

# INFO OCEANS

Volume 1 - Number 2  
December 1997 - January 1998

The Laurentian Region Bulletin

## SUCCESSFUL MEETING FOR THE ATLANTIC FISHERIES MINISTERS

**O**n November 28, Minister Anderson chaired a meeting of the Atlantic Council of Fisheries Ministers (ACFM). Participants included Ministers responsible for marine and inland fisheries in the Atlantic provinces, Quebec and the Northwest Territories. Given the importance of a global approach for east coast fisheries, it has been decided to reactivate the ACFM process. Terms of reference which should ensure regular meetings will be developed to improve its effectiveness. The agenda included many other items.

### Fisheries Resources Conservation Council (FRCC)

Agreement to discuss the expanded role for the FRCC which could provide conservation advice on small pelagic species (herring, capelin and mackerel) in addition to groundfish and lobster.

### The Atlantic Groundfish Strategy (TAGS)

Termination of the TAGS program and the impact this will have on individuals and communities were discussed. Given the fact that the groundfish recovery is not occurring as fast as originally anticipated, the importance of an appropriate follow-up program has been stressed.

### Federal-provincial working group on historic groundfish shares

These shares are important factors in the groundfish allocation process. However, other factors such as adjacency, fairness and equity, growth and decline in stocks, historic dependence and native rights and land claim obligations have to also be considered. Provincial shares developed through this process could be used as an indicator to monitor relative provincial shares in the future. Quebec is not satisfied that provincials shares be only a general reference point in resource allocation. Quebec

reiterated that guaranteed access to its share of the resource be confirmed in a Canada/Quebec agreement.

### User charges

A wide range of user charges exist at all three levels of government for the fishing industry. Minister Anderson committed to undertake a comprehensive economic analysis of the impact of federal user charges—not taxes—before introducing new fees or increasing existing ones.

### Eels

Fisheries and Oceans Canada will work with provincial departments and industry representatives to develop an action plan for managing American eels in Canadian waters since all North American eels come from the same population.

### Seal Hunt

Consultations are underway with industry, stakeholders and provincial officials on possible changes to the management plan for the 1998 season, including the Total Allowable Catches. A review of the *Marine Mammal Regulations* is also underway. The ACFM upheld conservation as the driving force for all seal management efforts.

### Fisheries Act

Amendments are expected to be tabled early in 1998. Minister Anderson restated his commitment to consult provinces prior to the re-introduction of the Act. Any changes to the Act will ensure that conservation still comes first and will reflect the needs and the views of the provinces and stakeholders.

## APPOINTMENTS AT FISHERIES AND OCEANS

**P**rimé Minister Jean Chrétien announced, on November 24 the appointment of Vice-Admiral Larry Murray as Associate Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Mr. Murray, 50, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. He held various positions in the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Forces. In the past few years, he had been successively appointed Director General, Maritime Doctrine and Operations, and Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Communications, then Deputy Chief, Vice-Chief and Acting Chief of the Defence Staff, at National Defence Headquarters.

Ms. Michelle Chartrand has been assigned to the position of Regional Director General, Laurentian Region. Ms. Chartrand joined the Department in the early 1980s and held several positions. In 1995, she assumed responsibility for the development of the *Canada Oceans Act*.

## ANNUAL STATISTICAL REVIEW OF THE FISHERIES, 1996

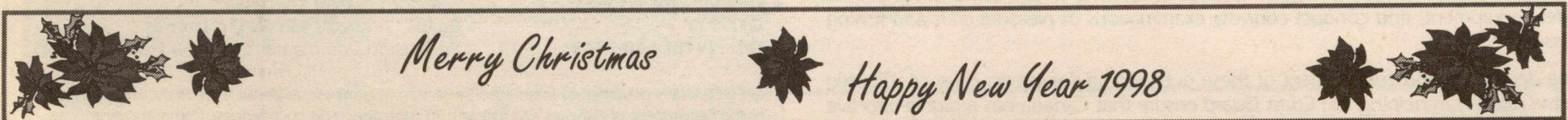
**T**he 1996 edition of the *Annual Statistical Review of Quebec's Marine Fisheries*, a publication that provides a wealth of information on the last fishing season, will soon be available. The publication now includes a supplement entitled *Quebec's Marine Fisheries: Spotlight on 1996*, which is intended to serve as a handy reference tool. The statistical and economic data in this document give readers a snapshot of the state of the fishing industry.

Anyone who would like to receive a copy of this publication should contact the Statistics Service at (418) 648-5935.

## START ON SHORE



**O**n November 21, Richard Thibodeau, Fisheries Management Branch, and Jocelyn Brisson, Rescue, Safety and Environmental Response Branch, carried out a draw under the Start on Shore Coast Guard campaign. To get a chance to win, licensed owners/operators of a fishing vessel under 15 GRT had to call the Coast Guard, Laurentian Region, for a safety examination before July 31st. Winners are two residents of the Magdalen Islands. Mr. Denis Cormier, from Havre-aux-Maisons, won the first prize, a portable GPS, 2 anti-exposure flotation suits and \$500 worth of marine safety equipment while Mr. Donald Vignault, from Bassin won two flotation suits and a \$500 prize.



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Canada

## N SHORT...

### ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE ON THE NORTH SHORE

On November 7 and 8, about 50 people, some of them representing organizations, turned out for the first public consultation on the Gulf of St. Lawrence and its shores, organized by the ZIP (area of concern) Committee - North Shore of the Gulf.

Four broad priorities for action were identified:

- lost or abandoned fishing gear pose a threat to the resource and should be removed from traditional fishing sites
- an inventory of the affected sites should be done so that clean-up efforts can be planned
- people should be made aware of the environmental effects of human activities and the need for remedial action
- sensitive habitats should be identified in order to propose remedial measures and relay the proposals to decision makers

At this consultation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada was represented by employees from the Science and Fisheries Management Branches. They described the threats to local fishery resources and habitats posed by contamination of the water and sediments.

Each of the nine currently existing ZIP committees have followed a common path which consists in preparing an environmental assessment and holding public consultations. This process culminates in the preparation of an ecological remedial action plan by the local committee.

### LOBSTER STOCKING

Would it be feasible and worthwhile to stock juvenile lobster in the Magdalen Islands area? This is the question that some 30 participants sought to answer at a workshop held in the Magdalen Islands from October 29 to 31. The workshop was set up by DFO, the Quebec Department of Agriculture, Pêcheries and Alimentation and the APPIM (Magdalen Islands skipper-owners' association) in response to requests from fishers for new stock enhancement methods, especially stocking.

Three scientists from the Maurice Lamontagne Institute took part in the discussions, alongside researchers from Norway, the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, the United States and other regions of Canada. Louise Gendron described the state of lobster stocks and the management measures adopted for this species in the Magdalen Islands, while Patrick Ouellet and Bernard Sainte-Marie talked about their present research on larval dynamics and settling of juveniles on the sea bottom.

Studies conducted in the United States and Europe clearly demonstrate that a large number of lobster can be reared in a hatchery and then stocked in the natural environment with high survival rates. Nonetheless, the estimated rates of return to the commercial fishery have so far been low. In light of the workshop findings, the APPIM will soon decide what steps it plans to take with regard to stock enhancement. The workshop proceedings will be published soon in a "Canadian Industry Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences."

### ICE INDEX

An index of ice conditions provides a useful indication of how well a ship will be able to navigate and manoeuvre in ice covered waters. This index can now be calculated with a numerical model that evaluates the pressure field, ice thickness and extent, and wind- and water-induced stress. When put through a dry run in the Gulf during winter 1997, this theoretical model developed at the Maurice Lamontagne Institute accurately predicted the amount of fuel actually consumed by the test ship. In further trials conducted last summer in the Arctic aboard the Coast Guard icebreaker CCGS *Pierre Radisson*, the model showed a high degree of reliability. In winter 1998, once minor adjustments have been made to the model, the CCG ship will continue the validation phase by collecting further data.

### UNsung HEROES

An estimated 200 lives are saved in Canada every year thanks to the work of the 3,600 members of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary. These dedicated volunteers, little known outside their communities, freely devote themselves to save mariners in distress, frequently risking their own lives in the process.

Since the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary began operations in 1978, its members have taken part in more than 30,000 missions and have proved to be an invaluable part of Canada's marine search and rescue system. They use 1,300 vessels and work closely with the Coast Guard.

The auxiliaries also dedicate their time to other activities to make our waterways safe. They participate in boat shows, give lectures on boating safety, demonstrate marine safety equipment, and conduct courtesy examinations of pleasure craft and fishing vessels.

The dedication and commitment of these outstanding volunteers have contributed immeasurably in helping the Coast Guard ensure that Canada has a highly effective marine search and rescue system.

### SENTINEL FISHERIES IN A NUTSHELL

A stand on the Sentinel Fisheries, originally designed for the MLI's open house, has been sent to the *Centre spécialisé des pêches de Grande-Rivière* for the winter. "The stand outlines the new partnership approach that is enabling biologists to harness fishers' knowledge and helping fishers to better understand the stock assessment process," said Alain Fréchet, biologist in charge of sentinel fisheries. The material in the stand will no doubt spark the interest of students and fishers receiving training at the Centre.

### LANDINGS BY SPECIES IN 1996 AND 1997

| Species                            | 1996 (final) |               | 1997 (preliminary) |               |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
|                                    | Quantity     | Value         | Quantity           | Value         |
| <b>Groundfish</b>                  |              |               |                    |               |
| Cod                                | 503          | 567           | 1202               | 1220          |
| Haddock                            | -            | -             | *                  | *             |
| Redfish                            | 44           | 23            | 6                  | 4             |
| Atlantic Halibut                   | 128          | 754           | 139                | 750           |
| American Plaice                    | 202          | 197           | 299                | 277           |
| Greysole (Witch)                   | 26           | 28            | 8                  | 9             |
| Winter Flounder                    | 118          | 92            | 113                | 72            |
| Unspecified Flounders              | -            | -             | -                  | -             |
| Greenland Halibut                  | 1863         | 3575          | 2051               | 3270          |
| White Hake                         | 27           | 16            | 9                  | 5             |
| Catfish                            | 1            | *             | 4                  | 1             |
| Other Groundfish                   | 188          | 88            | 803                | 491           |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>3102</b>  | <b>5339</b>   | <b>4634</b>        | <b>6098</b>   |
| <b>Pelagic and Estuary Species</b> |              |               |                    |               |
| Herring                            | 7902         | 2384          | 5002               | 849           |
| Mackerel                           | 4317         | 1683          | 5434               | 2451          |
| Bluefin Tuna                       | -            | -             | -                  | -             |
| Eel                                | 119          | 953           | -                  | -             |
| Salmon                             | 32           | 186           | 3                  | 17            |
| Smelt                              | 38           | 78            | 5                  | 2             |
| Capelin                            | 658          | 76            | 202                | 24            |
| Other Pelagic and Estuary Species  | 282          | 428           | 28                 | 36            |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>13348</b> | <b>5789</b>   | <b>10675</b>       | <b>3380</b>   |
| <b>Molluscs and Crustaceans</b>    |              |               |                    |               |
| Soft Shell Clam                    | 490          | 622           | 735                | 866           |
| Quahaugs Clam                      | 91           | 112           | -                  | -             |
| Mussels                            | 61           | 152           | -                  | -             |
| Scallop                            | 2466         | 3861          | 2221               | 3948          |
| Whelk                              | 1083         | 819           | 981                | 752           |
| Lobster                            | 3502         | 33335         | 2682               | 27511         |
| Shrimp (Prawn)                     | 11920        | 22263         | 12936              | 23088         |
| Snowcrab                           | 13084        | 60205         | 11388              | 39842         |
| Other Molluscs and Crustaceans     | 829          | 448           | 1233               | 680           |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>33526</b> | <b>121818</b> | <b>32175</b>       | <b>96688</b>  |
| Autres items                       | 354          | 270           | 349                | 729           |
| <b>Grand total</b>                 | <b>50330</b> | <b>133216</b> | <b>47832</b>       | <b>106895</b> |

1 This chart was updated on October 31, 1997.

Note that supplementary purchase slips are not included in the 1997 preliminary figures.

Quantity is expressed in metric tons of round weight and value is expressed in thousands of dollars. An asterisk (\*) indicates a figure of less than half a ton or of less than \$500.

Published by:

Communications Branch  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Laurentian Region  
104, Dalhousie St.  
Quebec City, (Quebec)  
G1K 7Y7  
Tel. : (418) 648-4442

**INFOCEANS**  
Volume 1 - Number 1 - October/November 1997

Director : Marcel Thérien  
Editor : François Miville-Deschênes  
Production Coordinator : Viviane Haeberlé

INFOCEANS is published to inform the Laurentian Region's clients about the policies and programs of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. To subscribe, send your request to the above address. Reproduction is permitted, with indication of the source. The editor wishes to be informed in writing of these uses.