

1 — OBJECTIVES

The *Support for innovation and development in the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sector* program supports the guidelines set out in the *MAPAQ Ministerial action plan for the commercial fisheries and aquaculture industry* and aims to develop the sector through the growth of its constituent businesses in a perspective of sustainable development.

The Program aims, notably, to:

- Improve profitability, diversification and versatility for businesses operating in the marine product catch and processing sector;
- Improve the competitiveness of processing plants active in the primary processing of so-called “traditional” species – groundfish, shrimp, crab and lobster – by modernising their equipment; and
- Step up production and diversification, and improve profitability for aquaculture businesses.

2 — MEANS

To reach these objectives, the Ministère de l’Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l’Alimentation offers financial support for projects involving modernisation, innovation and development.

3 — ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Any business or coalition of businesses operating in the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sector holding the authorisations or licences required to conduct its operations is eligible for this program.
- An Aboriginal band council whose administrative office is located in Québec and which holds the authorisations or licences required to conduct its operations in this field can also be considered an eligible business.

4 — FINANCIAL SUPPORT

4.1 Component 1 – Support for innovation and development

4.1.1 The Ministry offers eligible applicants financial aid for the following fields of endeavour:

	FIELDS OF ENDEAVOUR		
	EXPERIMENTATION ¹	PILOT TRIAL ²	COMMERCIAL IMPLANTATION
Capital investment (minimum)	10%	25%	35%
Financial support (maximum)	60% Cumulative: 90%	50% Cumulative: 75%	35% Cumulative: 50%

Explanatory notes:

Financial support: The percentages refer to the maximum share of financial aid provided for a project. The first figure corresponds to Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation participation and the cumulative figure refers to the total sum of all aid obtained from possible government sources.

- 1 Experimentation includes a technological transfer, or an investigation or systematic research of a scientific or technological nature conducted by means of a trial or analysis, and whose purpose is to create new products or processes or to improve existing ones. The goal is to first measure the *technical or biological feasibility* of a process (technical prototype). Its primary characteristics include the limited size of the apparatus used, and the scope of scientific and technical knowledge that is transferred.
- 2 The goal of the pilot trial is to gather the technical and economic data needed to demonstrate the *financial feasibility of an innovation*. Its primary characteristics include the size of the experimental apparatus used to generate a set of data and simulate pre-commercial or commercial conditions.

4.1.2 The maximum financial aid that can be provided has been established at \$500,000 per project.

4.1.3 For projects involving the commercial implantation of land-based fish farms, the proportion of aid attributed for water and waste treatment equipment is increased to 50% as a means of protecting the environment and fostering sustainable development.

4.2 Component 2 – Support for marketing

The Ministry offers financial aid to businesses involved in marine product processing and marine biotechnology, and to aquaculture businesses that market products they manufacture for human consumption to help them step up their participation and improve their representation in marketing activities of a time-limited nature. The financial aid, which cannot exceed \$15,000 over a two-year period, covers 35 percent of the costs associated with their participation in marketing activities and the production of promotional material.

In addition, the following initiatives are considered as individual projects and are eligible for funding under component 1 of this program:

- Joint marketing activities by a group of businesses;
- Marketing of a new product;
- Improvement in the marketing of an aquaculture or processed marine product on the condition that the project involves developing or executing a comprehensive marketing strategy.

4.3 Component 3 – Support for improving the competitiveness of businesses that process traditional species

- 4.3.1** The Ministry offers eligible applicants financial aid in the form of a subsidy equivalent to no more than 35 percent of admissible expenditures, taking into account that assistance from all government sources cannot exceed a cumulative percentage of 50 percent.
- 4.3.2** Financial aid cannot exceed \$500,000 per company while this component is being implemented.
- 4.3.3** Investments made to acquire equipment that will serve to reduce unit production costs or increase the profitability of processed products are eligible for this financial aid measure.
- 4.3.4** The financial capacity of the company will be taken into account when analysing the financing structure of each project.
- 4.3.5** The company must submit a comprehensive productivity improvement plan that is based on a technological diagnosis.
- 4.3.6** Costs associated with working capital, rolling stock and the building are not admissible with respect to financial aid.
- 4.3.7** This component is of limited duration, and shall be in effect from the time it is approved until March 31, 2009.

5 — GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 5.1** The project must fall in line with the priorities set out in the *MAPAQ Ministerial action plan for the commercial fisheries and aquaculture industry*.
- 5.2** The promoter must show that it has the human, technical and financial abilities needed to successfully complete the project.

- 5.3** For projects involving the marketing of emerging species or stocks, the Ministry encourages the use of an approach that integrates catch, processing and marketing activities. An approach of this nature involves:
- one or more fishers, and
 - one or more processing firms, and
 - one or more marketing consortia or corporations.
- 5.4** Successful completion of the project must not cause undue competition to businesses conducting similar activities in Québec nor result in an activity moving from one area to another within Québec.
- 5.5** The specific conditions governing the payment of financial aid and the responsibilities of the parties shall be set out in a financial aid agreement.
- 5.6** Aid applications presented under the authority of this program can be received until the credits allocated for this program have been exhausted, unless the Ministry decides to interrupt or restrict its scope as a result of modified objectives. All applications presented after credits have been exhausted shall be refused; however, they can be presented again the following year in compliance with the standards in effect at that time.



*Agriculture, Pêcheries
et Alimentation*

Québec 

08-0042A