



# INFOCÉANS

THE QUEBEC REGION BULLETIN — OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2011/VOLUME 14/NUMBER 5

## AMERICAN BANK: PROGRESS IN MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

To salute World Oceans Day, the Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, announced that an area of interest on the American Bank was being considered for official designation as a marine protected area within the meaning of the *Oceans Act*. This announcement is a key step forward towards fulfilling the government's commitment to establish a national network of marine protected areas. It is also indicative of the Department's intention—working with other governments, First Nations, stakeholders, the industry and other concerned groups—to participate in establishing an ocean space requiring conservation measures and additional protection by designating it as a marine protected area.

American Bank is a submarine bank lying off the eastern tip of the Gaspé Peninsula in the Quebec portion of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It reaches a minimum depth of 12 m at its highest point and comprises two shelves separated by a sharp ridge. Covering 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>, this area of interest is characterized by the diversity of its habitats, seasonal or year-round occurrence of many commercially important species and whales, the presence of species at risk and a high diversity of molluscs and crustaceans. The area also has significant potential as a feeding ground for various species of fish and marine mammals and as refuge habitat for declining groundfish populations, including the southern Gulf cod stock. It has traditionally been a much sought-after fishing area.

The establishment of a marine protected area in this sector would foster the productivity and diversity of species, several of which are of commercial value, and the recovery of the species at risk that frequent this particular site.

### CONSULTATIONS

A consultation process involving concerned stakeholders, including government authorities, Aboriginal groups, environmental organizations, the fishing industry and observation cruise operators, will be held this fall to identify pertinent conservation and management measures to ensure that conservation objectives are reached. In addition, to ameliorate the project, public consultations will be held in 2012 to hear the public's concerns and comments.



Pierre Gauthier  
Ecosystem Management

## WHEN CANADIAN COAST GUARD VESSELS RETURN FROM THE ARCTIC

After sailing the Arctic all summer, the Canadian Coast Guard icebreakers CCGS *Des Groseilliers*, CCGS *Pierre Radisson* and CCGS *Amundsen* are expected to return to Québec City in September, October and November.

This year, these three ships were assigned to different areas of operation, including Hudson Bay and Strait, Frobisher Bay, Lancaster Strait, Eureka Strait, the Beaufort Sea and the fabled Northwest Passage.

The crews' missions were to supply northern communities, carry out search and rescue operations, conduct icebreaking operations, assist commercial shipping, maintain aids to navigation and waterways and—through their navigation expertise—contribute to the advancement of science in the Arctic.

When the vessels get back, they are prepared for the upcoming winter icebreaking season on the St. Lawrence so they are ready by the time the first ice begins to form.



DFO P. DIONNE

## SUSTAINABLE AQUATIC PRODUCTS... THE NEW MARKET REALITY

Quebec's fisheries and aquaculture industry is increasingly confronted with new market requirements in the areas of eco-certification and traceability. Given this context, the governments of Canada and Quebec are taking measures to help the industry adapt to these new trends.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are joining forces (see our section and the *Fisheries and Aquaculture News* section) to present a special issue on the eco-certification of fisheries and aquaculture. We invite you to check it out!

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## ST. LAWRENCE BELUGA RECOVERY STRATEGY CONSULTATION

To plan the recovery of the St. Lawrence Estuary beluga population, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has drawn up a recovery strategy in collaboration with Parks Canada Agency and several other partners. This strategy describes the species' biology as well as the threats affecting the population. It also proposes measures to promote its recovery. The recovery strategy is posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry website ([www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)) for consultation until November 25, 2011.

The beluga population in the St. Lawrence Estuary was severely depleted by hunting, prohibited since 1979. In May 2005, this population was officially added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* as a threatened species. An emblematic species of the St. Lawrence, the beluga inhabits the estuary and the gulf. Despite the hunting prohibition, the population shows no sign of growth and a number of threats—including contaminants and noise pollution—affect its survival and reproduction.



DFO A. MACFARLANE

## INVESTMENTS IN FISHING HARBOURS IN QUEBEC

As part of a \$57 million dollar investment in small craft harbours across the country in 2011-2012, Fisheries and Oceans Canada will receive \$6.3 million for necessary dredging, repair and maintenance projects at 33 key commercial fishing harbours across Quebec.

This investment is in addition to funding announced in March 2011 to support fish harvesters in storm-damaged areas.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada undertakes these projects in cooperation with the local harbour authorities that manage and operate facilities for local users. Close cooperation between the Department and harbour authorities allows the federal government to maintain an operable system of harbours and facilities throughout Canada in support of the commercial fishing industry.

The major projects funded are:

- Major wharf reconstruction work at Gascons (Ruisseau-Chapados);
- Completion of breakwater construction at Grosse-Île (Cap-du-Dauphin);
- Completion of harbour improvements at the multipurpose harbour at Cap-aux-Meules;
- Wharf repairs at Baie-Comeau, Cloridorme, Anse-à-Brillant, Rivière-Saint-Paul (Baie Chevalier) and Rivière-au-Renard;
- Installation of floating docks at Étang-du-Nord and Gascons (Anse-à-la-Barbe);
- Installation of fendering system at Percé;
- Repairs will be made to the cathodic protection system at Grande-Rivière;
- Service area repairs at the multipurpose harbour at Cap-aux-Meules;
- Engineering studies at the fishing wharves at Blanc-Sablon, Harrington Harbour and Pointe-aux-Loups;
- Dredging work, already completed, at Baie-Trinité, Grande-Entrée, Grosse-Île (Cap-du-Dauphin), Île-d'Entrée, Anse-à-Beaufils, Anse-à-Brillant, Bonaventure, Les Méchins (fishing wharf), Millerand, Pointe-aux-Loups, Pointe-Basse, Port-Daniel-Est, Rivière-au-Renard, Rivière-Madeleine (Cap-à-l'Ours), Shigawake, Saint-Godefroi and Tourelles (Saint-Joachim); and
- Preliminary planning for dredging work at Rivière-au-Tonnerre.

These projects are already underway at many harbours.



DFO M. PAPAGEORGES

## QUEBEC HARBOUR AUTHORITIES YOUR EXPERIENCE SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

Become a volunteer for a Quebec Harbour Authority and put your knowledge to work for our coastal communities. There are some fifty fishing harbours on the North Shore, Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands that could use your experience and know-how. Get involved and contribute to the economic development of your region.

For more information, call your local Fisheries and Oceans Canada office.

## Dispatches

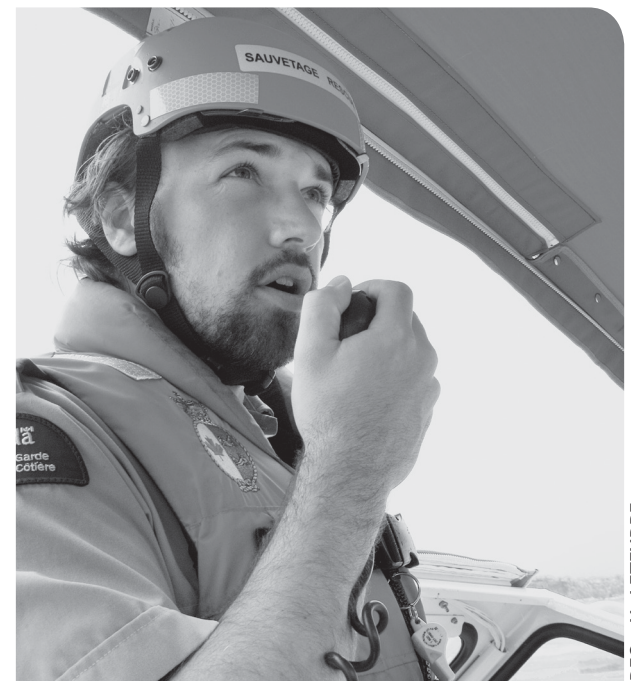
### SUMMER JOBS STUDENTS WANTED

Students interested in working in the fields of navigation, marine rescue and prevention in the summer of 2012 are invited to submit their applications to the Canadian Coast Guard's Inshore Rescue Boat (IRB) Service. You can do so from October 19, 2011 to January 19, 2012.

If your application is accepted, you will receive an intensive 10-day training session including simulated rescue exercises as well as first aid and fire fighting courses. You will also receive Transport Canada SVOP certification and Canadian Coast Guard RHIOT certification. While enrolled in the training session, the students will be provided with room and board as well as transportation and will be paid.

Those who successfully complete the training session will become crew members or life boat leaders. They will be assigned to one of the following six IRB stations: Pointe-aux-Anglais, Beaconsfield, Longueuil, Sorel, Trois-Rivières or Bainsville (Ontario).

You could have to deal with all sorts of incidents: disabled boats, grounding, person overboard, fire aboard, etc. You would also have to comply with several laws and regulations: *Canada Shipping Act*, *Charts and Nautical Publications Regulations*, etc.



DFO N. LETENDRE

This program offers a unique opportunity to be part of one of the most effective search and rescue teams.

For more information, call 418-648-5330 or 418-649-6830 or visit the website at [www.marinfo.gc.ca](http://www.marinfo.gc.ca).



## CHOOSY CONSUMERS

To help them pick food products, consumers have access to ever more information about such things as nutritional value, claims, the provenance of products, etc. There's also information about the sustainability of industries in environmental terms.

Consumers have a lot of information to help them make informed choices. This tendency of consumers to be hyper-informed is bolstered by the promotional campaigns of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that try to encourage consumers to avoid some products considered to be non sustainable. In the fisheries and aquaculture world, a number of such campaigns have hit home; targeted products include bluefin tuna, Atlantic cod and farmed salmon.

Given this, several initiatives to guide consumers when choosing aquatic products have been introduced in recent years. These guides provide detailed information about the aquatic species to avoid or to choose, based on the findings of assessments conducted by ENGOs. Some suggest that certain Quebec products be avoided. Not only do these guides provide information to consumers, they are also used to assess the aquatic product buying practices of major grocery chains. These ENGO programs together with the development and growth of organizations that eco-certify fisheries appear to be successful since most major Canadian grocery chains have developed their own green purchasing policies.

The marine product purchasing policies of the main food chains in Quebec comply with the following three broad principles:

- **Require product traceability**, so buyers can see where products come from and follow their path from initial capture to the consumer.
- **Purchase products from healthy, well-managed stocks**, which at the same time excludes products derived from illegal or unregulated fisheries.
- **Demand sustainable harvest methods in fisheries and aquaculture**, which limits impacts on the marine environment and wild species.

In addition to these three principles, some buyers have requirements regarding **community and industry development**; examples include requiring products of more local provenance and respect for workers' rights.



DFO P. DIONNE

## AN ADAPTING INDUSTRY

Quebec's fisheries and aquaculture industry has a variety of tools at its disposal to address consumer concerns about sustainable products. To be competitive and position itself on markets, the industry can set itself ahead of its competitors by obtaining certifications that guarantee that its products come from fisheries or aquaculture operations that are sustainable and respectful of the environment.

### ECO-CERTIFICATION

This interesting option allows producers to show buyers and consumers that a stock or aquaculture production has been harvested in a sustainable manner. To this end, the industry asks an independent organization to evaluate its harvest methods and their impacts on fish populations and the ecosystem. The organization establishes the sustainability of the capture or rearing methods and then authorizes the use of a logo certifying that the product comes from a sustainable source. However, before a product can be marketed, its traceability all along the marketing chain also has to be certified. This serves to guarantee that only products that have been evaluated and certified bear the logo.

### TRACEABILITY

Any effort that aims to differentiate a product must first permit identification of the product's source. The origin of products can be guaranteed by implementing a traceability system. Sometimes, however, it may be justifiable to further differentiate a product. One example of this is a protected designation of origin; in addition to identifying the provenance, the producer proves that it has complied with the standards set out in a strict book of specifications.

Thus, the tools available can provide significant support to industry enterprises as they adapt to the new market realities.



MAGAZINE LES ÎLES

## SUPPORTIVE GOVERNMENTS

### FOR FISHERS...

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is responsible for managing the harvest of marine resources. When an independent organization attempts to assess whether a fishing activity is sustainable, it must inevitably turn to Fisheries and Oceans Canada as a source of scientific information and as fisheries manager.

The Department implements mechanisms to ensure marine resource management that is transparent, uniform and rigorous. With the new *Sustainable fisheries framework*, Fisheries and Oceans Canada ensures that management of Canadian fisheries meets the highest international standards. At the same time, this facilitates the eco-certification of Canadian fishery products. During the certification process, Fisheries and Oceans Canada offers the industry its support to answer the evaluator's questions and build action plans.

### FOR AQUACULTURERS...

Fisheries and Oceans Canada manages the *Aquaculture innovation and market access program*. This program encourages the industry to adopt responsible and sustainable practices and helps it in its efforts to identify and adopt standards associated with the eco-certification of its products. Finally, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the provincial governments develop strategic plans that serve to improve the coordination of their aquaculture-related efforts and to ensure the industry's sustainable development in a manner that respects the environment and other users of marine resources.

Maité Chavez and Cédric Arseneau  
Policy and Economics / Fisheries Management

### ...AND FOR PROCESSORS

To help processing companies meet buyers' requirements and diversify their markets, Quebec's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food can "support industry eco-certification efforts" as set out in the ministerial action plan *Together for a thriving industry*. In addition, the *Financial support program for collective initiatives in the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sector* provides financing to hire consultants certified to evaluate the sustainability of a fishery.

The eco-certification process can be a collective operation undertaken by fisheries and processing stakeholders working together with the governments of Canada and Quebec as well as with other provincial governments when the stocks of a species are shared. For example, Quebec and New Brunswick have cooperated to help finance accreditation efforts leading to the eco-certification of Gulf of St. Lawrence northern shrimp.

Quebec's Ministry of Economic Development, Innovation and Export via its ACCORD program targeting niches of excellence (Programme ACCORD-Créneaux d'excellence) supports eco-certification efforts by encouraging initiatives that strengthen the competitive capacities of companies while ensuring sustainable development.

The sustainable nature of the fishery practiced in Quebec and its recognition by consumers will thus become an asset for the industry as it seeks to conquer markets.



CREVETTE DU NORD ATLANTIQUE INC. M. LAPIERRE



## MEET THE COAST GUARD AT QUÉBEC CITY'S EDUCATION AND JOB FAIR

From October 26 to 29, 2011, the Canadian Coast Guard will be at the Centre de foires de Québec for the 17th edition of the Salon Éducation Emploi.

Come meet with passionate employees who will be delighted to speak with you about their jobs and career opportunities with the Canadian Coast Guard.

## New publications

## ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SCIENCE ACTIVITIES OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA

The report is a brief, highly readable overview of major science achievements and challenges at Fisheries and Oceans Canada and is meant to inform and engage partners in science collaboration in academia and in other scientific capacities at home and abroad.

Published on [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) under the *Science* section.



## 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.

These articles on subjects related to Quebec, have been added in the last few months:

- *Forecasts: Helping Us Follow the Current*
- *Farming Saltwater Fish in Quebec: The Spotted Wolffish Shows Promise*
- *Training Multidisciplinary Hydrographers at the Canadian Hydrographic Service*

You can read these articles in the *Science* section of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Web site ([www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) under the *Feature articles* tab.

## NEW SCIENCE ADVISORY REPORTS ON THE INTERNET

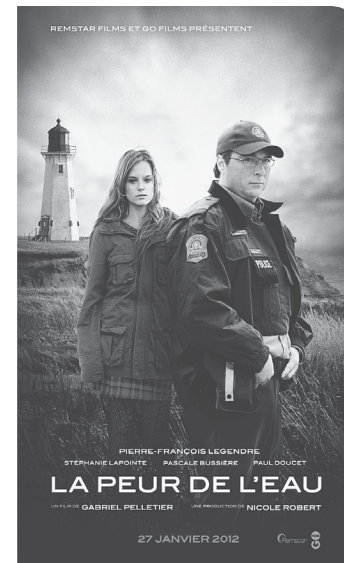
The following science advisory reports are now available on the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat's Web site, [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas), in the *Publications* section, *Science Advisory Reports* (2005+) for 2011:

- Recovery Potential Assessment for Laurentian North Designatable Units (3Pn, 4RS and 3Ps) of Atlantic Cod (*Gadus morhua*) (2011/026)
- Recovery Potential Assessment for the Laurentian South Designatable Unit of Atlantic Cod (*Gadus morhua*) (2011/028)
- Assessment of the Estuary and Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence (Areas 13 to 17, 12A, 12B, 12C and 16A) Snow Crab Stocks in 2010 (2011/038)
- Recovery Potential Assessment of Redfish (*Sebastes fasciatus* and *S. mentella*) in the Northwest Atlantic (2011/044)
- Current Status of Northwest Atlantic Harp Seals, (*Pagophilus groenlandicus*) (2011/050)

## QUIET ON THE SET! FILMING ON THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS

Silence rarely reigns on the wharves of fishing harbours, so imagine the surprise of visitors on hearing the clichéd phrase «Quiet on the set!» on the wharves in Havre-Aubert and Pointe-Basse on the Magdalen Islands.

During the last two weeks of September 2010, the outdoor scenes for the movie *La peur de l'eau* were filmed on the Magdalen Islands. This movie is based on Jean Lemieux's novel *On finit toujours par payer*, a story which takes place on the Magdalen Islands and tells a tale of fishing and boats. Jean Lemieux has in fact lived on the archipelago for several years.



The producers needed to film the scenes in a harbour setting. The Havre-Aubert and Pointe-Basse harbour authorities approved the filming and issued authorizations (occupation permits) to the production company responsible for filming.

These rather unconventional activities prove that our harbours can sometimes be used for purposes other than those related to commercial fishing. These activities not only represent a source of supplementary income for the harbours, they also provide significant visibility to the area.

When watching this movie, scheduled for release in January 2012, keep an eye out for the harbour facilities you will no doubt recognize. You might even catch a glimpse of some members of the harbour authorities or their employees who play walk-on roles in the movie!

Christian Houle  
Magdalen Islands Area

## 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
Jeannot Aucoin Îles-de-la-Madeleine	Non-compliance with conditions of licence for bait fishing with a trawl by fishing for plaice in a closed area and incorrectly filling out own logbook. <b>\$800</b>
Gérald Boudreau Îles-de-la-Madeleine	Possession of egg-bearing female lobster. <b>\$1,000</b>
Léonard Clarke Bertrand Duclos Cody Goodwin Normand Turbide Îles-de-la-Madeleine	Possession of lobsters under the minimum size. <b>\$750 (L. C.) \$750 (B. D.) \$1,750 (C. G.) \$1,200 (N. T.)</b>
René Lapierre Îles-de-la-Madeleine	Seal hunting during closed time. <b>\$200</b>
Lyndon Patton Îles-de-la-Madeleine	Possession of egg-bearing female lobsters. <b>\$1,500</b>

Martin Bourget  
Communications

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