



INFO OCEANS

THE QUEBEC REGION BULLETIN — APRIL - MAY 2010/VOLUME 13/NUMBER 2

MINGAN WHARF SITUATION REPORT

During the night of September 18 to 19, 2009, a major fire destroyed the Mingan wharf, about 180 km east of Sept-Îles, caused considerable damage to the facilities and seriously damaged five of the eight fishing vessels moored there.

Two Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) employees, based in Sept-Îles, arrived at the scene on September 19 in the afternoon to establish safety measures and assess the damage caused to the environment. Posters and barricades were put up and a guard hired to ensure the safety of the premises.

Just a few days later, a vast operation was underway to recover the debris – a most delicate operation since the burned wharf was located near a national park. In addition, the debris floating on the water had spread over a broad area and threatened to drift even farther. A multidisciplinary team composed of employees from DFO's Sept-Îles office, the Canadian Coast Guard and Parks Canada contributed to the success of the operation.

Because the wharf was declared a total loss, the Department undertook to demolish the remains of the infrastructure a little later in the fall and managed the debris in keeping with the environmental legislation in force.

At the same time, the Small Craft Harbours Branch (SCH) team met with the local harbour authorities to seek solutions that would allow the fisher harvesters who usually use the facilities at Mingan to have temporary infrastructure available to them when the fishing season opened the following spring. The solution they came up with: a temporary floating structure.

Not only did the SCH engineering team manage the security, cleaning and demolition operations, they also contributed their expertise when the time came to build the floating replacement wharf.



GROUPE Océans

The Mingan wharf temporary structure.

Construction of the temporary infrastructure, and preparation of the related wharf-side services, began in January and by mid-March on-site deployment was underway. In the first week of April, everything was operational, including support infrastructure like electricity and lighting – just in time for the opening of the fishing season.

Given the scope of this disaster and the limited reaction time, the entire DFO team reacted effectively and professionally and showed great creativity to overcome this unexpected challenge.

Lyne Beaumont
Small Craft Harbours

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA AT THE AQIP MEETING

Once again this year, Fisheries and Oceans Canada was clearly present at the Association québécoise de l'industrie de la pêche (AQIP) annual meeting, held in Québec last January 27 and 28.

“The Department employees who participated in the various workshops and presentations consider the conference to have been highly productive and they appreciated the friendly atmosphere. This year's theme meshed perfectly with DFO objectives for the next few years”, said Richard Nadeau, DFO Regional General Director for the Quebec Region, referring to the economic prosperity of the fisheries. As evidence, in her theme-related address to meeting participants, *Our industry's positioning in terms of the world's economy*,

the Honourable Josée Verner highlighted the measures proposed by DFO to deal with such issues as access to markets and the management of sustainable fisheries. She notably pointed to the creation of the Catch Certification Office in Ottawa, which aims to enable the industry to rapidly obtain certificates confirming that catches comply with the new rules governing exports to Europe. The Honourable Josée Verner, MP and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs attended the conference on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable Gail Shea.

Verner also reminded listeners of the importance to Canada of a sustainable fishing industry, one that is balanced in economic, social and environmental considerations. Moreover, DFO is very proud that the Gulf of St. Lawrence shrimp fishery has obtained MSC certification, one of the projects initiated by AQIP.

The DFO Quebec Region delegation included several members of the regional management committee, notably Richard Nadeau, Regional Director General, Johanne Benoit-Guillot, Associate Regional Director General, Patrick Vincent, Regional Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management, Louise Deschênes, Regional Director, Policy and Economics Branch, Martin St-Gelais, Area Director, North Shore, and Vincent Malouin, Area Director, Gaspé – Lower St. Lawrence. The delegation also included several people representing the Fisheries and Aquaculture Branch and the Policy and Economics Branch.

Micheline Jacques
Associate Regional Director General's Office

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NEW SEASON OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS

The Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) began its hydrographic survey season on Quebec's navigable water bodies on April 19, 2010. The surveys focus particularly on the maintained channel in the St. Lawrence, the ports of Montreal, Trois-Rivières, Sorel, Sept-Îles and some harbours on the Gaspé Peninsula. Other surveys will also be conducted in the Lower North Shore, Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands areas as well as on the stretch of the St. Lawrence between Québec and Montréal.

The surveys are conducted using hydrographic launches equipped with highly precise echo sounders and electronic positioning systems; the information gathered – on the location of shoals, for instance – is used to update the official nautical publications and charts

produced by CHS, the ultimate goal being to ensure the safe navigation of waterways. By the end of the season in December, the hydrographic teams will have covered over 10,000 km to monitor the condition of the St. Lawrence channel.

REPORT HAZARDS

Mariners are invited to notify CHS when they discover a hazard (or an apparent hazard) to shipping or if they observe changes in the data recorded on nautical charts. To make it easier for CHS teams to spot reported hazards, it is important for the people making the reports to indicate the nature of the hazard, its position, the date and time it was observed, etc. Information can be reported by phone (418-775-0502) or by e-mail (chsinfo@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).



DFO J. BEARSELL

Richard Sanfaçon
Science

MAGDALEN ISLANDS AND THE PILOTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE ON THE 2010 TIDE TABLES

In recent years, the Canadian Hydrographic Service has featured significant events that have marked maritime history or used photos of lighthouses to illustrate the covers of its Tide Tables. The 2010 edition pays tribute to the Corporation of Lower St. Lawrence Pilots, and the Magdalen Islands.

Volume 2 of the *Canadian Tide and Current Tables* covering harbours along the Gulf of St. Lawrence is illustrated by a Magdalen Islands lighthouse, the one at Étang-du-Nord. The Association touristique régionale des îles de la Madeleine contributed by submitting the photo, taken by Pascal Arseneau, and the text that tells the tale of this lighthouse first built in 1874. This is fine opportunity to promote the charm of this group of islands located in the middle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

In addition, Volume 3 of the *Canadian Tide and Current Tables* covering the St. Lawrence estuary and the Saguenay fjord bears the logo of the Corporation of Lower St. Lawrence Pilots which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2010. The cover shows a ship passing off the Prince Shoal lighthouse, a photo taken by Jean Cloutier, a pilot on this sector of the river. It was on May 19, 1860 that a federal bill was adopted by Parliament to ensure the safety of pilots and navigation on the St. Lawrence River. One hundred years later, under the terms of a federal charter, all the pilots were grouped within the corporation that still exists today. Nowadays, pilots use the latest electronic navigation technologies, combining modern technology with their thorough knowledge of the sector to assist the captains of ships travelling on the St. Lawrence and the Saguenay, beginning from their boarding station at Les Escoumins.

Copies of the *Canadian Tide and Current Tables* can be purchased from authorized dealers. For more information about tides and water levels, consult the Web site at www.tides.gc.ca or call 1-877-775-0790.

Robert Dorais
Science



SHELLFISH HARVESTING



DFO M. PLAMONDON

Fisheries and Oceans Canada wishes to remind the public of some important regulations related to shellfish harvesting and of the risks associated with the consumption of shellfish from closed areas:

- Consumption of contaminated shellfish can cause serious illness that could result in paralysis or even death.
- Shellfish harvesting is strictly prohibited in closed areas and within 125 metres of a wharf, due to risk of contamination.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada carefully monitors closed harvesting areas and shellfish harvesting activities. Poaching activities can be reported by calling 1-800-463-9057. Your call is confidential.

For the latest information on closed and open harvesting areas, please call one of the following numbers:

- From Île-aux-Coudres to Baie-Trinité:
1-800-463-8558
- From Baie-Trinité to Blanc-Sablon:
1-800-463-1736
- From St-Roch-des-Aulnaies to Cap-Gaspé:
1-800-463-0607
- From Cap-Gaspé to Matapédia River:
1-800-463-4204
- Magdalen Islands:
418-986-3882

Dispatches

CANADIAN FISH AND SEAFOOD EXPORTS

Canadian fish and seafood exports totalled more than \$3.6 billion in 2009.

Seafood is one of the largest single food commodities exported by Canada. In 2009, two-thirds of Canada's exports of these products – worth over \$2.3 billion – went to markets in the United States. The European Union imported more than \$416 million – about 11 percent of Canada's exports, while Japan remained the third largest commercial partner, importing more than \$264 million worth of Canadian seafood.

The Hong Kong (nearly \$90 million) and Iceland (\$18.4 million) markets grew in 2009; exports to those markets increased by 24 percent and 89 percent respectively compared to 2008.

In terms of value, the top five exported species by Canadian industries were lobster, snow crab, Atlantic salmon, shrimp and herring. These species accounted for 49 percent of the volume and 63 percent of the value of all seafood product exports. Lobster continues to be the exported species that generates the greatest value in Canada with exports totalling \$800 million in 2009.



DFO R. BOURGEOIS

IN QUEBEC

Quebec is Canada's fifth largest exporter of fish and seafood products. Exports reached 28,924 tonnes, worth \$239.8 million. The exported species that generated the greatest value in 2009 were snow crab (9,133 t, worth \$78.2 million), lobster (2,031 t, worth \$42.6 million) and shrimp (1,727 t, worth \$16.2 million).

THE CAPELIN OBSERVER NETWORK CONTINUES ITS GOOD WORK!

The Capelin Observer Network (CON) was set up in 2003 to learn more about capelin spawning habits and locate spawning grounds in the Quebec portion of the estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence.

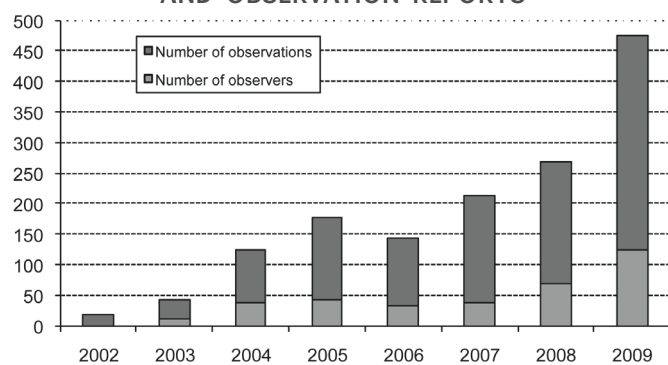
Why so much interest in such a small fish? Because the capelin is nothing less than the ecosystem's main forage species. An essential prey for cod, capelin is also a component in the diets of halibut, flounder, salmon, dolphins, seals, some whales, northern gannets and other seabirds.

Since the network was created, the number of observers and observations has grown steadily. During the 2009 season, 123 observers reported 351 observations, 243 of which involved spawning activity. This represents an increase of 78 percent in the number of observers and 77 percent in the number of observations compared to 2008.



C. TREMBLAY

EVOLUTION IN THE NUMBER OF CON OBSERVERS AND OBSERVATION REPORTS



The observations reported in 2009 were made in 61 different areas and on 84 beaches. Ten new spawning sites were catalogued this year, which refines the general capelin breeding range portrait. Also, a new capelin-related fact was discovered last year: a team of divers exploring the waters between L'Anse-Pleureuse and Gros-Morne on the Gaspé Peninsula found a demersal (on the seabed) spawning ground nine metres below the surface. The team even filmed a school of capelin spawning there. This video produced by *Un Monde à part* can be seen on the Web site maintained by the Réseau des observateurs sous-marins (www.rosm.ca), in the section entitled *Capelin*.

OVERVIEW OF SPAWNING OBSERVATIONS REPORTED IN 2009

Zone	Number of observations	Date of first and last observations
Upper estuary	25	May 17 – June 18
Lower estuary	45	April 30 – July 7
Middle North Shore	87	May 12 – July 15
Lower North Shore	7	June 23 – July 9
Gulf/Gaspé Peninsula	66	May 25 – late June
Chaleur Bay	13	May 15 – June 5
Magdalen Islands	0	—

Note: A lack of spawning observations in an area or on a given date does not mean there was no spawning activity there at that time.

The information gathered by the network helps improve the protection of capelin spawning sites, particularly during their breeding and incubation period. Measures to mitigate impact on the habitat can also be recommended when work is to be done near breeding grounds.

WHERE AND WHEN WILL THE CAPELIN BE COMING IN THIS YEAR?

This year again, the Capelin Observation Network is calling on the public and inviting people to help gather data. To send in your observations during the season or if you have any questions, you can contact:

Capelin Observer Network
1-877-227-6853
ROC-CON@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Danièle Raby
Gaspé – Lower St. Lawrence Area

THE NORTH SHORE INNU PARTICIPATE IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The members of the seven Innu communities on the coast are inarguably major Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) partners on the North Shore. These communities – and their populations of about 6,400 members – are located in the area between Tadoussac and Blanc-Sablon.

With the collaboration of the DFO Aboriginal program delivery team in the region, the North Shore area managers negotiate and implement a variety of collaborative projects essential to the development of these shoreline communities. Their interests are usually represented by AMIK, an organisation mandated to speak with DFO on behalf of the North Shore Innu in a variety of files connected to community, traditional and cultural fishing.

A UNIQUE COLLABORATOR

AMIK stands for Agence Mamu Innu Kaikuseth, which could translate as *Together, Aboriginal fish harvesters*. Founded in February 2006, AMIK partners with the Innu of Essipit (Les Escoumins), Ekuantshit (Mingan), Uashat mak Mani-Utenam (Sept-Îles/Moisie), Nutaskuan (Natashquan), Pessamit (Betsiamites), Pakua Shipu (Saint-Augustin) and Unamen Shipu (La Romaine). The creation of this organisation was backed by the DFO's Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management Program (AAROM), which aims to give Aboriginals a role in the fisheries management process. The Agency's

first actions were to proceed – with the support of various departments and ministries – to buy commercial fishing enterprises and train crews. Through a range of partnerships, AMIK and the Innu communities have managed to extend their activities to include all aspects of the commercial fishing industry, including the crew training and catch processing.

DFO's North Shore Area is a partner in several AMIK initiatives, including a project conducted in collaboration with the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec, which involves establishing an Aboriginal territorial officer program in some Innu communities. A memorandum of understanding regarding the work to be done by community officers would enable DFO to increase its capacity to deliver services in a range of fields such as conservation and protection, statistics gathering, resource management and raising public awareness about the need to protect habitat and species at risk.

An Aboriginal affairs coordinator position was recently created for the North Shore Area. This addition will allow DFO to strengthen its business relationships with various stakeholders and ensure the fullest possible integration of Innu in activities managed by the Department.

Martin St-Gelais
Director, North Shore Area

Denis Gilbert
Science

New publications

RISING SEA LEVELS: MELTING GLACIERS OR OCEAN WARMING?

The satellites that have been measuring sea levels since 1992 show the average level of the planet's oceans to be gradually rising at a pace of about 3.2 cm per decade and that this pace has increased in comparison to previous decades. However, it is hard to know how much of this is attributable to melting glaciers, which add water to the oceans, or the warming of water already in the oceans, which expands as its temperature rises.

A program to measure ocean temperature and salinity, launched in 2000 and known as the Argo project (www.argo.net), allows us to estimate the pace at which the oceans are warming. A recent study undertaken by Fisheries and Oceans Canada researchers indicates that ocean warming alone has pushed the sea level upwards by 2.2 cm per decade between the early 1990s and the 2006-2008 period.

A scientific article presenting the results of this study was recently published in the journal, *Atmosphere-Ocean*, Number 47, by researchers Howard Freeland at the Institute of Ocean Sciences (Sidney, BC) and Denis Gilbert at the Maurice Lamontagne Institute (Mont-Joli, QC); both institutes are Fisheries and Oceans Canada research centres.

SHARE YOUR COMMENTS WITH US

Behind each issue of *Infoceans* is a dedicated team that does its utmost to offer you a newsletter that is as interesting as possible.

Over the last year, *Infoceans* has undergone some major changes. To more closely address the needs of our clientele, an editorial committee was set up; its members represent the Department's various areas of endeavour. The paper version of the newsletter now has a fresher look and the Web version has become more user-friendly and easier to consult. In addition, people who want to stay connected and not miss any of the latest news have been able to subscribe to an RSS feed since last fall.

The entire *Infoceans* team hopes these changes will make it easier for more information to reach more people interested in finding out about Fisheries and Oceans Canada endeavours in Québec.

WRITE US!

We are always delighted to receive your comments, questions and suggestions regarding the content of *Infoceans*.

You can reach us by e-mail at infoceans@dfo-mpo.gc.ca, or by mail at *Infoceans*, Communications Regional Branch, 104 Dalhousie Street, Québec, Québec, G1K 7Y7.

The *Infoceans* team

New publications

RESEARCH WORK FRONT AND CENTRE

The Fisheries and Oceans Canada Web site regularly offers new easy-to-read articles on research work conducted by the Department's scientific teams throughout the country.

These articles – over one hundred – deal with a host of subjects connected to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's activities and responsibilities. For instance, you can find out what research is being done in your region or elsewhere in Canada on subjects that are of interest to you.

The following articles, dealing with projects taking place in Quebec, were added this winter:

- Exploring the Seabed in Quebec
- Self-Operating Collectors: A Potentially Profitable Form of Diversification for Quebec's Mussel Farmers?

You will find all the articles in the *Science* section of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Web site (www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) by clicking the *Feature article tab*. New articles are added frequently. To make sure you don't miss anything, come back regularly, or subscribe and you will be notified whenever a new article is posted!

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 and 2010:

- Stock Assessment of Northern Quebec (Nunavik) Beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*) (2009/076)
- Assessment of Shrimp Stocks in the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence in 2009 (2010/008)
- Recovery Potential Assessment for Spring Cisco (*Coregonus* sp.) (2010/009)
- Rock Crab of the Coastal Waters of Quebec in 2009 (2010/010)
- Assessment of Cod Stock in the Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence (3Pn,4RS) in 2009 (2010/011)

APRIL - MAY 2010/VOLUME 13/NUMBER 2

Published by: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Quebec Region
Regional Communications Branch
104, Dalhousie Street
Québec, Québec G1K 7Y7
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ISSN 1485-6069

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
Robin Anctil Kamouraska	Permitting another fisher to use his vessel without authorization during the herring fishery. \$500
Émile Arseneau Îles-de-la-Madeleine	During the 2009 seal hunt, failure to sever the two axillary arteries of seals. \$500
Jacques Beaudoin Blanc-Sablon Robert Fequet Vieux-Fort	Fishing for cod during a closed time. \$500 (J. Beaudoin) \$250 (R. Fequet)
Germain Cyr Îles-de-la-Madeleine	Possessing lobsters smaller than the minimum size and possessing berried females. \$4,500 + suspension of licence for the first 4 days of the 2010 season.
Michael Driscoll Saint-Augustin	Possessing lobsters smaller than the minimum size. \$500
Roy Griffin Rivière-Saint-Paul	Failing to comply with the conditions of his cod licence for the 2008 season by fishing with more nets than permitted. \$500
Jean-Luc Hautcœur Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé	Fishing for snow crab with crab traps without a valid tag for the season. \$1,500
Jack Jones Brian Shattler Sept-Îles	Possessing and landing incidental catches of unweighed fish in the groundfish fishery. \$1,000 (J. Jones) \$1,750 (B. Shattler)
Clarence Lavallée Blanc-Sablon	Crab fishing in Area 12C without a licence. \$500
Léger Leblanc Îles-de-la-Madeleine	During the 2009 seal hunt, failure to crush the cranium of a seal. \$500
Jean-Marc Marcoux Rimouski	Hails not compliant with licence conditions. \$1,000
Pierre-Paul Miville Sainte-Anne-des-Monts	Leaving fishing gear unattended in the water for more than 72 consecutive hours. \$250
Jacques Pagé Chandler	Fishing for lobster during a closed time and with a trap without a valid tag for the season \$1,000
Lucie Plourde Rivière-du-Loup	Operating, as master, a fishing vessel in the herring fishery without a licence. \$350
Stevenson Shattler Sept-Îles	Failing to comply with the conditions of his bait licence for the 2008 season by setting his nets less than one fathom below the surface. \$300
Rolland Turbide Îles-de-la-Madeleine	Taking Atlantic surf clam in a closed area. \$1,000
Howard Wellman Vieux-Fort	Exceeding the daily quota for cod in the recreational fishery. \$500

Martin Bourget
Communications