



INFOCEANS

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MINISTER SHEA VISITS THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable Gail Shea, was on the Magdalen Islands last July 17. Richard Nadeau, Regional General Director, and Roger Simon, Magdalen Islands Sector Director – both with Fisheries and Oceans Canada – accompanied her on her visit.



Minister Shea at the press conference

The Minister was on the Islands to announce funding for the aquaculture industry through the *Aquaculture Innovation and Market Access Program* (AIMAP). She also used her visit to meet with various marine industry stakeholders on the Islands.

For instance, she held discussions with representatives of fish harvester's associations, seal hunters and harbour authorities, aquaculturers and marine product processors as well as with the Islands' municipal and provincial elected officials.

These meetings notably gave her an opportunity to see harbour facilities where investments are planned as part of



With Gaston Lapierre, General Manager of Fruits de Mer Madeleine at the buffet cocktail

Canada's *Economic Action Plan*, a processing plant and the Centre d'interprétation du phoque in Grande-Entrée.

A light buffet was served at day's end at Site de la Côte near the Étang-du-Nord fishing harbour. All industry stakeholders were present, as well as the Municipalité des Îles-de-la-Madeleine Mayor, Joël Arseneau, and Member of the National Assembly for the riding, Germain Chevarie. In short, it was a busy day for the Minister!

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INAUGURATION OF THE HOVERCRAFT *ACV MAMILOSSA*

The new Canadian Coast Guard air cushion vehicle, the *ACV Mamilossa*, was inaugurated by the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, last July 30 in Trois-Rivières. The ceremony included a blessing and purification following the Abenaki tradition.

Each air cushion vehicle (ACV) in the Canadian Coast Guard fleet bears an Amerindian name that reflects the Native culture present in the area surrounding its home port; in the Abenaki language, *Mamilossa*, means "it walks from the shore onto the water".

The godmother of the *ACV Mamilossa*, Claudette Petitpas, also participated in the ceremony by breaking a bottle of champagne on the hovercraft's hull. For over 30 years, Claudette Petitpas has served as a volunteer with the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA), Quebec Region, and has contributed her time to the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons.

The *Mamilossa* is a heavy, powerful amphibious hovercraft that is used to clear ice jams from rivers and areas that are hard to reach with conventional icebreakers. In addition to the essential role it plays in preventing floods, it is used as a buoy tender and will be assigned to search and rescue operations, and environmental interventions.

The *Mamilossa* is based in Trois-Rivières and can be deployed rapidly to any area in Québec served by the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG).

The hovercraft's technical specifications are available at the following address: <http://www.marinfo.gc.ca/en/flotte/mamilossa.asp>

Stéphanie Lapointe
Communications Branch



DFO P. DIONNE

The *ACV Mamilossa* was inaugurated in the presence of René Grenier, CCG Deputy Commissioner, Marc Démonceaux, CCG Assistant Commissioner, Quebec Region, Luc Lavoie, Commander, Trois-Rivières Hovercraft Base, George Da Pont, CCG Commissioner, Claudette Petitpas, *ACV Mamilossa* godmother, and Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

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WHALE RESCUE

A SPERM WHALE ON THE NORTH SHORE

Last June, a sperm whale which had become entangled in fishing gear in Baie de Sept-Îles was released from its bonds. The marine mammal, some fifteen metres in length and weighing about 40 tonnes was unable to move. It had become entangled in the lines connecting a crab pot to a buoy. After several hours of work, residents and Fisheries and Oceans Canada officers finally managed to free the animal. The cetacean immediately swam away offshore, but some ropes remained attached to its body; it was unfortunately found dead a few days later.



A MINKE WHALE IN GASPÉ PENINSULA WATERS

A week earlier fishery officers took part in the rescue of a minke whale in the Grande-Rivière area. The whale was trapped by a lobster pot line and was only able to keep its head out of the water. It took two hours of hard work to free the cetacean.

Fishery officers Clément Beaudoin, Kent Chrétien, Daniel Dickner, Alain Fortin, Ken Jenniss, Colette Major and Mario Moreau took part in these no-less-than-perilous rescue missions. Most Fisheries and Oceans Canada officers in the Quebec region have taken a rescue training session organized by specialists at the Group for Research and Education on Marine Mammals (GREMM) to learn how to intervene rapidly when whales become tangled in fishing gear. These officers deserve our congratulations for their efforts to help these large marine mammals in trouble.

Martial Ménard
Policy and Economics Branch

Aquaculture

AQUACULTURE INNOVATION IN QUEBEC

Three Quebec projects will receive a total of \$66,000 in federal funding to help them innovate their operations, boost their productivity and improve the economic performance of the enterprises receiving funding. This investment, through the *Aquaculture Innovation and Market Access Program* (AIMAP), is in addition to the \$141,000 announced last year for two other Quebec aquaculture projects.

COMMERCIAL-SCALE SOFTSHELL CLAM GROW-OUT OPERATIONS

The softshell clam is a candidate species for aquaculture diversification in Quebec and on Canada's East Coast. Softshell clam farming is in development and has been the subject of experimental research, especially on the Magdalen Islands. This project aims to apply the knowledge acquired to commercial production. More specifically, the goal is to raise juveniles by developing and testing two systems: a pre-grow-out system for tiny softshell clams and a system to protect them from their predators.

MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION OF SOFTSHELL CLAM SPAT-SORTING OPERATIONS

Softshell spat sorting remains one of the main technological obstacles keeping the emerging softshell clam industry in Quebec from becoming profitable. This project aims to equip the industry with an effective and affordable sorting concept that will significantly lower operating costs. After conducting an analysis of the current manual sorting procedure and the previous sorter design trials, the work team will proceed to design and manufacture a prototype that will be tested on the Magdalen Islands. A cost-benefit analysis of the use of the prototype will round out the work.

COOKED MUSSEL MEAT PRODUCTION

The purpose of this project is to optimize the effectiveness of an automated pressure-cooking system for farmed mussels, taking into account product quality and production costs. The ability to produce cooked mussel meat at a competitive price will open the door for development of high-quality further-processed products. With these products, markets can be expanded while increasing the extent to which this species is developed. This will help reduce the competitive pressure on our businesses; it will also help consolidate our mussel farming industry.

The mariculture industry development corporation (Société de développement de l'industrie maricole – SODIM) and its regional partners will invest nearly \$70,000 in these three projects.

Pierre Lauzier
Fisheries and Aquaculture Management

SPECIES AT RISK : EXEMPLARY PRACTICES

Since the *Species at Risk Act* came into force, fish harvesters have had to record in a logbook any accidental catches of species at risk, particularly spotted wolffish and northern wolffish. Information on these species is very useful and provides biologists responsible for monitoring the evolution of various species with data they need.

During the last fishing season, a project to raise the awareness of skippers and assistant fishers was carried out in collaboration with the firm, Biorex. The project revealed that a growing number of Gaspé Peninsula fishers use the appropriate technique to handle wolffish and return them to the water.

Not only do Gaspé Peninsula fishers fulfil their legal obligation to provide information about species at risk, their collaboration is valuable and increasingly exemplary. We would like to draw particular attention to the contribution of Paul René Caron, Jean Savage and Irvin Jones who regularly submit properly completed logbooks.

THE WOLFFISH AT A GLANCE

Wolffish – spotted wolffish, northern wolffish and Atlantic wolffish – are long-lived, solitary fish that grow very slowly. They reach maturity at around 7 to 10 years of age.

They feed primarily on echinoderms like sea stars, but also on crustaceans, molluscs and other fish. Spawning takes place in summer when the wolffish deposit clumps of large eggs directly on the seabed.

Although all three wolffish species present in the Gulf of St. Lawrence appear in the species at risk registry produced pursuant to the *Species at Risk Act*, the status of the spotted wolffish and northern wolffish is more serious (they are considered threatened). In less than 20 years, their numbers have declined by more than 90 percent. The most likely threats include death due to accidental by-catch and habitat modification as a result of bottom trawling.

Information on species at risk sent in by fishers and observers, particularly via logbooks, helps improve our knowledge.

Chantale Thiboutot
Fisheries and Aquaculture Management



ANDREW J. MARTINEZ

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
1-866-660-6948 (toll free)
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.

MINISTER SHEA VISITS THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS



The Minister met stakeholders from the Grosse-Île Anglophone community. Here, she is with Richard Sweet (centre), President of the Grosse-Île Harbour Authority, David Burke (left), President of the Association of Inshore Fishermen of the Magdalen Islands, Sylvie Boucher, MP for Beauport-Limoilou and Winston Clark (right), Manager of the Cape Dolphin Cooperative. She visited the Cooperative's plant and the Grosse-Île wharf where a harbour repair project is planned.



The Mayor of the Municipalité des Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Joël Arseneau, offers the Minister a selection of local products to welcome her to the Islands.



The Minister with Léonard Poirier, Director General of the Association des pêcheurs propriétaires des Îles de la Madeleine (APPIM), during a dinner with association representatives and Germain Chevarie, Member of the National Assembly for the Îles-de-la-Madeleine riding. Minister Shea invited APPIM to express its point of view on Component II of the *Atlantic and Quebec Lobster Sustainability Measures Program*.

Luc Boucher
Magdalen Islands Sector



Minister Shea felt it important to meet with all seal industry stakeholders, not only the hunters but also the processors. She assured them that both she and the Minister of International Trade would continue to seek solutions concerning the decision by the Council of the European Union to ban the trade of all seal products within the EU.

- 1) Discussion with Denis Longuépée, President of the Association des chasseurs de phoque des Îles, at the Centre d'interprétation du phoque in Grande-Entrée
- 2) At Boucherie Côte-à-Côte, where Minister Shea procured a variety of seal products, with Denis Éloquin and Réjean Vigneau, both members of the Magdalen Islands Seal Advisory Committee, as well as Sylvie Boucher and Denis Longuépée
- 3) Bernard Guimont, TAMASU President, explains the project underway to study the use of seal heart valves for medical purposes in humans.

DFO M. PAPAGEORGES

Dispatches

FISHERY OFFICERS FOR A DAY

This summer, four young people enrolled at elementary schools in Pabos and Caplan had the chance to become fishery officers for a day. They were chosen by means of a draw from amongst all the students who took part in the conservation and protection school program.

For an entire day, they assisted two Grande-Rivière fishery officers as they went about their patrols on land and at sea. The young people had the opportunity to visit port and fishing facilities, and to accompany the officers when they met with fishers.

This activity, highly enriching for the young participants, was made possible through the conservation and protection school program. The purpose of this program is to inform Grade 6 students about the work of fishery officers and raise their awareness about the protection of marine resources and fish habitat.



On the left, Officer Pierre Gagnon with Thomas, and right, Officer Colette Major with Claudia (École Cap Beau-Soleil, Caplan)



On the left, Officer Pierre Gagnon with Benjamin, and right, Officer Colette Major with Gabriel (École Saint-Paul, Pabos)

CONTRIBUTION TO THE ST. LAWRENCE WATER TRAIL

The Regional Small Craft Harbours Branch was very pleased to receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Fédération québécoise du canot et du kayak last May. This certificate salutes the contribution of Fisheries and Oceans Canada – in collaboration with local harbour authorities – to efforts to make its facilities accessible to the general public and to people using the St. Lawrence Water Trail.



The Department has been involved in developing this trail and its various “blue roads” for several years. In addition to opening access to some of its facilities, Department experts provide counsel on the good practices to adopt when observing marine mammals while out on the water, on fish habitat protection, and on sensitive habitats, particularly the ones used by aquatic species at risk. They also provide useful information about mapping and marine safety. In fact, this information was used to prepare 78 charts covering the sections of the trail currently open to users and to prepare an awareness-raising program.

The Water Trail is a waterway that has been charted but not marked that can be used by small, low-draft watercraft, particularly sea kayaks. It is also a network of rest areas, campgrounds, boat launching ramps and establishments providing food and lodging. The goal of this initiative is first and foremost to make the majestic St. Lawrence accessible to the public, while raising the awareness of users about the impacts their activities have on the environment and encouraging them to adopt safe practices on the water.

The trail now has four operational “blue roads” with two others under development; together they represent some 1,800 km of navigable trails.

If you're curious, check out the St. Lawrence Water Trail Web site at www.sentiermaritime.ca/english/index.asp.

Lyne Beaumont
Small Craft Harbours

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 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/HOME	OFFENCE/FINE
Yvon Chevarie Havre-aux-Maisons	Non-compliance with lobster licence conditions by starting activities before 5:00 am. \$750
Arnaud Landry Havre-Saint-Pierre	Failure to properly complete the snow crab fishery logbook for the 2008 season. \$1,000
	Fishing for scallops without activating the Vessel Monitoring System during three fishing trips. Total fines of \$1,700 + suspension of scallop licence for the period from July 15 to October 30, 2009
Aubré Wellington Leclerc Longue-Rive	Possession of softshell clams smaller than the minimum legal size of 51 mm. \$200
Marcel Mathurin Anse à Valteau	Fishing without authorization. Use of a net without a valid label. Use of nets with a mesh size under the legal limit. \$2,500
VAGUE DE FOND INVESTIGATION ON TURBOT LANDING	
Marcel Roy Cloridorme	Aiding or abetting a dockside observer to report false information. False information reported to Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Non-compliance with licence conditions by failing to have all landed fish weighed. \$7,800

Martin Bourget
Communications

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/, in the CSAS Publications section, *Science Advisory Reports (2005+)* for 2009:

- Stock assessment of Northern Quebec (Nunavik) Beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*) (2009/016)
- State of the Ocean 2008: Physical Oceanographic Conditions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (2009/019)
- Assessment of the Stimpson's surfclam stocks of Quebec coastal waters in 2008 (2009/021)
- Assessment of the Estuary and Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence (Areas 13 to 17, 12A, 12B, 12C and 16A) Snow crab stocks in 2008 (2009/027)
- Assessment of the lobster populations of the North Shore (LFAs 15, 16 and 18) and Anticosti Island (LFA 17) in 2008 (2009/047)

OVERVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

As of today, the St. Lawrence River's bill of health could be described as moderate to good according to the 2008 edition of the *Overview of the state of the St. Lawrence River*, prepared by the State of the St. Lawrence Monitoring Program Coordination Committee partners. This overview was put together as part of the *Canada-Quebec Agreement on the St. Lawrence Plan for a Sustainable Development 2005-2010*.

The study deals with the main components of the environment: water, sediments, biological resources, uses, and shorelines. It presents the findings of a number of scientists from organizations involved in implementing the *State of the St. Lawrence Monitoring Program*. Several Fisheries and Oceans Canada scientists contributed to the preparation of this easy-to-read document.

To find out more, visit the St. Lawrence Plan site at www.planstlaurent.qc.ca under *Monitoring the state of the St. Lawrence River*.

SAILING DIRECTIONS FOR THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

The Canadian Hydrographic Service has just published the 3rd edition of the booklet, *Sailing Directions for the St. Lawrence River* ATL 112. The information contained in this edition covers the area from Cap-Rouge to Montréal (including the Richelieu River), one of the busiest pleasure crafting areas in Québec.

The booklet contains a host of information provided to make waterways accessible and safe to use. It notably includes recent hydrographic information, photos, details on main and secondary channels, areas specifically marked for pleasure craft, as well as a list of marinas and the services they provide. The *Sailing Directions* booklet also gives information on the dangers inherent to sailing, currents, locks and much more.

The *Sailing Directions* booklet is available from authorized Canadian Hydrographic Service chart dealers for \$9.95. A list of chart dealers is provided at the following address: <http://www.charts.gc.ca>.

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