



# INFOCEANS

THE QUEBEC REGION BULLETIN — JUNE - JULY 2011/VOLUME 14/NUMBER 3

## THE HONOURABLE KEITH ASHFIELD NEW MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS



In May, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the composition of the new Cabinet. The Honourable Keith Ashfield, Member of Parliament for the federal riding of Fredericton in New Brunswick, was appointed Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Keith Ashfield was first elected to the House of Commons in 2008 and re-elected in 2011. In October 2008, he was appointed Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency). In January 2010, he was appointed Minister of National Revenue, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway.

Prior to his election, Mr. Ashfield served in the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly. From 1999 to 2003, he served as Deputy Speaker of the Legislature and as provincial Minister of Natural Resources from 2003 to 2006.

Before entering politics, Mr. Ashfield was active in local, provincial and national school trustee associations.

He has also held senior positions in local companies, and has owned and operated his own businesses. He studied business administration at the University of New Brunswick.

### CONSIDERABLE DUTIES

In addition to assuming his role as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Ashfield will be serving as Minister for the Atlantic Gateway.

He will also be sitting on two Cabinet committees. First of all, he will be a member of the Committee on Operations, which provides day-to-day coordination of the government's agenda, including legislation and House planning. He will also sit on the Committee on Economic Prosperity and Sustainable Growth, which considers sectoral issues including international trade, natural resources, fisheries, agriculture and regional development, as well as environment and energy security.

## A SUCCESSFUL 136th ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT OF LOBSTER TRAPS ON THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS

At 5 o'clock in the morning on May 7, 2011, the Magdalen Islands lobster harvest kicked off with its 325 lobster harvesters taking to the water to set their traps. Every year, the event—celebrated throughout the islands—signals the awakening of economic activity on the Islands. In fact, restaurants remained open all night long to feed the crews as they went about their final preparations on the day their season opened.

The evening before, there was a religious service in honour of the harvesters in the village of Grande-Entrée which was also broadcast on the local radio. During the ceremony, 18 new lobster harvesters, accounting for 6 percent of the fleet, each received a buoy from his or her predecessor: a moving moment. A floral wreath was then cast from the wharf in memory of those lost at sea. Year after year, opening day activities draw a number of local, provincial and federal elected officials.

### PRESENT AT NINE HARBOURS

To ensure the safe and simultaneous departure of the lobster boats from the nine Islands harbours, our conservation and protection services had to make use of all the resources available to them. The Islands fishery officers could count on the assistance of officers from other maritime areas and on the Canadian Coast Guard patrol vessel *Le Québécois* to help them on the water. On land, the flares signalling the departure of the lobster boats were fired by employees of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and other departments as well as by civil associates.

### SAFETY FIRST

Although the departure time had to be respected, the main concern was safety. This is a major challenge, particularly at the Grande-Entrée harbour where 125 boats are moored, making it the largest fishing harbour in Quebec.



Blessing of the boats on the wharf at Grande-Entrée

L. MIOUSSE PARKS CANADA

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## “WANTED: YOUNG CARTOGRAPHERS” ...REWARD OFFERED!

For the last four years, the Canadian Institute of Geomatics – Champlain Section (Quebec City) and the Cégep de Limoilou have organized a cartography contest for students enrolled in Secondary I and II throughout the province. The purpose of the contest is to get young people to discover a geomatics-related discipline – cartography.

This year, the Canadian Hydrographic Association and Fisheries and Oceans Canada contributed to this contest by awarding two Jury’s Choice awards. These awards give two young people the opportunity to board a Canadian Coast Guard ship during a Canadian Hydrographic Service hydrographic mission on the St. Lawrence.

This year, the challenge was to draw a map of a marine park that served to explore the hydrographic aspect of geomatics. The young, budding cartographers had to comply with certain conditions set out in the contest kit given to their teachers. According to the evaluation criteria, the students were required to show bathy-

metry, navigational aids and marine infrastructure as well as add messages or regulations pertaining to nautical safety and environmental protection.

Jury members had the difficult task of choosing 10 finalists from among the 858 maps entered. The young people truly showed their creativity and imagination in the maps they submitted. The awards ceremony was held at the Naval Reserve non-commissioned officers mess on May 13, 2011 in the presence of the young finalists and their parents and teachers. Representatives of the contest associates were also present.

Richard Nadeau, Regional Director General, and Sylvie Pelletier, Canadian Coast Guard Regional Director, Maritime Services were present to present the Jury’s Choice awards to Geneviève Parent, a Secondary I student and Adolève Mbiki de Nanitélamio, a Secondary II student. It is important to point out that the Interdisciplinary Centre for the Development of Ocean Mapping (CIDCO) also participated and presented an ExoPC slate to the most mobilizing teacher.



Geneviève Parent and Richard Nadeau

M.-J. MARCOTTE



Adolève Mbiki de Nanitélamio and Sylvie Pelletier

M.-J. MARCOTTE

Robert Dorais  
Science

## NEW RECRUITS AT MARINE COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAFFIC SERVICES

On March 4, 2011, another cohort of student Marine Communications and Traffic Services officers (MCTS) graduated at the Canadian Coast Guard College. Six new officers are currently completing on-the-job training at an MCTS centre in Quebec.

Since 2003, 33 individuals have obtained certification as MCTS officers. With the arrival of all these new employees, it goes without saying that the staff profile has quickly become younger.

At the end of a 10-to-12 month stint of theoretical and practical training, the officers are ready to assume the responsibilities associated with their position and provide numerous services to mariners and the general public.

As part of their duties, MCTS officers must:

- Provide continuous monitoring of international distress frequencies to detect situations of distress, intervene in a timely manner, and ensure communications during rescue missions;

- Disseminate information connected to marine safety such as weather reports, ice information and notices to mariners concerning navigational hazards;
- See to it that ships entering Canadian waters provide pertinent information regarding their status and compliance with applicable Canadian legislation in order to keep them from becoming a danger;
- Take the necessary measures to ensure the safety and ordered movement of marine traffic; and
- Offer public correspondence services to facilitate ship-to-shore communications.

The selection and training process is long and demanding but the results are conclusive for the Canadian Coast Guard and the Marine Communications and Traffic Services centres. The training of these new employees depends notably on the instructors at the Canadian Coast Guard College and the knowledge of experienced officers



The new recruits of the Marine Communications and Traffic Services

Diane Caron  
Canadian Coast Guard

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## ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT OF LOBSTER TRAPS ON THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS

The spring winds didn’t make the task easy, delaying harbour maintenance dredging work. But the DFO staff responsible for fishing harbours kept a close eye on the work to make sure boats could access the harbours safely and that the fishing season could open as early as possible... on May 7.

### SOLIDARITY IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

Shortly after the departure of the lobster boats, the Canadian Coast Guard had to tow a harvester’s boat to the Pointe-Basse harbour at Havre-aux-Maisons. Although the lobster fishery is competitive and the first days are often the best, the fishers once again manifested their legendary solidarity. In fact, several lobster harvesters extended their own day by dividing up the unfortunate fisher’s traps and setting them for him... a noteworthy action.

Christian Houle  
Magdalen Islands Area

### Dispatches

## REOPENING OF SEASONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE BASES

Now that the warm weather is upon us, the Canadian Coast Guard would like to remind the public that its seasonal search and rescue bases in Québec, Tadoussac, Kegaska, Rivière-au-Renard, Havre-St-Pierre and Cap-aux-Meules are open.

The Canadian Coast Guard’s seasonal bases are strategically located to provide rapid assistance and reduce the number and severity of maritime incidents and risks to the environment. The bases are open from April to November.

CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLEGE

## NEW REGIONAL FLEET DIRECTOR

I have the pleasure of announcing the appointment of Captain Johnny Leclair as Canadian Coast Guard Fleet Director for the Quebec Region. Captain Leclair holds a Master Mariner's certificate and a Canadian Coast Guard Watchkeeping certificate.



Marc Demonceaux

Over the course of his 31 years on the job with the Canadian Coast Guard, Captain Leclair has held a variety of postings as ship's master and as superintendent of the both Marine, Control and Evaluation and the Research, Safety and Environment branches.

In 1998, he helped set up the Regional Operational Centre (ROC) and served as its superintendent until this recent appointment. As ROC superintendent, Captain Leclair was responsible for the deployment and daily operations of regional naval and air resources, the fleet security and safety management system (International Safety Management [ISM] and International Ship and Port Security [ISPS] codes), medium-term planning of operations, the zone approach, resource sharing and the search for alternate replacement solutions in the event of breakdowns involving ships, aircraft or watercraft.

In 2009, after the sinking of the *Acadien II*, Captain Leclair was a member of the team mandated to draw up an action plan for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Department of National Defence and Transport Canada.

He also participated in setting up a maritime safety partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Coast Guard – Quebec Region.



Johnny Leclair

Captain Leclair takes over from Captain Claude Langis, who brilliantly assumed the responsibilities associated with the position of Regional Fleet Director for the last six years. I take this opportunity to express to him my great appreciation for his leadership qualities and for his dedication to the Canadian Coast Guard over the course of his 35 years of service. The organization benefitted from Captain Langis' vast experience up until the day of his departure for a well-deserved and, we hope, excellent retirement.

Marc Demonceaux, Assistant Commissioner  
Canadian Coast Guard, Quebec Region

## INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRONIC LOGBOOK

In 2005, Fisheries and Ocean Canada began work to introduce electronic logbooks to the Canadian fisheries. Presented first as a pilot project with a small number of volunteer fishers, the experimental project involved testing various software and technological solutions that would permit the electronic transmission of catch and effort data. The project now has over 200 participants from all of Canada's maritime regions.

The electronic logbook is in fact a computer program that is used aboard a fishing boat and can transmit information about fishing catches and effort electronically to the Department via satellite, cell phone or Internet. The information is received and processed on a national server and then recorded in a national data base.

The software is very user-friendly; even someone new to computers can use it. When compared to paper logbooks, the data recorded in the electronic logbook is of greater quality and more precise.

The tool serves not only to gather information that is useful for the fisher but also to improve the quality and



DFO

precision of data and make them available more quickly to fisheries managers, just a few of its advantages. Some software on the market can even be used to manage a fishery business by providing tools to monitor income and expenses. A final and not the least advantage, a tool of this kind improves the traceability of fishery products.

In Quebec, in 2011, 84 lobster harvesters from the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands as well as 14 shrimpers will be using software to transmit their data electronically. In 2012, use of the electronic logbook will become mandatory for Gaspé Peninsula lobster harvesters and for shrimpers fishing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Denis Tremblay  
Fisheries Management

## 2011 NAUTICAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN

On May 18, 2011, the Quebec Boating Council (Conseil québécois du nautisme – CQN), whose members include the Canadian Hydrographic Service and the Canadian Coast Guard, launched the 2011 nautical safety campaign. CQN presents an encouraging report on the number of drownings in the last decade<sup>1</sup>. In fact, there has been a downward trend in deaths connected to recreational activities since the 1990s. The only cloud on the horizon: deaths associated with canoeing and kayaking have increased by nearly 40 percent in 10 years. This trend was confirmed in 2010, when 11 of the 25 drowning deaths involved these types of watercraft.



DFO A. THERRIEN

“Increased canoe- and kayak-related drowning deaths can notably be explained by the growing popularity of these nautical activities. The Quebec Boating Council strongly recommends that new enthusiasts take a course,” says the Council's president, Guy L'Écuyer.

In fact, simulations involving the self-rescue and rescue of kayakers were presented to the media in the Port of Montréal.

### FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

With an eye to the future boating season, the Quebec Boating Council reminds recreational boaters of the elementary safety rules to adopt:

- Wear your life jacket.
- Don't drink alcohol while boating.

Like on the road, drinking alcohol or taking drugs impairs the abilities of the consumer. Moreover, at least 20 percent of victims were under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

- Take a boating course.

Since September 15, 2009, anyone operating motorized watercraft has to have in his or her possession an operator competency certificate. A motorized watercraft is any marine vehicle equipped with a motor of any size, even an electric propeller.

- Be ready – you and your boat.

Certain essential equipment must be present aboard any watercraft. A personal floatation device (PFD) per person, a buoyant heaving line, light signalling devices (flares), bailer, fire extinguisher, etc.; these are things that could save your life!

- Be aware of the danger of falling into cold water.

In 2010, 16 of the 25 drownings happened while the water in Quebec's water lakes and rivers was still very cold.

For more information, visit [www.conseilquebecoisdunautisme.com](http://www.conseilquebecoisdunautisme.com).

<sup>1</sup> Data gathered from *Faits saillants sur les noyades et les autres décès liés à l'eau au Québec de 2000-2008 – Édition 2010* published by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport and statistics confirmed by police authorities and provided by Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety.

## ARE YOUR NAUTICAL CHARTS UP TO DATE?

Are your nautical charts up to date? That's a question pleasure boaters may very well hear at some point during the summer when Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) and Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons volunteers conduct their courtesy inspections.



The Canadian Hydrographic Service has obtained the assistance of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (Quebec Region) to draw up a form and guide for the volunteers who conduct courtesy inspections to ensure the safety of boaters. CCGA has also trained nearly 80 of its members and Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons representatives to do this work.

The main purpose of this initiative is to make boaters aware of how to use nautical charts and how important it is to keep them current by checking the *Notice to Mariners* up-dates. Boaters are encouraged to sign up for the free NOTMAR service; if they subscribe to the service, they will be informed by e-mail whenever there are any corrections to the charts they use.

By means of the courtesy inspection campaign, volunteer inspectors will also be able to inform boaters about other nautical publications that round out the information provided on the nautical charts: examples include *Sailing directions*, *Tide and current publications* and the *Atlas of tidal currents*. They can also tell boaters how to obtain free information about water levels by consulting the website [www.tides.gc.ca](http://www.tides.gc.ca) or by calling the toll-free number 1-877-775-0790.

Through this collaborative effort, Fisheries and Oceans Canada hopes to make the waterways safer with better equipped pleasure boaters.

Robert Dorais  
Science

## JOBS AT THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD

The Canadian Coast Guard offers some interesting career opportunities.

Here are just a few of them:

- Electronics technician
- Engine room rating
- Deckhand / Helms (man/woman)
- Marine communications and traffic services officer
  - Marine engineer
  - Navigation officer

For more information:

[www.marinfo.gc.ca](http://www.marinfo.gc.ca)  
1-866-660-6948 (toll free)  
[info-carrieres-RQ@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:info-carrieres-RQ@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)



IT'S NOT A JOB.  
IT'S AN ADVENTURE.

C'EST PLUS QU'UN TRAVAIL.  
C'EST UNE AVENTURE.

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## CIDCO CONFERENCE ON APPLIED HYDROGRAPHY

The Interdisciplinary Centre for the Development of Ocean Mapping (CIDCO), in collaboration with the Technopole maritime du Québec, the Canadian Hydrographic Association, the Société de promotion économique de Rimouski and the Canadian Hydrographic Service, will be holding a conference in Rimouski on June 20 and 21, 2011 on the theme of applied hydrography.



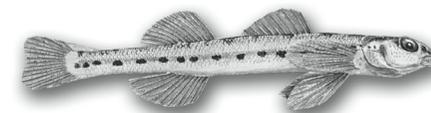
The conference aims to valorize regional expertise and present the potential of new technologies that can be of use to the maritime sector. The event will bring together various players active in a number of hydrography-related spheres (navigation, engineering, dredging, geomorphology, etc.). It will feature technical sessions and a trade show; a dinner-conference with Carole Campeau, president of St. Lawrence Shipoperators will round out the program.

The conference will also salute World Hydrography Day, June 21, by offering a tour of Hydrographic Service offices at the Maurice Lamontagne Institute where attendees can visit a hydrographic launch.

## New publications

### SMALL FISH AT RISK

Three new data sheets on freshwater fish at risk have been posted on the DFO website to raise awareness among shoreline inhabitants and anglers about the importance of protecting these species and their habitats. The Eastern Sand Darter, Channel Darter and the Bridle Shiner, which all live in Southern Quebec, need quality habitat and water. The data sheets serve to identify these small fish and suggest simple things you can do to foster their recovery. The sheets are available on the DFO website in the Regional publications section at [www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)



Eastern Sand Darter



Channel Darter



Bridle Shiner

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

## 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 2011:

- Assessment of Lumpfish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (3Pn, 4RST) in 2010 (2011/005)
- Assessment of Shrimp Stocks in the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence in 2010 (2011/006)
- Assessment of the Quebec North Shore (Division 4S) Herring Stocks in 2010 (2011/007)
- Assessment of the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence (Divisions 4RST) Capelin Stock in 2010 (2011/008)