



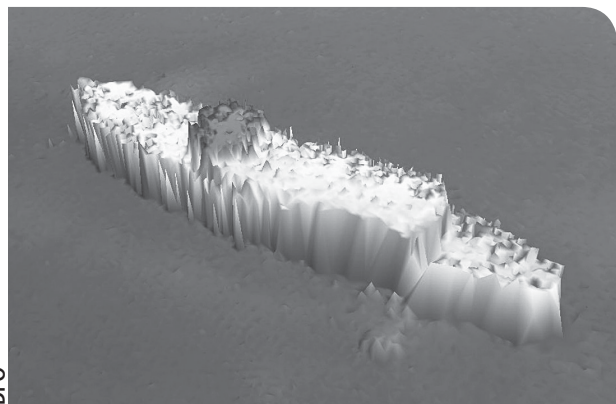
INFO OCEANS

THE QUEBEC REGION BULLETIN — FEBRUARY - MARCH 2012/VOLUME 15/NUMBER 1

ST. LAWRENCE RIVERBED REVEALED IN THE PORT OF QUÉBEC

In 2010, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, through the Canadian Hydrographic Service, conducted hydrographic surveys to update data on the water depth of the St. Lawrence River in the Québec area. The images revealed interesting topographic and geographic features. Notably, the surveys uncovered debris from the old Québec bridges that collapsed in 1907 and 1916, as well as a number of shipwrecks, some of which have yet to be identified.

The surveys were conducted aboard the CCGS *Frederick G. Creed*. The catamaran, unique in Canada, is equipped with a multibeam echosounder and high-precision positioning systems that are used to conduct the extremely precise bathymetric surveys (depth and bottom topography with full seabed coverage) needed to keep waterways safe and accessible.



Acoustic image of the *Lady Grey* wreck

One of the newly located shipwrecks is that of the *Lady Grey*, an old Canadian icebreaker that sank in 1955. The wreck lies approximately halfway between Cap Diamant and Pointe du Bout de l'Île at Sainte-Pétronille on Île d'Orléans. It is about 56 metres long and 8 metres wide and lies at a depth of approximately 41 metres. Its structure extends about 12 metres above the seabed.

Another impressive shipwreck, approximately 69 metres long, was found slightly downstream of the Port of Québec. All of the shipwrecks, whether identified or not, were reported to Transport Canada's Receiver of Wreck.

Richard Sanfaçon
Science



Hydrographers Stéphane Paquet, Diane Boudreault and Roger Côté on the CCGS *Frederick G. Creed*.

PATRICK HALLY

THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Over the last 50 years, with the support of all employees past and present, the Canadian Coast Guard has met countless challenges and developed recognized expertise, notably with respect to evolving icebreaking services.

One of the events that has marked its history in Quebec is the Saint-Pierre Lake ice jam in February 1993. As many as nine Canadian Coast Guard units worked simultaneously around the clock to break down the wall of ice and help 58 ships pass safely. This event gave the Canadian Coast Guard the opportunity to considerably advance its ice monitoring and control techniques. Not only was it able to make the most of existing methods, it also became familiar with new technologies such as the use of air cushion vehicles to break up ice. This capacity, discovered by chance during routine operations, helped develop expertise unique to the Quebec Region and is now recognized around the world.

Another not-to-be-overlooked particularity is the icebreaking done on rivers to prevent flooding in different areas of Quebec. This initiative is highly appreciated by the people who live along their banks and adds a new specialty to the range of



services provided by the Canadian Coast Guard, in addition to escorting vessels and icebreaking in harbours.

The fabulous history of the Canadian Coast Guard is far from over.



CCGS *Voyageur*

DFO

Throughout the year, a number of activities will be organized to salute this 50th anniversary. To find out more, visit the Canadian Coast Guard website (www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca). It is worth mentioning that Canada Post has contributed to the festivities by issuing a series of five stamps entitled "Canadian Pride" last January 16. One of these stamps features the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker, the CCGS *Louis S. St-Laurent*.

Guy Laberge
Canadian Coast Guard

Dispatches

(2)

(3)

New publications

(4)

Convictions

(4)

SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP WITH FIRST NATIONS

For several years, and in cooperation with the First Nations of the Gaspé Peninsula and Lower St. Lawrence, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has organized annual meetings in the form of workshops to answer questions about issues associated with commercial fishing.

At the third annual meeting, held on January 11, 12 and 13, 2012, the roles were reversed: the First Nations drew up the agenda and for the first time, the meeting took place on a reserve, at Listuguj.

The traditional welcome ceremony presented in front of all participants set the tone for the various discussions that were to follow.

Following the proposed agenda, Department representatives had the opportunity to present a number of updates on sectoral and regional governance, Aboriginal programs, projects to restructure traditional fleets and their background, as well as on conservation measures and new technologies.

Afterwards, Fred Metallic, of Listuguj, captivated participants with a highly interesting and constructive presentation about fisheries-related Aboriginal relations and knowledge, the rights and obligations of these groups and the issues they will face in the future. In addition, the four First Nations shared their business plans, which each set out their specific particularities in a context of sustainable development.



Fred Metallic during his presentation.

Members of the processing industry and marketing sectors as well as Canadian Food Inspection Agency representatives also took part in this meeting and contributed to its success.

Encouraged by the warm welcome extended by members of the Listuguj First Nation and the well-prepared workshops, participants were able to take part in thorough discussions of such issues as future development and healthy governance with the First Nations. All participants appeared to be delighted with the format adopted for this year's meeting.

Vincent Malouin
Gaspé-Lower St. Lawrence Area

Dispatches

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES - CONSULTATION CALENDAR

Please take note that our calendar for commercial fisheries consultations is now available on our Web site, in the *Commercial fisheries* section (www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

However, we strongly suggest you contact the relevant managers to confirm meeting details. The managers' names and contact information are listed in the calendar.

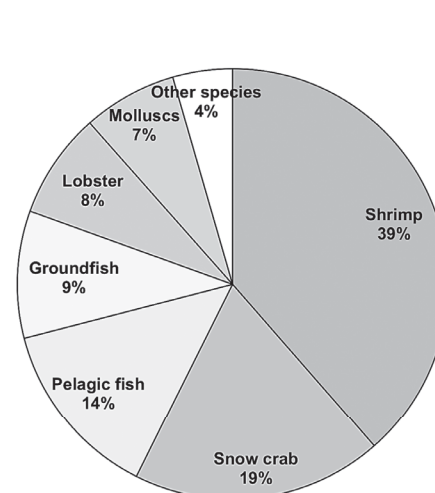
2011 COMMERCIAL FISHERIES PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The preliminary results for the 2011 commercial fishing season in Quebec show total landings of 52,677 t with a value of \$144 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.

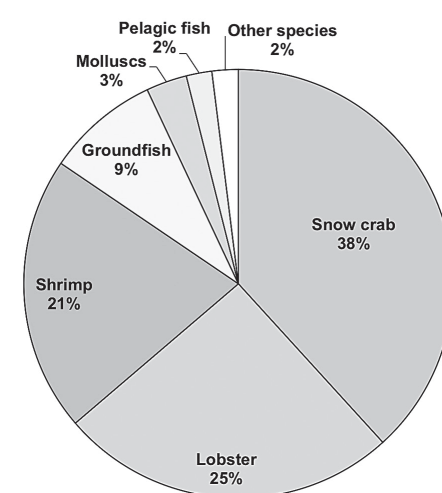
The first two graphics show that shrimp, snow crab and lobster continue to be the main species landed, accounting for 65 percent of the volume and 84 percent of the value. Groundfish catches ranked fourth in 2011, representing 9 percent of the volume and 9 percent of the value.

BREAKDOWN OF LANDINGS BY SPECIES

Volume (52,677 t)



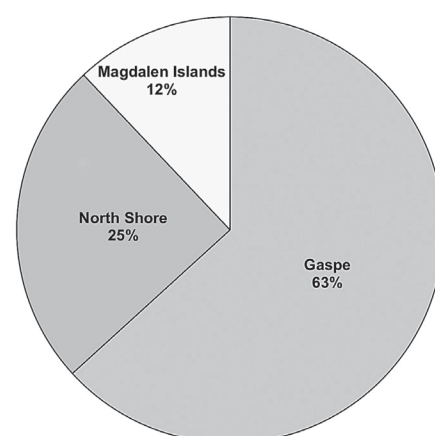
Value (\$144 M)



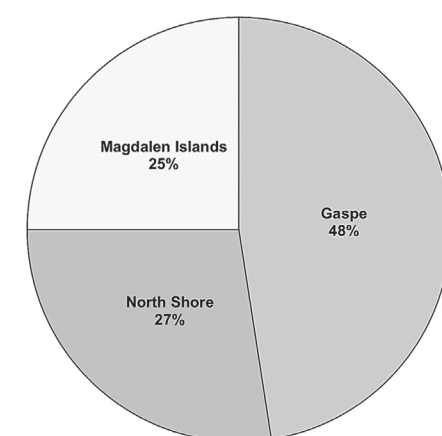
Landings break down as follows: 63 percent on the Gaspé Peninsula, 25 percent on the North Shore and 12 percent on the Magdalen Islands. Landing value totalled \$68.2 million on the Gaspé Peninsula (48% of all landings), \$39.4 million on the North Shore (27%) and \$35.9 million on the Magdalen Islands (25%).

BREAKDOWN OF LANDINGS BY MARITIME SECTOR

Volume (52,677 t)



Value (\$144 M)



In terms of value, 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 2011 was marked by a 5-percent drop in landing volume and a 24-percent increase in value. The drop in landing volume is primarily attributable to lower catches of several species: mackerel (- 47%), cod (- 23%), lobster (-11%), shrimp (- 8%), snow crab (- 7%) and Greenland halibut (- 7%). As for the increase in landing values, it is primarily due to a significant increase in the landing prices paid for snow crab (+ 68%), shrimp (+ 34%) and lobster (+ 14%) in 2011.

* 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
Policies and Economics

THE ST. LAWRENCE ACTION PLAN 2011-2026: THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES!

On November 29, 2011, Canada's Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Peter Kent, and the Quebec Minister of Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, Pierre Arcand, signed the *Canada-Québec Agreement on the St. Lawrence 2011-2026*, also known as the *St. Lawrence Action Plan*. It is the fifth agreement between the two levels of government dedicated to the protection and sustainable development of the St. Lawrence.

The goal of this agreement is to protect and preserve the St. Lawrence and provide a framework for actions undertaken jointly by ten federal departments and eight provincial ministries. It also seeks to continue efforts to establish integrated management of the St. Lawrence. A joint investment of \$70 million over the course of the next five years on the part of the federal and provincial governments will serve to implement the 2011-2016 joint action program, one of the highlights of the agreement.

Within the framework of this action plan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard will be participating in some thirty projects associated with the three priority issues identified in the

agreement—conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use and improvements to water quality. These projects involve a number of Department and Canadian Coast Guard areas of action. The St. Lawrence Action Plan will also include a component dedicated to climate change.

In addition, Fisheries and Oceans Canada will continue its participation in the *State of the St. Lawrence Monitoring Program* by gathering and analyzing data associated with indicators providing information on the state of health of the St. Lawrence. The Department will also contribute to a new program, the *Numerical Environmental Prediction Program for the St. Lawrence*, which will help to anticipate certain phenomena and assess their impact with an eye to producing decision-making tools. These numerical environmental predictions will notably deal with water (currents, temperature, waves, levels, flow, quality and salinity), ice and snow, ecosystem health and precipitation.

The *Agreement* will also bring about the implementation of integrated management for the St. Lawrence, a networking-based endeavour that will take shape with the establishment of twelve regional round

tables, six of which will be established by 2016. These round tables will bring together local decision makers, users and the general public.

Since the first edition of the *Agreement* was signed in 1988, concerted action on the part of governments has produced tangible results, including a 99-percent reduction in liquid toxic waste emissions from the 50 largest polluters on the St. Lawrence, the creation of the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park and the introduction of the *Sustainable Navigation Strategy for the St. Lawrence*.

For more information, visit the website at www.planstlaurent.qc.ca/index_en.



ST. LAWRENCE
Action Plan 2011-2026

Evelyne Dufault
Policies and Economics

Dispatches

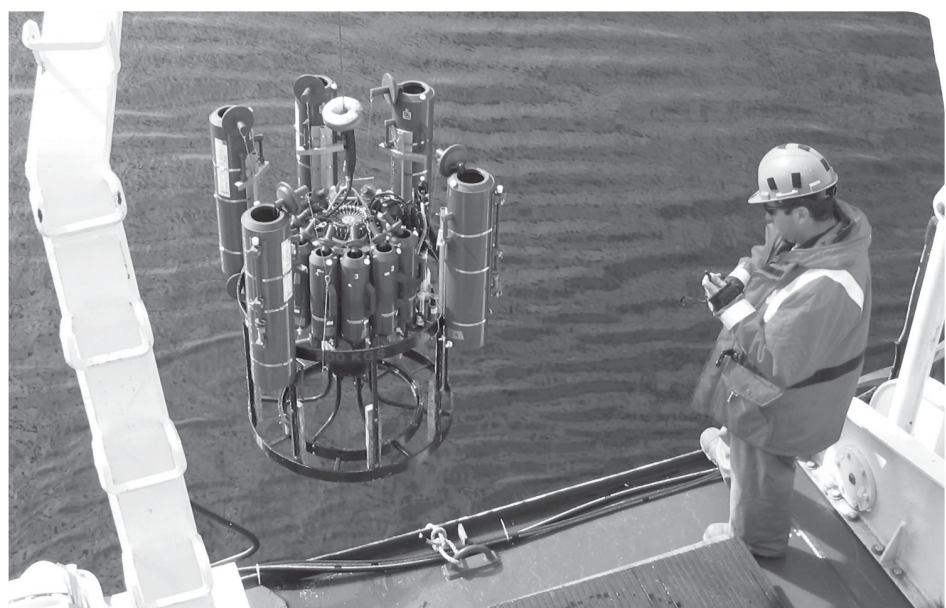
ACIDIFICATION LEAVES ITS MARK

Oceanographers Michel Starr and Denis Gilbert co-authored a report on the results of studies on the acidification of the deep waters of the St. Lawrence Estuary that was published last June in the journal *Atmosphere-Ocean*. Their work was selected as one of the ten discoveries of the year by the magazine *Québec Science*.

The research showed that deep water in this part of the estuary was acidifying more quickly than the average for the planet's oceans. On the pH scale – where values become increasingly acidic as they approach zero and increasingly basic as they approach 14 – deep water in the estuary has apparently lost from 0.2 to 0.3 units over the last 75 years, reaching a pH of between 7.7 and 7.8. In contrast, oceans have seen their pH levels fall by 0.1 unit on average, due to the growing concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere and, consequently, in the water.

A drop in the availability of calcium carbonates could explain why some molluscs are no longer able to form their calcium carbonate shells. Calcium carbonate dissolves in water that is too acidic. Acidification could have significant consequences for biodiversity and even for the productivity and commercial harvest of aquatic species impacted by these effects.

Two hypotheses were suggested to explain the accelerated acidification of the estuary seabed: first, an increase in the production of organic matter (for example, phytoplankton that sinks towards the seabed); and second, a warming of the water due to changes in oceanic circulation in the Northwest Atlantic.



DFO M. STARR

As soon as the vessel reaches a sampling station, the team drops a rosette sample containing sampling bottles into the water.

This breakthrough in the understanding of the marine ecosystem of the St. Lawrence is the outcome of close collaboration within a team composed of researchers from University McGill, the Maurice Lamontagne Institute and the Institut des sciences de la mer.

For more information, please read the article *L'estuaire tourne au vinaigre* published in the magazine *Québec Science* (www.quebecscience.qc.ca).



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NEW BUSINESS HOURS AT THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS OFFICE

Please take note that since January 3, 2012, business hours at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's office on the Magdalen Islands are as follows:

Monday to Friday
From 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

STATISTICS REVIEW

The 2008-2009 *Annual Statistics Review* of Quebec’s marine fisheries is now available on our website. The document presents a portrait of the catch sector (work force, quotas, landings, etc.) and plant production in the three maritime areas. It also deals with the seal hunt and with Quebec seafood exports and imports.

You will find this statistical review in the *Regional Publications* section of our Web site (www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) under the *Statistics* tab.

NEW WEB PAGES
MARINE MAMMAL
OBSERVATION

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Quebec Region has new content on its website! A brand new section on how to observe marine mammals has just been added.

Check it out and discover information on best practices for watching marine mammals in Quebec.

You can find the information at www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca under the section *Marine mammals* in the menu on the left.



Fin whale

DFO J.P. SYLVESTRE

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 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Daniel Albert Newport | Non-compliance with lobster licence conditions by retaining groundfish. \$500 |
| Clément Arseneau Laurent Bourgeois Magdalen Islands | Exceeding the recreational groundfish fishery quota. \$300 each |
| Fabiola Arseneau Michael Langford Magdalen Islands | Possession of lobster under the minimum size. \$750 each |
| Jean-Luc Berthelot Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé | Fishing for lobster with lobster traps without a valid tag for the season. \$500 |
| Wilton Burke Paul Vigneau Magdalen Islands | Being in possession of a female lobster with eggs attached. \$1,200 (W. B.) \$1,250 (P. V.) |
| Daniel Chevrier Magdalen Islands | Non-compliance with sealing licence conditions. \$500 |
| Donat Chiasson Bas-Caraquet, New-Brunswick Lorenzo Doiron Caraquet, New-Brunswick Louis-Marie Gionest Pabos Bertrand Gionest Bas-Caraquet, New-Brunswick Armand Minville Caraquet, New-Brunswick | Exceeding the daily quota for herring in 2009. \$1,740 (D. C.) \$2,435 (L. D.) \$2,570 (L.-M. G) \$5,675 (B. G.) \$2,490 (A. M.) |
| Michel Denis Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu Yvan Denis Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu Martial Laroche Capucins Jacques Lepage Sainte-Croix Gaston Robinson Gros-Morne | Exceeding the recreational groundfish fishery quota. \$500 + forfeiture of fishing gear (M. D. + Y. D.) \$300 + forfeiture of fishing gear (M. L. + J. L. + G. R.) |
| Bertrand Desbois Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé | Possession of Atlantic Halibut under the minimum size and possession of Atlantic Halibut nets. \$6,000 |
| Nicol Desbois Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé | Exceeding the daily quota for herring in 2009. \$1,550 |
| Stéphane Desbois Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé | Fishing from a vessel not named in the licence. \$500 |

| OFFENDER/ RESIDENCE | OFFENCE/FINE |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Denis Duguay Pabos Stéphane Lafontaine Saint-Georges-de-Malbaie | Violating their snow crab licence conditions by removing snow crab without it being weighed. \$1,500 each |
| Luc Eloquin Magdalen Islands | Possession of lobster under the minimum size and being in possession of a female lobster with eggs attached. \$2,250 |
| Camille Falardeau Baie-des-Sables | Harvesting molluscs in a closed area. \$300 + forfeiture of fishing gear |
| Robert Grenier Hope Gaétan Morin Gascons Hugues Roussy Gascons | Fishing without a valid licence. \$1,000 each |
| Bertin Landry Havre-Saint-Pierre | Possession of 26 lobster of less than 83 mm and possession of a female lobster with eggs attached. \$2,000 |
| Gilles Larocque Saint-Godefroi | Possession of a lobster marked with a V notch. \$500 |
| Elphège Lelièvre Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé | Non-compliance with snow crab licence conditions. \$500 |
| Ghislain Lemieux Sainte-Anne-des-Monts | Failure to release any fish incidentally caught. Possession of fish processed to the point where it is difficult to determine its species. Possession of any crab part or meat separated from the carapace. \$1,150 + confiscation of seized fish |
| Réal Lemieux Sainte-Anne-des-Monts | Fishing from a vessel not named in the licence. Failure to release any fish incidentally caught. Failure to land and weigh entire fish catch under the supervision of a dockside observer. Possession of fish processed to the point where it is difficult to determine its species. Possession of any crab part or meat separated from the carapace. \$2,100 + confiscation of seized fish |
| Armand Minville Caraquet, New-Brunswick | Exceeding the daily quota for herring in 2010. \$250 |
| JR Jeffrey Monger Havre-Saint-Pierre | Failure to weigh entire landed snow crab catch. \$750 |
| Julien Marie Stubbett Aganish | Possession of lobster under the minimum size. \$1,000 |
| Samuel Thisnish Sept-Îles | Possession of snow crab of less than 95 mm. \$500 |

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