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# INFOCEANS

THE QUEBEC REGION BULLETIN  
DECEMBER 2012 - JANUARY 2013/VOLUME 15/NUMBER 6

## HOLIDAY WISHES FOR 2013



Mario Pelletier  
Assistant Commissioner  
Canadian Coast Guard  
Central and Arctic Region

Like all federal departments, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard are working towards eliminating the deficit, and ensuring the current and future economic prosperity of the country. A review of our departmental spending has led us to harmonize our activities while refocusing on our core responsibilities. We have also taken advantage of modern technologies in order to remain effective and to follow the wave of changes in the 21st century.

This issue highlights the service delivery changes in fisheries management, as well as information on organizational changes to the Canadian Coast Guard.

More than ever, we must all collaborate to guarantee economically prosperous maritime sectors and fisheries, sustainable aquatic ecosystems, and safe and secure navigable waters.

On behalf of all Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Canadian Coast Guard employees in Quebec, we would like to extend to you and yours our best wishes for health and happiness in the New Year.



Richard Nadeau  
Regional Director General  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Quebec Region

## ATLANTIC SALMON, A SPECIES AT RISK – THE CONSULTATION IS UNDERWAY

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is studying whether to list five Atlantic salmon populations on the List of Wildlife Species at Risk under the *Species at Risk Act* and invites people and organizations to share their views before March 1, 2013.



D. Danvoye

### Populations Concerned

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has divided Atlantic salmon into 16 populations. This consultation focuses on five of these populations, in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island:

- Population with "endangered" status:
  - Anticosti Island
- Populations with "special concern" status:
  - Quebec Eastern North Shore (between the Checatika and Kegaska rivers)
  - Quebec Western North Shore (between the Natashquan and Escoumins rivers)
  - Inner St. Lawrence (between the Bras-des-Murailles and Jacques-Cartier rivers)
  - Gaspé-Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (from the southwest portion of the river in Quebec to the northern tip of Cape Breton in Nova Scotia)

According to the COSEWIC report, these populations are threatened by fishing, environmental changes in the ocean, freshwater obstructions such as dams, agriculture, urbanization, aquaculture and aquatic invasive species. Further consultations are planned for the other Atlantic salmon populations considered at risk.

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## CANADIAN COAST GUARD NEW REGION

On October 1, it was with great pride and pleasure that I took over the new Central and Arctic Region of the Canadian Coast Guard. In fact, the previous issue of *Infoceans* featured structural changes that, notably, redefine regional geographic boundaries. The new region for which I am responsible numbers 1275 employees, including 700 seagoing members that are dedicated to the safety of commercial and recreational fishers, boaters and the shipping industry. Following this restructuring and thanks to new funding of 1.6 billion dollars for fleet modernization, 20 ships, 17 rescue craft and 2 hovercraft (many of them newly built or refits) ply the waters of the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes and the Arctic.

During 2013, we will acquire four mid-shore patrol vessels: the CCGS *Caporal Kaoble V.C.* on the St. Lawrence and the CCGS *Private Robertson V.C.*, *Cap Teather* and *Constable Carrière* on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway. The vessels will be used by joint Marine Security Enforcement teams made up of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Coast Guard. The new CCGS *Leim* will work as a scientific research vessel in the Gulf of



St. Lawrence. In 2014, fisheries patrol vessel CCGS *Louisbourg* will be replaced with the new CCGS *A. LeBlanc*. Our icebreakers received a significant investment, allowing re-engining of both the CCGS *Pierre Radisson* and *Amundsen*. In 2013, the Central and Arctic Region icebreaking units will participate in the seventh Operation Nanook, directed by the Department of National Defence, in the High Arctic.

We are also proud of our significant advances in electronic navigation, and we will continue to collaborate

with the Montreal Port Authority, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard, to assist larger Post-Panamax generation vessels to transit the St. Lawrence. Among the new initiatives, we will include the testing of new buoys that will provide longer lighting service to mariners, while requiring less maintenance.

Moreover, in our efforts to protect coastal communities, we will focus on strengthening our environmental response capacity to ensure an appropriate response in the event of pollutant spills.

I invite you to visit our marine information portal, *MarInfo* ([www.marinfo.gc.ca](http://www.marinfo.gc.ca)) which provides mariners with daily information on navigation conditions in the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes and the Arctic.



**Safety First, Service Always**

Mario Pelletier, Assistant Commissioner,  
Canadian Coast Guard, Central and Arctic Region

### Dispatches

## OPEN HOUSE AT THE MAURICE LAMONTAGNE INSTITUTE



DFO F. Pouliot

From October 19 to 21, more than 1000 people visited 20 kiosks at the Maurice Lamontagne Institute in Mont-Joli. Visitors were able to see the link between the work done by the research centre's teams and their own day-to-day life activities.

### New publications

## COMMERCIAL FISHERIES CONSULTATION CALENDAR

Please take note that our calendar for commercial fisheries consultations that will be held this winter is now available at our website, in the *Commercial fisheries* section ([www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://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.

### FROM PAGE 1

#### An amazing fish

Atlantic salmon spawn in fresh water, generally in the river where they were born. Juveniles spend one to eight years in fresh water before migrating to salt water in the North Atlantic. After being at sea for one to four years, adults return to fresh water to spawn.

#### Current situation

The commercial Atlantic salmon fishery was gradually closed in Canadian waters between the mid-1980s and 2000, when it closed completely. Aboriginal peoples and recreational fishers still fish in several salmon rivers, but restrictive management measures are in place, by river, depending on the population estimates.

#### If the populations are listed...

For the endangered Anticosti Island population, a recovery strategy would be developed to identify threats and the measures to be implemented. Additional automatic prohibitions may apply. Killing, harming, taking, possessing, catching or trading this Atlantic salmon population would therefore be banned. The critical habitat (i.e. the habitat necessary for the survival and recovery of the Anticosti Island Atlantic salmon population) would be protected if listed.

Listing populations of special concern would lead to the development of a management plan aimed at reducing threats resulting from human activity. For these populations, there would be no automatic prohibitions.

#### Share your thoughts and concerns

A fact sheet on Atlantic salmon and the *Species at Risk Act* is accessible on the Species at Risk Public Registry website ([www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)). You will also find a questionnaire that you can fill in with your comments. For more information, contact the Species at Risk Management Division at 1-877-775-0848.

Canada Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pêches et Océans Canada

## ATLANTIC SALMON A Species at Risk

Information Summary for the Consultation on Adding Five Atlantic Salmon Populations to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk under the *Species at Risk Act*  
November 26, 2012, to March 1, 2013

For populations of:  
• Anticosti Island  
• Quebec Eastern North Shore  
• Quebec Western North Shore  
• Inner St. Lawrence  
• Gaspé-Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence

Today, hundreds of wildlife species face the risk of extinction in Canada. Some are symbols in our diverse cultures and heritage; some are the last of their kind in the world – and all of them have an essential role to play in the environments where they live.

Canada



## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SERVICE DELIVERY CHANGES

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is amending delivery of certain services to make better use of current technologies, to improve service consistency and to bring better stability to the fishing industry.

### New online licensing system

Fishing licence issuing and payment services will be moving to online delivery. Beginning on January 1, 2013, a new secure service system will be available to fishers 24/7.

Any fisher who needs assistance can attend training sessions, watch Web-tutorials and consult a user guide. Information can be accessed via e-mail, a toll-free phone number or by making an appointment for in-person assistance. Payments for licensing fees can also be made by a designated representative on your behalf. To ensure a smooth transition, licensing services will remain available at local offices until March 31, 2013.

### Payment for gear tags and logbooks

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is eliminating the practice whereby some fishers pay for gear tags while others do not. In addition to assuming the costs associated with gear tags, the industry will provide and distribute tags beginning in the 2013 season.

We have worked with the industry to determine where gear tags are still required. As part of these fisheries, the industry will be responsible for obtaining and paying for tags from approved suppliers. A list of approved tag suppliers will be published on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website in coming weeks.

The Department regulates the practice concerning logbooks. The cost of logbooks is a business expense for fishers; consequently, the industry will assume the costs associated with the purchase of logbooks used for these fisheries beginning on January 1, 2013.

Logbooks used in 2012 are valid for the 2013 season and may be used. The Department will distribute the remaining logbooks from its 2012 inventory while supplies last. Information on how to obtain logbooks for the 2013 season is available on the Department's website.

### At-Sea Observer Program

As of April 1, 2013, the industry will become fully responsible for at-sea observer program costs.

The industry can now negotiate contracts directly with at-sea observer service providers who are certified by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Department will still be responsible for establishing program standards, and certifying service providers, as well as verifying the program.

### Multi-year planning

Most fisheries will soon be managed based on multi-year plans and stock assessment advisory reports. Multi-year planning provides a predictable and stable access to the resource, which makes planning long-term activities possible and maximizes economic performance. The status of fish stocks and the fishing activities situation will continue to be monitored regularly to allow for appropriate interventions as required.

### For more information

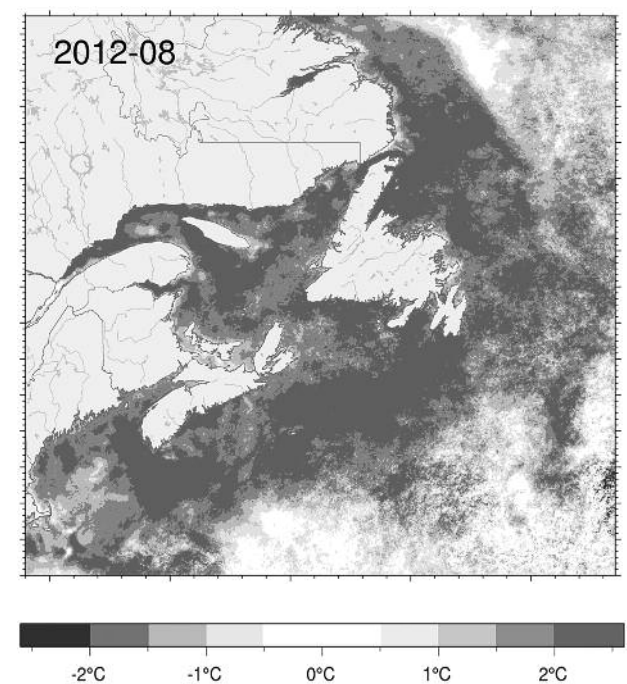
Fisheries and Oceans Canada will continue to communicate directly with fishers and their associations, as well as other key stakeholders, to ensure that everyone is informed of the upcoming changes. For more information, visit the Department's website ([www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)).

Patrick Vincent  
Regional Director, Fisheries Management

## WATER TEMPERATURE A RECORD IN AUGUST 2012

Since 1985, for all of Canada, satellite data of water temperature has been collected daily. In August 2012, usually the warmest month of the year, the data revealed that the surface water of the Gulf of St. Lawrence was 2 °C warmer than normal. This sets a new record. In fact, the average temperature of surface water in August is 15.3 °C, whereas in 2012, it was 17.3 °C.

Temperature anomaly



It is interesting to note the relationship between water temperature and air temperature. It is therefore not surprising to see that air temperature in the Gulf was 2.3 °C above normal last August. What is surprising is that this temperature is the highest since data collection began in 1945! In fact, the combined air temperatures for July, August and September 2012 were the warmest in at least 67 years. It is therefore likely that the record water temperature also dates back to that period.

Peter S. Galbraith and Pierre Larouche  
Science

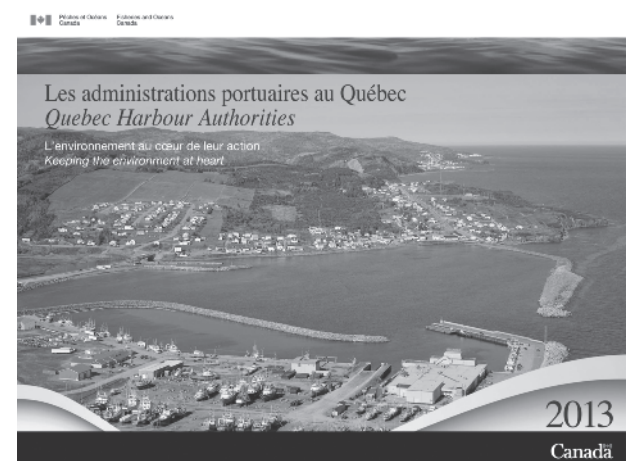
## New publications

### THE 2013 HARBOUR AUTHORITIES CALENDAR

Back by popular demand after its success this past year is the harbour authorities' 2013 calendar! The theme is *Quebec Harbour Authorities – Keeping the environment at heart*.

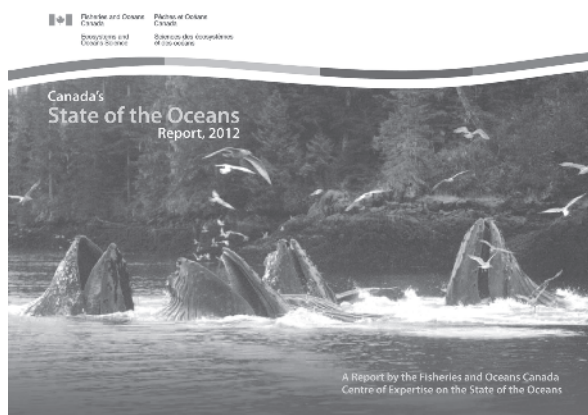
This calendar serves as an important communications tool. It raises awareness of the crucial role that harbour authorities play in community economic development while upholding the highest environmental protection standards in fishing harbours. As a result, more copies will be printed. The calendar will also be distributed to fishers' associations, municipalities and regional county municipalities to promote the services offered by harbour authorities in managing commercial fishing harbours.

Lyne Beaumont  
Small Craft Harbours



## CANADA'S STATE OF THE OCEANS REPORT, 2012

*Canada's State of the Oceans Report, 2012* presents a summary of the analysis of marine data concerning trends and changes in Canada's oceans. Resulting from the Health of the Oceans Initiative, the report presents a summary of the information contained in the detailed scientific reports prepared for the five Large Ocean Management Areas: the Pacific North Coast; the Beaufort Sea in the Arctic Ocean; the Gulf of St. Lawrence; the Eastern Scotian Shelf and the Placentia Bay/Grand Banks regions of the Atlantic.



Themes in *Canada's State of the Oceans Report, 2012*:

- Ecosystem Shifts
- Ocean Acidification
- Hypoxia
- Sea Ice Variability
- Ocean Climate
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Coldwater Corals and Sponges

The report is available on the Department's national website at [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/coe-cde/soto/index-eng.asp](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/coe-cde/soto/index-eng.asp).

## 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
Ronald B�nard Magdalen Islands	Fishing for lobster without a licence, possession of lobsters under the minimum size and fishing for lobster in a lagoon. <b>\$750 + 120 hrs of community service</b>
Marc Bernier Alma Alexandre Martin Lac-K�nogami	Possession of fish from the Saguenay River recreational groundfish fishery processed to the point where it is difficult to determine their species. <b>\$150 (M. B.) \$300 (A.M.)</b>
Jean-Claude Boudreau Magdalen Islands	Possession of a non-compliant firearm for the seal hunt. <b>\$300</b>
Mark Clarke Magdalen Islands	Possession of lobsters under the legal minimum size. <b>\$1,000</b>
Albert Cyr Magdalen Islands	Failing to palpate a seal's cranium to confirm that it was crushed and failing to bleed harvested seals as soon as possible. <b>\$1,000</b>
Marvens Doonan La Baie	Exceeding the weekly limit of five fish for the Saguenay River recreational groundfish fishery. <b>\$500</b>
Jules Gagnon Godbout	Fishing for whelks without a licence. <b>\$500 + confiscation of three whelk pots</b>
Sylvain Gauthier Baie-Trinit�	Failure to weigh entire landed snow crab catch. <b>\$2,500 + confiscation of the proceeds from the sale, \$754.82</b>
L�opold Joncas Paul-Aim� Joncas Blanc-Sablon	Recreational cod fishing in a closed area. <b>\$500 each</b>

OFFENDER/ RESIDENCE	OFFENCE/FINE
Martin Langford Magdalen Islands	Failing to weigh entire landed snow crab catch. <b>\$1,000</b>
Christian Leblanc Magdalen Islands	Use of a non-regulated club for the seal hunt. <b>\$200</b>
Pierre-Paul Leblanc Daniel Martinet Magdalen Islands	Harvesting softshell clam in a closed area and possession of undersized softshell clams. <b>\$600 (P.-P. L.) \$700 (D. M.)</b>
Jacques Morneau Les Escoumins	Non-compliance with Atlantic halibut licence conditions by keeping Atlantic halibut under the minimum legal size and landing fish without a dockside observer present. <b>\$1,250 + confiscation of the value of the seized fish, \$68.48</b>
Tony Otis Jean-Paul Ross Les Escoumins	Harvesting softshell clam in a closed area. <b>\$500 each</b>
Gino Poirier Magdalen Islands	Use of a non-compliant firearm for the seal hunt. <b>\$500</b>
Steve Vigneau Magdalen Islands	Taking Atlantic surf clam in a closed area. <b>\$300</b>
Sylvain Vigneau Magdalen Islands	Fishing for lobster without a licence and fishing for lobster in a lagoon. <b>\$1,500 + ban from entering any Magdalen Islands lagoons for the next 15 months, with the exception of the Grande-Entr�e lagoon between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. for the Atlantic surf clam fishery</b>

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