have marked the history of this major Fisheries and Oceans Canada Francophone research centre. The Maurice Lamontagne Institute teams have succeeded in combining their skills to rise to numerous challenges. They have also developed enviable expertise, particularly in terms of navigation and sustainable fisheries. A series of initiatives in both of these areas has significantly improved the accuracy of information critical to decision making.



A hydrographer conducts a bathymetric survey of the Lower North Shore aboard a zodiac.

The following are some prime examples of the results achieved:

Better understanding of ocean circulation to predict trajectories

The establishment of SINECO, a network of real-time water level monitoring stations from Montreal to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the development of hydrodynamic knowledge have made it possible to develop ocean circulation models. Among other things, these models help support the Canadian Coast Guard in forecasting the drift of castaways or oil spills.

The production of the *Atlas of Tidal Currents in the Estuary* is another great achievement by the region's scientific teams. This navigation tool provides an overview, hour to hour, of the strength and direction of tidal currents in the St. Lawrence Estuary, from Cap de Bon-Désir to Trois-Rivières. Recreational boaters who navigate the sometimes tumultuous waters of the St. Lawrence, especially at the mouth of the Saguenay, find the Atlas particularly useful.

Water levels at your fingertips!

Another technological breakthrough has proven beneficial for marine transportation: the elaboration of the SPINE system, a service of interpolation of forecasted water levels developed by the Canadian Hydrographic Service. The system, which integrates upstream flows from Lake Ontario and the Ottawa River, flows from lateral tributaries and forecasts of water levels caused by tides and winds, provides accurate water level data in real time through the ship channel between Montreal and Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive, downstream from the Québec City. It also provides forecasts for up to 30 days, allowing mariners and shipowners who navigate the St. Lawrence River to validate water levels and use this information to optimize cargo loading based on the under-keel clearance of their ship at a given time and location.

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

From the wheelhouse

(3)

Dispatches

(2)

(4)

Convictions

(4)

THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD CELEBRATES 50 YEARS! OUR HISTORY IN LIGHTS

Collection Jocelyn and Charles Lindsay



Lighthouse at Île-Verte in 1946.

For the last 50 years, the history of the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) has evolved with technological developments and the needs of the growing shipping industry in the St. Lawrence waterway.

Among the aids to navigation that have been implemented over the last two centuries, lighthouses remain the most visible marine signaling device. Symbols of maritime cultural heritage, they help mariners reach their destination. Note that the first lighthouse to be operated on the St. Lawrence River was on Île-Verte in 1809. At that time, a federal government steamer (or steamboat) supplied the lighthouses on the St. Lawrence twice a year. The life of a lightkeeper, who monitored navigation and ensured that the facilities functioned, was one of isolation, and often of poor diet and danger.

Improvements to the CCG's *Aids to Navigation Program* and the entry into service of new buoy tenders capable of carrying helicopters were instrumental in making the lives of lightkeepers and their families easier. The equipped landing platforms, which allow helicopters to land at—and even on top of—lighthouse sites, have made more frequent changes in staff possible while facilitating the supply of food and mail delivery, as well as medical evacuations.

The most significant change in the last 30 years is undoubtedly the automation of lighthouses and the gradual withdrawal of lightkeepers. With rising maintenance costs and technological developments, the lighthouses near the waters under the Quebec Region CCG's responsibility have been abandoned, automated or destroyed since the early 1970s. Under the *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act*, several lighthouses have been recovered, or are in the process of being recovered, by various citizens' groups in order to preserve and make these relics accessible to those interested in marine history. Visit the *Route des phares* site (in French only) to plan visits. (www.routedesphares.qc.ca)

What a great way to look towards the future without losing track of the past!

Carole Dumont and Guy Laberge
Canadian Coast Guard

Dispatches

TWO HYDROGRAPHERS FOR A DAY

On a beautiful June 20 day, Marie-Soleil Paquet and Marianne Lord had a unique opportunity to spend half a day aboard a vessel on a hydrographic mission on the St. Lawrence River.

They were the two winners of the mapping contest organized by the Canadian Institute of Geomatics and the Fondation du Cégep Limoilou, in which 903 students participated. This was the second year that Fisheries and Oceans Canada collaborated in the contest by awarding a *Jury's Choice* award.

Accompanied by their parents, the two high school students had the chance to see hydrographers at work aboard the CCGS *F.C.G. Smith* during a survey conducted on the St. Lawrence River for the ship channel.

Our visitors conducted a safety visit and were then initiated to the work carried out by hydrographers: measuring the vessel's draft and sound's speed in water and planning routes for the vessel to follow.

Our hydrographers for a day were also able to observe the characteristics of the channel bottom and understand the rationale and importance of the work by observing the number of vessels and recreational boats they encountered on the river.

In witnessing their obvious enjoyment, we can say that the mission was a success.

DFO R. Dorais



Marie-Soleil Paquet, Secondary II student at the Polyvalente Deux-Montagnes, won the prize among seven finalists. She is seen here with Captain Yves Gervais and Pierre-Alexis Doyon, both from the Canadian Coast Guard.



Winner among six finalists, Marianne Lord, a Secondary I student at the CAF Estrie, alongside hydrographers Michel Rannou and Denis Talbot from the Canadian Hydrographic Service.

Robert Dorais
Science

PARTICIPATION IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION



Conservation of wild Atlantic salmon stocks became a priority during the 1970s with the rapid growth of commercial fisheries of this species on the west coast of Greenland and in northern Norway. The countries of the North Atlantic therefore adopted, on October 1, 1983, the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic

Ocean, thus creating the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization. Better known by its acronym NASCO, this organization was formed to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon.

Canada, represented by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, has been part of NASCO since its inception. Other members of the organization are the United States, Denmark (on behalf of Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Norway, the Russian Federation and the European Union, which represents several member countries such as Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Sweden and Finland. NASCO also includes 35 accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Most significant for Canada is the Atlantic Salmon Federation, which plays a leading role in the conservation of this important resource in North America.

As head of the Canadian delegation, I had the privilege of representing Canada's interests at the 29th Annual Meeting of NASCO, held from June 5 to 8, 2012, in Edinburgh, Scotland, where the headquarters of the organization are located. As recent scientific data indicates that salmon stocks in the North Atlantic remain at historically low levels, Canada's main objective was to ensure that commercial fisheries on the west coast of Greenland would not resume, as stocks in this region are mainly from Canadian rivers. The Annual Meeting was a success. It led, among other things, to an agreement that maintains fishing levels on Greenland's west coast at 20 tons annually until 2014, for domestic food needs only. A moratorium on commercial fisheries in the Faroe Islands in the Northeast Atlantic was also renewed.

In Canada, it is now possible to see the result of joint conservation efforts. The latest scientific assessments of adult wild salmon returns show an improvement in 2011. However, considerable work remains to be done to achieve the return rate of the 1980s and early 1990s. We are continuing our efforts by collaborating with various levels of government, implementing conservation measures and appropriate management, ensuring partnerships with groups dedicated to salmon conservation, and upholding our international commitment through NASCO.

Richard Nadeau
Regional Director General, Quebec Region

IN LISTUGUJ: A 100% ABORIGINAL CREW

Last spring saw a first in the Aboriginal community of Listuguj. Under the leadership of Captain Rodney Burnaby, an entirely Listugujawaq crew started fishing snow crab in Area 12 on board the *Ugjit Sma'gnisg*, a multifunctional 65-foot vessel. This first is the fruit of multiple efforts on the part of the community and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Here is a look back at the various steps that led to this achievement. Since 1999, following a Supreme Court of Canada ruling on fishing rights (the Marshall decision), Fisheries and Oceans Canada has been promoting Mi'kmaq and Maliseet access to commercial fisheries to strengthen these communities' economic self-reliance. The decision applies to First Nations that signed the Treaty of 1760-1761, namely, 34 First Nations from eastern Canada, including four from the Gaspé Peninsula.

As per the decision and in keeping with Fisheries and Oceans Canada's mandate, the Department sets fishing rights enforcement provisions: the entry of First Nations into the commercial fishery must not be done to the detriment of other users of the resource, but instead through retirement and re-issuance of existing licences, to avoid increasing the overall fishing effort.

Following negotiations, fishing agreements were reached with First Nations. In addition, several programs enabled the Department to re-issue licences and reassign vessels and fishing gear belonging to commercial fishers who wanted to voluntarily retire their licences.



Captains from the Listuguj community: Buddy Vicaire, shrimp captain (left); and Rodney Burnaby, snow crab captain (right).

Captain course. Finally, the Fisheries sector of Listuguj decided to place one community vessel under the responsibility of Captain Burnaby.

The first crab fishing trip was a huge success for the young captain, his crew and the entire community. The initiative will continue during the shrimp fishery on board the same vessel with Buddy Vicaire, another Listuguj captain who has over 10 years' experience on board community vessels.

For the Department, which has worked with this First Nation since the implementation of the Marshall decision, this is a major step in the development of fisheries in the Gaspé Peninsula.

The Listuguj community therefore received shrimp, crab and lobster quotas and the vessels and fishing gear required to catch these species. Initially, the community had neither the qualified staff nor the midshore commercial fishing experience to catch its quota. It therefore had to occasionally rent boats and call on non-Aboriginal professionals to fish on board its vessels. The fact that the community is quite far from the main fishing harbours and is Anglophone, whereas the majority of midshore fishers in the Gaspé Peninsula are Francophone, also complicated matters.

Fishing season after fishing season, several members of the Listuguj community persevered and went back aboard vessels owned by Gaspé Peninsula fishers. They also participated in mentoring programs and classroom training; several even took their Class IV

Sylvio Coulombe
Gaspé-Lower St. Lawrence Area

THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD RENDEZVOUSED IN QUÉBEC

As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, the Canadian Coast Guard participated in the third edition of the *Rendez-vous naval de Québec* from June 7 to 10, 2012. Our vessels the CCGS *Pierre Radisson*, the CCGS *Louis M. Lauzier*, the CCGS *Cap Aupaluk*, the CCGS GC-03 and the CCGS *Mamilossa* air cushion vehicle, all docked at the Port of Québec during the event, welcomed over 7000 visitors aboard.

The some 150 000 people who attended the event had the chance to meet various marine stakeholders; admire models of several ships, including those belonging to the Canadian Coast Guard; learn more about buoys and spars (winter buoys) displayed on the docks; and visit the *Evolution* exhibition presented by the Naval Museum of Québec.

It is clear that the maritime world continues to be a source of fascination for the public. Canadian Coast Guard crew members all enjoyed connecting with visitors and sharing their passion for their field. The next *Rendez-vous naval de Québec* is scheduled for 2014.

To learn more about our vessels, visit our website (www.marinfo.gc.ca).

Nathalie Letendre
Communications



GRASS PICKEREL: ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS THE CONSERVATION OF THIS SPECIES AT RISK



K. Schmidt

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is announcing the publication of the grass pickerel management Plan. The grass pickerel has been listed as a species of special concern under the *Species at Risk Act*. The plan presents various management measures to reduce threats to the grass pickerel which are attributable to human activities.

This small pickerel, measuring about 30 centimetres, is associated with areas where vegetation in

streams, swamps and lakes is abundant. It is threatened by habitat degradation. In Quebec, although historical records exist for three sites in the southern part of the province, no catches have been made in over 20 years. In order for the situation to be monitored, accidental captures of grass pickerel should be reported through the Centre de données sur le patrimoine naturel du Québec's website (www.cdpnq.gouv.qc.ca).

Jacinthe Beauchamp
Ecosystem Management

21st Century explorers

Canadian Hydrographic Service hydrographers at the Maurice Lamontagne Institute were the first to use multibeam echosounders to probe the seabed, locate shoals and update nautical charts. The resulting images provide a detailed representation of the seabed. This technology is used not only to improve the accuracy of nautical charts, but also to map the habitat of various species of fish and shellfish. In recent years, it has helped to acquire data on crab, lobster and Atlantic's surfclam habitats, as well as map the American Bank area of interest in the Gaspé Peninsula. The technology, which defines the morphology of the seabed with more precision, has been gradually introduced into the sounding operations of the St. Lawrence channel. Its introduction has already improved the information used for decision making, for example, for maintenance activities in the ship channel.

The development of digital charts has marked the seagoing world just as the development of radar did. The team of hydrographers has contributed significantly to developing electronic navigation in collaboration with the Canadian Coast Guard, pilot corporations, shipowners, ports on the St. Lawrence and manufacturers. The team has been instrumental in the evolution of standards to make electronic navigation more dynamic and efficient, while ensuring marine safety.

Over the past 25 years, several major discoveries about living resources and the aquatic environment have marked the work of the teams at the Maurice Lamontagne Institute in Mont-Joli. Stay tuned throughout the year as we present them to you!

Andrée Bolduc
Science

Convictions

CONVICTIONS FOR *FISHERIES ACT* VIOLATIONS

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Quebec Region, has released the names of fish harvesters who have received fines for violations of the *Fisheries Act*. DFO continues to strictly enforce its zero tolerance policy for offenders. The Department has a mandate to protect and conserve fishery resources and is ever vigilant in its efforts to prevent poaching of marine resources. **Fisheries and Oceans Canada encourages the public to report poaching incidents by calling 1-800-463-9057. All calls are confidential.**

OFFENDER/ RESIDENCE	OFFENCE/FINE
Martin Arseneau Magdalen Islands	Possession of lobster under the legal size limit. \$750
Albert Asaac Listuguj	Possession of rock crab under the legal size limit. \$500
Gérard Aucoin Magdalen Islands	Exceeding the daily recreational quota for groundfish and possession of an Atlantic halibut. \$500
Jérémie Bariault Cap-Chat Gilles Berthelot Saint-Omer	Harvesting shellfish in a closed area. \$300 + confiscation of shellfish (J. B.) \$300 (G. B.)
O'Neil Bond Rivière-au-Renard	Possession of fish processed to the point where it is difficult to determine their numbers. \$3,000
Steven Brière New Carlisle	Possession of V-notched lobsters. \$1,000
Steven Brière New Carlisle René Cyr Pabos Mills	Commercial mackerel fishing without valid conditions. \$1,000 each
Frédérique Cloutier Gaspé	Possession of lobster under the legal size limit. Possession of a female lobster with eggs attached. \$2,500

OFFENDER/ RESIDENCE	OFFENCE/FINE
Bertrand Desbois Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé	Aiding or abetting individuals to make a false statement. Fishing for Greenland halibut without authorization. Fishing for Greenland halibut using nets with a mesh size under 152 mm. Use of nets without valid tags for Greenland halibut fishing. \$147,276 + confiscation of nets and seized fish, as well as revocation of three fishing licences
Gabriel Lemieux Sainte-Anne-des-Monts	Failure to hail in. Failure to hail a dockside monitoring company. Failure to maintain an accurate logbook of catches. Leaving fishing gear unattended in the water for more than 72 consecutive hours. \$4,750 + one-day suspension upon opening of the Greenland halibut competitive fishery
Rosaire Ross Matane	False statement. Use of nets without valid tags for Greenland halibut fishing. \$6,000
Jean-François Samuel Petit-Cap	Use of nets without valid tags for Greenland halibut fishing. Possession of 45 halibut under 85 cm. Failing to comply with licence conditions by not completing the logbook. \$1,500 + three-day suspension upon opening of the Greenland halibut competitive fishery
	Fishing for lobster during a closed time. Possession of lobster traps on board a vessel in a closed area. \$1,000 + five-day suspension

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2012/VOLUME 15/NUMBER 4

Published by: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Quebec Region
Regional Communications Branch
104 Dalhousie Street
Québec, Quebec G1K 7Y7
Telephone: 418-648-2239
Email: infoceans@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Director: Caroline Hilt
Editor: Pascale Fortin

Editorial committee: Lyne Beaumont, Danielle Bouchard, Andréanne Demers, Robert Dorais, Danie Gagné, Guy Laberge, Vincent Malouin, Mélanie Martel, Martial Ménard and Annie Vigneau.

Visual Coordinator: Denis Chamard

Collaborators: Jacinthe Beauchamp, Andrée Bolduc, Luc Boucher, Martin Bourget, Sylvio Coulombe, Carole Dumont, Huguette Flamand, Viviane Haeblerlé, Nathalie Letendre, Richard Nadeau and Sylvi Racine.

INFOCEANS informs the Quebec Region's clients about the policies and programs of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. To subscribe, send your request to the address to the left. Reproduction is permitted, with indication of the source. The editor wishes to be informed in writing of these uses. Also available on www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca under *Quebec Region*.

ISSN 1485-6069