



FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

NEWS

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Are you interested in fish farming? Discover brook trout farming.

Already, temperatures are cooling, days are getting shorter and our forests are taking on a hint of orange. The autumn has begun and is sounding the slowing down of fishing and aquaculture activities. The early results of the season are encouraging: they are in line with the previous year's results, which is good news, given the difficulties encountered by some fleets this past summer. Moreover, lobster fishing has been remarkable for its high landing volumes in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Îles-de-la-Madeleine. As a matter of fact, the catches of Magdalen lobster fishermen have set new records. This is a result of the conservation efforts for the lobster and I am delighted for our lobster fishermen who have worked hard.

In July, I announced the renewal of three Department programs exclusively for the commercial fishing and aquaculture industry. These measures, which are intended to provide you with help, were due to expire this year. Changes have been made to better meet your needs, including an increase in the level of financial assistance. In the pages of this edition of *Pêches et aquaculture en nouvelles*, you will find a presentation of the new features of the Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Development Financial Support Program, an Innovamer Program, and the Financial Support Program for Collective Initiatives in the Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector. I am proud to announce its coming into effect and I am confident that these programs will support the development of the industry over the next three years.

I will be closely following the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans position on the right whale issue in the coming weeks. It is essential that our snow crab fishermen be allowed to leave early, before the statistical closure zone is in place and before the right whales arrive. It is a balanced solution that will protect right whales and preserve snow crab fishing activities. I remain confident that the federal government will recognize the merits of this position.

I wish you a successful conclusion to the season.



Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food

ANDRÉ LAMONTAGNE

THE MINISTRY IS ENHANCING ITS SERVICE OFFERING IN BAS-SAINT-LAURENT

By the Direction régionale de la Gaspésie

The fishing and aquaculture industry is a major economic driver for the coastal communities of Eastern Quebec. This industry is very active in Bas-Saint-Laurent. In an aim to ensure its presence in the region it serves, the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ) appointed Mr. Thierry Marcoux as industrial development officer in Rimouski on 6 July. He is therefore bringing his sectoral service offering to his Bas-Saint-Laurent clientele.

The importance of this sector for the region is reflected in the value of the commercial fishing landings that are made there which total more than 19 million dollars a year. These landings mainly comprise snow crab, northern shrimp and groundfish. Four regional fishing associations are also active in the region. It also hosts around ten aquaculture companies that generate \$260,000 worth of products each year. The main species farmed are brook trout and green sea urchin. And the marine product processing plants in Bas-Saint-Laurent generate nearly 34 million dollars and employ more than 180 people. Bas-Saint-Laurent is also the hub of the marine biotechnology industry in Quebec. Several companies develop and sell food, agricultural, cosmetic, nutraceutical and pharmaceutical products there from marine biomass such as macroalgae, starfish or fish oils.

Furthermore, a good few industry partners are established in Rimouski, in particular the Université du Québec à Rimouski, the Institut des sciences de la mer de Rimouski, the Centre de recherche sur les biotechnologies marines and the Institut Maurice-Lamontagne. There are also large research networks there, including Ressources aquatiques Québec, Québec Océan and the Réseau Québec maritime. The St. Lawrence Global Observatory, a body for disseminating scientific data, is also located there, like the marine

sector networking organizations the Technopole maritime du Québec and the Créneau Ressources, sciences et technologies marines.

MAPAQ also has strong ties with these companies and bodies, in particular through partnership agreements. On average, it provides over 1 million dollars a year to fund projects in the fishing and aquaculture field in Bas-Saint-Laurent.

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REVISION OF FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS FOR THE COMMERCIAL FISHING AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR

By Rabia Sow
Direction des analyses et des politiques des pêches et de l'aquaculture

The Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation has revised three financial aid programs for the commercial fishing and aquaculture sector that came to an end on 31 March 2019:

- Financial aid program for development of the commercial fishing and aquaculture sector;
- Financial aid program for collective initiatives in the commercial fishing and aquaculture sector;
- Innovamer program.

On 9 July, the Ministre de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation, Mr. André Lamontagne, officially announced the extension of these programs for the 2019-2022 period.

PROGRAM OUTLINES

1. Financial aid program for development of the commercial fishing and aquaculture

This program has three sections:

Section 1: Support to development

- The aim of this section is to increase production and sales in the commercial fishing and aquaculture sector through product development or the establishment of innovative processes.
- Projects eligible for this section are projects to start new companies or those initiated by existing companies to improve their competitiveness, profitability and productivity.

Section 2: Improving food processing companies' competitiveness

- The aim of this section is to strengthen the competitiveness of companies in the aquatic product processing sector by increasing their productivity and improving their products' hygiene and food safety.
- Projects eligible for this section are projects:
 - To acquire equipment to reduce unit production costs or increase the profitability of processed products and that show evidence of a return on investment within three years, given the total financial aid granted shown in the project's funding structure (sub-section 2.1);
 - Aiming to ensure better food hygiene and safety (sub-section 2.2).

Section 3: Improvement of environmental performance

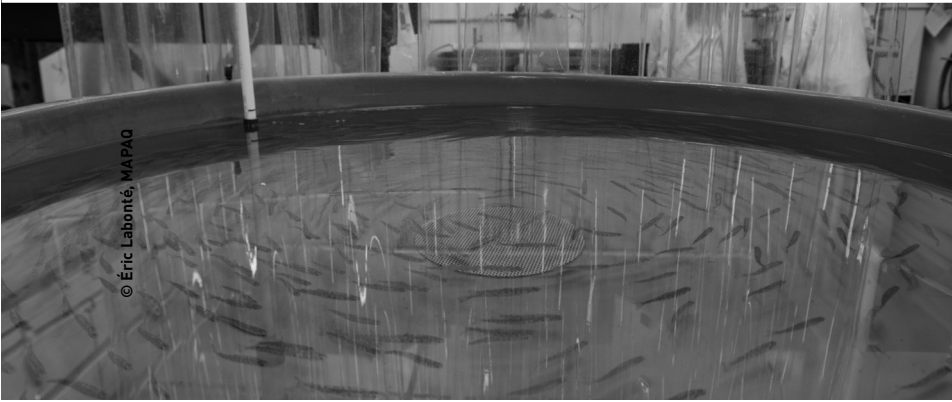
- The aim of this section is to improve the environmental performance of aquaculture companies and aquatic product processing companies through the adoption of new techniques and technologies.
- Projects eligible for this section are projects that reduce the environmental impact of production activities.

INCREASE GRANTED TO THE PROGRAM FOR 2019-2022*: he financial aid cap is being raised from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000.
*To take into account the impacts of insularity on eligible projects carried out in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine agglomeration, the maximum rate of aid is 45% for a maximum of \$1,100,000 per company for the duration of the program.

The Financial aid program for development in the commercial fishing and aquaculture sector can be consulted at the following address:
www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/developpement-peches



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2. Financial aid program for collective initiatives in the commercial fishing and aquaculture sector

This program has three sections.

Section 1: Implementation of common interest projects

- The aim of this section is to improve competitiveness and promote access to commercial fishing and aquaculture industry markets through the implementation of common interest projects. This section will also prioritize projects that reflect ministerial priorities.
- Types of project eligible for this section are projects that aim:
 - To promote Quebec marine products;
 - To employ consultants to carry out sectoral analyses and competitiveness studies and prepare and implement strategies to develop external and internal markets;
 - To operate work groups to resolve specific problems;
 - Towards eco-certification and the identification of Quebec aquatic products.

Section 2: Promotion of the sector (formerly "Sector influence")

- The aim of this section is to promote companies' know-how and their products, and to contribute to the development, sustainability and growth of the fishing and aquaculture sector in Quebec.
- Types of project eligible for this section are as follows:
 - Acquisition activities or strategic sectoral information dissemination activities;
 - Networking activities between stakeholders in the sector.

INCREASE GRANTED TO THE PROGRAM FOR 2019-2022*: the maximum annual financial aid for the section "Implementation of common interest projects" is increasing from \$100,000 to \$200 000, while for the "Promotion of the sector" section it is increasing from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
* Maximum aid increase applied for eligible projects in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine agglomeration: section 1 (80% to 90% increase of the maximum rate of aid), section 2 (70% to 80% increase of the maximum rate of aid).

The Financial aid program for collective initiatives in the commercial fishing and aquaculture sector can be consulted at the following address:
www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/initiatives-peches

3. Innovamer program

This program has four sections.

Section 1: Company innovation projects

- The aim of this section is to develop new knowledge, new products or new processes and to adapt products and processes to improve competitiveness, meet requirements or take commercial opportunities and resolve problems specific to companies that are active in the commercial fishing and aquaculture sector.
- Projects eligible for this section are applied research, experimental development or technological adaptation projects.

Section 2: Sectoral innovation projects

- The aim of this section is to develop new scientific and technological knowledge and to design generic products and processes to make them accessible to all companies and partners in the commercial fishing and aquaculture sector.
- Projects eligible for this section meet the following criteria:
 - Sectoral applied research, experimental development or technological adaptation projects;
 - In fields defined by the Ministry that result from ministerial priorities and entered in the call for projects guide;
 - Obtain written support from companies or company associations concerned by the project.

Section 3: Networking, dissemination and watch

- The aim of this section is to promote the acquisition of information, the dissemination of knowledge and networking between companies, associations, research institutions and other innovation stakeholders in the commercial fishing and aquaculture sector.
- The following are eligible for this section:
 - Dissemination activities: scientific and technical conferences, forums and workshops;
 - Networking activities relating to innovation and priorities in the sector;
 - Scientific or technological publications;
 - Technological watch activities relating to the Ministry's priorities aiming to acquire new knowledge or technologies or improve those that are available to adapt them to the context of the Quebec commercial fishing and aquaculture industry.

Section 4: Partnership initiatives

- The aim of this section is to promote research and innovation initiatives, the scientific and technical services offering and the development of expertise through support to research institutions and networking bodies and their collaborations.
- Eligible initiatives are partnership agreements that aim to:
 - Support a partner's provision of scientific or technological services or in carrying out a series of research and innovation activities;
 - Increase the presence, in coastal regions, of scientific expertise and teams leading to applied research and development activities according to the sector's priorities;
 - Encourage a partnership between development stakeholders in the research and innovation sphere and Quebec's collaboration with networks, centres and experts abroad that are pursuing common goals;
 - Support the development of new expertise in the commercial fishing and aquaculture sector.

INCREASE GRANTED TO THE PROGRAM FOR 2019-2022*: The maximum annual financial aid planned is increasing from \$50,000 to \$70,000 for section 1 and from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for section 2.

* Increase to the maximum aid applied for eligible projects carried out in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine agglomeration: increase to the rate of aid, which may cover up to 90% of eligible spending; increase to the maximum rate of aid per project, which is \$77,000, and to the maximum amount of aid per company for the duration of the program, which is \$275,000.

The Innovamer program may be consulted at the following address:

www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/innovamer

These three programs will support the implementation of the 2018-2025 Ministerial action plan for the Quebec commercial fishing and aquaculture industry and the 2018-2025 Bio-food Policy over the next three years and will contribute to the development of the fishing and aquaculture industry.

OYSTER FARMING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN GASPÉSIE AND THE ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE

By **Thierry Marcoux**

Direction régionale de la Gaspésie

By **François Bourque**

Direction régionale des Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Oyster farming is a widespread and well-established activity in several Canadian coastal provinces. However, it is still recent in Quebec, although two companies have been selling larger and larger volumes in the past few years.

The success of these companies and similar establishments located elsewhere in North America has encouraged new players to start out in oyster production in Quebec. This success is above all linked to the appetite for this mollusc on the markets. Oysters are very sought-after for their flavour, which is different according to the origin, farming environment and production methods.

For certain species, climate change may be a challenge. However, it seems profitable to oyster producers in Quebec. Water heating enables oyster farming in several areas in Gaspésie and the Îles-de-la-Madeleine, where the water temperature is now stabilized at over 20°C for a significant period of the summer.

In Gaspésie, the company Huîtres Baie-des-Chaleurs inc. and the Ferme maricole du Grand Large are currently collaborating on an experimental project to determine the best coastal sites for growing oysters in the Baie-des-Chaleurs. Nine sites located between Nouvelle and Saint-Siméon will be tested with OysterGro cages — new farming structures that are not yet used in Quebec. Based on the project results, pilot farms will be set up on the most promising sites.

In the Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the company La Moule du large, an oyster farming pioneer in Quebec, is continuing to develop, and has been selling the *Trésor du large* oyster on the main Quebec markets for several years. And the new company Les Huîtres Old Harry is invested in floating bag farming. Having started its operations in 2018, this company could start to sell its product from 2020-2021.

The development of oyster farms in Quebec should enable the maricultural industry to diversify and consolidate itself. The Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation is proud to financially support these projects which will contribute to the achievement of the target to double aquaculture production in Quebec by 2025, as stated in the 2018-2025 Ministerial action plan for the commercial fishing and aquaculture industry in Quebec.





CALENDAR OF TRADE FAIRS FOR THE FISH AND SEAFOOD INDUSTRY 2019-2020

By Michel Bélanger
Direction des analyses et des politiques des pêches
et de l'aquaculture

The presence of Quebec companies at international trade fairs strengthens and increases awareness of the Quebec fish and seafood offering on international markets, promotes Quebec marine products abroad, creates or consolidates business ties and enables us to perfect our knowledge of new market trends. The main commercial meetings planned are as follows:

CHINA FISHERIES & SEAFOOD EXPO
From 30 October to 1 November 2019
Qingdao International Expo Center
Qingdao, China
www.chinaseafoodexpo.com

FOODEX JAPAN
From 10 to 13 March 2020
Makuhari Messe Convention Centre
Chiba, Japan
www.jma.or.jp/foodex/en/index.html

SEAFOOD EXPO NORTH AMERICA
From 15 to 17 March 2020
Boston Convention & Exhibition Center
Boston, United States
www.seafoodexpo.com/north-america/

SIAL CANADA
From 15 to 17 April 2020
Convention Centre
Montreal, Canada
www.sialcanada.com

SEAFOOD EXPO GLOBAL
From 21 to 23 April 2020
Brussels Expo
Brussels, Belgium
www.seafoodexpo.com/global/

For more information about the activities covered by the Groupe Export agroalimentaire Québec-Canada and the services provided to stakeholders in the Quebec fish and seafood sector, please contact the adviser appointed to this business sector:

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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FISH FARMING? DISCOVER BROOK TROUT FARMING.

BROOK TROUT

Brook trout, or *Salvelinus fontinalis*, also referred to as “speckled trout”, is the salmonid for which the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ) grants the most aquaculture permits. Nearly 70% of all the fish used to stock water bodies in Quebec is brook trout, while low production of this fish is directly intended for human consumption.

Why farm brook trout?

Brook trout is mainly produced to stock different water bodies. Adding fish is a strategic choice when natural production cannot meet demand from recreational fishermen. This production is mainly carried out by private companies who have a MAPAQ permit. A recent study showed that demand for brook trout is greater than what is currently produced in Quebec. There are therefore business opportunities for new companies.

The study can be consulted at the following address:
https://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/Publications/Etude_ensemencement.pdf

The regulations in brief

Fish farming requires observing laws on the use of water and conservation of the aquatic environment. Furthermore, the choice of site and hydric potential is a decisive step for the rest of the project. There are two types of activity possible: aquaculture in a land environment, which is practised in artificial farming units such as pools, or the exploitation of fishing lakes accessible to the public.

No one may engage in commercial aquaculture activities without a MAPAQ permit. A few prior authorizations are, however, required to obtain one:

At municipal level

A certificate of compliance with current regulations issued by the municipality in which the farming activities are planned.

In environmental terms

An authorization from the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques including limits set to surface water or groundwater capture and the quantity of fish waste permitted, as well as an authorization to build, develop and commercially exploit a fishing lake or pool farming site.

In wildlife terms

An authorization from the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs which includes an assessment of the impact of fish farming activities on the fish's habitat.

For more information, consult the document *Lois et règlements relatifs à l'aquaculture en eau douce* (Laws and regulations on aquaculture in fresh water):

www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/loisaquaculture

Brook trout needs

- A large quantity of pure fresh water which ideally comes from an underground source. If the water's quality does not completely meet requirements, it can sometimes be treated to improve certain parameters.
- Well-oxygenated water. A lack of oxygen may cause great stress to brook trout and be fatal to it. In an outdoor lake, you can add small waterfalls; in an indoor pool, you can add aerators or blow air or oxygen in the water.
- Cleanliness and easy maintenance for pools or lakes as well as all the equipment used in the fish's environment, because it is very susceptible to illness.
- Relatively cool water temperatures. The ideal is between 7 °C and 13 °C for good growth and good reproduction. When the water temperature in spring is too cold (≤ 5 °C) during the egg incubation and hatching period, it may be preferable to heat the water to around 10 °C to enable the fish to grow more quickly.
- Even if its diet is very varied in nature, in pools, this fish needs food of consistent quality in the form of dry granules (feed). The type of feed changes according to its life cycle and its appetite varies according to the water temperature, its size and whether it is in its reproductive period or not. You must carefully observe how it eats to give it the right quantity of food.

WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON BROOK TROUT FARMING?

Contact the MAPAQ Direction régionale de l'Estuaire et des eaux intérieures on 819 371-3971.

