



# INFOCEANS

THE QUEBEC REGION BULLETIN — APRIL - MAY 2009/VOLUME 12/NUMBER 2

## SHORT SEAL HUNTING SEASON ON THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS

This year, access to the seals around the Islands was first made available for an inshore hunt, a traditional activity during which a few hundred Magdalen Islanders harvested seals for their meat. Then, on March 23, the competitive hunt opened and some twenty boats headed out to the ice pack, while several squads took part in the hunt on land. In all, the 300 to 350 participants harvested nearly 20,000 seals in a few days.

When the seal hunting permits were issued, DFO fisheries officers met most of the permit holders to inform them of the regulations and conditions in force in 2009. The hunters agreed willingly to participate in these information sessions; they listened attentively and took the opportunity to put their questions to the fisheries officers.

The first analyses of the monitoring done during the hunt indicate that the three-step slaughtering method



DFO M. PLAMONDON

**Fisheries Officer Jean-Claude Richard checking to make sure the seal's skull is properly crushed, indicating brain death, before the hunter proceeds to bleed the animal out.**

introduced to ensure a humane hunt was respected by a large majority of the commercial hunters, who worked with the cameras focussed on them. In fact, while a few irregularities were observed by the Conservation and Protection Branch and are currently being investigated, the compliance rate was generally very high.

Despite the presence of groups opposed to the seal hunt, this activity essential to Islands social and economic life took place in an ordered fashion.

Once again this year, researchers from Greece, France and China were present on the Islands to continue the research on seal heart valves they began last year. This highly promising research is expected to lead to clinical trials on humans within two or three years and if conclusive, would be of tremendous economic benefit to the market for products derived from the harp seal.

On the Magdalen Islands, the seal hunt signals the start of the fishing season, and is the first of a number of major fishing activities – the lifeblood of this Gulf of St. Lawrence community – that will take place one after the other over the next few months.

Sylvette Leblanc  
Magdalen Islands Area

## FUNDING TO SUPPORT AQUACULTURE INNOVATION IN QUEBEC

Two innovative projects for improving the production and economic performance of Quebec's shellfish farming industry will receive the total sum of \$141,000 from the Government of Canada under the *Aquaculture Innovation and Market Access Program (AIMAP)*.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is committed to improving the competitiveness, productivity and environmental performance of the Canadian aquaculture industry, and is backing its commitment with a \$23.5 million investment over five years to support this highly productive industry that contributes to the economic development of rural, coastal and First Nations communities.

### INSPIRING TECHNOLOGY

The first project aims to help Quebec's young shellfish farming industry adapt or create technologies to mechanize or automate certain operations for use in the

short term, using technology developed elsewhere in the world as a source of inspiration. The following technologies will be studied:

- A mechanical cleaner for buoys attached to floating longlines;
- A system to prevent tangling of the ropes used to raise and lower submerged longline cultures;
- A mussel harvesting technique that will substantially reduce losses;
- A scallop production technique using an "earring" suspension structure; and
- A hydraulic mechanical rake to reduce the number of people needed to gather clams.

The second project involves the development of an inventory-compiling technique and the production of specific software suitable for shellfish farming. The program, which will be introduced to the industry in April 2009, will allow producers who are less familiar

with computers to easily manage their sea farming operations, equipment and shellfish stocks from a single database.

The Société de développement de l'industrie maricole (SODIM) and its regional partners will invest more than \$300,000 in the two projects.

Additional information on DFO's aquaculture program and on how to submit applications for AIMAP funding, a summary of funded projects, FAQ and a list of resource persons are posted on line at [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/sustainable-durable/innovation-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/sustainable-durable/innovation-eng.htm).

Pierre Lauzier  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Management

Fisheries (2)	Convictions (2)	Navigation (3)
Dispatches (4)	New publications (4)	

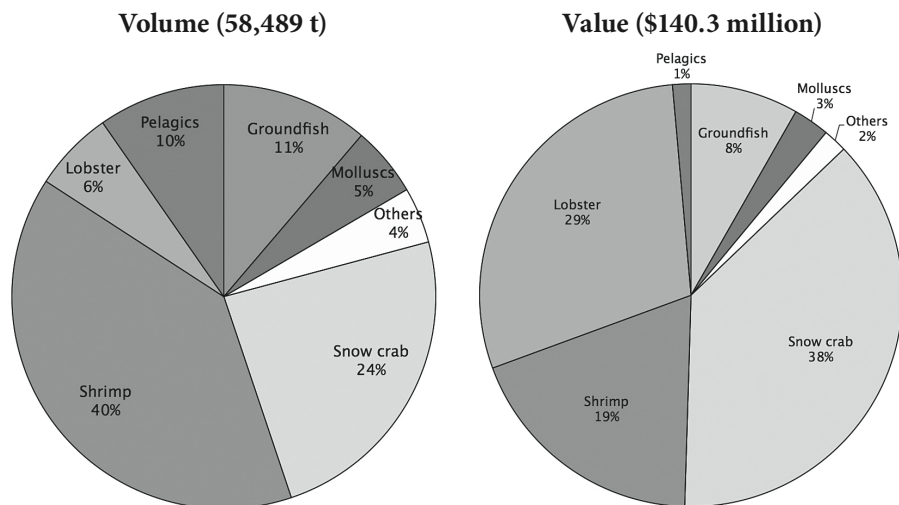
# QUEBEC'S FISHING INDUSTRY

## 2008 REPORT

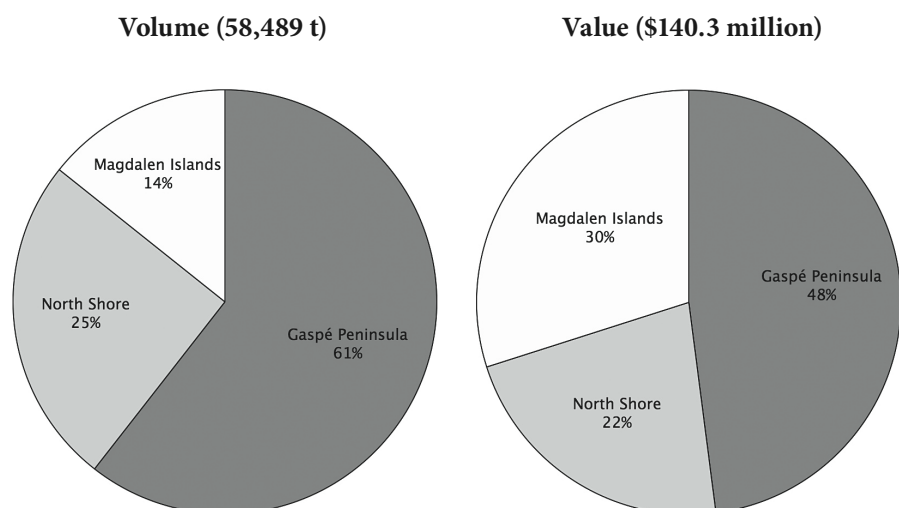
In 2008, Quebec's fishers landed 58,489 t of fish and crustaceans with a value of \$140.3 million.

Shrimp, snow crab and lobster dominated in both volume (69%) and value (86%), followed by groundfish, mostly Greenland halibut and cod.

### LANDINGS BY SPECIES



### LANDINGS BY MARITIME SECTOR



The Gaspé Peninsula led the other two maritime sectors in terms of landing value (over \$67.3 million), followed by the Magdalen Islands (\$42.0 million) and the North Shore (\$31.0 million).

Shrimp and snow crab were the principal species caught on the Gaspé Peninsula, while snow crab dominated on the North Shore and lobster headed the list on the Magdalen Islands.

Although the total volumes of the species landed have remained relatively stable over the last decade, landing values have fluctuated widely, essentially because of variations in the prices paid for snow crab, lobster and shrimp.

In 2004, the total value of landings peaked at \$200 million, spurred primarily by the high landing price paid for snow crab. Total values for the principal species declined thereafter, pushed downward by market prices, a situation worsened by the current economic situation.

### EXPORTS

Over 70% of Quebec's marine products, worth more than \$230 million, are exported to markets around the world. The United States are by far our principal market, with nearly 80% of our product being shipped there, followed by Europe which takes 11%.

Snow crab, shrimp and lobster together account for nearly 60% of Quebec's exports.

Quebec ranked fifth amongst Canadian provinces for its fish and seafood exports in 2008.

The data for 2008 provided in this article include estimated supplementary purchase slips (SPS).

Christina Haché  
Policy and Economics

## Convictions

### CONVICTIONS FOR FISHERIES ACT VIOLATIONS

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Quebec Region, has released the names of fishermen who have received fines for violations of the *Fisheries Act*. DFO continues to strictly enforce its zero tolerance policy for violators. 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
Armand Anderson Tête-à-la-Baleine	Crab fishing without a licence and during a closed time. \$1,000
Réal Bond Rivière-au-Renard	Failure to hail out 12 hours before sailing. \$1,000
Rémi Bouchard Godbout	Landing and possession of 74 groundfish over the maximum permitted number for one day of recreational fishing. \$300
Paul Chiasson Étang-du-Nord	Non-compliance with lobster licence conditions (began fishing before 5:00 am). \$750
Alex Clarke Grosse-Île	Fishing for lobster without a licence, during a closed time and in a lagoon on the Magdalen Islands. \$2,250 + with a ban on being in a lagoon for the next three years, except to fish aboard the <i>Going Gray II</i> .
Marty Clarke Grosse-Île	Fishing for lobster without a licence, during a closed time and in a lagoon on the Magdalen Islands. \$2,250 + with a ban on being in a lagoon for the next three years.
Ronnie Condo Maria	Shellfish harvesting in a closed area. \$300
Arnold Cotton Barachois (Percé)	Shellfish harvesting in a closed area. \$300
Gerry Dubé Grande-Rivière	Possession of undersized lobster. \$500
Lisa Dumont Trois-Pistoles	Possession of undersized whelks. \$800
Ivan Etheridge Brador	Use of a fishing vessel for crab fishing by a person whose name is not on the licence. \$300
Andrew Fequet Old Fort	Non-compliance with lobster licence conditions for 2007 by having in his possession three lobsters under the minimum legal size of 82 mm. \$500
André Grenier Saint-Godefroi	Fishing for lobster using traps without valid tags. Fishing for lobster with more than 235 traps. \$700
Barry Hart Brador	Allowing a third party to use his crab licence without replacement authorization. \$300
Patsy Jérôme Maria	Shellfish harvesting in a closed area. \$300
Jean-Richard Joncas Blanc-Sablon	Use of a fishing vessel to fish for cod without his name appearing on the licence. \$300
Neil Jones Blanc-Sablon	Use of a fishing vessel to fish for cod without his name appearing on the licence. \$300
Raymond Mansbridge Mutton Bay	Non-compliance with lobster licence conditions by having in his possession 47 lobsters under the minimum legal size of 82 mm and four egg-bearing female lobsters. \$5,000
Ryan Martin Minor Maria	Shellfish harvesting in a closed area. \$300
Sonya Monger Tête-à-la-Baleine	Crab fishing without a licence and during a closed time. \$1,000
Daniel Osbourne Chevery	Non-compliance with bait licence conditions by setting his net less than one fathom below the surface of the water. \$300
Robert Parent Le Bic	Failure to hail in as required by licence conditions. \$1,000
Charles Quessy Baie-Comeau	Clam harvesting in a closed area. \$300
Aaron Rowsell Harrington Harbour	Lobster fishing without a licence and during a closed time. \$750

Martin Bourget  
Communications

## KEEP YOUR NAUTICAL CHARTS CURRENT: TO MATCH REALITY!

The shipping season is about to begin again and quite a few of you have already begun to get ready. But have you thought about up-dating your charts?

Nautical charts are essential for navigating. But charts have to be kept up to date to avoid running aground on a shoal that has shifted or becoming confused when buoys are moved. Chart corrections are issued via the *Notices to Mariners* published by the Canadian Coast Guard. These notices contain all the information needed to keep nautical charts and publications current.

### HOW CAN YOU CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR CHART IS UP TO DATE?

1. Check the publication date and the date of the *Notice to Mariners* that appear in the lower left corner of your paper chart.

ÉDITIONS ANTÉRIEURES/PREVIOUS EDITIONS 1985 '96 '98 20 '02  
 NOUVELLE ÉDITION/NEW EDITION MARS/MAR 27 2009  
 Corrigée jusqu'à l'AVIS AUX NAVIGATEURS / Corrected to NOTICES TO MARINERS 2009-04-05  
 Voir Avis aux navigateurs pour les corrections subséquentes / See Notices to Mariners for subsequent corrections

2. Go to [www.charts.gc.ca](http://www.charts.gc.ca) to see the list of current editions of nautical charts. There, you will also find the latest *Notice to Mariners* published for that particular chart. Make sure you use a current edition.
3. Go to [notmar.gc.ca](http://notmar.gc.ca), and look for subsequent *Notices to Mariners* that modify your chart. You can sign up for the *Notice to Mariners* e-newsletter. This service allows you to create a personal profile and record the numbers of your nautical charts. You will then be informed by e-mail whenever a new *Notice* is published for one of your charts.

The Canadian Hydrographic Service Web site ([www.charts.gc.ca](http://www.charts.gc.ca)) reminds readers of how to make corrections to their charts in the section *Up-date your chart in five easy steps*. *Chart 1, Symbols, Abbreviations, Terms* is essential when it comes to keeping your charts current.

Up-dating your nautical charts is a good habit to get into. And it's free, so why not do it!

Please take note that a new service to update electronic raster charts will soon be available on line.

Élisa Desjardins  
 Canadian Hydrographic Service

## THE NOTICES TO MARINERS WEB SITE: NOTMAR.GC.CA



Are you familiar with *Notices to Mariners*, a navigation tool developed and maintained by the Canadian Coast Guard? This unique reference system transmits complete information about obstructions to navigation – wrecks, shoals, aquaculture sites – as well as on a range of regulations that have been adopted and procedures that are to be followed by ships entering or passing through Canadian waters.

*Notices to Mariners* are available on the Web at [notmar.gc.ca](http://notmar.gc.ca). There, you will quickly find general information, information for safe sailing, any permanent changes to sea charts and nautical publications such as *Radio Aids to Marine Navigation*, *Sailing Directions and Nautical Guides* and the *Lists of Lights, Buoys and Fog Signals*.

### BY VISITING THE NOTICES TO MARINERS WEB SITE, YOU CAN:

- Consult on line, download or print, in either official language, the various nautical publications produced by CCG;
- Update your nautical publications and charts (see text to the left);
- Access archived information on *Notices to Mariners* issued since 1995;
- Rapidly access other Canadian Coast Guard *Aids to Navigation Program* publications like the *Canadian Aids to Navigation System*, and a variety of publications on global positioning systems (GPS) and the *Differential Global Positioning System* (DGPS).

### THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON LINE:

- Monthly and annual *Notices to Mariners*;
- *Notices to Mariners Summary of Temporary and Preliminary Notices*;
- *Lists of Lights, Buoys and Fog Signals* covering all of Canada's navigable waters.

### OTHER USEFUL ON-LINE OPTIONS

- Links to access the publication *Radio Aids to Marine Navigation* (RAMN) and to written notices to mariners for the Quebec region ([www.marinfo.gc.ca](http://www.marinfo.gc.ca)) and for neighbouring CCG regions.

Danielle Fortin  
 Canadian Coast Guard

## DID YOU KNOW...

To comply with the *Canada Shipping Act* and the *Charts and Nautical Publications Regulations*, captains and ship's owners must have on board the latest edition of the relevant nautical charts – for every zone where the ship is expected to sail – as well as revised and up-dated nautical publications.

## VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES AT SEA... FOR OVER 30 YEARS

The volunteer marine rescuers of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) take part in hundreds of search and rescue missions every year, thereby saving many lives. In addition, CCGA puts a tremendous effort into promoting safety on the water.

In 1978, CCGA was created by the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) to provide Canada with a marine rescue service composed of volunteers. Given the immense size of the water bodies and the length of the Canadian coastline, CCG employees were unable to cover all areas on their own. Today, CCGA has about 5,000 volunteers in Canada – 700 in Québec – grouped into 55 units. They have 130 search and rescue vessels at their disposal, most of them owned by individuals.

The Quebec region territory is vast: it encompasses the waterways of the St. Lawrence River and its main tributaries from the Ontario border to the limits of Labrador, including Chaleur Bay and part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The CCGA mission is to save 100% of the lives in danger on the water and keep material losses to a minimum. For many years, the volunteer CCGA marine rescue crews have conducted over 30% of all search and rescue missions at sea. In Canada, they have participated in over 38,000 missions and saved more than 4,000 lives. Moreover, they have invested thousands of hours in prevention, paying courtesy visits to pleasure craft and small fishing vessels.

### BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

Volunteer auxiliaries are recruited on the basis of highly precise criteria that take into account their experience, knowledge, aptitude for team work and availability. They must have completed a recognized first aid course and hold a restricted radio operator's certificate. In addition, they have to take part in training to become more efficient in search and rescue operations, and in prevention.

Search and rescue requirements call for equipment that is well adapted to conditions at sea and able to withstand harsh weather conditions. Moreover, when recruiting new members, CCGA looks for people with sound knowledge of navigation and who have adequate



and well equipped vessels, like fishing boats or other similar ships. North Shore and Gaspé Peninsula fishers who are interested in becoming volunteer rescuers can obtain more information by calling 1-877-746-4385 or by visiting our Web site at [www.ccg-a-gcac.org](http://www.ccg-a-gcac.org).

Louis Arsenault,  
 Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary

## AQUATIC INVADERS: AN IDENTIFICATION BOOKLET

People using the marine environment in Eastern Canada will now be better equipped to help fight invasive aquatic species.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has just produced a booklet identifying the principal species that have invaded some areas in Eastern Canada. It provides information on how to recognize undesirable species and describes what people can do to keep them from spreading and settling here permanently.

This booklet is particularly useful for people involved in activities that take place on the water and who are likely to observe invasive species and report their presence: fishers, aquaculturers, mariners, divers, mollusc harvesters, etc. It is available at Fisheries and Oceans Canada offices.

Gaspe-Lower-St. Lawrence: 418-368-5559  
Magdalen Islands: 418-986-2095  
North Shore: 1-800-463-1729



## NEW SCIENCE ADVISORY REPORTS ON THE INTERNET

The following science advisory reports are now available on the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat's Internet site, [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas/](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas/), in the CSAS Publications section, *Science Advisory Reports (2005+)*, years 2008 and 2009:

- Recovery potential assessment for freshwater harbour seal, *Phoca vitulina mellonae*, (Lac des Loups Marins Designated Unit (DU) (2008/062)
- Assessment of shrimp stocks in the estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence in 2008 (2009/01)
- Assessment of cod stock in the northern Gulf of St. Lawrence (3Pn,4RS) in 2008 (2009/010)

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## THE MAMILOSSA IS ON ITS WAY!



DFO P. DIONNE

Last March 5, the Canadian Coast Guard took possession of a new air cushion vehicle (ACV), the CCGS *Mamilossa*. Built in England, the *Mamilossa* will be based in Trois-Rivières and will replace the CCGS *Waban Aki*, an air cushion vehicle built in 1987.

The *Mamilossa* will be used for icebreaking on rivers, the foreshore flats of the St. Lawrence and places that are hard for conventional icebreakers to reach. This hovercraft, with a heavy-duty crane and engine, can take on and off load larger buoys. It can also carry rolling stock since it is equipped with a ramp that provides direct access to the loading deck. This latter characteristic makes it particularly effective during pollution clean-up operations. In addition, the *Mamilossa* can be used for search and rescue missions.

The Abenaki word *mamilossa* means "he who goes from water to land" and is pronounced maw-may-loas-saw.

## ONE TURTLE AT A TIME

Through the Species at Risk Coordination Espèces en Péril (SARCEP) program pursuant to the *Species at Risk Act*, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's North Shore Sector works to raise the awareness of fishers about protecting species at risk.

We would like to thank Jean-François Beaudoin of Blanc-Sablon who, during the 2008 fishing season, freed a leatherback turtle from his net. This turtle, an endangered species, was spotted again in the same area for a few days following its release.

Beaudoin recorded the incidental catch in his species at risk logbook for the 2008 season. Because he took the trouble to write down this information, specialists were able to conduct a follow-up and compile very valuable data on the leatherback turtle.

Thanks go to all the fishers who help protect aquatic species at risk... one turtle at a time!



F. CUTHBERT

Mona Rochette  
North Shore Area

## USE CAUTION WHEN EATING SHELLFISH

Fisheries and Oceans Canada wishes to inform the public of the health hazards of eating shellfish taken from closed areas. Eating contaminated shellfish is dangerous and may lead to paralysis and even death.

Shellfish harvesting is prohibited in closed areas. In addition, shellfish harvesting is prohibited within 125 metres of a wharf, due to the risk of contamination.

To protect public health, Fisheries and Oceans Canada is ever vigilant in its efforts to prevent shellfish harvesting in closed areas. It is also asking the public to report poaching incidents by calling 1-800-463-9057. All calls are confidential.

## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANS ON THE INTERNET

The most recent fishing management plans are now available on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Internet site, [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca), in the *Highlights* section, under *Fisheries Management Decisions*.

You will find information on species, where they are found (region/area), opening and closing dates for the season, total allowable catches, and management plans. This section is updated on an ongoing basis.

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