



# INFOCEANS

THE QUEBEC REGION BULLETIN — APRIL - MAY 2011/VOLUME 14/NUMBER 2

## REPAIRING QUEBEC'S FISHING HARBOURS

The Government of Canada will invest up to \$20.3 million to clean up and repair the fishing harbours in Quebec that were damaged by storms in December 2010. This sum will fund cleanup and repair projects in more than 35 harbours.

The December storms wreaked havoc on Quebec's coastal regions and caused unprecedented damage to the fishing harbours that support local fishing and maritime transport industries. Fisheries and Oceans Canada will use these funds to ensure that commercial harvesters can safely access the harbours needed for the 2011 spring fisheries. The most urgent work has already begun, and the projects involving major repairs will be carried out over the next two years.

The scheduled work includes:

- Cleanup and minor repair work at L'Anse-à-Brillant, Rimouski-Est, Mingan, Cap-aux-Meules, Saint-Anne-des-Monts and Gascons (Ruisseau-Chapados).

- Wharf repairs at Carleton, Tourelle, Sainte-Luce, Ruisseau Leblanc and Shigawake.
- Breakwater repairs at Newport-Pointe and Étang-du-Nord and breakwater reconstruction at Pointe-Basse, Mont-Louis Ouest and Rivière-au-Renard.
- Dredging at Baie-Comeau, Baie Trinité, Rivière-au-Tonnerre, Grande-Entrée, Grosse-Île, Île d'Entrée, Pointe-aux-Loups, Millerand, Pointe-Basse, Cap-Chat, L'Anse-à-Beaufils, Port-Daniel (East), St-Godefroi, Les Méchins, Bonaventure, Gascons (Anse-à-la-Barbe), Ste-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, Shigawake, Gascons (Ruisseau-Chapados), L'Anse-à-Brillant, Rivière-au-Renard (Quai d'Amours) and Tourelle.

Over the past few months, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has been working together with local communities, harbour authorities and Public Works and Government Services Canada to assess the damage sustained. This funding will allow the Department to continue on-site assessments and engineering studies, as well as undertake the necessary repair and cleanup projects.

CARLETON WHARF BEFORE,



DURING



AND AFTER THE STORM.



DFO

## THE CAPELIN OBSERVERS NETWORK POSTS ITS DATA ONLINE!

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has posted the Capelin Observers Network Internet Registry online. The network's members conduct a community watch to locate reproduction sites and catalogue capelin spawning periods.

Observers who have used the special phone line in recent years to report capelin spawning observations in the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence can now also use this new tool. It will also serve to pool all the information gathered in eastern Canada in a single registry.

Since its creation in 2002, the network has recorded over 170 active capelin spawning sites in Quebec, and has noticed significant variations in spawning periods from year to year at some sites. The Network now hopes to obtain observation data from Atlantic Canada to have the most precise information possible about the species breeding grounds.

From 2002 to 2009, the number of Network observers and observations climbed steadily, producing an overview of the range of capelin reproduction areas along the shore. However, the 2010 season produced less information; we cannot say precisely whether this is because spawning was less prevalent or because fewer observations were reported.

### 2010 SEASON

Over the course of the 2010 season, 44 observers reported 129 observations. Of these, 93 observations involved spawning activity while 32 other reported signs of capelin presence and one indicated that capelin were absent. Three other observations did not indicate clearly whether there was spawning or some other type of activity or lack thereof. These observations were made in 31 different sectors or areas and on 32 beaches or portions of beaches. A new site was catalogued in 2010, the Anse à Mouille-Cul sector at Bic (Rimouski).

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## AN EDUCATIONAL KIT FOR THE OBSERVATION OF MARINE MAMMALS AT RISK

Marine observation activities in the St. Lawrence represent a flourishing industry. In 2008, nearly 600,000 visitors—20% of whom were international tourists—took part in whale-watching activities in Quebec. This being said, disturbance by watercraft can be a source of stress for marine mammals and affect the recovery of species at risk. To raise public awareness about good practices for marine mammal observation, the Réseau d'observation de mammifères marins (ROMM) has developed an educational kit on marine mammals at risk.

This kit consists of a case containing various educational items, including an interpretation binder and information sheets on marine mammals as well as on seabirds, fish, marine invertebrates, the islands of the St. Lawrence, the history of the area and landscape interpretation. Figurines of whales, seals and sharks are accompanied by whale baleen specimens and krill samples. All these accessories are greatly appreciated by the public since they provide opportunities to see and touch.

### PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICES

The explanations provided in the kit encourage observers at sea to adopt adequate behaviour. On the water, these good practices mean observing speed limits, distance limits, and restrictions on the angle of approach and the concentration of vessels. The practices apply to all types of commercial vessels and pleasure craft, including personal watercraft, kayaks and sailboats. Respectful approach manoeuvres will help prevent adverse effects on species at risk such as the **beluga whale**, the **blue whale**, the **fin whale** and the **North Atlantic right whale**.

Although we may feel that a single disturbance of these whales is not serious, we have to remember that whale watching cruises and other observation activities occur repeatedly in the same areas and thus, involve the same animals. The cumulative impact of disturbances in areas like the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence where marine mammals feed, rest or give birth can reduce their capacity over the course of the summer to store the energy reserves they need to reproduce successfully and survive during periods when feeding is reduced.

The members of the *Réseau d'observation des mammifères marins* have received the educational kit and are thus aware of good marine observation behaviours. This network is composed of cruise ship operators and excursionists as well as ferry services and marine carriers and, of course, conservation parks.

Funding to produce the educational kit on marine mammals at risk in the St. Lawrence was provided by the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, which is managed jointly by Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Parks Canada.

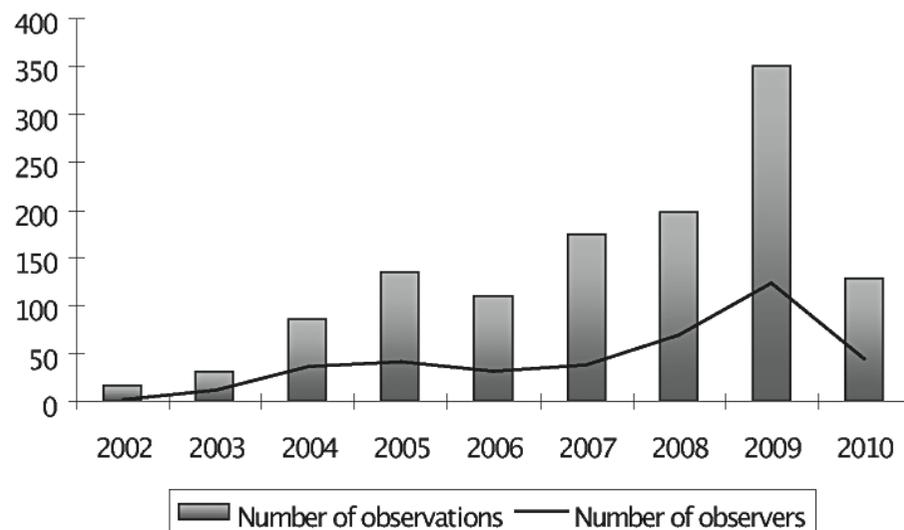


Guide naturalists encourage people to think about the conservation of marine species at risk by helping them to discover their status, fragility and the threats they face.

PARC NATIONAL DE L'ÎLE-BONAVENTURE-ET-DU-ROCHER-PERCE

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## THE CAPELIN OBSERVERS NETWORK POSTS ITS DATA ONLINE!



Evolution in the number of observers and reported observations

### WHY SHOULD YOU REPORT YOUR OBSERVATIONS?

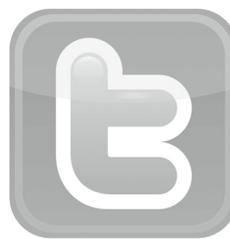
The information gathered by the Network helps improve protection for capelin spawning grounds, particularly during reproduction and incubation periods. For instance, measures to mitigate impacts on the habitat can be recommended when work is done near reproduction sites.

### WHERE AND WHEN WILL THE CAPELIN ROLL IN 2011?

Again this year, the Capelin Observers Network is calling on you to participate in gathering data. To submit your observations online during the season of if you have any questions, you can contact us!

Capelin Observers Network  
1-877-227-6853  
ROC-CON@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Pierre Nellis  
Ecosystems Management



### FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!

The Quebec Region of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard now has its own Twitter profile.

Follow us at [http://twitter.com/MPO\\_GCC\\_Quebec](http://twitter.com/MPO_GCC_Quebec). You will be informed about what's happening at the Department, our public activities, new publications, Web updates, media releases and much more.

Twitter is a subscribable microblogging platform that allows users to follow a variety of groups, organizations and individuals. The published messages (known as *tweets*) are very short and can redirect readers to more detailed information, photos or videos located elsewhere on the Web.

## CANADA'S FISH AND SEAFOOD EXPORTS

Canadian fish and seafood products generated more than \$3.9 billion in export revenues in 2010—about 85 percent of all the fish landed by Canadian fishers—an increase of more than 7 percent from 2009. Fish and seafood are the second largest group of food products exported from Canada.

Nearly two-thirds (over \$2.4 billion) of these exports were destined for the United States. The European Union and Japan are also major markets since they imported Canadian fish and seafood valued at more than \$400 million and \$300 million respectively in

2010. These two markets account for 18 percent of all Canadian fish and seafood exports.

China, Hong Kong and Iceland are increasingly popular export destinations. In 2010, fish and seafood valued at over \$418 million were shipped to these three markets.

Canada's five most valuable exports by species in 2010 were lobster, Atlantic salmon, snow/queen crab, shrimp and herring. In 2010, these species accounted for 49 percent of the volume (322,818 tonnes) and 63 percent

of the value (\$2.4 million) of all fish and seafood exports. Lobster continues to be the species that generated the most value in Canada, nearly \$946 million.

### IN QUEBEC

Quebec is Canada's fifth largest exporter of fish and seafood; it exported some 26,967 tonnes of marine products in 2010, valued at \$246 million.

The three most valuable exports were lobster (3,534 t, valued at \$78.2 million), snow crab (6,983 t, valued at \$61.5 million) and shrimp (2,035 t, valued at \$17.1 million).

## THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

Every year, hundreds of volunteers contribute with passion and dedication to the safety of navigation in Quebec, the protection of aquatic ecosystems or the economic prosperity of our coastal communities.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard, Quebec Region, recognize the importance of the tremendous work done—in some cases for many years—by these different groups of volunteers! Without their assistance, a number of activities connected to the Department's mandates could not be accomplished so effectively.

National Volunteer Week occurred in April. During this week, a special *Infoceans* edition was published on line. We invite you to discover the work done by the people who volunteer their time to groups like the harbour authorities, the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons, the Aquatic Invasive Species Warning Network, the Fédération de voile du Québec, le Conseil québécois du nautisme and the Capelin Observers Network.

We thank all these people who with incredible generosity support the dynamism of the maritime community. We greatly appreciate your contribution.

You will find this special edition of *Infoceans* on our regional website [www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) in the *Archives* section of *Infoceans*.

Marc Demonceaux, Deputy Commissioner  
Canadian Coast Guard, Quebec Region

Richard Nadeau, Regional Director General  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Quebec Region



Marc Demonceaux



Richard Nadeau

## WRITE US!

We are always delighted to receive your comments, questions and suggestions regarding the content of *Infoceans*.

You can reach us by e-mail at [infoceans@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:infoceans@dfo-mpo.gc.ca), or by mail at *Infoceans*, Communications Regional Branch, 104 Dalhousie Street, Québec, Quebec G1K 7Y7.

## SUBSCRIBING TO RSS

If you don't want to miss out on anything in the upcoming issues, you can now subscribe to the *Infoceans* Web edition by signing up for the RSS news feed. Whenever a new issue becomes available, you will receive the headlines as well as a link to view the entire newsletter online.

## INTEGRATED ABORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

On March 17 and 18, 2011, all the North Shore Innu bands met in Sept-Îles for a training session on the Integrated Aboriginal Contribution Management Framework.

The purpose of this framework is to ease the administrative burden associated with the seven Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) programs pertaining to Aboriginal fisheries programs by making them more flexible and adaptable.

Contribution agreements benefitting Aboriginal communities or groups are concluded in the context of several programs, such as the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy, the Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management Program, the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk and the Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative.

The principal objectives of the integrated management framework are to:

- Emphasize results rather than activities;

- Reduce the administrative burden for First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada in order to save time and focus on objectives;
- Establish service standards; and
- Work toward the standardization of administrative processes.

### TRAINING AND DISCUSSIONS

The March meeting with the Innu bands was a success. The training provided should help the North Shore Aboriginal communities adapt more easily to changes in the programs' administration and offer them an opportunity to make the DFO more aware of their needs. Furthermore, this training session is a fine example of harmonization efforts and the team spirit that exists between the First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. It is in everyone's best interest to encourage frequent meetings and workshops with all our Aboriginal partners.



Kevin Wilkins, Regional Manager, Aboriginal Programs, DFO; Serge Langelier, AMIK; Majoric Pinette, Pessamit; Norbert Fontaine, Uashat; Pierre Wapistan, Natashquan; Isabelle Morency, Native Affairs Coordinator, DFO-North Shore Area; Léo St-Onge, Director, AMIK; Pierre Léonard, Essipit; Nancy Ritchie, administrative assistant; Pauline Lalonde, DFO-Ottawa; and Yves Bernier, Director, Shippek.

Isabelle Morency, North Shore Area  
Kevin Wilkins, Fisheries Management

## A NEW SEASON OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS

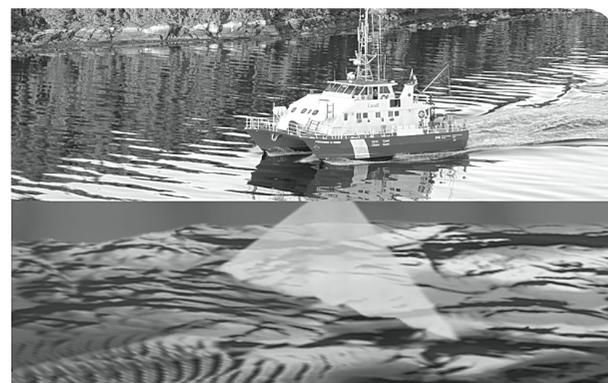
The Canadian Hydrographic Service launched the new season of hydrographic surveys of Québec's navigable water bodies on March 31, 2011. The surveys primarily focus on the navigation channel in the St. Lawrence, the ports of Sept-Îles, Montréal and Trois-Rivières, as well as approximately 15 harbours on Chaleur Bay, the Gaspé Peninsula's north shore, the North Shore and the Magdalen Islands.

Surveys are also scheduled for a large sector south-east of the Mingan Islands to collect data on crab habitat and for an area off the Gaspé Peninsula to map the American Bank.

The surveys are conducted using hydrographic launches equipped with highly precise sounders and electronic positioning systems. The surveys measure siltation levels at various locations and provide the data used to calculate the volumes that need to be dredged; the information gathered—on the location of shoals, for instance—is also used to update the official nautical publications and charts produced by the Department, the ultimate goal being to ensure safe navigation. By the end of the season in December, the hydrographic teams will have covered over 10,000 km to monitor the condition of the St. Lawrence channel.

### REPORT HAZARDS

Mariners are invited to notify the Canadian Hydrographic Service when they discover a hazard (or an apparent hazard) to navigation or if they observe



changes in the data recorded on nautical charts. To make it easier for CHS teams to spot reported hazards, it is important for mariners to specify the nature of the hazard, its position, the date and time it was observed, etc. Information can be reported by phone 418-775-0502 or by e-mail to [shcinfo@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:shcinfo@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

### NAUTICAL CHARTS, TIDES AND WATER LEVELS

Fisheries and Oceans Canada would like to remind recreational boaters and mariners of how important it is to be well prepared and to ensure safe navigation by having current nautical charts on board and staying informed of water levels.

Before going out onto the water, call toll-free at 1-877-775-0790 or visit [www.tides.gc.ca](http://www.tides.gc.ca) for the most recent information on water levels and tidal predictions for the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Kristine Bossé-Fortin  
Science

## NEW PRESIDENTS AT THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

On March 19, 2011, the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, Quebec Region, a volunteer organization, appointed its new president, Léopold Béchette, at its Annual General Meeting. Outgoing president Ted Smith handed over to Béchette, promoting him to the higher rank. Léopold Béchette has been an active member of the CCGA for 13 years.



Ted Smith and Marc Demonceaux

On the same occasion, Marc Demonceaux, Assistant Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard, Quebec Region, formalized the appointment of Ted Smith as the new president of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary by granting him the rank associated with this position. Smith was elected president during the CCGA National Council held in Moncton, New Brunswick, on March 3, 2011, and he now represents all Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers across Canada. Ted Smith has been with the CCGA for 17 years.

In Quebec, the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary has more than 650 volunteers involved in various activities including SAR operations, training, exercises and administration.

Visit [www.ccg-gcac.com](http://www.ccg-gcac.com) for more information on this organization or to become a volunteer.

Nathalie Letendre  
Communication

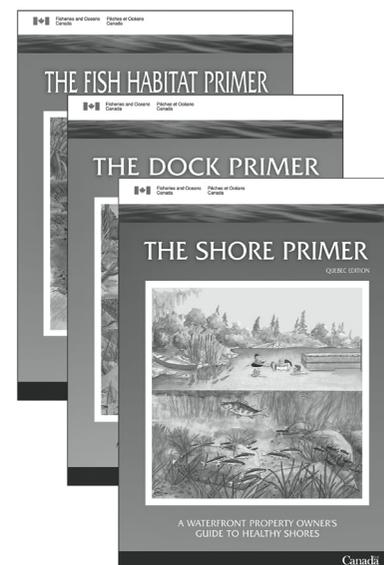
## GOOD PRACTICES GUIDES TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE FISH HABITAT

Three good-practices guides on how to protect fish and their habitats have been published by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Quebec Region.

*The Fish Habitat Primer* is a guide for anyone interested in the health of lakes, fish and their habitats, providing information and food for thought on the subject.

*The Dock Primer* is for both buyers and do-it-yourselfers. It provides information about quality docks and building practices that are harmless to fish habitats.

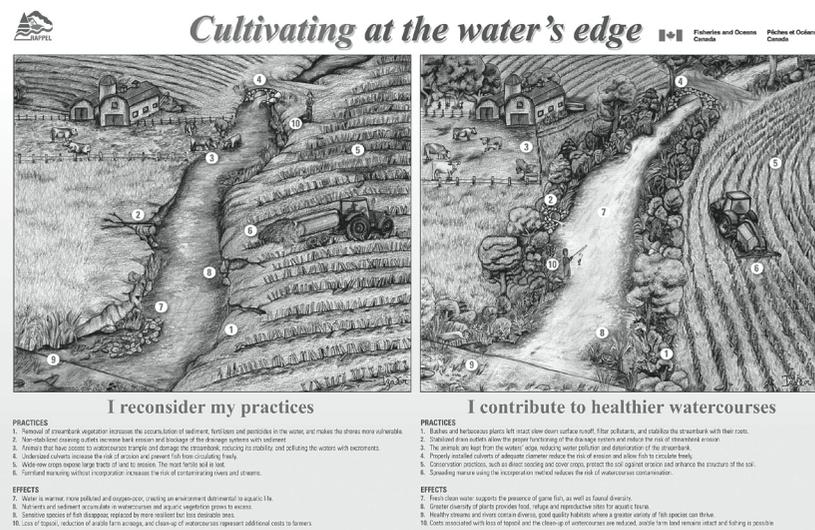
*The Shore Primer* explains how to protect and nurture the bank and shoreline of a water body. It also shows people who live on the shore interesting ways to restore the health and beauty of watersides that have been modified in the past.



## CULTIVATING AT THE WATER'S EDGE

A poster on environment-friendly cultivation practices has been produced by the Regroupement des associations pour la protection de l'environnement des lacs et des cours d'eau (RAPPEL), in collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Quebec Region, the Fédération de l'UPA-Estrie, the Université de Sherbrooke and the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec.

Entitled *Cultivating at the water's edge*, this poster is intended for farmers with land along the water's edge. It prompts farmers to re-examine their agricultural practices through greener lenses and lists new practices farmers can adopt to contribute to the health of streams.



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

- *The "Red Tide" of 2008 – Record Numbers of Marine Species Killed*
- *Taking the Pulse of the St. Lawrence*

## 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 CSAS Publications section, *Science Advisory Reports (2005+)* for 2010 and 2011:

- The Saguenay Fjord winter recreational groundfish fishery, 2008-2010 (2010/088)
- Assessment of snow crab in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (Areas 12, 19, 12E and 12F) (2011/002)

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