

# FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

NEWS

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The fishing season will soon be winding down and it is obvious to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ) that the preliminary results obtained to date are positive on the whole. Both the volume and value of catches landed so far are higher than last year's landings for the same period, which is excellent news for the sector.

## GOOD NEWS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON

Moreover, several projects of a structuring nature for the commercial fisheries and aquaculture industry have come into being over the course of the last few months. This no doubt speaks to the willingness of stakeholders in the fish and seafood capture, processing and marketing sectors and of Québec's aquaculturists to see their businesses evolve and prosper. The Government of Québec has contributed financially to support these projects which can only be beneficial to Québec's maritime region.

It is important to first of all mention the Québec lobster traceability project which inarguably was the most remarkable project implemented this past spring and summer. A number of media took an interest in this ambitious project which sought to garner greater visibility for Québec lobster and above all, encourage Québec consumers to always make the right choice by purchasing a quality product harvested on the Gaspé Peninsula or the Magdalen Islands.

Cap sur mer inc., a Magdalen Islands company, also chose to inaugurate its new plant last spring. Employing more than 500 workers, the company is the islands' largest private-sector employer in the fish and seafood sector.

On the Gaspé Peninsula, Unipêche MDM inc. plans to build a new facility and

purchase new processing equipment. This project will enable the company to maintain some 225 existing jobs and help consolidate a number of indirect jobs.

On the North Shore, it is important to salute the opening of a state-of-the-art plant in Portneuf-sur-Mer by Les crabiers du Nord inc. This is excellent news not only for the 100-odd seasonal workers employed by the company and for the regional economy but also for the fish harvesters holding licences for Stimpson's surfclam, Greenland halibut or whelk. They will be able to continue to sell their catches to the plant and thus diversify their incomes.

It is also important to mention the implementation of a rationalisation project by the fish harvesters who are members of the Regroupement des palangriers et des pétoncliers uniques madelinots. These harvesters have chosen to meet the challenge of conciliating profitability and adequate resource conservation by accepting to reduce their harvesting capacity, an action greatly to their credit!

Finally, we cannot overlook the projects put forward by La moule du large inc. on the Magdalen Islands and by Fermes marines du Québec inc. on the Gaspé Peninsula. These two projects – the first

involves mussel farming and the second, scallop culture – demonstrate the aquaculture development potential of these two species in Québec. The next few years will be crucial for these two companies and we wish them much success.

Another important element, the *Financial support program for young aspiring fishers* has been renewed for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Via this measure, more young fishers in Québec's maritime regions can receive the support they need to set up their first fishing enterprise.

As for federal-provincial relations, the coming months will certainly be very busy. The issues surrounding provincial shares and their impact on the fishing industry in Québec as well as the efforts to modernise Canada's commercial fisheries, initiated by Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans, should notably be central to upcoming discussions with the federal government

We would like to remind you that you can consult this year's overview of ministry interventions in the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sector, published in this edition of *Fisheries and Aquaculture News*.

## LIST OF FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS IN EFFECT FOR THE 2012-2013 FISCAL YEAR

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food supports development of the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sector, notably via its financial aid programs adapted to address the needs of businesses. The programs in effect for the 2012-2013 fiscal year are intended to be both simple and versatile.

- Aquableu: Financial support program to improve the environmental performance of salmonid farming enterprises
- Innovamer: Support program for innovative sector projects and partnership initiatives
- Financial support program for young aspiring fishers
- Financial support program for the reorganisation of mariculture enterprises
- Financial support program for the development of the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sector
- Financial support program for collective initiatives in the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sector
- Financial compensation program for mussel farming enterprises affected by duck predation
- Commercial fishery financing program
- Temporary financial support program for fishing enterprise loan interest

The programs are posted in French on the Ministry's website at [www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/Fr/md/Programmes/](http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/Fr/md/Programmes/).

For more information, simply contact one of the regional offices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture General Directorate.

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## FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE NEWS

# ARCTIC CHAR AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PROFITABLE COMMERCIALISATION

By Julie Boyer,

Gaspé Peninsula  
Regional Directorate

This fall will see the implementation of a major pan-Canadian program – an initiative of the Coastal Zones Research Institute Inc. (CZRI) – dedicated to the development of Arctic char production and commercialisation.

Many fine food aficionados praise the qualities of Arctic char, counting this species amongst the best. The Gaspé Peninsula, North Shore and Lower St. Lawrence have been identified as having high potential for the aquaculture production of this salmonid. Not only are the rearing conditions ideal there, but a good portion of the water systems there have not yet been exploited.

Demand for Arctic char currently exceeds supply. More than 2,000 tonnes of the fish are sold every year in the United States. Despite these favourable conditions, production remains marginal in Canada at about 300 tonnes. Aware of the challenges that need to be met, CZRI mobilised the industry and research centres throughout Canada, encouraging them to target the actions that need to be taken to develop Arctic char farming. The result is a major five-year project to be headed by André Dumas, scientific director of the Aquaculture Sector at CZRI. The project seeks to attain the following three major objectives:

1. Establish a national genetic improvement program;
2. Improve zootechnical performances by means of new rearing technologies and practices;
3. Create a network mandated to develop Arctic char marketing so as to commercialise the species and ensure the outreach of information regarding this species.

Eleven scientific activities – each headed by one of the 9 scientists associated with the project (geneticists, physiologists, veterinarian and nutritionist) from seven Canadian provinces and territories – will contribute to the attainment of these objectives.

The activities associated with the first objective will serve to build a national genetic improvement program similar to the most advanced genetic selection programs used for farm animals, taking the program developed for the hog production industry as a model. The most modern genetic improvement techniques (although not those used to produce genetically modified organisms) will be used to improve growth performance, disease resistance, and the Arctic char's ability to adapt to salt water as well as to obtain fish that mature sexually late.

The activities associated with the second objective seek the same outcome but also to obtain eggs several times per year and reduce feed-related production costs by elaborating diets with low fish-meal and fish-oil content suitable for Arctic char. These issues will be examined with an eye to optimising rearing conditions.

As for the final objective, the project will lead to the publication of a good rearing practices guide for Arctic char production. At the same time, an egg production enterprise and a producers' association will be set up and marketing tools developed to encourage consumers to purchase Arctic char.

In Québec, researchers Nathalie Le François (Biodôme de Montréal - UQAR) and Pierre Blier (UQAR) together with their collaborators at Aquaculture Gaspésie, UQAR, Université Laval, the University of New Brunswick and Merinov will be working on genetic and zootechnical improvements likely to foster increased productivity. It is important to point out that Aquaculture Gaspésie is Canada's second largest producer of Arctic char for the table market. The participation of a Norwegian and Icelandic research group has also been confirmed.



Photo: MAPAQ

Several of the activities conducted as part of this project will generate benefits as early as 2015 and some, associated with genetics, will require ongoing research until 2017. Ultimately and realistically, the entire project aims to commercialise at least 2,000 tonnes of Arctic char per year. This volume will represent a farm-gate value of \$14 million, generate feed sales of about \$5.1 million and lead to the creation of at least 100 direct and indirect jobs. It will also require a large quantity of roe, the production of which will generate sales of \$1 million within six years and create six additional jobs.

The project's promoter and manager, CZRI, is a private not-for-profit organisation based in Shippagan and affiliated with the Université de Moncton. Its mission is to promote the viable development of coastal zone resources, and to support, through research activities and scientific analysis services, the optimal development of businesses and organisations working to develop those resources.

Funding for this ambitious five-year research initiative – totalling \$5 million – is provided primarily via a \$3 million grant from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF). Other sources of funding include the New Brunswick Innovation Fund, a dozen companies, the governments of New Brunswick, Québec, Nova Scotia and Manitoba, and two development organisations as well as CZRI and its partners at a dozen universities and research organisations. The Government of Québec has provided \$50,000 in funding via MAPAQ.

It is highly likely that this project to develop Arctic char aquaculture and the profitable commercialisation of this species – which calls for the contribution of researchers, businesses and economic partners from several provinces and which tackles the principal scientific, economic and commercial issues associated with the exploitation of this species – will help develop its production in a significant and concerted manner. This explains why MAPAQ, the Société de recherche et de développement en aquaculture continentale (SORDAC), the Centre de transfert et de sélection des salmonidés (CTSS) and the industry, together with the participating Québec research team, will closely follow the project or be associated with it.

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**Fisheries and Aquaculture News** is posted on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's website at the following address:

[www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/nouvelles](http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/nouvelles)

It can also be consulted on the Pêche Impact website at the following address:

[www.pecheimpact.com](http://www.pecheimpact.com)

# FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE NEWS

## OVERVIEW OF MAPAQ INTERVENTIONS IN THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR IN 2011-2012

By Michelle Parent,

Gaspé Peninsula  
Regional Directorate

Gaspé Peninsula	
<b>Fishing fleet</b>	
Loan guarantees for 19 fishing enterprises	
Total amount of loans guaranteed by MAPAQ:	\$4,424,663
Number of young fishers who received benefits via the <i>Financial support program for young aspiring fishers</i> :	2
Total grants paid out to young aspiring fishers:	\$50,000
Total amount paid out via other measures:	\$581,900
<b>Aquaculture, processing and biomass valorisation</b>	
Support provided for 25 projects	
Grants provided:	\$2 719 987
Total cost of projects:	\$9 062 007
<b>Research &amp; development</b>	
Support provided for 8 projects	
Grants provided:	\$4 317 936
Total cost of projects:	\$5 982 709
<b>Job impact</b>	
Jobs created:	14
Jobs consolidated:	850
<b>North Shore</b>	
<b>Fishing fleet</b>	
Loan guarantees for 10 fishing enterprises	
Total amount of loans guaranteed by MAPAQ:	\$3,157,672
Number of young fishers who received benefits via the <i>Financial support program for young aspiring fishers</i> :	3
Total grants paid out to young aspiring fishers:	\$56,400
Total amount paid out via other measures:	\$207,000
<b>Aquaculture, processing and biomass valorisation</b>	
Support provided for 15 projects	
Grants provided:	\$2,463,102
Total cost of projects:	\$6,936,001
<b>Research &amp; development</b>	
Support provided for 1 project	
Grant provided:	\$52,000
Total cost of project:	\$145,464
<b>Job impact</b>	
Jobs consolidated:	539

Magdalen Islands	
<b>Fishing fleet</b>	
Loan guarantees for 25 fishing enterprises	
Total amount of loans guaranteed by MAPAQ:	\$4,669,134
Number of young fishers who received benefits via the <i>Financial support program for young aspiring fishers</i> :	13
Total grants paid out to young aspiring fishers:	\$325,000
Total amount paid out via other measures:	\$333,600
<b>Aquaculture, processing and biomass valorisation</b>	
Support provided for 12 projects	
Grants provided:	\$652,908
Total cost of projects:	\$1,285,406
<b>Research &amp; development</b>	
Support provided for 4 projects	
Grants provided:	\$175,919
Total cost of projects:	\$620,984
<b>Job impact</b>	
Jobs created:	2
Jobs consolidated:	52
<b>Other regions</b>	
<b>Fishing fleet</b>	
Loan guarantee for 1 fishing enterprise	
Total amount of loan guaranteed by MAPAQ:	\$30,000
Number of young fishers who received benefits via the <i>Financial support program for young aspiring fishers</i> :	1
Total grant paid out to young aspiring fishers:	\$8,000
<b>Aquaculture, processing and biomass valorisation</b>	
Support provided for 12 projects	
Grants provided:	\$780,413
Total cost of projects:	\$1,648,191
<b>Research &amp; development</b>	
Support provided for 9 projects	
Grants provided:	\$1,634,893
Total cost of projects:	\$9,432,122
<b>Job impact</b>	
Jobs created:	1

### SOME INTERVENTIONS IN 2011-2012

**Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseth (AMIK):** Evaluation of the alga biomass along the North Shore between Tadoussac and Havre-Saint-Pierre to determine resource potential from a selective harvesting perspective

**Association des chasseurs de phoques des Îles-de-la-Madeleine:** Implementation of a communication strategy focussing on the importance of the seal hunt

**Association des pêcheurs propriétaires des Îles-de-la-Madeleine:** Establishment of artificial reefs by lobster harvesters to improve biological productivity prospects

**Centre de transfert et de sélection des salmonidés (CTSS) inc.:** Implementation of a genetic selection program to help Québec fish farmers build brook trout and Arctic char stocks with improved yields

**9132-1810 Québec inc. (Entreprises Raymer):** Establishment of a fish farm to produce Arctic char primarily for the table market

**Ferme piscicole des Bobines inc.:** Installation of a wastewater treatment system and industrial-grade ultraviolet steriliser to improve environmental performance

**Fruits de mer de l'Est du Québec ltée:** Technological upgrading of processing equipment to improve the profitability of activities

**Fruits de mer Madeleine inc.:** Acquisition of equipment to mechanise the whelk processing chain

**Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan ltée:** Establishment of a processing line for lobster from outside Québec.

**Les Crabiers du Nord inc. :**

- Association of fish and seafood processing companies to commercialise their products jointly on the Québec market
- Facility optimisation and technological upgrading of equipment used to process fish and seafood

**Les Pêcheries Gaspésiennes inc.:** Technological upgrading of facilities and equipment used to process groundfish as well as other fish and seafood

**OrganicOcean inc.:** Development of a process to extract and valorise the fresh knotted wrack resource with an eye to creating new products for agriculture

**Pêcheries Floran Côté et fils inc., Les Pêcheries Vincent Dupuis inc. et 9090-8153 Québec inc. (Pêcheries Réginald Cotton):** Twin trawl trials on shrimpers to assess the extent to which any cost reduction arising from the use of this gear would enable the participating companies to become more competitive

**Pisciculture Réal Massé inc.:** Completion of development work at the fish farm to improve productivity and increase production capacity

**Poséidon « Les Poissons et Crustacés » inc.:** Technological upgrading of equipment used to process snow crab

**Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels du sud de la Gaspésie inc.:** Implementation of traceability techniques for live lobster marketed in Québec so consumers can see where their lobster comes from

**Table filière de l'aquaculture en eau douce du Québec inc.:** Completion of a project to optimise the techniques used to transport live fish that are to be used for stocking purposes

## CANADIAN COUNCIL OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE MINISTERS - DEPUTY MINISTERS' MEETING

By François Montminy-Munyan,

Analyses and Policies  
Directorate

The deputy ministers who sit on the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) met in Montréal last June 28. First, in the morning, Dr. James Findlay, CEO of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, described the Australian fisheries management approach. Unlike in Canada, there are no communities that depend on the fishery or aquatic product processing in Australia. Consequently, the socio-economic issues associated with the aquatic product industry are very different for the two countries. For instance, in Australia, individual transferable quotas are available to anyone, including foreign companies. Also, the Australian government sets a great deal of importance on cost recovery by applying the user-payer principle.

Next, the deputy ministers studied the recommendations made by the CCFAM work groups and the Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers. Spurred by rapid evolution of certification systems in the marine product marketing field, they approved a new national ecocertification strategy. They also confirmed the review process for the *National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms*. This code establishes an administrative and risk analysis framework that applies to the movement of fish and other aquatic organisms from one body of water to another or between aquaculture establishments in two different regions.

Moreover, the deputy ministers were informed of the federal government's intentions regarding the regulations associated with aquaculture establishment waste emission management and invasive species control. In both cases, Québec is asking for more discussion since it has already implemented a variety of tools of a legal and administrative nature to frame aquaculture action and the movement of aquatic species.

The deputy ministers also discussed the changes to the *Fisheries Act* announced last spring by the federal government in response to the *Larocque* decision and to support certain scientific activities by providing special quotas for aquatic organisms. They also agreed to continue their joint work on the issues of the seal hunt and the lobster fishery as planned to support industry initiatives.

It is important to point out that for the first time since his appointment, the assistant deputy minister for fisheries and aquaculture, Michel Gagnon, had an opportunity to get to know his federal, provincial and territorial counterparts a little better.

The next meetings of the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers and the Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers will take place in British Columbia in September.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS POSTED ONLINE

### COMMERCIAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE – AN OVERVIEW



The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has posted on its website the 2011 edition of its statistical overview of the commercial fisheries and aquaculture industry, *Pêches et aquaculture commerciales en un coup d'œil – Portrait statistique – Édition 2011*.

This document provides information of a statistical nature on the maritime fisheries, marine product processing, the commercial freshwater fishery, commercial aquaculture and trade. By perusing the tables and charts in the document, readers will be able to see just how important the commercial fisheries and aquaculture are for Québec's maritime regions.

The section on fish and seafood trade shows how the values of exports and imports, average annual prices on the American market and exchange rates have evolved. Readers will also find information here on apparent Canadian consumption and recent data on the population of Québec and its maritime regions.

To consult this document, visit the Publications page of the Ministry's web site at [www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/peche](http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/peche).

### MONOGRAPH ON QUÉBEC'S LOBSTER INDUSTRY

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ) recently published a monograph on the lobster industry in Québec. The document presents a comprehensive portrait of the sector and notably covers the management, harvest, processing, marketing and trade of this crustacean.

It is important to point out that the average annual value of lobster landings in Québec soared from \$27.2 million in the 1990-to-1999 period to \$43.4 million in the first decade of the 21st century. The average annual volumes landed grew from 3,338 tonnes to 3,581 tonnes respectively in the same periods. As for the average annual value of lobster products processed at plants in Québec's maritime regions, they were valued at \$33.4 million in 1990-1999 in contrast to \$70.6 million ten years later.

In monetary terms, lobster was the second most valuable marine species landed in Québec in 2010 after snow crab.

The document has been posted at the MAPAQ website at the following address: <http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/Fr/Peche>

